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PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Navy Commander Captain Craig Mattingly (center right holding guidon) visited the William Byrd High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps on Sept. 27.

Navy Commander visits WBHS Navy National Defense Cadet Corps

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

United States Navy Captain Craig Mattingly, Commander, Naval Service Training Command, visited the William Byrd High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps program on Sept. 27.

He is the Commander for Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Recruit Training, along with all ROTC units at universities and colleges and NJROTC units in the United States and in overseas locations.

During the week he visited the Navy ROTC programs at Virginia Tech

and VMI and asked to stop by the program at WBHS as well.

He was greeted by William Byrd's Naval Science Instructor David Perrin, AGCS (Ret), Cadet Company Commander Noah Nicely, Company Executive Officer Mason Perdue, and Company Senior Chief Petty Officer

Jamey Umberger.

Once they made their way to the NNDCC classroom, other Cadet leadership was introduced including Company Operations Officer Andrew Bartley, Company Administrative Officer Alexis Cook, Company

See **Navy**, page 5

William Byrd Terriers honor fallen heroes



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

It was Soldier Tribute Night at the William Byrd home football game on Sept. 29.

Debbie Adams
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The William Byrd Terriers football team and Head Coach Brad Lutz established a tradition in 2019 of honoring fallen soldiers who gave their lives while protecting our country while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. One hero is commemorated at each home game and a special Soldier Tribute Night is held at one designated game each season – this one on September 29. Vietnam War soldiers were also remembered.

First, the Terrier players were escorted to the field by members of the Virginia State Police, the Vinton Police Department (in a vehicle driven by Officer Jesse Dibble), the Roanoke County

See **Honor**, page 8

Beta Club honor society inducts 81 William Byrd seniors

Debbie Adams
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The William Byrd High School Beta Club inducted 81 new members at a ceremony at the school on October 2. This was the 63rd year that William Byrd has welcomed new members into the prestigious honor society. The club was chartered in 1960.

“The main objectives of Beta Club are to set an example for the entire student body and to promote achievement, character, leadership, and service in our club members,” said new member Aiden Hundley, one of five student speakers at the induction ceremony. “The ultimate goal, however, is the preparation of each individual for his or her place in a democratic world. We take seriously the Beta Club motto ‘Let Us Lead by Serving Others.’”

WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb noted that the Beta Club “includes seniors who have obtained a 3.75 GPA from freshman through junior year. Thank you for your hard work, especially since your freshman year was not an easy one thanks to COVID.”

“Many of you are not only superior students, but you are also leaders in our school by participating in many activities, such as clubs, music programs, and



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

William Byrd High School students inducted into the Beta Club on October 2

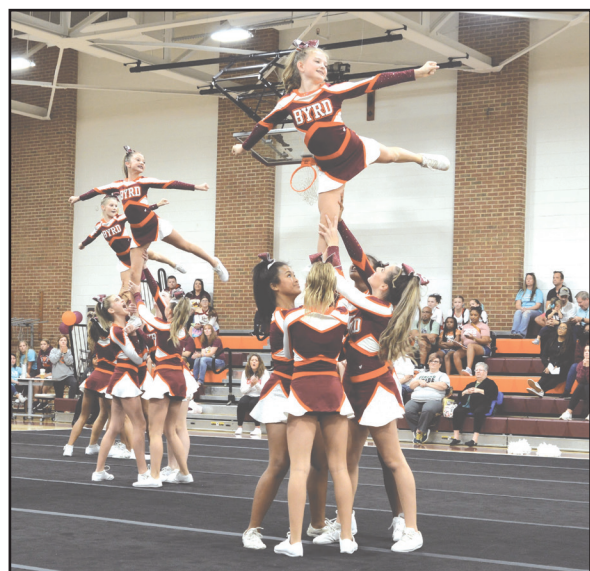
sports. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

“Thank you again for making William Byrd the best. I appreciate your leadership and admire your accomplishments.”

Newcomb explained that the Beta Club also places an emphasis on community involvement and provides an

See **Beta**, page 9

Battle at Byrd cheerleading competition raises funds for Children's Miracle Network



Cheerleaders from William Byrd Middle School won first place in the restricted middle school division in the Battle at Byrd competition on Sept. 30.



Macy Ware, Director of Programs for the Children's Miracle Network Southwest Virginia, and 10-year-old Meg Burrow were introduced to the crowd at Battle at Byrd. The competition benefits the Children's Miracle Network.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Cave Spring Knights cheerleaders won second place in the 3A/4A high school division at the Battle at Byrd.

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This year the William Byrd cheerleaders

partnered with the non-profit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals for the prestigious Battle at Byrd cheerleading competition.

The event raised funds for life-saving equipment, care, education, and research for children being treated medically at one of the

local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

The first Battle at Byrd cheerleading competition at William Byrd High

School was held in 2008. The purpose of the original event was to honor breast cancer victims.

Ten-year-old Meg

Burrow and Program Director Macy Ware represented the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Southwest Virginia Carilion Children's at Byrd. Meg was diagnosed with cerebellar hypoplasia and CTBPI, an extremely rare genetic disorder, when she was 2 years old. She's the 13th known case in the world. She is treated at Carilion Children's, one of the local Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

See **Battle**, page 3

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Penny Slusher has retired from Bonsack Elementary after 43 years of service to the Roanoke County school system. She was recognized by each student at the school on Sept. 29 as they brought pennies to her to say goodbye.

Slusher retires after 43 years with Roanoke County schools

Debbie Adams
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Penny Slusher is a woman who knows how to make a commitment. She and her husband, Mike, have been married for 56 years, and she has worked as a secretary/bookkeeper for Roanoke County Public Schools for 43 years. Slusher retired on September 29, after serving the last 24 years at Bonsack Elementary School and 19 at Roland E. Cook Elementary before that. In fact, she is the only secretary/bookkeeper Bonsack Elementary has ever had.

She has worked for only three principals – Deedie Kagey at Roland E. Cook and Bonsack, then Melissa Jones and Leanne Leftwich at Bonsack. “Penny is the backbone of Bonsack,” said Leftwich. “Her contribution to this community far extends the job description of a bookkeeper. Our staff, parents, students, and I have counted on her for years. She is a staple at Bonsack. If you know Bonsack Elementary, you know Ms. Penny. While we are thrilled for her being able to retire, Bonsack will

See **Slusher**, page 5



Penny Slusher (center) retired from Bonsack Elementary, but she and colleagues Rose McCarthy (left) and Suzanne Witcher moved to Bonsack together when it was built.



Penny Slusher was honored at a retirement party the previous week at Twin Creeks Brewpub, joined by friends and colleagues from Bonsack and Roland E. Cook Elementary Schools. Shown left to right are Sue Morrison, Nancy Anderson, Dr. Deedie Kagey, Penny Slusher, and Jenny Stallard.



WBMS math teacher Jennifer Cain PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN HUTCHISON

WBMS honors Staff Member of the Week - Jennifer Cain

Each week the William Byrd Middle School football team is honoring a staff member selected and voted on by the players. During the week of Sept. 25-29, that honor went to math

teacher Jennifer Cain. The Staff Member of the Week takes possession of the #88 jersey for that week, paying homage to 1988, when WBMS was built. Thank you, Mrs.

Cain, for being a sympathetic and enthusiastic teacher!

Submitted by William Byrd Middle School, Head Football Coach Ryan Hutchison

Vinton Wesleyan Church hosting Medicare seminars

Vinton Wesleyan Church will be hosting two “Navigating Medicare and the Annual Enrollment Period” seminars conducted by Yvonne Reynolds, owner of Premier Benefits Insurance Agency. The dates are Wednesday, October 11, at 10 a.m. and Wednesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m. Reynolds will share information on enrolling in the best Medicare and Prescription Drug Plan for 2023. She will talk about Parts A and B, the Part B deductible, the differences in Medicare Supplement and a Medicare Advantage Plan and understanding how the Part D

Prescription Drug Plan works. To learn about Medicare options, come to the meeting and, if needed, you can request to have a private consultation appointment at no charge. Share this with your friends and others in the community that would benefit from this information. Vinton Wesleyan Church is located at 246 East Jefferson Avenue in Vinton. To sign up or have further questions, call the church at (540) 345-3385.

Submitted by Joyce Rodriguez, Vinton Wesleyan Church

Vinton Fall Festival coming up October 7

According to Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning, “It’s fall, y’all, and time for Vinton Fall Festival.” The Vinton Fall Festival sponsored by the Chamber is coming up this weekend on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the downtown area. And it’s free. In fact, the festival kicks off even earlier at 7 a.m. (until 11 a.m.) with the traditional Vinton Breakfast Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at the VFW Post on Lee Avenue. The cost is \$6. Pancakes are “all you can eat,” and the proceeds go to the multitude of community projects the Lions adopt each year. This year’s festival will feature live entertainment on the Market Stage, food vendors and over 100 craft vendors lining the streets, a Kids Zone, petting zoo, and a Doggie Costume Contest.



COURTESY OF GYPSY NIX

Two bands will be performing at the final Mingle at the Market Concert of the season including Gypsy Nix.

10-10:30 a.m. FAME All-Stars
10:30-10:45 a.m. Christian “Ninja”
10:45-11:45 a.m. Mish Moves Dance
11:45 a.m. to noon Christian “Ninja”
12-1:00 p.m. Floyd Ward Dance
1-2 p.m. Doggie Costume Contest, sponsored by Pawsh Dog Salon
The fun doesn’t end at 4 p.m. The final Mingle at the Market Concert of the 2023 season is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m.

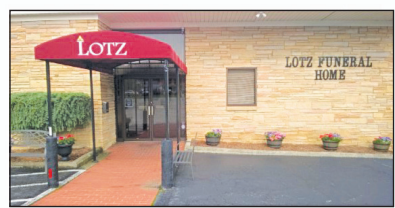
featuring two bands – Gypsy Nix and Shattered Glass. So go eat at one of Vinton’s downtown restaurants after Fall Festival and stick around for the concert. Gypsy Nix is a five-piece Fleetwood Mac/Stevie Nicks tribute band based out of Roanoke; Shattered Glass plays rock n’ roll. Admission to the Mingle Concert is \$7; children under 12 are admitted free. *-Vinton Messenger Staff Report*

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6-9 pm

Battle from page 1

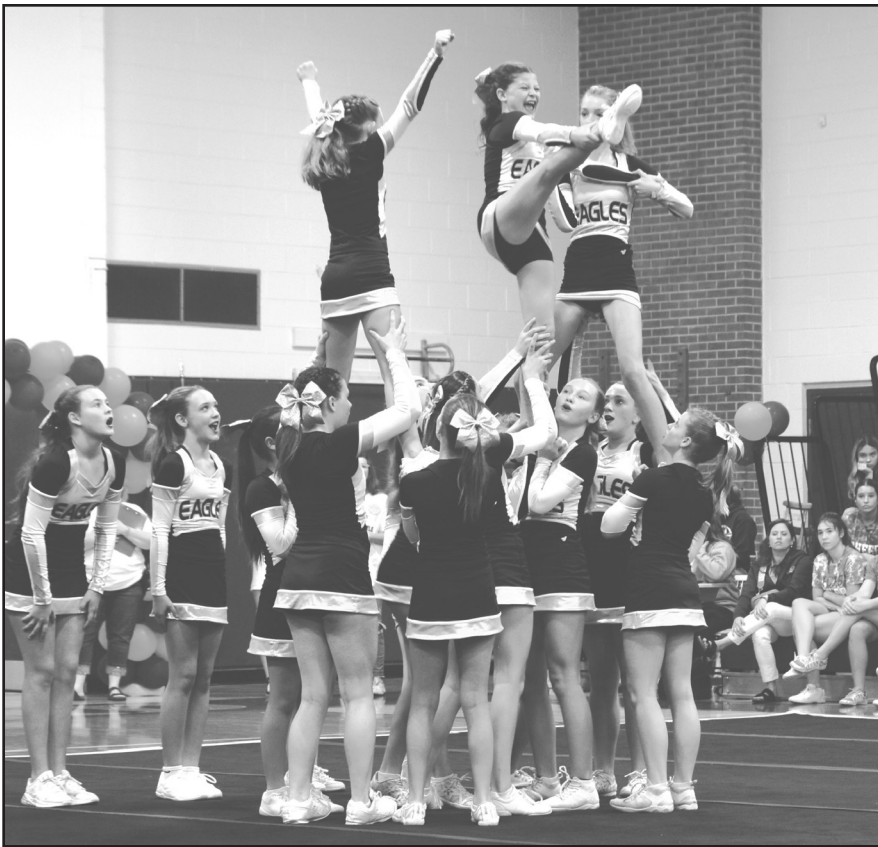


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Hidden Valley Middle School Eagles participated in Battle at Byrd on Sept. 30.

Meg went home from Battle at Byrd with a host of bows matching the cheer teams in the competition.

The day-long competition on September 30 hosted middle and high school cheer teams from around the region and across the state. It is a VHSL-sanctioned event organized and coordinated by WBHS Head Cheer Coach Dee-Anne Dillon.

This year's middle school restricted division included teams from Ben Franklin Middle School in Franklin County and Cave Spring Middle, Glenvar Middle, Hidden Valley Middle, and William Byrd Middle schools in Roanoke County.

William Byrd Middle School won first place in the restricted division competition. Glenvar Middle School was runner-up.

Graham Middle School (Tazewell County) and Pulaski Middle School competed in the non-restricted middle school division. Graham took first place.

Waynesboro High School competed in the JV division and won first place.

Central High School (Norton), Graham High School, Grundy High School, Lee High School, and Thomas Walker High School competed in the 1A/2A division. Graham took first place, Lee took second place, and Glenvar placed third. According to Dillon, there was just a half-point difference in scores from Graham and Lee in the competition.

Competing high school teams in the 3A/4A division included Lord Botetourt, Bassett, Cave Spring, Heritage (Lynchburg), Jefferson Forest, Northside, Pulaski County, Waynesboro, and Wilson Memorial. William Byrd High School is in the 3A/4A division but was unable to compete due to injuries.

First place in the 3A/4A division went to Lord Botetourt; second place to Cave Spring High School; and third place to Northside.

Schools competing in the 5A/6A division were Franklin County, Midlothian, William Fleming and Patrick Henry. First place went to William Fleming.

The Sportsmanship Award – voted on by the coaches/officials – was presented to

Patrick Henry High School.

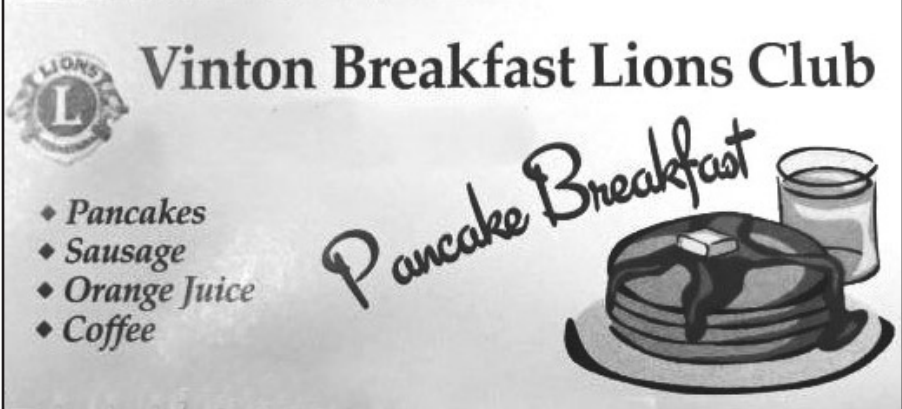
This year's DJ and emcee was Antoine Terrell.

The William Byrd Middle School Cheer squad includes Laykn Austin, Asia Bannister, Eryn Bass, Jahniya Coles, Kelly Dixon, Ashlynn Doss, Brooklyn Duncan, McKinley Edberg, Michal Hamlar, Gracie Morgan, Kennedy Shifflett, Nami Shively, Brooklyn Strother, Collins Terrell, Cassidy Thompson, Kyndra Weeks, Kaelyn Wheeler, and Skylar Young. Coaches are Morgan Edberg and Shannon McCulloch. Managers include Jordin Terry-Cablier and Roxy Creech.

Members of the William Byrd High School competition cheer team squad are Olaedo Anyanwu, Ashley Arven, Brooklyn Arven, Jaleiya Bannister, Aubrey Booze, Kelsey Bell, Haylee Cockran-Whorley, Braelynn Gibson, Brihanna Harris, Carleigh Leonard, Alexis Loughlin, Ellie McCulloch, Gracie Mick, Sheradyn O'Neill, Spencer Peters, Janya Rosborough, Vanessa Sattah, Bailey Tabor, and Makaylah Witt. Captains are Emma Kageals and Ashlynn Thomas. Dee-Anne Dillon is the Head Coach, with Logan Bushong and Daria Kay as Assistant Coaches.

Gold sponsors for this year's Battle at Byrd were Five Stone Realty Group, Lee Hi Towing and Recovery, and Robert Young's Auto and Truck. Silver sponsors included Tandem Behavioral Health, Mountain View Orthodontics, Star City Plumbing, Steel Dynamics Long Product Group, Musselwhite and Associates, West Main Sports and Fitness, Mountain State Oral and Facial Surgery, and Heather Riddle LMT. Bronze sponsors for the event were Defy Gravity, the Conner Group, Jason Boothe Realtor, Don-Ho's Restaurant and Lounge, Pok-E-Joe's, Green Home Solutions, and Maxfield Electric, LLC.

Patron sponsors included ALARS, The Hair Co., Bank of Botetourt, Anderson & Reed, Roanoke Auction, Inc., and Community Inn. Community sponsors for the Battle at Byrd this year were Mountain View Real Estate, LLC, Tuck Chiropractic, Family Stone, Bellacino's, Atlantic Union Bank, Roanoke Academy of Gymnastics, and the Marsh McLennan Agency.



FILE PHOTO

Lions sponsoring Pancake Breakfast fundraiser during Fall Festival

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club will once again be hosting an All-You-Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on the morning of Oct. 7 – Fall Festival Day in downtown Vinton.

The Lions will be serving breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at VFW Post 4522, located at 117 East Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton.

The price is \$6. Tickets are available at the door or from Vinton Breakfast Lions Club members in advance. Carryout is available.

The menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, along with orange juice, coffee, and a side of sausage.

Proceeds from the breakfast go to the many community projects the Lions are involved with including annual scholarships for seniors at William Byrd and Staunton River high schools, financing of two Valley Metro bus shelters in Vinton and the picnic shelter at Herman L. Horn Elementary, Christmas shopping trips for needy local

children, eye screenings at public schools and private preschools, and sponsorship of the Bland Music Scholarship program. They fund eye exams, eye surgery, and eyeglasses for adults and children. The Vinton Lions stock the local elementary schools with extra clothing, school supplies, snacks, and materials for school projects. They contribute to Disaster Relief in Virginia and around the world.

~ Vinton Messenger Staff Report

Vinton Town Council appropriates funds for Capital Improvement Projects

Debbie Adams
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Vinton Town Council held two public hearings at its meeting on October 3. The first was on a proposed amendment to the town's FY 2023-2024 budget to reappropriate funding for several Capital Improvement Projects, including Mountain View Road, parking lot construction, economic development incentives, and community blight abatement and acquisition. The total amount of funding is \$1,833,750.

Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton explained that Town Council had appropriated funds in previous years for four projects: Mountain View Road construction (\$500,000), a Walnut Avenue parking lot construction project (\$620,000), Gish Mill delivery incentives (\$398,750), and community blight abatement and acquisition (\$315,000).

For various reasons the projects were delayed, making it necessary to reappropriate the funds in the current FY23-24 in order to move forward with project delivery.

According to Sexton, about \$1.7 million of the amount is "old money, being "rolled over" with an additional \$100,000 appropriated from Capital Reserves.

Council also held a public hearing on the proposed granting of a Real Estate Property Lease to ANBAJA Enterprises (Twin Creeks Brewing Company) for a portion of a 10-foot-wide public alley located to the rear of 109 and 111 South Pollard Street. Members were briefed on the lease at their Sept. 19 meeting.

This summer Twin Creeks expanded and improved the exterior patio and entertainment area with the addition of the Creek Bank Music Pavilion. ABC licensing requires "continuous ownership" of such property. Thus,

the town has agreed to lease the business a portion of the alley behind Twin Creeks to "enhance Vinton's downtown area, provide future revenue generation for the town, and add employment opportunities for its citizens."

The initial lease agreement is for nine months with up to four additional one-year renewals. Twin Creeks will pay \$10 annually to rent the property; it is responsible for maintenance of the property, site improvements, and providing liability insurance. No physical structures will be constructed as part of the agreement.

In other business before council, Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour briefed members on the proposed lease between the town and the Vinton Historical Society for the Vinton History Museum property

See Council, page 8



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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Leg shank
 - 5. A way to recognize
 - 11. "VeggieTales" character
 - 12. Getting out of by cunning
 - 16. Mythological mountain
 - 17. Atomic #18
 - 18. Viscous liquid
 - 19. 2010 Denzel film
 - 24. 12th star in a constellation
 - 25. Made better
 - 26. Pouches
 - 27. Nervous twitch
 - 28. This (Spanish)
 - 29. Tennis legend Bjorn
 - 30. Hand (Spanish)
 - 31. Afrikaans
 - 33. Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.)
 - 34. Treated with kid gloves
 - 38. Leaseholder
 - 39. Frogs, toads, tree toads
 - 40. Popular dance
 - 43. Sailing maneuver: tack & _
 - 44. Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)
 - 45. Mark
 - 49. Health insurance
 - 50. Custom clothing brand
 - 51. One who makes suits
 - 53. Execute or perform
 - 54. Degree of pleasantness when tasting
 - 56. Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels
 - 58. Blood group
 - 59. Imaginary line
 - 60. Hopeless
 - 63. Darken
 - 64. Spoke
 - 65. Work units
 - CLUES DOWN
 - 1. A way to fit out
 - 2. Football carries
 - 3. Force out
 - 4. Maintaining equilibrium
 - 5. Sealed with a kiss
 - 6. Type of container
 - 7. Hollywood
 - 8. We
 - 9. Small freshwater ducks
 - 10. Norse personification of old age
 - 13. Says who you are
 - 14. Candidate
 - 15. Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits
 - 20. Defunct language (abbr.)
 - 21. Take too much
 - 22. Iranian province
 - 23. Records electric currents
 - 27. _ and feathers
 - 29. Beloved Mr. T character
 - 30. More (Spanish)
 - 31. Beverage
 - 32. Promotional material
 - 33. Green vegetable
 - 34. National capital
 - 35. To any further extent
 - 36. Swollen, inflamed lymph node
 - 37. Pound
 - 38. Popular Yugo
 - 40. Salt of acetic acid
 - 41. Israeli city
 - 42. Millinery
 - 44. Israeli city _ Aviv
 - 45. Make wider
 - 46. Drink containing medicine
 - 47. Acknowledging
 - 48. Private, romantic rendezvous
 - 50. Calvary sword
 - 51. Disease of the lungs
 - 52. 2001 Spielberg film
 - 54. Fleshy, watery fruit
 - 55. In one's chambers
 - 57. Set of information (abbr.)
 - 61. Dorm employee
 - 62. Indicates position

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



Bootie Chewning (left) celebrates her brother Jimmy Bell's birthday with his wife Suzanne.



Bootie Chewning and Miss America CEO Robin Fleming.

By Angie & Bootie Chewning

From Angie: WOW! What a weekend! I celebrated my birthday in a big way! So, a lot of you know our story (Angie and Greg); it goes back 40 years. Some of you probably think we're already married.

This wonderful birthday weekend, we are one step closer to that. With a little help from some great friends, some small white lies, and lots of secrets (Nancy Mastry and Carolyn Mills) Greg (Boitnott) pulled off a huge surprise.

We celebrated my birthday and engagement with friends and family. Ginger's

Jewelry (owned by Ginger Mumpower) is the best in the business, and I am over the moon to wear a beautiful ring from her store.

Then we surprised our kids, and even Mom (Bootie), with the news at the Vinton Moose Lodge. Thank you for all the birthday wishes and congrats! It was a great surprise!

From Bootie:

After seven years inside, with only going out mainly to doctors, I just had a marathon weekend, starting with Friday night celebrating Angie's birthday and ring from Greg. So many great friends were there. Thanks for making the night out special.

Saturday night was Showcase of Talent with former Miss Virginias, Miss Americas, Miss Outstanding Teen, and Robin Fleming, Miss America CEO.

This was all for the Margaret R. Baker Charitable Foundation Scholarship Fund weekend of celebration put together by Mastermind Mark Scherier. Great show – enjoyed it so much.

Sunday morning, I celebrated my brother Jimmy Bell's 85th birthday with Suzanne, Valerie, Kyle, Chase and Cade Hendricks, and Lindsey and Amber Wells. Amber was my care giver.

On Sunday afternoon, Chee Chee Craft picked me up and took me to "Love for Bob Grogan."

I was his surprise! My dance partner, Dancing with Valley Stars, and the shaggers were there. It was great to see. All these events – I felt so loved and special, and after seven years it was just so great to get out. I've spent too long inside; now, if the old back will let me,



Angie Chewning and Greg Boitnott celebrate their engagement.



Bootie with Bob Grogan.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

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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!

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Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

VA 24016. 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 - 2330 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM.

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 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.

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



COURTESY OF KATHRYN SOWERS

Vinton Baptist Blessing Box Chair Terry Hough accepts donations from the GFWC Vinton Women's Club on the National Day of Service, Sept. 30.

GFWC Vinton Woman's Club highlights food insecurity on National Day of Service

Members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) in Vinton donated food items for the Vinton Baptist Church Blessing Box on Sept. 30 – the first GFWC National Day of Service. On that date, all of the clubs come together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address the need, and raise public awareness about its importance. In 2023, Women's Clubs from all over the U.S. and world joined together to focus on food insecurity.

The Vinton club donated individual food items that day. Twelve members donated over \$200 in value of food and other needed items. The club

decided after learning of this service to the community to continue this project every month throughout our club year.

They are hoping other groups will join in supporting local food banks, churches, and other organizations assisting people with food insecurity.

The chairman for the VBC Blessing Box is Terry Hough and Vinton Baptist Church also (like many other churches) has a food pantry.

For more information, contact Kathryn Sowers at kacy3@verizon.net.

Submitted by Kathryn Sowers, GFWC Vinton Woman's Club

Slusher from page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF BONSAK ELEMENTARY

Penny Slusher will be missed by students and staff.

never be the same."

The faculty and staff held a retirement dinner for her at Twin Creeks Brewpub at Explore Park the weekend before she retired, with many friends from Roland E. Cook and Bonsack in attendance.

On the Friday she retired, Slusher was surprised with an outpouring of love from all the students at Bonsack. As she sat in the lobby, each student came by to place a penny in a jar as a memento for "Ms. Penny." The label on the jar read "Lucky Pennies for Bonsack's Favorite Penny."

Most had a hug or "high five" to offer as well. Some made cards for her. One wrote a note that read, "You are the best penny in the world."

When asked why she delayed retiring, Slusher said, "Because I like what I do. This is the greatest place to work. I have loved every minute of it."

Slusher lives in Vinton. She is a graduate of Northside High School. She and her husband have two sons and six grandchildren to enjoy.

Her plans for retirement include "doing anything I want to do."

"Ms. Slusher has been a long-time, dedicated employee of RCPS and has greeted Bonsack Elementary students and families since it opened in 1999," said RCPS School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely. "We are grateful for her service and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement."

Navy from page 1



Naval Science Instructor David Perrin (on left), Company Commander Noah Nicely (a William Byrd junior), and Naval Commander Captain Craig Mattingly reviewed the NNDCC program at WBHS.

Supply Officer Lenorah Garcia, Company 1st Lieutenant Charles West, and Jayden Hedrick, who is in charge of Company Public Affairs.

Capt. Mattingly asked each Cadet to stand and introduce themselves in a ten second "elevator speech" with name, school, grade level, and a "cool" fact about themselves. About half of the 39 cadets currently enrolled in the NNDCC program are William Byrd students, along with several from Northside, Cave Spring, Glenvar, and Hidden Valley. There are quite a few sophomores and freshmen as this is just the second year for the Roanoke County program. (The NNDCC was established in a formal ceremony last February.)

Many of the cadets come from military families. One is a volunteer fire-fighter. Another has already enlisted in the Army and will report for duty next June after graduation. One cadet already runs his own business (vending machines); another plays five instruments. One is a blacksmith. Quite a few have traveled extensively in the United States and even abroad.

Capt. Mattingly told the cadets that he was excited to see such a young, prosperous unit at Byrd, sensing a "great vibe" at the school.

The captain talked about how he came to join the Navy at age 17, after humble beginnings in Kentucky, where he was raised on a dairy farm with a wake-up time of 4 a.m. He was inspired by photographs sent to him by his cousin who was in the Navy. He talked

to recruiters and enlisted. His first ever flight was to boot camp.

Joining the Navy as an Aviation Anti-Submarine Warfare Operator changed his trajectory in life, leading a young man with low self-esteem to a stellar career, eventually stationed in Hawaii, Japan, Italy (twice), and the Pentagon.

He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1995 and designated as a Naval Flight Officer in 1997. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College, Executive Leadership and Management Certifications from the University of Notre Dame and is Joint Qualified and an alumnus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI.

His most recent assignment was serving as Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. He has accumulated more than 3900 flight hours in the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft.

The Cadets presented an Information Brief to Capt. Mattingly about the program housed at WBHS, which serves all Roanoke County high schools. In attendance were Director of Career and Technical Education Jason Suhr, Supervisor of Career & Technical Education Mark Jones, and WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb.

In its inaugural year the WBHS NNDCC began with an enrollment of 26 cadets. Forty-eight signed up for the 2023-2024 school year; however, nine dropped out due to various issues such as scheduling conflicts and

standards issues. Fourteen are freshmen. The unit includes Caucasian, African American, and Latin Americans, both male and female.

Four county schools feed into the program at William Byrd. Cadets are bused from home schools to the Burton Center, then to WBHS. The process is reversed going home after classes.

Chief Perrin noted that transportation and commuting time has had an effect on numbers in the NNDCC program. The commute to Glenvar is 35-45 minutes; Hidden Valley, 25-35 minutes; Cave Spring, 20-30 minutes; and Northside, 15-25 minutes. The plan is for the program to move to a more central location at the new career center on Peters Creek Road once it is built.

The presentation covered unit goals for the coming school year: for each cadet to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA; for 50% of the unit to achieve "outstanding"; for participation in at least two Area 5 sanctioned meets; establishment of a Big Brother/Big Sister mentorship with the Virginia Tech NROTC unit; for 100 % of the cadets to earn 10 hours of community service; sending two cadets to Leadership & Sail Academy in the summer of 2024; and establishing Freshman Orientation/Team Camps next summer, also.

Mattingly challenged each cadet to "bring in one more cadet" for the program.

Chief Perrin commented on the strengths and challenges the program faces. There



Navy Captain Mattingly was welcomed to WBHS by several members of the school system. Pictured left to right are Career and Technical Education Supervisor Mark Jones, CTE Director Jason Suhr, School Board member Tim Greenway, Mattingly, and William Byrd Naval Science Instructor David Perrin.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Navy Commander Captain Craig Mattingly met with the cadets in the NNDCC program at William Byrd.

is support from the county financially; the NNDCC space meets requirements; and he finds the level of county support is "phenomenal."

Challenges to be resolved include the transportation issue within the county; there is currently limited opportunity for extracurricular practice that cadets have expressed interest in such as marksmanship, a drone-racing team, and orienteering; and being the farthest unit west in Area 5, it is difficult for the unit to travel for competition without overnight stays.

The cadets shared with Capt. Mattingly some of their most memorable moments from the 22-23 school year, including trips to the naval base in Norfolk, visiting the USS Wisconsin, and the D-Day Memorial in Bedford. Cadets also participated in Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies and visited veterans at Brandon Oaks. They were an integral part of the local Toys for Tots campaign.

The unit planted 2,977

flags on the front lawn of the school on 9/11 of 2022 "as a tribute to those who lost their lives on that tragic day."

This school year they hope to travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the U.S. Navy Memorial, the Marine Corps War Memorial, and the National Museum of the US Navy. Capt. Mattingly encouraged them to visit the Pentagon and offered to facilitate a visit.

The WBHS Cadet Color Guard presented the Colors at all home Varsity Football and Basketball games last year, and at the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in March and the Martinsville Speedway for the NOCO 400 in April. They will be returning to Martinsville for the Xfinity 500 race on October 29.

Chief Perrin praised his cadets for End of Year Awards last year for achievement, fitness, exemplary conduct, exemplary appearance, community service, unit service, and participation.

Two cadets in the Class of 2023 now attend VMI. Two joined the Navy, two the Army, and one the Marine Corps.

In speaking to the cadets, Mattingly emphasized two things above all others—caring and competence. He encouraged the students to care enough about one another to get to know each other, to make connections, and "be the best version of yourself every day. Build authenticity and trust. Respect each other."

As for competence, he urged them to "compete against yourself and become competent in whatever job you choose. Your number one job now is being a student. Strive to be the best student in this high school; make yourself and others proud."

After the presentation, the Color Guard paraded the Colors and two squads performed Armed Drills in the auxiliary gym.

(Capt. Mattingly is an Admiral Select awaiting Congressional confirmation.)



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William Byrd High School 20-ish Year Reunion

IMAGE COURTESY OF BRENT MCCONNELL

William Byrd Class of 2004 to celebrate 20-year reunion at the Taubman

The anticipation continues to mount as the William Byrd High School Class of 2004 prepares to come together for their 20-year class reunion on October 21 at the Taubman Museum. The excitement is further elevated with the support of Platinum sponsors Fat Boys Towing, The Hair Co., and Brad Thomas Realtor. The Greenway Group Realtors is a Bronze sponsor.

Like many 20-year reunions do, the Class of 2004 is inviting other classes to join as well. "We learned a lot of 20-year reunions include five classes and while that would technically be 2002-2007, in our case, we're welcoming of all Terriers and have some folks joining us as far back as 1997 and some as recent as 2008...that's over 10 years of Terriers!" says Jessi Myers Wise, a volunteer organizing the event.

This reunion promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with nostalgia, entertainment, and camaraderie with DJ Flex mixing all the old school beats and jams. Thanks to the generous contributions of the sponsors, the event's offerings have been elevated to ensure a memorable experience for all attendees.

Five percent of all sponsor and ticket sales are being donating to the Addy Grace Foundation. All current and former William Byrd High School teachers, coaches, administrators, and staff are encouraged to attend and will

be admitted for free.

Tickets are \$30 for single admissions and \$50 for couples and can be purchased online via EventBrite by searching for "William Byrd High School 20-ish Year Reunion" or a link can be found on the reunion's Facebook group, "WBHS 20 Year Class Reunion" which has nearly 900 members.

Fat Boys Towing, a respected name in the community, The Hair Co, a prominent local salon, Brad Thomas Realtor, and the Greenway Group have all stepped up as sponsors, showcasing their commitment to supporting community events and fostering connections. Their support not only enhances the event but also highlights the importance of building strong community bonds.

"We're truly appreciative of the support from our sponsors," says Brent McConnell a member of the organizing committee. "Their dedication to our reunion speaks volumes about their commitment to the community and their desire to make this event truly special."

Join in the celebration, reconnect with old friends, enjoy entertainment by DJ Flex, savor delicious food and beverages, and create new memories this October 21 at the Taubman Museum.

Submitted by Brent McConnell, Class of 2004 Reunion Committee

Council from page 1

located at 210 East Jackson Avenue.

The initial lease will be for eight months, beginning November 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, to align on a fiscal year basis. Four additional one-year renewals are included, expiring on June 30, 2028.

In the lease, the town agrees to maintain major operating systems (HVAC, plumbing, and electrical), and provide routine exterior maintenance to the roof, windows, walls, and doors.

The town will provide all utilities and Public Works will provide routine grounds maintenance. The Historical Society will provide funds for major physical improvements in regards to the operation of the building as a museum. A public hearing will be held on the proposed lease at the Oct. 17 council meeting.

Council adopted a resolution reauthorizing a position within the Vinton Police Department (Certified Officer) and another within the Public Works Department (Equipment Operator I), which had both been frozen as part of the FY24 adopted budget.

When council adopted the FY24 budget in June of this year, it froze the two vacant positions in an effort to fund compensation adjustments within

entry-level and middle ranks of both departments, "while providing additional time for administration to monitor budgeted revenues and concerns of a possible recession."

Town staff is now recommending unfreezing the two positions, given that "revenues continue to be stable and that the job market has loosened up." The Police Department now has a strong candidate for the vacant position. Public Works is ready to move forward on filling its position.

Council also adopted a resolution appropriating \$1,500 to support exterior fencing for the new Boys and Girls Club playground being constructed adjacent to Vinton Baptist Church on South Poplar Street. The church houses Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia afterschool and summer programs serving students from Herman L. Horn and W. E. Cundiff Elementary Schools. The land is owned by the church and sits adjacent to Lotz Funeral Home.

There are four partners in the playground project—Vinton Baptist, the Boys and Girls Club, KABOOM!, and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. The town will be contributing approximately 10% of the cost of fencing, in consideration of the fact that the playground will be available to

the general public. The playground will be located on Poplar and near Washington Avenue, so fencing is a necessity for safety purposes.

Vinton Baptist established a planning committee to construct the playground. Vice Mayor Mike Stovall is a member of that committee, so he recused himself from voting on the proposal. Funding for the fencing comes from the Town Council Community Contributions Account.

Construction of the playground is scheduled for October 25-27 with a ribbon-cutting planned for Oct. 27. Volunteers are needed in the construction.

Sexton updated council on several projects:

The Walnut Avenue Phase II project in the area behind the Municipal Building is complete and the roadway is open. VDOT will make a final inspection next week.

The Walnut Avenue Phase I project near Cargill is approaching completion after clean-up. The town will be paving and restriping within the next two months.

The speed limit change on Gus Nicks Boulevard is now in effect extending the 25-mph speed limit to the town limits at Glade Creek Bridge.

Paving and restriping on East Cleveland is mostly complete with some last minute restriping to add.

Honor from page 1



The Terrier football team pays tribute to a fallen soldier at each home game.



Navy National Defense Corps Cadets present the Colors.

Sheriff's Dept. (in a vehicle driven by Deputy Joe Miller), the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the Empty Tomb Motorcycle Ministry, and vehicles provided by the 497th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

The William Byrd High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps Color Guard presented the Colors. U.S. Crane and Rigging provided a crane displaying a huge American flag for the game, which waved in the breeze during the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the national anthem by the Marching Terrier Band.

On Soldier Tribute Night 2023, Terrier players paid special tribute to the Vietnam War Memorial and the faithful soldiers whose names are etched on its walls. Each Terrier uniform included the Vietnam War Service Ribbon, the Vietnam War Memorial logo, and the name of a soldier who was killed in the Vietnam War who was from Vinton or Roanoke. They also recognized veterans attending the game.

The team makes a pledge before each game saying, "Tonight I will give my all for my teammates, school, community,

and (the name of the soldier the game is being played in honor of)."

Their pledge is based on Scripture from Galatians 6:9 – "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

The game on Sept. 29 was also dedicated to Army SPC Brian "Bucky" Anderson of Harrisonburg, who was killed in Za Khel, Afghanistan on June 12, 2010, at age 24, as insurgents attacked his vehicle using an Improvised Explosive Device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry

Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, New York.

The other four soldiers honored at home games this year have included Army SGT Alfredo Silva, Army SPC Clarence Adams III, Army 1st LT. Derek Hines, and Army Sgt. 1st Class Trevor Dising.

The William Byrd cheerleaders and Dog Pound kept spirits high throughout the game – and the Terrier team delivered in a hard-fought battle, defeating Cave Spring 14-12. That makes the Terriers 4-1 for the season.



The Dog Pound cheered on the team who went on to defeat Cave Spring.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Terrier players honored those who were killed in the Vietnam War by wearing the names of those local soldiers on their jerseys.

W. Byrd volleyball team wins two BRD matches

The William Byrd volleyball team defeated William Fleming in Roanoke Tuesday to improve their Blue Ridge District record to 3-2 after one time through the district schedule. The Terriers were at Lord Botetourt Wednesday to open the second round of BRD play but results were too late for publication.

Byrd dominated the Colonels on Tuesday. Fleming had just 13 points total in three sets as Byrd won 25-3, 25-3 and 25-7. Hannah Janney had three kills and a pair of aces for Byrd while Madelyn Ward had a dozen assists and five aces. Kaylee Makuch had six aces at the Colonels struggled in serve receive.

Last Thursday at home the Byrd girls picked up a district win over Northside, also in three sets. Byrd won 25-17, 27-25 and 25-20 behind eight kills from Terran Brown. Raelyn Lancaster had three kills and Kate Bryant dished out 19 assists and had three serving aces.

With the two wins the Terriers improved to 6-8 overall. After Wednesday's match at Botetourt, the first place team in the BRD, the girls will be back home to host Staunton River next Tuesday, October 10.

"The ladies are working hard and looking forward to competing in the second half of the season," said coach Allison Thornton.



Byrd girls celebrate a point to the delight of the "Dog Pound" in last week's win over Northside in Vinton.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



Middle School football is 6-1, home for last game today

The William Byrd Middle School football team will be at home tonight for their final game of the season. The Terriers will play Hidden Valley Middle at 5 pm in the first game of a doubleheader with the high school jayvee team, who will meet William Fleming at 6:45 pm. The middle school Terriers defeated Read Mountain in Vinton last week, 28-14. With the victory the Byrd team improved their record to 6-1 overall, which includes five shutouts by the Terrier defense.

PHOTO BY SHANNON MCCULLOCH

BYRD CROSS COUNTRY

continued from page 10

and provides the confidence that is needed to race strong and fearless."

Last weekend the Terriers competed in the "Cougar Clash" in Dublin and returned with several medals. Christiansburg swept the meet while the Byrd girls were sixth and the boys were seventh in the varsity 5,000 meter races.

For the girls, Claire Glover placed seventh and not far behind were Heidi Wienke and Grace Woodcock, who worked together to finish 19th and 20th.

"It is great to see the teamwork during races and to watch how they work together to achieve their common goals," said Bond.

The middle school boys earned a first-place team finish in their 3,000 meter run. Carston DiBenedetto finished second overall while Grant Bartley was fifth. All five William Byrd runners finished in the first half of the race.

"It is so fulfilling as a coach to watch the team be rewarded for their hard work," said Bond.

The middle school girls finished 3rd overall with Jenna Petersen finishing first for the team. Christiansburg Middle was the team winner.

"I'm excited to watch our season continue to develop as I am seeing progress each day in every one of my runners," said Bond. "We have such great talent on this team with several of our runners being first year cross country athletes. New runners take time to develop and adjust to training and I think that as we enter the second half of our season, we are going to continue to see both personal and team improvements."

Beta

from page 1

opportunity for students to obtain a gold cord to wear for graduation through earning 10 hours of community service.

Beta Club inductee Karli Stephenson spoke next.

"As we travel through life, there are many doors that must be unlocked. In school we are taught a variety of skills, such as reading and reasoning, which are the keys for many of the doors that lead to success. There are four additional keys needed for a successful future, however. These are not exclusive characteristics of members of the Beta Chapter; anyone may possess them.

"The first key is Achievement. Before we can unlock some of life's doors, we are asked these questions: 'What have you done?' 'Have you produced something through honest work?' 'Have you made satisfactory grades in school?' 'Have you completed the tasks you have undertaken?' 'Have you used, to advantage, your inborn abilities?' If you can answer these questions in the affirmative, then you possess the Key of Achievement."

Senior Dexter Gaines talked about the key of Character.

"Character is a very strong key, and it will unlock the most difficult locks. In fact, there are many doors in life that can be unlocked with this key only, for they resist anyone who attempts to unlock them without the Key of Character. When this key was forged, many different metals – dependability, humility, justice, compassion, and most of all, the metal of integrity – were fused

into it. Successful is the person who can possess this key."

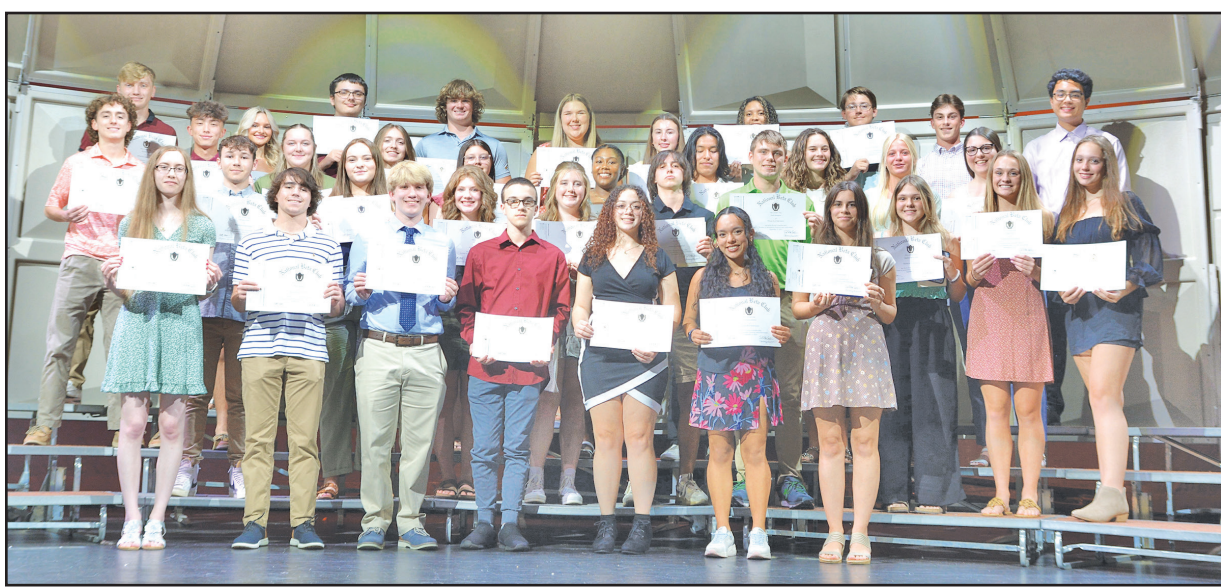
New member Addisyn St. Clair talked about the third key to success – Leadership.

"It is an elusive key and possesses almost magical powers. One seldom possesses it unless he/she also owns the Keys of Achievement and Character. It wields great influence and unlocks doors that lead all of us, in some degree, to influence our neighbors. It is deceptive, because sometimes we may hold it in our hands and be unaware that we have it. For those who discover their ownership of it, it can be used in locks devised by the most clever of locksmiths; however, it must be used skillfully and wisely and for the good of humanity, or it will disappear from the hand that holds it."

Student Lance Freedle talked about the fourth key – the Key of Service.

"It is a master key. It will unlock all the doors that open the heart of humankind. And although it can be used so often and so well, it is not difficult to own. It is used daily by a vast number of men and women, boys and girls. Whenever any help is rendered, whether great or small, this key is employed. It has a surprising quality; the more it is used and the older and more worn it becomes, the more efficient it is, unlocking more and more doors. You cannot wear it out, because even after the user has laid it down, the effectiveness of it remains.

"On behalf of all the new members, I accept these keys. We promise to guard them well, use them wisely, and to pass



William Byrd High School students inducted into the Beta Club on October 2

them on to future members of this Beta Chapter."

At that point in the ceremony Beta Club candidates were called to the front to receive their certificates from Beta Club sponsors Carla Hatfield and Suzanne Spruell.

The Beta Club inductees for 2023-24 are: Benjamin Abbott, Emmerson Abshire, Sarah Addo, Erin Adkins, Olaedo Anyanwu, Wyatt Bailey, Ashley Begasse, Lillian Betterton, Jaslyn Bibby, Caitlin Bishop, Natalie Blevins, Sydney Blewett, Alexandra Bonilla, Eva Brown, Terran Brown, Ian Burnett, Cindel Camper, Nathan Carter, Hernan Cataneo-Luna, Zachary Claybrook, Emily Cook, Madelyn Davis, Elizabeth Dixon, Mandolin Draper, Dominic Dulak, Carter Dullaghan, Landon Dyess, Phoenix Eanes, Kadence Fernatt, Samantha Flippen, Noah Franks, Lance Freedle, Dexter Gaines, Elliott Gaines, David Gaspar-Cabrera, Savannah Gibson, Claire Glover, Israel Hairston, Joshua Hardy, Jack Hinkle, Donald Hodges, Aiden Hundley, Makenna



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Five WBHS seniors were selected as speakers for the Beta Club induction ceremony. They were (left to right) Karli Stephenson, Dexter Gaines, Aiden Hundley, Lance Freedle, and Addisyn St. Clair.

Jacobsen, Zachary James, Emma Kageals, Alexis Labarbera, Thaddeus Lilley, Christian Lovern, Katelyn Lucas, Shiloh Markwith, Payton Martin, Gracie Mick, Emma Miller, Sean Minnix, Abigail Moats, Madison Montgomery, Tyler Morrison, Jenny Nguyen, Tracy Nguyen, Kallie Niday, Nicole Posadas, Lane Shoemaker, Emily Sowers, Keller

Spraker, Addisyn St. Clair, Samantha Start, Finley Stephens, Karli Stephenson, Johnathan Teague, Kayli Thompson, Noah Thompson, Kenny Trang, Emily Tuck, Madelyn Ward, Alexis Ware, Meghan White, Brenin Witcher, Ashley Woods, Grayson Workman, Griffin Yakob, and Elizabeth Young.

The ceremony concluded with the

repetition of the Beta Pledge by the students:

"I do solemnly declare that I shall always strive to hold fast to the principles of honesty, to maintain an admirable reputation, and to develop a foundation of character, service, and leadership in my life. I also pledge to promote an individual responsibility to improve my school, community, state, and nation."

SPORTS

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There's a storm coming

William Byrd High principal Tammy Newcomb (second from right in blue jeans) holds back the student body as they prepare to storm the field following Byrd's 14-12 win over Cave Spring at Patterson Stadium last Friday night.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terriers are 4-1 after come-from-behind win over Knights

The William Byrd football team will open Blue Ridge District play this week after finishing 4-1 in the non-district portion of the schedule. Byrd picked up some momentum for the district season with a come-from-behind 14-12 win over Cave Spring at Patterson Stadium last Friday.

"Our coaching staff is very proud of how our team performed Friday," said Byrd coach Brad Lutz. "It showed the growth that continues within our program. We have resilient kids in the program, and they proved their toughness and determination Friday."

The Terriers trailed 9-0 at the half after the visiting Knights scored a second quarter touchdown but failed on the conversion, then added a field goal. A second field goal put the Knights up 12-0 but Walter Barrows' 35 yard TD run cut the lead to 12-7 late in the period along with the extra point kick by reliable Bricen Lancaster.

The play of the game came with about six minutes left in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Israel Hairston found Barrows with a pass and the senior tailback broke tackles and weaved through the Cave Spring defense for 56 yards and the go-ahead touchdown. Lancaster drilled the extra point, then put the Knights in a hole with the ensuing kickoff and the Byrd defense held on for a big win.

Barrows finished with three carries for 56 yards and two receptions for 71 yards and scored both touchdowns for Byrd. He's been a big part of the offense after coming out for the team as a senior. A standout on the Byrd track team, he's added speed to

the Terrier attack. "Walter is a very explosive multi-sport athlete that has bought into our football culture," said Lutz. "He took advantage of the reps he earned, and changed the game."

"We are fortunate to have a reliable rotation at running back. That includes Walter, Brayden Andrews, Jerrett Shepherd and Jalen Toler. All are unselfish players who have unique qualities that help our offense. We are very lucky to have four quality young men in our backfield."

Andrews rushed for 38 yards against Cave Spring while Hairston passed for 110 yards. Dominic Dulak added two receptions for 21 yards and Shepherd had one catch for 18.

On defense John Kiker had seven solo tackles and 15 assists, with two tackles behind the line. Jahdai English had six solos and five assists, Maurice Burnette had five solos and five quarterback pressures and Dexter Gaines had three solos.

The game was somewhat of a homecoming for Cave Spring head coach Hunter Shepherd and his dad, assistant coach Robert Shepherd. Both are Byrd graduates who have made significant contributions to the Terrier program over the years. This is Hunter's first year as the Knights' head coach, but it wasn't his first time on the other side of the field as he was on the Staunton River staff prior to accepting the head position at Cave Spring.

"It doesn't feel strange anymore," said Shepherd. "A lot of memories come rushing back when I first

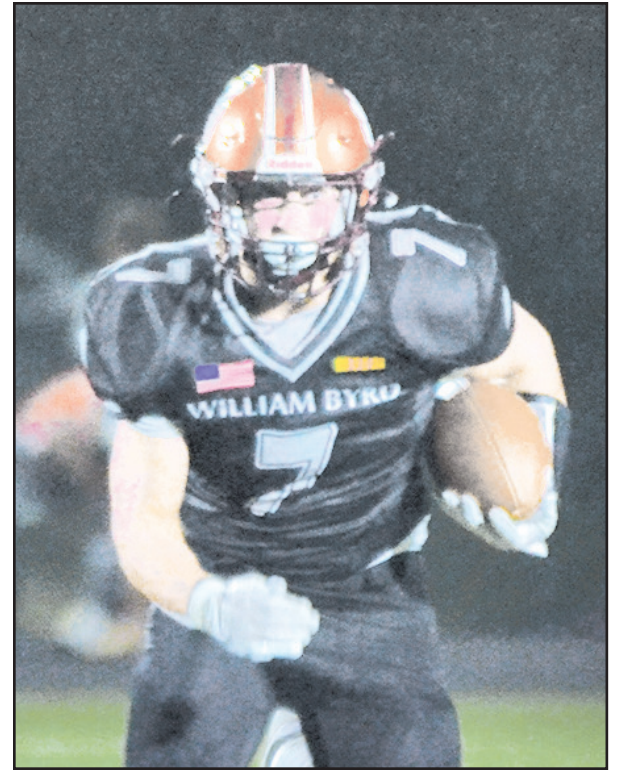
walk on the field from playing and coaching there. I usually take a moment to let it all soak in, and then it's back to business as usual. I've gotten use to going back there and being on the opposite sideline now."

Hunter is fitting in well in south Roanoke County. "I'm really enjoying Cave," he said. "Love the community and boys I have on the team. We have competed in every single game we have been in and fought to the absolute end."

The Knights and Terriers are both competing for position in the Region 3D rankings. The Virginia High School League released the first official rankings this week and Byrd is currently fourth while Cave Spring is 11th. The top three teams are Magna Vista, Christiansburg and Lord Botetourt and the top eight make the playoffs. If the region tournament began today Byrd would be home against Bassett, a team they beat 31-0 on September 15th.

The Terriers will begin the Blue Ridge District portion of their schedule this week and the first team on the agenda is William Fleming. Byrd will be in Roanoke Friday night and it will be a great chance to pick up some ground in the VHSL point standings, as the Colonels are a Class 5 team with a 3-2 record.

"William Fleming is an incredibly talented 5A football team," said Lutz. "Their program has continued to improve each season. They have changed their offensive scheme, which features a very skilled running back that holds multiple Division 1 scholarship offers. This will be another huge challenge for our team, but we are excited about the opportunity."



Left, Byrd graduate Hunter Shepherd coaches visiting Cave Spring Friday night. Center, Ian Vest(#34) and Justyn Rozenboom(#43) combine for a tackle. Right, Brayden Andrews picks up yards for the Terriers in Byrd's win at Patterson Stadium.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Byrd runners will preview district course with race at Greenfield Saturday

The annual Blue Ridge Invitational cross country race, hosted by Lord Botetourt and James River, will be held this Saturday at

the Greenfield course in Daleville and the William Byrd team is included.

Terrier runners will be among close to

30 teams expected to attend the race, including Hidden Valley, Cave Spring and Patrick Henry. The day will begin with a race at

9:30 a.m. for the middle school boys, followed by a middle school girls' race at 10:15 a.m. The boys' varsity will take the gun at 11:00

am, with the girls' varsity at 11:45. There will be a jayvee race for both boys and girls at 12:30 p.m.

This course will be

the same one used for the Blue Ridge District course so this is a good chance for the Terriers to preview the terrain at Greenfield.

"This weekend we will have a big focus on race tactics while navigating a somewhat hilly course," said Byrd coach Kayland Bond. "Showing up to the district meet with a game plan will help set us up for success."

"Another big thing we have been working on this season is maintaining a positive mental attitude. It is so easy to doubt yourself as an athlete when you are toeing the line before a race. Keeping the positive thoughts flowing and reflecting on all the hard work that has been put in during practice and workouts sets us up for success



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