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Price and Hairston named 2023 WBHS Homecoming Queen and King

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

William Byrd High School seniors Makayla Price and Israel Hairston were crowned as 2023 Homecoming Queen and King during a half-time ceremony at the football game on October 13.

Price is the daughter of Martin and Patricia Price. She is a member of the varsity basketball and lacrosse teams at Byrd, a Senior Representative, and a member of DECA and the Leo Clubs.

Hairston is the son of Christopher and Keevie Hairston. He is a captain of the William Byrd football team and its quarterback. He is also a captain of the varsity basketball team and plays varsity baseball. He is a member of the Beta Club, Student Voices, the PTSO, the SCA, Young Life, and the Triumph Way of the Cross Church.

Members of the



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Israel Hairston and Makayla Price were chosen by students and staff at William Byrd High School as the 2023 Homecoming King and Queen. The Terrier Mascot congratulates them.

Homecoming Court are nominated by their classmates (freshmen nominate freshmen, etc.) with the entire student body and staff voting online to select the Homecoming King and Queen from the senior candidates. Nominees introduced themselves to the student body via video on Terrier TV before the voting began.

Seniors on the 2023 Homecoming Court and

candidates for Homecoming King and Queen, in addition to Makayla Price and Israel Hairston, were Claire Glover (daughter of Eddie and Karenna Glover), Emmeron Abshire (daughter of Greg and Rebecca Abshire), Josh Stores (son of Allison and Rashard Poindexter and George Stores), Karli Stephenson

See Homecoming, page 8



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mill Mountain Theatre presented its production of "Stellaluna" at the Vinton Library on Oct. 13. The cast included a snake (Verdi), a bullying lion, a striped hyena (Pinduli), and Stellaluna the bat – all with a message.

Mill Mountain Theatre's 'Stellaluna' visits Vinton Library

Debbie Adams
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Mill Mountain Theatre (MMT) brought its production of "Stellaluna" to the Vinton Library on Oct. 13. There was a full house for the musical, which is being presented across the valley from Oct. 3-29 as part of the Young Audiences program.

According to MMT, "Stellaluna, the fruit bat, Verdi, the snake, and Pinduli,

the hyena, are all looking for refreshment at a watering hole one hot day, only to find themselves the subjects of a bullying lion's ridicule. The three share stories about themselves, build their self-confidence, and ultimately find wisdom, peace, and friendship." The stories are told mainly through songs.

There were many enthusiastic homeschoolers, preschoolers, and family

See Library, page 5

William Byrd High School partners with Alcovia to recognize Terriers of the Month

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This year William Byrd High School will continue to recognize students and staff as "Terriers of the Month" as in recent years. However, there is an addition for the 2023-24 school year – Alcovia Mortgage is sponsoring the program and honoring each Terrier with a T-shirt designed by the Art Department at Byrd and purchased by Alcovia.

Matt Crizer from Alcovia contacted WBHS Assistant Principal Phillip Martin over the summer to say that the company wanted to sponsor or help the school in some way with honoring students and teachers who are "doing great things in and out of the classroom."

The two talked about the existing Terrier of the Month program, which Martin wanted to enlarge and improve.

Crizer suggested adding the T-shirt for those who won the Terrier of the Month honor and letting the school come up with the design.

Martin invited art students in Alicia Spangler's Graphic Design classes to create the design for the shirts, which were then voted on by William Byrd students and staff.

"Phillip Martin came to me because I'm teaching the Graphic Design 1 and 2 classes this year," Spangler explained. "A former Byrd grad, Matt Crizer, who works with Alcovia Mortgage, reached out to Mr. Martin to ask how the company could support Byrd High. They formed a plan to create shirts that would be a reward for students who exemplify the Terrier Way: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible."

See WBHS, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

William Byrd High School Terriers of the Month include (from left): front row, students Tristan Epperly, Mannie Blake and Owen Humphries, and teacher Laurie Dunn; middle row, student Noah Lowe, teacher Kevin Tuck, and students Emily Tuck and Kate Bryant; and back row, teacher Dana Dishman, Matt Crizer from Alcovia, students Lane Shoemaker and Brenin Witcher, teacher Allison Thornton, and Assistant Principal Phillip Martin.

Vinton Town Council welcomes two new police officers

Debbie Adams
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Two new Vinton Police officers were presented to Town Council at its meeting on October 17 – Officer Sean Patrick McKittrick and Officer Douglas Gene Aune, Jr. They were sworn in on September 25, 2023.

Officer Andrew Hagy introduced McKittrick, saying, "Officer McKittrick as born in San Marcelino, Philippines, and now resides in this area. He has one daughter, Camilla, who is the center of his universe.

Before joining the Vinton Police Department, Officer McKittrick served the Roanoke City Police Department for 10 years. He is a graduate of Staunton River High School and attends courses at Virginia Western Community College.

"Officer McKittrick is very passionate and has earned a reputation for being an excellent trainer, especially a Field Training Officer. Many officers consider him to be quiet, humble, a great friend, and an exceptional father."

"Officer McKittrick

is a veteran of the United States Navy where he obtained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class. He then served as a 9780-Service Supply Handler. He is the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, to name a few."

Lt. Scott Hurt introduced Officer Aune, who "was born in Trenton, Mich., and has served most of his young life in the United States Armed Forces. He enlisted in



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Two new Vinton Police Department officers were introduced to Vinton Town Council at the meeting on Oct. 17. Pictured left to right are Lt. Scott Hurt, new officers Sean Patrick McKittrick and Douglas Gene Aune, Jr., and Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond.

the United States Air Force in August 2003 and recently completed

a 20-year career. He achieved the rank of E-7 and held the primary

specialty of Cryptologic Analyst and Reporter. In his career, Officer Aune was stationed in various capacities such as the Surveillance and Warning Center Supervisor of the 324th Intelligence Squadron at Hickman Air Force Base, Hawaii. He also served as the National Security Agency (NSA) Representative to the National Military Command Center,

See Council, page 4

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William Byrd Class of 1973 holds 50-year reunion on Homecoming Weekend



COURTESY OF JULIE FERGUSON HUCKABY

The William Byrd High School Class of 1973 held its 50-year reunion on Oct. 13 and 14, concluding with dinner at the Vinton Moose Lodge.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

The William Byrd High School Class of 1973 celebrated its 50-year class reunion during the 2023 Homecoming Weekend.

This year William Byrd will be marking its 100th anniversary; the Class of 1973 seniors say they deserve “special recognition as the halfway point for the school.”

The weekend started off with a tour of the high school (now undergoing renovations) on the morning of Oct. 13 for a trip down memory lane; followed by a pre-game tailgating party at the football game that night with lots of mingling and storytelling; and then watching the game between Byrd and longtime rival Lord Botetourt. (Byrd won 16-0.)

On Oct. 14, the Class of '73 met at the Vinton History Museum, which is filled with memorabilia and artifacts from the town and its schools, much of it donated by William Byrd alumni.

That night they held a “Reunion Celebration” at the Vinton Moose Lodge with dinner and music. One of the organizers, Julie Ferguson Huckaby (Holly Queen 1973), said, “Tonight was just perfect, in fact, just magical. We all had a wonderful time getting together.”

A special table was set up with photos of those in the Class of 1973 who have passed away.

Some alumni are local; some traveled across the country to attend.

The three who came the farthest were Steve Beer from Lincoln, Neb., Michele Myers Oakley from Rogers, Ark., and Jeanne Reynolds Lowery from Alabama.

Beer won the prize for the classmate who traveled the very farthest to the reunion. He moved to Nebraska soon after graduation and flew back for the class reunion – the first one he has attended. He had not seen any of his former classmates in the intervening 50 years. His father transferred to Nebraska when Beer was a senior at Byrd; he boarded in a Vinton home until he graduated that spring. He is now retired from working as a computer programmer.

Michele Myers Oakley still has quite a few Vinton connections and returns to Vinton fairly frequently to visit family. She is the daughter of Sydney Myers, a Lifetime member of the Vinton First Aid Crew, and sister to Gary Myers who escorted her to the event at the Vinton Moose Lodge. After graduating from Byrd, she attended Virginia Tech and then earned her Master's degree from VCU. She taught school for 37 years – special education and middle school math and science.

Jeanne Reynolds Lowery also has family in the Vinton area – her parents were Jimmy and Anita Reynolds. Her mother came from Alabama. Lowery says both her parents loved the Vinton History Museum and volunteered there, so it was one of her favorite parts of the

See Reunion, page 10



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Jeanne Reynolds Lowery (left to right), Steve Beer and Michele Myers Oakley traveled the farthest for their class reunion – Lowery from Alabama, Oakley from Arkansas, and Beer from Nebraska.



COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Several members of the Class of 1973 visited the Vinton History Museum for a tour on their reunion weekend.

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FROM THE PULPIT: THE LIFE OF JOSEPH, WEEK 1

Pastor Bryan Crouch
Lynn Haven Baptist Church

It has been my experience that being a true believer in Jesus Christ can be difficult at times. But I have also experienced joy and freedom through spiritual growth that must be felt personally to be understood completely.

In my opinion, there is no other story

in the Bible that shows us this experience better than the one of Joseph that starts in Genesis 37.

The story begins with a 17-year-old boy (Joseph) who was a bit of a tattletale. Any time his brothers would do something their father would not approve of, Joseph would go running to Daddy with all the details.

These actions, plus the fact the Joseph

was his father's favorite son (v.3) and made him a very special "techni-color dream coat," caused a lot of strife between him and his 11 brothers (v.4).

To top it all off, Joseph had a couple of dreams that portrayed Joseph as ruler over his entire family.

That was the last straw for the brothers. By v.18 the brothers plotted to kill Joseph... but God had a different plan.

There "just so happened," "luckily," and "just by chance," a caravan of traders came along, and Joseph's life was spared. The brothers sold him for 20 shekels of silver, and he was taken to Egypt to be sold at market.

One point to make this week: If your situation is not good, then that means God is not done! See Romans 8:28 and believe it!



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE FERGUSON

Mount Pleasant Lions continued their Adopt-a-Highway program along Sterling Road.

Mt. Pleasant Lions – Back in Action

Well, the summer doldrums have finally passed for the Lions Club in Mount Pleasant, and the members are once again engaged in a number of service projects.

Several members, including Pat and Brenda Musselwhite and Anne Ferguson, have completed eye screenings at three Roanoke County Elementary Schools— Clearbrook, Penn Forest and Green Valley, with Tammy Brightwell, the Lions' State Secretary, pitching in at Penn Forest. Mount Pleasant Elementary is last on the list for screenings.

A total of about 425 pre-school, kindergarten, first, and third graders have, so far, looked into the club's SPOT machine for about four seconds. That short time allows the device to detect up to five different eye abnormalities and, if one or more shows up, a stylized facial picture is printed out for the school nurse to review and pass on to the child's parents for a professional eye exam follow-up, if warranted. Overall, about 10 % of the kids were indicated for further tests.

SPOT is a vast improvement over the old "stand way back, cover one eye, and read the chart" test. The youngest children don't have to know their letters to be screened and even attention-challenged students can usually stare at the colored lights in the machine's lens for long enough to get a reading. The eye screening project has been very successful for the Mount Pleasant Lions for now more than 10 years.

In addition to the eye screenings, the club has resumed its roadside cleanup of Sterling Road S.E., pursuant to VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program.

Five bags of trash were collected by club members and volunteers on Saturday, Oct. 7. The two teams included Lion Pat Musselwhite and his volunteer son Brian Musselwhite and Lion Les Moore and his volunteer son Hunter Musselwhite – three generations of Musselwhites. All four participants are William Byrd High School graduates, ranging from the 1960s to the 2020s.

Also, the maintenance of the historic Kefauver Cemetery, which is located near the traffic circle at the intersection of Route 116 (Jae Valley Road) and Bennington Street, continues on a sporadic, as-needed basis by the Mount Pleasant Lions.

The earliest known grave there is from 1804. The property is now owned by the Western Virginia Water Authority which has a pumping station adjacent to the bold springs there. Water from Crystal Spring, where the massive new Carilion Clinic, Roanoke Memorial Hospital addition is being built, actually flows by pipe along Riverland Road to that pumping station for distribution throughout the Authority's system.

So, the now 62-year-old Mount Pleasant Lions Club continues to perform in its community, living up to the International Lions motto "We Serve."

Interested area residents are encouraged to check out the club via its Facebook page, or better yet attending a meeting at 7 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month in the club's meeting hall, "The Lions' Den" in downtown Mount Pleasant at 2423 Mayfield Drive, S.E., Roanoke.

Submitted by Lion Mike Ferguson

Trick-or-Treat at the Lancerlot on Oct. 30

The Lancerlot Sports Complex (LSC) is hosting a new, free, family trick-or-treat event on Monday, Oct. 30, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are welcome in their Halloween costumes to trick-or-treat throughout the entire sports complex and learn about all the offerings at LSC, including gymnastics, boxing, physical therapy, hockey, swimming, weightlifting, figure skating, aerobics, massage therapy, mixed martial arts, and more.

The idea came from Kayleigh Duffy with the Prestige Gymnastics Academy, which has a location in the Lancerlot. She was planning a special trick-or-treat event for her classes and, in discussion with Lancerlot General Manager Joe Miller, Assistant Manager Kathleen Sink, and owners of the Lancerlot, suggested expanding the fun throughout the entire Lancerlot complex.

Children (and adults) are invited to come in costume and explore the three floors of The Lot to collect candy and prizes. The Lancerlot requests that all children be accompanied by an adult for this event.

The first stop for trick-or-treaters will be a "Meet and Greet" station at the front entrance of The Lot. There they will be given a "Passport" and map to the facility and the 20 stations they can visit on all three floors to collect Halloween candy.

Many are unaware that the Lancerlot is home to several health and fitness businesses and programs. This trick-or-treat event will give the public the opportunity to visit every area of the facility (ice rink side and pool/gym

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE LOT

Visit the Lancerlot Sports Complex Facebook page to print a Trick-or-Treat Passport in advance.

side) to see what the Lancerlot has to offer, collect some goodies at each station, and get a space on their Passport checked off.

Children who have all stations checked off on their Passports will have their names entered into a drawing for larger prizes.

Those who would like

a copy of the Passport in advance can visit the Lancerlot Sports Complex Facebook page and print one off at <https://www.facebook.com/p/LancerLot-Sports-Complex-100064077820837/>.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. A way to communicate
 - 5. Historic city
 - 9. Not the same
 - 11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
 - 13. One hurt the Titanic
 - 15. Fine dense cloth
 - 16. Architectural structure
 - 17. Where Serena works
 - 19. Stringed instrument
 - 21. Estimate
 - 22. Where sailors work
 - 23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
 - 25. Popular slow cooked dish
 - 26. Twisted Sister's Snider
 - 27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
 - 29. Put the ball in the net
 - 31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
 - 33. High school math subject
 - 34. Looked into
 - 36. Rhode Island rebellion
 - 38. A pea is one type
 - 39. You can put it on something
 - 41. Where golfers begin
 - 43. Make a mistake
 - 44. Semitic Sun god
 - 46. Ancient Greek City
 - 48. Beheaded
 - 52. A place to stay
 - 53. Inanely foolish
 - 54. Most unnatural
 - 56. "Dennis" is one
 - 57. Soothes
 - 58. Exam
 - 59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Triangular bone in lower back
 - 2. Building toy
 - 3. Pointed end of a pen
 - 4. Insect repellent
 - 5. College army
 - 6. Highly spiced stew
 - 7. Exploited
 - 8. Main course
 - 9. A bottle that contains a drug
 - 10. The most worthless part
 - 11. Everyone needs one nowadays
 - 12. Japanese wooden shoe
 - 14. Antelopes
 - 15. A way to cut
 - 18. Brooklyn hoopsters
 - 20. Gradually receded
 - 24. Ripped open
 - 26. College grads get one
 - 28. Amino acid
 - 30. Unruly gathering
 - 32. Legislative body
 - 34. Resembling pigs
 - 40. Satisfy
 - 42. Felt
 - 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 - 45. Witnesses
 - 47. Some build hills
 - 49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
 - 50. Ancient people of Scotland
 - 51. Cheerless
 - 55. Unwell

Council from page 1

Pentagon. He served as the Planning, Exercise, and Training Manager of the Joint Special Operations Command for the Department of Defense, the Department Chief for the 497th Operations Support Squadron, Langley Air Force Base, and the training and tactics subject matter expert for the 480th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, Langley Air Force Base. He finished his career as a Deputy Senior Enlisted Advisor and Section Chief, Joint Staff, Pentagon.

"In addition, Officer Aune also served as a search and rescue firefighter for the Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue and served the Gloucester County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff. He is a graduate of the Community College of the Air Force, where he obtained his Associate Degree in Communications Applications Technology. He also attended Ashford University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in social and criminal justice.

"He is also a certified canine (K-9) handler with an emphasis on explosives, firearms, tracking, training, and patrol. He is very passionate about this certification and very proud of his canine Demi. Aune and his wife Amy have three children.

Police Officer Jesse Dibble spoke to council about the upcoming Ruck March on Veterans Day, sponsored by the Town of Vinton, the Vinton Police Department, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, and Queen City Rucking 22, which will benefit the Boulder Crest Foundation (BCF). Boulder

Crest is the home of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG). It offer slife-changing programs free of charge to members of the military, veterans, and first responder communities and their families.

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond presented the quarterly police report for the months of July through September 2023 (details in the Oct. 26 Vinton Messenger).

During the meeting, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall read a proclamation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the United Way of the Roanoke Valley. Since 1924, the organization has generated over \$232 million for programs in the region.

Council held a public hearing and then approved granting a lease to the Vinton Historical Society for the Vinton History Museum at 210 East Jackson Avenue. The lease will run for eight months from Nov. 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and then align on a fiscal year basis with four additional one-year renewals expiring in 2028. The town will maintain HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems; provide routine exterior maintenance; and Public Works will provide routine grounds maintenance. The Historical Society will provide funds for major improvements. Council was briefed on the lease at an earlier meeting by Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour.

Council next passed a resolution authorizing Town Manager Pete Peters to execute a performance agreement with Tacorita Inc. to redevelop the

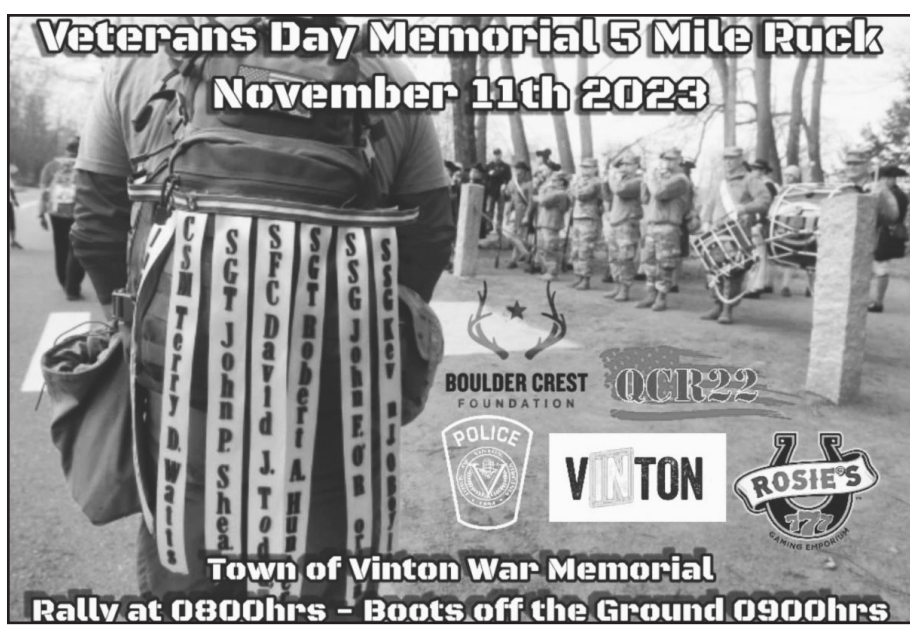


PHOTO COURTESY OF VPD

The town, the police department, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, and Queen City Rucking 22 will be sponsoring a Ruck March on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to benefit the Boulder Crest Foundation.

former Red Jasmine building into the Tacorita Tacos & Tequila Bar restaurant. The town, in partnership with the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority, will provide \$25,000 over a one-year period to construct a private lateral sewer connection, as the shared sewer connection was terminated during the demolition of 206 S. Pollard Street due to damage that occurred during the July 2, 2022, downtown fire.

This performance agreement will redevelop a vacant building in Vinton's downtown and help revitalize the

town's main street, as well as generate meals tax revenue and create new jobs. Sergio Arellano is the owner, a third generation restaurateur. His grandfather opened the first Mexican restaurant in the Roanoke area and Arellano grew up in the Roanoke area. He will be investing \$100,000 in the 2,000-square-foot restaurant. Vice Mayor Stovall noted that while there are other Mexican restaurants in Vinton, there is not one downtown. Tacorita Tacos will enhance the

See Town Council, page 9

The Vinton Messenger

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VINTON

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

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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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.

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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; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST

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

WESLEYAN

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

WBHS from page 1

“They needed the designs early in the year, so my goal was to use an entry-level/more user-friendly software called Canva,” Spangler said. “Mr. Martin gave the class the parameters and the students were tasked with designing a shirt over a two-day period of time. The winner of the shirt contest would have several prizes: the winner’s entire graphic design class would get a pizza party, a new computer mouse to keep, and recognition on Terrier TV.”

All Graphic Design 1 and 2 students submitted their concepts and then 10 finalists were chosen by Spangler, Martin, and Principal Tammy Newcomb.

“Byrd’s ITRT, Cherrybell Farrington, was nice enough to create a document that allowed students and staff to enter votes on their favorite design (one per person),” Spangler said. “We decided no names would be attached to the entries – that way each design could speak for itself.”

“I was blown away by the students’ creativity and attention to detail. There were so many creative designs that I would have loved to have on a shirt, but the one with the most votes was by Madelyn Brown (Maddy). She is a Graphic Design 1 student in the 9th grade. She created a smart, eye-catching design that will appeal to the students who are lucky enough to win the honor of Terrier of the Month.”

How are students and staff selected as “Terriers of the Month”?

“All WBHS students and staff may nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the ‘Terrier Way’ (being safe, respectful, and responsible and embodying the best of WBHS),” Martin explained.

“Our ITRT, Ms. Farrington, sends out bi-monthly reminders through BlackBoard for students and staff to submit nominations. Then on the second and last Fridays of the month, four students and two teachers are selected (a total of eight students and four teachers each month). These individuals get their pictures taken for the newsletter, their names on the sign on Route 24, a gift bag, and a Terrier of the Month T-shirt from our sponsor, Alcovia.”

The first 2023-24 Terriers of the Month students, selected for September were:

Owen Humphries: Owen is a sophomore who was nominated for his academic achievements, kindness towards others, and school spirit. The teacher who nominated Owen said, “[he] is a prime example of a caring, responsible, and supportive William Byrd student.”

Mannie Blake: Mannie is a senior who was nominated for his positive attitude, encouragement of others, and willingness to try new things. The teacher who nominated him said, “Mannie comes into class with a smile and keeps it the entire time... he is very considerate of everyone around him and is a joy to have in class.”

Tristan Epperly: Tristan is a sophomore who was nominated for his maturity, leadership, and consideration of others. The staff member who nominated Tristan said, “He intervened in a situation between two students that could have escalated...his maturity and consideration of others was vital in that moment.”

Kate Bryant: Kate is a senior and member of the volleyball team who was nominated for embodying the Terrier Way. The staff



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Alcovia Mortgage is donating Terrier of the Month T-shirts to honored students and staff at WBHS this school year. The design for the shirts was created by freshman art student Madelyn Brown.

member who nominated Kate said, “She always conducts herself in a safe and orderly manner on and off school grounds. She is respectful to students, staff, and administration and is one of the most responsible students I have had the privilege of working with.”

Lane Shoemaker: Lane is a senior and member of the William Byrd football team who was nominated for his strong work ethic and for serving as a role model for others. The teacher who nominated Lane said, “[he] is a role model to all students by showing respect for his peers and teachers. He shows responsibility by working hard in class and going above and beyond what is expected.”

Brenin Witcher: Brenin is a senior and member of the baseball team who was nominated for his school spirit and commitment to the Byrd community. The staff member who nominated Brenin said, “He is a

positive representative of our school”...serving as the Dog Pound Leader, coaching Powder Puff, and participating in Young Life and the FCA. He attends virtually every WBHS event and goes ‘above and beyond at our school.’”

Noah Lowe: Noah is a sophomore and member of the soccer team who was nominated for his courage and willingness to help others. The staff member who nominated Noah said, “He snapped into action during a very dangerous situation to help provide support and assistance to a student in need. In that moment, Noah responded like a true hero.”

Emily Tuck: Emily is a senior and member of the volleyball team who was nominated for being a positive role model on the court and in the classroom. The teacher who nominated Emily said, “Her ability to lead with compassion and strength has truly made a

difference in our school. She is simply a pleasure to be around, and I can’t find anything but kind words to say about her.”

Teachers named as Terriers of the Month for September were:

Dana Dishman: Mrs. Dishman teaches Geometry and Algebra Functions and Data Analysis. The students who nominated Mrs. Dishman highlighted her strong work ethic and dedication to her students. As one student said, “She is the best geometry teacher, and she always helps when you’re stuck on work and will continue to help you until you figure it out.”

Allison Thornton: Ms. Thornton teaches Health and PE 10 and Driver’s Ed and serves as the volleyball coach. As the volume of nominations show, Ms. Thornton is both respected and adored by her students. The students who nominated her highlighted her sense of humor and ability to always make class fun.

As one student said, “She makes class enjoyable, and she is outgoing! She helps us inside and outside of the classroom...she is my favorite teacher!”

Laurie Dunn: Ms. Dunn teaches Child Development, Intro to Culinary Arts, and Adulting 101. The students who nominated Ms. Dunn highlighted her kindness and support in the classroom. As one student said, “She is always willing to help if it is needed, and she believes in each of her students with all of her heart. She is always respectful to her students even if they do not show her the same respect.”

Kevin Tuck: Mr. Tuck teaches World History I and AP World History. The students who nominated him highlighted his ability to make class fun and enjoyable. As one student said, “He is always funny and cheerful...he makes learning fun...and if you have a bad day, he will always cheer you up.”

Library from page 1



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



**We’d like you to meet
JUSTIN FIX**
Funeral Director, Vinton Chapel

Justin grew up in Vinton, is a graduate of William Byrd High School and the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service. Justin, his wife, Meredith and their puppy, Goose enjoy hiking, camping and spending time with family. oakeys.com/justin-fix



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members in the audience. The actors in the cast were mainly local, unlike MMT summer Young Audience performances which bring in actors from across the nation.

Not only was there singing, dancing, and lots of comedy involved; there was also a good bit of science education. Children learned from Pinduli, the striped hyena, that there are four kinds of hyenas, what their diets consist of (they are omnivores), and that they are not related to dogs. Pinduli shares her story of how other animals made fun of her looks on the savannah and made her doubt herself.

The audience learned from Verdi, the snake, that snakes are not slimy, and that non-poisonous varieties squeeze their prey. Verdi shares a story of being an energetic, golden, young snake who doesn’t want to grow old and become grumpy and slow like the older green pythons he meets. But he discovers that growing up is not so bad and it’s what’s on the inside that counts.

Stellaluna taught the audience that bats are not birds – they are mammals and don’t have feathers. They eat mainly fruit, leaves, nectar, and pollen, and also small insects. They sleep in the daytime and are active at night, unlike birds which do the opposite. Bats also hang by their feet to sleep, unlike birds. The audience was

reassured that although there are vampire bats, none live anywhere near Roanoke.

Stellaluna shares her story of getting separated from her mother after a frightening encounter with an owl in the treetops. Lost and alone, she finds a family of birds who take her in, but want her to change and act like a bird to fit in with their family. They want her to sleep at night, eat bugs, and not hang by her feet. She struggles until she finds out who she really is and how to be herself.

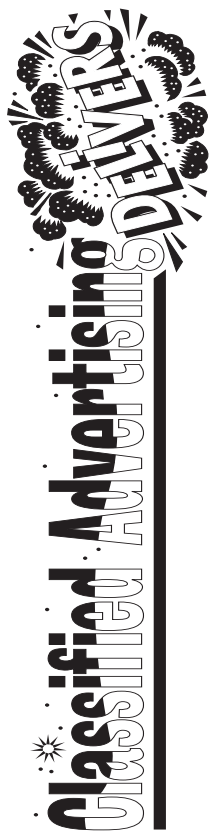
In the end, they all discover that, with friends and family to make it through, everything will be fine.

The show is based on popular books by Janell Cannon. Books and lyrics are by playwright Alyn Cardarelli with music by composer/pianist Steve Goers.

Cannon is said to have written the story about bats because of the negative perceptions many people have of them, and because they are not often featured in children’s books.

Themes in “Stellaluna” included friendship, overlooking differences to find common ground and the universal emotion of “feeling like a bat in a bird’s world.”

Check the website at <https://millmountain.org/> for the remainder of the “Stellaluna” performances and upcoming productions.



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DAR makes blankets for local veterans



Members of the Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR finished up their annual blanket-tying project for veterans at their meeting on Oct. 14. Pictured left to right are Sheila Campbell, Regent Cindy Higgins, Shannon Campbell, Nancy Hoffman, Janice Taylor, Sabra Breslin, Elaine Muldrew, Heather Menzies, Lisa Gascoyne, and Sharon Menzies.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Sheila Campbell ties the fringed edges of blankets to be presented to veterans – a yearly project of the local DAR chapter.

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.com

The Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution held the annual blanket-tying for veterans event at the October 14 meeting – one of their many community service projects, which frequently focus on veterans.

Each summer several members meet to cut and fringe the fleece for the blankets; then the entire chapter takes part in the fringe knotting at the October meeting. The blankets are always made from fabric with patriotic designs and given to veterans. This year 22 full-length blankets will be distributed to veterans at the Virginia Veterans Care Center or the VA Medical Center in Salem.

The DAR is also collecting white socks and T-shirts for local veterans and Christmas cards to send to those in the military currently deployed abroad.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Elaine Muldrew shared some historical perspective on the issue. It is not widely known that President George Washington's mother, Mary Ball Washington, died from breast cancer in August 1789 in a time when cancer was difficult to detect until it was in advanced stages. President John Adams' daughter also lost her life to breast cancer.

Common treatment at the time included "spreading the whites of two raw eggs on a piece of linen and applying it frequently while wet to the problem area." It was noted that Washington also sent his mother hemlock from New York for her treatment, as it was hard to come by at her home in Fredericksburg.

Regent Cindy Higgins updated the group on their recycling project in conjunction with the town, Food Lion, PFG, and Trex Corporation. The DAR has collected hundreds of pounds of soft recyclable plastics; for each 500 pounds collected, Trex has donated one composite Trex bench to the chapter. They have now collected enough for seven benches, several of which have been placed on the greenways in Vinton.

Higgins also informed the membership of another project – helping to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States by sending dry, loose tea leaves to a planned re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party in December.

The Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR members will be participating in the annual Roanoke Veterans Day Parade, this year riding on their own float.

The October meeting concluded with a program by Sabra Breslin on Captain Jack Jouett, a Revolutionary War Patriot and hero from Virginia. Paul Revere is not

the only one who made a harrowing night-time ride to warn that the British were coming. In fact, Jack Jouett is sometimes referred to as "the Paul Revere of the South."

Jouett is credited with saving the lives of Thomas Jefferson and several members of the General Assembly after a 40-mile ride on horseback to Monticello and Charlottesville to rescue Governor Thomas Jefferson from British capture.

The British had been threatening Richmond and central Virginia and the General Assembly had fled to Charlottesville. Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Richard Henry Lee escaped capture thanks to Jouett, but Daniel Boone was briefly detained. Jefferson left with about five minutes to spare.

For his efforts, Jouett was presented with an elegant sword and pair of pistols. There is now a Jack Jouett Chapter of the DAR and a middle school in Charlottesville was named for a time in his honor.

The Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR welcomes new members and will assist those interested in documenting their lineage to a Patriot from the American Revolution era. The chapter generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian church on Hardy Road in Vinton.

Homecoming

from page 1



PHOTO BY CHERRY BELL DAMASCO-FARRINGTON

Members of the 2023 WBHS Homecoming Court included (from left) Noah Austin, Brogan Dent, Ethan Haston, Josh Stores, Claire Glover, Addison Clark, Ryleigh Grubb, Nathan Rogers, Kendall Gordan, Karli Stephenson, Jada Johnson, Makayla Price, and Emmerson Abshire. Not pictured are London Hartman, Luke Richardson, Keegan Harnish, Tate Kotz, Kaitlyn Duncan, and Israel Hairston.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

This year's Flower Girl for Homecoming was Riley McKenzie Decoster; the Crown Bearer was Marek Bartley. They are pictured with Homecoming Queen Makayla Price, WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb, and the Terrier Mascot.

(daughter of Chris Stephenson and Michelle Mullins), and Noah Austin (son of Robin Austin and Eric and Jill Austin).

Juniors on the Homecoming Court this year included Kaitlyn Duncan (daughter of Tim and Monica Duncan), Brogan Dent (son of Justin and Kim Dent), Kendall Gordan (daughter of Chris and Joy Gordan), Nathan Rogers (son of Dale and Jenny Rogers), Jada Johnson (daughter of Tony and Coleen Johnson), and Ethan Haston (son of Brian Haston and Rachel Robertson).

Sophomore members of the Homecoming Court for 2023 were Addison Clark (daughter of Allen and Sharon Clark), Tate Kotz (son of Mitch and Shawna Kotz), Ryleigh Grubb (daughter of Jesse and Lisa Grubb), and Keegan Harnish (son of Jake and Kellay Harnish).

Members of this year's Homecoming Court representing the freshmen class included London Hartman (daughter of Charles and Sheree Hartman) and Luke Richardson (son of Kevin and Jennifer Richardson).

Homecoming Court members were escorted to centerfield by a family member this year for the crowning of the king and queen by WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb, assisted by last year's Homecoming King Justin Patrick, Flower Girl Riley McKenzie Decoster, and Crown Bearer Marek Bartley. (Riley is the 4-year-old daughter of Katie and Andrew Decoster. Marek is 4 years old and the son of Matt and

Shannon Bartley.)

The names of the king and queen were kept secret until the final moment.

Homecoming festivities this year also included four days of Spirit Week at William Byrd, including PJ Day, Barbie vs. Ken Day, WebEx/Zoom Day, and Class Salad Dressing Day.

There was a powderpuff football game midweek and a pep rally at the end of the school day on October 13, where the Junior Class was awarded the Spirit Stick for their enthusiastic participation throughout the week's events.

Other highlights of Homecoming on October 13 included a performance of this season's band competition program, "Mind over Matter," prior to the game by the Marching Terriers band. Dan Plybon is the band director. Cadets from the National Naval Defense Cadet Corps presented the colors during the national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. The William Byrd Choir, under the direction of Matt Bartley, performed the national anthem.

The Dog Pound, cheerleaders – joined by alumni cheerleaders – and the Terrier Mascot were full of spirit and enthusiasm as always, especially as the Terriers won their game against Lord Botetourt, 16-0.

Flowers were provided for the ceremony by Cuts Creative Florist.

The grand finale of the week came on Saturday, Oct. 14, with the Homecoming Dance in the school gym.



Volunteers at the Vinton History Museum are making ornaments to decorate their entry at the Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens competition during the upcoming holiday season. Shown left to right are Mary Beth Layman, Judy Kelley, Becky Miller, Julie Tucei, and Shaye Hicks.

Vinton History Museum prepares decorations for Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens

Volunteers at the Vinton History Museum have been hard at work since spring creating ornaments for their 2023 entry in the Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens competition.

The History Museum tree will be decked out with unique and beautiful ornaments made of doilies, ribbons, and upcycled jewelry put together with hot glue by volunteers who have worked in “Creative Sessions” one Wednesday a month. They have made close to 100 ornaments so far.

This year’s theme is “Traditional

with a Twist.”

On November 19 and 20, volunteers will be at the hotel decorating the tree. Fashions for Evergreens trees will be on display from Thanksgiving Day through December 31. The public is encouraged to vote for their favorite tree – hopefully, the Vinton History Museum tree.

This is the third year that the museum has been invited to participate in the competition which benefits the United Way of the Roanoke Valley.

-Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

This year’s tree will be decorated with ornaments made from doilies, ribbons, and costume jewelry.

Vinton Woman’s Club delivers treats to first responders

On the 11th day of each month for many years, the GFWC Vinton Woman’s Club has delivered treats to Vinton Fire and Rescue in remembrance of 9/11. Member Ardy Kidd delivered the treats to the Fire Department and the Vinton Police Department on October 11.

“It is a small thing, but the club members hope this brings a smile to their

faces and a reminder that they are appreciated,” said member Kathryn Sowers.

The Vinton Woman’s Club is well-known in the community for the wide variety of projects the members take on to meet local, state, national, and international needs. They present annual scholarships to William Byrd High School seniors. They partner with the Vinton Police

Department to combat domestic violence and child abuse by planting a pinwheel garden each April at the Municipal Building to raise awareness of the issues. They contribute to local food banks to fight food insecurity. Wherever there is a need – they strive to meet it.

Submitted by Kathryn Sowers, Vinton Woman’s Club



COURTESY OF KATHRYN SOWERS

On the 11th day of each month, members of the Vinton Woman’s Club deliver treats to first responders in Vinton. Pictured (left to right) are Drew Oakes, Ardy Kidd, and Chris Williams.

Roanoke County mailing real estate tax bills October 20

Keep an eye out for your Roanoke County real estate tax bills – they will be in the mail on October 20. This is the second half of the year’s bill which is due for payment on December 5, 2023.

The county reminds property owners that real estate taxes make infrastructure and services possible, such as roads, schools, and police protection.

Payments may be made by installment, by phone, online, or

in-person at the Treasurer’s Office on Bernard Drive from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

There are drop boxes located outside the County Administration Office (visitor’s parking lot), and at the Vinton, Glenvar, and Hollins libraries (check payments only).

Visit <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/400/Tax-Payments> for more information.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

VINTON HISTORY:

The Hotel Ponce de Leon painting

The Hotel Ponce de Leon, located at Campbell Avenue and 2nd Street in downtown Roanoke, has changed over time from a five-story hotel to an office building and now 89 apartments.

The hotel opened on Thanksgiving Day of 1890, towering above all other buildings in the city.

It was encased in white brick and had covered porches in the back the length of the building on each story and art deco designs on the top of the building. The lobby and mezzanine still have shiny terrazzo floors and wrought-iron stair railings.

Apartment residents still use the original elevator cabs, complete with restored brass knobs.

Unique features from the past include the Lick



PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

This painting of the Hotel Ponce de Leon in Roanoke hangs in the Vinton History Museum.

Run Spring, which flows underneath the Ponce de Leon. The restaurant there reportedly served trout from this spring. Now, this same spring flows through an outdoor courtyard for residents to enjoy.

The pictured painting of the Hotel Ponce de Leon in 1903 was painted by Norris Coleman, a well-known Vinton artist.

The painting, along with other paintings by local artists, is on display at the Vinton History Museum, at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton– open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

Downtown Vinton Trick-or-Treating scheduled for October 26

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Vinton, along with local businesses and organizations, will be hosting the annual Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat on Thursday, October 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. This is a free event. All are welcome to attend and join in the fun.

Downtown Trick-or-Treating is a tradition that spans the decades in Vinton.

Once again, there will be awards for “Best Storefront” and best individual costume.

There will be some road closures from 2:30 to 5:30 on October 26 due to trick-or-treating: Pollard Street from Washington Avenue to Jefferson Street, Lee



IMAGE COURTESY VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Avenue from Maple Street to Jackson, and Cleveland Avenue from 1st Street to Maple Street.

-Vinton Messenger Staff Report

Town Council

from page 4

walkability in the downtown area. He also thanked Arellano for his patience throughout the aftermath of the fire.

Council also authorized the town manager to execute a contract with TRC Companies, Inc. (the low bidder) for Environmental Consulting Services to assist with the administration of the \$500,000 Community-side Brownfields Assessment Grant the town applied for and has received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Two bids were received when the project was advertised.

TRC will assist with grant administration, conduct environmental assessments, prepare conceptual site plans, establish marketing materials, and assist with coordination of the steering committee.

Vinton Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung detailed the project and process. He reminded council members that the town previously received a lesser grant of \$300,000 from the EPA which has been well-used in economic development projects in the town which involved brownfield sites. Those include the Cleveland Mart project, the landfill, Steve’s Garage,

and the hotel site.

Potential uses for the new grant include Gish Mill, the downtown McClung industrial property, and the downtown fire block sites.

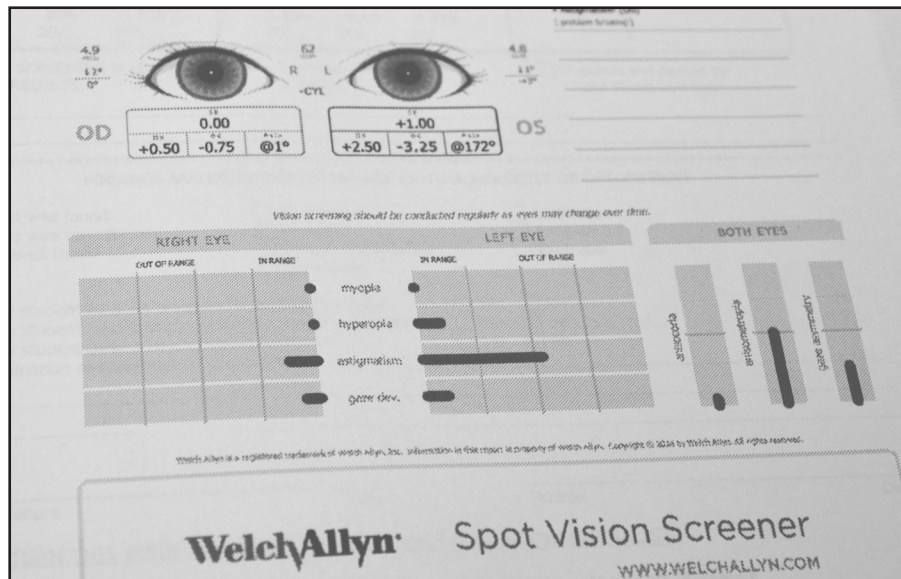
Mayor Brad Grose described the grant as “a really big deal” and thanked the multiple town departments who worked together to secure the grant.

Peters updated council on paving for the Walnut Avenue Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects and paving next week at the Vinton Farmers’ Market. Schedules will be announced on the town’s social media sites.

McClung shared topics covered in the October Community Development Committee meeting, most of which were covered by actions taken in the Oct. 17 council meeting.

Finance Director Andrew Keen’s report from the Finance Committee indicates that Vinton currently has \$14 million in cash in operating and investment funds. The town’s high-interest-bearing accounts diversified across three banks are earning \$50,000 a month in interest. Revenues from meals, sales, pari-mutuel, and cigarette taxes have been higher than expected. The town continues to remain debt-free.

Vinton Breakfast Lions continue school vision screenings; receive large donation from Rosie's Gaming Emporium for projects



The vision screenings completed by the Vinton Breakfast Lions indicate children who need further evaluation by a professional. Once the screening is complete, the Lions print out a referral form for parents. This screening indicates that a child may have an astigmatism.



Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Vinton presented a check for \$5,000 to the Breakfast Lions to support their community service projects. Pictured left to right are Rosie's General Manager Todd Lear, Rosie's Marketing Manager Jeff Spaugh, and Lions Steve Haldren, Bob Benninger, Gary Myers, Chris McCarty, and Zach McCarty. John Berry is not pictured.

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.com

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club is one of the busiest organizations in Vinton, and each year one of its projects which touches many lives is the vision screenings the members conduct at local private preschools and public schools.

This fall Denny Dickens and other Lion volunteers have completed 1,119 vision screenings at W.E. Cundiff, Bonsack, Troutville, and Herman L. Horn Elementary Schools and at William Byrd Middle and High Schools.

The most recent screening was at Herman L. Horn on Oct. 13; Dickens and Lions Club President Jeff Mason screened 152 students in grades preschool, kindergarten, third grade, and anyone new in Roanoke County schools. In the upper grades, they screen seventh and tenth graders and those new to the county.

At Herman L. Horn, parents and volunteers from Vinton Baptist Church assisted with the screenings.

In spring 2024, the Lions will be completing vision screenings in four or five private preschools.

Dickens says that usually about 10% of the vision screenings result in referrals to the school nurse who notifies parents that the child needs further evaluation by a professional of their choice. So far this fall, the Lions Club screenings have resulted in 161 referrals.

Lions Clubs are best known around the world for their dedication to programs involving vision. Their mission began in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed their convention and challenged them to become "Knights of the Blind."

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club members have carried on that goal of preserving and protecting eyesight since around the year 2005. Dickens started doing the screenings in 2007 with Roanoke City preschools.

When the Lions initially began the screenings, the technology consisted of a Polaroid camera with special film. Photos were taken and then screened individually by Vinton optometrist Dr. Neal Jessup. Tremendous advances have occurred in the years since.

Currently, the Lions use the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screeners, described by the company as "handheld, portable devices designed to help users quickly and easily detect vision issues on patients from 6 months of age through adult. The camera screens both eyes at once from



Lion Jeff Mason uses the Spot Vision Screener to detect vision problems in children at Herman L. Horn Elementary in kindergarten, first, and third grades.

a nonthreatening three-foot distance in just moments."

An infrared light is projected through the eye pupil onto the retina and captures the vision data, which appears on the camera display screen. The cameras can detect near-sightedness, far-sightedness, unequal refractive power, blurred vision and eye structure problems like astigmatism, pupil size deviations, and eye misalignment.

The Spot Vision cameras make the process quicker and less complicated and have vastly improved the accuracy of the screening process. The cameras are virtually foolproof and even the most distractible student can remain engaged for the few seconds that it takes to complete the screening by gazing into the camera with its flashing lights.

Students who already have glasses or contact lenses can be screened with the camera as well.

The Lions use a wireless printer with the vision screener to print out results of only those who need to be evaluated further and pass those pages along to

the school, who sends them home.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions were invited to Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Vinton on Oct. 11 to accept a check for \$5,000 to be used in a variety of community service projects. Rosie's General Manager Todd Lear presented the check as part of the "Rosie's Gives Back" program. The donation was accepted by Breakfast Lions Gary Myers, Bob Benninger, Chris McCarty, Zach McCarty, Steve Haldren, and John Berry.

Rosie's is a well-known community partner in Vinton. It has made generous contributions totaling \$100,000 each year to a host of causes in the area, as well as sponsoring numerous local events – and sending employees to serve as volunteers for them.

Organizations only need apply to be considered for a donation as part of Rosie's philosophy of investing in the growth and quality of life in the communities where they are located

Reunion

from page 2

reunion. She attended Auburn University after graduating from William Byrd and then married a man from Alabama. They have two daughters who also live there.

In all, Huckaby says about 50 alumni attended the reunion, plus their guests. She and reunion committee members Sharon Law Meador, Rhonda Kendrick Agee (Homecoming Queen 1973), Terrie Webber Bigler, Mary Lynn Thrasher Malone, Debbie Holloway Richardson, Linda Cox Flippo, and Dreama Divers Hurt planned the event.

According to Huckaby, "The Class of 1973 was the first to attend the new William Byrd High School all the way through. We started as freshmen when the school opened its doors for the first time."

She shared, "This reunion almost did not take place. Classmates resisted diving back into the planning process. The class has not had a reunion in 30 years. It took a lot of talking to get the committee on board. Now they cannot believe they waited so long. We have laughed and reminisced about old times and how much things have changed since we attended William Byrd."

During the reunion planning, Debbie Holloway Richardson

brought up how hard the girls had to fight to wear pants to school during the chilly winter months. Dresses were required for girls back then. NO EXCEPTIONS! One day, all the girls were called to the auditorium to meet with the administrators. Afterwards, a mini-revolt was led by a small group, and pants were soon allowed.

Some of the best memories involve Friday football games, watching the hometown boys on the field and cheering them on. The cheers began during Friday afternoon pep rallies. Students gathered in the gym to show support for the team. The roaring chants and applause erupted when the players were introduced to the crowd. The cheerleaders showed their support as they led cheers. These cheers continued Friday nights as the team played each week. Afterwards, you could find a crowd at Lendy's in Vinton, and then in later years at the Vinton Pizza Hut.

One committee member remembered, "Sometimes we would cruise Williamson Road to try to find boys from other high schools."

Many happy memories involved local dances. Huckaby says the "ladies have had a wonderful time talking about the year that radio station WROV sponsored a contest

for the 'most spirited school.' Ten local high schools participated in the contest. The winner would receive a dance held at their high school, with music provided by The Rogues, a well-known band. The high school that sent in the most votes earned the coveted dance.

Committee members said that a vote signing party was held in the gym to try to win this dance. Kids were laying on the floor everywhere busily signing cards. One member said that she remembers filling out "hundreds" of cards. The "hard work" paid off. "After over three million votes were sent in from the high schools, and William Byrd WON with 611,357 votes!"

During the summers, there would be a "hop" or dance on Friday nights. These dances took place at what is now known as the Vinton Community Center. You could hear live music, played by local bands, as you walked up to the center. Hopefully, you could dance the night away, but only if the right boy tapped you on the shoulder and asked you to dance. There were many tears shed, and a few broken hearts at the end of the night, if you did not get to dance with that cute fellow that you had your eye on.

"Another funny memory showed up in the senior pictures ...



These are some of the members of the Class of 1973 who helped organize their reunion.

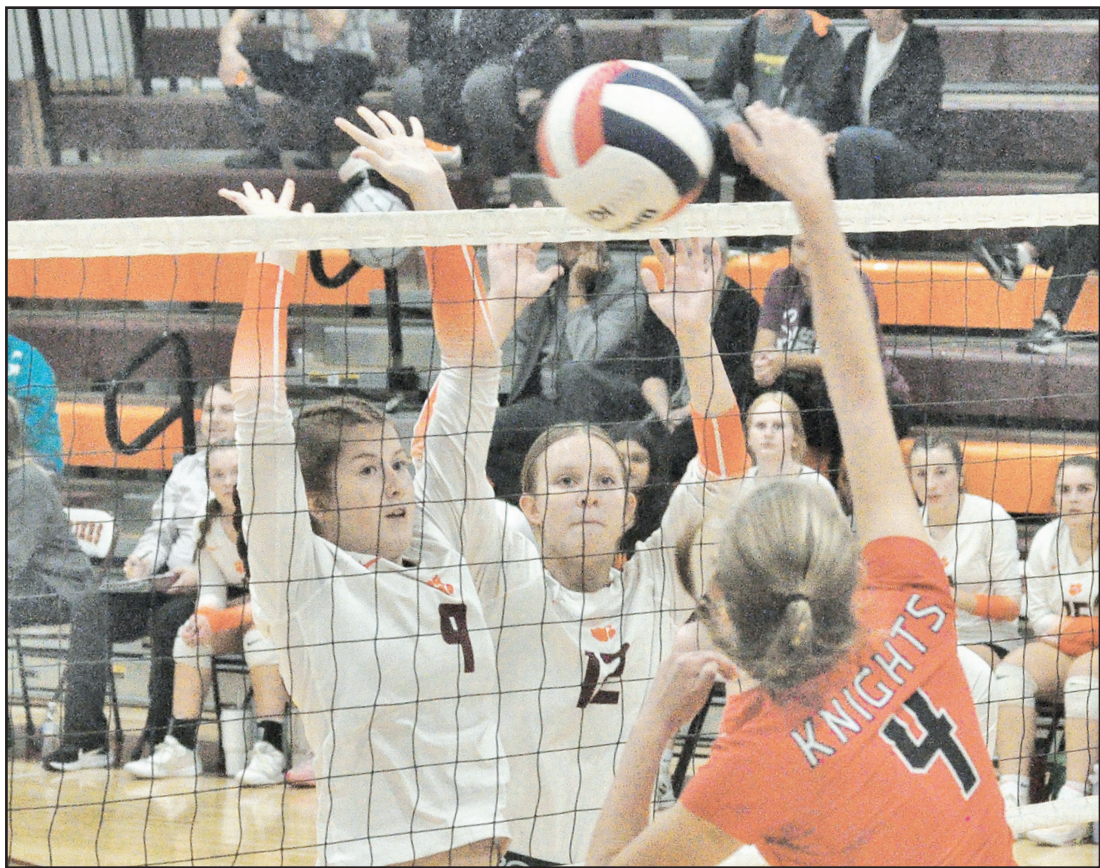
the hairstyles," Huckaby said. "We have gotten a big laugh out of the fact that our pictures all look exactly the same."

Each committee member shared funny stories about former teachers. Terrie Webber Bigler said she remembers taking driver's training through the school. She said, "Coach Chambers was so much fun as an instructor. He let us drive out to the Williamson Road McDonald's, get a burger, and return to the school."

"Many of these beloved teachers have passed away. Our principal was Robert Patterson, and the assistant principal was Barney Craddock. These administrators are gone, but not forgotten."



Rhonda Kendrick Agee was Homecoming Queen for the Class of 1973 and helped organize the 50-year reunion.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Byrd's Greysen Divers(#9) and Raelyn Lancaster(#12) block a Cave Spring attempt at a spike in Monday's match in Vinton. Right, Maggie Zimmerman sets one up for Bella Dudley (#6).

Terriers will open district volleyball tournament at home Monday

The Blue Ridge District volleyball tournament will open at the sites of the third and fourth seeds on Monday and William Byrd will have a home game. The Terriers will most likely be the third seed and host William Fleming in the opening round.

The top two seeds in the tournament get first round byes and Lord Botetourt clinched the top seed Tuesday with a win over second place Franklin County. That put LB two games up at 9-0 in the district with Franklin at 7-2 and both teams have just one remaining match.

As of Wednesday William Byrd and Staunton River were tied for the third seed at 4-5 each. However, tonight Byrd will host winless William Fleming while Staunton River plays first place LB and the likely scenario has Byrd breaking the tie and taking the third seed. That would give the Terriers a home game with Fleming Monday while fifth place

Northside plays at Staunton River.

Monday's winners will advance to Tuesday's district semifinals at LB and Franklin County, and if Byrd is the third seed as expected they would head to Rocky Mount Tuesday. The championship match is a week from tonight, on Thursday October 26, at the site of the highest remaining seed.

The Terriers need to right the ship if they hope to do well in the postseason as they come into tonight's home match with three straight losses. Last Thursday at home they dropped a three-setter to Franklin County, 25-16, 25-21 and 25-13. Terran Brown had six kills for Byrd, Maddie Pittman had five and Maggie Zimmerman, who has stepped in as Byrd's setter with an injury to Kate Bryant, had a dozen assists and a pair of aces.

Monday was "Senior Night" as Byrd hosted Cave Spring in a non-district match. Seniors Eva Brown,

Terran Brown, Emily Tuck, Madelyn Ward and Bryant were recognized before Byrd lost in three again, 25-11, 25-21 and 25-13. Tuck had 15 digs, Raelyn Lancaster had five kills and Terran Brown had three kills for the Terriers.

On Tuesday Byrd was at Northside and the host Vikings won in four sets. Northside won a tight opener, 29-27, but the Terriers bounced back to win the second set, 25-22. The Vikings then closed things out with 25-21 and 25-18 wins in the next two. Terran Brown had seven kills and five aces, Tuck had 17 digs and Zimmerman dished out 17 assists.

With the three losses Byrd dropped to 7-12 overall on the season.

"Rough week but some hard fought games," said Byrd coach Allison Thornton. "We'll continue to work hard as we get ready to start our postseason."



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



VT Royal It was Homecoming Weekend at Virginia Tech last week and 2020 William Byrd High graduate Mason Stanley(left) was one of three winners of the Homecoming Royalty who was recognized at Saturday's football game. To make it more special the Hokies pulled out a 30-13 win over Wake Forest. Above, Hokies sack Deacon quarterback Mitch Griffis.

Sandlot Super Bowl football tournaments open this week

The annual Sandlot Super Bowl football tournaments begin this week with games at several fields in Roanoke County. All championship games are at Salem Stadium on November 4.

The nine team 8U playoffs began Tuesday with eighth seeded Franklin County playing ninth seeded Hidden Valley at William Byrd's Patterson Stadium. The winner will join seven others at Northside this Saturday with four games beginning at 9 am. Vinton will take on Glenvar at 10:15 am in the second of four games and semifinals are October 28 at Cave Spring.

The 12 team 10U playoffs begin next week with opening round games at Byrd Tuesday and Cave Spring's Bogle Field on Wednesday. Quarterfinals are on the 28th at Cave Spring and Glenvar and semifinals are November 1 at Northside. Final seedings won't be determined until after the regular season ends this week.

In the 12U tournament all eight teams will play this Saturday at either Byrd or Bogle Field. Vinton is the top seed and will play eighth seeded North Roanoke at Vinton's Patterson Stadium at 10 am, followed by Salem against Hidden Valley. The games at Cave Spring have the host team meeting Botetourt-Gladfelter at 10:15 am followed by Franklin County against Botetourt-Aliveto at 11:30 am. Semifinals are on October 28 at Glenvar.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Dawgs open at home Friday

The Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs will open defense of their SPHL President's Cup when they take on the Fayetteville Marksmen at the Berglund Center Friday night. Here Dawgs coach Dan Bremner makes some points at a practice at the Berglund Center last week.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Seniors win Powder Puff

It was Homecoming week at William Byrd last week and that means Powder Puff football for the junior and senior girls. Left, senior boys coached the girls and if you can understand what play they're calling you should be a defensive coordinator somewhere. The big head of Kevin Tuck(not potato) might mean a play from the Crimson Tide playbook. Right, senior Makayla Price(black shirt) is chased by Emma Matthews. The senior girls won the game on a last second touchdown by Addisyn St. Clair in the annual game at Patterson Stadium.

SPORTS

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Win over LB makes for happy Homecoming

Last Friday's football game made for a happy Homecoming at William Byrd High School. The Terriers were dancin' the night away after shutting out Lord Botetourt at Patterson Stadium, 16-0.

This is what you'd call a "signature win" for coach Brad Lutz' program. With a 6-1 record the Terriers clinched their first winning season since Lutz took over the program after Jeff Highfill retired following the 2018 season. It was also the first time the Terriers beat LB since 2017 and Cavalier coach Jamie Harless was complimentary of the Byrd team, program and fans after his team was shut out for the first time in 131 games. The last time LB was shut out was a 23-0 loss to Byrd in the opening round of the 2012 playoffs.

"We got beat by a good football team, who did a fine job on both sides of the ball and out-coached us and out-played us," said Harless. "Not to take anything away from the Byrd people, but we had some unsavory behavior on the Botetourt side and it had nothing to do with Byrd."

The Terriers took it to the Cavaliers from the opening kickoff in a good old fashioned hard-hitting high school football game. After a scoreless first quarter the Terriers drew first blood when Walter Barrows ran left on what everyone in the stadium thought was a sweep. Instead, Barrows pulled up and tossed a perfect pass to Cooper Minnix, who was wide open in the end zone for a 13 yard touchdown play.

"We try to have a wrinkle for each game," said Lutz. "All 11 players did a great job executing the play, and we were fortunate enough to score on that play."

The extra point was blocked but Byrd had all the momentum, and the Terriers added a second score with 1:09 before halftime when quarterback Israel Hairston raced 31 yards down the right side for a touchdown. Bricen Lancaster kicked the point and the Terriers had a 13-0 lead when Hairston returned to the field to be crowned Homecoming King at halftime.

Byrd got the ball to start the second half and the Terriers were able to take time four minutes and 14 seconds off the clock with a long drive,



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & SUZANNE WITCHER



Above, William Byrd quarterback Israel Hairston runs for a touchdown with just over a minute left in the half of Friday's win over Lord Botetourt. Left, Cooper Minnix (#11) celebrates with Ian Vest (#34) after catching a touchdown pass from Walter Barrows. Below left, Dominic Dulak fights for yardage after one of his five receptions Friday night, and below right Jerrett Shepherd defends a pass to LB's TJ McGinnis. Bottom left, the Byrd defense gives LB quarterback Jakari Nicely no room to run and, bottom right, Byrd principal Tammy Newcomb congratulates Lee Doss after the big win.



resulting in a 33 yard field goal by Lancaster. That gave Byrd a 16-0 lead.

"Our staff felt like it was necessary to score first in the first and second half in order to win the game," said Lutz. "We were fortunate to get the ball first in the second half, with the lead, and our offense established a good drive. Our team has a lot of confidence in Bricen, and he was able to capitalize on a successful kick to secure points. That allowed us to maintain momentum for our team and that was very important Friday."

At that point the Byrd defense put their ears back and stopped Botetourt on every series. They held the heralded Cavalier running game to 141 yards rushing on 40 carries, an average of about three and a half yards per attempt. The Cavaliers didn't sniff the end zone again and Byrd players, students and fans celebrated heartily on Highfill Field after the final horn.

"It was a great win for not only our team, but it was a big win for our community," said Lutz "Our players are gaining confidence each week. There is a

lot of hard work that goes into winning football games. Our players are seeing the hard work pay off, and that is giving us a spark moving forward."

Hairston made a case that he's the best quarterback in the district with a big game on a big stage. He ran for 75 yards and a touchdown and was 10 for 13 passing for 124 yards. Dominic Dulak was a favorite target with five catches for 80 yards, Minnix had three receptions for 32 yards and Jerrett Shepherd caught two passes for 17. Barrows ran 15 times for 65 yards and had the

big touchdown pass.

On defense Doniven Davis had 10 solo tackles and a sack. John Kiker had four solos and seven assists and Lee Doss, Jonathan Rosser and Blake Anderson had three solos each. Anderson and Lane Shoemaker had sacks.

With the win Byrd improved to 2-0 in the district and they have two of their toughest BRD foes, Fleming and Botetourt, in the rear view mirror. This week they travel to Franklin County to take on the Eagles in Rocky Mount, and that's another challenge.

"They are another big, strong and fast football team," said Lutz. "The strength of their schedule is impressive. They are battle tested and will be a big challenge for us. They have improved each week, and they are a very talented 5A team."

The Eagles are coached by former Byrd quarterback and assistant coach JR Edwards. They're 4-3 and this will be a huge game for the Terriers as they attempt to rise in the Region 3D rankings. They passed the Cavaliers, going from fourth to third, with last week's win over LB and Franklin is worth a boatload of points with a Class 5 designation and four wins for rider points.

"Our players wanted to win this game (LB) for many reasons," said Lutz. "The biggest reason was because we needed a big win to help clear up the playoff picture for us, but a win against Lord Botetourt also got us closer to an opportunity to play for a district championship."

The Byrd jayvee team also beat Botetourt last week, 27-20, to remain undefeated at 7-0. The jayvees will host Franklin County tonight at 6 pm at Patterson Stadium in Vinton.

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