

8
33463 00110
5

VESTED PARTNERS
A MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE



Robyn Smith Ellis, Attorney

www.vestedmfo.com
540.389.6060

LEGAL
FINANCIAL
FIDUCIARY
INSURANCE

The Vinton Messenger

Haley Has It For Less... For Vinton!



Haley Toyota

1530 Courtland Road NE,
Roanoke, VA 24012 • 540.345.1666
Haleyhasitforless.com
Bring this coupon in for
\$100 Off Your Best Deal!
Limit One Per Customer
Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

Thursday, November 30, 2023 · Dogwood Capital of Virginia · Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville (USPS-660-020) OurValley.org · \$1.00



The Vinton Police Dept. is now fully staffed with the addition of Officer Jason Call. He was introduced to Town Council at its meeting on Nov. 21. He is shown with his wife Ashley and their daughters.



At the Nov. 21 Town Council meeting, Justin Baker was promoted to Det. Corporal. He is shown with his wife Mandie and their son.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Police Dept. now fully staffed with addition of new officer

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Police Chief Fabricio Drumond informed Vinton Town Council that his department is now fully staffed with the addition of Officer Jason Call, who was introduced to the council members at their meeting on Nov. 21.

Sgt. Brandon Alterio, Patrol Supervisor, introduced Officer Call who is a native of Roanoke and a graduate of Northside High School. He attended

Bluefield College where he obtained his degree in Criminal Justice. While a student at Bluefield, he was a student-athlete, playing collegiate baseball.

He attended the Roanoke City Police Academy in January 2007 where Chief Drumond was also a recruit.

"In the academy, Jason was known to be team-oriented, rational, and very cautious about everything," Alterio said. "Keep in mind that this is a paramilitary environment, so Jason was always ready for the hammer to drop."

After graduating from the police academy, Call entered the Patrol Division of the Roanoke City Police Dept.

"His time in law enforcement has been one of many achievements with lots of development and career growth," Alterio said.

After the Patrol Division, Call was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau where he served as a Juvenile Crimes Detective, a Domestic Violence Detective, and a Crime Scene Investigator.

"Before he transferred to Vinton,

Jason obtained a prestigious, and what is known as the work-horse rank of law enforcement," said Alterio. "He became a Sergeant—the most respected rank to law enforcement officers. Throughout his career, Jason has achieved many certifications and instructorships, including fatality investigator school, forensic evidence school, and drug interdiction school. He is also a graduate of the FBI's Supervisor Leadership

See **Police**, page 5

Balloons over Bonsack tradition continues at BES



Bonsack students pictured with a Santa balloon.



Students with a Gingerbread Girl balloon.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The fifth graders at Bonsack Elementary School held their annual "Balloons over Bonsack" parade on November 21. Students were asked to design and create a balloon puppet to represent one of the enormous balloons from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. On the afternoon before schools dismissed for the Thanksgiving holiday, the fifth graders formed a parade and walked the halls as students from grades K-4 applauded and cheered them on.

This STEM project, which began at Bonsack Elementary back in 2016, was once again facilitated by teacher Laura Muncey with assistance from librarian Rose McCarthy, and teachers Suzanne Witcher and Christi Stanley.

The project starts off each year with students and McCarthy reading "Balloons over Broadway" by author Melissa Sweet.

The book focuses on the origins of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. It tells the story of Tony Sarg, the puppeteer and marionette master who created the first Macy's upside-down puppet parade balloons in 1928, and which have become the parade's trademark in the years since.

McCarthy also introduces students to the Macy's parade website so they can research the balloons which have been featured throughout the history of the parade and which ones will be featured in 2023.

Muncey says that this year students in groups of two to four took on the "Design Challenge" of creating a balloon "puppet" to represent one of the balloons in the Macy's parade, one that will be in the parade in future years (determined from research), or one of their own choosing.

Students received a rubric with specific guidelines. At least one balloon must be used, but not more than four, with

all balloons connected to the "puppet."

Students were required to include at least one defining feature of the original balloon they were trying to duplicate. For instance, if the real Macy's balloon had a red nose, they needed a red nose on their puppet.

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

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

Materials options—in addition to balloons and string—were straws, craft sticks, ribbon, Dixie cups,

See **Balloons**, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

William Byrd High School Terriers of the Month include (left to right) art teacher Denise Sartell, Madelyn Brown, Jayden Niday, and biology/chemistry teacher Ryan Adams.

William Byrd High School recognizes November Terriers of the Month

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

William Byrd High School has recognized its Terriers of the Month for November. Four students and two teachers were selected, nominated by students and staff. The school is partnering with Alcovia Mortgage this year to recognize students

and staff who "are doing great things in and out of the classroom."

All WBHS students and staff are encouraged to nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the "Terrier Way" (being safe, respectful, and responsible and embodying the best of WBHS). Each

See **Terriers**, page 6

Be sure to visit the Parade of Trees at the Vinton War Memorial



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

For centuries, people have lit Christmas trees in the dark of winter to symbolize hope. The belief is that the first Christmas tree was decorated in the Middle Ages in Europe with paper roses, apples, wafers, tinsel, and sweetmeats (candies). Later on, candles were added to illuminate holiday trees until the invention of electricity. Stars were placed on top to represent the Star of Bethlehem which guided the Wise Men to the baby Jesus in the manger.

The Town of Vinton is once again sponsoring an entire Parade of Trees lining the driveway at the Vinton War Memorial. Various businesses and organizations in the town have added trees to the annual display. Visitors may drive past or step out of their cars and walk through the arches to see the individual trees.

This year, the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club doesn't have a star on top of their tree—instead there is a Lion (pictured above).


Lion John Berry says, "This is the second Vinton Breakfast Lions Club's (VBLC) contribution to the War Memorial's Parade of Trees. This year the William Byrd LEO

See **Trees**, page 6

5.09% APY*

12 Month CD Special**

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 10/23/2023 and is subject to change without notice.
**Minimum deposit to open is \$2,500. Interest is paid and compounded quarterly. There is a penalty for early withdrawal. Early withdrawal fees could reduce earnings. Eligible for consumer, nonprofit and commercial customers.



Bank of Botetourt

Member FDIC

Mitchell lands 'catch of a lifetime' at Smith Mountain Lake

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Greg Mitchell of Vinton landed the "catch of a lifetime" at Smith Mountain Lake around 10:30 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 12. The fish he reeled in from his boat was a 38.5-pound, 51 and 3/4-inch-long muskie. Once the official paperwork is complete, the muskie will most likely turn out to set a record for 2023 at the lake. In a few months, it will be mounted and hanging on Mitchell's wall.

Information from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (Virginia DGIF) indicates that there is "low potential" nowadays for catching a muskie at SML, so this was quite a feat.

Mitchell was fishing for striper that day with friend David Wimmer on the Roanoke River end of the lake—a favorite spot—when he encountered the "very aggressive" muskie. He was using a 20-monofilament line, not the heavier line usually recommended for catching muskies. Their extremely sharp gills and teeth cut mono lines in two.

Research shows that most fishermen catch muskies on accident when angling for something else—like Mitchell. Their first clue is when their line "takes off."

He and his fishing buddies use live bait from Smith Mountain Lake, which they catch with net-live gizzard shad, and that's what he was using when he caught the muskie.

Mitchell says that once he hooked the muskie, it came out of the water about 20 yards out "walking straight up in the air on the water."

He contacted a biologist from Virginia DGIF to begin filling out forms to document the catch. The local game warden believes this muskie might be

the largest one caught in the whole state in 2023, let alone Smith Mountain. He's the one who described Mitchell's muskie as "a once-in-a-lifetime catch." Most large muskies are usually found in the New River or the James River.

Most muskies live to be 10 to 15 years old, and the one Mitchell caught was probably reaching the upper limits of its lifespan.

Mitchell has been a member of the "50-Pound Club" since catching a 53-pound, striper on his first-time fishing for striper on the Chesapeake Bay. That's another favorite fishing spot, along with the Pamlico Sound. He caught another 52-pound striper and has citations for all his big catches.

Striper is his favorite gamefish—with memories of fishing with his grandfather "all the time" when he was young.

He fishes year-round—except during July and early August. He fishes at SML all the way from Niagara Dam to Hales Ford Bridge and all over the lake. He and his friends also travel to a lake in Tennessee for striper, where the water is colder. There they use trout for bait.

Mitchell says in his spare time, he is nearly always fishing, often with long-time friends Wimmer and E.B. Padgett of Roanoke. Padgett is a regular winner of striper tournaments at the lake and introduced Mitchell to fishing in Tennessee and on the Pamlico Sound. He says Padgett has taught him most of what he knows about fishing for striper and is "the man" when it comes to that particular fish family.

He says four or five buddies out fishing and relaxing "have a blast—it's therapeutic."

The last record set for muskies at SML was in January 2021 by the late Eddie Trent at the mouth of Lynville Creek.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG MITCHELL

Greg Mitchell of Vinton with his 38.5-pound, 51 and 3/4-inch muskie caught at Smith Mountain Lake on November 12—most likely the record muskie catch for 2023 at the lake.

His catch weighed in at 38 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 46 and 1/2 inches in length.

Smith Mountain Lake reservoir was "created" in 1963 with the building of

Smith Mountain Dam. In 1966, the lake was stocked with 5,000 muskies, but their population has diminished over time. The lake is now most well-known to fishermen for its striped bass.

Olympics underway at William Byrd Middle School

William Byrd Middle School physical education teachers Lyndsey Partsch, Bill Pratt, and Ben Munsey are thrilled to announce that the Olympics have officially begun for eighth grade elective classes at the school.

"This unique unit provides approximately 170 students with an invaluable opportunity to delve into the intricacies of how the Olympics operate, while also actively participating in the events that our Olympic athletes excel in.

"We believe that this experience will not only cultivate a deeper understanding of global athletic competition but will also inspire our students to pursue physical activity and explore new sports in a controlled and competitive environment.

"To amplify the authenticity of this experience, our classes have been divided into four distinct countries, each led by a student-appointed 'President' responsible for ensuring that all members of their respective nations participate in events daily. In addition, students will have the privilege of designing a flag and selecting an anthem for their designated country, fostering a sense of pride and camaraderie within their teams.

"One of the most exciting elements of our Olympic-inspired festivities is the medal ceremony. For every event, the top three teams or individuals will be awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals. During this ceremony, we aim to replicate the grandeur of the actual Olympic Games by raising the victorious country's flag and playing their

anthem, creating a truly immersive experience for all involved. Furthermore, we have established a display showcasing the medal count for each country and captured captivating images of the award ceremonies.

"The Olympics give each student a chance to win," said Partsch. "Not all of our events are physical. Some require lots of thought and teamwork. This is where we get to see students become leaders who are normally more reserved in PE.

"We are deeply grateful to our medal sponsor, Mr. Jason Boothe from Mountain View Real Estate LLC, whose generous support has played a pivotal role in making

See **Olympics**, page 6

Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 3rd
2:00 - 6:00 pm

Enjoy an Evening of shopping and Save Big on Your Entire Purchase!



25% off
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

NORTH WEST ACE
Measure Twice. Shop Once.

*10% OFF Yeti Products, Weber, Blackstone and Big Green Egg Grills. Discount not valid on Stihl and Ego Power Equipment, Power Tools, Ammunition and Firearms, Propane or Sale Items. Valid 12/3/23 only.

Get a Jump Start on Your Holiday Shopping!

NORTH WEST ACE
Measure Twice. Shop Once.



Vinton Town Council honors veterans, receives reports on community programs, Chamber, Finance, and Public Works projects

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council met on November 21 to recognize veterans and law enforcement employees, hold a public hearing on property in the Vinton Industrial Park, and hear reports from the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, Vinton Community Programs, the Finance Dept., and Public Works.

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Donna Collins began by recognizing Town of Vinton employees who are veterans and their families, because “no one does this alone who served in our armed forces and continues to serve the citizens of Vinton.”

Veterans recognized included Mayor Brad Grose, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, Police Sgt. Brandon Alterio, Police Officers Jesse Dibble, Sean McKittrick, and Doug Aune, Jr., and Public Works employees James Brown and Kevin Orange. Each received a Vinton town coin and a gift from the town.

“There is a proud history of honoring veterans in the Town of Vinton,” Collins said. “A few examples of this include the Vinton VFW Post 4522 established in 1945, the Vinton War Memorial completed in 1946 and opened to the public in 1948, and the High Ground Monument dedicated in 2011.

“Since 2016, the town has been a certified V3 Employer. The Virginia Values Veterans Program assists employers in implementing nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining highly skilled and dependable veterans.

“This year we have extended our support by incentivizing veterans to apply with us and we have had success in hiring certified officers with this program. We also received a donation from AmVets that enabled us to design and install the Veterans Wall outside council chambers. We hope to extend that project in the very near future. This month we have also held our first annual Veterans Day Memorial 5-Mile Ruck March. Officer Dibble, Vice President of Queen City Rucking 22, organized the event and all proceeds went to the Boulder Crest Foundation. Boulder Crest is a non-profit organization that provides veterans, first responders, and their families free services and resources to grow beyond their trauma. Over \$6000 was raised

with this event.”

Beginning next year, Boulder Crest, Chief Drumond, and Collins will be implementing programs specific to assisting individuals to “turn their struggles into strength.”

Mayor Grose reiterated how unique Vinton is with its 3.2 square mile area and 8200 citizens—but two major veteran’s monuments—the Vinton War Memorial and the High Ground Monument.

Community Events Manager Chasity Barbour and Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning presented an update on what is coming up in the Town of Vinton in November and December. The annual Vinton Christmas Parade is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. preceded by the tree-lighting ceremony at the Municipal Building at 6 p.m. The annual Santa Crawl is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, departing from the War Memorial at 5:30 p.m. to make the rounds through the town.

The two noted that the town had been blessed with good weather for 97% of its events in 2023. The Vinton War Memorial has hosted 378 programs this year with an attendance of 20,000. The Charles R. Hill Community Center has hosted 412 events including paid rentals and Senior Programs (with five events over two days on a recent weekend). The Vinton Farmers’ Market has hosted 39 events from car shows, to Mingles, to Police Department events, children’s craft events, and pop-up vendors.

Barbour, Chewning, and RVTV have taped 32 “All Things Vinton” videos which have been wildly popular (ranked #1 with RVTV for likes and views on social media and You Tube) with five more booked for the year.

This past summer the town and Chamber, in conjunction with The Roanoker magazine, published their seventh edition of the Vinton Magazine; they have hosted over 20 ribbon cuttings, the Senior Expo, Fall Festival, nine Mingle at the Market concerts (with an average attendance of 700-1,000 per concert), two golf tournaments, and the State of the Town address. There were 42 separate Chamber events in 2023.

New events planned for 2024 include Touch a Truck, more Business & Breakfast events, and “Rolling the Dice” on January 25 at the War Memorial. This event is still in the planning stages but hopes to include a “Taste of the Town”



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Town Council recognized employees of the Town of Vinton who are veterans at the meeting on Nov. 21. Pictured left to right are Officer Doug Aune, Jr., Officer Sean McKittrick, Officer Jesse Dibble, Mayor Brad Grose, Sgt. Brandon Alterio, and Police Chief Fabricio Drumond. Not pictured: James Brown and Kevin Orange.

featuring local restaurants.

Next on the agenda was the promotion of police officer Justin Baker to Det. Corporal and the introduction of new officer Jason Call, making the department fully staffed once again. (See details in separate article.)

Town Council held a public hearing on releasing the Right and Option to Purchase a 3.56-acre tract (with challenging topography) in the Vinton Industrial Park at the end of Third Street and approved a resolution authorizing its release to help facilitate sale of the property by Fralin and Waldron, Inc. Council concluded the public has no need for the property and the release will facilitate the sale of the property and its productive development.

Council members adopted a schedule of Town Council meetings for 2024. They will continue to meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month, except on National Night Out (Aug. 6) and Election Day (Nov. 5), when the meetings are cancelled.

Town Manager Pete Peters updated council members on the Mountain View Road reconstruction project to be completed next summer (after school is out for the summer) using the Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) process. A new base will be built, with fresh asphalt on top. This one-mile roadway project has a price tag of around \$1 million. The town is responsible for approximately

half. Peters also noted that the popular town calendars should be delivered by Christmas—in the mail.

Finance Director/Treasurer Andrew Keen presented a report from the Finance Committee. The town remains in excellent shape financially with \$9 million in investments, and several tax revenue categories outperforming budget expectations: meals, \$50,000 above estimates; pari-mutuel taxes, \$50,000 more than expected; sales tax, \$30,000 over what was budgeted; cigarette taxes, \$15,000 above what was anticipated. This is attributable to a diversified revenue stream in the Town of Vinton. Brown Edwards has presented a “clean audit,” which will be delivered at a subsequent council meeting. The town remains debt-free with many projects in the works to benefit citizens.

Public Works Director Bo Herndon updated council on several projects including the paving schedule (which is moving along at a good pace), arrival of new traffic signal equipment for several intersections along Washington Avenue, and consideration of and research on the future purchase of a new refuse truck (possibly a One Arm Bandit) as the current one is nine years old.

Herndon also presented details on a project which would replace all street signs and their poles (as necessary) in the town.

Beyond Books

By Molly Meador, Senior Library Assistant, Vinton Branch Library

Happy Holidays from the Vinton Library! It’s that special time of year again and we are happy to celebrate with you. We’ve got plenty planned this month to help you bear the cold and get the most out of this holiday season.

Need some help with photos for your holiday cards this year? Take the DIY approach with help from your local library. Stop by and take advantage of our “Holiday Photo Ops” by taking a photo in front of one of our fun holiday-themed backdrops. On Thursday, November 30 through Saturday, December 2, we will have a Christmas photo backdrop, and on Thursday, December 7 through Saturday, December 9, we will have

a winter scene backdrop. Please be sure to bring your own camera or phone to take your pictures with.

As magical as the holidays are, let’s be honest... they can be stressful too. If the holidays have you feeling overwhelmed, we’re here to help. Come to our “De-Stress Night” on Wednesday, December 6 from 6-7 p.m. We’ll have calm music, coloring, and quiet games.

Another great way to take a deep breath and relax is with essential oils, and on Saturday, December 2 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. we’ll have “Essential Oils for the Holidays.” Join us to learn how to use essential oils safely to prepare the home, reduce stress, and even cook for the holidays. We’ll also talk about some fun and easy DIY gifts. Each attendee will get to make a holiday

room spray to take home. Get ready to enjoy the scents of the season! And if that’s not enough sensory de-stressing for you, be sure to come to our “Holiday Dulcimer Concert” on Thursday, December 7 at 6 p.m. Listen to the sounds of the season as the Blue Ridge Dulcimer Ensemble presents a concert of holiday music. I’m relaxed already!

Be sure to swing by the “Vinton Community Connection” this month on December 8 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. for Christmas movie theme song trivia. You can sign up for “Creations and Temptations” on Saturday, December 9 from 3-4 p.m. to make adorable ornaments with a “melted” snowman inside. The “Vinton Writers Group” will meet on Thursday, December

28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Vinton Book Club will meet this month on Thursday, December 7 at 3 p.m. to discuss “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. The As the Page Turns Book Club will discuss “Black Cake” by Charmaine Wilkerson on Wednesday, December 13 at 2 p.m.

We will have “The ABCs of Medicare” on Monday, December 4 at 11 a.m. Open Bridge continues every Tuesday from 1-4 p.m. The DMV will be here Thursday, December 7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closing

from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch.

Drop in for a game of “Pick-up Chess” on Saturday, December 9 from 1-4 p.m. The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers will meet Saturday, December 16 from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Sign up for GED Classes with Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region 5 Adult Education online at www.regionfiveadulthood.com, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-7 p.m.

Bring the whole family to see “Santa at the Library” on Thursday,

December 6 from 2-3 p.m. Register online to stop by “to say hi, take pictures, and make fun holiday crafts while supplies last.”

Register to make Gingerbread Houses on Thursday, December 14 from 4-5 p.m.; houses and candy will be provided, please bring your own frosting. On Tuesday, December 12, from 4-5 p.m. register to listen to a creative reading of “The Polar Express.” Activities and a craft will follow the reading; this is ideal for grades K-5.

See Books, page 4

Vinton History Museum hosting Holiday House

The Vinton Historical Society invites everyone to visit the Vinton History Museum Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 210 E. Jackson Ave. in Vinton.

The museum features festive holiday decorations throughout the indoor collection of artifacts.

Each guest will receive a free vintage Christmas ornament featuring a Vinton landmark. In addition, free refreshments will be served.

Enjoy live music dulcimer music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. played by Carla Mayhugh and Mary Beth Layman of Vinton.

A small “Pop-up Shop” will feature

selected collectibles for sale. Souvenirs such as Vinton throws, memory and honor bricks, ornaments, note cards, and T-shirts will be for sale throughout the month.

The “Memory Pergola” will be available during December evenings for photo opportunities. The museum also encourages people to enjoy the outdoor lights on the lawn and porch of the Vinton Memory Museum grounds.

For additional information contact the Vinton History Museum at (540) 342-8634.

Submitted by Mary Beth Layman, Vinton Historical Society

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		
					11				12				
13	14				15				16		17	18	
19				20			21	22					
23							24						
			25					26					
27	28	29					30			31	32	33	
34										35			
36			37	38	39	40		41	42	43	44		
			45					46					
47	48	49						50			51	52	53
54								55					
56						57	58			59			
						61				62			
						64				65			

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Single Lens Reflex
4. People of southern Benin
7. One who is learned (abbr.)
10. Neckwear
11. Solid water
12. A way to work the soil
13. Inspiring
15. Pick up
16. It wakes you up
19. Parcel
21. Popular dog breed
23. Lets out a sigh
24. Embedded into the surface
25. Hard liquors
26. One from Scotland
27. Satisfy
30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
35. Similar
36. Winged horse
41. Soft drink maker
45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
46. Nursemaid
47. Inheritor
50. Hot, often dusty wind
54. Serves as an introduction
55. Earned top billing
56. Mansion
57. A partner to a carrot
59. War-horse
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. It checks the heartbeat
62. Aquatic salamander
63. CNN's founder
64. Being precisely suitable and right
65. Strongly alkaline solution
- CLUES DOWN
1. Pinocchio trick
2. A system of connections
3. Emblems of royalty
4. Work with a soft hand
5. Plant cultivated in Peru
6. A timid man
7. Lacking intellectual depth
8. A way to order
9. Intoxicating
13. Mimic
14. Surfers use it
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Popular Miller beer
20. Finds out about
22. Unusual
27. Small European viper
28. Indicates before
29. Birth swine
31. 7
32. Useful keyboard key
33. Letter of the Greek
alphabet
37. Edible mollusk
38. Stitched up
39. Utilized
40. ___ in tradition
41. A way to get through
42. Let off
43. Fashionable source of shade
44. In due time
47. Printing speed
48. A major division of geological time
49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
51. ___ de la ___
52. After B
53. Unusual
58. Former money of the EU

What's coming up at the Mt. Pleasant Library in December?

The staff at Mt. Pleasant Library has many fun and educational events planned for the month of December. Santa will be at the Mount Pleasant Library on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 3 p.m. Hear stories and songs, make a craft, have a special snack, and meet Santa!

Jammie Time Storytime is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Raise your children to be lifelong readers by bringing them to story time at the library! Practice early literacy skills, enjoy activities, and stories before bedtime--be sure to wear your PJs. This month's theme is Fantasy Adventure!

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from noon to 1 p.m., families are invited to create their own Gingerbread Houses. Houses, frosting, and candy will be provided. Registration is required.

Book Chat for adults is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us each month for a new, informal type of book group! We'll discuss

books we've read recently and books we want to read. Refreshments will be provided.

Children ages K-5 are invited to listen to a creative reading of "The Polar Express" story on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. Activities and a craft will follow.

Adults are welcome to enjoy the scents of the season at "Essential Oils for the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Join us to learn how to use essential oils safely to prepare the home, reduce stress, and even cook for the holidays! We'll also talk about some fun and easy DIY gifts. Each attendee will get to make a holiday room spray to take home.

Teens are invited to "Snow Much Fun" on Dec. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. "Come chat about your favorite winter-themed books while we make edible snowman sculptures."

More Snow Globes on Dec. 28 with "Teen Art: Snow Globes," from 3 to 4 p.m. Make a mason jar snow globe with a mini-Christmas tree inside.

And then there's a "Snow Globe Art" for children in grade K-5 on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. using paper, plates, stickers, and Styrofoam beads.

Teens will finish off 2023 on Friday, Dec. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. with Laser TAG. It's TAG (Teen Advisory Group) with a twist! This month, we're taking over the library after hours to play some rounds of laser tag while sharing ideas about how to make the library a better place for teens.

Register online for programs at www.rocolibrary.org. Mt. Pleasant Library is located at 2918 Jae Valley Road, just across from the fire station. Their usual hours are Monday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday: 2 - 8 p.m.; Wednesday: 2 - 6 p.m.; Thursday: 2 - 8 p.m.; Friday: 1 - 5 p.m.; and Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Special holiday hours in December include Thurs., Dec.21, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Dec. 22, 23, and 25.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Ladies of the Moose provide Thanksgiving meals for Vinton area families

The Ladies of the Moose have just completed a "Help Us Help Others Food Drive" to provide Thanksgiving meals for 18 Vinton area families (111 individuals). The group collected and distributed

groceries, including a turkey with roasting pan, rolls, potatoes, mac and cheese, canned goods, brownie mix, and staples such as peanut butter and jelly, cooking oil, cereal and cereal bars, Pop

Tarts, and canned tuna—everything "from breakfast to dessert."

The women are an informal group made up of the wives and significant others of Vinton Moose Lodge

1121 members. They are continually involved in community service events such as another food drive coming up at Christmas, a pancake breakfast/visit with Santa for special needs children this week, sizeable donations to special organizations, and more.

The group contacted the guidance counselors at area schools—Herman L. Horn, W.E. Cundiff, Mount Pleasant, and Bonsack Elementary Schools, along with William Byrd Middle and High Schools—for names of families who might benefit from some

assistance. They donated items themselves with additional funds and items provided by Moose Lodge members and Food Lion, who provided Food Lion Feeds

boxes. Families picked up boxes of food at the Moose Lodge on the afternoon of November 20. Ladies working to distribute the meals included Angie

-Vinton Messenger staff report

The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020
(540) 473-2741
1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153
ourvalley.org

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org
To subscribe: (540) 473-2741

Michael Showell, *Publisher*.....
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....
Matt de Simone, *Editor*.....
Debbie Adams, *Staff Writer*.....
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*.....
Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*.....
James "Tucker" Frye, *Advertising*.....

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

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



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Ladies of the Moose from Lodge 1121 in Vinton distributed food to area families for Thanksgiving. Shown left to right are Carolyn Mills, Leona LaPradd, Nancy Mastry, and Angie Chewning. Not pictured are Sharon Llewlyn and Sandy Hamblen.

Books from page 3

Anime Club will meet on Monday, December 11 from 6-7 p.m. We will have Teen Book Club/Chat for middle and high schoolers on Monday, December 18 at 5 p.m. to discuss winter-themed books and build with Rice Krispie treats. Drop in for Switch Gaming on Tuesday, December 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Pokémon Club for grades K-5 will meet on Wednesday, December 27 from 4-5 p.m. Register for Toddler Storytime Wednesday, December 6 at 10:30

a.m. and Preschool Storytime on Wednesday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. After this session, Storytime will resume in January.

Special hours for December: the Vinton Library will be open on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed on Dec. 22, 23, and 25.

Don't forget to register for programs online and check out everything happening at all RCPL locations at www.rocolibrary.org.

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW Roanoke, 24019; office: 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Ladies class - Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Visit our new web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net, it's updated each week from local, national and international sources with news of interest to Christians. Take a video tour of our facilities. Read articles taken from the word of God that apply to our lives today. View a new sermon each week. Dale Ridge is reaching out to the Roanoke/Botetourt area with the good news of Jesus Christ. Come join our plea to return to the Bible. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe in the Holy Spirit is a gift, given to every Christian when we respond to the Gospel as taught in the context of Acts 2 and emphasized in verse 38. We believe Jesus is the only means of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Is this your time to make a choice? (John 16:13) Have you been looking for a church family that's led by the Holy Spirit into all truth? (John 13:35) You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. Follow the advice of Philip when he told Nathanael about Jesus in (John 1:46) "Come and See."

CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

ECKANKAR
ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be pos-

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

NO LONGER A STRANGER
Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22

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

sible, 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 Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday

Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

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



From the Pulpit

Moses – A Life of Faith and Obedience

In the tapestry of biblical history, the life of Moses stands as a testament to faith, obedience, and the unwavering providence of God. From his humble beginnings in a basket on the Nile to leading the Israelites through the wilderness, Moses' life is a remarkable journey of divine purpose.

Moses' story unfolds with God's call

at the burning bush, a pivotal moment when he learned that true leadership stems from obedience to God's will. Despite his initial hesitations, Moses embraced his role as a deliverer with faith in God's plan. Through the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and the long sojourn in the desert, Moses demonstrated unwavering

trust in God's guidance.

The life lesson we glean from Moses is the transformative power of obedient faith. Just as Moses faced challenges and uncertainties, we too encounter obstacles on our journey of faith. Yet, when we submit our will to God's and trust in His guidance, He can turn our uncertainties into triumphs.

The Apostle Paul captures this truth beautifully in Romans 8:28 (NIV): "And

we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Moses' life encourages us to embrace obedience, even in the face of uncertainty, trusting that God is working all things together for our good. May we, like Moses, find strength in faithful obedience and draw closer to God's purpose for our lives.

Police

from page 1

Institute training.

"Jason also served as president of a police association and a board member of the police association's community service board. He was also an active participant in Homework Helpers, a Roanoke City Schools program, and Wheels on the James, building cycles for children with disabilities. He had an active role in reading outreach programs, volunteering with Southeastern German Shepherd Rescue, and Rebuilding Roanoke. He also participated in an outreach program in Uganda, Africa, in 2011-2012."

Officer Call is married to Ashley Call,

a school teacher, who pinned him at the council meeting. He was sworn in on October 20, 2023.

They have two daughters. The family attends Parkway Church and plays an active role in church ministries. They have a "deep-rooted relationship with Christ" and that is something demonstrated in Call's way of life.

At the council meeting, Det. Justin Baker was promoted to the rank of Detective Corporal, pinned by his wife, Mandie, and Chief Drumond. He joined the Vinton Police Dept. in 2020.



Bootie Chewning (right) with grandson Drake Lewis and his wife Hannah.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

I hope everyone had a fantastic belly-filled Thanksgiving! I know our family did. Mom (Bootie) started out at brother Jim's house for her first meal of the day. Those celebrating there were Suzanne Bell, Valerie, Kyle, Chase and Cade Hendricks, Lindsey and Amber Wells, and Greg Chewning.

Then Mom (and brother Greg) joined us at our house for another meal. Joining Greg Boitnott and me were Tim and Bobbi Jordan, Kim Barker, Aaron Blankenship, Helen Curtis, Chasity Barbour and Wes, Bo Herndon, and Peyton Collins.

If you had a special celebration or

folks visiting from out of town, PLEASE send me the story.

Reminder – Our Vinton Christmas Parade is tonight, Thursday November 30. The Tree Lighting will start at 6 p.m., and the parade at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Angels are among us! Each year the Vinton Chamber coordinates an Angel Tree. These children are all from our Vinton schools with names given to us by the

counselors at the schools. We have children from elementary to high school. If interested, please call the Chamber office 540-343-1364 or email angie@vintonchamber.com.



The Chewnings and friends celebrate Thanksgiving. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING



Christmas Craft & Vendor Fair
Vinton Baptist Church Gym
 219 E. Washington Avenue
 Vinton VA 24179
Sunday, December 3rd
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Come do your LOCAL Christmas shopping with us!!
 Over 20 vendors, many offering unique, one-of-a-kind items. We will also have several local representatives of nationally recognized brands. The proceeds of our concessions and gift wrapping service will offset expenses for our summer mission trip for our youth.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH



VINTON FARMERS MARKET PRESENTS

POP UP CHRISTMAS MARKET

Support Vinton by shopping locally. This event will feature craft vendors and free children's activities.

DECEMBER | **9** | 9AM-1PM

204 W LEE AVE
 VINTON, VA 24179

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BE A VENDOR EMAIL
CLOVELAND@VINTONVA.GOV

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON FARMERS MARKET

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

VINTON MESSENGER

DIGITAL ONLY One Year Digital Subscription **\$29.00**

DIGITAL & PRINT Yearly Print & Digital Subscription **\$67.00**

PRINT ONLY Yearly Print Only Subscription **\$46.00 In County**
\$50.00 Out of County
\$54.00 Out of State

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VINTON MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, VINTON MESSENGER,
 P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

VintonMessenger.com

Trees from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF GFWC VINTON WOMAN'S CLUB

Members of the GFWC Vinton Woman's Club decorate their tree at the Vinton War Memorial. Pictured left to right are Hazel Moody, Mary Kay Brown, Kathryn Sowers, Judy Banik, president, and Ardy Kidd.

Club provided most of the decorations and decorated the tree.

"The tree topper is a Lion. Gold garland and Christmas balls in VBLC purple provide the backdrop for the tree. The core ornaments were hand made by the LEO Club and highlight the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club's mission—to support

local and international programs associated with Children's Cancer, World Hunger, Sight Conservation, Diabetes Treatment/Prevention and Environment/Disaster Relief. The tree includes three strands of white lights ready for the tree-lighting ceremony this coming week."

The GFWC Vinton Woman's Club also has a tree on display in 2023, decorated by Hazel Moody, Mary Kay Brown, Kathryn Sowers, President Judy Banik, and Ardy Kidd. Their tree also illuminates the club's humanitarian efforts, especially their focus on world hunger.

Balloons from page 1



Bonsack students pose with Pete, the Cat balloon.

recyclables (paper towel rolls, lids, tubes, etc.), various kinds of paper, pipe cleaners, felt, fabric, or brads. Students were also allowed to use glue, tape (minimized or hidden), markers, rulers, crayons, croadile tools (like a hole punch), and staples. They were also allowed to use a balloon pump to inflate their balloons.

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

Balloon puppets this year included Stitch, Pete the Cat, Wilbur from Charlotte's Web, the VT Hokie Bird, Eevee, the Christmas Bear, Mr. Potato Head, the Gingerbread Girl, Stacey the Christmas Cactus, Dragon, Tom the Turkey, R2-D2, Mrs. Christmas Tree, Pikachu, Elf on a Shelf, the Velveteen Rabbit, Football Snoopy/Peanuts, Daffy



The force is strong with these students and an R2-D2 balloon.

Duck, Olaf, the Snaxolot Galaxy, and ending up with Santa at the end of the parade.

Muncey and Witcher said the balloons this year were more detailed and varied than ever before.

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

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

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

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Olympics from page 2

this event a reality. His commitment to our students and their educational experiences is truly commendable."

"It was a no-brainer to me when I was approached about the Olympics, knowing that they needed the money for the medals to pull it off," said Boothe. "My hope is that every kid would have something to compete for and have a winner declared."

"Opening week was a success in which our students competed in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 800-meter races. There were 16 students who competed in each race with the winners of three individual heats moving on to the finals."

"The effort that they put forward in these races was amazing, to say the least. Ultimately, our three medalists were decided, and the excitement ramped up as we moved forward into the shot put, 4x400 relay, and our team competitions."

"After polling the eighth grade students about what their favorite events were so far, they were split between tug-o-war and a cooperative game called Crossing the River."

"Both of these events required the students to work together. Each country got to select a teacher to help their team

with Tug-O-War. Some of the teachers brought their classes down to watch while they competed. It has been a fun way to get other grades and subjects involved in the competition."

This week team competitions in basketball, soccer, hockey, and volleyball have gotten underway.

Some comments from students on the WBMS Olympics experience include:

- "The Olympics have given us a fun new way to be active." -Hayden Chappell

- "It's been fun playing against the other countries." -Christian Hodges

- "The best part has been having fun with my friends and winning gold medals." -Caeden Eanes

"This has been a lot of work to plan, but has been more than worth it," said Pratt. "The kids have been having a blast and getting the community involved has been the icing on the cake."

To see more of what goes on in the WBMS PE program visit Instagram at @WBMS_PE.

Submitted by William Byrd Middle School

Terriers from page 1



November Terrier of the Month Mary Wray



November Terrier of the Month Landon Dyess

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM BYRD

Terrier of the Month receives a T-shirt from Alcovia Mortgage, designed by the Graphic Design classes at the high school.

Student Terriers of the Month for November are:

Landon Dyess is a senior and member of the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Team who was nominated for his outgoing personality, academic achievement, and infectious school spirit. The staff member who nominated Landon said, "Landon bleeds Orange and Maroon. He attends nearly every school event and is the most enthusiastic and supportive Terrier I've ever seen. He's a great representation of what makes WBHS so special." Landon's parents are Sarah and Danny Dyess.

Mary Wray is a junior and member of Terrier TV who was nominated for her positivity and willingness to help support and mentor others. The staff member who nominated Mary said, "She is always willing to help in any way that she can...[and] she is there to offer her help with a smile. Other club members look to her for guidance as they

plan their next segment idea." Mary's parents are David and Heather Wray.

Jadyen Niday is a sophomore and member of the Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Team who was nominated for her work ethic and positivity. The teacher who nominated Jayden said, "she's a great student with a great attitude. She works hard, always has a smile on her face, and is a perfect role model for all student athletes." Jayden's parents are Evan and Melanie Niday.

Madelyn Brown is a freshman and the winning designer of this year's Terriers of the Month T-Shirt Contest. Madelyn was nominated for her kindness, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. The teacher who nominated Madelyn said, "Maddy is a talented graphic design student who chooses difficult designs instead of the easiest option—because of this, she has faced frustrating challenges and handled them with grace." Madelyn Brown's parent is Amanda Harrison.

Teachers chosen as Terrier

of the Month for November are:

Denise Sartell teaches Art I, III, and IV, as well as Digital Photography. The students who nominated her highlighted her thoughtful and kind disposition. As one student said, "She's friendly, kind, and calls everyone friend...you would want her as a teacher." Or as another student said, "She is a caring and thoughtful teacher...she makes art fun for everyone of all levels."

Ryan Adams teaches Advanced Biology and College Bound Chemistry. The students who nominated him highlighted his ability to make class and learning fun. One student said, "Mr. Adams is such an amazing guy and so much fun. He makes learning always fun and if you're stressed or need help, he will always help you out." Or as another student said simply said, "He's a fun teacher who loves seeing his students do well."

Submitted by WBHS Assistant Principal Phillip Martin

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	L	R	F	O	N	S	C	H					
T	I	E	I	C	E	H	O	E					
A	W	I	N	G	N	A	B	A	L	A	R	M	
P	A	C	K	A	G	E	B	U	L	L	D	O	G
E	X	H	A	L	E	S	I	N	L	A	I	E	D
A	P	P	E	A	S	E	S	C	O	T			
S	R	I											
P	E	G	A	S	U	S	P	E	P	S	I	C	O
L	E	G	A	T	E	E	S	I	R	O	C	C	O
P	R	E	L	U	D	E	S	T	A	R	R	E	D
M	A	N	O	R	P	E	A	S	T	E	E	D	
E	N	E	E	C	G	O	L	M					
T	E	D	D	U	E	L	Y	E					

VintonMessenger.com

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

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

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

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

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

Payton's Paving & Landscaping

- Complete Lawn Care
- Retaining Walls
- Concrete Work
- Mulching

- Driveway Sealcoating
- Asphalt
- Snow Removal

Free Estimates

540-521-6572
Ask for Howard

ADVERTISE!

Call Tucker Frye at 309-9485
or email tfrye@ourvalley.org
to advertise in this space.

*Want to keep up with local news,
sports and events?*

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Call (540) 389-9355

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY



DR FAME
ALLERGY
ASTHMA

540 404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM



FOX 910
Roanoke and 104.3 FM
CBS SPORTS RADIO

ROANOKE'S #2 NEWS TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION
(Nielsen Fall 2022 book)
www.foxradioroanoke.com
(540) 343-7109



Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains
Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

- *Physical Exams * X-ray Services
- * Laboratory Services * Acute Care
- *Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS

Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Sunflooring Inc.
STEVE SMITH

With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors,
Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring,
Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile,
Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

540-556-3100




CENTURY 21
Wampler Realty
64 Wendover Road
Daleville, Va 24083
Cell: 540-312-7792
Office: 540-992-2500
sfleshmansells@hotmail.com

SHERRYE FLESHMAN REALTOR®
Each office is independently owned and operated

WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS

Top money paid
FREE estimates



EADES & LOWER INSURANCE
5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100
P.O. Box 21483
Roanoke, VA 24018

SHERRI STINETTE HOLT
INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124
Fax (540) 981-1266
sherri@eadesandlower.com
www.eadesandlower.com

AUTO | HOME BUSINESS | LIFE




Residential and Commercial Construction

540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083

www.southerntracellc.com

Contact us at
540-988-2420

Windy Ridge Tree & Mulching Service

Contact us today for a free quote!
540-473-5176
fincastletreedr@gmail.com
windyridgetreedr.com



Colonial Title and Settlement

Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley communities with all your real estate needs for residential, commercial, construction with MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi for your next move!

540-966-1260
1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: **540-293-4271**

HARDWOOD FLOORS

- Cleaning
- Waxing
- Beautification

Save 10% NOW!

540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908

ADVERTISE With us

Place your ad here,
call 276-340-2445

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?
SUBSCRIBE TODAY • Call (540) 389-9355



STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

Commercial Foreclosure Auction; 341 E. Market St. Leesburg, VA 20176. 2,719 sq ft Income Producing, Long Term Tenant. Live Auction Dec 15th 11:00 AM at Loudoun Co Courthouse. DudleyResources.com for info.

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVE-

STATEWIDE ADS

MENT

Now Offering Financing! Ronnie Jenkins II Windows, Siding, Roofing and Gutters! FREE Estimates! Call 804-739-8207 for More Details! American Made Products!

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-947-1479

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors

STATEWIDE ADS

available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-902-4611

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for

STATEWIDE ADS

customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

LIVESTOCK SALE

BCIA CULPEPER SENIOR BULL SALE, Saturday, December

STATEWIDE ADS

9, Noon, Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise, Culpeper, VA. Selling 80 Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Gelbvieh Balancer, Hereford, Simmental and SimAngus bulls. Catalog 540-231-9159. Sale information available at www.virginiabcia.com. Sale available online at https://www.liveauctions.tv/

TOTAL PERFORMANCE BULL SALE. Friday, December 1, 2023 at Noon. Featuring 175 Angus, Polled Hereford, Gelbvieh and Balancer bulls. Knoll Crest Farm, Red House, VA. Pre-register before sale day by calling 434-376-3567

SERVICES

STATEWIDE ADS

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government

STATEWIDE ADS

program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-970-1995

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-888-550-3083 www.dental50plus.com/virginia #6258



MESSENGER FILE PHOTOS

Left, Isaiah Board(#10) and Ty Blalock(#12) will be key players on the William Byrd boys basketball team. Darin Witcher(above, on top) returns to the Big Orange wrestling team after going to the state final as a freshman.

High School winter sports seasons open this week

The cold weather has arrived and that means William Byrd sports fans are moving inside as the Virginia High School League winter sports season begins this week. Terrier teams all have games scheduled for this week, with the exception of boys' basketball as the William Byrd football season continues into December.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Terriers had three games scheduled for this week, but none will be played with several key players still participating in football. Byrd had a Tuesday game with Cave Spring postponed, although the jayvees were scheduled to play. Tonight's home game with Christiansburg has been postponed until December 14 and Friday's game at Glenvar has been rescheduled for February 7.

"We don't have(uniform) numbers yet, and I'm not totally sure who will come out when football is over," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway, who hasn't been in this situation before in Vinton.

Senior Ty Blalock and junior Isaiah Board have been practicing and senior Israel Hairston, Byrd's quarterback on the football team, will be a key player once the football season is over. Other seniors include Brayden King and Drew Lindsay and juniors are Hayden Eads, Jahdai English, Dylan McSherry, Jon Rosser and Maurice Burnette. It should be a solid team once Greenway has all the pieces in place.

"We don't know exactly what this thing will look like until football season is over, but we are excited about the amount of experience we bring back," he said. "We've got a team that we believe will shoot it pretty well, we can attack the basket well and our success will likely come down to how well we can defend as a smaller size team. Looking forward to getting our guys in the gym and figuring it out."

The Terriers were 12-14 last year with four of the losses coming to district power Northside.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Byrd girls open the season with three games this week, Tuesday at Cave Spring, tonight at E.C. Glass and Friday at home with the Glenvar. The girls are coming off a 4-20 season but the jayvees were 20-3 and coach Randy Bush is looking forward to great improvement in the next couple years.

"All the sophomores, all the juniors and the one senior are key returners," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. "They all have some valuable varsity experience and know what the expectations are. They are

competing in practice and getting after it.

"We have a very exciting group of freshmen coming in on the varsity, swing and jayvee levels. They are working very hard at learning the speed of the game and getting to know what our expectations are. They also are competing in practice very well."

Makayla Price is the only senior on the team. Junior team captains are Samantha Martin, Kaylee Makuch and Hannah Janney and other juniors include Jada Johnson, Taelor McPherson, Ryan Markham and Barb Hernandez. Logan Andrews is the lone sophomore on the team but Byrd has four freshmen, Heidi Dixon, Elena Mullen, Maggie Zimmerman and Mia Martin.

"We will be young, but we also have experienced upper classmen that are taking the younger players under their wings," said Bush. "We will be growing throughout the season and are looking forward to seeing the lightbulbs go off as they get more court time."

WRESTLING

The Big Orange will be big in numbers this year as coach Thomas Kessler had his best turnout since he took over as coach. The Terriers will have five seniors, five juniors, seven sophomores and welcome 16 freshmen to the orange and maroon mats.

"We have about 22 kids who have never stepped foot on a high school mat, so the beginning of the year will be a growing experience for us," said Kessler.

Returning from last year is state runner up Darin Witcher, who made it to the Saturday evening show at the Salem Civic Center as a freshman. He'll be looking to make another run this year as a 106 pound sophomore.

Senior Gage Cockran will be looking to get back to the state podium this year at 138 or 144, while Aidan Lucas and Bricen Lancaster will be looking to get to the state podium as well. Both have qualified for the state tournament twice and have come up just short of placing.

Seniors Brycen Nielson and Curtis Dillon and juniors Stephen Underwood and Graylen Castleberry are all primed for big years as they have all been putting a lot of work in this off season. Freshmen Lane Brunk, Noah Spradlin, Jonah Schofield, Zane Taylor, Bruce Robinson, Brandon Hurley and Nelson Escobar were all scheduled to wrestle in Byrd's season opening dual at Salem Wednesday. Michael

Byrant and Ronnie Wood are back again this year as assistant coaches.

"We are excited to get the guys out there and let them get some experience under their belts," said Kessler. "I expect our team to grow up a lot as the season goes along and I am looking forward to the progress we make."

The Terriers will be Heritage High in Lynchburg for a quad match this Saturday and their first tournament will be the Titan Toughman at Hidden Valley on December 8 & 9.

SWIMMING

The William Byrd swimmers will take to the water in competition for the first time this Saturday when the Terriers compete in a big season opening meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. Byrd will also be at the Salem YMCA next Tuesday for a meet involving multiple schools.

Team captains this year are Maddy Davis, Cole Kovacevic and Michael Hoyos. All three have been on the team for a number of years.

"I'm excited to see them in a leadership role this season," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "We have most of last year's state team returning. Look for big things from Evan Copening, Blake Richardson, Cole Kovacevic, Jay Rozenboom, Gabby Romeo, Lindsay Murtaugh, Michael Hoyos, and Bruno De Melo."

Byrd also has six eighth graders on the team this year. They won't count for varsity matches but will practice with the team and get great experience for the coming seasons. The eighth graders are Kayleigh Barber, Hadyn Terrell, Ben Gardner, Ben Hoyos, Luka Minekin and KoLee Walter.

"A large number of eighth graders is great news for the future of our program," said Martin. "Hadyn Terrell is one of the top breaststrokers in the state of Virginia. She will be one to keep an eye on for her high school career for sure."

Martin has close to 30 swimmers this season. "It has been a long time since we have carried almost 30 on the team," said Martin. "I am so excited to have the big group. Coach James(Martin) and I can't wait to get the team in the water for our first meet."

INDOOR

The William Byrd indoor track team will be at Liberty University this weekend for their first meet. The Terriers have three meets in December, all at Liberty University.



MESSENGER FILE PHOTOS

Left to right, Samantha Martin is a captain on the Byrd girls' basketball team, Cole Kovacevic is a captain on the and DeShawn Austin is a standout on the track team.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Nick Hale(#35) scored two touchdowns in Randolph-Macon's win over Ithaca.

Randolph-Macon is two wins away from trip to Stagg Bowl

Nationally eighth-ranked Randolph-Macon College is headed to the NCAA Division III Football Championship quarterfinals for the first time in program history after a 46-0 shutout of 19th-ranked Ithaca College last Saturday afternoon in Ashland.

The Yellow Jackets have three William Byrd graduates on the team, twins Nick and Matt Hale and El-Amin Shareef. Matt Hale is the starting center and Nick Hale is a tailback who ran for 102 yards and two touchdowns in last week's shutout of Ithaca.

RMC moves on to face John Hopkins University (12-0) this Saturday, December 2, in Baltimore, MD. The Jackets are two wins away from earning a trip to the NCAA Division III championship Stagg Bowl, which will be held in Salem this season on December 16 at Salem Stadium.

SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org, or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • ourvalley.org



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

TERRIERS ARE REGION 3D FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Byrdmen beat Magna Vista in region final, 31-7; will play LCA in state semifinal this Saturday

For the first time in school history the Terriers have made it to the day games. Byrd will take on Liberty Christian Academy in the Virginia High School League Class 3 football state semifinal this Saturday at 2 pm in Lynchburg.

The state semifinal and championship games are traditionally played in the afternoon, and Byrd earned a spot in the semifinal with a 31-7 win over Magna Vista in Ridgeway last Friday night. That earned the Terriers their first region football championship in school history and with a 12-1 record as they set a new school record for wins in a season. They've now won 10 in a row, tying the 1973 team for most consecutive wins in a season.

As you might expect at this time of year, things won't get any easier this week. Liberty Christian Academy is undefeated and Class 3C champion after pounding Turner Ashby, 63-14, in their region championship game last week. LCA is the only team to beat Salem this season and one of just two teams to beat Jefferson Forest. After opening the season with a 21-14 win at Salem Stadium they haven't scored fewer than 35 points in any game, including 62 against Amherst County and 56 against Fluvanna County. The Bulldogs have one of the top players in the state in junior Gideon Davidson, a tailback and defensive back who has signed to play for Clemson once his high school career is over.

When Saturday's game kicks off it could be the case of the immovable object against the unstoppable force, as Byrd's defense has been outstanding this year. The Terriers have allowed just over 10 points a game, with opponents scoring 134 points in 13 games. The Terriers have three shutouts and three others times they've held the opponent to single figures, including last week against Magna Vista.

Byrd was close to a shutout last week, blanking the homestanding Warriors after they struck first with a 60 yard pass play to take a 7-0 lead. Byrd tied the game by the end of the quarter on a 58 yard TD run by Brayden Andrews. Bricen Lancaster's 29 yard field goal in the second period gave Byrd a 10-7 lead at the half.

After a scoreless third period the fourth quarter was all Terriers. Byrd

made it a two score game when quarterback Israel Hairston found Elliott Gaines for a 36 yard TD. Then Hairston used his legs for the final two scores, running it in from four and 13 yards out to win going away with Lancaster perfect on all four extra point kicks.

Hairston had another great game with 118 yards rushing on 16 carries while completing nine of 12 passes for 124 yards, accounting

for 242 yards of offense and three touchdowns. Andrews rushed for 84 yards on 11 carries, Jalen Toler had 50 yards on two attempts and Walter Barrows had 44 yards on seven carries. Five different players had two catches each for Byrd, Andrews, Gaines, Blake Anderson, Ian Vest and Jerrett Shepherd.

On defense Vest had a big blocked field goal attempt in the second half to go with three quarterback pressures.

John Kiker had four solo tackles and four assists while Jonathan Rosser had three solos, two assists a sack and a forced fumble. Doniven Davis recovered the fumble and had three solo tackles and two assists to go with five quarterback pressures. Ethan Haston had three solo tackles and Hairston had another interception, his second in the last two games.

The win was Byrd's first on the road in the playoffs and earned the

Terriers the Region 3D trophy. A large crowd of Terrier fans showed up to support the team as their magical season continues, and another good crowd is expected this Saturday in Lynchburg.

"Our players and coaches appreciated all of the support from the Dog Pound, faculty, families, and fans that made the trip to Magna Vista," said Byrd coach Brad Lutz. "This team has a unique story and

bond. They have experienced success and adversity together. Our entire team embraced the opportunity to go on the road with an opportunity to win a regional championship. Every week of this season, our players have proved their toughness and commitment to our program. Their efforts have led to this historic season, and last Friday was a special accomplish for our team, school, and community."



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



REGION 3D CHAMPS

Action from last Friday's win at Magna Vista. Above left, Brayden Andrews breaks free to score Byrd's first TD; above right, Walter Barrows picks up yards for the Terriers. Left, 11 of the 16 seniors strike a pose with the Region 3D trophy. Standing, left to right, are Israel Hairston, Brayden Andrews, Dom Dulak, Cooper Minnix, Elliott Gaines, John Kiker, Dexter Gaines and Ian Vest. Kneeling are Lane Shoemaker, Donnie Davis and Josh Stores. Below left, quarterback Israel Hairston uncorks a pass and, below right, Byrd defenders gang tackle a Warrior ballcarrier.

