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# The Vinton Messenger

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## The Year in Review, Vinton 2023, Part 1

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

Town leaders remain extremely optimistic about the future of the Town of Vinton.

"We have been very blessed as our town has continued to grow and prosper," said Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "The Town of Vinton is making incredible strides toward becoming a truly modern Town with an eye toward becoming the most livable place in Virginia. Vinton has something for everyone who is looking for a great place to live, work, or shop.

"Some of our progress is very visible such as the new and exciting businesses in our downtown district. In addition, things like street improvements and updated signal lights are moving us toward being a very walkable community. Our citizens can enjoy outdoor musical events and other activities in a safe and pleasant environment.

"Economic development continues at an unprecedented pace. We are very excited about the Gish Mill project as well as several other initiatives that will help us continue to develop as a thriving community. Other very important and foundational activities may not be as apparent but are the bases for our future growth.

"The staff in the Town of Vinton continues to grow in professionalism, without an increase in numbers. The town's new office space will allow our staff to function in a more productive and efficient manner.

"Another recent and very important achievement was the EPA grant of \$500,000. Just as with previous grants, the funds will allow the Town to perform many preliminary requirements that lead to more economic development. The money can be used for a variety of items from soil testing to building safety inspections. Developers can then invest in our community at a more affordable cost.

"Of course, none of our progress happens without the blessings of God and the hard work of many people in our town. Our staff constantly operates at a very high level of performance. The entire staff of the Town of Vinton works tirelessly to provide the best services possible for all our citizens.

"The other essential element in our continued progress is the supportive citizens of our great community. The people in our town have welcomed the changes that are necessary if we are to continue to grow as a modern, progressive community.

"The Vinton Town Council has committed itself to supporting new projects and management practices that will ensure the long-term success and stability of our town. I am truly excited about the future of the Town of Vinton."

*Town Manager Pete Peters has a list of what are to him the most significant events in the Town of Vinton in 2023:*

1. The official transfer of the ownership of the Gish Mill Property: It's been eight years since the town purchased the structure, and Town Council members have achieved their goal of formally securing a developer to rehabilitate and repurpose the property into a revenue-producing business. While construction isn't yet underway, transferring ownership and executing the

See **Year in Review**, page 3



The Navy National Defense Cadet Corps was established at William Byrd High School in February 2023.



Acclaimed artist Jon Murrill designed and painted Vinton's first outdoor mural on the wall of the new Vinton Veterinary Specialty Services Center in 2023 with assistance from art teachers and students at William Byrd High School.



Buildings damaged in the downtown Vinton fire of 2022 were demolished in 2023. PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

## Town of Vinton 'Employees of the Year' announced



Town of Vinton Public Works employee P. C. Crimmins (on right) was named Employee of the Year from the Vinton Public Works Dept. Banks Bradford (on left) was first runner-up.



Tobbie Russeau was named Employee of the Year by his co-workers in the town administration; he is the Facilities Manager. First runner-up was Tiffany Stewart from the Finance Dept.



Sgt. Brandon Alterio (on right) was named Employee of the Year for 2023 by employees in the Vinton Police Department. Lt. Scott Hurt was first runner-up.

The Town of Vinton has selected its "Employees of the Year for 2023." The winners were announced at the staff Christmas lunch in December and will be recognized at the Jan. 16 Town Council meeting.

This year, there was not just one "Employee of the Year" but three, representing different town departments. Only members of the staff in each

department were able to vote for their nominee. The Public Works Employee of the Year for 2023 is P. C. Crimmins; first runner-up is William "Banks" Bradford.

The Police Department Employee of the Year for 2023 is Sgt. Brandon Alterio; Lt. Scott Hurt was first runner-up.

The Town Administration Employee of the Year for 2023 is Tobbie Russeau from Building and Grounds; first runner-up is Tiffany Stewart from the Finance Dept. Employees from Planning and Zoning, Finance, Community Programs, Capital Projects, and Economic Development were included in this selection.



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-Vinton Messenger staff report



# Vinton Town Council receives update on initial \$300,000 Brownfields grant

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council approved a resolution at its meeting on Dec. 5 authorizing the town manager to execute a cooperative agreement accepting a \$500,000 Community-wide Brownfields Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This is not the town's first EPA Brownfields award. Vinton previously received an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant for \$300,000 in 2019. That grant provided funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.

The EPA Brownfields Program is a federal grant administered to help local governments redevelop properties, typically those with prior manufacturing or hazardous materials uses, and position them for economic and community development projects, with the hope of engaging potential developers. No match is required by the town for the funds.

(A brownfield is defined by the EPA as a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.)

The town will utilize the new \$500,000 grant award over the next four years to strategically redevelop targeted vacant and underutilized properties within the community.

According to Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters, the town is considering several possible uses of the funds, including a hotel feasibility study and operating proforma, a structural assessment of Gish Mill for construction purposes, environmental assessment and conceptual planning for the downtown fire-damaged properties, building and conceptual planning for the McClung property, updating Phase I and concept planning for the Byrd annex, and

environmental assessments of the former Speedway fueling station.

The Town of Vinton selected TRC Companies Inc. through a Request for Proposal process in September 2023 to manage the new grant on behalf of the town—assisting with grant administration, preparing conceptual site plans, establishing marketing materials, and coordinating the steering committee. TRC (then known as Draper Aden Associates) worked with the town on the previous 2019 EPA Brownfields grant as well.

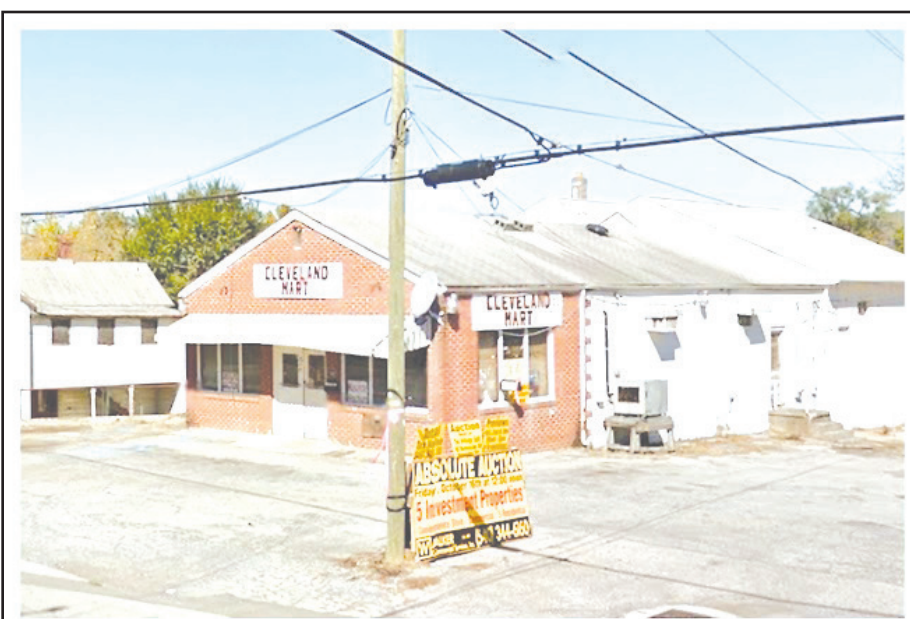
Prior to a public hearing at the Dec. 5 meeting on accepting the new Brownfields grant, Sri Nathella of TRC (and formerly with Draper Aden) presented an update on the previous Brownfields grant project to council.

He began by praising the town for the “incredible success of the first grant. It's unusual to complete one cycle and immediately receive a second one.

“Altogether, the Town of Vinton completed over 25 projects/reports through the first round of their highly successful EPA Brownfields Program,” Nathella said before presenting his report in detail.

The 2019 grant targeted four areas: the Route 24 /Washington Avenue/ Gus Nicks Boulevard area, the Route 634/Virginia Avenue/Hardy Road area, Pollard Street, and the Cleveland and Jackson Avenues area. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds (\$180,000) and community-wide petroleum grant funds (\$120,000) were used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments. Both types were used to develop a GIS-based brownfields site inventory and database, to prioritize sites, to develop three cleanup plans, and to support community outreach activities.

One of the EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant projects included environmental assessments



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

## The Gish Mill and Cleveland Mart redevelopment projects benefitted from the first Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2019.

of the potential hotel site at Pollard Street, Cedar Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and 1st Street. That project included Phase II ESAs (Environmental Site Assessments) with soil and/or groundwater sampling to evaluate whether contamination was present on the property.

The Brownfields assessment grant was also used for the Gish Mill site and the former William Byrd High School site on Highland Avenue (now the Billy Byrd apartments).

Site assessments in the first grant

cycle included assessments for asbestos containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP), plus structural assessments, where appropriate.

That first Brownfields grant award was leveraged to ease the path to construction for developers of projects such as Gish Mill, the Cleveland Mart redevelopment project, and the anticipated Vinton hotel. The Gish Mill and Cleveland Mart projects are currently in the works. The COVID pandemic slowed realization of the hotel project, but the town continues to pursue the project.

# Vinton War Memorial turns into ‘Winter Wonderland’ for special needs children



Santa and Mrs. Claus listened to Christmas wish lists, posed for photos, and delivered gifts at the inaugural Winter Wonderland.

The Vinton War Memorial was the site of the first “Winter Wonderland” for special needs children on Dec. 16, organized by Shawana McKinstry-Keeling. McKinstry has a child with special needs and wanted to organize an event which would allow families to “eat, be merry, and have a good time together.” One parent noted that support from other families and the community makes all the difference in raising a child who faces challenges.

The event brought out the community spirit with food provided by McDonald's, Chick-fil-A, Texas Roadhouse, and Bojangles. DJ Scott Hanger and Robin Morgan Photography donated their services.

Santa and Mrs. Claus (Herb and Renee Coles) were there to greet the children, pose for a photo, and distribute gifts from individual Christmas lists.

There were craft stations set up by LaSonja McKinstry, face painting, coloring, painting, ornament decorating, and sensory play. Shamrocks Fast Pitch created a Lollipop Pathway. Unique Balloons by Crystal contributed balloon arches and decorations.

Volunteers served the children and their families. Members of the Vinton Police Department stopped by to join the fun.

McKinstry, the owner of Sweet Magnolia Wax and Company, began seriously planning for the holiday happening last summer with a fundraiser and is already planning next year's event.

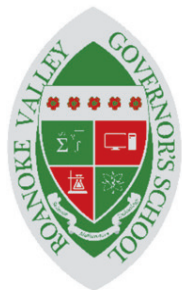
- Vinton Messenger staff report



Several restaurants in the area supported the event with donations of food.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON WAR MEMORIAL  
The Vinton War Memorial hosted a “Winter Wonderland” for children with special needs on Dec. 16.



The **Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology** invites prospective students and parents to attend one of the 2024-2025 school year informational sessions listed below to learn about our school and obtain an application. RVGS is a public regional program serving high school students from Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, Floyd, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem.

- Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30 pm, Application info meeting at RVGS
- Thursday, January 11th, 6:30 p.m., Application info meeting at Franklin County High School
- Tuesday, January 16th, 6:30 pm, Application info meeting at RVGS
- Thursday, January 18th, 6:30 pm, Application info meeting at Staunton River High School
- Tuesday, January 23rd, 6:30 pm, Application info meeting RVGS

Informational sessions & additional information available at [www.rvgs.k12.va.us](http://www.rvgs.k12.va.us)



# Year in Review from page 1

various complex contracts and agreements that have solidified the financing was quite the milestone and has set the final construction phase to get underway in the spring of 2024.

2. **Transportation enhancements:** Town Council took a significant step forward in their goals to ease traffic congestion by replacing 10 of the 11 signalized intersections within the town with new signal heads, internal control systems, traffic cameras, opticoms (for emergency service vehicles) and GPS-enabled signal synchronization to improve signal alignment. These much-needed equipment updates have modernized our transportation infrastructure and allow us to make real-time adjustments for peak traffic flows and special events and move an ever-increasing number of daily commuters and visitors to and through our town, while limiting negative impacts on our residents and businesses.

3. **Walkability improvements:** East Cleveland Avenue and both ends of Walnut Avenue received significant enhancements this year to improve vehicle safety and improve the aesthetics of these two important corridors, and each have also increased the ability to walk downtown from the Jefferson, Cleveland and Midway neighborhoods. While not complete, construction got underway with the last remaining gap of the Glade Creek Greenway that will bridge the initial two phases together and the design of the two pedestrian crosswalks on Hardy Road and Gus Nicks Boulevard have also been designed and have set the stage for additional walkability improvements for 2024.

4. **Downtown is Happening:** The recent expansion of Twin Creeks' Creekbank Music Venue, the opening of Pok-E-Joe's, and the opening of Pollard 107 South, with an already established array of restaurants to include Our Daily Bread, Big Belly's Pizza and Farmburguesa, have created a downtown scene that has the downtown hopping throughout the week and established an incredible energy on the weekends with live music in abundance. And with the promise of the Dogwood Restaurant expansion and the new Tacos and Tequila Tacorita opening in the former Red Jasmine property, this will only increase the liveliness of our downtown in the New Year.

"It's a great time to be in Vinton," Peters says.

**Here's a sampling of what happened in Vinton in 2023 as recorded in The Vinton Messenger:**

**January 2023:** In one of its first actions of 2023, Vinton Town Council chose Mike Stovall as vice mayor. He was re-elected in the November 2022 general election and had previously served on the Roanoke County School Board.

**Public Works** Administrative Manager Jill Acker was named Vinton Employee of the Year for the previous year. She has been employed by the town since 2012. **Human Resources** Director Donna Collins noted that "Jill is selfless in her actions. She excels at working with citizens and staff through Public Works. She has a team player attitude and leads by word and example. She is dependable, honest, and

has an infectious positive attitude."

Tim Greenway, who represents the Vinton District on the Roanoke County School Board, was chosen by fellow members as vice chairman for the year. He was first elected to the School Board in 2015.

The Town of Vinton established a CodeRED alert system to notify residents about weather and traffic events, missing children, road closures, criminal activities, shelter-in-place notices, natural disasters, and more. Citizens and businesses sign up through the town's website.

The town sadly lost employee Stevie Bowles in January, a Public Works equipment operator well known to town citizens.

The William Byrd Terrier boys basketball team went on a three-spree, scoring 13 three-point shots in a game against Staunton River—four each by Drew Lindsay and Isaiah Board.

Vinton Town Clerk/ Executive Assistant Susan Johnson retired from her positions with the town. She was thanked by Mayor Brad Grose for her professionalism, creativity, hard work, and interest in supporting her fellow staff members and the entire town of Vinton. "When we hired you, we got the whole package—a consummate professional and someone who cared for our community," he said.

Antonia Arias-Magallon was hired as Johnson's replacement.

In January 2023, the Western Virginia Water Authority began a months-long Waterline Replacement Project on East Cleveland Avenue.

The HIVE Business Incubation Center, leased from the Town of Vinton by The Advancement Foundation, left downtown Vinton and its offices on Pollard Street. The building owned by the Town of Vinton was then renovated into office staff for town employees working in cramped space in the Municipal Building and renamed as the Town Annex.

Mark Frye of Creative Occasions, Events, Flowers, and Gifts, was notified that he had won first place in the annual Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens Competition, a fundraiser for the United Way. Frye was also chosen for the second consecutive year to help decorate the White House for Christmas.

William Byrd High School musicians Sage Kushman, Latriva Pierce, Maggie Parkhurst, and Becca Radford were chosen for the Virginia Tech Honor Band—quite an achievement.

The William Byrd Big Orange wrestlers took third place in the Big Blue wrestling tournament in Christiansburg with two individual winners—freshman Darin Witcher and senior Dustin Richards.

**February 2023:** In a quiet February 2023, Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce officers were installed with Jason Boothe as president, Allison Finney as first vice president, and Page Stovall as second vice president.

The ninth annual Gauntlet Business Program and Competition got underway on Feb. 7 with its focus on assisting fledgling entrepreneurs or existing businesses that wanted to grow.

Bonsack student Rory Grant won the Roanoke County Spelling Bee with the championship word, "retinol."

The Gish Mill



**Carsyn Kotz was crowned Dogwood Queen for 2023.**



**Pok-E-Joe's restaurant opened for business at Vinyard Station in downtown Vinton in 2023.**



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce continued its hugely successful Mingle at the Market concert series in 2023, drawing crowds to Vinton.**

Redevelopment Project prepared to move forward. The Mount Pleasant Library prepared to close for remodeling. The William Byrd High School Renovation and Expansion Project was moving forward, hoping to re-open fully in the fall of 2023.

The William Byrd High School boys swim team won the Blue Ridge District and Region 3D Championships. Colin Murtaugh won the state championship in Class 3 in the 50 Free Style event. Xavier Preston won the state championship in wrestling in Class 3.

Byrd students also won first place in the Roanoke County Science Fair: Blake Glover won in Physics; Meera Raichura, first place in Plant Sciences.

Vinton First Aid Crew member Greg Meinel passed away unexpectedly, having served with the crew for over 31 years—recruited just out of high school at William Byrd.

**March 2023:** The Navy National Defense Cadet Corps was officially established at William Byrd High School on Feb. 23 of 2023 with great pomp and circumstance and many dignitaries in

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Product or \_\_\_ (abbr.)
  - 4. Zodiac sign
  - 9. S. China seaport
  - 14. Former OSS
  - 15. Early English printer
  - 16. Aphid genus
  - 17. General's assistant (abbr.)
  - 18. Aussies
  - 20. Dissuades
  - 22. Make law
  - 23. Drench
  - 24. Soak in a liquid
  - 28. Male child
  - 29. It cools your home
  - 30. Small constellation
  - 31. To call (archaic)
  - 33. Explores beneath the Earth
  - 37. Commercial
  - 38. W. hemisphere organization
  - 39. You can find it in a can
  - 41. "Land of the free"
  - 42. 36 inches
  - 43. Footwear
  - 44. Challenges
  - 46. They hold things together
  - 49. Of I
  - 50. Partner to flow
  - 51. Not connected by kinship
  - 55. Worries
  - 58. Garlic mayonnaise
  - 59. A way to take by force
  - 60. Legendary English rockers
  - 64. Your consciousness of your own identity
  - 65. Fencing swords
  - 66. Silly
  - 67. Actor DiCaprio
  - 68. Encircles with a belt
  - 69. Mails a message
  - 70. Longing
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Horse mackerels
  - 2. It can be viral
  - 3. Prickly plants
  - 4. Consciousness
  - 5. Type of sarcoma
  - 6. Tax collector
  - 7. Sun up in New York
  - 8. One who scorches
  - 9. Influential psychotherapist
  - 10. Situated at an apex
  - 11. Communicative
  - 12. Forearm nerve
  - 13. Former CIA
  - 19. Folk singer DiFranco
  - 21. Employee stock ownership plan
  - 24. Large-scale
  - 25. School environment
  - 26. Remove
  - 27. Male parents
  - 31. Large rodent
  - 32. Weighed down
  - 34. Held tightly
  - 35. \_\_\_ route: going there
  - 36. Explains again
  - 40. Exclamation of surprise
  - 41. Courteously
  - 45. Lying down
  - 47. Judge
  - 48. Forcefully took
  - 52. Loosely compacted sediment
  - 53. High mountain
  - 54. Portable conical tents
  - 56. Cereal grass
  - 57. Dining utensil
  - 59. Helpful
  - 60. Helps you walk
  - 61. Indicates near
  - 62. Midway between northeast and east
  - 63. Local area network



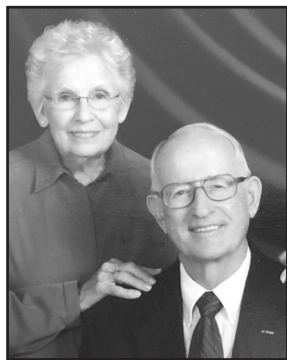
# OBITUARIES

## Patterson, Jeanette McIntyre

Jeanette McIntyre Patterson, 86, of Frederick, Md., passed away Friday, December 17, 2023 of complications associated with a recent fall. Mrs. Patterson lived at the Edenton Retirement Community in Frederick since moving there with her husband Bobby Patterson in 2019.

Mrs. Patterson was born July 5, 1937 in Rocky Mount, N.C., to loving parents Nettyle Hogg and Charles Drake McIntyre. Her younger sister Charlotte came along a few years after. Jeanette spent summers in Georgia with extended family. One summer she was at a family picnic when she was chased by chickens. This gave her a common bond with her high school sweetheart and husband Bobby, who had similar life events in Tennessee.

After graduating from East Carolina College and establishing herself with the Social Security Administration in Lynchburg, Va., Jeanette married Bobby August 13, 1961 in Rocky Mount, N.C. They set up their household in Salem, Va., and had their first child, Leigh, soon



after. They moved to Vinton for Bobby to pursue his assignment as William Byrd High School Principal, and had their children Robert and Carol.

Mrs. Patterson took care of the household, and most of the children's activities, eventually taking a position in the William Byrd Middle School office, taking attendance and assisting with other duties, allowing her to establish lifelong relationships with many students she followed through high school and into adulthood. Jeanette had many, many friends and colleagues throughout her life. She spent many days helping with the Roanoke Valley SPCA and took frequent walks with Bobby. She helped with the Vinton Baptist Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for many years, but her focus was always on her family.

Jeanette is survived by her sister, Charlotte Montgomery (Eddie); children, Leigh Friedman (David), Robert Alexander Patterson, Jr. (Audrey), and Carol van Doorn (Marc Musser); grandchildren, Sam Friedman (Andrea), Alexander Friedman, Owen van Doorn, and James van Doorn; nephews, Bill Patterson, Danny Spikes, Patrick Patterson and Chad Montgomery; nieces, Rita Patterson Reghanti, Wanda Spikes Benson, and Shannon Thorpe. Jeanette's husband Bobby passed away in 2020.

Mrs. Patterson will be interred with Bobby at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. A memorial service is being planned at Mountain View Cemetery in Vinton for June 1, 2024.

Her children wish to thank the staff of Edenton, especially health aides Tawana, Tina, and Corleada, Joyce R., for their care, and administrator RaeAnn for her guidance. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Roanoke Valley SPCA. We will miss our mother Jeanette, devoted wife, wonderful Mom, and precious Grandmommy. "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." - Isaiah 66:13.

## Brown, Dennis Keith

Dennis Keith Brown died peacefully at home December 13, 2023, after battling pancreatic cancer.

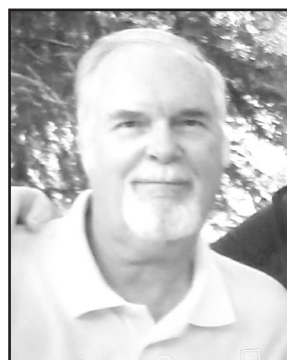
Born in Roanoke, he graduated from William Byrd High School where he played baseball and basketball. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he served in the U.S. Army in the last draft for Vietnam. For many years, he worked in floor covering sales at several locations. Traveling and watching and discussing sports were his hobbies.

A devoted Christian, he volunteered in ministries, served his family, met needs and encouraged

others. He will be remembered for his disarming wit and love of family.

Predeceased by parents George Linwood and Shirley Cromer Brown, he is survived by wife Susan Brown, daughters Amanda Harrison and Adrienne Brown, son-in-law Keith Harrison, grandsons Aidan, Kenan and Kristopher Harrison, and siblings Barry, Terry and Alan Brown, Sharon Watkins and Faye Worley.

Special thanks to Good Samaritan Hospice and our church family. A Celebration of Life will be held at Vinton Church of Christ at 11 a.m. on December 30, 2023.



## Remembering community servant Sydney Myers

Sydney Myers, age 91, of Vinton passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 19. He was well-known in the Vinton community as a Life Member of the Vinton First Aid Crew with over 65 years of dedicated service beginning in 1954. For many years, he served as treasurer for the crew, even after retiring. He also took on the responsibility of maintaining most administrative records for the crew and served in many other positions.

Sydney retired from Norfolk and Western/Norfolk Southern Railway. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserves as a yeoman for 20 years. He also served as magistrate for the Town of Vinton and Roanoke City for 30 years. He became the Vinton Justice of the Peace in 1973.

Friends and fellow crew members describe him as "an incredible man with a hilarious personality," and "truly one of a kind - a life well-lived."

"He was a walking history encyclopedia of all things Vinton and the VFAC."

"He was a great person to have mentored many, provided solid advice, and a great partner in critical situations."

"Sydney was a great man and a very dedicated asset to the crew and Town of Vinton."

Sydney was predeceased by his wife, Jane Elizabeth Myers, and is survived by his children, Gary (Gwynne) Myers and Michele Oakley (Frank), two grandchildren, a step-granddaughter, and

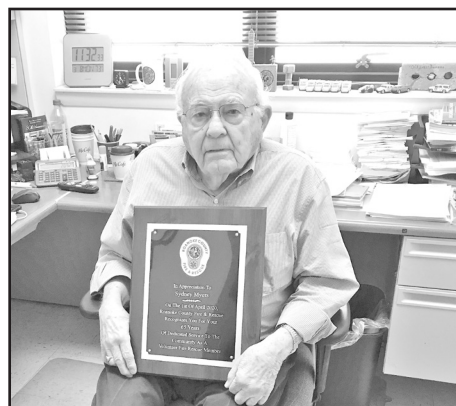


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS  
**Sydney Myers was a community servant and a Life Member of the Vinton First Aid Crew for over 65 years.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON FIRST AID CREW  
**The 1950s Vinton First Aid Crew photo shows Sydney Myers front row, third white suit from the left.**

his great-grandchild.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

## The Vinton Messenger

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

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### 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

**VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH** - 200 Washington Avenue, Vinton. Dr. William Booth, 343-7685. Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:15, Morning Worship 10:30 AM, Wednesday Services: Worship, Bible Study and Children's Choirs at 6:15 PM. Youth Ministry at 6:00 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](http://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

# WINTON

### READY OR NOT

Read Revelation 22:1-21

At the turn of the century, the world was in a panic. On the eve of a new millennium, no one was sure what midnight would bring. Experts claimed a programming glitch could cause computers to struggle with the date change. The acronym Y2K became a household phrase connected to the possible collapse of computer-dependent industrialized nations.

Some scoffed, but others prepared. They stockpiled canned goods and bottled water. They outlined a strategy for living without electricity. They took the doomsday warnings seriously and wanted to be ready.

John's Revelation contains a similar foretelling of a future event that will change life on earth.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done" (Revelation 22:12).

Whether or not you prepared for Y2K, the forewarned tragedy did not amount to anything. As believers, however, we all must be ready for Christ's return. The events prophesied in Scripture will come to pass. So, as 2012 comes to a close, ask yourself this question: Am I ready?

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help me be ready for Your soon return.

Quicklook: Revelation 22:7-17

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 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](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.





# Remembering Vinton

## Remembering Vinton 50 years ago in December, 1973

with the Vinton Historical Society

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

Fifty years ago in Vinton—December 1973—residents focused on Christmas and holiday festivities—just as they have in 2023.

One of the major events back then was the community presentation of Handel's "Messiah." Two performances attracted over 1,200 guests in 1973. One performance took place at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church; the second, at Vinton Baptist. The performances were televised as well.

Thrasher Music Director Creed Frazier directed the choirs. James Anderson, from Vinton Baptist, was co-director. The 90 members of the community choir were from Belmont Baptist, Bonsack Baptist, Campbell Presbyterian, First Christian Church, Garden City Baptist, Lynn Haven Baptist, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist, Mt. Pleasant Baptist, Mineral Springs Baptist, Midland Baptist, Ninevah Union, Oakland Baptist, Rainbow Forest Baptist, St. Andrews Catholic, Shenandoah Baptist, St. Timothy Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and the Vinton Church of the Brethren.

Vocalist Nancy Nicks, daughter of Vinton Mayor Gus Nicks, was a featured performer.

Many of a certain age, remember 1973 as the year of the national fuel crisis and its impact on everyday lives.

During the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo against the United States in retaliation for the U.S. decision to re-supply the Israeli military and to gain leverage in the post-war peace negotiations.

Before the embargo, a barrel of oil traded for around \$2.90, quadrupling to \$11.65 per barrel by January 1974. This led to an increase in the price of regular gasoline in the U.S. from an average of 39 cents per gallon before the crisis to 53 cents in 1974, an increase of around 36% in less than a year.

In addition to rising prices, there were shortages, leading to rationing at gas stations and long lines of cars waiting to fill up.

In January 1974, Congress passed a permanent, year-round Daylight Saving Time to conserve energy because of the severe national fuel crisis in 1973 at the behest of President Richard Nixon, who estimated that the time change would save 150,000 barrels of oil per day.

The new permanent DST law was retracted within the year. Public support dropped for the plan after several children

were injured in accidents in the pre-dawn hours walking to school.

However, as a result of the fuel emergency and the change in laws, Roanoke County Public Schools made plans to adjust its official school day and start one-half hour later after Christmas 1973.

Roanoke County elementary schools would be starting at 8:30 and 8:45 a.m.; intermediate and junior highs would begin at 9:20; and high schools would open at 9:15. Closing times were not slated to change.

Teachers' hours would not change; they would use the time for planning. School Superintendent Arnold R. Burton suggested that school employees not work on Dec. 21 and Dec. 31 to save heating and lighting in 40 buildings. The School Board also asked parents to discourage high school students from driving to school to save gasoline.

In response to President Nixon's message on fuel conservation, Mayor Gus Nicks announced that the number of days the town's Christmas lights would be on would be reduced, as well as the number of hours per day.

In past years, town lights were turned on at Thanksgiving and remained on until after Christmas, generally all night long.

Nicks announced that town Christmas lights in 1973 would not be turned on until Dec. 10 and would burn for only three hours each night.

The town also turned down the thermostats in town buildings and limited town vehicles to speeds of 50 mph.

Fuel was not the only thing in short supply that year. The Vinton Messenger reported a newsprint shortage which would be limiting the size of the newspaper for the foreseeable future. The cost of a year's subscription back then was \$5 a year.

The Town of Vinton decided it needed to hire a town engineer.

Town Council considered a request by the Vinton Jaycees to operate bingo games within the town.

Sydney Myers was appointed to a four-year term as Vinton's Justice of the Peace.

The Mt. Pleasant Lions Club continued their annual tradition (which continues to this day) of taking underprivileged children to the G.C. Murphy store at Lake Drive Plaza to shop for Christmas gifts. (Now the shopping trip is to Walmart.). Approximately \$25 was spent on each of seven children, ranging in age from 3-1/2 to 12 years of age. Mostly items of clothing were purchased. The store gave each child a stocking stuffed with Christmas goodies.



There was a fuel crisis in 1973, causing Roanoke County schools to consider altering their schedules.



The highlight of the Christmas season in Vinton was the performance of "Messiah" by a community chorus.



Even Christmas decorations were affected by the 1973 fuel crisis.

## Beyond Books

Happy New Year from the Vinton Library! Time to say goodbye to 2023 and to give a warm welcome to 2024 (not to mention getting some well-deserved rest after the holiday season). If you're looking to set some intentions for the new year or take up a new cozy hobby for the winter months, you've come to the right place.

Get inspired in 2024! Start the year off right and come join us to make your very own Vision Board for the New Year. A vision board is a visualization tool that can help you manifest your goals by seeing what you would like to accomplish. Bring your inspiration and we'll provide the supplies on Wednesday, January 10 at 6 p.m.

Looking for a new hobby that can also keep you warm in the cold season? Ever wanted an Introduction to Crochet? Register online to come and learn the basics of this fun fiber craft on Saturday, January 6 at 3 p.m.

Bring in your donations for Soup for Seniors starting on Monday, January 29 through Saturday, February 3. This year we are particularly looking for: soup, peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, crackers, oatmeal, and Boost or Ensure. Low-salt and nutritious foods are preferred. Please check expiration dates and no glass containers.

Don't forget to come by on Fridays from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. for the Vinton Community Connection. On January 5 we will make New Years Resolution Bracelets, on the 13th we'll have a making single line contour and blind contour drawings, on the 19th we'll have a mini-writer's workshop, and on the 26th we'll learn some "fauxigraphy" (faux calligraphy). Enjoy these fun, bite-sized programs while spending time with your neighbors and having some free coffee.

Register for our next Creations and Temptations on Saturday, January 20 from 3-4 p.m. Join us as we make gorgeous jumbo snowflakes to get your home decorated for winter.

The next Puzzle Race is coming up on Saturday, January 27 from 2-4:30 p.m. If you love jigsaw puzzles, register your team online now. See who can solve their puzzle the fastest; bring friends and family to compete. Limit of four to a team.

If you love to write and are looking to broaden your horizons as a writer in the new year, register to attend the Vinton Writers Group on Thursday, January 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Share your work, receive feedback from other area writers and offer your own on their pieces. We welcome all types of writing from poetry and fiction to creative nonfiction.

This month the Vinton Book Club will discuss "Beautiful World Where are You" by Sally Rooney on Thursday, January 4 at 3 p.m. and the As the Page Turns Book Club will discuss "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare on Wednesday, January 10 at 2 p.m.

Don't forget to check out our other continuing adult programs as well:

- Open Bridge meets every Tuesday from 1-4 p.m.
- The DMV will be here Thursday, January 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch.
- Pick-up Chess is on Thursday, January 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers meet Saturday, January 20 from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Ensemble will play Monday, January 29 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Are you a teen looking for new book recommendations? Would you like monthly personalized book picks as well as a goody bag? Register to receive a Teen Takeout Book Kit once a month. Pickup for your kit starts the day of Book Chat, which is a great place for you to come to discuss what you've been reading and get even more recommendations from your peers. You can register by selecting "Teen Takeout" at <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/562/Middle-High-Schoolers> and filling out the form.

We will be having Winter Reading, ideal for children up to age 11, from Monday, January 19, through Saturday March 16.

Pick up a bingo sheet at your favorite library branch and return it for a small prize. Participants will be entered to win a grand prize drawing at each branch.

Register for Discovery Time on Thursday, January 11 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Ideal for

ages 2-5, this month is all about temperature. Make snow in a bag and have fun with a snowman sorting activity.

Junior Makers will meet Wednesday, January 17 from 4-5 p.m. This month we will have fun winter-themed activities for ages 5-10.

Our next Storytime session runs from January 10-February 7 and the theme is Space. Toddler Storytime for ages 18-36 months (babies are also welcome) will be on Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m., and Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 following that from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

We also have these awesome reoccurring teen and children's programs:

- Anime Club for teens is on Monday, January 8 from 6-7 p.m.
- Teen Book Chat for middle and high schoolers is on Monday, January 22 from 5-6 p.m.
- D&D (for teens and adults) is on Tuesday, January 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Pokémon (best for grades K-5) will meet on Wednesday, January 24 from 4-5 p.m.

Remember to register for programs and check out everything happening at all RCPL locations on our calendar at [www.rocolibrary.org](http://www.rocolibrary.org).

Submitted by Molly Meador, Vinton Library Assistant

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# Year

from page 3

attendance.

Angie Burton of Salon 121 celebrated its success by opening a second location in downtown Vinton— Salon 121 on Jefferson.

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department installed new officers at a banquet in March. Eric Stump was named chief, along with Asst. Chief Patrick Aylor, Captain Lori Campbell, 1st Lt. Pete DiGregorio, and 2nd Lt. Robert Hurd. Two local high school students, pianist Cary Jones and vocalist Paul Sealey, won the Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition at Thrasher, sponsored by the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club.

The Vinton Veterinary Specialty Services Center dedicated its new facility on East Washington Avenue, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. It is located next door to the Vinton Veterinary Clinic, which has served the community since 1979.

Lynn Haven Baptist Church called a new lead pastor— Bryan Crouch (who writes the “From the Pulpit” column in The Vinton Messenger) after a two-year search.

April 2023: Demolition began in downtown Vinton on the properties damaged in the catastrophic fire of July 2022. Damages from the fire were estimated at \$1.5 million. D.R. Music was completely destroyed in the blaze. Edward Jones Investments sustained heavy damage along with Anita’s Alterations, Faith’s Hair Studio, and Rustic Creations, and the apartments located above the retail spaces. These were all eventually demolished.

Pok-E-Joe’s BBQ officially opened at Vinyard Station after months of anticipation. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held by owner Cory Welch, his family and staff, the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Vinton on April 4. Business has been booming ever since the doors opened.

The Vinton Woman’s Club and the Vinton Police Department partnered to plant their Pinwheel Garden at the Municipal Building in observance of National

Child Abuse Prevention Month.

William Byrd students Jakob Griffin and Maggie Parkhurst won first place at the Regional Science Fair, both in Computational biology, but at different levels.

The Vinton Farmers’ Market opened for the season on April 1.

Thirteen William Byrd athletes signed letters of intent with seven colleges in 11 sports— Ella Ashworth, Mikayla Belanger, Olivia Hurd, Dylan Hughes, Dustin Richards, Haleigh Vaughan, Clayton Gilmore, Brayden Crossan, Maci Glass, James Purcell, Madeleine Wolters-Argenio, Maddy Simmons, and Colin Murtaugh.

The Vinton Police Department honored several of its employees: Brandon Charlton was promoted to the rank of corporal, along with Trey Boyd. Sgt. Brandon Alterio was voted by his peers as the recipient of the 2022 Leadership Award; Det. Justin Baker was voted Vinton Police Officer of the Year.

The William Byrd NNDCC Color Guard was invited to present the colors at the NASCAR NOCO 400 Race in Martinsville.

Vinton lost one of its most beloved citizens with the passing of Darrell English at age 96— a lifelong Vinton resident except for the time he served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He is most remembered for his faith and his long-time membership at Vinton Wesleyan Church from age 8.

WBHS senior Justin Patrick received the prestigious honor of being chosen as “Best All-Around Male” after being named earlier in the school year as “Top Terrier.” Bethany Beecher was named as “Best All-Around Female” for the Class of 2023. The awards were presented at the Senior Honors Banquet on April 24.

Students weren’t the only ones winning awards. Heather Wray, a kindergarten teacher at W.E. Cundiff Elementary received the Red Apple Award for Roanoke County elementary school teachers; Ryan Adams, who teaches science at WBHS, won the Green Apple for new Roanoke County teachers.

Acclaimed mural artist Jon Murrill of Vinton delighted the community with his creation of the first outdoor mural in Vinton. He and several art teachers and students at

William Byrd teamed up to paint the mural, which he designed, on the wall of the new Vinton Veterinary Specialty Center on Washington Avenue.

Alan Phlegar was inducted into the Roanoke Valley Wrestling Association Hall of Fame at the annual banquet in April. As a Byrd student, he was the 2A District and Region champion and a member of the State Champion team. His coach was Chuck Altice.

Enthusiastic crowds turned out for the 68th annual Vinton Dogwood Festival on April 29. William Byrd senior Carsyn Kotz was crowned Vinton Dogwood Queen, nominated by the faculty and staff at WBHS and then selected by a panel of judges.

The Town of Vinton celebrated its 21st designation as a Tree City USA at Arbor Day ceremonies on April 28 at Herman L. Horn Elementary. Fourth and fifth graders presented their annual Recycling Fashion Show. Members of Vinton Town Council, Vinton staff, and Smokey Bear participated in the ceremonial planting of a tree on the school playground.

May 2023: Town Council approved a Performance Agreement with CMART Holdings, LLC, to redevelop the former Cleveland Mart on East Cleveland Avenue— a blighted property— into a mixed-use commercial and residential property. Council also negotiated a Performance Agreement with South Pollard, LLC, to redevelop the former Star City Playhouse into a restaurant.

William Byrd seniors receiving scholarships were recognized at their annual Awards Program on May 3. In total, the class accumulated over \$3.6 million in grants and scholarships.

It was announced that construction would be delayed at William Byrd High School due to the discovery of asbestos in one wing of the school, which was built in 1969.

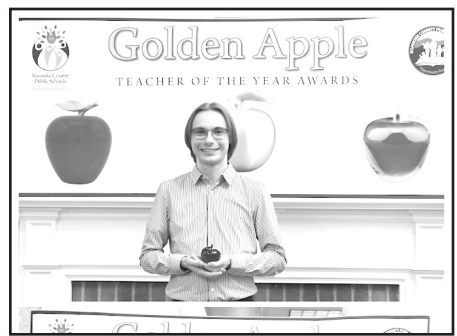
The William Byrd Junior Division boys track team won the Cosmo Track meet.

On May 23, the William Byrd High School Class of 2023 celebrated their graduation with 268 graduates, 49 valedictorians, and 169 Honor Graduates. Of the 268, 177 planned to attend a two- or four-year college, university, or technical college.

Byrd senior Katelin Patrick was named DAR Good Citizen of the Year for 2023 at a meeting



The DAR conducted a soft plastics recycling campaign in order to receive composite benches from the Trex Corporation, which were then donated to the Town of Vinton for use on the greenways.



Ryan Adams, a science teacher at William Byrd High School won a coveted Apple Award for excellence in teaching in Roanoke County schools.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton Breakfast Lions partnered with the Town of Vinton and Valley Metro to construct two bus shelters at the two most frequently used bus stops in Vinton, this one at Lake Drive Plaza.

of the Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club held a ribbon cutting on a project in which they had partnered with Valley Metro and the Town of Vinton to build two bus shelters at bus stops in Vinton— one at Lake Drive Plaza and one at PFG on Virginia Avenue (the ones with the highest use).

Mt. Pleasant Library re-opened with a ribbon-cutting after renovations were completed.

On May 20, the Lancerlot held the first annual Push/Pull by the Pool weightlifting competition. Claire Steger took first place in the female division; Trevor Vasser, first place male division.

The WBHS girls soccer team won the Blue Ridge District soccer title.

The 2023 Gauntlet Business Program and Competition, made up of 100+ entrepreneurs, concluded with the awarding of over \$300,000 in cash, grants, and in-kind prizes at a graduation ceremony on May 25. After an intensive 10-week program of classes, entrepreneurs could choose to enter the competition by pitching their business to a panel of judges. The top winner this year was “The Wellness Bar: Uptown” owned by Mandi and Travis Hundley of Martinsville. April Jones of Vinton, founder of Life Care Coordinators, won sixth place at the Platinum Level.

The BSA Scouts and the DAR both continued their traditions of planting flags for Memorial Day— the Scouts at Mountain View Cemetery and

the DAR at the Vinton Municipal Building.

The DAR was involved in another civic activity in May. Members donated a composite bench to the Town of Vinton to be placed on the greenway. The bench came from the Trex Corporation as the result of a recycling program they offer. Organizations are awarded one bench for each 500 pounds of soft plastics they collect for recycling. The program was such a success that the DAR was able to contribute several more benches to the town through the year.

The William Byrd boys track team won the Region 3D Championship. The Byrd girls came in third.

June 2023: The Ironman 70.3 Triathlon zoomed through Vinton on June 4. The race is made up of three legs— swimming at Carvins Cove, biking through Botetourt County, along the Blue Ridge Parkway and through Vinton into Roanoke, where it finishes up with a half-marathon running course in Roanoke City.

Pathfinders for Greenways donated \$60,000 to the Town of Vinton for the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B project, which will be used towards the construction of the overhead fall shelter protection under the Norfolk Southern overpass on Walnut Avenue. The presentation was made at a Town Council meeting on June 6.

A new season of the wildly popular Mingle at the Market Concert series sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce started on June 10. This was a record-breaking season for the

Mingle events, drawing crowds from across the valley.

The Susan Lewis Music Studio spring recital series expanded to two performances due to the plethora of students enrolled in her classes.

The girls soccer team at Byrd won the regional championship.

The Army Association celebrated Flag Day, recruits, and the 248th birthday of the Army at the Vinton War Memorial on June 11, an annual event.

Vinton Town Council adopted its balanced budget for FY23-24 at its meeting on June 6 in the amount of \$14.2 million.

Vinton lost long-time business owner Ralph Chumley of Citizen’s Upholstery which had been in business in Vinton for over 58 years.

Jon Murrill and his William Byrd assistant artists completed the beautiful Vinton Veterinary wall mural on Washington Avenue to much acclaim from the community.

Dr. Mark Watts retired from Carilion Family Medicine in Vinton after 34 years of dedicated service to his patients and the community.

Officer Andrew Hagy was sworn in as the newest member of the Vinton Police Dept.

Vinton’s most beloved educator, Frank Stone, who served as principal at three Vinton elementary schools in the course of his career, celebrated his 90th birthday.

Check out the January 4 Vinton Messenger for Part 2 of the Year in Review.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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# Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

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

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival.

Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it’s always nice to feel as if you never left.

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

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

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**Help Wanted - General**



**TOTAL ACTION FOR PROGRESS CEO Recruitment Profile**

Total Action for Progress (TAP) is a community action agency that serves eleven localities in the Roanoke Valley and adjacent communities: the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Rockbridge, and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke, and Salem. TAP helps individuals and families achieve economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments. Every TAP employee shares in TAP's responsibility to "Mobilize Community Resources" in support of TAP's anti-poverty efforts.

TAP is seeking an experienced CEO who is responsible for maintaining an organizational culture that embodies the following values: Advocacy for the oppressed, the disadvantaged, and disenfranchised. Results orientation. Fiscal and programmatic accountability. Teamwork, collaboration with others and partnership building. Excellence in performance. Innovation. The passion to make a difference. Responsiveness to the needs of the community. Maintenance of an agency-wide focus on Whole Family and Trauma Informed services.

**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and the strategic plan as set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for meeting with key board committees especially Finance, Property, Personnel and all others at the request of the Board Chair. Responsible for carrying out the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Directors. Responsible for final approval of the hiring and termination of all staff.

**Help Wanted - General**

Responsible for the financial health of the organization, the development and prudent expenditures of the same according to budgets prepared by staff and approved by the Board of Directors and audited by financial and program auditors. Responsible for making sure that staff are provided with wages comparable to similar employment and benefits necessary for their well-being and that of their families. Responsible for developing a creative work environment where employees and volunteers are stimulated to take initiative, develop leadership and carry out their responsibilities with dedication, warmth and initiative. Responsible for inspiring others in the organization to be passionate about caring for the needs of our families. Responsible for stimulating collaborative ventures with other organizations, the private sector and federal, state, and local governments to strengthen services for low-income Virginians. Responsible for representing the organization publicly before public, private, and network organizations.

**ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

An understanding of the specific nature of a community action agency, its history, and commitment to the same. Advanced understanding of a variety of programming that includes early childhood development, youth and adult education and training, housing development and management and a wide range of economic development programming including business start-ups and loan pools. Excellent presentation, writing and public relations skills. High emotional and cultural intelligence enabling the person to connect with a wide range of people from a variety of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. High energy level and proven ability to manage stressful or extenuating circumstances. Bilingual ability is a plus.

**QUALIFICATIONS, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

Master's degree or equivalent experience. Ten to twenty years in a senior management position of an organization with similar complexity and size of TAP. Experience writing grant submissions and managing a team of grant writers. Experience working with a board of directors. Experience working effectively with the public and representing an agency before the public. Experience working effectively with local, state, and national public officials on issues vital to the organization. Experience and passion for working with a highly diverse organization. Essential computer skills

**Help Wanted - General**

and the experience and ability to oversee IT operations.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**  
Must pass a comprehensive background and drug check.  
A valid Virginia driver's license and reliable transportation is required. TAP participates in the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program. Employees who operate a TAP vehicle or their personal vehicle to conduct TAP business may be subject to driver record monitoring through the Virginia DMV Driver Alert Program.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

This description provides information regarding the core functions of the designated position, and general nature and level of work associated with the job. It should not be interpreted to describe all the duties whose performance may be required of such employees or be used to limit the nature and extent of assignments such an individual may be given. TAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a Drug Free Workplace. We only hire individuals legally eligible for employment in the United States.

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:**

Salary range is \$90k to \$115k depending on qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be offered a generous benefits package including health, dental, vision, retirement plan match and gift, paid time off, sick leave, free short-term disability, long term disability, life insurance/AD&D, and professional development support, 14 paid holidays.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

To be considered, please submit a cover letter and resume with salary expectations, and three professional references to **Tabatha Cooper, HR Director, via email at Tabatha.Cooper@tapintoho.org** or via mail to: **TAP, Human Resources, PO Box 2868 Roanoke VA 24011**

**This position will remain open until filled. Inquiries may be directed to:**

**Tabatha Cooper - HR Director**  
PO BOX 2868  
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Email: **Tabatha.Cooper@tapintoho.org**  
Phone: **540-283-4800**

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**Legals - City of Radford**

**NOTICE: December 13, 2023**  
A white 550 Jet Ski FL8258GV HIN KAW447440482-B. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4511AK HIN KAW 051850676. A yellow 400 Jet Ski VA4512AK HIN KAW051690676. Are located at 4923 Clement Lane Radford VA 24141.

**Legals - City of Radford**

If these watercraft are not claimed by the titled owner within 30 days, I will apply to the Department for registration/title in my name. Mark A. 540-639-0610

**ABC NOTICE**

RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY INC., trading as RADFORD COFFEE COMPANY, 333 WEST MAIN ST, RADFORD, VA 24141.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for Restaurant-Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Rachel Doyle-Owner.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem,**

at its regular meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

2. Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway Business District.

If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY: H. Robert Light  
Clerk of Council

**ABC NOTICE**

HANGING ROCK, LLC, trading as HANGING ROCK TAVERN, 1790 THOMPSON MEMORIAL DR, ROANOKE COUNTY, Salem VA. 24153.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for retail restaurant and brewery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,**

at its regular meeting on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141 - 1 - 4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.

2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).

3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.

4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: H. Robert Light  
Deputy Executive Secretary

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

HANGING ROCK, LLC., trading as HANGING ROCK OUTDOORS, 484 FRIENDSHIP ROAD, SHAWSVILLE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VA. 24162.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a BREWERY license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

JAMES HARDY, CEO

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:  
Ordinance 2045: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating

**Legals - Montgomery County**

Budget to Appropriate \$927,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and \$800,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Fund. The proposed ordinance will allow the Town's two previously approved agreements with Glade Spring Crossing, LLC for the Glade Spring Crossing housing development. One will be used for the sewer cost sharing of \$927,000 and another for \$800,000 for a regional Stormwater project.

These projects will be funded by an upcoming bond offering.

Ordinance 2046: An Ordinance Granting a Lease of Office Space in Town Property Located at 141 Jackson Street, N.E.

The proposed ordinance will grant space in the town owned property located at 141 Jackson Street NE to New River Land Trust for storage.

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters,

**Legals - Montgomery County**

copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at [www.blacksburg.gov/public](http://www.blacksburg.gov/public) hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

**NRV Regional Water Authority Summary Statement of Financial Condition For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Assets \$ 93,456,376  
Deferred Outflows 1,091,330  
Liabilities (58,373,932)  
Deferred Inflows (1,145,544)  
Net Position \$ 35,028,230

Revenues \$ 10,643,849  
Expenses (6,024,743)  
Non-operating revenue/expense (1,251,189)  
Net Change in Net Position \$ 3,367,917

A copy of the Audit Report can be found on the Authority's website at [www.nrvwater.org](http://www.nrvwater.org).

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# All-Tri County Youth Football teams named for first time

For the first time ever area youth football players are being recognized for their accomplishments with the selection of "All-Tri County" teams. Teams for 10-and-under and 12-and-under were chosen by youth coaches for players from Roanoke County, Franklin County and Botetourt County as well as the City of Salem.

"It's something new we're doing this year to bring some recognition to youth football in the valley," said Cody Underwood, a Vinton youth football coach and recreation booster. "Players are chosen by opposing coaches. Coaches could not vote for their own players."

In 12U the Super Bowl runner-up Vinton team put five on the first team offense. Zach Taylor was named at quarterback, Briggs Kotz at skill, Peyton Underwood at tight end and both Jackson Poindexter and Jake Morris on the offensive line.

The 12U first team defense also had five Byrd players. Taylor and Kotz were both named at linebacker/defensive back and on the line Underwood, Morris and Brennan Leary were named to the first team.

The second team 12U offense had Byrd's Liam Roberts at a skill position and on defense second team selections for the Terriers are Jr. Hicks and Roberts at LB/DB and Poindexter on the line.

On the 10U team Byrd had three players named to the 11 member first team offense, Riggins Hill at quarterback, Ashby Bernard at "skill" and Hayden McClure on the offensive line. Byrd's Owen Gibson was named to the first team defense on the line.

On the second team 10U team Grayson Underwood was selected on the offensive line while two Byrd players were second team defense, Hill at skill and Underwood at defensive line.

No All-Star teams were named for the 8U Division.

"Vinton is a football town and these teams reflect that," said Underwood. "We're proud of all of the young men in our program and there were several not mentioned that were more than deserving to make All-Tri County. The continued investment from coach (William Byrd High School coach Brad) Lutz and the varsity staff will pay off for years to come."



**THE VINTON 12U SUPER BOWL RUNNER-UP FOOTBALL TEAM**



**THE VINTON 10U FOOTBALL TEAM**



**THE VINTON 8U FOOTBALL TEAM**

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

## Wm. Byrd girls are 5-4 at the break

The William Byrd girls' basketball team will take a winning record into the new year after splitting games last week. The Terriers have two weeks off between games as they prepare for their Blue Ridge District schedule.

Byrd defeated E.C. Glass High School of Lynchburg at home last Wednesday, December 20, by a 43-41 score. Sam Martin led the Terriers with 15 points and sister Mia had nine in the win.

A night later the girls played host to Christiansburg and dropped a 54-45 decision. That put them at 5-4 for the season and that was their last game until they open their district schedule at home against William Fleming next Wednesday, January 3rd.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

**Left, William Byrd's Kaylee Makuch defends the paint in last week's game with Christiansburg in Vinton. Right, Mia Martin(#21) finds Logan Andrews(#13) open under the basket and passes to her teammate in the game with the Blue Demons.**

## Byrd indoor track team will return Jan. 6 at VMI meet

The William Byrd indoor track team will return to the oval and pits on Saturday, January 6th, with a meet at VMI. The Terriers wrapped up the 2023 portion of their schedule on December 16 with the East Coast Elite Meet at Roanoke College and had some outstanding performances.

For the boys, DeShawn Austin of Byrd finished second in the 300m dash with a time of 36.24, while Donald Mullins took a fourth in the 500m dash at 1:13.08. Reid Hanson was 10th among a large field in the 1,000m and the Byrd boys' 4x200m relay of Noah Thompson, Jamez Toler, Ryan Carista and Ashton Williamson finished fifth with a time of

1:41.93.

On the girls side Grace Onwi took third in the 500m with a time of 1:24.89 while Alexandra Bonilla set a personal record in the 1,000m with a time of 3:40.66 to take eighth place. The 4x200m relay of Onwi, Emma Matthews, Olaedo Anyanwu and Annika Hylton finished fourth in 1:58.52.

William Byrd Middle School eighth grader Kendall Ransom started the day off with a win in the 55m dash with a time of 8.13. Eighth grader Kendall Ransom finished second in the 300m dash with Riley Niday finishing third, Alana Fitzgerald taking fourth and Jacey Weddle fifth.

Good December 31st, 9:45 am - 6:15 pm  
and January 1st, 7:45 am - 7:15 pm

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# SPORTS

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PHOTO BY MARY WRAY



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Left, William Byrd's Darin Witcher is on top and battling to pin James River's Xaiden Wynn in the Big Orange 106 pound championship match Saturday in Vinton. Above right, Zane Taylor has his man in a precarious position on his way to a second place finish at 126.

## Terriers take third place in Big Orange Classic

*Witcher wins 106 pound championship, three other Byrd wrestlers take second place*

The William Byrd "Big Orange" wrestlers finished third in the annual Big Orange Classic in Vinton last week. The Terriers had one Big Orange champion, sophomore Darin Witcher, and put three other wrestlers in Saturday's finals.

The Big Orange is the longest continuous running wrestling tournament in the Roanoke Valley, hosted by William Byrd High School. This year's tournament included 18 teams and Lord Botetourt came out on top for the third straight season, amassing 248 points. Salem was second with 220 points and three champions, followed by the Terriers with 204. Northside was fourth at 190 and Cave Spring came in fifth with 177.5 points, outscoring sixth place Riverheads by four points.

The tournament was held Friday and Saturday, with semifinals on Friday evening. The wrestlers returned for consolation bouts at 10 am Saturday morning, and when it was time for the finals the lights were dimmed and the spotlight was on the big orange mat that decided the 2023 champions.

Byrd got off to a great start with a champion in the very first match of the championship round. Witcher pinned long-time rival Xaiden Wynn of James River in 5:20 to improve his record to 16-1 on the season. Darin pinned his way through the bracket with pins in 1:09, 12 seconds and 44 seconds before defeating Wynn, who came into the tournament with just one loss.

"I was very proud of Darin's match in the finals," said Byrd coach Thomas

Kessler. "He avenged a loss from last year and pinned a state champion. He's looking good and will try to keep wrestling this well all season."

Next up for Byrd in the finals was freshman Zane Taylor at 126. Zane won three matches to make the final before losing to Wayshaun Hicks of Northside. He's now 14-5.

"Zane surprised some people and made it into the finals," said Kessler. "He wrestled well all tournament and all year long."

At 157 Bricen Lancaster had two pins and a major decision to reach the championship round against undefeated Joel Swanson of Northside. Lancaster gave Swanson a tough match before losing by a 6-2 score. Bricen is now 7-5.

Byrd's last entry in the champion-

ship round was at 190 with Aidan Lucas, who pinned his way into the finals. Aidan settled for second with a 5-2 loss to Josh Bisnett of Smith Mountain Lake in the championship match, and he's now 15-4.

The Terriers had three consolation champs, earning third place points. Lane Brunk was third at 106, Gage Cockran took third at 144 and Stephen Underwood was third at 165. Also scoring were Curtis Dillon with a fifth at 138 and two sixth place finishers, Kyle Kalinke at 113 and Sawyer Bolen at 157.

The Terriers will be right back on the mats this week when they travel to Heritage High School for the "Take Down the New Year" tournament. That will be held Thursday and Friday in Lynchburg.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Byrd's Gage Cockran has his Cave Spring opponent face down on the mat in the 144 pound class and, right, Stephen Underwood has a hold on the arm of his Salem rival at 165. Both Terriers battled back to win consolation final matches and take third place in their division.

## Byrdmen among tough field in Northside Invit. Tourney

egin Wednesday. The annual "NIT" will be a challenging early season event for the Terriers.

Byrd was 6-0 as the Terriers prepared to open the tournament with Liberty Christian Academy on Wednesday afternoon. It was a chance for a measure of revenge against the school that knocked the Byrd football team out of the VHSL Class 3 tournament in December, defeating Byrd in the state semifinals. LCA went on to win the state championship and finish an undefeated season.

The Bulldogs' basketball team hasn't been quite as dominant, coming into the NIT with a 2-4 record. Last night's results were too late for publication, but the winner will meet the Alleghany-Tunstall winner at 6 pm tonight. Wednesday's losers will drop to the consolation bracket and play at 2:30 pm today.

The other bracket opened Wednesday with Rustburg against Roanoke Catholic and host Northside against Auburn. Northside is the perennial favorite in this tournament and the Vikings come in at 6-1, having lost only to the Carlisle School, a private college preparatory school in Axton, VA.

Today's other semifinal is at 7:45 pm, and the NIT championship is Friday night at the same time. Also on Friday there will be a seventh place game at 2:30 pm, a fifth place game at 4:15 pm and a third place game at 6 pm.

Byrd improved to 6-0 with two wins last week heading into the Christmas break. The Terriers beat Bassett at home, 80-45, then traveled to Christiansburg last Thursday where they beat the Blue Demons, 86-65, to sweep the season series.

"The challenge moving forward is to keep that momentum going through the holiday and be able to have success against what should be some talented teams at the Northside tournament," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "We have some games coming up that will be good measuring stick games to see where we are at."

The Byrdmen will open the 2024 portion of their season with a couple tough games. They play at William Fleming on Wednesday, January 3rd, then host Lord Botetourt on Friday, January 5th.



Byrd's Hayden Eads takes it to the hoop.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY