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Santa Crawl brings out children of all ages to meet Santa in their neighborhoods

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

In 2020 when COVID was wreaking havoc on holiday plans, creative minds in the Town of Vinton and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce came up with a unique Christmas event which has proven to be so popular that it has returned for the fourth year—the Santa Crawl.

It started out as a stopgap measure and has now become a tradition. The Santa Crawl is one of Vinton's most popular holiday events, especially with the children (and their families) who eagerly await Santa's arrival in their neighborhoods, at their very doorstep.

"The Santa Crawl was designed to bring Santa to the kids, since they couldn't come see him in 2020 due to the canceled Christmas parade," said Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "It turned out to be so much fun for staff and so popular with the families we decided to keep it going. To be honest, I am not sure who enjoys it more, the kids or Town Council and staff."

The 2023 Santa Crawl set out from the Vinton War Memorial at 5:30 on the evening of December 12. Vinton Public Works, the Vinton Police Dept., and other members of town staff and the Chamber of Commerce escorted Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, and several elves through the neighborhoods within the town limits of Vinton following four different (pre-published) routes.

Amid sirens blaring and lights flashing, Santa and his helpers called out "Merry Christmas" to children of all ages, and delivered candy, coloring books, crayons, and dog treats to good little boys, girls, and puppies.

In past years, employees with the Public Works Dept. have created sleighs for Santa to ride on. This year they surprised everyone with the addition of a new means of transportation for Santa—the Train Caboose.

Public Works Crew Leader Jason Davison designed the caboose, using a Public Works landscape trailer as the base. He and other Public Works employees constructed and decorated it. Davison was the one who drove it through the neighborhoods—not an easy task given the float is 16 feet long (not counting his truck

See **Santa Crawl**, page 6



The 2023 Santa Crawl crew prior to departure from the Vinton War Memorial for the neighborhoods of Vinton.



A boy meets Rudolph on the Santa Crawl.



A toddler, Mrs. Claus, and Rudolph exchange high fives.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mason Drew of Vinton has opened a new ice cream shop in downtown Vinton—Down Home Creamery. Kelly Chewning is the general manager.

Down Home Creamery opens in downtown Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Downtown Vinton has welcomed another new business to the heart of Vinton—Down Home Creamery, located at 116 South Poplar Street in the space formerly occupied by the Vinton Chamber of Commerce office and more recently, Rustic Creations.

"We are excited to be located directly behind the new Vinton Community Playground [across from Vinton Baptist]," says owner Mason Drew.

Drew is a life-long resident of Vinton and a familiar face in the

community as the owner of the popular Firehouse Skate 'N Play. He got his start there helping out at the souvenir counter as a teenager.

Kelly Chewning, also a Vinton resident, is the current general manager at Down Home Creamery.

Drew says the creamery opened in late October.

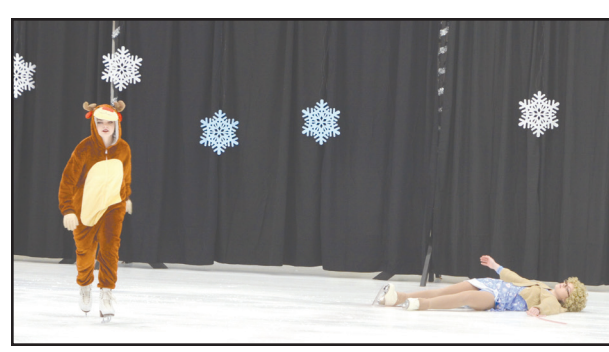
"New to the business, we opened at the end of the season to allow time to work out the kinks. By the time summer arrives, we will be the 'Ice Cream

See **Creamery**, page 6

Blue Ridge Figure Skaters perform a 'December to Remember' ice show at Lancerlot



Julia Torre skates to "Winter Song" at the second annual "December to Remember" ice show at the Lancerlot.



Irena McCormick and Jordan Lucas presented the showstopping performance of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" at the Blue Ridge Figure Skating ice show.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club presented its second annual "December to Remember" Theatre on Ice show at the Lancerlot on

Dec. 9 and 10.

Meghan Noga, the ice-skating director at the Lancerlot, says the Theatre on Ice program began in May 2021 as a chance for skaters to learn choreography, work within a group of all ages and ability

levels, and showcase fun, theatrical programs. The figure skating program has evolved from a very successful USA "Learn to Skate" program at the Lancerlot Sports

See **Ice Show**, page 5

William Byrd Terriers of the Month announced for December

William Byrd High School has named its Terriers of the Month for December.

Terrier students are B.J. Cheatwood, Ashley Begasse, Hunter Burgess, and Titus Beatty. Terrier teachers are Katie Hetherington and John Richardson.

B.J. Cheatwood is a junior and member of the football team who was nominated for his strong work ethic and

excellent participation in class. The teacher who nominated B.J. said, "He is an exceptional student who always participates in class and is willing to help others understand the content...he is one of the most hardworking students I have ever seen...class would not be the same without him in it." His parents are Arnisa and Barry Cheatwood.

Ashley Begasse is a senior and member

of the girls tennis team who was nominated for her emotional maturity and positivity. The staff member who nominated Ashley said, "She is always smiling and saying hello to students and staff in the hallway. Her positivity is infectious and exactly what we love to see in our young adults." Her parents are Marta Cybulski Harlow and James Begasse.

Hunter Burgess is

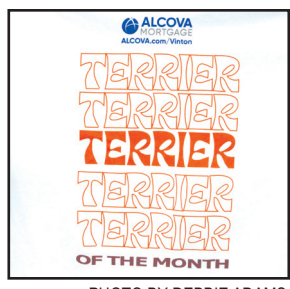


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Each Terrier of the Month is presented with a T-shirt thanks to WBHS partner Alcovia Mortgage.

a senior and member of the boys soccer team who was nominated for showing kindness and consideration towards others. The staff member who nominated Hunter said, "He went out of his way at the Pep Rally to greet students who might have felt isolated and made them feel part of the celebration." His mother is Angela Burgess.

See **Terriers**, page 6



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William Byrd Middle School wins Red Ribbon Award

Debbie Adams
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William Byrd Middle School has been presented an award for the “Best Use of 2023 Theme: Be Kind to Your Mind” for

its efforts during Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31). Thirty-six schools applied for the awards. WBMS was one of five to be named as a winner. “This school really utilized the idea of

being kind to your mind in the most effective manner throughout their week. They made a positive impact by focusing on substance misuse information, and reminding us all what



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Adam Neal from RAYSAC presents the award for “Best Use of Theme” for Red Ribbon Week to LIFE Counselor Allyse Dunlop.

this week is about,” was a comment from RAYSAC.

The award was presented at an assembly on Dec. 6 by Adam Neal, Director of RAYSAC (Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition) to William Byrd Middle School LIFE Counselor Allyse Dunlop. The school received a plaque and funds to be used for next year’s RRW program.

The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a drug-free America. Schools across the country engage in Red Ribbon Week each year at the end of October, finding creative ways to increase awareness about the detriment of substances and reinforce the message of staying drug free.

Neal explained to the students that this year’s Red Ribbon Week focused intensively on mental health and “being kind to your mind.” He encouraged students to become connected to friends, teachers, parents, teams, and families to form support groups. He emphasized the importance of having someone to talk with when they are experiencing bad days, as everyone does on occasion. He noted that many people, notably teens, turn to drugs because they have no one to talk with about their struggles. He also encouraged students to “become that someone” who will listen in order to support their peers.

“A true friend makes all the difference in the world,” Neal said. “Drugs often fill a hole when you are not connected.” Neal distributed

sunglasses to all WBMS students reminding them to make a promise to themselves to “keep your future bright enough to use sunglasses. Reach out when you need help.”

Students, teachers, community partners, administrators, parents, and staff were all involved in the Red Ribbon Week planning and implementation. It became a school-wide project.

Administrators dressed up for daily spirit days, as well as helping organize and participate in a large group drone photo—probably the most unique aspect of the week’s events. They led daily “Be Kind to Your Mind” activities during all three lunch periods, and organized and led an all-school pep rally at the end of the week.

Community partners included Jerry Franks, a local photographer who volunteered to take the large group drone photo and The Vinton Messenger which included information about Red Ribbon Week and WBMS activities in the print newspaper and on social media.

Parents were encouraged to have daily conversations with students about the Red Ribbon Week message as they prepared for each Spirit/Dress Up Day. Cafeteria staff put up decorations for the event; custodial staff helped set up activities. The counseling staff ran daily spirit day lunch raffles and support staff helped complete daily “Be Kind to Your Mind” activities.

Students in the Prevention Club created awareness posts and posters that included important facts about substance use and the Red Ribbon Week theme. The student body participated in Spirit Days involving the theme, engaged in daily lunch raffles and “Be Kind to Your Mind” lunch challenges. They helped decorate doors for a contest, read daily announcements that included education about substance abuse and the week’s theme, and all

students took part in the grand finale school pep rally.

Teachers partnered with students to make creative displays of the Red Ribbon Week theme, participated in Spirit/Dress Up Days and the pep rally, and incorporated the “Be Kind to Your Mind” message throughout lessons during the week.

Dress Up Days included:

- Wear Red Day
- Wear Neon and/or sunglasses—because we are too bright for drugs!
- Dress Like a Superhero—because you have the power to be drug free!
- Wear a Hat
- Wear school colors because “Being drug free is the Terrier Way”

During Red Ribbon Week, the school was decorated with red triangle and “live drug free” banners, awareness posters with substance use facts, and Spirit Day reminders were displayed throughout the building. Daily online posts were sent through Blackboard and emails. TVs throughout the building had rotating pictures and videos of the Red Ribbon Week theme.

“We are proud of our overall effort and engagement throughout the week, but most proud of how many daily activities were offered,” Dunlop said. “Each day students saw the Red Ribbon Week message through posters, digital posts, and door decorations. They heard information about substance use through morning announcements. Students engaged in classroom lessons to learn more about the negative effects of substances. They engaged in Dress Up Days and were able to enter a lunch raffle each day they dressed up. They were guided through different ‘Be Kind to Your Mind’ challenges. These activities provided many ways to educate our students on the importance of living drug free.”

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December 14th: 1:00pm-3:30pm	December 23rd: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 15th: 1:00pm-3:30pm	December 24th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 16th: 7:45pm-10:45pm	December 26th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 17th: 1:30pm-3:30pm	December 27th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 18th: 11:00pm-1:30pm	December 28th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 19th: 11:00pm-1:30pm	December 29th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 20th: 11:00pm-1:30pm	December 30th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 21st: 11:00pm-1:30pm	
December 22nd: 11:00pm-1:30pm	
December 14th: 1:00pm-3:30pm	December 23rd: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 15th: 7:00pm-10:00pm	December 24th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 16th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 26th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 17th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 27th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 18th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 28th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 19th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 29th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
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December 23rd: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 31st: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 24th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	December 31st: 2:00pm-6:00pm
December 26th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	January 2nd: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 27th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	January 2nd: 2:00pm-5:00pm
December 28th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	January 3rd: 11:00pm-1:30pm
December 29th: 2:00pm-5:00pm	January 3rd: 2:00pm-5:00pm
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	January 4th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
	January 5th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
	January 5th: 2:00pm-5:00pm
	January 6th: 11:00pm-1:30pm
	January 6th: 2:00pm-5:00pm

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Roanoke County School Board selects final proposal for new CTE center and future school renovations

The Roanoke County School Board has selected a proposal submitted by Branch Companies, RRMM Architects, and Balzer & Associates to construct a new career and technical education (CTE) center and to renovate and expand Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff elementary schools.

Construction could begin in the summer of 2024 with completion by summer/fall 2026.

Initially, three proposals were submitted. An initial review committee evaluated all three proposals and recommended two to advance to a more detailed presentation phase. A second review committee evaluated the two detailed proposals and recommended the board approve the Branch group proposal.

The entire project will cost \$130 million with \$80 million dedicated to building the new CTE Center and \$50 million to renovate and expand the two elementary schools.

“The funding for this project was the result of a memorandum of understanding between the Roanoke County School Board and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors earlier this year to provide \$130 million to allow these projects to start as soon as summer 2024 with a possible completion date of summer/fall 2026,” said Brent Hudson, chairman of the Roanoke County

William Byrd's Black Swan yearbook staff wins VHSL award for third year

The William Byrd High School Black Swan yearbook staff once again placed in the Trophy Division at the VHSL State Media Competition—that's the third year in a row. This is the highest honor a publication can earn in state competition. Editors of the 2022-23 Black Swan were Sydney Haddox and Madison Burks. Members of the 2022-23 Black Swan staff included Sydney Blewitt, Sara Lang, Sophia Brown, Carter Dullaghan, Natalie Blevins, Kadence Fernatt, Allie Jamison, Grace Woodcock, Jenna Matthews, Emma Rupe, Camryn Dullaghan, Dawson Young, James Hartley, Lily Cornett, Justin Patrick, Makayla Bell, Taryn Hodges, and Alexandra Chaney. Teacher Christi Acker is the yearbook sponsor.

"We long for a normal year, whatever that even means. We are in the middle of the second year of a moderately disruptive renovation, so the issues we faced last year regarding locating students were made more difficult. Also, classes that are usually easy to photograph, thanks to science or cooking labs, were moved to trailers called "learning cottages," where they were unable to do traditional labs. We worked around these issues by trying to photograph labs that did not require stoves, chemicals and other materials that would be found in traditional science or family and consumer science classrooms. The photographs that have traditional lab scenes were taken at the beginning of the school year before the move.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTI ACKER

The 2022-23 Black Swan staff: Sydney Blewitt, Sara Lang, Sophia Brown, Carter Dullaghan, Natalie Blevins, Kadence Fernatt, Allie Jamison, Grace Woodcock, Jenna Matthews, and Emma Rupe. Editors Sydney Haddox and Madison Burks zoomed into the celebration party and picture. Not pictured: Camryn Dullaghan, Dawson Young, James Hartley, Lily Cornett, Justin Patrick, Makayla Bell, Taryn Hodges, and Alexandra Chaney.

An anonymous VHSL judge made these comments on the William Byrd yearbook:

- "Outstanding publication! This book was a delight to read through, and go back through the pages, taking in all the coverage you provided as a record for your students.
- From front to back, theme, photography, etc., were well done.
- Beautiful photography and well written captions/copy provided the necessary details.
- Theme was relevant to the students at WB and conveyed what you were living through—great consistency. You did a good job of helping the reader understand what your year was like.
- A variety of photos in school, out of school, games, activities, and more are found throughout.
- Caption lead-ins and captions are well written.
- Some great photography is included throughout the book. Staff has literally provided hundreds and hundreds of great photos that cover the year. Congratulations and Best wishes for a great year!

"The theme, 'All Eyes on Us,' reflects the renovation and our continued efforts to improve ourselves and our learning environment while everyone watches. Parents, athletic competitors, members of the community, and anyone who entered the building witnessed the disarray and then a phase-by-phase completion. We are all anticipating the unveiling of our building with its innovative and aesthetic glow-up. Despite the upheaval, my staff overcame the challenges and put together a book that we are all proud of."

Acker explained the "All Eyes on Us" theme further with some text from the opening pages of the book.

"In August, we found ourselves, once again, in the throes of the school renovation. The construction provided its fair share of challenges, but the students and staff rose to the occasion. Classes were again moved to temporary locations, and sometimes moved a second time. Untraditional venues, like the new wrestling gym and football video room, were used as a classroom and testing location, but everyone cooperated to ensure that learning continued uninterrupted. Aside from the fun 'power outage day,' we did not need to miss school due to

construction. In addition to the Byrd community, students and parents from other schools, school board members and community leaders were also witnesses to the project, impressed by the progress, and hopeful of its outcome.

"Throughout the school year, walls were erected, windows were installed, and the building took shape before our eyes. The new guidance office was completed, and the special education teachers moved into their final locations. The library and media center moved to a new part of the building that provided more seating and conference rooms. The auditorium was overhauled with new curtains and a state-of-the-art lighting and sound system. The crews started building the new choir room, which is located in an area that was formally a breezeway. Seniors, faculty, and staff, as well as a couple of sneaky underclassmen, signed the final beam that would be the part of the new roof. We could finally envision how the final product would look."

She continued with text from the closing of the book.

"Construction continued as we left for the summer. The gym floor was stripped, forcing students and coaches to look for other ways to host open gym sessions. The science and social studies classrooms were still being refurbished with new equipment. However, during the 2022-23 year, students, staff, and the community got it done. Athletes performed well at state level competitions. Choir and bands earned superior ratings at their assessments, and seniors earned a record amount in scholarships. Though we may have forgotten what a 'normal' school year is like, all agree that Byrd looks like it is evolving into the building that can accommodate the stellar students and staff that will walk its halls. All eyes are on us, and we're ready to show them what we're made of."

Submitted by WBHS teacher and Black Swan sponsor Christi Acker



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

Members of Vinton Town Council and the town manager attended the VML Legislative Luncheon at the Hotel Roanoke on Dec. 11. Pictured left to right are Councilman Keith Liles, Councilwoman Sabrina McCarty, Mayor Brad Grose, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, and Town Manager Pete Peters.

Vinton Town Council meets with state legislators

Members of Vinton Town Council and Town Manager Pete Peters attended the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Legislative Luncheon at the Hotel Roanoke on Dec. 11. Vinton Mayor

Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, and council members Sabrina McCarty, Laurie Mullins, and Keith Liles

See **Council**, page 4

School Board

from page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Conceptual rendering of new Roanoke County Public Schools CTE Center, which will serve all five Roanoke County high schools, replacing the Burton Center for Arts and Technology.

School Board. "We thank the Board of Supervisors for working with us to move these projects forward quickly."

In February 2023, the Roanoke County School Board purchased 28 acres of land located in North County adjacent to Peters Creek Road (and just north of its intersection with Airport Road) for \$4.13 million dollars to serve as the site for the new CTE Center.

The new center will replace the current Burton Center for Arts & Technology located in Salem. BCAT is home to a Governor's STEM Academy and award-winning programs including the Center for Engineering, motorsports and welding, Center for Mass Communication, culinary arts, building trades, mechatronics/robotics, health sciences, cybersecurity, and other centers.

Students from all five Roanoke County high schools learn marketable skills for post-graduation employment and further their education in multiple fields.

New programs coming to the new CTE Center include dental/orthodontic assistant, diesel technician, collision repair and HVAC.

The renovations and expansions at

Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff elementary schools will include removal of outdated open concept classrooms, which will allow for more effective instruction and greater opportunities for interactive, hands-on instruction.

"We are very excited to move forward with these much-needed projects," said Dr. Ken Nicely, superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools. "This announcement is the culmination of a lot of work, planning, and preparation. Our staff has put in countless hours of advance work to identify what we need to include in the new CTE center and what improvements we need to make at Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff elementary schools.

"We're looking to start these projects this coming summer and that wouldn't have been possible without the support of the School Board, Board of Supervisors and Citizens Advisory Committee. We are very thankful for their partnership in helping us identify the site, scope, and funding to get these projects underway."

Submitted by Roanoke County Public Schools

Peters officially sworn in as Roanoke County Commissioner of Revenue



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY

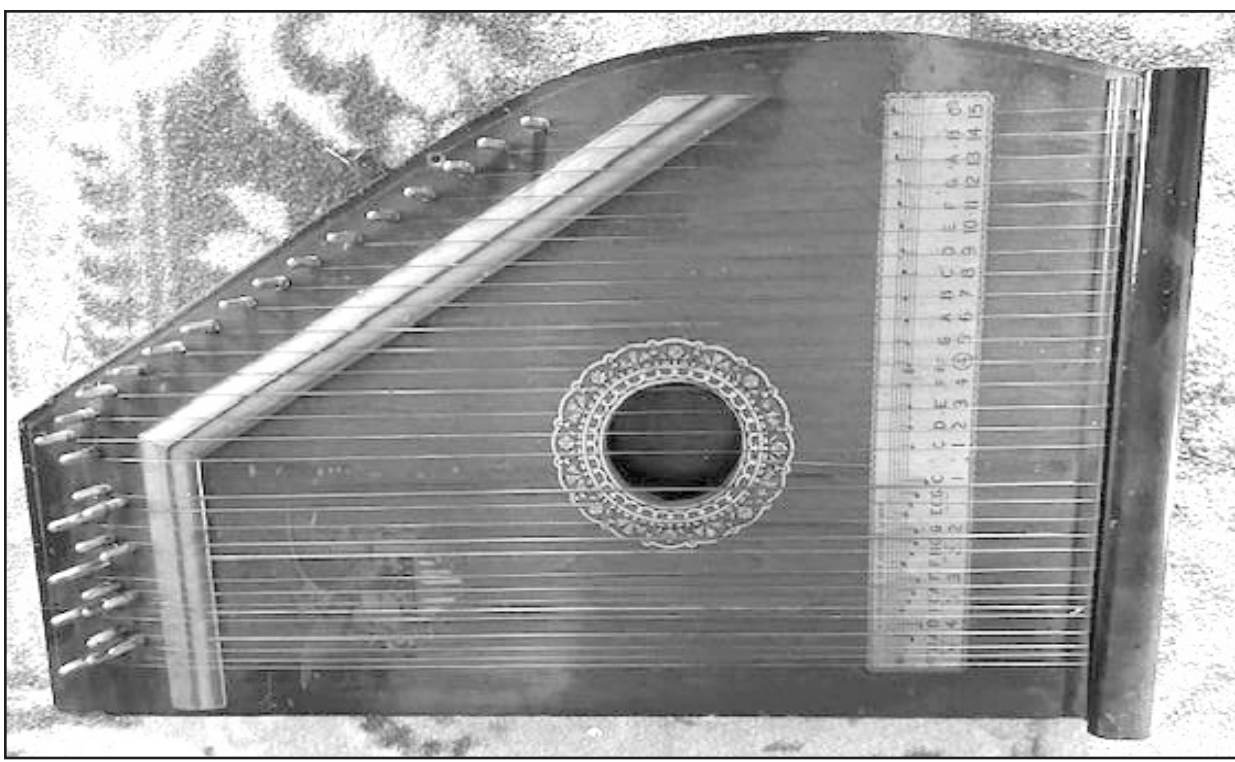
Roanoke County's newly elected constitutional officers, newly elected members of the Board of Supervisors, and newly elected members of the School Board took their oaths of office on Dec. 11 and were presented their certificates of election. Newly elected Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue, P. Jason Peters of Vinton takes his oath of office alongside members of his family and Judge James Swanson. Peters has represented the Vinton Magisterial District on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors for 10 years. He was elected to serve as Commissioner of the Revenue in the November General Election. The Board of Supervisors will appoint a replacement for Peters who will serve until a special election is held in November 2024.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| 5. Supervises interstate commerce | 2. Imitated | 2. Imitated |
| 8. Touch lightly | 3. Latvian capital | 3. Latvian capital |
| 11. Relating to bees | 4. Irish goddess | 4. Irish goddess |
| 13. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano | 5. Taste | 5. Taste |
| 14. Mosuo culture religion | 6. Dried | 6. Dried |
| 15. Italian village | 7. Spanish saloon | 7. Spanish saloon |
| 16. Stiff bristle | 8. Mother of Perseus | 8. Mother of Perseus |
| 17. Wealthy enclave in Rio | 9. Evergreen coniferous trees | 9. Evergreen coniferous trees |
| 18. Cause to lose courage | 10. Refuse to comply | 10. Refuse to comply |
| 20. Examines animals | 12. Negative | 12. Negative |
| 21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand | 14. Hyphen | 14. Hyphen |
| 22. Gets rid of | 19. A way to record | 19. A way to record |
| 25. Having easily perceived thoughts | 23. Not good | 23. Not good |
| 30. Removed surgically | 24. One who tends the furnace | 24. One who tends the furnace |
| 31. Principle underlying the universe | 25. Small amount | 25. Small amount |
| | 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) | 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) |
| | 27. The whole quantity | 27. The whole quantity |
| | 28. __ King Cole, musician | 28. __ King Cole, musician |
| | 29. One's opinion | 29. One's opinion |
| | 34. Holds ashes | 34. Holds ashes |
| | 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency | 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency |
| | 36. Side-blotched lizards genus | 36. Side-blotched lizards genus |
| | 37. Legislator (abbr.) | 37. Legislator (abbr.) |
| | 39. Concentrated bombardment | 39. Concentrated bombardment |
| | 40. Took for oneself | 40. Took for oneself |
| | 41. Nigerian City | 41. Nigerian City |
| | 42. Thousands of pounds | 42. Thousands of pounds |
| | 44. Inspired | 44. Inspired |
| | 45. Secret clique | 45. Secret clique |
| | 46. Expression | 46. Expression |
| | 47. Dough made from corn flour | 47. Dough made from corn flour |
| | 48. Comedian Carvey | 48. Comedian Carvey |
| | 51. Swiss river | 51. Swiss river |
| | 52. Prejudice | 52. Prejudice |
| | 53. Actor Idris | 53. Actor Idris |
| | 54. Resistance fighters | 54. Resistance fighters |
| | 58. Criticize | 58. Criticize |

VINTON HISTORY: Hawaiian Mandolin



Montague Swain donated this Hawaiian mandolin to the Vinton History Museum. PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

The mandolin in 19th century Hawaii was a popular instrument, much as it was across the continental "mainland" of the United States.

Mandolin clubs, orchestras, and quartets were not uncommon among many of the early Royal Hawaiian Band musical programs, and the Opera House in Honolulu regularly hosted mandolin-focused shows, often led by the King of the Hawaiian Mandolin and a leading educator of his day, Ernest Kaai.

Pictured is an old Hawaiian mandolin harp built and signed by A.R. Yendrick's Club Special of Brooklyn, New York, probably in the 1920s. The instrument is on display at the Vinton History Museum and was donated by Montague Swain.

This instrument is in very good shape for when it was made. It plays perfectly and in tune with a very warm sound and features a floral motif.

Visit the Vinton History Museum and see the vintage Hawaiian mandolin and other musical artifacts at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton. The museum is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m., "Preserving the Past for the Future."

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

Council

from page 3

participated. "I think it's really important for us to have a good

working relationship with our state legislators," said Grose. "The luncheon is a great tool to help develop relationships and to communicate the needs of our communities. The Town of Vinton was certainly well represented as the meeting was attended by our entire

council and the town manager. "The meeting was sponsored and completely paid for by the VML and provides an opportunity for local officials, elected and appointed, to present concerns or requests to our state legislators."

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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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

A heartfelt thanks this holiday season to: All those who have kept Mom (Bootie) in their prayers while she was in the hospital with pneumonia last week! She is now recovering at home. My fiancé Greg, my mom and brother Greg, my children Cydney, Drake (and wife Hannah), and Abbie, and grandchild, Kellen, my extended family, and my friends who give me love, support, an entertaining life, and material to write about. They bless me every day. The Town of Vinton for being a wonderful place to live, grow up, raise a family, and work! Vinton Public Works who have lit up the 3.2

square miles of this town for the holiday season! Vinton Police who have kept us safe through many special events! Members of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce who have donated their time, energy, and support in planning and implementing events in Vinton all fall! Kathryn Sowers, Chamber Executive Assistant, who makes my life easier every day! The Vinton Moose Lodge for their generosity to the community, especially to special needs students! And the amazing Vinton community! Happy Holidays from the Chewnings!



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON
Vinton Public Works has put an enormous amount of effort into decorating Vinton for the holidays, including their own facility on 3rd Street.

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

THE CHOICE IS MINE
Read 1 Samuel 25:1 through 27:12

David, a fighting machine, was not squeamish about shedding blood. However, before he went into battle, his habit was to seek the Lord's direction. He forgot this wisdom when one fool's decision enraged him.

Nabal, a wealthy man, refused to feed David's men although they had protected Nabal's shepherds. His arrogant remark infuriated David. Blinded by anger, he bypassed the Lord and ordered his men to arm themselves for battle. The plan: Wipe out Nabal and his entire household.

Meanwhile back at the estate, a servant begged Abigail, Nabal's wife, to do something because David had been good to them. She immediately sent food to David and then followed to ask for mercy.

"May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands" (1Samuel 25:33).

When we are wronged, instead of plotting revenge, we could seek the Lord's help to set aside anger and leave vengeance to Him. We should also pray for the offender.

Thought for Today: I can focus on God's blessings or the offense. I can pray or scheme. The choice is mine.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 25:32-34

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

By Pastor Bryan Crouch, Lynn Haven Baptist Church

Joseph – A Journey of Forgiveness

The story of Joseph in the Bible is a captivating narrative of resilience, faith, and the transformative power of forgiveness. Sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph's life took a dramatic turn from the pit to the pinnacle of power in Egypt. Through every twist and turn, Joseph

clung to his faith in God, ultimately displaying a spirit of forgiveness that echoes through the ages. The life lesson gleaned from Joseph's journey is the healing potency of forgiveness. Despite the injustices he endured, Joseph chose not to harbor bitterness. Instead, he forgave his brothers, recognizing God's sovereign hand in the midst of hardship. His life teaches us that forgiveness is not a sign of weakness but a testament to the strength found in surrendering our hurts to God. Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) encapsulates this life lesson:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Joseph's story challenges us to extend the same grace and forgiveness that we have received from God to those who may have wronged us. May we, inspired by Joseph's example, release the weight of resentment and choose the liberating path of forgiveness. In doing so, we open ourselves to God's healing grace and become vessels of His transformative love in a world desperately in need of reconciliation.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Work has begun on the Walnut Avenue parking lot which will alleviate increased demands for parking in downtown Vinton, especially on evenings and weekends.

Walnut Avenue parking lot construction underway

Work has begun on the new Walnut Avenue parking lot at 7 Walnut Avenue, adjacent to the Vinton Farmers' Market. The parking lot, with approximately 80 new spaces, will be free of charge to the public, and is within a very short walking distance of Vinton's downtown offerings. The lot is expected to be completed in April 2024. Anyone visiting downtown Vinton recently in the evenings, especially since the opening of the Pollard 107 South restaurant and Pok-E-

Joe's, along with the expansion at Twin Creeks Brewing Company, has noticed a definite increase in vehicles in the downtown area. The town recognized the need for more parking and took action to remedy the situation. Capital Projects Manager Jamie Hurt is heading up the parking lot project for the Town of Vinton. Submitted by Marshall Stanley, Town of Vinton Economic Development Specialist

Terriers from page 1

Titus Beatty is a sophomore and member of the football team who was nominated for being respectful and for his strong work ethic. The teacher who nominated Titus said, "Titus is a wonderful student athlete. He is responsible by working very hard to maintain good grades. He is always respectful to his teachers and peers...he is a role model in our class!" His parents are Letitia and Tim Beatty. Katie Hetherington is one of the Terrier teachers for December. She teaches Psychology and Sociology, Advanced World History I, and World History II. The students who nominated her highlighted her kindness, positive energy,

and willingness to help students. As one student said, "She is always willing to help when students need it. Her class is like a family." Or as another student said, "Mrs. Hetherington is always smiling and greeting her students as they walk in the door. She cares about every one of her students." John Richardson teaches Woodshop I and II, and Design and Fabrication. The students who nominated him highlighted how much he cares for his students, as well as his ability to make class fun. As one student said, "He is one of the best teachers I've ever had; I wish everyone taught and cared for their students the way J. Rich does." Or

as another student simply said, "He is a very fun teacher and very engaged with the students in class." William Byrd is partnering with ALCOVA Mortgage and Vinton Branch Manager Matt Crizer this year to recognize students and staff who "are doing great things in and out of the classroom." All WBHS students and staff are urged to nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the "Terrier Way" (being safe, respectful, and responsible and embodying the best of WBHS). Each Terrier of the Month receives a T-shirt designed by the Graphic Design classes at the high school, and sponsored by ALCOVA Mortgage.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The William Byrd High School Terriers of the Month have been announced for December. Pictured left to right are Matt Crizer, Branch Manager/Loan Officer of ALCOVA Mortgage in Vinton, instructor John Richardson, students Ashley Begasse, B.J. Cheatwood, and Titus Beatty, teacher Katie Hetherington, and student Hunter Burgess.

Interesting fact about ALCOVA Mortgage—the company was founded in 2003 by three childhood friends and graduates of Allegheny County High School—Bobby Nicely, Billy Siple, and Rob Lindstrom. ALCOVA is

an acronym for Allegheny County, Va. The three say that unlike most companies, their business was started not with a business plan, but a friendship. It has grown from a local lender to a company with offices

throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states. Crizer is also an Allegheny High School graduate. Submitted by William Byrd High School Assistant Principal Phillip Martin

Ice Show from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club delighted the crowd at the Lancerlot on Dec. 9 and 10 with their "December to Remember" Theatre on Ice program.

- Complex. Students in the figure skating program come from all over the valley and beyond—Christiansburg, Salem, Floyd, Blue Ridge, Montvale, Vinton, Roanoke, Fincastle, and more. They vary in age and skill level. Addi Clark is their head coach. The accomplished performers dazzling the crowd this past weekend included:
• Addi Clark, skating to "Home"
• Brynn Leigh, "This December"
• Orien Henderson, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
• Jordan Lucas, "Snowman"
• Marley Spauling, "All I Want for Christmas is You"
• Hannah Thompson, "Krampus"
• Julie Torre, "Winter Song"
• Isabella Fagiani and Addi Clark, "Jingle Bells" duet
• Faith Baker, "Jingle Bell Rock"
• Irena McCormick, "Blood on the Snow"
• Savannah Colleluori, "O Holy Night"
• Margo Kaminska, "Kid on Christmas"
• Ivy LaFountain, "Last Christmas"
• Layla Podyma, "Once Upon a

- Christmas"
• Kiera Saccoci, "Where are you Christmas?"
• Kenzie LaVenture, "Mele Kalikimaka" (Merry Christmas in Hawaiian)
• Willow Cooper, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"
• Paige Sykes, "Carol of the Bells"
• Sophia Rush, "Winter Wonderland"
• Jordan Lucas and Irena McCormick, with the show-stopping "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" duet
Members of the audience showed their appreciation by tossing stuffed animals onto the ice after each skater performed. The next six-week Learn to Skate session begins on Jan. 6. Learn to Skate classes teach the fundamentals of ice skating and provide a foundation for figure skating, hockey, and speed skating. For more information, visit the Lancerlot website at www.lancerlotsportscomplex.com or the Facebook page. For more information on the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club, visit the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/blueridgefigureskatingclubva.

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Happy Holidays! Thank you for reading! VintonMessenger.com

Creamery from page 1



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Down Home Creamery is located at 116 South Poplar Street in the suite formerly occupied by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, and then Rustic Creations.

Down Home Creamery serves Homestead Creamery products, and a variety of specialties like Frosty to delight children of all ages.

Experts,” he said. As for why he selected Vinton for the location of his new business, Drew explained, “We knew that Vinton was a great place for business and is ever growing and expanding. We saw a need for a dessert option within the town limits that folks could enjoy after their dinner at the new restaurants around town. We wanted to have a place with good, quality ice cream, as well as convenient and consistent hours.”

cream or to purchase a container at the grocery store. It’s now available at Down Home Creamery, where they serve “only the BEST Homestead Creamery Products—24 hand-dipped flavors, plus eight flavors of Softserve,” according to Drew. (Gingerbread flavor coming soon!)

other Homestead Creamery products for sale.

our customers and have already had a ton of repeat customers. Business is great and we feel we will be here for a long time. We are also available for parties, groups, and fundraising--the possibilities are endless.”

Currently, Down Home Creamery is open Sunday through Thursday from noon to 9 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from noon until 10 p.m. There are plans for extended hours in the summertime.

(Note: Down Home Creamery is not directly affiliated with Homestead Creamery—both are independently owned and operated.)

Drew says they chose the name, “Down Home Creamery” because “we felt it was a good relation to the Town of Vinton. Vinton always has the ‘Home’ feeling. ‘Creamery’ gives us the relation to the Homestead.”

Santa will be making a special stop at Down Home Creamery on Dec. 16 from noon to 2 p.m. Kids can enjoy soft serve for just 99 cents when they bring a handmade card or Christmas wishlist for Santa.

If you are a fan of Homestead Creamery Products, there is no need to make the drive to Burnt Chimney for that brand of hand-dipped ice

“Our Softserve is Homestead Creamery Vanilla Base with a ‘burst’ of flavor,” Drew says. “You can choose from blue-raspberry, cotton candy, cinnamon bun, and more! You can even mix and match for more flavor options.”

As for employees, Down Home Creamery currently employs “ten fantastic ice cream scoopers” and plans to add more during the summer months.

You can also stop by Vinton’s Parade of Trees at the Vinton War Memorial and see the two trees Drew has created for the community event—one featuring ice cream ornaments (for Down Home Creamery) and the other featuring skating (for Firehouse Skate ‘N Play).

They also feature milkshakes, blizzard-style creations, flights, and sundaes. There is a dairy case with different flavors of milks, eggnog, custard, and

Drew says not much was required in the way of renovations at 116 South Poplar.

For more information, special events, ice cream specialties, and featured flavors visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DownHomeCreamery>.

Santa Crawl from page 1



Vinton Public Works employees are the key to the Santa Crawl event each year. They build and decorate Santa’s transportation and then drive him safe and sound through the neighborhoods of Vinton.



This Santa Crawl crew was on board for the inaugural trip of the Santa Caboose, designed by Public Works Crew Leader Jason Davison (far right).



Vinton Town Council turned out in full force and in full costume for the 2023 Santa Crawl. Pictured left to right are Keith Liles, Laurie Mullins, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, Sabrina McCarty, and Mayor Brad Grose.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

in front), 10 feet tall, and almost 9 feet wide—and

there are many tight turns in Vinton. Drivers of the three Santa sleighs were Keith Childress, Billy Robb, and Banks Bradford from Public Works.

candy canes.

All members of Vinton Town Council participated in the 2023 Santa Crawl—Mayor Grose, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, and Council members Sabrina McCarty, Laurie Mullins, and Keith Liles.

Every department in the town contributes in some way to make the event such a success—about enhanced services provided by local government—the Santa Crawl is somewhere near the top of the list in Vinton. The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce continues as a vital partner with the town in promoting and presenting one of the holiday events that receives the most acclaim from citizens.

Police Department employees deserve special recognition for making the entire event possible through their dedicated efforts. It would not happen, and happen so smoothly, without them. (Public Works has also done their best to make Christmas jolly by turning Vinton into a virtual festival of lights in 2023.)

continue in Vinton, the town encourages everyone to adopt the Code of Elves (from the Christmas Classic “Elf”) and create joy by:

- Treating every day like Christmas
- Remembering there’s room for everyone on the nice list, and
- Remembering the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

By the end of the event (around 9 p.m.), Santa had delivered 400 bagged doggie treats (supplied by Kali’s Korner), along with 400 bags of candy, 400 Vinton coloring books and crayons, and a ton of

year after year. Talk

However, Vinton Public Works and Vinton

As holiday events

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

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

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

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

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

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Employment

Site Manager sought by TMEIC
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For Rent

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Help Wanted - Drivers

Part Time Newspaper Driver
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Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Circulation Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email customerservice@ourvalley.org



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

Help Wanted - General

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. 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 attenuating 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 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

Help Wanted - General

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:
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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@tapintohope.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
Roanoke, VA 24001
Email: Tabatha.Cooper@tapintohope.org
Phone: 540-283-4800

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. 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

Legals - City of Salem

DIVORCE NOTICE
Granville County Civil Court in Granville County, NC will be hearing a plea for the decree of divorce for which suit is pending and as filed by Larissa L. Peluso-Fleming of 4010 Pastor Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (petitioner/wife) versus Andrew Taylor McDonald of 1619 Valhalla Court, Salem, VA 24513 (defendant/husband) The defendant must enter a defense to such pleading within 30 days after the date of receipt of divorce filing as delivered by the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department. Should the defendant fail to make a defense within that time period, the plaintiff shall apply to the court for relief.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on December 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

The request of Elizabeth G. Lane, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-208.3(B)(2) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 111 Poplar Avenue, Tax Map # 127-3-5. The petitioner is requesting a variance to allow the placement of a 12 x 20-foot carport in the front yard, to be located no closer than 16 feet to the front property line. Section 106-208.3(B)(2) states that accessory structures must be built behind the rear building line of the principal structure (or in the rear yard).

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted.

For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375 3032).
THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM
BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Planning & Zoning Administrator

Legals - Roanoke County

LEGAL NOTICE

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Seeking Applicants to Fill Vinton District Vacancy

The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County is searching for candidates to fill the vacancy in the Vinton Magisterial District as the result of P. Jason Peters' election to the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue.

The person appointed shall be a qualified voter of the Vinton Magisterial District and hold office until a special election in November of 2024. The person elected at the special election will serve the remainder of Mr. Peters' term, which expires December 31, 2025. If any qualified voter in the Vinton Magisterial District would like to be considered for the vacancy, please mail or email a 300-word essay on why you want to be the Supervisor for the Vinton Magisterial District and why you feel you are qualified to serve to the Chief Deputy Clerk at the following address or email by January 1, 2024. Deborah C. Jacks Chief Deputy Clerk to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors 5204 Bernard Drive Roanoke, Virginia 24018 Telephone: 540-772-2003 Email: djacks@roanokecountyva.gov

Dated: November 26, 2023
Deborah C. Jacks Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board

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PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Left, William Byrd's Lane Brunk(on top) tangles with Salem's Patrick Patterson in the 106 pound class at the Titan Toughman Tournament last weekend. Right, Byrd's Graylen Castleberry is on his way to a second place finish in the 175 pound class in his first week on the team after playing football for the Terriers.

Big Orange wrestlers take fourth at Titan Toughman

The Big Orange wrestlers of William Byrd finished a solid fourth in the annual Titan Toughman wrestling tournament at Hidden Valley High School last week. Byrd also had an individual champ with Darin Witcher winning the top prize at 106.

PH won the championship with 252 points, followed by Lord Botetourt with 211. Cave Spring was third with 199, Byrd was fourth with 180.5 and Salem was fifth at 174.5. There were 22 teams that scored.

"I was proud of our performance," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "For most of us it was our first ever high school tournament."

Witcher improved to 7-1 on the season with three pins in the tournament. His pin in the championship round was in 1:11 over teammate Lane Brunk. Witcher is a sophomore and Brunk is a freshman.

"They'll keep our lower weights solid for years to come," said Kessler. Graylen Castleberry took a second

at 175, making the final before falling to undefeated Zackary Cummings of Christiansburg. Graylen is 3-1 and this was his first action since coming out for the team after the prolonged football season concluded with the state semifinal.

Stephen Underwood wrestled back to third at 165. Underwood lost in the quarterfinals for his only loss in a dozen matches. He had to win six straight matches in the consolation bracket to place third.

Also placing were Aidan Lucas with a fourth at 190, freshman Zane Taylor with a fourth at 126, and two sixth places, freshman Brandon Hurley at 150 and Kyle Kalinke at 113.

The Terriers were scheduled to host Northside on Wednesday of this week. The annual Big Orange Classic, at William Byrd High School, will be December 22 and 23. Wrestling begins at 9:30 am on that Friday and 10 am on Saturday.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

The Vinton Heat 9U team, coached by Brian Rickerson(back left) and Bryan Jones, won their division in the recreation tournament at William Byrd High School and Middle School Saturday.

Basketball fundraiser is big success at Byrd

The William Byrd boys' basketball team and the Byrd basketball booster club sponsored a youth tournament at the high school, middle school and high school auxiliary gyms Saturday and the fundraiser was a big success. The event began at 8 am and ran until 8 pm.

There were 22 teams of all ages from teams in Roanoke County Recreation clubs participating in the tournament. Each team was guaranteed three games, and the total number of games that were played was 36. Champions were crowned in divisions that included 9U boys, 11U boys, 11U girls and 13U boys. The Vinton Heat, coached by Brian Rickerson and Bryan Jones, won the 9U Boys tournament. Other Vinton or Mount Pleasant teams in the tournament included the Mount Pleasant Mustangs, Vinton Tarheels and Vinton Bucks in 11U Boys and the Mount Pleasant Cavs in 11U Girls. Other teams came from the Cave Spring, Hidden Valley and North Roanoke clubs.

There was no charge for families to get into the tournament, only that they bring canned goods to be donated to the local food shelter for delivery by the high school boys basketball team. Thanks go out to support from local sponsors Kroger Bonsack, Food Lion Vinton, Coca-Cola, and NY Pizza, along with all the families, players, and coaches who volunteered throughout the day to make it a success.

Terrier indoor track team will compete at Roanoke College Sat.

The William Byrd High indoor track team be competing in Salem this weekend at the East Coast Elite Invitational. The event will be held Saturday at the Cregger Indoor Fieldhouse on the campus of Roanoke College.

Last weekend the Terriers competed in the Liberty Flames High School Invitational at Liberty University in Lynchburg. The Byrd athletes had some strong performances in a big meet.

DeShawn Austin made finals in the 55m hurdles and finished eighth with a time of 7.95 and state qualified in the 500m dash with a time of 1:08.11. Wyatt Bailey improved on his height in the pole vault with a height of 14' and also had a strong 300 meter with a time of 37.27. Other boys who did well were Reagan Lilley in the 1000m (2:53.06), Donald Mullins in the 1600 (4:35.08) and Jack Hinkle in the shot put (36'9).

On the ladies side Olivia Bustamante state qualified in the high jump with a height of 4'10. Grace Onwi had personal records in the 300m dash (43.63) and 55m dash (7.84). Other season's best on the ladies side were Alexandra Bonilla in the 1000m (3:48.31), Liz Dixon in the 1000m (3:49.26), Heidi Wienke in the 1600m (6:10.08), Emma Kageals in the 55m hurdles (9.20) and Emily Fisher in the 55m hurdles (10.96).



PHOTO BY EDMEE HASLER

Byrd will swim Vikings tonight

The William Byrd swimmers will be back in the water tonight to take on Northside in a meet at the Hollins University pool. It will be the last meet of 2023 for the Terriers, who will return from the holidays January 4th for a meet at the Botetourt YMCA. Here Byrd's Lindsay Murtaugh emerges from the pool during last week's meet at the Salem YMCA.

Hale brothers fall one win shy of trip to the Stagg Bowl

The Stagg Bowl returns to Salem this week for the 50th game in the history of the NCAA Division III football championship. The State University of New York at Cortland will play defending national champion North Central College of Illinois at 7 pm Friday at Salem Stadium.

For 25 years the City of Salem was synonymous with the Stagg Bowl. From 1993 until 2017 "The City of Champions" was the annual site of the game and "The Road to Salem" became a popular phrase among Division III football fans.

The game left Salem in 2018 with the following two games played in Shenandoah, Texas. The 2020 game was cancelled due to COVID, the 2021 game was held in Canton, Ohio, home of the National Football League Hall of Fame, and last year's game was played in Annapolis, Maryland. North Central defeated Mount Union in last year's championship, 28-21, at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

This year's "Final Four" found Wartburg College hosting North Central in Waverly, Iowa last weekend while Randolph-Macon College played host to SUNY-Cortland in Ashland, VA. Randolph-Macon was hoping to become just the second Old Dominion Athletic Conference team to make the Stagg Bowl, as Bridgewater College played in the 2001 Stagg Bowl game, losing a 30-27 game to Mount Union in front of a crowd of 7,992. However the Yellow Jackets fell for the first time this year, 49-14. William Byrd grad Nick Hale scored a touchdown for Randolph-Macon and twin brother Matt started at center in what would be their final college game. The Jackets finished the season with a 13-1 record.

In the other semifinal North Central beat Wartburg, 34-27. North Central is

undefeated and the top-ranked Division III team in the nation.

The Stagg Bowl game will be broadcast on ESPNU. Tickets are now on sale at the Salem Civic Center.



PHOTO BY CLARK RUHLAND

SPORTS

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Terrier hoopsters finally open with two wins

The William Byrd boys' basketball team is off to a fast start after a slow start to the season. After having their first three games postponed or cancelled due to the prolonged football season the Terriers finally came out of the gate last week and posted two wins.

"I was thrilled," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "I'm feeling lucky we're 2-0. The players from the football team had a half a practice Monday and only two more full practices before our first game, and the way things are these days all the games mean something. It used to be if you win your district games they were the ones that counted, but now every game counts so you can't ease into the season. I feel like we're in a post-season mind set of 'survive and advance'."

The Terriers opened with a road game at Bassett last Thursday and took a 62-52 win. Byrd led by just two points at the half but finished strong, outscoring the Bengals 12-4 in the fourth quarter.

The Terriers had balanced scoring with five players in double figures, led by Ty Blalock with 13 points. Isaiah Board and Luke Helton had 12 each, Hayden Eads had 11 and Drew Lindsay had 10. Blalock also had 11 rebounds and four assists and Helton, playing in his first varsity game, had seven boards and three assists. Luke is the only sophomore on the team, earning a spot in practice after starting the preseason on the jayvee team.

Just 24 hours later the Terriers had their home opener and took a 66-61 win over Hidden Valley. The Terriers trailed 35-34 at the half but outscored the Titans, 21-14, in the third quarter and held on for the win.

Byrd had four in double figures in this game, led by Blalock with 18. Eads had 13 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals while Israel Hairston, fresh off a long football season, had 13 points and five assists. Lindsay had 10 points.

The Terriers are back in action tonight with a home game against Christiansburg. This is somewhat of a special game for Byrd coach Greenway, as Blue Demons' coach Kevin Cox was a player when Brad was an assistant coach at Christiansburg.

On Friday the Terriers will be home again to host Glenvar, and next week they have a home game with Bassett on Tuesday and return the trip to Christiansburg a week from tonight.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Above, William Byrd's Hayden Eads scoops and scores in last Friday's win over Hidden Valley in the Terriers' home opener. Below left, Israel Hairston(#4) snuffs out a Titan shot and, below right, Isaiah Board goes to the hole.



Byrd girls are at Glenvar Friday, Craig County Monday

The William Byrd girls will be on the road Friday to play Roanoke County rival Glenvar in basketball. The Terriers are looking to sweep the season series after defeating the Highlanders in Vinton on December 1.

Byrd comes into the week at 1-2, and a game at Hidden Valley on Wednesday night was too late for publication. That was a special game for the Terriers as Byrd graduate and former player and assistant coach Samantha Webster is now the head coach at Hidden Valley.

The girls had just one game last week, as a scheduled game with E.C. Glass was postponed until next Wednesday, December 20. The girls played at Christiansburg on Friday and fell to the Blue Demons, 52-27. Samantha Martin led Byrd with 11 points, sister Mia Martin had five and Makayla Price had three

points.

"We really started out the game competing, especially on the defensive end," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. "We were able to turn them over 11 times in the first half and really did well on the boards. Offensively, we struggled and are working on correcting those things. The girls played hard and in spots competed with a good shooting Christiansburg team. Because they played hard, we can work and make those corrections."

Next Monday the girls make a trip to Craig County, where the host Rockets are off to a 3-1 start. The Glass game will be next Wednesday in Vinton and a week from today Christiansburg will return the trip for the Terriers final game before Christmas.



Left, William Byrd's Jayda Johnson drives against Christiansburg's in last Friday's game. Right, Mia Martin eyes the basket.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING