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Vinton Mayor Brad Grose installed First Aid Crew officers for 2024 during a ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial on Dec. 14. Pictured left to right are Chief Chris Sayre, Asst. Chief Aaron Albertson, 1st Lt. Brandan Arthur, 2nd Lt. Ethan Hobart, Sgt. Trace Poindexter, Chaplain Tom Philpott, Public Information Officer and Board of Directors Vice President Steve Thrasher, Treasurer Mitch Vaughan, Secretary Megan Sayre, Board of Directors member Chris McCarty, and Mayor Brad Grose.

Vinton First Aid Crew hosts Santa at annual Officer Installation Ceremony

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton First Aid Crew held its annual Christmas dinner and Officer Installation Ceremony on Dec. 14 at the Vinton War Memorial.

In 1939, 17 men with a strong desire to help their friends and neighbors in need met in the basement of Vinton Baptist and officially established the Vinton First Aid Crew, Inc. It was one of the first 10 volunteer first aid organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Their stated goals were “to save life, administer first aid, and teach safety,” which they have continued to accomplish throughout the years. The crew celebrated its 84th anniversary in October.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose installed the VFAC officers for 2024: Chief Chris Sayre, Assistant Chief Aaron Albertson, 1st Lt. Brandan Arthur, 2nd Lt. Ethan Hobart, Sgt. Trace Poindexter, Secretary Megan Sayre, Chaplain Tom Philpott, and Public Information Officer Steve Thrasher.

Members of the Board of Directors recognized were President Jason Peters, Vice President Steve Thrasher, Treasurer Mitch Vaughan, Asst. Treasurer Jason Peters, Chris McCarty, and Registered Agent Tom Philpott.

Mayor Grose thanked all the First Aid Crew members for their devoted service to the community and the thousands of lives they have touched since their founding. He described them as “one of the pillars of our community. The Town of Vinton wouldn’t be the same without all you folks. No group represents the town better than the Vinton First Aid Crew.”

He also described the VFAC as a “big family” as a whole, and with multiple generations of Vinton families continuing the tradition of service in the crew.

Chief Sayre noted that 2023 had been a very busy year with an impressive gain in membership—12 new members in just the past three months. The VFAC has received a new truck after working on the project for about two years.

Philpott paid tribute to the members the crew has lost this past year—Greg Meinel, who passed away in February at age 51, and Roy McCarty, who passed away in October at age 85. Meinel’s sister Dawn Layne and his niece Brittney Layne attended the ceremony and were recognized.

Meinel served with the crew for over 31 years, recruited just out of high school from William Byrd in the Class of 1990. He had a passion for running calls his entire life. He was awarded a Lifetime

Membership in the VFAC for his years of service.

Meinel served in multiple positions and on multiple committees during his time with the crew, including as First Lieutenant of Training and Captain of Membership. He decided to take his career a step further and obtained his Associate’s Degree in Health Sciences from Virginia Western Community College, then attended the Jefferson College of Health Sciences to complete a Paramedic to Registered Nurse upgrade. He spent most of his nursing career as an ICU nurse at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He also served as an instructor for Carilion, teaching Staff Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support, even traveling to other Carilion hospitals to teach.

Roy McCarty, Jr. lived a life of public service to the community. He served in the U.S. Navy, was a lifetime member of the Vinton First Aid Crew (starting with the Junior First Aid Crew), worked as a sergeant in the Vinton Police Department, and then taught special education and served as the job development coordinator for Roanoke County Schools. McCarty also served as a member of Vinton Town Council for many years.

See Ceremony, page 3



Brady Poindexter (center) was chosen by his fellow VFAC members as “Rookie of the Year.”



Trace Poindexter (center) was chosen by the membership as “Member of the Year.”



Aaron Albertson (center) was chosen by members as the “Officer of the Year.”

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Susan Lewis Music Studio musicians perform their annual Christmas recitals

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Susan Lewis has been teaching piano and voice lessons in the Roanoke Valley for over 30 years. Over time as her reputation has grown, she has added more and more students (now over 90), and

eventually accumulated a long waiting list of students eager to begin lessons.

Last spring, Lewis decided to remedy the situation by adding Associate Teachers Abby Shelton and Latriva Pierce—both her own music students—to the studio so that students could begin

their music education sooner.

With Pierce leaving for college in Ohio in late summer, Angela Janney (also a Susan Lewis student) joined the team as another associate teacher this fall. Shelton teaches voice in the

See Recitals, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Susan Lewis Music Studio students presented a Christmas performance at Thrasher Memorial UMC on Dec. 17—the second of two recitals this holiday season, including students of Lewis and her Associate Teachers Angela Janney and Abby Shelton.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HAIRSTON

The HOMETOWN Terrier team stuck together and progressed through the years to become Region 3D champions in 2023.

Hairston talks about WBHS Terriers football championship and what community means

Pastor Chris Hairston, father of William Byrd High School quarterback Israel Hairston, whose team just won the Region 3D Championship, took the opportunity to post this message on his Facebook page about the team members and the community who rallied around them—not just this winning season, but throughout the years.

“I’m beyond proud of the guys and the journey that this core group took together. It was truly a

HOMEGROWN team that the community rallied around. These kids wore the Terrier name as part of the Vinton Booster Club with winning seasons and losing seasons. They learned in those years what it was to dominate (be exalted) and lose (be abased). They hung in there together and made their mistakes, but they stuck the course and made a community proud.

“They were HOMEGROWN in that they were a part of the community and embedded in the community in which they lived. They celebrated their seasons at Bratchers, NY Pizza, and Jump! (Bounce Roanoke). “They were sponsored by the Dogwood, Bojangles, Kroger, Woods Service Center, Virginia 811, and others so that they could add their family names to the back of their jersey, eat, and party with each other at

See Hairston, page 3

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Each year Vinton residents anxiously await delivery of their town calendars. This year's theme is "Vinton's Civic Pride," featuring photos of iconic spots in the town.

JANUARY 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY TOWN OFFICES CLOSED	2 Council Meeting 9p.m. VMB Line Dancing 10a.m. 11:30a.m. 6p.m. CC Mon. & Tues. Refuse/Bulk Pickup	3	4 Tai-Chi 9a.m. CC Senior Card Games 10:15a.m. CC	5	6
7 Each time you see this recycling symbol on the calendar, recyclables will also be collected that week on your normal refuse day.	8 Mexican Dominoes 10a.m. 1p.m. CC Monday Music Jam 2:30p.m. - 5p.m. CC	9 Line Dancing 10a.m. 11:30a.m. 6p.m. CC	10 LUNCH & LEARN Lunch & Learn 11p.m. - 1p.m. TBA	11 Tai-Chi 9a.m. CC Senior Card Games 10:15a.m. CC	12	13 Big House Dance 7:30p.m. - 10p.m. CC
14	15 "I have a dream" MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY TOWN OFFICES CLOSED	16 Council Meeting 9p.m. VMB Line Dancing 10a.m. 11:30a.m. 6p.m. CC Mon. & Tues. Refuse/Bulk Pickup	17	18 Tai-Chi 9a.m. CC Senior Card Games 10:15a.m. CC	19	20
21 Mexican Dominoes 10a.m. 1p.m. CC Monday Music Jam 2:30p.m. - 5p.m. CC	22 Line Dancing 10a.m. 11:30a.m. 6p.m. CC	23	24	25 Tai-Chi 9a.m. CC Senior Card Games 10:15a.m. CC	26	27
28 Mexican Dominoes 10a.m. 1p.m. CC Monday Music Jam 2:30p.m. - 5p.m. CC	29 Line Dancing 10a.m. 11:30a.m. 6p.m. CC	30	31	Tai-Chi 9a.m. CC Senior Card Games 10:15a.m. CC		

Each month's calendar features regular and special events for the month.

Town of Vinton calendars on the way

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

It's that time of year when Vinton residents look forward to with anticipation— delivery of the town calendars. Staff expects the calendars to be delivered in the mail by the U.S. Postal Service right around Christmas. The calendars are very popular; citizens begin asking when they will be available in early December. Many keep the calendars hanging on refrigerators or near their desks as a source of information on the town, its events, its services, and its emergency phone numbers—a summary of life in Vinton in brief.

About 5,000 copies were printed with 4,500 of those being delivered directly to residents and businesses. Photography is by Jenny Marie's Photographie, with a couple from The Vinton Messenger.

The town calendar is a synopsis of information on all things Vinton.

This year's vintage calendar opens with greetings from Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, and Town Council members Keith Liles, Laurie Mullins, and Sabrina McCarty, including a history of the Town of Vinton, named for the VINyard and PresTON founding families. Settlers began arriving in the area in the mid-1700s.

Each year's calendar includes holidays, special event and festival dates sponsored by the Town and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, some of the featured activities at the Vinton Library, the Vinton History Museum, the Vinton Farmers' Market, and classes at the Charles R. Hill Community Center, along with the basics of when the seasons change and when Daylight Saving Time begins and ends.

It contains the sometimes hard to remember regular refuse/bulk refuse/

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

Possibly the most used page of the Vinton Town calendar is the recycling schedule.

recycling schedules by the week, month, and year (including modified holiday schedules), due dates for real estate and personal property tax and utility bills, and Town Council meeting dates.

There are phone numbers for all town departments, emergency numbers for police, fire, and rescue, the Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection, and the Vinton Post Office, plus many frequently used Roanoke County numbers and the Western Virginia Water Authority.

The idea for the town calendar originated several years ago. The town had previously been distributing magnets displaying the recycling schedule in packets with brochures from several different departments of the town. The calendar format was adopted to include all the information that might be needed by residents in one compact package. The town distributes the calendars to new residents and businesses when they contact the Town of Vinton with questions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SETTLE FAMILY

Bill and Florence Settle of Goodview celebrated their 67th anniversary on Dec. 21.

Happy 67th Anniversary to Bill and Florence Settle

Bill and Florence Settle of Goodview celebrated their 67th anniversary this week.

"Today, we joyfully celebrate the remarkable 67th wedding anniversary of our beloved parents, Bill and Florence Settle. On December 21, 1957, they embarked on a journey of love and partnership in Peekskill, New York.

"They first met on a blind date when Bill was an instructor at West Point Military Academy and Florence lived across the Hudson River in Peekskill."

Bill is a retired U.S. Army veteran with 27 years of service with the 173rd Airborne Division, while Florence is retired from Sears & Roebuck. She was also a school bus driver for many years

with Roanoke County Schools in the Vinton area.

Their enduring love has created a beautiful family, and their legacy is felt across the miles. Son Rick and daughter Vicki both live in Goodview. Their son, Bill, and his wife, Sally, live in McAlpin, Fla. Son Mike lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

"As we reflect on their incredible journey together, we extend heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Mom and Dad on this momentous occasion. Happy 67th Anniversary, and here's to many more years of love, joy, and cherished memories!"

Submitted by the Children of Flo and Bill Settle

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Hairston from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HAIRSTON

the end of the year. "They practiced their craft on the rocky fields of RCCC and called Vinyard Park home. They are HOMEGROWN. "These guys believed in one another and joined with a William Byrd coaching staff that engaged with them and celebrated community service by cleaning up the local trails and celebrating fallen soldiers. They marched into games behind the local police and veterans associations. "These guys were a part of something special and they are V(IN)ton's team. "We celebrated and complained. We coached from the stands and played GM to our shame, but the team kept fighting and they deserve this championship. "This championship is a HOMEGROWN championship. No recruiting, no NIL, no scholarships, no promise of stardom. Just whatever walked the halls of Byrd was what they had. No one was in the transfer portal to help; they just decided to stay and help themselves. No shortcuts, just lessons in hard work, the fear of the Lord, and 'holding the rope.' Those were the lessons woven through all the X's and

O's, motions, formations, and victories. "It was great to see a town pack out the hole in Ridgeway, and then turn around and overflow the visitors' area two or three people deep at the fence in Lynchburg. "Sure, it was Goliath, but this was Vinton. Vinton has all it needs. I wasn't born here, but I'm glad someone showed me where this place was. For this period of my life, these boys represented a story that I hope many will hear about— a bunch of kids, dragging their fathers and families to the field to play a game. The only thing their parents had in common was that they had kids the same age; many had never met before. "Now as we look around the stands 10 years later, a simple nod or smirk would say it all. Whether Biddy, 8U, 10U, 12U, Terriers or Raiders was your team, you have a lot to be thankful for. You did Terrier Town proud. Congrats to the Terriers— you won!"

Submitted by Chris Hairston

W.E. Cundiff art students create recycled bottle Christmas tree

W.E. Cundiff art teacher Lisa Huffman and her fourth and fifth grade art students created a unique Christmas tree this holiday season— made from recycled bottles. The tree stands in the school's vestibule for everyone entering the building to see.

"It took a lot of work, but was fun as well," said Huffman. "The fourth and fifth graders hand painted the bottles and cut them into a spiral shape. Then they helped me wire them to the armature which was made from a donated tomato cage and some chicken wire.

"These trees are always a huge hit. When I taught high school in Austin, Texas, we made a lot of them but with the younger kiddos it's a lot of work just to make one.

"It was also harder to get people to bring water bottles in today than it was eight years ago when I made them with the high schoolers, because people are being more conscientious about sustainability and plastic



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. E. CUNDIFF ELEMENTARY

W.E. Cundiff Elementary School art teacher Lisa Huffman and her fourth and fifth grade art students created a recycled bottle tree this Christmas season.

waste— which is fantastic. Everyone seems to bring their own water bottles to school now and refill them at the water stations.

"In this lesson we discuss waste and sustainability. The average human creates about eight pounds of trash a day, so

projects like this are a great springboard for discussion on environmental issues."

This is Huffman's second year teaching art at W.E. Cundiff. She is originally from San Antonio.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Ceremony from page 1



Charter members of the Vinton First Aid Junior Crew established in 1974 were honored at the Christmas dinner. Pictured left to right are Steve Thrasher, junior crew charter members Chris Stull, Kenneth Drewery, Terry Fuqua, and Ralph Hargis, with Mayor Brad Grose.



The charter members of the Junior Crew in 1974.

Chief Sayre and Vice President Steve Thrasher next presented the most coveted awards to crew members: Brady Poindexter (still a high school student) was named "Rookie of the Year," Trace Poindexter was named "Member of the Year," and Aaron Albertson was chosen as "Officer of the Year" (for the second year). The awards are especially meaningful as recipients are chosen by the entire crew.

Steve Thrasher next recognized the nine charter members of the Vinton Junior Rescue Squad from 1974: Chris Stull, Kenneth Drewery, Terry Fuqua, Ralph Hargis, Perry Spangler, Mike Huddleston, Ray Sloan, and Danny Wood. Four (Stull, Drewery, Fuqua, and Hargis) were able to attend. (Member Gary Honaker is deceased.)

Thrasher commented that in moving boxes at the station, he had come across the plaque identifying the charter Junior Rescue Squad members. He noted that in 1973, VFAC members decided to establish a junior crew. Members Doug Adams and Mike Chewning visited William Byrd High School during study halls to recruit teens to serve in the crew. These nine expressed an interest, prepared for, and passed the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid course and CPR training, and qualified as junior members. Philpott was their advisor.

Mayor Grose presented a proclamation from Vinton Town Council for each of the original nine members thanking them for their "outstanding commitment to public service, especially for service to the First Aid Crew. Partly because of



The Vinton First Aid Crew lost two dedicated members in 2023— Greg Meinel (on left) and Roy McCarty, Jr.

the accomplishments of these charter members, the Vinton First Aid Crew has had a provision for a Junior Crew continuously since that time. Many young people have served in the Junior Crew since 1974 and many have gone on to serve in the Senior Crew. Many have also gone on to serve our community and nation in a variety of public services including emergency services and the military."

After the installation ceremony, Santa arrived (in fire boots), bearing gifts for all the children present. They were able to sit on his lap (including the mayor and crew members) to whisper their wish lists and have their photos taken.

The Vinton First Aid Crew is a non-profit organization which operates on tax-deductible donations from the community which provide funding for equipment, training, and medical supplies.

Donations can be mailed to Vinton First Aid Crew, P.O. Box 314, Vinton, Va. 24179 or dropped off at the VFAC building located at 120 West Jackson Avenue in Vinton. You can also link your Kroger Plus card to the Vinton First Aid Crew as an ongoing donation. The instructions on how to do so are linked here <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. (The name of the organization is the Vinton First Aid Crew.)

The 2023 Vinton First Aid Crew Christmas dinner was catered, as is tradition, by Country Kitchen of Christiansburg.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose shares his Christmas wish list with Santa at the First Aid Crew Christmas dinner.

C R O S S W O R D

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Baseball stat
 - Blaze
 - Sea eagles
 - Tails in Italian
 - Monocot genus
 - Mother or father
 - The Jungian inner self
 - Covered with gold
 - Residual oil
 - Signs up for school
 - Furniture for daily meals
 - Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
 - Lower limb
 - Guy (slang)
 - Get free of
 - Snakelike fish
 - Adult female bird
 - Formal window coverings
 - Break into small pieces
 - "1836 siege" of U.S.
 - Made violet-red
 - Food chopper
 - Removes writing
 - Ethiopian monetary unit
 - Wine bottle containers
 - English prelate
 - Small storage
 - structure
 - A jelly-like substance
- CLUES DOWN**
- A brief comment
 - Sultanate of NW Borneo
 - Importune
 - Forelimb
 - Models of ethical behavior
 - Harangues
 - This (Spanish)
 - Springfield Area Mobile Intensive Care
 - Sang at Christmas door to door
 - Partly or nearly blind
 - Posterior pituitary gland hormone
 - American Nurses Association (abbr.)
 - The 7th Greek letter
 - Strives to equal
 - Toff
 - Coleoptera insects
 - The color of blood
 - Slipped by
 - Of she
 - A short musical passage
 - CNN's founder Turner
 - Radioactivity unit
 - Exculpation defense
 - Walking back and forth
 - Come forth from
 - Oxalis
 - A soft twilled fabric of silk
 - The two large chest muscles

VINTON HISTORY: Angels



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

Some of the angel collection on display at the Vinton History Museum

Angels are a fixture of Christmas decorations that top Christmas trees and hover over Nativity scenes. Angels are significant to our understanding of Christmas. They are always made with wings to accentuate their heavenly character. The connection to Christmas comes from the central role which angels play in the Nativity story told in the Gospel of Luke.

Understandably, images of angels have become a familiar symbol of Christmas. The Vinton History Museum has a collection of angels now on display for the holiday season. Visit the museum and see the angel collection of various materials, features, and sizes. They will be on display through 2023 along with

other vintage and traditional holiday decorations throughout the museum.

The Vinton History Museum is located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum will close December 22, 2023, through January 2, 2024, to give the faithful volunteers time to experience the holidays with their families.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

WBMS coaches complete prestigious lacrosse certification

The William Byrd Middle School Girls Lacrosse Club is thrilled to announce the remarkable achievement of Head Coach Kelsey Harris and Assistant Coach Harrison

Lionberger. These dedicated coaches have successfully completed the certification requirements for Level III Women/Girls Lacrosse Coaching through US Lacrosse.

In their pursuit of excellence, Coach Kelsey and Coach Harrison dedicated countless hours to training and demonstrating their commitment to advancing their coaching skills. We are proud to share that, according to the US Lacrosse website, they are among an elite small group of coaches (42) in Virginia who have attained this prestigious honor.

Furthermore, Coach Lionberger stands out as one of only six individuals across the state of Virginia who holds a Level III Women and Men Lacrosse Coaching certification — a truly exceptional accomplishment!

The entire William



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WBMS

William Byrd Middle School lacrosse coaches Kelsey Harris and Harrison Lionberger have completed the prestigious Level III Women/Girls Lacrosse Coaching certification.

Byrd Middle School community takes immense pride in having Coach Kelsey and Coach Harrison leading and inspiring

our young athletes. Their dedication, expertise, and passion contribute significantly to the growth and success of our lacrosse

program. *Submitted by Gloria Harris, Administrative Assistant in Counseling, William Byrd Middle School*

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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Happy Holidays!
from **VintonMessenger.com**

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: AWA-NA 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

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ONLY ONE WAY

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

In our culture, almost anything goes. The overwhelming idea is: whatever works for you. It's okay to believe in God, but it's not acceptable to suggest there is only one way to know Him. The problem is that if you believe in Christ, you must also believe His words. He did not say, "I am a way." He said, "I am THE way." Think about it. If anything would work, why suffer? If anything else could save us, why would God send His son? Read Isaiah 43:10-11. First, understand that God does want us to know Him. It's why He sent His son in the first place. Second, recognize that there is only one Savior and put your trust in Him. Perhaps you have long since accepted that only Christ can save you, but have you really accepted that only He can save somebody else? Knowing how much others need Christ motivates us to tell them about Him. After all, "how, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14) Tell someone about the Savior today!

Worship: Today, thank God for sending the Savior. Pray for those who do not know Him, those who live and work right around you as well as those in foreign lands. Read Romans 10:14-15. Pray that God will send His people to preach good news and ask Him to give you opportunities today to share His love with someone.

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.

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LUTHERAN
ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning 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; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

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



Remembering Vinton

with the Vinton Historical Society

An Old-Fashioned Christmas

This article was written by Vinton historian and Vinton History Museum volunteer Barbara Dillon (now deceased) and published in The Vinton Messenger in 2012.

Christmas was always a special time at Vinton Baptist Church and most other churches in town. There was a big lighted, decorated tree in the main sanctuary. The choir would have special music. There were always boxes of hard candy for the Sunday School children and always a pageant with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, and wise men, shepherds, and angels.

At the Christmas Eve program put on by our friends and family, we saw our dad or a friend in his long bathrobe march down the aisle as a shepherd to the manger on the stage with a choir behind them singing joyfully along with the audience.

Santa would then come out to the tree, call a child's name, and they would go up and receive a wrapped present from under the tree. Our parents would bring one gift per child earlier to place under the tree. How thrilling it was to get a package from Santa himself!

We five brothers and sisters with our mother and dad could hardly wait to walk home and go to bed so Santa could visit us. Few people had automobiles so nearly everyone in town walked wherever they went.

My mother and dad would get us up

after Santa had made his visit and let us see what he had brought us. We opened our presents and played awhile, then went back to bed. My sister and I would always take our dolls with us and our three brothers would usually take a small toy with them. We would sleep until later in the morning, then have a ham biscuit and an orange, while the adults were fixing dinner for the crowd.

We lived at our grandmother's big ten-room house on Second Street. Granddad had died when I was two years old, but they had nine children. One daughter had died very young, but I still had three uncles, four aunts, and lots of cousins.

Every Christmas all of the family would come for Christmas dinner. The turkey and ham were cooked there. The ham was locally grown, butchered, and salted down to cure. For Christmas it was boiled, covered with whole cloves, and put in the oven to bake a little.

Of course there was turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, sweet potato pudding with marshmallows on top, celery, pickles, homemade rolls, Waldorf salad with lots of nuts, pumpkin pie, fruit cake, fresh coconut cake, and boiled custard.

Everything was homemade and cooked on a wood range. Some cakes were made weeks ahead. When the meal was served there were so many people that the men were served first, then the wives and children.

Food filled up the dining room table and buffet, so people ate all over the house. There was a large closed-in back porch that was used as a dining room during the summer because the windows and screened-in back door made it cooler (no air conditioners back then). This was opened up and heated so people could eat Christmas dinner out there. Before the meal, one of the uncles would always call everyone together and ask the blessing.

After the meal was over, we were allowed in the parlor where the Christmas tree was decorated. It was covered with candles, as well as fabulous glass ornaments in the shape of Santa, balls, bells, and birds, and a star on top. The live tree was always from my Uncle Joe's farm in Bedford County.

Children were not allowed to go into the parlor and play at anytime without permission or without an adult. On this afternoon, someone would go in and light all of the candles on the tree and on the mantle. Then everyone was called to come in and see the tree lit. The candles were blown out and packages were given out.

Adults and children would have drawn names earlier. Everyone would get a present from under the tree and we would find out who had drawn our name.

The parlor always had a fire in the fireplace and after all the gifts were

opened, everyone would gather around the piano and sing Christmas carols. Two of my aunts could play well, and several aunts and uncles made an excellent quartet and would lead in group singing. My, what a wonderful day this always was!

The rest of the days until after New Year's when the children had to go back to school, each family would visit another family to see what they had gotten for Christmas and usually had a meal or at least cake, cookies, or candy with them. Most everyone made lots of homemade goodies and boiled custard to serve.

No Christmas was ever complete unless there were dishes of old-fashioned hard candy with filled centers, dried raisins on stems, a bowl of mixed nuts with a nutcracker and pick, and oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines that were only available at Christmastime.

In later years, it was always fun to go in the attic and play where the Christmas ornaments were stored from year to year and look at the little holders that would clip onto the branches and hold the small candles. Then electric tree lights became popular and were much safer.

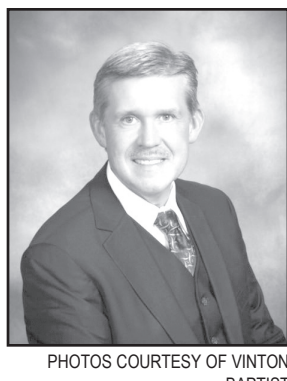
Today's families miss all of this togetherness because we can go to the store and purchase everything already cooked and even a tree can be unwrapped, set up already decorated, and ready to be plugged in. But, oh, what wonderful memories!

Vinton Baptist celebrates pastors

Vinton Baptist is celebrating its pastors, Travis Russell and Chris Monroe. Russell is the Senior Pastor at VBC. He was notified on November 27 that his doctoral thesis has been approved and he will officially graduate with his doctorate from Duke University in May 2024. His doctoral thesis will be officially published to the Duke University library within the next month.



Rev. Dr. Travis Russell



Rev. Dr. Chris Monroe

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON BAPTIST

have been a gift. I am beyond thankful to be a part of this amazing community of faith that continues to teach and guide me in ways that I could only hope to provide for you. Thank you for your friendship and for being a group of people through whom I am able to experience Christ's love and see glimpses of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven."

The Rev. Dr. Russell joined the staff of Vinton Baptist in June 2018. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from UNC Greensboro and his Master of Divinity from Campbell University Divinity School with distinction and languages, as well as a concentration in pastoral care. He met his wife, Whitney, at Campbell University. They have two sons.

The Rev. Dr. Chris Monroe, Associate Senior Pastor for Worship, is celebrating his 30th anniversary at Vinton

Baptist. He came to Vinton Baptist in the fall of 1993. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and The Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies. He assists the senior pastor with ministerial duties, plans and leads most worship events at VBC, and coordinates the music ministries. His wife, Mary Beth, has been an integral part of his ministry at Vinton Baptist.

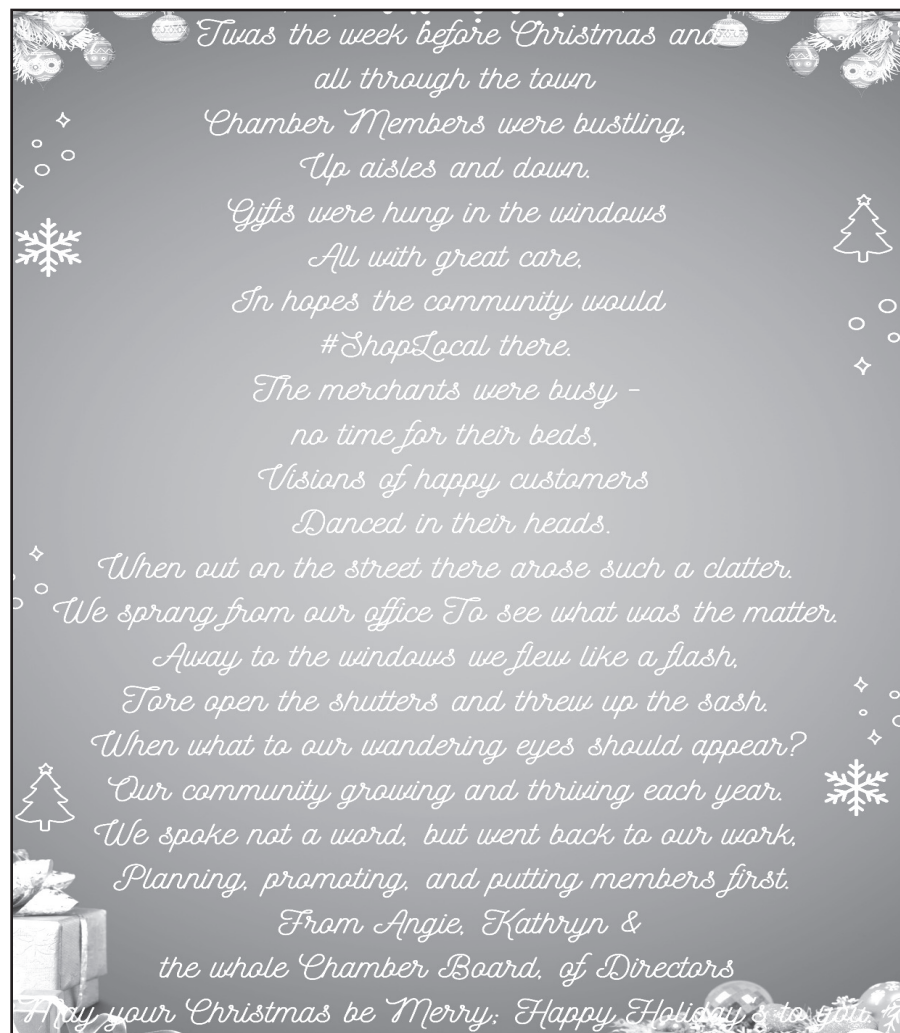
"I am so grateful for all of the incredible moments that I have shared with Vinton Baptist. The church has presented opportunities for me to fulfill my calling in more ways than I could have imagined. It has been a privilege to spend half of my life with you. May God continue to bless us as we journey forward—together."

- Vinton Messenger staff report

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

The Vinton Chamber of Commerce held their annual Holiday Open House last week. We so appreciate everyone coming to celebrate the season with us. From myself (Angie), Kathryn, and our Board of Directors – Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Roanoke County launches new library mobile app

Roanoke Valley Libraries (RVL), consisting of libraries in Botetourt County, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and County of Roanoke (including Vinton), has launched a new app, RVL Mobile, allowing patrons to take a Roanoke Valley Library with them on the go.

RVL Mobile features:

- Digital Library Card
- Catalog Searching
- Manage Library Account and Holds
- View and Register for Library Events
- Mobile Checkout

- Library Hours, Locations, and Services
- Meeting Room Bookings
- Online Learning Resources

With the app, patrons will have a one-stop-shop for library needs, including reading eBooks and eMaterials.

The app works on phones and tablets. Download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. For assistance, visit a Roanoke Valley Library.

Submitted by Roanoke Valley Libraries



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Recitals from page 1



Students of Angela Janney and Susan Lewis presented a Christmas performance at Halesford Baptist on Dec. 3.



Acclaimed piano and voice teacher Susan Lewis (center) has added two Associate Teachers to the Susan Lewis Music Studio staff this year—Angela Janney (on left) and Abby Shelton.



Cheyenne Grantham sings "Hard Candy Christmas."



Crosby Cannon sings "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas."

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Salem area. Janney teaches both piano and voice in the Vinton and Smith Mountain Lake (SML) areas.

Each December Lewis's students present a Christmas performance for family and friends, usually at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church. With so many students enrolled this year, Lewis decided to divide the group into two performances on two different dates—one at Thrasher on Dec. 17 and one at Halesford Baptist Church (near SML) on Dec. 3. Both performances were packed with cheering, applauding audiences.

The Susan Lewis Music recitals and Christmas performances celebrate students of all ages (from 4 through college students and adults) and levels of progress. Each student was able to select their

own Christmas song to perform, which resulted in a great variety of genres and surprisingly little repetition. Janney accompanied vocalists on the piano at the Halesford Baptist performance; Lewis accompanied the singers at Thrasher.

Performers at the first concert on Dec. 3 included pianists Isaiah Houf ("Silent Night"), Trey Satterwhite ("A Special Stocking"), Lily Pasley ("Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star"), Ryleigh Lawhard ("Must Be Santa"), Madelyn Floyd ("Angels We Have Heard on High"), Quinn Kane ("Away in a Manger"), Hank Regal ("Jolly Old St. Nicholas"), Cora Graham ("O Little Town of Bethlehem"), Grayson Holland ("Fallen Piano"), Norah Tatum ("Mary Had a Little Lamb"), Livia Regal ("O Christmas Tree"),

Daniel Binns-Loveman ("Deck the Halls"), Noah Walker ("Jingle Bells"), Haleigh Alls ("Jolly Old St. Nicholas"), Eli Booth ("Alpine Melody"), and Moriah Floyd ("Ukrainian Bell Carol").

Vocalists included Rosalind Regal ("Jingle Bells"), Elizabeth Crowder ("We Wish You a Merry Christmas"), Amaryllis Pagans ("Waymaker"), Dejagay Burnell ("Blessed Assurance"), Whitley Wade ("How Far I'll Go"), and Cheyenne Graham ("Hard Candy Christmas").

Hank Regal, Dejagay Burnell, and Cheyenne Grantham are Susan Lewis students. The others are taught by Janney.

The grand finale was a piano duet performed by Janney and Lewis—"Christmas Melody"—and a performance by Janney, singing

"Heaven Everywhere," accompanying herself on the piano.

Students at the Dec. 17 Christmas Performance included (on the piano): Miles Cole-Rueff ("Happy Holiday"), Vivian Cain ("Up On the Housetop"), Jonah Franklin ("I Love My Candy Cane"), Ethan Dailey ("Over the River and Through the Woods"), Maddox Sanctuary ("Good King Wenceslas"), Jackson Doss ("Away in a Manger"), Ashlyn Woodford ("Joy to the World"), Faith Dooley ("Jingle Bells"), Hazel Cole-Rueff ("Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"), Emory Mullins ("Go Tell It on the Mountain"), William Dodge ("The First Noel"), Addy McLennan ("While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"), Cecilia Tollin ("Waltz of the Flowers"), R.J. McLennan ("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"), Anna Carter ("Silver Bells"), Deon Staunton ("Cold December Night"), Kori Carter ("A Holly Jolly Christmas"), Jackson Morris ("O Christmas Tree"), Nolan Ferguson ("Silent Night"), Josue Smales ("Clair de Lune"), Lilla Clark ("Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"), Abigail Harvey ("What Child Is This?"), Lucy Sealey ("The Night Before Christmas Song"), Lily Sealey ("The Little Drummer Boy"), Kayleigh Taylor ("Sonata in C Major, HOB:XVI:1 Allegro"), Ellawyn Pagan ("Carol of the Bells"), Cary Jones ("The Christmas Waltz"), Henry Saben ("Bratja"), Chloe Hopkins ("God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"), Deborah Dreyer ("Joy to the World"), Allie Watson ("A Mad Russian's Christmas"), and Steve Miller ("I'm Glad I'm One of Them").

Vocalists at Christmas

Performance # 2 included: Elizabeth Flint ("Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"), Jacob Delgado ("We Wish You a Merry Christmas"), Malia Bowman ("O Come All Ye Faithful/Away in a Manger"), Keegan Thacker ("Angels We Have Heard on High"), Crosby Cannon ("I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"), Jayda Baldwin ("Snowman"), Emily Hall ("Do You Hear What I Hear?"), Joelle Card ("Once Upon a December"), Petra Dodge ("Noel"), Aubri Kessler ("Where Are You Christmas?"), Ryleigh Woolwine ("Santa Baby"), Dr. Mark Schueler ("Oh Lord You're Beautiful"), Scott Dreyer ("In the Bleak Midwinter"), Kelly Ronan ("Bones"), Lyla Pollard ("White Christmas"), and Paul Sealey ("Because It's Christmas/For all the Children").

Students who prepared for the Christmas concert but were unable to perform on Dec. 17 included pianist Maia Sanctuary ("Rudolph's Little Brother"), Julian Delgado ("Jingle Bell Rock"), Ryan Saunders ("Deck the Halls"), Enna Schofield ("All I Want for Christmas Is You"), Elizabeth Becker ("Where's the Line to See Jesus?"), Brent Saunders ("I See the Light"), and Sherry Holland ("O Holy Night").

Janney's students for Christmas Performance #2 included Maia and Maddox Sanctuary, Ashlyn Woodford, and Malia Bowman. Shelton's students included Elizabeth Flint, Jacob and Julian Delgado, and Crosby Cannon. The remaining students are taught by Susan Lewis.

Lewis and Janney again performed their piano duet, "Christmas Melody" at the second concert. Janney also performed "Heaven

Everywhere," while Shelton sang "Mary Did You Know?" to conclude Christmas Performance # 2.

Lewis thanked the students, the families who support their students, and her associate teachers for their efforts.

"Angela Janney has been a tremendous blessing to the Susan Lewis Music Studio," Lewis said. "It has been a privilege to mentor her."

Janney said that "the Lord laid it on my heart" to become a music instructor. People kept asking her to teach until she finally decided to give it a try and "fell in love with teaching. God blesses us with talents and expects us to share them with others."

Lewis has often applauded the extraordinary talents of Shelton, who has extensive experience in not just singing, but in musical theatre and films. Shelton has just established a new business, "Whimsical Wishes Character Experiences" for special events, such as birthday parties. Visit her website at <https://www.gabrielleeshelton.com/> for more information.

Lewis and her associate teachers thanked Halesford Baptist and Thrasher Memorial UMC for the use of their facilities, Halesford Pastor Keith Floyd for his assistance, and Bob Whitlow of Halesford for his work as sound technician. They expressed their thanks to Greg Chewning, the sound technician at Thrasher, and Tim Lewis for recording the performance.

For more information on the Susan Lewis Music Studio visit <https://www.facebook.com/susanlewismusicstudio>.

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Happy Holidays

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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.

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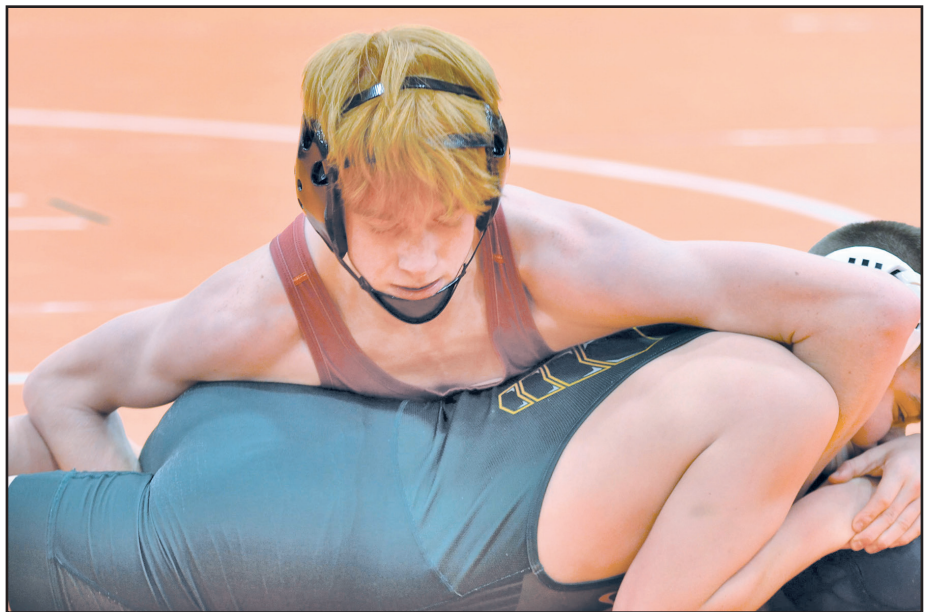
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The William Byrd wrestlers had a home match and came out on top against Northside last week. Above left, Kyle Kalinke has his opponent in a tight position on his way to a win at 113. Above right, Trevor Thompson is on top and in control for a victory at 120. Below, Aidan Lucas works his man over before scoring a win at 190 pounds

Big Orange Classic wrestling tournament at Byrd this week

The William Byrd wrestling team will be hosting the annual “Big Orange Classic” wrestling tournament at William Byrd High School this weekend. The Big Orange is the longest continuous annual wrestling tournament in the Roanoke Valley and draws most of the top teams in the area.



This year’s Big Orange is back in the high school gym after being held in the middle school last winter while renovations were being made to William Byrd High School. Wrestling begins at 9:30 am on Friday and 10 am on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Byrd swimmers down Vikings at Hollins University pool

The William Byrd boys and girls swept Northside in a swim meet at Hollins University last Thursday.

The Byrd girls dominated the meet, winning 415 to 63. The boys won 483 to 159 and the combined score was in favor of the Terriers, 898 to 222.

“It was a fun meet to end the (2023) season,” said Byrd coach Krista Martin. “Terrier swimmers raced Northside and each other.”

Byrd took a large majority of the first places in the meet, including the following individuals:

- Michael Hoyos in the 200 free;
- Lindsay Murtaugh in the 200 free and the 100 free;
- Brody Parrish in the 200 IM and the 500 free;
- Mia Pippin in the 200 IM;
- Bruno DeMelo in the 50 free;
- Josie Taylor in the 50 free;
- Evan Copening in the 100 fly and the 100 breaststroke;
- Gabby Romeo in the 100 fly and the 500 free;
- Blake Richardson in the 100 free;
- Chris Hurd in the 100 back;
- Isabella Posadas in the 100 back
- Addi Kincer in the 100 breast.

In addition the Terriers swept the relays. In the 200 Medley the boys’ team of Chris Hurd, Brody Parrish, Jay Rozenboom and Keith Schult and the girls four-some of Addison Collins, Addi Kincer, Mia Pippin and Maddy Davis both won.

In the 200 Freestyle it was the boys’ team of Bruno DeMelo, Michael Hoyos, Blake Richardson and Evan Copening and the girls’ team of Mia Pippin, Isabella Posadas, Gabby Romeo and Lindsay Murtaugh.

Finally, in the 400 Free winners were the boys’ group of DeMelo, Hoyos, Richardson and Copening and the girls team of Taylor, Posadas, Romeo and Lindsay Murtaugh.

The Terriers are now off until Thursday, January 4, when they take on James River at the Botetourt YMCA.



PHOTO BY EDMEE HASLER

Blake Richardson catches his breath after competing in the 100 Freestyle race.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers at RC

The William Byrd indoor track team competed in the East Coast Elite meet at Roanoke College last Saturday. Above, Olivia Bustamante clears the bar in the high jump and, right, Reagan Lilley runs the 1,600.

SUNY Cortland wins 50th Stagg Bowl in 2nd half shootout

The 50th Stagg Bowl returned to Salem last Friday and may have been the best one ever. The game went down to the final minute when the State University of New York(SUNY) Cortland defense stuffed a two-point conversion try to beat defending national champion North Central College of Illinois, 38-37.

The loss was the first of the season for North Central and it was a game of two distinctly different halves. The game was scoreless until North Central scored a touchdown with just 57 seconds in the half, then Cortland hit a field goal just before intermission. In the second half teams combined for 65 points in a back-and-forth shootout that saw the game tied at 17-17, 24-24 and 31-31 before the Cardinals decided to go for two on their final touchdown. The Red Dragons then made the big stop for what proved to be the game winning play.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

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WM BYRD HS PHOTOS

Left to right, John Kiker and Doniven Davis were named first team Class 3 All-State on defense, B.J. Cheatwood was first team on the offensive line and Israel Hairston was named second team all-state at quarterback. All four also received Player of the Year honors on the All-Region 3D and All-Blue Ridge District teams.

Four Terriers named to Class 3 All-State football team

Byrd dominates All-Region 3D, All-Blue Ridge District teams

They say “to the victor go the spoils” and when you go 12-2 you deserve some spoils.

The William Byrd football team had their best representative in many years when the Virginia High School League All-Class 3 state football team was released last week. Byrd had three players named to

the All-State first team and one second team selection.

First team Terriers included junior B.J. Cheatwood on the offensive line and on defense senior linebacker John Kiker and senior lineman Doniven Davis were chosen. Quarterback Israel Hairston, a senior, was named to the second team on offense.

Liberty Christian Academy junior running back Gideon Davidson is the Class 3 Offensive Player of the Year, and Lafayette senior defensive end Peter Cook is the Class 3 Defensive Player of the Year. LCA head coach Frank Rocco is the Class 3 Coach of the Year. Liberty Christian defeated Byrd in the state semifinals, then went on to win the state championship at Liberty University with a 28-14 win over Lafayette on December 9th.

In Region 3D Byrd swept the top prizes as Hairston was named Offensive Player of the Year and Kiker and Davis were named Co-Defensive Players of the Year. Byrd coach Brad Lutz was named the Region 3D Coach of the Year.

First team all-region selections from Byrd included Hairston at quarterback and Cheatwood on the line on offense. First teamers on defense are Davis and Kiker along with Hairston at defensive back.

Second team all-region from Byrd include four on offense, senior Brayden Andrews at runningback, senior Dominic Dulak at receiver, senior kicker Bricen Lancaster and senior kick returner Walter

Barrows. Defensive second team Terriers are junior Maurice Burnette on the line, junior linebacker Jahdai English and junior defensive back Jerrett Shepherd.

Honorable Mention All-Region 3D went to junior Cyrus Adams on the offensive line, Lancaster at punter and junior Jonathan Rosser as “all-purpose.”

On the All-Blue Ridge District team Hairston was the Most Valuable Offensive Back and Offensive Player of the Year while Cheatwood was named the Most Valuable Offensive Lineman. On defense Kiker was Most Valuable Defensive Back and Defensive Player of the Year with Davis taking Most Valuable Defensive Lineman. Lutz was named BRD Coach of the Year.

First team All-Blue Ridge offense went to Cheatwood and Adams on the line, Hairston at quarterback and Lancaster at kicker. Defensive first teamers are Davis on the line, Kiker at linebacker, Hairston and Shepherd in the secondary, Lancaster at punter and Rosser as “all-purpose.”

Named to the All-Blue Ridge District second team offense were senior Julian Pantoja at center, junior Nick Butamante on the line, receivers Dulak and senior Cooper Minnix and Barrows was second team at both kick return and “all-purpose.”

Defensive second team All-BRD Terriers include Burnette on the line, linebackers English, Rosser and senior Lane Shoemaker and Dulak at punt returner.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Brad Lutz is the Region 3D and Blue Ridge District Coach of the Year.



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

William Byrd basketball teams off to good start

Christmas is coming but the William Byrd basketball teams will be playing some games this week before opening their presents. Both teams should

have a nice visit from Santa as they’ve been good. The boys are undefeated after four games. Last Thursday they won home games on back-to-back

nights, defeating Christiansburg on Thursday, 62-58, and Glenvar on Friday by a similar score, 64-58. In other words, if the Terriers hold ‘em under 60 they have a good chance of winning.

The Terriers were scheduled to play at home against Bassett on Tuesday of this week, but results were too late for publication due to early Christmas deadlines. They’re at Christiansburg tonight, Thursday, then take a week off before playing in the Northside Invitational Tournament next week. The Terriers will open with Liberty Christian Academy at 4:15 pm on Wednesday, December 27.

The girls come into the week at 4-3 after picking up two wins last week. The Terriers won at Hidden Valley, 49-30, then played at Glenvar on Friday and trounced the Highlanders, 42-5.

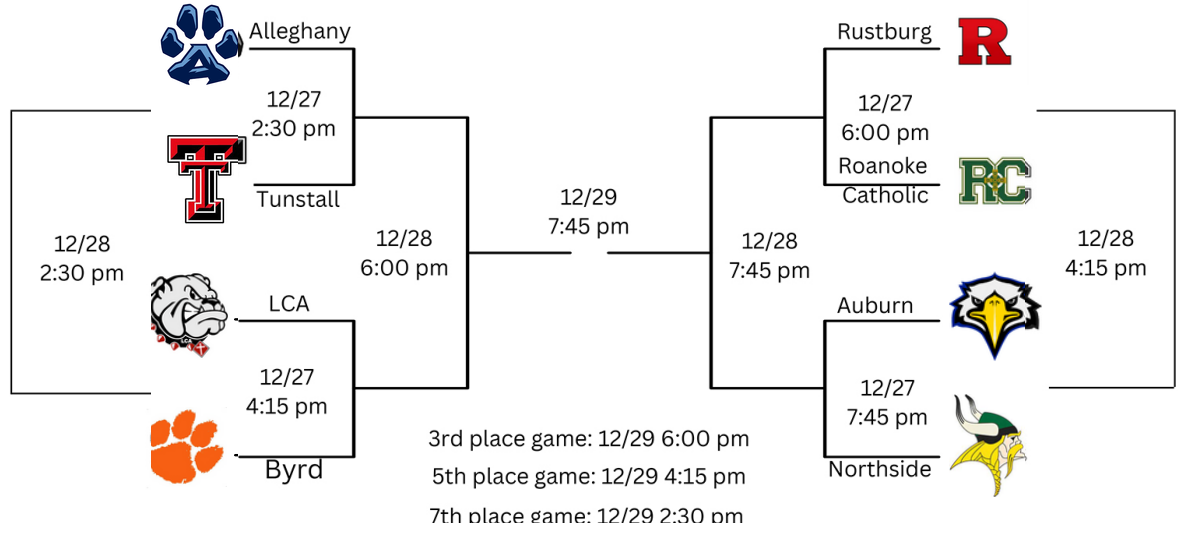
Byrd was scheduled to play a home game with E.C. Glass on Wednesday of this week, followed by a home game with Christiansburg tonight. Then they’re off until after Christmas, returning January 3rd with a home game against William Fleming.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Samantha Martin lines up a shot for the Byrd girls.

2023 Northside Invitational Tournament



2023 Northside Invitational JV Tournament

