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The Year in Review, Vinton 2023, Part 2



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

The biggest story in Vinton in 2023 was the William Byrd Terriers winning the Region 3D Championship.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Last week's edition of *The Vinton Messenger* looked back at the first six months of 2023 in the Town of Vinton—what was most memorable and most noteworthy from January through June. This week we continue the review of the year from July through December.

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

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

"Economic development continues at an unprecedented pace. We are very excited about the Gish Mill project as well as several other initiatives that will help us continue to develop as a thriving community.

"Another recent and very important achievement was the EPA grant of \$500,000. Just as with previous grants, the funds will allow the town to perform many preliminary requirements that lead to more economic development. Developers can then invest in our community at a more affordable cost.

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

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

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

Town Manager Pete Peters has his own list of the most significant events in the Town of Vinton in 2023:

1. The official transfer of the ownership of the Gish Mill Property solidifying the financing— quite the milestone and setting the final construction phase to get underway in the spring of 2024.
2. Transportation enhancements: Town Council took a significant step forward in their goals to ease traffic congestion by replacing 10 of the 11 signalized intersections within the town with new signal heads, internal control systems, traffic cameras, opticoms (for emergency service vehicles) and GPS-enabled signal synchronization to improve signal alignment. These updates have modernized our transportation infrastructure and allow us to make real-time adjustments for peak traffic flows and special events and move an ever-increasing number of daily commuters and visitors to and through our town, while limiting negative impacts on our residents and businesses.
3. Walkability improvements: East Cleveland Avenue and both ends of Walnut Avenue received significant enhancements this year to improve vehicle safety and improve the aesthetics of these two important corridors, and each have also increased the ability to walk downtown from the Jefferson, Cleveland and Midway neighborhoods. Construction is underway on the last remaining gap of the Glade Creek Greenway that will bridge the initial two phases together. The two

See Year in Review, Part 2, page 3



Israel Hairston and Makayla Price were named Homecoming King and Queen at WBHS for 2023.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Baptist Church partnered with KABOOM!, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to build a playground across from the church. KABOOM! provided the grant funding. The Rev. Travis Russell gets ready to cut the ribbon.

What's coming up in Vinton in 2024?

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

According to a report from the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Vinton Community Programs Department at a recent Town Council meeting, Vinton was the most happening place in the valley in 2023.

The Vinton War Memorial hosted 378 programs and events with an attendance of 20,000 over the course of the year. The Charles R. Hill Community Center was the site of 412 events including paid rentals and Senior Programs (with five events over two days on a recent weekend). The Vinton Farmers' Market hosted 39

events from car shows, to Mingles, to Police Department events, children's craft events, programs in conjunction with the Vinton Library, and pop-up vendors.

Vinton and the Chamber jointly hosted over 20 ribbon-cuttings, the Senior Expo, Fall Festival, Downtown Trick-or-Treating, nine Mingle at the Market concerts (with an average attendance of 700-1,000 per concert), two golf tournaments, the Fourth of July celebration at the War Memorial, the Four on the 4th race beforehand benefitting the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, the Vinton Christmas Parade, the Santa Crawl, the Parade of

See Coming up, page 6



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON 2024 CALENDAR

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From the Pulpit

By Kim Yonce, Communications Coordinator at Vinton Baptist Church, with an excerpt from Kate Bowler

Christmastide

We hope that you had a blessed Christmas. Here's the good news: it's not over yet!

I always struggle with Advent culminating in a single day, which sometimes seems anticlimactic.

By December 26, radio stations are no longer playing Christmas music; all the presents have been opened; and everyone is done celebrating. Why can't Christmas last longer than one 24-hour day? After all, we're celebrating the birth of a Savior who changed our lives and the entire world!

This morning I had an email in my inbox from Kate Bowler, author and associate professor at Duke Divinity School. She provides a broader context for Christmas that I think is needed in our culture, especially among people of faith. Here are her words: "It has been a strange season. Advent is over, and

Christmas is here. But for many, it may not feel like Christmas at all. We are still waiting for miracles. We still long for life to feel normal again.

"Christmastide (December 25 - January 5) is about the gradual departure of darkness and the gentle dawning of light at Epiphany. We don't have to cram all of Christmas into one day. At Christmastide, we shed the pressure of 'the holidays' and how we always do things, and take on a new, relaxed rhythm of celebration. Kinder. Quirkier. Gentler."

I didn't want to leave you in the Advent season without walking us through Christmas as well.

We are not done celebrating. In fact, according to the dates of Christmastide (a/k/a the Twelve Days of Christmas), we've just begun. May we continue to honor the birth of Christ and all that it means for us, for our world, and for all of creation and eternity. God bless you as you bask in God's love manifested in human form and spread the good news to those around you.

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men.

It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day). The four weeks preceding Christmas are collectively known as "Advent" which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

I have been blessed by this whole concept this past week— the idea that Christmas continues through at least January 5 – and have gotten a lot of great feedback from our congregation at Vinton Baptist. I think it's a tradition that has largely been lost in our culture, at least in Baptist circles, and it brings some needed perspective to our understanding of celebrating our faith – especially the celebration of the incarnation of Christ and the joy that goes along with that.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



The Chewning/Boitnott Christmas Eve celebration.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

By Angie Chewning

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year's. We sure did! As usual we had a houseful on Christmas Eve. Joining Greg and me at our house were family--Mom (Bootie), brother Greg, Drake and Hannah Lewis, Abbie Lewis, Elena Boitnott, Steve and Tara Jones, Emilee Jones and Holden O'Boyle, Vickie and Kent Smith, Mike Boitnott and doggie Jack, Valerie, Kyle, Chase and Cade Hendricks and Lindsey

and Amber Wells from Richmond, and Suzanne Bell, (Jimmy opted out of the chaos). Also joining us were some great friends--Kim Barker, Aaron Blankenship, Chasity Barbour, Bo Herndon, Michelle, Brian and Devin Barklow, Helen Curtis, Jeff Greer, Angela Race and Brian Simpson-- if I missed anyone-- SORRY! Thank you all for coming and celebrating with us.

We are looking forward to a great 2024 in Vinton!



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOA

It's time for the annual Soup for Seniors food drive. Donations and volunteers to assist with the campaign are needed.

Time for annual Soup for Seniors food drive

It's time for the annual LOA Soup for Seniors food drive across the region. The community is encouraged to donate canned goods to "help provide a hot meal on a cold day for seniors."

Thousands of seniors in the area live at or below the poverty line. This year's goal is to collect 45,000 pounds of soup and other non-perishable items to provide bags of food for 2,750 older adults in need in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas.

At the top of the list of who to serve with Soup for Seniors donations are LOA's 570 homebound Meals on Wheels recipients. Other recipients include: LOA's Diner's Club participants; older adults receiving LOA's transportation, case management, and in-home care services; more than 1,500 residents of low-income, independent senior housing; and seniors who receive assistance from area Departments of Social Services and other agencies.

The Soup for Seniors campaign started in 2006 with the modest goals of serving seniors who were part of LOA's Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. The community fully embraced the project, and so much soup and crackers were donated, LOA was able to serve all of their clients, other needy seniors in our community, and more in neighboring communities.

In 2011, LOA took on the project as an agency-wide service and joined forces with AARP Virginia. Collection and distribution were moved to early February to serve the senior population in the most vulnerable part of winter.

In 2024, the community is asked to donate food, volunteer with the collection, hold a canned food collection at churches, schools, or businesses during January, or make a monetary gift to help buy shelf-stable items and support seniors' nutritional needs.

The items most needed are soup, peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, crackers, oatmeal, and Boost or Ensure. Low-salt, nutritious items are preferred. No glass containers. Please check expiration dates.

Donations will be collected at one of the LOA drop-off sites between January 29 and February 4 or may be taken to the main collection site at the Church of

St. Peter and St. Paul, 4904 North Lake Drive in Roanoke, on February 5 and 6.

Drop-off sites between January 29 and February 4 include:

Alleghany Highlands: Call 540-962-0465 for information

APRIA Healthcare: 5151 Starkey Rd, Suite B, Roanoke

First Bank (all locations):

- Blue Ridge: 98 Blue Ridge Boulevard

- Cloverdale: 614 Lee Highway

- Daleville: 1245 Roanoke Road

- Fincastle: 17 South Roanoke Street

- Troutville: 5192 Lee Highway

Salem Library: 28 E Main Street, Salem

South County Library: 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke

Vinton Library: 300 S. Pollard Street, Vinton

Vistar Eye Center (only these locations):

- 3320 Franklin Road, Roanoke

- 707 Jefferson Street, Downtown Roanoke

- 70 Summerfield Court, Roanoke

- 426 W Main Street, Salem

A special collection is held at Black Dog Salvage (902 13th Street, SW) February 3-4. Donate at least \$10 worth of food at Black Dog on those dates and get 10% off an eligible purchase.

Volunteers are needed to help unload cars, check expiration dates on cans, sort cans, assemble an array of food into reusable cloth bags donated by AARP, and deliver the bags to older neighbors in need.

You can also help by teaming up with your church, business, school, or other group for your own canned food drive during January. Then deliver your collected food to one of the drop-off sites between January 29-February 4, or to the main collection site-- the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul-- February 5-6.

If you have any questions, contact Aimee Lawson at LOA: (540) 345-0451 or alawson@loaa.org. You may sign up to volunteer or donate by visiting <https://loaa.org/soup-for-seniors/>.

-LOA and Vinton Messenger staff report

RND's Quincy Randolph returning to Food Network

Quincy Randolph, co-owner of RND (Roasters Next Door) coffee in Roanoke and Vinton, is "kicking off 2024 with a bang!"

Randolph is making his debut on "Chopped" on January 9 at 8 p.m. He competed on the Food Network previously on "Beat Bobby Flay" in August 2022.

"No matter how many times I get 'the call' from the Food Network, it never gets old," said Randolph on social media. "Thank you to everyone who continues to support me, and any of my projects. I promise your support is never taken for granted. This is just the beginning. My team and I have a ton of exciting things planned for 2024 and beyond."

Chopped is an American television cooking game show



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Quincy Randolph of RND Coffee will be competing on "Chopped" on Jan. 9.

hosted by Ted Allen. Episodes air on Tuesday nights and pit four chefs against one another as they compete for a chance to win \$10,000.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

What's happening at the Mt. Pleasant Library in January?

It may be winter, but that's not slowing down the activities at the Mt. Pleasant Library.

Join the staff at the Mt. Pleasant Library for "Crafternoon" on Friday, Jan. 5 from 4 to 5 p.m. to build a bird feeder for your yard. Learn about local birds, the library's birding backpacks, and February's Great American Bird Count. This activity is for children and families.

"Jammie Time Storytime" is scheduled on Thursdays in January from 6 to 6:30 p.m.-- Jan. 11, 18, and 25.

Raise your children to be lifelong readers by bringing them to story time at the library. Join the library staff before bedtime to practice early literacy skills and enjoy activities and stories. Little ones, be sure to wear your PJs!

"Book Chat Read & Recommend" for adults is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. to noon at Mt. Pleasant Library. Join us each month for a new, informal type of book group. We'll discuss books we've read recently and books we want to read. Refreshments

are provided.

"Teen Book Chat" meets on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Chat about what you're reading, pick up your Teen Takeout Book Club Kit, and hang out with other teens. Not signed up for the Teen Takeout Book Club Kit yet? Visit <https://roanokecountyva.libcal.com/event/9313355> for more information.

"Jr. Makers" will meet on January 20 from 11 a.m. to noon. Enjoy fun winter-themed activities in this monthly club for ages 5-10. Each month a new

STEM concept is explored, and the participants get the opportunity to perform their own experiments to create STEM-related projects.

Try your hand at "Teen Art" on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This month it's watercolor resist art with abstract geometric paintings. Bring a friend!

Mt. Pleasant Library will be celebrating "Puzzle

Week" beginning on Monday, Jan. 29 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Challenge yourself with a jigsaw, word, or brain puzzle at the library. Tuesday, Jan. 30 hours for Puzzle Week are 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31 puzzle hours are 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Register online for programs at www.rocolibrary.org.

Mt. Pleasant Library is

located at 2918 Jae Valley Road, just across from the fire station. The usual hours are Monday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday: 2-8 p.m.; Wednesday: 2-6 p.m.; Thursday: 2-8 p.m.; Friday: 1-5 p.m.; and Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Year in Review, Part 2 from page 1

pedestrian crosswalks on Hardy Road and Gus Nicks Boulevard have also been designed and have set the stage for additional walkability improvements for 2024.

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

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

Here's a sampling of what went on in Vinton from July to December 2023 as recorded in The Vinton Messenger:

July 2023: The Town of Vinton delivered another spectacular fireworks celebration on the Fourth of July at the Vinton War Memorial. The fireworks were fabulous and so was the foam cannon—or "Foam on the Fourth," which turned out to be a huge treat for children and adults. The crowd was estimated to be the largest ever.

That July 4th morning the town hosted the two-part "Four on the 4th Race" (the regular 4-mile race and a Kids Fun Run) that benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia.

In July, Thrasher Memorial UMC welcomed new Associate Pastor Ilgha Ilunga, who is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the heat of summer, the Blue Ridge Figure Skating Club presented "Theatre on Ice: Night at the Movies" at the Lancerlot.

The HIVE Business Incubation Center on Pollard Street closed, and the Town Annex of staff offices opened in its place after renovations.

The entertainment options expanded in downtown Vinton with the opening of the Twin Creeks Music Pavilion on July 21.

Recreation possibilities in Vinton expanded when the town received a grant for \$218, 295 to help build a multi-generational park at the former Vinton Municipal Pool over the course of several years.

The Cleveland Market Redevelopment Project revved up with the demolition of the residence next door to the former market by Vinton Public Works.

Vinton Town Council members took a field trip to the Mount Pleasant area to see for themselves an example of the Full-Depth Reclamation process for rebuilding a road, which will be used to rebuild Mountain View Road in Vinton—a project long-awaited by local residents.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions partnered with the William Byrd football team on a community service project to clean up the Glade Town trail in Vinton.

Demolition of the buildings damaged by fire in downtown Vinton resumed after a pause. Faith's Hair Studio and Anita's Alterations were designated as the next to be torn down. The goal was to save the former Red Jasmine restaurant building next door on Pollard.

William Byrd High School football practice began on July 27. Vinton native Tim Lewis climbed McAfee's Knob for the 500th time on a very hot July night.

Annabelle Teague, a sophomore at William Byrd, attended the National Scout Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

August 2023: The Vinton Police Dept. hosted the annual National Night Out celebration on August 1—a chance for the police and town and county officials to meet informally with citizens in a fun atmosphere. There were free hot dogs, free ice cream, a rock-climbing wall, a DJ, and games for the kids.

Football practice for the upcoming season continued at William Byrd with a unique "Midnight Madness" practice on a Friday night. As the Terriers prepared to open their season, head coach Brad Lutz said, "Our football team has improved in every aspect of the program. Our players have worked really hard to build themselves into a bigger, faster, and stronger team. The standard of our program has always demanded hard work, but our players have pushed themselves to do more than what was expected. As a result, this is the biggest, strongest team we've had." That turned out to be an understatement.

Olaedo Anyanwu was named as William Byrd High School's Top Terrier for the 2023-24 school year—the highest honor an individual student can receive at the school.

Mattie Forbes, Vinton's dedicated historian and Vinton History Museum volunteer, who co-authored the history of Vinton "Vinton History 1884 to 1984," passed away on August 2.

Vinton attorney Bruce Mayer also passed away in August 2023. He served the community not only as a lawyer, but as an officer in many organizations

including the Vinton Luncheon Lions Club, the Dogwood Festival Committee, and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. He served in the United States Army. A farmer, he was appointed by the governor to serve on the Virginia Milk Commission.

The Lancerlot hosted one of the most loved events in the valley on August 19—"Dog Days of Summer" which invites dogs and their owners to enjoy, free of charge, the ice rink and outdoor pool at the facility.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club held the annual installation of officers dinner on Aug. 24 with plans to continue excelling in service to the community in a host of projects.

September 2023: The Vinton Police Dept. unveiled its newly wrapped Military Appreciation Patrol Vehicle designed by Officer Jesse Dibble along with other members of the department.

WBHS Coach Brad Lutz was named Coach of the Week by the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation for "his positive leadership."

Thrasher Memorial UMC held the annual Prayer Circle around the outside of the church on Sept. 10, praying for the church, the community, and the world.

Alex Coffey earned Scouting's highest honor by reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project was installing new tree identification plaques along the Roanoke Valley Greenway, a project initially begun by Scout Matt Jones back in 2001.

The second annual Southwest Virginia Pride Fest was held at the Vinton War Memorial on Sept. 21.

Town of Vinton staff participated in the annual Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board Career Quest for middle school students at the Berglund Center in Roanoke. The Public Works, police, economic development, Planning and Zoning, Community Programs, Finance, Human Resource/Risk Management, and Administrative departments were represented.

The William Byrd Terriers honored both youth recreation teams and the military at football games in September. Another annual event, the Battle at Byrd cheerleading competition, took place on Sept. 30. The William Byrd Middle School cheer team won first place in the restricted middle school division.

October 2023: Israel Hairston and Makayla Price were crowned as Homecoming King and Queen at a half-time ceremony on Oct. 13. Members of the Homecoming Court are nominated by their classmates and then voted on by the entire student body and staff.

Vinton Town Council appropriated funds of \$1.8 million for Capital Improvement Projects involving rebuilding Mountain View Road, the Walnut Avenue parking lot (81 new spaces), Gish Mill, and community blight abatement.

The 2023 Vinton Fall Festival drew a record crowd downtown on Oct. 7 with over 100 vendors, the traditional Vinton Breakfast Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, entertainment by local children and others at the Vinton Farmers' Market, and the Doggie Costume Contest.

The town took steps to improve the walkability of the downtown area by extending the 25-mph speed limit on Washington Avenue/Gus Nicks Boulevard from Garthright Bridge to the town limits to make the corridor safer for motorists, pedestrians, residents, businesses, and visitors, effective Oct. 2.

William Byrd High School inducted 81 students into the Beta Club honor society at a ceremony on Oct. 2. To qualify, a student must maintain a GPA of 3.75 from freshman through junior years.

William Byrd graduate Grecia Hernandez (Class of 2020) addressed the United Nations Human Rights Committee on human rights at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. She is a senior at Princeton University.

Mill Mountain Theatre brought its production of "Stellaluna" to the Vinton Library to the delight of a full house of children and adults on Oct. 13.

Vinton Town Council welcomed two new police officers— Sean Patrick McKittrick and Douglas Gene Aune, Jr.— at the council meeting on Oct. 17.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions continued their vision screenings at local public schools and private preschools. Rosie's Gaming Emporium presented the organization a check for \$5,000 to support the Lions' community service projects.

The Bonsack Lowe's contributed to the Vinton community, as well, through improvements at M.A. Banks Park, including pressure washing and replacing wood on the benches and tables at the picnic shelter, making improvements to the horseshoe pits, and replacing fencing—with landscaping yet to come in the spring of 2024.

Aphrodite Salon opened in downtown Vinton in Vinyard Station.

The Town of Vinton sponsored a highly successful paper-shredding event at the Municipal Building.

Five Terriers were named to the All-Blue Ridge District cross country team: Clair Glover, Heidi Wienke, Lucy



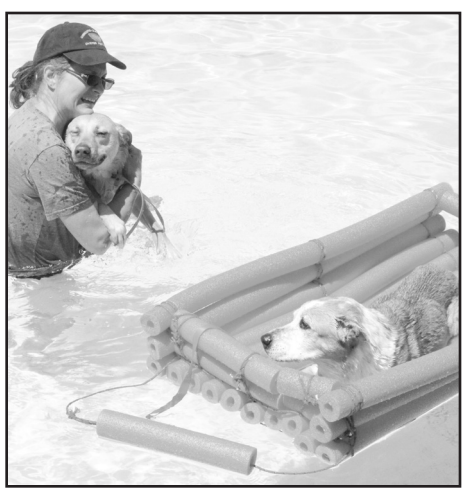
Economic development projects continued in Vinton with demolition of a blighted residence as part of the Cleveland Mart Redevelopment Project.



The Vinton Police Department sponsored its annual National Night Out, including a rock-climbing wall new in 2023.



Olaedo Anyanwu was named Top Terrier at William Byrd on the first day of school in 2023—the highest honor an individual student can receive.



The Lancerlot continued its annual Dog Days of Summer celebration, inviting dogs and their owners to enjoy the outdoor pool and the ice rink.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON PD

The Vinton Police Dept. unveiled its newly wrapped Military Appreciation Patrol Vehicle this year, which has now become a familiar sight in the community.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Scouts from around the region held a flag retirement ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial on Nov. 10.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Basics
- 4. Swiss river
- 7. Constrictor snake
- 8. Building occupied by monks
- 10. Discount
- 12. Deal a blow to
- 13. Relating to the ear
- 14. Thyrotropin
- 16. Loud, unpleasant noise
- 17. Large intestines
- 19. Move with a curving trajectory
- 20. Witnesses
- 21. You need both to live
- 25. Dash
- 26. Network
- 27. Dig
- 29. C. European river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Engulf
- 2. Waterside hotel
- 3. Printed cotton fabric
- 4. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 5. One who follows the rules
- 6. Lace up once more
- 8. Fire byproduct
- 9. Hankerings
- 11. Outer
- 14. One-time aerospace firm
- 15. Seafood
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
- 20. Samoan monetary unit
- 22. Type of gland
- 23. Arrest
- 24. Check
- 27. Past participle of be

CLUES DOWN

- 28. Alias
- 29. A major division of geological time
- 31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
- 32. Joked
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Roman numeral 50
- 35. Impressive in size or scope
- 36. Domineering leader
- 37. A person who delivers a speech
- 38. One after 89
- 39. Young hawk
- 40. The scene of any event or action
- 44. A team's best pitcher
- 47. Integrated data processing

Time to register for the 2024 Gauntlet Business Program and Competition

It's time to sign up for the 2024 Gauntlet Business Program and Competition—a dynamic 10-week business development program that helps entrepreneurs at any stage start or expand their business. As Virginia's largest event of its kind, the Gauntlet teaches aspiring or existing entrepreneurs every aspect of owning a business, and provides networking with passionate entrepreneurs—in addition to winning a variety of cash and in-kind prizes.

This year the Gauntlet, founded by The Advancement Foundation (TAF) and Patterson and CEO Annette Patterson, is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The first class—a virtual one for orientation—takes place on Jan. 30, followed by an in-person kick-off event at the Vinton War Memorial on Feb. 5. Classes then continue weekly on Tuesdays through April 2 on a virtual platform. Entrepreneurs who wish to compete for awards submit and “pitch” their business plan.

The winners are announced at the Graduation and Awards Ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial on May 23.

The Gauntlet program works with local community leaders in over 50 communities across Virginia to identify and foster business development and entrepreneurial ecosystem building goals in alignment with local, regional, and state priorities.

The Gauntlet is open to everyone—whether they are just in the idea stage or ready to expand an existing business.

The program includes a network of over 300 business professionals and industry experts who provide specific and critical support to the participating entrepreneurs—one of the most valued aspects of the program.

Gauntlet organizers say that over \$3 million in cash and in-kind awards have been distributed over their 10 years to entrepreneurs who are investing in properties which may have long been vacant, creating local jobs, and

contributing to growing tax bases in their communities.

Some of the primary objectives of the Gauntlet program include:

- Uncovering and developing entrepreneurial talent in small and rural communities all across Virginia
- Providing a meaningful and substantial learning experience for entrepreneurs who are interested in starting or growing a business
- Connecting program participants with other business talent (over 1,000 Gauntlet Alumni and over 300 industry experts)
- Identifying local and regional business professionals and industry experts who support entrepreneurs and their activities
- Identifying local stakeholders and service providers who have an interest in donating cash and/or in-kind services to be awarded directly to their local entrepreneurs who participate in the program
- Identifying and attracting

venture and other types of capital investment (e.g. grant opportunities, loan funds, etc.);

The primary benefits of the Gauntlet program to participants include:

- Access to Intellectual Capital: the program provides the opportunity for exposure and development of the skills necessary to create or grow a successful business venture;
- Access to Financial Capital: the program provides an opportunity for cash and in-kind awards to for new or expanding business ventures and access to other local, regional, state, federal funding opportunities that have been identified;
- Access to Social Capital: the program provides connections to over 1,000 Gauntlet Alumni (entrepreneurs), industry experts, mentors, and community leaders who foster opportunities to share business experiences, create collaborations, and encourage innovative thinking.

There are also benefits of the

Gauntlet for the communities involved:

- Fostering innovation and promoting economic development (job growth, property purchase/lease, local money circulation, additional tax revenues, increase in the tax base, stronger property values, etc.)
- Enhancing the community vibrancy and quality of life in communities through the establishment and promotion of new/expanding technology, agriculture, main street retail, service, entertainment, and food/beverage, outdoor recreation and tourism, gig and many other types of business that help attract and retain new visitors, residents, and workforce members.

For more information or to register, visit <https://theadvancementfoundation.org/the-gauntlet>.

Submitted by The Gauntlet Program of The Advancement Foundation

The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020

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ourvalley.org

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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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DAR inducts new member at December meeting

The Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution held the annual Christmas luncheon at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church on Dec. 9.

The meeting included a program on the Boston Tea Party and the induction of a new member, Rietta Plante.

The DAR continues to collect white crew socks and larger size white T-shirts for the VA, as well as Christmas cards for the residents.

They are also continuing last year's project of collecting gently used coats of all sizes for the Rescue Mission.

Each month they collect aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House, manufacturer's coupons for active troops and their families in Japan, gently used jewelry for DAR schools, and plastic film for recycling.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GORDON MENZIES

The Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution held the annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 9 at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Their program that day included the induction of new member, Rietta Plante (on right). She is shown with Regent Cindy Higgins (on left) and Registrar Janice Taylor.

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

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

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

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW Roanoke, 24019; office: 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Ladies class - Thursdays 10:00 a.m. Visit our new web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net, 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

VINTON

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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

Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, 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; cmpc2verizon.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.

Town of Vinton Christmas Tree Collection

January 2 - January 12



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Town of Vinton collecting discarded Christmas trees

The Town of Vinton Public Works Department will be collecting discarded Christmas trees each day through January 12.

Residents can place their trees out for collection outside of their regular refuse or recycling schedule.

If you do not discard your tree during this time, beginning January 16, residents

can place their discarded Christmas trees out for their regular refuse collection day for regular bulk/brush pick up.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at (540) 983-0646.

-Submitted by Vinton Public Works Dept.

Give Blood, Save Lives: Town of Vinton hosting Blood Drive on Jan. 9

The Town of Vinton/Vinton War Memorial will host a Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., sponsored by the American Red Cross. The event will be held in the War Memorial Ballroom. All blood types are needed.

Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> to set up a time to donate blood or call the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.

-Submitted by Town of Vinton

All Blood Types Needed

Blood Drive
Town Of Vinton Community Drive
Vinton War Memorial

Ballroom
814 E Washington St
Vinton, VA 24179

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton Farmers' Market hosts Christmas Market

Vinton Community Programs Coordinator Caroline Loveland worked with Daphne Sargent from The Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia at Vinton Baptist and Allyson Frick from the Roanoke County Library to host a Christmas Market at the Vinton Farmers' Market on Dec. 9.

There were craft activities for children and marshmallow roasting, in addition to decorating ornaments and making Christmas cards and S'mores—and free hot chocolate.

Several local vendors set up to sell their products, including Kathy from Shelter Made Soaps, Cheryl Brewer, Alissa with Tellus Threads, and Judy Cunningham with the Vinton History Museum.

-Vinton Messenger staff report



Children created Christmas cards at the Vinton Christmas Market.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAROLINE LOVELAND
Roasting marshmallows at the Christmas Market

VINTON HISTORY: Maytag Washer



PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

This 1920s Maytag washer is on display at the Vinton History Museum.

One of the most eye-catching displays in the Vinton Museum is the Maytag electric wringer washer. This model is from the 1920s and remains in great condition. This particular model was very revolutionary for its time and vaulted the Maytag Company to where it is today.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Maytag primarily created farm equipment. During the harvest off-season, Maytag tried its hand

with washers. Howard Snyder eventually came up with the design seen in the museum, and this design became one of the most significant designs in laundry appliance history.

This machine, instead of dragging clothes through the water with a lid dolly like before, forced water through a veined agitator on the bottom of the tub.

You can see the Maytag washing machine for yourself on Mondays, Wednesdays,

and Fridays and every first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 210 E Jackson Street in Downtown Vinton at the Vinton History Museum, always "Preserving the Past for the Future."

The Vinton History Museum will re-open after the holidays on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

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Happy New Year!
Thank you for reading!

VintonMessenger.com

2023 in review from page 3

Whitenack, Donald Mullins, and Reagan Lilley.

The Town of Vinton and the Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Downtown Trick-or-Treating event on Oct. 26. It was estimated that a crowd of about 3,000 attended this year, the highest turnout ever. Local businesses, churches, and organizations distributed candy to the children and families who participated.

The community gathered together on Oct. 27 to build a playground at Vinton Baptist Church. VBC partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia (BGCSWVA), who have a program located at the church, the KABOOM! organization, and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to build the playground on property the church owns across from the church and adjacent to Lotz Funeral Home.

KABOOM! awarded a playground grant (one of eight across Virginia) to Vinton Baptist and the BGCWSVA to complete the playground. The church has a spacious indoor gym, but no outdoor play space. The playground will be available to the public when not being used by the Boys and Girls Club.

The Down Home Creamery ice cream shoppe opened in a location on Poplar Street near the playground in late October and immediately became a fixture downtown.

The Marching Terriers band hosted the Blue Ridge Festival of Bands on Oct. 28, another yearly event.

The Lancerlot demonstrated its community spirit with its own Trick-or-Treat event on all three floors of their fitness complex on Halloween night.

November 2023: The William Byrd High School Terriers won the Blue Ridge District Championship on Nov. 3 with a win over Northside and then captured the Region 3D football championship in a win against Magna Vista.

The Vinton First Aid Crew celebrated its 84th anniversary of service to the Vinton community and surrounding areas. The crew was officially established on Oct. 5, 1939.

Vinton spent much of November paying tribute to veterans and first responders in remembrance of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Mayor Grose reminded citizens that Vinton, with a population of only about 8,200 within 3.2 square miles, still has two major veterans monuments—the Vinton War Memorial, and the High Ground Monument.

Scouts from Vinton Troop 235 planted flags at Mountain View Cemetery on Nov. 4 in observance of Veterans Day. Scouts from as far away as Blacksburg also honored veterans with a flag retirement ceremony at the Charles R. Hill Community Center on Nov. 10.

The Town of Vinton honored its employees who are veterans with a special luncheon in their honor at the Town Annex on Nov. 8.

Jason Peters, who served the Vinton District on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, was elected as the new Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue in the general election on Nov. 7.

Andrew Keen was appointed to serve as Vinton's town treasurer, in addition to his position as finance Director. The Vinton Police Dept. added another new officer, Jason Call, and promoted Justin Baker to detective corporal.

The Pollard 107 South restaurant celebrated the

grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 9. Owners Jonathan Pate and Todd Lancaster did the honors and thanked the town for its support in the lengthy process that preceded their opening.

Cadets from the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps at William Byrd honored veterans at Brandon Oaks to thank them for their service.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the Town of Vinton Police Dept. joined with Queen City Rucking 22, and the Town of Vinton to sponsor their first Ruck March, a five-mile trek through the town which is a fundraiser benefiting the Boulder Crest Foundation that provides awareness of, and support for, veteran and first responder suicide prevention.

Members of the Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR dressed in Colonial garb to participate in the Roanoke City Veterans Day Parade.

Greg Mitchell landed a record-breaking muskie at Smith Mountain Lake in November, weighing 38.5 pounds and measuring 51-3/4 inches in length. The Vinton Messenger Facebook post about his catch totaled 190,300 viewers.

The Vinton History Museum entered the Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens Competition for the third consecutive year. For the 2023 entry, volunteers worked for months to create handmade ornaments from doilies and donated costume jewelry. Their theme this year was "Treedazzled."

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue held a Driver Aerial Operator Class at Rosie's Gaming Emporium on Nov. 16, drawing the attention of a host of passersby eager to know what was going on. Class members were practicing their skills in maneuvering ladders into the parking garage at Rosie's and to the top level of the structure.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club took children from Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff Elementary schools on their annual Christmas shopping trip to Walmart in Bonsack. Students were recommended by guidance counselors at their schools.

Vinton Town Council authorized a revised redevelopment agreement with Gish Mill Davii, LLC, who have plans to redevelop the historic mill into a mixed-use property with retail, commercial, and residential aspects.

Roanoke County broke ground for a new fire station in the Bonsack area.

Bonsack Elementary fifth graders entertained their school with the annual "Balloons Over Bonsack" parade on the last day before the Thanksgiving holiday, reminiscent of the Macy's Day Parade.

Vinton held their annual Christmas Parade and Tree-Lighting ceremony on Nov. 30 with over 100 entries. The theme this year was "Paint the Town Christmas" and was one more example of the efforts of the Town of Vinton and Chamber of Commerce staff to light up the town to celebrate the holidays in 2023. And one that was an outstanding success.

December 2023: The Region 3D Championship William Byrd Terrier football team's season ended with a defeat in the state semifinals by Liberty Christian Academy on Dec. 2.

In addition to the Vinton Christmas Parade, Santa made an appearance in another parade—the Parade

of Trees at the Vinton War Memorial. The Vinton Public Works and Community Programs staff created a spectacular display, wrapping the building in lights and creating a pathway of trees decorated by area businesses and organizations. Santa was available to hear wish lists, and even returned on Dec. 16 for the "Winter Wonderland" party for special needs children throughout the valley.

Santa just couldn't seem to leave Vinton—he appeared again in the truly memorable Santa Crawl on Dec. 12, making his way (along with Mrs. Claus, some elves, and Rudolph) through the neighborhoods of Vinton.

He also took time to make two appearances at the Vinton Moose Lodge for a breakfast with Roanoke County School children with special needs and a luncheon with the Down Syndrome Association of Roanoke.

Vinton Town Council honored long-time employee Kevin Orange, who has worked for the Public Works Dept. in Vinton for over 18 years.

Council also accepted a pretty substantial gift for the town—an EPA Brownfields Assessment for \$500,000, which will help the town to engage investors in redeveloping brownfield properties which have the potential presence of hazardous substances.

The Blue Ridge Figure Skaters presented another stellar performance at the Lancerlot Sports Complex ice rink on Dec. 9 and 10 in a "December to Remember."

The Vinton First Aid Crew held the annual Christmas dinner and officer installation ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial on Dec. 14. The crew has been serving the Vinton community since 1939.

The town sadly lost a Life Time First Aid Crew member when Sydney Myers passed away in December.

Students from the Susan Lewis Music Studio performed not just one, but two, Christmas concerts—one at Thrasher Memorial UMC in Vinton and one at Halesford Baptist near Smith Mountain Lake due to a rapidly increasing enrollment.

Vinton employees P.C. Crimmins, Sgt. Brandon Alterio, and Tobbie Russeau were named Employees of the Year for the Town of Vinton, chosen by their co-workers.

What's coming up in 2024? Stay tuned for more details.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue used the parking garage at Rosie's Gaming Emporium for practice with ladder trucks in November.

Coming up from page 1

Trees, several After Hours and Lunch and Learn events, and the State of the Town Address.

The Chamber and the town joined with RVTV to produce 33 All Things Vinton episodes highlighting various businesses and organizations in Vinton. The Town of Vinton

sponsored 24 "Vinton Chatter" radio programs, focused on promoting the community.

The Chamber hosted 42 events just on its own. Town staff assisted with the Vinton Dogwood Festival, a flag retirement ceremony at the Charles R. Hill Center, various veterans events, Pride Fest 2023, and the first annual Ruck March to raise awareness of veterans and first responders suicide prevention.

There was seldom a dull moment in Vinton last year—and this year promises to be just as busy, most likely more so, with the addition of several new events for 2024.

Here's what is already

on the schedule for 2024:

- Vinton Town Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building
- Senior Expo: March 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial
- Vinton State of the Town Address: April 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Vinton War Memorial
- Town of Vinton Public Shredding Event: April 20, 9 a.m. to noon, Municipal Building
- The Vinton History Museum 35th Anniversary Celebration: April 22 (activities TBA)
- Vinton Dogwood

Festival: April 26 (concert) and 27 (crowning of Dogwood Queen and parade)

- Mingle at the Market concerts: 7-10 p.m. at the Vinton Farmers' Market on June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, and Sept. 28
- Chamber Lunch and Learn programs: Jan. 10, March 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, and Nov. 13
- National Night Out (hosted by Vinton Police Dept.): Aug. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Roanoke County Public Schools open on Aug. 15. Schools are closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 27 through Nov. 29.

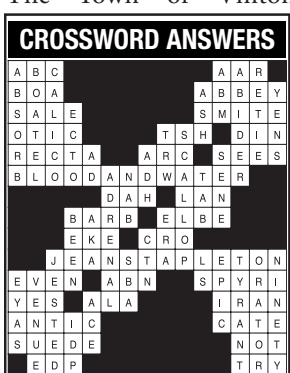
Schools are closed for the Winter Holidays from Dec. 23 through Jan. 6.

- Vinton Fall Festival: Oct. 12
- D o w n t o w n Trick-or-Treating: Oct. 29 from 3-5 p.m.
- V i n t o n Christmas Parade: Dec. 5
- Vinton Santa Crawl: Dec. 10
- M e x i c a n Dominoes and Monday Music Jam at the Charles R. Hill Community Center every Monday except on holidays
- Line Dancing at the Charles R. Hill Community Center every Tuesday
- Tai Chi and Senior Card Games every Thursday at the Charles R.

Hill Community Center

- Big House Dances at the Charles R. Hill Community Center on Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and 24, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, May 11, June 8 and 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 9 and 23, and Dec. 14.

The Town of Vinton and the Chamber will be adding several new events to their schedules in 2024, including a "Rolling the Dice" business appreciation event in January, Touch a Truck on May 18, and Business & Breakfast networking gatherings on alternate months from Lunch and Learn programs.



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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THE FINCASTLE HERALD The Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Help Wanted - Clerical

Part-time receptionist for Oakey's Funeral Service - Vinton Chapel.
Hours vary with some weekday evening and daytime shifts and every other daytime weekend available. Please contact Joshua Dama, Manager at (540) 982-2221 or email jdama@oakeys.com.

Help Wanted Part-time Administrative Assistant

Buchanan Presbyterian Church is searching for a part time Administrative Assistant. Duties include working with the minister and music team to prepare weekly Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter; prepare PowerPoint for Sunday worship and be there to operate it; assist with recording and uploading services to YouTube; performance of other administrative jobs to assist the minister. To apply or obtain complete job description please contact Tricia at 540-589-3107 or send resume to the church at P.O. Box 517, Buchanan, VA 24066

Help Wanted - General

WANTED Models
Models needed for life drawing class, male and female. \$65 for 3 hour session. Call David 540-473-3713

Product Support Manager & Application Engineer sought by Nippon Pulse America, Inc. in Radford, VA

to provide tech'l consultation & other sales & engg support activities related to custom motor mfg. Job reqs an Associate deg in Mechanical Engg Technology or related engg major + 3 yrs of exp as application engineer researching & analyzing the precision motor control products mkt, providing tech'l support, & dvlpg tech'l data & prototypes using Torque calculation, thrust calculation, 3D CAD, 3D Printing, servo motor driver tuning, & computer prgmg. Email C.V. to President - mharada@nipponpulse.com

For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD
Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-784-3436 or 540-581-4183. Delivery in Botetourt only.



Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SALE OF 101 DRY BRANCH ROAD, BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA, 24066

Pursuant to a Decree of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, made and entered into November 29, 2023 in Case No. 23CL23-0036100, styled Barrett (Plaintiff) v. Cherokee rose Eubank (Defendant), a Will, on Friday 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the front door of the Courthouse of Botetourt County, Virginia, located in its new temporary quarters, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate: 101 Dry Branch Road, Buchanan, Virginia, 24066, being 2.56 acres in the Buchanan Magisterial District, Tax Map #53-4, property ID#99013634. A more accurate description can be procured as shown on a plat attached to Deed Book 128 at page 123 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia. Terms of Sale: Cash (10% on the day of sale with the remainder at closing within 60 days). For further information, apply to: Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, 2721 Brambleton Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia, 24015, office telephone number: (540)772-7848, cell phone number: (540) 797-4065. I, Tommy Joe Williams, hereby certify that I have bond, with surety, as required by the decree.

Tommy Joe Williams
Special Commissioner

I, Tommy Moore, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, hereby certify the Tommy Joe Williams, Special Commissioner, has given bond, as required by the Decree with Surety approved by the Court.

Tommy Moore, Clerk
Botetourt County Circuit Court

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

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

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

Rachel Doyle-Owner.

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

Legals - City of Salem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special

Legals - City of Salem

Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).

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

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

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

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

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: H. Robert Light
Deputy Executive Secretary

Legals - Montgomery County

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

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:

Ordinance 2045: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Appropriate \$927,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and \$800,000 of Bond Proceeds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Fund.

The proposed ordinance will allow the Town's two previously approved agreements with Glade Spring Crossing, LLC for the Glade Spring Crossing housing development. One will be used for the sewer cost sharing of \$927,000 and another for \$800,000 for a regional Stormwater project. These projects will be funded by an upcoming bond offering.

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

Legals - Montgomery County

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

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Summary Statement of Financial Condition For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Assets	\$5,942,205
Deferred Out Flows of Resources	\$33,031
Liabilities	\$1,993,477
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$164,858
Net Position	\$3,816,901
Revenues	\$4,756,465
Expenses	\$5,207,667
Net Change in Net Position	\$(451,202)

Detailed financial statements may be obtained by writing to: MRSWA, P.O. Box 2130, Christiansburg, VA 24068

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PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Left, William Byrd's Aidan Lucas is on top and on his way to a third place finish at 190 pounds in last week's Takedown The New Year tournament at Heritage High School. Right, Bricen Lancaster(on top) wrestled to a third place finish at 157.

Big Orange wrestlers take third at Heritage

The Big Orange wrestlers finished in third place among 21 teams in last week's "Takedown The New Year" wrestling tournament at Heritage High School. William Byrd put three wrestlers in the finals but didn't come home from Lynchburg with a champion in the last big tournament of 2023.

"We've finished third at the last two tournaments and hopefully we can continue to finish in the top three at every tournament we go to," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler.

Host Heritage won the tournament with 153 points. Turner Ashby was second with 211.5 and the Terriers had 165.5 for third. Rounding out the top five were Broadway at 153 and Spotswood at 148.5.

Byrd sophomore Darin Witcher opened the championship round with another match against Xaiden Wynn of James River. The two are among the top 106 pounders in the state and Witcher had pinned Wynn in the Big Orange Classic final in Vinton the week prior. This time, however, Wynn got the upper hand and edged Darin, 6-5, to place first. Witcher had won his first three, two by pin and one by major decision.

Zane Taylor was the next Terrier in the finals at 126. He had a bye and three wins before falling to Justin Porter of Heritage in the final.

Byrd's third finalist was Gage Cockran at 144. After a bye and three wins Gage took on Jackson Brockenbrough of Parry McCluer in the final and was edged, 2-1.

Two Terriers won consolation final matches to take third place, Bricen Lancaster at 157 and Aidan Lucas at 190. Kyle Kalinke took a fifth at 113 and Curtis Dillon was sixth at 138.

This week Byrd will split up the team for two weekend tournaments. Half the team will go back to Lynchburg for a tournament at Liberty Christian Academy and the other half will participate in the Knights of the Roundtable event at Cave Spring High School.

Byrd also will be hosting a quad match next Wednesday, January 10. Patrick Henry, Glenvar and Roanoke Catholic will join the Orange in Vinton and it will be "Senior Night" for the William Byrd senior wrestlers.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Curtis Dillon battles his way to a sixth place finish at Heritage High at 138.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Roanoke College freshman Xavier Preston, a 2023 graduate of William Byrd High School, wrestles in an early season match. Preston was named the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Heavyweight Wrestler of the Week after winning all five of his matches in the Citrus Invitational in Fort Lauderdale, Florida last week.

Maroons will wrestle W&L at Mill Mountain Theatre, Preston honored by ODAC

Tickets are now available for "The Match at Mill Mountain Theatre" when Roanoke College wrestles Washington & Lee in a first-ever Old Dominion Athletic Conference showdown at the downtown Roanoke venue. The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 20.

Mill Mountain Theatre is in Center in the Square in downtown Roanoke. The RC-W&L match is a highlight of the ODAC season. The event is sponsored by the Henritze Dental Group and mat-side tickets at Mill Mountain Theatre are available for \$25 at nokewrestling.com. Doors open at 2:30 pm and there will be a cash bar.

The Maroons placed second in a 14-team field December 29 and 30 at the Citrus Invitational in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Mark Samuel won the individual title at 141 pounds, winning four matches, two by fall and one by tech fall. RC's Xavier Preston also captured the title at 174 pounds, winning

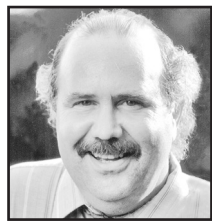
five times. Both were honored by the ODAC this week.

Preston, a freshman from William Byrd High School, was named the ODAC Heavyweight Wrestler of the Week. Xavier went a perfect 5-0, including a fall and pair of Major Decisions. He started the bracket with a pin in 3:39 before claiming four consecutive decisions. He claimed the title with an 11-3 Major Decision in the final while finishing ahead of the #8 ranked 174-pounder in the nation.

Samuel was named ODAC Lightweight Wrestler of the Week. The sophomore earned a bye in the first round, as the third seed in the class, before recording three falls, including a win by fall (3:325) in the final. During the event Mark would place ahead of the #6 (Open Mat rankings) and defeat the #10 wrestler in the country.

The Maroons will wrestle in the Jim Crytzer Memorial Tournament in Lexington this Saturday.

Brian Hoffman



COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN 2024

Happy New Year to everyone as we head into 2024.

We got off to a great start with two very exciting CFP National Championship college football games on Monday night. Both games went down to the very last play before the outcome was decided as Michigan and Washington advanced to the national championship game next Monday night.

In my humble opinion, college football needed this. To be honest, I'd somewhat lost interest in college football outside of our state teams. With the transfer portal and the NIL (name, image, likeness) and schools leaving to join super conferences, it's just not the same for me. There were 43 bowl games since the second week of December and if the school wasn't in the top four many of the better players didn't even suit up.

This transfer portal is a double edged sword. On one hand, it's great for a player who is stuck behind a couple others on the depth chart and just wants to play. He's free to search for a place where he can get some playing time, and I'm good with that.

On the other hand, it's really tough for the lesser profile schools, who do their homework and take

chances on border line players the big boys don't want. Then, if the player does well, he's likely to leave for a more high profile program. You see it all the time, and it makes it really tough for a team to build a program when every time they get a good player, he leaves.

I'm old enough to remember when the NBA started taking underclassmen after one year in school. Some folks soured on the college game because you never knew who was going to be on your favorite college basketball team from year to year. Football is becoming the same way. I guess it helps sell programs if nothing else.

Recently I read a story in the local daily about how a couple of Virginia Tech players announced they'd be returning to the Hokies next year. It wasn't that long ago that wasn't a big story. If you were on the team, everyone expected you'd be returning as long as your grades were decent and your body was sound. It wasn't news to announce you decided to stay on the team that recruited you and you committed to play for, and supposedly one of the reasons was that you liked the school.

We have a couple great examples right here in Virginia. How many VMI and James Madison players have left those programs after the school took a chance on them and they had a good year, only to leave for perceived "greener pastures?" Thanks for the scholarship, pal, see you later.

Now let's take the NIL. I'm all for players being rewarded for what they do on the field. The coaches make big money and the school brings in big bucks, so why not the kids who make it all possible? There's plenty of pie for everyone.

However, it's to the point where college pro-

grams are basically "buying" high school kids for the team. It's no longer an amateur sport, as the teams with the richest donors will be on top every year. I'm not against paying the players, but it's getting to where these colleges need a "salary cap" like the NFL.

And how about a case like Iowa women's basketball star Caitlin Clark? She decided not to declare for the WNBA because, from what I understand, she can make more money playing in college. I guess that's okay, but it seems strange that someone makes millions of dollars playing women's college basketball when a lot of schools don't even charge admission for the games.

Finally, the conferences. Say good-bye to the Pac-10, who has a team in the championship game next week but has other schools looking to join a conference almost 3,000 miles away. What kind of sense does that make?

The thing is, as schools bolt for the "big money" conferences everyone else has to try and keep up. Wasn't it fun when the Big 10 had 10 teams, all the Southeast Conference teams played in the south east and the big timers weren't picking the carcasses of other conferences, leaving them little meat on the bone. I guess that's okay, but I'm losing interest.

That's the way it is in 2024. Glad to say I really enjoyed the football semifinals Monday night and I'm glad to see them expand the tournament for next season. There might come a day when there's just one big "Super Conference" and they play the conference tournament for the "national" championship at the end of the regular season.

Personally, I'm looking forward to Roanoke College having a Division III team

SPORTS

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, William Byrd's Jonathan Rosser(#32) makes a clean block in last week's NIT basketball game with Alleghany at Northside High School. Right, Byrd's Luke Helton hits a cutting teammate with a bounce pass.

William Byrd opens BRD season this week with Fleming, LB

The William Byrd boys' basketball team will open the new year and their Blue Ridge District basketball schedule this week. The

Terriers were scheduled to play at William Fleming on Wednesday, followed by a home game against Lord Botetourt on Friday night.

Byrd played in the challenging Northside Invitational Tournament at Northside High School last week and went 1-2, losing for the first time this season after winning their first six games. Their opening game didn't go well as Byrd fell behind 18-3 to Liberty Christian Academy on Wednesday of last week and lost 68-59.

"We kicked the ball around, threw it around, couldn't hit anything, just a bad quarter coming off Christmas," said coach Brad Greenway. "We competed and tried to get back in it but credit to LCA, they shot the lights out and every time we made a 5-0 or 6-0 run they answered with a big three."

Isaiah Board led the Terriers with 25 points, with 15 coming in the second half as Byrd tried to rally. Isaiah hit five three pointers. Hayden Eads had 16 points and Drew Lindsay had 13, hitting three treys.

With the loss Byrd played Alleghany on Thursday, the second day of the tournament. The Cougars lost to the eventual champion, Tunstall, in the first round of play.

Byrd got off to a better

start in this one, jumping on top 19-13 after the first quarter. However, the Cougars bounced back to win the second quarter, 26-8, and race to a 39-27 lead at intermission. Alleghany then outscored Byrd 34-18 in the second quarter to pull away for a 73-45 win.

"I felt like we let one loss turn into two losses," said Greenway. "We didn't compete like Alleghany did. Again, give credit to Alleghany, that's a big physical team. Their size bothered us, but the speed and intensity that they played with bothered us the most."

Board led the Terriers again with 20 points, Eads had 10 and Lindsay had eight.

On Friday the Terriers, one of three undefeated teams coming into the

NIT, played for seventh place in the eight team tournament. They were matched up with Roanoke Catholic and salvaged a win, 69-55.

Eads stepped up big with his season high, scoring 28 points. He had 18 of his points in the second half, hitting seven of eight free throws in the process. Lindsay had 11 and Board had nine points.

"We were able to get off to a strong start, moved the ball around consistently and hit shots that were open," said Greenway. "Catholic didn't bring much size to the table and we were able to get off more good looks and finish them than we had the previous two games. Happy to finish the week with a win heading into the new year."

Tunstall ended up winning the tournament, defeating Rustburg in the championship game, 69-41. Host Northside, who lost to Rustburg in the semifinal round, ended up third with an 86-59 win over LCA on Friday. Alleghany beat Auburn, 67-56, to take fifth and Byrd was seventh.

Now 7-2, the Terriers are jumping right into the fire with three tough district games to open the BRD season. After Fleming and the Friday home game with Northside the Terriers are at Franklin County next Tuesday, January 9. A non-district game with Cave Spring follows on Wednesday, January 10, at Cave Spring.

"Time to strap up for the home stretch," said Greenway.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Drew Lindsay hits a corner three for the Terriers.

Girls hoop at Lord Botetourt Friday

The William Byrd girls will return to the basketball court after a two week holiday break when they open their Blue Ridge District schedule this week.

The Terriers were scheduled to play at home on Wednesday against William Fleming, followed by a trip to Lord Botetourt on Friday. Next week the girls are home to Franklin County on Tuesday, then they'll play the opening game of a girls-boys double-header at Staunton River on Saturday, January 13. That's scheduled to tip-off at 4 pm.

Byrd comes into the new year with a non-district record of 5-4.



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

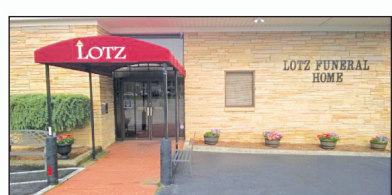
Byrd's Logan Andrews lines up a free throw.

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Swim meet at Botetourt Y cancelled

The William Byrd swimmers had their meet with James River at the Botetourt YMCA scheduled for tonight cancelled.

Byrd will now open the 2024 portion of their schedule next Tuesday, January 9, when they host a meet at the Gator Center in Roanoke. The Terriers will be back at the Gator Center for a big valleywide invita-

tional on Saturday, January 13.

"Due to a miscommunication our meet against James River this Thursday, January 4th, has been cancelled," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "We will take advantage of getting back in the water to train hard this week and then start the 2024 leg of our season with our home meet on Tuesday."