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Town of Vinton refreshes official website

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

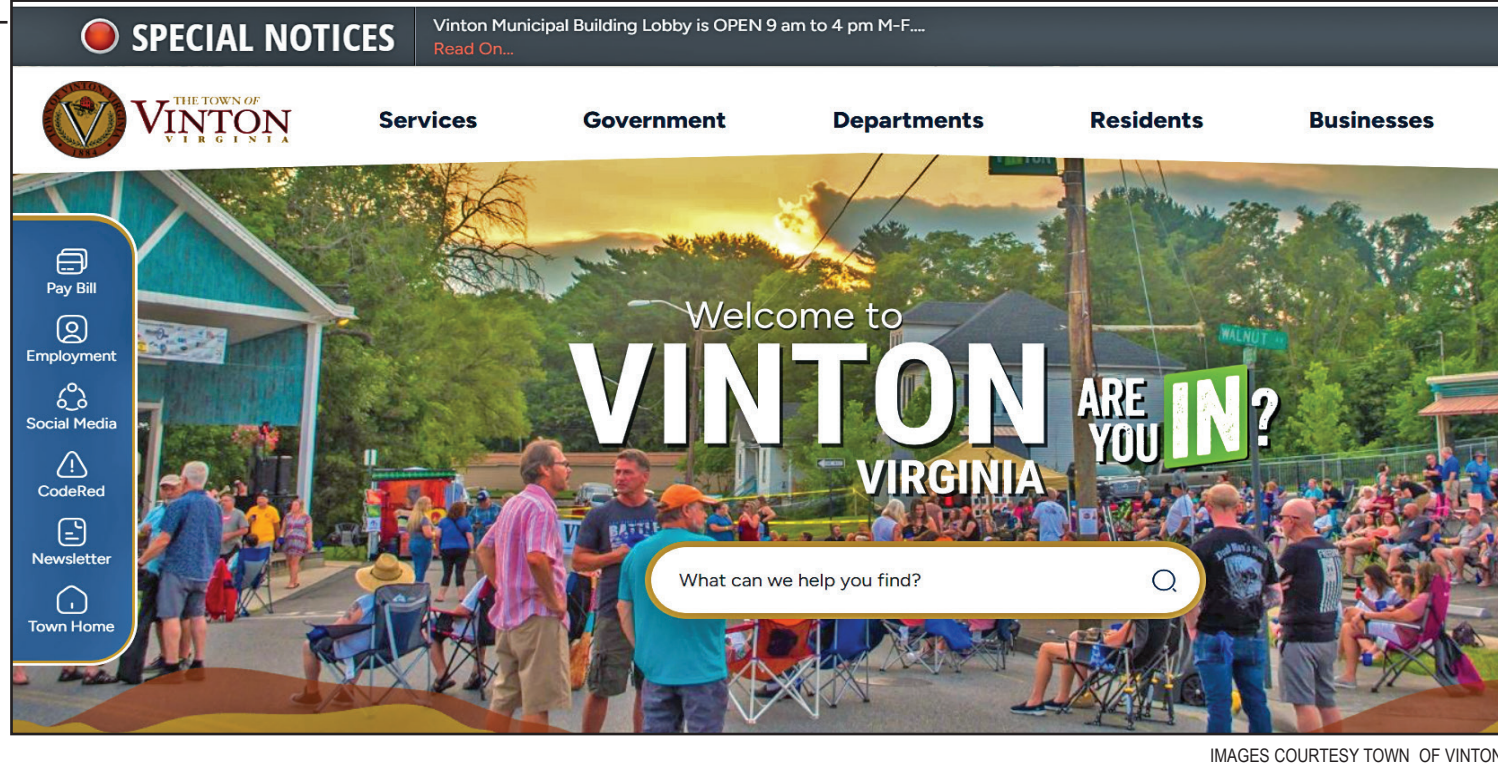
The Town of Vinton staff has been busy enhancing the town's official website, adding pages and features—making it more user-friendly and accessible to residents, businesses, and visitors. Take a look at what's new at www.vintonva.gov.

"The town's official website is one of many important tools the town utilizes to provide services and disseminate information to our citizens and businesses," says Town Manager Pete Peters. "It is important to keep the site fresh and current with new and relevant information."

"The refresh has also provided an opportunity to slightly update the color scheme, add new photos and build in a few new functionality upgrades that weren't previously available. Several town staff participated in the site's update, although Julie Tucei, the town's Planning and Zoning coordinator, served as the lead for the project once again and did a wonderful job of guiding the process."

Other members of town staff who assisted with "refreshing" the website included Town Administrative Manager/Town Clerk Antonia Arias-Magallon, Economic Development Specialist Marshall Stanley, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Mandie Baker, Public Works Administrative Manager Jill Acker, and Finance Director/Treasurer Andrew Keen, along with Chad Sweeney and Brian Gladden from the Roanoke County Communications and IT Dept.

Town of Vinton website administrators are Tucei, Magallon-Arias, and Stanley. Tucei says the improvements



The Town of Vinton has refreshed and enhanced its official website at www.vintonva.gov.



The new website features some Vinton trivia.

have not just given the website "a new skin" which is more current and trendy in appearance, but have also added more comprehensive information for those living in, working in, or coming to Vinton. When the website was first launched in 2003, there were

40 pages and 30 links. The refreshed website includes nearly 250 pages of information and countless links.

Tucei advocated for, and designed, that initial website in 2003. As part of her job with the Town of Vinton she was frequently called upon to answer computer questions from co-workers and received so many calls from the community and beyond asking for the town's website address that she was eager to undertake the project.

"I really didn't know that much about designing websites," said Tucei, "but the town paid for me to take a few classes on web design at the Roanoke Higher Education Center and at Virginia Western Community College." She ended up coding the entire project—a phenomenal

See Website, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY THE FARM SHOPPE

The Farm Shoppe held a grand opening at its Vinton location on Dec. 2, just in time for the holidays. Owner Brandon Hall and his daughter, Henley, cut the ribbon, surrounded by family and friends.

Family's new business offers decor, gifts

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton's newest business The Farm Shoppe— held its grand opening in downtown Vinton on Dec. 2, just in time for the holidays. Owner Brandon Hall says it turned out to be "an amazing month" for the shop.

They specialize in farmhouse, country, and primitive décor. While Hall is the owner of the family business, his 4-year-old daughter, Henley, is his No. 1 helper, and his mom serves as general manager of day-to-day operations.

The Farm Shoppe carries a variety of Crossroads Candles, Kidz Korner toys and crafts, all natural self-care products from vendor Splendiferous, and trendy hand-mades from

Emmytu's Boutique.

"Striving to be Vinton's one-stop gift shop, we have expanded our inventory selection to include gifts for all," Hall notes.

Hall says a main driver for him, with having a child of his own, will be the Kidz Korner, especially in the summer months when he plans to host events with face painting and even bouncy houses. He is hoping to host some pop-ups, as well, to support other local businesses and vendors.

Hall graduated (at age 16) from William Byrd High School with the Class of 2015. He says all of his "employees" are Terriers.

As a student at WBHS, he worked at Kroger for four years. After that, his first "real job" was as a banker at

HomeTrust in Vinton. Since then, he has worked for several different banks and credit unions in the area and currently serves as a financial coach and loan underwriter.

Hall says he started the home décor business as a "side gig," as an outlet for his creativity. His family has long been involved in owning and operating gift shops, with two former locations in Vinton—many fondly remember "The Olde Willow" on Hardy Road. (He considers his family to be his mentors.)

Shoppers may have also seen his booth at the "Stocked Market" at the Berglund Center and at other special events.

He established The Farm Shoppe

See Shoppe, page 4

County school board re-elects Hudson as chair

The Roanoke County School Board has elected Catawba member, Brent Hudson, to continue as board chairman for 2024. Hudson was first elected chairman in 2023. The board also elected Windsor Hills member Cheryl Facciani as the vice-chairman. This is her first term.

They were nominated at the first School Board work session of the year on Jan. 4 by Tim Greenway, who represents the Vinton District on the School Board. The two remaining seats are held by newly elected Shelley Clemons of the Cave Spring District (replacing Mike Wray who did not run for re-election) and David Linden, who represents the Hollins District.

Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS) Director of Facilities and Operations Todd Kageals made presentations to the board on several potential

projects.

The board discussed using solar panels to produce electricity in county schools after a presentation from Katherine Knight of Sun Tribe, solar providers based in Charlottesville. The company has worked in Virginia with 15 school systems, including Arlington, Henrico, Pittsylvania, Fairfax, and Chesterfield County schools, and Newport News, as well as Virginia Tech.

RCPS is considering a pilot project to provide solar energy to Cave Spring High School (CSHS) through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A PPA through Sun Tribe (or another provider) could lock in electric rates lower than what RCPS is currently paying AEP at no cost to RCPS.

Under a PPA,

See Schools, page 3



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From the Pulpit By Travis Russell, Senior Pastor at Vinton Baptist Church

Uncharted Territory

On May 14, 1804, William Clark and a group of 30 others, consisting mostly of U.S. Army and civilian volunteers, met up with Meriwether Lewis and his small crew for one of the greatest expeditions in the history of our country, known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, this group of explorers set out to discover the highly prized and sought after Northwest Passage—a water route that was believed to connect the Pacific Ocean to the Mississippi River. After 15 months of searching, calculating, and intense navigation, they finally arrived at that mountain that would supposedly change their future and seal their names in the annals of history. Once they crested the top of its peak, they would finally reach that coveted river where they could put their canoes in the water and peacefully glide away all the way downstream to the Pacific. Instead, what they found at the top of that mountain was miles and miles of more mountains—what we call today the Rocky Mountains.

Despite centuries of research and all their effort, there was no Northwest Passage, navigable river, or

direct water route to the Pacific. At that point, they had two options: turn back and go home or ditch the canoes and start hiking. They were trained as river rafters; now, they had to learn to be mountaineers. Thankfully, they chose to hike and eventually found their way to the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, they made some of the greatest discoveries of the Americas. They identified a variety of new plants, animals, and natural resources that were previously unknown. They were the first Americans to cross the Continental Divide, see Yellowstone, and enter Montana. Their maps also provided the first accurate map of the Pacific northwest that forever changed geographical mapping in the U.S.

Despite all of their amazing discoveries, the journey was not easy. It was uncharted territory that proved to be much longer than they anticipated and more disorienting than they ever imagined. They had to utilize new tools, develop new skills, make hard decisions, accept painful losses, and form new alliances with the Native Americans. In the end, though the outcome was not what they anticipated, the results of their great adventure were most certainly worth the journey.

All throughout Scripture, God's call required his

people to cross uncharted territory. From Abraham and Sarah leaving Ur to fulfill God's covenant, to Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness, to Joshua and their descendants in Canaan, to Daniel and his companions in Babylon, to Peter, Andrew, James, and John leaving their fishing nets in Capernaum, to Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark setting sail from Seleucia on their first missionary journey. For all of these great pillars of our faith, the journey was not easy. Uncharted territory is almost always disorienting and uncomfortable. And yet, the results were most certainly worth the journey as God's Spirit moved in them in powerful new ways that forever changed their lives, shaped their faith, and transformed the world through them.

Though uncharted territory can be disorienting and overwhelming, it can also lead us to new possibilities that we never imagined were possible. I do not know what this year has in store. However, as we forge ahead together, I am confident the results will be worth the journey as God's Spirit leads us on an incredible new adventure together with him.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

She is a fashion designer turned film set decorator. Raised in Vinton, she graduated from William Byrd High School in 1986, and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design from VCU. Her parents, Bob and Louise Conner, say her talent was evident from the age of seven as she often drew portraits of unknown congregation during church services.

Christi Conner Whiteley began working professionally in the fashion industry as a dress designer at Young Generations in Hendersonville, NC, well known for the brand Ruth of Carolina, then became a junior denim designer for H.W. Carter workwear.

Throughout the '90s, fashion design work took her to New York and Hong Kong. After NAFTA caused the demise of manufacturing in the U.S. and particularly in the South, Christi, and her husband, Simon, started a family and an architectural salvage/mid-century modern antique business, Eldorado.

The career move to film came along after having learned much about architecture, vintage furniture, and period styling that evolved from the years with the antique store.

"I answered a Craigslist ad for a gig set decorating a no budget, turn-of-the-century sci-fi horror internet show. It was about the most interesting thing I could have thought of doing. I was hooked," Christi recalls.

From there, she learned through the school of hard knocks with many non-paying gigs before eventually landing a paying one.

Since then, Whiteley has racked up numerous IMDB accolades for feature films, TV movies, music videos and commercials as an IATSE 491 union professional Set Decorator. She has decorated for horror, sci-fi, rom-com, Christmas, westerns, and documentaries.

Going on location is often a perk of the job. She has traveled the country for Netflix, Hallmark, Lifetime, and BET. She even landed a sweet six-week gig in Hawaii for Hallmark's "Two Tickets to Paradise."

Last year, she decorated for a film that was shot in her hometown of 28 years, Asheville, NC. Hallmark's "A Biltmore Christmas" was filmed at the spectacular Gilded Age mansion, the Biltmore House. Set decorating for this Christmas movie was particularly special.

"Biltmore House is famous for Christmas. The large in-house design staff plans and perfects their ideas for a good part of the year. With modern-day Christmas beautifully taken care of, the fun part for me was the time travel element of the script that allowed me to redesign their Christmas to what it would have been in 1947. The heyday of classic Christmas movies," she said.

The movie premiered on Thanksgiving Day weekend to over 3 million viewers and has had great reviews. After the wrap of Biltmore Christmas, she traveled



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Christi Conner Whiteley

to Tucson, Arizona for the 1890's western feature film, "Long Shadows". It is currently in post-production and stars Jacqueline Bissett and Dominic Monahan.

Despite the writers' and SAG strikes, shuttering much of the film industry in the latter half of 2023, Whiteley keeps moving. Christi and her husband also own Fleetwood's, a rock and roll wedding chapel and music venue in West Asheville.

It keeps her busy between movie gigs, dreaming up new ideas for drink menus, events, pop-up shop markets, and always working on the decor. Fleetwood's was locally voted "Best Place to Get Married" and "Best Intimate Music Venue" in Asheville for 2023.

Christi is eagerly looking forward to 2024 and the next film opportunity.

Christi and Simon have two talented children, Vivian, 20, and Asa, 16, who she hopes pursue careers in the film industry in the future, as well.

(Angie grew up with Christi and her two sisters. They are the daughters of Bob and Louise Conner, who have lived in Vinton for over 50 years.) 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!

Kindergarten registration Feb. 12, 19

For thousands of young students across Roanoke County, the journey to learn will begin on February 12 and 19 as their parents register them for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.

All students who will be age 5 or older by Sept. 30, 2024, are eligible to register for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, which will begin on Aug. 15, 2024.

To register a child for kindergarten, parents should schedule an appointment with the elementary school their child will attend. If parents are unsure which elementary school their child will attend, see the School District Locator at <https://schoolview.roanokecountyva.gov/schoolview/>.

Parents can schedule registration appointments schedule an appointment for any regular school day after Feb. 19. Parents should bring the following

information to registration:

- Child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency in Roanoke County (a mortgage, a pending contract, a copy of a lease or a property tax statement will be accepted as proof of residency). Note: A driver's license or vehicle registration will not be accepted as proof of residency.

Schools must have the physical and immunization records on file prior to the first day of school or students will not be allowed to attend school.

Children currently enrolled in a Roanoke County Public Schools preschool program who are eligible for kindergarten must go through the registration process.

For additional information see www.rcps.us/registration.

Submitted by Roanoke County Public Schools

Commonwealth of Virginia, Official **SAMPLE** Ballot Your Precinct's Name Here ####

County of Roanoke
Democratic Party Presidential Primary
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Making selections

To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the name. If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election officer for another ballot. If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

President
Vote for only one

- Marianne Williamson
- Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- Dean Benson Phillips

Republican Party Presidential Primary
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Making selections

To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the name. If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election officer for another ballot. If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the oval, your votes may not be counted.

President
Vote for only one

- Chris Christie
- Ryan L. Binkley
- Vivek Ramaswamy
- Donald J. Trump
- Ron D. DeSantis

IMAGES COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTIES

Top, Democratic Party ballot for Dual Presidential Primary on March 5; above, Republican Party ballot for Dual Presidential Primary on March 5.

Presidential primaries coming up March 5; early voting next week

Roanoke County will hold dual presidential primary elections on March 5. All precincts and polling places in Roanoke County will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day.

Virginia conducts open party primaries and does not register voters by party affiliation, which means that every qualified voter is entitled to participate in the single party primary of their choosing.

In a dual party primary, all voters are eligible to participate in EITHER the Democratic Party primary OR the Republican Party primary but they may ONLY vote in ONE or the other. As a result, all voters are required by law to indicate to an Officer of Election whether they would prefer to mark a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot.

Candidates on the Democratic Party ballot are Marianne Williamson, Joseph Biden, and Dean Benson Phillips.

Candidates on the Republican Party ballot are Chris Christie, Ryan Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy, Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, and Nikki Haley.

Voters in the Vinton Magisterial District will vote at:

Bonsack precinct, Bonsack Elementary School in the gym

North Lindenwood, William Byrd Middle School (while WBHS is under construction), in the cafeteria

South Lindenwood, William Byrd Middle School in the cafeteria

North Vinton, Herman L. Horn Elementary in the gym

South Vinton, W.E. Cundiff Elementary in the gym

Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Elementary in the cafeteria

In person, early voting will be available at the:

Roanoke County Elections Office, 900 Chestnut Street in Vinton

Beginning on Friday, January 19

Available Monday, January 22 through Friday, March 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special Saturday Hours: Saturday, February 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (This will be the last day for absentee in-person voting)

Brambleton Center Elections Satellite Office, 3738 Brambleton Avenue in

Roanoke

Begins Friday, January 19 Available Monday, January 22 through Friday, March 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special Saturday Hours: Saturday, February 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (This will be the last day for absentee in-person voting.)

Voted absentee ballot drop bags will be available during the same dates, times, and locations listed above for in-person, early voting.

In addition, a Voted Ballot Drop Bag will be available at the Elections Office in Vinton on Monday, March 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Voted Ballot Drop Bags will also be available at all precincts on Election Day from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please note: If you want to vote early in person and have not done so by 5 p.m. on March 2, you will only be able to cast your vote by appearing at your assigned voting precinct's designated polling place on Election Day. Your Election Day polling location is listed on your Voter Registration Card.

All 33 of Roanoke County's voting precincts and their designated polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 5. No voting will take place at either the Main Elections Office in Vinton at 900 Chestnut St. or at the Elections Satellite Office at the Brambleton Center that day.

If you are uncertain in which precinct you should vote on Election Day, please visit the Roanoke County Voter View (<https://voterview.roanokecountyva.gov/VoterView/>) and enter your residential address in the search bar.

The last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail for the March 5 Dual Party Presidential Primary is Friday, Feb. 23, 2024. All completed applications must be IN HAND by 5 p.m. if sent by mail, fax, or delivered in person OR submitted and time-stamped by 11:59:59 p.m. through email to elections@roanokecountyva.gov or the Virginia Voter Information Portal. According to Virginia Code, Voter Registration Books close 21 days prior to each Election Day.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Roanoke County School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely visits a classroom.

Superintendent enlightened during visits to classrooms

By Roanoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely Opportunity Ready Newsletter

One of the activities to which I look most forward every year is visiting the classrooms of our 27 schools. While the time spent in each class is brief, I am always encouraged about what is happening each day in our schools when I get to see for myself the lessons and instruction our teachers and assistants are providing, and the learning in which students are engaged. I enjoy asking individual students what they are learning and having them explain to me the concept.

Some of the students also get a kick out of asking me fun questions such as what my job is, what my favorite food is, or whether I know their older brother in high school.

I am consistently amazed at the ability of students from kindergarten to high school to articulately discuss the topic they are studying and, often, their faces will light up when I express interest in what they are doing. I am also thrilled when I see for myself the capacity of our students to collaborate in groups, be creative, and problem solve. These are the skills students need to develop

along the path to becoming “opportunity ready”! Although doing these things comes naturally to some students, for the majority, skill development takes clear and consistent direction and reinforcement from the teacher.

I know students do not suddenly become good listeners and hard workers, stay on task, or show responsible and respectful behaviors just for my benefit as a visitor to the class. They are able to display these characteristics because that is what they practice each day. They are able to immediately recite the basic expectations of good citizenship such as being safe, responsible and respectful, because that is what they hear and are taught each day.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, and principals for being consistent and persistent in modeling and teaching our students learning content and skills, but also character traits and actions that set them up for success! We see and appreciate what you are doing.

Thank you, parents and families, for your support of our schools and staff and your partnership in helping your children be successful. You send us your best, and our schools take that responsibility seriously.

Schools

from page 1

RCPS would agree to purchase power at a predetermined rate for the life of the agreement. Sun Tribe (or another provider) would install and maintain the system for the life of the agreement. CSHS would remain “grid tied” and would draw power from AEP as needed. The proposal for CSHS projects approximately \$1,961,000 in savings over the life of the agreement (25 years). RCPS currently pays approximately \$.12/kwh for electricity from AEP.

Under a PPA with Sun Tribe, the school system would pay less than what it currently pays AEP; the cost for electricity from Sun Tribe would not change over the life of the agreement. According to Kageals, entering into a PPA would allow RCPS to gain experience with solar energy at no cost, and at a guaranteed rate providing budgetary certainty from year to year.

Knight also noted that Sun Tribe offers curriculum content to be used in classrooms to educate students on renewable energy.

The board decided to continue the solar panel discussion at future meetings, after “due diligence” in speaking with other school systems currently using solar energy.

Kageals had been asked to provide pricing to pave the two play areas at Bonsack Elementary School. Both are in poor condition and have previously been repaired. The cost of the project would be \$95,000 to be appropriated from minor capital special projects.

After discussion, the board decided to complete an assessment on paving needs in play areas at other county elementary schools to determine which ones are most in need of repair before making a decision on Bonsack.

After a presentation by Finance Director Susan Peterson, School Board members considered an application for a federal electric school bus grant program. After discussion, they concluded that electric buses could be dangerous, may not be suitable for mountainous terrain, would require installation of charging stations and hiring someone to work on the electric vehicles. The buses must be recharged between routes generally, and they are more costly to purchase than regular diesel buses (\$360,000 vs. \$120,000).

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

of 2021 authorizes the EPA to offer rebates to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission (ZE) models. The 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates process includes SAM.gov account registration, rebate application submission, review, and selection by EPA. Selectees then submit purchase orders to request payment and then receive payment, which is followed by new bus delivery, existing bus replacement, and project closeout.

Although Roanoke County Public Schools applied for the electric bus grant from the EPA in 2022, the school system was not awarded the grant. This year’s application for the Clean Bus Rebate is due on Jan. 31. After discussion, the board instructed staff not to spend any more time on the grant application. Chairman Hudson commented that the use of electric buses is not fiscally responsible at this point for the county with its mountainous topography.

At the work session, the School Board approved the list of meeting dates and times for 2024. School Board meetings will take place at 6 p.m. Work sessions will take place at 3:30 p.m. Meetings are scheduled to take place as follows (dates and times are subject to change):

School Board work sessions are scheduled for Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 7, Mar. 19, Apr. 4, May 2, Jun. 6, Jul. 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5.

School Board meetings are scheduled for Jan. 18, Feb. 22, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, and Dec. 19.

All meetings and work sessions will take place at the Roanoke County Public Schools Central Office at 5937 Cove Road in Roanoke. Meetings are open to the public. In-person meeting attendance may be limited, and citizens may have to use overflow rooms. Citizens of Roanoke County or parents, students, or employees of Roanoke County Public Schools who wish to address the School Board in person must sign up in advance by 8 a.m. on the morning of the meeting using the form found at www.rcps.us/schoolboard.

Meetings and work sessions are streamed live and are available for on-demand playback at www.rcps.us/schoolboardmeetings. Meeting agendas can be found at <https://www.rcps.us/SBagenda>.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Remembering Marlow Ferguson



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Marlow Ferguson filled every role in the theater from actor to director to writer to set designer. He is shown (seated) with the cast of “Bus Stop” at the Vinton theater.

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

Marlow Ferguson, born on December 28, 1937, in New Jersey, embraced the world with his immense talents and a heart dedicated to the arts and community. He peacefully departed on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, in Roanoke.

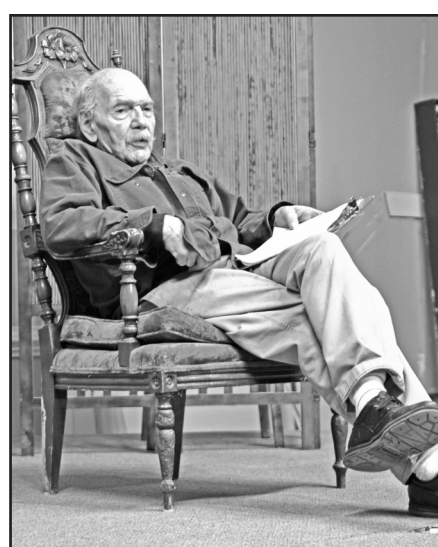
Marlow was a familiar face and presence in Vinton with the opening of the Star City Playhouse on Pollard Street.

Throughout his illustrious career, Marlow’s legacy spans over 50 years as an Equity Actor. His talent graced the stage alongside esteemed actors such as Tommy Lee Jones, Jon Voight, Eddie Herriman, and Stockard Channing. A versatile artist, he not only graced the stage, but also directed performances across the country. His creative expressions extended to the written word, contributing to BBC radio.

Marlow’s love for the arts transcended the spotlight and materialized in the creation of The Elizabeth Playhouse. Recognizing the transformative power of theater, he sold his Manhattan apartment to establish The Elizabeth Playhouse, housed in an 1851 church outside of New York City. After a decade of shows, he and his wife Karen embarked on a new chapter, acquiring the old Pete Moore Warehouse on Williamson Road to create the Star City Playhouse in Roanoke, and then Vinton.

His vision for theater extended beyond the stage curtains. Marlow sought to cultivate an artistic community, offering actors a space to learn and grow. He believed in providing affordable art for everyone, ensuring that creativity thrived unencumbered by financial constraints.

Away from the world of greasepaint and spotlights, Marlow was an avid historic renovator, transforming neglected properties into vital community assets. He championed the idea that the arts should own businesses like real estate, freeing them from the constraints of grants and fostering true artistic freedom.



Marlow Ferguson and his wife Karen opened the Star City Playhouse in Vinton in Feb. 2017.

Amidst his hectic schedule, Marlow found solace in his little cottage, caring for his beloved animals, especially Trinket, his favorite Wheatie, and his cherished Bobo.

A Korean war veteran who served in the medical corps, Marlow cherished his global adventures, exploring places like Pakistan and Paris.

Marlow was preceded in death by his parents, William Kravit and Anna Kravolshka Kravit, and his brother, Stanley Kravit.

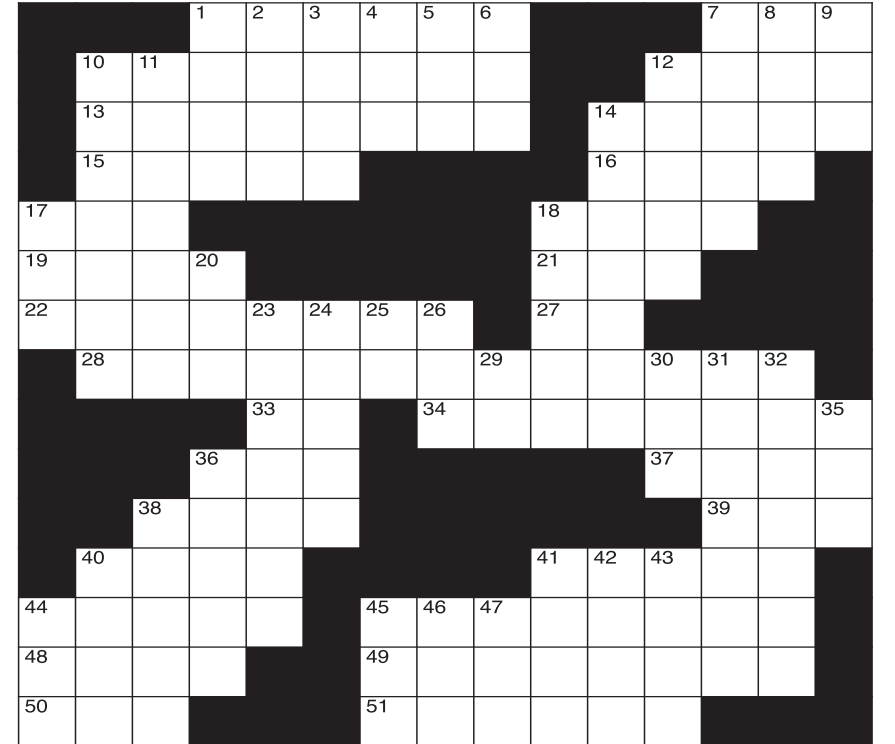
His warmth extended to his family, and he leaves behind his loving wife Karen Ferguson; his stepdaughter, Barb Fischer; and grandson, Alex Fischer.

In honoring Marlow’s wishes, there will be no formal gathering. Instead, he desired to be remembered through acts of volunteering in the community. Marlow’s life was indeed a wonderful journey, and his memory will continue to inspire acts of creativity, compassion, and service, echoing the sentiment that, truly, it was “A Wonderful Life.”

Star City Playhouse opened on Pollard Street in downtown Vinton in February 2017 and sadly closed about three years later, after giving several local actors their start, including students at William Byrd High School.

Submitted by Karen Ferguson

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respiratory disorder 7. Bulgarian mountain peak 10. Group of important people 12. South American nation 13. Amazes 14. ___-Castell, makers of pens 15. Perlman and Seehorn are two 16. Early medieval alphabet 17. Legislator (slang) 18. Tasty crustacean 19. Course of action 21. Airborne (abbr.) 22. Permanent church appointment 27. Larry and Curly’s pal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28. Famed American journalist 33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet 34. In a way, vanished 36. Afflict in mind or body 37. Egyptian Sun god 38. Source of the Blue Nile 39. Egyptian unit of weight 40. Be the source of pain 41. Esteemed award ___ d’Or 44. Partner to pains 45. Deep blue 48. No longer living 49. Country in the UK 50. Not even 51. Arizona city | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wager 2. Classical portico 3. As a result 4. Bird 5. A type of “Squad” system 6. Autonomic nervous system 7. Dish with food on a stick 8. City northwest of Provo 9. C. European river 10. One out of jail 11. Henry Clay estate 12. Heathen 14. Refrained 17. Parts per billion (abbr.) 18. “The Stranger” author 20. Not old 23. Periods of starvation 24. Language of tribe in India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Savings account 26. Pitching stat 29. Megabyte 30. Ribonucleic acid 31. A place to put your feet 32. The fun part of a week 35. We all have our own 36. Partner to “ooohed” 38. African nation 40. Breezed through 41. Sets out 42. Other 43. Not fattening 44. “Much ___ about nothing” 45. Central Time 46. Former EU monetary unit 47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom |
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Thank you for reading!
VintonMessenger.com

Shopper

from page 1

in 2021 and has now opened the brick and mortar location in Vinton.

“I think my favorite thing about running The Farm Shoppe is the relationships I get to build. Whether you’re coming in looking for a specific piece or need some inspiration for a spot to fill, we take pride in getting to know our customers and their tastes,” he said.

“If we don’t have something in stock, we do our best by sending out the search party to find the perfect match!”

Hall is continually refreshing and replenishing inventory to meet demand.

The Vinton shop is not the Halls’ only location. You can find their booths inside Willow Tree Antiques and Primitives in Roanoke and at Evie’s at the Lake in Moneta.

The Vinton Farm Shoppe is tucked away on the hill behind the Vinton Farmers’ Market next door to Coastal



PHOTO COURTESY THE FARM SHOPPE



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Above left, owner Brandon Hall stocks a special Kidz Korner, which includes these adorable Warmies—comforting stuffed animals which can be heated for kids. Above right, The Farm Shoppe is located on the hill behind the Vinton Farmers’ Market and next door to Coastal Insurance Planning of Virginia. While the address of The Farm Shoppe is 143 Gus Nicks Blvd., you reach it via the Post Office/Twin Creeks parking lot

Insurance Planning of Virginia, although the address is officially 143 Gus Nicks Blvd.

The retailer is relatively easy to locate once you find the Vinton Post Office and the Vinton Farmers’ Market.

Enter the Post Office back parking lot, then turn left into the alley which leads to Coastal Insurance

Planning. The Farm Shoppe is right next door.

Their hours of operation are:

- Monday, 3-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, closed
- Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Friday, 3 to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. “I want to thank folks for their support—without our success in the booths and local events we wouldn’t have gotten this far,” Hall said. “We plan to host many events this year, including fun for the whole family, so be sure to keep up with our Facebook page. We are stoked to be back InVinton and can’t

wait to grow within the community.”

One of the first community events will be a “Valentine Sip & Shop” with nearby Twin Creeks Brewing Company on Saturday, Feb. 10, from noon to 2 p.m.

Be sure to follow The Farm Shoppe on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/thefarmshoppellc/>

to see what gifts and décor the Farm Shoppe is currently featuring, to take part in frequent “giveaways,” and to watch for coming events.

They also have an official website at <https://thefarmshoppellc.com/> where you may purchase online, or you can simply call 540-517-5097 for more information.

The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020

(540) 473-2741

1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153

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.

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

Recipe of the Week: Hawaiian Sweet Bread

If King’s Hawaiian Sweet Rolls are on your grocery list every week, here is a recipe for making them yourself. The secret to the sweetness is pineapple juice.

Baker Robert Taira created the King’s Hawaiian rolls recipe, a variation of the Portuguese sweet bread popular in Hawaii, at his bakery in Hilo, Hawaii in the 1950s.

He eventually expanded his bakery to Honolulu and then to California and across the United States after tourists and locals began shipping the rolls to the mainland as gifts for family and friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup milk (warmed)
- 1/4 cup butter (melted)
- 1 egg
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 envelope active dry yeast
- 3 to 3-1/2 cups flour

Instructions:

Combine pineapple juice, milk, melted butter, egg, sugar, vanilla, salt, and yeast. Stir in 3 cups of flour.

Knead, adding additional flour if needed, until you have a soft, smooth ball of dough (about 5 minutes if using the dough hook of a stand mixer). Cover, and let rise until doubled – about 1 hour.

Grease a standard loaf pan. Punch down dough, press into a rectangle, fold into thirds (top over middle, and then bottom over top), and place seam side down in prepared pan.

Cover and let rise 45 minutes. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake 20-25 minutes until the top is dark golden brown. Cool in pan 5 minutes, and then turn out onto a rack to complete cooling.

You can also make this recipe into rolls. After the first rising, divide the dough into 16 pieces, shape into rolls, and place in a greased baking dish, cover and let rise 45 minutes. Then bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Baker Robert Taira created the King’s Hawaiian rolls recipe, a variation of the Portuguese sweet bread at his bakery in Hilo, Hawaii in the 1950s.

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
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.

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.”

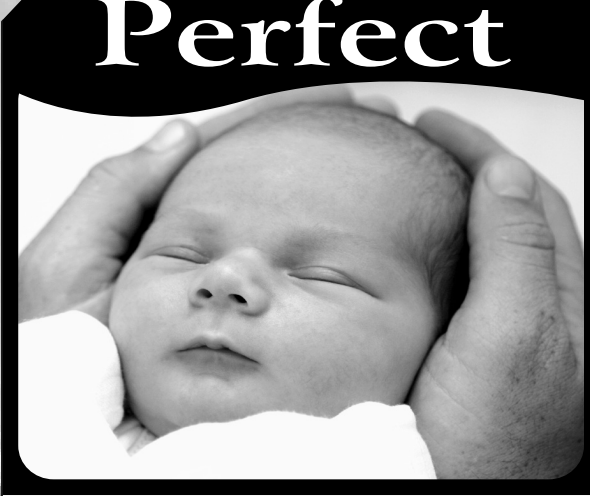
CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

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 possible, please take the health steps that are

VINTON

Perfect



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Matthew 2.1-15	Matthew 2.16-23	Matthew 3.1-17	Matthew 4.12-25	Matthew 8.1-17	Matthew 8.18-34	Matthew 9.1-17

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eckva.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; cmcp2verizon.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.

WBHS Positive Office Referral students listed

As an integral part of the PBIS program, students at WBMS consistently uphold the values of safety, respect, and responsibility, collectively known as the Terrier Way.

As a testament to their dedication and exemplary conduct, WBMS teachers submitted Positive Office Referrals to school administrators throughout the first semester. These referrals serve to acknowledge and celebrate instances where WBMS students demonstrated outstanding commitment to being safe, respectful, and responsible in various settings.

Collectively, WBMS students have garnered an impressive total of 931 Positive Office Referrals for the first semester.

Sixth graders receiving Positive Office Referrals include: Benjamin Amos, Drake Andrews, Madison Artrip, Ashnoor Ashnoor, Avery Ashwell, Jostyn Atkinson, Isla Beth Baldwin, Grayson Bell, Maggie Benson, Reece Brady, Mason Bruno, Peyton Burks, Dristin Byrd, Angel Cabrera Cruz, Zurisadaí Cabrera Garrido, Kyleigh Catlin, Tyler Cobb, Aiden Cohen, Liam Collins, Isabella Cooke, Tania Cortes Martinez, Roxanne Creech, Adam Cunningham, Colton Cunningham, Kyleigh Daniels, Abigail Davis, Kayleigh Davis, Brantley Dodd, Brooklyn Duncan, Chaz Jordan Dunlap, Kathryn Etue, Ahmad Faqiri, Rihele Ferguson Wright, William Fitzgerald, Evan Foley, Sophia Franklin, Pierce Franks, Brett Gardner, Kinzley Gibson, Taryn Giles, Adhieu Gon, Rory Grant, Astrid Guifarro Alvarenga, Marie Guyer, Charlotte Harper, Diamond Harris, Ian Michael Hart, Abbey Hedrick, Justin Heitz, Raegan Henritze, Shelby Hensley, Chloe Hodges, Jameson Horst, Camden Ingram, Aaliyah Jeffers, Zaniyah Jennings, Kalani Johnson, Douglas Jones, Ashlynn Joy, Peyson Lamonde, Levi Lawhorn, Brennan Leary, Abigail Maldonado, Parker

McAlmont, Ashton McNeil, Elliana Meadows, Jacinna Mitchell, Jacob Morris, Landon Morris, Dakota Mundy, Dallas Mundy, Chance Nguyen, Bryce Patrick, Lucas Perdue, Jackson Poindexter, Emily Pritchard, Xavier Pulliam, Ava Rader, Savannah Radosevich, Georgia Ralph, Abigail Ramsey, Jace ReMine, Calvin Richardson, Alaina Robertson, Annabelle Robtison, Jasmin Rodriguez Muniz, Robert Ross, Blake Rosser, Ashton Royall, Sterling Scott, Manaya Sharma, Savannah Shepherd, Lidiah Slusser, Karlee Smith, Camdyn Swanson, Liam Thepsimuong, Emily Thomas, Emma Thomas, Jaciel Torres Carreon, Peyton Underwood, Caleb Webster, Mason Weeks, Madison Weymouth, Zariah Williams, Mackynzi Wilson, Josiah Wines, and Aidan Worley

Seventh graders receiving Positive Office Referrals include: Kendall Adams, Ace Adkins, Raylend Agee, Carlee Akers, Tabitha Allen, Katie Altamirano Diaz, Charlee Ashby, Alexander Ashwell, Lakyn Austin, ZyQuan Austin, Elizabeth Ball, Elyshah Ball, Lola Barbour, Grant Bartley, Jayden Beasley, Ryan Bell, Ethan Bibby, Chloe Biller, Aaron Bishop, Tristan Blevins, Emma Boyd, Addison Bradford, Madison Brigdon, Joshua Brown, Larry Brown, Karla Brumback, Liam Bruner, Garrett Brunk, Maurkese Burnette, Sofia Butler, Cooper Butrym, Jennifer Cabrera, Zachary Camden, Robert Campbell, Ethan Camper, Colten Carter, Svante Carter, Elijah Castelluccio, Cruise Castleberry, Savannah Chassereau, Calvin Chen, Payten Childress, Avery Chitwood, Joshua Christensen, William Churchill, Gage Clark, Allyssa Clyburn, Riley Cobb, Kingsley Conner, Hunter Crabb, Conner Daugherty, Grayson Davis, Carston Dibenedetto, Reid Divers, Kelly Dixon, Michael Dixon, Alexander Dolan, Landon Dolan, Ashlynn Doss, Dakota Downs, Claire Draper, Iris Dudley, Izaih Duncan, Remington Duncan, McKinley Edberg, Jaxon Eline, Maykin Estrada Castro, William Etue, Lena

Fairtrace, Macie Fields, Russell Fisher, Ryleigh Fisher, Kyleigh Flurnoy, Noah Flynn, Adalee Fore, Brayden Furrow, Julissa Garcia, Luis Garcia, Madison Gibson, Kayden Gibson, Jaxon Glatt, Nyankor Gon, Kayden Gonzalez, Kaleb Gordon, Carter Gray, Damon Gutierrez, Landon Hagy, Joshua Hale, Autumn Hanger, Tenley Hardifer, Alyssa Harless, Hannah Harless, Deja Harris, Makila Harris, Jay Paul Haynes, Autumn Hayslett, Jackson Henderson, Gabriel Hindenlang, Ayriana Huff, Madelyn Huffman, Nathen Hurley, Zachary Ingram, Marygann Jenkins, Mia Johnson, Brogan Jordan, David Kelly, Jasmine Kestner, Briggs Kotz, Aiden Kroner, Mason Labinski, Rylan Lang, Zoe LaRose, Lakarie Lee, Carleigh Linkous, Brooke Lomax, Ashlynn Lovern, Chase Madonna, Melissa Madonna, Wyatt Magill, Nehemias Maldonado, Charlotte Manning, Kyler Martin, Nolan Martin, Lixi Martinez Maldonado, Mason McDaniel, Ella McReynolds, Cale Meador, Arley Mendez Diaz, Corinne Michalski, Layna Miller, Samantha Miller, Miriam Moore, Oliver Moore, Grady Morck, Gracie Morgan, Mason Moses, William Muddiman, Vanessa Mullen, Hailey Mullins, Kailee Murray Neal, Cameron Nelms, La Riah Noel, Jayden Omiyo, Jaxon Oneill, Natalie Onwi, Alaura Overstreet, Vishva Patel, Graham Payne, David Pham, Marley Poindexter, Maya Potter, Jax Proctor, Violeta Ramirez, Mahkenna Ramsey, Madelynn Ray, Talon Ray, Maxwell Reeves, Landon Rodgers, Nathan Rowberg, Aubrey Roye, Lacey Russell, Aden Sanderson, Liam Shaw, Kennedy Shifflett, Isabella Shropshire, Bentley Shupe, Adam Sink, Ethan Sink, Aniya Smith, Rafe Smith, Corryn Speed, Jacob Spradlin, Nevaeh Stevens, Colton Stiltner, Zachery Taylor, JaCoby Thomas, Peyton Turner, Jonathan Underwood, Paylin Waldron, Keelan Webster, Isabella Wertz, Cole Wheeler, Holden White, Colton Whorley, Jack Williams, Joshua J. Williams, Wesley Wilson, ZyAyer Woods, Ava Wright, Baze Wright, Josiah Wright, Shaun

Wyrick, Rayan Young, and Carlie Zimmerman

Eighth graders receiving Positive Office Referrals include: Kaleb Agee, Ezra Akers, Kayden Althoff, Bryce Angle, Franklin Apple, Caleigh Aremia, Jacob Artrip, Noah Ashby, Tayler Austin, Jeimy Avilez Rodriguez, Asia Bannister, Kayleigh Barber, Isabella Barrette, Madelyn Barrette, Eli Barton, Evyn Bass, Aiden Beasley, Matthew Beavers, Katelyn Bennett, Logan Beverage, Jaiden Blankenship, Logan Blevins, Greyson Bradford, Paxton Brown, Norah Buck, Shawn Bunce, Ke arion Burch, Olivia Bush, Stephen Byars, Gabriel Campbell, Mason Campbell, Neriah Campbell, Ryan Carroll, Eric Chen, Wyatt Childress, Noah Ciafardini, Isabella Clark, Jazmine Clifton, Seth Cochran Whitt, Aarolyn Cohen, Aysia Collins, Elliana Conner, Claire Cooper, Bradley Counts, Bella Craddock, Johnny Craighead, Kayden Creel, Terry Cruz Hernandez, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Helen De la Cruz Cala, Braylon Dent, Meranda Dilcher, Koby Dillon, Nathan Doan, Jason Dooley, Marshall Dooley, Gavin Dubois, Anthony Dudley, Preston Duncan, Timothy Duncan, Noah Dunithan, Caeden Eanes, Angelyce Enriquez, Gabriel Fely, Logan Ferguson, Reagan Fike, Alanna Fitzgerald, Michael Fleisher, Debra Gamble, Adrian Garcia, Benjamin Gardner, Cesar Gaspar Cabrera, Erik Gaspar Reyes, Peyton Gates, Talon Gibson, Kaylee Gilbert, Mackenzie Gillett, Conner Gilmore, Kyleigh Ginger, Kur Gon, Dylan Greenway, Riley Gregory, Haydn Grubb, Ainslee Hall, Michal Hamlar, Preslee Hamm, Josiah Harper, Aubrey Harris, Myah Hendrick, Mirian Hernandez Lemus, Mason Hershel, Kenleigh Hetherington, Camryn Hicks, Sierra Hill, Kaelyn Hilscher, Jude Hinkle, Dillon Hodge, Raelyn Hodges, Landon Hollins, Anthony Holmes, Benjamin Hoyos, Margaret Jennings, Kaylee Johnson, Raymond Johnson, Kamron Jones, Jayda Jordan, Cooper Kageals, Brianna Kell,

Nathaniel Kingery, Xander Lacks, Samuel Leftwich, Moises Leon, Naleigh Lewis, Reese Mahanes, Andrea Maldonado, Octavia Mann, Olivia Marcus, Gray Matthews, Jacob Matthews, Jacob McCoy, Mallory Michalski, Jack Mills, Katelyn Mills, Christian Minnix, Kenley Minnix, Mia Hohamed, Leah Montgomery, Charly Moreira, Connor Morris, Kennedy Moseley, Josephine Mullen, Mallorie Mullins, Grayson Mundy, Carmen Munoz, Ethan Neville, Alana Niday, Riley Niday, Amira Nieves, Allen Nunez, Daniel Ochoa, Emma Olivit, Carter Palmer, Jacob Perez, Kendall Perkins, Anna Perkoski, Collin Pero, Jack Petersen, Jenna Petersen, Ian Poff, Kinsleigh Pulliam, Seanna Quarles, Jayden Rabb Puckett, Kendall Ranson, Brian Ratliff, Alex Reyes Pavon, Riley Rhine, Aiden Rhodes, Amy Rickman, Maksymilian Rosenberg, Evalyn Routhier, Summer Rothier, Elliana Ruble, Haleigh Saucedo, Vivian Schmidt, Enna Schofield, Luke Scott, Joshua Serreno, Layla Sexton, Teagan Simmons, Richard Smith, Siena Smith, Vicki Smith, Alexander Sorensen, Zoe Sowers, Aaron Start, Paul St. Clair, Alyssa Steahly, Gwen Summo, Kara Sutton, Jaiden Swanson, Emma Teasley, Haydn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Cameron Thomas, Hope Thomas, Cassidy Thompson, Isaiiah Thompson, Javon Tingler, Jamari Toler, Juan Torres Carreon, Ayden Trent, Kameron Tuck, Jesse Underwood, Mia Vest, Chyna Walker, Braelyn Webster, Hailey Webster, Jacey Weddle, Bryson Wendell, Keenan West, Carson Wheeler, Kaelyn Wheeler, Noah Wheeler, Aaden Whitaker, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Bindi Whitenack, Abriel Wilhelm, Johanna Wines, Ryan Witcher, Sabrina Wray, Hendrix Wright, Kaydy Wright, Caleb Wrye, Alexander Yawn, McKenzie Young, Skylar Young, and Gianna Zivelonghi

Submitted by Katherine Hutchison, William Byrd Middle School Assistant Principal

Website

from page 1

undertaking. Their strategy at the time was to make the first website as easy for citizens to use as possible—and that has remained their goal ever since.

The website was updated in 2010 when Consuela Caudill was assistant town manager. The goal for that upgrade was “for citizens to be able to find any information they were seeking in four clicks, no more.” Town Executive Assistant/Town Clerk Susan Johnson and Tucei worked on the most recent revision in 2019, along with Sweeney and Gladden from Roanoke County. Their website vendor in 2019, and again in 2023, was Civic Plus—a software platform built mainly for local governments.

As for why they decided to “refresh” the website once again,

Tucei says websites should be updated on a regular basis to ensure information is up-to-date, but also to keep citizens interested in navigating the site. In the course of refreshing the website, Tucei and the staff started with some research on what information was most searched for by citizens, businesses, and guests and revised, refreshed, and enhanced from there.

You will notice the changes immediately when you first open the website. The first page has kept many of the same features and its mega menu at the top, but with a much more user-friendly format, including an easy-to-read font. The colorful theme features the Blue Ridge Mountains and their beautiful blues, the traditional maroon and mustard colors found on

the Town Seal, new photos within a slide show, new menu buttons that make information readily available on the Town Code, Agendas and Minutes, Concerns and Requests, GIS mapping, Refuse Collection schedules and routes, facility rentals, “How Do I?” and “Notify Me.”

“Notify Me” allows visitors to the website to quickly and easily sign up for emergency alerts through CodeRED, view the latest town news flashes, receive notifications of town events, and research job openings in various departments.

All the information on paying bills from the town and county can be found with one click. One click will also get you to all the town’s social media pages, popular links, and the “All Things Vinton e-Newsletter.”

That first page also displays the latest information posted on social media and a detailed calendar of town events.

It also contains some Vinton trivia—Vinton occupies 3.2 square miles, has a population of 8,059, with 344 small businesses, three Roanoke Valley Greenway trails, and close proximity (under a mile) to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Each town department has its own information-packed page with numerous links, and how to contact them specifically.

If you live in Vinton, most everything you need to know is on the “Residents” page; if you own a business or are planning one in Vinton, check out “Businesses.”

The website contains a wealth of information. It even points you to free parking areas

available when you are in town and more than you may ever want to know about codes and permits.

Tucei says working with Civic Plus on refreshing the website was a great experience, once again. “They make it simple with easy-to-follow templates and flexibility in designs.”

Basically, the town tells the website developer what they want included in their website and Civic Plus does the design, presents it to the town, and is more than willing to make adjustments for suggested changes.

Tucei and the other staff members began working on the enhanced website in May 2023 and it has recently been unveiled online. Once again, be sure to visit www.vintonva.gov and take a look.

VINTON HISTORY



PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

“Petunias on Campbell” by Celeste Sparrow.

“Petunias on Campbell” was painted by Celeste Sparrow. The painting won the Perry F. Kendig Award in memory of Perry Kendig who was president of Roanoke College and an avid supporter and patron of the arts.

The awards began in 1985, sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Arts Council. The award was once given to Melva P. Jones, a lifelong Vintonite and a music teacher to many children and adults in the Vinton area.

Her estate donated the painting to the Vinton History Museum where it hangs in the museum

office. Even after her death, Melva Jones’ support of the Vinton History Museum continues through a foundation in her memory.

See the beautiful “Petunias on Campbell” painting and other paintings at the Vinton History Museum, 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Preserving the Past for the Future.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

A	S	T	H	M	A	K	O	M							
P	A	N	T	H	E	O	N	P	E	R	U				
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The Vinton Messenger

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Marketplace

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Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION

January 19, 2024 at 4:00pm
 by Bank of Botetourt
 At 5462 Lee Hwy, Troutville
 In Branch parking lot 2017 GMC Acadia Mileage: 94,034
 For information contact: Bank of Botetourt Danielle at 540-591-5035 Marla at 540-591-5056
 Vehicle Sold As Is
 Other vehicles also may be sold if repossessions occur prior to sale. All announcements made date of sale supersede printed advertisement. Bank of Botetourt reserves the right to accept or decline any offer.
 Not responsible for injury.

For Sale - Firewood

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

Help Wanted - Clerical

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

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

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Adult male is non-verbal and must have assistance with all aspects of daily living. We are looking for a long term person with a good employment record who has experience with a non-verbal adult. Safety is a priority. Candidates must be reliable; have kindness and patience; and show creativity (Music ability a plus). Hours will vary according to the needs of the gentlemen and his family. Pay is \$13.34 through Medicaid and CDCN. Candidates must pass a criminal background check and must have recent references (at least 3.). No cellphone use while working except for emergencies. If interested, please call (540)838-5037 for an interview.

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 - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
 Case No. **CWF220000276**
 BOTETOURT COUNTY Circuit Court, 5 W. MAIN STREET, FINCASTLE, VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* ESTATE OF WILMA C. TODD, DECEASED
 The object of this suit is to: SHOW CAUSE AGAINST PAYMENT AND DELIVERY OF ESTATE TO PARTIES ENTITLED. It is ORDERED that Upon the motion of Atlantic Union Bank, Executor of the Estate of Wilma C. Todd, deceased, (the "Estate") pursuant to Va. Code Section 64.2-556, for an order to show cause against distribution of the Estate. It appearing to the court that the necessary reports of the accounts of the Estate and of the debts and demands against the Estate have been filed with the Court, and at least six months have elapsed since the qualification of the Executor, it is accordingly ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate of Wilma C. Todd, deceased, do appear at 11:00 A.M. on the 31st day of January, 2024 in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street #120, Fincastle, Virginia 24090 and show cause, if any the can, against payment and delivery of the Estate to the parties entitled thereto, without requirement of refunding bonds.
 1-5-2024
 Joel R. Branscom, Circuit Court Judge.
 JANUARY 8, 2024
 Leslieanne Smith, Deputy Clerk

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 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of T J Real Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1236 West Main Street (Tax Map # 141 - 1 - 4) from HBD Highway Business District to CBD Community Business District.
2. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two family dwelling on the property located at 301 Carey Avenue, (Tax Map # 74-2-6.1).
3. Consider the request of Helm Building Enterprises, LTD, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 416 Electric Road (Tax Map # 150-3-1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
4. Consider the request of Virginia Baptist Children's Home (dba HopeTree Family Services), property owner, for rezoning the properties located at 1000 block Red Lane and a portion of 860 Mount Vernon Lane (Tax Map #'s 41-1-1, 41-1-2, 41-1-3, 41-1-4, 41-1-5, 41-1-6, and a portion of 44-3-10) from RSF Residential Single Family to PUD Planned Unit District.

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

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Legals - City of Salem

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on January 24, 2024, at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if certain structures are dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structures should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structures are located as follows:

- (1) Dilapidated structure located at 602 Goodwin Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map #201-10-2); and
- (2) Dilapidated structure located at 336 Schrader Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map #115-1-4).

All parties in interest at the public hearing will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potentially dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036) THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM
 BY Troy D. Loving, Building Official

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PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Left, Byrd's Darin Witcher is on top and on his way to a 106 pound championship at the LCA Invitational last Friday. Right, Bricen Lancaster has an arm hold on his opponent in a 157 pound match. Bricen also won his weight class.

Big Orange takes fourth at 20 team LCA Invitational

The William Byrd "Big Orange" wrestlers battled to a fourth place finish in the LCA Invitational in Lynchburg last Friday. The tournament was scheduled as a two-day affair but squeezed into one day, Friday, with the threat of inclement weather for the weekend.

Washington High School won the tournament among 20 teams. Poquoson was second with 211.5, followed by Hanover with 167 and the Terriers with 140, eight more than fifth place Salem.

"There was some good competition from all over the state," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler.

The Terriers had two champions in a tournament that ran past midnight on Friday night. Darin Witcher

won his class at 106 and Bricen Lancaster laid claim to the 157 pound title.

Witcher improved to 18-2 with two pins and a decision to win his weight class. Darin beat Kam Harrell of Poquoson in the final, 10-4.

At 157 Lancaster pinned his way through the tournament, including a 3:30 fall over Aiden Williams of Rockbridge County in the final. Bricen is now 14-5.

"It was Bricen's first tournament win of his career," said Kessler.

Stephen Underwood lost his quarterfinal match at 165 but rallied for four straight wins in the consolation bracket to take third. He took an 8-5 decision over Wyatt Neel of LCA in the consolation final to

improve to 20-4 on the season.

At 190 Aidan Lucas made it to the semifinal before losing and took fourth and he's now 19-7. Gage Cockran was fifth at 144 and Nelson Escobar placed sixth at 215.

"We had three guys who were one win away from placing, so that was promising as we continue to grow as a team," said Kessler. "We'll look to keep getting better in hopes of peaking in mid-February."

The Terriers were scheduled to wrestle at home Wednesday against Patrick Henry, Glenvar and Roanoke Catholic but results were too late for publication. Byrd is off this weekend, returning to the mats at Northside next Wednesday, January 17.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd indoor team back at RC today

The William Byrd indoor track team will be at the Cregger Center in Salem today, Thursday, for the East Coast Elite Meet #2 at Roanoke College. The scheduled starting time is 3 pm.

The Terriers ran at the RC facility last Friday as well, although that wasn't the original plan. Byrd was scheduled to run in a meet at VMI but when bad weather was predicted for the weekend teams instead opted to compete at Roanoke College on Friday.

The Terriers had some strong performances at RC. Donald Mullins state qualified in the 1000m run with a time of 2:43.22 and a third place finish while DeShawn Austin finished second in the hurdles with a time of 7.99.

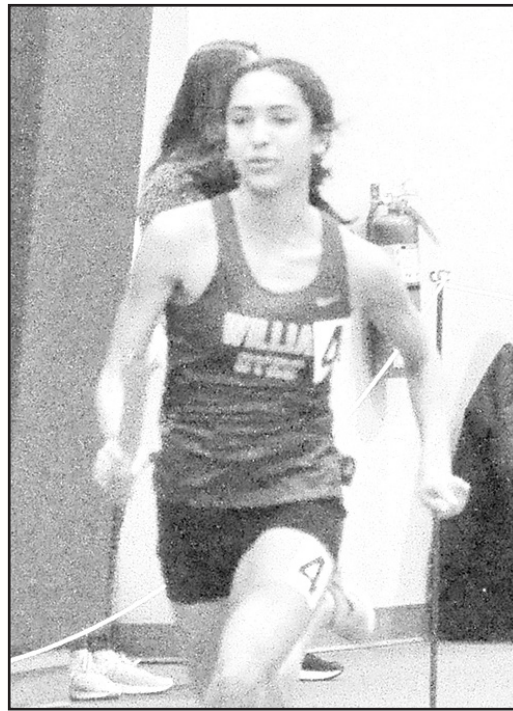
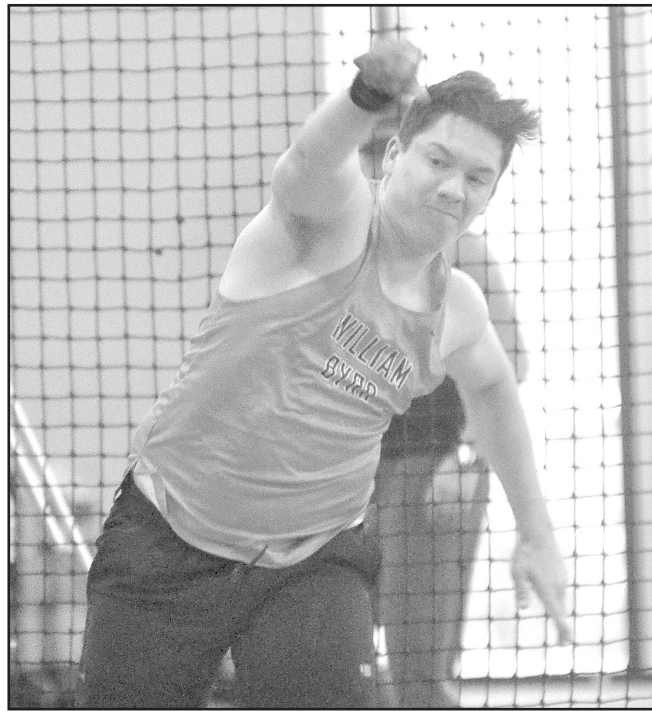
The 4x200m relay of Noah Thompson, Brady Reachy, Wyatt Bailey and Austin state qualified with a time of 1:35.29 and a second place finish, and the 4x400m relay of Austin, Bailey, Mullins and Reagan Lilley finished third and state qualified with a time of 3:37.69.

On the ladies side Grace Onwi finished second in the 300 meters with a time of 43.83. In the 55m hurdles race Emma Kageals won the event with a time of 9.10 and in the 4x200m relay Onwi, Kageals, Emma Matthews and Olivia Bustamante won with a time of 1:54.65.

This week, in addition to today's meet at Roanoke College, several Byrd athletes will be attending the Virginia Beach Showcase on Friday and Saturday.

INDOOR TRACK

Above, left to right, Byrd's Kevin Green, Titus Beatty and Ashton Williamson are out of the blocks in the 55 meter race at the Roanoke College Cregger Center last Friday. Right, Jack Hinkle of Byrd competes in the shot put and, far right, Grace Onwi runs a leg of the winning 4x200 relay.



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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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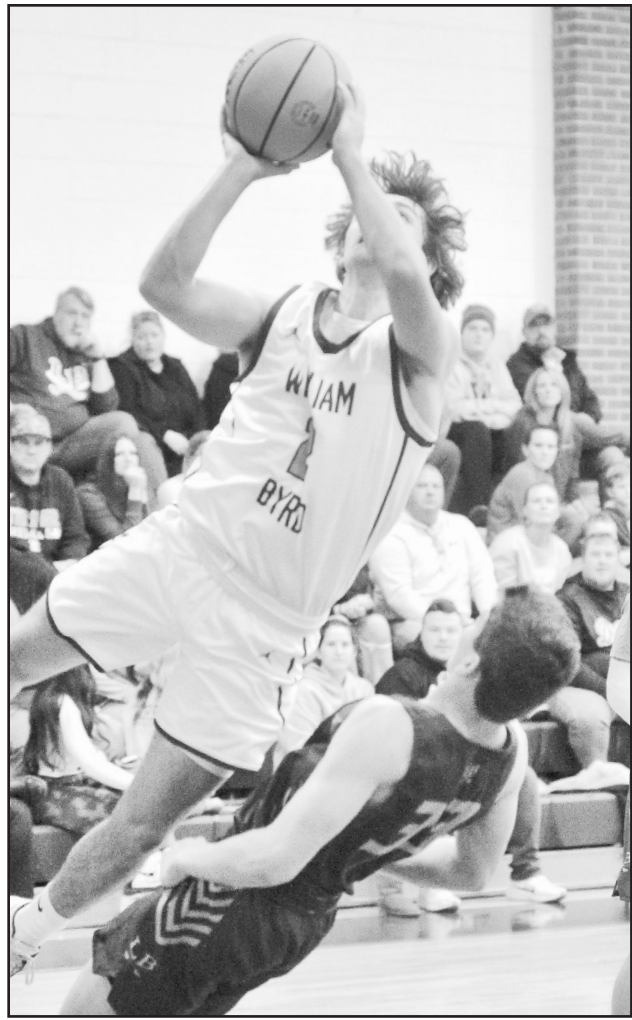
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PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left to right, Byrd's Hayden Eads goes to the hoop with authority in last Friday's win over Lord Botetourt, Jahdai English looks to pass and Ty Blalock is fouled by LB.

Byrd basketball teams have girls-boys doubleheader in Moneta Sat.

Terrier boys use huge fourth quarter to pull away from Lord Botetourt for BRD win

The William Byrd High School basketball teams will play a doubleheader with Staunton River in Moneta this Saturday. The girls will open the twin bill at 4 pm, followed by the boys' game at approximately 6:30 pm.

Both teams were weathered out of Tuesday games with Franklin County, the girls at home and the boys in Rocky Mount. With inclement weather predicted Franklin County closed school and the games will be rescheduled.

The Byrd boys were scheduled to play a non-district game at Cave Spring on Wednesday night, but results were too late for publication. The Terriers opened their Blue Ridge District schedule last week by splitting two games, losing at William Fleming but bouncing back with a big win over Lord Botetourt in Vinton Friday.

At Fleming the Terriers dropped a 77-59 decision. Byrd fell behind 44-29 at the half and the Colonels were never threatened after intermission.

"We didn't defend well enough," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "We competed the whole way through, played hard, but we didn't defend well enough. Too tough to win when you give up that many points."

Hayden Eads and Isaiah Board led the Terriers with 17 points each while Ty Blalock had 13. Jaron Walker had 25 for Fleming, including 17 in the first half.

On Friday the Byrdmen played host to Lord Botetourt and broke open a close game with a huge fourth quarter for an 81-60 district win. Byrd led just 49-48 after three quarters but outscored the Cavaliers 32-12 in the fourth period to win going away.

"Great game to watch and be a part of, lead changes, energy, celebrating the football team's region championship," said Greenway. "We played a clean game offensively."

Board led the fourth quarter charge with 15 of his game-high 29 points in that period. Isaiah was four-for-four from three point range and five-for-five at the free throw line. Blalock had 10 points in the fourth quarter and 16 for the game while Eads finished with 14 points and eight rebounds. Byrd shot 65 percent from the floor and 50 percent on three point attempts, outrebounded LB 37-29 and had 21 assists to 12 for the Cavs.

"Wish every night was that fun," said Greenway. With the win the Terriers improved to 8-3 overall.

The girls also played Fleming and LB last week and dropped both games against the top two teams in the district. Coming into the week both Fleming and LB were 10-2 overall and Tuesday night the Cavaliers won 52-46 at Fleming to remain unbeaten in the district at 3-0.

Last Wednesday in Vinton the Fleming girls took an 80-20 win over Byrd, and on Friday the Terriers had an even tougher time in Daleville, falling to LB 61-10.

"These last two games were a product of going against two of the top teams in the area and also us not having a game for two weeks," said Byrd coach

Randy Bush. "We did have good practices during the time not playing games, but I feel we went into both of these games hesitantly and that led to the wheels falling off. We are excited to get going again and continue with the season."

The Byrd girls are scheduled to host Craig County tonight. The Rockets Class 1 Rockets are 4-4 and have one of the top freshmen in the area in Kailyn Jones, who is averaging over 20 points and 10 rebounds for the season.

Next Tuesday, January 16, the Byrd girls will host Northside while the boys have a game at Northside. The Vikings currently lead the Blue Ridge District boys' standings and are 10-2 overall.



PHOTOS BY EDMEE HASLER

Left, Byrd's Kaylee Makuch battles a Lord Botetourt girl for a loose ball in Daleville Friday. Right, Sam Martin of the Terriers passes to a teammate.

Swimmers will compete in All-Timesland meet Saturday

The William Byrd swimmers had their first meet of the new year Tuesday as they hosted Roanoke Catholic and Hidden Valley at the Gator Center in Roanoke.

The Byrd boys swept the competition, defeating Catholic 50-33 and taking down the Titans, 50-38. The girls split, defeating RC 56-29 but falling to a strong Hidden Valley girls' team, 69-24.

"We were up against some tough competition," said Byrd coach Krista

Martin.

In the boys' meet Brody Parrish won the 100 breaststroke, coming from behind to win by two-tenths of a second. The boys 400 freestyle relay team of Cole Kovacevic, Michael Hoyos, Blake Richardson and Evan Copening also came in first.

Distance swimmer Lindsay Murtaugh won the 200 free and the 500 free for the Byrd girls, winning the 500 by almost a full minute. Lindsay was also a member of the victorious

400 free team with Cary Jones, Gabby Romeo and Mia Pippin.

This Saturday the Terriers will be competing in the All-Timesland meet at the Gator Center. It's one of the largest meets of the season in the Roanoke area and includes most of the Roanoke Valley teams. Preliminaries begin at 10 am with finals scheduled for about 5:30 pm.

"We're looking forward to All Timesland on Saturday," said Martin. "Definitely one of my favorite meets of

the year. It's such a great opportunity to race swimmers from all over our area. Byrd will have 20 swimmers competing, and our goal will be to have as many swimmers as we can qualify for finals at night."

Next Tuesday, January 16, the Terrier swimmers will have their "Senior Night" at the Gator Center as the Terriers swim against Patrick Henry. Seniors to be recognized include Maddy Davis, Cole Kovacevic, Bruno DeMelo and Michael Hoyos.



Left, Jay Rozenboom swims the freestyle and, right, Addi Kincer does the breaststroke in Tuesday's swim meet at the Gator Center.

PHOTOS BY EVAN COPENING

SPORTS

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Left, William Byrd football coach Brad Lutz (center in photo) is introduced to the crowd at FedEx Field in Washington as one of 10 high school football "Coaches of the Week" honored by the Commanders. Right, Brad poses for a shot with former Washington star quarterback Doug Williams.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Byrd coach Brad Lutz has a big day as guest of the Commanders

The only thing that could have made Sunday a better day for William Byrd High School football coach Brad Lutz is if his lifetime favorite team had won the game.

Lutz was a guest of the Washington Commanders Sunday when the team played host to the Dallas Cowboys in the final game of the National Football League regular season. He was one of 10 coaches selected as the "Coach of the Week" in the greater Washington area through the 2023 high school season. One of the 10 would be the Commanders' nominee for the NFL-wide Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Awards, and last week it was announced Lutz was the recipient of that honor.

One of the benefits of being named a Coach of the Week was a trip to see the Commanders play Dallas last Sunday. The 10 weekly winners were all allowed to bring one guest, and Brad chose his father, Charlie, to share the experience with him.

"We're long time Washington fans in our family," said Lutz. "The Redskins were a religion in our house."

Brad and Charlie were on the field for warmups prior to the game, then moved to a luxury box at FedEx Field along with the other nine nominees and their guests. Each coach was presented a gift bag that included a commemorative football, a toboggan, a scarf and some other Commanders items. During the game they moved down to the field during a timeout to be recognized by the crowd.

"It was an outstanding experience, everything was first class," said Lutz. "I was fortunate enough to meet some people who I'd admired, like (former Washington quarterback) Doug Williams and (former receiver) Gary Clark, who played for Pulaski County."

Unfortunately for the home team the Cowboys won the game, 38-10. Dallas was a big favorite but early in the game the Commanders blocked a kick and had a tipped interception that led to a 10-7 lead. Was Lutz feeling an upset brewing?

"To be honest, it was hard to pay attention to the game," he said. "When you get 10 high school football coaches together in the same room we talked a lot of football. I knew a couple of the other coaches, and I had about a 30 minute conversation with Gary Clark. I really enjoyed talking to him."

It was a great atmosphere for a guy who grew up with the Redskins. While Brad appreciates the reason for the name change, he sometimes finds it hard to call the team Commanders.

"We grew up with the Redskins, and I'm old school," he said. "My dad was at

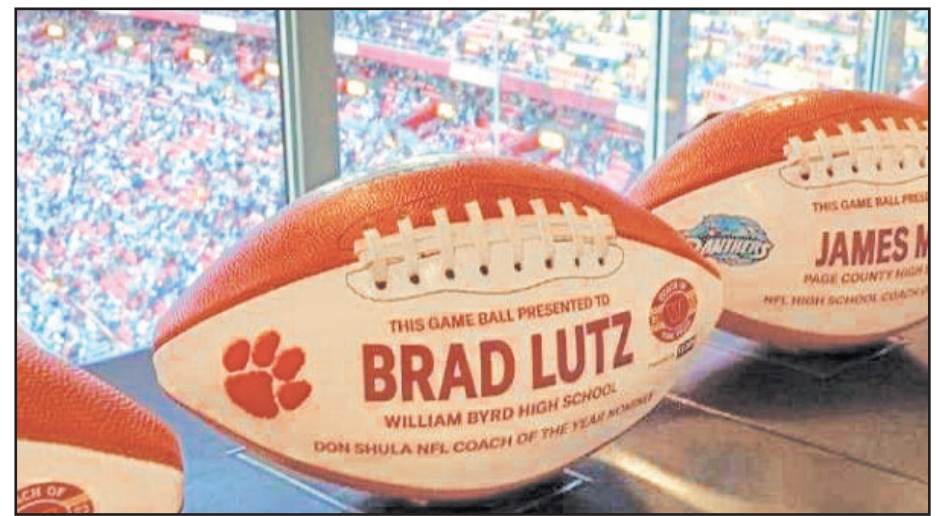
the game when Joe Theismann broke his leg. It was a thrill to meet some of the ex-players like Raleigh McKenzie and Don Warren."

It was announced last week that Lutz had been selected to represent the Commanders in the national Don Shula Award process, one of 32 high school coaches with each team having one nominee (see story on this page). Brad was humbled to be chosen.

"To be mentioned in the same sentence with Don Shula is a great honor," he said. "There's an interesting lineup of coaches for this award. Jason Witten (former Cowboys tight end) is one of the nominees."

While Lutz is appreciative of the honor, he's quick to credit his staff, players, school and community for being part of the success. Two national winners, one from each conference, will receive a \$15,000 check for their school and that's something he'd love to present Byrd athletic director Jason Taylor.

"It's nice to get recognized as the head coach but there are so many people involved in the success of our program," said Lutz. "To be considered is a tremendous honor for the school and our football program, and they all share in this."



The Commanders presented each coach with a commemorative football.

Commanders choose Lutz as candidate for Don Shula Award

The Washington Commanders have chosen William Byrd High School football coach Brad Lutz as the team's nominee for the 2023 Don Shula High School Coach of the Year Award. The league-wide award recognizes high school football coaches who display the integrity, achievement, and leadership qualities exemplified by Don Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history.

Lutz has been the head coach of Byrd's football program for five years, where he led the Terriers to a 12-2 record in 2023 and oversaw a district championship and the first regional championship in school history. Coach Lutz's impact on William Byrd's football program is evidenced by the team record and increased participation over the past five years.

Lutz has a deep respect for the values of the military, which are incorporated into the football program. Several coaches are veterans and the team operates an accountability system modeled after a platoon in the military. At the beginning of each summer, the team creates summer platoons named and modeled after those of our service branches. Each week, players can earn points for their platoon by attending workouts and winning competitive drills and competitions. Lutz believes this system brings the team closer together and helps identify players with leadership qualities.

Lutz has brought a "soldier tribute" tradition to each program he has worked with in his tenure as a

football coach. In September 2004, Coach Lutz lost one of his close friends and high school teammate who was killed by an IED while serving in Iraq. He continues to share the story of his friend's commitment to his teammates on the field and his sacrifice to his country.

Understanding the loss that a local community faces in these instances, Coach Lutz learned that the William Byrd community had also lost a football alumnus in combat. This tradition, which emphasizes sacrifice and comradeship, contributes to how Coach Lutz builds a strong foundation that includes selfless service and respect within the football program. Each week, the team plays in honor of a soldier who lost their life in the line of duty, and the team continues to wear special game uniforms honoring the different branches of our military, with 2023's season being inspired by the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

Lutz firmly believes that football is the greatest sport in the world, with benefits for participants that continue throughout one's life. Off the field, Coach Lutz is a special education teacher and works with many students with physical and/or learning disabilities. Many of his students love sports but have physical limitations preventing them from competitive play. As a result, he encourages these students to join the program as student managers, providing them with an opportunity to be a part of the team and experience the thrill of football. The players

have embraced these students and recognize everyone as key members of the team.

"We at William Byrd High School have long known how great of a coach and leader Brad Lutz is, and we're proud that he's now being recognized by the Washington Commanders and the NFL for his accomplishments," said William Byrd Athletic Director Jason Taylor. "Coach Lutz recognizes the value football brings to players, other students, and the community as a whole. He also emphasizes the importance of academics to his players, as evidenced by the team's collective 3.2 GPA."

The High School Coach of the Week Program sponsored by Clark Construction, is an NFL initiative that aims to highlight local high school football coaches who consistently demonstrate a dedication to their programs, their players' health and safety, and to making a difference in their community. As a nominee, Coach Lutz will receive a \$2,000 personal award and an additional \$2,000 for his high school football program.

An expert panel will review each NFL club's nominees and select an award winner from each conference. The winners will be announced by the NFL in the near future and will receive an all-expenses paid trip to both the 2024 Pro Bowl Games in Orlando, Florida and Super Bowl in Las Vegas. In addition, the winners will each receive \$15,000 each for their school's football programs and a \$10,000 personal award.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

CHAMPS HONORED

The William Byrd High School football team was recognized during a break in the basketball game between the Terriers and Lord Botetourt in Vinton last Friday night. Byrd was 12-2 and won the Blue Ridge District and Region 3D football championships during the fall season.