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Artist Jon Murrill brings his vision to downtown Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton is fortunate to be Jon Murrill's hometown and the location of the first in his "Lady Appalachia" series of outdoor wall murals. He is currently creating the mountains and his first Lady Appalachia on the exterior walls of the Town of Vinton Annex building on Pollard Street.

"I am so thrilled to be painting my first mural of the year in my hometown of Vinton!" said Murrill. "This mural is meaningful to me not only as a local, but also as a creative. From a very early stage we knew we wanted something special here on Pollard Street. The mural represents a Blue Ridge Mountain vista from the perspective of Vinton's vantage point.

"We see Mill Mountain and the valley below glowing in the sun and leading us visually to the showpiece of the mural - 'Lady Appalachia.'

"This subject depicts not only a striking portrait, but more importantly, a representation of our close ties as individuals to the land and textures of Appalachia. Being inspired by the Statue of Liberty, I designed our Lady Appalachia to be an embodiment of the region and our relationship to the land.

"With moss growing on her hands, scattered freckles resembling deer spots, and a bird's nest crowning her forehead, we see a unique female representation that we haven't seen before here in public art. This series is something I plan to continue throughout the region over the next few years and what better place to start than right



Jon Murrill is in his second week of work on the Lady Appalachia outdoor mural in downtown Vinton, on some occasions using a bucket truck, rather than a ladder, to reach the tops of the wall at the Town of Vinton Annex on Pollard Street. Plans are to complete the project in early April.

here in Vinton."

Murrill is a graduate of William Byrd High School in the Class of 2005. He earned his B.A. in Art from Roanoke College and his Master of Fine Arts degree from Radford University with a concentration in both painting and drawing. He then taught art at Craig County and Patrick Henry High Schools.

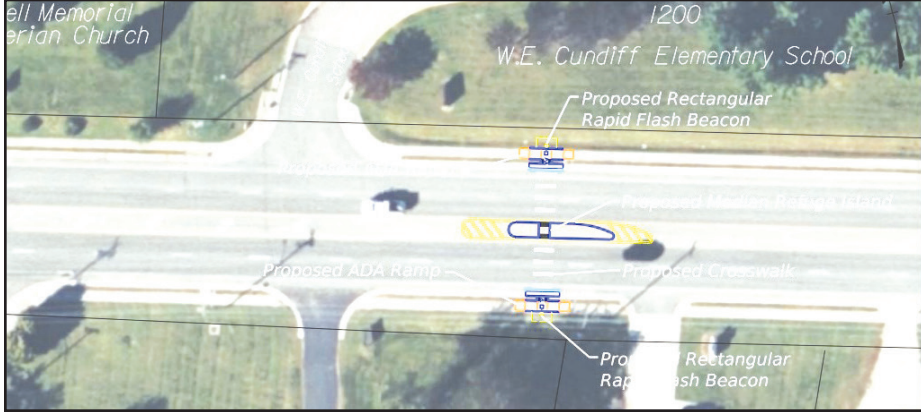
He has exhibited in juried exhibitions, solo exhibits, and group shows across the United States. Murrill has also taught a variety of courses at a collegiate level. His roots in education have led him to explore community engagement projects in his public work. Last spring, he partnered with art teachers and students from William Byrd for the beautiful mural at the Vinton Veterinary Specialty Services Center on Washington Avenue.

You can find his murals all across the Roanoke Valley and Southwest Virginia, and now in downtown Vinton.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Town Council authorizes Hardy Road/Gus Nicks crosswalks contract



Rendering of Hardy Road Crosswalk

Debbie Adams
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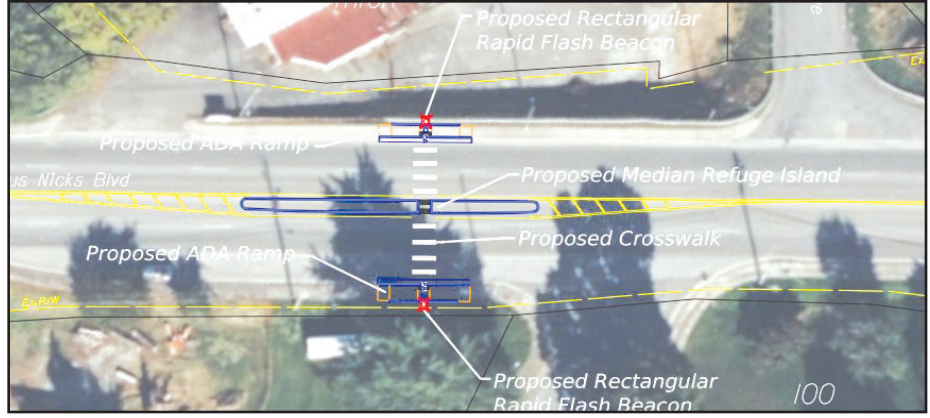
At their meeting on March 19, members of Vinton Town Council adopted a resolution awarding a construction bid and authorizing the town manager to execute a contract with F&B Contractors, Ltd., in the amount of \$499,118.25 for the construction of crosswalks on Hardy

Road and Gus Nicks Boulevard.

The Hardy Road Crosswalk will be in between the entrance to St. Timothy Lutheran Church and the first (west) entrance to W.E. Cundiff Elementary School.

The Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk will be located near Gish Mill.

The town issued an Invitation for Bids



Rendering of Gus Nicks Boulevard Crosswalk

GRAPHICS COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

(IFB) on January 19 seeking bids for the project which includes both crosswalks. They received two sealed bids, one from S.C. Rossi & Co., Inc., for \$661,505 and the low bid from F&B Contractors, Ltd. for \$498,705.75. (Two minor errors increased the bid by \$412.50.)

On February 22, a letter and supporting documents were sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation

Salem District requesting authorization to award the construction project to F&B Contractors. Approval was received from VDOT on March 7.

Town Manager Pete Peters noted that the low bid was within the expected budget and the contract was to be executed on March 20. He expects work to get

See **Crosswalks**, page 6

Vinton native Jaclyn Hayden now performing in Las Vegas

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Jaclyn Hayden graduated from William Byrd with the Class of 2010. During her high school years, she played basketball and ran track. She was in theatre and choir throughout her years at Byrd. She was a member of the Dogwood Court in 2010. She took voice lessons from Susan Lewis and piano lessons from Wanda Melchers. She was also a lifeguard at the Vinton pool every summer until she graduated from college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACLYN HAYDEN

Vinton native Jaclyn Hayden is now performing at Ole Red Las Vegas.

Now the singer/songwriter/guitarist is about to begin a residency at the Ole Red in Las Vegas.

See **Hayden**, page 6



PHOTO BY RVTY

The Walnut Avenue Parking Lot is now open to the public.

The Town of Vinton has announced the official opening of the Walnut Avenue Parking Lot, a new public parking lot bringing over 80 new spaces to downtown Vinton. The lot, located at 7 Walnut Avenue behind the Vinton Farmers' Market stage, is within a short walk of downtown Vinton businesses, amenities, and experiences. There is no charge to park.

Anyone visiting downtown Vinton in the evenings or on weekends, especially

Walnut Avenue Parking Lot officially open

since the opening of the Pollard 107 South restaurant and Pok-E-Joe's, along with the expansion at Twin Creeks Brewing Company, has noticed a definite increase in vehicles in the downtown area. The town recognized the need for more parking and took action to remedy the situation, and in time for this year's Dogwood Festival, scheduled for April 26 and 27.

See **Walnut**, page 5

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Celebrating Decades of Dogwood Queens

Debbie Adams
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The 2024 Vinton Dogwood Festival is scheduled for April 26 and 27. Over the next several weeks, The Vinton Messenger will be looking back on past Dogwood Queens leading up to this year's festival and the crowning of a new queen. Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival 1994, Virginia Trost Thornton, is featured this week.

In the early years of the Vinton Dogwood Festival, participating bands were asked to nominate a princess and the Dogwood Queen was selected from those young women after interviews with a panel of judges.

Later on, the festival became a preliminary to the Miss Virginia pageant, with competitions in swimsuits and talent added to the judges' interviews. Nowadays, the Dogwood Queen is chosen from seniors at William Byrd High School nominated by the faculty and selected by judges.

Virginia Vanessa Trost, Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival 1993, participated during the years when the festival

was affiliated with the Miss Virginia Pageant.

Trost, the daughter of Randall and Della Trost of Forest, was 22 when she won the Vinton pageant. She was not only the overall winner but won both the swimsuit and talent competitions. She was crowned by the reigning queen, Kimberly White.

She was a student at Lynchburg College working towards her Bachelor of Science degree with plans for a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering. She had studied piano for 14 years, voice for two years, dance for four years, and taken two years of gymnastics. In the talent competition she played piano and is said to have "dazzled the judges with Khachaturian's 'Tocatta in B Flat Major.'"

In college, Trost had been named as an Outstanding Young Woman in America recipient and nominated for the Barry M. Goldwater Academic Excellence award. She later entered the Miss Virginia and Miss Maryland pageants.

There were six bands in the 1993 Dogwood Festival

Parade, including the Virginia Tech Eighty-Tighties Regimental Band. Washington Redskin player Joe Jacoby was the grand marshal of the parade that year. The Embers were the headliners for entertainment. Chris Keaton was serving as president of the Dogwood Festival. Susan Teass (now festival secretary and coordinator of the Dogwood Queen and Court) had been named as the pageant's executive director.

Teass said at the time that Trost "was very easy to work with and will be an excellent representative for Vinton."

Trost says now that truly her best memory from the Vinton Dogwood Festival was Susan Teass – "she was amazing."

"My year as Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival was truly remarkable," said Trost. "Vinton is known to be community-minded and supportive of local festivities. My director and chaperone, Susan Teass, was incredibly supportive and treated me like her own. We spent hours together



Virginia Trost, center, was crowned the new Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival at Saturday's pageant. She also won the swimsuit and talent competitions. Nancy Gibson (left) and Tracy Felton Terrell were able to

Virginia Trost (center) was Miss Dogwood Festival Queen in 1993.

preparing for Miss Virginia and she made my year of community service most enjoyable. She is so lovely.

"The Dogwood Festival changed my life by providing a scholarship which I used to obtain a degree in chemistry. Thereafter, I also completed my Juris Doctorate and am now an attorney in Lynchburg.

"The Vinton Dogwood Festival and parade was so beautiful and a delight to be a part of."



VINTON MESSENGER ARCHIVES
Virginia Trost (on right) was crowned by the 1992 Dogwood Queen, Kimberly White.

Vinton Chamber hosting Senior Expo Tuesday

The Vinton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Senior Expo at the Vinton War Memorial on Tuesday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Senior Expo is one of the Chamber's most popular events and always brings out huge crowds of seniors, their families, and caregivers to gather information on all-things retirement and aging-related. As always there are door prizes, goody bags, vendor giveaways, screenings, and more.

Approximately 70 vendors have signed up for booths at this year's event including representatives from retirement, assisted living, insurance, financial planning, nursing homes, medical equipment, home health care, hearing, and eye care services. Food On The Go and Got Donuts will also be on site.

The Senior Expo is free and open to the public with plentiful parking available at the War Memorial.

This year's Expo is sponsored by the Community Foundation

See Expo, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON CHAMBER

Vinton Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewning (left) and Chamber Executive Assistant and Financial Coordinator Kathryn Sowers

Join us at the **SENIOR Expo** sponsored by Community Foundation Ann & Bill Scheer Fund

Tuesday, March 26th, 2024
10AM- 2PM
Vinton War Memorial
814 E Washington Ave, Vinton

Vendors to include: Retirement, Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, Medical Equipment, Home Health Care, Financial, Insurance, Hearing & Eyecare

Door prizes, goody bags, vendor giveaways, screenings, and more
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- Gold: Winter Storage, Oakey's Funeral Services, SERVPRO

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



Cydney McGhee accepts her FBI National Academy graduation diploma from FBI Director Chris Wray



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

From left, Drake Lewis, Cydney McGhee, Angie Chewning, and Hannah Lewis at the FBI National Academy graduation on March 15.

By Angie Chewning

To say I am blessed is quite the understatement. To say I am honored is not an adequate word. Last week my son, Drake and wife Hannah Lewis and I were invited to attend the FBI National Academy Graduation Session No. 289 at Quantico Base, where my daughter Cydney McGhee graduated in a class of 197 (only 23 women).

The 10-week class

consisted of students ages 31-61, from 47 states and 23 countries, four military organizations, and five federal civilian organizations.

The diplomas were presented by FBI Director Christopher Wray. The two days were a whirlwind of emotions, but we are so proud and honored to have been a part of her big day. I will follow up with more details soon.

I hope everyone had

a safe and fun St Patty's weekend. Thank you to everyone who spent some of their time and had fun InVinton!

Reminder – The Vinton Chamber's Senior Services Expo is Tuesday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial. There will be over 65 vendors to help you sort through hard decisions and help make life a bit easier; free admission and free parking.

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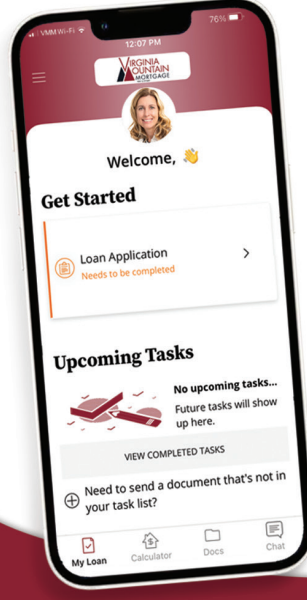
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Vinton receives grant for improvements to canoe launch and Wolf Creek Greenway

The Town of Vinton recently received a Project Outside grant from the Roanoke Outside Foundation for outdoor recreation improvements. The \$4,500 grant will be used by the town to improve parking and access at the Tinker Creek Canoe Launch and Wolf Creek Greenway.

“The town is excited to receive funds from the Roanoke Outside Foundation,” said Vinton Associate Planner Fayula Gordon. “The Project Outside grant will be used to upgrade the parking facilities at Wolf Creek Greenway and the Tinker Canoe Launch. This initiative addresses critical community needs by enhancing the infrastructure of both Wolf Creek Greenway and Tinker Canoe Launch.

“The replacement of parking lot perimeter fences ensures improved designation and aesthetic appeal. Installing wheel stops and asphalt millings contributes to safer, more organized parking areas, promoting a positive user experience. The inclusion of dedicated parking spots for disabled individuals

aligns with the town’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, fostering a welcoming environment for all community members.

“This project serves as a pivotal step towards creating well-maintained and accessible spaces for recreational activities, ultimately benefiting the health and well-being of Vinton residents and those from surrounding areas who use these facilities.”

The Tinker Creek Canoe Launch is located at 801 3rd Street, Vinton, across from the Vinton Public Works Department. It is open year-round from sunrise to sunset, weather and water conditions permitting.

Since its creation in 2020, Project Outside grants have provided \$175,000 to fund maintenance and development of outdoor assets and support for outdoor-related organizations and businesses in the Roanoke region. Project Outside is awarding an additional \$25,000 in grant funding for projects throughout the Roanoke Region thanks to donations



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Part of the \$4,500 Project Outside grant Vinton has received from the Roanoke Outside Foundation will go toward improvements at the Tinker Creek Canoe Launch on 3rd Street.

from individuals and proceeds from the annual Go Outside Festival.

Other 2024 Project Outside grant recipients include:

- Botetourt County Parks and Recreation: \$1,000 to replace broken parking lot barriers at the Gala public access point on the Upper James River Water Trail.
- Franklin County Parks and Recreation: \$1,500 to replace rotten board elements of the Waid Park Bike Skills Park.
- The Wild Way: \$2,500 to cover

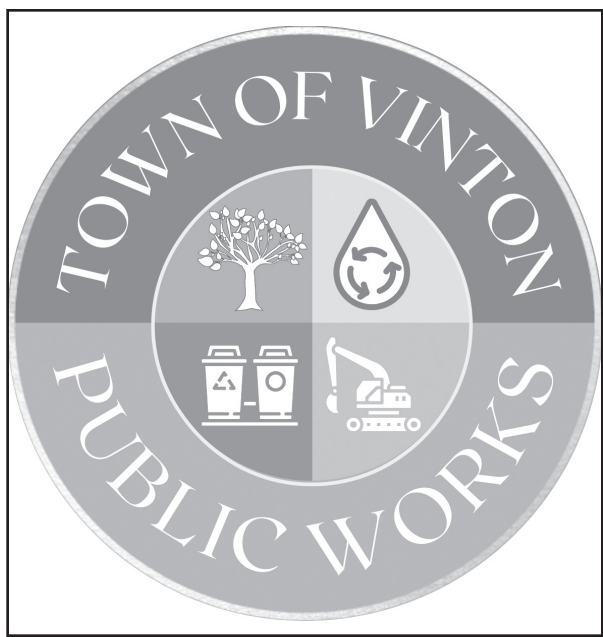
enrollment costs for in-need girls to participate in an outdoor, confidence-building program.

- Pathfinders for Greenways: \$4,500 to purchase materials and tools to begin improving the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail.

- Healing Strides of Virginia: \$1,250 to offset expenses associated with an equine therapy program that benefits individuals with physical, emotional, and cognitive needs.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton Public Works Dept. issues January report



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON PUBLIC WORKS

The Vinton Public Works Department has released the monthly report for January. Thirty-two work orders were completed during the month. In January, 274.47 tons of Municipal Waste and Wood Waste were collected, along with 35.75 tons of Residential Waste and Wood Waste. Curbside recycling collected 3.62 tons of materials. Eight tires were disposed of. Public Works employees completed 11 work orders involving removal of dead animals. Eleven new refuse carts and two new recycling bins were delivered.

Employees delivered two “Adopt-A-Truck” vehicles to citizens utilizing that program.

As for Fleet Maintenance, eight police vehicles were serviced, along with 10 Public Works Light and Medium Duty Vehicles, and 15 heavy duty vehicles.

Public Works staff prepared for several winter weather events in January: two crew members worked 13.5 hours on Jan. 6 monitoring road conditions; five staff members worked 73 man-hours on Jan. 15 and 16 pushing/salting roads (using 27 tons of De-icer salt); four employees worked 44 man-hours on Jan. 16 pushing/salting roads using 9 tons of De-icer); three staff members worked 21.25 man-hours on Jan. 16 shoveling snow (using 13 bags—650 lbs. of Ice Melt).

Crews also spent 160 man-hours taking down Christmas decorations in early January.

Public Works performed Storm Drain Maintenance/Repair on West Cleveland Ave. and 1st Street installing 220 ft. of storm drainpipe, using 7 bags of concrete, 11 bags of Cold Patch, and 7 seven tons of asphalt.

Employees used two yards of concrete on East Cleveland for a driveway entrance—curb, gutter, and apron. Four potholes were repaired using five bags of Cold Patch.

Miscellaneous jobs included yard restoration, addressing driveway concerns, work on the greenway, 19 utility markings, 1 WVWA Fire Hydrant reading/inspection, and a shopping cart removal.

In other Public Works-related news, Town Manager Pete Peters says that Public Works staff has pulled demo permits to remove mobile homes from the Cedar Avenue property and have already begun removing debris and doing site clean-up. Full demo will commence in late March/early April, and the internal paved driveway and all utilities will also be removed. The site will be restored as green space. Relocation of the 1st Street water

line to accommodate closing the street (for the proposed hotel) is proceeding well and ahead of schedule. There is no firm date on the road’s re-opening, although it could be as early as this week.

The 4th Street waterline was completed by the WVWA. The town will pave the area as part of the spring paving cycle.

Staff has finalized the order for the refuse truck replacement for \$320,000. The new vehicle is expected to arrive in July. The town will retire its oldest truck and the current truck will become the primary backup/double run truck.

Streetlamp bulb replacement has been completed downtown after several months of delays. The town has also initiated a request to replace all downtown lamps with LED bulbs. The town is waiting for AEP to change old cobra lamps on Virginia/Hardy to match Washington Avenue and Hardy Road LED upgrades.

Boxley has returned to finish paving on Clearview Drive and Niagara Road and will also pave 4th Street, 8th Street, and Jackson Avenue (near the new Walnut Avenue parking lot) this spring.

Staff has established a prioritized 2024 paving list. Final paving allowances and selected streets will be determined as part of FY25 Budget Development. Vinton’s paving budget has increased dramatically from FY18/19 (\$400,000) to FY23/24 (\$1.9 million, combining fall and spring).

Paving was deferred when the CIP budget was at bare bones level in the earlier years. The town is now virtually debt free with the sale of the town’s water and wastewater system to the Western Virginia Water Authority, various funds and grants received related to the pandemic, and with Rosie’s as a new revenue stream. The town is now catching up on a variety of Capital Improvement Projects delayed in past years due to budget constraints.

As for the downtown block destroyed by fire in July 2022, Peters says an environmental assessment is underway through an EPA grant. The plan is to place the property “in a holding pattern” by seeding the corner lot with grass and removing the fencing as the town and property owners await the results. This should improve the aesthetics on the corner of Pollard and Lee Avenue and make the area safer for citizens.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Jamaican pastor sharing his ministry at Vinton Wesleyan Church

Rev. Michael Cummings, from Westmoreland, Jamaica, will be sharing his testimony in word and song, along with his family, at Vinton Wesleyan Church, on Sunday, March 24, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Michael, at the age of nineteen, was called into pastoral ministry. He has studied at Caribbean Wesleyan College, Kingswood University, and Wesley Biblical Seminary. He obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Theology and Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Pastoral Ministry.

Cummings is a teacher, motivational speaker, Justice of the Peace, events promoter, and volunteer police chaplain at the Jamaica Constabulary Force. He has served as pastor of several Wesleyan churches in Jamaica. He is a songwriter and singer.

He is married to Janna Haughton-Cummings who is currently a math teacher at Neal Middle School in Durham, North Carolina. They have one beautiful daughter, Miyana Cummings.

Pastor Michael has a servant’s heart. His greatest desire is to use his knowledge and creativity to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and to equip the believers in grace to transform their communities with love. His favorite Bible verse is Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your

good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

We invite our community to join us in worship with Pastor Cummings, Janna and Miyana on Sunday, March 24.

Vinton Wesleyan Church is located at 246 Jefferson Ave. in downtown Vinton, across from the Roland E. Cook Lofts.

Submitted by Vinton Wesleyan Church



PHOTO COURTESY VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

Jamaican Pastor Michael Cummings will be sharing his testimony at Vinton Wesleyan on March 24. He is pictured with his wife, Janna Haughton-Cummings, and daughter, Miyana.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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59					60				61			
62					63				64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- One who regrets
 - Time zone
 - Subway dweller
 - Bend in a river
 - Alias
 - Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
 - Very (music)
 - Zero
 - Phil __, former CIA
 - Competitions
 - Unwell
 - Puts in place
 - Gets rid of
 - Allows light to pass through
 - Climbed quickly
 - We all have it
 - There’s a North & South
 - Emaciation
 - Supervises flying
 - Very dark colors
 - Unwanted
 - Grants
 - Three visited Jesus
 - Wife of Amun
 - Broadway actress Daisy
 - A Spanish river
 - I (German)
 - French opera composer
 - Six (Spanish)
 - Last letter
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - A curved shape
 - Make a mistake
 - Tall plant
 - Cassava
 - Talented
 - Capital of Estonia
 - Finger millet
 - In a way, assists
 - Men’s fashion accessories
 - Misery
 - Skin disorder
 - Selling at specially reduced prices
 - Good friend
 - Stationary portion of a generator
 - Expression of disappointment
 - The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - Where birds fly
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - Chaotic states
 - Comedic actress Gasteroy
 - Kids’ dining accessory
 - Snake-like fish
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Assign lifelike qualities to
 - One who cites
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - North wind
 - One or the other
 - Cavalry sword
 - Of the Hungarian language
 - Life stories
 - Flat tableland with steep edges
 - Swiss river
 - Plant that makes gum
 - French cleric
 - One point east of northeast
 - Free from
- CLUES DOWN**
- Computer memory
 - “Et __”: “And wife” (Latin)
 - Ancient Syrian city
 - College army



From the Pulpit

By Pastor Bryan Crouch,
Lynn Haven Baptist Church

“Made for Good Works”

Our focus at Lynn Haven Baptist Church for 2024 is on Discipleship. Discipleship is the process of becoming more like Christ tomorrow than you were today. Based on this focus, we have been going verse by verse through the Book of Ephesians.

We have now reached the middle of chapter two, which explains the calling every believer has on their life. Verse 10 simply tells us, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Let’s take a deeper look into this verse to understand it better. “God’s handiwork” means we are a work of art that has been created by the great Creator Himself! We are valuable and irreplaceable. Our value is both earthly and heavenly. We have been masterfully created “to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (v.10).

In context, these good works prepared

in advance are those opportunities for us as Gentiles to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we have been “chosen and predestined” to do from before time began. We are called to live as a new creation brought alive through resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit (v.1-9). Living a life that is pleasing to God is one that draws others nearer to His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ. This is our calling. These are the works!

Community Programs and Facilities releases monthly report for February

The Department of Community Programs and Facilities in Vinton has released its monthly report for February.

The Vinton War Memorial has been selected once again as the Silver Award winner by readers of the Roanoker Magazine for “Best Corporate Meeting Center.”

The Charles R. Hill Community Center reports 13 rentals in February with an attendance of over 500 and resulting revenues of \$2,005. There was one in-kind program attended by 25.

Several programs and activities for seniors were well-attended at the community center in February bringing in over 800 attendees. Five Tai Chi classes brought in 125 participants; 12 line-dancing classes had an attendance

of 480. There were five canasta sessions with a total attendance of 80, four Mexican Domino classes with 40 participants, and four Monday Music Jams attracting 120 participants and spectators. Total revenue value equaled \$2,120.

The Vinton War Memorial reported 14 room rentals with over 1,000 in attendance and revenue of \$7,364. There were two Town of Vinton events with 70 in attendance and two in-kind programs with 120 participants. Programs included the Town of Vinton Police Summit, the Chili Cook-off, the Vinton Woman’s Club, and The Advancement Foundation.

Community Events and Programs are partnering with Salsa Noke to host seasonal dances throughout the year, and also participated in Career Quest. They have re-established a connection with the Roanoke Wedding Network, re-established the SNAP/EBT/Fresh Match discussion, and connected with ROCO Community Recreation Programming to continue discussions on Senior Programs.

According to Town Manager Pete Peters, Mandy Adkins and Rachel Nunley will begin work for the

town on April 8, resulting in a fully staffed Community Programs Division. Adkins will serve as director, Amanda Payne as manager, Caroline Loveland as supervisor for sales, and Nunley as supervisor for marketing.

Staff has coordinated meetings with senior program providers ranging from Roanoke County Parks and Rec to local churches, to other providers such as LOA. The goal is to restore, expand, and connect seniors with new or existing programs across the community and valley.

The staff has developed a final scope of work, cost estimates, and timing of the War Memorial remodel in 2025. Many of the updates will be cosmetic (paint, wallpaper, furniture, draperies), but also include technology upgrades, LED lighting, more efficient windows, and structural realignment of the indoor stairs. The cost will be in the range of \$1.7 to \$2 million. Current plans are to close the facility from January 2025 through March 2026. Staff will be retained.

- Town of Vinton and Vinton Messenger staff report

The Vinton Messenger

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Chamber of Commerce hosted first Lunch and Learn of 2024

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Lunch and Learn session of the year on March 13 at the Charles R. Hill Community Center. Guest speakers were April Yost and Dustin Beckner from Star City Rehabilitation and Nursing.

Yost is the director of admissions at Star City, which is located near Vinton on Mecca Street in Roanoke. The center (formerly Richfield

Living) opened in 2020 and features a hotel-like environment on three floors with 116 beds and an array of different services. There are separate areas dedicated to memory care, long-term care, and rehabilitation. The goal at Star City is to focus on independence and the quality of life.

Yost spoke about the rehabilitation department, which keeps residents as

See Chamber, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

April Yost and Dustin Beckner of Star City Rehabilitation and Nursing were the guest speakers for the Vinton Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn session on March 13. They were introduced by Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewning (on left).

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

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)
VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Avenue, Vinton. Rev. Dr. Travis Russell, 343-7685. Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:15AM, Morning Worship 10:30 AM, Wednesday Services: Worship, Bible Study, Children’s Choirs and Youth Ministry at 6:15 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 pos-

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Extraordinary Gratitude

Read 1 Samuel 1:1 through 3:21

Nancy attempted to read her toddler’s favorite bedtime story while Davy snuggled close, but her tears kept blurring the pages as she read about the childhood of Samuel the prophet. She couldn’t imagine doing what Samuel’s mother, Hannah, had done—leaving her young son at the temple to serve God. What extraordinary gratitude for the gift of a child.

“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord” (1 Samuel 1:27-28).

Nancy and her husband couldn’t imagine ever

letting go of their only child. So it came as a shock when Davy began sensing a call from God to become an Air Force pilot. A military career was the last thing his parents would have chosen. Yet, when they sought the Lord’s guidance, He confirmed the call. By faith, they released Davy to God’s will out of gratitude for His gift of a child.

Davy went on to become an honored officer whose glowing faith is winning souls to Christ.

Thought for Today: By releasing our children to Jesus’ care, we free them to shine for Him.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 1:17-28

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org

sible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2330 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM.

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

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday

Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.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.

Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

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VINTON HISTORY: Camcorder

A camcorder is a self-contained portable electronic device with video and recording as its primary function. The earliest camcorders recorded onto cassettes. In the 2000s, digital recording became the norm, and tape was replaced by storage media.

Camcorders were originally designed for television broadcast and

were large and heavy, mounted on special pedestals. As technology improved, out-of-studio video recording was possible with compact video cameras and portable video recorders – a detachable recording unit that could be carried to a shooting location. Portable recorders meant that recorded video footage could be aired on the

next newscast, since it was no longer necessary to develop the film.

In the 1980s, Sony, JVC, Kodak, Panasonic, RCA, and Hitachi all began producing consumer camcorders, each with a different format.

The Vinton History Museum has a camcorder on display, donated by Jan and Denny Dickens who volunteer

at the museum at 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday from 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. – “Preserving the Past for the Future.”

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

Camcorder on display at Vinton History Museum, donated by Jan and Denny Dickens

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: EASTER PECAN ROLLS

By Debbie Adams

My mother made these pecan rolls every year for breakfast on Easter. You make them the night before and bake them Easter morning.

Ingredients:

Dough

1/4 cup warm water

1 pkg. active dry yeast

1/3 cup sugar

3/4 cup milk

4 Tbsp. unsalted butter (room temperature), plus more for greasing pan

3 large egg yolks

1 and 1/4 tsp. salt

4 to 4 and 1/4 cups all purpose flour, plus more for dusting

Filling:

1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

1/2 to 1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon

4 Tbsp. unsalted butter

Topping

3/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

4 Tbsp. unsalted butter

3 Tbsp. honey

1 Tbsp. light corn syrup

1 and 1/2 cups (6 ounces) coarsely

chopped pecans

Make the dough. In the bowl

of electric mixer, combine warm

water, yeast, and 1 tsp. sugar. Stir

to dissolve and let sit until foamy

(about 5 minutes). Add milk, butter,

remaining sugar, egg yolks, salt, and

3 cups of flour. Mix on low speed

until blended. Switch to a dough

hook and then, again on low speed,

slowly incorporate the remaining 1

cup flour. Increase speed to medium,

kneading dough until smooth and slightly sticky (adding a little more flour if too wet), for 3 to 5 minutes. Shape the dough into a ball, and place in a large, buttered bowl. Turn dough over in bowl to coat with butter from bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Let rise in warm place until doubled in size (about an hour; two if not in a warm place). After the dough has risen, punch down. Turn out on lightly floured cutting board and let sit it 20 minutes.

Make the filling. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Melt butter; keep separate.

Roll dough out into 12" x 18" rectangle. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Starting with long side, roll dough into cylinder. Place seam side down on a

flat surface and cut crosswise into 15 slices.

Make the topping. In a 1-quart saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter, honey, and corn syrup over low heat. Stir until butter and sugar are melted. Pour mixture into greased 9" x 13" pan and sprinkle pecans on top of syrup.

Place dough slices, flat side down, on top of prepared topping. Crowd them so they touch. Cover with plastic wrap, leaving room for rolls to rise, and refrigerate overnight.

Remove rolls from refrigerator and let stand at room temperature while oven preheats to 375 degrees. Bake rolls until golden, 30 to 35 minutes. Remove pan from oven and immediately invert onto a serving tray or baking dish. Be careful not to spill hot topping. Cool slightly; serve warm.

Bank of Botetourt now accepting applications for its 8th annual ‘Taking Care of You’ community scholarship

Bank of Botetourt is pleased to offer its 8th annual “Taking Care of You” Community Scholarship opportunity, totaling \$2,000.00. Five scholarships will be awarded, three for \$500.00 and two for \$250.00. These scholarships are available to high school seniors and existing college students with a GPA of 2.50 or higher who currently utilize

Bank of Botetourt for their Banking needs.

“The Bank is proud to support students in their academic achievements and invest in their futures as they pursue higher education. Since the inception of this scholarship, we have awarded \$7,000, and each year we look forward to reviewing applications,” shares Bank

President and COO, Michelle R. Austin.

To apply, applicants are required to write a two-page essay on the topic of “How has Bank of Botetourt been able to take care of your banking and financial needs and what is the Bank’s impact on the community?” For full essay guidelines and additional information, please visit www.BankofBotetourt.com/

Community-Involvement. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2024.

For additional information please contact the Bank’s Scholarship Committee at scholarship@bankofbotetourt.com.

- Bank of Botetourt

Chamber from page 4

active as possible, on a daily basis, and includes services 24/7.

Beckner, Star City’s speech therapist, detailed specific therapy services with four physical therapists and two occupational therapists, in addition to speech.

The facility houses a therapy gym with a small kitchen so

that residents may practice preparing their own meals at home. There is a laundry room to help reinforce those skills. Before they are dismissed to home care, residents visit their homes with personnel from Star City to determine how they are able to function in their home environment and what

adjustments/assistance might be needed to make the home more accessible.

Socialization is encouraged with the household model of dining – all together – and group activities. According to Beckner, Wi Bowling is all the rage at Star City. Specialized equipment is available to meet

every need from DST parallel bars, to the Rifton TRAM transfer and mobility training device, to core strengthening equipment.

Star City works with residents and their families on family training to determine goals, necessary services, and assistance in preparing to return

home.

All the facility’s rooms are private. Most insurance is accepted.

The luncheon was catered by Pok-E-Joe’s BBQ.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Walnut from page 1

Take a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XXaPVUWBuk> produced by the Town of Vinton and RVTV for more information on the project. The video is narrated by Jamie Hurt, Capital Projects manager for the

Town of Vinton who was responsible for the parking lot project.

This project is one of many improvements along the Walnut Avenue corridor. Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B continues with an expected opening

this spring. The project will connect the greenway across Walnut Avenue and make traveling the greenway system in town more seamless. The Walnut Avenue improvement project has completed phases 1 and 2 from the Roanoke City

limits to Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton. Phase 3 is planned for 2026.

- Town of Vinton and Vinton Messenger staff report

Expo from page 2

Anne and Bill Scheer Fund. Other sponsors include the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County at the Diamond Level; MemberOne, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, and Bank of Botetourt at the Platinum Level; Winter Storage, Oakey’s Funeral Services, and SERVPRO at the Gold Level; Fox Radio, Coastal

Insurance, McCarthy Tire, and HomeTrust Bank at the Silver Level; and RVTV, McDonald’s and The Vinton Messenger at the Bronze Level.

“We’re thrilled that the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has been awarded a generous \$10,000 grant from the Anne and Bill Scheer Fund!” said

Angie Chewning, executive director of the Vinton Chamber of Commerce. “This incredible support will go towards making the 2024 Senior Expo a huge success.”

- Vinton Messenger staff report

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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Hayden from page 1



Hayden and her band performed grand opening week at Ole Red Las Vegas.

Vegas, a music venue, restaurant, and country bar co-owned by renowned country singer Blake Shelton and named after one of his hit songs.

"A residency is similar to a tour, but it is several shows based out of one venue," Hayden explains. "My residency in Las Vegas is a monthly residency so I'll be performing seven consecutive nights every month. My band and I are very excited for this amazing opportunity!"

Hayden began her music career working as an intern for Walt Disney Entertainment in 2012.

"After my internship, I continued my studies at Liberty and graduated in 2015," said Hayden.

Her degree was a Bachelor of Science in Worship and Music Studies with a specialization in Artist Development and Songwriting.

"In 2016, I made the official move to Florida and rejoined Disney until I left in November 2021," says Hayden. "While employed with Disney, I had the privilege of performing in various character roles throughout Disney Entertainment. In addition to performing, I was also a Guest Talent coordinator and a Festival Disney Events coordinator."

"After Disney, I pursued my music career full-time. I started off in the 'Mighty Swell' band led by David Faulk and Sam Trawick. I was the female singer and truly enjoyed being part of such an incredible band!"

"As much as I enjoyed performing with Mighty Swell, I wanted to branch off and create my own show/band. After months of rehearsals with Floyd McCollum (drummer and now road manager), Mika Thompson (bass player), and Stephen Enoch (electric player), my first show was on December 10, 2021, at Ole Red Orlando. My band has expanded over the years. I recently added Landon Siebens on electric guitar. Ole Red Orlando gave me my first opportunity to showcase my band and has been a huge stepping-stone in my career."

"My band and I had the privilege of opening the newest Ole Red on the Las Vegas strip! We performed opening week in January, as well as during Super Bowl week. The experience was incredible. Afterwards, we were offered a residency by General Manager Ryan Klaasen – which we happily accepted."

Hayden says the best thing about her life as a performer is "meeting so many



Hayden (front row, second from left) played basketball for William Byrd.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACLYN HAYDEN

Jaclyn Hayden (fifth from right) was a member of the Vinton Dogwood Court in 2010.

awesome people. Every night I am in front of a new crowd and get to connect with people from all over the world."

She plays guitar and piano and does most of her songwriting on the guitar. In 2020 she went to Nashville and co-wrote her first single "Without You" with Lonestar's Dean Sams.

"Lonestar performed at Disney's Epcot stage," Hayden says. "I was able to meet and speak with Dean, who then offered to co-write/produce my first single!"

Her newest single is "All Over Again."

"I've written a lot of songs but am now starting to release them one by one. Most of my songs are based on true-life experiences. A lot of times I hear a certain melody in my head and can write lyrics to it, even if I don't have my guitar with me. Country music is about telling a story, and I am finally ready to share mine."

Her love for music started with southern gospel – she sang in churches as a child and youth. While currently she sings mostly country music, she says her "roots are in southern gospel."

Hayden's parents still live in Vinton, along with some of her best friends from high school, Katie Pennington, Samantha Hurt, Kasey Wimbush, Sara Landrum Walsh, and Ariel Rios. She says they have stayed close over the years, even after she moved to Florida.

"If you had told me three years ago, I would be singing my own music on large stages under bright lights, I wouldn't have believed you. I've always believed in chasing your dreams, but mine always seemed farfetched. Would I be good enough, pretty enough, young enough.... would people want to hear my music? If so, how do I make that happen? Being on stage was something I was familiar with at Disney, but I was always performing as a different character. A name, wig, and face that I could hide behind and be someone else. There were always criteria – such as a certain look to maintain. At times, it was a lot of pressure. Now, it's my career and name people are showing up for. It's my turn to perform as myself – a small-town girl from Vinton, Va., for which I am truly thankful."

Crosswalks from page 1

underway in early May on the Hardy Road crosswalk so as to complete the project while schools are not in session. The contract stipulates that the project must be substantially completed within 90 days and completed within 120 days.

According to the town, the Hardy Road crosswalk "will improve the lives of the residents in the area and reduce the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians attempting to cross a very heavily traveled street. The project will provide a safer connection for the neighborhoods to the south of Hardy Road to W.E. Cundiff Elementary School and to Wolf Creek Greenway located to the north of Hardy Road."

As for the Gus Nicks crosswalk, "The project will reduce the likelihood of accidents involving pedestrians attempting to cross Gus Nicks Boulevard,

a very heavily traveled right-of-way. The project will provide a safer connection for pedestrians and/or greenway users from Glade Creek Greenway, located to the south of Gus Nicks Boulevard to the Gish Mill Property."

The projects include demolition of concrete and pavement, installation of concrete sidewalks, ADA ramps, pedestrian refuge islands, pavement, Solar RRFB signals and foundations, removal of existing signing and placement of roadway and school signing and foundations, eradication of pavement markings and placement of pavement markings. Both crosswalks will feature flashing lights.

Council issued a proclamation recognizing March as Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month. Multiple Sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system that afflicts approximately 915,000 people in the United States, including Town Council member Laurie Mullins, who was diagnosed 20 years ago. She thanked council members and staff for helping the public to become more aware of the disease through their

action.

Vice Mayor Mike Stovall commended Vinton Police Officer Grant Shepherd for his actions and professionalism at the scene of an accident on March 19 which involved a school bus.

Vinton Town Treasurer/Finance Director Andrew Keen presented a resolution which council adopted allowing the removal of outstanding personal property taxes (\$8,656.10) and vehicle license fees (\$14,606.52) over five years old from the active records to a permanent file. Keen noted that the town has made a "thorough effort" to collect the taxes.

Keen also presented the financial statement for January 31 for council's approval. He reported that the town remains financially strong with consumer-driven tax revenues exceeding expectations.

Council took action to reappoint Robert "Bob" Benninger to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another five-year term, which expires in 2029.

The meeting ended with a "Happy Birthday" wish to the Town of Vinton which turned 140 years old on March 17. The town was chartered in 1884 with 584 citizens.

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Warriors edge WB

Girls are home Friday

The William Byrd girls will have their final soccer match before spring break when they play host to Hidden Valley Friday night. The Terriers and Titans will play a jayvee match at 5:30 pm with the varsity game to follow.

Byrd is 1-2 on the season after losing to heart-breaker to Magna Vista at the Smith River Complex in Martinsville Tuesday night. This was a rematch of last season's Region 3D championship game, which Byrd won 5-0, so the Warriors were out for revenge and they got it with a 1-0 win.

"This was a very evenly matched game throughout," said Byrd coach Molly Cox. "Magna Vista's keeper came up with some big saves to keep us from finding the back of the net."

After a scoreless first half the Region 3D rivals played deep into the second half in a scoreless tie. Finally, with 15 minutes and change on the clock, Magna Vista had



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Elena Mullen works the ball down the field for Byrd.

a breakaway and scored the only goal of the night. Kadence Fernatt had four saves for Byrd.

"We had 10 shots on frame but could not get the one we needed," said Cox.

Sox Fest in Salem Saturday

The annual Sox Fest will be held this Saturday, March 23rd, at Salem Memorial Ballpark, the home of the Salem Red Sox.

The event begins at 11 am and goes until 2 pm and will included food and activities for all ages as the 2024 Carolina League season draws near. Some of the activities include a Mechanical Bull, a Speed Pitch Machine, Face Painting, and Obstacle Course, a Balloon Artist, a DJ with a Photobooth and much more.

Season ticket holder can pick up their tickets at

this time, or fans can also purchase season tickets Saturday.

The Red Sox season will open April 5 at home against Carolina.



Boys' soccer off to 3-0 start, will play at Hidden Valley Fri.

The William Byrd boys' soccer team picked up a big non-district win last Friday when the Terriers shut out Cave Spring, 2-0, on Highfill Field in Vinton. The game was Byrd's third in five days to open the season and the Byrdmen picked up wins in all three to get the season off to a great start.

"It was a challenging week playing three matches over five days to open the season," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman. "It was a lot to ask of the boys but we had a plan for the week and the guys came together and put together three big results. Training Wednesday was all about recovery and Thursday was still recovery and focusing on building our play through the middle."

Byrd also worked on their corner kicks last week and it paid off against the Knights. On the second corner of the game Daniel Britts served a ball that Sergio Leon finished off with a header. A short while later, Ben Guertin was able to get free wide in the corner and played a cross for Leon to head in for his second goal of the night. Both scores came in the first 20 minutes of the game and the Byrd defense did the rest.

"We created chances

through the match but could not finish them," said Dishman. "Overall it was a good performance from the boys and a great way to finish the week."

The Terriers were

scheduled to host Magna Vista on Wednesday of this week but results were too late for publication. On Friday Byrd is at Hidden Valley for the final match before spring break.



PHOTO BY EVAN COPENING

Noah Lowe controls the ball in a recent match.

Tennis girls beat Magna Vista

The William Byrd girls defeated Magna Vista Monday night to even their record at 2-2. Byrd took a 6-3 win in Vinton after losing to Cave Spring last week, 7-2.

"I was especially proud of how our girls not only battled Magna Vista but also did not let the windy and cold conditions deter them," said Byrd coach Randy Bush.

The Byrd boys lost a close one at

Magna Vista, 5-4. The Terriers also lost to Cave Spring last week and they're still looking for a win after four tries.

The boys will play at Hidden Valley on Friday, then take a week off for spring break next week. The girls match with the Titans was postponed and they'll return to the court on April 2nd against William Fleming in Roanoke. The boys will host the Colonels that day when they return from break.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Left, William Byrd's Benjamin Waid works his way to the goal in last week's game in Blacksburg. Right, Justyn Rozenboom sprints down the middle of the Blacksburg defense for a first quarter score.

Byrd lacrosse teams are home tonight to host Hidden Valley

Robert A. Patterson Stadium will be the site of a girls-boys lacrosse doubleheader tonight as William Byrd teams host Hidden Valley. The girls' game will begin at 5:30 pm with the boys to follow at approximately 7:15 pm.

Both teams are 1-1 after two outings. The season opened last Friday with the boys at Blacksburg and the girls at home and the Bruins won both games.

The girls dropped a 13-7 decision at Patterson Stadium. Turnovers hurt the cause for the home team.

"We had five turnovers that led to Blacksburg goals," said Byrd coach Dan Eberhardt. "Had we not had those turnovers I believe the score would have been much closer. It was our first game, and we were working some new players so there was a certain level of nervousness. I feel we will play them better in our next matchup."

Leading the offense was Annika Hylton with five goals. Goalie Barb Hernandez had 14 saves.

In Blacksburg the boys dropped a 12-11 heartbreaker.

"Tough season opener on the road against a good Blacksburg team," said Byrd coach Will Satterfield. "We started slowly but scored four goals in under three minutes late in the fourth to give ourselves a chance to win."

Justyn Rozenboom had four goals and Ben Waid had three. Cason Nichols, Landyn French, Morrison Wright and Beau Brady each added a goal.

This night also marked the first jayvee game in program history and Byrd dropped a 4-0 decision to the Bruins.

"Our guys played well as a team with

a lot of guys new to the game gaining valuable experience," said Satterfield.

On Monday the boys were on the road again, in Rocky Mount to play Franklin County, but this time they returned with a couple wins. The jayvees won 6-5 and the varsity followed with a 10-1 rout of the Eagles.

"Always a challenge to respond to a loss on the road and our guys did just that," said Satterfield.

Jay Rozenboom stepped up at the "faceoff x" and helped Byrd control the ball the whole night. Julian Pantoja had seven saves and the Terrier defense limited the Eagles to just eight shots on goal.

Justyn Rozenboom had four goals and two assists to lead the offense. Brady, Waid and Nichols scored two goals each as the Terriers evened their record at 1-1.

The girls were at home against Franklin County on Monday and they also fared well, taking an 18-8 win over the visiting Eagles. The offense was led by Samantha Martin with six goals and four assists while Annika Hylton also had six goals with an assist. Hernandez came up with 13 saves in the crease and Emma Rupp had three forced turnovers.

"We had a good night against Franklin County," said Eberhardt. "We took an early lead and maintained that lead for the entire game. Our offense dominated with five different players producing goals."

The girls are also 1-1 and after tonight's doubleheader in Vinton both teams will be off for spring break next week.



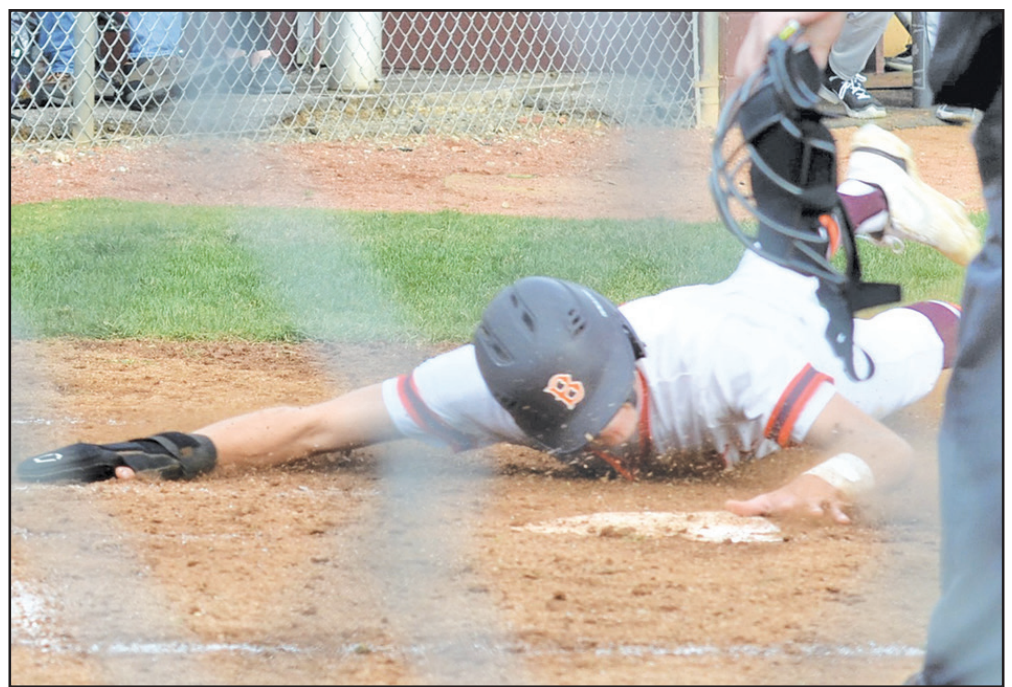
PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY



Above, Byrd's Ava Sexton pushes the ball downfield in last week's lacrosse game against Blacksburg in Vinton. Left, Terrier keeper Barb Hernandez makes one of her 14 saves.

SPORTS

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PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Above left, Byrd's Hayden Eads slides safely into third in last week's win at Walthall Park. Right, Kam McKee touches home for a big run against Cave Spring.

Byrd opens baseball season with win over Knights

The William Byrd baseball team rallied to beat Cave Spring in the Terriers' season opener last Friday. Byrd took a 12-8 win at Walthall Park.

The season didn't start off great for the Byrdmen, as Cave Spring scored four runs in the top of the first and a single run in the second to open a 5-0 lead. Byrd rallied in the bottom of the second to tie the game at 5-5, then exploded to put a crooked seven on the board in the bottom of the fifth. Cave Spring answered with three in the top of the sixth but the Terriers were able to hang on for the win.

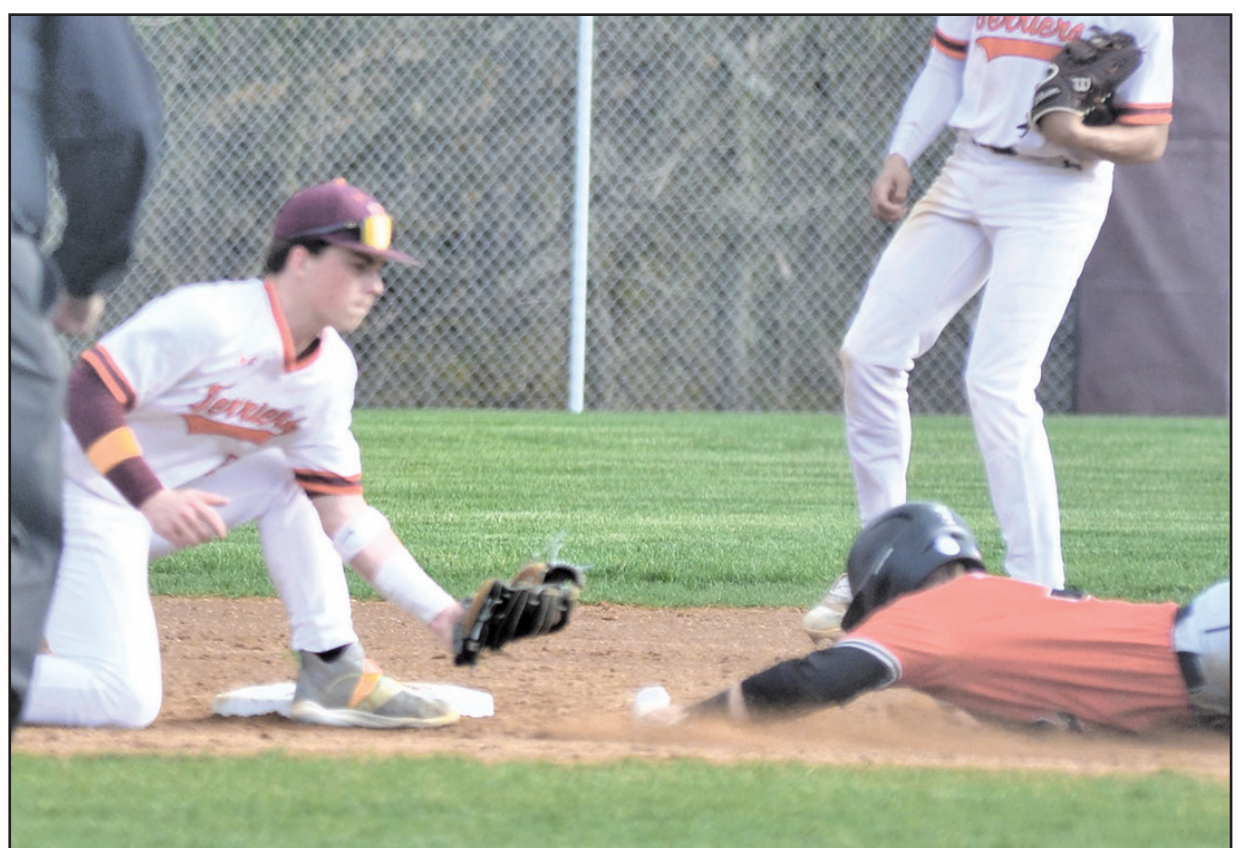
There was good baseball, bad baseball, bad coaching, good coaching, good umpiring and bad umpiring," said Byrd coach Jason Taylor of the opening game. "The hotdogs were only good, not bad. Hotdogs are never bad."

Brogan Dent picked up the win in relief for Byrd, coming on with two out in the fourth. Blake Glover started and pitched the first three innings, giving up five runs of which three were earned. He struck out four and walked three.

Brenin Witcher came on in the fourth and pitched two-thirds of an inning with one strikeout. Dent relieved with two outs and the bases loaded and got out of the jam, then finished the game to pick up the win. He went three and a third innings and allowed three runs, of which just one was earned, and struck out four. Byrd pitchers walked six and hit four Cave Spring batters.

Offensively, Kam McKee and Hayden Eads led Byrd with two hits each. They had back-to-back hits in both innings Byrd scored, the second and fifth. Both Terriers scored twice, as did leadoff man Israel Hairston and Keller Spraker. Ian Burnett and Torin Bundy had two runs batted in each.

Byrd showed good speed on the bases, stealing seven bags. Hairston, McKee and Eads had two swipes each.



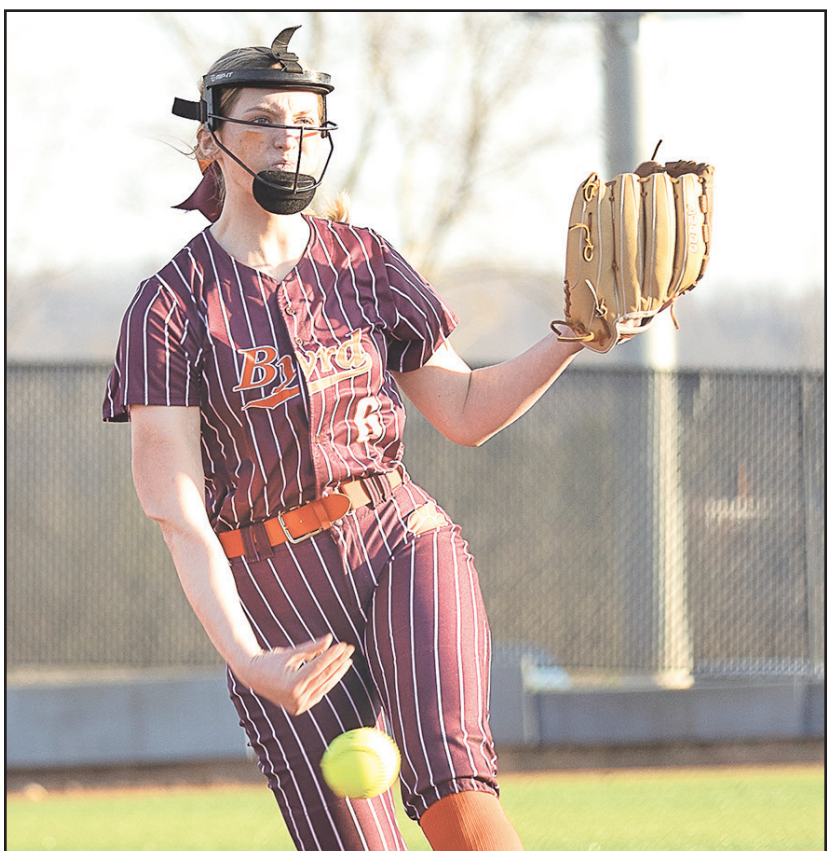
Ian Burnett of William Byrd covers second as a Cave Spring player attempts to steal.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

The Terriers were back in action on Wednesday for their Blue Ridge District opener against Lord Botetourt but results were too late for publication. On Friday Byrd will host Hidden Valley in a jayvee-varsity doubleheader with the jayvees at 5 pm and the varsity at

approximately 7 pm.

Next week is spring break for Roanoke County but the Terriers will be playing ball. Byrd will have three games in Greensboro on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Left, Byrd's Addison Clark pitches against Christiansburg in last week's softball opener. Right, Heidi Dixon slides safely into second.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



Byrd assistant coach Mike Andrews gives some pointers to catcher Ryleigh Grubb.

Terriers split first two softball games, host Hidden Valley in home opener

The William Byrd girls split their first two softball games to start the season. Byrd dropped the opener at Cave Spring but bounced back a night later to win at Cave Spring.

Terrier ace Addison Clark started in the circle for Byrd on opening day, March 13, and pitched well despite taking the loss as Christiansburg took a 3-0 win on the Blue Demons' diamond. Addison went five and one third innings, giving up three runs on seven hits while striking out five and walking three.

"We had trouble with our pitcher, who is a Purdue commit," said Byrd coach Greg Barton. "We stayed in the game and that's all I can ask of them."

A day later Byrd took a 4-2 win at Cave Spring in a game that was moved up a day with anticipation of bad weather that never came. Byrd got on the board in the first inning when Clark singled, scoring one run.

The Knights tied the game at 1-1 in the bottom of the first but the Terriers reclaimed the lead in the top of the fifth inning when Ryleigh Grubb tripled, Sydney Blewett doubled to score Grubb and Clark singled, scoring Blewett.

Clark led the offense with two hits and two RBIs while Blewett and Grubb also had two hits each. Clark earned the win, yielding four hits and two runs over seven innings while striking out seven and walking two.

"Addison pitched a great game and big hits by Abbie Fitzgerald, Ryleigh Grubb, Heidi Dixon and Sydney Blewett all contributed to our runs," said Barton.

The Terriers are back in action Friday for their home opener against Hidden Valley. It will be a jayvee-varsity doubleheader with the jayvees at 5 pm and the varsity to follow.