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William Byrd High School Class of 2024 celebrates school's 100th commencement

Debbie Adams
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The William Byrd High School Class of 2024 celebrated the 100th commencement in the school's history at the Salem Civic Center on May 21. Records indicate that the first four-year "Vinton High School" class graduated in 1924.

The Class of 2024 is made up of 290 graduates; 129 of them honor graduates with a 3.5 or higher GPA. Sixty-five students are valedictorians with a 4.0 GPA or higher; 148 earned advanced studies diplomas.

SCA President Makenna Jacobsen opened the ceremony by leading guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Valedictorian Eva Brown then addressed her classmates.

"As the Class of 2024, we have been through many ups and downs in our high school career. We broke school records, resided in learning cottages, and persevered through a pandemic. Our class has been through many firsts that no other class will experience. Our class has represented William Byrd well. For the first time ever, the William Byrd football team won the regional championship and went to the state tournament. Last year, our girls soccer team made it to the state tournament for the first time and won the regional championship.

"Our freshman year may have looked a little different from others' first year of high school, but we made it work. We had to rise to the challenge of learning partially online, while our teachers had to learn how

to teach half online, half in person. We worked as a community, and we were able to make it through.

"Starting our sophomore year, we spent much of our time in 'learning cottages' due to construction. It may have been hard to adjust but the students and faculty adapted and made the best of the situation. I honestly enjoyed the learning cottages and appreciated the time we were able to walk outside. However, the few times I had to walk in a rainstorm, may not have been my favorite part. Just this year, we were able to move all the classes into the new school and experience a completely renovated school for the first time.

"The start of our high school experience was not exactly what we expected with Covid and construction. So, if any of y'all are worried about the next chapter in our lives just remember everything that we were able to accomplish and overcome.

"I want to thank our principal, Mrs. Newcomb, for everything she has done for my class and everything she has done for the school. As many of you know, she is leaving our school next year. Obviously, she wanted to leave after the best class—or maybe we pushed her over the edge. To all of our teachers, admin, and coaches, thank you for always supporting us and shaping us into the people we are today."

Principal Tammy Newcomb spoke next. First, she recognized William Byrd alumni through the decades and conducted an informal poll to determine who was the longest-standing alumni in attendance. They were presented with the gold 100th anniversary pin which all



William Byrd Class of 2024 graduate celebrating a job well done.

members of the Class of 2024 had received.

"The significance of the 100th graduating class is monumental as it marks a century of academic excellence, growth and impact," said Newcomb. "As we just recognized the alumni of William Byrd it is a testimony to enduring traditions, milestones, and the lasting legacy of being a Terrier. The Class of 2024 embodies resilience, achievement and a testament to the continuous pursuit of knowledge and success. The 100th graduating class represents a bridge between the

See Graduation, page 8



The William Byrd Choir, led by Matt Bartley (far right), performed "I Am Still Your Dreamer" during the ceremony.

PHOTOSBYDEBBIEADAMS

Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. members recognized by Board of Supervisors for 137 years of service

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Four members of the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department have been recognized by the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors for their

long years of dedicated service to the community. Dean Rorrer, Kent Henson, Patrick Aylor, and David Riddle were honored at the board meeting on May 14.

"These gentlemen helped mold numerous

young members into incredible members today, including myself," said Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. (MPVFD) Chief Eric Stump. "It was an absolute honor to get

See MPVFD, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROANOKE CO.

Four volunteers with the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. were recognized by the Board of Supervisors on May 14. Pictured are (from left): front, Board of Supervisors Chair Phil North, Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue and Vinton First Aid Crew volunteer Jason Peters, MPVFD Chief Eric Stump, volunteers David Riddle, Dean Rorrer, Kent Hudson, and Patrick Aylor, MPVFD Asst. Chief Lori Campbell, Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Chief Travis Griffith, and Tammy Shepherd, Vinton representative to the Board of Supervisors; back, Supervisors David Radford, Martha Hooker, and Paul Mahoney.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

WBMS eighth grader Elliana Ruble received the Levi Freeman Award at the awards assembly on May 17. Pictured left to right are WBMS Asst. Principal Katherine Hutchison, father Richard Ruble, Elliana, brother Trevor, mother Hannah, and WBMS Principal Evan Noell. Brother, Reid, was not able to attend.

William Byrd Middle honors eighth grade scholars

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William Byrd Middle School held its annual Eighth Grade Celebration and Awards Assembly on May 17. This event for the Class of 2028 focused foremost on the academic achievements of the students. Assistant Principal Katherine Hutchison led the assembly, saying "Each

and every one of you is special. You will do great things."

WBMS Principal Evan Noell congratulated the students and thanked them for carrying on the "Terrier Way" of being safe, respectful, and responsible—"you will have the ability to change the world." This year's eighth grade class

See Scholars, page 7

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5

BoomTown Crossfit and Vinton Police partner for Murph 24 Challenge on Memorial Day

Debbie Adams
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BoomTown Crossfit and the Vinton Police Department are partnering for a special event on Memorial Day, May 27—the Murph 24 Challenge. According to co-owner, Michael Venable, BoomTown CrossFit gym and physical fitness center in Vinton is an official host this year.

The Murph 24 Challenge consists of an intensive workout involving a mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, and another one mile run.

The event is the official annual fundraiser of the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Foundation. Since 2014, participants have raised over \$2,000,000 for the Foundation to honor Murphy's sacrifice and memory.

According to the Foundation, "Lt. Murphy, United States Navy (SEAL), was the officer-in-charge of a four-man SEAL element in support of Operation Red Wings, tasked with finding a key anti-coalition militia commander near Asadabad, Afghanistan. Shortly after inserting into the objective area, the SEALs were spotted by three goat herders who were initially detained and then released. It is believed the goat herders immediately reported the SEALs' presence to Taliban fighters.

"A fierce gun battle ensued on the steep face of the mountain between the SEALs and a much larger enemy force. Despite the intensity of the firefight and suffering grave gunshot wounds himself, Murphy is credited with risking his own life to save the lives of his teammates. Murphy, intent on making contact with headquarters, but realizing this would be impossible in the extreme terrain where they were fighting, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own life moved into the open, where he could gain a better position to transmit a call to get help for his men.

"He knowingly exposed himself to increased enemy gunfire. This deliberate and heroic act deprived him of cover and made him a target for the enemy. While continuing to be fired upon, Murphy made contact with Bagram Air Base and requested assistance. He calmly provided his unit's location and the size of the

enemy force while requesting immediate support for his team. At one point, he was shot in the back, causing him to drop the transmitter. Murphy picked it up, completed the call and continued firing at the enemy who was closing in.

"Severely wounded, Murphy fought on, allowing one member of his team to escape, before he was killed. For his selfless actions, he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2007."

The scholarship foundation was founded in 2007 by Murphy's family. He was an avid reader who felt that education was key. In fact, his favorite saying was "Education will set you free."

The Murph Challenge is held annually on Memorial Day; people from all over the world come together to honor Murphy and all those who have given their lives in service to their country.

"Memorial Day is a holiday that we, as Americans, recognize as a deep-rooted tradition where we place value on patriotism, our freedom, and most importantly, the sacrifice of many American servicemen and women who gave their lives while serving in the American Armed Forces," said Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond. "While we give special recognition to Lt. Michael Murphy, we also honor the memories of the service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice, by competing in the Murph Challenge.

"During the challenge, you will work out alongside neighbors, community members, and first responders from the Roanoke Valley. On Memorial Day we give thanks to our American heroes. To me, some people are quite simply a different breed and stand in a league of their own. Men and women like Lt. Murphy are the clearest definition of tenacity, love of country, and heroism. Our nation is what it is today because of the sacrifices of not only Lt. Murphy, but of the many men and women who put on their uniform, who don't crumble under pressure, stay in the fight, and put everything on the line. What a privilege it is to live in this nation."

The event is free, but donations are accepted to benefit the Murph Foundation. Doors open at 7 a.m. with a briefing at 7:45 and the first heat at 8.

The MURPH 24 Challenge

Veterans Family First Responders Community

Refreshments and Food sponsored by the Vinton Police Department

1 MILE RUN
100 PULL-UPS
200 PUSH-UPS
300 SQUATS
1 MILE RUN

703 Tinker Avenue
Vinton, Virginia 24179
1st HEAT @ 0800 hrs.

Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy (SEAL) was the Officer-In-Charge, OIC of a four-man SEAL element in support of Operation Red Wings, tasked with finding a key anti-coalition militia commander near Asadabad, Afghanistan. Shortly after inserting into the objective area, the SEALs were spotted by three goat herders who were initially detained and then released. Despite the intensity of the firefight and suffering grave gunshot wounds himself, Murphy is credited with risking his own life to save the lives of his teammates. We honor his sacrifice and memory through The Murph Challenge.

LT. Michael P. Murphy
May 7, 1976 - June 28, 2005

If you are attending as an athlete, please sign up for your heat at:
<https://syncapp.wodhopper.com/gym/15151/signup/lead>

LOCAL SUPPORTING PARTNER:

GRAPHIC COURTESY BOOMTOWN

Heats will run every 15 minutes.

Childcare will be provided. After the workout, participants are invited to stay for the Memorial Day cookout served by the Vinton Police Dept. Food service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Ice cream will be on site all day. There will be additional games and activities for both adults and children for entertainment, pending weather restrictions.

BoomTown Crossfit is located at 703

Tinker Avenue in Vinton (near the train crossing at Cargill on Walnut Avenue). Overflow parking will be on Tinker Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets as well as adjacent locations. Road closures will start at 6 a.m. along all of Tinker Avenue from 8th Street in Vinton to the Roanoke City line, including cross streets.

Register online at <https://www.boomtowncrossfit.com/drop-in-copy>.



Tara Jones, Bonsack Elementary, pictured with (from left) School Board members David Linden and Brent Hudson, and School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely



Karen Coy (center), Mount Pleasant Elementary, pictured with (from left) Harmony Hixon, Tracy Broughman, Elaine Lane, and Kristen Seth

RCPS honors retiring school employees

Debbie Adams
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Roanoke County Public Schools hosted their annual banquet for retiring employees on May 7. Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely joined School Board members in thanking each retiree in attendance for their years of service and their dedication to teaching and supporting education. In total, 58 employees are retiring, representing more than 1,275 years of service.

Several faculty and staff members from Vinton-area schools were recognized: Tara Jones (Bonsack), Karen Coy (Mount Pleasant), Robin Merchant (W.E. Cundiff), Susan Holdren (William Byrd Middle School), and David Mitchell, Suzanne Spruell, and Carol Webster from William Byrd High School.

Tara Jones has been teaching in Roanoke County Public Schools for 22 years—one year at Roland E. Cook when it was an Alternative School and 21 years at Bonsack

Elementary. She spent nine years in Roanoke City prior to that. She has been a second grade teacher this past year.

"I was hired at Bonsack by my former teacher, Dr. Kagey," Jones says. "I have taught all grades, K-8, with the exception of 5th grade. I have enjoyed most things about my job, especially the lifelong relationships I have built with my co-workers and students. My favorite thing I taught was Virginia Studies in fourth grade. My retirement plans include some travelling, spending time with my family, doing more volunteer work through my church, and substitute teaching."

Bonsack Principal Leanne Leftwich said, "Mrs. Jones has touched numerous lives through the years she has taught."

Karen Coy has been teaching for 16 years. She started with Central Middle School, teaching Science 8 and English 6, and was a co-teacher in sixth grade math, eighth grade history, and eighth grade English. She then

moved to Mount Pleasant Elementary where she taught first, third, and fourth grades before accepting the Title I teacher position.

"My greatest joy is watching the students grow and conquer hard concepts," Coy said. "The best part about MPE is the students—and the friends I have made at school. My retirement plans are to spend time with my husband, grandchildren, and family, and travel."

"Karen Coy is a dedicated educator," says Mount Pleasant Principal Jill Lane. "She has been in several roles in her time here at MPE. Karen is always willing to go above and beyond to ensure our students have opportunities and success."

Susan Holdren has been a nutrition associate with Roanoke County Schools for 22 years—since 1989. She started working as a substitute nutrition worker at W.E. Cundiff Elementary and then moved to William Byrd Middle School in 2002.



Susan Holdren (center) with WBMS Principal Evan Noell and WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb.

Holdren says she has enjoyed her years working at WBMS. She enjoys "the people and talking to them." She also loves "feeding the kids." Her plans in retirement are to take care of her sister,

Linda, after she has her knee surgery. She is also planning to work part-time.

"Susie has been an impactful member of our staff," said WBMS Principal Evan Noell.

"Beyond the work she does in the cafeteria, she can be found greeting students at the buses each and every day (regardless of the weather). Her

WBHS announces Terriers of the Month for May



Chloe Varney

William Byrd High School has announced its Terriers of the Month for May. Four students and two teachers were selected, nominated by students and staff. WBHS has partnered with ALCOVA Mortgage and Branch Manager Matt Crizer this year to recognize students and staff who “are doing great things in and out of the classroom.”

“Matt is the one who reached out to me about finding ways to get involved in recognizing our outstanding students and staff,” said Assistant Principal Phillip Martin. “He is always looking for ways to support our schools and community. Not only does he financially support our Terriers of the Month program, but he regularly reaches out for opportunities to treat our staff. He’s been an absolute joy to partner with and we can’t say thank you enough.”

All Byrd students and staff have been encouraged to nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the “Terrier Way” (being safe, respectful, and responsible and embodying the best of WBHS).



Kendall Lecas

Each Terrier of the Month has received a T-shirt from ALCOVA Mortgage, designed by the Graphic Design classes at the high school.

Student Terriers of the Month for May are:

Chloe Varney is a senior who was nominated for her kindness and emotional maturity. The teacher who nominated Chloe said, “She is one of the kindest students. She is always ready to learn something new, pays close attention to detail, and accepts feedback with grace. She is exceptionally kind to others and is always a light in and out of the classroom.”

Kendall Lecas is a junior who was nominated for her positive attitude and artistic talents. The teacher who nominated Kendall said, “She is just an amazing student, and a super talented artist. She brightens my day every ‘A’ Day when she comes in my class.”

Brooklyn Arven is a senior and member of the cheerleading and track and field teams. Brooklyn was

nominated for “her commitment to excellence and for striving to make WBHS the best that we can be.” The staff member who nominated her said, “She has worked hard to improve our school. I was proud to observe her leadership and involvement in the Student Advisory Council’s Annual Leadership Conference. Brooklyn is a great representation of the Terrier Way in action!”

Ellawyn Pagan is a junior who was nominated for her determination and commitment to WBHS. The teacher who nominated Ellawyn said, “She is a shining star in this school. She is determined to master all of the material that we discuss. She also helps out around the school in various areas and never gives up! She’s a great role model for the Terrier Way.”

Terrier Teachers of the Month for May are:

Caitlin Lilley teaches AP and General U.S. History and coaches the Scholastic Bowl team. The students who nominated

her highlighted her kindness and ability to make class fun! One student said, “When I am having a hard day, I look forward to seeing Mrs. Lilley. She is the kind of teacher that her students never feel uncomfortable around.” Or as another student said, “Ms. Lilley is a phenomenal teacher. She brightens my day with her silly jokes and beaming smile.”

Laura Ward teaches Latin II and III. The students who nominated her highlighted her positive energy and ability to make class fun. As one student said, “Mrs. Ward is very kind and joyful. She is always there to help when you need her.” Or as another student said, “Mrs. Ward is such an amazing Latin teacher and does everything she can to make the course fun! As soon as you walk in her room, she just makes your day by making you feel welcome and loved.”

Submitted by Assistant Principal Phillip Martin



Ellawyn Pagan



Teacher Caitlin Lilley



Teacher Laura Ward

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WBHS

New date for Vinton Historical Society garage sale

The Vinton Historical Society is conducting a garage sale on the grounds of the Vinton History Museum from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 25—postponed from an earlier date due to inclement weather.

Household and kitchen items, toys, furniture, framed art, glassware, books, lamps, quilts and knitted items, skis, bikes and helmets, knee scooter, ladies’ jeans, hats, new brand name shoes (size 5-1/2), and more will be available

for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the maintenance and operation of the Vinton History Museum.

The Vinton History Museum is located at 210 E. Jackson Avenue. For more information, email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or (540)342-8634.

Submitted by Mary Beth Layman, Vinton Historical Society

Latinas Network hosting Latinas Dream BIG event to uplift community

Latinas Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Latinas through education, mentorship, and advocacy, will hold its second annual Latinas Dream BIG event. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Thrasher Park.

“When I lost my father to suicide, I started learning about what prevents suicide,” says Shannon Dominguez, Latinas Network board member and Latinas Dream BIG organizer. “What I found is that connection and having a sense of community are two protective factors for positive mental health. The purpose of Latinas Dream BIG is to provide

Latinas Dream BIG • 2024 •

Free Family Fun!

Prizes Activities Food Trucks Rock Wall Piñata Face Painting Art Table Field Games Popcorn Meditation

May 25, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Thrasher Park, Roanoke, VA

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PREMIER INSPECTIONS

See **Dream**, page 5

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LATINAS NETWORK

CROSSWORD

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. 007 Connery
 - 5. Presides over meetings (abbr.)
 - 9. Trefoil
 - 10. Father of Paris
 - 12. Asian nut for chewing
 - 13. Machine gun from the air
 - 16. The communion table
 - 17. His razor
 - 18. Father
 - 19. Doctor of philosophy
 - 22. Cologne
 - 23. Black tropical Am. cuckoo
 - 24. Diversifies
 - 28. Razor author 14th C
 - 31. Maple sugar fluid
 - 32. A corp.'s first stock offer to the public
 - 34. The premier bike race
 - 42. References
 - 43. Extremely high frequency
 - 44. Actress Farrow
 - 46. Not good
 - 47. State of annoyance
 - 48. S. China seaport
 - 51. Bengal quince
 - 52. Provide the means
 - 54. A large and imposing house
 - 55. Excessively fat
 - 57. Spars
 - 58. Former wives
 - 59. Repeat
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Podetiums
 - 2. Frankenberg river
 - 3. Feel ill
 - 4. 12th state
 - 5. "Anything Goes" author's initials
 - 6. Daily time units (abbr.)
 - 7. Cagiva __: motorcycle
 - 8. Drug agent (slang)
 - 9. Study of poetic meter
 - 11. Ceremonial staffs
 - 12. Russian pancake served with caviar
 - 14. Supervises flying
 - 15. Large Australian flightless bird
 - 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - 19. Before
 - 20. Hall of Fame (abbr.)
 - 21. Constitution Hall org.
 - 24. Atomic #35
 - 25. Ducktail hairstyle
 - 26. Independent ruler
 - 27. Oval water scorpion
 - 29. Modern London Gallery
 - 30. On top
 - 33. Identicalness
 - 35. 2002 Olympic state
 - 36. Tease or ridicule
 - 37. Arrived extinct
 - 38. Opposite of begin
 - 39. Ol' Blue Eye's initials
 - 40. South Am. nation
 - 41. Type of salamander
 - 42. S. China seaport
 - 44. Woman (French)
 - 45. 007's Flemming
 - 47. __ Domingo
 - 49. A French abbot
 - 50. Gorse genus
 - 51. An uproarious party
 - 53. Point midway between E and SE
 - 54. A waterproof raincoat
 - 56. Spanish be
 - 57. Of I

FBLA students advance to national competition

Evan Copenig, a student at William Byrd High School, and Simon Hughes from Hidden Valley High, competed in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) state competition on April 12-14 at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, Va. They are students at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology and members of its FBLA.

FBLA students competed in a variety of categories throughout the weekend. Copenig and Hughes gave a live presentation to three judges on April 13 in the Digital Video Category. They were invited on stage at the awards

ceremony as finalists in their category and then recognized with second place overall in the state, which means they will advance to the FBLA National Competition June 29-July 2 in Orlando, Fla. Their advisors were John Warf and April Francisco from BCAT.

Other William Byrd students participating in the FBLA competition were Evan Boyd, Colton Edwards, Jacob Smith, Christian Parker, and Sarah Nguyen.

-Submitted by Evan Copenig



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN COPENIG

Evan Copenig (left) and Simon Hughes won second place in the state in the Digital Video Category at the FBLA state competition. Copenig is a student at William Byrd; Hughes is a student at Hidden Valley. Both attend BCAT.

The Vinton Messenger

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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified by telephone before publication. The Messenger reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style.

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VINTON HISTORY Prom Dresses

A promenade dance, commonly called a prom, is a dance party for junior and senior high school students typically held near the end of the school year. Early proms were times of firsts: the first adult social event for teenagers; the first time taking the family car out after dark; the first real dress-up affair; and so forth.

Today, proms continue to be a notable event in the social climate of high schools. Traditionally, girls wear evening gowns and boys wear a suit or tuxedo. Girls traditionally wear a corsage, given to them by their dates, and girls give boys matching boutonnières to be worn on their lapels. By the 2000s, the clothes girls wear to prom became more revealing due to the influence of celebrities and the mass media.

Several earlier prom dresses are on display at the Vinton History Museum, 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton – open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit the museum and see the prom dresses along with thousands of other artifacts.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

Prom dresses on display at the Vinton History Museum

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 (COÖPERATIVE)

VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Avenue, Vinton. Rev. Dr. Travis Russell, 343-7685. Sunday Services (year-round): Sunday School 9:15 AM, Morning Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday Services (during the school year): Worship, Bible Study, Children's Choirs & Youth Ministry 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.

VINTON

TIME TO REST

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

"This project has to be done right, and it has to be done soon. Work all weekend if you have to." Some work assignments make us wonder if we need to make a few clones to help us get the work done. Life's responsibilities may seem larger than we can handle, yet we need to learn the importance of rest.

"It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed" (Exodus 31:17).

God created the Sabbath for two key purposes. First, people need to set aside a day to worship God and fellowship with His people. Second, we need a day of rest and refreshing. Scientific research bears this out.

Nearly everyone must contend with deadlines and expectations from others. God, however, wants us to set aside time to rest and to seek Him. Obeying His instructions for rest and worship actually helps us gain the energy and renewal we need to be more effective and productive in the responsibilities we carry.

Prayer Suggestion: God, please direct me in ways to better rest in You.

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14-17

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

Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOURSQUARE

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

LUTHERAN

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

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Wor-

ship 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.

Past Dogwood Queen Paula Ketterer makes a stop in Vinton

Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival 1990 Paula Ketterer stopped by Poe-K-Joe's in Vinton last week for a visit with old friends and Mayor Brad Grose.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my visit in Vinton, catching up with friends and seeing the expansive progress of the town," Ketterer said. "Although I now live in Scotland, Vinton will always be my adopted hometown. The lifelong friends I made through the Vinton Dogwood Festival will always be special to me."

Ketterer, from Waynesboro, was one of the Dogwood Queens chosen through the Miss Virginia Pageant process. At the time, she was 24 years old and a graduate of the University of Virginia with plans to attend law school. The rule was that students in any college in Virginia could participate in any local pageant affiliated with the Miss Virginia program. Ketterer majored in art history and minored in drama at UVA.

She was the Home and Garden Show princess in 1989 and Miss Augusta County first runner-up in 1990. At the time of the Dogwood pageant, she was serving as assistant director and principal pianist for the choir Voices

of the Valley.

Ketterer was selected as Dogwood Queen by a panel of five judges affiliated with the Miss America pageants and its preliminaries. She performed "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" from the musical "Dream Girls" in the talent portion of the pageant.

Ketterer said in an earlier interview, "The most indelible memory (of the Dogwood Festival) is the feeling of being so welcomed by everyone I met. I had never been to Vinton and coupled with the pageant, I was incredibly nervous. Despite my nerves, I could not help but notice there was an incredible 'buzz' of energy and excitement surrounding the Dogwood Festival that permeated the town. It was literally contagious!"

"The greatest and most lasting highlight was being given a 'Key to the Town of Vinton, Virginia' by the mayor of Vinton. Being granted a key to Vinton was a wonderful surprise and the absolute, ultimate honor that could be bestowed on any member of the community visiting or otherwise. To this day, the key hangs with pride in my home in Scotland."

Ketterer says what

she enjoyed most about Vinton was "the people. On a personal note, there is a true openness and honesty about the people of Vinton. I've always found everyone friendly, kind, and welcoming. On a separate note, there is also a thriving entrepreneurial spirit. On every visit there has always been a new restaurant or business to experience or learn about. These new business ventures could only be supported by a community that encourages and embraces change whilst still supporting the more established enterprises."

As for the years following the pageant, "I did receive an offer of a scholarship to law school. However, at the time I also was interviewed, offered, and accepted a one-year post-graduate placement at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. I have remained in Scotland since and subsequently appeared in a television series, 'How to Be A Property Developer.' I have continued in the property business whilst establishing a structural and geotechnical engineering consultancy with my husband, Russell."

Ketterer and her husband were married on November 7, 2014, in

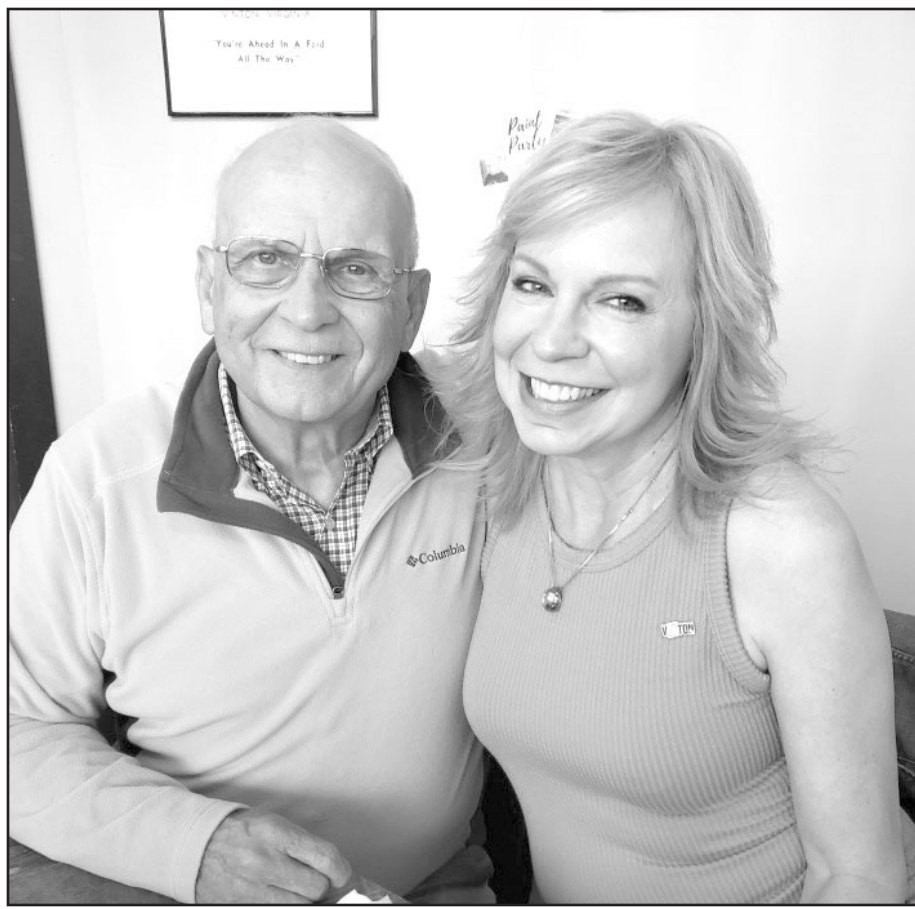


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN TEASS
Past Dogwood Queen Paula Ketterer is pictured with Vinton Mayor Brad Grose on her recent stop in Vinton.

the Chapel at Traquair House, Scotland's oldest continually inhabited house.

"Owing to my winning Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival, I made friends that will last forever and a lifetime," said Ketterer. "For this alone, I will always be eternally

grateful. Had it not been for Miss Vinton Dogwood Festival I would never have met some of the dedicated, intelligent, and talented people who have been associated with ensuring the pageant's success over these many years: Nita Echols, Gary Janney, Vickie Damico,

Ruth Wilson, Alberto DeBobe, and Susan and Jeff Teass. Because of these amazing individuals and the community at large, I will always consider Vinton my second home."

- Vinton Messenger staff report

From the Pulpit

A Study of Ephesians – 'How Wide, Long, High and Deep is His Love'

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. In Ephesians 3:14-21, the apostle Paul shares an insightful prayer, echoing the boundless depths of God's love and the immeasurable riches found in

Christ. This passage is filled with timeless truths that uplift and inspire believers through every season of life.

Paul's prayer summarizes a beautiful reality: the infinite dimensions of God's love, surpassing human comprehension, yet accessible to all who seek it. It's a love

that surpasses boundaries, defies limitations, and fills every corner of our being with grace and abundance.

Through the power of faith, Paul encourages us to be rooted and grounded in this divine love, drawing strength from its unending reservoirs. It's a love that empowers us to

navigate life's challenges with unwavering courage and spirit, knowing that we are deeply cherished and valued by our Creator.

Moreover, Paul's prayer reminds us of the transformative power at work within us, as God's Spirit takes residence in our hearts. It's

a power that transcends our human failings, equipping us with wisdom, strength, and perseverance to live lives that honor and glorify Him. May we have the power "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (v.18). Likewise, showing others this same love.

Dream from page 3

opportunities for connection and a sense of community to everyone who attends."

"Last year, there were almost 100 people in attendance, and this year, we're expecting even more!" says Kat Pascal, founder and board member of Latinas Network, "We're grateful to the new community partners and activities available this year."

The event will feature a variety of engaging activities, including:

- Puppet Show, Arts Connect
- Field games (egg toss, toilet papering, etc.), Douglas Pitzer
- Yard games (Jumbo Connect

four, Jumbo Jenga, etc.)

- Face painting, Yuliett Guerrero
- Art station, Zuheil Alvarez

Cortez

- Bingo, Farmburguesa
- Popcorn machine, Roanoke

Police Training

- Lunch, Nirvana Empanada and Meraki

- A 10-minute guided meditation in English and Spanish, Antonio Stovall
- A piñata celebration to close out the event

There will be prizes: Chick-fil-A gift cards, a four-pack of tickets to Splash

Valley, and two day passes to River Rock Climbing. A one night stay at The Liberty Trust will be raffled.

Latinas Network invites community members, local businesses, and organizations to participate in this impactful event. Attendees can connect with community resources, learn about Latinas Network's programs, and celebrate the power of dreaming big.

For more information about Latinas Dream BIG and to get involved, visit www.LatinasNetwork.org or contact Shannon@BuildingBelovedCommunities.com.

Sponsors of the event include: the Town of Vinton, Premier Inspections, Freedom First, Carilion, Mast General Store, Roanoke Police Training Department, Sam Rasoul, Roanoke Outside, Blue Eagle Credit Union, Roanoke Mountain Adventures, RSVP Rehab, Farmburguesa, Building Beloved Communities, Splash Valley, River Rock Climbing, The Liberty Trust, SARA, Local Colors, Girls Rock, A Tree Planted, Delta Dental, and Art Connects.

Submitted by Latinas Network

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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RCPS

from page 2



PHOTO COURTESY ROBIN MERCHANT

Robin Merchant (center) with Robin Ard (left) and W.E. Cundiff Principal Ashley McCallum.



David Mitchell, WBHS, with (from left) School Board members David Linden and Brent Hudson, and School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely.



Suzanne Spruell, WBHS PHOTO COURTESY OF WBHS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS

Carol Webster, BCAT and WBHS, shown at the RCPS retirement dinner with her father, Dr. Fred Eichelman. He started his teaching career at the old WBHS Junior High in 1957; she started at WBHS 34 years later in 1991.

energy and outlook on life are infectious. As our students would say, Miss Susie is a legend!"

Robin Merchant has been an instructional associate for 18 years. She is retiring from W.E. Cundiff Elementary School as a Special Education instructional assistant.

"I have most enjoyed watching my students grow and become more successful in school with each passing year!" Merchant says. "The time has come for my husband and me to enjoy life together. There will be more time for travel to family, home projects, hobbies, relaxing on our three porches and some subbing at school! I won't leave the Cundiff team totally and I am excited to see the new school renovation project!"

David Mitchell is retiring from William Byrd High School.

"I have been in Roanoke County Public Schools for 18 of my 38 years in education," Mitchell noted. "At William Byrd, I started out in Special Education, then driver education (when it was a semester course) and the past 14 years in 10th grade health, physical education and driver education. I also coached middle school and varsity baseball for eight years.

"It has been a blessing to teach and coach in such a close-knit community who supports William Byrd High School. The staff and students are the best.

"Upon retirement, I will spend a little more time working at my business (Putt-Putt Fun Center). I have worked there since I was 15 years old. I also want to play more Pickleball and, of course, spend more time with my wife."

Suzanne Spruell is also retiring from WBHS. She has been a librarian for 30 years, 28 of them in Roanoke County. She worked at Glen Cove Elementary for 10 years and then for 18 years at WBHS.

Carol Webster has been teaching for over 40 years. In the mid-1980s, she was the youngest Academic/Financial Aid Dean for National Business College. Finding her passion for education, Carol returned to her alma mater and picked up her teaching endorsement in the areas of English 6-12 and Theatre Arts K-12. Upon finishing her student teaching at Glenvar High School, she was immediately hired by Roanoke County to complete a teacher's pregnancy leave of absence. She was teaching in the same high school she graduated from and where her father was still teaching—Northside High School.

Due to Roanoke County Public Schools' hiring freeze, she accepted a job at neighboring Franklin County High School to teach ninth grade English and theatre arts, and in the summers, she taught theatre and creative writing for Roanoke County's gifted program.

After three years, a marriage and a newborn, she transferred to Roanoke County Public Schools in 1991. This time, she came to William Byrd High School, where she has remained for 33 years, and shared 13 years teaching at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) as the director for the Center for Performing Arts.

Webster has taught English 9, 10, 11, 12, creative writing, speech, Theatre Arts I-IV, and created a

new course for the Commonwealth of Virginia and Roanoke County Schools—Service Learning Leadership. Students worked in the community with student-created and -led service projects including Relay for Life, blood drives, TAP programs for literacy, Wolf Creek Revitalization, and so much more. She has directed approximately 200 productions and overseen the creation of several student-made films.

In 2012, Webster was named Region VI Teacher of the Year—the first Roanoke County teacher to be so designated.

After 40 years in public education, Carol will now be doing private home instruction. She will continue to share her love for local and Virginia history, genealogy, writing, filmmaking, and theatre with members of the community.

"Carol Webster has led the Center for Performing Arts at BCAT for many years, directing excellent shows and guiding students to improve their talents as they pursued their passion for performing arts as high schoolers," said BCAT Principal Christian Kish. "The BCAT family wishes her well as she enjoys the well-deserved fruits of all her efforts. We hope the next chapter is filled with fun and relaxation."

"David Mitchell, Suzanne Spruell, and Carol Webster have inspired and shaped countless minds throughout their remarkable careers," said WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb. "As they retire, their legacy of dedication, passion, and impact will forever be cherished and remembered by students, colleagues, and the William Byrd community."

MPVFD

from page 1

these men recognized for their years of dedication to our community. This is a huge honor for them and I was happy to see it happen. Thank you to the Board of Supervisors for doing this."

Tammy Shepherd, who represents the Vinton Magisterial District on the Board of Supervisors, introduced the volunteer firefighters, saying the four had

served the county "with remarkable distinction for a remarkable length of time. The four volunteers honored have a total of 137 years of service to the community."

The resolutions adopted for each volunteer noted that each one "is a true asset to Roanoke County and the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. and has represented his fire department and

dedication with great character, pride, and honor."

Patrick Aylor has served the community for 22 years; for 19 of those years, he has been an EMT-B. He received the award for "Most Calls Run" for four consecutive years from 2003-2006. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2008, captain in 2012, and assistant chief in 2016. He has been an active Life Member with the MPVFD for the last year.

According to the resolutions for the volunteers, "To be considered and nominated for a Life Membership, the member must have performed the duties with such excellence that his finished work was as easily recognized as his signature. It is with true

dedication to his brother firefighters, his dedication to the fire department and his dedication to the community that he volunteers to serve in a life-threatening environment constantly without desire of reward. These sacrifices allow him to stand by himself as a very special person. Those chosen for Life Membership shall stand even farther apart from others because of their years of dedication and they shall be looked upon as the guide for others to use to channel their fire careers."

Kent Henson was recognized for a total of 40 years in Fire and Rescue Service— 20 of those years in service to the Mt. Pleasant community.

Henson started with the Vinton First Aid Crew in 1984 and served there for approximately 10 years. He joined the Vinton Fire Dept. for a few years and then came to the Mt. Pleasant Fire Dept. for a while before moving to Blue Ridge and running with their fire department. Henson returned to the Mt. Pleasant Fire Dept. in

November 2004. He was an active member running numerous significant calls during his tour of duty such as the Flood of 1985 call responses, the Clearview Manor fire the next night, the MCI at ITT, the Green Ridge fire, along with an untold number of EMS, fire calls, wrecks, etc. He wrote a training program on LDH manifolds that was used across the country. He taught in approximately 30 fire academies in Roanoke County, Elliston, Bedford, and Franklin Counties. Henson was an adjunct instructor with VDFP teaching, testing, and monitoring other instructors from Danville to Highland County. He held every office except captain, chaplain, and treasurer at MPVFD and is currently chief emeritus and department president.

Henson told the board that "it has been an honor to serve all these years."

David Riddle was recognized by the board for his 22 years of service. During his time as a firefighter, Riddle also spent eight years as an EMT-B. He was the MPVFD treasurer for 21 years and on the Roanoke

County Fire & Rescue Safety Committee for 20 years. He retired from Catawba Hospital after 28 years of service and spent 26 of those years serving on Roanoke County and Regional Emergency Planning Councils and coordinating with local fire responders on hospital emergency drills. He has been an active life member with the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department for the last two years.

Dean Rorrer was recognized for his 53 years of service. He rose to the rank of lieutenant, holding that position for approximately eight years. After he stopped running calls, he continued to assist the department as president for approximately 20 years. After Rorrer retired from the position of president, he was voted on as an Inactive Fireground/Active Social Life Member and has been a Life Member for over two years and counting.

Board of Supervisors Chair Phil North noted that the Mt. Pleasant Volunteer Fire Dept. has recruited eight new members in just the past two months.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

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Scholars from page 1



Eighth grade students who have maintained a GPA of 4.0 during middle school through the first semester of eighth grade were named as Terrier Scholars at the assembly.

numbers almost 300 students. Students who maintained a 4.0 GPA during middle school through the first semester of eighth grade were named as Terrier Scholars, receiving both a medal and certificate to recognize their accomplishments.

Those scholars include Caleigh Aremia, Tayler Austin, Jackson Booze, Greyson Bradford, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Ryan Carroll, Isabella Clark, Milton Clark, Claire Cooper, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Nathan Doan, Keeli Emery, Reagan Fike, Alanna Fitzgerald, Peyton Gates, Kyleigh Ginger, Michal Hamlar, Camryn Hicks, Ava Lorton, Olivia Marcus, Mallory Michalski, Katelyn Mills, Kenley Minnix, Allen Nunez, Emma Olivit, Anna Perkoski, Jack Petersen, Jenna Petersen, Kendall Ranson, Elliana Ruble, Enna Schofield, Aaron Start, Kara Sutton, Hadyn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Mia Vest, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Hendrix Wright, and Caleb Wrye.

Two students, Elliana Ruble and Michael Akers, received the school's highest award—the Levi Freeman Award. Students are chosen for this prestigious award by the entire faculty and staff at WBMS.

The Levi Freeman Award goes to “two students who, in the opinion of the faculty and staff, best embody the characteristics of kindness, compassion, honesty, tolerance, and the willingness to do the right thing, even when it's not popular.”

“This award is in memory of Levi Freeman, a fellow eighth grade student whose life was cut tragically short after a diagnosis of bone cancer. Levi loved music, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, and would have been a 2020 graduate of William Byrd High School. His memory lives on through his family, friends, and this award.”

Elliana is the daughter of Richard and Hannah Ruble of Bonsack. Her parents say she has always been an “outstanding student of great character.” They have been “extremely proud of her for her entire life.” She has served as president of the FCA club this year and hopes to play sports in high school—volleyball and track.

Michael Akers is the son of Hilarie and Joey Akers. He has always been known as a “cooperative guy, kind, respectful, quiet, and doing what is expected of him.” Michael said he felt “proud to receive the award.”

Teachers also nominated “Highest Achievement Awards” in core subjects.

Highest Achievement Department Award winners named in English were Kyleigh Ginger, Riley Cummings, and Emma Olivit (Pothier's class); Garin Adkins, Caridad Palmero, Emma Whitcomb (Smith's class); Preslee Hamm, Kennedy Moseley, and Ava Lorton (Mitchell's class); Allen Nunez, Hendrix Wright, Keeli Emery, Levi Whitcomb, and Roman Smith (Rosser's class); and Helen de la Cruz Cala (Downing's class).

Highest Achievement in Math Department winners were: Nimbus Althoff, Kenleigh Hetherington, and Eric Nguyen (Whitehead's class); Katelyn Bennett, Gabe Felty, Debbie Gamble, and Helen de la Cruz Cala (Mitchell's class); Riley Cummings, Isabella Clark, Kyleigh Ginger, Norah Buck, and Mallory Michalski (Nichols' class); Stephen Byars, Matthew Beavers, and Aaron Start (Barnett's class); and Bryson Wendell and Alana Niday (Lovern's class).

Highest Achievement Awards in Science went to: Sabrina Wray, Katelyn Mills, Preslee Hamm, Kennedy Moseley, Emma Thierry, and Kara Sutton (Hall's class); Emma Olivit, Mason Herschel, Zoe Sowers, Naleigh Lewis, Stephen Byars, and Caleigh Aremia (Johansen's class); and Norah Buck (Sarver's class); and Keeli Emery (Close's class).

Highest Achievement Awards in Social Studies went to: Aubrey Harris, Aaron Start, Nathan Doan, Eric Nguyen, Katelyn Mills, and Jaiden Blankenship (Chambers' class); Jahniya Coles, Stephen Byars, Caleigh Aremia, Jesse Underwood, Mason Herschel, and Zoe Sowers (Riddle's class); and Mallory Michalski and Keeli Emery (Peters' class).

The President's Award for Educational Excellence was also presented to eighth graders who maintained a 3.5 GPA in

middle school through the first semester of eighth grade year. Recipients received a letter and certificate from President Joe Biden.

They include Nimbus Althoff, Bryce Angle, Caleigh Aremia, Jacob Artrip, Tayler Austin, Asia Bannister, Kayleigh Barber, Isabella Barrette, Madelyn Barrette, Matthew Beavers, Jaiden Blankenship, Logan Blevins, Jackson Booze, Allison Bowling, Greyson Bradford, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Gabriel Campbell, Spencer Campbell, Ryan Carroll, Eric Chen, Isabella Clark, Milton Clark, Jazmine Clifton, Jahniya Coles, Claire Cooper, Bradley Counts, Kayden Creel, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Nathan Doan, Keeli Emery, Logan Ferguson, Reagan Fike, Alanna Fitzgerald, Debra Gamble, Adrian Garcia, Benjamin Gardner, Madison Garman, Peyton Gates, Kyleigh Ginger, Blair Godlesky, Kur Gon, Hadyn Grubb, Michal Hamlar, Preslee Hamm, Aubrey Harris, Mason Hershel, Kenleigh Hetherington, Camryn Hicks, Jude Hinkle, Landon Hollins, Benjamin Hoyos, Khloe Humphrey, Mya Johnson, Cooper Kageals, Naleigh Lewis, Ava Lorton, Reese Mahanes, Olivia Marcus, Gray Matthews, Mallory Michalski, Luka Mihelcic, Adalie Mills, Katelyn Mills, Kenley Minnix, Leah Montgomery, Kennedy Moseley, Josephine Mullen, Mallorie Mullins, Eric Nguyen, Alana Niday, Riley Niday, Allen Nunez, Emma Olivit, Carter Palmer, Cooper Peery, Jacob Perez, Anna Perkoski, Jack Petersen, Jenna Petersen, Kendall Ranson, Aiden Rhodes, Amy Rickman, Nathaniel Roberts, Elliana Ruble, Haleigh Saucedo, Vivian Schmidt, Enna Schofield, Joshua Serreno, Richard Smith, Zoe Sowers, Aaron Start, Alyssa Steahly, Gwen Summo, Kara Sutton, Hadyn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Hope Thomas, Isaiah Thompson, Mia Vest, Kolee Walter, Hailey Webster, Jacey Weddle, Noah Wheeler, Aiden Whittaker, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Haleigh White, Bindi Whitenack, Abriel Wilhelm, Ryan Witcher, Sabrina Wray, Hendrix Wright, and Caleb Wrye.

Eighth graders voted to select Senior Superlatives, including the “Best All-Around” students, Gage Wilk and Jahniya Coles.

Student Advisory Council representatives Peyton Gates and Levi Whitcomb were recognized during the assembly along with eighth grade ambassadors: Caleigh Aremia, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Milton Clark, Jahniya Coles, Michal Hamlar, A.J. Holmes, Ally Niday, Aaron Start, and Jamari Toler.

Students were recognized who have earned a spot on the A Honor Roll for the first three quarters of eighth grade. They include Nimbus Althoff, Caleigh Aremia, Tayler Austin, Kayleigh Barber, Jackson Booze, Greyson Bradford, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Ryan Carroll, Isabella Clark, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Keeli Emery, Alanna Fitzgerald, Peyton Gates, Kyleigh Ginger, Kur Gon, Hadyn Grubb, Michal Hamlar, Kenleigh Hetherington, Landon Hollins, Ava Lorton, Olivia Marcus, Mallory Michalski, Katelyn Mills, Kenley Minnix, Riley Niday, Allen Nunez, Anna Perkoski, Jack Petersen, Jenna Petersen, Elliana Ruble, Enna Schofield, Aaron Start, Alyssa Steahly, Kara Sutton, Hadyn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Mia Vest, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Hendrix Wright, and Caleb Wrye.

Eighth graders who have maintained A/B Honor Roll status for the first three nine weeks include: Bryce Angle, Isabella Barrette, Madelyn Barrette, Matthew Beavers, Jaiden Blankenship, Allison Bowling, Olivia Bush, Spencer Campbell, Eric Chen, Milton Clark, Jazmine Clifton, Jahniya Coles, Claire Cooper, Bradley Counts, Kayden Creel, Braylon Dent, Meranda Dilcher, Morgan Dillard, Nathan Doan, Logan Ferguson, Reagan Fike, Adrian Garcia, Benjamin Gardner, Madison Garman, Blair Godlesky, Carson Gordon, Hadyn Grubb, Ainslee Hall, Mason Hershel, Camryn Hicks, Jude Hinkle, Olivia Holcomb, Benjamin Hoyos, Khloe Humphrey, Mya Johnson, Cooper Kageals, William Lasecki, Naleigh Lewis, Reese Mahanes, Andrea Maldonado, Gray Matthews, Adalie

Mills, Leah Montgomery, Kennedy Moseley, Josephine Mullen, Mallorie Mullins, Carmen Munoz, Eric Nguyen, Alana Niday, Emma Olivit, Cooper Peery, Jacob Perez, Collin Pero, Kendall Ranson, Amy Rickman, Nathaniel Roberts, Haleigh Saucedo, Vivian Schmidt, Luke Scott, Joshua Serreno, Richard Smith, Zoe Sowers, Aiden Stiltner, Brooklyn Strother, Gwen Summo, Hope Thomas, Cassidy Thompson, Juan Torres Carreon, Kolee Walter, Hailey Webster, Jacey

Weddle, Bryson Wendell, Keenan West, Noah Wheeler, Haleigh White, Bindi Whitenack, Abriel Wilhelm, Ryan Witcher, and Sabrina Wray.

Travis Anderson, who will become principal at William Byrd High School for the 24-25 school year, stopped by the assembly to welcome the students to ninth grade and to encourage them to get involved in activities and clubs at WBHS. “What you put into your high school years, is what you will get out of it.”



WBMS eighth grader Michael Akers received the prestigious Levi Freeman Award at the awards assembly on May 17. Pictured left to right are WBMS Asst. Principal Katherine Hutchison, his mother Hilarie Akers, Michael, his father Joey Akers, and WBMS Principal Evan Noell.



Jahniya Coles (left) and Gage Wilk were chosen by their eighth grade peers as Best All-Around in the Class of 2028.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

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Graduation

from page 1

past, present and the future, showcasing our ability to adapt, innovate and thrive for generations to come.

“At the very first senior class meeting I asked you to lead by example, to always be someone who makes being a Terrier a reason to be proud. You superseded my expectations. The Class of 2024 has bonded together, supporting each other through all the trials and tribulations you’ve experienced.

“Whether you have chosen to go to college, the workplace or the military, William Byrd High School has equipped you with the skills needed to be successful. Graduation is a milestone that no one can take away from you. Use what you have learned. Recognize the challenges you have overcome. Continue to strive to achieve and most importantly always be kind to one another and help those who are less fortunate. The path to your success is in your hands. Your resilience and good decisions will set you apart. Embrace challenges and keep pushing forward.”

Newcomb went on to recognize several specific achievements by individual students:

- David Gaspar-Cabrera, Makenna Jacobsen, Jenny Nguyen, Elliot Gaines, Nicolas Posadas, Alexandra Bonilla, Jaslyn Bibby, Erin Adkins, Madelyn Davis, Tracy, Nguyen, Sydney Blewett, Tanner Montgomery, Samantha Start and Addisyn St Clair earned the Bilingual Seal in Spanish; Bruno DeMelo, in Portuguese; Noah Franks, in French and Latin; Zach James, in Russian, and Olaedo Anyanwu, in Latin.

- Two students, Hunter Burgess and James Puckett, will be serving in the Virginia Army National Guard.

- Sixteen athletes have committed to playing collegiate sports. Playing football are Brayden Andrews, Lane Shoemaker, Bricen Lancaster Cooper Minnix, and Izzy Hairston. Participating in track and field, Wyatt Bailey, Reagan Lilley and Donald Mullins. Michael Hoyos will swim at the next level. Julian Pantoja will play lacrosse and Abbie Fitzgerald will play softball. Cheering at the next level are Emma Kageals, Sheradyn O’Neill and Gracie Mick. Blake Glover will play baseball.

- Israel Hairston was named Class 3 VHSL Male Scholar Athlete of the Year. This is a great honor and the only student at William Byrd who has accomplished this. Izzy plays football, baseball, basketball and runs track while maintaining excellent grades. Izzy is one of our valedictorians. He will be attending Virginia Tech and recently was offered a preferred walk on spot for Virginia Tech’s football team.

- William Byrd High School had the first ESPORTS team in the Region. This year the ESPORTS team won the state championship in Rocket League. Those senior teammates are Finley Stephens, Landon Caldwell, and Ethan Garlick.

- Wyatt Bailey won the State Pole Vault Competition in indoor track and is on his way to win the state in outdoor track. Wyatt is heading to William and Mary to compete on their track and field team.

- Two singers made it to the all-state choir, Cindel Camper and Olaedo Anyanwu.

- Joshua Hardy achieved the Eagle Scout ranking.

- Nine William Byrd students completed or will begin apprenticeships with companies in the valley— Thomas Wood (Hopkins/Lacy), Benjamin Sink (Southern Air), Jordan Bryant (Woods Auto), Britton Harnish (Hopkins/Lacy), Aaron Glass (Lawrence Transfer), Christian Lovern (Western VA Water Authority), Adam Harris (Wabtec), Brandon Scroggs (Hopkins/Lacy) and Benjamin Guertin (Thomas Dunn Studios).

- Thirty-eight students who attend BCAT have earned certifications in Cosmetology, Auto Service, Criminal Justice, Welding, Game Design and Programming, Mechatronics and Robotics, Computer Information Technology, Cyber Security, Building Trades, Motor Sports, Culinary Arts, and Center for Mass Communications.

- The Leo Club accumulated over 800 hours of community service, making it the most active LEO Club in the state. It is associated with the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club and sponsored by Lisa Stover.

Newcomb also paid tribute to three retiring faculty members: David Mitchell (Health and PE), Suzanne Spruell (Librarian), and Carol Webster (Theatre Arts and English).

“The next few years are important years,” Newcomb said in closing. “Continue to work hard just like you have the last four. Franklin Roosevelt once said, ‘We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future.’ We think we have done that. You will be given advice the rest of your lives but remember ‘Be productive; be honest; be thankful; and be kind.’”

Senior members of the William Byrd Choir then performed “I Am Still Your Dreamer” led by Choral Director Matt Bartley. Participants included Olaedo

Anyanwu, Brooklyn Arven, A’Mari Banks, Abigail Bush, Cindel Camper, Leighla Graham-Martin, Makenna Jacobsen, Alexis Loughlin, Alaena Seigler, Melinda Smith, Emily Sowers, Samantha Start, Demarion Williams, and Elizabeth Young.

Valedictorian Olaedo Anyanwu next delivered her “Top Terrier” address. (Each year William Byrd elects one student to serve as Top Terrier—one of the highest honors at WBHS.)

“Today is not just about celebrating our successes; it’s about embracing the journey that brought us here—every triumph, every setback, and every unexpected failure. An act none of us could have done without the help of each other and most importantly without our supportive parents and the gracious teachers and staff at WBHS.

“As we celebrate this joyous milestone, I am here to talk to you about something that many of us would rather not celebrate despite all having experienced it: failure. Yes, failure—the dreaded F-word that can evoke fear, sadness, uncertainty, or the inevitable discussion with your track coach. However, I’m here to encourage you to challenge your perception of failure and perceive it not as a setback but rather as a stepping-stone. Take a moment to think about it. Some of you may be thinking about when you first learned how to walk, drive, or even learned how to take an integral in calculus class. When you were learning to walk, how many times did you fall before you could confidently stride across the room? When you learned how to drive, how many curbs did you hit before you successfully drove in a straight line. Ultimately failure is how we grow. It’s how we become resilient.

“I’d like to share a story with you all. Picture me in the beginning of this school year—It’s senior year, so I was eager and ambitious to continue the pattern I have set up for myself in high school, so I could finish the year strong. I signed up for a physics class thinking I’d breeze through it. How hard could it be? All it was, was trains hitting each other mixed in with some elements of gravity and Newton’s Laws. Clearly, I was a little clueless, but I didn’t realize it until I got my first test back with a big fat ‘D’ on the paper. Fortunately, I wasn’t the only one who bombed the test, but afterwards, my teacher apologized to us for never being challenged in any other classes.

“I toyed around with that concept all year because while I did agree with it, I felt as if it was missing something. The fact that I had never been ‘challenged’ wasn’t the issue; it was the fact that I never embraced the challenges. I never used the challenge to learn from mistakes. In physics, everything builds so if I never learned and embraced my mistakes, they would continue to impact me.

“Former President Barack Obama once said, ‘You can’t let your failures define you, you have to let your failures teach you.’ Throughout our high school years, we have encountered numerous challenges from spending the majority of school in small trailers, to dealing with a global pandemic, while having to balance personal and academic struggles. But look at us now. All of us decked out in our caps and gowns shows the power of how we persevered and grew when we experienced failure from tough times.

“Let’s face it—life after graduation won’t be a straight path. There will be setbacks, successes, and yes, failures. But remember, every setback is a setup for a comeback. It is an opportunity to turn every adversity to an advantage, every disappointment into determination. So, embrace the unexpected. Embrace the failures. They will mold you into a lifelong learner—a person who thrives on challenges and keeps pushing through failure. I urge you to embrace failure as a friend rather than an enemy. Let it teach you, comfort you, and guide you. As we prepare to leave high school and take on the next stage of our life let us commit to not avoiding mistakes but to learn from them.”

The William Byrd Senior Choir, led by Choral Director Matt Bartley, performed the beautiful “I Am Still Your Dreamer.” Choir members included Olaedo Anyanwu, Brooklyn Arven, A’Mari Banks, Abigail Nicole Bush, Cindel Camper, Leighla Graham-Martin, Makenna Jacobsen, Alexis Loughlin, Alaena Seigler, Melinda Smith, Emily Sowers, Samantha Start, Demarion Williams, and Elizabeth Young.

Next up was the eagerly awaited “Presentation of Diplomas,” beginning with the valedictorians.

While the graduates were coming to the stage to receive their diplomas and congratulations from Newcomb, Assistant Principals Travis Anderson and Phillip Martin, School Board members David Linden and Tim Greenway, and School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely, their photos and future plans were displayed onscreen.

Those future plans for the Class of 2024 include (valedictorians are indicated with an asterisk):

Camden County Community College: Titus Blalock

Catawba College: Bricen Lancaster
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: Landon Lorton



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Students leading the Graduation Ceremony included (from left) Top Terrier and Valedictorian Olaedo Anyanwu, SCA President Makenna Jacobsen, and Valedictorian Eva Brown.

College of William and Mary: Benjamin Abbott*, Wyatt Bailey*, Shiloh Markwith*, Jenny Nguyen*

Cosmetology School: Kimberly Saunders

Dallas College: Hannah O’Brien
Eastern Kentucky University: Haven Fralin

Eastern Mennonite University: Abigail Fitzgerald

Electrical/Mechanical Apprenticeship with GJ Hopkins: Braedon Scroggs, Thomas Wood

Emory and Henry College: Reagan Lilley, Donald Mullins, Jr.

Florida State College at Jacksonville: Kaylee Blackwell

George Mason University: David Gaspar-Cabrera*, Emma Miller*, Ashlynn Thomas

High Point University: Noah Thompson

Hollins University: Elizabeth Young*, Sydney Bunce

James Madison University: Nathan Carter*, Dominic Dulak*, Aiden Eline*, Thaddeus Lilley*, Keller Spraker*, Karli Stephenson*, Kayli Thompson*, Terran Brown, Donivan Davis IV, Lance Hollins, Maddox Wolfe

Johns Hopkins University: Tracy Nguyen*

Liberty University: Samantha Flippen*, Sawyer Harris*, Bruno DeMelo, John Kiker, Riley Roth

Longwood University: Carter Dullaghan*, Samantha Start*, Makynna Byrd

Mary Baldwin: Emmanuel Blake

Mather Dance Company: Kallie Niday*

New River Community College: James Glover

New York University: Hernan Cataneo-Luna*

Norfolk State University: A’Mont Banks, Amouria McCadden

NC State University: Jaslyn Bibby*, Eva Brown*

Old Dominion University: Jack Hinkle*, Teea Hash

Paul Mitchell The School Roanoke: Haley Lecas

Radford University: Ashley Woods*, Brooklyn Arven, Abigail Bush, Alexandra Chaney, Kadence Fernatt, Leighla Graham-Martin, Autumn Hicks, Stephen McPherson, Alaena Seigler, Madison White

Radford University-Carilion: Caitlin Bishop*, Addisyn St. Clair*, Lillian Betterton, Jocelyn Brigdon, Savannah Gibson, Taryn Hodges, Kyra Lane, Katelyn Lucas, Kaylee Mitchell, James Puckett, Isaiah Rider

Randolph Macon College: Lance Freedle

Roanoke College: Payton Martin*, Johnathan Teague*, Brayden Andrews, Michael Hoyos, Matthew Kalb, Matthew Klugas, Alexis Loughlin, Gracie Mick, Sheradyn O’Neill, Lane Shoemaker

Shenandoah University: Cooper Minnix

Southern Air Apprenticeship: Benjamin Sink

Springfield College: Dallas Dowdy

Thomas Dunn Studios Apprenticeship: Benjamin Guertin

University of Cincinnati: Joshua Hardy*

University of Virginia: Olaedo Anyanwu*, Alexandra Bonilla*, Dexter Gaines*, Elliott Gaines*, Claire Glover*, Makenna Jacobsen*, Abigail Moats*, Griffin Yakob*

University of Virginia, Wise: Natalie Blevins*

Virginia Commonwealth University: Anibeth Dixon,

Virginia Military Institute: Carleigh Cooper

Virginia State University: A’Mari Banks, Nutalya Rivera

Virginia Tech: Erin Adkins*, Ashley Begasse*, Ian Burnett*, Elizabeth Dixon*, Landon Dyess*, Noah Franks*, Israel Hairston*, Zachary James*, Emma Kageals*, Alexis LaBarbera*, Sean Minnix*, Tanner Montgomery*, Finley Stephens*, Kenny Trang*, Emily Tuck*, Madelyn Ward*, Kathryn Bryant, Logan Carpenter, Zachary Claybrook, Andrew Lindsay, Nicole Posadas, Nathaniel Vaughn, Ian Vest, Beau Brady

Virginia Wesleyan College: Julian Pantoja

Virginia Western Community College: Sarah Addo*, Sydney Blewett*, Emily Cook*, Phoenix Eanes*, Tyler Morrison*, Emily Sowers*, Brenin Witcher*, Jayla Barger, Sylvia Bautista, Jissele Beckner, Luke Abbott, Emmerson Abshire, Dakota Adams, Noah Austin, Ryan Ayersman, Sydney Brown, Jordan Bryant, Hunter Burgess, Dylan Burkett, Landon Caldwell, Dylan Callahan, Cindel Camper, Marc Carroll, Karisma Carver, Alexis Christensen, Tyler Ciafardini, Kierra Clark, Devin Colgan, William Cox, Jr., Jordan Crowell, Madelyn Davis, Aiden Dogan, Sali Doura, Mandolin Draper, Camryn Eaker, Seth Elmore, Milla Farrington, Avery Fay, Isaac Fedor, Makayla Flack, Nicholas Franco, Landyn French, Ethan Garlick, Mykiah Garrison, Ruby Gaspar-Reyes, Reid Hanson, Kaliyah Harris, Jayden Hedrick, Aaron Hill, Donald Hodges, Landon Hodges, Cole Kovacevic, Camden LaPrad, Brandon Leftwich, Stephanie Liben-Ceballo, Taylor Long, Callie Lusk, Mariah Majkowski, Steven Matar, Allyson Mavredes, Andrew Maxwell, Brayden McCulloch, Adam Megdadi, Abigail Miller, Madison Montgomery, Mackenzie Moock, Kris Neal, Brycen Nielsen, Braden Oliver, Kylie Pampani, Camdyn Perdue, Makayla Price, RYanne Quarles, Cesar Rodriguez-Muniz, Montgomery Self, Charles Smith, Domniic-Nasir Smith, Melinda Smith, Parker Spradlin, Joshua Stores, Jillian Stuber, Mason Teehan, Chloe Varney, Dakota Vaughan, Kendra Wallace, Alexis Ware, Brianna Webb, Trenton West, Meghan White, Demarion Williams, Emily Wilmer, Brooke Wimmer

Workforce: Michael Chisom, Ava Arnold, Jonah Banks, Cody Barker, Dalton Beckner-Pollard, Xachary Brogan, Takenya Brown, Hayden Bryant, Cody Burkett, Noah Camper, James Canady, Ryan Carista, Gage Cochran, Ryan Cole, Jr., Dillon Colgan, Anastayzia Cook, Staceyjo Cook, Caden Cunningham, Carter Dillon, Curtis Dillon, Lee Doss, Ja’Ree Fleming, Andrew Flowers, Hugo Forero, Marlee Francisco, Aaron Glass, Lukas Graley, Kindra Hampton, Adam Harris, Gavin Hunley, Andrew Kiker, Brayden King, Gretchen Kinney, Keila Leonel-Castro, Marissa Lobjack, Christian Lovern, Daemeon Lowe, Hailey Mandakis, Brianna McFadden, Savannah Mueller, Taylor Nininger, Travis Nute, Grace Owen, Brady Reachy, Justin Rickard, Hunter Roberts, Jamie Rowlett, Jr., Jada Satterwhite, Sandy Scott, Noah Shelor, Tristan Siebert, Sean Seifert, Noah Shelor, Jesse Smith, Brittany Stanley, Jasmine St. Clair, Luke Stubbs, Jovie Underwood, Tyler Webster, Kaylynn Wilson, Grayson Workman, Dakota Wright, and Nicholas Yakob

Other graduates include Devan Brunk, Britton Harnish, Aiden Moore, and Aiden Hundley.

Graduation 2024 concluded with “Alma Mater” performed by the William Byrd Band under the direction of Dan Plybon.

Senior Sponsor Hannah Prater facilitated the Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony can be viewed online in its entirety at <https://www.rcps.us/graduation>.

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Auctions

LEGAL NOTICE
 A public auction will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Grand Storage of Vinton, 1119 Vinyard Rd, Vinton, VA 24179, to sell personal property in the following units: Matthew Bowden C27, Loretta Dooley C34

Help Wanted - General

HELP WANTED
 Part-time Minister at Snowville Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. For more information email: office@snowvillechristianchurch.com or call 540.320.1194

Help Wanted - Software Engineer

Software Engineer, Autonomy TORC Robotics, Inc. seeks a Software Engineer, Autonomy, in Blacksburg, VA.
 However, this is a telecommuting/work-from-home position whereby the employee may reside anywhere within the U.S. This position will be responsible for various software development and engineering activities supporting the delivery of autonomy algorithm software to the overall system solution within an autonomy software algorithms components; perform software development activities such as software architecture, design, coding, unit testing, integration, deployment, and maintenance within their assigned autonomy algorithms software component, among other duties. Up to 10% domestic travel required per year. Any applicant who is interested in this position should email their resume to careers@torc.ai. Reference job number 750.

Autos - Cars

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1986 Chevy Monte Carlo SS
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Wanted - To Rent

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 Looking for rented pasture land to fenc or lease. Call 276-233-5863

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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 May 29, 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 accessory structure located at 702 Front Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 201 - 10 - 2)

All parties in interest at the public hearings 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on May 28th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing to consider the sale of a portion of Tax Map # 91-1-2.1 consisting of an approximate 867 square feet, together with a permanent drainage easement consisting of an approximate 1,139 square feet, together with a temporary easement consisting of an approximate 1,499 square feet, to the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation.

Questions concerning the proposed sale may be addressed to the office of the City Manager, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia, at 540-375-3016.

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
 H. Robert Light
 Clerk of Salem City Council

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
 Case No. **CL23001539-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **REBECCA LYNN AKERS BOYD v. TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD**
 The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that **TIMOTHY RALPH BOYD** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **JUNE 26, 2024**.
 April 22, 2024
 Robert M.D. Turk, JUDGE

RESOLUTION SETTING RATE SCHEDULE AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Public Service Authority does hereby agree to set the following proposed preliminary schedule fixing and classifying rates, fees, and charges for water and sewer service:

WATER RATE
 Proposed 9.99% Increase
 From: \$13.11 to \$14.42 per 1,000 gallons

SEWER RATE
 Proposed 1.44% Increase
 From: \$10.40 to \$10.55 per 1,000 gallons

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Montgomery County Public Service Authority, that the Public Service Authority hereby authorizes the Director to advertise a public hearing in accordance with Section 15.2-5136G of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to be held on

June 05, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Board Room, in order to receive citizen comments on the preliminary schedule fixing and classifying rates, fees and charges for water and sewer service.

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearings on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

RZN-24-1/ORD 2051- Request for an amendment to previous rezoning RZN 19-0002/ORD 1895 on 33.87 acres at the former Old Blacksburg High School site at 520 Patrick Henry Drive (Tax Map Numbers: 227-A 4, 227-A 4C and 227-A 4D) by Balzer and Associates (applicant) for HS Development LLC and the Town of Blacksburg (property owners). Requested amendment applies to an 11.15 acre portion of the 33.87 site. The request alters unit mix, layout, density and circulation on the site, and also includes changes to the proffer statement. A maximum of 73 townhomes is proposed (6.6 units per acre); this is a reduction from 100 townhomes previously approved by RZN 19-0002/ORD 1895. The maximum number of bedrooms proposed is 284 (approximately 26 bedrooms per acre), which

Legals - Montgomery County

is less than the 30 bedroom-per-acre density approved in RZN 19-0002/ORD 1895. The Future Land Use Designation for this parcel is Medium Density Residential, which allows up to 10 units per acre, or up to 20 bedrooms per acre for multifamily use, whichever is less. This proposed density represents an increase over the residential density envisioned in the future land use designation.

CUP-24-1-Conditional Use Permit Request for a drive-in restaurant in the GC-General Commercial zoning district on 1.02 acres at 1421 South Main Street (Tax Map Nos. 287-22-1-5 & 287-22-102-105) by Balzer and Associates, LLC (applicant) for Blacksburg Square, LLC (owner). This is a request for a drive-thru coffee shop for Seven Brew Coffee. There will be no exterior speaker boards, internal seating, or customer parking proposed on the site. The proposed site will contain two structures for the main coffee stand and a freezer building with three wraparound drive-thru lanes. Two entrances will be from the existing Blacksburg Square shopping center parking lot, with one entrance off of Ardmore Street. The existing single family home and driveway at 1421 South Main Street will be demolished. The Future Land Use (FLU) is Commercial and Mixed Use E.

ROW-24-1/ORD 2055- Request to vacate approximately 111,464 square feet of unbuilt right-of-way at the end of Progress Street by James Taylor of Balzer & Associates (applicant) on behalf of S & S Construction, LLC and CC & B Development, LLC (property owners). This request will vacate approximately 114,464 square feet (2.63 acres) of Town-owned Right-of-Way at the end of Progress Street NW (adjacent to Tax Parcels 166-A 4C; 166-17 B; 166-17 A; 166-10 A & 166-10 B) known as future Progress Street. The future Progress Street ROW is current unbuilt. The application also includes dedication of approximately 138,158 square feet of right-of-way to accommodate realignment of the future roadway. The request also includes vacation of several utility easements, access easements, and a trail easement. The process will include dedication of a new public utility easement and a new greenway easement. The existing trail would be relocated as part of subdivision of the adjacent tax parcels.

AFD-24-1/ORD 2052- Withdrawal of 3.036 acres of land from the Agricultural and Forestal District at 701 Bishop Road (Tax Map No. 137-T-A-1, Parcel # 006339) by James and Carol Burger (property owner). Request to withdraw 3.036 acres of land from the Town of Blacksburg Agricultural and Forestal District (AFD) at 701 Bishop Road by James and Carol Burger. A minor subdivision application (SUB 23-0006) for the creation of three (3) parcels is currently under review by the Planning and Engineering Departments.

Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning or right-of-way vacation requests, the conditional use permit request or Agricultural and Forestal District withdrawal may appear and present their views. After hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the requests and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg,

Legals - Montgomery County

Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

CLASSIC AND EXOTIC CAR AUCTION. Friday, May 31st, 12PM ET. 50+ Expected Vehicles. Bid Live or Online! View the inventory and register to bid at: www.RichmondAA.com/events. Richmond Auto Auction 3600 Deepwater Terminal Road Richmond, VA 23234.

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SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook), 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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