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William Byrd's Israel Hairston signs with Virginia Tech

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

William Byrd High School multi-sport athlete—football, baseball, basketball, and track—and valedictorian Israel Hairston signed his national letter of intent with Virginia Tech on May 22 as a “preferred walk-on” in the football program and as an engineering student.

Hairston was recently named Class 3 VHSL Scholar Athlete of the Year—a first in William Byrd history. He was also named Blue Ridge District Offensive Player of the Year, Region 3D Offensive Player of the Year, Crunch Co-Player of the Year, and Second Team All-State.

This past season he helped lead the Terriers to their first-ever state semifinals game and regional title and winning 12 games in a season.

Byrd football Coach Lutz commented that Hairston has rewritten the history book at Byrd, holding the record for most passing yards in a career, most passing touchdowns in a career, most passing yards in a season, and ranking fourth in total yards.

Career statistics total 304 carries, 2,264 yards, and 32 touchdowns; 248 completions in passing with 430 attempts, 3,398 yards, and 29 touchdowns; 5,662 total yards and 61 total touchdowns.

Hairston was joined at the signing of his letter of intent ceremony by his family, teammates, and coaches in football (Lutz), track (James Pannell), baseball (Jason Taylor), and basketball (Brad Greenway).

Principal Tammy Newcomb spoke first, thanking Hairston “for all the memories you have provided us. We are so proud of you.”

Football coach Brad Lutz noted that the recruiting process had been a long process, working hard “to find the right fit” for Hairston, who “made academics a huge priority” and wanted to attend a university with a top-notch engineering school. Several other colleges and universities made offers; Lutz noted that the commitment to Virginia Tech is “a huge deal.”

Both Newcomb and Lutz praised Hairston for



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Israel Hairston (center, front) on signing day with his proud family. Pictured left to right are: front, Israel's aunt Melanie Scales (a VT alumni), his paternal grandmother Phyllis Hairston, Israel, his mother Keevie Hairston, and his maternal grandmother Cynthia Williams; back row, Israel's brother Ethan (WB alumni and a current VT student), his father Christopher, and his maternal grandfather Henry Williams.

participating in multiple sports while maintaining excellent grades. He earned a 4.16 GPA, taking Pre-AP, AP, and Dual Enrollment Classes, and was on the A or A/B Honor Roll every nine weeks throughout his high school career.

“Israel will be a tremendous student athlete at Virginia Tech, just like he has been here,” Lutz said. Lutz joked about Hairston being able to keep the same school colors from Byrd in his career with Tech. The coach also touched on Hairston's stellar character and

team-minded attitude, recalling him “sweeping the floor” after their annual football banquet.

He also reminded Hairston and his other teammates who had signed letters of intent to “remember where you came from.”

Hairston said that playing football at VT “has been a childhood dream, like a lot of kids in Virginia.” He will be playing as a defensive back. His brother,

See **Hairston**, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Marco's Pizza in Vinton officially opened on May 22 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Vinton Chamber of Commerce. The franchise owner is Brandon Hudson (far right), pictured next to business partner Damion Mason.

Chambers of Commerce welcome Marco's Pizza to Vinton with ribbon-cutting

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton Chamber of Commerce and the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce welcomed Marco's Pizza to Vinton with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 22. The new pizza franchise is located at Lake Drive Plaza on Hardy Road. It has now been open for about a month.

Eric Sichau, president of the Regional Chamber,

and Angie Chewning, executive director of the Vinton Chamber, hosted the well-attended event and thanked Marco's Pizza franchise owner Brandon Hudson and his business partner Damion Mason for choosing Vinton as their first location in the Roanoke Valley. Sichau noted the strong business climate that exists in the area.

Hudson, who has been developing Marco's locations for several years

See **Marcos**, page 6

Scouts commemorated Memorial Day by planting flags in Mountain View Cemetery

Scouts from BSA Troops 11 and 235 commemorated Memorial Day by placing flags on the graves of all veterans on May 25 in Mountain View Cemetery in Vinton. The flag observance has become an annual event for area Scouts, beginning around 2015. The Scouts also place flags on the graves for Veterans Day in November each year.

While Memorial Day is dedicated to

remembering and honoring military personnel who died in service to their country and Veterans Day recognizes the service of all of America's veterans, whether they are still living or have passed away, the Scouts honor all twice each year.

The Scouts, their leaders, and some family members walked the cemetery looking for graves marked to

See **Scouts**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Scouts from BSA Troops 11 and 235 placed flags on the graves of veterans in Mountain View to commemorate Memorial Day.



MINGLE AT THE MARKET
BY VINTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VINTON FARMERS MARKET
JUNE 8TH 6:30 -10PM JUNE 22ND 7-10PM

ELLA FOLK
CHARISSA JOY & HIGH FREQUENCY
LOW LOW CHARIOT

THAT 80'S SHOW

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mingle at the Market concerts get underway with triple-threat season opener on June 8

The 2024 Mingle at the Market Concert Series kicks off on Saturday, June 8, with performances by three dynamic groups— Ella Folk, Charissa Joy & High Frequency, and Low Low Chariot. The show starts with Folk at 6:30 and closes with Low Low Chariot taking the final bow at 10 p.m.

The Vinton Chamber of Commerce began sponsoring these shows in 2012 at the Vinton Farmers' Market in downtown Vinton. Admission is \$7. This is a family event— children under age 12 are admitted free of charge.

Food vendors for the first Mingle are Food on the Go and Empanada Nirvana. There is a beverage garden sponsored by Blue Ridge Beverage— ID is required. No outside food or beverages are allowed.

Something new this year is the Boothe Bell Real Estate Kids Zone with a variety of activities— bouncy houses on selected nights and oversized games for children and adults at every Mingle.

Bring your own seating. No pets are allowed. There is a “clear bag” policy at the Mingle concerts

See **Mingle**, page 5



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BoomTown Crossfit and Vinton Police host Murph Challenge on Memorial Day



Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond leads off the first one-mile run in the Murph Challenge.



The Murph Challenge workout includes two one-mile runs, along with pull-ups, push-ups, and squats.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Sarah and Jackson Doss finish their first one-mile run on Memorial Day at BoomTown Crossfit for the Murph Challenge.

The Town of Vinton joined forces with BoomTown Crossfit in Vinton to observe Memorial Day on May 27 with a Murph Challenge fundraiser.

Murph Workout heats got underway at 8 a.m. with a one-mile run through local streets, followed by 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, and 300 squats at BoomTown, followed by another one-mile run.

Lt. Murphy, a United States Navy SEAL, was killed in combat with Taliban fighters in Afghanistan in 2005 as part of the Operation Red Wings four-man reconnaissance mission. Danny Dietz and Matthew

Axelson were also killed during the mission. Marcus Luttrell survived, thanks to the actions of Murphy, after wandering the mountains and being taken in by friendly local Afghan villagers.

Murphy is credited with risking his own life to get a message out to friendly forces to save the lives of others. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Murph Challenge is held annually around the world on Memorial Day to honor not just him, but all who have given their lives in service to their country.

Vinton Community Resource Officer Will Holland was on hand with the Vinton Police Department Mobile Unit to cook hot dogs for the crowd and their families. First Citizens Bank sponsored the cook-out and Smooshed provided sweet treats.

The BoomTown Crossfit gym and fitness center is located at 703 Tinker Avenue in Vinton near Cargill (formerly Southern States).

-Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Members of the Public Works Dept. were recognized for placing in the annual Mid-Atlantic Public Works Rodeo. Pictured left to right are Public Works employee Andrew Critzer, Public Works Administrative Manager Jill Acker, Public Works Director Bo Herndon, and Public Works employee Jason Davison.

Vinton Town Council holds budget hearing

Debbie Adams
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Vinton Town Council held a public hearing on the proposed FY2025 budget during its meeting on May 21. Council and citizens present were briefed on the document by Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton before the hearing began.

Sexton noted that this year's budget is balanced with a "moderately optimistic outlook," and based on the town's strategic plan.

The proposed budget for the General Fund totals \$13,610,991, which represents an increase of 8.6% or \$1,078,028 over the previous year. The proposed FY2025 budget for all funds totals \$14,879,829, which represents an overall increase of 4.19%.

Highlights of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year include:

- a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees (the town has 69 on staff)
- an end-of-year gratuity bonus
- no change to Employee Health Plan Premiums

Town Council did not increase tax rates this year; any increases in tax bills are due to increases in assessed values.

Sexton stated that in the proposed budget, the fund balance will be used for several one-time projects, such as the Gish Mill Performance Agreement, the town's upcoming development of its Comprehensive Plan, and increased paving.

The FY2025 Capital Improvements Projects budget includes the purchase of a new refuse truck and "lots of paving."

Sexton noted during the discussion that Vinton has a "robust business community" which is also quite diverse. He emphasized how fortunate the town is to have several sources of revenue and is not dependent primarily upon real estate taxes as some localities are.

Mayor Brad Grose praised the staff for their diligence in developing a budget based on "what we can do for our citizens to improve their quality of life." He, too, commented on the advantages of the diverse revenue streams which the budget is based on. Vice Mayor Mike Stovall described the document as "a solid budget."

There were no comments from citizens concerning the FY24/25 budget.

The proposed budget was presented to council in detail at the meeting on May 7 by Town Manager Pete Peters. Final action will be taken on adopting the final budget at the June 4 council meeting. The proposed budget can be viewed online at <https://www.vintonva.gov/100/Budgets-Reports>.

In other action during the May 21 meeting, council declared May 19-25 as National Public Works Week, thanking the Public Works Department for outstanding contributions to the citizens and town with street maintenance, sidewalk repair, solid waste collection, recycling, traffic signal and sign maintenance, snow and ice removal, stormwater collection, and invaluable assistance with special events.

Public Works Director Bo Herndon recognized employees Jason Davison, Chris Lawhorn, Andrew Critcher, and Billy Robb for participation in the recent Mid-Atlantic American Public Works Association WRX Rodeo at the Berglund Center on May 1. Davison placed second in the bucket truck competition; Lawhorn placed second in Zero Turn Mower; and Robb placed third in bucket truck. They have been invited to compete at nationals in Atlanta in September.

Council adopted a resolution declaring May as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month in the Town of Vinton. These are two disorders of the peripheral nerves with the cause unknown and the effects of the illnesses unpredictable. Rick Forney, GBS/CIDP Mid-Atlantic Regional Director and Southwest Virginia Liaison, accepted the proclamation.

Peters updated council on the Mountain View Road Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) project that will, in effect, rebuild the roadway. Construction will get underway in mid-June and is weather-dependent. The markings on the roadway visible to motorists now indicate the current location of utility lines, not changes to be made.

A group of citizens who live on Lynn Haven Circle addressed council about their concern that their street might become one-way, and the inconvenience that might involve. Council and the town manager said that town staff would be casually polling citizens in the area to get a broader sampling of opinions and report back to council.



By Vinton Library Assistant Molly Meador

Can you feel it? That summertime feeling in the air? It can only mean one thing... it's time for Summer Reading with Roanoke County Public Library! From June 8-August 10, help us reach our goal of reading 30,000 books as a community this summer.

To complete the program and get a completion prize, babies and preschoolers must read ten books, and children, teens, and adults must complete three books. Log your books online on Beanstack or stop by for a paper log to turn in.

Keep reading past the minimum to help us reach our goal and earn more chances to win a grand prize! This year we are also releasing limited edition badges you can earn by completing reading challenges, using library services, and attending events. Be sure to check out all each branch has to offer.

The Vinton Summer Reading Kickoff Party will be Thursday, June 13 from 2-4 p.m. Stop by the library to enjoy food and fun for everyone! This year we'll have all kinds of activities from a temporary tattoo station, hand painting, giant yard games, sidewalk chalk art, and a balloon artist.

Teens can drop by our Teen Tech: Makey Makey program in the program room from 2-3 p.m., where tech, gaming, and play-doh combine to make a fun way to explore coding. The Vinton Police Department will be cooking up yummy hotdogs and the RCPL WOW! Van will be here as well. Be sure to swing by and get excited about summer reading!

If you're like us and you like to be outside as much as possible during the summer months, come by on Wednesday, June 5 at 2 p.m. for our program on Backpacking in the Great Outdoors, where you'll learn how to have a safe and fun hiking experience with National Park Ranger Brian Wilson on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Before you set off on

your hiking excursion with all of Ranger Brian's tips in tow, be sure to come by for a Culinary Adventure on Friday, June 21 at 2 p.m. with Master Food Volunteer Naida Young. She will present information on foods you can take on all your great outdoor adventures.

It's time to get to know some of the great online features RCPL has to offer. Let's dive into our databases with Database Detective. On Thursday, June 20 at 2:30 p.m., in honor of Juneteenth, we will be investigating what we can learn about the freeing of enslaved people through primary sources. Also, be sure to come hang out with us in the library earlier that same morning at 10 a.m. on June 20 for the sounds of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

We've got lots of great mini programs in store for you this month for Vinton Community Connection. Join us every Friday from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. for fun activities and presentations as well as chatting with your neighbors over a free cup of coffee. Take a look at what we've got planned:

- June 7- Mindfulness Walk outside the library, ending with a mindfulness group exercise (weather permitting)
- June 14- Easy Origami
- June 21- Juneteenth Primary Sources (in case you missed our Database Detective the evening before)
- June 28- Star City Dulcimer Quartet performance

Register online for June's Creations and Temptations on Saturday, June 22 from 3-4 p.m. to have fun creating decorations for the summer; join us to make beautiful tissue paper flowers.

This month the Vinton Book Club will discuss "Lily and the Octopus" by Stephen Rowley on Thursday, June 6 at 3 p.m. and the As the Page Turns Book Club will talk about "The It Girl" by Ruth Ware on Wednesday, June 12 at 2 p.m.

Be sure to check out our awesome ongoing

programs as well:

- Open Bridge meets every Tuesday from 1-4 p.m.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons are every Saturday morning from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers meet Saturday, June 15 from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Ensemble will play Monday, June 24 from 6-7 p.m.

On Saturday, June 1 from 3-4:30 p.m., drop in to play some of our Yard Games. Bring your friends and the whole family for fun games like cornhole, giant Jenga, and giant connect four!

Teens, you did it! The school year is ending, and summer is here! Come to the library for our Teen Jammie Jamboree on Tuesday, June 4 from 5-6 p.m. Bring your favorite squishmallow or stuffed animal and enjoy a story time session with the Library Director. Jammies encouraged!

Register online to join us for our summer book club for kids. This month we are discussing "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown on Tuesday, June 11 from 3-4 p.m. There will be fun activities and a game! You can also register for Tampa Taiko on Tuesday, June 18 from 2-3 p.m. Using a collection of taiko drums he has made from discarded barrels; Sensei Ron Collins entertains and educates audiences with an exciting traditional presentation of an ancient Japanese art form.

Wait! That's not all, folks! On Tuesday, June 25 from 2-3 p.m. we will be hosting Larsen's Amazing World of Reptiles. Join reptile experts, Scott and Kim Larsen as they share stories, interesting facts, and trivia questions about their dazzling array of lizards, frogs, turtles, and snakes. Don't miss your chance to meet reptiles up close and personal!

This month our theme for story time is "Places!" Where will we adventure to next? Don't forget to register for our story-time session that begins this month on Wednesday, June 26. Toddler

See Books, page 5

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

The staff at Mt. Pleasant Library has many fun and educational events planned for the month of June.

Drop in for a fun Saturday craft on June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22, and June 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., (while supplies last).

Join library staff for Game Day on June 1; all ages are welcome to play board games from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Become a Database Detective on June 4 from 6 to 7 p.m. Adults are invited to learn to do genealogy using the library's Ancestry and Heritage Quest databases. Bring your parents' names and dates of birth. Please pre-register.

Children in grades 1-5 are invited to "Tune in to a Story" on June 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. This is a monthly beginning chapter book read aloud club! Kids will work on a craft while we read the first chapter from a fun adventure book.

The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra will be

performing at the library from 6 to 7 p.m. on June 13.

Adults are welcome to join the staff for "Book Chat: Read and Recommend" on June 15 from 11 a.m. to noon. Please pre-register.

Teen Book Chat is scheduled for June 18 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Adventure into new things this summer! Explore your themed Teen Takeout Bags, chat about what you're reading, and hang out with other teens. Please pre-register.

"Backpacking in the Great Outdoors" is set for June 20 from 6 to 7 p.m. Adults can learn to have a safe and fun hiking experience with National Park Ranger Brian Wilson of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Pokemon Club for families and school-age children is planned for June 24 from 3 to 4 p.m. Please pre-register.

Visit Balloon artist Jefferson Rose during Mt. Pleasant's Summer Reading Party and take home an amazing balloon creation! This event for all ages is

scheduled for June 27 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Come celebrate at the "Summer Reading Party" on June 27 from 6 to 7 p.m. with summer reading, food from the Sheriff's Dept. and other outdoor activities on the patio (weather permitting).

Adventure into art and create a masterpiece with paint at "Teen Art Paint Pouring" on June 29 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Register online for programs at www.rocolibrary.org.

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

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Miss America 2024 Madison Marsh will be honored guest at Miss Virginia Pageant



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISS VIRGINIA OPPORTUNITY, INC. Madison Marsh, Miss America 2024

Miss Virginia Opportunity, Inc., has announced that Madison Marsh, Miss America 2024, will visit Roanoke from June 26-29, as a special guest for several events at the Miss Virginia Pageant and for the crowning of Miss Virginia 2024.

Marsh is an Air Force officer, cancer research advocate, role model, and Miss America. She is a certified private pilot, now a second lieutenant in the Air Force. After she graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a physics degree, she made history as the first active-duty officer to hold a Miss America state title as Miss Colorado 2023. Marsh was crowned Miss America in January 2024 in Orlando, Fla.

She serves as CEO of the Whitney Marsh Foundation, which she founded in honor of her mother. Marsh says, "My journey through the Whitney Marsh Foundation reflects an unwavering spirit needed to combat pancreatic cancer." Whitney's Race is run to fund the Whitney Marsh Foundation, Inc., for local education and equipment purchases as well as national research for a race against time for those with pancreatic cancer.

Marsh is a National Truman Scholar. The Truman Scholarship is a prestigious award that supports college students with academic excellence who are committed to public service careers. She is also a National Astronaut Scholar. That foundation's mission is to aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in technology and innovation by supporting the very best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics. She is currently studying public policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

Miss Virginia is a state title with Miss America Opportunity, Inc., the nation's premier empowerment platform for young women advancing their personal and professional goals, while serving as positive role models in their communities. With a rich history dating back to 1921, Miss America's mission is "Empowering women to lead" by engaging thousands of young women, ages 14-28, as local and state brand ambassadors nationally each year. Committed to community service initiatives, the program is the largest provider of women's scholarships in America.

Preliminary competitions are scheduled for June 27 and 28, with the final competition and crowning of the new Miss Virginia on June 29. Katie Rose, Miss Virginia 2024, will also appear.

Tickets to the 2024 Miss Virginia events are available on the Miss Virginia website: www.missvirginia.org.

Submitted by Miss Virginia Opportunity, Inc.

Vinton History Museum to host Ice Cream Social and 'Pop-up Wedding Attire'

Vinton History Museum volunteers will hand out individually wrapped ice cream treats on Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the Community Ice Cream Social at the museum. The event is free and open to the public.

A "Pop-up Display of Wedding Attire and Accessories" will be on display June 1, 3, and 5.

Folks are encouraged to enjoy the lovely porch, grounds, pergola, Little Free Library, and historic exhibits and resources in the museum.

For more information email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or call (540) 342-8634.

- Vinton History Museum

Rawling appointed Chief Operations Officer at Valley Wealth Group

Valley Wealth Group (VWG), a regional wealth management firm, has announced Tiffany Rawling as the Chief Operations Officer.

Rawling joined Jaret Mutter, VWG President, as Client Service Director during the firm's inception in 2015. She has a wide range of knowledge about the financial services industry and truly enjoys getting to know the firm's clients and families. As the firm continued to grow, VWG benefited from Rawling's leadership in overseeing day-to-day operations and ever-changing industry regulations and compliance as well as overall strategic planning of VWG.

Rawling's professional

experience in the financial sector began in 2007 at AXA Advisors and continued at SunTrust Investment Services. In 2014 she was recruited as part of a team by Valley Bank to take over its existing investment program.

Rawling is a 1998 graduate of William Byrd High School and a graduate of Roanoke College where she earned her Bachelor of Business Administration.

"Since the beginning, Tiffany has provided the structural foundation for our firm that has allowed us to take care of our clients and continue to grow our reach in the Roanoke Valley and beyond. Her sincere interest and concern for



PHOTO COURTESY OF VWG Tiffany Rawling

our clients is inspiring. We are fortunate to have her be a part of our leadership team at VWG," says Mutter.

Valley Wealth Group is a dynamic wealth management firm specializing in financial and retirement planning.

Submitted by Valley Wealth Group

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

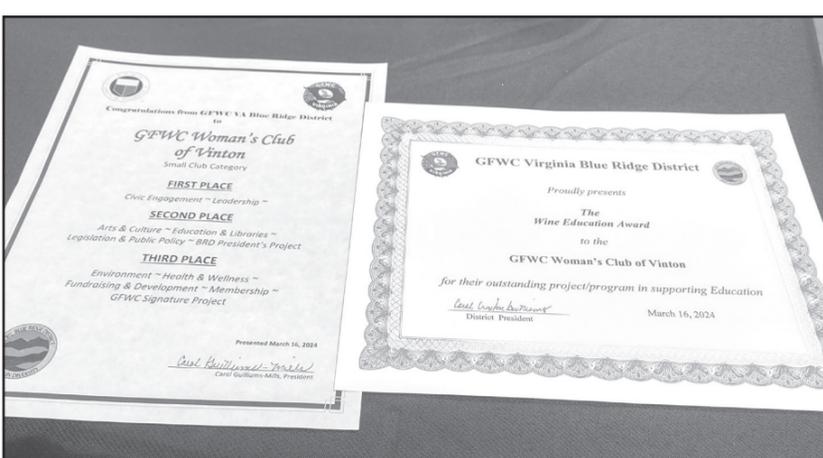


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN SOWERS

The GFWC Vinton Woman's Club won several awards at the Blue Ridge District meeting.

By Angie Chewing

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday weekend. We sure did.

I want to brag on another cousin this week. Cousin Deaton Bell and the team he works with won 17 Emmys for their incredible work on the "Inside the NBA" show on TNT.

Deaton has quite a few Emmys on his shelf for all his incredible work producing and creating shows like this. Deaton is the son of George Bell (Buddy) of Vinton. We are so proud! Go, Cuz, Go!

Congratulations to the GFWC Vinton Woman's Club on several awards received at the Blue Ridge District meeting.

In the Small Club category, the club received first place in Civic Engagement for "Leadership," and second place in Arts & Culture for "Education and Libraries," and "Legislation and Public Policy for the "Blue Ridge District President's Project." The club won third place in "Environment—Health and Wellness," "Fundraising & Development—Membership," and the "GFWC Signature Project."

The club also received the prestigious "Marlene Wine Education Award" for "outstanding project/program in supporting education," which includes a cash award to use for education projects.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING Deaton Bell with his latest Emmy Award

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Orator's podium
 - 5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
 - 8. Partner to "oohs"
 - 12. African antelope
 - 14. Indigenous Thai person
 - 15. Monetary unit of Angola
 - 16. Becomes less intense
 - 18. Insurance mascot
 - 19. Tech hub ___ Alto
 - 20. Actress Tomei
 - 21. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 22. Type of smart watch
 - 23. Natives
 - 26. Incompetent person
 - 30. Rare Hawaiian geese
 - 31. Unspoken relationships
 - 32. Passports and licenses are two
 - 33. Claw
 - 34. Status quo
 - 39. Mimic
 - 42. Fur-lined cloak
 - 44. Ancient foreigner
 - 46. In an angry way
 - 47. Ill-intentioned
 - 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
 - 50. S. American plant
 - 51. One or the other
 - 56. An alias for Thor
 - 57. Gratuity
 - 58. In a painful way
 - 59. French commune
 - 60. Promotional materials
 - 61. Greek city
 - 62. Assistant
 - 63. Confederate general
 - 64. Former NJ governor
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Used by gymnasts
 - 2. "Luther" actor Idris
 - 3. Broad volcanic crater
 - 4. Not for
 - 5. Blur
 - 6. Tots
 - 7. Acted leisurely
 - 8. About the Alps
 - 9. Gets out of bed
 - 10. Town in "The liad"
 - 11. Welsh given name
 - 13. Remove salt
 - 17. Calvary sword
 - 24. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
 - 25. Keeps a house cozy
 - 26. Ballplayer's accessory
 - 27. Southwestern Russian city
 - 28. Pro sports league
 - 29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
 - 35. Stop standing
 - 36. Utilize
 - 37. Sign language
 - 38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
 - 40. Being of central importance
 - 41. Ruin environment
 - 42. Dessert dish
 - 43. Sea eagles
 - 44. Fertilized
 - 45. Jerry's friend Benes
 - 47. Indian river
 - 48. Pass into a specified state or condition
 - 49. Nocturnal rodent
 - 52. A way to travel
 - 53. Iron-containing compound
 - 54. Ancient Greek City
 - 55. NFL signal caller Matt

Remembering Vinton

Fifty years ago in 1974

with the Vinton Historical Society

In May 1974 the Vinton Town Council election included 14 candidates—the most hotly contested in the town's history, according to The Vinton Messenger. Most of the newspaper was taken up by political ads.

Dick Horn and Rufus Hall were running for a seat on council to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Norman Dowdy. Four candidates were running for mayor—

incumbent Gus Nicks, Shirley Crowder, Russell Meador, and Stafford Meador. Eight candidates were running for two seats on council—Bobby Altice, Henry Brabham, Lee Brock, Elmer Cox, Bobby Hall, Roy McCarty, Jr., Marvin Parsons, and Donald Smith.

On May 7, Nicks, Horn, Brabham, and Cox were victorious and made their first pledge to voters—to battle against annexation.

Town Manager Ron Miller recommended the Town of Vinton set its budget for fiscal year 1974/75 at \$1,181,333, an increase of 9% over the previous year.

The Roanoke County School Board was recommending cuts of teacher salaries by 1.4%. Beginning teachers would earn \$7,600; those with 12 or more years of experience would earn up to \$11,870. Teachers were not taking the reduction well and promised to take their case to the Board of Supervisors.

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors reportedly met in secret to balance the county budget without increasing taxes or levying new taxes.

The Virginia Department of Highways authorized \$50,000 to be spent on “four-laning” and improving the road between Vinton and Route 460—Vinton Mill Road—from the town's northern limits to Pollard Street.

The 19th annual Dogwood Festival (which lasted two weeks) had been held at the end of April and drew a huge crowd of approximately 20,000 spectators. Judi Stowers from Galax had been crowned Dogwood Queen, back when the queens were chosen from visiting bands.

The State Wrestling

Champions from William Byrd were honored at a banquet at the Vinton War Memorial, including Dale Sparks, Jeff McGrath, Ronnie Wood, Anthony Amos, Peter Kline, Barry Trent, Tim Semones, Adam Phlegar, Chuck Eanes, Joe Gray, Mike Gribble, Marvin Martin, and Bruce Palmer.

An escaped convict from North Carolina was arrested for breaking into a residence on Mountain View Road by forcing out a bathroom window. He was armed and had escaped from a road crew near Asheville. A man was also shot in front of a grocery store on Washington Avenue after a shoving match.

The Town of Vinton reminded property owners of the mandatory grass and weed cutting deadlines between May 15 and June 15, and again between August 1 and September 1. Fines for the offense ranged from \$2.50 to \$50.

Hardy Road Elementary celebrated May 1 with the traditional dance around the May Pole after a welcome by Principal Frank Stone.

H&H Supermarket was advertising chuck roast for 79 cents a pound, corn on the cob for five ears for 59 cents, and a quart-sized jar of JFG Mayonnaise for 89 cents.

FOR MAYOR Town Of Vinton
I Am In Favor Of--

- Improving Mt. View Road-- (To offer more protection for school traffic)
- Widening and paving Clearview Drive-- (Because of Increased Traffic)
- Making a three lane road by Southern States Mill, going east-toward Vinton (To accommodate a smoother flow of traffic)
- Crossing Gates at Southern States Mill NW Crossing-- (A safety factor long past due)
- Developing the well by Mountain Trust Bank to improve our water supply-- (We've got it. Why not use it?)
- Traffic light at Lake Drive Shopping Center-- (Traffic control in commercial areas not only desirable, but necessary)
- A wage scale for our Town employees-- (Our entire wage program should be revamped)
- will continue to oppose annexation-- (Governmental Co-operation, is what we need)

VINTON TOWN ELECTION-TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1974

If you want someone who is only interested in his television image...or
If you want someone to sit on council with a big smile on his face, telling you everything is fine...or
If you want a "Tuesday Night Politician", who does nothing constructive 28 other days or nights of the month, when council is laid to rest...or
If you want a councilman who thinks weeds are the town's greatest calamity--when Roanoke is breathing down your neck...or
If you want Action--Right before Election Day, only.

I resigned the Town Manager's job, in hopes that the citizens would wake up and realize that Vinton was no longer a one-horse town...that Vinton would take steps to assert its right to the 20th century. Don't Vote for me--if you want things to stay the same as they have for the past 25 years!

Do vote for any candidate whom you know will work for the town--and not just talk about trivial matters and promise impossible things!

Sincerely,

For Vinton Town Council

I Will Work Toward--

- OUR OWN WATER SUPPLY
- AVOIDING ANNEXATION
- TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON WASHINGTON AVE.
- UPDATING ZONING LAWS & MAPS
- IMPROVING OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT
- IMPROVING OUR RECREATION PROGRAM
- AN AGGRESSIVE STREET PAVING PROGRAM
- COOPERATION ON LANDFILL NEEDS

I earnestly ask your support and help in returning me to Town Council, to continue my efforts in the betterment of Vinton.

VINTON TOWN ELECTION
Tuesday, May 7, 1974

VINTON MESSENGER ARCHIVES

The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020
(540) 473-2741
1633 W. Main St.
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ourvalley.org

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

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$50 a year in adjoining counties, \$54 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

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 (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

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD
Read 1 Samuel 27:1 through 31:13

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6).

David and his men, just arriving home from battle, discovered that the enemy had kidnapped their families. His men were distraught, and they wanted someone to blame. David, their leader, was the obvious scapegoat, and they discussed taking revenge on him.

David, grieved at his own family's disappearance, now faced betrayals and accusations from his friends. Here, at an extremely low point, David did what always works. He turned to God and found strength in Him.

Exactly how David found strength in God is displayed throughout his psalms. David remembered God's promises, and more so, he reminded himself of who God is: his Rock of refuge; his compassionate, gentle Father; his faithful Provider; his all-wise Teacher, and so much more. As David turned to God, he gained the strength to rally his men on a rescue mission.

Prayer for Today: Father, please help me turn to You for strength in all things.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 30: 3-8, 18-19

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; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

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

VINTON HISTORY: The Banjo Clock

The Eight-Day Banjo Clock is an American wall clock with a banjo-shaped case. It was invented by Simon Willard and patented in 1802. The banjo clock normally lacks a striking mechanism and indicates time only by its hands and dial.

The banjo style of the wooden case usually features a round opening for a painted dial, a long-waisted throat, and a rectangular pendulum box with hinged door. Both the throat and door are ornamented with reverse-painted glass panels, and the case is usually flanked by curved and pierced brass frets. Willard's banjo clock was accurate and dependable and would run for eight days—which is how it got its name. For ease of maintenance, its pendulum was hung in front of the movement, not behind, an arrangement that American clockmakers soon widely adopted.

The Eight-Day Banjo Clock with brass eagle on display at the Vinton History Museum was donated by Grace Overacre.

See this unique vintage clock at the Vinton History Museum, 210

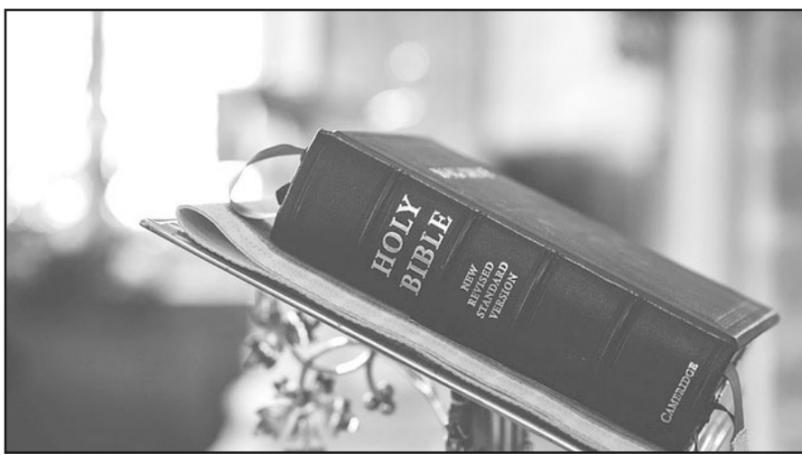


PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., "Preserving the Past for the Future."
Submitted by Vinton History Museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham



From the Pulpit



PIXABAY PHOTO

By Pastor Bryan Crouch, Lynn Haven Baptist Church

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 4:1-19, Paul provides guidance for believers to live out their faith with unity, maturity, and righteousness. Paul urges humility, gentleness, and patience as foundational virtues that promote harmony within the body of Christ (v.2-3).

Each believer is encouraged to utilize their unique gifts for mutual edification and growth, promoting a diverse yet unified community (v.12-13). Central to Paul's message is the pursuit of spiritual maturity, marked by a renewed mind and a commitment to righteousness. This includes discarding old behaviors and embracing a new way of living

rooted in truth and holiness.

Paul also warns against behaviors like deceit, anger, and bitterness, which undermine spiritual growth and disrupt unity (v.14). Instead, believers are called to speak truth with love, resolving conflicts peacefully and extending forgiveness. By embodying Christ-like values, believers become beacons of hope and agents of positive change in the world.

Ephesians 4:1-19 challenges us to live lives worthy of our calling, embracing humility, unity, and love. As we reflect on these principles, we are reminded of the transformative power of the Gospel and contribute to building a community grounded in Christ's grace and truth. All this to be more like Christ tomorrow than you were today!

Books

from page 1

Storytime is from 10:30- 11 a.m. and Preschool Storytime follows from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Don't forget about our awesome ongoing children's and teen programs:

- Saturday is Saturday, on June 1 from 11:30-12:30, register online for your 15-minute slot
- D&D for teens (and adults!) is on Monday, June 3 from 5:30-7:30

- Anime Club for teens is on Monday, June 10 from 6-7 p.m.
- Teen Book Chat for middle and high schoolers is on Monday, June

17 from 5-6 p.m. As always, be sure to register for and check out all the programs RCPL has to offer across the county online at www.rocolibrary.org.

Scouts

from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Scout Gabriel Wilson and friend Abby Jukes plant flags on the graves of veterans in Mountain View Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day.

indicate a veteran was buried there. While newer grave markers generally indicate who was a veteran, and even their branch and rank, many of the older graves do not.

According to the Military Graves section of findagrave.org, at least 434 veterans are buried in Mountain View.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Mingle

from page 1

this year, which means all bags are prohibited except for those that measure 5.5"x8.5"x1", clear bags up to 12"x6"x12", one-gallon plastic freezer bags, or medically necessary bags and diaper bags.

Concert-goers will be glad to know that the Town of Vinton has provided a brand-new parking lot on Walnut Avenue just behind the Farmers' Market stage.

Sponsors for this year's Mingle at the Market concerts include Rosie's, HomeTrust Bank, MemberOne, RVTV3, Vinton McDonald's, Bank of Botetourt, ALCOVA Mortgage, Blue Ridge Beverage,

Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Coastal Insurance Planning, Mountain View Real Estate, Neely's Accounting, Magnets USA, Oakey's, Fox 910 Radio, the Boothe Bell Real Estate Team, ServPro, Vertex Signs, and The Vinton Messenger.

The remainder of the Mingle at the Market concerts (which will begin at 7 p.m.) are scheduled for June 22 (That 80's Show), July 13 (Five Dollar Shake), July 27 (SOLACOUSTIX and Justin & Lindsey Prillaman), August 10 (Eric Wayne Band & Karlee Rea), August 24 (Five Shades of Gray),

September 14 (Gasoline Alley and Filthy Souls) and September 28 (Fuzzy Logic).

The William Byrd High School football team, coaches, and cheerleaders will again be generously donating their time to set up and take down at the Mingles. If any individuals or organizations would be interested in volunteering at the Mingle events, contact the Chamber office at 540-343-1364. There are also sponsorship opportunities still available.

- 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.

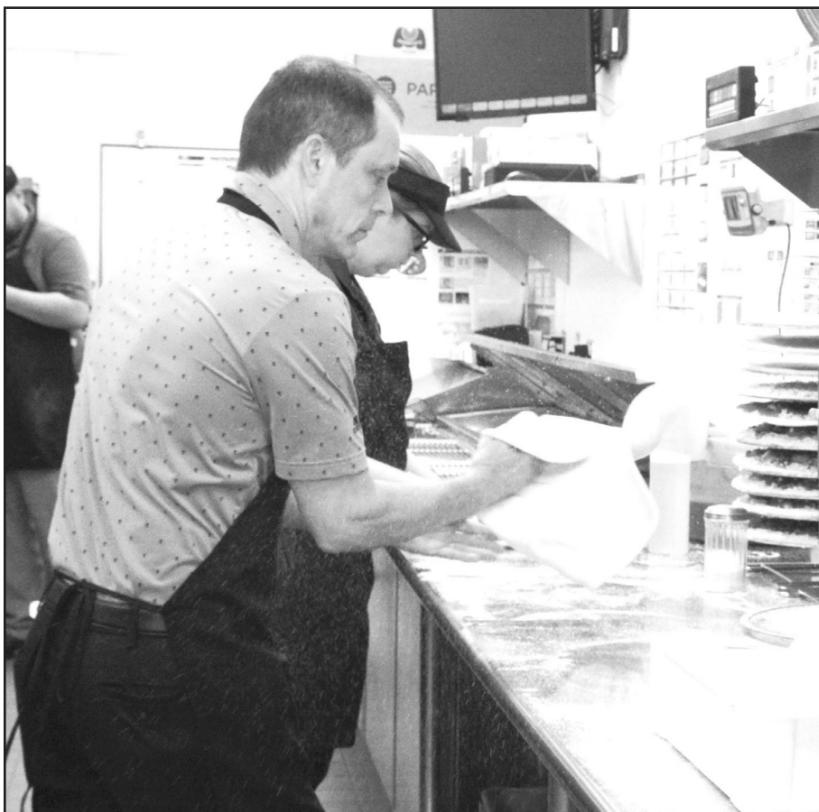
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Marco's from page 1



Marco's is famous for the pizza dough that is made daily on-site.

along with Mason, said that Vinton “embodies the community feel and has the same values that Marco’s holds dear. The close-knit atmosphere here aligns perfectly with our commitment to quality and service. We believe Vinton is an ideal place to grow and connect with our customers.” Their plan is to build out in the valley, with four or five locations eventually.

They also “plan to engage with the Vinton community through various initiatives, such as sponsoring local events, supporting schools and sports teams, and partnering with local charities,” Hudson said. Through their business, they have become involved in giving back to the community with the Salvation Army, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and at-risk youth.

“In the few weeks we have been open, we have already partnered with a church (Rescue Mission Ministries) to feed the homeless once a month. We believe in giving back and in being an active part of the community we serve.”

Hudson and Mason have been friends since college and business partners for several years.

“We are proud to be one of the brand’s largest African American multi-unit operators and are excited to expand further in the Roanoke and Lynchburg

areas,” Hudson says. “We believe in the importance of trust and partnership in business, which has been key to our success. The Vinton location is our eighth location; we have our ninth location opening in Richmond in less than 30 days.” (Marco’s Pizza now has 1,200 locations in total.)

A recent article in “Nation’s Restaurant News” explains the history of their partnership which has resulted in a recent “International Franchise Association Franchisee of the Year Award” for “operational excellence and leadership in the Black entrepreneurial community.”

Hudson and Mason met as students at Virginia State University, where they joined the same fraternity. After graduation, Hudson began working for the USDA and quickly realized that wasn’t the path he wanted to take career-wise. Mason first worked for accounting firms and determined that wasn’t his career of choice either.

Hudson opened his first company— a mental health organization— and began learning about entrepreneurship. He helped Mason and his wife to open their own company, and now they have been business partners for about 15 years in various industries, including the soon-to-be-nine locations in Virginia.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Marco’s grand opening/ribbon-cutting included a pizza smorgasbord lunch.

Hudson, originally from Chicago and somewhat of a pizza “connoisseur,” discovered a Marco’s Pizza near his home and loved the food. The two did some research, which led them to Marco’s corporate headquarters in Toledo and opening their first location in 2018. Their long-term plan is to help Marco’s become the fourth largest pizza brand.

“I believe in the brand, and I love the food,” Hudson says.

The Vinton Marco’s will employ approximately 20-25 staff members, providing both part-time and full-time opportunities.

Marco’s Pizza was founded in Toledo, Ohio, in 1978 by Pasquale “Pat” Giammarco, an Italian immigrant who named the restaurant after himself.

“The name reflects our founder’s heritage and commitment to authentic Italian quality,” Hudson says. “Under CEO Jack Butorac’s leadership since 2004, Marco’s has grown significantly with that focus.”

As for how Marco’s differs from other pizza restaurants, Hudson says, “Marco’s stands out because of our dedication to authentic Italian pizza. We use fresh, never-frozen dough made daily on-site, a proprietary cheese blend, and a secret original pizza sauce recipe

from our founder, Pat Giammarco. This commitment to quality ingredients and preparation methods ensures a delicious and unique pizza experience.

“Our specialties include our classic Pepperoni Magnifico, White Cheezy, and Deluxe, All Meat, Garden, and Hawaiian Chicken pizzas. Marco’s recently launched the Pizzoli, which is a fan favorite. Our CheezyBread and CinnaSquares are also customer favorites.”

The general manager of the Vinton location is Emily Chastain; the area supervisor is Chuck McCellop; and the operations director is Mark Wentzel, “who brings extensive experience in the food service industry and a passion for customer service.”

Marco’s is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday. They offer both take-out and delivery within a five-mile radius around Vinton “to ensure prompt and fresh delivery,” as well as third party delivery. Marco’s also caters events for schools and other organizations.

Check out the Marco’s Pizza website at www.marcos.com or the Vinton Marco’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/marcospizzaHardyRdVA/>.

Hairston from page 1



Israel Hairston (seated) on signing day with his William Byrd coaches (left to right) Athletic Director and baseball coach Jason Taylor, basketball coach Brad Greenway, track coach James Pannell, and football coach Brad Lutz.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Hairston’s first interview as a Hokie.

Ethan, is also a student at Virginia Tech, a 2022 graduate of William Byrd

Israel was not only outstanding in sports at WBHS. He was named by the faculty at Byrd as

“Best All-Around Male” in the Class of 2024. He was chosen by the staff and his peers as Homecoming King last fall. He is a Beta Club member, active in his church, and a volunteer with many community organizations, including rec league sports.

Coach Lutz reminded Hairston and his other players moving to the collegiate level that “the best is yet to come.”

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

VINTON MESSENGER

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
25 Tinkerview Drive, Cloverdale, VA 24077

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2002 and recorded April 29, 2002 in Instrument Number 0203089 in the Clerk's Office for the Botetourt County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$54,800.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt County Circuit courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090-0219.

Legals - Botetourt County

June 27, 2024 at 2:30 PM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA: BEING UNIT A-2, PHASE I, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT SHOWING PHASE I SUBDIVISION OF TINKERVIEW TOWNHOUSE PROPERTY, BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIALDISTRICT, DATED DECEMBER 1, 1984, REVISED APRIL 2, 1985, PREPARED BYWEEKS, HUBBELL, MCGHEE, P.C., CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYORS, OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 11, PAGES 60-62; AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

Legals - Botetourt County

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 170004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on June 17, 2024, at 12:00 noon, the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt.

Legals - Botetourt County

TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$13,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest.

Legals - Botetourt County

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other

Legals - Botetourt County

public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

Legals - Botetourt County

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC(Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE SALE OF 1131 2nd Street, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

Under the authority of the Board of Equalization for the City of Radford, Virginia, a public hearing will be held on the following matter: **PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION FOR THE CITY OF RADFORD**

Public notice is hereby given that the Board of Equalization for the City of Radford will meet on the days hereafter listed for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities including errors in acreage. Upon hearing such complaints, either oral or written, the Board will give consideration **AND INCREASE, DECREASE, OR AFFIRM** such real estate assessments. Before a change is granted, the taxpayer or agent must provide substantial evidence that the property is not uniform with other similar properties or prove that the property is assessed in excess of its fair market value.

Legals - City of Radford

ALL HEARINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

You must make an appointment to appear before the Board of Equalization. Appointments will be scheduled every 15 minutes to minimize waiting. To make an appointment to appear before the Board of Equalization, please call 731-3613, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Meetings of the Board to hear objections will be held at the Radford Municipal Building, 619 Second Street or the Radford Public Safety Building, 10 Robertson Street.

The dates and times are as follows: Monday,

Legals - Botetourt County

September 16, 2024 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:00PM-7:00PM

Monday, September 23, 2024 9:00AM-12:00PM 2:00PM-7:00PM

By order of the City of Radford Board of Equalization, this notice is in compliance with Section 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia.

Legals - City of Salem

G & H Contracting & Construction, Inc. has been selected by **Roanoke City Public Schools** to be the **General Contractor** for their **newest project, Preston Park Elementary School.**

We are looking to give qualified subcontractors the opportunity to bid this project. All plans, specifications, and bid documents can be found on G&H Contracting's website at www.ghcontracting.com. Under the subcontractor tab, scroll down the page to Preston Park Elementary School. From there click on the project and it should allow you to download the bid documents.

Please note this project bids June 6, 2024, at 2:00pm, and all bids must be submitted electronically to Eddie Herron at eherron@ghcontracting.com. For more information, please refer to our website, or call our office at 540-387-5059 and ask for Riley Kennedy.

Legals - City of Radford

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, 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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, 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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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Boys 2nd in region track, state meet this weekend

Liberty University in Lynchburg will be the site of the Class 3 and 4 state track meets this weekend and William Byrd will be well-represented. The meet will begin with selected events and sprint trials on Friday at 12:30 pm, then return for a full day of events Saturday at 9 am.

The William Byrd team competed in the Region 3D meet in Abingdon last Thursday and the host Falcons won both the girls' and boys' team titles. The William Byrd boys were second with 102 points, just two fewer than Abingdon, and the Byrd girls were third with 72.4, three points behind second place Christiansburg.

Byrd's DeShawn Austin was a two-time Region 3D champion. DeShawn won the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.03 and won the 300 hurdles in 40.12. He also took second in the triple jump, third in the long jump and ran on the second place 4x400 meter relay team with Brady Reachy, Wyatt Bailey and Isaiah Board. They finished in 3:32.29.

Two other relay teams also placed. The 4x800 team of Donald Mullins, Reagan Lilley, Shaun Gower and Reid Anderson finished second with a time of 8:33.00, and the 4x100 foursome of Cooper Minnix, Reachy, Lane Shoemaker and Israel Hairston finished third with a time of 43.90.

Minnix also took thirds in both the 100 and 200 meters while Bailey was third in 400. Wyatt took a third in the pole vault as well with Ethan Haston clearing 13'6" to take a second place medal in that event. Haston and Hairston were fifth and sixth, respectively, in the long jump and Titus Beatty state qualified in the shot put with a throw of 43' 5.75".

In the girls' meet Emma Kageals swept the hurdles, winning the 100 in 16.01 and the 300 in 47.98. Emma also ran on the third place 4x400 relay team with Emma Matthews, Lily Perez and Taylor Spangler.

Perez won the triple jump with a hop, step and jump of 34'9.5". Lily also placed second in the 100 hurdles, took second in the long jump and was fourth in the high jump.

In the girls' pole vault competition Spencer Peters finished third with a height of 8'6" while Gracie Mick and Makenzie Scott finished fourth, clearing 8'. All three made it to the state competition in Lynchburg this weekend.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd's Emma Kageals swept the 100 and 300 hurdle events at the Region 3D track meet.

Softball girls fall to Eagles in region quarterfinal

The William Byrd softball team won their opening round Region 3D ballgame but couldn't get by Blue Ridge District rival Staunton River and saw their season come to an end.

Byrd opened the region tournament in Dry Fork last week at Tunstall High School and the Terriers took a 7-4 win in eight innings. Addison Clark pitched a complete game to

pick up the win and had three hits at the plate.

The Terriers trailed 2-1 after six innings but scored twice in the top of the seventh as Clark tripled and hits by Mallory Peroulas and Abby Fitzgerald produced runs. The Trojans tied the game in the bottom of the seventh, sending the game into extra innings, but Byrd put four on the board in the top of the eighth.

Clark and Fitzgerald were in the middle of the rally again with clutch hits, and the Terriers held on for the win.

Clark gave up five hits over eight innings and struck out four. The Terriers had 13 hits for the game including three each by Clark and Fitzgerald and two by Peroulas.

That win put Byrd in a Friday game against district rival Staunton River, a team they had lost to three times

already this season. The Golden Eagles made it four with a 4-1 victory, ending Byrd's season.

Trailing 1-0, Peroulas doubled to tie the game in the top of the second inning but Staunton River regained the lead in the bottom of the inning and shut out Byrd the rest of the way. Peroulas had two hits.

Byrd finished the season with a 12-15 record.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd number one Makenna Jacobsen was playing in the Region 3D singles and doubles tournaments on Wednesday of this week.

WB girls win openers in Region 3D tennis

The Region 3D girls' and boys' singles and doubles tennis tournaments are this week in Blacksburg and at press time two Byrd girls were still playing.

Makenna Jacobsen represented the Terriers in singles and won her first two matches. She won in two sets against the Hidden Valley number one, then beat the Bassett number one, two sets to one, to make Wednesday's region final against the Christiansburg entry.

In doubles Makenna and Ashley Begasse won their opener against Staunton River in straight sets. They were scheduled to resume doubles play Wednesday after the singles concluded.

During the regular season Jacobsen finished 14-2 playing first singles for Byrd and Begasse was 13-3. Together they were 12-3 at number one doubles.

"Very proud of these two," said coach Randy Bush.

In boys' tennis Byrd's Ryan Carista lost his singles opener to the Carroll County number one, 6-2, 6-4. Carista and Maddox Wolfe played doubles and they were defeated, 6-3, 6-2, by the Abingdon duo to end the season for the Byrd boys.

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Byrd boys earn spot in state soccer tournament

The William Byrd boys saved their best soccer for the best time as they won three region games in seven days to qualify for the Virginia High School League Class 3 tournament. Byrd will play at either Magna Vista or Christiansburg Friday for the Region 3D championship, and that result will determine where they open state play next week.

The Terriers came into the region tournament as the number seven seed among 10, needing a win over 10th seeded Bassett to reach the quarterfinal round. They hosted the Bengals last Wednesday and took a 4-1 win on Highfill Field in Vinton.

"We opened the season with Bassett so we were familiar with them, but the concern was possible changes through the season as well as the fact it is the region and you need to expect the unexpected," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman.

Byrd controlled the match from the start. Just five minutes into the match Sergio Leon opened the scoring off a cross from Ben Guertin. Then, in the 23rd minute, Cole Kovacevic was able to take the ball down the left side and play a ball across the face of goal for Shaun Gower to finish, putting Byrd up 2-0. Bassett had a one-on-one with the keeper shortly thereafter but Bricen Lancaster made a big block save to stone the attempt.

"That moment pretty much put the momentum in our favor for the rest of the night," said Dishman.

Kovacevic scored to put Byrd up 3-0 at the half and Ian Sigmon combined with Tyson Brady on a free

kick to put the Terriers up 4-0 in the second half. Bassett was able to score in the final minute off a free kick to ruin the shutout, but that was of little concern as the Terriers moved to a Saturday game against second seeded Abingdon on the road.

Coming in as big underdogs, the Terriers took a bite out of the Falcons when they scored just nine minutes into the game. Ben Guertin crossed the ball to Sean Minnix on the back post and Byrd had the early lead, setting the tone for the game.

In the 30th minute Kovacevic served a corner kick in for Sigmon to finish, and just three minutes later Guertin took a ball to the left corner and played it back to Kovacevic who nailed a left footed strike to put Byrd up 3-0. Leon was able to score off an unassisted run and the last goal came from Sergio off a cross from Kovacevic as the Terriers shut out a stunned Abingdon team, 5-0.

That win put the Terriers in Tuesday's Region 3D semifinal at Northside, with a berth in the state tournament on the line. Byrd had split with the Blue Ridge District rival Vikings during the season, a 3-2 win and a 2-1 loss, so fans were expecting a close game.

They weren't disappointed. As they had in the other two region games, the Terriers drew first blood. Just seven minutes in the Terriers had a free kick that Sigmon played short to Daniel Britts. Daniel took a couple touches forward then played a 40 yard ball on frame that went over the keeper to give Byrd a 1-0 lead, and that was the



Left, Byrd's Ben Guertin traps the ball in last week's region soccer win over Bassett. Right, Tyson Brady does some fancy footwork to keep control of the ball.



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

only score of the game in a 1-0 Terrier win. "It was back and forth and we had three balls go across their goal but could not finish," said Dishman. "We did well to prevent their build up in the middle and we were able to create in the width."

With about 11 minutes to go Northside had a big chance with a shot that Lancaster was able to push away with his right hand before it made it in the top corner. That was the Vikings last real chance as Byrd won by shutout for the second game in a row. In the three region games the Terriers outscored their opponents 10-1.

"The boys were excited to get the tough win, make the region final and qualify for

the state playoff," said Dishman. "Even though we are the seven seed, this has been the expectation all season. We had the tough run after spring break where we lost six matches by a single goal each. The guys stayed focused and were able to keep composed and put it together as we hit the play off."

Byrd is now 10-8-3. Magna Vista and Christiansburg were scheduled to play in the other region semifinal on Wednesday and the survivor will host Byrd Friday. The region champion will get a first round home game in next week's state tournament and the runnerup will go on the road to the Region 4C champion.

Blue Demons knock Terriers out of region girls' soccer

As the 10th seed in the Region 3D girls' soccer tournament the William Byrd girls opened with a "play in" game against seventh seeded Christiansburg last week, and the Blue Demons survived with a 3-2 win on their home pitch.

The visitors scored first when Eva Brown played a through ball to Logan Andrews, who was able to dribble around the Christiansburg keeper and score just 10 minutes in the game. However, the Demons answered quickly when a handball was called in the box and they were awarded a penalty kick, which they converted to level the score at 1-1.

Christiansburg took the lead with seven minutes remaining in the half when they scored off a corner kick, and that was how the game stood at the break. Then,

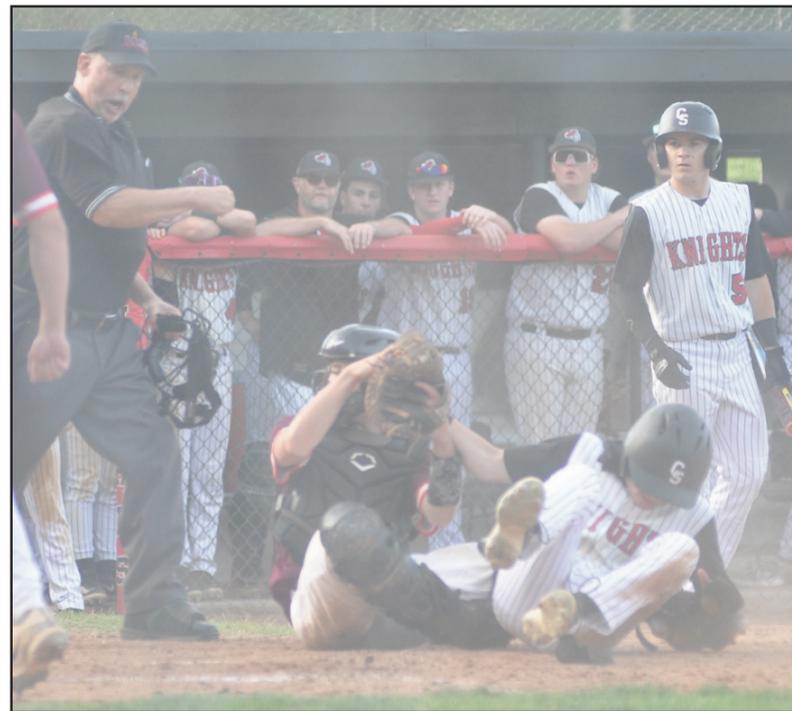
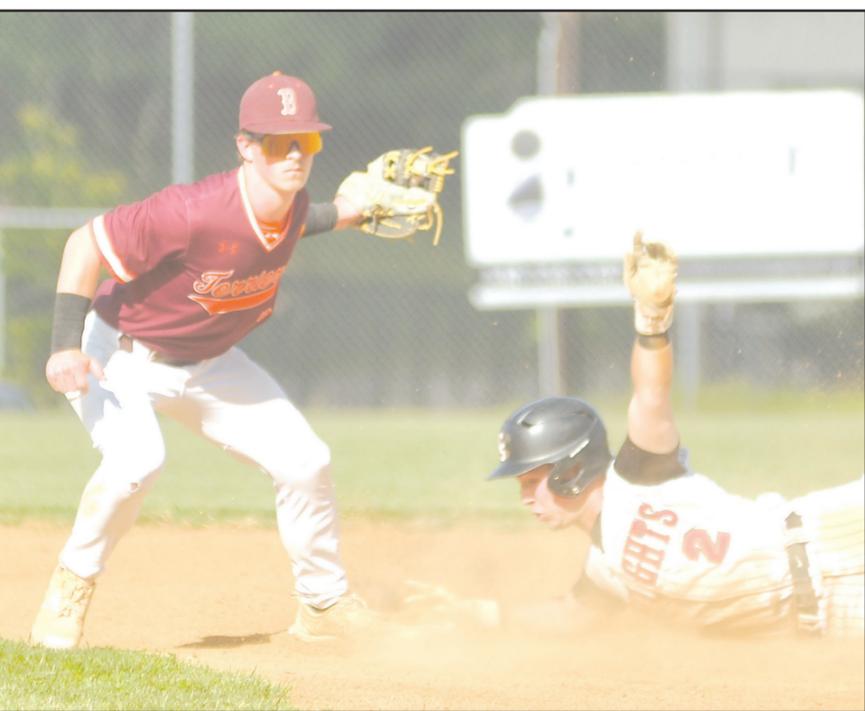
coming out of halftime, Christiansburg scored a goal three minutes in to go up 3-1.

Byrd cut the lead to 3-2 with five minutes on the clock on an "own goal," but the Demons were able to regroup and hold on for the win.

"While we had chances, we could not convert for the majority of the second half," said Byrd coach Molly Cox.

With the loss the Terriers finished the season with a 6-13 overall record.

"For a young team we showed a lot of improvement this year and I think we have a good starting base and core to build on for next season," said Cox. "We will have the majority of our team returning and will be adding some very talented players from our JV team next season."



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, William Byrd shortstop Ian Burnett puts the swipe tag on a Cave Spring runner for an out at second. Right, Terrier catcher Noah Thompson shows the ball and gets the call at the plate after tagging a Knight out in last Friday's Region 3D baseball game.

Knights end Byrd baseball season in region quarterfinal game

The William Byrd baseball team saw their season come to an end at Cave Spring High School last Friday. After beating the Knights twice during the regular season the Terriers dropped a 10-1 game and were eliminated from the Region 3D tournament.

"We did not play well defensively nor did we hit the ball well," said Byrd coach Jason Taylor. "Our pitching was good enough to keep us in the game but we made seven errors in the infield. You can't do that at this time of the year."

Cave Spring took a 2-0 lead in the first inning with two unearned runs and never trailed. Byrd scored a run in the top of the second to cut the lead to 2-1 but the Knights answered with two more in the bottom of the inning to go up 4-1. They put three on the board in both the fifth and sixth to put it away.

"I liked our matchup and the bracket," said Taylor. "Cave Spring had not played in two weeks and we were coming off the BRD championship. I thought we had all the momentum. I thought we were ready, but maybe the distractions of last week were too much. We did not have a practice that all the players attended. Graduation, end of the school activities, some students still taking exams, play-

ers running in the regional track meet and other appointments made it tough. But, it is my responsibility to make sure we are ready.

"Cave Spring had 10 seniors that have done that already. We did not handle it well. You must be committed as a group this time of the year and we were not."

Cooper Minnix started on the mound for Byrd and took his first loss of the season, giving up four runs, two of which were earned, in three innings. Brogan Dent pitched into the sixth and Brenin Witcher got out of a bases loaded, no out jam in that inning but the Terriers were too far behind by that point. Israel Hairston, Kam McKee and Jerrett Shepherd each had a hit and Eads had Byrd's RBI.

"I would note that the kids did not quit," said Taylor. "That was shown by (catcher) Noah Thompson's hustle play in the bottom of the sixth on a passed ball. He ran to the back stop and beat the kid to the plate to save the slaughter rule. He could have easily just let it go.

"That gave me the opportunity to let a few kids get an at bat, which I had decided to do prior to that play. I had told players they would hit in the seventh. They had been at practice all week and

deserved it, but that created an issue at the end of the game which has been a constant for this year. Another parent and player was upset and said I took a players' last at bat away from him. It had nothing to do with that player but more about the other players getting an at bat. Coaching is hard. You can never please everyone. People see it how they want to see it, not how it actually is."

With the loss the Terriers finished the season at 15-9. They won eight of their last 11 games and won the Blue Ridge District tournament. Byrd will lose seven seniors, Minnix, Thompson, Hairston, Witcher, Ian Burnett, Blake Glover and Keller Spraker.

"Moving forward the players, parents, and coaches all have to be committed to the end result and process," said Taylor. "We were not this year. The team, players and coaches overcame a lot of adversity and found a way to win 15 games and be competitive in 20 of the 24 games. We were not consistent but found a way.

"The coaching staff did get two compliments, which came from two former head coaches toward the end of the season. They gave praise to our coaching staff for sticking it out, keeping the kids together and finding a way to win games."