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The Vinton Messenger

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Vinton Town Council briefed on FY25 recommended budget; town receives Distinguished Budget Preparation Award

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters presented an overview of the recommended budget for FY2024-25 at the council meeting on May 7. He credited Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton, Finance Director Andrew Keen, Town Clerk Antonia Arias-Magallon, Human Resources Director Donna Collins, and the town's leadership team (department heads) with doing the bulk of the work in developing the proposed budget for the upcoming year.

The FY25 proposed budget for the General Fund totals \$13,610,991, an increase of 8.6% over the previous fiscal year. The FY25 proposed budget for all funds (general, grant, stormwater, and capital) totals \$14,879,829, an increase of 4.10% over last year.

According to Peters, the budget is "more than just the legal document appropriating funds;

it establishes priorities among competing governmental services. The development of the proposed budget for FY25 was guided by three goals in the town's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025: "enhance the town's infrastructure and livability, maintain an efficient and high-performing government, and ensure the town's continued financial viability by actively pursuing quality economic development."

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- The budget is balanced with no tax rate increase. The real estate tax is unchanged at 7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The personal property tax rate of \$1 per \$100 of assessed value also remains unchanged for FY2025.

- The budget invests in personnel with a 3% cost of living adjustment for all employees (consistent with neighboring localities), an end-of-year gratuity bonus, no change to the employee health plan premiums,

and fully funded VRS Employee Contributions.

- The fund balance and other one-time money will be used for one-time and capital expenses, such as support for economic development projects, the Comprehensive Plan, and increased paving.

- Debt service payments are present in budgeted expenditures but offset by corresponding reimbursement revenues.

The number of town employees will remain steady with 69 full-time budgeted positions: three in Administration, five in Finance, one in Human Resources/Risk Management, four in Planning and Zoning, 27 in the Police Department, 22 in Public Works, two in Building and Grounds, one in Economic Development, and four in Community Programs. Personnel is the town's largest expenditure at 44.67% of the

See Council, page 6



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON
The Town of Vinton has been awarded the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the eighth year.

Byrd students recognized at signing ceremony for Virginia Registered Apprenticeship Program

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Five William Byrd High School students were recognized in a signing ceremony for the regional Registered Apprenticeship (RA) program during Educators Night at the Salem Red Sox game on May 3. They are Jordan Bryant, Keegan Harnish, Nathan Hiemstra, Steven Hornaday, Jr., and Blake Richardson.

According to Roanoke County Schools, the Registered Apprenticeship is a training system that produces highly skilled workers to meet the demands of employers competing in a global economy, through a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction.

It is a "win-win" approach to workforce development for more than 13,000 apprentices (employees) throughout the Commonwealth. Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Botetourt County, and Salem City Public Schools are partnering with local businesses to provide RA opportunities for juniors and seniors.

This program is not an internship – apprentices are employed by the company. Through the apprenticeship program, students can learn many skills all while earning a paycheck, high school credit, and an industry credential that means they could go straight into the workforce after high school graduation. For students, apprenticeships can lead to careers. For employers, apprenticeships can help companies train future workers and fill open jobs.

Local companies partnering in the program this year with local school systems include Archer Western/Walsh Group, Balzer & Associates, First United Methodist Church in Salem, G&H Contracting, GJ Hopkins, Inc., Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Integer, Lawrence Companies, Medeco, Mersen, Optical Cable Corporation, Salem City Water Dept., Southern Air, Varney, Wabtec Graham White, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and Woods Service Center.

According to program organizers,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY BRYANT
Jordan Bryant is an apprentice at Woods Service Center.

"The Registered Apprenticeship program was designed in the late 1930s by the Roosevelt administration. Originally designed as an adult job preparation program, it has expanded over the years to encompass over 1,300 jobs in a variety of businesses and industries. Managed by the Dept. of Labor and Industry in Virginia, the RA program offers a unique work-based learning model for 16- to 18-year-old students.

"Participants in the program work towards credentials associated with each business through employment training and instruction. Once the student completes the program, they are eligible for a Journeyman's license. This license is a portable and widely recognized credential that indicates they have the relevant training and are on the path to becoming a master in their chosen industry."

Nathan Hiemstra and Blake Richardson will be apprentices with Wabtec Graham White; Jordan Bryant is an apprentice with Woods Service Center; and Keegan Harnish and Steven

See Virginia RA, page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
William Byrd students Nathan Hiemstra (on left) and Blake Richardson will be working as apprentices at Wabtec-Graham White.

Vinton Moose Lodge welcomes International Youth Awareness Congress

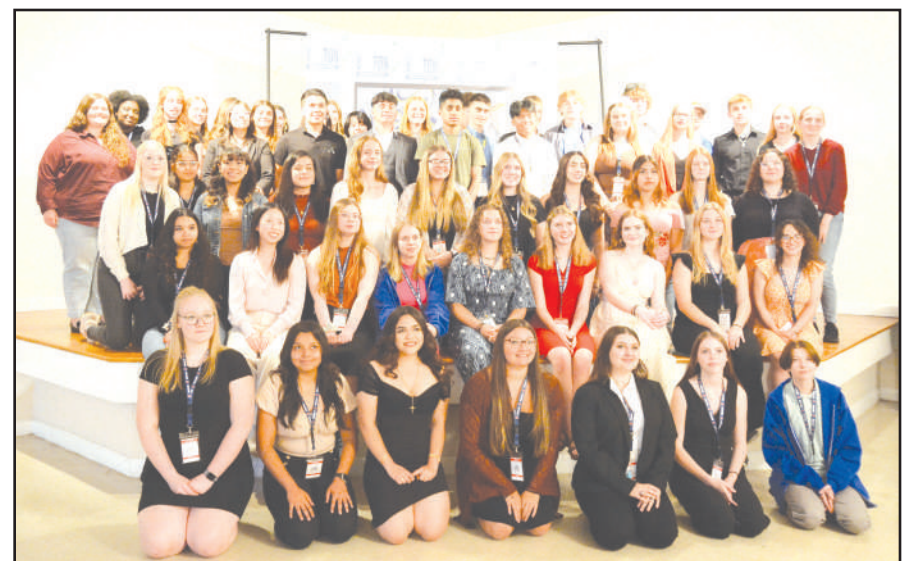


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
About 60 students from around the United States and Canada were hosted by the Vinton Moose Family Center on April 28 for the International Youth Awareness Congress. Five won scholarships.

Debbie Adams
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On April 28, the Vinton Moose Family Center hosted 60 students from around the United States and Canada for the 38th annual International Youth Awareness Congress. The

students, with support from Virginia Moose Association and Moose International Fraternity volunteers, spent four days in the Roanoke area participating in the Youth Awareness program,

which culminated in the awarding of five scholarships worth a total of \$30,000.

The Vinton Moose treated the students to a spaghetti dinner, some fun activities, and the awards ceremony. In the

See Congress, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
William Byrd High School Terriers of the Month for April include (from left): teacher Ashley Satterfield, Mallory Peroulas, Raelyn Lancaster, teacher Lisa Stover, Ethan Pekala, Caleb Brunk, Ryan Mills, Officer Johnny Runyon, and Jasmine St. Clair.

William Byrd Terriers of the Month announced for April

William Byrd High School has announced its Terriers of the Month for April. Eight students and four teachers were selected, nominated by students and staff. WBHS is partnering 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."

All Byrd students and staff have been encouraged to nominate individuals

See Terriers, page 5



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Vinton Public Works Dept. competes in APWA ‘Rodeo’

Four members of the Vinton Public Works Department, Andrew Critcher, Jason Davison, Chris Lawhorn, and Billy Robb, competed in the Mid-Atlantic APWA (American Public Works Association) WRX “Rodeo” at the Berglund Center in Roanoke on May 1. They were invited to participate after placing at the Southwest Virginia Public Works Academy Equipment Rodeo at the Berglund Center on April 10.

At the most recent event, hosted by Roanoke City, representatives from Public Works Departments across the Mid-Atlantic states competed on snowplow, backhoe,

front-end loader, automated refuse truck, rear load refuse truck, knuckleboom, street sweeper, mini-excavator, zero-turn mower, CDL skills and line truck.

According to Roanoke Stormwater Utility Manager Ian Shaw, the regional equipment rodeo alternates between several states and comes to Roanoke about once every five or six years. It gives Public Works employees the chance to compete to see who is the fastest and/or most skilled in the use of a variety of equipment.

Shaw said that Public Works employees are the “unsung heroes” of local government and that

Public Works is the “backbone of our infrastructure.”

As for the results:

- Chris Lawhorn won second place in Zero Turn Mower in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Jason Davison won second place in the Bucket Truck competition and third in Knuckleboom.
- Billy Robb won third place in Bucket Truck.

The next step is the Public Works Expo in Atlanta in September.

The event also included a “Touch a Truck” event for local school children and an awards luncheon.



Vinton Public Works employees who placed at the Southwest Virginia Public Works Academy Equipment rodeo in early April were invited to compete in the Mid-Atlantic regional “Rodeo.” Pictured left to right are Jason Davison, Andrew Critcher, Chris Lawhorn, and Billy Robb.



Chris Lawhorn places second in Zero Turn Mower.



Jason Davison places third in the Mid-Atlantic region in Knuckleboom.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for the purpose of discussing the proposed FY2024-2025 Town of Vinton Budget.

Revenues

General Fund	
Grant Fund	
Capital Fund	
Stormwater Fund	
Total Revenues	

Total All Funds

\$13,610,991
\$4,000
\$660,000
\$604,838
\$14,879,829

Expenditures

General Fund:

Town Council	\$158,496
Town Manager's Office	558,817
Human Resources	235,592
Legal Services	80,000
Treasurer/Finance Department	878,552
Police Department	3,048,326
Communications Services	150,000
Fire & EMS	2,385
Police/Animal Control	2,880
Public Works Administration	546,302
Maintenance/Highways/Streets/Bridges	1,766,636
Snow and Ice Removal	21,483
Traffic Signs and Street Light	101,300
Refuse Collection	587,732
Recycling	82,020
Building & Grounds	487,999
Health Department	15,700
Special Programs	288,734
War Memorial	431,562
Vinton Veterans Monument	5,000
Town Museum	15,080
Planning & Zoning	640,936
Economic Development	189,271
Public Transportation	100,000
Vinton Business Center	2,850
Debt Retirement	1,180,150
Performance Agreements	763,350
Retiree Insurance	5,000
Transfer to Other Funds	1,264,838
Total General Fund	\$13,610,991

Grant Fund:

VML Risk Management Grant	\$4,000
Total Grant Fund	\$4,000

Capital Fund:

Highway Maintenance	\$345,000
Building & Grounds	115,000
Economic Development	200,000
Total Capital Fund	\$660,000

Stormwater Fund

Administration	\$149,477
Street & Road Cleaning	111,905
Operations	343,456
Total Stormwater Fund	\$604,838

Total Combined Expenditures	\$14,879,829
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Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Antonia Arias-Magallon
Administrative Manager



PHOTO COURTESY OF MITCHEL BURKHART

Rocket League Esports State Champions from William Byrd (from left) Nathan Pickeral, Ethan Garlick, Landon Caldwell, and Finley Stephens with Coach Mitchel Burkhart.

William Byrd students win state championship in Rocket League Esports

William Byrd High School freshman Nathan Pickeral, senior Ethan Garlick, senior Landon Caldwell and senior Finley Stephens recently won first place in the state in Rocket League Esports, competing against the top eight teams in Virginia. They are coached by WBHS English instructor Mitchel Burkhart.

The competition took place on April 20 at Old Dominion University. William Byrd beat Tallwood High School (Virginia Beach), Lord Botetourt High School, and South Lakes High School (Reston), in order to become Rocket League state champions.

“We have been state runner-up four times in the past, so this was a huge day for our students who have been working hard and getting better each year,” said Burkhardt. “It was nice for the students who have been a part of the Esports programs from Day 1 to be able to leave their senior year with a championship.”

The first esports (“e” stands for “electronic”) team at William Byrd formed in the fall of 2019 when a student approached Burkhardt and expressed an interest in starting a team. It has become the fastest growing sport at high schools all over the nation.

Rocket League has been described as “souped-up soccer.” The video game involves rocket-powered vehicles playing soccer in a virtual arena with supersized balls and goals.

According to video game experts, Rocket League is a very difficult game which requires quick and critical thinking, communication between players, hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and situational awareness. Team members work together in constant collaboration, moving the ball up the field as their cars flip and soar through the air.

The esports team falls under the Academics category of the Virginia High School League. Other VHSL Academics teams at Byrd include the Academic Team, Speech and Debate, and Theatre. Students must meet all the grade/eligibility requirements that are set by the VHSL to compete, with the exception of a physical. Students who fall behind in their grades can't practice or compete.

Esports aren't just fun and games—college scholarships are a large part of the picture, along with the potential for high-paying jobs. The games are overcoming their previous reputation as being a loner activity. Nowadays, esports involve developing communication skills, multi-tasking, teamwork, and keeping up grades in order to participate.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Food Lion recognizes Vinton Assistant Manager Nelms for 30 years of service

On April 18, Food Lion honored 358 associates for their milestone 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service with the grocery retailer—collectively totaling 12,320 years. Among those celebrating milestones is Assistant Manager/Sales Executive Gregory Nelms at the Vinton Food Lion with 30 years of service, mostly in Vinton.

Associates were recognized during an annual event where the retailer shares appreciation and gratitude for long-term associates, presenting them with the Years of Service Award. At the event, each associate's name, position, location, and service milestone were read aloud and celebrated.

"Recognizing the dedication and contributions of our associates who have served Food Lion for many years is a true honor for us," said Meg Ham, Food Lion president. "Their commitment to excellence, care for our customers and impact in the towns and cities we serve is invaluable. We are incredibly fortunate to have such passionate and dedicated associates who continue to make a positive difference every day."

Food Lion employs 82,000 associates at more than 1,100 stores across 10 states.

Nelms says he began working at the Vinton Food Lion in 1993 as a frozen food clerk. When the store's grocery manager retired in 1995, Nelms was named as grocery manager for a year, then spent five years as assistant manager at another Food Lion. In 2000, he returned to Vinton and has remained here ever since. He says his plan is to remain at the local store until he retires.

His duties include running the store in the absence of the store manager and running the center store grocery

department which encompasses everything except fresh produce, dairy, and meats. He deals with trucking, product levels, inventory control, and more. He sees his job as "keeping the store clean, full, and fresh."

Nelms says he started off at Kroger as a teenager. After graduating from Liberty High School, Virginia Western Community College, and earning his bachelor's in business administration at Roanoke College, he has been employed with Food Lion. He says Food Lion offers opportunities for advancement and a faster track up the corporate ladder than other grocers, along with more job stability, and fewer transfers from store to store.

He lives in Franklin County with his wife and their two children, a 17-year-old and a 10-year-old. He loves the outdoors and anything to do with gardening—flowers, horticulture, landscaping. Their family hobbies are camping and fishing.

Nelms says he enjoys his job, Food Lion is a good company to work for, and his co-workers are "great." Employees say he is "a good boss, fun, cheerful and upbeat, and easy to get along with."

-Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD LION
Greg Nelms has been recognized for 30 years of service at Food Lion, mostly in Vinton.

Vinton Farmers' Market opened for the season on May 4

The Vinton Farmers' Market officially opened for the season on May 4, with craft vendors, fresh produce, and fun activities, giving the community the opportunity to support local farmers and artisans.

Gabby Rueda's Plants and Produce is now open from Tuesday through Saturday each week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the fall. Currently, they are selling flowering baskets and bedding plants, along with fresh produce—watermelons, strawberries, tomatoes, and more.

Hunter's Gourmet Shroomery is open on alternating Saturdays with gourmet oyster and Lions' Mane mushrooms, grown locally in Roanoke. Vendor Dragonfly Sunrise

was there with a variety of beautiful creations. Musician/composer "That Guy Will" performed on May 4 and will return on July 13. Children were thrilled to "Start Your Garden" by painting their own plant pots to take home and then adding some seeds.

Upcoming special events days for the 2024 season include:

- National Hot Dog Day – July 13, with Story Time on the Stage with the Roanoke County Library, and music by "That Guy Will"

- Dog Days of Summer – Aug. 31, also with Story Time on the Stage with the Roanoke County Library and music by



"That Guy Will" performed at the Vinton Farmers' Market on opening day. He will return in July.



Produce and plants are now abundant at the Vinton Farmers' Market from Rueda's Plants and Produce.

the Appalachian Piping Academy • Move and Groove – Sept. 21 To sign up as a vendor, contact Caroline Loveland at cloveland@vintonva.gov or call 540-283-7078.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Children were able to paint a pot for plants and "Start Your Garden."

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Virginia RA from page 1

Hornaday, Jr., will be apprentices with GJ Hopkins.

Other new apprentices for 2024 include Will Mills, Sophie Shearer, Abel Braaten, Kaidin Colburn, Gavin Overstreet, Nathan Rhodes, Blake Balzer, Maddux Fite, Nathan Madison, Justin Quam, Luke Turner, Andrew Trent, Tyler Dulaney, Meharjot Padda, Ashley Scott, Vance Starkey, Jack Kipps, Tommy Woo, Kenya Hernandez-Cortez, Tyler Lane, Kaden Galyor, Logan Dalton, Sienna Donald, Lilla Wagner, Emmet Griffin, Terrel Hairston, Braedon Young, Layla Gillman, and Sam Judge.

In signing the partnership agreement, students make a commitment to maintaining good grades in school and working part-time at the business under specific Virginia Department of Labor and Industry regulated conditions toward becoming a highly trained and credentialed employee of the business.

The process of being selected for the apprenticeship program includes students being screened by school system officials to ensure graduation requirements can be met and an interview with the business.

Student apprentices work approximately 20 hours per week. Most RA positions require a minimum of 2,000 on the job hours and 144 hours per year of industry-related instruction. Students receive school credit for their apprenticeship. Their schedules are arranged in a manner agreed upon by the student, parent, school system, and employer.

Becky Caldwell, administrative assistant with the Career and Technical Education Dept. in Roanoke County Schools, says that most students in the apprenticeship program start at age 16 and then finish their two-year program the summer after they finish high school, earning their journeyman's credential.

At the May 3 signing ceremony, students and representatives from their partner companies were introduced to the crowd by Chuck Lionberger, Roanoke County Schools Director of Community Relations.

Jordan Bryant is a senior at William Byrd, who has been interested in working on automobiles for years. He started his apprenticeship year a few months ago as a student but will continue as an adult at Woods Service Center to finish out his two-year program. He began the program

with Berglund but asked to switch to Woods to be closer to home, to save time and gas. He has been a student at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology in the automotive program and continues to take classes at both BCAT and William Byrd, in addition to working 4-5 hours a day at Woods. His main interest is in diesel mechanics and working at Woods gives him the opportunity to develop skills in that area with their trucking shop as well. He plans to attend Virginia Western Community College to study HVAC, welding, and electrical work, both residential and industrial, in what amounts to a five-year program. Jordan is enjoying his job at Woods, where he says he has been treated very well. His parents are Kathy and Rob Bryant.

Keegan Harnish will be a junior next fall and working with GJ Hopkins as an apprentice plumber. He will be taking 4 or 5 courses at Byrd and working every other day at GJH. He says he wanted to do the apprenticeship because of the knowledge and experience he would gain from it. He liked GJH because of the kindness of the representatives he talked with. After high school, Keegan plans to complete college and either continue his trade career or go into the medical field. His parents are Kellay and Jake Harnish.

Nathan Hiemstra will be a senior at WBHS in the fall. He has also been a student at BCAT in the mechatronics program. At Wabtec Graham White, he will be involved with manufacturing of parts for trains. He will be taking at least three classes at Byrd (science, math, and Spanish) while also working at Wabtec. He decided on the apprenticeship program with Wabtec because he wanted to get experience in the field as he is considering a career in mechanical engineering. He plans to attend Virginia Western Community College and then transfer to a four-year college or university to study engineering. He described the process for joining the apprenticeship program—he first attended the Registered Apprentice Open House to meet representatives of the partner businesses. He next interviewed with Wabtec and found it to be a good fit for his interests and future plans. Nathan's parents are Stephanie and Donald Hiemstra.

Steven Hornaday, Jr., from William Byrd will also be an apprentice with GJ Hopkins. His parents are Steven and Amanda Hornaday.

Blake Richardson is also an upcoming senior, joining the Registered Apprenticeship program. He is a

student at BCAT in his third year in the mechatronics program. At Wabtec he will be working with Computer Numerical Control machines. He will be attending classes at William Byrd (for Calculus, Government, and Physics) and BCAT and working at Wabtec. He'll be taking English this summer to make his apprenticeship schedule do-able. Blake says he signed up for the apprenticeship because he wanted experience in the field to make

sure he has made the right choice, and because it gives him "an edge over the other students." Friends who worked for Wabtec recommended the employer. After graduation, he plans to attend Virginia Tech to study mechanical engineering. He says that after the Registered Apprenticeship open house, Wabtec contacted him about the position. His parents are Jennifer and Kevin Richardson.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9			10		11		12			
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48			49	50				51		52
53						54		55		
56							57			
58								59		

CLUES ACROSS

1. As fast as can be done

5. WC's

9. Religious retreat

11. Warfare

13. One you wouldn't expect

15. Disease-causing micro-organisms

16. For each

17. Grammatical term

19. One point east of southeast

21. ___ Dern, actress

22. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)

23. Shampoo

25. Scale drawing of a structure

26. An enclosure for confining livestock

27. Goat-like mammal

29. Cigar

31. Appear

33. "Westworld" actress ___ Rachel Wood

34. Leaked through

36. The highest adult male singing voice

38. Musical group ___ Soundsystem

39. Aurochs

41. Crazy (Spanish)

43. Swiss river

44. Strains

46. Frock

48. Found in most body tissues

52. Cool!

53. Reasons behind

54. Christian recluse

56. Removes

57. Repents

58. Energy

59. Tailless amphibian

CLUES DOWN

1. Not awake

2. Type of dessert

3. They ___

4. Retired Coast Guard admiral

5. Gene positions

6. Exclude

7. One who is bound

8. Where drinks are served

9. Small vipers

10. Blackbird

11. Adventurer

12. Shade

14. A way to gain

15. A salt or ester of boric acid

18. Monetary units

20. Removed

24. "My country, tis of ___"

26. Horses

28. Drives back by force

30. Bold, impudent behavior

32. Rates

34. Types of nerves in males

35. A ridge of sand created by the wind

37. Wind instrument

38. Pakistani city

40. Dry or withered

42. Delivered a speech

43. Peak

45. Small waterbird

47. Days falling in mid-month

49. Elvis' daughter

50. Flat and smooth

51. Dallas Cowboys great Leon

55. What cows say

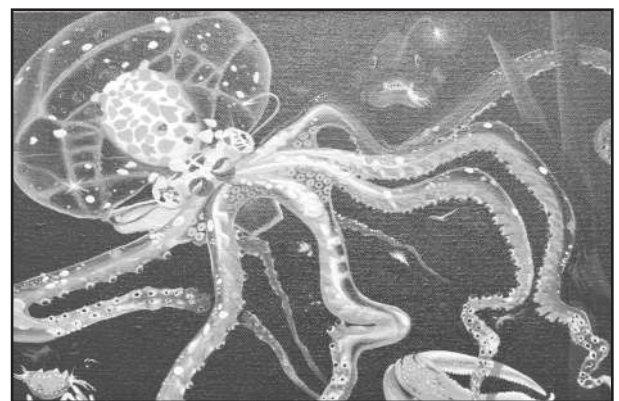
Local artists win RVSPCA Best in Show awards

William Byrd art teacher Denise Sartell and three of her students received recognition for their entries in the Roanoke Valley SPCA Best in Show event. Sartell won the Aquatic Award for her “Deep Sea Snack.” Students Gretchen Kinney (“Big Scary Dragon”), Sandy Scott (“Dark Dweller”), and Eliza Underwood Agee (“Goober Meow”) won honorable mention “Round-of-a-Paws” awards.

Sixteen students from Byrd entered the annual show, along with Sartell and teacher Allyson Goin. Those students are Ben Guertin, McKinley FiGart, Gretchen Kinner, Sali Doura, Alexandria Cook, Sandy Scott, Kristen Neal, Chloe Underwood Agee, Ambrielle Wood, Skylar Edwards, Makayla Flack, Savannah Powell, Karisma Carver, Jocelyn Hartman, Lance Freedle, and Michaya Henderson. Best in Show benefits the

Roanoke Valley SPCA. This year’s exhibit featured the original artwork of over 200 local artists—paintings, sculpture, pastels, photography depicting animals. Best in Show is one of the most anticipated events of the year. All of the artwork is for sale with at least 50% of the purchase price donated to the RVSPCA by the artists.

- Vinton Messenger Staff Report



PHOTOS COURTESY DENISE SARTELL
“Deep Sea Snack” by WBHS art teacher Denise Sartell won the Aquatic Award at Best in Show.

Vinton Town Council receives updates on economic development, transportation projects

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton’s Economic Development Specialist Marshall Stanley and Town Manager Pete Peters updated Town Council on several economic development and transportation projects at the

council meeting on May 7.

Stanley’s updates on economic development projects included:

- The Gish Mill Redevelopment Project that has been underway for several years is moving to the next phase with stabilization and construction beginning in July. This is estimated to be a 15-month project.
- The proposed hotel project is moving forward with discussions with investors and consultants.
- The Cleveland Mart redevelopment project will be completed later this year. Plumbing work is nearly finished. Interior work is about to begin.
- The Tacorita Restaurant (formerly Red Jasmine) on Pollard Street anticipates opening in late summer. Plumbing work is nearly complete; a sidewalk is being added from the rear parking lot to Pollard Street.
- A formal ribbon-cutting for the new Marco’s Pizza at Lake Drive Plaza is scheduled for May 22. The restaurant is now open.
- A ribbon-cutting for the Impact Living Services residential units being built on Hardy Road across from W.E. Cundiff Elementary is scheduled for May 29.
- Down Home Pharmacy is now open at River Park Shopping Center. There are openings for other businesses in that location.
- A new specialty food and beverage restaurant is coming to Vinyard Station with details to be announced.
- The \$500,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant the town received will be used for three projects—structural assessment of the McClung building on Walnut Avenue, assessments of the fire property at the corner of Pollard Street and Lee Avenue, and three structures on Madison Avenue (off of Washington). The town’s goal is to make properties more attractive and affordable to private investors by using grants and external funds to “buy down/pay costs on the front end to sweeten the pot” on properties that might otherwise be unaffordable for private investors.

- The Vinton Business Center on Hardy Road (former McDonald farm) provides an opportunity for manufacturing or other options.
 - The Gauntlet Business Program Awards ceremony has moved from the Vinton War Memorial to the Berglund Center this year, set for May 23. Peters’ updates on transportation included:
 - Paving on Lee Avenue and West Jackson is nearly complete. Fourth and 8th Streets are next on the list.
 - Crosswalk projects on Gus Nicks Boulevard and Hardy Road are beginning. The Gus Nicks project is now underway and will require about a month to complete— weather dependent. The Hardy Road crosswalk near W.E. Cundiff Elementary will also take about a month and will begin when school is out.
 - Preparatory work is being completed on the Mountain View Road Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) project. This is a 30-day project which will begin when school is out— also weather dependent. Utility companies are now in the process of marking the pavement in preparation. This is not a normal repaving project— FDR involves pulverizing existing pavement to a potential depth of 12 inches.
 - The Vinton 2050 Comprehensive Plan process kicked off at the Dogwood Festival.
 - A waiver has been received from the Virginia Pharmacy Board which will allow the historic Cundiff Drug Store sign to be moved to its original location on Pollard Street. This was made possible when the town applied for Historic District status and recognition on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.
 - Demolition of the West Cedar Mobile Home Village by Public Works is scheduled to begin on May 28 after utility disconnects are complete. The flood prone area will be reseeded and become green space.
- Updates on current transportation projects are available online at <https://www.vintonva.gov/528/Transportation>.

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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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

ON GUARD
 Read 1 Chronicles 7:1 through 9:44

It was a great privilege and honor to be one of the men chosen to be gatekeepers at the entrance to God’s house. Even more awesome was the responsibility of four principal gatekeepers who guarded the rooms and the treasuries.

They would spend the night stationed around the house of God, because they had to guard it; and they had charge of the key for opening it each morning (1 Chronicles 9:27).

No doubt some nights must have felt especially long, but falling asleep while on duty was not an option. The gatekeepers needed to remain alert to any sound or movement that might indicate the treasures they guarded were in danger.

Today many churches install electronic security systems, although they probably rely on a person to make sure all the windows and doors are locked each night. But when it comes to guarding that which is most important—our children and youth—nothing can replace the prayers of parents and the church family.

Challenge for Today: Ask the Lord for the name of a young person He wants you to safeguard with prayer.

Quicklook: 1 Chronicles 9:22–27

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 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.

Terriers from page 1

who they believe exhibit the “Terrier Way” (being safe, respectful, and responsible and embodying the best of WBHS). Each Terrier of the Month receives a T-shirt from ALCOVA Mortgage, designed by the Graphic Design classes at the high school.

Student Terriers of the Month for April include:
Caleb Brunk is a sophomore who was nominated for his contributions to classroom discussion and for being respectful to students and staff. The teacher who nominated Caleb said, “He is an excellent student [who] is very respectful. He takes the time to submit quality work often above my expectations.” His parents are Daniel and Laura Brunk.

Raelyn Lancaster is a junior and member of the girls varsity volleyball and soccer teams. She was nominated for consistently following the Terrier Way. The staff member who nominated Raelyn said, “I always see this student following the Terrier Way...I notice that she is always willing to help out her fellow Terriers, both students and staff.” Her parents are Lori and Chad Lancaster.

Ryan Mills is a junior who was nominated for his work ethic, willingness to help others, and for the academic growth he has made this school year. The teacher who nominated Ryan said, “He is a kind, hard-working young man, who is always willing to help out in class and is constantly looking for extra projects to do. I greatly appreciate the leadership and hard work that Ryan has done in the shop this year.” His parents are Tommy and Heather Mills.

Ethan Pekala is a junior who was nominated for his positive attitude and for the growth he’s shown this school year. The staff member who nominated Ethan said, “He’s always willing to help fellow students and staff members alike, and he embodies the Terrier Way—leading by example.” His parents are Ashley Young and Patrick Pekala.

Mallory Peroulas is a sophomore who was nominated for her kindness and positivity. The teacher who nominated Mallory said, “She is an absolute joy to have in class. She comes in every day with a smile on her face and is truly just a joy to be around.” Her parents are Dean and Melissa Peroulas.

Meera Raichura and **Nathan Rogers** are juniors who were nominated for their commitment to excellence and for striving to make WBHS the best that we can be. The staff member who nominated them said, “Both of these students work so hard to improve our school. I was proud to observe their leadership and involvement in the Student Advisory Council’s Annual Leadership Conference. They are a great representation of the Terrier Way in action!” Meera’s parents are Mital Raichura and Madhav Raichura; Nathan’s parents are Carlos and Jennifer Rogers.

Jasmine St. Clair is a senior who was nominated for being kind and respectful. The teacher who nominated Jasmine said, “She always comes to class with a positive attitude and a willingness to give her best effort.” She is the daughter of Janet St. Clair.

Teacher and staff members named as Terriers of the Month for April include:

Jordan Persinger teaches Intro to Marketing and Fashion Marketing. The students who nominated her highlighted her kindness, consideration, and humor. One student said, “She is a great teacher who helps us with the questions we don’t understand, and she has a great classroom environment.” Or as another student said, “She is a good teacher because she is kind and funny.”

Officer Johnny Runyon is William Byrd’s School Resource Officer. The students who nominated him highlighted his ability to make the school safe and fun. One student said, “He’s always smiling and nice to everyone. And most importantly he keeps our school safe!”

Ashley Satterfield teaches English 10 and Advanced English 10. Every student who nominated her highlighted her ability to make class fun. One student said, “I look forward to her class every day I have her because she makes learning fun. She is a very understanding person and always looks out for everyone in the kindest and most respectful manner possible.” Another student said, “She always makes class fun and makes it where I want to come to her class.”

Lisa Stover serves as a co-teacher for English 11 and Special Education case manager. The students who nominated her highlighted her kind and supportive personality. One student said, “She helps you whenever you need it...she always makes sure you’re okay.” Or as another student said, “She is always so nice and goes out of her way to make people smile.”

Submitted by WBHS Assistant Principal Phillip Martin

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



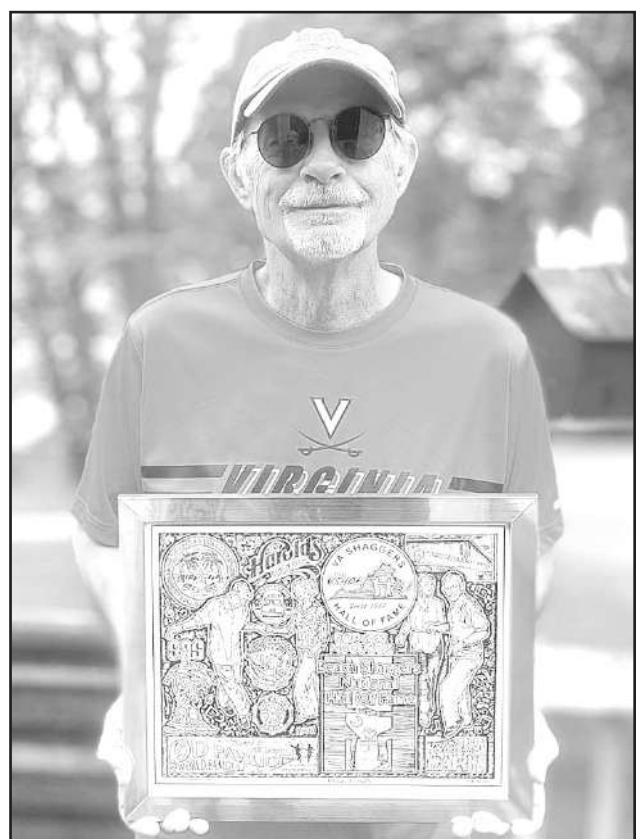
PTA Volunteer of the Year Valerie Hendricks

By Angie Cheuning

Congratulations to our very own Valerie Bell Hendricks! Cousin Valerie has been named PTA Volunteer of the Year by every school her boys have attended in the Richmond area— Crestview Elementary, Tuckahoe Middle, and Douglas Freeman High School. Chase and Cade are two lucky boys to have a mom so involved in their school careers. Chase is attending Va. Tech and Cade will graduate soon, and also attend Va. Tech in the fall. Valerie is married to Kyle. She is the daughter of Jim and Suzanne Bell of Vinton. Congrats, Val! Now take a rest!

Rodger Woodson— the Roanoke Valley Shag Club, Cindy Black, and everyone in attendance on May 5 were honored to recognize your induction into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame. Rodger is the only RVSC member in the Hall of Fame and only the third male from Virginia to be inducted. Rodger received special commissioned art by Norman Smith and Lifetime Membership from the Roanoke Valley Shag Club. We are proud of you, Rodger!

We are also appreciative of Donna Sue Richardson, Bob and Lois Poff, Rodger Woodson and Dot Overstreet for their early involvement and efforts in organizing the Roanoke Valley Shag Club.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEUNING
Rodger Woodson, Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame

Adventure begins at the Vinton Library June 8 with Summer Reading program

Roanoke County libraries will begin their Summer Reading Program “Adventure Begins at Your Library” on June 8 this year. They have set a community reading goal of 30,000 books this summer by August 10.

This year the libraries are releasing limited edition badges for completing reading challenges, attending library events, using library services, and “adventuring” at the library.

Once participants complete the first

milestone of the reading challenge, they can collect a prize to display this summer’s limited-edition badges and show off their adventures at the library. If they continue reading to help reach the community goal, they are eligible to win a larger prize.

Registration begins on June 8. Register online at www.rocolibrary.org or <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/2810/Summer-Reading-Program> or at your local library.

Babies and preschoolers must read 10 books for

the prize. School-aged children, teens, and adults must read three books to collect a prize. Those who contribute to the community reading goal can earn tickets to win branch prizes at the end of the summer.

Once you have completed the program on Beanstack or on your paper log, just stop by the library for your completion prize.

Marquee events this summer include Summer Celebrations, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Water Games for Teens,

VR Gaming, Anime Club for Teens, Dungeons and Dragons, Kids Square, SWVA Wildlife Center, Balloon Creations, Mill Mountain Theatre, Jolly Reader Adventurer, Larsens’ Lizards, Tampa Taiko, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Database Detectives.

The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton Historical Society garage sale May 18

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 18.

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 ½), and more will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the maintenance and operation of the Vinton History Museum.

is located at 210 E. Jackson Ave. For more information, email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or (540)342-8634.

Submitted by Mary Beth Layman, Vinton Historical Society

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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Call Tucker Frye at 309-9485 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org to advertise in this space.

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?

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 Call (540) 389-9355

Congress

from page 1



Moose hosts and guests at the Youth Awareness Congress in Vinton included (left to right) Crystal Dillon, Nancy Mastry, Sharon Llewellyn, Manny Propst, Mayor Brad Grose, Angie Chewning, Tammy Huffman, Carolyn Mills, Ricky Spradlin, and Kelly Huffman.

days before, the group had toured the National D-Day Memorial, Natural Bridge, the Pinball Museum in Roanoke, and more. They had also been treated to meals and activities with the Salem and Bedford Moose Lodges from dance competitions to Bingo to movies.

The Youth Awareness Program is restricted to students in 9th to 12th grades. The process for joining the program begins with an online application.

To qualify to attend the Youth Awareness Congress, the students had developed and presented three "Moose Kids Talks" to groups of 4- to 9-year-olds in their communities, encouraging them to make wise and healthy choices in life.

For nearly 30 years, the Moose has organized high school students for these KidsTalks presentations with the goal of educating, inspiring, and empowering preschool and elementary school-aged children on a variety of topics including drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, "stranger danger," bullying and peer pressure, and healthy habits and nutrition. The talks are presented to children in elementary schools, Scout groups, day cares, Sunday School classes, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other organizations.

The high school students choose a topic of their choice, develop a lesson plan, schedule and deliver the presentations to groups of varying sizes, and evaluate their impact on the younger students they worked with.

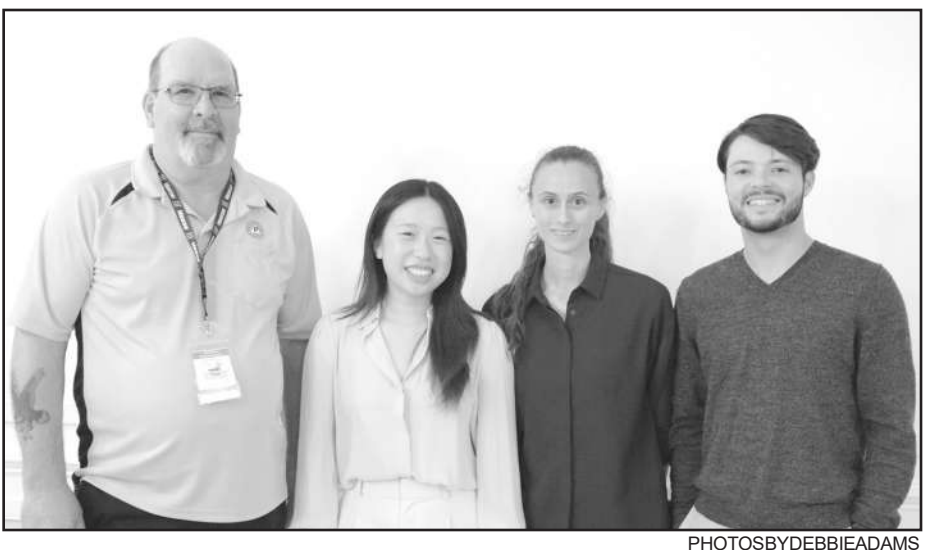
This program helps the presenters develop life skills involving organization, research, time management, communication, public speaking, and mentorship. Over time, the Kids Talk educational programs have reached an audience of more than 800,000 children throughout North America

"Moose Kids Talks" presentations run from late August through February each year. After each "Kids Talk," the students are required to submit a written report to the Moose, telling about their presentation and experience. In early March, students attend the Association Student Congress where their presentations are judged by their peers, and one or more from each Moose Association is invited to attend the International Student Congress.

The International Youth Congress is a student-run meeting, which encompasses about 13 hours over a four-day period (this year from April 27-29). At the end of the Congress, the students vote for the top five presenters with the most impactful messages, and those winners are awarded scholarships.

The Youth Awareness Congress traces its beginnings to First Lady Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No to Drugs" campaign and has expanded since.

The guests at the Youth Awareness Congress meeting at the Moose Lodge in Vinton were welcomed by Mayor Brad Grose, Vinton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and Moose Lodge



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Ivy Lin of Virginia (second from left) won second place in this year's Moose Youth Awareness Congress and an \$8,000 scholarship presented at the Vinton Moose Lodge on April 28. She is pictured with Youth Awareness Chair Manny Propst (on left) and Moderator/Coach Austin Shifflett (far right).

supporter Angie Chewning, and Vinton Moose Family Center officers.

Virginia Moose Association Chairman and Youth Awareness Chair Manny Propst emceed the event. He commended students for achieving their goal of making it to the International Congress level.

According to Moose International, "The Moose Youth Awareness Program reaffirms our commitment to providing today for a better tomorrow. The future rests in the hands, hearts and minds of our children."

Propst noted that the students in this year's Congress were a very diverse group and very passionate. Some had been involved in the program in previous years. All were winners at the state level before advancing to the annual Congress.

This year's scholarship winners who were announced at the Vinton Moose Family Center on April 28 were: first place, Quang Ho (\$12,000, California); second place, Ivy Lin (\$8,000, Virginia, who will be attending Yale); third place, Kamal Haddad (\$5,000, California); fourth place, Malayna Waine (\$3,000, Oregon); and fifth place, Baltazar Avila (\$2,000, Arizona). The scholarships (funded by the Moose organization) awarded to participants may be used at accredited trade schools, colleges, and universities.

Quang Ho developed his program on "giving and helping other

people in general"

- Ivy Lin's presentation is on "self-perception"

- Kamal Haddad's topic is "misinformation and rumors online"

- Malayna Waine's presentation is on "utilizing safety with medications, introducing drug safety to kids"

- Baltazar Avila's presentation emphasizes that "dreams do come true"

Moderator/coach Austin Shifflett of Greene County, Va., who entered the Youth Awareness Program as a freshman in high school, shared some insights on the program and the opportunities it offers. He has been able to travel and meet fellow students from all over the country and form enduring friendships. Participation has expanded his resume uniquely and provided scholarships for his education (Harvard, Class of 2024, and now a small business advisor). He has continued to work with the Youth Awareness program in his college years, because he enjoys the experience and wants to help the program expand.

Shifflett emphasized that this is not a Moose recruitment program, although he has become a member himself. "It's a program for students, by students, and all about students."

Visit www.vmayouthawareness.org for more information. The local Moose Lodges encourage students in the Vinton and Roanoke area schools to submit applications for the program.

Kids to Parks Day at Explore Park on May 18

Roanoke County's Explore Park invites families to embark on a day of excitement and exploration to celebrate National Kids to Parks Day on Saturday, May 18. This special event will feature a wide range of activities for all ages, including Wilderness Quest Geocache Adventure, Treetop Quest, a Twilight Zipline experience at Treetop Quest, nature education, and more.

Event Schedule:

- Wilderness Quest Geocache Adventure – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., experience Wilderness Quest Geocache Adventure through Explore Park solving riddles and discovering hidden treasures. Choose your route using a map or the 'Geocaching' app to guide your journey.
- Treetop Quest – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., your aerial adventure awaits at Treetop Quest! Advance registration is preferred at ExplorePark.org/Treetop. Walk-ups based on availability. Save \$5 after 3 p.m. on weekends with the last call discount.
- Twilight Zipline at Treetop Quest – Time Slots 7 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.,



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RCPRT

soar through the trees in darkness and strap on a head lamp at Treetop Quest. Advance registration required at ExplorePark.org/Treetop.

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities:
- Nature Education: Master Naturalists will host "Wild About Fossils," offering a hands-on exploration of

geology

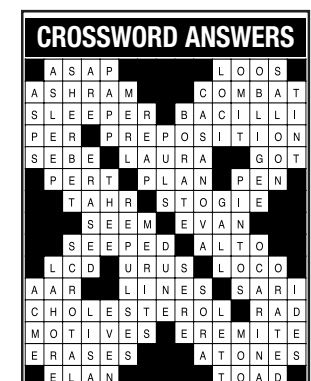
- Nine-hole Disc Golf Course at Riverside Village, experience family fun

Roanoke County Public Libraries: Visit Roanoke County Public Libraries' WoW Bookmobile for the Giant Bubbles Station, sign up for a library card, and explore what the Words on Wheels

- Bookmobile has to offer.
- Climbing Tower
- Inflatable Axe Throwing

For more information about this event, visit www.RoanokeCountyParks.com or call (540) 427-1800.

Submitted by Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism



Council

from page 1

budget, followed by 26.47% for Operating Expenses.

In describing revenues, Peters noted that the town has largely experienced "positive growth across a primarily consumer-based revenue budget." For a time, after the recession in 2009-10, the revenue growth of the town was less than 1%. Since 2018, the town has seen a more consistent growth trend and is now able to prioritize expenditures that had been put on hold for most of a decade.

In July 2022, the town transferred its water and wastewater utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) with the town retaining the balance of the Utility Fund and the WVWA assuming all utility-related debt, plus cash payments to the town over a three-year period. Proceeds from the sale of the system have been allocated to reserves and will be the town's primary source to fund the Capital Improvement Fund over the next five years. The FY25 budget incorporates the second of the three cash payments to the town of \$1,000,000. The funds are primarily designated for one-time expenditures.

Revenue sources are highly diversified in Vinton and not primarily dependent general property taxes as is the case in many localities. General property tax revenues (real estate, personal property, public service corporation) account for 7.83% of the town's revenues. Peters said that town residents expect that services be provided with minimal reliance on real estate taxes.

Sales tax revenue makes up almost 11% of the town's total revenue and is one of the top five revenue sources for Vinton. Meals taxes are also in the top five, making up 13% of revenues.

Peters said that the meals tax is "performing extremely well" due to the number of new restaurants in Vinton which "didn't exist five to ten years ago and are attracting visitors from outside of Vinton."

Business license taxes make up 7% of the town's revenues. The pari-mutuel taxes from Rosie's Gaming Emporium contribute 10% of the town's total revenues; the town anticipates this income will continue to increase.

"An overarching goal of the town is to utilize this revenue stream for capital projects as much as possible," Peters said.

"The town's revenue streams combined with good fiscal management by department heads have produced budget surpluses in recent years," he continued. "These surpluses allow the town to take on one-time projects and activities without majorly impacting the operating revenues of the town."

The FY25 budget for Capital Improvement Projects includes \$660,000 for a new refuse truck, core drill analysis of 3rd Street, HVAC upgrades for Municipal Building and Public Works, Public Works garage updates, Downtown Revitalization Incentives, and contributions to the Regional Skate Park.

Citizens may review the proposed budget on the town's website at www.vintonva.gov. A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for May 21 at the Town Council meeting. The budget will be adopted on June 4.

During the meeting, Cody Sexton notified council that the town's Treasurer/Finance Department has received the prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for FY23-24. This is the eighth year the town has received the award—a significant achievement, as it is based on nationally recognized guidelines.

According to Sexton, "In order to receive the award, a budget document must satisfy criteria to operate as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must rate 'proficient' in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award." This is a rigorous process.

In fact, the town received not only "proficient" ratings in all categories, but an "outstanding" for "understandability and usability," commended for consistent formatting throughout which makes the document an easy budget to navigate and comprehend. Well done overall," he said.

Finance Director/Treasurer Andrew Keen noted that the budget is "usable to staff and citizens; anyone could open and look through this budget and use it."

In other business, council declared May 12-18 as National Police Week, recognizing Vinton Police officers for "their faithful and loyal devotion to duty and dedicated service to their community." Mayor Brad Grose commented that the police department is always a source of pride in Vinton.

Council approved a resolution adopting the new Town of Vinton Employee Handbook as presented by Human Resources Director Donna Collins. The handbook has been updated in employee classification, payroll practices, time-keeping procedures, PTO policy, and the definition of part-time and full-time employees, after feedback from town staff and the town attorney, Jeremy Carroll.

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Above, players and coaches pose for a group shot at the Gary Chilcoat Memorial Lineman Camp Saturday at William Byrd High School.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Vinton football camp fights cancer in memory of Lutz' high school coach

Robert A. Patterson Stadium in Vinton was the site of the Gary Chilcoat Memorial Lineman Camp last Saturday. Football players from 34 different schools gathered at William Byrd High School for instruction from a staff that included 16 college coaches and a variety of high school coaches.

"The Gary Chilcoat Memorial Lineman Camp is in honor of my high school football coach, Gary Chilcoat," said Byrd head coach Brad Lutz. "I was very lucky to have him as my high school football coach and also coached for him for seven years after I graduated from college. He was a very successful coach on the field, producing numerous district and regional championships while also coaching seven players that went on to play in the NFL or CFL."

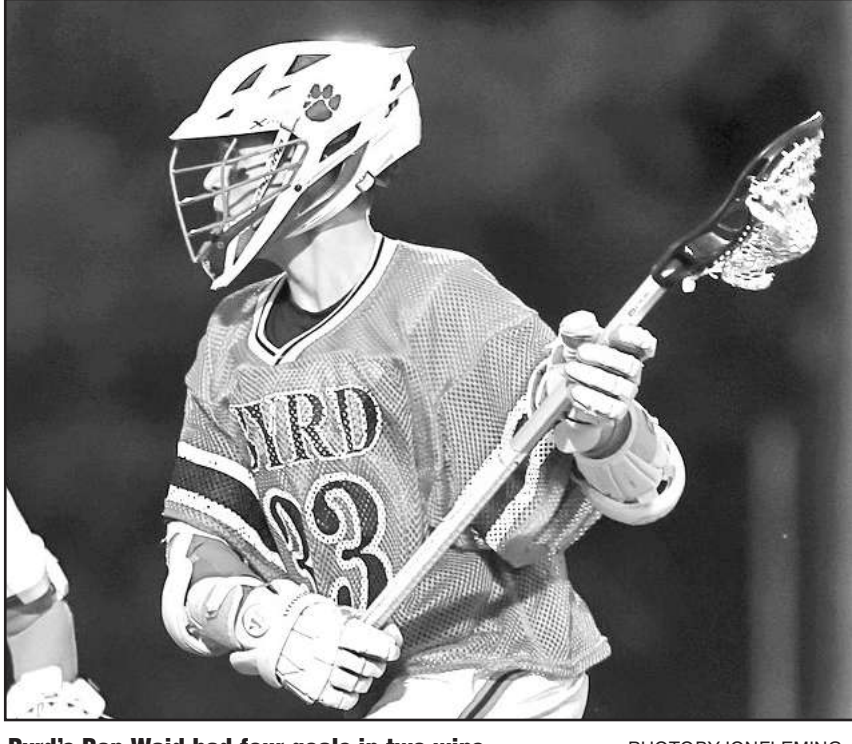
Chilcoat passed away from brain cancer five years ago and the camp is a way for his former players and coaches to gather for a reunion.

"Our camp staff included five coaches who played or coached for Coach Chilcoat," said Lutz.

The staff included college coaches from the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Emory and Henry College, Bluefield State University, the University of Charleston, Randolph Macon College, Christopher Newport University, Bridgewater College and Roanoke College. It also included high school coaches from Patrick Henry, Hopewell, Liberty, EC Glass, Heritage, Jefferson Forest, and William Byrd.

The event was also a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Over \$2,000 was raised in honor of Coach Chilcoat.

"It was a great day," said Lutz. "While his impact on the field was incredible, his development of men and leaders is what made his legacy as a coach so unforgettable."



Byrd's Ben Waid had four goals in two wins.

PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Byrd lacxmen pick up two big wins

The William Byrd boys' lacrosse team won two games in the past week against Franklin County and Blacksburg while the girls earned a split against the same two. The Terriers were scheduled to play Cave Spring on Wednesday, but results were too late for publication.

Last Wednesday in Vinton the boys took a 14-6 win over visiting Franklin County. Justyn Rozenboom had five goals and three assists to lead the Terriers while Dawson Brinkley, Ian Vest and Ben Waid had two goals each. The jayvees also won, 12-3, as Hunter Blackwell scored three goals.

The girls played at Franklin last week and won 10-8 behind six goals by Annika Hylton. Samantha Martin scored three times and Barb Hernandez had five saves in the crease.

Both teams were back in action Monday and the boys made it two in a row with an 8-7 win over Blacksburg at Vinton's

Patterson Stadium. Morrison Wright and Waid scored two goals each while Brinkley, Cason Nichols, Beau Brady and John Lasecki each scored one.

"Much needed win against a really good Blacksburg team," said Byrd coach Will Satterfield. "The last few years each game against Blacksburg has been a battle for us. With this win we move up in the Region seedings to hopefully be able to host a playoff game."

The jayvees also won, 5-0. With the win the varsity is now 5-6 overall and 3-4 in the region.

The girls were at Blacksburg Monday where they dropped a 17-4 decision. Hylton scored twice as Byrd fell to 4-9.

Both teams were scheduled to be back in action Wednesday against Cave Spring with the girls at home and the boys at Bogle Field. The boys have a home game this Saturday at 11 am against Christiansburg.

Tennis teams sweep Franklin County

The William Byrd tennis teams swept Blue Ridge District rival Franklin County on Tuesday, with the boys winning at home and the girls shutting out the Eagles, 9-0, in Rocky Mount.

Byrd's boys won 7-0, as two singles matches did not finish due to rain. Singles winners were Ryan Carista at one, 8-4, Dillon Colgan at three, 8-2, Luke Hemming at five, 8-0, and Cody Gardner at six, 8-2. Doubles winners were Carista and Maddox Wolfe at one, 8-1, Keith Schult, Jr. and Ryan McIntyre at two, 8-4, and Hemming and Gardner at three, 8-1.

The Terriers played Lord Botetourt last Friday and split, with the boys winning 7-2 at Hollins University and the girls falling 7-2 in Vinton. Makenna Jacobsen and Ashley Begasse won at one and two singles for the girls.

The boys got singles wins from Wolfe, Colgan, Schult and Hemming while McIntyre and Schult won in doubles. Botetourt forfeited two matches.

The boys remained undefeated at 8-0 in the Blue Ridge District and 8-6 overall while the girls are 4-4 and 7-7. The boys are at Staunton River Friday and home to Northside next Tuesday while the girls play the same two at opposite sites.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd's Dillon Colgan hits a shot in last week's win over Lord Botetourt at the Hollins University courts.

Byrd boys drop close matches

The William Byrd boys will honor their seniors on Friday when they host Staunton River for "Senior Night" on Highfill Field in Vinton. It will be the last game of the regular season with the Blue Ridge District tournament scheduled to begin next Tuesday at the sites of the higher seeds.

Byrd is 3-6 in the district and 6-7-2 overall after dropping a 2-0 game to Franklin County in Rocky Mount

Tuesday. The game was tied, nil-nil, until five minutes left in regulation when the Eagles scored off a restart. Then Franklin scored again just before the end of regulation to account for the final score.

"It was a physical match, and had a lot of emotion on both sides," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman. "We had chances but could not finish in the 18."

Last Friday at home the Terriers dropped a heartbreaker to Lord Botetourt, 3-2. The Terriers trailed 1-0 at intermission on a penalty kick, then LB made it 2-0 in the second half. Byrd got on the board when Ian Sigmon was able to get into the box and blasted a shot by the keeper to pull the Terriers to within one at 2-1.

LB was awarded a free kick with about 10 minutes to go in the match that Byrd keeper Bricen Lancaster was able to save initially, but Botetourt was able to finish the rebound and take a 3-1 lead. Cole Kovacevic finished a rebound with about two minutes to go but LB was able to run out the time and escape with a hard fought win.



PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

Byrd's Shaun Gower(left) battles an LB opponent.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Addisyn St. Clair controls the ball in last week's match at Lord Botetourt.

Byrd soccer girls at Staunton River Fri.

The William Byrd girls are looking to make some noise in the Blue Ridge District soccer tournament when action begins next Tuesday at the sites of the top seeds. Byrd had a 4-4 record with two games to go, pending a home game with Lord Botetourt that was scheduled for Wednesday of this week and a trip to Staunton River Friday.

Byrd was at LB last Friday and the Cavaliers were hitting on all cylinders on a rainy night in Daleville, taking an 8-1 win over the visiting Terriers. Byrd got a goal from Addisyn St. Clair, assisted by Logan Andrews, but for the most part it was all Botetourt.

On Tuesday of this week the Terriers hosted Franklin County for Senior Night, honoring seniors Kadence Fernatt, Claire Glover, Eva Brown and St. Clair. Franklin scored just four minutes into the game but Ryan Markham leveled the score when she scored off a cross from Emma Milliron.

The game remained 1-1 until less than two minutes to go in the half when the Eagles took a 2-1 lead. Franklin made it 3-1 early in the second half and the visiting Eagles were able to keep Byrd off the board for the remainder of the game and leave town with a win.

With the loss Byrd dropped to 5-9 overall.

SPORTS

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William Byrd first baseman Blake Glover stretches to get the out in last Friday's game at Lord Botetourt.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers have big games to end the regular season

The William Byrd baseball team will wrap up the regular season Friday with a trip to Staunton River. Byrd is still battling for position in the coming Region 3D tournament, hoping to earn a home game.

The Terriers are currently in a four-way battle with Cave Spring, Lord Botetourt and Carroll County for the third through sixth seeds. Coach Jason Taylor would like his team to be as high as possible for home advantage in the opening round, and finishing out this week with wins over Auburn Wednesday and Staunton River Friday are important.

"A lot of things could still happen," said Taylor. "It appears those four teams will be third through sixth in some order depending on the remaining schedule."

The Terriers helped themselves with a comeback win over Lord Botetourt in Daleville last Friday. The game was tied 1-1 after five and a half innings before the Botetourt scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to take a 3-1 lead.

Byrd rallied back in the top of the seventh. LB starting pitcher Nolan Medley was pitching a strong game to that point but was getting close to his pitch limit and Botetourt coach Todd Smith called for normally reliable Ethan Deshambault to pitch the seventh.

The move backfired. Hayden Eads led off the top of the seventh with a walk, moved to second on a passed ball and took third on a ground out. Israel Hairston and Ian Burnett then walked to load the bases with one out.

Noah Thompson was up next and he popped to short for the second out, leaving Botetourt one out away from victory. However, Jerrett Shepherd doubled to left to clear the bases and give Byrd a 4-3 lead. Brenin Witcher picked up the win out of the bullpen in relief of starter Brogan Dent, who Witcher relieved with the bases loaded and no outs in the sixth.

"My plan worked," said Taylor. "We wanted to keep it close and get to their bullpen. Medley is

good and we took pitches early. I assume we'll see him again, next week (in the district tournament) or in the region."

On Tuesday Byrd missed a chance to gain some ground in the rankings as Franklin County took a 13-0 win at Walthall Park in Vinton. Witcher had Byrd's only hit on "Senior Night."

"We started all seniors, which put three regulars on the bench," said Taylor. "We did not compete. We used this like a scrimmage. We are trying to set up our pitching for tonight (Wednesday vs Auburn) and Friday."

The Terriers took an 11-8 overall record into Wednesday's game with Auburn. The Eagles are a Class 1 team but don't let that fool you, they're as good as teams several classes higher.

The Blue Ridge District tournament is set to start on Tuesday of next week at home sites with semifinals on Wednesday and the district championship at William Fleming High School's diamond on Friday, May 17.

Terriers have good times at Cosmo

It was a big time on the oval last week as William Fleming played host to the annual Cosmopolitan Club track meet.

The "Cosmo" had divisions for middle schoolers, Juniors (9th and 10th grade) and Seniors (11th and 12th) and was held over three days in Roanoke. The Pulaski boys and Roanoke Catholic girls won Senior Division titles, the Northside boys and Blacksburg girls took the Junior Division and the Andrew Lewis boys and Blacksburg girls won Middle School titles.

In the girls' meet William Byrd was second in the Senior Division, eighth in the Junior Division and fourth in the Middle School Division.

Senior Division winners for Byrd included Emma Kageals in the 100m hurdles with a time of 16.06, taking the Richard Pitts Award. Sydney Blewett finished

first in the shot put at 36'2.25".

Lily Perez finished second in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.06, second in the long jump (16'3.75) and second in the triple jump (35'7.5). Lily also ran on the second place 4x100 relay team with Olaedo Anyanwu, Alexia Donahue and Jaleiya Bannister, finishing with a time of 55.03.

Grace Onwi finished third in the Senior 100m dash with a time of 13.02 and second in the 400m dash at 59.42. Olivia Bustamante was second in the high jump competition, clearing 4'10", and Alexia Donahue finished sixth in the 200m dash with a time of 29.53.

In the Junior Division Heidi Weinke finished sixth in the 300m hurdles event with a time of 58.96.

The William Byrd boys finished sixth in the Senior Division, eighth in the Junior Division and

the middle schoolers were fourth.

In the Senior Division DeShawn Austin won the 300m hurdles race with a time of 40.31, taking home the Sherwood Kasey Award. DeShawn was fifth in the 200 meters at 23.74.

Wyatte Bailey won the pole vault, clearing 11'6", while Israel Hairston was third in the high jump at 5'8".

Donald Mullins took fourth in the mile in 4:39.41 and sixth in the 800 at 2:06.73. Jamez Tler was sixth in the 100 at 11.72 and Brady Reachy was eighth in 11.87.

In the Junior Division Micheal Goins won the 110m hurdles with a state qualifying time of 16.01.

Today, Thursday, the Terriers will be hosting multiple teams at William Byrd High School. Byrd will take teams to Christiansburg and EC Glass on Saturday.



PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Mallory Peroulas catches a pop up in foul territory in last week's softball game against Lord Botetourt.

Byrd girls gear up for district softball tournament Tuesday

The William Byrd girls have two more softball games in the regular season with the Blue Ridge District tournament scheduled to begin next week. Byrd will be at Lord Botetourt tonight, then host Staunton River Friday.

The Terriers are 4-4 in the district and 8-10 overall after dropping a 6-3 decision to Franklin County in Rocky Mount Tuesday despite out-hitting the Eagles six hits to five. Sydney Blewett and Addison Clark had two hits each for the Terriers and Carson Wood drove in two runs. Clark struck out eight in the circle.

The loss was the third in the row for Byrd after they dropped back-to-back games to Pulaski County and Lord Botetourt last week. Pulaski was a non-district game and the Cougars took a 6-1 win in Vinton. Sara Land, Mallory Peroulas, Sydney Tuck, Abby Fitzgerald and Mary Wray each had a hit for Byrd.

On Friday at home the girls dropped a heartbreaker to LB in Vinton, 5-4. Byrd led through four innings but couldn't put the scrappy Cavaliers away. Byrd had 10 hits in this one while Draper, Wood, Clark and Heidi Dixon drove in runs.

The Blue Ridge District tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of next week with the championship game at William Fleming.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

William Byrd's Sydney Blewett, left, competes in the discus event at the Cosmo Track Meet. Right, DeShawn Austin took first in the 300 meter hurdles.