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Vinton Town Council busy with recognitions, briefings, WVWA water line approval



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Town Council recognized Director of Planning and Zoning Anita McMillan for her 30 years of service to the town at the Jan. 20 meeting. Pictured left to right are Councilman Mike Stovall, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, Mayor Brad Grose, Anita McMillan, and council members Sabrina McCarty and Keith Liles.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council met on Jan. 20 to recognize employees,listen to a briefing on changes in the Vinton Police Department from Chief Fabricio Drumond, adopt a resolution for an easement for the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) on a Gish Mill/ Gus Nicks Water Line Improvement Project, and hold a public hearing on the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Vinton Director of Planning and Zoning Anita McMillan was recognized by council for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Vinton. A most valued employee, the comment from many to McMillan was “we don’t know what we would do without you.” In addition to her regular duties, McMillan has gone above and beyond in writing countless grants which have changed the face of Vinton, most especially the greenways.

Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins and Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning Nathan McClung were named by the Roanoker Magazine as members of this year’s Class of 2026 “40 Under 40.” Winners of this award are nominated by the community— this year

there were 122 nominations.

“These young leaders represent the talent, passion, and dedication shaping the Roanoke Valley today and for years to come, inspiring innovation, strengthening our communities, and leaving a lasting impact on the region they call home. We’re lucky to have their talent and passions making a positive impact for all” was the comment from the Roanoker.

Chief Fabricio Drumond briefed council on changes to the Vinton Police Department, including a new traffic safety position and a restructured chain of command within the department. He introduced Cpl. Jesse Dibble as the new traffic unit officer.

The focus of restructuring the chain of command is to create a more intentional focus on the rank of corporal, the first step in supervision of other officers. Cpl. Trey Boyd becomes a “floating corporal” under the new chain of command. He will be “the first supervisor in the absence of a sergeant in case of sickness, training, childcare, snow, etc. With the VPD being a 24 hour/365-day operation, scheduling changes always occur.”

The corporal in that position will “be exposed to different leadership styles and officers; this will help

build that resilient leader that we need. We look forward to rotating each corporal to that position. We train well, but nothing is better than real world exposure,” Drumond said.

Drumond spoke about traffic enforcement with the key mission being safety. He noted that traffic-related accidents have increased in recent years throughout the state, specifically in serious accidents involving fatalities. “The sharp curve came about during the pandemic years— 2021 was a 14-year high in fatal accidents with less traffic, but more speed, and people taking more risks during that timeframe. While in some years traffic-related crashes have reduced, fatalities have increased.”

During the pandemic, there was a decrease in public transit and carpooling; there were more independent drivers and families purchasing more vehicles.

“This is especially relevant in communities such as Vinton with accelerated moving from urban to suburban, and an explosion in delivery services.”

He commented that driving behavior has remained the same in the years since, with increased “risk-based driving; as the number of cars increases,

See **Council**, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton Strategic Plan in final stages of development

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Town Council members Sabrina McCarty, Keith Liles, and Mike Stovall and the town leadership team met with consultants Mike Callahan of 3TP Ventures and Vlad Gavrilovic of New Paradigm Planning on Jan. 20 for the final review of the town’s five-year Strategic Plan (2026-2030), which will be adopted in February.

Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan in July 2025, sketching out the town’s goals for the next 25 years. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to align the long-term vision of the Comprehensive Plan with the near-term goals for the coming five years. In essence, while the Comprehensive Plan sets policies for 2025-2050, the Strategic Plan sets work priorities for the next five years, which shape the upcoming year’s budget, and determines which programs and projects to implement.

The broad goals of the Comprehensive Plan are to:

- Encourage redevelopment or repurposing of aging and outdated buildings to new housing, especially underutilized buildings near downtown
- Encourage transformation of aging strip development along major corridors to a more vibrant mix of uses, including housing
- Provide smooth and efficient circulation for all roadway users
- Make desired development and redevelopment easier by aligning zoning ordinances with town goals
- Provide accessible and exceptional local government services to people looking to do business in Vinton
- Maintain infrastructure in a state of good repair

Development of the Strategic Plan required extensive data analysis, a host of assessments, and council/ community/staff input. Priorities were developed, then tweaked at a council retreat last fall, and now the final draft is complete.

Prior to the retreat, council members

were asked to prioritize vision principles and selected Adaptability, Exceptional Town Services and Infrastructure, and Housing for All Phases of Life as the most urgent in the next five years.

Breaking it down even further, council identified the top five priorities:

- Update the zoning code
- Adopt financial incentives for housing
- Purchase properties for economic development goals
- Acquire funding to improve aging housing stock
- Connect downtown and River Park with a slow street

Council and Town Manager Pete Peters cautioned that while these are high priority plans, the town’s top priority is still maintaining the services it provides to its citizens, along with an emphasis on retention of an outstanding town staff.

The Strategic Plan clarifies the vision statement of the Comprehensive Plan: “Vinton embraces the future. In 2050 the town retains its safe and welcoming small-town character, has well maintained public infrastructure, provides more housing opportunities, and delivers exceptional services for all. The town’s historic downtown will be a local and regional destination, walkable from surrounding neighborhoods with authentic gathering spaces, vibrant events, and a flourishing business community.”

“Catalyst Projects” for the next five years include making substantial progress on:

- Building walkable connections in and to downtown (such as diverting commuter cut-through traffic from Lee Avenue through signage and design, prioritizing sidewalk gaps and dedicate funding to sidewalk construction, advance Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 to construction ready)
- Updating and modernizing the Town Zoning Ordinance (modernizing the zoning code to support more

See **Plan**, page 3

Bonsack Fire and Rescue Station celebrates one year of service

The Bonsack Fire and Rescue Station recently celebrated one year of service since officially opening on January 14, 2025.

Located along the U.S. 460 corridor, Bonsack is one of the fastest growing areas in Roanoke County. Prior to the station being built, most of the calls in the Bonsack area were answered by the Vinton station with an average response time of eight minutes. The response time is now four minutes.

“Through demands it was identified that Roanoke County needed a station in the Bonsack area, so that’s what kind of spurred the idea and got it going to get us here today,” Chief Travis Griffith said.

The biggest thing that sets the Bonsack station apart from others is the split bay design. This separates the living quarters from the fire and rescue gear, which helps prevent toxins that may be on equipment from coming into the living spaces.

There are also several features in place to help remove carcinogens from the environment, including a special washer for gear and air filtration systems in the gear room and bays.

The investment into the new station went beyond just the building—it included

a significant investment in personnel and equipment. Roanoke County hired and trained 18 new firefighters and bought a new fire truck and ambulance for the station. The three crews that work the station have a minimum of five people working at a time, with a mix of veteran firefighters and the newly trained staff.

“It shows what the county wants to do for the citizens and the businesses, you know, public safety is a priority ... they don’t just say it, they do it,” Chief Griffith said.

Fire stations remain a priority for the county supervisors as they look to update aging stations. As part of the capital improvement program, money has been allocated for renovations of seven fire and rescue stations in Roanoke County over the next 10 years.

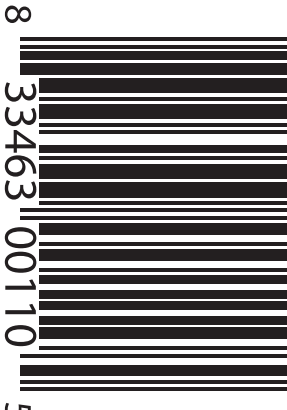
Planning work has already begun on the Hollins Fire and Rescue Station, which originally opened in 1981. Just over \$5 million has been allocated for renovations to the station for this year that will include integrating the split bay design.

~Submitted by Roanoke County Fire and Rescue



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROANOKE CO. FIRE AND RESCUE

Bonsack Fire and Rescue Station celebrates first anniversary.



WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

WBMS has announced the A and A-B Honor rolls for the second nine weeks.

A HONOR ROLL

8th grade: Brenner Alterio, Paige Aremia, Grayson Bell, Maggie Benson, Dorothy Booher, Jack Clark, Isabella Cooke, Kolbie Davis, Chaz Jordan Dunlap, Nicole Eggleston, Ahmad Faqiri, Rory Grant, Ethan Hastings, Shelby Hensley, Corbin Holloway, Sophia Jones, Jayden Lin, Kathryn Linkenhoker, Chance Nguyen, Jackson Price, Georgia Ralph, Alaina Robertson, Annabelle Robtison, Ashton Royall, Brooklynn Scott, Jonah Smith, Jordan Stanley, Collyns Terrell, and Matthew Yang

7th Grade: Baylee Angle, Lylah Arnold Parker, Beatrix Barr, Delaney Blewett, Clara Bliss, Kensington Brown, Harper Cain, Bailee Carlisle, Gracelynn Carlson, Owen Chilson, Elizabeth Chisom, Kathryn Dodson, Emma Dooley, Derrick Edwards, Anne Ely, Elizabeth Fraley, Oliver Fralin, Riley Fuller, Julia Gardner, Amaya Hall, Aria Hardifer, Mia Haylett, Alexander Hebert, Riggins Hill, Rylee Hill, Ethan Holland, Emma Janney, Hayden Janney, Andrew Johnson, Javoun Jordan, Liam Krista, Elmer Lainez Andino, Cohen Leonard, Lucy Lineburg, Addyson Lutz, Ian McCallister, Hayden McClure, Brooklynn McGuinn, Jace Meador, Marina Mihelcic, Henry Nolan, Soha Patel, Emmalyn Redden, Grace Richardson, Nicholis Robtison, Brooklynn Siler, Cael Sink, Addilynne Thiel, Laila Thornton, Jacob Tingler, Avery Waddell, , Jace Weddle, Jacoby Weddle, Sadie Whitenack, Willow Wiggins, Cadence Wood, Joanna Wood, and Graham Wooge

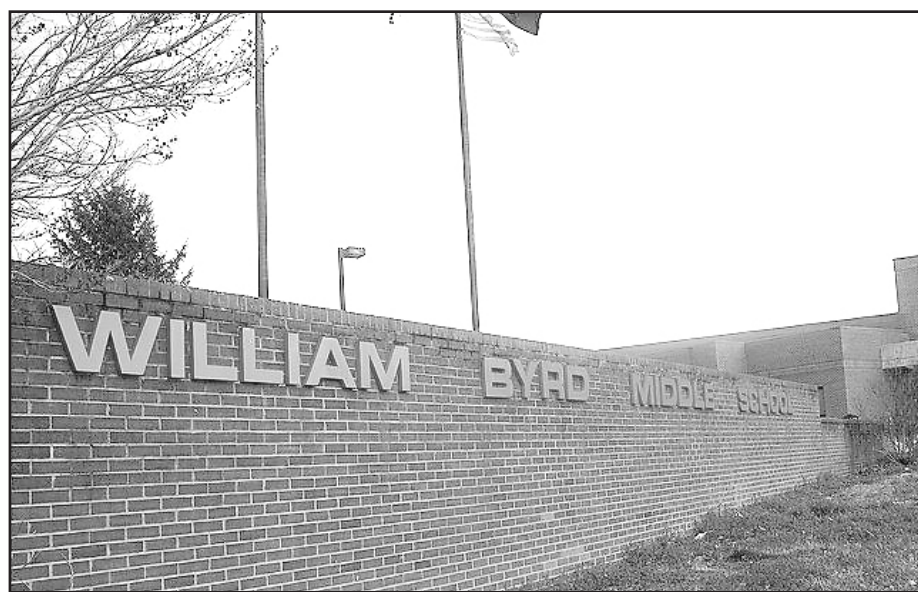
6th Grade: Kennedy Adams, Layla Anderson, Laurence Aremia, William Bake, Ashby Bernard, Emerson Brooks, Makayla Brown, Aiden Cain, Kelsy Cardenas Zambrano, Jackson Childress, Kendall Chitwood, Asher Cooke, Caeda

Crutchman, Aiden Davis, Kyra Davis, Lillian Elyard, Maryeli Spinoza Aguirre, Tenley Gusler, Asher Haddon, Anna Hemming, Lucas Hilscher, Duc Hieu Dung Hoang, Rayne Jones, Kaidence Justis, Jackson Kendrick, Alexander King Shepherd, Jacob Loomis, Lola Madonna, Brisa Maldonado Vasquez, Patrick McGann, Aniya Moore, Kason Nguyen, Easton Nicely, Madilynn Oliver, Mazlynn Otey, Alexandra Reeves, Carter Russell, Hayden Scott, Aarnav Shah, Haleigh Stokes, Aubrie Taylor, Emma Thompson, Everly Thompson, Jeriana Thompson, Skylor Ward, Grayson Webb, Haylee Wheeler, Reagan Whitehead, and Elayna Yeargan

A-B HONOR ROLL

8th grade: Ashnoor Ashnoor, Evan Bays, Lydon Beavers, Cohen Berry, Hayden Biggs, Piper Bouvier, Reece Brady, Kenlee Campbell, Christina Chaney, Kimberly Chittum, Tania Cortes Martinez, Hanna Counts, Abigail Davis, Kayleigh Davis, Addilyn Dudley, Naziyah Edmonds, Grayson Ferguson, Sophie Fielder, Pierce Franks, Brett Gardner, Cadence Gearhart, Brinkley Gonzales, Charlotte Harper, Madison Haupt, Brayden Hawse, Jameson Horst, Matthew Hoyle, Camden Ingram, Colton James, Douglas Jones, Korrina Kish, Bryden Lish, Cally Lutz, Annabelle McIntyre, Caiden Meyer, Jacinna Mitchell, Jacob Morris, Maci Morrison, Olivia Morrison, Trevor Nunn, Greylin Peters, Lauren Phillips, Ava Rader, Liam Roberts, Jasmin Rodriguez Muniz, Owen Rupe, Kristian Sattah, Owen Seth, Savannah Shepherd, Allie Smart, Jordin Terry Cabbler, Emma Thomas, Rose Tial, Jaciel Torres Carreon, Aaliyah Vorst, Brooks Walker, Ryne Walker, Caleb Webster, William Wede, Connor Wood, and Danielle Woodcock

7th grade: Jerry Angel, Tabitha Apple, Thomas Apple, Brenton Bailey, Tucker Baumgart, Hailey Bautista, Ellason Bradford, Cormac Brady, Landry Cain, Mia Caldwell, Alawyna Campbell, Payton Campbell, Alayna Coe, Eli Copening,



FILE PHOTO

Olivia Craighead, Emmaleigh Crawford, Arizona Davis, Teagan Doss, Jaylynn Edwards, Madison Eubank, Charlotte Faddis, Christopher Fleming, Rory Gaskins, Owen Gibson, Carrington Gill, McKenna Gordon, Gabriel Griego, Aryaman Gupta, Micah Hamlar, Janilla Henderson, Zoey Hicks, Colton Jenkins, Tyler Jennelle, Britny Khouri, Carson Kirby, Kaydance Lorek, Collins Lott, Sincere Mann, Connor Manning, Taelyn Martin, Isaac Mason, Jace McCoy, Austin Mendoza Castillo, Kamden Miller, Kinley Moucha, Bentley Oliver, Evan Osborne, Luke Pagans, Bentlee Palmer, Jackson Passman, Hunter Robinson, Jeremih Saunders, Kennedy Savignac, Abigail Schaefer, Audrey Siler, Aiden Snead, Avone Stanley, Jayceon Stanley, Aubree Swiney, Jude Trent, Ethan Umberger, Grayson Underwood, Aubrey Walters, Jackson Warf, Gabryle Weden, Lakyn Wendell, Jaxen White, Kieran Wilhelm, Morriah Williams, Angelia Witcher, Grayson Woodford, and Anthony Yates

6th grade: Declan Arnold, Adalynn Barnett, Jesse Bingham, Ollaeky Brown, Nova Burrows, Elise Butrym, Tyler Carter, Penelope Chandler,

Thawngthabik Chin, Knoxley Covey, Illyria Curkendall, Mackenzie Darling, Skyler Delano, Genesis Earle, Arabella Ferguson, Eden Frye, Christopher Gennosa, Carrington Gill, Croix Gill, Braydon Gregory, Gia Hall, Riley Hall, Alyeska Hanger, Ja Lyn Harrison, Hunter Havens, Nathaniel Hayslett, Asa Helm, Sawyer Hewitt, Sophia Hurt, Kaylee Jenkins, Joshua Johnson, Tyler Jones, Jahzir Jordan, Logan LaRose, Mackenzie Law, Tucker Mahanes, Makaela Manning, Ashley Martin, Kyle Martin, McKenzie McGuinn, Blayne Moore, Lynnix Morris, Beheshta Naiby, Kaylee Nichols, Raelynn Parker, Hudson Payne, Amethyst Pence, Jenna Pickeral, Isaac Ray, Declan Reed, Emma Grace Reedy, Walker Rickerson, Abagale Robertson, Kevin Rodriguez Del Valle, Zareth Rodriguez, Bailey Rutherford, Chase Schneider, Kristian Schult, Carter Shamblin, Kai Shonkwiler, Kenlie Simmons, Brandon Smith, Carleigh St. Clair, Addison Stewart, Piper Turner, Gabriel Turpin, Lakyn Waldron, Arabella Weden, FalyN Welton, Dean Wheeler, Bennett Widner, Lucas Wijaya, Gavin Wilks, and Austin Wright

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

I hope everyone is staying warm! On Thursday, Jan. 22, the Vinton Chamber will install our new officers and Board of Directors. We are looking forward to a great 2026. Kicking that off, we host our annual Sponsors Appreciation Casino Night.

We are now accepting vendor applications for our upcoming Senior Services Expo on March 24. Mark your calendars. If you are a vendor and would like more information about the event, please visit our website at www.vintonchamber.com or call the Chamber office 540-343-1364.

A big 35th Happy Birthday to Mom's caregiver Shaquana (Thursday). She is so good to Mom, we can't let her special day go by without celebrating!

Also, a big Happy Birthday to my uncle George "Buddy" Bell. Buddy celebrated his 94th birthday at Disney World. Joining him for the big celebration were Naomi Roberts, Kathrine and Elizabeth Alovord, Deborah Alvord, and Deaton and Hunter Bell.



Bootie Chewning celebrates her caregiver Shaquanna's birthday.

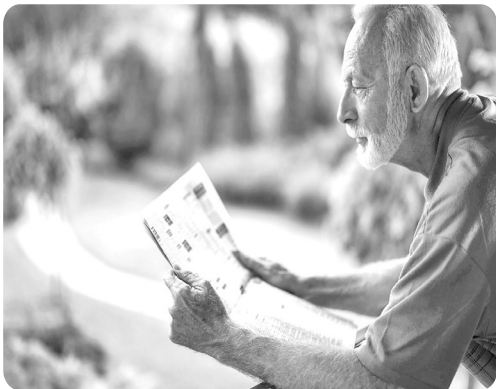


PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

George "Buddy" Bell celebrates birthday No. 94 at Disney.

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Vinton Chamber of Commerce announces new officers, directors

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has announced its new officers and Board of Directors for 2026. Installation of officers and the board was scheduled to take place on Jan. 22 at the Chamber's annual Casino Sponsor Appreciation Night at the Vinton Moose Lodge. Vinton Mayor Brad Grose was scheduled to conduct the swearing-in ceremony.

Officers for 2026 are Chairman Page Lovern, 1st Vice Chairman Allison Finney, 2nd Vice Chairman Anthony Conner, and Past Chairman Jason Boothe.

This year's Board of Directors includes Julie Wheeler from HomeTrust Bank, Joy Rierson (Neely's Accounting), Lee Lovern (Star City Container), Chris McCarty (Grand Rental Storage),



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Anthony Conner (The Conner Group), Donald Childress (Coastal Planning Insurance), Tim Niningner (Star City Pest Control), Jason Peters (Roanoke County), Chrissy Sensabaugh (Pollard 107 South),

Danielle Napier (Pawsh Salon for Dogs), Brandy Humphreys, and Jacob Edberg (First Citizens Bank).

Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters, Director of Cultural Placemaking

See **Chamber**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF LION JOHN BERRY

Vinton Breakfast Lions are collecting donations of food and money at Vinton Food Lion this month.

LOA celebrates 20 years of Soup for Seniors: 2006-2026

The Local Office on Aging (LOA) reminds us that thousands of seniors in our community live at or below the poverty line. The annual Soup for Seniors program helps provide a hot meal on a cold day and reminds seniors in need they have not been forgotten.

The year 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of Soup for Seniors. For its first event in 2006, the LOA had modest goals of serving seniors who were enrolled in LOA's Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. The community fully embraced the project, and so much soup and crackers were donated, LOA was able to serve all our program participants, other needy seniors in the community, and even more in neighboring communities.

In 2012, LOA took on the project as an agency-wide service and joined forces with AARP Virginia. Collection and distribution were moved to early February to serve the senior population in the most vulnerable part of winter.

In 2026, the goal is to collect 50,000 pounds of soup and other non-perishable items to provide bags

of food for 3,000 older adults in need right here in our community. At the top of our list of who to serve are LOA's homebound Meals on Wheels recipients. Other recipients include: LOA's Diners Club participants; older adults receiving LOA's transportation, case management, and in-home care services; more than 1,500 residents of low-income, independent senior housing; and seniors who receive assistance from area Departments of Social Services and other agencies.

See **LOA**, page 4



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LOA

Plan

from page 1

housing options, especially downtown; modernizing zoning code's design and development standards)

- Investing in Quality Housing for all phases of life (consider new incentives for housing development; increase height and density standards for new housing in downtown and mixed use areas; pursue grants for repairs and accessibility improvements to aging housing; consider financial options such as tax abatement or revolving loan fund to support private improvements to aging housing; partner with regional housing organizations to bring their services to Vinton)
- Strategically promoting economic development

(seek opportunities to purchase key properties in Vinton; market opportunities for investment and development)

- Investing in critical public infrastructure, especially stormwater projects and connecting sidewalks (maintain street pavement data and invest in paving program so all streets are in good state of repair; upgrade water supply to eastern part of Vinton to support future development; develop comprehensive stormwater system dataset and stormwater master plan; dedicate new funding source towards stormwater infrastructure replacements and upgrades)

There were many items on the last Strategic Plan (2020-2025) which have been completed— an extension of the Glade Creek Greenway, improvements to Walnut Avenue, streambank restoration, Billy Byrd and Roland E. Cook conversions to housing, transfer of the utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority, and numerous grant awards.

With the new Strategic Plan, Town Council and staff are focused on building upon what the town is already doing well.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

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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.

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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.

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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. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DEAR DIARY
Read Ezekiel 40:1 through 42:20

How do you handle the pain of loss or tragedy? Our natural tendency is to hold on to past pain and keep track of hurtful events. "Fifteen years ago today, my wife asked for a divorce." "Four years ago this week, our son drowned." "It's been twenty years, but I vividly remember the day dad died of cancer."

Remembering tragedy is not wrong, but God wants us to see our pain in light of what He can do to bring healing to our lives.

In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the Lord was on me and he took me there. (Ezekiel 40:1).

Ezekiel and the exiles of Israel would always remember the painful years, but God was at work even during this dark season of their history. In our own lives, we can expect "that very day the hand of the Lord" will become evident in our circumstances.

Thought for Today: Are you measuring the days since your last heartache, or looking to the day of God's provision?

Quicklook: Ezekiel 40:1-4

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Alixandria Wall at Cell: (276) 732-6083 awall@mountainmedianews.com

and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. "Building People to Change Our World"

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, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA,

540-343-1842; 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.

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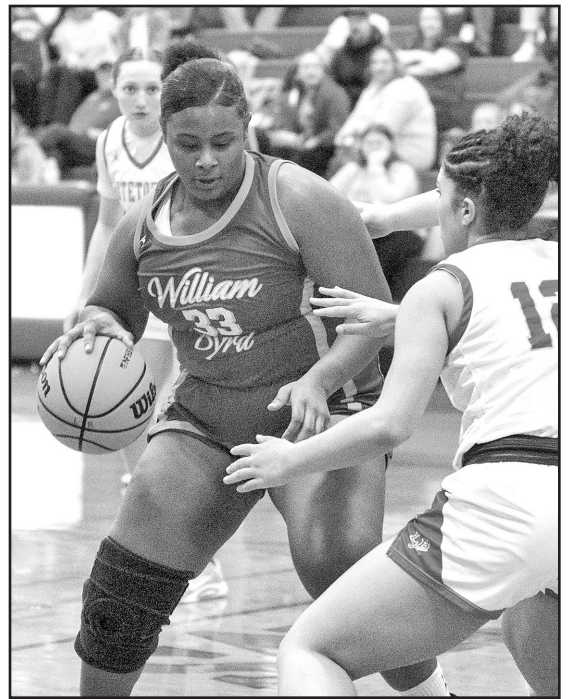
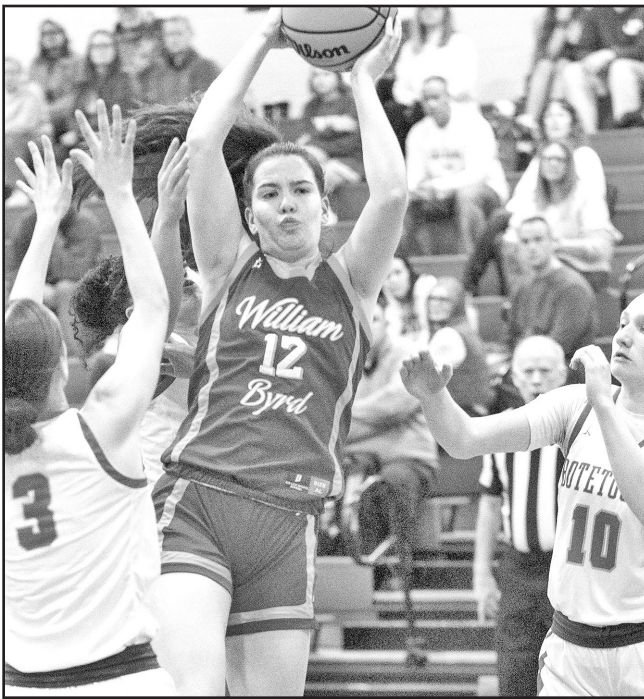


PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terrier basketball teams will play doubleheader Saturday

Last Friday both Byrd teams played Franklin County. The boys were in Rocky Mount where they dropped a 58-53 decision. The game was close all

The girls hosted Franklin County in Vinton last Friday and suffered much the same fate, dropping a close one, 39-34.



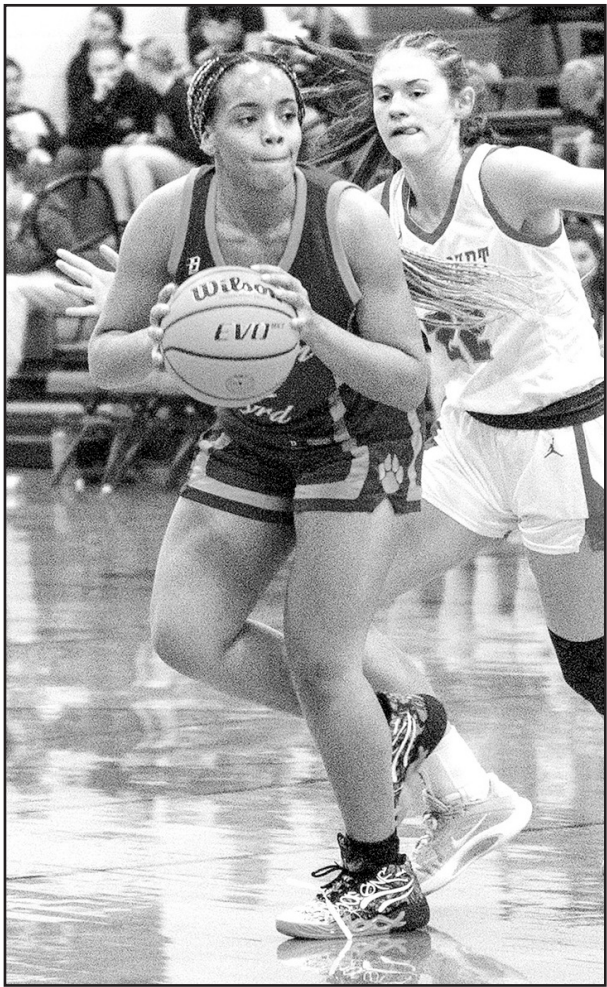
Left, Byrd's Heidi Dixon drives and dishes and, right, Maurasia Burnette handles the ball. PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Byrd basketball teams compete in fundraiser in Rockbridge County

The “Rock the Ribbon” event is a two-day day event that is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. A total of 12 games will be played with some top talent for what promises to be an exciting weekend of high school basketball. This year’s schedule is as follows.

1 pm – Rockbridge County vs Roanoke Catholic
5 pm – Staunton vs **William Byrd (girls)**
6:30 pm – Staunton vs **William Byrd (boys)**
8 pm – Oak Hill Academy vs Colorado Prep

8 pm – Colorado Prep vs Gillion Academy



Byrd's Skye Williams looks to pass in last week's game at Lord Botetourt.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd track team competes in big meets

Also, James Smith traveled

The Terriers next scheduled indoor track event is January 31 at Heritage High School in Lynchburg.

Leaders after the fall season are as follows: Class 1 Auburn –172.5 pts.; Class 2 Poquoson –170 pts.; Class 3 Western Albemarle –172.5 pts.; Class 4 Hanover –170 pts.; Class 5 Midlothian –182.5 pts.; Class 6 West Springfield –240 pts.

Western Albermarle is Class 3 leader in National Guard Cup race after VHSL fall season

First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 37 seasons of excellence. Six Cups are awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications. A point

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8 S T A T
9 T I T A N
10 E N U R E
11 P A S S
12 O L A
13 A S K
14 P E P
15 M A R I L Y N
17 R O T A T O R
18 C A R I T A S
19 U N R E E L
20 R E I N S
21 B E S T

DOWNS

2 D A P S
3 S A N A A
4 P A N T R Y
5 B L I G H T S
7 S T A N L E Y
12 F E D
13 H O D
16 T A R
17 M M O N R O E
18 T E A L S
19 C U B I C
20 S I V A
21 S E E P
22 S S

SPORTS

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Byrd swimmers sweep three BRD foes on “Senior Night”



PHOTOS COURTESY WILLIAM BYRD SWIMMING

Above are the swimming Terrier seniors. Left to right are Addi Kincer, Owen Humphreys, Gabby Romeo, Keith Schult, Lindsay Murtaugh, Bianca DeMelo and Cary Jones. Below left, Romeo shakes hands with William Byrd High School principal Evan Noell and, below right, Schult does the “Senior Walk” at the Gator Center in Roanoke.



The William Byrd swim team celebrated “Senior Night” at the Gator Center on January 14 and had a big night. Both the boys and girls swept Blue Ridge District foes William Fleming, Staunton River and Northside

“We had so much fun celebrating our seniors,” said coach Krista Martin. “Shannon Sweeney Photography made beautiful senior banners for us, several Byrd students came out to support our team and Mr. (principal Evan) Noell came to watch the meet and shake hands with all of our seniors on their senior walk. It was a wonderful evening”

Seven seniors were honored. For the boys’ team captain Keith Shult has been on the team for five years. His best events are the 500 free and the 100 breast. Owen Humphreys has been on the team for four years and his best events are the 50 free and the 100 back.

For the girls’ team Lindsay Murtaugh and Gabby Romeo are team captains. Lindsay has been on the team since eighth grade and her best events are the 200 and 500 free. Gabby is a five-year member of the team and her best events are the 100 fly and the 500 free. Addi Kincer, Cary Jones and Bianca DeMelo are also all five-year swimmers. Addi’s best events are the 50 free and the 100 breast, Cary’s best events are the 100 breast and the 100 back and Bianca’s best events are the 50 free and the 100 free.

Byrd dominated the meet on Senior Night. Double winners for the girls included Murtaugh in the 200 free and the 100 free, Hadyn Terrell in the 100 fly and 100 breast and Kayleigh Barber in the 200 IM and the 500 free. For the boys Ben Gardner won the 100 fly and 500 free and Kyler Martin won the 200 free and 100 back. The girls swept all three relays and the boys won the 200 and 400 free relays.

On Friday the Terriers swam against Hidden Valley, Cave Spring and Patrick Henry at the Gator Center. The boys beat Hidden Valley and Cave Spring but the girls lost all three.

“We swam some very fast local teams,” said Martin.

The Byrd relay team of Kyler Martin, Brody Parrish, Ben Gardner and Keith Schult won both the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays. Individually Gardner won the 100 fly, Martin won the 100 free and Parrish won the 500 free.

The Terriers are scheduled to swim against Staunton River at the Beford YMCA tonight, and next Tuesday they go up against multiple schools at the Kirk YMCA in Roanoke.

Big Orange ties for 9th on Big Blue mats in C’Burg

The Big Orange wrestlers celebrated “Senior Night” last week by hosting three Blue Ridge District teams in a quad event at William Byrd High School. The Terriers went 2-1, defeating Franklin County and William Fleming but losing to Lord Botetourt, who clinched the BRD dual title with the win over Byrd.

Last weekend Byrd competed in the Big Blue at Christiansburg High School. The Terriers tied for ninth among 21 teams that scored. Fort Mill High of South Carolina was the team champ followed by Salem and host Christiansburg.

Byrd had a champion at 165 in Myles Preston. He won four matches, including a technical fall, a 37 second pin, a 4-2 decision over a Fort Mill wrestler in the semifinals and a 19-12 win over Eddie Sherlinki of Grayson County in the championship match.

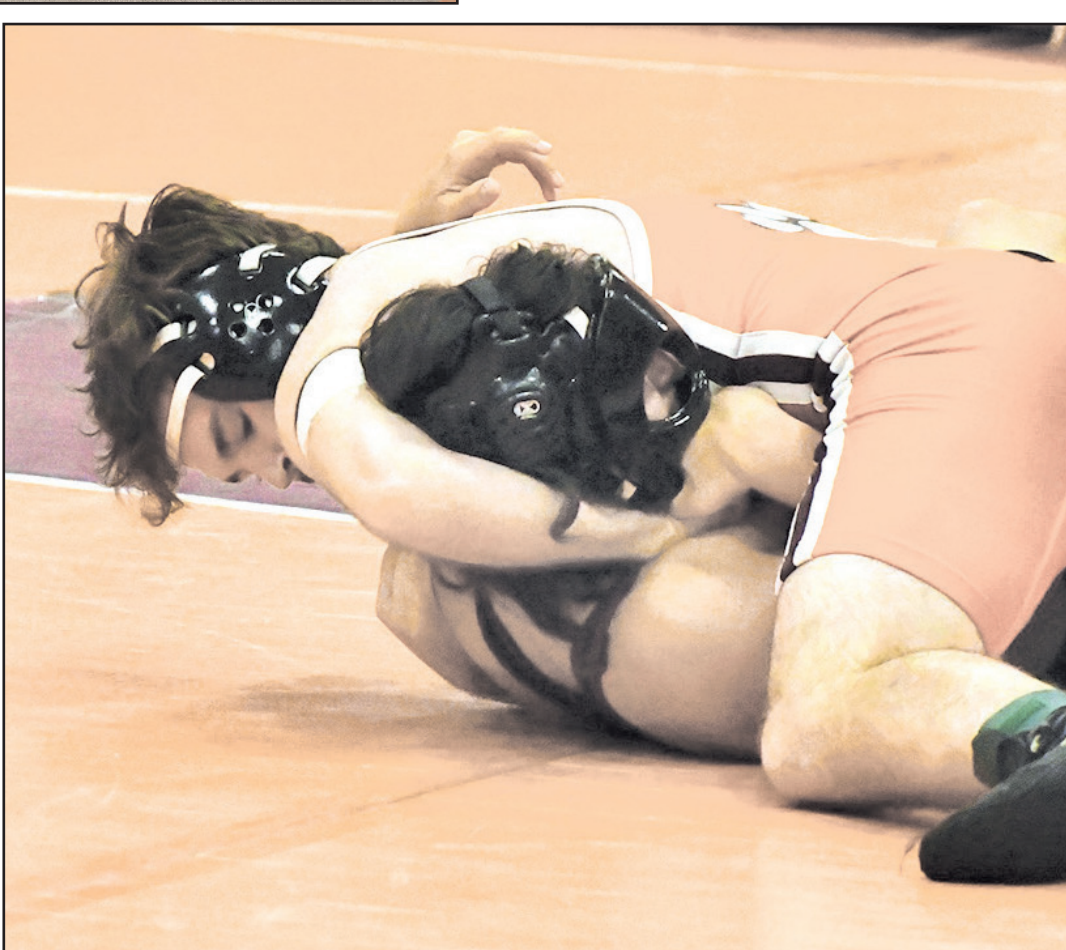
“Myles went up a weight class and won the Big Blue title at 165,” said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. “He has been undefeated since returning to the lineup and looks to continue to be a dominant wrestler at whatever weight he goes.”

Lane Brunk took third place at 113. Zane Taylor was fourth at 150 while TJ Duncan and Jayden Omiyo took fifth places at 138 and 190.

Two-time state champ Darin Witcher did not compete in the Big Blue. He traveled to Pennsylvania to wrestle in the “Escape the Rock” tournament and went 1-1 before the big tournament was called due to impending weather.

Byrd was scheduled to wrestle at William Fleming on Wednesday of this week. This weekend they’re entered in the John Kelly Invitational at Ocean Lakes, VA.

“With the weather looking grim for this weekend, we will be lucky to get in our tournament,” said Kessler.



Above, Byrd’s Evan Tabor is close to a pin. Below, Brandon Hurley is on top and in control in last week’s match with William Fleming.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

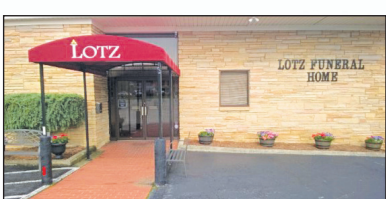


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