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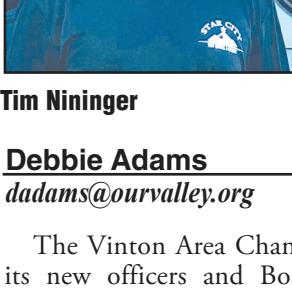
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Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce installs officers and directors for 2026



New Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce officers were sworn in by Vinton Mayor Brad Grose at a ceremony at the Vinton Moose Lodge on Jan. 23. Pictured from left are Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Board Chairman Page Lovern, 2nd Vice President Anthony Conner, Past Chairman Jason Boothe, Executive Director/President Angie Chewning, and 1st Vice President Allison Finney.



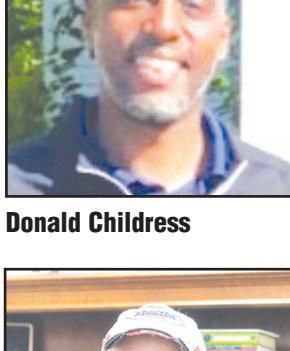
Tim Nininger



Jason Peters



Joy Rierson



Donald Childress



Jacob Edberg



Brandy Humphreys



Lee Lovern



Chris McCarty



Danielle Napier

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce installed its new officers and Board of Directors for 2026 during the annual Casino Sponsor Appreciation Night on Jan. 22. Vinton Mayor Brad Grose conducted the swearing-in ceremony at the Vinton Moose Lodge.

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

Page Stovall Lovern is serving her first full year as chairman and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2016. She is passionate about growing the Chamber and supporting the local businesses that make the Vinton community thrive.

Lovern serves as the Assistant Revenue/Accounts Payable Manager at Twenty20 Management which brings strong financial and operational experiences to Assisted Livings, Independent Livings, and Memory Cares across the Mid-Atlantic. She is a graduate of William Byrd High School and Radford University.

In addition to her work with the Chamber, Lovern is the Senior Regent for the Women of the Moose, Vinton Chapter. She is married to her husband, Brian, and is a proud stepmom to Kayla. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time at the beach.

Allison Finney will continue serving as 1st vice president of the Chamber. She is a graduate of William Byrd High School and Virginia Tech where she majored in Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management with an option in Residential Management. She manages several family-owned residential properties (apartments and single-family homes) in Roanoke, Salem, and Vinton. Finney also manages American Efficiency Inns, an extended stay motel located in downtown Vinton, as well as two other commercial properties. She has been involved with many organizations over the years. She is a founding member of the Square Society, serving on their board for many years and eventually becoming president. While serving as president, she also served on the Center in the Square Board of Directors. She has proudly served on the Vinton Area Chamber of

Commerce Board of Directors for 14 years and on the Executive Board for going on 12 years. Finney enjoys planning and volunteering for the various events hosted by the Chamber to promote and showcase the thriving Town of Vinton. She enjoys life with her partner of 14 years, Randall Walters.

Anthony Conner, 2nd vice president, is a financial services professional with The Conner Group, a locally owned financial practice. He works with a wide variety of clients including business owners and pre-retirees. Prior to his start in the financial services industry, Conner earned his B.S. Degree from Carson-Newman University in 1982.

He is proud to be a member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) since 2004. He also is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

When he is not working, Conner enjoys serving the community on the Chamber of Commerce and in the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club. He also enjoys traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his three children, four grandchildren and two miniature schnauzers, Remy and Rigby, who are the current office mascots at The Conner Group.

Past President Jason Boothe is a Realtor with Mountain View Real Estate in Vinton, now in his seventh year in the real estate business. He is partnered with longtime Roanoke City Chief Sheriff David Bell where they are known as the Boothe Bell Real Estate Team Powered by Mountain View Real Estate. He is very active in the Vinton community where he has served as a board member and coach for the Vinton Booster Club, and vice president and president of the William Byrd Baseball Booster Club. Most recently, this year he joined the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club; he also runs the 24 Breakfast Club Network group that meets once a month. Along with his board positions, Boothe also coached in the Vinton community for over 15 years.

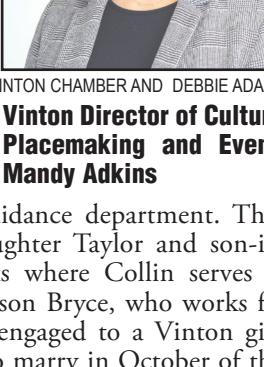
His "love for the kids and parents" made him lifelong friendships and what is "really cool" is the "kids" are now calling him to buy houses and "that means the world to me."

Boothe has been married to his wife Nicole for 27 years. She is in her 19th year at William Byrd High



PHOTOS BCOURTESY OF VINTON CHAMBER AND DEBBIE ADAMS

Town Manager Pete Peters



**Vinton Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events
Mandy Adkins**

School, currently in the guidance department. They have two children. His daughter Taylor and son-in-law Collin reside in Kansas where Collin serves in the Army as a captain. His son Bryce, who works for Roanoke County, is newly engaged to a Vinton girl, Caroline Gibbs; they plan to marry in October of this year.

"I am the very proud Pappy to my 4-year-old granddaughter, Rylan, who lives with Mommy and Daddy in Kansas," Boothe says.

"I can't express how excited I am to be able to work with such an amazing group of people who truly care about the town," said Boothe. "I am extremely happy with where the Chamber is today and the leadership we have in place on our board. I look forward to serving the members and sponsors of this great Chamber, and we will do everything we possibly can to make Vinton the place to bring your business."

This year's Board of Directors includes Donald Childress from Coastal Planning Insurance, Anthony Conner, Jacob Edberg (First Citizens Bank), Brandy Humphreys, Lee Lovern (Star City Container), Chris McCarty (Grand Rental Storage), Danielle Napier (Pawsh Salon for Dogs), Tim Nininger (Star City Pest Control), Jason Peters (Roanoke County), Joy Rierson (Neely's Accounting), Chrissy Walton (Pollard 107 South), and Julie Wheeler (HomeTrust Bank).

Donald Childress is a life-long resident of the

See Chamber, page 8

William Byrd Middle School holds second annual Science Showcase

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

William Byrd Middle School students enthusiastically shared their science projects with families, friends, and the community at the second annual Science Showcase on Jan. 22. The showcase is preliminary to the Roanoke County Science Fair held in early spring.

WBMS Science Dept. Chair and life science teacher Erin O'Donnell said that the showcase "features advanced science students who research and design experiments based on topics of their own selection, sharing them with the community." This year approximately 140 students participated in the event. The experiments themselves are all conducted outside



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Cormac Brady researches different guitar pick materials.

of school.

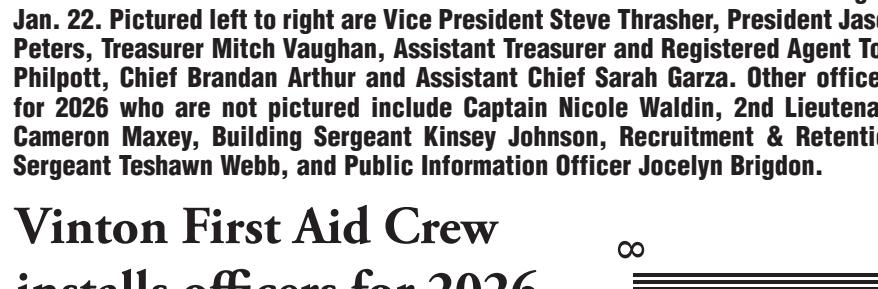
Many adults remember science fairs with tall display boards which demonstrate the hypothesis, the scientific process used, the results, and the conclusions reached. This science

showcase instead involved creating PowerPoint

presentations (in school) on laptop computers—more economical, manageable, and readily available to students than the displays.

At the Science Showcase, students set up their laptops on cafeteria

See Science, page 7



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON FIRST AID CREW

**The Vinton First Aid Crew installed new officers for 2026 at a board meeting on
Jan. 22. Pictured left to right are Vice President Steve Thrasher, President Jason
Peters, Treasurer Mitch Vaughan, Assistant Treasurer and Registered Agent Tom
Philpott, Chief Brandan Arthur and Assistant Chief Sarah Garza. Other officers
for 2026 who are not pictured include Captain Nicole Waldin, 2nd Lieutenant
Cameron Maxey, Building Sergeant Kinsey Johnson, Recruitment & Retention
Sergeant Teshawn Webb, and Public Information Officer Jocelyn Brigdon.**

Vinton First Aid Crew installs officers for 2026

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC) installed new officers for 2026 at the board meeting at Famous Anthony's on Jan. 22.

The VFAC has a long history in the Town of Vinton and surrounding areas. In October 1939, 17 men with a strong desire to help their

See Officers, page 7

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William Byrd High School announces honor rolls for second nine-weeks

William Byrd High School has announced the students who earned a place on the A and A-B Honor Rolls for the second nine weeks.

A HONOR ROLL

12th grade: Jeremy Abbott, Kyndall Agee, Ashley Arven, Zachary Bailey, Andrew Bartley, Ainsley Bolen, Braeden Booth, Abigail Brigdon, Sophia Brown, Kaylin Burgarner, Olivia Bustamante, Lily Carrell, Anna Carter, Asher Claybrook, Sydney Crossan, Bianca DeMelo, Ashton Dillon, Kendall Dodson, Nathaniel Edwards, Jaelyn English, Samuel Geist, Sofia Gonzalez, Tyler Harris, Kilee Hayes, Luke Helton, Taylor Jacobsen, Macabe James, Cary Jones, Shelby Krawczyk, Tatianna Kubik, Carleigh Leonard, Brooklyn Linick, Collin Mills, Miley Moses, Jayden Niday, Gabriella Norris, Lilian Perez, Lola Pernot, Mallory Peroulas, Bethany Pittenger, MaKiya Price, Meisha Robinson, Ashlyn Rogers, Gabrielle Romeo, Abigail Saritelli, Makenzie Scott, Ethan Sutton, Annabelle Teague, Zane Vasser, Lucy Whitenack, and Noah Williams

11th grade: Lauren Baringer, Erica Barton, Ava Betterton, Aubrey Blewett, Alanah Bonnell, Christopher Boyd, Nate Buck, Victoria Chang Leon, Emily Clinebell, Addison Collins, Heidi Dixon, David Foster, Lanaiya Hardy, Caiden Harnish, Brihanna Harris, Sophie Hoagland, Wyatt Jacobsen, Cole Johnston, Britton Jordan, Arianna Krista, Olivia Lorek, Bradley Martin, Tyler Minnix, Sarah Nguyen, Carly Norton, Kendall Norton, Jeremy Paul, Nathan Pickeral, Thomas Purcell, Luke Richardson, Jamya Rosborough, Willow Seth, Aubrey Sink, Riley Slusher, Nathaniel Smith, Ramsay Stephens, Bailey Tabor, Zane Telsch, Gavin Thornton, McKayla Tingler, Camden Ward, Kalen Watkins, and Heidi Wienke

10th grade: Max Althoff, Caleigh Aremia, Asia Bannister, Logan Blevins, Norah Buck, Stephen Byars, Ryan Carroll, Eric Chen, Isabella Clark, Milton Clark, Jahnnya Coles, Riley Cummings, Isabella Davis, Nathan Doan, Keeli Emery, Peyton Gates, Kyleigh Ginger, Camryn Hicks, Naleigh Lewis, Olivia Marcus, Kaylee Meador, Mallory Michalski, Katelyn Mills, Kenley Minnix, Leah Montgomery, Kennedy Moseley, Josephine Mullen, Riley Niday, Jenna Petersen, Elliana Ruble, Areefa Saeed, Enna Schofield, Aaron Start, Alyssa Steahly, Kara Sutton, Hadyn Terrell, Emma Thierry, Mia Vest,

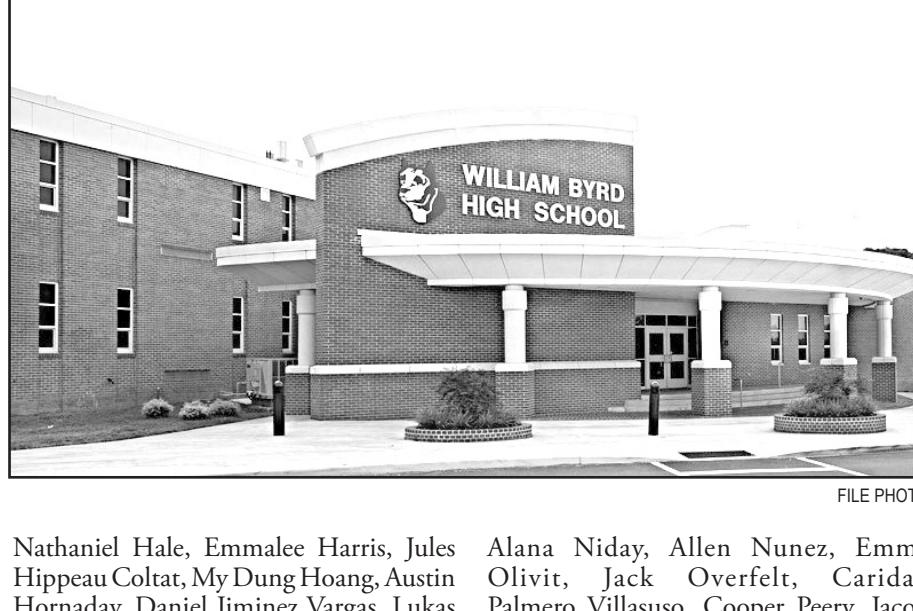
Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Abriel Wilhelm, Hendrix Wright, Caleb Wrye, and Gianna Zivelonghi

9th Grade: Tabitha Allen, Alexander Ashwell, Lola Barbour, Grant Bartley, Madison Brigdon, Alex Caixba-Hernandez, Savannah Chattin, Calvin Chen, Payten Childress, Avery Chitwood, Cameron Crowe, Reid Divers, Claire Draper, Drayven English, Julissa Garcia, Jaxon Glatt, Alyssa Harless, Gabriel Hindenlang, Maryann Jenkins, Caroline Johnson, Briggs Kotz, Rylan Lang, Makenzie LaPradd, Brooke Lomax, Ashley Lovorn, Melissa Madonna, Silas Marshall Emma, Kyler Martin, Lixi Martinez Maldonado, Ella McReynolds, Jared Meador, Corinne Michalski, Layna Miller, Jordyn Moon, Vanessa Mullen, Madilyn Overstreet, David Pham, Madelynn Ray, Maxwell Reeves, Emily Robtison, Khyler Wagoner, Paylin Waldron, Isabella Wertz, Joshua C. Williams, Wesley Wilson, and Carlie Zimmerman

A-B HONOR ROLL

12th Grade: Joshua Abbott, Joshua Allen, Lillian Ashley, Ashleigh Barton, Olivia Basham, Tyson Brady, Kassie Brant, Jacob Bray, Jordan Brown, Caleb Brunk, Madison Chandler, Addison Clark, Evelyn Dickason, Emma Dooly, Paul Ferrebee II, Cameran Flanagan, Draven Flinchum, Cody Gardner, Gary Gearheart, Jr., Elizabeth Gheen, Benjamin Grimm, Alexander Hastings, Brooke Herschel, Kaleigh Hobbs, Richard Hodges, Jaden Holmes, Brooke Justus, Brian Kingery, Tate Kotz, Kenady Leonard, Kayla Lovorn, Cannin Lutz, Cara May, Ryan McIntyre, Melissa Monk, Hunter Moseley, Charlotte Mullen, Dominic Myers, Emily Ngo, Ivey Nipper, Lizeth Nolasco, Carlee Partleton, Logan Patsel, Justyn Rozenboom, Kyle Saccoccia, Ava Sexton, Mitchell Sigafoes, Bryce Simpson, Jacob Smith, Jarrett Smith, Taylor Spangler, Mallory Summo, Kaeligh Swan, Jamez Toler, Catherine Underwood, Benjamin Waid, Micah Wheeler, Skylar Williams, Darin Witcher, Peyton Wright, and Dawson Young

11th Grade: Grayson Adams, Emily Alderson, Eleanor Ball, Adriana Barahona, Morgan Belcher, Kyle Bell, Raegan Bowman, Tanner Bromfield, Madelyn Brown, Sage Brown, Lane Brunk, Sophia Buendia, Bridget Carlisle, Isabella Chandler, Alexis Davis, Fallon Davis, Alyssa Dennis, Carina Dibenedetto, Emmalee Dodson, Kamani Faulkner, Mariah Garrett, Clarissa Gill,



FILE PHOTO

Nathaniel Hale, Emmalee Harris, Jules Hippo Collet, My Dung Hoang, Austin Hornaday, Daniel Jiminez Vargas, Lukas Johnson, Stella Jones, Cameron King, Reagan Kirby, David Krawczyk, Isabella Lane, Vincent Liu, Olivia Long, Jocelyn Lyons, Reece Magill, Landen Martin, Layla Matz, Jackson McCoy, Emma Milliron, Lilith Mills, Kaden Mitchell, Elena Mullen, Sydney Nichols, Brody Parrish, Sebastian Perdomo, Allison Phillips, Eric Pierce, Brittany Rivera-Torres, Nathaniel Rucker, Alexis Short, Taren Staten, Jady St. Clair, Kaitlyn Tang, Anna Teruel, Teagan Thompson, Izabella Trumble, Sydney Tuck, Kara Watkins, Owen Webb, Arianna White, Connor Whitehead, Makaylah Witt, Aiden Wright, Caiden Wright-Harden, and Maggie Zimmerman

10th Grade: Tayler Austin, Kayleigh Barber, Isabella Barrette, Madelyn Barrette, Matthew Beavers, Katelyn Bennett, Logan Beverage, Jaiden Blankenship, Jackson Booze, Allison Bowling, Greyson Graddford, Gabriel Campbell, Mason Campbell, Hayden Chappell, Jazmine Clifton, Bradley Counts, Helen De La Cruz Cala, Braylon Dent, Meranda Dilcher, Morgan Dillard, Dustin Dudley, Lily Duffy, Logan Ferguson, Reagan Fike, Alanna Fitzgerald, Adrian Garcia, Benjamin Gardner, Madison Garman, Kur Gon, Carson Gordon, Hadyn Grubb, Michal Hamlar, Preslee Hamm, Aubrey Harris, Kenleigh Hetherington, Jude Hinkle, Benjamin Hoyos, Khloe Humphrey, Ellison Ingram, Cooper Kageals, William Lasecki, Ava Lorton, Reese Mahanes, Gray Matthews, Jacob Matthews, Luka Mihelcic, Adalie Mills, Mia Mohamed, Melany Molero Cordero, Mallorie Mullins,

Alana Niday, Allen Nunez, Emma Olivit, Jack Overfelt, Caridad Palmero Villasuso, Cooper Peery, Jacob Perez, Anna Perkoski, Kendall Ranson, Brian Ratliff, Amy Rickman, Nathaniel Roberts, Luke Scott, Layla Sexton, Breann Sigmon, Zoe Sowers, Brooklyn Strother, Gwen Summo, Hope Thomas, Jesse Underwood, Kolee Walter, Braelyn Webster, Hailey Webster, Jacey Weddle, Bryson Wendell, Haleigh White, Bindy Whitenack, Ryan Witcher, and Sabrina Wray

9th Grade: Kendall Adams, Ace Adkins, Xe'Neida Alvarez, Lakyn Austin, Laylah Austin, Elizabeth Ball, Jayden Beasley, Ryan Bell, Chloe Biller, Aaron Bishop, Luke Blankenship, Addison Bradford, Karla Brumback, Garrett Brunk, Sophia Butler, Cooper Butrym, Zachary Camden, Ethan Camper, Colten Carter, Serenity Cassell, Ava Cheri, Chase Clark, Kaitlin Clark, Carston Dibenedetto, Michael Dixon, Alexander Dolan, Ashlyn Doss, Dakoda Downs, McKinley Edberg, Macie Fields, Russell Fisher, Ryleigh Fisher, Kayden Gibson, Jeffrey Gill, Kaleb Gordon, Madison Gordon, Landon Hagy, Lallie Hannabass, Tenley Hardifer, Makila Harris, Oscar Hernandez-Hernandez, Katelynn Howell, Ayriana Huff, Madelyn Huffman, Jackson Johnson, Brogan Jordan, Ian Karamaga, Kenzy Kendall, Cale Meador, Bryce Moding, Oliver Moore, Grady Morck, William Muddiman, Genevieve Nault, Sophia Nester, Zoey Otey, Alaura Overstreet, Vishva Patel, Violeta Ramirez, Mahkenna Ramsey, Cora Shell, Kennedi Shifflett, Rafe Smith, Corryn Speed, Jacob Spradlin, Peyton Turner, Ella Weeks, Holden White, Temperance Whorley, Jack Williams, Joshua Williams, Josiah Wright, and Caitlyn Young



Student Terriers of the Month for December include, from left: front row, Titus Beatty, Jonah Wilkerson, Max Althoff, Isabella Dudley, Ainsley Bolen, Eleanor Ball, Carly Norton, Dixie Venable, Sophie Hoagland, Emily Bowden, Jesus Leon, Carston Dibenedetto, and Collin Mills; second row, Carleigh Leonard, Brooklyn Linick, Bianca DeMelo, Olivia Bustamante, Makila Harris, Adriana Barahona, and Jaxon Fowler. Students not pictured include Carlee Akers, Asher Claybrook, Sophia Gonzalez, Elizabeth Martinez, Sarah Nguyen, and Alexis Short.

Terriers of the Month named for December

William Byrd High School students and staff have selected the Terriers of the Month for December.

Students are Titus Beatty, Jonah Wilkerson, Max Althoff, Isabella Dudley, Ainsley Bolen, Eleanor Ball, Carly Norton, Dixie Venable, Sophie Hoagland, Emily Bowden, Jesus Leon, Carston Dibenedetto, Collin Mills, Carleigh Leonard, Brooklyn Linick, Bianca DeMelo, Olivia Bustamante, Makila Harris, Adriana Barahona, Jaxon Fowler, Carlee Akers, Asher Claybrook, Sophia Gonzalez, Elizabeth Martinez, Sarah Nguyen, and Alexis Short.

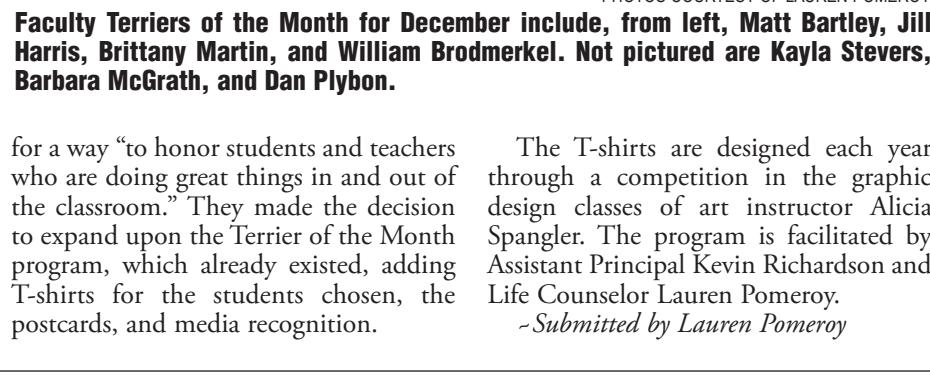
Faculty Terriers of the Month for December are Matt Bartley, Jill Harris,

Brittany Martin, William Brodmerkel, Kayla Stevers, Barbara McGrath, and Dan Plybon.

All WBHS students and staff may nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the "Terrier Way" (being safe, respectful, responsible, and embodying the best of WBHS). Teachers and staff nominate students for the honor; students nominate faculty and staff members. All receive postcards from the person who nominated them explaining why they were honored.

Two years ago, ALCOVA Mortgage in Vinton and its branch manager Matt Crizer (a WBHS

graduate) reached out to Byrd, looking



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN POMEROY

Faculty Terriers of the Month for December include, from left, Matt Bartley, Jill Harris, Brittany Martin, and William Brodmerkel. Not pictured are Kayla Stevers, Barbara McGrath, and Dan Plybon.

for a way "to honor students and teachers who are doing great things in and out of the classroom." They made the decision to expand upon the Terrier of the Month program, which already existed, adding T-shirts for the students chosen, the postcards, and media recognition.

The T-shirts are designed each year through a competition in the graphic design classes of art instructor Alicia Spangler. The program is facilitated by Assistant Principal Kevin Richardson and Life Counselor Lauren Pomeroy.

Submitted by Lauren Pomeroy

By Vinton Library Assistant Molly Meador

February is upon us and love is in the air! That means, of course, it's time to ditch your significant other and have a Blind Date with a Book—or several. Come by and pick up as many surprise books as you would like to take home and get to

know. Who knows, it may be love at first sight. Fill out a short form to "rate your date" and turn it in with your books when you return them, to be entered into a drawing for a prize. We will have plenty of eligible prospective dates available for the whole month of February.

Do you love jigsaw puzzles? Do you think you

can solve a puzzle faster than anyone else? You're in luck because it's time for our next Puzzle Race* on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Come alone or bring friends and family to compete. Limit four to a team.

Come to the next Creations and

See Beyond, page 7

Beyond Books

Byrd students perform in Virginia Tech Honor Band



PHOTO BY DAN PLYBON

WBHS band students who made the Virginia Tech Honor Band in 2026 are, from left, Dagan Miller, Ceiliann Baldwin, Noah Williams, Sophie Hoagland, and Sammara Weaver.

Several William Byrd students represented the high school in this year's prestigious Virginia Tech Honor Band.

- Gold Band members: Ceiliann Baldwin and Sammara Weaver
- Orange Band: Sophie Hoagland and Dagan Miller
- Maroon Band: Noah Williams

"These students took on the challenge of condensing a normally three-day event into just one day—and still performed beautifully alongside hundreds of talented musicians from across Virginia," said Band Director Dan Plybon. "Talk about focus, talent, and Terrier pride!"

The Virginia Tech Honor Band takes place annually in January in Blacksburg and accepts high school and middle school students by band directors' recommendation.

Several Byrd musicians made the 2026

All-District Band:

- Josh Allen - 1st chair Symphonic, also earning All-State eligibility
- Drayven English - 2nd Chair Symphonic, also earning All-State eligibility
- Sophie Hoagland - Symphonic
- Levi Whitcomb - Symphonic
- Dixie Venable - Concert
- Noah Williams - Concert
- Blair Godlesky - Concert
- Ryan McIntyre - Concert
- Dagan Miller - Concert

William Byrd Middle School students making All-District Band:

- Jordan Stanley - 1st chair Symphonic
- Hayden Biggs - Concert
- Matthew Yang - Concert
- Ashton Royall - Concert

Submitted by Dan Plybon



From the Pulpit

The Battleship Series

By Pastor Bryan Crouch

There is a stark difference between a cruise ship mentality and a battleship mentality that goes on within the church. In the heat of battle, no battleship survives with idle crew. Every hand is needed—on the bridge, in the engine room, manning the guns, or even scrubbing the deck. One missing role can sink the ship.

The same is true in the church. God has placed you in a local church not as a passenger, but as indispensable crew, and He's entrusted you

with a specific gift to keep the mission moving forward. 1 Corinthians 12:22 declares a surprising truth: "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable." The roles we overlook—the quiet prayer warrior, the behind-the-scenes helper, the one who sets up chairs or sends an encouraging note—are often the very ones holding everything together.

Jesus illustrated this in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The master entrusted different amounts to his servants—five, two, one—according to

their ability. The faithful ones invested boldly and doubled what they received. The fearful one buried his talent and lost everything. The master's praise wasn't for the largest return, but for faithfulness: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Your gift—however modest it feels—isn't for you to hoard. It's ammunition for the kingdom's advance. Use it this week: serve, encourage, give, pray, show up. The whole church grows stronger when every part does its work. You matter. Your role counts.

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

VINTON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord" (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord's anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God's protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David's is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

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; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale
187 SPRING
HOLLOW RD,
TROUTVILLE, VA
24175
(Parcel ID: 11123)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 1/5/2024, in the original principal amount of \$264,926.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 1/8/2024, as Instrument No. 240000041, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 3/4/2026 at 2:00 PM, Front of building of the Circuit Court Building For Botetourt County, 1 West Main Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090, the property designated as 187 SPRING HOLLOW RD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

Located in the County of Botetourt, Commonwealth of Virginia: Lot 15, Block 2, according to Map No. 2 Subdivision, Portion of Property of S. E. Wilkinson and G. W. Wills, made by C. B. Malcolm & Son, S.C.E., dated November 21, 1951, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Plat Book 3, page 184, and being further described as follows: BEGINNING at the intersection of Lot 14 and Lot 15 at an iron pipe in the edge of Spring Hollow Road; thence along the property line of Lots 14 and 15, N. 30° 22' W. 203.14 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 2 and 3; thence N. 58° 44' E. 100.01 feet to an iron stake in the property line of Lots 15 and 16; thence S. 30° 22' E. 204.71 feet along the property line of Lots 15 and 16 to an iron stake in Spring Hollow Road; thence S. 59° 38' W. 100 feet along Spring Hollow Road to the point of Beginning; and BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Deed dated January 4, 2024, recorded contemporaneously with this Deed of Trust.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,492.60 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-37622, Tel: 888-313-1969

TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF 3774

Springwood Road,

Fincastle, VA 24090

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$212,000.00 dated February 13, 2023 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on February 13, 2023 as Instrument Number: 230000384, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on March 5, 2026 at 12:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above

address and briefly described as: Beginning at a point and corner in the center of State Secondary Route No. 630 and corner to the property of K.N. King; thence with the center of said road N. 69° 14' 13" E. 238.59 feet to a point and corner in a center of said road; then leaving said

Legals - Botetourt County

road and two new lines through the now or formerly Thompson property as follows: S. 21° 18' E. passing an iron Pin at 19.17 ft., 233.50 feet to a point and corner; thence S. 68° 32' 52" W. 238.58 feet to a point and corner on the property now or formerly of K.N. King; thence with King N. 21° 18' W. 235 ft., passing an iron pin at 211.70 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.283 acres, more or less, all as shown on a map of survey, a copy of which is of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, in Deed Book 190, Page 405. Tax ID: 21685. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-001275) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com

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

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 30, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$148,265.00, recorded as Inst. 170004619, assigned as Inst. 200000435, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Botetourt on February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 5, Block 7, Section 5, Blue Ridge Heights, County of Botetourt. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cashier's check or certified funds only payable to or signed over to "DOLANREID PLLC, TRUSTEE", no person checks accepted. Balance due within 15 days from date of sale VIA BANKWIRE ONLY. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Winning bidder must sign a memorandum of sale immediately upon completion of sale.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Trustee's affidavit and a copy of the notice of sale available at the foreclosure sale. The opening bid is not announced until the sale. Current sale status is available at dolanreid.com/foreclosure. Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of

Virginia, as amended, to the

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described as: Beginning at

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House passes transportation bill securing \$17 million for I-81 improvements

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, taking the next step toward securing \$17 million for long-needed safety and capacity improvements along Interstate 81. This latest investment, secured by Rep. Ben Cline, will support critical upgrades and potential widening along the corridor and reflects his advocacy for Virginia's Sixth District through the House Appropriations Committee. The bill is awaiting final approval in the Senate.

"For years, residents of Virginia's Sixth District have told me how dangerous and congested I-81 has become," said Rep. Cline. "This bill's passage out of the House puts us one step closer to critical improvements that will make I-81 safer, more efficient, and better equipped to serve commuters, families, and the truck drivers who keep our regional economy moving. This is a meaningful step toward delivering the reliable interstate our communities along the I-81 corridor deserve."

The I-81 Corridor handles an enormous volume of freight and

passenger traffic. Each year, more than 12 million commercial trucks travel along the interstate, moving over \$300 billion in goods. As traffic increases, so does the need to modernize the highway to support on-time delivery and reduce disruptions that hurt both local businesses and national commerce.

Originally built over 50 years ago, I-81 has not kept up with growing traffic and freight demands. A 2018 state report identified urgent needs along the corridor, and while Virginia has taken important steps to address them, additional federal investment is

necessary.

Travel delays are becoming more frequent and unpredictable, impacting both freight movement and personal travel. To help fix this, Virginia's Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Program (CIP) includes plans to widen the road from two to three lanes in critical sections. These upgrades will reduce congestion, create more room for emergency response vehicles, and lower the risk of crashes by allowing more space for vehicles to maneuver.

~ Submitted by Congressman Ben Cline

Beyond from page 2

Temptations* on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 3-4 p.m. to get your crafting on and make adorable mini-marshmallows & more decorations.

This month the Vinton Book Club* will discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhorn on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3-4 p.m. The As the Page Turns Book Club* will discuss "Three Days in June" by Anne Tyler on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 2-3 p.m.

Come to our Tech Q&A* on Monday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. for any questions you have about using your tablet, laptop, smartphone, or other tech gadgets you may be struggling with (please be ready with your device in hand and specific questions in mind).

We'll also have a Database Q&A* on Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 6-7 p.m. where you can ask

any, and all questions you have about all the awesome databases available on our website for free with your library card.

Be sure to check out our awesome ongoing adult programs:

- Open Bridge meets every Tuesday from 1-4 p.m.
- The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers meet Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- The Vinton Writers Group* meets on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Our next Teen Art* program is on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 3-4 p.m. Bring your own printed photos or use some of our patterned paper to make your own little photo magnets.

We will have Discovery Time* (for ages 2-5) on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. This month engage in shape fun with stories, stamp painting, and

sensory stations.

Junior Makers* (for ages 5-10) will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 4-5 p.m. This month, we will learn about gravity, drag, and friction through Jack & The Beanstalk zipline and parachute experiments!

Art Aficionados* will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 4-5 p.m. to learn all about Harold Cohen and make their own art project using the artist as inspiration. (Ideal for ages 2-5)

Our current story time session will be ending on Wednesday, Feb. 4. After a short break, a new session will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 24, with a brand-new theme focusing on transportation. You can bring your little ones to Toddler Storytime* (ages 18-36 months) either on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. or

on Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. or come to Preschool Storytime* (ages 3-5) on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

If you're looking for something to do during our break from story time, come celebrate Mo Willems' birthday

with us at our Elephant and Piggie Party* (ideal for ages 2-5) on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. We'll read stories, sing songs, play games, and make a fun craft!

You can also check out Music and Movement* (ideal for ages 2-5) on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. to sing songs, dance, play musical instruments, and strengthen physical literacy skills through play!

Don't forget about our ongoing and recurring youth programs:

- Teen Volunteer Group will be on Thursday, Feb. 5 and Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5-6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 28 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Teen Writers Group* meets Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- The Sort of Silent Teen Book Club* is on Monday, Feb. 23 from 5-6 p.m.

Please note that all RCPL locations will be closed in observation of President's Day on Monday, Feb. 16.

As always, be sure to register for and check out all the programs RCPL has to offer across the county online at www.rocolibrary.org.

All programs denoted with an asterisk require prior registration to reserve a spot. Please call or visit the library or check out the events on our website to register.

Officers from page 1

friends and neighbors in need met in the basement of Vinton Baptist and officially established the Vinton First Aid Crew. It was one of the first volunteer first aid organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Herman L. Horn was its first president. Guy Gearhart volunteered as the first chief. Their stated goals were "to save life, administer first aid, and teach safety," which they have continued to accomplish throughout the years.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose installed

the officers:

- President—Jason Peters
- Vice President—Steve Thrasher
- Treasurer—Mitch Vaughan
- Secretary—Megan Pierce
- Asst. Treasurer and Registered Agent—Tom Philpott
- Chaplain—Cameron Maxey
- Chief—Brandan Arthur
- Asst. Chief—Sarah Garza
- Captain—Nicole Waldin
- 2nd Lieutenant—Cameron

Maxey

- Building Sergeant—Kinsey Johnson
- Recruitment and Retention Sergeant—Teshawn Webb
- Public Information Officer—Jocelyn Brigdon

Mayor Grose thanked the crew for their commitment and contributions to the community for over 86 years.

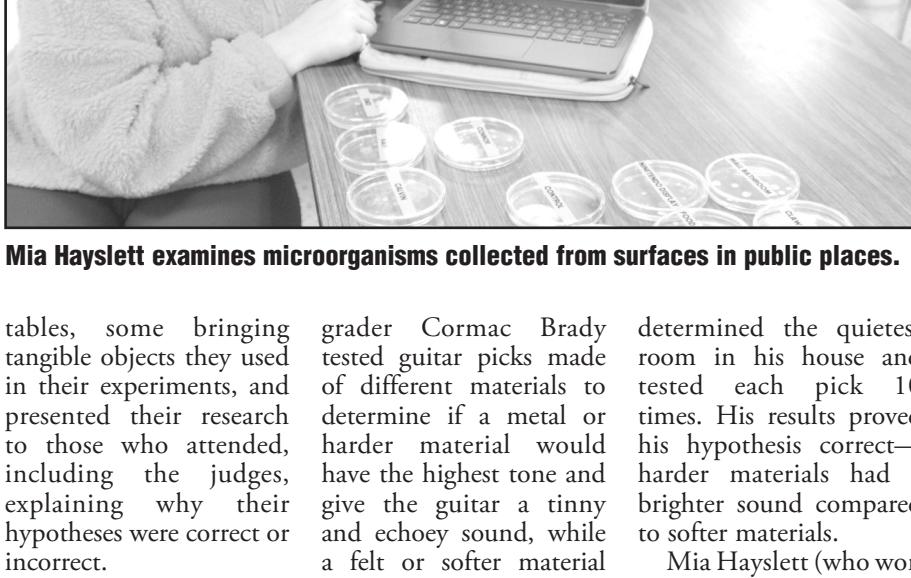
The Vinton First Aid Crew is a non-profit organization which operates on tax-deductible donations from the

community which provide funding for equipment, training, and medical supplies.

Donations can be mailed to Vinton First Aid Crew, P.O. Box 314, Vinton 24179 or dropped off at the VFAC building at 120 West Jackson Avenue in Vinton. You may also link your Kroger Plus card to donate at <https://kroger.com/account/communityrewards>.

For more information on the VFAC, visit www.vintonems.com.

Science from page 1



Mia Hayslett examines microorganisms collected from surfaces in public places.

tables, some bringing tangible objects they used in their experiments, and presented their research to those who attended, including the judges, explaining why their hypotheses were correct or incorrect.

Again this year, the judges interviewing participants were advanced science students from William Byrd High School. They assessed the projects and will help determine who advances to the next level.

Students selected to present at the county science fair will transfer their research from their computers to traditional display boards for that event.

In his project, seventh

grader Cormac Brady tested guitar picks made of different materials to determine if a metal or harder material would have the highest tone and give the guitar a tinny and echoey sound, while a felt or softer material

would have the lowest tone and give the guitar a muffled sound, with other materials falling in between. His materials were his Yamaha acoustic guitar, a decibel meter, and a sound analyzer app, in addition to picks made of felt, rubber, plastic, wood, nickel, cardboard—and his thumb.

Brady says that he chose this project because he wanted his experiment to test something he loved and he loves music. He

determined the quietest room in his house and tested each pick 10 times. His results proved his hypothesis correct—harder materials had a brighter sound compared to softer materials.

Mia Hayslett (who won first place in sixth grade in last year's WBMS Science Fair) swabbed various surfaces from around the community with Q-tips and cultured the samples in petri dishes to see which microorganisms, and how many, grew after five days. She was inspired by a discussion with her father about the cleanliness of her brother's hands. She swabbed her dog's noses, her family's noses, changing tables in public restrooms, public

play areas, escalators, water fountains, door handles, arcade games, claw machines, food court tables, shopping carts, self-checkouts, elevators, and mall trains.

Hayslett says she has always wondered if there were bacteria on everyday items like door handles or bathroom stall locks or anything else. Results indicated that of all the surfaces she swabbed, changing tables and play spaces were the worst for bacteria presence and growth.

Eli Copening researched different types of fishing line to determine which is strongest and can hold the most weight. His answer: monofilaments

so than fluorocarbons or braided lines. This seemed to be due to its diameter, high tensile strength, and superior abrasion resistance. He chose this project because he enjoys fishing.

Teagan Doss, a Floyd Ware tap dancer, tested different types of flooring (tile, plywood, carpet, cement, and soft dance flooring) to determine which one would cause the loudest sound in dancing wearing tap shoes. Jaxon Donnelly experimented with wood turbines to determine the effect of the number of blades on speed. Brenton Bailey and Abigail Schaefer in seventh grade tested the absorbency of several types of paper

towels. Schaefer's results showed Brawny to be the most absorbent brand, while Bailey's experiment found Bounty to be best.

The WBMS Science Showcase was once again impressive not only for the research conducted but the articulate explanations provided by the students participating.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS	
WEEP	SARDAE
ATHENA	ENCODE
PROLETARIAT	M
PEA	TAIFACIA
URN	CERESLARI
LYS	TADSATPAW
MEAT	CAPITA
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OREO	BANTUACE
BARFS	TAU
SD	TIE
FILET	MIGNON
AVATAR	PRIORI
SLEDS	YANG



Eli Copening conducted experiments to determine the strongest type of fishing line.

Chamber

from page 1

Town of Vinton. He attended William Byrd High School where he played basketball and baseball, graduating in 1994. He graduated from Emory and Henry College with a BS degree in Business Management. After college, Childress began his career in the insurance industry. He has spent over 20 years helping his clients make decisions with Medicare benefit plans, Final Expense plans and Annuity Planning. He decided to start his own business in 2009, Coastal Insurance Planning of Va. His growing office is in the Town of Vinton behind the Farmers' Market. He is the proud father of one adult son, Damon, and grandson, Wraith. He also has one granddaughter, Aleaya.

Jacob Edberg is a Financial Sales Manager at First Citizens Bank in Vinton. He relocated from Chesterfield, Va., to study Finance at Virginia Tech. While in college, he met his wife, Morgan, and the two later moved to her hometown of Vinton.

Now as a resident of Vinton, Edberg has been working in banking since 2012 and is an active volunteer and a familiar face in local professional organizations such as the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association, local BNI chapters, and the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce. After a successful tenure as the 2025 IMPACT Team Captain for the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, he was elected to join Leadership Roanoke Valley Class of 2026.

Edberg's dedication to the region is matched by his personal passions. He is a member of the Roanoke Valley Community Band, a recreational basketball and soccer coach, and an avid golfer. On weekends, he can often be found on the links or cheering on his two daughters, McKinley and Bayleigh, at their sporting events. A proud "cheer dad," Edberg loves traveling to support their pursuits.

Brandy Humphreys, a lifelong resident of Roanoke County, proudly calls Vinton home with her husband, two children, and two dogs. She began her career in healthcare as an X-ray

technologist and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Bluefield College. Humphreys has combined experience as a Digital Marketing Strategist and in leadership roles in sales and marketing for long-term care communities, delivering impactful strategies and campaigns. She volunteers with local organizations, including the Roanoke Walk to End Alzheimer's, reflecting her commitment to seniors and the community. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, attending their sporting events, working on home improvement projects, and traveling.

A dedicated resident of Roanoke County, **Lee Lovern** has devoted the majority of his personal and professional life to uplifting and strengthening the community he proudly calls home. Over the course of his career, he has earned and maintained numerous licenses through the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (D.P.O.R.), allowing him to serve in a wide range of roles that support community growth, public safety, and long term development.

His commitment to lifelong learning has led him to pursue multiple advanced training opportunities, most recently at Columbia University. This continued education enhances his ability to contribute meaningfully to diverse projects and community needs, aligning his work with broader strategic goals for the region.

Lovern is also a local business and property owner in the Roanoke and Vinton areas, further deepening his investment in the community's economic vitality. For more than 18 years, he has been a dedicated employee of Total Action for Progress (TAP), where he currently serves as the Director of E.C.H.R. His leadership reflects a deep belief in service, equity, and the power of community driven progress.

Among all his accomplishments, Lovern is most proud of his role as a father to his two children, Christian Lovern and Victoria Lovern. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Lee Lovern,

Sr., lifelong residents of Roanoke County, who instilled in him the values of hard work, integrity, and service to others—principles that continue to guide his life and work today.

Danielle Napier grew up just outside of Vinton and graduated from Staunton River High School in 1992. She attended Hollins University and graduated in 2010 with a BS in Biology. She is an owner at Pawsh Salon for Dogs in Vinton and Collegiate Pacific in Roanoke. She has a wide variety of work experience from bartender to network engineer and loves a new challenge. She currently manages both businesses. In her free time, Danielle loves camping with her horse, Shooter, restoring old things, and days on Smith Mountain Lake. She is almost always accompanied by her dog, Verde.

Chris McCarty graduated from Radford University in 1989 with a BS in Business Management. He was the manager of Grand Rental Station from 1990 until 2023 and Grand Storage of Vinton from 1998 until the present. He is married to Vinton Town Council member Sabrina McCarty. McCarty enjoys being involved in various other community organizations, including the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club and the Vinton First Aid Crew. He also enjoys spending time at Smith Mountain Lake with family and friends and attending sporting events.

Tim Nininger is the owner of Star City Pest Control and Wildlife Services. He is from Smith Mountain Lake in Moneta. He attended Northside and Christiansburg High Schools, Arizona State University, and Clemson University. He has three children Tori (22), Tanner (22), and Taylor (19). Nininger says he joined the Vinton Chamber because his friend Jason Boothe invited him, and he became impressed with all the things the Chamber does for the Town of Vinton.

Jason Peters is a 1994 graduate of William Byrd High School. He was vice president of First Citizens Bank in Vinton for 24 years and proudly served as the Board of Supervisors member for the Vinton District from 2014 to 2023. He is currently serving as the Commissioner of the Revenue for Roanoke County. He also serves Roanoke County on the Audit Committee and the Towing Advisory Committee. He serves the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia on the Legislative, Veterans, and Finance committees. He was the Capital Co-chair of the Vinton/Roanoke County Veterans

"High Ground" Monument. He is an Active Life Member (33 years) with the Vinton First Aid Crew, currently serving as president. Peters lives in East County "with my bride of 17 years, Candy, and our two minor children."

Joy Rierson joined Neely's Accounting Services in September 2021 and currently serves as Chief Operating Officer. She is a graduate of Saint Mary's College of California, holding a Bachelor of Science in Management with a minor in accounting and brings more than 30 years of experience in the accounting field. Her expertise spans business accounting, payroll, business and individual taxation, and audit preparation, with a strong emphasis on operational efficiency and accuracy. A Leadership Roanoke Valley graduate and QuickBooks® Pro Advisor, Joy is recognized for her collaborative leadership style and dedication to helping clients and teams succeed. Outside the office, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Victor, and his daughters, Keri and Kimber, along with their families, as well as relaxing and making memories on the lake.

Chrissy Walton is a Vinton native and a 2002 graduate of William Byrd High School, where she played softball. With

more than 20 years of experience in the restaurant industry, she has worked with several of Roanoke's most well-known establishments. In 2023, she partnered with restaurateurs Todd Lancaster and Jonathan Pate to help open Pollard 107 South. She now oversees marketing and operations for their three local restaurants, with a strong focus on supporting employees and creating welcoming spaces for the community.

Walton is passionate about working within the local schools, and making Vinton a great place to eat, drink, and gather with friends and family. She married Josh Walton in April 2024 and is excited to celebrate their second wedding anniversary this year.

Julie Wheeler works at the Vinton HomeTrust Bank and has 10 years of banking experience. She grew up in Fredericksburg but has been a Vinton resident since 2008. She is an Army veteran who served six years and has been stationed all over the country, including Hawaii. She is passionate about volunteering, blood donation and supporting local businesses. She also loves being involved in, and supporting, community theatre in Roanoke. She spends her free time reading, going on extreme adventures, spending time with her grown children, traveling and going to see live music, theatre and sporting events.

Vinton Town Councilman **Mike Stovall**, Town Manager **Pete Peters**, and

Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events **Mandy Adkins** serve as non-voting representatives from the Town of Vinton on the board. **Angie Chewning** serves as executive director/president of the Chamber.

Mike Stovall has served on Vinton Town Council since 2018. He represented the Vinton District for almost 20 years on the Roanoke County School Board prior to serving on council. Stovall served as an investigator for the Vinton Police Department for many years, beginning his career as a dispatcher at age 19. He is a third-generation Vintonite and a graduate of William Byrd High School. Stovall and his wife Patsy have three children and five grandchildren.

Pete Peters has served as Vinton Town Manager since January 2021. He served as Assistant Town Manager and Economic Development Director for the Town of Vinton for almost five years prior to that. He spent 10 years as Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for Botetourt County, two years as Athletic Director at Roanoke Catholic School, and seven years with the City of Roanoke Department of Parks and Recreation as Athletic Programmer.

Peters graduated from William Byrd High School in 1993. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Administration from Ferrum College, and earned his Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management from Virginia Tech. He and his wife Cameron have two children, Cadence (a 2025 graduate of Appalachian State) and Falan (a Junior at Virginia Tech). His hobbies include mountain biking, kayaking, tent-camping, and home remodeling.

Mandy Adkins has been the Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events in Vinton since April 2024. A graduate of James Madison University, Adkins holds a Bachelor of Science in Sports & Recreation Management and a Master of Science in Sport & Recreation Leadership. Her career began as the Director of Recreation for Shenandoah Valley United Soccer Club, where she spent two years serving the Harrisonburg community. In 2013, she relocated to Texas and took on the role of Director of Youth and Community Programs for San Antonio's local sports commission, San Antonio Sports. There, she managed a variety of health and wellness programs that reached over 200,000 participants annually, increasing participation by 90% during her tenure.

Her work with San Antonio Sports also included significant contributions to high-profile events such as the 2018 NCAA Men's Final Four, multiple rock and roll Marathons, the 2016 Summer Olympics Team Processing, and several other large-scale events.

In January 2021, she returned home to Virginia, becoming the Director of Parks and Recreation for Botetourt County, where she served for three years before joining the Town of Vinton. In her current role, Adkins develops, manages, and promotes special events, recreational programs, and cultural initiatives tied to the town's community facilities. She also works closely with local businesses and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce to foster a thriving, welcoming downtown environment. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Taylor, and their two sons.

Angie Chewning became executive director of the Chamber in the fall of 2010. Her passion for the community leads her to take an active role in promoting business, industry, and tourism in the area. She believes that growth starts with people who are willing to share their ideas and ask questions.

Chewning has three children, Cydney, Drake and Abbie, bonus daughter Elena Boitnott and two grandchildren, Kellen and Lainey Bell.

She serves on the Roanoke Regional Partnership Board, the Urban Development Advisory Committee, and the Vinton Women of the Moose 2466 as secretary. She also serves on the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and in 2026 will serve as president. She served as chair of the Vinton Relay for Life from 2012-2016.

Chewning has served on the Board of Directors of the Vinton Moose Lodge 1121. She served on the Town of Vinton Revitalization Committee and the Preventive Council Committee. She loves promoting all things Vinton and is always encouraging folks to "shop local." She loves volunteering for events and organizations that help people and "make our community a better place to live, work, shop and play."

The Chamber officers and board members are not just business owners and leaders in the area—they are a vital part of the life of the Town of Vinton and vigorously promote the community. They are among the volunteers who sponsor and staff the special events in the town from the Mingle Concert series to the Christmas Parade and more.

The Chamber celebrates its sponsors with Casino Night each January. Proceeds go to Ronald McDonald House.



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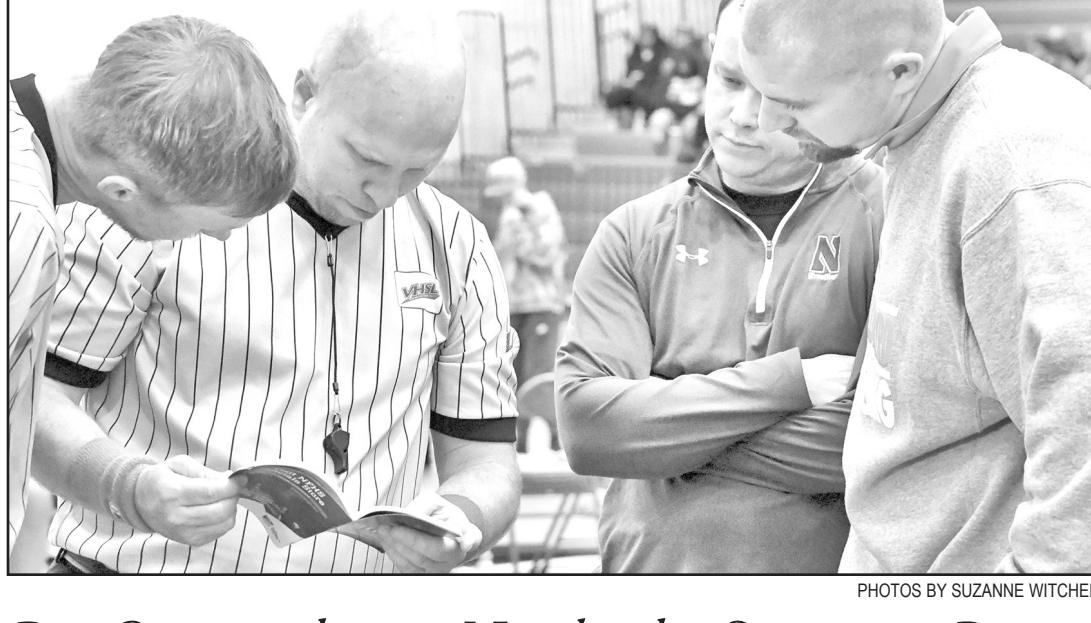
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PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Big Orange downs Northside, Staunton River; hopes to get in Highlander Invit. this weekend

Wrestling teams in the area and across the state are hoping for warmer weather this weekend with Glenvar High School scheduled to host the annual Highlander Invitational wrestling tournament. The tournament is scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm Friday and pick back up at 9 am Saturday.

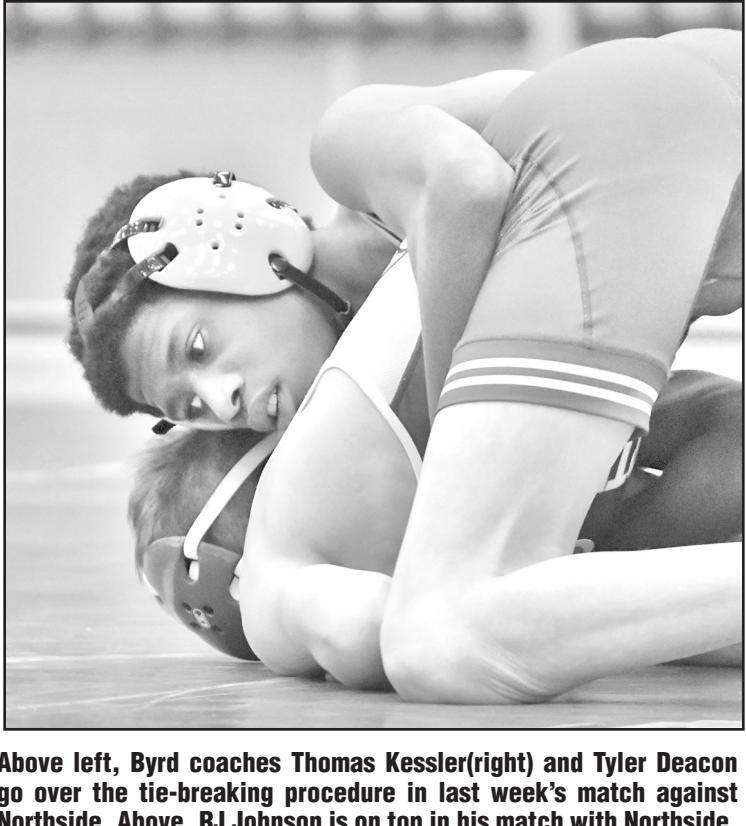
William Byrd High School is one of 28 teams planning to attend, weather permitting. Others joining host Glenvar will be Christiansburg, Salem, Hidden Valley, Northside, Galax, William Fleming, Rural Retreat, Union High, Central of Woodstock, Holston, Lebanon, Chatham, Parry McCluer, Grayson County, Floyd County, George Wythe, Heritage of Lynchburg, Liberty of Bedford, Pulaski County, Grundy, Carroll County, Patrick County, Jefferson Forest, Martinsville, Radford and Washington High of West Virginia.

The Terriers haven't been on the mats this week with school closed due to last weekend's winter storm. Byrd was weathered out of a trip to Ocean Lakes, VA for the John Kelly Invitational last weekend and the last action for the Big Orange was on January 21 at William Fleming High School when the Terriers wrestled Northside and Staunton River on the Colonels' mats. Fleming also wrestled those two but did not wrestle Byrd.

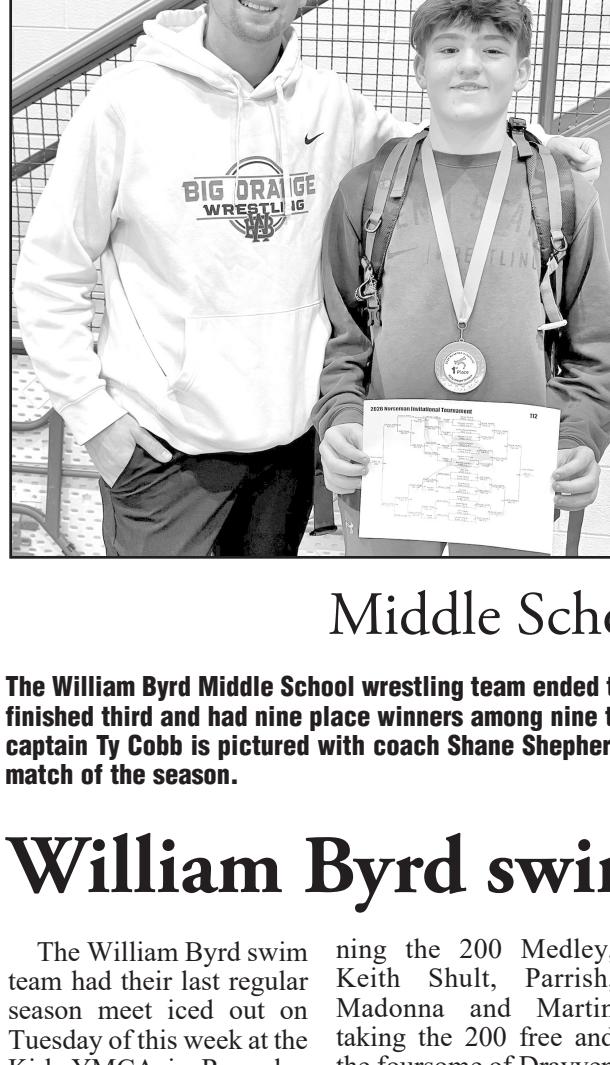
The Terriers swept both Northside and Staunton River. The Eagles sent many backups to the mat so Byrd had an easy win there, but Northside was a battle to the end and then some. The match ended with the score tied at 42-42 and went to tie-breaking criteria. It went all the way to Criteria J after A through I, a total of nine different criteria, all came up tied. Byrd ended up winning the match by virtue of more "near fall points."

"In all my years in wrestling that's the farthest I've ever seen one go with criteria," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler.

The Highlander Invitational is the last scheduled event for Byrd before the Region 3D tournament on February 7.



Above left, Byrd coaches Thomas Kessler (right) and Tyler Deacon go over the tie-breaking procedure in last week's match against Northside. Above, RJ Johnson is on top in his match with Northside, and below, Casey Carter of the Big Orange is in control.



Middle School wrestlers finish strong at Northside

The William Byrd Middle School wrestling team ended their season with the annual Norseman Invitational at Northside Middle School on January 17. The "Little Orange" finished third and had nine place winners among nine teams in the tournament with Andrew Lewis Middle School of Salem taking the team title. Here eighth grade team captain Ty Cobb is pictured with coach Shane Shepherd, and the middle School team poses for a team photo after beating Ben Franklin Middle, 63-21, in the last dual match of the season.

PHOTOS COURTESY WILLIAM BYRD WRESTLING

William Byrd swimmers sweep Staunton River, Liberty

The William Byrd swim team had their last regular season meet iced out on Tuesday of this week at the Kirk YMCA in Roanoke. Coach Krista Martin was hoping it would be rescheduled at press time but that will depend on how the weather plays out this week.

The next scheduled meet for the Terriers is the Region 3D meet a week from today, on February 5. That's scheduled for the Franklin County YMCA.

Last week the Terriers made the trip to Bedford to swim against Staunton River and Liberty High Schools at the Bedford YMCA. It proved to be a good trip for the Byrd swimmers as they swept both schools. The boys beat Staunton River 117 to 34 and Liberty 124 to 10 while the girls beat Staunton River 86 to 20 and downed the Minutewomen 82-58.

"It was a good meet," said Byrd coach Martin. "I was proud of my swimmers for cheering loud at the end of each other's lanes."

First place finishers for the boys included Kyler Martin in the 100 free and 100 back, Ben Gardner in the 100 fly and 500 free and Brody Parrish in the 200 free. The Terriers swept the relays with Martin, Parrish, Gardner and Chase Madonna win-

ning the 200 Medley, Keith Shult, Parrish, Madonna and Martin taking the 200 free and the foursome of Drayven English, Tristan Blevins,

Graham Payne and Ben Hoyos touching the wall first in the 400 free.

For the girls, Kayleigh Barber, Hadyn Terrell, Lindsay Murtaugh and

Gabby Romeo won both the 200 medley and 200 free relays. Individual double winners included Romeo in the 200 and 100 free, Terrell in the

200 IM and 100 breast and Murtaugh in the 50 free and 100 fly. Cary Jones won the 500 free and Barber was first in the 100 backstroke.

"We had lots of great swims," said Martin. "It's an exciting time of year gearing up for post season."



William Byrd swimmers pose for a group shot after a recent meet.

PHOTO COURTESY WILLIAM BYRD SWIMMING

SPORTS

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Left, Byrd's David Foster looks to pass in last week's win over Glenvar. Center, Luke Helton(#24) blocks a shot by a Highlander and, right, Jesus Leon goes the basket with authority.

Terriers split two overtime games

Foster's last second three sends game into OT for win over Glenvar

William Byrd basketball fans got their monies' worth last week as the Terriers gave them extra basketball in two games. The Terriers split two overtime games, defeating Glenvar but falling to Staunton High.

Last Wednesday, January 21, the Terriers hosted Glenvar in an intra-Roanoke County battle and it took an extra period to decide before Byrd took a 78-71 win.

"Great game to watch," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "I was proud of the way we bounced back after a pretty rough game prior to that (20 point loss to Hidden Valley). We have some guys who are making strides as competitors and basketball players. That's a testament to their will to keep showing up on a season that has been filled with adversity so far."

Glenvar led 17-13 after the first quarter but Byrd outscored the Highlanders 20-12 in the second quarter to take a 33-29 halftime lead. Byrd led by two, 46-44, after three but the Highlanders went on a run and had a three point lead with five seconds to go. However, David Foster hit a three point shot out of a time out to send the game into overtime and Byrd pulled out the win in the extra minutes.

"One of those plays you'll never forget," said Greenway of Foster's shot. "Was great to see and happy for him. We played a solid overtime period and closed it out."

Foster finished with a game-high 31 points after having five at the half. He drained seven threes for the game and scored 12 points in the overtime period after tying the game with his big shot at the end of regulation. Luke Helton also had a big game, recording a "triple-double" with 13 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds.

On Friday night the Terriers played Staunton High in the "Rock the Ribbon" event at Rockbridge County High School. It's a two-day event to raise money for the American Cancer Society with four games on Friday night and seven on Saturday.

Staunton came in at 12-2 but the Terriers were on a high after the big win over Glenvar and raced to a 27-15 halftime lead as Moises Leon scored 13 first half points. Byrd still led 42-34 after three periods before the wheels fell off.

"We controlled the game for three quarters," said Greenway. "They got it rolling in the fourth a little bit and then we helped them with an unfortunate and incorrect technical (foul) call, in my opinion. One of our guys Westwood the ball to a Staunton player after hitting a layup. The Staunton player caught the ball around his chest area and went to throw the ball in. The ref anticipated, or saw something that I just don't see, and called a tech on our guy for giving them the ball. Sometimes these things happen. Tough lesson to learn for all parties involved."

At the time Byrd was up six points with just 1:45 to go. Staunton hit the Technical Foul free throws, and on the ensuing possession they scored an "and-one" bucket on the inbounds play for a quick five points.

"We didn't respond well after that and Staunton finished it out in overtime," said Greenway. "That's on me. We should have found a way to respond better. I appreciate our guys grinding it out on the road against a good team."

Staunton outscored Byrd 12-5 in the overtime period for a 68-61 win. Jesus Leon, Moises Leon and Foster led Byrd with 15 points each, Foster with five threes, and Helton had 14.

With the loss the Terriers fell to 3-12 overall and a night later had a game at Staunton River postponed by bad weather, and this week they had home games with Northside and Christiansburg iced out. The next game is scheduled for Friday at home as the Terriers will host a doubleheader with the girls against William Fleming, weather permitting. The girls are scheduled to play at 5:30 pm with the boys to follow.

Byrd hoop girls win two to raise season record to 9-6



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left, Mia Martin hits a three against Glenvar. Right, Elena Mullen drives the baseline and dishes off for a hoop.

Austin's long jump is fourth best ever for Roanoke College indoor team

T.K. Toney of the Roanoke College indoor track team won the high jump, DeShawn Austin was ninth in the long jump and the Maroons produced several other strong finishes in a loaded field at Liberty University last Friday.

Toney won his flight of the high jump with a mark of 2.00m. That height ranks second in Roanoke history, and Toney is currently tied for 18th in NCAA Division III.

Cody Roupe logged a jump of

1.85m to finish in fifth place.

Toney also set a personal record in the triple jump, landing in 26th place at 12.72m.

That mark ranks ninth all-time for the Maroons.

Austin, a freshman from William Byrd High in Vinton, came in ninth in the long jump with a leap of 6.68m.



DeShawn Austin

His mark ranks fourth in program annals, and he now sits in eighth place in the South Region.

For the women Maya

Herndon placed seventh in the 5,000m with a personal-record time of 19:29.37. That mark ranks eighth in program history.

The Maroons' 4x400 relay team of Lindsey Hobin, Mae Kaufman, Maryrose Molina-Shuman and Ophelia Ladner landed in 13th place overall with a season-best time of 4:01.16, which is good for sixth in Roanoke annals. The quartet finished second among Division III relays in the race, and their mark currently leads

the ODAC and ranks third in the South Region.

William Byrd grad Sarah Fuchs came in 19th in the weight throw, logging a distance of 13.93m. She also finished 25th in the high circle flight of the shot put with a mark of 10.41m.

This weekend the Maroons are back home to host the Bast-Cregger Multi Invite at the Kerr-Cregger Indoor Fieldhouse in Salem. It's scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday.