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# The Vinton Messenger

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## Town Council briefed on acquisition of fire properties, budget, and new War Memorial rates



FILE PHOTO

The town has acquired properties in downtown Vinton severely damaged by fire in 2022.

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton Town Council meeting on May 19 was lengthy, with a packed agenda including many different topics of discussion, briefings, three public hearings and several proclamations by Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and members Sabrina McCarty and Mike Stovall.

The acquisition of several properties in downtown Vinton was announced. The area was impacted by the devastating fire that occurred in the early morning hours of July 2, 2022. The fire destroyed the former DR Music building at 101 East Lee Avenue after the building's roof collapsed.

The incident also impacted four adjacent apartments and the building that once housed Edward Jones Investments (103 East Lee Avenue). The destruction left a visible scar within one of the most important blocks in the heart of downtown Vinton.

In 2025, the town acquired the property located at 101 East Lee Avenue (DR Music) because property owners Donald and Ronda Wray recognized the importance of restoring and revitalizing this key area and shared a vision with the Town of Vinton to enhance the downtown district, create future revenue opportunities for the town, and support new employment opportunities for citizens.

Recently, S.A.S.S. Properties, LLC, which owns the other properties that were damaged by the fire located at



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Judy Cunningham and her daughter, Sarah Mullens, accept the ALS Proclamation from Councilman Mike Stovall.

103 East Lee Avenue (formerly Edward Jones), 107 East Lee Avenue (Rustic Creations), and 0 South Pollard Street (Anita's Alterations) have agreed to sell the land parcels to the Town of Vinton.

The town does not intend to own the properties in perpetuity, although the acquisition will provide the town with an opportunity to seek partners to redevelop the site in a manner that supports the continued revitalization of downtown Vinton. Potential future uses for the area may include greenspace, new commercial storefronts, and upstairs residential units designed to benefit the Downtown Central Business District and the community. The Town of Vinton remains committed to investing in projects that strengthen downtown, encourage economic growth, and create

vibrant spaces for residents, businesses, and visitors to enjoy for years to come.

After a public hearing, the current FY 2025-2026 town budget was amended to appropriate funding for the purchase in the amount of \$260,000.

Town Manager Pete Peters presented his Recommended Budget for FY27. Council had been briefed on the proposed budget in several previous meetings. The FY27 budget for all funds totals \$17.2 million, an overall increase of 22.35%.

After several years of significant growth, Peters expects a flattening budget this year. Major revenue sources include real estate taxes (\$525,000), personal property and VLF taxes

See Council, page 12

## Roanoke County Corps of Cadets celebrates outstanding year with awards ceremony

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Roanoke County Corps of Cadets held its End-of-Year Awards Ceremony at William Byrd High School on May 15. According to Command Senior Chief Shawn Wingle, the ceremony "recognized the dedication, leadership, discipline, and growth of our cadets throughout the 2025-2026 school year."

"This year has been one of tremendous success for our program. Our cadets recruited 42 new students, strengthened their leadership abilities, sharpened their teamwork skills, and continued building a foundation of excellence both inside and outside the classroom. Most importantly, they demonstrated what



PHOTO BY HEATHER MENZIES

Roanoke County Cadet of the Year Landen Martin

it means to lead with integrity, pride, and commitment. We are incredibly proud of every cadet in our unit."

Award recipients for 2025-2026 included:

Roanoke County Cadet of the Year: Cadet Landen Martin

Distinguished Cadets Award: Cadets Jonathan

Price (NS1), Jaxon Fowler (NS2), Alexis Short (NS3), and Nancy McFalls (NS4) (This is the highest award a cadet can receive. It is given to only one cadet in each year group with the highest combined average for overall scholastic standing, aptitude in the

See Cadets, page 9



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Susan Lewis Music Studio students presented their Spring Recital on May 17.

## Susan Lewis Music School students wow the crowd at Spring Recital

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Susan Lewis Music Studio presented their spring recital on May 17 at Thrasher Memorial UMC. Usually, they seem to be more of a concert than a recital. This year, the event turned out to be an exuberant variety show with students of all ages and skill levels, from elementary school to adults, singing and playing instrumentals which varied from Mozart's "Sonata in C Major" to "Great Balls of Fire" to "Ten Little Indians" and movie themes such as "Little Girls" and "Popular."

The afternoon began with the introduction of graduating high

school students Anna Carter, Cary Jones, and Eliza Sealey, along with recent college graduate Allie Watson.

Eliza Sealey is a new voice student this year. She is looking forward to graduating from homeschooling. Her future plans include continuing her education at Virginia Western Community College and continuing her voice lessons with Lewis. Her musical achievements include playing the flute as a founding member of the Roanoke Valley Homeschool Orchestra and beginning voice lessons this year. She is planning to start auditioning for stage roles to share her vocal talents with the local community. Eliza enjoys drawing and

See Recital, page 8



FILE PHOTO

Police Chief Fabricio Drumond participates in the 2025 Murph Challenge

## BoomTown CrossFit, Vinton Police invite residents to participate in The Murph Challenge

On Monday, May 25, BoomTown CrossFit, in partnership with the Town of Vinton Police Department, will host The Murph Challenge, a free, community-wide fitness event in honor of U.S. Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who gave his life in combat while serving in Afghanistan.

Held annually on Memorial Day across the nation, The Murph Challenge serves as a tribute to the fallen and a way for individuals to test their mental and physical strength. The Murph Workout includes a one-mile

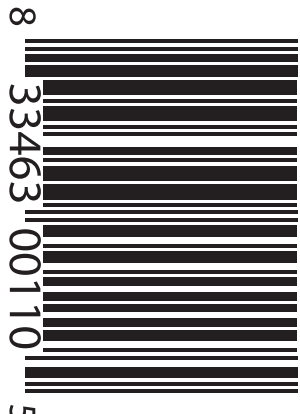
run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, and another one-mile run. Participants may complete the workout with or without a 20-pound weighted vest, mimicking the body armor Lt. Murphy wore during his final mission.

All fitness levels are encouraged to participate as The Murph Challenge is scalable to all levels of ability.

"The Murph Challenge represents more than physical fitness; it's an opportunity for the community to unite, challenge themselves, and honor the sacrifices of those who have

served," said Michael Venable, co-owner of BoomTown CrossFit. "We're proud to host this event and welcome participants of all fitness

See Murph, page 9



# CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM BYRD CLASS OF 2026



## SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS HICKORY CRAWDADS



**MAY 26th 6:35 PM**

2 for 1 Tuesday

**MAY 27th 6:35 PM**

**MAY 28th 6:35 PM**

Take Meow to the Ballgame

**MAY 29th 6:35 PM Star Wars Night**

**MAY 30th 6:35 PM Bluey and Bingo**

**MAY 31st 2:05 PM**

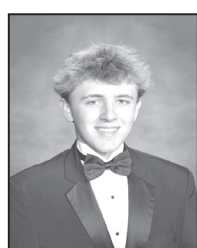
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**Jeremy Abbott**



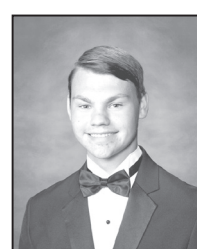
**Joshua Abbott**



**Noelah Addo**



**Kyndall Agee**



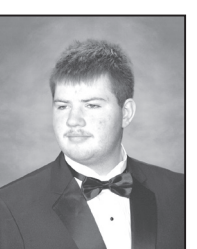
**Joshua Allen**



**Lilian Amaya-Dogan**



**Logan Andrews**



**Royce Apple**



**Sofia Arthur**



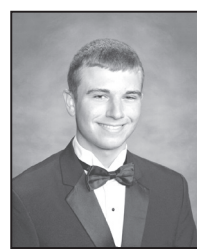
**Ashley Arven**



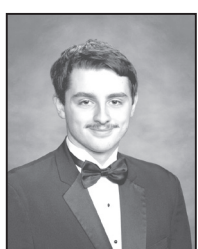
**Lillian Ashley**



**Emily Atwood**



**Blake Austin**



**Zachary Bailey**



**Ceiliann Baldwin**



**Andrew Bartley**



# CONGRATS CLASS OF 2026! YOURS, ROANOKE

WHEN YOU LEARN AMID MOUNTAINS, YOU KNOW HOW TO MOVE THEM.



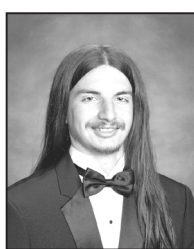
**ROANOKE COLLEGE**



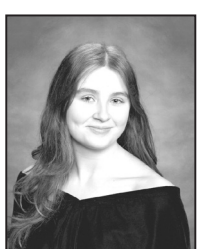
*Congratulations graduating Seniors! ~ Vinton Messenger staff*



# CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM BYRD CLASS OF 2026



**Aiden Barton**



**Ashleigh Barton**



**Olivia Basham**



**Titus Beatty**



**Rodney Beckner**



**Kelsey Bell**



**Jessica Belton**



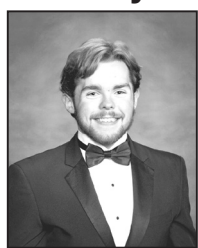
**Kelsea Blankenship**



**Ainsley Bolen**



**Sawyer Bolen**



**Braedon Booth**



**Aubrey Booze**



**Emily Bowden**



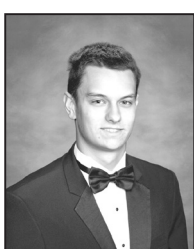
**Christopher Boykin**



**Joshua Boykin**



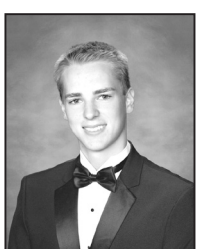
**Ella Brady**



**Tyson Brady**



**Kassie Brant**



**Jacob Bray**



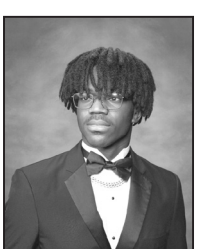
**Abigail Brigdon**



**Allysa Brooks**



**Jordan Brown**



**Joshua Brown**



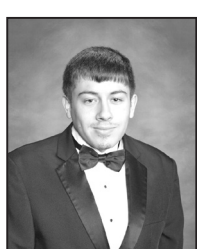
**Sophia Brown**



**Caleb Brunk**



**Kendra Brunk**



**Austin Bumgarner**



**Kaylin Bumgarner**



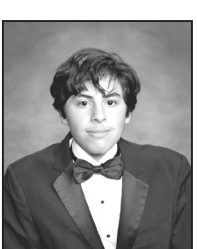
**Jenna Bunce**



**Maurasia Burnette**



**Olivia Bustamante**



**Pedro Cardenas-Zambrano**



**Lily Carrell**



**Anna Carter**



**Tyler Chambers**



**Madison Chandler**



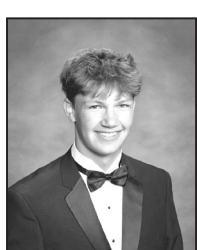
**Khloe Chapman**



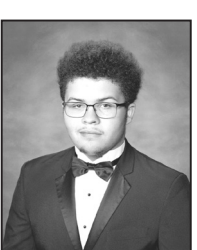
**Miranda Chittum**



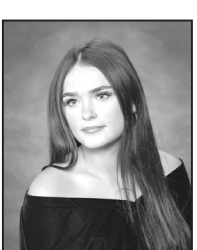
**Addison Clark**



**Asher Claybrook**



**Xavier Clingenpeel**



**Haylee Cockran-Whorley**



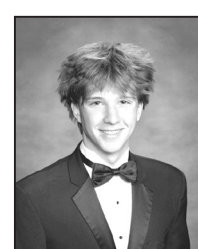
**Braelynn Coles**



**Sydney Coles**



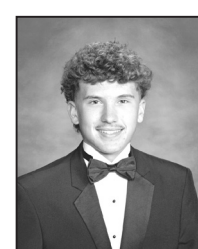
**Savannah Cook**



**Markis Coric**



**Bladimir Cortes Martinez**



**Jacob Courtemanche**



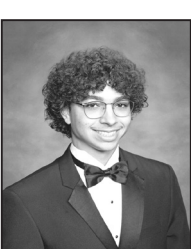
**Sydney Crossan**



**Bianca DeMelo**



**Evelyn Dickason**



**Ashton Dillon**



**Kendall Dodson**



**Alexia Donahue**



**Emma Dooley**



**Isaiah Dooley**



**Sidney Draper**



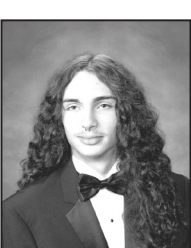
**Isabella Dudley**



**Naudia Duncan**



**Hannah Eakin**



**Hunter Eakin**



**Nathaniel Edwards**



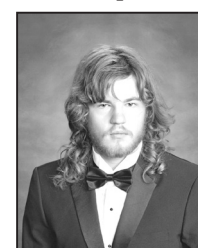
**Jaelyn English**



**Shelby Ensor**



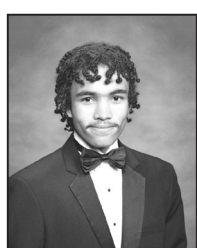
**Alexis Felty**



**Paul Ferrebee II**



**Cameron Flanagan**



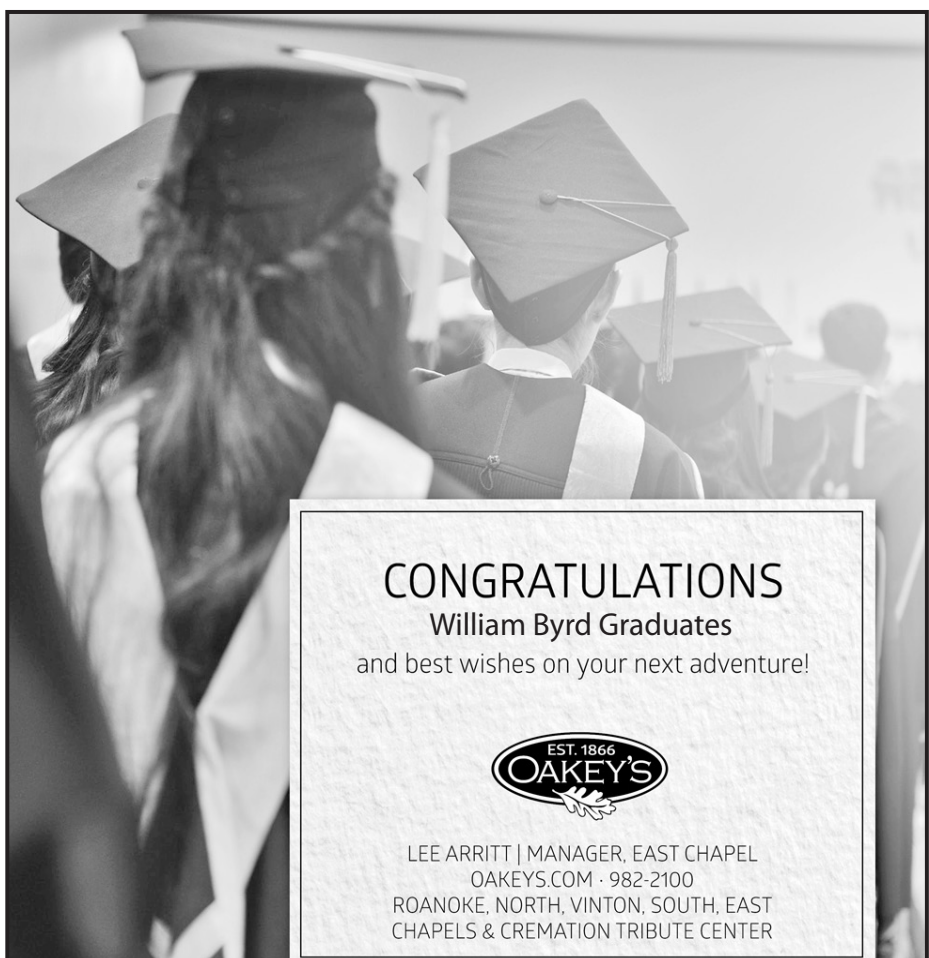
**Draven Flinchum**




**Katelynn Franks**



**Cody Gardner**



CONGRATULATIONS  
William Byrd Graduates  
and best wishes on your next adventure!



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**Hailie Garst**



**Gary Gearheart Jr.**



**Samuel Geist**



**Elizabeth Gheen**



**Braelynn Gibson**



**Chloe Gill**



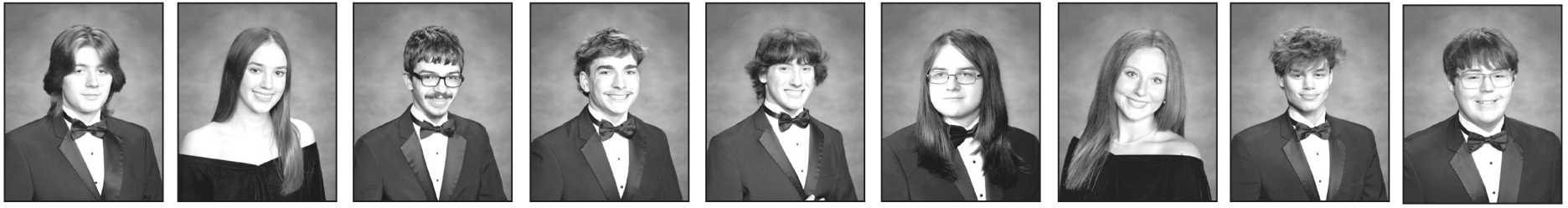
**Michael Goins**



# CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM BYRD CLASS OF 2026



**Chase Gonzales**   **Sofia Gonzalez**   **Shaun Gower**   **Kevin Green Jr.**   **Benjamin Grimm**   **Ryleigh Grubb**   **Rileigh Hackett**   **Brooke Hale**   **Keegan Harold**



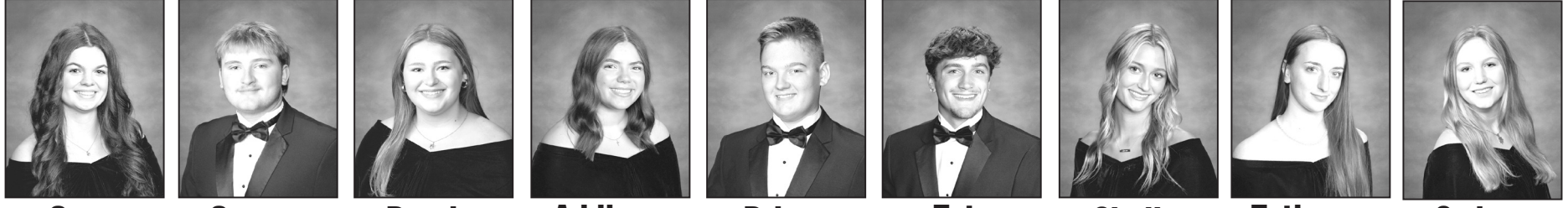
**Phillip Haroulakis**   **Avery Harper**   **Liam Harrell**   **Tyler Harris**   **James Hartley**   **Alexander Hastings**   **Kalee Hayes**   **Dominick Hayslett**   **Craigery Heath**



**Luke Helton**   **Tania Hernandez-Hernandez**   **Brooke Hershel**   **Gavin Hilliker**   **Kaleigh Hobbs**   **Richard Hodges**   **Natalie Holland**   **Jaden Holmes**   **Hope Huffman**



**Owen Humphreys**   **Ryan Hurley**   **David Hutsonpillar III**   **Taniyah Jackson**   **Taylor Jacobsen**   **Macabe James**   **Carmen Janney**   **Sean Jenkins**   **Lauren Johnson**



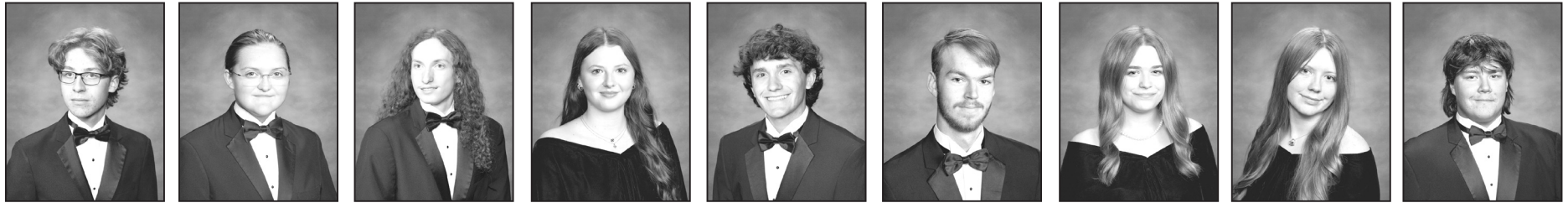
**Gary Jones**   **Connor Jones**   **Brooke Justus**   **Addison Kincer**   **Brian Kingery**   **Tate Kotz**   **Shelby Krawczyk**   **Tatianna Kubik**   **Sydney Larson**



**Jack Law**   **Jesus Leon**   **Carleigh Leonard**   **Carter Leonard**   **Kenady Leonard**   **Jacob Ligon**   **Jeremy Ligon**   **Brooklyn Linick**   **Nikolas Lopez**



**Kayla Lovern**   **Rachel Lowery**   **Cannin Lutz**   **Juan Maldonado-Melghem**   **Gracie Mandakis**   **Elizabeth Martinez**   **Cara May**   **Nancy McFalls**   **Emily McGuire**



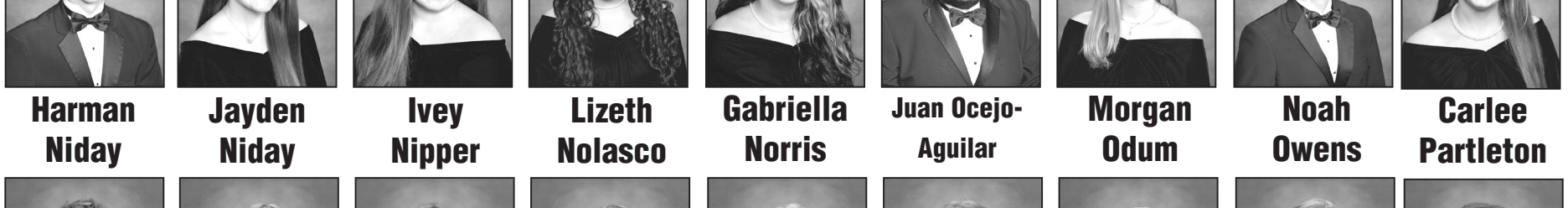
**Ryan McIntyre**   **Dagan Miller**   **Titus Miller**   **Autumn Mills**   **Collin Mills**   **Parker Minnix**   **Melissa Monk**   **Anya Moore**   **Tyler Moran**



**Hunter Moseley**   **Cailyn Moses**   **Miley Moses Pinion**   **Charlotte Mullen**   **Lindsay Murtaugh**   **Dominic Myers**   **Emily Ngo**   **Cason Nichols**   **Olivia Nichols**



**Harman Niday**   **Jayden Niday**   **Ivey Nipper**   **Lizeth Nolasco**   **Gabriella Norris**   **Juan Ocejo-Aguilar**   **Morgan Odum**   **Noah Owens**   **Carlee Partleton**



**Lucas Partleton**   **Logan Patsel**   **Sienna Perdue**   **Lilian Perez**   **Lola Pernot**   **Mallory Peroulas**   **Tyler Pickeral**   **Bethany Pittenger**   **MaKiya Price**



# CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM BYRD CLASS OF 2026



**Rebecca Proctor**   **Margaret Reamey**   **William Regal**   **Andrew Reynolds**   **Brittanya Rivera-Torres**   **Meisha Robinson**   **Trevor Robinson**   **Ashlyn Rogers**   **Gabrielle Romeo**



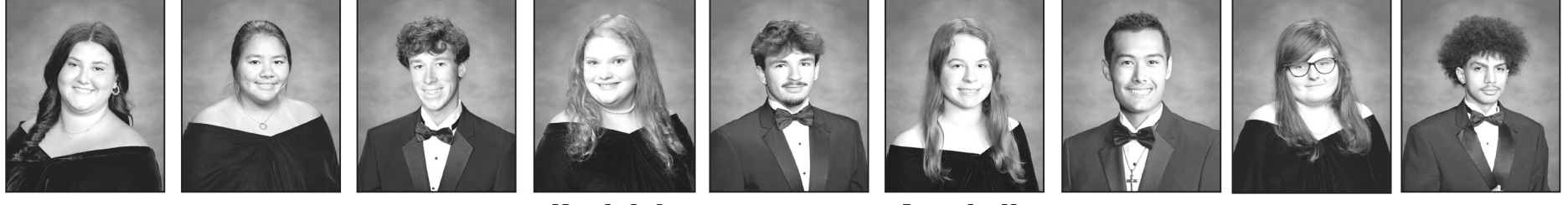
**Braden Roughgarden**   **Justyn Rozenboom**   **Nathaniel Rucker**   **Kyle Saccocci**   **Anna Sanderson**   **Abigail Saritelli**   **Keith Schult Jr.**   **Makenzie Scott**   **Brayden Serfass**



**Koby Servellon**   **Atticus Severs**   **Ava Sexton**   **Dyllan Shepherd**   **Christopher Shively**   **Napiray Sierra Prin**   **Mitchell Sigafos**   **Bryce Simpson**   **Matthew Sloane Jr.**



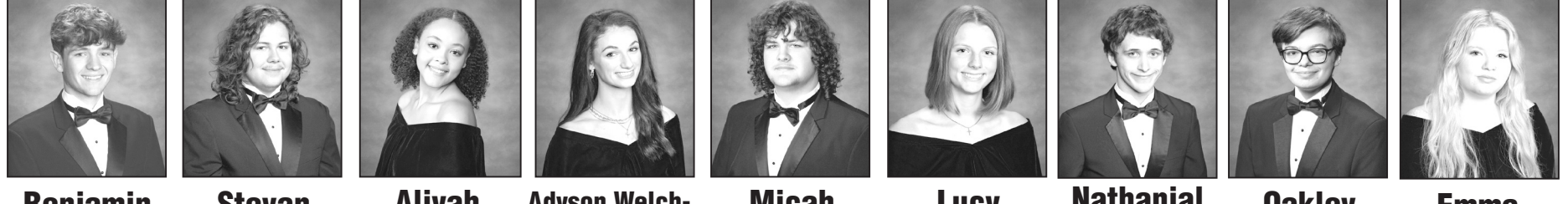
**Jacob Smith**   **James Smith Jr.**   **Jarrett Smith**   **Tanner Songer**   **Taylor Spangler**   **Kylind Spence**   **Payton Steahly**   **Kole Stephenson**   **Samuel Stone**



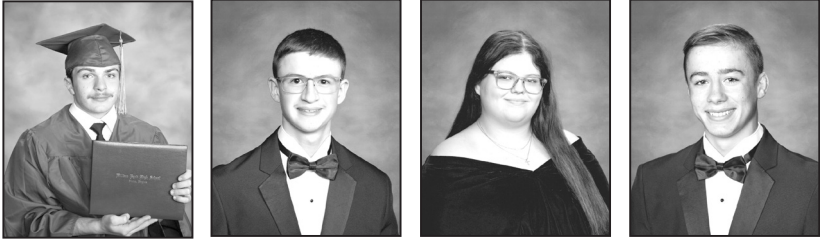
**Mallory Summo**   **Sabita Sunwar**   **Ethan Sutton**   **Kaeleigh Swan**   **Evan Tabor**   **Annabelle Teague**   **Camden Thepsimuong**   **Angelina Thomas**   **Malik Thomas**



**Jamez Toler**   **Jaxen Toms**   **Gavin Tucker**   **Aiden Tynes**   **Catherine Underwood**   **William Van Name III**   **Zane Vasser**   **Joshua Vaughan**   **Dixie Venable**



**Benjamin Waid**   **Stevan Walton**   **Aliyah Ware**   **Adyson Welch-Rogers**   **Micah Wheeler**   **Lucy Whitenack**   **Nathaniel Whitney**   **Oakley Wilkerson**   **Emma Williams**



**Logan Williams Jr.**   **Noah Williams**   **Skylar Williams**   **Darin Witcher**



**Aaron Wood**   **Kaleb Wooldridge**   **Bridgette Wray**



**Benjamin Wright**   **Lennon Wright**   **Morrison Wright**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19		20		21				
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30								31					
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43				44				
	45	46	47										
48						49			50	51	52	53	54
55						56				57			58
59						60				61			
62						63					64		

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. One who regrets
- 5. Time zone
- 8. Subway dweller
- 11. Bend in a river
- 13. Alias
- 14. Isodor \_\_\_\_, American Nobel physicist
- 15. Very (music)
- 16. Zero
- 17. Phil \_\_\_\_, former CIA
- 18. Competitions
- 20. Unwell
- 21. Puts in place
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Allows light to pass through
- 30. Climbed quickly
- 31. We all have it
- 32. There's a North & South
- 33. Emaciation
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Very dark colors
- 43. Unwanted
- 45. Grants
- 48. Three visited Jesus
- 49. Wife of Amun
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. I (German)
- 57. French opera composer
- 59. Six (Spanish)
- 60. Last letter
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. A curved shape
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. Tall plant
- 5. Cassava
- 6. Talented
- 7. Capital of Estonia
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. In a way, assists
- 10. Men's fashion accessories
- 12. Misery
- 14. Skin disorder
- 19. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 23. Good friend
- 24. Stationary portion of a generator
- 25. Expression of disappointment
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Where birds fly
- 28. Midway between north and northeast
- 29. Chaotic states
- 34. Comedic actress Gasteray
- 35. Kids' dining accessory
- 36. Snakelike fish
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Assign lifelike qualities to
- 40. One who cites
- 41. Midway between east and southeast
- 42. North wind
- 44. One or the other
- 45. Cavalry sword
- 46. Of the Hungarian language
- 47. Life stories
- 48. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. French cleric
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Free from

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Computer memory
- 2. "Et \_\_": "And wife" (Latin)
- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. College army

# CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM BYRD CLASS OF 2026



**Peyton  
Wright**



**Dawson  
Young**



**Angie  
Zaragoza Pena**



WBHS seniors graduating but not photographed include Dameon Agee, Cristabella Banks, Shauntrece Brower, Marissa Camper, Kaden Falu, Brennan Firebaugh, Jason Hernandez Lemus, Kyle Holdaway, Christopher Hurd II, Taylor Lynn Jarels, Emberlynn Lamonde, Keira Lamonde, Mitchell Lugones-Acosta, Joshua Rowberg, Payton Scott, Jacob Tang, Dymire Watkins, Dominic Wright, and Mija Zavala.

## The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020  
(540) 473-2741  
1633 W. Main St.  
Salem, VA 24153  
ourvalley.org

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org  
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Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*.....  
James "Tucker" Frye, *Advertising*.....

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

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## Vinton commemorates Virginia 250 with 'The Vinton Story'

The Vinton Historical Society, in collaboration with Roanoke Bear Theatre, will present the play "Land and Liberty—The Vinton Story," with performances on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m., June 13 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and June 14 at 3 p.m. at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in the historic Old Chapel. Local playwright and director of the play, David Walton, shares the commissioned work for the Vinton Historical Society in honor of this summer's statewide Virginia 250 commemoration.

The historical document which gave rise to the genesis of the project is a 1781 land grant by then-Governor of Virginia Thomas Jefferson to two local men, Christian Vineyard and William Tabler. The land these men were granted was among the first to be settled within properties that now include the Town of Vinton, named in part after the Vineyard surname. That

document, along with the other information gathered, has been used to produce a one-act play.

David Walton explains: "The play imagines conversations between historically accurate characters during two important moments in history. The goal is to dramatize the anxious pursuit of and the importance of land ownership in the creation of a new nation. Since it specifically addresses the early settlers of the Town of Vinton, its reliance upon historically accurate town ancestors as well as descriptions of the local topography will be of interest to locals. There's also enough broader content; specifically Revolutionary War history, so that it will appeal to a broader audience. Most importantly, I hope people will find it entertaining."

Tickets should be purchased in advance for \$10 through <https://beartheatre.com> or at the door.

A performance of 17th century music by the Roanoke Valley Dulcimer Group will precede each performance of the play and, in addition, a special activity for the youngest patrons is planned. The wearing of period costumes by all ages is encouraged but not required. A "Q&A" with the writer/director and actors will take place after the matinee performances.

Want to make it a whole experience? How about a Southern-style dinner served from 5 to 6:30 p.m. before the evening shows on Friday and Saturday. For \$20 a plate, the specially catered meal will feature chicken, vegetables, rolls, dessert, and tea and water, served in the Jones Fellowship Hall at Thrasher Memorial UMC.

See VA250, page 7

## Congratulations Class of 2026



301 Walnut Ave, Vinton • (540) 344-4300

**BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)**  
**MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM  
**ECKANKAR**

**Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video 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](http://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](http://www.evangel4sq.com), Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. "Building People to Change Our World"

**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](http://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.

# WINTON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### TIME TO REST

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14-17

**If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at Cell: (540) 389-9355 [tfrye@ourvalley.org](mailto:tfrye@ourvalley.org)**

# PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



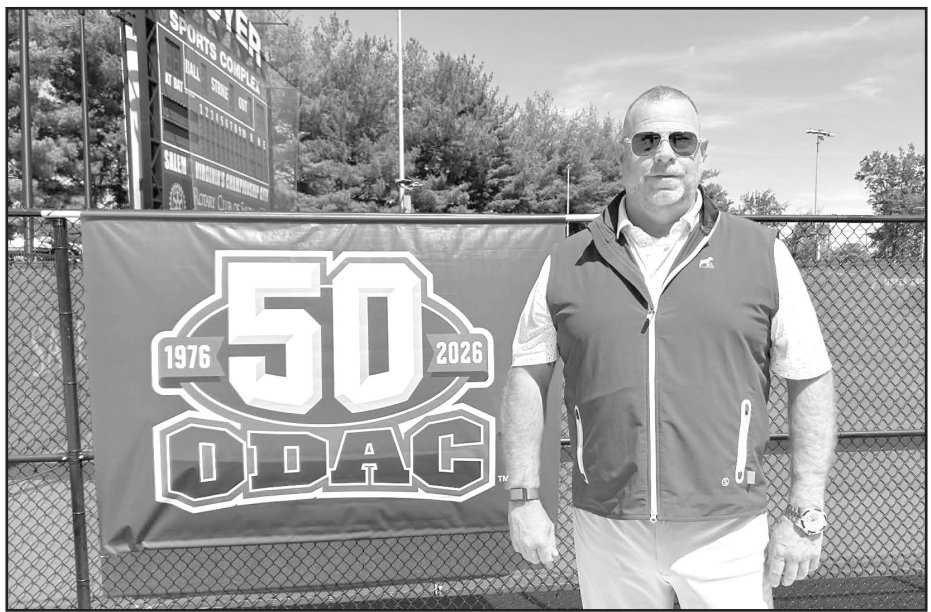
**Graduate Skylour Stultz**

*By Angie Chewning*  
This household is on FIRE! Skylour Stultz graduated from West Virginia University this past weekend, and we are all so proud of her. Skylour received her Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Studies with Minors

in Law & Legal, History and Communications. Next up is Law School. Skylour is the daughter of Chasity Barbour and Damon and April Stultz, and sister of Kaidence Stores, Reagan Stultz and Carly Stultz. Sky, we love you and are so

proud of you.

Bo Herndon refereed his first college D1 ODAC Tournament in Salem. This was in the finals and the championship game. Bo has been enjoying refereeing for many years, and this is a wonderful achievement.



**Referee Bo Herndon**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

To referee a game in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament, you must be a certified collegiate official and be evaluated and hired by the conference's sports-specific Supervisor of Officials. The ODAC is an NCAA

Division III conference, so referees typically advance through high school ranks (such as the Virginia High School League) and attend collegiate officiating camps to be scouted. Great job, Bo – we are so proud of you!

## Herman L. Horn celebrates 'Laps and Literacy'

Herman L. Horn Elementary students and their families were invited to a special night of "Laps and Literacy" on the school playground on May 12, promoting reading, especially summer reading, now that school year is coming to an end.

Students could ride their bikes and scooters on the track (or just walk), enjoy a cup of Deb's Frozen Lemonade, choose a free book, spin for prizes at the Roanoke County Library table, and sign up for a library card. Roanoke County Library staff also brought along information about the summer reading program events, which often include prizes.

The event was sponsored by Title I Reading and facilitated by Title I teacher Sandy Hunt and reading specialist Dorr Boonan.

*-Vinton Messenger staff report*



**Herman L. Horn students participated in Laps and Literacy.**



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**"Laps and Literacy" included a free cup of Deb's Lemonade.**

## VA250

from page 6

Please RSVP and purchase dinner tickets in advance through <https://beartheatre.com>. All proceeds from meals benefit local non-profits.

The Vinton History Museum intends to use its revenue from this event towards funding for an accessibility lift to resolve the limited access to the second-floor exhibits at the museum in downtown

Vinton.

A portion of the revenue will go to the Bear Theatre to further its non-profit work in creating a welcoming performance space that produces high-quality productions at reasonable prices.

The Friday night dinner will benefit Thrasher's free Community Drive-Thru Dinners distributed from September

through May each year.

Eight local actors, including youth and adult cast members, will present the play in the historic building with beautiful stained-glass windows. The play and dinners are all located on the Thrasher Memorial UMC grounds. Entrance for the play, including accessible entrance and parking, will be through the Education Building behind the main

sanctuary with general parking in the lot just off Washington Avenue on Pine Street.

For additional information, visit <https://beartheatre.com> or contact the Vinton History Museum at [info@vintonhistorymuseum.org](mailto:info@vintonhistorymuseum.org) or Roanoke Bear Theatre at [info@beartheatre.com](mailto:info@beartheatre.com).

*-Submitted by Vinton Historical Society*

## Land and Liberty

### THE VINTON STORY

A historical fiction one-act play about the founding of the Town of Vinton.

Tickets only \$10

+ \$20 Optional Dinner benefiting local non-profits

**Performances:**

Friday, June 12: 7pm

Saturday, June 13: 3pm & 7pm

Sunday, June 14: 3pm

**Location:**  
Thrasher United Methodist Church  
707 E. Washington Ave. Vinton, VA

Enjoy live music from the Roanoke Valley Dulcimer Group.

**Get Tickets**

This event is part of the VA250 celebration.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY/ ROANOKE BEAR THEATRE

Just To Be There

[www.macados.net](http://www.macados.net)

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

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# Local DAR Chapter observes Memorial Day

Members of the Roanoke Valley Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution traditionally plant flags in the gardens at the Vinton Municipal Building in downtown Vinton in observance of Memorial Day, which is coming up on May 25.

Elaine Muldrew and Linda Upchurch placed 300 flags in the gardens for the 2026 Memorial Day holiday. They will remove them after the holiday and

replant them for the Fourth of July celebration. The DAR and the Town of Vinton, which is home to the Vinton War Memorial and the High Ground Monument, place special emphasis on recognizing veterans. Local Scout troops will be placing flags on the graves of veterans buried at Mountain View Cemetery on May 23.

-Vinton Messenger Staff report



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Linda Upchurch and Elaine Muldrew plant American flags to commemorate Memorial Day.

VintonMessenger.com

## Recital

from page 1



Lewis recognized three graduating high school seniors at the recital. Pictured left to right are Anna Carter, Cary Jones, Lewis, and Eliza Sealey.



Susan Lewis (left) is pictured with recent college graduate Allie Watson.



Max Erickson performed "Old Time Rock & Roll."



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Music teacher Susan Lewis (left) with Associate Teacher Katie Saunders.

painting, studying art under Jason Fizer for the past three years. She enjoys leading games for younger students who attend her Homeschool Sports and Recreational Games group every week. She loves to read, especially fantasy fiction and biographies. She is one of seven Sealey siblings Lewis has taught or is currently teaching.

Cary Jones is graduating from William Byrd High School. She has been a piano student with Lewis for eight years. She plans to attend Radford University in the fall to pursue a degree in Secondary Education to teach math. She has attended the Burton Center for Arts and Technology where she studied Early Childhood Education and completed an internship in public schools. She is a member of the marching and concert bands at WBHS playing clarinet, has been a member of the swim team for four years, and the Leo Club. She is a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society of High School Scholars, and on the A Honor Roll her senior year. She has worked as a swim instructor with children of all ages, and this year is working at a daycare with infants.

Anna Carter is graduating from William Byrd High School. She has worked with Susan Lewis on and off for 11 years. Her future plans are to attend James Madison University, majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in Educational Media. She has attended the Burton Center for Arts and Technology where she studied at the Center for

Mass Communications and completed the teaching internship program at a local elementary school. She has been playing varsity tennis for three years. She has been a lead yearbook staff member, a member of the Leo and Beta Clubs, and a member of the SCA, Drama Club, and Reindeer Clubs. She has been an A-B Honor Roll student her senior year.

Anna started her own freelance photography business known as "Anna Captures Photography" where she photographs seniors, couples, and families, along with event photography, with the goal of growing this venture throughout college and while teaching.

She has worked at the Lickidy Split ice cream shop and at Early Honey Tree Learning Centers as a floating substitute. She has internship experience as a Salem Red Sox Camera and Graphics intern, and as an RCPS Graduation Live Crew Photographer. Her honors include taking first place in the category "Future Business Educator" in the Future Business Leaders of America competition. She competed at the RCPS Science Fair, taking third place in a Behavioral Science project on technology and exercise on teens; she advanced to the Regional Science Fair, once again taking third place, and also won the American Psychological Association Award for 2025.

This year, Lewis was able to recognize not just high school seniors, but Allie Watson, a recent college graduate (UNC-Wilmington). She continued lessons all the way through college with Lewis after moving to Wilmington "because of her passion and love of music—for a total of 12 years."

Watson graduated summa cum laude from UNC-Wilmington in December 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, with minors in Environmental Science and Oceanography. She plans to earn her master's degree in marine biology and is currently volunteering with the UNCW marine mammal "stranding" program where she gets to respond to strandings and help assist with research to better understand marine mammals and further conservation efforts.

Lewis also recognized her students who competed in the 2026 Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club. Local winners included Lily Sealey who won first place in instrumentals (piano) and Abigail Harvey, who won third place in instrumentals (piano). In vocals, Ryleigh Woolwine won first place; Keegan Thacker, second place; and Eliza Sealey, third place.

First place winners advance to the next level of competition. At the regional level Lucy Sealey placed second in instrumentals, while Ryleigh Woolwine placed first in vocals. State competition comes next on May 29 in Bristol and involves scholarships.

Recital performers on May 17 included:

- Jesse Luedtke: "Ten Little Indians" (piano)
- Asher Nasser: "Für Elise" (piano)
- Juniper Cashman: "Love Story" (vocal solo)
- Autumn Atkins: "The B-I-B-L-E" (piano)
- Gwen Luedtke: "Camptown Races" (piano)
- Ingrid Smith: "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid" (vocal) and "Aardvark Boogie" (piano)
- Coby Hoke: "Pop! Goes the Weasel" (piano)
- David Doss: "Steve's Lava Chicken" from a Minecraft Movie (piano)
- Emerson Cashman: "America" (vocal)
- Vivian Cain: "A Spoonful of Sugar" from "Mary Poppins" (piano)

- Emory Mullins: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (piano)
- Phillip Sealey: "A Million Dreams" from "The Greatest Showman" (vocal)
- Hannah Chandler: "A Sunny Day" (piano)
- Grace Matar: "This Land is Your Land" (piano)
- Emily Hall: "Flowers" (vocal) and "Moonlight Sonata (1st Movement) Op.27, No. 2" (piano)
- Holden Magill: "You're the Best" from Karate Kid (piano)
- Jackson Wiegand: "Lead on Black Horse" (piano)
- Abigail, Paisley, and Bella Harvey: "The Cross" (vocal trio)
- Patience McGuire: "March Millionaire" (piano)
- Lily Sealey: "I'm Not Afraid of Anything" from "Songs for a New World" (vocal) and "Great Balls of Fire" (piano)
- Jackson Doss: "High Hopes" (piano)
- Faith Dooley: "He's a Pirate" from "Pirates of the Caribbean" (piano)
- Dr. Mark Schueler: his original piece "Seems Like" (vocal and guitar)
- Atharva Dsouza: "Theme from Jurassic Park" (piano)
- Carson Kirby: "In the End" (piano)
- Keegan Thacker: "Girl on Fire" (vocal) and "Für Elise" (piano)
- Kori Carter: "Greensleeves" (piano)
- Millie Erickson: "You Say" (piano)
- Eliza Sealey: "The Sound of Music" (vocal)
- Joelle Card: "Prelude" (piano) and "The Rose" (vocal)
- Max Erickson: "Old Time Rock & Roll" (piano)
- Jackson Morris: "Numb" (piano)
- Kelly Ronan: "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" (vocal)
- Steve Miller: "Press On, It Won't Be Long" (piano)
- Elizabeth Lewis: "Working for My Good" (vocal)
- Deborah Dreyer: "Sonata in C Major, K. 545 (1st Mvt)" (piano)
- Anna Carter: "Popular" from "Wicked" (vocal)
- Stanley Chen: "Bergentrückung" (piano)
- Allie Watson: "Michael Meets Mozart" (piano)
- Ella Paulos: "Think of Me" from "Phantom of the Opera" (vocal)
- Lucy Sealey: "Nocturne in B Flat minor, Op. 9 No. 1" (piano)
- Angela Janney: "Truth I'm Standing On" (vocal) and "Over the Rainbow" (piano)
- Cary Jones: "My Tribute" (piano)
- Ryleigh Woolwine: "Little Girls" from "Annie" (vocal)

Most of the performers were voice and piano students of Susan Lewis; seven were students of Associate Teacher Katie Saunders, who is the music teacher at Bonsack Elementary and teaches both piano and voice. She was Lewis's student many years ago.

Lewis thanked Greg Chewning for serving as sound technician, Jamie Archual for providing videography, and Thrasher Memorial for the use of the facility once again.



Congratulations  
Terriers  
Class of 2026!

Good Luck!

**From the Pulpit** **By Pastor Bryan Crouch**

# Salt and Light Beyond Sunday

Jesus never intended His followers to blend into the background. He said, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14, NIV). Salt only works when it is applied. Light only shines when it is visible.

Church attendance is vital. It nourishes faith and builds community. But salt kept in a shaker does not preserve anything. Light hidden under a bowl does not illuminate darkness. The purpose of the Church is to shape believers who influence culture with grace and truth. When Christians serve faithfully in their communities, advocate for justice,

and love their neighbors sincerely, the Kingdom of God becomes visible.

A church building can host worship, but it cannot love a hurting co-worker. It cannot mentor a struggling teenager. It cannot share hope in a hospital waiting room. People do that. When the Church gathers, we are reminded of who we are. When the Church goes, the world sees who He is. Our ultimate calling is to further God's Kingdom. That happens not only in sermons but in service. Not only in worship songs but in daily obedience. The light was never meant to stay inside.

# RECIPES OF THE WEEK

## Extra Special Baked Beans

A great picnic food! I have also seen recipes where these are called West Virginia Reunion Beans.

**Ingredients:**  
 1 15 oz. can kidney beans  
 1 16 oz. can pork & beans  
 10 oz. package frozen lima beans  
 3/4 cup catsup  
 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 1 Tbsp. dry mustard  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 1/4 cup chopped onion  
 4-5 slices bacon

Cook lima beans until tender, drain. Fry bacon until crisp. Add onion and brown. Mix all ingredients together. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour at 350° in 9x13 pan. There are many versions of this recipe – you can add

sausage, ground beef, other types of beans, etc.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

## Murph

from page 1

levels."

After the workout, guests are invited to enjoy a community cookout, served by the Vinton Police Department.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with an opening briefing at 9:30 a.m. Heats will begin at 10 a.m. at Boomtown CrossFit at 703 Tinker Avenue in Vinton.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted to benefit The Murph Foundation. Visit [www.boomtowncrossfit.com](http://www.boomtowncrossfit.com) for additional information.

## Cadets

from page 1



**Distinguished Cadets for 2025-2026 Alexis Short, Jonathan Price, Jaxon Fowler, and Nancy McFalls**



**Honor Cadets for 2025-2026 Zoey Otey, Nancy McFalls, Jaxon Fowler, and Andrew Bartley**



**Winners of the Command Senior Chief Dedication Award were Ava Martin, Sydney Pearson, and Jonathan Price.**



**Most Improved Cadets Shawn Bunch and Dean Woodward**



**The DAR Award was presented to Chaelyn Bandy by DAR members Susan Doyle (on left) and Heather Menzies.**

Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC), unit activities, physical fitness, community service, and drill.)

Honor Cadets are recognized by year group: Cadets Zoey Otey (NS1), Jaxon Fowler (NS2), Andrew Bartley (NS3), and Nancy McFalls (NS4)

Command Senior Chief Dedication Award: Cadets Ava Martin, Sydney Pearson, and Jonathan Price (The winners of this award are chosen by Command Senior Chief Shawn Wingle, Naval Science Instructor.)

Most Improved Cadet Award: Cadets Shawn Bunch and Dean Woodward

Inspiration Award: Cadet Brady Maxey (The Inspiration Award recognizes a cadet who consistently maintains a positive attitude in class and motivates others through their enthusiasm, encouragement, and example.) Brady's outlook and energy have made a positive impact on the program throughout the year.

The Cadet Talent Award: Cadet Ainsley Beasley (The Cadet Talent Award recognizes cadets who successfully balance multiple commitments while excelling in their talents and responsibilities.) Aiden's involvement in jazz band while also dedicating time and effort to the NNDCC program demonstrates strong talent, discipline, and exceptional time-management skills.

Iron Cadet Award: Cadet Luke Blankenship and Cadet Amaya Alton (The Iron Cadet Award is presented to cadets who have demonstrated resilience, determination, and a high level of physical fitness within the program. It recognizes those who consistently push themselves and show strength both mentally and physically.)

Deckplate Award: Cadet Franklin Apple (The Deckplate Award recognizes cadets who are dependable, hardworking, and always willing to contribute. These cadets consistently get things done, support their team, and can always be counted on to complete tasks and help the program succeed.)

Future Marine Award: Cadet Bridgette Wray

ColorGuard Leadership Award: Cadet Chaelyn Bandy

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Outstanding Cadet Medal: Cadet Chaelyn Bandy

(The recipient of the DAR Medal demonstrates academic excellence,

dependability, good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of cadet training.)

The award was presented by Treasurer Heather Menzies and Regent Susan Doyle of the local DAR Chapter.

Vinton VFW Cadet of the Year Award: Cadet Nathaniel Hale (To be nominated for the VFW JROTC Medal, the cadet must show outstanding achievement in the cadet program and provide excellent leadership. They need to show exceptional professionalism in appearance and military bearing. They also must demonstrate the potential and willingness to assume higher levels of responsibility.)

The Order of the Daedalians Award: Cadet Zoey Otey (The Order of Daedalians is a fraternity of commissioned military pilots from all military services. It is named after the legendary figure Daedalus and was organized by World War I commissioned military pilots who sought to perpetuate the spirit of patriotism, love of country, and those high ideals of self-sacrifice which place service to the nation above personal safety and position.)

The Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA Award: Cadet Alexis Short (To earn this award, a cadet has to contribute the most among cadets in the Corps to encourage and demonstrate Americanism during participation in extracurricular activities or community projects. They must demonstrate academic excellence by being in the top 25% of their academic class. They must demonstrate outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship, and patriotism.)

MOAA Award and \$50 Scholarship: Cadet Jaxon Fowler (The Military Officers Association of America chooses a cadet for their medal who has demonstrated a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country. They must be in good academic standing and of high moral character. They must demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.)

The Naval Science Leadership Award: Jeniel Johnson (This award goes to a cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout the year. It recognizes cadets who lead by example, take initiative, and positively influence

the program and their fellow cadets.)

AMVETS Award and \$1,000 Scholarship: Cadet Andrew Bartley (The winner of the AMVETS medal must demonstrate a positive attitude toward the Corps and exhibit great uniform wear, grooming, and posture. They must display initiative, dependability, judgment and self-confidence. In addition, they should demonstrate officer potential and maintain an A in NNDCC.) Each year AMVETS sponsors an essay contest for graduating seniors. A handful are chosen from across

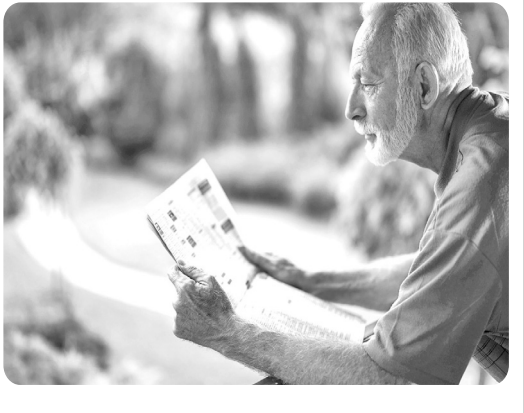
southwestern Virginia to receive the \$1,000 scholarship.

"To our cadets: thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence throughout this year," Wingle said in conclusion. "Your leadership continues to set the standard, and the future is incredibly bright for each of you. These cadets are laying the foundation for a great program!"

"A special thank you goes out to all parents, families, faculty, and community supporters who continue to stand behind this program and our cadets."

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**WANTED: LAND TO BUILD A HOME**  
Looking to purchase a 15+ acres of land suitable for building a house. Prefer quiet, rural, and private setting anywhere between Eagle Rock and Daleville, as well as Catawba area. Serious buyer ready to discuss reasonable offers. I will pay for all expenses such as survey, perk, and other costs. Please call or text: 540-315-0943

**Legals - City of Salem**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114. N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of DSB PROPERTIES LLC, property owner, for a special exception permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 213 Rutledge Circle (Tax Map #59-2-3.2).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

**Legals - Botetourt County**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 632 THORNBLADE WAY, BLUE RIDGE, VA 24064.**  
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 29, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$428,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210003034. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 23, 2026, at 4:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: LOT 40, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF THORNBLADE, SECTION 1, MADE BY RODERICK F. PIERSON, LLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2007. OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 42, PAGES 48-51, TO WHICH PLATREFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN.

**TERMS OF SALE:** ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor's attorney, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepette.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepette.com. VA-383940-1

**Legals - Botetourt County**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.**  
In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on June 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepette.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepette.com. VA-372477-1.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL**  
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
A. Code Amendment request by Maggie Smith, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, "Zoning," Section 42-336 - Permitted uses, to allow for "Day care center, adult" as a permitted use in the General Business (B3) Zoning District.  
B. Code Amendment request by Maggie Smith, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, "Zoning," Section 42-336 - Permitted uses, to allow for "Day care center, adult" as a conditionally permitted use in the General Business (B-3) Zoning District.  
A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org. with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
Request by Foresight Design Services, Applicant, and Free Clinic of the NRV, Inc., Property Owner, to vacate a five-foot-wide by approximately 800-foot-long portion of a 15-foot-wide public utility easement on property located at 130, 135, and 145 Akers Farm Road NE, (identified as Tax Parcel 466 - ((22)) - 4; Parcel ID 100286. Information on the preceding ordinance, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

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**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Madison Apartment Homes LLC and Madison Apartment Homes II LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, for an amendment to proffers on Tax Parcel 434 - ((A)) - 8A (Parcel ID 110779) and 434 - ((A)) - 8B (Parcel ID 310087), consisting of approximately 7.950 acres, located at the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road, New Village Drive, and Bozeman Trail. The property is zoned Multi-Family Residential (R-3) with proffers, and the request is to amend the proffers accepted with the 2020 rezoning action. The applicant has proffered new conditions after the initial public hearing for this request. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, by phone at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing**

for Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board of Supervisors Boardroom in the Montgomery County Government Center, located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments on the Board of Supervisors intent to dedicate a variable width permanent drainage easement and a variable width temporary construction easement to VDOT and to vacate an existing twenty foot (20') waterline easement and convey a new variable width waterline easement to the Montgomery County Public Service Authority (PSA) all located adjacent to Route 8, Riner Road in the Riner Magisterial District, on a portion of property owned by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery County, Virginia, identified as Tax Parcel No. 119-A 37A for the Route 8, Riner Road Widening Project shown more particularly on photocopy of Sheet Nos. 3, 3RW, 4 and 4RW, showing outlined in Green, the Permanent Drainage Easement, showing outlined in Orange, the Temporary Construction Easement, showing outlined in Blue the new variable width waterline easement and showing outlined in Yellow the existing twenty foot (20") waterline easement to be vacated.

A copy of the Permanent Drainage Easement and Temporary Construction Easement Map can be seen in the County Administration Office, Suite 2 located at the Montgomery County Government Center or on the County's webpage: www.montgomerycountyva.gov

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Angela M. Hill  
County Administrator

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# SPORTS

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Left, Byrd's Keeli Emery runs in Byrd's last home track meet. Right, Mitchell Sigafos(left in photo) and Collin Mills battle down the straightaway.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

## Region 3D track meet is in Christiansburg

The William Byrd track team was competing in the Blue Ridge District meet in Moneta as the paper went to press this week. Staunton River hosted the meet on Wednesday.

The next meet for Byrd, and a more important one as far as advancing, will be the Region 3D meet at Christiansburg High. That's scheduled for a week from today, on May 28, and coach James Pannell is optimistic about the Terriers' chances.

"I think this team is hitting their stride at the right moment by staying healthy and trusting all of the training that they put in starting in February while also trusting their coaches plan for the postseason," said Pannell. "This is a hard time of the year for all athletes everywhere with SOL's, exams and summer plans looming, but this team has stood up to that and practiced well for the past few weeks."

The Terriers warmed up for the district by competing in the Golden Eagle Invitational, which was also held at Staunton River last Saturday. Close to 20 teams competed and Byrd had some good performances.

For the girls, Lily Perez was fourth in both the long jump and the triple jump. She also finished seventh in the 100 meter hurdles. Skye Williams took second in the discus with a heave of 111' 7", Brooklyn Strother was ninth in the 300 meter hurdles and Alexia Donahue state qualified in the pole vault.

For the boys, the 4x100 relay team of Jakeem Toler, Jamez Toler, Gray Matthews and James Smith won with a time of 42.35. Colton Sotherden was second in the two mile at 10:43.51 and Logan Hodges took third in the discus. James Smith was fifth in the 100 and Ashton Williamson took eighth in the pole vault.

Look for results from this week's Blue Ridge District meet in next week's Vinton Messenger sports section.

## Council

from page 1



Andrew Critcher (left) and Jason Davison receive certificates for placing in two Public Works Rodeo events. Assistant Public Works Director Jill Acker accepted a proclamation declaring this Public Works Week.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton displays the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 2025-2026—the 11th one the town has received. Pictured left to right are Interim Town Treasurer Kimberley Ramsey, Sexton, and Interim Finance Director Tiffany Stewart.

(\$717,942), business licenses (\$944,151), state sales taxes (\$1.65 million), meals taxes (\$2.1 million), and pari-mutuel taxes (\$3.5 million). There are several new revenue streams on the horizon from the new Vinton Hotel, increased pari-mutuel funds, Vinton Business Center residential taxes, and Gish Mill.

As for expenditures, personnel expenses are the largest part of the budget with a 3% COLA raise included for all 74 employees and the town absorbing increases in health insurance premiums. The town will also continue to pay end-of-year bonuses. Other major expenditures include annual paving, equipment replacement, and future CIP project planning.

The budget also includes funding for organizations such as the Vinton Dogwood Festival, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, the Vinton History Museum, Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, Vinton Volunteer First Aid Crew, RVTV, the Greenway

Program, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, and others.

Proposed CIP funding for FY27 includes replacement of the Knuckleboom truck, a new pick-up with dump bed and spreader, a compactor for downtown businesses, HVAC and equipment projects, Community Center and Farmers' Market design, Community Center construction, police training, and Gearhart Park design and construction.

Peters cautioned council that there are threats to future budgets with a potential recession, a flattening of personal property values, unfunded legislative mandates, and depletion of one-time reserves.

It is anticipated that the FY27 budget will be adopted at the council meeting on June 2. A copy is available on the town's website.

Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins presented proposed rate changes for the Vinton War Memorial. With major renovations underway at the facility, this seemed to be the appropriate time for competitive rate changes. Rates were last changed in 2018.

Three event packages will be available when the venue reopens later this year. "The Signature Experience" provides two-day exclusive building access with

arranged tables and chairs for \$6,500 on weekends and \$5,500 on weekdays. "The Grand Affair" adds in-house linens, dishware, basic centerpieces, and staff set-up of décor for \$7,250 on weekends and \$6,250 on weekdays. Single weekday events such as small celebrations or corporate gatherings will cost \$4,000.

Hourly rates will be available for a minimum of four hours, depending on which room/rooms are requested. An eight-hour block of time in the Dogwood Ballroom will cost \$1,500 on weekdays and \$1,800 on weekends.

Town Council issued several proclamations during the meeting. The first named May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to loss of muscle control, and eventually the ability to walk, speak, eat, and breathe. There is no known cure, as of yet. Vinton History Museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham accepted the proclamation; her husband, Jim, was recently diagnosed with ALS.

A second proclamation declared May as GBB/CIDP Awareness Month. Guillain-Barre Syndrome and Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy are rare,

paralyzing, and potentially catastrophic disorders of the peripheral nerves. Rick Forney, liaison for the Guillain-Barre Foundation, accepted the proclamation.

May 17-23 was named as National Public Works Week in Vinton. Mayor Brad Grose noted that Public Works employees touch the lives of thousands of people every day. In Vinton, a council meeting never occurs without Public Works being commended for their outstanding contributions to the community through street maintenance, sidewalk repair, solid waste management, recycling, traffic signal and sign maintenance, snow and ice removal, and stormwater collection. Residents' health, safety, and quality of life depend upon Public Works.

Several Public Works employees were recognized for their expertise in operating equipment in local and regional Public Works Rodeos this spring. Jason Davison placed first in Knuckleboom Competition and second in Bucket Truck; Chris Lawhorn placed first in Zero Turn Mower; and Andrew Critcher placed third in Bucket Truck in competition at the Southwest Virginia Public Works (SWVA-PW) Academy Rodeo at the Berglund Center on April 8.

They advanced to the APWA Mid-Atlantic

Rodeo in Ocean City, Md., on May 13, where Critcher placed third in Mini-Excavator Competition and Davison placed first in Bucket Truck Competition.

The final recognition of the evening went to the Treasurer/Finance Department for receiving the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY 2025-2026. This is the 11th year the award has been received. In order to receive the accolade, a budget document must satisfy the criteria to operate as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communication device. Budget documents must rate "proficient" in all four categories and in 14 mandatory criteria within those categories. Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton said this award is "a huge deal for a locality of our size." He accepted the award along with Interim Finance Director Tiffany Stewart and Interim Treasurer Kimberley Ramsey.

Council also adopted a resolution in support of a newly established RFP Subcommittee under the Community Development Committee; It does not have the authority to make decisions, just recommendations, which will enhance due diligence and promote fairness and competitiveness.

Three citizens addressed Town Council. George Baldwin spoke

in support of the Vinton Police Department and reminded council that, in this time of budget discussions, the town needs to pay, honor, and support the police.

Skylour Stultz expressed her concerns that "there has been a decline in community involvement, morale, and promotion of our town and an overall lack of connection between town leadership, employees, and residents." Her particular concern was "recent situations regarding town employees who have served the community for 10, 15, or more years with dedication, care, and respect, who were terminated without what appeared to be transparency, respect, or acknowledgement of their dedication to this town." She asked council "to review the leadership practices and workplace culture within the administration to ensure employees are being treated professionally, ethically, and with the respect they have earned."

Gloria Charlton requested that council schedule a town hall meeting to discuss the perception that the town is not thriving, there are too many empty buildings, and more contractors and businesses within Vinton need to be hired for projects within the town. The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for June 2.

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# Eagles edge Byrd in softball in Blue Ridge tourney semis

The William Byrd softball team is hoping to make the Region 3D tournament after finishing the regular season with a 12-9 record. The Terriers are now 12-10 overall after losing their Blue Ridge District tournament semifinal game to Staunton River on Tuesday, 8-7 in Moneta.

Several teams are still playing this week so final rankings were yet to be compiled at press time. However, the Terriers didn't do themselves any favors with two losses to end the regular last week. The tournament game does not count in the region rankings.

Byrd hosted Christiansburg at Greg Barton Field last Wednesday and dropped a 6-1 decision. Addison Clark and Hadyn Grubb split time on the rubber for Byrd and Clark, Grubb, Kyndall Agee, Shelby Ensor, Mallory Peroulas, Ryleigh Grubb and Olivia Bustamante had one hit each.

On Friday at Barton Field the girls out-hit Staunton River, nine to six, but dropped a 5-2 decision to the Golden Eagles. Peroulas, Heidi Dixon and Hadyn Grubb each collected two hits for the Terriers. Clark and Hadyn Grubb again split time in the circle.

The loss put the Terriers in third place in the district standings and that meant another game with second seeded Staunton River, this time in Moneta, to open the tournament on Tuesday. Again Byrd out-hit the Eagles, this time 12 to seven, but once again Staunton River came out on top where it counted, winning 8-7.

Byrd got on the board first in the top of the second but Staunton River tied the game in the bottom of the second and took the lead in the third inning. Clark homered to left field in the top of the sixth and Byrd tied the game at 7-7, but the Eagles were able to push the deciding run across with one out in the seventh for a walk-off win. Addison pitched the whole game and took the loss.

With the win Staunton River advances to Friday's BRD tournament championship game with Franklin County at Northside's Lynn Richmond Field. The Terriers will wait to see if their season continues in the Region 3D tournament next week.

# Soccer boys go out with a win

The William Byrd boys ended their soccer season with a win over border rival Staunton River last Friday, downing the visiting Eagles on Highfill Field in Vinton by a 6-1 score.



Tyson Brady had three goals and two assists in Byrd's win over Staunton River. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Tyson Brady, who led the Terriers in goals this season, finished off his senior season with a three goal hat trick. Brady also had two assists in the win.

Also scoring goals were seniors Ethan Sutton and Noah Owens and sophomore Cooper Peery. Shaun Gower and Lane Brunk had assists.

The Terriers finished the season with a 4-12-1 overall record and a 3-7 record in Blue Ridge District games. Byrd lost five games by just one goal.

The Terriers did not qualify for the Blue Ridge District or Region 3D tournaments. The BRD champion will be crowned at Northside Friday night with a match between Franklin County and William Fleming, two Class 5 schools in the tough Blue Ridge District.

Byrd will graduate nine seniors.

# Region lacrosse begins on Friday

The region lacrosse tournaments for boys and girls are scheduled to begin on Friday of this week but final pairings were yet to be decided at press time. The Byrd boys will be in the tourna-

ment but the Terrier girls most likely will not.

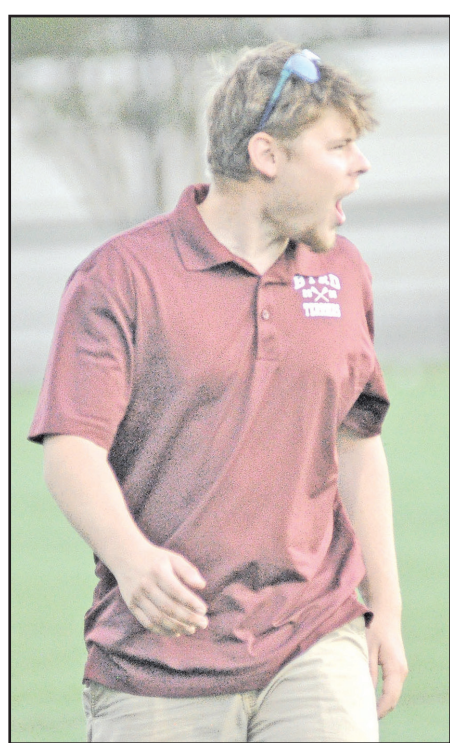
The boys were 7-6 pending a game at E.C. Glass on Wednesday that was too late for press deadlines. Last Wednesday in Lexington the Terriers dropped a 7-4 game to host Rockbridge County in a game that ended early due to bad weather. Since three quarters had been completed it was ruled an official game.

On Monday the boys were in Rocky Mount, where they defeated host Franklin County by a 16-4 score. Defenders Jackson McCoy and Mason Hershel scored coast-to-coast goals after forcing takeaways, helping lead the Terriers to the win.

The girls were home to Franklin County Monday and dropped a 17-2 decision. Anna Perkoski had 15 saves for Byrd.

"We didn't have much offense," said coach Dan Eberhardt. "The team is very young and we have three starters out with injuries."

The girls were scheduled to host E.C. Glass Wednesday and they'll wrap up the regular season tonight with a game at Christiansburg. Byrd will most likely not make the region tournament with a 2-13 record with two games still to be played.



Kaden West is in his second year as Byrd lacrosse coach. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

# Region tennis starts Sat.

The Region 3D tennis tournaments will get underway this Saturday but the William Byrd teams were still waiting for word on who and

where they'll play as the paper went to press.

The Byrd girls finished up the regular season with a 10-6 overall record. They have not

played since shutting out Franklin County on May 12, and finished in second place in the Blue Ridge District with a 6-2 record, losing only to Lord Botetourt.

The boys tied LB for the district regular season champion with 7-1 records each. Byrd is 9-5 overall after winning two matches last week.

Last Wednesday in Vinton the Byrd boys defeated visiting Liberty High, 5-4. Singles winners were Cody Gardner, Bryce Simpson and Noah Wheeler. Byrd took two of three doubles for the deciding points as Braeden Booth and Simpson won along with the duo of Aaron Hemming and Wheeler.

On Friday the boys played at Staunton River and shut out the Eagles, 9-0. Also we beat Staunton River 9-0.



Byrd's Zane Telsch plays the net in last week's match at Staunton River. PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

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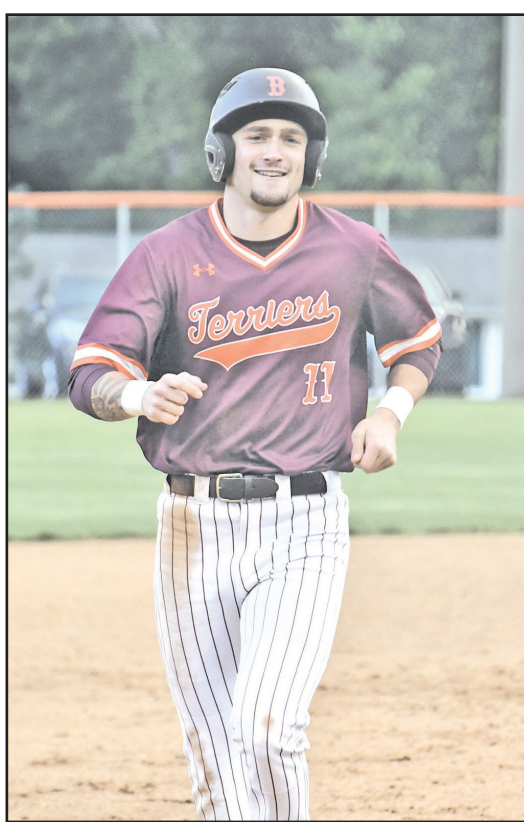
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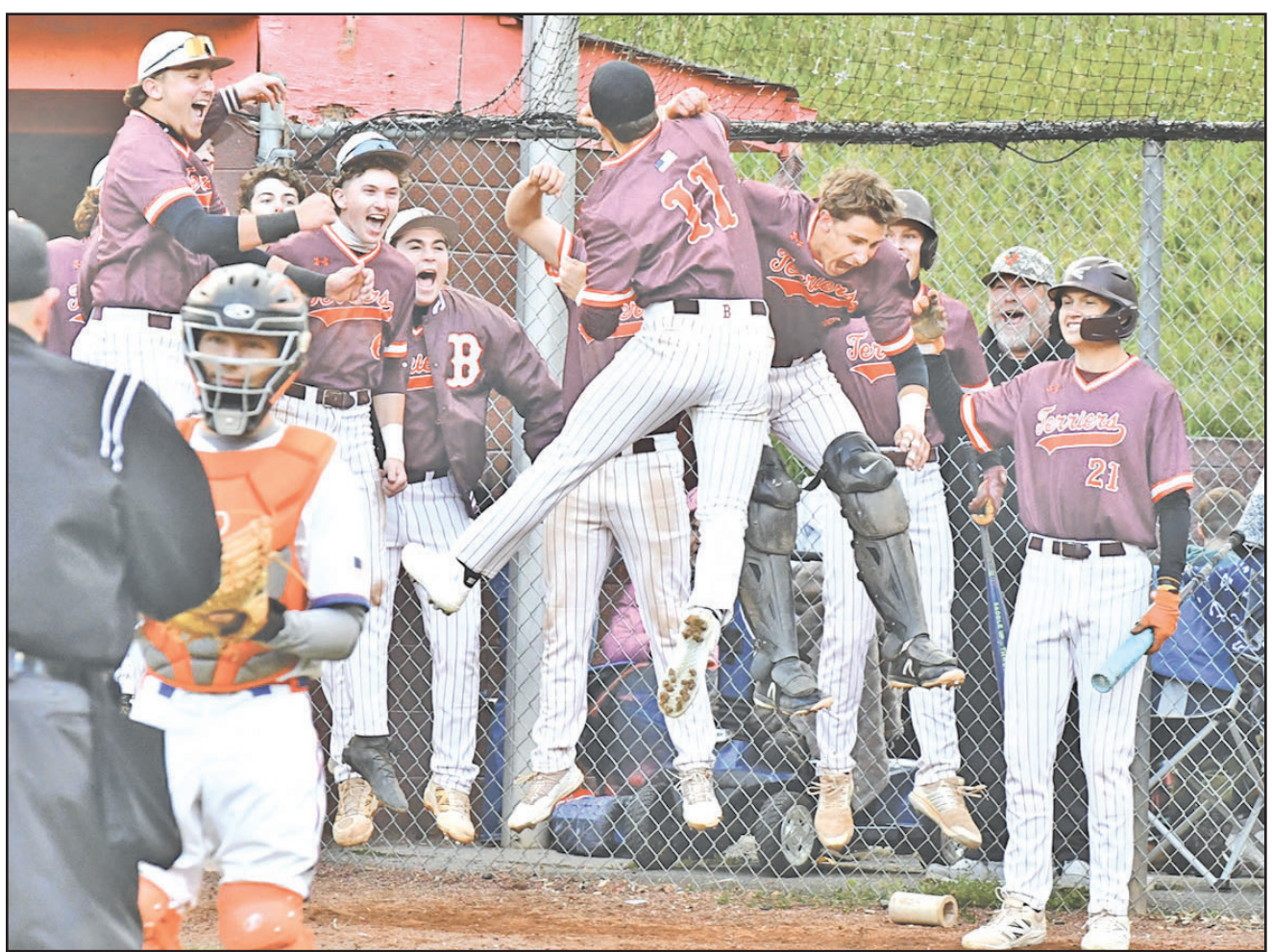
# SPORTS

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Above, William Byrd's Tate Kotz is all smiles as he rounds the bases after blasting one of his two home runs in last week's win over Bassett. Right, teammates celebrate as Tate(#11) returns to the dugout.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



## Terriers finish one spot shy of making region tournament

The William Byrd baseball team finished one spot out of where they needed to be to make the Region 3D tournament, so Tuesday's loss to Northside in the Blue Ridge District tournament semifinals ended the season for Byrd. The Terriers finished the season at 11-11.

"From what I understand, when Carroll County beat Christiansburg it bumped us down from number eight to number nine," said Byrd coach Cam Cassidy. "Nowhere can I find the points rules, but after talking to Jason (former coach and current AD Taylor) and Gary (former coach and AD Walthall) it appears we didn't make it."

Byrd defeated Bassett and Staunton River last week on back-to-back nights to end the regular season. The Terriers were hoping that would get them in, but when all the points were counted they were the odd team out.

"We don't have a big win," said Cassidy. "If we had beaten Spotswood, LCA or Franklin County I feel like we'd be in."

Byrd had a couple highlights to end the season.

Last Thursday was "Senior Night" at Walthall Park and the seniors were recognized prior to the game. The seniors got to play catch on the field with their dads prior to the game, and that was a special time.

"A really cool moment," said Cassidy. "That came from booster club. They do a lot of good stuff for the team and senior night was largely their doing, and they did a great job."

Once the game got underway the Terriers made it more memorable with a 7-4 win. Byrd hit four home runs in the game, including two by senior Tate Kotz. Jake Courtemanche and JW Vaughan, both seniors, also sent balls out of the yard.

Bradley Counts picked up the win on the mound for Byrd, allowing just one earned run over seven innings. He struck out five.

A day later Byrd was in Moneta for the annual JV-Varsity doubleheader with Staunton River. Senior Tyler Chambers got the start and pitched his third complete game of the season, running his pitching record to 4-0. Tyler struck out six as Byrd took a 5-3 win against their border rival. Bryce

Moding and Kylind Spence had two hits each.

The win gave Byrd a 7-3 record in the district and the third seed for the four-team tournament. The Terriers played at second seeded Northside Tuesday and dropped a 10-5 decision. Byrd had just four hits, with Cannin Lutz going two-for-three with two RBIs. Kotz started on the mound and took the loss. Northside will play Franklin County, at Northside, Friday for the BRD tournament championship.

The loss ended the season for the Terriers, who were hoping to make the region tournament. After a 2-6 start the Terriers went 9-4 for the remainder of the regular season, then lost to Northside Tuesday.

"It was exciting to work with the kids and see the Roanoke Valley," said first year coach Cassidy. "It was interesting to see how competitive it is and the relationships with the other coaches, umpires and parents. There were plenty of ups and downs but after one season I feel like I understand things a little better. I spent a lot of time with the kids and coaches and I'm appreciative of this senior group."



Left, Byrd's Bryce Moding puts the tag on a sliding Staunton River baserunner in Friday's win in Moneta. Right, dads of Byrd seniors play catch prior to Thursday's win.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

## Terrier girls will play for Blue Ridge District soccer championship Friday

The William Byrd girls' soccer team shut out Northside Tuesday night, 4-0, in a Blue Ridge District tournament semifinal game on Highfill Field in Vinton. With the win Byrd advances to Friday's BRD tournament championship game at Northside High against Franklin County. Kickoff is scheduled

for 5 pm and it's the first game of a doubleheader with the boys' championship to follow.

Last Friday the girls traveled to Staunton River for their last game of the regular season. Byrd took a 5-2 win to finish the district regular season at 8-2 and share the regular season champion-

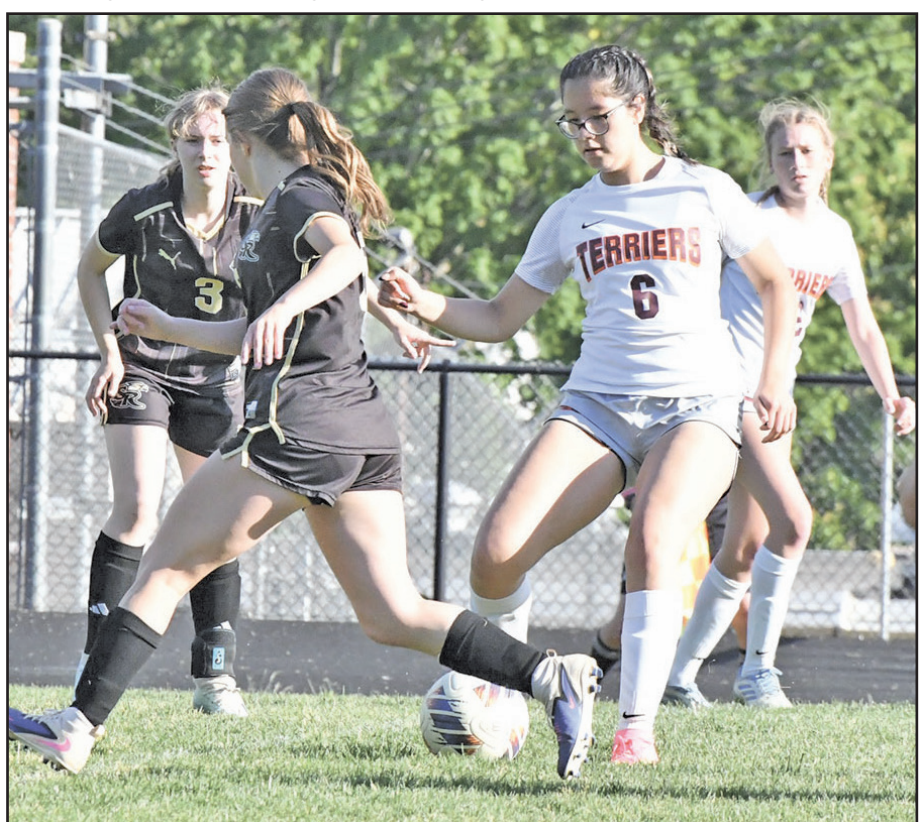
ship with Franklin County.

Kendall Ranson scored early to put Byrd up 1-0 but the Eagles were able to tie the game before half time. Staunton River scored first in the second half, taking a 2-1 lead, but a few minutes later the Terriers were awarded a penalty kick for a handball in the box and Bella Barrette converted to tie the game at 2-2.

"Things started clicking after that

and we were able to score three more goals and get the number one seed for the district tournament," said coach Molly Cox.

The Terriers will take a 10-8 overall record to Northside Friday for the district championship game. Byrd is hoping to be in the Region 3D tournament next week but final rankings weren't released with some teams still having games this week.



Enna Schofield(#6) of William Byrd battles for the ball in last Friday's win over Staunton River in Moneta.

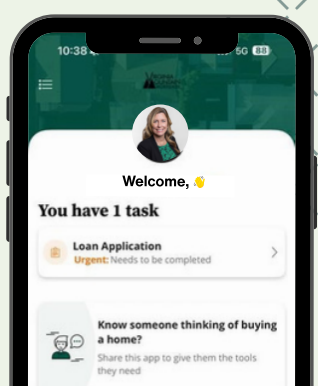
PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

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