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Thursday, October 29, 2026 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack, and East Roanoke Co. (USPS-660-020) OurValley.org • \$1.50



Winners of the Vinton Halloween Costume Contest Best All-Around – Meiler Moye and Owen Frashure



The Halloween Costume Contest

Town of Vinton invaded by thousands of trick-or-treaters

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Town of Vinton was invaded by thousands of ghoulies and ghosties, space creatures, princesses, pirates, movie characters, warriors, and more at the annual downtown trick-or-treat celebration on October 27.

Local businesses, organizations, churches, and the town set up tents, booths, and tables along the downtown streets to hand out treats to children of all ages from 3-6 p.m. on a beautiful fall afternoon.

Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Angie Chewning says she stopped counting after distributing 5,200 pieces of candy. The VFW and others actually ran out.

In addition to collecting treats, families were entertained by music and dancing from DJ RyRy of RSP Entertainment, face painting, and an official costume contest on stage at the Vinton Farmers' Market. The local Scout troop set up a campsite on a corner downtown.

Another great community event from the Town of Vinton!

See **Trick-or-treaters**, page 9



The Payne family



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS AND SABRINA MCCARTY
Mona Lisa

Roanoke County celebrates new Career and Technology Center

The Roanoke County School Board and Roanoke County Board of Supervisors celebrated the completion of construction of the new Roanoke County Career and Technology Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 21.

The RCCTC is a state-of-the-art facility which will train students for the vital jobs needed in the Roanoke Valley. The career center was part of the \$130 million project that resulted in renovations and expansion of Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools and the completely new build of the RCCTC. Glen Cove and Cundiff celebrated their grand reopenings earlier in the school year.

Students and teachers will transition to the new career and technology building in January.

Speakers at the ceremony included RCPS Superintendent Dr. Jamie Soltis, School Board Chair Shelley Clemons, Board of Supervisors Chair Tammy Shepherd, CTE Director for RCPS Jason Suhr, RCPS coordinator of school-business relations Carl York, and the school's principal, Christian Kish.

Programs which will be offered at the new career and technology center include: Automotive Technology, Building Trades, the Center for Engineering, the Center for Mass Communication,



The new Roanoke County Career and Technology Center campus off of Peters Creek Road

PHOTO COURTESY RCPS



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Student Terriers of the Month for September (from left): front, Kendall Adams, Jeremy Vandergriff, Brett Gardner, and Evan Bays; back, sponsor David Bell, Asia Bannister, Cassidy Thompson, Carly Norton, Keenan West, Caleb Smith, Payten Childress, and sponsor Jason Boothe (not pictured: Katelyn Bennett, Reid Divers, Heidi Dixon, Cade Gearhart, Shelby Hensley, Georgia Ralph, Lauren Toney, and Sydney Tuck)

Terriers of the Month recognized for September

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

William Byrd High School has recognized its first group of Terriers of the Month this school year— teachers/staff and students. Teachers and staff nominate students for the honor; students nominate faculty and staff.

The title of Terrier of the Month signifies someone who exhibits the “Terrier Way” (being safe, respectful, responsible, and embodying the best of WBHS). Student recognitions are not based on grades, athletics, or

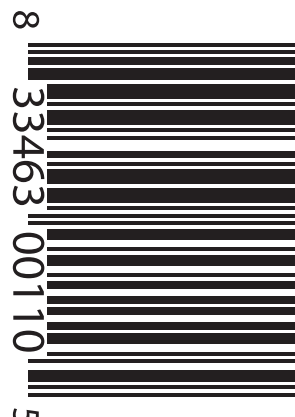
talents— but on character.

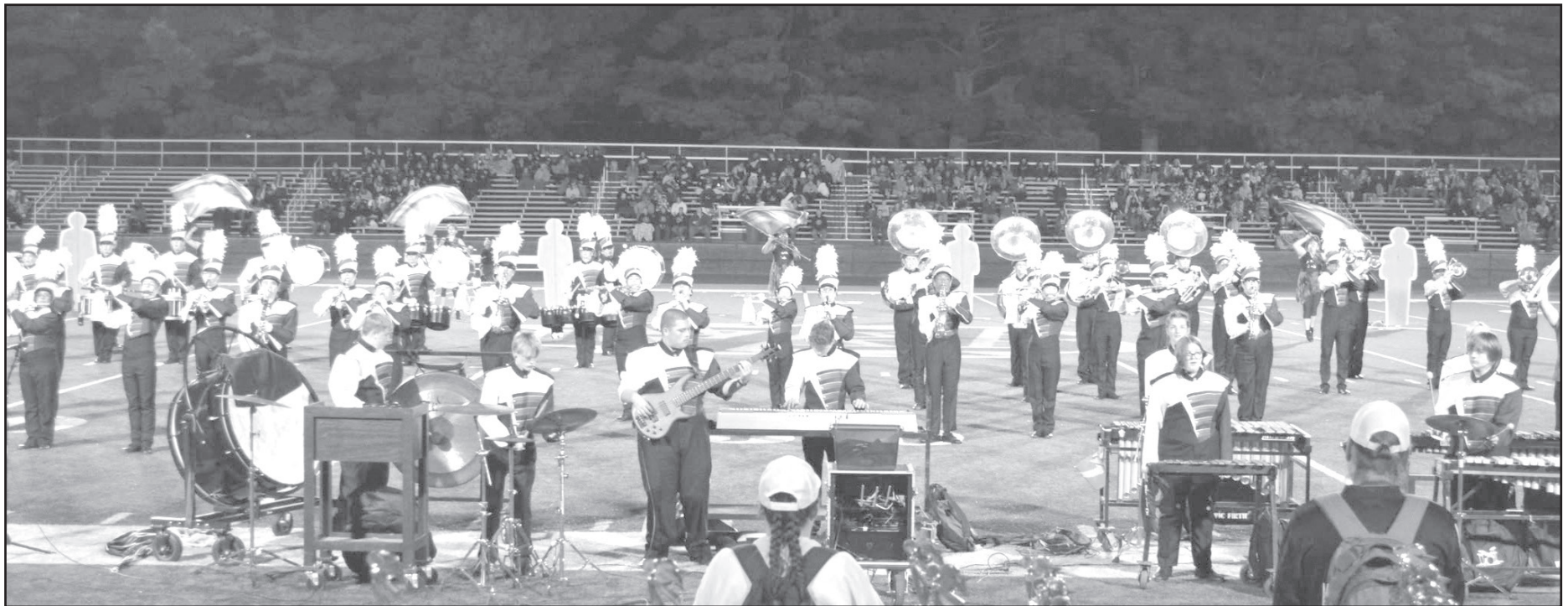
The 18 students nominated by faculty and staff as Terriers of the Month include: Kendall Adams, Asia Bannister, Evan Bays, Katelyn Bennett, Payten Childress, Reid Divers, Heidi Dixon, Brett Gardner, Cade Gearhart, Shelby Hensley, Carly Norton, Georgia Ralph, Caleb Smith, Cassidy Thompson, Lauren Toney, Sydney Tuck, Jeremy Vandergriff, and Keenan West.

Faculty and staff nominated by students include: Allyson Goin, Andrew Hale, Andrew

Decoster, Ashton Eubank, Barbara McGrath, Ben Munsey, Brad Greenway, Carla Graybill, Carla Hatfield, Carrington Jones,

See **Terriers**, page 8





Marching Terriers host Blue Ridge Festival of Bands

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The high school marching band competition season has come to a close with the 30th Blue Ridge Festival of Bands held in Patterson Stadium at William Byrd High School on October 24.

Competing bands were Altavista Combined, Auburn, William Campbell, Eastern Montgomery, William Fleming, Chatham, Liberty, Rockbridge County, Liberty Christian Academy, Pulaski County, Lord Botetourt, Magna Vista, Northside, Rustburg, Christiansburg, Cave Spring, Patrick Henry, and Bassett.

The William Byrd Marching Terriers performed their program “The Power of One” in exhibition at the end of the evening as judges tallied their scores for the competing bands.

Band Director Dan Plybon said afterwards, “Yesterday was nothing short of a great success! Our annual Blue Ridge Festival of Bands again earned the reputation of being one of the best-run marching band competitions in the area!”

“This is due to all of the continued support from our band boosters. If you are a band parent, then you are indeed a band booster! Needless to say, this is an amazing group of people. Thank you is not a strong enough word, but I will say it over and over again... Thank you!”

“From start to finish we were committed to covering all of the necessary tasks to bring our contest to life. We hit a home run in my opinion.

“I cannot begin to name all those band parents and friends who were involved, but we are thankful for all of you to make our contest what it was yesterday. Many, many people sacrificed hours and hours of their time for the benefit of the WBHS band program. We are all grateful. Thank you all again for your support!”

The Marching Terriers, with nearly

100 members, have been led this year by Corps Commander Ramsay Stephens and Drum Majors Zane Telsch and Kyleigh Ginger. Horn Line Captains are Blair Godlesky (Brass) and Erica Barton (Woodwinds). Percussion Captain is Noah Wheeler. Color Guard Captain is Kendall Perkins.

The marching band staff in addition to Plybon includes Assistant Director Jordan Alvos, Color Guard Instructor Jenny Swortzel, and Percussion Instructor Isaac Baldwin.

In addition to Stephens, Telsch, and Ginger, members of this year’s Marching Terriers include:

- Flute: Aaron Hemming, Aubree Overfelt, Camden Ingram, Emma Whitcomb, Erica Barton, Jayden Ferris, Katie Linkenhoker, Kai Altamarino, Kayden Creel, and Naleigh Lewis
- Clarinet: Brihanna Harris, Cale Meador, Carsyn Yates, Josiah Wright, Landon Dolan, Sabrina Wray, and Sophie Hoagland
- Bass Clarinet: Mason Moses and Sophia Nester
- Alto Saxophone: Brenton Bailey, Drayven English, Landon Hollins, Levi Whitcomb, Luis Garcia, Norah Buck, Olivia Morrison, Owen Seth, and Sammara Weaver
- Tenor Saxophone: Jasper Hunter and Nyah Rutherford
- Trumpet: Annabelle McIntyre, Blair Godlesky, Brooke Lomax, Christopher Flemming, Fallon Davis, Isaac Mason, Isla Baldwin, Josh Landsford, Kailen, Kennedy Moseley, Paylin Waldron, and Sam Leftwich
- Mellophone: Jace Meador, Julissa Garcia, and Sydney Nichols
- Trombone: Cashton Nute, Cooper Butrym, Eli Copening, Jeremy Paul, Jordan Stanley, Josh Williams, Josiah Buck, and Katelynn Howell
- Tuba: Ashton Royall, Grant Muddiman, Grayson Ferguson, and



Scenes from Blue Ridge Festival of Bands

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAFE TELSCH

Nathaniel Hale

- Front Ensemble: Aiden Beasley, Carson Kirby, Elayne Sorenson, Elizabeth Ball, Ethan Hastings, Gabryle Weden, Jaxon Smith, and Olivia Strassburg
- Drum Line: Ayden Morrison, Brayden Sink, Dakota Downs, Hayden Biggs, Holden White, Hudson Cain, Jaxon Eline, Lasen Elkins, Matthew Yang, Noah Wheeler, and Ramsay Stephens
- Color Guard: Adriana Barahona, Anna Perkoski, Bailey Overstreet, Ben

Hoyos, Emily Clinebell, Haleigh Saucedo, Kaylee Johnson, Kendell Perkins, Lexi Short, Makayla Vaughn, Max Harth, Mariah Garrett, Mimi Guyer, Peyton Burks, and Serenity Cassell

In addition to Amanda Biggs, this year’s Booster Board is made up of Vice President Ace Eline, Treasurer Beth Williams, Secretary Susan White, Fundraising Jeanne Morrison, Volunteer Coordinator Kristi Telsch, and Senior Committee Chair Corey Meador.

Vinton honors veterans and active duty service members with Field of Honor

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The Town of Vinton is hosting the Field of Honor 2026 to honor fallen heroes. Due to the Vinton War Memorial renovation, the Field of Honor will be set up in downtown Vinton beginning November 6.

The Field of Honor is always a unique and poignant event with hundreds of U.S. flags on display.

Each U.S. flag represents an individual and tells a story. Flags will be displayed through November 21. The flags will stand in tribute to veterans, active-duty service members, and all who have served. Flags may be sponsored to honor

a fallen hero.

Each flag represents a person, a story, and a reason to remember. The community is invited to dedicate a flag in honor or memory of a veteran, donate, or become an event sponsor. Proceeds benefit Mothers of Veteran Suicide. This year’s Field of Honor is even more special because the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, an event that forever shaped the understanding of service, sacrifice, and courage.

The Field of Honor is free and open to the public.

Visitors are encouraged to walk among the flags, reflect on the names, and take a moment to honor the individuals behind the uniform— and the opportunities their service has made possible.

Volunteers are needed to help place the flags on the Vinton Municipal Building lawn. To volunteer, email dcollins@vintonva.gov.

Organizers include Project Chair Donna Collins, Co-Project Chair Brandon Alterio, and PR Chair Mandy Adkins.

-Submitted by Town of Vinton



Field of Honor

November 6–21, 2026 | Vinton Municipal Building

As America celebrates 250 years, the Town of Vinton invites our community to pause, remember, and honor the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Each American flag displayed in the Field of Honor represents an individual and tells a story of service, sacrifice, courage, and love of country.

Sponsor a flag in memory or honor of a fallen hero in your life. Your dedication becomes part of this powerful tribute, allowing their story and legacy to be remembered by our community.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit vintonva.gov



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton hosting third annual Veterans Ruck March

TOWN OF VINTON

VETERAN'S RUCK

NOVEMBER 21, 2026

JOIN THE TOWN OF VINTON VETERANS OUTREACH COMMITTEE AS WE CELEBRATE VETERANS WITH THE 3RD ANNUAL RUCK MARCH THROUGH VINTON!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

8:30 AM – NOON

311 S. POLLARD ST. • VINTON, VA

WWW.VINTONVA.GOV/RUCK

SCAN HERE

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

The Town of Vinton Veterans Outreach Committee invites the community to “honor our past, celebrate our present and inspire our future” by joining with them for the third annual Veterans Ruck March on Saturday, November 21.

Held during America’s 250th anniversary year, the Ruck provides an opportunity for the community to come together in recognition of the service, sacrifice, and commitment of veterans.

The Ruck March starts off from the Vinton Municipal Building at 311 S. Pollard Street at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. Participants will complete a four-mile route through the town, starting and finishing together as a unit. No running is required.

During this Ruck March, participants “will honor our past veterans, celebrate our current veterans, and mentor our future veterans.”

Participants are encouraged to fill their rucksacks with non-perishable food items that will be donated to Feeding Southwest Virginia. Participants may also bring donations in a wagon or other carrier.

All proceeds from the event will support Feeding Southwest Virginia. There will be refreshments on site.

The Ruck March supports the town’s Field of Honor and brings it to a close. Immediately following the Ruck, participants are encouraged to help the Town of Vinton Veterans Outreach Committee pack up the flags displayed in the Field of Honor next to the Municipal Building.

The Field of Honor is a powerful tribute

to the individuals who have served and sacrificed for the country. Helping to deploy and pack up the flags gives participants another meaningful way to be part of this community tradition.

Whether you are an experienced Rucker, or trying it for the first time, the Veterans Ruck is an opportunity to come together, support the community, and honor those who have served.

Local businesses and organizations are invited to support the Veterans Ruck through sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship helps make the event possible while supporting our veterans and neighbors in need through Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Weight Standard: In lieu of static weight, fill the packs with non-perishable foods that will collectively be donated to Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Each participant will have either 10 pounds or 20 pounds of static weight or slam packed with non-perishable foods in their rucksack at the start point. They can also pull a little red beach wagon, filled with donations for Feeding Southwest Virginia.

No alternative methods of transportation are permitted– this is a Ruck-only event. Participants must follow all traffic, pedestrian, and general laws while on the route.

All American flags will lead the Ruck and stay at the front of the pack.

For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Vinton/TownOfVintonVeteransRuck>.

-Submitted by Town of Vinton



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT BARTLEY

Honor Choir members (from left): front, Brody Parrish, Hope Thomas, Jocelyn Augustinowicz, and Nate Buck; back, Ryker McKay, Sage Brown, Bindi Whitenack, Ava Lorton, and Alex Jones

Byrd singers invited to participate in Virginia Tech Honor Choir

High school students from across multiple states traveled to Blacksburg this past weekend for Virginia Tech’s Honor Choir– an invitation-only experience extended by their high school choir directors in recognition of exceptional musical achievement.

The weekend consisted of rehearsals beginning

Saturday afternoon, culminating in a concert Sunday at Virginia Tech’s world-class Center for Performing Arts, where the Honor Choir performed alongside the university’s own ensembles.

Throughout the event, participants gained insights into campus life and the admission process

while working directly with Virginia Tech’s music faculty. Beyond the musical experience, students were also treated to a fun social in VT’s on-campus bowling alley and billiards room.

-Submitted by William Byrd
Choral Director Matt Bartley

Vinton leaf collection begins November 9

The Town of Vinton Public Works Department will begin the annual leaf collection on Monday, Nov. 9, and end on Friday, Dec. 11. Bagged leaves will be collected weekly on the resident’s regular bulk collection day.

Leaves should be raked no closer than one foot and no further than five feet from the back of the curb or edge of the street located in front of the residence. Do not place leaves in the street or gutter as this may cause rainwater to pond and leaves to wash into the roadway, creating hazards and obstructing traffic.

Sticks, limbs, rocks and other debris should not be included in the leaves as these items can clog and damage the equipment.

Leaves must be raked to the proper location by 7 a.m. Leaves should not be put out too early and should not block sidewalks.

Weather and equipment breakdown issues can cause delays.

Call 983-0646 if further information is needed.

- Town of Vinton

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
LYNN HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH, 1501 E Washington Ave., Vinton, VA 24179, Phone 540-342-6102, Pastor: John E Hackworth Jr., website lynnhavenbaptistchurch.com. Sundays: Sunday School at 9:30am-ages 0 to 5th grade, Children’s Church Services 10:30 Sunday, Worship at 10:30 am, Youth at 6:00pm, Wednesdays: Awana at 6:00pm, Prayer Meeting at 6:00pm

CHRISTIAN (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
Belmont Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1101 Jamison Ave SE, Roanoke, VA 24013. Growing God’s Kingdom one neighbor at a time. At Belmont Christian Church, we focus on faith, family and community. We invite you to join us this Sunday and share in our worship and fellowship services, Sunday School 9:45am, Youth Sunday School 9:45am, Worship Service 11:00am. For more information visit www.belmontchristian.net or call 540-343-7502

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 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”

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

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

CONSEQUENCES

Read 2 Kings 14:26–29;
Amos 1:1 through 2:16

Perhaps we learned it in the principal’s office after committing a misdeed or when a traffic court judge determined the fine for our traffic infraction. But at some point, we all learned that our actions have consequences.

God judged Israel’s neighbors for atrocities they committed. When His attention turned to His chosen people, their “crimes” centered on how they had treated the living God as well as their fellow countrymen. Judah and Israel were living in moral deterioration. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed, I will send fire on Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem (Amos 2:4,5).

Our attitude toward God and His Word has consequences. If we follow the instructions He has so plainly laid out for us, He promises blessing. The reverse is also true. If we persist in ignoring what He wants us to do, we will have to live with the consequences which may not be very pleasant. God leaves the choice to us.

Challenge for Today: Keep what God says in His Word front and center in your life.

Quicklook: Amos 2:4–16

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

On November 16, Steve has arranged for the Roanoke Flute Circle to come to demonstrate their music and talk to the students about their group that meets here in the Roanoke Valley. Also, there will be a local flute maker who will have and demonstrate his original creations. All are invited. Final class, class performance, and reception will be on November 30, and the public

At each meeting, participants go around the room and share what they have accomplished since the last

An Emergency Binder Workshop begins at 2 p.m. Friday, November 13, at the Community Center. Sarah A. Bidwell, of

See **Senior** page 7

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org
To subscribe: (540) 473-2741

Tucker Frye, *Advertising* tfrye@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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northeast
37. Examples
38. ___ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infelders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river

Teen Art Explorers* will meet on Monday, November 16 from 5:30-

*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. *

~ By Vinton Library Assistant Molly Meador

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From the Pulpit

God never forsakes us

By Pastor Jae Song

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus cried out on the cross. Did God really forsake his Son? Did Jesus truly feel forsaken a that moment? Some suggest God placed upon Jesus the sins of the world so a holy God couldn’t look upon him due to the sin. Would the Father really have looked away at the moment of his Son’s greatest suffering?

God never removed his gaze from the Beloved during those hours on the cross. God

the Father suffered with God the Son. I believe that tears dropped from the sky on that Friday. Then why did Jesus cry out such doubting words? It’s crucial to know that Jesus was quoting Psalm 22:1. Actually, Jesus’ use of the first verse of this psalm was meant to prompt people to remember the rest of it, because the psalm ends with triumph and hope.

“All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes

among them and cast lots for my garment. But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the Lord, praise him! For God has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the

nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. Future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!” Psalm 22:17-31.

Most of us face in our lives a moment when the silence of God is so deafening that we feel forsaken. Pain and doubt creep in and block out any sense of God’s presence.

We do not see how God can make the situation turn out for good. God seems far away. Our prayers appear to be meaningless. We cry out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” But this psalm testifies to God’s redemption. In quoting its first verse, Jesus pointed to his faith that God would ultimately deliver him. Indeed, God raised Jesus up from the grave. God never forsook Jesus. God never forsakes us.

AARP Fraud Alert:

Spotting Social Media Scams

Social media helps us stay connected, but criminals use the same platforms to find potential targets. A scam might arrive as a bargain-priced product, an investment opportunity, a new romantic interest, or a message that appears to come from someone you know.

Criminals create fake profiles, impersonate real people and businesses, or take over legitimate accounts. They

can also use information people share publicly on social media to make their stories more convincing.

Use the platform privacy settings to limit who can see your posts and personal information. And use strong and unique passwords (strongly consider a password manager) and multifactor authentication where available.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams

with AARP Fraud Watch Network. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to a fraud specialist about what to do next.

- AARP



FILE GRAPHIC

Senior

from page 4

Wills on Wheels, will guide participants in organizing important information for their families or trusted helpers may need during an emergency. A binder with forms ready to complete is provided to each attendee. Registration is required. The cost is \$10 to be paid at the event.

The free “From Photos to Pages” Scrapbooking Workshop is on Saturday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to noon at the community center. Bring a few favorite photos to create one or two scrapbook pages. Other materials and hands-on help are provided; no experience is needed. RSVPs are appreciated. For event details, registration and the Zoom link, visit homewithheartva.com/events or contact Beth Powell at 540-209-1255 or beth@homewithheartva.com.

The next Happy Hearts Dance is on Saturday, November 14 from 7-10 p.m. Ronnie Roberts will be playing and concessions are available. Admission is \$10 per person at the door.

New at the center is a Puzzle Exchange, you can take a puzzle or bring a puzzle and exchange it for a different one.

Weekly activities are:

- Mexican Train Dominos meets on Mondays from 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
- Music Jam meets 2-5:30 p.m. every Monday. If you play an instrument or want to sing along or just like to listen to live music, this informal get-together is just what you are looking for.
- On Tuesday, the Senior Center has Line Dancing Classes for Beginners from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Advanced Beginners Class from 10-11 a.m. Advanced Line Dancing will be on hold until further notice.
- Hand and Foot Canasta meets on Tuesdays from 1-5 p.m. and on Thursdays, at 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Senior Tai Chi meets every Thursday from 9-9:45 a.m. In this ongoing class you will learn the gentlest form of tai chi that is structured for improving balance and appropriate for arthritis. For those that have difficulty standing we offer a seated version of the routine.

All Vinton senior programs mentioned take place at the Charles R. Hill Community Center/Senior Center

at 820 E. Washington Avenue, Vinton, and are at no charge unless a fee is stated in the description.

If you have questions regarding senior programs, contact Amanda through e-mail at apayne@vintonva.gov or call 540-983-0645. Follow the

Vinton Charles R. Hill Community Center on Facebook for the most updated news on new programs, program cancelations, and special events.

- Submitted by Judy Gruber



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON



PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 3

To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, (ii) to revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and (iii) to update the existing prohibition on voting by persons found to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

QUESTION 3

Present Law

Virginia’s Constitution currently provides that a person who is convicted of any felony loses the right to vote for the rest of their life unless the Governor of Virginia takes administrative action to restore that specific person’s right to vote. This is the only means of getting back the right to vote after a felony conviction.

The current constitutional provision also imposes a broad restriction, while using outdated terminology, on voting by persons found to be incapacitated. A person who is determined by a court to be incapacitated, regardless of the kind of incapacity, loses the right to vote, and only a court can restore the person’s right to vote later.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment enshrines in the Constitution the fundamental right of all qualified persons in the Commonwealth to vote. Two exceptions to this right are for persons who are serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction and persons who are determined by a court to not understand the act of voting. Such right cannot otherwise be restricted by laws.

Under the proposed amendment, a person who is convicted of a felony loses the right to vote during their period of incarceration. Once released from incarceration, the person gets back the right to vote without needing to apply for restoration by the Governor.

The proposed amendment also requires a specific finding by a court that a person does not understand the act of voting in order for that person’s right to vote to be taken away.

With the right to vote, a person also has the right to be a juror, the right to be elected to an office, and the right to be a notary public.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE II.

FRANCHISE AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. Qualifications of voters.

(a) In elections by the people, the qualifications of voters shall be as follows: Each voter shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be eighteen years of age, shall fulfill the residence requirements set forth in ~~this section~~ subsection (b), and shall be registered to vote pursuant to this article. Every person who meets these qualifications shall have the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, and such right shall not be abridged by law, except that:

~~As prescribed by law, no~~ (1) No person who has been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall be qualified-entitled to vote during such period of incapacity until his ~~competency~~ capacity has been reestablished as prescribed by law.

(b) The residence requirements shall be that each voter shall be a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct where he votes. Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are employed overseas, and their spouses and dependents residing with them, and who are qualified to vote except for relinquishing their place of abode in the Commonwealth while overseas, to vote in the Commonwealth subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may provide for persons who are qualified to vote except for having moved their residence from one precinct to another within the Commonwealth to continue to vote in a former precinct subject to conditions and time limits defined by law. The General Assembly may also provide, in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, alternatives to registration for new residents of the Commonwealth.

(c) Any person who will be qualified with respect to age to vote at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also to vote in any intervening primary or special election.

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Terriers

from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Staff (from left): seated, Dan Plybon, Brad Greenway, William Satterfield, James Galbreath, Mitchel Burkhart, and Olivia Body; back, William Brodmerkel, Laura Ward, Ryan Adams, Cherry Bell Damasco-Farrington, Allyson Goin, Carla Graybill, Lauren Pomeroy, Hannah Prater, Lillian Mullens, Lauren Pearson, Carla Hatfield, Lisa Stover, Katie Hetherington, Christopher Steuart, and Travis Welty (not pictured: Andrew Hale, Andrew DeCoster, Ashton Eubank, Barbara McGrath, Ben Munsey, Carrington Jones, Joshua Camden, Katherine Johnson, Kevin Tuck, Marisa Arrieta, Matt Bartley, and Amy Sartell)

Cherry Bell Damasco-Farrington, Christopher Steuart, Dan Plybon, Hannah Prater, James Galbreath, Joshua Camden, Katherine Johnson, Katie Hetherington, Kevin Tuck, Laura Ward, Lauren Pearson, Lauren Pomeroy, Lillian Mullens, Lisa Stover, Marisa Arrieta, Matthew Bartley, Mitchell Burkhart, Olivia Body, Ryan Adams, Amy Sartell, Travis Welty, Wiliam Brodmerkel, and William Satterfield.

Sponsors for the Terriers of the Month program this year are Jason Boothe and David Bell of the Boothe Bell Real Estate Team.

“Supporting the Vinton community is about more than just doing business here,” they say. “It’s about giving back to the people and families who make this community such a special place.”

With their real estate business based in Vinton, and Jason being a proud graduate of William Byrd

High School, both have strong ties to the area. They have remained active in the community through various sponsorships, including local youth and school sports programs.

They say sponsoring the William Byrd Terrier of the Month program is another opportunity to show their appreciation and support for local students.

“We believe it’s important to recognize young people who are working hard, setting good examples, and making a positive difference. Sometimes a little recognition and encouragement can go a long way. We want these students to know that their efforts are noticed and appreciated.”

For Jason and David, this sponsorship is simply another way to say thank you to a community that has supported them over the years. They hope the Terrier of the Month program will encourage



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LAUREN POMEROY

Terrier of the Month shirts designed by art classes at WBHS

students to continue doing their best, both inside and outside the classroom.

“Vinton is a special place to us, and we’re proud to be a small part of recognizing the next generation of Terriers.”

When they are chosen as Terrier of the Month, students receive media recognition, a Terrier of the Month T-shirt, and a postcard home from the teacher who nominated them explaining why they were honored.

The T-shirts were designed this year through a competition in the graphic design classes of art instructor Emily Duhon. The winning shirt was designed by student Benjamin Gurley.

The program is facilitated by Assistant Principal Kevin Richardson and Life Counselor Lauren Pomeroy.

Center

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY RCPS

RCPS celebrated the completion of construction of the new Career and Technology Center with a ribbon-cutting on October 21. The CTE will open to students in January 2027.

Collision Repair, Computer Information Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Dental Assistant (new program), Early Childhood Education, Emergency Medical Technician, Game Design, HVAC (new program), Mechatronics/Robotics, Motorsports Technology, Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (moving from William Byrd High school), Nursing, Radiologic Technologist, Teaching Internship, and Welding.

According to RCPS, career education has

been “an integral part of instruction at RCPS since 1962 with construction of the Burton Center for Arts and Technology.” Over time, that building and some parts of the curriculum had become antiquated. Space was limited for expansion.

It was apparent that a new, up-to-date facility was needed. In 2019, the School Board began taking a hard look at what it would take to “construct a new, larger, and more advanced CTE Center.”

A Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to determine needs and possible locations. After a year’s search, property was found on a hilltop just off Peters Creek Road overlooking the airport. Plans were made for a 125,000-square-foot facility at a cost of approximately \$80 million. The ground-breaking for the RCCTC was held in September 2024.

Dr. Soltis says he believes the career

center will become an economic driver for the whole region.

He has said that the school division wants the facility to be in use 24 hours a day eventually, by adding adult education partnerships with businesses and sharing the space with colleges and universities.

The boards took the opportunity to welcome more Campaign for Excellence Partners who are helping to fund programs at the career center which will meet industry standards: Advance Auto Parts Foundation, Virginia Credit Union, Steel Dynamics, and New Millenium. They join Altec, Varney, Carilion Clinic, Alro Steel, Bower Heating and Air, and Simpson Funeral Home in bringing the “latest, greatest” equipment to the facility.

- Vinton Messenger Staff report

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 1



To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient’s health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS QUESTION 1

Present Law

Currently, the Virginia Constitution does not explicitly provide to its citizens a right to reproductive freedom nor does it explicitly protect or prohibit certain kinds of health care procedures or decisions.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would add to the Virginia Constitution's Bill of Rights the fundamental right to make and carry out decisions about a person’s own reproductive care with only certain, specific exceptions. The proposed amendment specifically allows the state government to pass laws to regulate abortion care in the third trimester of pregnancy, but requires any such law to allow for abortion care when it is medically needed to protect the life and health of the pregnant person or because the fetus is not viable.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 11-A. Fundamental right to reproductive freedom.

That every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to make and carry out decisions relating to one's own prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, abortion care, miscarriage management, and fertility care.

An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be, directly or indirectly, denied, burdened, or infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Notwithstanding the above, the Commonwealth may regulate the provision of abortion care in the third trimester, provided that in no circumstance shall the Commonwealth prohibit an abortion (i) that in the professional judgment of a physician is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual or (ii) when in the professional judgment of a physician the fetus is not viable.

The Commonwealth shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.

The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on such individual's own exercise of this fundamental right or such individual's own actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The Commonwealth shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against any individual for aiding or assisting another individual in exercising such other individual's right to reproductive freedom with such other individual's voluntary consent.

For the purposes of this section, a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of maintaining or improving the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of care and evidence-based medicine and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making.

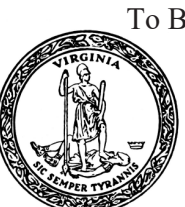
This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of the section.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – QUESTION 2



To Be Voted On at the November 3, 2026, Election

BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same-sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS QUESTION 2

Present Law

Marriages, civil unions, and other legal relationships with the same rights, benefits, and effects of marriage between persons of the same sex or gender are prohibited under Virginia’s Constitution. This prohibition is no longer enforceable as a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, but the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender remains in the state’s Constitution. If the Supreme Court were to overturn its previous decision, that prohibition would be enforceable again.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment removes the prohibition on marriages between persons of the same sex or gender from the Virginia Constitution’s Bill of Rights. It is replaced with the fundamental right to marry, requiring the state to recognize and treat equally under the law any lawful marriage between two adult persons, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of either person. The proposed amendment prohibits the state from denying a marriage license to two adult persons because of their sex, gender, or race.

FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

ARTICLE I

BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 15-A. Marriage.

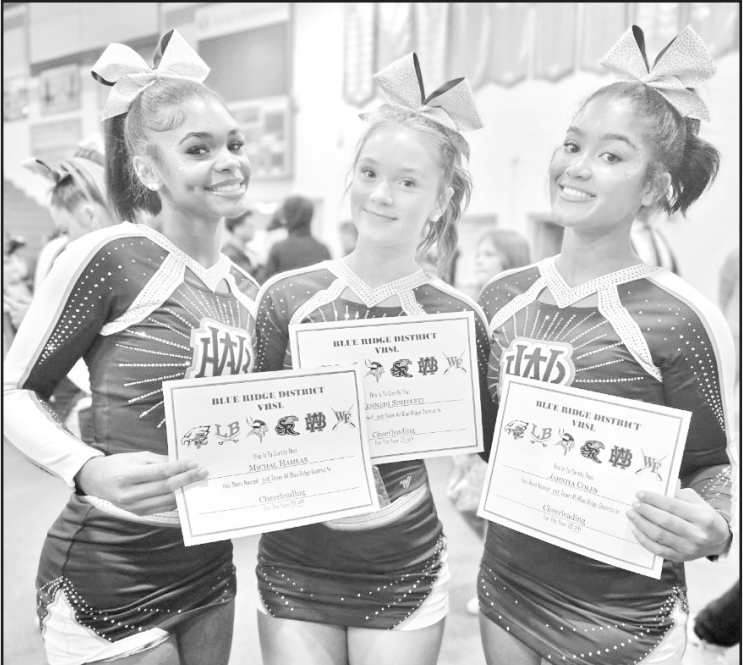
That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions marriage is one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness.

This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage deny the issuance of a marriage license to two adult persons seeking a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such persons. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall recognize any lawful marriage between two adult persons and treat such marriages equally under the law, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of such persons.



Cheerleaders are BRD runners-up

The William Byrd cheerleaders were getting ready to compete in the Region 3D event on Wednesday night at Northside as the paper went to press this week. Last week at Lord Botetourt High the Terriers took second place in the Blue Ridge District competition, trailing only host LB. William Byrd had three girls who were named first team All-Blue Ridge District; left to right in right photo Michal Hamlar, Kennedi Shifflett and Jahniya Coles.



Carston Dibenedetto finished fifth to lead the Terriers in the BRD cross country meet.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Byrd boys win BRD cross country meet

The William Byrd cross country team was getting ready to run in the Region 3D meet in Bristol on Wednesday when the paper went to press. The meet was scheduled for Sugar Hollow Park, and the top three teams and top five individuals not on those teams advance to the state meet at Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County on November 7.

The Blue Ridge District meet was held at Waid Park in Franklin County last week and the Byrd boys brought home the district championship. It was the first time in 14 years the Terrier boys won the district crown.

“We had some outstanding performances,” said Byrd coach Kayland Bond. “I am very proud of this group and how they were able to compete when it matters.”

Byrd finished with 43 points to out run host Franklin County, who finished second with 56. William Fleming’s boys were third with 72 followed by Lord Botetourt at 79, Northside at 123 and Staunton River with 148.

Lord Botetourt’s Preston Vaughn was the individual winner with a time of 15:58.44. Byrd’s first boy across the line was sophomore Carston Dibenedetto

in 16:59.86 for fifth place. Two Byrd teammates followed with senior Colton Sotherden sixth in 17:25.08 and soph Max Reeves seventh in 17:28.45. Grant Bartley, another sophomore, was 10th in 17:39.29 and all four Terriers were named All-Blue Ridge District. The fifth counting scorer was Vincent Lu, who finished 15th.

“Carston, Max, Grant, Vincent, and Jack(Petersen) ran new personal records,” said Bond.

For the girls, senior Jadyn St. Clair had the best finish for Byrd with a time of 21:56.24 for eighth place, her best time of the season. The winning time was 20:14.68 by Caitlyn Roach of Franklin County.

Only two schools ran full teams at the district meet, with host Franklin County finishing first and Lord Botetourt second. Byrd was one short of a full team with four runners. Emma Thierry was 19th, Keeli Emery was 23rd and Bindi Whitenack was 24th. All three are juniors.

“Emma ran a very impressive all time personal record, improving her time by over a minute,” said Bond.

Look for region results in next week’s Vinton Messenger sports pages.

WILLIAM BYRD FOOTBALL

continued from page 10

in the second and a 21 yard score in the third period that put the game away at 35-7. LB scored on pass plays in the first and fourth quarters but never threatened to take the lead.

Gray needs just 18 yards rushing to hit the 2,000 yard mark for the season this week. In eight games he’s rushed for 1,982 yards on 179 carries, an average of just over 11 yards per

carry for the season. He’s scored 26 rushing touchdowns.

Of course, it’s football and no one does anything by themselves. As a team Byrd rushed for 366 yards and allowed Lord Botetourt just 85 yards on the ground last Friday.

“Our offensive line is getting better with every snap,” said Lutz. “Our offense is built around their loyalty to the team and their teammates. They

are a great group of young men who love our football program and value each other. They are a fun group to coach, and they work extremely hard to create opportunities for our skill players.”

Carter Gray completed three passes for 51 yards. Davion Wade had a 40 yard catch and Thomas Purcell had two catches for 11 stripes.

Defensively, Bruce Robinson had

11 tackles to lead the team. Austin Kroner and Purcell had six each and Thomas forced a fumble. Wade had an interception, Zach Taylor had five tackles and freshman Jacob Morris, in his first varsity start, had four.

Byrd’s jayvee team lost to Botetourt last week and will try to back on the winning side with a game against Franklin County at Cy Dillon Stadium in Rocky Mount tonight.

Trick-or-treaters

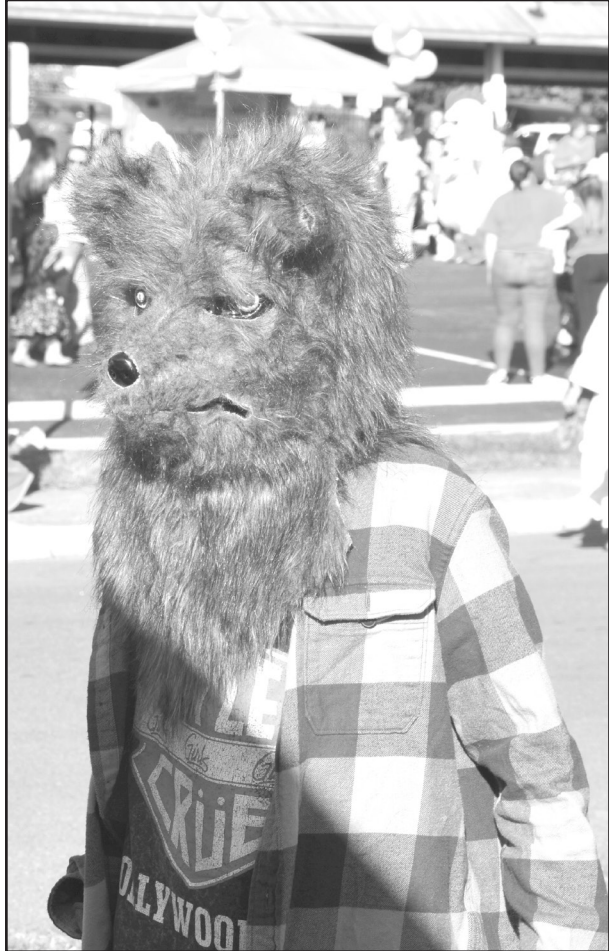
from page 1



The Creative Occasions gang



HomeTrust Bank Minions



Werewolf makes a candy stop in Vinton.



Scout campsite at downtown trick-or-treating in Vinton



VFW members handing out treats



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Town of Vinton employees distributing treats (from left) Megan Lawless, Mandy Baker, and Brandon Alterio

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Above, William Byrd's Gray Matthews is ahead of the pack and on his way to a long touchdown run in last Friday's win over Lord Botetourt. Far left, Byrd's Ryan Carroll (#51) battles on the line of scrimmage and, left, Briggs Kotz (#1) makes a tackle in the open field.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers run past LB to remain undefeated

The William Byrd Terriers held their position atop the Region 3D football rankings with a 35-14 win over Lord Botetourt in Daleville last Friday. Junior Gray Matthews ran for 333 yards and scored all five touchdowns for the Terriers.

With the win Byrd improved to 8-0 on the season and "held serve" in the region rankings with a 28.00 power point rating. The Terriers are one of three undefeated teams in the region with Carroll County currently second at 8-0 with a 27.75 rating and Magna Vista third, also 8-0 with a 27.50 rating.

This week Carroll County is at Martinsville and Magna Vista is at Halifax County. Byrd is back home to host Class 5 Franklin County, coached by former Byrd quarterback and assistant coach JR

Edwards. Normally that would be a good to pick up some power points for Byrd but the Eagles have struggled this year, yet to win a game after eight tries. With that said, Byrd coach Brad Lutz will not be taking the visitors lightly.

"They are a big, strong 5A team that has played a very tough schedule," he said. "Most of the teams they have played are going to play deep into the playoffs, so their record doesn't reflect their talent and capabilities. They play us tough every year, and we expect a great game on Friday."

Byrd will finish the regular season next week at Staunton River. If they win the last two weeks they won't be caught in the region, assuring home site for all region playoff games. That's a big deal as Byrd

hasn't lost a home game in over two years, a streak of 13 straight wins at Patterson Stadium.

"Home field advantage in the playoffs would be a huge advantage for our team," said Lutz. "We are very fortunate to have a supportive school, Dog Pound, and community who always fill up the stadium for home games. Having that kind of support during the playoffs would be great for our team."

Byrd is close to clinching the Blue Ridge District regular season championship after winning at Lord Botetourt last week. Gray Matthews had a huge night with five touchdown runs and could have had six but one long run was negated by a penalty. Gray had TD runs of 70 and six yards in the first quarter, 21 and 19

continued on page 9

Husband and wife go head-to-head when Region 3D volleyball tourney opens at Christiansburg Tuesday

It will be a family affair when the Region 3D volleyball tournament begins next Tuesday. William Byrd will open with a match at Christiansburg and husband and wife will be on opposite sides of the net.

Byrd coach Kris McCoy's wife, Amanda, is the coach at Christiansburg. Kris and Amanda are both William Byrd graduates and Amanda is a former Terrier coach and player. She began her head coaching career at William Byrd, leading the Terrier program from 2007 to 2012. Amanda has deep ties to the program as a player on William Byrd's 2000 State Championship team.

Last year Amanda and the Blue Demons ended Byrd's season in the region tournament, before Kris was coach. Christiansburg was undefeated River Ridge District and Region 3D champs before falling to Abingdon in the Class 3D final.

This year the Blue Demons are 19-4. They dropped a five set match to Cave Spring in the River Ridge District semifinals on Tuesday and won't play again until hosting Byrd next week.

Likewise, the Terriers dropped their Blue Ridge District semifinal at Franklin County Tuesday, 25-18, 25-12 and 25-19. Heidi Dixon had nine kills and two blocks for Byrd, Haleigh White had seven kills, Ellie Ruble had 15 digs and Catalina Patterson had 23 assists.

The loss dropped the Terriers to 10-10 overall heading into the region tournament. They wrapped up the regular season last Thursday with a "Senior Night" win over Staunton River in Vinton. Byrd won 25-8, 25-17 and 25-9.

Maggie Zimmerman, a senior, eclipsed the 1,000 assists mark for her career in the match, which was stopped to recognize her achievement. Maggie finished the match with 14 assists, eight digs and three aces.

Other seniors are Dixon and Lauren Toney. Heidi had eight kills and Lauren had five kills and five aces in what was likely their final home match. White, a junior, had nine kills and three aces and another junior, Emma Olivit, had seven kills.



Above, Haleigh White hits a spike for the Terriers. Below, Catalina Patterson (#5) and Emma Olivit go up for a block.

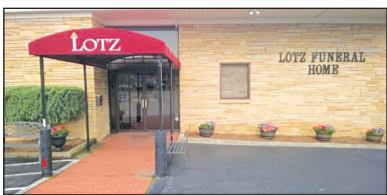
PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

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