

8
33463-00110
5



VESTED PARTNERS
A MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE

LEGAL
FINANCIAL
FIDUCIARY
INSURANCE

Robyn Smith Ellis, Attorney

www.vestedmfo.com
540.389.6060

The Vinton Messenger



Haley Has It For Less... For Vinton!
Haley Toyota
1530 Courtland Road NE,
Roanoke, VA 24012 • 540.345.1666
Haleyhasitforless.com
Bring this coupon in for \$100 Off Your Best Deal!
Limit One Per Customer
Expiration Date: DECEMBER 31, 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville (USPS-660-020) OurValley.org • \$1.00

Christmas trees and traditions



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MATT BARTLEY

Matt Bartley, his wife Shannon, their son Marek, and Lucy, the mini-dachshund, celebrate the season.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHLEIGH PINION

Ashleigh Pinion's children Miley (12), Mason (10), and Macklin (2) fluff out their family Christmas tree.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY PASTOR B. FAILES

The Failes family fills their home with multiple Christmas trees. Their new cat, Honsu, loves the trees.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SABRINA MCCARTY

This is one of three trees this year in the home of Sabrina and Chris McCarty. This "Military Tree" is in honor of their nephew who is serving in the Army in Seoul, South Korea.

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

When I was a child growing up in Wytheville, my dad and I would drive up on the mountain behind our house each year and cut a white pine tree for Christmas. My parents always put the tree up one week before Christmas and took it down on New Year's Day. My almost 4-year-old grandson loves trains. Last year we took a trip to Black Dog Salvage and he was fascinated with the vintage "train in a tree" there, a model train on a track up high circling the tree. We found one online this year and so our 2020 tree has a train theme. Our tree is filled with a hodge-podge of ornaments homemade by my daughter through the years and ones that we bought as souvenirs from our travels.

Pastor B. Failes says, "Our Christ-

mas is full of trees. I think one year we maxed out at nine! We like to have themed trees – I have a 'Peanuts' tree, Jan has an Angel tree, a Noah's Ark tree, and several others. We use some small ones in hallways and corners. Since the grandchildren moved in, we use only unbreakable ornaments. We put it up on Black Friday and leave it till at least Epiphany, January 6, the end of the 12 days of Christmas. One year they stayed up well into February! This year has been exciting with the addition of our cat, Honsu, He loves the trees!"

"Our family uses an artificial tree for our Christmas decorations," shares Ashleigh Pinion. "This year we pulled out our decorations the weekend before Thanksgiving because we all needed a little extra JOY! We set up two trees in our home – one upstairs and one down-

stairs. Our upstairs tree holds all the ornaments we have collected together as a family from places we've traveled, and things we've seen or experienced together. It also holds ornaments that were passed down to us from family. My favorite ornaments on this tree are my turtle doves. My grandmother left those for me, and they are always placed front and center on our tree. Our downstairs tree is full of all the ornaments our family has made. It is a mish-mash of popsicle sticks glued together, ribbons, pictures and handmade ornaments."

Beth Abbott says, "We have occasionally tried to go with the current trends or we will match our house with a pretty tree, but we always end up adding another tree somewhere to accommodate our sentimental ornaments. We have had real trees and

artificial, skinny and very full trees, but Christmas is always about our special ornaments. The ornaments that were crocheted, hand beaded, hand painted, quilted, or made from clay, or given from friends or family members will always be cherished."

"When I was little we always had a real tree," says Allie Rourke. "Mom and I would go out on Black Friday and pick out the tree and make cookies and drink cocoa while decorating the tree. Mom always said that it had to be down by New Year's Day. 'Never carry the past into the New Year.' As I got older, Christmas traditions became more special to me. By the time I moved to Virginia Beach, I had four trees all with different themes ranging from kids' toys, to only color Waterford ornaments. Nowadays, the tree stays up until

the end of the 12 days of Christmas (January 6) and it is a little bit of my kids' stuff, homemade ornaments and, of course, my cherished Waterford ornaments."

Chasity Barbour says no artificial trees are allowed at their house. Her husband, Sean Stores, insists the family go out and get a live tree each year.

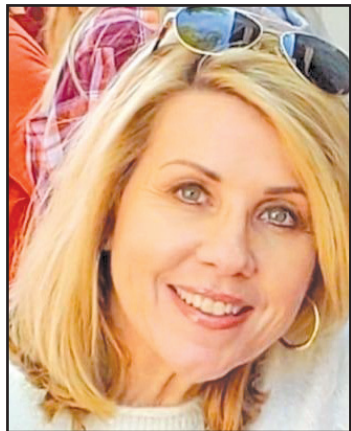
Jan Dickens recalls, "When I was growing up, in the dark ages, my dad always put the live tree up on Christmas Eve. Then the story was that Santa Claus would decorate it! I never wondered how he had time after visiting our house – there were six of us kids – plus he had to go around the world. I guess because Mom was always getting everything done, I thought Santa could, too."

See **Traditions**, page 6

Chamber of Commerce chooses new officers and board for 2021



Justin Davison



Allison Finney



Michelle Barklow



Andy Bishop



Anthony Conner

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

Traditionally the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce elects officers for the upcoming year at the annual State of the Town Address at the Vinton War Memorial in the fall. When that event was postponed, the Chamber election was rescheduled for their Holiday Open

House in December.

With rising COVID cases, that event was cancelled due to limitations on crowd size. So, eventually the election was held virtually; board members and officers have been confirmed.

Justin Davison will continue as president of the Chamber, first elected in 2017. Davison was born in New Jersey but has called

Vinton home since 2008. He is currently the Market Manager for the Member One Federal Credit Union in Vinton. He first volunteered for the Chamber back in 2014. He realized how valuable giving back and being active in the community is and was nominated to the Chamber Board in 2016.

He enjoys being very active in the community. He

also serves on the Vinton Board of Zoning Appeals and helps with various other activities in the community. He believes having a Servant's Heart will continue to bless him and is thankful for all the support he has received over the years.

Allison Finney will be serving again as First Vice President. She is a graduate of William Byrd High

School and Virginia Tech where she majored in Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management with an option in Residential Management. She manages several residential properties (apartments and single-family homes) in Roanoke, Salem, and Vinton. Finney also manages American Efficiency Inns, an extended stay motel lo-

cated in downtown Vinton.

Finney has been involved with many organizations over the years. She is a founding member of the Square Society, serving on their board for many years and eventually becoming president. While serving as president, she also served on the Center in the Square

See **Officers**, page 4

Two Memorable Christmases

Dave Jones *Contributing writer*

Bonnie and I grew up in a sleepy little town of Coraopolis, Pa., 15 miles downstream on the Ohio River and to the west of downtown Pittsburgh. The population then was about 9,000.

During our sophomore year of college, my church, Mt. Calvary United Presbyterian Church, started an outdoor live nativity scene. A small shed was built on the finely manicured front lawn facing out to the main west-to-east street in town. In this "stable" we would be assembled a

young cow, two sheep and a donkey bearing the Master's Cross. All of these animals would have been "borrowed" from farm relatives of fellow church members.

Being then (in 1970) that I was a city boy who was going to Penn State to become an agricultural business student, it was a natural that I would be the stable guy to "tend" the animals. (Remember, this is in the middle of a town that never had anything bigger than a dog on this lawn.)

The other concern was that during the day the animals would get loose and run away. We had no problems, and

the live nativity would run for three nights – Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Robed characters would take shifts and stand in that stable to tell the great story of Jesus's birth. Late Saturday evening all the animals were returned to their farm homes.

(My sister tells me that the live nativity scene has just now celebrated 50 years in this strange 2020 year!)

Fast forward to 1979 and I had now gone to work for Southern States Cooperative and moved a few times. We had son Mike at this time and Bonnie was

See **Nativity**, page 5



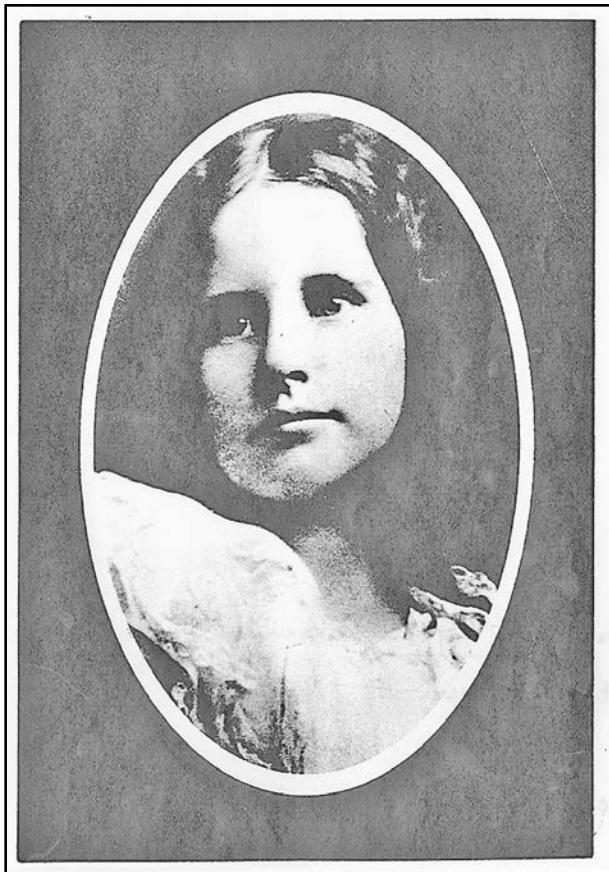
From Judy Kelley's Nativity Scene Collection

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

DEAR EDITOR:
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, ‘If you see it in THE SUN it’s so.’
Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
VIRGINIA O’HANLON.
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.
VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.
Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa

Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.
Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that

neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.
You may tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.
No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



Gauntlet Business Program and Competition 2021 registration opens

Registration is now open for the 2021 Gauntlet Business Program and Competition for those who want to start a new business or expand an existing one. The Gauntlet, now in its seventh year, is sponsored by The Advancement Foundation (TAF) in Vinton. Classes get underway on February 9.
The Gauntlet and TAF provide opportunities for innovative entrepreneurs looking to start small businesses or for existing businesses looking to rebuild or expand.
The Advancement Foundation aims to increase business development to rebuild the local economy by helping small business startups, as well as helping current businesses to develop new strategies for growth.
According to TAF founder and President Annette Patterson, the Gaunt-

let is a comprehensive business development program that successfully leverages community resources to provide entrepreneurs support, connection, and solid business planning strategies.
“Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy,” said Patterson. “During the past year, we have seen record high unemployment rates and an alarming number of businesses closing. Together, we can turn this around by leveraging our community assets, shortening the learning curve for business owners, connecting entrepreneurs to knowledgeable business strategists, and providing needed resources to implement innovative strategies for growth. The Gauntlet is the platform by which we can bring all the pieces of the puzzle together quickly, while building a strong entrepreneurial

ecosystem. This program and competition are more important now than ever.”
The first Gauntlet in 2014 involved just 15 entrepreneurs competing for \$12,000 in cash and prizes. The Gauntlet is now Virginia’s largest business program and competition. Over 500 Gauntlet alumni have received more than \$1 million in cash and in-kind prizes. Communities have benefited from over \$1.2 million in outside grants to benefit their system through the TAF program. Top winners can receive up to \$30,000 in cash and in-kind support.
Gauntlet entrepreneurs participate in weekly business training sessions, meet and network with successful entrepreneurs, fellow Gauntlet participants and mentors, and develop strategies that provide a roadmap to success.
In addition to engineer-

ing opportunities for business development, The Advancement Foundation works to leverage unique resources such as community investment funds, low interest rural loan funds, in-kind support, and resources for underserved populations.
Training topics include accounting, business management, financing your business, insurance, human resources, organizational skills, research, time management, budget development, customer acquisition, budget and cash flow, legal structure, manufacturing, patent assistance, E-commerce, web development, business location selection, general business knowledge, licensing, marketing, product and/or service development, technology, and business plan development.
Last spring, the program

launched 70 businesses despite the pandemic which caused a pivot from in-person to virtual classes in March.
The ever-growing Gauntlet has expanded its scope again this year to include participants not only in Vinton, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, Salem, the Alleghany Highlands, and Rockbridge County, but the Bedford County area as well. That includes Bedford County, the Town of Bedford, Big Island, Chamblissburg, Coleman Falls, Forest, Goode, Goodview, Hardy, Huddleston, Moneta, Montvale, New London, and Thaxton.
Gauntlet 2021 will be held virtually. Organizers hope to provide opportunities for small in-person networking events as the session progresses.
A virtual meet & greet is coming up on January 12 at 6 p.m. Look at the Facebook page for more information on that event at <https://fb.me/e/14ycZKAec>.
The application and more information on the Gauntlet program are available online at <https://www.theadvancementfoundation.org/>.
The cost to apply is \$25. The Early Bird class fee is \$225 until January 1. After that, it increases to \$249. The application cut-off date is January 31. The cost to participate in the culminating Gauntlet competition for cash and in-prizes is \$100.
If you have a business partner, the fee for them is \$99 to join you for classes.

The Advancement Foundation (TAF), a non-profit founded in 2007, works in concert with economic and community development organizations to execute key strategies that provide infrastructure, support, and resources to create an effective entrepreneurial ecosystem.
TAF is uniquely positioned to provide both locality specific initiatives, as well as cross regional synergies to assist communities. As a trusted community partner with economic development offices, Chambers of Commerce, Main Street organizations, Virginia Tourism, DHCD, Small Business Development Centers, SBA, USDA, libraries and others, TAF is able to implement projects efficiently and effectively.
“Our role in working with communities is to provide a framework, utilizing the Gauntlet as a tool or an engine, so to speak, to build awareness, enthusiasm, and structure for everyone to find a role in support of local business development. It is this network of entrepreneurs, resource agencies, mentors, and community leaders that gives entrepreneurs confidence to step out,” Patterson said.
Several well-known local Vinton businesses have been Gauntlet participants including Twin Creeks Brewing Company, Dreyer Coaching, Farmburgues, Earthworks Pottery, New Moon Creative Media, Discount Computer Services, Nite Owl Artz, and Ridgeline Aquatics.



Registration is now open for the Gauntlet Business Program and Competition. Owners of Twin Creeks Brewing Company (in Vinton and at Explore Park) were Gauntlet participants and competition winners. Shown left to right are Twin Creeks owners Barry Robertson, Jason Bishop and Andy Bishop, TAF and Gauntlet President Annette Patterson, and Kelly Robertson Turner from TAF.

CROSSWORD

			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							

CLUES ACROSS

1. Twos under par

7. Expresses surprise

10. Shows exceedingly great size

12. At this place

13. One who prints from a plate

14. '95 U.S. Open golf champ Corey

15. Stupefy with alcohol

16. Breezed through

17. A major division of geological time

18. Humble request for help

19. Part of a deck

21. Albanian monetary unit

22. Atomic #22

27. Atomic #18

28. Catholic holiday service

33. Canadian province

34. Capital of Alberta

36. Large African antelope

37. Mexican tortilla sandwich

38. Pigmented eye membrane

39. Baby's food protector

40. Winglike structures

41. Sun-dried brick

44. Those dull in appearance

45. Basketlike baby's bed

48. Purpose or intent

49. Difficult to carry

50. Cry made by sheep

51. More than one spouse

2. About aviation

3. Small biting flies

4. Bulgarian monetary unit

5. Point midway between E and SE

6. Old CCCP or U._____

7. Rubber tree genus

8. Waterless

9. Female chicken

10. Relating to the Hebrews

11. Dig up

12. Diacritic caron

14. Capital of Sicily

17. Shock therapy

18. Cyto_____: surrounds the nucleus

20. Daughters of the Am. Revolution

23. Nincompoops

24. Great battle of 333 BC

25. Salt Lake state

26. Woman (French)

29. A public promotion

30. Social insect

31. Knifed

32. Formal association of people

35. Toff

36. Snaps up

38. Annona diversifolia

40. Opera vocal solo

41. Largest continent

42. Day (Latin)

43. Sole

44. Hit lightly

45. Guy (slang)

46. Black tropical Am. cuckoo

47. Screen Writers Guild

Vinton History Museum ‘Little Free Library’ now available



PHOTO BY MARY BETH LAYMAN
The Vinton History Museum has joined the Little Free Library program. Randy Layman, president of the museum and Vinton Historical Society, installed the free library box on the front lawn on December 18.

The “Little Free Library” at the Vinton History Museum was officially placed in front of the Vinton History Museum on December 18. Children and adults may now “take a book” or donate a book. The museum is located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton.
The museum is asking for donations of family-friendly books for adults and children. Coloring books and music CDs are also welcome. Gently used is fine. Just drop off donations by leaving them in the bottom section of the Little Free Library box.
The museum is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning Monday, Jan. 11. It is currently closed for the holidays.
Susan Chewning of Salem has been instrumental in sharing a number of cabinets to be placed for Little Free Libraries and Giving Boxes for churches.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Over the last few weeks—okay, maybe this whole year—there have been so many ups and downs, so many heartbreaks and disappointments. But this, this right here is what totally makes this year worth all the craziness.

Last year, the Chamber of

Commerce and our amazing friends, family and supporters adopted 53 Vinton children for our Angel Tree.

This year, we adapted 127 – 127 people! Oh my goodness, what an overwhelming show of love, compassion, support, and kindness. Every day we cried

Angie
Chewning
Filling in for Bootie

tears of joy as all of you eagerly called and messaged to get your

angels. And, wow, did you triumph.

I have no idea who these children are. It makes no difference. What matters is Santa and the Christmas magic is ALIVE. Thank you all so much. Merry Christmas!

The Vinton Moose Lodge

“Sassy Sisters” collected food for Christmas dinners and were able to provide for a few families in need. They are still collecting coats. If you would like to donate – stop by the Vinton Moose or contact a Moose member.

Merry Christmas, everyone!



From the Pulpit

A ‘Mary’ Christmas

34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her (Luke 1:34-38).”

Most of us this time of year are accustomed to hearing the well wishes of two familiar words—”Merry Christmas.” According to historians and linguists, the first record of this greeting can be traced back to London in a letter written in 1534 to Henry VIII’s chief minister Thomas Cromwell from Bishop John Fisher. Although it

can also be found in the 16th century carol, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” most scholars agree that Merry Christmas did not become mainstream until Charles Dickens’ 1834 classic novella, “A Christmas Carol.”

Though I enjoy the use of “happy” on a number of special days throughout the year—Happy New Year, Happy Valentine’s Day, Happy July Fourth, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, etc.—I have always appreciated the distinction of “merry” during the Christmas season.

We all desire to be happy, but to be merry goes a bit deeper. Feeling happy is temporal and situational; to be merry points to a fuller sense of joy and cheer. As Christians, to wish someone a Merry Christmas is to share with them our hope that their experience of Emmanuel will give them more than a sense of happiness but will ultimately make their lives full and complete.

Jesus offered similar words of

hope to his followers when he declared, “I came so that they might have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).” The birth of Christ was always meant to do more than bring us happiness. His mission has always been to redeem his people and restore his creation. Sin continues to fracture our world, as it has from the beginning. Through Christ, God has provided a way to be healed and whole. That is the gift of Emmanuel—the promise of a Merry Christmas.

Though I believe Merry Christmas beautifully expresses what God has provided through the birth of Christ, I would like to suggest an alternative greeting that reveals how to receive it.

In the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel, the physician retells the story of the night an angel visited young Mary. Gabriel told her she was going to give birth to a son, but no ordinary child. “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no

end (Luke 1:32-33).” I can only imagine Mary’s shock and disbelief. Her bewilderment is heard in her reply, “But how can this be?”

I cannot imagine what Mary must have been thinking and feeling. What would Joseph think? Who would believe her? Why was this happening? And yet despite her fears and questions, Mary responded to Gabriel with an incredible declaration of faith: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Mary’s response ultimately led to the fullness of Christ’s birth, but the journey was not easy. Joseph struggled to believe her and strongly considered filing for divorce. After a long and grueling journey to Joseph’s hometown of Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay. As a result, Mary was left to give birth in a stable. Shortly thereafter, a group of men warned her that King Herod wanted to find and kill her new baby.

Mary’s faithfulness to Gabriel’s message did not ensure her happiness. I am sure there were many unhappy moments, along with fear, uncertainty, and disappoint-

ment. However, Mary remained faithful to her promise to be a “servant of the Lord.”

As a result, she experienced the gift of Emmanuel in ways we only imagine. The fullness of her joy can be heard in her song to Elizabeth: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).”

Through the miracle of Jesus, God has promised us all a Merry Christmas. But that gift requires a “Mary” Christmas—responding to God’s son with the faithfulness of Mary. If we will, Christmas may not always be happy or easy, but it will be merry as the fullness of God’s joy comes to be with us in Emmanuel.

Have a “Mary Christmas!”

*By The Rev. Travis Russell,
Vinton Baptist Church*

Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR welcomes Lois Fritz from New Freedom Farm



Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution members held their annual Christmas Party on December 12—from home. Due to the pandemic, this year’s party did not take place at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in Vinton where the organization usually meets. Instead, it was a virtual party via Zoom.

Regent Cindy Higgins welcomed members, many of whom were dressed in Christmas or elfin finery.

She also welcomed guest speaker Lois Fritz, founder and director of New Freedom Farm in Buchanan. The local DAR chapter is heavily involved in community service projects for veterans, locally and beyond.

According to Fritz, New

Freedom Farm is a non-profit community farm dedicated to aiding veterans and first responders with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, substance abuse, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) by using the therapeutic activity of interacting with horses, farming, and peer-to-peer support. The end goal is to personally empower veterans and help them heal through the realization of their own efforts and contributions.

“New Freedom Farm’s mission is ‘healing heroes through horses,’” Fritz said. “Oftentimes, veterans develop deep friendships through equine activity and gentling, fostering physical, emotional, and spiritual health, which helps with reintegration into civilian life.”

Fritz, a U.S. Navy veteran herself and forensic nurse, discovered firsthand that



the invisible wounds of war are often more difficult to overcome than those visible to the eye. While traditional therapy may have limited results with those suffering from PTSD or TBI, therapy with animals is often quite successful.

Fritz founded the 15-acre New Freedom Farm in 2016. In 2017, she enrolled in The Advancement Foundation (TAF) Gauntlet Business Program and Competition—emerging as one of the top winners. Her purpose in joining the Gauntlet was to make the program at the farm sustainable.

She told DAR members that when she first started, she thought working with one or two veterans a month would be a great accomplishment. However, before COVID-19 took hold, the farm was up to 12-18 veterans per day at the farm.

With the onset of the pandemic, the program was forced to go virtual, which did not prove to be as fruitful. Recently in-person group sessions have started up again in the barn or at the veterans’ center on the farm.

Fritz says that veterans and first responders—especially those in law enforcement—are reluctant to be labeled with PTSD, TBI, or depression. They are leery of traditional therapy but are willing to come to the farm to communicate about flashbacks and their daily struggles. Being outdoors with animals helps as well as “being accountable to get out of bed and come see your horse.”

Not only does New Freedom Farm strive to help heal veterans, most of the horses there are rescued animals.

The farm is 100 percent handicapped accessible and

has golf carts for those with disabilities unable walk the pastures. This allows the veterans to not feel so isolated.

Another benefit of the program is intergenerational therapy between soldiers who fought decades ago in World War II and those just returning from combat. Fritz said that one World War II veteran’s message to a younger soldier was “not to wait 55 years to ask for help.” Support groups are available several days each week.

New Freedom Farm is supported entirely by donations and their annual Freedom Fest fundraiser. Veterans do not pay for any of the programs or activities at the farm. There is only one paid employee—a farm helper; all others at the farm are volunteers. Fritz noted that when the program opened there were three volunteers, now there are 168 on the list.

Another veterans’ program New Freedom Farm sponsors is a color guard of veterans who participate in local parades and funerals for veterans.

The farm hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for veterans in the barn on the actual holiday each year. In 2019, over 200 were served at the dinner.

New Freedom Farm works with veterans who have become involved in do-

mestic violence, alcoholism, and substance abuse. They work to find jobs for veterans and those who have been involved in the court system, including courts in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Rockbridge County.

They have just added an RV so that one veteran at a time can stay at the farm for 90 days working to maintain sobriety.

The organization partners with other animal rescue groups including Angels of Assisi and Harmony Farm to foster dogs, in addition to horses.

New Freedom Farm welcomes veterans, volunteers, and visitors. The DAR group is planning a visit once the restrictions of COVID are lifted. Meanwhile, they have made a donation to the cause.

For more information on New Freedom Farm visit <https://www.newfreedom-farm.org/>.

The Roanoke Valley Chapter DAR is devoted to service to veterans. One of their major community service projects each year is making lap blankets for local veterans. On December 15, Higgins and Sharon Menzies delivered 21 lap blankets made by members and over 250 Christmas Cards to veterans at the VA Veterans Care Center in Salem.

OBITUARY



Frederick Keeble Liptrap, 80, of Vinton, passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2020.

He was born on November 28, 1940 to Samuel Massie and Helen Fridley Liptrap in Clifton Forge. Fred loved Vinton being his home for the last 51 years.

He graduated from Clifton Forge High School where he enjoyed playing football,

Frederick K. Liptrap

basketball, and baseball. Fred was inducted into the Clifton Forge High School Hall of Fame. He continued his love for sports by coaching recreational sports teams for Vinton. Later Fred umpired and refereed many of their games. He also assisted his son in coaching teams at Roanoke Catholic and Craig County High Schools. His love for sports passed to his sons and grandsons.

Surviving are his sons, Kevin Liptrap of Bay Village, Ohio, and Scott Liptrap of Vinton; “like-a-son,” Mark Hurley; grandsons, Hunter (Karen) Liptrap, Tanner Liptrap, and Keller Liptrap of Bay Village, Ohio; great-granddaughter, Peyton Galina

Liptrap of Bay Village, Ohio. Also surviving are Lenda Liptrap, with whom he shared 47 years as they enjoyed their family; many nieces and nephews; and those close to Fred were Pat (Roland) Cumor and Nickie Stevens.

Fred was the youngest son of 10 children, all preceding him in death, brothers, Massie Liptrap, Emmett Liptrap, Jack Liptrap, Joe “Allen” Liptrap and Tookie “Joe” Liptrap; and sisters, Marie Gamsey, Elizabeth Kern, Janie Prevette, and Edna Whiteside.

Fred had many wonderful friends through the years of church, sports, and community. He retired from Del Monte Foods as a salesman and the Kroger Store in Vin-

ton. Fred loved Penn Forest Christian Church where he had previously served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. His commitment to the “Live Nativity” was a special love of his.

The family thanks the staff at Pheasant Ridge Skilled Care and Rehab for their exceptional care of Fred. You are appreciated.

Graveside services were conducted at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, in Mountain View Cemetery in Vinton.

Arrangements were by Oakey’s Funeral Service - Vinton Chapel, (540) 982-2221. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.oakeys.com.

Williams Carpet Cleaning



“I am the slowest carpet cleaner in the Roanoke Valley.”

“I will give your carpet the time and attention it deserves to produce the best results possible.”

- 2 rooms and a hall for \$100
- 5 rooms and a hall for \$170
- Furniture cleaning also available!

Danny Williams • 989-1825

Officers

from page 1

Board of Directors. She has been on the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for nine years and on the Executive Board for going on seven years.

Michelle Barklow has been elected to serve as Second Vice President of the Chamber. She grew up in Illinois, then relocated to Florida with Star King Enterprises, which brought her to Vinton several years ago. She and her husband, Brian, owned The Salad Factory in downtown Roanoke. Michelle has quickly become a “Vintonite” and loves being involved in the community and its growth. She and her husband have three sons Michael, Jordan, and Devin.

Andy Bishop will continue to serve on the Chamber Board of Directors. He grew up in Botetourt County and is a graduate of Lord Botetourt High School. He graduated from Virginia Western Community College and Old Dominion University receiving an Associate degree in electrical and electronic engineering technology and a Bachelor’s in mechanical engineering. He has worked as an engineer for local industries in the fields of medical device manufacturing, research and development, and telecommunications. Bishop is now an owner of Twin Creeks Brewing Company in Vinton and Twin Creeks Brewpub in Roanoke County at Explore Park and is Engineering Manager with Magnets USA.

Board member Anthony Conner is a financial professional with The Conner Group, a DBA of New York Life and affiliated registered investment advisory firm, Eagle Strategies.

The Conner Group is a locally owned financial planning and advisory firm. Conner works with a wide variety of clients including business owners and retirees.

Prior to his start in the financial services industry, Anthony earned his B.S. Degree from Carson-Newman University in 1982.

Anthony is proud to be a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT) for the last 17 years. He also is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

Conner enjoys traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his wife Lisa of 38 years. They have three children.

Colby Sarver is the Store Manager at the Vinton Food Lion. He has lived in Collinsville his entire life and graduated from Martinsville High School and Patrick Henry Community College.

He has been employed by Food Lion for eight years and has worked as a Market manager, evening manager, and assistant manager, before becoming store manager. He and his wife Tristan have a six-month-old daughter named Kennedy. In his free time, Sarver enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and working out.

Gregg Jerez is currently working at Revlon Inc./Elizabeth Arden where he is a Customer Logistics/Operations Manager. He has been working with Revlon since 2012 and has held various positions throughout the organization.

Jerez was born and raised in Miami, Florida, and moved to Roanoke at the age of 14. He attended William Byrd “where I was able to grow my love for the Town of Vinton, the local businesses and the people of Vinton.”

He attended Averett University to work on his Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He currently resides in Roanoke County and enjoys being part of the community and attending local events. During his free time, Jerez likes to spend time with friends and family, enjoys outdoor activities, and donates his time to

church and local charities.

Board member Jason Bishop is a Vice President and Human Resources Officer for the Bank of Botetourt where he serves as head of the Human Resources Department. In his position, he oversees all aspects of human resources management for more than 120 employees. Jason has been with Bank of Botetourt for over seventeen years and in the Human Resources department for over fifteen.

He is a graduate of Roanoke College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and currently holds two Human Resources professional designations, the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and the Society of Human Resources Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP).

In addition, Jason is co-owner of Twin Creeks Brewing Company in Vinton and Twin Creeks Brewpub at Explore Park, which have been in business since 2016 and 2019, respectively. When he does have spare time, Jason enjoys traveling and spending time with his wife Shannon.

Jason Boothe works for Greenway Boothe Real Estate Team@Mountain View Real Estate in Vinton. He is a lifelong resident of Vinton and very active in the community of Vinton.

He has served on several boards in the Vinton Community, including Board member and Coach for the Vinton Booster Club, Head of Field Maintenance and Vice President and currently the President of the William Byrd Baseball Booster Club.

Along with his Board positions, Boothe also coached in the Vinton community for over 15 years. His “love for the kids and parents” has made him lifelong friendships. He has also served as a Deacon at Lynn Haven Baptist and currently attends Lighthouse Bible Church.

Boothe is married to his wife Nicole of 23 years who is employed by William Byrd High School. They have two children. His daughter Taylor and son-in-law Collin reside in Georgia where Collin serves in the Army. His son Bryce works for the Vinton Public Works Department.

Boothe understands the importance of finding clients the perfect home and community to live in, and will work both day and night to find you that home.

Board member John Conner is a Partner with The Conner Group, and a Financial Advisor with Eagle Strategies LLC. The Conner Group is a locally owned financial practice.

Conner came into the financial services business in 2013, working alongside his dad, Anthony Conner. John works with a wide variety of

clients, including business owners, executives, physicians, young professionals, and families. He takes a holistic approach when it comes to financial planning and risk management. He wants his clients to understand their current financial situation and what challenges they may need to address in order to achieve the goals set before them. He enjoys developing relationships with his clients that are built on trust and confidence. Many of his clients are some of his closest friends.

Prior to becoming a Financial Advisor with The Conner Group, John graduated from Roanoke College in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a concentration in Finance. John is proud to be a member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) and member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

John enjoys playing golf, traveling and spending time with his wife, Ashleigh and their two dogs, Tucker and Brody.

Board member Justin Smith joined the Neely’s Accounting Services, Inc. team in their Roanoke office in December 2016. On January 1, 2019, he accepted the role of Senior Accountant in their Vinton office. He is a graduate of William Byrd High School and received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Emory & Henry College. He completed an MBA from King University and is a ProAdvisor with QuickBooks and has extensive experience in business accounting, payroll, and tax.

Kat Pascal, a Roanoke native, is a community advocate, strategist, and entrepreneur. She is the co-owner of the Vinton and Grandin Village Farmburguesa restaurants, and Spotless America. She is a former bank manager for Wells Fargo. Pascal attended William Byrd High School and then graduated from Northside and attended Virginia Western Community College.

She has a passion for volunteerism, traveling, and family. She is bilingual in English and Spanish. She is the mother of two sons, Jacob and Julian, ages eight and nine.

Pascal is the co-founder of Nuestro Comercio Latino and Latinas Network. She is a Board member of the Grandin Village Business Association.

Board member Norman Mall grew up in the Town of Vinton. He graduated from William Byrd High School in 1983. Mall enjoys spending time with his “kids” Ginger and Junior (brother and sister Golden retrievers) and volunteering for Vinton community

events. Mall “likes to see the direction Vinton is moving in and is excited to help be a part of it.”

Page Stovall is a third-generation resident of the Town of Vinton. She is a graduate of William Byrd High School and received her Bachelor of Science degree at Radford University in 2012. Stovall found her passion for the geriatric population in 2014 and serves as the Business Development Coordinator at Pheasant Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center, specializing as a Customer Service Liaison.

Stovall loves spending time with family and friends. She enjoys engaging with the Roanoke Valley showing what Vinton truly has to offer. She is excited to serve another year on the Board of Directors and being a part of the evolving things happening in this great town.

Board member Dr. Richard Turner has served as the Roanoke Program Coordinator for James Madison University’s Educational Leadership Program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center since 2016. He supervises student teachers and teaches graduate classes for JMU.

He is currently the Chief Marketing Officer for Fritz Sports and Event Enterprises, which specializes in NASCAR sponsorship opportunities. He works for NASCAR and worked for BK Racing from 2013-2017.

Turner graduated from Northside High School in 1978, completed his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech in 1982, earned his Master’s degree at Virginia Tech in 1987, and his Doctorate from Nova/Southeastern University in 1994.

He served as Assistant Principal at William Byrd High School (92-99) and as Principal from 1999 until 2016. He also served Roanoke County Schools as a Marketing Specialist and developed the current Apprenticeship Program in 2016-17.

Board member Dr. Sonia Bolen, DVM, is a local veterinarian who has resided in the Town of Vinton for 17 years. She grew up in Blue Ridge and graduated from Lord Botetourt High School and Virginia Tech. Bolen then went on to complete her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999.

She was employed at Vinton Veterinary Hospital during her college career and became an Associate Veterinarian there in 2000. She opened her own clinic, Parkway Veterinary Hospital, located near William Byrd High School, in 2015.

Dr. Bolen and her husband Scott, a Vinton native, have twins and are active

in the Vinton community. She and her staff have participated and volunteered in several events hosted by the Chamber and the Town of Vinton. Dr. Bolen looks forward to continuing her seat on the Board of Directors.

Board member Tim Greenway is the owner and broker of Vinton’s own Mountain View Real Estate, LLC located at 200 Bowman Street in Vinton.

He is a lifelong resident of the town of Vinton and a William Byrd High School graduate—Class of 1982. He continues to be a huge supporter of his alma mater and can be seen at many of the sporting events cheering on the Terriers.

Greenway graduated from Radford University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. The degree led him to work as the controller for Cycle Systems, Inc, a local recycling firm, for over 16 years.

Then another dream and another path in life presented itself in building houses--which he has engaged in for the past 25 years. In 2002 he received his real estate license, and his broker’s license in 2017 and opened Mountain View Real Estate LLC, where he proudly boasts 16 real estate agents/colleagues in serving the entire Roanoke Valley.

Greenway has been married for 36 years to Paula Greenway; they have three children together, Maia, Brad and Chelsea. He is blessed with four grandchildren, Carson, Avery, Brantley and Brady.

He is a fixture in Vinton as he attends Vinton Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon. He’s also a member of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, the Old Stag Hunt Club, and has served on many committees for Vinton. He proudly represents Vinton on the Roanoke County School Board.

In his brief down-times, Greenway enjoys most sports, hunting, golf, and of course, spending time with those grandkids. He is a supporter of many charities, but his favorite involvement is when he can help children.

Representatives to the Board from the Town of Vinton include Chasity Barbour, Mayor Brad Grose, and Town Manager Pete Peters.

Chasity Barbour is the Community Programs and Facilities Director for the Town of Vinton. She serves as the Lead Advisor for the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce Leadership Roanoke Valley (LRV) program. and on the Vinton Dogwood Committee.

Barbour has two daughters, Skylour Stultz, who attends West Virginia Uni-

See **Officers**, page 5

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton

Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it’s always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

ADVERTISE!

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

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Call (540) 389-9355

Officers

from page 4



Gregg Jerez



Jason Bishop



Jason Boothe



John Conner



Justin Smith



Kat Pascal



Norman Mall



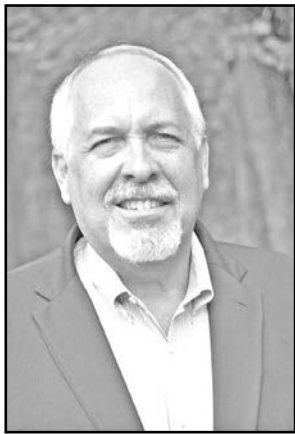
Page Stovall



Dr. Richard Turner



Dr. Sonia Bolen



Tim Greenway



Chasity Barbour

versity, and Kaidence Stores, who attends William Byrd Middle School. Last, but not least, is her “better half, Sean Stores, who supports his girls with anything! He is employed at Yokohama Tire and is a Union Officer. In our spare time we love camping, ATVS, and motorcycles.”

Mayor Brad Grose is the Owner/President of Dominion Electronics Inc. in Vinton and is currently serving his fifth term as Mayor of Vinton, first elected to that position in 2004. He is serving his second term as Chairman of the Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission Executive Board and has served two terms as VACC President.

Grose is a member of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, the Vinton Vision Committee, and a board member of the Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership. He has received the Virginia Municipal League “Certified Local Government Official-Gold Award” and a commendation from the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly for Public Service.

Grose is a Charter graduate of the Vinton Citizens Police Academy and Advanced Citizens Police Academy. He is also “Santa” for the Vinton Christmas Parade. He is an active member of Parkway

Wesleyan Church. He has been married to his wife, Debby, for 42 years and has two children: Melissa (Randy) and Amanda (Marcus), two grandchildren (Jacob and Justin) and several pets.

Richard “Pete” Peters was appointed as Vinton Town Manager as of January 1, 2021. He previously served as Assistant Town Manager and Economic Development Director for the Town of Vinton for five years, 10 years as Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for Botetourt County, two years as Director of Athletic Programs and Facilities at Roanoke Catholic School, and seven years with the City of Roanoke Department of Parks and Recreation.

Peters graduated from William Byrd High School in 1993. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Recreation Administration from Ferrum College, and his Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management from Virginia Tech.

He is a Professional Member of the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and the Virginia Local Government Managers Association (VLGMA).

Peters currently serves as a board member on the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority (RVRA), the Roanoke Regional Partnership,



Mayor Brad Grose

the Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Commission (RVARC), and the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO).

He and his wife Cameron have been married for 20 years and have two children—Cadence (16) and Falan (15). His hobbies include mountain biking, kayaking, and camping.

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has two staff members: Angie Chewning and Kathryn Sowers.

Angie Chewning became Executive Director of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 2010. In the time since, she has continued to spread the word and to promote business growth in the Vinton area.

She has three children—



Pete Peters

Cydney, Drake, and Abbie—and one grandchild, Kellen.

Chewning serves on the American Cancer Society Leadership Council, the Roanoke Regional Partnership Board, the Urban Development Advisory Committee, and the Sassy Sister Group of Women of the Vinton Moose Lodge—a group formed by women Moose members to serve the community. Their first events included a food drive at Thanksgiving where they collected food for 13 Vinton families and then creating a float for the Vinton Santa Claus Crawl.

Chewning served as Chair of the Vinton Relay for Life from 2012-2016. She has served as a member of the Town of Vinton Revitalization Committee and the Preventive Council Committee.



Angie Chewning

She has volunteered at Explore Park’s Illuminights since its beginnings. Chewning loves to promote all things Vinton and is always encouraging folks to “Shop Local.” She loves volunteering for events and organizations that help people and make our community a better place to Live, Work, Shop and Play.

“I love sharing my feelings on growing up and living in Vinton,” says Chewning. “It feels like home. I’m ‘In.’ Are you?”

Kathryn Sowers worked for the Vinton Chamber of Commerce several years ago and returned in 2010 to temporarily bridge the gap between Executive Directors and was then invited to be the part-time Executive Assistant and Financial Coordinator.

Sowers is a native of



Kathryn Sowers

Vinton. She has one son—Todd—and three grandchildren, Christiaan, Austin, and Hannah.

Volunteering is an important part of her life. She is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Vinton-Roanoke County “High Ground” Veteran’s Monument on the grounds of the Vinton War Memorial.

Sowers serves on the Board of Directors for General Federation of Women’s Club International, Southeastern Region, state of Virginia and Blue Ridge District. She is Secretary/Treasurer of the Arnold R. Burton Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to two William Byrd High School students each year. She is also very involved in her church—Vinton Baptist—and the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.

OBITUARY

Jeffrey Lee Milliron

Jeffrey Lee Milliron, 64, of Botetourt County passed away unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Pam, and son, Craig. He is also survived by his brother, Tim Milliron (Lisa), and sister, Andrea Milliron (Patrick Oberg); brother-in-law, Scott Trembly (Karen), along with nephews, Derek Milliron (Kristin Haga), Nick Trembly, James Trembly; niece, Amy Trembly; and mother-in-law, Shirley Trembly. Jeff was predeceased by his parents, Jim and Mary Milliron and father-in-law, Bob Trembly.

Jeff was born December 16, 1955 in Roanoke. He graduated in 1974 from William Byrd High School where he was a proud offensive player on the undefeated football team his senior year. Jeff worked at Valley Fasteners since 1985 and was planning to retire in March after more than 35 years of employment. Jeff loved to travel with Pam and Craig. They had visited 30 states and he was looking forward to going to all 50 once he retired. He had many favorite places including trips to Williamsburg each October where he loved to visit family; Myrtle Beach where he enjoyed sitting by the pool or under an umbrella on the beach and going out to dinner each night; Sevierville, Tenn., where he loved going to the shows at Dollywood; and Nashville where he loved the music.

Over the years, Jeff took exceptional care of their animals and it was heartwarming to see how the animals loved Jeff. He cared for Pam’s horses and each morning and evening, without fail, they would stand at the fence waiting for him. Jeff loved his kitties, too. At one time, he had 12 barn cats



and they would follow Jeff anywhere he went. And the house cats were no different. Jeff took great pride in caring for the yard. He spent most weekends mowing at their family home and at Pam’s shop. He had all types of mowers, including push, riding and zero-turn, and even once owning as many as eight. And according to him, no one could do it as well as he could. And, until recently, no one even tried.

Last year, Pam and Craig helped as he prepared to have knee replacement surgery. And while grateful for their help, he likely still wanted to do it himself.

Christmas time was a favorite to Jeff. He loved Christmas and loved to decorate their home. He did it all! Through the years, Jeff had built quite the collection of Nutcrackers, Santa Clauses, Christmas trees, wall hangings...you name it, Jeff had it. And he wanted to show it off, too! The family got together recently just to look at his decorations and we are grateful for that memory.

Jeff made time for friends. He still had close friends from high school. Each year they would go to Tennessee to a football game. While they enjoyed the football game, he seemed to have even more fun just being with the guys laughing and telling stories. Many friends and family have referred to Jeff as a gentle giant and he was. He will be missed by so many.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your favorite charity in honor of Jeff. Arrangements are by Botetourt Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.botetourtfuneralhome.com. A memorial service will be held to celebrate Jeff’s life at a later time, when people are comfortable to gather.

Nativity

from page 1

pregnant with Megan, and we were looking for a church in the Richmond area where we were now located and had found Grove Avenue Baptist Church on the west end of Richmond.

For Christmas we helped build “Bethlehem City” from the four sides of a two-story wooden house in the Short Pump area. We were just ahead of the great build out

there in Short Pump and the house needed to go.

All the exterior sides of the house were carefully removed in very large sections and moved to the large parking lot of the church. They were then repositioned to make eight storefronts.

Again, many more robed characters would take shifts and stand around the

“city” at their correct places. This village scene was large enough that the cars would drive through the church parking lot to view Bethlehem City including a nativity scene. Huge traffic jams occurred in the Parham Road area where the church was located several blocks from the large Regency Center Shopping Mall.

Wishing You & Yours

Flappy Holidays

Oakey's
EST. 1866

TRADITION & INNOVATION IN FUNERAL CARE

SAMMY G. OAKEY, PRESIDENT • 982-2100
ROANOKE, NORTH, VINTON, SOUTH, EAST CHAPELS
& THE CREMATION TRIBUTE CENTER

Traditions

from page 1

“So that’s what Denny and I did our first few Christmases,” she continued. “But not anymore! With kids’ allergies, the tree is artificial, and now it goes up a couple weeks before Christmas and stays up until well after Epiphany. I like looking at it and want the Wise Men to see it, too! Because it takes a long time for me to decorate it with my collection of dollhouse ornaments and glass souvenir house ornaments, I leave it until I finally get tired of it. (I’m sure you notice there’s no ‘we’ decorating and undecorating at our house. But he’s really good at putting the tree together and packing it away!)”

“Our family does an artificial tree; we currently have one that Shannon and I picked out together when we were still dating,” William Byrd Choral Director Matt Bartley shares. “We also usually put a train under it, but that won’t happen for another few years with a 17-month-old at home! The year Shannon and I were pregnant with our son Marek, we hung blue and pink ornaments up. Given that we host Thanksgiving, we had a fun time directing each arriving group to our tree and making them figure it out that we were expecting by pointing out our ‘unique color scheme’ selection for the ornaments that year. We still put our ‘we’re expecting’ ornament in a prominent place on the tree.”

“All my life until about eight years ago, we always had a live tree – in fact, I had two live trees, but we were given an artificial tree and convenience took over,” said Kathryn Sowers. “I love holidays and decorate for every one

and especially Christmas. There is at least one tree in every room of my home – yes, the bathroom, too. It makes me happy no matter what room I am in. My ornaments are a collection from my parents, Everette’s parents, travels, handmade and gifts. Each one has a story and is very special.”

Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty says, “Christmas is my favorite time of the year! I love to decorate. This year we have three trees in our home, two artificial and one real tree. Every year I decide on a theme for my tree. This year our real tree is a memory tree and every ornament on the tree, with the exception of the tree topper, was made by my niece and nephews when they were little. One of our artificial trees is white, with red, white and blue lights, and blue and red balls – this tree is in honor of my handsome nephew who is currently serving in the Army and is stationed in Seoul, South Korea. We miss him so much and we are very proud of him. My family is very close and we love being together, especially around the holidays.”

“Growing up, we always had a real tree,” says Councilwoman Laurie Mullins. “I don’t remember the exact dates of decorating and taking it down, but I’m sure it was after Thanksgiving and taken down by January 1. Seems like I always heard an old wives’ tale about it being bad luck to leave it up into the New Year. What I do remember and cherish are the ornaments! Every year I received a gold (brass probably) ornament with my name and the year engraved on it. Every year was a walk down memory lane when the tree was put up. When Tommy and I married, we continued that tradition for a few years, and I know we got Natalie those ornaments for several years. We must have stopped sometime around the years my Dad (2004) and Grandma (2008) passed, and now the same style ornaments from Lotz Funeral Home, with their names engraved, perch at the top of the tree just below the star in a place of honor.”



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Judy Kelley decorates with Christmas trees throughout her house. This is her traditional tree filled with vintage and family-made ornaments.

Randy Layman, president of the Vinton Historical Society, shares, “For my family, we mix the traditions and ornaments of both the Laymans and the Fagans. Of special note, I still have flocked, colored glass ornaments lettered ‘Merry Christmas’ and ‘Happy Holidays’ that were on our family tree before I was able to walk on my own, and Mary Beth has these two tiny pine tree decorations which are very precious to her, and I’m sure are much older than she. These particular heirlooms are well-kept in their own little boxes for safekeeping but come out the occasional Christmas to be admired and fawned over.

“We generally pull everything out of storage (for the time we’ve been in Vinton – 1993 – it’s been our attic and the basement for heat-sensitive decorations) around December 1; certainly by the first weekend after,” Layman said, “with a tree set up that’s usually a nice artificial, but sometimes we just feel the need for a live Fraser fir or blue spruce. It all gets put away by Epiphany on January 6.

“We’re on our second year now with a Martha Stewart designer tree that nearly brushes our eight-foot living room ceiling. For many years now, Mary Beth has used a silver, white and crystal theme which really ‘takes flight’ with the white lights already installed on its branches,” he said. “Mary Beth is the principal engineer for this project, as well as most all of the other inside and outside decorations. I fill

in a few spots with an ornament or two, but am generally there for ‘reach around and up’ duty; plus the extra eye to see what’s straight and not.

“When our boys, Aaron and Thomas, were young they would join in, but alas, they’ve both been away from us and on their own for over a dozen years now; with their main duty now getting the boxes of Christmas stuff down from and back up in the attic.

“Regarding the Layman and Fagan family Christmas tree legacies, they were much different from each other as I saw it. I imagine both our Dads earned about the same money in jobs involving mostly manual labor and neither of our Moms worked outside the home. In contrast though, my childhood home included six children (a seventh, my sister Norma Jean, married and left home less than nine months after my birth) and Mary Beth had only her brother Lenny at home; therefore, money was a little tighter for the Laymans. We usually made do with a tall narrow cedar tree; sometimes cut for free from a friend’s or family farm, but always the cheapest choice. Also, my Dad liked the way they smelled. The Fagan’s relied upon bull or white pines, usually from the property of friends or family; sometimes from down around Mary Beth’s Mom Paulita’s hometown of Hillsville.

“As far as outside was concerned, we made do with a string of those giant-bulb colored lights around our front porch,” Layman

said. “While the Fagans had the same some years, they added a large angel doll in the front entryway of their Northwest Roanoke home that seemed to float before the shiny blue foil covering the entryway’s inner door. At her prior home in Garden City, they placed a large hand-painted Santa and a pair of handmade, over-sized candles on the porch. Again, at the NW home, on rare occasions, were inner-lit carolers, snowmen or Santa in his sleigh or such – sometimes on a rooftop, to usher in the Holiday Season. To top it all off was a hand-painted sign on the garage stating, ‘Merry Christmas from Our Home to Yours.’

“Either way, Christmas has always been very special to both our families, long before we met and married, and we continue as a family to hold it dear in our hearts as well. We hope that in these challenging days that this season brings all of us some special comfort.”

Judy Kelley says she is “very sentimental” and has always loved Christmas. She has been collecting Christmas ornaments and memorabilia her entire life. She lovingly decorates each and every room of her house for Christmas with a variety of trees of different sizes, and most with a story behind them.

Her living room features a traditional tree with antique red balls and many ornaments made by her and her children through the years, and many Hallmark ornaments bought from Bootie

Chewning’s Hallmark store in Vinton. It also has a bell she and her husband, Hooty – now married for 58 years – received as a wedding gift. There is an antique clip-on Christmas candle, the type that was burned briefly and very carefully on Christmas morning. There’s a tree decorated entirely in purple.

“I have a large snowman tree in my sunroom and small ones throughout the house. I decorate like the Hallmark movies. I’ve always loved to decorate, so I have a little something in every room.”

Kelley has Christmas collections of Nativity scenes, snowmen, homemade cinnamon-scented gingerbread ornaments, ceramic Christmas trees, Santa toys, Christmas pins, lighted Christmas paintings, and vintage children’s Christmas story books and special Christmas cards.

She says it takes her a couple of weeks to put up the Christmas decorations, but not as long to take them down. The snowman tree will remain up until February.

Kelley says that when she was a child, “My brothers and I had to find the biggest sock we could find for our stockings. We would pin them on a chair or couch. We always got an orange and candy in them. We always cut a cedar tree for our tree. Dad would buy lots of greenery on the market and bring it home on the bus, and Mom would make a wreath with a coat hanger. We usually got pj’s, clothes, and maybe one toy.”

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
E	A	G	L	E	S		H	A	H					
H	U	G	E	N	E	S	S		H	E	R	E		
E	N	G	R	A	V	E	R		P	A	V	I	N	
B	E	S	O	T			A	C	E	D				
E	R	A					P	L	E	A				
C	A	R	D				L	E	K					
T	I	T	A	N	I	U	M		A	R				
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	S	M	A	S	S	
		N	S		E	D			M	O	N	T	O	N
		G	N	U					T	A	C	O		
		I	R	I	S							B	I	B
A	L	A	E						A	D	O	B	E	
D	R	A	B	S		B	A	S	S	I	N	E	T	
A	I	M	S		U	N	W	I	E	L	D			
B	A	A				B	I	G	A	M				

ANGLICAN

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

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

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)

VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Ave., Vinton, Virginia. 343-7685. Rev. Travis Russell. Sunday Services: Contemporary Service 8:45 a.m., Sunday School 9:50 a.m., Traditional Service 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Services: Family Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Bible Study 6:15 p.m., Children’s Ministries 6:15 p.m., Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.vinton-baptistchurch.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 3679 Sandlewood Road, Roanoke VA 24018, (540) 206-6160. Repent & Be Baptized... Acts 2:38. Come study the Bible with us! Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m., www.christianchurchofchristclearbrook.org

FOURSQUARE

EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton, (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 982-3694. Pastor-Tim Wright. Sunday, 10 AM - Worship Service, SuperChurch for Children; Wednesday 6:30-8PM - AWANA Clubs for ages 3-5th grade, Adult Bible Study.

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, “The Church Under The Cross”, 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning 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; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:45pm; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Thursday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 2nd Monday Supper with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony’s 6:30pm; 2nd Tuesday Luncheon with

Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony’s; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Skip Hastings-Interim Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST

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

WESLEYAN

VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave. Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

Vinton

Worship Directory

Luke 2:9-15

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org



Marketplace

ourvalley.org

THE PINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

For Rent - Apartments

2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style

accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120



For Sale - Firewood

FIREWOOD

Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-529-2745 Delivery in Botetourt only

For Sale - Misc

Hay Square Bales Paint Bank VA Call or Text 304-667-4753

FOR SALE

Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

Quality Inn

Hiring full-part time front desk & housekeeping. Apply in person. Phone 540-639-3000

CRAIG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PART-TIME DISPATCHER
The Craig County Sheriff's Office is seeking applications for the position of Part-Time Dispatcher. Applicants must be 21 years of age and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent. Applicants must be willing and available to work all shifts to including nights, weekends and holidays on a as needed basis. Successful applicants will be required to undergo comprehensive training and be required to complete basic dispatch school and basic VGIN training as a condition of continued employment. A criminal background check is required. Commonwealth of Virginia Application for Employment can be obtained at the Craig County Sheriff's Office or on the Craig County Government website <http://craigcountyva.gov/employment-opportunities/> Deadline for applications is January 4th, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Help Wanted - General

We're Hiring!!

Trinity Service Group; A TKC Holdings Company

We have immediate openings for:
3 Cooks ASAP

Correctional Facilities in Salem, VA only

This facility has ZERO cases of Covid for both staff and inmates!

Starting pay: \$13 to \$15 Hourly paid weekly

Experience Requirements:

- 2 years of Cooking and Food Service experience preferred, additional training provided.
- The ability to read and prepare food according to provided recipes

- The ability to delegate and lead others is a must

- Positive self motivated food service professionals

We offer:

- Full-time opportunity with flexible shift/scheduling

- Comprehensive benefits

Medical, Life, Dental, and Vision Insurance
Paid time off,
Paid training
Education reimbursement, retirement planning, and so much more.

Let's build your career together.

About this position, our employees will:

- Supervise kitchen inmate labor in a secure environment

- Learn safe food preparation, service, and sanitation

- Build professional cooking skills for career growth and opportunity for advancement

Applying is easy!

Contact Missy at 717-577-2509 and send resume to Melissa.Fitzgerald@tkcholdings.com to secure your interview time

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, 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 approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1) Request of Barry E. and Valerie T. Dick, property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,288 SF detached garage on the property located at 1737 Amy Lane (Tax Map #212-1-10).

2) Request of Derbyshire Real Estate, applicant, and Sunset Ridge Holdings, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 703 E. Riverside Drive (Tax Map #232-2-9).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner, 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 James E. Taliaferro, II
Clerk of Council

Legals - Craig County

TRUSTEE SALE OF 99 Laurel Hill Pass, New Castle, VA 24127

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated September 5, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$125,190.00, recorded as Inst. 170000491, assigned as Inst. 200000407, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig, Virginia, default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and at the request of the holder of the note, the undersigned, as Substitute Trustees, either of whom may act, will sell at public auction at the front entrance of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig on January 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the property located at the above address and described as Lot 2, containing 4.026 acres, together with a 25 foot access easement as shown on plat recorded in Deed Book 114, pages 274-277, County of Craig. TERMS: CASH. PROPERTY SOLD AS IS WITH SPECIAL WARRANTY OF TITLE. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the successful bid amount (whichever is lower) will be required immediately of the successful bidder, in cash, cashier's check or certified funds only payable to "BRIAN DOLAN LAW OFFICES, TRUSTEE", balance due within 15 days from date of sale. No personal checks accepted. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower filed for and obtained bankruptcy protection, entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, or if trustee is unable to complete the sale, or if it is set aside or not fully completed for any reason except purchaser's default, the sale shall be null and void, and the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, reservations and conditions, if any, of record, as well as inchoate liens and any other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. Real estate taxes will be adjusted to the date of sale. All costs of conveyance, deed, examination of title, recording charges, grantor's tax and possession will be at the expense of the purchaser. All risks of casualty immediately pass to the successful bidder. Time is of the essence. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. For Information Contact: Brian Dolan Law Offices, PLLC, and G. Benny Moore Substitute Trustee(s) 12610 Patrick Henry Dr., Ste. C, Newport News, VA 23602; (757) 320-0255

11/16/2020

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00
RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE
HILL, STEPHANIE /v.
BOWLING, DAVID H.

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that DAVID H. BOWLING appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004492-01-00 & JJ004492-02-00
RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BOWLING, ALAYNA DAWN RENEE
HILL, STEPHANIE /v.
LAPP, KRISTEN

The object of this suit is to: LOCATE PARENTS.

It is ORDERED that LAPP, KRISTEN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/19/2021 2:00pm.

11/16/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004494-01-00 & JJ004494-02-00
RADFORD J&DR-JUVENILE DIVISION
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CARSTENS-ZIEGLER, ARIANA LEIGH
EAST, AMANDA /v.
CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III
The object of this suit is to: GAIN CUSTODY.

It is ORDERED that CARSTENS, RICHARD FRANK; III appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 2/16/2021 2:00 pm.

10/30/2020

Sally Davis
Clerk



To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355



CUSTER'S PLASTERING AND DRYWALL

- No job too large or small
- Repair work, new construction, etc.
- Quality Work At A Reasonable Price

Call 864-6498



STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Vinyl Replacement Windows Starting at \$235* Installed w/Free Trim Wrap Call 804-739-8207 Siding, Roofing, Gutters and More!

GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-877-636-0738 Special financing for qualified customers.

ATTN. CONTRACTORS: Advertise your business statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions to reach Homeowners. Call Landon

STATEWIDE ADS

Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

REAL ESTATE

ATTN. REALTORS: Advertise your listings regionally or statewide. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions that get results! Call Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@vpa.net

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. WILLS \$195.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

WANTED TO BUY

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-313-9671 or visit Refrigerant-Finders.com

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

American Standard

Walk-In Tubs

WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500

AS SEEN ON TV

Lifetime Warranty!
Finance Options Available

✓EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!
Only American Standard has OVER 140 years of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub.

✓SUPERIOR DESIGN!
Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar and textured floor provides a safer bathing experience.

✓PATENTED QUICK-DRAIN® TECHNOLOGY

✓LIFETIME WARRANTY!
The ONLY Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard.

✓44 HYDROTHERAPY JETS!
More than any other tub we've seen.

FREE!
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

MADE IN USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

A+ RATED

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

877-691-5591

Or visit: www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa

LeafFilter

GUTTER PROTECTION

✓INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter

AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LIFETIME WARRANTY

A COMPANY OF ALHS

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

AND!

10% OFF
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

+

5% OFF
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-877-614-6667

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSL# 1035795 DOP# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2105132153A License# LEAFNW22JZ License# WVO56912 License# WC-29998-R17 Nassau HIC License# H01057000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HCJ649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 36629018 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING

2020 VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Virginia has voted to have a redistricting commission and you can be part of it!

If you are interested in becoming a citizen commissioner go to our website for more information.

Accepting applications
November 30th through December 28th

Apply Today

<https://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/>

Classified Advertising

ADVERTISER!
To place your ad, call 540-389-9355

BAG

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355



BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DR FAME
ALLERGY
(C) ASTHMA

540-404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

C: 540-293-4271
O: 540-772-2268

SUDDENLY SINGLE?
If unexpected life changes have left you widowed or divorced and you need financial guidance, we can help.

TALK TO WALT
WALTER S. KEARNS, JR., CFP® • (540) 389-0300

JUST FINANCIAL PLANNING, INC.
1630 ROANOKE BLVD., SALEM, WWW.JUSTFINANCIALPLANNING.COM

embrace
homeloans

Robin Jewell
Senior Loan Officer / NMLS# 235597
540.309.5013
rjewell@embracehomeloans.com
www.embracehomeloans.com/robin-jewell
5044 Keagy Road, Suite H100
Roanoke, VA 24018

Embrace Home Loans, Inc. (NMLS ID#2184) is licensed in VA.
(www.nmlsconsumeraccess.com)

EVANS
ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SERVICE
Fincastle

Residential • Commercial
Industrial • Remodeling
New Construction

473-2481 • 276-228-5863 cell
Class A License • Insured
Master Tradesman

CIRCLE R ROOFING OF VIRGINIA

Rob Gendreau 540.784.0500
Commercial Division Lic. 2705175694

MHC
Monroe Health Center

Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

*Physical Exams * X-ray Services
* Laboratory Services * Acute Care
*Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS

Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains

Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Roof Replacement & Repair

SOUTHERN TRACE ROOFING

All 1st Responders and Health Care Workers receive a 5% discount

540-966-0688 • PO Box 630, Daleville, VA 24083
www.southerntracellc.com

Classified Advertising DELIVERS

389-9355

ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY OF VIRGINIA
WHERE PATIENTS COME FIRST

ALL evaluations & treatments by a licensed physical therapist

LOCATED **INSIDE** BOTETOURT FAMILY YMCA
115 Shenandoah Avenue, Daleville
540-591-5360 • FAX 540-591-5362

HANDY MAN SERVICES

- Interior / Exterior Painting
- Carpentry, Window / Door Replacement and More
- Deck Repair and Restorations

Serving New Castle & Surrounding Areas

Call or Text Gary Benefield 386.527.8434

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

arcpoint labs
accurate. reliable. confidential testing.

COVID-19 Testing

- Return to Work Program
- International Travel • Peace of Mind

48 hour turn-around time for results

Antigen Rapid Viral Test--\$179.00
Lab Based Viral PCR Test--\$149.00
Saliva Viral PCR Test--\$159.00 (results back in 36 hours)

ARCpoint Labs of Christiansburg
2955 Market St. Suite B2, Christiansburg
(540) 251-5171

Shopping Starts Here!

Newspaper Advertising Works!

RE/MAX AllStars Realty
Rodney Spickard
Realtor®
RE/MAX Associate
Former Commissioner of Revenue
1225 Roanoke Road, Daleville, VA 24083
(540) 793-1341
rodspickard@gmail.com
movetoroanoke.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Opportunity is knocking loud and clear.

SITUATIONS WANTED
Find a job in your special field, or find the help you need.

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
Get rid of the old rattletrap while it still runs

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

BAG A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

If you believe in your business and want to build it...

ADVERTISE!

To place a classified ad, call 540-389-9355

ADVERTISE!
389-9355



ACC CHAMPS

The Clemson Tigers defeated Notre Dame, 34-10, in Charlotte last Saturday to win the ACC football championship. Above, Clemson coach Dabo Swinney gets a Gatorade bath as the clock runs out. Above right, game MVP Trevor Lawrence(#16) holds up the trophy he received for that honor after passing for over 400 yards and three touchdowns. Right, the Tigers enjoy the ACC trophy during their on field celebration. Clemson, the number two team in the nation, will play third ranked Ohio State in an FBS semifinal game on January 1. Notre Dame lost for the first time but is still number four in the FBS rankings and will play top seeded Alabama on New Year's Day.

ACC PHOTOS



Brian Hoffman



Twas the Christmas of COVID

Twas the Christmas of COVID in the year 2020 and sports as we knew them were far from aplenty. The cutouts of fans placed in seats with great care as folks watch at home wishing they could be there.

When Rudy Gobert first came down with the bug he ticked off a teammate with a well-meaning hug. That was 285 days ago, as far as I can tell when sports as we knew them went all to hell.

No baseball, no hockey no March Madness, too and even the golfers played golf before few. The baskets returned with their games in a bubble but only with masks and a whole lot of trouble.

The high school sports seasons were all put on hold with many a senior left out in the cold. No districts, no regions, no state games or meets no honors or trophies or memorable feats.

When things got no better the sports that we saw were reruns and cornhole and Korean baseball. The NASCAR returned but was run with great care with hopes that the crazy fans soon would be there.

The big leagues returned and was funny to watch without spitting or slapping or grabbing of crotch. The Dodgers prevailed by downing the Rays then Turner spread virus in post-series craze.

By autumn we hoped that things would be better and high school athletes could still earn a letter. But sadly the Virginia High School League noted no football in this state was how the group voted.

The Hokies and Hoos completed their seasons but won't go to bowls for virus fueled reasons. The Commonwealth's Cup was won by VT then Hooker decided to set himself free.

The NFL season is still going strong with plenty of time for things to go wrong. The GOAT looks fine as a Tampa Bay Buc but the Patriots and Newton have run out of luck.

The NBA season will open this week with Harden in strip clubs to get him a peak. He hopes to soon be a Sixer or Net but the Rockets demands have yet to be met.

And so this is Christmas and what have we here? A mask on old Santa and distanced reindeer. The mall is a place where we all like to go but it's a superspreader of virus, you know.

But wait, do I hear there's some hope on the scene? It's Pfizer and Moderna, with COVID vaccine. On Fauci, on Gupta, and bring back Rick Bright the good whistle blower who knew what was right.

In the year '21 may the sports that we yearn, be cleared from the virus so fans can return. And once again athletes will be back in action enjoying the games and their great satisfaction.

And so when I laugh, like a bowl full of jelly may the sports that I watch be more than on telly. The year's almost over, there's real hope in sight. Merry Christmas my friends, and to all a safe night.



Old Dominion Athletic Conference athletes conduct holiday food drive

FOREST, Va. --- The Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) united during the fall semester, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, to help local organizations by conducting food drives on the campuses of each member institution. The conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) organized the conference-wide food drive as its first of two community service initiatives in 2020-21.

"Bridgewater's SAAC has been extremely active this fall, in order to keep athletes engaged in the wider community we are a part of, as well as to keep the fire of competitiveness burning until we are on the field/court/track again," said Erin Fitzpatrick, a Senior for Bridgewater College Women's Track & Field. "Being able to give to others during these difficult times is certainly a privilege, which I believe a lot of our athletes recognized, inspiring them to go above and beyond. Especially in comparison to what Bridgewater raised last year, I am very proud of my fellow student-athletes."

The drive was a huge success with the ODAC student-athletes and campus communities. Bridgewater College led the way accumulating 6,526 items in the drive. Some ODAC institutions were specific in their efforts to help those in need. Guilford College raised \$625 targeting single-parent households and delivered 10 meals to families from different backgrounds, and gave \$30 gift cards to 10 additional families. Hollins University raised \$834 and provided 16 families with \$50 Kroger gift cards for Thanksgiving. Randolph-Macon College raised an impressive \$2,865 in cash donations.

All food items and money were donated to a local organization of each school's choice. Overall, the ODAC collected 10,088 items and raised over \$4,900.

TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITATION TO BID

PROPOSED SELLING AND GRANTING OF A FRANCHISE FOR AN ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN THE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA, AND INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-2100 et seq., of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider approving an Ordinance proposing to sell and grant a franchise for an electric power transmission and distribution system throughout the Town of Vinton to AEP Appalachian Power.

In addition, the Town shall publicly receive bids for the proposed franchise for an electric power transmission and distribution system throughout the Town of Vinton from other providers. Interested parties shall submit bids in writing by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 to Susan N. Johnson, Town Clerk, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. Any bids will be opened in public session and marked for identification by the Town Clerk. The cost of this advertisement shall be paid by the town which shall be reimbursed by the company to whom the franchise is granted. The town shall have the right to reject any and all bids and reserves this right in the advertisement.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed Ordinance by emailing sjohnson@vintonva.gov, leaving a message at 540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the Ordinance will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to sjohnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, January 4, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date.

A complete copy of the proposed Ordinance and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson, CMC
Town Clerk

**YOUR LOCAL NEWS
JUST THE WAY
YOU LIKE IT!**



VINTON MESSENGER

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year
Digital Subscription
\$29.00

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital
Subscription
\$59.00

PRINT ONLY

Yearly Print Only Subscription
\$41.00 In County
\$45.00 Out of County \$49.00 Out of State

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VINTON MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

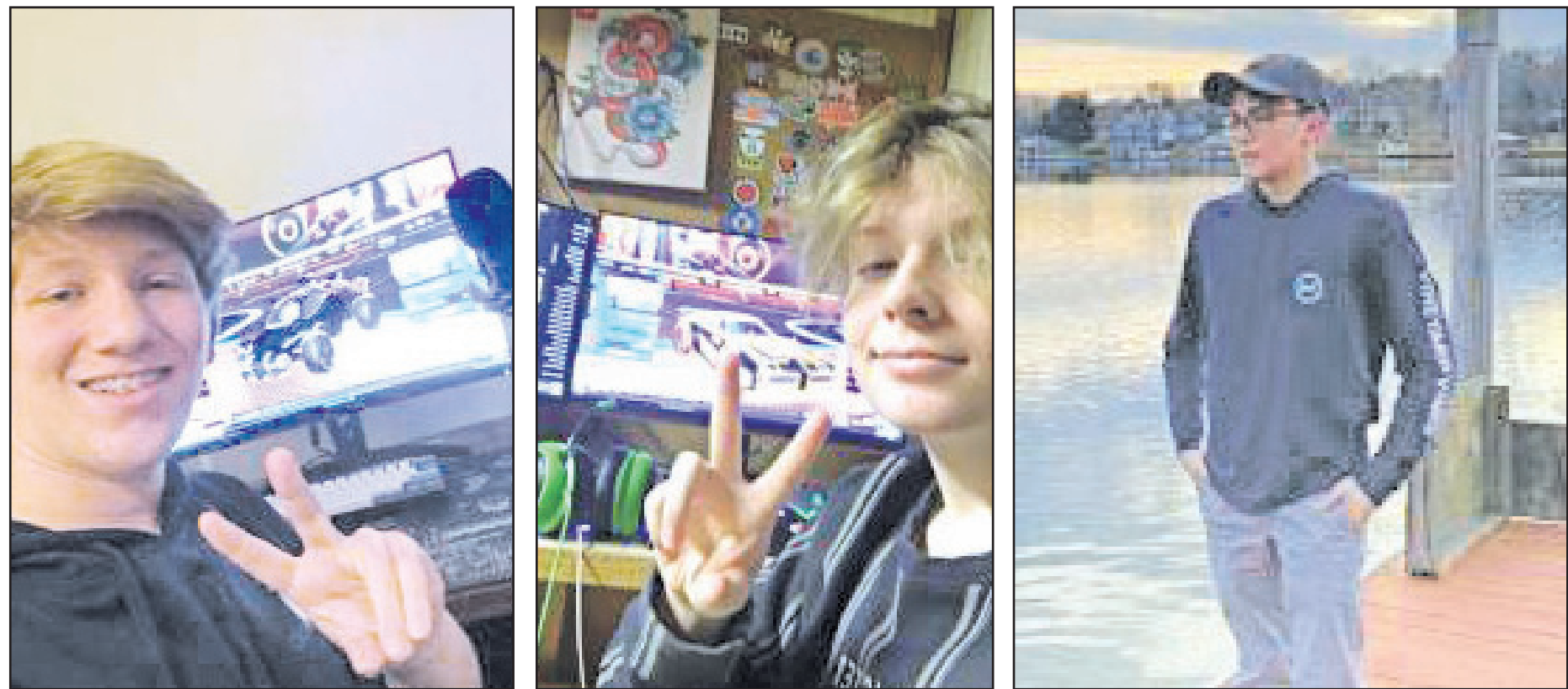
Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed ____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, VINTON MESSENGER,
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org, or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • ourvalley.org



Left to right, freshmen Finley Stephens and Landon Caldwell and junior Griffin Horacek represented Byrd in the state E-Sports “Rocket League” competition.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Terriers finish in “Final Four” in state E-Sports Rocket League playoffs

High School football, volleyball, golf and cross country were moved from the fall to the spring due to the coronavirus pandemic. Basketball, wrestling and swimming events have been postponed until January at the earliest. But E-Sports played on.

The William Byrd E-Sports team made the state “Final Four” for the second year in a row last week in “Rocket League” competition. Byrd lost to the eventual state champion, John Champe High School from Aldie, V.A. Kettle Run defeated Courtland in the other semifinal and Champe became champ with a good run against Kettle Run in the final.

E-Sports is a relatively new competition among Virginia High School League schools, with about 60 teams in the state competition. The top 16 make the play-offs and Byrd was the number four seed.

The number of schools competing is growing each year as “gamers” compete for their schools in selected computer games. Hidden Valley and William Fleming are among the local schools competing but more are expected to join as the sport gains popularity.

The VHSL approves the games played each year and does not include violent

games in the competition. The “Rocket League” involves a game like soccer, only cars are on the field instead of humans.

“It’s like soccer, only with cars,” said William Byrd E-Sports sponsor Mitchel Burkhardt. “The cars are on the field and they try to put the ball into the opposing net.”

Last year the Byrd players competed in the school computer lab but this year, due to the pandemic, the students played from home. Byrd has over 20 students on the team and three play in the state Rocket League tournament. They go head to head with three members of the opposing team and each plays a best-of-seven series, with each game lasting five minutes in length.

Byrd’s team included junior Griffin Horacek and two freshmen, Finley Stephens and Landon Caldwell. Last year Byrd was the state runnerup but graduated two seniors, Payton Meadows and Evan Garst. Horacek also played on the state team last year and this year the freshmen took over for the departed seniors.

“We have a young team,” said Burkhardt, who is in his second year as team sponsor. “The kids really enjoy it and our team is growing. The sport is going to get bigger and bigger. I wish I had something like this when I was in school.”

Liptrap was long time recreation coach, official in Vinton

Vinton lost a good friend on Sunday when Freddie Liptrap passed away at the age of 80 at Pheasant Ridge Skilled Care and Rehab Center.

Freddie was well known among the baseball crowd, as he coached the game on many levels for most of his life. Long time youth coach Bruce Spencer credits Freddie for getting him involved in Vinton baseball.

“He got me into coaching,” said Spencer. “I was in from college and playing basketball down at the War Memorial. The baseball coaches were at JC field having a meeting and realized they were going to need another coach. He asked me if I would be interested in coaching. Forty years later, I’m still coaching.

“I remember when he first started helping me coach. I was at the nursing home to see my dad and ran into him. He mentioned to me he was not umpiring any more. I asked him if he would be interested in helping me coach and I let him know our first practice was that night at 7:30, which was in one hour. Sure enough, he was there and helped me for over 10 years.

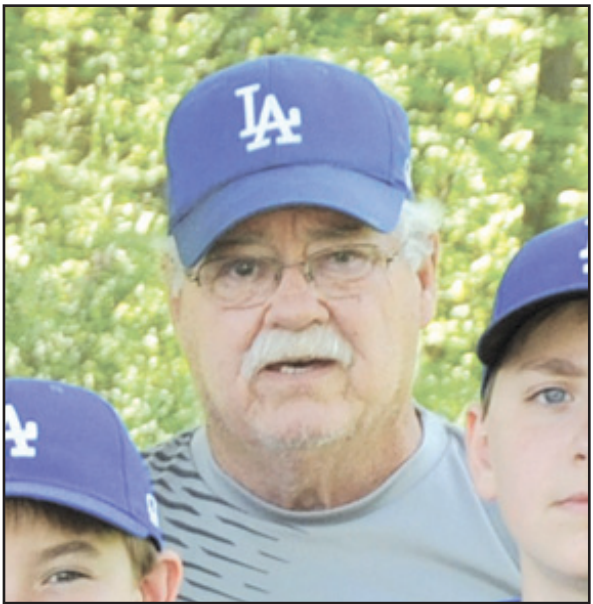
“He had a real passion for helping kids and I learned so much from him. He will truly be missed.”

A graduate of the now-defunct Clifton Forge High School, Liptrap played football, basketball and baseball for the Mountaineers and is a member of the Clifton Forge High School Hall of Fame. He also umpired and refereed and helped his son coach teams at Roanoke Catholic and Craig County.

“He was all about kids,” said former William Byrd baseball coach and athletic director Gary Walthall. “He officiated hundreds of recreation baseball and basketball games, then returned to coach with two of his best friends, Bruce Spencer and Larry Light. He left such a positive mark on many young players lives and touched many of us who coached and were involved in Vinton sports and William Byrd athletics. Such a sad time but his legacy will last forever.”

All who knew him will forever remember Freddie and the time he spent working with young athletes.

“He was a great man,” said Vinton youth baseball coach Ricky Carr. “He loved working with the kids.”



FREDDIE LIPTRAP

RC sports schedule won’t be effected by push back of spring semester

Roanoke College announced this week that the start of the spring semester for the college has been moved back three weeks. The semester was scheduled to begin in mid-January. However, due to COVID spikes both regionally and nationally the college made the decision to push back the start of the spring semester to February 8th.

The delay in the start of the semester will not have an impact on the scheduled start of intercollegiate athletics. Both Roanoke College and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) remain committed to conduct intercollegiate athletic competition this spring. Men’s and women’s basketball is scheduled to start play on Saturday, January 23rd, with both fall and spring sports

conducting their seasons starting in February.

Roanoke College is scheduled to start the men’s basketball season with a home game against arch rival Hampden-Sydney, while the women will start the 2020-21 campaign with a three-game road swing. The basketball regular season will conclude on Saturday, February 27th, with a four-team conference tournament taking place March 4-6.

The ODAC and the swim coaches are finalizing a championship structure that would allow for competition over a two or three-day period. The championship format will be modified from its normal structure and the proposed timeline for the event is the weekend of March 5th.

DO IT. SO WE CAN GET THROUGH IT.

Practice safe socializing.

As we continue serving our families and limiting exposure to the COVID19 virus, we are now allowed to operate at 100% capacity while meeting all mandated social distancing and facial covering recommendations.

Most service options are now fully available.

Lotz Vinton Chapel • 540-343-4986