

8
33463 00110
5

VESTED PARTNERS
A MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE



Robyn Smith Ellis, Attorney

www.vestedmfo.com
540.389.6060

LEGAL
FINANCIAL
FIDUCIARY
INSURANCE

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: FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Thursday, February 11, 2021 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville (USPS-660-020) OurValley.org • \$1.00



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Hemp Mill has been located on Pollard Street in Vinton since 2018, part of The Advancement Foundation (TAF) Innovation Mill.

Hemp Mill celebrates two years in Vinton, Part 2 edited version

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

It would be difficult to find a more enthusiastic and vocal supporter of hemp and its health benefits than Debbie Custer, owner of the Hemp Mill in Vinton.

Custer grows hemp plants both at the Hemp Mill and at her home in Botetourt County. She was the first woman to be licensed to grow hemp in the Commonwealth of Virginia—issued license Number 4—when hemp became legal again in 2018.

She sells hemp products including sprays, cremes, and lotions, cleansers, hemp seed oil, hemp hearts, coffee, honey and honey sticks, bath towels, washcloths, hats, scarves, bracelets made from hemp, hemp protein, organic hemp fabric face masks, lollipops, jam, soap, “hanitizer,” and PetCalm for pets with anxiety.

The Hemp Mill moved to Pollard Street in Vinton in October 2018, combining operations from Blacksburg, a storage building, and Custer’s home in Botetourt County, into one location.

Custer, a Vinton native and William Byrd High graduate, is also the CEO and founder of Coeus Research, which is focused on plant-based product manufacturing, design, development, and branding. Her special inter-

est is developing hemp products and assisting entrepreneurs in the hemp industry in launching their businesses.

Custer graduated from Virginia Tech with an undergraduate degree in sociology and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing and a “desire to save the world.”

She has worked in the food and beverage industry for about 40 years with extensive experience in wine, craft beer, water, and natural beverages. In the past 20 years, she has been focused on plant-based nutritional and nutraceutical products, including hemp and hemp-derived products. One of her main interests is in providing inflammation relief to people and animals.

Several years ago, Custer developed her first product, PetCalm, to ease the pain of arthritis for a family pet. Her interest was awakened when, on a trip to Greece, she learned one of her pets at home had developed debilitating arthritis. The prognosis was not good; the vet recommended euthanasia. A Greek herbalist gave her a small bottle of a “miracle oil” (hemp oil extraction) which she added to her dog’s food when she returned home. Within a couple of days, the dog was much improved and enjoyed good health for three more years.

See **Hemp Mill**, page 3

Vinton has its own ArtWorks gallery

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton now has its own art gallery – ArtWorks – located within the EarthWorks pottery building on Pollard Street, just across from the Vinton Library.

Four local artists – EarthWorks owner and potter Jim Privatera, watercolor artists Susan McLaren and Bobbie Caton, and multimedia artist Leah Coffman – have joined forces to open the gallery, which both exhibits and sells their creations. They held a “soft opening” in mid-December followed by an official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce on February 4.

When a gallery in Daleville where the three painters had been exhibiting their works closed in recent months, Privatera invited McLaren, Caton, and Coffman to join him in his gallery, albeit on a more modest scale. He had been considering adding paintings to the gallery for a while. “You have a room; we have the art” was the consensus. The result is ArtWorks.

Privatera credits the three women with organizing the space and selecting the works of art to display. “They took the lead.”

Strangely enough, none of the four chose being an artist as their first career or spent years involved in professional training. All of them became acquainted with or reacquainted with art when they retired.

Privatera was a community college professor at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, teaching photography and computer graphics for over 30 years, “blending art and technology.” Retirement left a gap in his schedule. When browsing through the community college catalog, a pottery class caught his eye.

He was immediately hooked. When he and his wife moved to Roanoke in 2006 to be closer to their family, his hobby became a second career. Eventually he wanted a studio outside his home. Space opened up in Vinton and he “snatched” the property up. That was in 2010. With so much space, he decided to teach pottery classes in his upstairs studio as well, which have continued – on a somewhat limited scale – despite the pandemic. He also joined the acclaimed Blue Ridge Potters Guild and has served as its



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

ArtWorks formally opened in Vinton on February 4 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. Shown left to right are watercolor artists Bobbie Caton and Susan McLaren, potter Jim Privatera, multimedia artist Leah Coffman, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning, Julie Tucei from the Town of Vinton, and Chamber Executive Assistant Kathryn Sowers, along with Jessie Coffman (in back).

president.

Privatera says the fascination with clay is “turning a pile of mud into something beautiful and functional.” Much of his work is on the potter’s wheel making pieces for the kitchen and home.

For several years, the lower level of the EarthWorks studio has served as a gallery to exhibit his own work and historic pottery pieces.

Caton turned to art, specifically watercolors, when she retired from teaching English at Northside Middle School, then teaching GED classes and working with students at Coyner Springs. She had first taken some art classes when her children were young and she “needed a break and a hobby.” She says art was the cheapest class you could sign up for back then – through the Rec Department and even at the Vinton War Memorial.

Susan McLaren’s first career was with Carilion as director of Operating Room Services. She also turned to art after she retired, not having painted since she was in high school. Her hobbies had been music – piano, voice, and church handbells. Sadly, she woke up one day with a debilitating hearing loss – definitely a life-changing experience. She happened on to art classes at the Bedford Studio. She says she fell in love with watercolors, which allow her to experiment with the interplay of light and translucence. She continues to take classes herself and teaches some for children. One highlight of

joining the art world was a trip to Scotland with a group of artists. While her favorite medium is watercolors, she also enjoys acrylics, along with some pen and ink.

One of the most delightful paintings in the gallery – “Sometimes Joy is Easy” – is a portrait of McLaren’s young granddaughter enjoying a doughnut, based on a photograph of the child.

Leah Coffman says she has been a “wannabee artist” since elementary school. She remembers often not paying attention to what the teacher was saying because she was busy decorating her book covers. She took art classes in high school and then took a sabbatical from art for 30 years. She worked full-time for Roanoke County in training and development, including teaching Excel and Word. She then worked in Work Force Development for Virginia Western Community College and the Lifelong Learning Program (for those 50 and older) at Virginia Tech.

When she finally retired in January 2020, she remembered “how much I needed to hold a paintbrush.” She says she dabbles in every type of art – “I do this as a passion.” She often donates her prints and paintings for fundraisers, as have Caton and McLaren.

One of her most endearing works of art is a card featuring adorable “Pound Puppies” which she created for the Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection (RCACP). She also has a pas-

See **ArtWorks** page 10

Gauntlet 2021 now underway

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Virginia’s largest business program and competition, the Gauntlet, got underway for 2021 on February 9—virtually this year. The Gauntlet is the brainchild of Annette Patterson, founder and president of The Advancement Foundation (TAF) non-profit organization. Now in its seventh year, the program has grown from 15 participants in its first year to 170 in 2020.

Patterson, along with TAF Chairman of the Board Becky Freemal, and Shannon Dominguez, the director of Business Development for TAF, who will be facilitating the Gauntlet program this session, welcomed the Gauntlet Class of 2021.

The Gauntlet provides opportunities for innovative entrepreneurs looking to start small businesses or for existing businesses looking to rebuild or expand. In essence it connects entrepreneurs to available resources. The 10-week session of business classes

is followed by a competition for approximately \$300,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

State Farm is the lead sponsor for the fourth year. That sponsorship has allowed the Gauntlet to scale up the program across the region to help over 500 entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses.

In addition, the Gauntlet has engaged 250 community mentors and raised cash and in-kind awards totaling more than \$1.2 million. Top winners can receive up to \$30,000 in cash and in-kind support individually. The program has assisted small businesses in obtaining over \$960,000 in grants and loans. Twenty-nine cities, counties, and communities have been served by the program.

This year’s class includes participants from Vinton, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Botetourt County, the Alleghany Highlands, Rockbridge County, Smith Mountain Lake, Bedford County, the Town of Bedford, Big Island, Montvale, Clifton Forge, Covington, Floyd,

Buchanan, Lexington, Buena Vista, Glasgow, Low Moor, Troutville, Fincastle, and Lynchburg.

One of the Gauntlet’s main attractions is the “incredible networking” capabilities of 525 alumni, 250 mentors and industry experts, and over 35 resource agencies partnering to form a community.

“Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy,” Patterson has said. “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 impor-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

Anna Metheny, owner of Patina Creek Creative in Buchanan, shared her Gauntlet story with participants in the 2021 business program and competition that got underway on February 9.

tant now than ever.” The Gauntlet launched 70 businesses last May, despite a worldwide pandemic. The program pivoted to completely virtual classes six weeks into the program.

GAUNTLET entrepreneurs participate in weekly training sessions on such business topics as accounting, business management, financing a business, insurance, hu-

man resources, organizational skills, research, time management, budget development, customer acquisition, budget and cash flow, legal structure, patent assistance, E-commerce, web development, business location selection, general business knowledge, licensing, marketing, product and/or service development, technology, and

business plan development.

The Gauntlet partners with communities through Economic Development offices, Chambers of Commerce, Main Street organizations, Virginia Tourism, DHCD, Small Business Development Centers, SBA, USDA, libraries and others.

See **Gauntlet**, page 4

WBHS Terrier Spotlight of the Week



Sherri Mays



Brian Butler



Margo Taylor



J.D. Stover

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Each week the administrative team at William Byrd High School recognizes faculty and staff members for their contributions to their students and the community.

The first Terrier Spotlight of the Week announced on February 5 was Sherri Mays, who teaches geometry and AP calculus, and also serves as the Math Department chair. She is a veteran of Byrd, now serving in her 18th year. During this time, she has proven to be a phenomenal teacher, a great department chair and mentor, and an overall lovely human being. One thing becomes crystal clear when observing her classroom: she is willing to do anything to

help our students be successful. When not immersed in all things math, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, as well as keeping tabs on her two new kittens. Thanks again, Mrs. Mays, for being a rock star teacher!

The next Terrier Spotlight is a veteran of William Byrd: Brian Butler. The former corporate-insurance-trainer-turned-biology-teacher has been at Byrd for the past 15 years. His hard work, attention to detail, and calm composure have been so valuable this year. Along with co-teacher Mrs. Beck, he has been consistently providing wonderful lessons and instruction. He is a Terrier through-and-through.

He and his wife both graduated from Byrd, as did his son and daughter. Outside of Terrier Nation, he enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, watching sports and supporting his college alma mater, Virginia Tech. Thank you again, Mr. Butler, for all of your hard work and support this school year.

The next Terrier Spotlight of the Week is Margo Taylor. This week marks School Counselor Appreciation Week and who better to honor than our fabulous School Counseling Coordinator? Mrs. Taylor leads a talented, dynamic, and energetic counseling department. We may be biased here, but we cannot imagine a better counseling de-

partment in the Roanoke Valley. Along with being the counseling coordinator, Mrs. Taylor also helps manage and facilitate SAT testing, hosting several test dates at the high school this year. She is one of the most kind, considerate, and patient people you'll ever meet. To possess these qualities after being married to Jason Taylor for 25 years is a feat in and of itself. If you're interested in what Mrs. Taylor does outside of school, the answer is simple: Virginia Tech. Thank you, Mrs. Taylor, for being a wonderful guidance counselor and a Terrific Terrier!

The final Terrier Spotlight for the week is a faculty and staff favorite: J.D. Stover. He is part

of our wonderful maintenance crew that has worked tirelessly to ensure that we continue to stay safe this school year. Mr. Stover is now entering his 16th year with the county; six years of which he has spent here at Byrd. He continually goes that extra mile to help maintain our school. Whether it's stepping in to quickly sanitize a room, regularly wiping down door handles, unloading trucks, or even shoveling snow off walkways, J.D. is always there. Thank you again, J.D., for all of your hard work and generosity this school year.

By the Administrative Team at William Byrd High School

Vinton Breakfast Lions Club welcomes new members



The Vinton Breakfast Lions welcomed three new members at their meeting on January 27 at the Vinton Moose Lodge. Shown left to right are President Chris McCarty, new member Tyler Boothe, new member Caroline Gibbs with sponsor Galen Conner, and Tammy Newcomb with new member Lisa Stover.



The Vinton Breakfast Lions welcomed members from the Vinton Host Lions and Breakfast Lions Clubs. Shown left to right are Tammy Newcomb, Danny Dickens, David Jones, and Steve Haldren.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club inducted three new members at the meeting on January 27: Tyler Boothe, sponsored by Chris McCarty; Caroline Gibbs (Leo Club president from William Byrd High School), sponsored by Galen Conner; and Lisa Stover (faculty advisor for the WBHS Leo Club), sponsored by Tammy Newcomb.

The Breakfast Lions also welcomed members from the Vinton Host Lions and Luncheon Lions Clubs – Denny Dickens, David Jones, Steve Haldren, and Jim Johnson.

Lions Club International

was founded in 1917 and is most recognized for championing the blind and visually impaired. The local Vinton Breakfast Lions Club was chartered in 1985. Chris McCarty currently serves as president. While the Lions collect and sort used eyeglasses for distribution, they also sponsor many other service projects throughout the year that help the Vinton community.

The Lions raise funds through their annual pancake breakfast on Fall Festival Day and their spaghetti dinner traditionally held on the day of the Vinton Christmas

Parade. They sell Lions Club brooms, raise funds with the White Cane Day project, and host their main fundraiser – the annual Raffle Draw Down event. Virtually all the money they collect is spent for the benefit of Vinton area residents.

The Lions award four scholarships to William Byrd High School seniors each year and two scholarships at Staunton River High School in memory of member Ryan Chambers who passed away in an automobile accident in 2018. They recently made donations to the YOVASO pro-

grams at WBHS and SRHS.

The Breakfast Lions sponsor the annual Bland Music Competition Scholarship Program for musically talented area students who can then advance to district, regional, and state competitions. This year's competition is scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at 2 p.m. at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church.

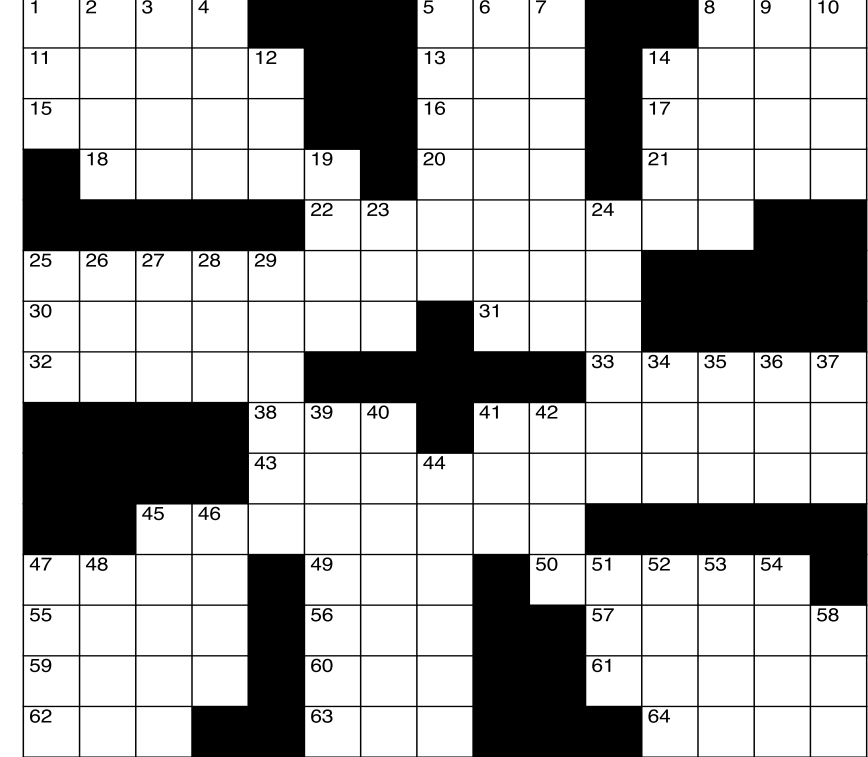
Throughout the year, the Breakfast Lions provide local elementary school children with extra clothing, school supplies, snacks, and refreshments, help with school projects, and treat several area

children to a Christmas shopping trip.

In 2019, the Lions funded construction of the picnic shelter at Herman L. Horn Elementary School.

The Breakfast Lions have worked diligently since March 2015 on a legacy project – reclaiming and preserving the historic Gladetown Cemetery from undergrowth and debris. The cemetery, which contains some of the oldest graves in Vinton dating from the 1820s, has been restored and is now fenced in due to the efforts of the Lions.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Gather a harvest
 - Federal Republic of Germany
 - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
 - "The Little Mermaid"
 - The common gibbon
 - Volcanic island in Fiji
 - Mother of Perseus
 - Egg cells
 - Teams' best pitchers
 - Credit associations
 - Advance
 - Hair styling products
 - Benign tumors
 - Arriving early
 - Called it a career
 - Paulo, city
 - Avoid with trickery
 - Easter egg
 - Veterans battleground
 - Lack of success
 - Thing that causes disgust
 - Deep, continuing sound
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - You might put it in a fire
 - Partner to "oohed"
 - Actor Idris
 - Slippery
 - Plant of the bean family
 - One point north of northeast
 - Patti Hearst's captors
 - Places to hang clothes
 - Midwife
 - Of she
 - S. Korean statesman
- CLUES DOWN**
- Cool!
 - Amounts of time
 - Aboriginal people of Japan
 - Popular accessory
 - Wedding accessory
 - Deep, narrow gorges
 - Dry cereal
 - Competitions that require speed
 - Cain and ___
 - Snake sound
 - Type of amino acid (abbr.)
 - Pattern of notes in Indian music
 - Satisfy
 - Misfire
 - Nearsightedness
 - Indicates before
 - Increase motor speed
 - When you hope to get there
 - Indicates position
 - Where rockers perform
 - Substitute
 - ___ juris: of one's own right
 - Earliest form of modern human in Europe: ___ magnon
 - Adult female bird
 - Do away with
 - Lens
 - Flattened appendage
 - Post or pillar in Greek temple
 - A medieval citizen of Hungary
 - Abba ___, Israeli politician
 - Sew
 - Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
 - Swiss river
 - Grayish-white
 - A way to illustrate
 - College basketball superpower
 - Midway between south and southeast

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Welcome to the world, Samuel Thomas Brown. Samuel was born Friday, Feb. 5 and weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Congratulations to parents Ashleigh and Tyler Brown. Grandparents are Leigh Anne and Brian Conner,

Angie Chewing
Filling in for Bootie

Michael Vulgan and John and LeeAnn Shupe. He is

named after his late great-grandfather Elton Thomas Jones, a/k/a Shorty Jones. I know everyone is bursting with pride!

Happy birthday to "Baby" Drake Lewis. Drake turns 25 this Friday, Feb. 12.

OBITUARY

Walter Stevenson Worrell Sr.

Walter Stevenson "Pee Wee" Worrell Sr., of Roanoke, entered into eternal sleep on Monday, February 1, 2021.

He joins his wife, Cindy Worrell; his father, James Worrell; his mother, Bernice Worrell; his sister, Barbara Worrell Allen; and his brother, Michael Worrell in death.

He leaves behind three sons, Walter Worrell Jr. and his wife, Jennifer Worrell, Wesley Worrell and his wife, Heather Worrell, and William Worrell and his wife, Amber Worrell. Pee Wee had three grandkids who he loved and adored, Hannah Worrell, Cassandra Spinner, and Fayth Wilmoth. He also leaves behind two sisters and two brothers, Donna Harbaugh and husband, Dean Harbaugh, Mary Underwood and husband, Stacy Underwood, Dean Worrell, and Daniel Worrell and wife, Kathy



Worrell; his sister-in-law, Karen Worrell; many nieces and nephews; and his special friend, Denise.

Pee Wee had a heart of gold and would help anyone he could. He enjoyed tattoos, drawings, Indian art and dream catchers. His boys were the light of his life; he was very proud of the men all three have become. He loved his wife, Cindy, so much she truly

was his soul mate. Anyone who met Pee Wee remembered him. He was an unforgettable person with an unforgettable personality. Pee Wee will be missed and is loved by many. May he find peace and rest in Heaven.

Arrangements were entrusted to Oakey's Funeral Service – Roanoke Chapel, 982-2100. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.oakeys.com.

From the Pulpit

'Snowman Magic'

Parker's favorite book is a children's book written by Katherine Tegen called "Snowman Magic." The story centers around a boy named George and the snowman he built while out of school for a snow day. George carefully rolled each snowball until there was a large, medium, and small ball. After placing the small ball on top, he went inside and found a hat and scarf in the closet, a carrot in the refrigerator, and two buttons in a drawer. After placing them on the snowman, he found two long sticks for arms and a small twig for a mouth. It was perfect.

George played with his snowman for the rest of the day. They had a snowball fight, played tag, and even ate cookies together. As George was going inside for the night, he thought he heard the snowman say, "Good night." "It was magic!" The

next day was much warmer and the snowman seemed much more tired. George noticed he was getting smaller. The following day was another sunny day and George had to return to school. When he came home, "the snowman was almost gone . . . he could hardly recognize him." George was sad.

We had this same experience at our house yesterday. On Sunday, Carter worked so hard to build his own snowman. He did not want help. He did not want it to be a group effort. He wanted to be like George and build his own. However, unlike George's snowman, Carter's was small. The bottom ball was about the size of a watermelon, there was no middle, and the top was the size of a cantaloupe. He named him "Snowy." Like George, Carter talked to Snowy, played chase with Snowy, and even brought Snowy a

snow cookie. When the neighborhood kids came over to play, Carter guarded Snowy with his life. For Carter, Snowy was perfect; he was magical; he was a new friend.

When he came home from school on Tuesday, Snowy was almost gone. Carter could hardly recognize him. As a result, there were a lot of tears. As Carter and I sat on the front steps looking at what remained of Snowy, I reminded him of "Snowman Magic." I reminded him not only of George's sadness, but that his tears were not the end of the story. As Tegen wrote: "The next morning, George looked out the window. It was snowing! Snowing, snowing, snowing. He couldn't wait to build his snowman again!"

Like Carter, we all know the pain of loss. We all know what it is like to lose something we treasure, something we worked so hard to make. COVID has certainly added to our losses in more ways than one. We have all lost something over the course of the last year. Thankfully,

through Christ we are assured that life does not have to be defined by what we lose, but rather, what we are willing to build. Sometimes that process is short—George was able to build his snowman the very next day. Often times, rebuilding after a loss takes much longer. For Carter, it may be weeks, months, or even another year before he is able to build a snowman again—one that will not replace Snowy, but rather fill him with the joy of building something new.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians, he reminded them of something they could build each day with one another. He wrote, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear (Ephesians 4:29)." Just as Carter used snow, sticks, and a carrot to build Snowy, according to Paul, through our words we too can build something. It may not be perfect, but it can certainly be magi-

cal, especially in our relationships with one another. That something is grace.

Offering grace is an acknowledgement that something we cherished was lost, something we created was torn down, something we built melted away. Grace does not disregard the pain. Grace does not forget; it does not replace what we lost. Grace is simply able to fill us with the joy of building something new. Thankfully, unlike snow, we do not have to wait for the perfect atmospheric conditions for grace to form. In conversations, on social media, and in our interactions with others, by choosing "words useful for building up," grace can fall like snow. It may not be perfect, but what it builds will most certainly be magical.

By the Rev. Travis Russell, Pastor
Vinton Baptist Church

Vinton Baptist offers 'Ashes to Go' for Ash Wednesday

Vinton Baptist Church will be offering a drive thru for "Ashes to Go" from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Lenten journey towards Easter for Christians.

Ashes were used throughout the Bible as a sign of mourning. On Ash Wednesday, Christians around the world use the symbol of ashes to remember the grief of Lent and as a reminder of repentance.

In order to safely allow church members and the community to participate in the receiving of ashes, Vinton Baptist is offering the "Ashes to Go" opportunity. The pastoral staff will provide ashes to anyone who would like

to receive them at the drive-thru breezeway area of the gym building. Enter the church parking lot and line via Poplar Street.

The imposition of ashes will be provided in a Covid-friendly manner with single use appli-

cators. Participants will also receive a blessing to take with them to mark the significance of the Lenten journey.

The public is encouraged to participate.

Vinton restaurant owners eligible for grants

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association has announced a new partnership with DoorDash to award \$450,000 in grants to support Virginia restaurants.

Approximately 125 grants of \$3,500 each for a total of up to \$450,000 will be awarded.

Grants will be given statewide, with priority

given to businesses not already receiving significant grant/loan support. A minimum of 20 percent of grants will go to minority-owned and/or women-owned businesses.

Eligibility requirements are:

- The business is independently owned with no more than three locations
- The business current-

ly has at least one location open and operating as a food service establishment in Virginia

- The single Virginia restaurant location you are applying for has annual gross revenue of \$3 million or less
- The single Virginia restaurant location you are applying for has 50 or fewer employees
- The single Virginia

restaurant location you are applying for occupies a visible, brick and mortar storefront at the street

- The business is not a home-based business, pop up, or food truck
- The restaurant has experienced a reduction in revenue, financial stress, or disrupted operations over the period of March 2020 through December 2020 when compared to

the same period in 2019 as a result of COVID-19

The business does not need to be a current DoorDash partner to apply, nor do owners need to sign up with DoorDash to apply. Also, owners do not need to be a member of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association to apply.

Completed applications will be reviewed and

grants will be awarded to eligible restaurants that are chosen by the selection committee/judges. Funds will be distributed no later than March 31, with a check sent to the grant awardees. Each applicant approved by the selection committee will receive a one-time disbursement of \$3,500.

Application period is open through March 1. Apply at <https://www.vrlta.org/door-dash-grant-application.html>.

Hemp Mill

from page 1



Debbie Custer is the owner of the Hemp Mill in Vinton.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kelly Willis says hemp products have improved her quality of life after a horrendous automobile accident.

The product is now trademarked, and its success inspired her to learn more about hemp and its possible uses for humans. Custer has patents pending for other products (sprays and cremes) that may help reduce inflammation in the human body.

While the Hemp Mill is a retail establishment, it has also become so much more than a place to purchase hemp products. It has evolved into a community and networking center in Vinton. Women gather there on Fridays for coffee talks; a group of men come in on Thursdays to socialize and drink hemp-infused coffee. Veterans stop by.

Many share their stories of the impact that hemp products have had on their lives.

Kelly Willis can often be found at the Hemp Mill passionately testifying as to how Custer and hemp products literally changed her life.

Willis was the victim of a traumatic automobile accident back in 2004, caused by a woman with a long history of drunk driving and substance abuse.

After taking her son to school, Willis was returning home, driving only about 35-40 miles per hour near Fallon Park, and collided with the woman who had pulled out into traffic and stopped dead in the street. Willis's car spun, hit the curb and a pole, and was demolished. The accident, which was unavoidable,

left Willis with severe injuries, many surgeries, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, and years of pain.

She became one of the countless numbers of those dealing with pain management through opioid use, prescribed Percocet, oxycodone, and more. Willis says she had great doctors, but they advised her there was no ultimate cure.

She discovered that chronic pain tends to become a vicious cycle that negatively impacts most areas of life. When you aren't able to move about, you become more anxious and depressed. There are social consequences from lack of contact with others. Many experience weight gain, increased cholesterol levels, or foggy minds. "You can't commit to anything because you don't know how much pain you will be in on a particular day," she says. The pain medications eventually take their toll on your organs. "It's a domino effect."

"I had zero quality of life," Willis said.

Willis and Custer became acquainted through Willis's husband Blaine, who worked for the same company. Blaine would keep Custer updated on Kelly's condition and lack of progress. At the time, Kelly was sleeping 18-20 hours a day due to the pain medications which "never really took the pain completely away, they just masked it" or knocked her out.

She was unable to drive, to continue her work as a realtor, or to maintain her social relationships. An evangelical Christian, understandably at times she asked God why this had happened.

After a couple of years, Custer reached out to her about a new product she was developing, and Willis ended up as her guinea pig—reluctantly at first.

She agreed to meet Custer on what was a particularly bad day, pain-wise. She was in tears, depressed, and faced with "this is now my life—one of constant debilitating pain."

Custer asked Willis to try Peaks Hemp (the strongest product the Hemp Mill now sells), to spray it inside her cheek, where it seems to be most effective, and she would quit nagging her.

Willis says that when she did, in five to 10 minutes, surprisingly the pain lessened. Custer explained to her how the product worked. She got back in touch after a couple of weeks to see how things were going and discovered Kelly hadn't been using the spray. Willis said she really had no explanation for why not, other than maybe the stigma of a product perceived by some to be related to marijuana, or the hesitation of trying an unproven, non-prescription remedy.

Over the years there has

been much confusion between hemp and marijuana as both are members of the cannabis family. Unlike marijuana, hemp has no psychoactive effects. The ingredient THC is the determining factor. Hemp has 0.37 percent THC; marijuana has over 3 percent and is the one that gets you "high."

According to Willis, Custer asked, "Are you crazy? Please use this."

Willis did. She explains that the hemp products haven't "healed" her. She still suffers pain; she still has days that she "feels a little foggy," but she is much,

much better than before she began using the products. They have been a gateway out of an exhausting life of pain for her. Her stress is less; she gets much-needed REM sleep at night.

Currently, she continues to use the Peaks Hemp spray and topical cremes for pain relief and inflammation as needed. There are many things she still can't do, but Willis says one contribution she can make is spreading the word about the benefits of hemp, especially to those walking journeys similar to hers. It has, in fact, become a new ministry for her.

Willis says the products

don't work for everyone, but they have for her. "What do you have to lose?" she asks doubters. The products are natural with no side effects and non-addictive.

"Debbie is always changing lives for the better," Willis says. "I am one of her stories. There is hope."

"My faith and walk with the Lord have only been strengthened as a result of this journey, even though it's been so very hard," Willis said. "Truly He alone has given me hope. I believe He orchestrated my relationship with Debbie for this very purpose, and I am so thankful for that."

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: _____

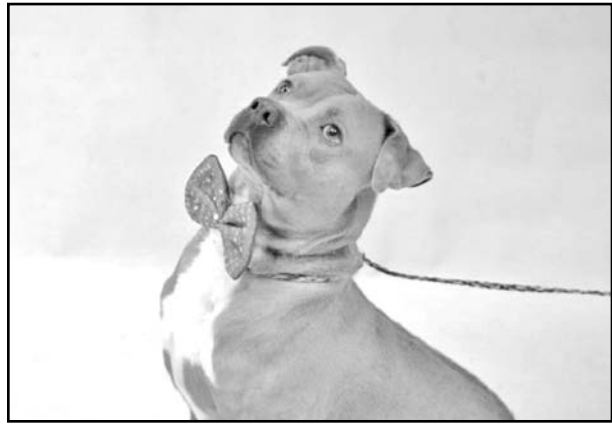
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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.

PETS OF THE WEEK



“King”, 2yrs old, neutered male. King is a big love bug! He would do well in an active household with adults or older kids. He is very intelligent and would benefit greatly from training.



“Lady”, 8yrs old, spayed female. Lady is such a happy girl, just look at that smile! She loves to play with other dogs and would make a fantastic addition to any family.



“Mittens”, 5yrs old, neutered male. Mittens is the ideal house cat. He enjoys his afternoon naps and regular attention from the staff members. He would love to have a nice, sunny window to sit in!

Gauntlet from page 1

Patterson has grown the Gauntlet program over the years by sheer force of will. She has personified the philosophy

she espouses, summed up by one of her favorite quotes from Thoreau, “If one advances confidently in the direction of his/her

dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he/she has imagined, he/she will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”

On opening night, Patterson shared with new class members some success stories of Gauntlet alums such as Twin Creeks Brewing and Farmburguesa restaurant in Vinton – both of whom have now expanded to two locations.

Most Gauntlet classes open with a former participant in the program sharing their successes and challenges in starting or expanding a business.

This week Anna Metheny, one of the 2020 participants, spoke about her experiences in the program and the founding of her business. She came in fourth place in last year’s competition, winning \$19,750 in cash and in-kind prizes.

“Patina Creek Creative would not exist without the support I received from this program and

for that I am incredibly grateful,” Metheny said.

She shared the story of how her life has changed drastically – turned upside down, in fact – over the course of a year due to her participation. At the beginning of 2020, she says she was a soccer mom to two teenage boys, living a “great, simple life in the middle of nowhere” on 70 acres surrounded by national forest, with a “little jewelry business.”

One day, with no thought in her head of growing her business, she noticed a billboard in Buchanan advertising the Gauntlet program. She came up with dozens of reasons not to sign up, but eventually registered because she “wanted their knowledge.” What she found in the program and its leaders and participants, was support, passion, energy, mentorship, financial resources, and networking. (And, coincidentally, she could take the classes in Bu-

chanan.)

Initially her idea was to create a mobile jewelry studio using a bus to drive to festivals and events. That changed over the course of the 10 weeks of classes.

A wrench was thrown into her plans halfway through the 2020 Gauntlet session with the pandemic. Living “in the middle of nowhere,” Metheny had very spotty Internet service when the classes went online.

She thought about postponing the classes for a year but discovered that she would lose the chance at \$30,000 in local funding to be awarded just in 2020. She persevered and found Internet access in the parking lot of her library to allow her to complete the classes and advance to the competition.

Winning helped her set up business in a storefront in Buchanan, including a studio where she creates jewelry on-site. (Metheny had been

selling silver “finger-print” jewelry at festivals and events for several years.)

With so many festivals and craft shows cancelled in the past year due to the pandemic, Metheny wanted to help other local artists and “makers,” so she established Patina Creek Creative to showcase some 40 of them in an “artistic community.”

After Metheny fired up the first Gauntlet session with her personal story, participants were able to break into groups online for a “get to know you” session with mentors and past alumni.

Patterson wrapped up the first session with the announcement that the Gauntlet has plans over the next two years to build a “capitalization pathway” for small business entrepreneurs by building a community investment fund of \$1 million. The fund will invest in the growth of Gauntlet alumni businesses each year.

Roanoke County launches 2021 Restaurant Weeks, Feb. 15-28

Roanoke County Economic Development is launching a new 2021 Roanoke County Restaurant Week(s) program to drive customers to encourage residents to patronize local restaurants in Virginia’s Blue Ridge during a slow season.

The winter months tend to be more difficult for restaurants compared to the rest of the year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the challenge restaurants are currently facing. The Roanoke County Economic Development office has partnered with the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, and Visit Virginia’s Blue Ridge to extend the reach and effectiveness of this event.

“We want to recognize and thank the organizations and individuals it

takes to plan and launch initiatives like Restaurant Week in Roanoke County,” said Kat Pascal, owner of Farmburguesa in Vinton and Grandin Village. “This initiative will help restaurants continue to build exposure and relationships with the community and generate economic growth. With COVID-19 impacting our community negatively, it is important to support these businesses.”

Roanoke County Restaurant Weeks(s) 2021 will run for two weeks from February 15 through February 28 with participating restaurants offering lunch and dinner specials in at least one of three tiers: \$10 and under, \$20 and under, and \$30 and under.

All restaurants operating within Roanoke County, the Town of Vinton and Salem areas can submit their menu offerings to Marshall Stanley, Economic Development

specialist at mstanley@roanoke-countyva.gov to be included in the Restaurant Week program.

Anyone who takes part in a Restaurant Week(s) special is encouraged to post his or her dish on social media and tag the post with #ROCOeats so other community members can know what is being served throughout the event.

“We recognized that restaurants were hit hard during the pandemic and we wanted to offer a promotional opportunity to support their sustainability, while featuring their unique offerings to the entire community,” said Stanley. “We are hopeful that this program in partnership with our area Chambers of Commerce will provide a little relief during a traditionally slow season.”

Restaurants, retail, and the hospitality industry have been the industries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Census data reveals deep ties between Roanoke Valley and Lynchburg, Henry County labor sheds

New census data shows the Roanoke Valley’s surprisingly deep employment ties to Bedford and Lynchburg to the east, and Franklin and Henry Counties to the south, with 10,000 and 9,000 daily commuters, respectively.

In contrast, daily commute traffic from the New River Valley is 6,500 daily commuters. Of the approximately 141,000 people employed in the Roanoke Valley, over 90,000 of them are moving back and forth between the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas. Approximately 61,243 come into the Roanoke Valley to work from outside the valley; 28,888 commute

outside the valley to work. About 79,769 live and work within the valley,

For the purposes of this study, the Roanoke Valley was defined as the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the urbanized portions of Botetourt and Roanoke counties.

Census data shows that 55 percent of workers in the Roanoke Valley commute less than 10 miles to work. Out of the remaining 45 percent of workers (63,343 people) who commute more than 10 miles to work, it is estimated that over 24,000 people (17 percent) are commuting more than 50 miles for work within the Roanoke Valley.

While some companies are talking about how jobs can be shifted to telework, this data highlights that 17 percent of workers in the Roanoke Valley commute over 50 miles to the kind of work that can be impossible to shift to telework.

The RIDE Solutions Commuter Assistance Program and its free employer support services are one of the programs offered by the region that can assist these commuters in saving money and help employers build mobility solutions for a reliable workforce.

For more information, contact Tim Pohlada-Thomas at timpholadathomas@rvarc.org.

The Vinton Messenger

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

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

Michael Showell, *Publisher*.....
Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*..... lhurst@ourvalley.org
Matt de Simone, *Editor*..... fincastle.editor@ourvalley.org
Debbie Adams, *Staff Writer*..... dadams@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*..... bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*..... fincastle@ourvalley.org
James “Tucker” Frye, *Advertising*..... tfrye@ourvalley.org

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

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$41 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$45 a year in adjoining counties, \$49 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

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

Vinton is under construction



Expansion is underway at the Vinton Rosie's Gaming Emporium, which remains open during construction.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Everywhere you look in Vinton, construction is underway. If you based your perceptions of the American economy on what is happening in Vinton, things would seem to be booming.

Renovations are complete at Joe Goodpies Brick Oven Eatery in downtown Vinton, but the remainder of the Vinyard Station complex remains under construction, with completion and a grand opening anticipated in the spring. Retail shops will be added, including a coffee shop and hair salon.

A huge expansion has gotten off the ground at Rosie's Gaming Emporium on Vinyard Road – with plans to nearly double the size of the facility.

"It's very exciting and moving at a good pace," said General Manager Ernie Delaverson. "Our expansion has been defined by trades that have surveyed and excavated the area. Now we are getting ready to set our footings that will carry the ironwork for the structure."

The Rosie's investment is "into the millions" and also includes a parking garage with

elevators and ADA accessibility. The expansion will add approximately 18,000 square feet to the main building and increase the number of gaming machines from 150 to 500.

Plans are for completion by the end of 2021. The existing facility won't shut down during the expansion project with parking currently available behind the building. Patrons need to enter from Vinyard Road. The access road from Niagara Road is currently closed during construction.

River Park Shopping Center on Bypass Road in Vinton is undergoing a re-do with Big Lots set to open for business on February 25. It is relocating from Lake Drive Plaza to a much larger space, almost doubling in size. Big Lots has made a substantial investment of around \$2 million to build out the space. The Wilkinson Group is the developer. Other retail spaces are available.

Farmburguesa Restaurant on Pollard Street has plans for an expansion into the lot next door, owned by the Town of Vinton. The owners will be leasing the parcel with an option to buy later on. The business at both their Vinton and Grandin Village locations



Construction is underway on a new Bank of Botetourt branch on Pollard Street in downtown Vinton.

has been booming despite the pandemic.

Plans include constructing a service window for to-go and curbside delivery, a brick paver patio with an enclosed wooden awning, a much-needed dry and cold storage building addition, an enclosed dumpster pad with an access drive, and an expanded kitchen with increased capacity through an automated grill.

Seating will be added for 46 additional patrons. An additional side entrance for staff will be constructed, along with pet-friendly seating. The owners plan to apply for an ABC license.

"We have been working diligently with a local firm of civil engineers and our architect," said one of the owners, Kat Pascal. "We hope to have more good news soon. Stay tuned on social media and our newsletters to stay updated."

Work on the new Bank of Botetourt building is moving along. "We have been onsite and performed most of the topographic location," notes J. Scott Caldwell, of Engineering Concepts in Daleville. "We need to go back onsite to locate invert elevations on the storm sewer."

According to Mary Ann

Miller, vice president for Business Banking and Community Relations at Bank of Botetourt, "The site was recently secured for construction with fencing; footers are preparing to be dug and poured; real construction and framing will be coming soon, weather permitting.

The new bank building, located on Pollard Street across from the Municipal Building, will be approximately 2,700 square feet and will include an ATM with deposit capabilities. This office will also house the bank's mortgage company, Virginia Mountain Mortgage.

Construction is also underway on a new Taco Bell at East Vinton Plaza.

Renovations are slated to begin at William Byrd High School in late spring in a \$21 million project.

"Currently, Hughes Architects and Avis Construction have completed the schematic design," said Chris Lowe, director of Facilities and Operations for Roanoke County Schools. "They are now working on construction document/design development plans. We anticipate site drawings and building drawings to be submitted in late April, in order to get a



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

The Vinton Farmburguesa restaurant plans an expansion into the vacant lot next door.



Big Lots plans to open in a renovated space at River Park Shopping Center on February 25.

permit in May.

"The amount of ongoing construction within the town at the present moment is very exciting to see and a great indicator of how active our commercial growth is right now," said Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters. "For the last six years – and really dating back to the new Roanoke County Vinton Branch Library – the town has been extremely fortunate to have several significant redevelopment projects going on each year and numerous expansions of existing businesses, which have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in investment in the town and have created dozens of new jobs.

"Another great direct benefit of those many projects is the resulting new visitor spending within the town, and also retaining a greater portion of our own resident's discretionary spending on entertainment and dining," Peters said. "Those revenues are then leveraged back into services, upgraded equipment and infrastructure improvements, while not having to do unpopular tax raises and reduce services as operational costs inevitably increase over time.

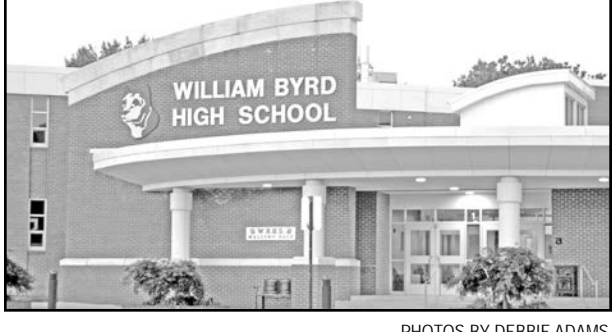
"For many years, the town's cost of doing business was out-pacing annual economic growth and that path certainly isn't sustainable for the long-

term health of a community," he continued. "These new projects over the last several years are just now starting to bear the revenues needed to redirect that trend. We have not solved the issue by any means, and there are always lurking concerns to keep your eye on, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, although we are heading in a much better direction and to the point where we can see visual positive change in the community.

"There are several additional projects on the immediate horizon, so there is no eminent sign that we have reached the peak of redevelopment activity just yet," Peters said. "This can all be attributed to the deliberate actions taking by current and previous Town Councils to encourage an environment for this type of activity to flourish, and also the immense support from Roanoke County to assist and partner on several of the projects."



Taco Bell is building a new restaurant at East Vinton Plaza.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Extensive renovations will begin at William Byrd High School in late spring.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
REAP	FRG	RA										
ARIEL	LAR	RAB										
DANAE	OVA	ACE										
SUSUS	WIN	GEL										
	ADENOMAS											
PREMATURELY												
RETIRED	SAO											
EVADE		PASC										
	NAM	FAILUR										
	ABOMINATIO											
	RESONANT											
MOAB	LOG	AHED										
ELBA	ICY	AOTU										
NEBN	SLA	RACK										
DAI	HER	RHE										

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.vintonbaptistchurch.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.christianchurchof-christclearbrook.org

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about the spiritual freedom of Eckankar.

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",

Worship Directory

Vinton

Over the Top

Read Numbers 16:1 through 17:13

Gordon trudged into the house after a long day of work on his birthday, a year older and feeling every minute of it. He expected a quiet birthday dinner with his family, so he was stunned when he saw balloons and cake and friends shouting, "Surprise!" He was more than surprised. He was amazed at how much his family and friends clearly loved him.

God vowed to make the staff of his chosen priest miraculously sprout, but He couldn't resist going above and beyond.

The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented

the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds (Numbers 17:8).

God has a way of amazing His people by meeting their needs in over-the-top ways. There's no better example than Jesus. Sure, God had promised a Messiah, but His own Son? It was stunning, unexpected, and it demonstrated that God was willing to go farther than we could ever imagine to save us.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank You, God, for the miraculous, amazing, over-the-top way You saved me.

Quicklook: Numbers 17:1-12

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

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 Sundays; 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.

Legals-Montgomery Co.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

1. A Rezoning request by Gay and Neel, Inc. (applicant), for an approximately 1.38 acre property owned by Depot Street Development LLC, located at the intersection of Depot Street, N.E. and Harless Street, N.E. (tax map nos. 497-A-288, 497-A-288A, 497-A-288C, 497-A-285, 497-A-286, 497-13-3, 497-13-1E). The request is to rezone the property from B-3, General Business to R-3, Multi-Family Residential with proffers. The property is designated as residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

2. Two Conditional Use Permit requests by Balzer & Associates, Inc., on behalf of SHAH Development, LLC (applicant/owner), for an approximately 3.2 acre property located at 1145 West Main Street (tax map no. 556-A-39) in the B-3, General Business District:

1. A conditional use permit request for residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. Residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District include single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, townhouses, and multiple-family dwellings at

Legals-Montgomery Co.

a density of development of up to 20 units per acre. 2. A conditional use permit request for a proposed planned housing development to consist of single-family, two-family, and multiple-family dwellings at a density of development not to exceed 10 units per acre. The property is partially designated as Business/Commercial and partially designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburgva.org/youtube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburgva.org/publichearings.

Copies of the applications are available for review at the following link: www.christiansburgva.org/publichearings. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburgva.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals-Roanoke County

LEGAL NOTICE ROANOKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, in the Board Meeting Room of the Roanoke County Administration Center, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, Virginia on the adoption of a resolution establishing certain policies and procedures to guide the redistricting process of Roanoke County, Virginia Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all are encouraged to view and participate in meetings through electronic means. Meetings may be viewed live on RVTV, Channel 3, or on the County's website <https://roanokecountyva.gov> and click on the "Watch Board Meetings Online" box/button. Prior to and during meetings, citizens may email comments to djacks@roanokecountyva.gov. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations. Additionally, if you would like to call in your comments, please call 540-776-7278 and provide your comments, which will be read during the meeting. For those individuals who desire to attend the meetings in person, please be advised that seating modifications and limits have been established in order to facilitate social distancing; attendees who are not of the same household must sit six feet apart, and attendance at meetings will be limited to 25 individuals. Dated: February 4, 2021 Deborah C. Jacks, Chief Deputy Clerk

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

STATEWIDE ADS

Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landoncvpa.net" landoncvpa.net
HOME IMPROVEMENT
Vinyl Replacement Windows

STATEWIDE ADS

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.

STATEWIDE ADS

ices 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landoncvpa.net" landoncvpa.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, HYPERLINK "mailto:landoncvpa.net" landoncvpa.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. HYPERLINK "https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com" https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA - VACATION RENTALS



500 VACATION HOMES
Selling fast for summer 2021 due to need to escape covid

Brindley Beach
VACATIONS & SALES
Book now for best selection!
www.brindleybeach.com 877-642-3224

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
1 (833) 688-1378

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
+ **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!

SENIORS & MILITARY!
WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

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 outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. CSL# 1035795, DPL# 10735585501, License# 7656, License# 50145, License# 41354, License# 9328, License# 10284, License# 21254, WA-ES# 603 233 977, License# P10227209, License# 216212946, License# 2705132153A, License# LEAF799202, License# WV65912, License# WC-2998417, Nansau HC License# H01027000, Registration# 176447, Registration# HC 0649005, Registration# C127221, Registration# C127230, Registration# 366920918, Registration# P0475, Registration# 0731104, Registration# T100652002, Registration# P406183, Suffolk HC, License# 522914, License# 2705169445, License# 26200022, License# 26200043, License# 0386990, Registration# H-19114

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DR FAME
ALLERGY
ASTHMA

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

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: 540-293-4271

ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
If you are or will be serving as the Personal Representative of an estate, we have the experience and knowledge to help you in this process.

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

ROOF LEAKS?

CIRCLE R ROOFING OF VIRGINIA

Call for a FREE Estimate
Rob Gendreau • 540.784.0500

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

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

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

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

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

Sunflooring Inc. STEVE SMITH

With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors, Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring, Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile, Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

540-556-3100

Absolutely Best Real Estate Experience Ever!!
-J&M T.

540.342.9600 **Patrick Team HOMES** Farms & Unique Properties
RE/MAX All Stars - Daleville, VA
Dayna@PatrickTeamHomes.com

Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®

540.353.7173 cell
540.989.4555 office
tbenson@mkbrealtors.com

MLS REALTOR
Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD
MEMBER EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
ERC EMPLOYEE RELOCATION COUNCIL
MKB REALTORS

HANDY MAN SERVICES

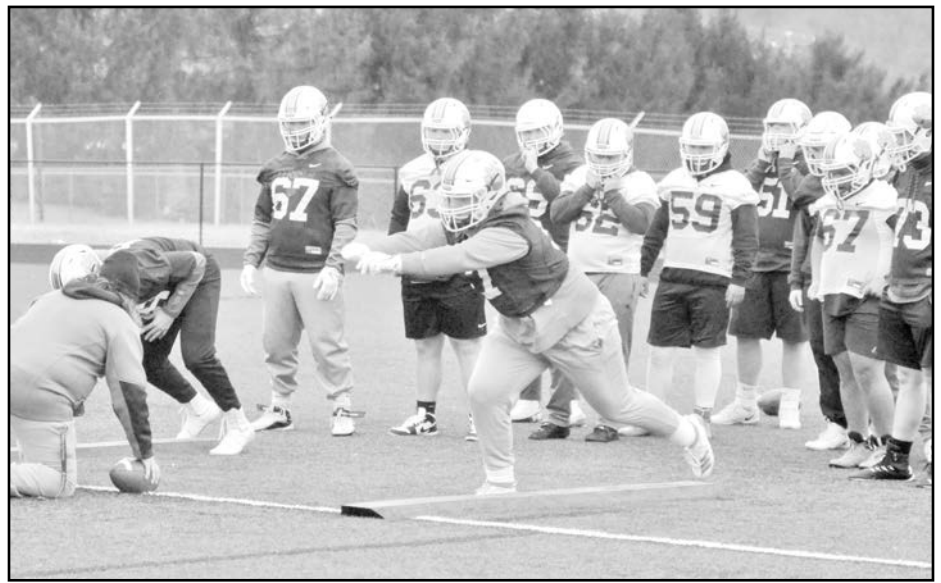
- Interior / Exterior Painting
- Carpentry, Window / Door Replacement and More
- Deck Repair and Restorations

Serving New Castle & Surrounding Areas

Call or Text Gary Benefield 386.527.8434

SPORTS

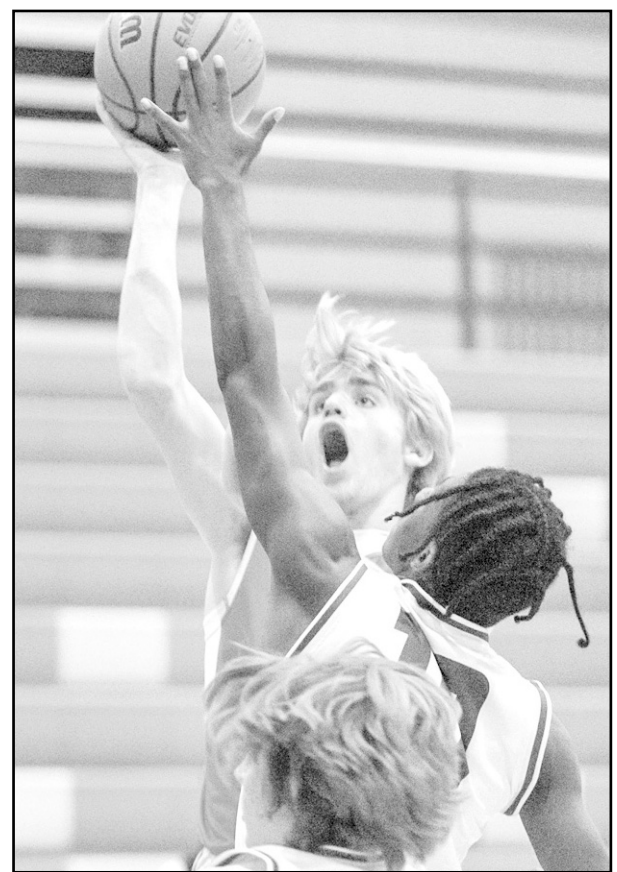
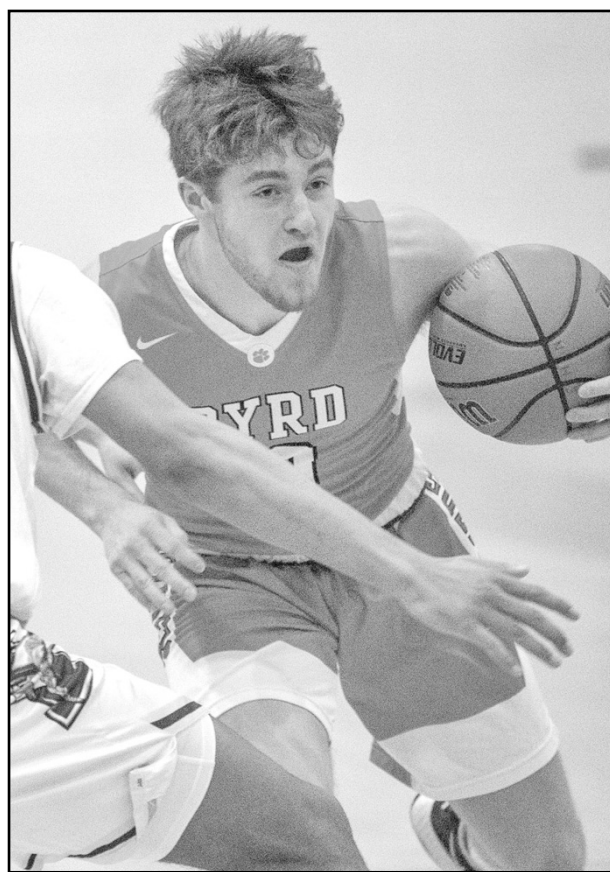
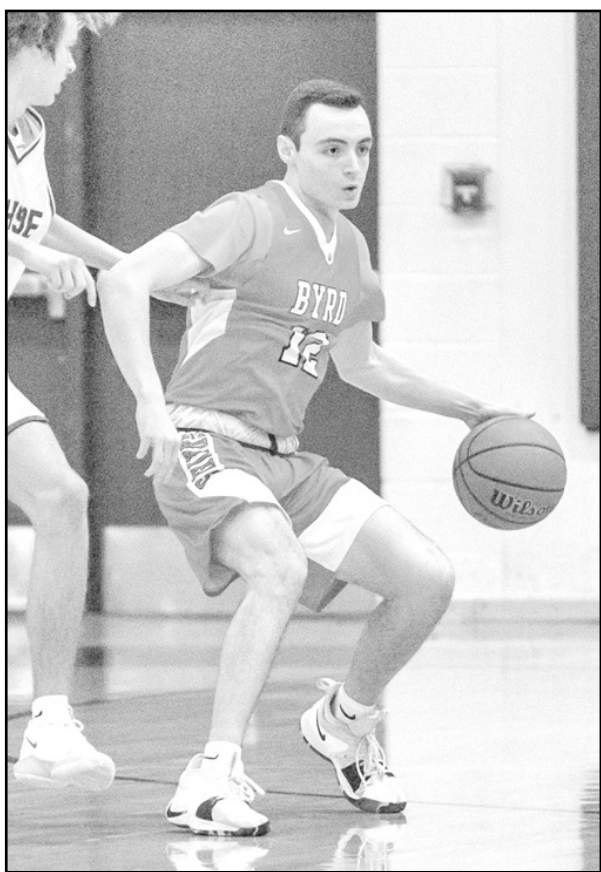
Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org, or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • ourvalley.org



Are you ready for some football!!!

William Byrd High School football practice opened last week won the turf field at Patterson Stadium. Above left, coach Brad Lutz watches the Terriers go through some plays and, right, the linemen work on technique. The season is scheduled to open February 22nd under VHSL pandemic protocols.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Action from Tuesday's Region 3D quarterfinal basketball game at Northside. Left to right, Jackson Meador handles the ball, Ethan Tinsley drives to the hoop and Tyler Martin shoots a floater over the Viking defense.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

Undefeated Vikings eliminate Byrd in region hoops

The William Byrd boys showed they could play basketball with Northside last Friday, but on Tuesday they didn't bring their "A Game" and saw their season end at the hands of the Vikings. Northside took a 68-36 win in a Region 3D tournament quarterfinal game at Northside to eliminate the Terriers.

"It was a bad time to have a bad night," said Byrd coach Josh Cunningham. "We have to be on our 'A Game' to play with them but we just had an off night. Credit Northside, they played tough defense."

The Vikings jumped off to a 10-0 lead on Tuesday but the Terriers fought back to cut the lead to 10-9. Northside went back in control at that point and went on to the win. Trevor Ruble had nine points to lead Byrd.

Just last Friday the two teams met at Northside in the regular season finale, and that game was a much

different story. The Vikings won, to remain undefeated, but they needed overtime to pull out a 65-61 win over the scrappy Terriers.

Byrd had some chances to win in regulation. They had a two-point lead when Northside tied the game with 20 seconds to go and Byrd had a couple shots to win that would not fall. The Vikings then outscored Byrd in the overtime period, 12-8. Jamie Cawley led the Terriers with 18 points, Tyler Martin had a dozen and Ethan Tinsley had 10.

That put Byrd in Monday's play-in round in the 10 team tournament. Seventh seeded Byrd hosted 10th seeded Magna Vista, who played no previous regular season games, and Byrd took a 71-41 win. Martin had his season high with 22, including four three-pointers, and Cameron Richardson had 18.

Byrd also hosted "Senior Night" last Wednesday

against Hidden Valley. The Terriers took a 63-54 win after honoring seven seniors; Cawley, Martin, Ethan Tinsley, Isaac Fix, Cade Hanson, Jackson Meador and Jeffrey Williams.

"It was a good group and if we had more time we have continued to get better," said Cunningham. "It would have been fun to have a full year but just giving the seniors a chance to play was a complete blessing."

Byrd finished the season at 4-6, playing nine of the games against Roanoke County opponents due to pandemic rules set down by the county. The jayvee was 4-4 and there will be spots open on the roster next year with seven seniors departing.

"We return two starters with Cam(Richardson) and Trevor(Ruble) but there will be a lot of shoes to fill," said Cunningham.

Girls hold Northside to 28 points but offense stalls in region quarterfinal loss

The William Byrd girls got hit by injuries at a tough time, and with their top two scorers less than 100 percent the Terriers were eliminated from the Region 3D basketball tournament Tuesday. Byrd lost to Northside, 28-25, in Vinton in the quarterfinal round.

"Normally if you hold a team to 28 points you expect to win," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "But it just wasn't our night on offense. We were getting open looks but they weren't going in."

Byrd's top two scorers, Emilie McCaskill and Sophia Chrisley, were playing with injuries. McCaskill has a sore knee that has kept her out of practice for a few weeks. Then Chrisley injured her wrist in last Friday's regular season final with Northside.

"X-Rays were negative but she couldn't practice," said Greenway of Chrisley, Byrd's point guard. "She played with a black cast on her left wrist with only the fingers sticking out. She did all she could and laid it on the line, but it definitely affected her."

Chrisley had eight points, far below her average, in Tuesday's games. She hit two threes, with the second cutting Northside's lead to three with six seconds remaining. The Terriers fouled and an air ball from the free throw line gave Byrd the ball with just under three seconds remaining. After a timeout the Terriers were able to get an open look at a three from McCaskill but it bounced

off the rim as time expired. Emilie led Byrd in scoring with a dozen.

With the loss the Terriers finished the season at 6-3. Last Friday they beat Northside on "Senior Night," 57-36, in Vinton as seniors Cabria Mutz and Anna Becirevic were recognized.

"Really good night for us from the standpoint of we played really solid team ball," said Greenway. "I thought our offense really came together and exploded in this game. It was by far our best performance this year in my opinion."

Alexis Helton had her strongest performance of the year with 12 points.

"Alexis gave us an inside presence on offense that we have sorely missed for a couple years now," said Greenway. "That helped open things up for our guards and things just clicked."

Last Wednesday the girls took a 50-15 win at Hidden Valley. Helton had 16 and Mutz had 10 points to lead Byrd.

The Region 3D tournament continues tonight with Lord Botetourt at Cave Spring and Northside moving on to play Carroll County. Byrd's abbreviated season is over, but at least the girls got some games in after the delay due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was a tough year for all sports, but we played a good small season and continued to get better," said Greenway. "We have some talent coming back and I think we should be pretty good next year."



BYRD GIRLS

Above, Alexis Helton passes to a teammate in Friday's regular season final basketball game against Northside at William Byrd High School. Left, Riley Firebaugh goes in for a layup.

PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY



Left, Derek Burton has a leg hold on Dalton Minnick of Abingdon in his region championship win at 126. Right, Xavier Preston remained undefeated with this win over Austin Hunley of Northside in the 152 pound final.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Big Orange wrestles to runnerup finish in region, will take eight to state

The Big Orange wrestlers took second place in the Region 3D wrestling tournament in Christiansburg last Saturday and qualified eight boys for the state Class 3 tournament in Salem on Thursday, February 18.

Christiansburg was favored to win the tournament and the Blue Demons didn't disappoint, scoring 223 points. Byrd was a solid second 189 ½ points, Northside was third at 165 and Lord Bottourt took fourth at 153 ½ in the eight team field.

"We finished 28.5 points back from Christiansburg," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "We closed the gap from last year when we finished second but were 145 points behind them. We held the lead early on but their heavier weights outscored us in the finals and they ended up outscoring us."

Three Terriers won individual titles. Gage Cockran started off the championship round with a 104 decision over Connor Nichols of Abingdon to win the 106 pound region title.

At 126 Derek Burton took a 10-0 win over Dalton Minnick of Abingdon. The win gave Burton his third region title.

At 152 Xavier Preston pinned Northside's Austin Hunley in 3:49. Preston pinned his way through the tournament and remains undefeated on the season.

Five other Terriers finished second, Dominic Pascoe at 113, Dexter Gaines at 120, Steve Tingler at 138, Jerze Webb at 182 and Hunter Richards at 285. All five qualified for the state, and Webb won his 100th match as a Terrier during the tournament while Pascoe lost a tough 5-4 match to Christiansburg's Junior Policarpo in the 113 pound final.

"He was deep in on a takedown twice in the final 30 seconds but couldn't pull off the victory," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "It was a very tough match wrestled by Dom and I was very impressed with his performance."

Gavin Ellis finished third at 132 while Mac Simmons was fourth at 160. In normal years that would have qualified for the state, but due to the coronavirus pandemic only the top two advance this year to keep the state field at a minimum.

State swim meet still on for Sunday at Christiansburg Aquatic Center



These boys will represent William Byrd at the State Class 3 swim meet Sunday. Left to right: Michael Hoyos, Colin Murtaugh, Aiden Brinkley, Nathan Miller, Griffin Horacek and Austin Nielsen.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

It's a Sunday and it's also Valentine's Day, but the best Class 3 swimmers in the state will love to be in the water for the state meet at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

The boys are tentatively scheduled to swim at 1 pm with the girls at 6:15 pm, but that is subject to change depending on how many schools participate. The organizers are intending to split the meet into two sessions.

"The meet director is looking at the number of entries and deciding whether or not we will run a boys and girls session or one big session," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "The NFHS Network will live-stream all swimming events for state and additional information will be posted at VHSL.org"

Byrd will have six boys competing in the meet, Michael Hoyos, Colin Murtaugh, Aiden Brinkley, Nathan Miller, Griffin Horacek and Austin Nielsen.

"These six boys swam so fast at Regionals!" said Martin. "I cannot wait to see what they can do this weekend. I expect us to be seeded very well in several events and I'm excited for the boys to have the opportunity to race against some really fast competition. I think they will rise to the occasion."

The Class 4, 5, and 6 meets have been postponed due the threat of bad weather but as of press time the Class 3 meet was still on.

Brian Hoffman



Stagg Bowl Ties

Nick Sirianni, who was recently named the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, knows his way around the Roanoke Valley... at least a little bit. He visited five times as a player and coach for the Mount Union football team when the Purple Raiders played in the Stagg Bowl at Salem Stadium.

Sirianni was a receiver from 2000 to 2003, and all four years the Raiders made the Division III championship game. They beat St. John's, Bridgewater and Trinity the first three years but lost to St. John's in 2003 in a memorable game his senior year. The "Johnnies" were led by legendary coach John Gagliardi, who the Division III Player of the Year is named after.

Sirianni returned to Salem in 2005 as a member of the Mount Union coaching staff and the Raiders beat Wisconsin-Whitewater that season, 35-28, in the first of many meetings between the two. Sirianni's older brother Mike played in Mount Union in the first Stagg Bowl held in Salem in 1993.

After the 2005 season Sirianni moved around, climbing the coaching ladder to the point where he was the offensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts. That led him to Philadelphia as an NFL head coach, but he's never forgotten his Mount Union roots. In a story by Steve Doerschuk of "The Repository" Sirianni relates the following story about his former college coach, Larry Kehres, who has been in Salem enough times to pay taxes.

Doerschuk wrote. . .When he(Sirianni) began to explore coaching, he interviewed with his college coach, Larry Kehres, for Mount Union's offensive coordinator job. Kehres asked Sirianni what kind of offense he might like to install. Sirianni presented some specific ideas and was surprised when Kehres pounded the table. "You don't even know what players we'll have," Kehres said. "Until you know that, you won't know what our offense needs to be."

Sirianni applied the concept after he actually landed a job with Kehres, and 15 years later he's an NFL head coach.

GOOD-BYE HAMMER

I was sad to learn of the passing of Hank Aaron on January 22nd, and especially the idea that he might still be with us if not for COVID.

Aaron was one of my favorites growing up. He had that easy swing that managed to meet the ball just as his quick wrists turned on the pitch. He could hit 'em far and often, and in my mind he's still the Home Run king, because he did it without the help of steroids.

Aaron wasn't just a home run hitter, he was a great baseball player. He hit for average, with a .305 lifetime average over 23 years in the big leagues. He was fast and was an excellent baserunner and he was also a terrific fielder. He's one of the "no brainer" all-time greats.

When I first joined the paper back in 1974, Aaron had just broken Babe Ruth's record for career home runs that spring. In July of that year I had taken a job as a part-time writer for the Salem Times-Register after moving from Pennsylvania, and planned a visit back home for when the Braves were in town. I wrote the Phillies for a pass and, to my delight, they approved my request.

My plan was to do a story on Hank Aaron. After watching the game from the press box I waited outside the Atlanta locker room with the other writers, waiting to be invited inside. The door swung open and everyone rushed in, and there was Hank sitting in front of his locker.

Talk about nervous! I'd only been on the job for a month and now I'm approaching one of my idols, Hank Aaron, to do an interview. I didn't talk to him long, but got enough to write a short story while others fired questions as well. And, as I recall, he was very nice to everyone.

That was a long time ago, but a day I'll always treasure. It was a brush with greatness that I never expected to have as a little kid who loved baseball.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S MAY

If you expect to get a Valentine's card in the mail from me this week, don't fret if it doesn't arrive before Sunday. It may be in your mailbox this summer.

I'm in a fantasy basketball league with some college friends and others and there's a small fee to be in the league. I sent a check to our treasurer in Warren, Ohio the day before Christmas and it arrived last week. It was postmarked December 24 with a Greensboro postmark.

In addition, some Christmas cards I sent to friends and relatives in Pennsylvania also arrived within the past two weeks. I sent them on December 7.

What a great job our postmaster, Louis DeJoy, has done with the postal system. This big donor to the Donald J. Trump campaign, who had no previous experience with the post office, has indicated he'd like to stay on. He has about as much chance of that as Adam Gase did of keeping his job with the New York Jets.



Region 3D indoor track meet jumped to February 20 at Hidden Valley High

The Region 3D indoor track meet, originally scheduled for this Saturday, has been moved to Saturday, February 20, due to the threat of inclement weather this week. The meet will be held outdoors as a "Polar Bear" meet at the Hidden Valley High School track. Here William Byrd's Chloe Harilla long jumps at a recent polar bear meet at Patterson Stadium.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

TOGETHER WE WIN

\$52,000 IN 52 WEEKS TO 52 WORTHY CHARITIES

"Thank you, Rosie's Gaming Emporium", for giving back – it is much appreciated. These are tough times and with your donation Arts Alive will be able to continue 'keeping the arts alive' in our community."

Ellen Davis

President, Board of Directors | Arts Alive, Inc



Every week in 2021 we will award a local charity from a community in which we operate a donation of \$1,000. Helping those communities around us is at the core of our operational philosophy. We truly believe that high tides raise all ships and we are determined to add value to the communities in which we operate.

Through the charitable program, Rosie's Gives Back®, Colonial Downs Group® has made **monetary and in-kind donations of more than \$1,100,000**, and has logged over 1,100 service hours in Virginia communities.



Must be 18 or older. Problem Gaming? Call the Virginia Help Line at 1-888-532-3500.

ArtWorks from page 1

sion for cats and horses.

All four artists have exhibited their work in various art galleries throughout the Roanoke Valley and beyond.

Coffman says all four of them work from inspiration and are willing to experiment. There is no regimented, "production art" at ArtWorks.

The gallery has also received some assistance from Coffman's friend, graphic artist Cyndi Young-Preston, with promotional materials, including their logo and signage.

The artists say their art works "fit all pocketbooks" with everything from beautiful, nominally priced greeting cards to prints to original paintings to screen-printed bags to everything pottery. They plan to keep changing out their inventory to keep everything fresh. They want people to come and then come back, again and again.

ArtWorks advises that "works of art make perfect Valentine gifts, a creative alternative to chocolates and flowers. Art is a more personal gift – and something people don't often buy for themselves."

The artists rotate duties at the gallery which is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from noon to 5 p.m.

Check out the EarthWorks Pottery website at <http://stonewareclay.com/>

for information on classes. Privatera says classes during COVID restrictions have a four-person limit, with masks and social distancing required. Classes are offered

Monday through Saturday for beginners and experienced potters alike, with Raku firings outdoors on Sundays, weather permitting.



A view of the ArtWorks gallery inside EarthWorks Pottery on Pollard Street in downtown Vinton.



"Sometimes Joy is Easy" by Susan McLaren – a portrait of her granddaughter.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Artist Leah Coffman often donates paintings and prints for fundraisers, such as this one for the RCACP.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Photograph of Susan McLaren's granddaughter who the "Sometimes Joy is Easy" painting is based on.

Must be that Free Checking feeling.

No monthly fees or minimums

Open your account today.

- In Branch
- Online
- Video Chat

AtlanticUnionBank.com
800.990.4828

