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School Board asks citizens to back new school construction

Debbie Adams
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School Board Chairman Don Butzer has sent letters to the parents of all Roanoke County students asking for support for a bond referendum in November 2021 to provide funds to accelerate the construction of a new Burton Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT). Parents were asked to contact members of the Board of Supervisors to urge their support.

The need for a new BCAT center has been under discussion by the School Board for many months and was the focus of the School Board's strategic planning session in January. BCAT serves students from all five county high schools in a wide variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

The School Board believes that "a new facility would demonstrate Roanoke County's commitment to providing a highly skilled, trained workforce to existing and potential businesses," Butzer said in his letter. "We believe that the Burton Center should be an integral part of any discussion on economic development in Roanoke County. The center produces highly skilled workers who graduate with good paying jobs waiting for them. Any business looking at relocating to Roanoke County would recognize the Burton Center as a feed for skilled workers."

The current BCAT facility located in Salem can best be described as "antiquated." The current campus includes three buildings, all of which were built in the 1960s and '70s. To a great extent because of space limitations, BCAT is unable to accept all of those students who apply each year.

Most of the campus lies in a flood plain, making major renovations to the existing buildings impossible (and costing approximately \$180,000 in flood insurance each year).

Butzer estimates the cost for a new BCAT facility would be approximately \$50 million.

He also sent letters to Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff Elementary School parents asking for their support in accelerating



Roanoke County Schools' Burton Center for Arts and Technology is home to a Mechatronics program.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS

An EMT training program is available at BCAT.

construction projects at those two schools.

"W.E. Cundiff is one of the only remaining open classroom concept schools remaining in Virginia," Butzer said. "Dr. Lane, the state school superintendent, visited Cundiff recently and said that he had never seen one in the state. While the administrative staff and teachers do a wonderful job in providing the best educational experience they can under the circumstances, the children who attend these schools are at a disadvantage when compared to the experience received at the rest of the elementary schools in the county."

The School Board is asking the county to move construction up for a new W.E. Cundiff to 2024. The cost is estimated at \$22 million.

The School Board previously sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors in October 2019, asking "for an increase in capital funding to renovate, replace and modernize nine schools which were in various stages of disrepair or totally obsolete."

When both boards met in

December 2019, the solution presented was to increase the borrowing or capital funding from \$10 million to \$12 million. Given that funding, the three schools in most need for rebuilding, Burton Center, Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff, would not be completed until 2031 with the other six schools in great need of renovation having no funding projected until after 2031.

On February 12, 2021, Jason Peters, chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, sent a response to the School Board. He noted that expenditures for the construction of the three schools—BCAT, Glen Cove, and W.E. Cundiff—would total some \$91 million. The county's Administration and Finance staff analyzed the impact of \$91 million in debt on the property tax rate.

"The annual debt service on the \$91 million would cost in excess of \$5.8 million per year at an assumed interest rate and term of 2.5 percent for 20 years," Peters explained. "This would re-

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters reported to Town Council at its meeting on February 16 that the Gish Mill renovation project is ramping up with construction getting underway in the spring.

Vinton Town Council focuses on finances

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Members of Vinton Town Council concentrated on finances at their meeting on February 16. Roanoke County Real Estate Valuation Director Ken Fay briefed council on the 2021 Roanoke county real estate reassessments which were mailed to property owners on December 31, 2020. His office establishes property values for all land and buildings in the county.

Residential property values in Vinton increased by 5.73 percent in 2021 to \$424.9 million; commercial properties increased by 1.8 percent to \$108 million, for a total assessed value of \$533 million. The assessment increases were attributed to increases in market value (4.84 percent, \$24 million) and new construction (.06 percent, \$287,200). The largest increase in value was in single family homes.

The median sales price of single-family residences in Vinton increased to \$169,000 in 2020. That's up 12.7 percent from 2019. The median sale price is not an average but is the sale price in the middle of the data set when you arrange all the sale prices from low to high. The median sale price represents the figure at which half of the properties in the area sell at a higher price and the other half at a lower price. The median sales price in Vinton back in 2011 was \$125,500.

The median sales price in all

of Roanoke County for a single-family residence was \$235,000. Fay attributed the increases to low mortgage interest rates and a limited supply of homes available, influenced by the pandemic.

Fay shared statistics indicating that there were 1,349 qualified residential sales in Roanoke County in 2020, with 18 foreclosures. The numbers for Vinton were 114 residential sales and two foreclosures. The lower number of foreclosures was in part due to the forbearance program which limited foreclosures due to COVID-19.

Property owners may appeal real estate assessment increases with the Board of Equalization beginning on April 29.

Fay also reminded council of the existing Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption and the Tax Freeze Program for the Elderly and Disabled, with information available from the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office.

Next up was a presentation by Courtney Rogers with Davenport & Company who briefed council on the recommendation to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for debt funding for Town Capital Projects in the Utility Fund.

The town has three projects it anticipates borrowing for in 2021: an upgraded meter system (\$2 million), the Third Street Lift Station (\$1.95 million), and a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system up-

See **Finances**, page 6

General Assembly approves bill moving local elections to November, awaits governor's signature

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The Virginia General Assembly has passed a bill moving local elections from May to November, beginning with any elections taking place after January 1, 2022. The state Senate narrowly passed the bill in January with a vote of 19 to 19. The tie was broken by Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax. The House of Delegates passed the measure with a vote of 50 to 44 with one abstention on February 15. The vote was along party lines, with Democrats in favor of the change.

To become law, the bill must be signed by Gov. Ralph Northam. Thus far, he has not indicated an opinion on the issue.

If the bill is signed into law, it will override election dates currently set by existing city and town charters.

When the bill was introduced, the Virginia Municipal League expressed its opposition to changing charters for localities, like Vinton, that still hold May elections. The VML's stance is that May elections keep local races from being overshadowed by national races and issues and becoming partisan.

Mandated by the town's charter, Vinton Town Council elections are held in May. The next town election is scheduled at this point for May 2022, when the terms of Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty and Councilman Mike Stovall are set to expire. If the bill becomes law, their terms will be extended by six months from May to November in 2022.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose and council members Keith Liles and Laurie Mullins were just elected to council in May for terms ending on June 30, 2024. Presumably, their terms would be extended through November of that year.

Council members had expressed their opposition to moving the elections. When the bill passed the General Assembly, the mayor was "disappointed."

SB 1157 was proposed by Senator Lionel Spruill of Chesapeake who contends that May elections result in substantially lower voter turnouts. He contends that it would be more fiscally responsible to consolidate the local elections onto the November ballot—more convenient and accessible for voters, and more cost efficient.

In a press release, the VML

stated, "Across Virginia, 44 percent of cities and 57 percent of towns hold their local elections in May, rather than November. These localities choose to separate their elections from those for state and federal offices for a variety of reasons—doing so keeps the focus of local elections on local issues and keeps the cost of campaigning more accessible for new candidates. The option to hold elections in May gives localities the flexibility they need to best meet the needs of their communities."

"The coincidence of local elections with those at the state and federal level inherently raises the level of partisanship of all elections, regardless of whether candidates are running without any party affiliation. By the same token, it introduces partisan politics to nonpartisan local issues; political parties make little difference when it comes to community projects like paving roads and keeping the streetlights on. This also raises the cost of campaigning for local candidates—especially for candidates new to the field—who have to compete for name recognition from the bottom of an even longer ballot."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virginia's Blue Ridge Ironman 70.3 triathlon will be coming through Vinton on June 6.

Roanoke County chooses district play for fall sports

Members of the Roanoke County School Board have had a change of heart since they voted to limit fall sports to in-county play at a meeting on February 11.

In a special called emergency meeting on February 17, Chairman Don Butzer, Mike Wray, and Jason Moretz voted as a quorum to opt for a district schedule instead. Board members Tim Greenway and David Linden were not present at the meeting.

Moretz and Wray said they were prompted to change their vote when consequences became apparent that student athletes would not be able to participate in post-season play on the regional level—a decision made within each district.

Fall sports include football, volleyball, golf, cross country, and competition cheerleading.

William Byrd and Northside High Schools play in the Blue Ridge District with Franklin County, Lord Botetourt, Staunton River and William Fleming.

Cave Spring and Hidden Valley play in the River Ridge District with Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski, Patrick Henry, and Salem.

Glenvar High School plays in the Three Rivers District with Alleghany, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, James River, and Radford.

Game schedules, COVID protocols, and spectator guidelines will be announced.

DAR honors Patriots of the American Revolution

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The local Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was chartered in November 1961 in Vinton. This year the chapter will be celebrating its 60th anniversary. A main topic of discussion at the monthly meeting on February 13 was developing plans for the event—dependent, of course, upon the pandemic. Chapter members hope to be able to gather in person by November. They now continue to meet via Zoom.

The National Society of the DAR is preparing to commemorate an even grander occasion—the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026, its “Semiquincentennial.” The DAR has formed the “America 250! Committee” to plan for the milestone anniversary.

The U.S. Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to begin planning for 2026.

The DAR has set its parameters of the birthday celebration from the Boston Tea Party of 1773 through the Treaty of Paris in 1783. That observance will begin in 2023 and end in 2033.

The semiquincentennial provides DAR mem-

bers, “as descendants of the generation that secured American independence, the remarkable opportunity to celebrate the longevity of the democratic experiment for which our ancestors fought, not even knowing if the new nation would survive. The upcoming anniversary also offers a chance to help our fellow Americans explore their family histories and discover the roles their ancestors played in founding the nation and shepherding its progress through the generations,” is the DAR message.

Membership in the DAR is open to any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

One project the DAR has recommended to mark the milestone anniversary is called “Our Patriots.” As part of the 250th anniversary celebration, local DAR chapters are asked to honor the individual Patriot each member is descended from, “to raise the visibility of our Patriots and enthusiasm for what they accomplished.”

The almost 3,000 chapters and 185,000 members are asked to collect highlights from chapter members about their Patriot ancestors to share short “Our

Patriots” minutes at each chapter meeting.

Chapter Regent Cindy Lam Higgins shared the story of her Patriot ancestor, Joseph Fuqua, at the February 13 meeting. He was born in Lunenburg County, Va., on May 4, 1756 and died on May 4, 1829 in Bedford County, at the age of 73.

Fuqua enlisted in the Continental Army in February 1776 and fought in the battle of Cowpens in South Carolina and Brandywine in Pennsylvania. He was discharged in 1778. His father, Ralph Fuqua, also fought in the Revolution.

He is remembered in Bedford today for an outstanding act of generosity he shared with another man, William Downing. They donated the 100 acres that became the site of the town established in 1782 as Liberty, and now known as Bedford.

That same year, he married Celia Bondurant. They had six sons and five daughters, most of whom eventually moved to Texas. Fuqua led a generally quiet life as a farmer and family man. The family was renowned for its hospitality.

A Fuqua daughter, Mildred, married Josiah Powell. His family plantation is now at the bottom of Smith

Mountain Lake. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married John Theron Johnson and settled near the Peaks of Otter at the Johnson Farm.

The Fuquas were Baptists; Joseph was the first deacon at Lowry Meeting House, now Timber Ridge Baptist Church.

His grandson, 16-year-old Galba Fuqua, was the youngest soldier to die at the Battle of the Alamo.

The cemetery off Orange Street in Bedford, where Joseph Fuqua is buried, was uncovered a few years ago by the curator of the Bedford City/County Museum. When it was discovered that Fuqua’s will provided that the cemetery should never be sold, the company that had purchased the property deeded the site to the city, which maintains it today.

Higgins also shared the story of Thomas Trammell, the Patriot of local DAR chapter founding Regent Irma Mosely Trammell.

Thomas Trammell was born in Stafford County, Va., in 1747. He died on September 22, 1823 in Pike County, Ga. His wife was Mary Turner, born in Hanover County, Va.

During the war, Trammell and his family lived near Spartanburg, S.C. He served in the militia, which was known as the South

Carolina Line, except on pension application records filed by Mary after his death.

Records of Trammell’s service were sworn to by Mary Trammell and William Burner, her brother, who served in the same company as Thomas Trammell. In fact, there were seven Turners and five Trammells serving in the Hughs’ Company of Brandon’s Regiment. Trammell is also known to have provided mounts for the regiment. He saw action in battles at Cowpens, King’s Mountain, Mudlick Creek, and Ninety-Six.

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the DAR generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church on Hardy Road in Vinton. The members’ focus is on community service activities, especially those helping veterans.



The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the DAR is honoring the Patriot ancestors of its members in anticipation of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Joseph Fuqua is the Patriot of Chapter Regent Cindy Higgins. To gain DAR membership, members trace their lineage to a Patriot from the American Revolution.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The DAR will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, its “semiquincentennial.”

Construction

from page 1

quire increasing the property tax rate by over six cents per \$100 of assessed value and would increase the average homeowner’s property tax by approximately \$150 per year.”

The supervisors thought it “highly unlikely that a majority of voters would support such a property tax increase in times of economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Despite declining enrollment, the Board of Supervisors has supported the school budget beyond what is required by the state and has actually exceeded what has been agreed to in policy developed in cooperation with the School Board,” Peters said. “The Board of Supervisors has always placed funding education at the top of our priority list as we know the importance of a quality education system for the wellbeing of our citizens and community.

“Any real solution to increased capital funding for schools should be approached at the State

level,” Peters said.

School divisions in Virginia do not have taxing power and cannot issue debt on their own. They rely on state and local government for their funding.

Tim Greenway, who represents Vinton on the School Board said, “We have much to gain from these schools being rebuilt! First as a county, we have needed to update, renovate, or rebuild BCAT for years. Because each board member is from a particular district, BCAT has never been prioritized. Essentially what I’m saying is, we were more concerned with our own part of the world rather than the overall well-being of ourselves, as a whole, in the county.

“Now we have five board members who have recognized we need to rebuild an arts/trades/technology center for the betterment of the whole county and region,” Greenway said. “This can’t be done with the capital allowance given to us from the Board of Supervisors, unless we are willing to wait another 10 years or so. This

just isn’t reasonable. We need this school ready for 21st century work force skills and we need it done now for the future of our kids! We want them to stay, work and raise families in the Roanoke region like many of us did in prior years. This can be one of the best economic drivers for the Board of Supervisors in years. And this region certainly needs an economic boost!

“Lastly, we have two schools built in the early ’70s with an open concept style classroom. W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove were built in a time when the open concept of classrooms was a new phase of education. Today, we may have the only two open concept elementary schools left in Virginia. The schools are beyond repair in some facets: our Pre-K classrooms at Cundiff have no running water; there is paneling in many areas of the school (safety issues) and the open concept has been proven not to be effective for the majority of the student population.”

“Penn Forest was

changed from open concept in 2004,” said Greenway. “Why were these two schools left off the correction of this problem? We need to have these schools brought to a fair and equitable stance with our other counterparts in the county.”

Greenway said that he hopes both boards can work together to quickly remedy the three schools in the next couple of years.

“It won’t be easy! It may mean raising sales tax (which many counties have already done); it may mean a slight increase in real estate taxes, or some other means to make this happen now. As you know, it’s an election year and we will have to get everyone from our boards to agree this is the right thing to do now and not wait until elections are over. Ask your school or supervisors member if they support doing what we need to do to get this done now!”

Citizens who would like to express an opinion may email Chairman Jason Peters at jpeters@roanokecountyva.gov, David Radford at dradford@roanokecountyva.gov, Phil North at pnorth@roanokecountyva.gov, Martha Hooker at mhooker@roanokecountyva.gov, and Paul Mahoney at pma-honey@roanokecountyva.gov.



Visual Arts IV students display their work in their BCAT classroom.



BCAT houses a Culinary Arts program.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS

BCAT is home to an award-winning masonry program.

Restaurant Weeks continue through February 28

Roanoke County Economic Development has partnered with the Vinton Chamber of Commerce, the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, and the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce to host Roanoke County Restaurant Week 2021. Actually, they are celebrating Restaurant “Weeks” from February 15 to February 28 with special menus and pricing.

Vinton restaurants have stepped up to participate in Restaurant Weeks, including Farmburguesa, Bob’s Restaurant, Macado’s, Big Belly Pizza, Nishi Food, and La Casa del Burrito Taco Shop.

Some of the local restaurants will be dealing out specials in three tiers: \$10 and under, \$20 and under, and \$30 and under.

Individual restaurant menus will be housed on this page: <https://www.yesroanoke.com/457/Restaurant-Week-2021>

Restaurants in Roanoke

County, Salem or Vinton that would like to participate may contact Marshall Stanley at mstanley@roanokevagr.com or the local chamber representative.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Big tech firm
4. Picked
10. Type of whale
11. A woman of refinement
12. New England state
14. Common gibbon
15. Tall coniferous tree
16. State capital
18. Making a liquid muddy
22. Vinegary
23. Peninsula
24. Thee
26. Atomic #55
27. Used in units of measurement
28. Welsh female name
30. Arab ruler title
31. One’s mother
34. Trap
36. Soviet Socialist

Republic
37. Assn. of oil-producing countries
39. Holy fire
40. Emit coherent radiation
41. Atomic #81
42. Orthodox Jewish college
48. Herbs
50. Ran after
51. Begin again
52. Named
53. Barbary sheep
54. Unwell
55. Postscript
56. Drivers
58. One point east (clockwise) of due north
59. Prim
60. A facility equipped for sports or physical training

CLUES DOWN
1. Small islands
2. Skullcap
3. Unexplained events
4. One hundredth of a meter
5. Beloved baseball announcer
6. Repulsive
7. Northern European languages
8. Match or surpass
9. Northeast
12. Chew the fat
13. Innovative industry
17. Land to put down to grass
19. Products
20. Nostril
21. Surprise Icelandic politician

25. Conclusive acts
29. Inform on
31. Grinding tooth
32. Keep up
33. Tablelands
35. Raising
38. Mythical creature
41. Hums
43. Mountain in Antarctica
44. Neighborhood in Manhattan
45. Distinctive practice
46. Vice president
47. Contributes to
49. Small bones
56. Oil company
57. Empire State

School Board updated on impact of COVID on academics, athletics



William Byrd Middle School seventh grader Darin Witcher described the benefits of his CTE class at WBMS in a video for the School Board during Career and Technical Education Month.



WBMS eighth grader Elizabet Maldonado participated in the Career and Technical Education Month video presented during the School Board meeting on February 11.



Tim Greenway is Vinton's representative to the Roanoke County School Board.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS

Debbie Adams *dadams@ourvalley.org*

Roanoke County school administrators updated the Roanoke County School Board on the impact of the COVID pandemic on student achievement both academically and in athletics at the board meeting on February 11.

Dr. Rhonda Stegall, executive director of Administration, presented COVID statistics which show that overall positive cases have been trending downward in the area, with the lowest positivity rate since November. Approximately 1.3 percent of students and 2.3 percent of staff reported positive cases in January.

The number of students and staff under quarantine dropped from January to February with 442 students quarantined in January down to 314 in February; 82 staff members were quarantined in January; those numbers dropped to 42 in February.

Stegall stated that the mitigation strategies employed by the school system following CDC and Virginia Department of Health guidelines seem to be working and working well.

School employees received their second vaccinations for COVID on February 12. Out of 2,251 employees, only 407 chose not to be vaccinated. Seventy-nine percent of school employees had their first dose by February 11.

The percentage of students exposed to someone with COVID-19 in January while at school was 0.4 percent, with 0.7 percent for staff. Stegall commented that the majority of exposures within the schools are among younger children who find it more difficult to observe facial covering and social distancing rules.

"We are safe at school due to our mitigation strategies," said Vinton's representative on the School Board, Tim Greenway, reiterating his stance that "Kids should be in school."

The most sobering statistics presented during the meeting by Director of Elementary Instruction Stephanie Hogan and Director of Secondary Instruction Mike Riley concerned the grade distribution reports for students at the end of the second nine weeks.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines from the CDC and Virginia Department of Health, Roanoke County Schools are operating under a "Return to School Plan" for the 2020-2021 school year which currently includes options for in-person learning for students in grades K-4, hybrid learning plans with two days in school and three days online learning for students in grades 5-12, 100 percent online learning for all grade levels, and the RCPSOnline Academy for high school students, which is also 100 percent online.

Hogan presented an analysis of grade distributions for the elementary schools at the end of the second nine weeks. Results indicated that:

76 percent of elementary students enrolled in in-person or hybrid learning programs earned A's, 16 percent earned B's, 6 percent earned C's, 2 percent earned D's, and 1 percent earned F's.

For elementary students with 100 percent online classes, 72 percent earned A's, 15 percent earned B's, 7 percent earned C's, 3 percent earned D's, and 3 percent earned F's.

These grades were comparable to those earned by elementary school students for the first nine weeks.

In comparing grade distributions from the 2019-2020 school

year, Hogan said that A, B, and C grades have held steady. Grades of "F" have increased by 2 percentage points for 100 percent online elementary school students above last year.

At the middle school level, the picture presented by Mike Riley was not quite as rosy:

For middle school students in hybrid learning situations, 52 percent earned A's, 23 percent earned B's, 13 percent C's, 6 percent D's, and 7 percent F's. However, for 100 percent online students at the middle school level, 48 percent earned A's, 21 percent B's, 14 percent C's, 6 percent D's, and 11 percent F's.

Grades during the 2019-2020 school years were: 57 percent A's, 26 percent B's, 12 percent C's, 4 percent D's, and 1 percent F's.

Riley noted that A's, B's, and C's have remained relatively steady in middle school. The number of F's has increased since the last school year by six percentage points for hybrid students, and ten percentage points for online students.

Riley also presented the data for high school students.

For high school students attending in-person or in hybrid learning settings, 51 percent earned A's, 22 percent B's, 12 percent C's, 6 percent D's, and 9 percent F's.

For students with 100 percent online instruction, 45 percent earned A's, 22 percent B's, 12 percent C's, 6 percent D's, and 15 percent F's.

Students enrolled in the RCPS Online Academy had similar grade distributions: 45 percent A's, 20 percent B's, 14 percent C's, 9 percent D's, and 12 percent F's.

Grades during the 2019-2020 school years for high school students were 50 percent A's, 27 percent B's, 14 percent C's, 6 percent D's, and 4 percent F's.

Riley commented that the percentage of A's, B's, and C's has held relatively steady, but the percentage of F's has increased by 5 percentage points for hybrid students and 11 percent for those studying online 100 percent of the time.

In analyzing the grade distribution data, Riley and Hogan stated that "not surprisingly, many students struggle more with 100 percent online learning," chosen by parents for different reasons. "The biggest challenge is with students not taking advantage of everything that is offered." However, teachers and principals are working hard to reach those struggling students—reaching out individually to all those who are failing, "but parents have to allow students to come back."

Additional steps the school system has taken to ameliorate the problems include:

Returning all fourth-grade students to in-person learning five days a week and inviting IEP and EL students and those currently failing a course to attend in-person four days each week. Currently 508 fifth graders are attending four days a week; almost 1,000 secondary students are now attending four days a week, also.

Wednesday "Help Days" continue at the secondary level for struggling students.

Riley noted students who are joining the synchronous sessions, watching the videos, participating with the teachers, and attending on hybrid days to get help are being successful.

In other action, School Board members voted 4 to 1 (Chairman Don Butzer dissented) to keep fall sports in-county during the regular season rather than play a district schedule. Fall sports include football, competition cheer, cross country, golf, and volleyball.

Choosing in-county play may preclude participation in postseason play at regionals; however, representatives Greenway, Jason Moretz, Mike Wray, and David Linden reasoned that playing out-of-county could jeopardize the health of students when playing schools outside the district which might not have as stringent mitigation protocols. For instance, William Byrd students might be playing teams from six different school districts if district play was selected—using six different sets of mitigation protocols.

In other news, School Board members were recognized for their dedicated service during February's School Board Appreciation Month.

Roanoke County's CTE program was also recognized during Career and Technical Education Month, with a proclamation stating in part, "economic and technological changes in society are rapidly reflected in the nature of today's workplace, thereby placing new responsibilities on Virginia's education system; Career and Technical Education is the foundation of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in industry and contributes to Virginia's leadership in the international marketplace; and the cooperative and ever-increasing efforts between career and technical educators, administrators, and representatives of business and industry stimulate the growth of the Commonwealth's economy by preparing students for careers in high-demand, high-wage, and highly technologically skilled areas."

Director of Community Relations Chuck Lionberger showcased the CTE programs with a video of several RCPS students in a variety of classrooms across the county describing their specific CTE programs and the benefits of those programs.

From the Pulpit

'Love Differently'

When Moses spoke the words recorded in the Book of Deuteronomy to the people of Israel, they were on the cusp of a new beginning. This group of nomadic Jews who had lived in the wilderness for 40 years had finally reached the Promised Land. As they were about to cross the Jordan River and begin a new life in the land God had sworn to their ancestors, Moses offered a few final instructions. The summation of these directives was: listen to God, remember God, love differently like God, and give like God.

The month of February is known as the month of love. On February 14 we celebrate Valentine's Day. For many it is a day marked with flowers, assorted chocolates, candy hearts, and sappy greeting cards. Some enjoy a fancy night out; some appreciate a simple night in; some grieve the love they lost; some hope for new love to be found.

Valentine's Day began in the fourth century church as a way to honor the early Christian saints who were martyred for their faith in Christ. They were not remembered for their love for a significant other; but rather, their refusal to deny Christ because of their unflinching love for him. Through their willingness to "love differently"—courageously, selflessly, and sacrificially—the church recognized and celebrated their lives for centuries to come.

The history of Valentine's Day is a bit mysterious, considering the Catholic

Church recognizes at least three different martyred saints named Valentine or Valentinus. There are many legends about these martyrs.

Some hold that Valentine's Day is based on the story of St. Valentinus, who continued to officiate marriages for young couples in love, despite the fact that marriage had been outlawed by Emperor Claudius II.

Others attribute Valentine's Day to an imprisoned Christian who fell in love with the jailor's daughter. Before his execution, he wrote her a letter that was signed, "From your Valentine."

Though less romantic, there is record of one saint named Valentine who was arrested and later executed

because of his commitment to helping Christians escape the cruelties of Roman prisons.

While many Christians at that time remained hidden for fear of capture and death, Valentine sacrificed his life for the sake of another. Rather than self-preservation, Valentine chose selflessness out of his love and commitment to others. According to Jesus, "greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13)."

Romantic love is a wonderful gift from God that we should certainly enjoy and celebrate. Selfless love—a love willing to sacrifice oneself for the sake of another—is the ultimate expression of love God demonstrated for us. Through Christ, God offered this kind of love to both friend and foe, the deserving and underserving,

the sinner and the saint. Paul wrote in Romans, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)."

St. Valentine chose to love differently by sacrificing his life for the sake of others. Christ chose to love

differently by sacrificing his life for the sake of the world. Moses instructed the people of Israel to love differently by sacrificing their comfort and choosing to love the stranger.

What kind of sacrifice is God calling us to make for love? How might we choose to love differently

on Valentine's Day? This kind of love may not be very romantic, but the difference it makes may be recognized for centuries to come.

*By the Rev.
Travis Russell,
Pastor at Vinton
Baptist Church*

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Remembering Vinton

Sept 10, 1969

Vinton Motor Company Completes Expansion

Vinton Motor Company has recently completed a program of expansion and modernization in renovating its quarters at the corner of Pollard Street and Washington Avenue.

The local Ford automobile dealership has been in Vinton since 1931, and is operated by William P. Vinyard, Sr., and William P. Vinyard, Jr.

The recently completed program included the building of a completely new parts department to provide one of the most complete parts stocks in this area in up-to-date inventory facilities. It is operated by Billy Pope, parts manager, and Rick Millard.

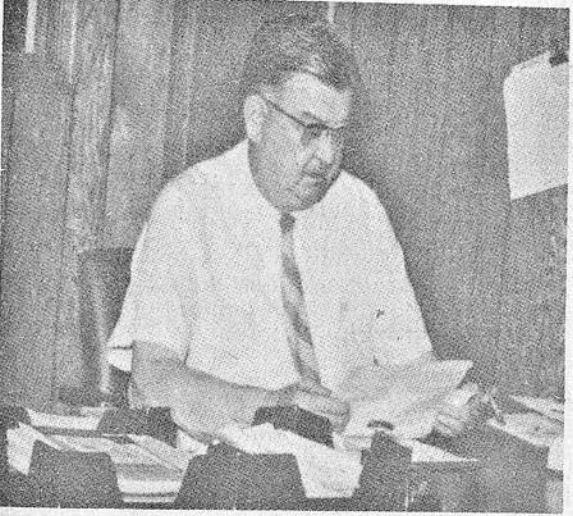
The firm's used car lot was repaved and dusk-to-dawn mercury vapor lights were installed.

The showroom was completely remodeled, new offices were built, new office furniture, paneling, and carpeting were installed, and a new customer lounge area was provided. These facilities were air-conditioned.

The overall program cost an estimated \$30,000. In the service department, a new car lift was installed, along with air jacks, special tools, and the most modern electronic diagnostic equipment. The service staff was increased and now includes a total of six mechanics.

The two Vinyards said that the expansion and improvement program was undertaken "to serve the community better."

About 400 new car units, cars and trucks, are handled annually by the firm. Figures on used car transactions were not available, but they were estimated at 250 annually.



William P. Vinyard, Sr., is at desk...
...in his recently remodeled office.

The Vinton Messenger documented the 1969 renovations at Vinton Motors.

The Vinton Messenger

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

USPS 660-020
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1633 W. Main St.
Salem, VA 24153
ourvalley.org

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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

The last remodel at Vinton Motors

The first business opens this week at the redeveloped Vinton Motors site at the corner of Washington Avenue and Pollard Street in downtown Vinton. Joe Goodpies Brick Oven Eatery is the first of several planned for what will now be known as Vinyard Station.

The last time the building was remodeled was in 1969. The Vinton Messenger reported on the renovations in a September 1969 article headlined "Vinton Motor Company Completes Expansion." It read:

Vinton Motor Company has recently completed a program of expansion and modernization in renovating its quarters at the corner of Pollard Street and Washington Avenue.

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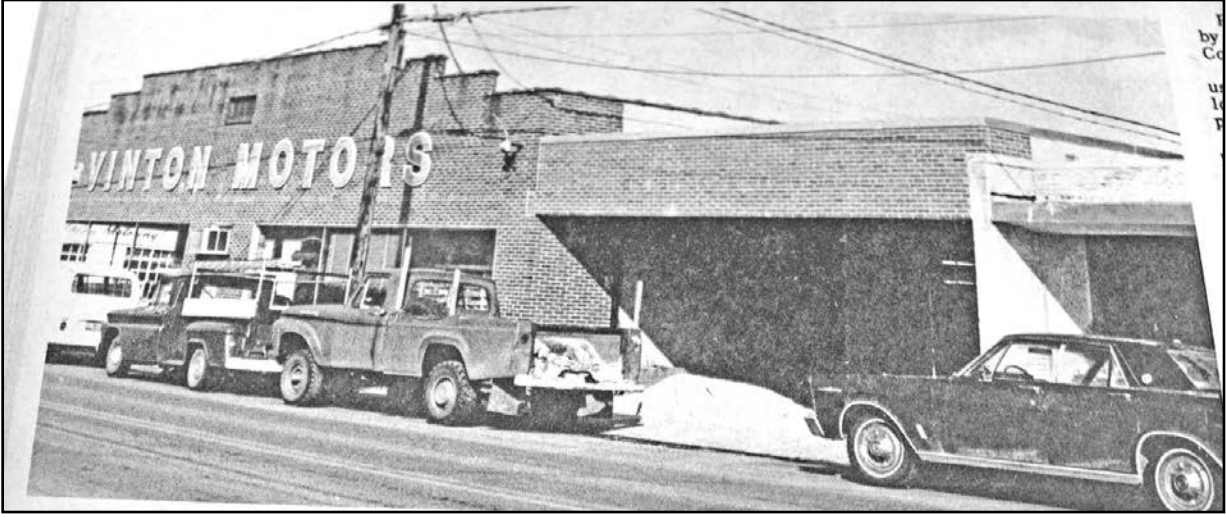
customer service area was provided. These facilities were air-conditioned.

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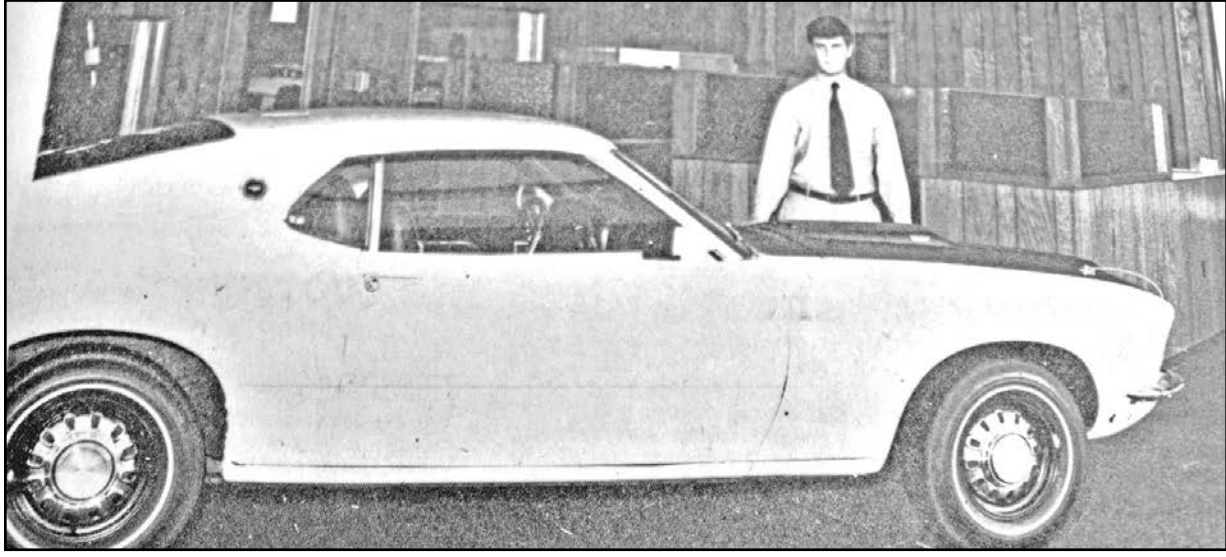
About 400 new car units, cars, and trucks, are handled annually by the firm. Figures on used car transactions were not available, but they were estimated at 250 annually.



The last time the Vinton Motors site at the corner of Washington and Pollard was remodeled was in 1969. This photo is during the renovations in March 1969.



Billy Vinyard Jr. in the remodeled showroom in 1969.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM
The new customer lounge added at Vinton Motors in 1969 featured air conditioning.

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.

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PETS-OF-THE-WEEK



“Chance”, 4yrs old, neutered male
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“Lloyd”, 3yrs old, neutered male
If you need the perfect couch potato, look no further than Lloyd! He enjoys snuggling up with staff for head rubs.



“Fred”, 2yrs old, neutered male
Gentle would be the best word to describe Fred. He loves snacks and would do well in just about any household!

VIRGINIA TECH DEAN’S LIST

The following students from Roanoke have been named to the Virginia Tech Dean’s List for the Fall of 2020:

Jackson W. Moses, a Freshman majoring in Business in the Pamplin College of Business

Madison E. Moses, a Senior majoring in Biology in the College of Science

Adam P. North, a Senior majoring in Public Relations in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

The following Vinton students have been named to the Virginia Tech Dean’s List for Fall 2020:

Grace N. Carroll, a Senior

majoring in Clinical Neurology in the College of Science
Emilee Cruz, a Senior majoring in Fashion Merchandising and Design in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

William M Cummings, a Freshman majoring in Creative Writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Cameron Davis, a Junior majoring in Theatre Arts in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Kaitlyn Dickson, a Sophomore majoring in Business in the Pamplin College of Business

Natalie Ferguson, a Junior majoring in Creative Tech-

nologies in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Reilly Hatfield, a Senior majoring in Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering

Miquelina Hukill, a Senior majoring in Biology in the College of Science

Antonio Montuori, a Senior majoring in Architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Carrington M. Morris, a Junior majoring in Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Stephen J. Olson, a Senior majoring in Computational Modeling and Data Analysis in the College of Science

Courtney M. Palmer, a

Senior majoring in Management in the Pamplin College of Business

Meet Kumar K. Patel, a Sophomore majoring in Marketing in the Pamplin College of Business

Claire O. Pennington, a Junior majoring in Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business

Emily P. Pickeral, a Senior majoring in Real Estate in the Pamplin College of Business

Olivia G. Robertson, a Freshman majoring in Childhood Pre-Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Laura M. Schneider, a Junior majoring in Theatre Arts

in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Michale A. Tingle, a Senior majoring in Geography in the College of Natural Resources and Environment

Meagan R. Webb, a Senior majoring in Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering

Taylor D. Zimmerman, a Sophomore majoring in Animal and Poultry Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must complete at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY DEAN’S LIST

James Madison University is pleased to announce that the following students made the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 Semester.

Luke Barbour of Hardy, who is majoring in studio art

Zachary Kanode of Hardy, who is majoring in media arts

and design

Haley Lawson of Vinton, who is majoring in nursing

Chad Robertson of Vinton,

who is majoring in management

Sarah Shinault of Vinton, who is majoring in nursing

Kaylee Shrewsbury of Vinton,

who is majoring in health sciences

Leah Shrewsbury of Vinton, who is majoring in health sciences

The Roanoke paper and us

Frances Stebbins Correspondent

When I read in a recent issue of the daily “Roanoke Times” that the downtown Roanoke Times building is up for sale, I was alarmed. Though my late husband Charlie and I were involuntarily retired from the paper in 1996, it has remained a part of my professional identity almost like an elderly relative.

Aware that most newspapers are struggling financially because essential income from advertising has been split several ways, and with the recent slowed economy from the COVID19 pandemic, I would not have been surprised to read that the once major news source in Western Virginia is dead.

I was reassured, at least for the present, by the comprehensive story written by the newspaper’s current editor, Brian Kelley, in his closing words:

“Our mission will remain the same to provide people with the news and information they value and need to understand their world, govern themselves and improve their lives.”

The assurance was repeated in the headline.

The article offered much information about the newspaper’s history and business structure unknown to me despite the 68 years I’ve been published in it.

Kelley detailed its 1886 founding by banker and business leader Junius B. Fishburn. “Mr. J.B.” started the paper four years after the railroad city was founded in 1882. The

plant has always been in the vicinity of Campbell Avenue and Second Street Southwest. For more than 100 years it has dominated its corner just across from City Hall.

It is also a block from historic Greene Memorial United Methodist Church in which various members of the Fishburn family were long active. Over the years, when the newspaper published commemorative issues for special occasions, Charlie and I became well acquainted with local histories.

When Charlie and I were hired by the late W.C. Stouffer, the managing editor, exactly 68 years ago to join the news staff, we regarded employment at the major newspaper of the area as a definite step upward in our careers.

My acquaintance with the morning paper went all the way back to my childhood when I regularly visited my maternal aunt and her lawyer husband at their big house in Tazewell. Each morning a loud Thump! on the front porch heralded the arrival of the newspaper, which all the neighbors also took.

They regarded it in the same way my mother and I in the Piedmont town of Orange awaited the “Richmond Times-Dispatch,” which brought us the news of major happenings in World War II. Despite the then-novel medium of radio, the daily newspaper could be relied upon for giving a fair presentation of an issue. It was essential and respected.

Perhaps early reading of these well-written dailies had some influence on my enrolling at Richmond Professional Institute (RPI-VCU) in our capital city to study journalism. Charlie and I met there in 1948, merged two writing

careers on our marriage three years later and came to work in the Third Floor City Room in Roanoke.

Back to the Fishburn family, founders. In my new job as compiler of Church News, I was told to list Sunday school leaders at the nearby Methodist church of the publisher even though this was a tedious task. I also learned that, following the practice of the denomination of that day, no alcohol advertising was accepted by the paper. That changed a few years later after the Fishburns sold their hometown child to Landmark Corporation of Norfolk.

The sale benefited me at a crucial empty-nest time in our family as I was invited to return to the downtown office on a regular three-day-weekly basis and devote most of my energies to an expanded “Big Fat Saturday” newspaper which ran the day before Sunday and served readers who had previously taken either a morning or an evening paper.

New Executive News Editor Ben Bowers had a respect for his church-supporting readership, and this was vital to the encouragement I got as Religion Writer. William Warren in the 1980s continued this support, but the next news executive, Wendy Zomparelli, wanted the Saturday space for activities other than my specialty. Soon I was re-

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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moved and joined another department, Neighbors, where both Charlie and I continued happily to write for several more years until the fading economy doomed the zoned Thursday supplement too.

Kelley, in his January 31 column, offered more detail about the major change which took the paper’s ownership out of Ro-

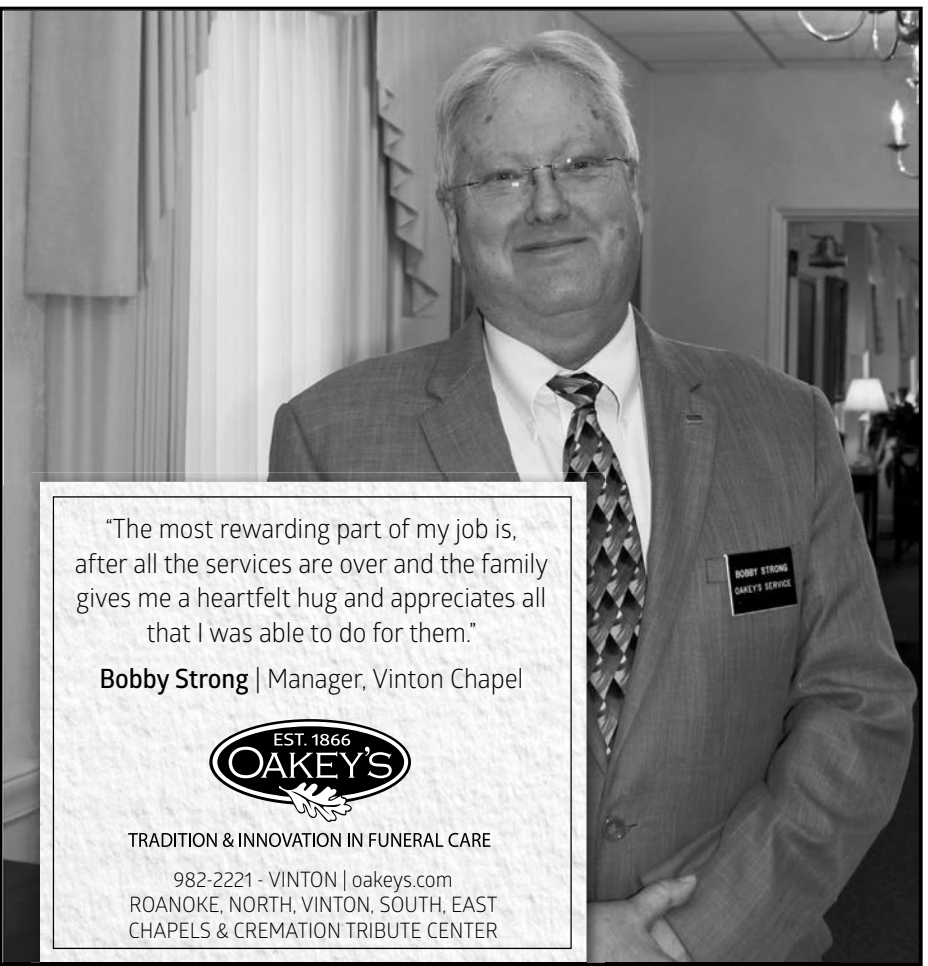
anoke. His article invited readers to call him.

I did so and felt further reassured that the current publishers plan to continue to offer our area a daily paper though reporters will be working from an unknown site. While being at home with a computer has become routine for many office workers because of the contagion

issue, adjustment may not be as hard now as it would have been earlier.


(After all, I used a telephone and typewriter at home for 20 years to keep my career alive as I was primarily a wife and mother of three.)

Editor Kelley said he doesn’t know where a suitable office building will be found.



“The most rewarding part of my job is, after all the services are over and the family gives me a heartfelt hug and appreciates all that I was able to do for them.”

Bobby Strong | Manager, Vinton Chapel



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Experienced grocery shopper, Prep cook, cook, meal planner, and dietitian.

66 year old bachelor living in efficiency apartment, one block from Radford University. Will employee at \$20 per hour for two days per week for Skilled, efficient, trustworthy person. Must have car. Call 540-577-8564
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Email Ruth Parsons, Administrator
rparsons@accrv.org or call 540-798-0087.

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accrv.org

Full-time, Monday-Friday, NO WEEKENDS

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We are looking to add caring attentive team members who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the participants we serve.

Email Ruth Parsons, Administrator
rparsons@accrv.org or call 540-798-0087.

EEO

Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1503 LAYMANTOWN ROAD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 13, 2010, in the original principal amount of \$645,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 110003479. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on March 17, 2021, at 11:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, TOGETHER WITH APPURTENANCES

Legals - Botetourt County

THEREUNTO BELONGING AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 658 WHICH POINT IS CORNER TO THE 3.00 ACRE TRACT OF VIRGINIA M. KING, SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE CENTER OF AN EXISTING 50 ROADWAY SHOWN ON THERE HEREINAFTER MENTIONED PLAT OF SURVEY; WITH THE CENTERLINE N. 85 DEGREES 12' W. 436 FEET TO A POINT ON THE 2.107 ACRE PARCEL TO BE CONVEYED TO GEORGE RUSSELL KING, SR. AND BARBARA HODGES KING; THENCE N. 0 DEGREES 19' E. 5.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET; THENCE N. 85 DEGREES 12' W. 290.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET; THENCE S. 4 DEGREES 48' E. 303.97 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET; THENCE N. 85 DEGREES 12' W. 315.47 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 15 DEGREES 50' W. 104.20 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 40 DEGREES 26' E. 84.90 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 26 DEGREES 53' E. 116.25 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE WITH THE CENTERLINE OF WELCH'S RUN N. 8 DEGREES 25' E. 131.43 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 19 DEGREES 16' E. 162.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 17 DEGREES 56' E. 149.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S. 67 DEGREES 22' E. 41.38 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 88 DEGREES 34' E. 78.23 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S. 76 DEGREES 53' E. 286.35 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 84 DEGREES 53' E. 401.64 FEET TO AN IRON PIN FOUND ON STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 658; THENCE WITH SAID STATE ROUTE 658 S. 11 DEGREES 36' E. 155.95 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE CONTINUING WITH SAID STATE ROUTE 658; S. 6 DEGREES 30' 23" E. 216.44 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE CONTINUING WITH SAID STATE ROUTE 658, S. 9 DEGREES 50' E. 73.23 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 10.269 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY C.E. LACY, JR., CLS, DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1983, LESS, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN 1.354 ACRE PARCEL CONVEYED TO DENNIS FREDERICK KING AND BERNICE CUNDIFF KING, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED DATED DECEMBER 21, 1989 AND RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S IN DEED BOOK 368, AT PAGE 933. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO THE BORROWER BY DEED DATED MAY 5, 2010 AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA AT INSTRUMENT NO. 100001599. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the

Legals - Botetourt County

Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE AND WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com, VA-348550-1.

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on February 25, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

Request of Mikel L. and Sheryl H. Trenor, property owners, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(B)(2), minimum setback requirements, of the Code of the City of Salem, to allow the construction of a two hundred and six square foot inground pool located at 309 Fort Lewis Boulevard (Tax Map # 130-2-29). Section 106-202.3(B)(2) states that accessory structures shall be placed behind the rear building line of the principal structure. The petitioners are therefore requesting a variance to allow the construction of a two hundred and six square foot inground pool in the front yard.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM
Zoning Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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.christiansburg.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.christiansburg.org/publichearings.

Copies of the applications are available for review at the following link: www.christiansburg.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@christiansburg.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

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William Byrd football players go through drills to get ready for the coming season, which begins February 26th at Patterson Stadium in Vinton.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Brian Hoffman



Football Flip Flopping

These are tough days to be an athletic director. Obviously, it would be a lot tougher to be a health care worker, but that goes without saying. And with that said, let me take you through a time line of the past week as far as getting ready for the football season.

Last Wednesday, February 10, I received the composite schedule for the state’s football teams from the Virginia High School League. I get it every year and print it out, as I’m somewhat old school, and it lists the schedules for all the teams in Virginia. I keep it right next to my desk for quick reference.

A day later the Roanoke County School Board meets and votes to limit the fall sports teams to playing intra-county events. And when I say “fall sports” I’m talking about the ones moved from the fall due to the coronavirus pandemic. The VHSL has scheduled football and competitive cheerleading to begin competition on February 22nd and volleyball, golf and cross country on March 1.

Okay, so at that point the schedules for the teams I cover became virtually moot. William Byrd, a Roanoke County school, was scheduled to play all the teams in the Blue Ridge District plus Spotswood, but among those schools only Northside is a fellow BRD team. Meanwhile, county schools Cave Spring and Hidden Valley of the River Ridge District had to eliminate Pulaski County, Salem, Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Patrick Henry.

The fifth county school is Glenvar, and the Highlanders had no fellow Roanoke County schools on their original schedule. They compete in the seven team Three Rivers District and had all six district opponents lined up to play, including James River on Monday.

Glenvar coach Kevin Clifford was irate over the county decision. He spoke at the school board meeting to lobby against an intra-county schedule along with his principal, Corie Franklin. School Board chairman Don Butzer, who represents the Glenvar area, was the only dissenting vote among the five school board members.

“I’m fed up,” said Clifford. “When are we going to say enough is enough? Not to dismiss this horrific disease, but do we have to keep living in a glass house? I’m totally perplexed over this.”

Clifford pointed out that on the same day the board voted to require football teams to play intra-county games only the Cave Spring boys’ basketball team was headed to Abingdon for a regional game. In fact, Hidden Valley, Cave Spring and Northside all played in Abingdon last week, an area that Lord Botetourt football coach Jamie Harless is quite familiar with.

“It’s just over the border from Sullivan County, Tennessee, one of the worst COVID hit spots in the nation,” noted Harless. “They had to bring in mobile morgues there.”

Clifford spent the next five days burning up the phone lines trying to get this decision overturned.

“We’re the smallest school in the county,” he said. “I don’t mind playing up, but this could hurt our chances of making the playoffs. And it doesn’t just affect us. This affects 11 different school districts. The metrics are slowing down and the governor said we need to get kids back in school. It’s just not good business.”

The decision did not go over well with many parents of Roanoke County athletes, but in the meantime the football coaches got together and created a schedule with just Roanoke County teams playing. Byrd had Glenvar twice on that schedule, with the Terriers hosting the Highlanders both times. Glenvar sent me that schedule on Monday of this week, but on Wednesday I called Byrd athletic director Jason Taylor to confirm it and he said he had not seen the schedule and, as far as he knew, it had not been approved.

At the time of my call Jason was waiting for the results of a quickly called meeting of the Roanoke County School Board, scheduled for 11 am Wednesday, to revisit the situation. In about five

minutes two of the board members changed their votes, Jason Moretz of the Windsor Hills District and Mike Wray of the Cave Spring District. Vinton’s representative, Tim Greenway, and David Linden of the Hollins District were not present at the meeting due to previous commitments, but with three votes in hand the motion to allow schools to play district schedules passed.

So, just five days prior to the official opening of the “fall” football season, the schedules changed again. The vote came just a couple hours before my deadline for the Vinton Messenger sports section, and I’m scrambling to write this to get it in the paper on time.

I’m doing a preview on the William Byrd football team for next week’s issue, and from what I can gather the Terriers will still open the season on February 26th. Spotswood was the original opponent, then it was changed to Glenvar, and now it might be Spotswood again but I really can’t tell you just yet. Buy the paper to read the preview next week and hopefully it will be officially decided by then.

And, as mentioned, it’s a tough time to be an athletic director. After the county’s first vote AD’s were digging to find replacements for Roanoke County teams on their schedules, and some had already done so. For example, Salem had replaced their Cave Spring game with Franklin County and had a couple options they were looking at to replace Hidden Valley. Byrd was coming off the schedules of Spotswood, Franklin County, Lord Botetourt, William Fleming and Staunton River, leaving ADs from those schools searching to find a replacement for the Terriers.

Now, with the reversal by the board, will everything go back to how it was? I only have an hour left before we go to press so I really couldn’t tell you. And, who knows what could happen by this time next week? Tomorrow?

All I know is that some area teams are playing football five days from now and the coaches involved aren’t sure whose film they should be studying.

Such is life in the days of the coronavirus pandemic. Just be grateful for the health care workers, because they’re the ones that really matter in the whole scheme of things. That goes without saying.

State Class 3 swim meet scheduled for February 25 in Christiansburg

The William Byrd swim team will be competing in the Class 3 state swim meet on Thursday, February 25, at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Byrd will be represented by six boys at the meet, Michael Hoyos, Colin Murtaugh, Aiden Brinkley, Nathan Miller, Griffin Horacek and Austin Nielsen. The boys are tentatively scheduled to start at 1 pm.

Due to impending weather forecasts for areas throughout the Commonwealth, the Class 6 swimming events, originally scheduled for Friday, February 19 at the Jeff Rouse Swim and Sports Center, have been postponed. The decision to postpone the event was made with the safety of VHSL competitors, coaches, officials, and meet management team in mind.

“Each of our postponements require a tremendous amount of coordination between League staff and the venue directors to find dates based on the availability of those facilities,” said VHSL Assistant Director, Shawn Knight.“ We appreciate our venues willingness and flexibility to work with us to host our championships.”

The swimming events for all classifications are rescheduled as follows:

- Class 2 – March 6, 2021 at Christiansburg Aquatic Center
- Class 3 – February 25, 2021 at Christiansburg Aquatic Center
- Class 4 – February 23, 2021 at Christiansburg Aquatic Center
- Class 5 – February 24, 2021 at Jeff Rouse Swim and Sports Center
- Class 6 – February 25, 2021 at Jeff Rouse Swim and Sports Center



Byrd’s Austin Nielsen is on the six-member team William Byrd is taking to the state meet a week from today.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



REGION 3D INDOOR MEET SATURDAY

William Byrd is scheduled to run in the Region 3D indoor track meet, only outside, on Saturday at Hidden Valley High School. Events are scheduled to begin at 11:30 am on the Titans’ outdoor track. Here Byrd’s Isaac Roth long jumps at a recent “Polar Bear” meet at Patterson Stadium in Vinton.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

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Class 3 state wrestling moved to Sunday at Salem Civic Center

Due to the winter weather forecast in various areas throughout the Commonwealth, the Virginia High School League wrestling championship schedules at both the Salem Civic Center and the Virginia Beach Sports Center have been updated. The decision to reschedule was made with the safety of VHSL competitors, coaches, officials, tournament management team, and media covering the championships in mind.

William Byrd is competing in the Class 3 championship, and that has now been rescheduled for Sunday. Byrd will be represented by Region 3D champions Gage Cockran, Derek Burton and Xavier Preston and region runners-up Dominic Pascoe, Dexter Gaines, Steve Tingler, Jerze Webb and Hunter Richards.

On each day wrestling is scheduled to begin with quarterfinal matches at 10 am. Semifinals and first round consolations are at noon, followed by semifinal consolations at 2:30 pm and consolation finals at 4 pm. The championship matches will be at 6 pm.

The schedule for all VHSL wrestling championships is as follows:

at the Salem Civic Center

Class 1 – Saturday, February 20

Class 3 – Sunday, February 21

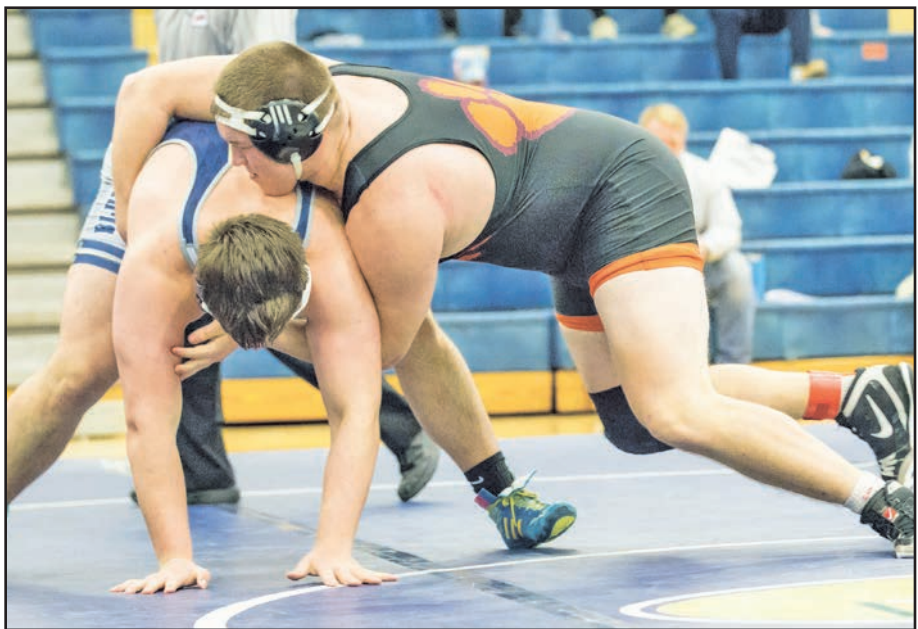
Class 2 – Monday, February 22

at Virginia Beach Sports Center

Class 4 – Saturday, February 20 (Morning Session)

Class 5 – Saturday, February 20 (Evening Session)

Class 6 – Sunday, February 21 (Morning Session)



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Big Orange wrestlers

William Byrd will have eight wrestlers in Sunday's Class 3 state tournament at the Salem Civic Center. Among them, in action here in the Region 3D tournament in dark singlets are; Jerze Webb top left, Dominic Pascoe top right, Dexter Gaines middle right, and Hunter Richards below right.

PHOTOS BY KYMN
DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



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