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Abby Shelton won first place in the vocal category at the annual Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club. She was accompanied by music teacher Susan Lewis.

Vinton Breakfast Lions host annual Bland Music Scholarship competition

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club hosted their fifth annual Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church on March 7. Thirteen contestants participated in vocal and instrumental performances, all students of the Susan Lewis Music Studio.

Pianist Latriva Pierce won first place in the instrumental category, performing "Trisha's Lullaby." She is a junior at William Byrd High School.

Abby Shelton placed first in the vocal category, singing "Think of Me." She is a home-schooled senior.

Second place in the in-

strumental division went to Andrea Gonzalez, who performed "Little Prelude in C Minor." She is a senior at William Byrd and at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology.

Third place in instrumentals went to Chloe Hopkins, a high school junior, who played "Cossack Ride."

Second place in vocal performance went to Simon Sealey, a junior at Hidden Valley High School, who sang, "Waving Through a Window."

Third place in vocals was awarded to Paul Sealey, a freshman at Hidden Valley, who performed "Irish Bless-

See **Bland Music**, page 3



Thirteen local musicians competed in the annual Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club. Shown left to right front row are: Ryleigh Woolwine, Aubri Kessler, Emily Mower, and Lily Sealey; middle row, Andrea Gonzalez, Sofia Gonzalez, Abby Shelton, Cary Jones, and Chloe Hopkins; and back row, music teacher Susan Lewis, Alexis Williamson, Latriva Pierce, Paul Sealey, Simon Sealey, and judges Bob Schmucker and Kimberly Wilbourn. Judges Dr. Chris Monroe and Josh O'Dell are not pictured.

Gauntlet entrepreneurs plan Airbnb

Debbie Adams
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Over seven years, the Gauntlet Business Program and Competition has welcomed a myriad of different businesses, both new and expanding—ranging in ambition from home crafters to manufacturers, and everything in between. The Gauntlet provides a 10-week session of business classes, followed by a competition for approximately \$300,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

The 2021 session includes both a 7-year-old boy who started off with a lemonade stand and a team of entrepreneurs—Aaron Garland, Ryan Apple, Ella Brown, and their spouses—who are renovating a stately, and possibly historic, home in the Wasena area into an Airbnb.

According to the Airbnb website, Airbnb began in 2008 "when two designers who had space to share hosted three travelers looking for a place to stay. Now, millions of hosts and travelers choose to create a free Airbnb account so they can list their space and book unique accommodations anywhere in the world."

Garland says that the main difference between an Airbnb and a



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Entrepreneurs (left to right) Mark Brooks, Ryan Apple, and Aaron Garland are participating in the 2021 Gauntlet Business Program and Competition as they plan to open an Airbnb in Wasena, where renovations are underway.

traditional bed and breakfast is that there is no live-in host who prepares breakfast at an Airbnb.

"A bed and breakfast typically offers the experience of staying in a large home and being catered to by the owners who live on site," Garland noted. "Airbnb is a marketing platform for short term rentals. Our basic offering will be one- or two-bedroom furnished apartments with all the amenities that Wasena has to offer. Part of

our business development process with the Gauntlet will be to decide more specifically what experience we want to create for our guests and what services we will be able to offer."

Garland, Apple, and Brown came together as a Gauntlet team due to the fact that they were already working together. Garland is the owner of Garland Proper-

See **Airbnb**, page 2

Scout Troop 42 competes in virtual Pinewood Derby

By Debbie Adams

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Roanoke Valley's Scout Troop 42 and Cub Scout Pack 42 "have never missed a beat," says Scout leader Janette Hunt. While many of their meetings and activities have been virtual, the Scouts and their leaders, "through their ingenuity and dedication," were able to hold their second annual Pinewood Derby on March 6 – but their first virtual one. Hawk Hillberry is the Scoutmaster for Troop 42.

Preparations for the 2021 Pinewood Derby have been mostly virtual and drive-through at the Living Water Christian Church at Northside in Roanoke. Scouts drew and submitted the designs for their cars; then drove through to pick up templates and their official Pinewood Derby car kits which contain a block of wood, nails for axles, and wheels—this year individually packaged and sanitized.

On March 2, troop leaders held a drive-through "pit night" for the Scouts to get their cars weighed, measured, and inspected. (Pinewood Derby race cars should weigh no more than five ounces and measure no more than seven inches in length and two and three-fourths inches wide.)

The virtual Pinewood Derby itself was

also held at Living Water Christian Church, with the crowd limited to 10 inside the church to conduct the

actual racing of the cars created by the Scouts.

See **Derby**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Scout leaders Chris Pugh (center) and Hawk Hillberry (left) prepare for the second annual Pinewood Derby race for Troop and Pack 42 with the assistance of Scout Jayden Sink.

Herndon named Vinton Public Works director



SUBMITTED PHOTO

William "Bo" Herndon has been named as Vinton's new Public Works director.

The Town of Vinton has named William "Bo" Herndon as the new director of Public Works. He has worked for the Public Works Department for nearly 10 years, beginning as a utility technician before being quickly promoted to Special Projects manager.

In 2016, Herndon was promoted to Emergency Service coordinator, where he worked closely with the Vinton Fire Department and Police Department for the safety of the town. In 2017 he moved up to the position of Public Works assistant

director and has been acting director for several months.

He is currently serving on the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Roanoke Valley Public Works Association/Equipment Rodeo, Town of Vinton Safety, Public Works, and Roanoke Regional Public Works Association (RRPWA) committees.

"I have particularly been impressed with Bo's positive attitude and his creativity and ingenuity to achieve an end goal," said Vinton Town Manager Pete Pe-

ters. "Bo maintains an excellent rapport with his staff and possesses an ability to lead his team, while also being able to roll up his sleeves and work directly alongside his crews when necessary. He really embodies the technique and skill of what you would describe as a 'players' coach.' He is knowledgeable about his game plan and approaches each project from a tactical perspective, no different than a coach would game plan for his next opponent. I am excited for Bo moving into this new role and the fact that we

have yet again been able to promote from within says a great deal about the Town's recruitment and hiring practices to groom our next generation of leadership from within is proving to be successful."

Herndon is originally from Roanoke and is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School. He currently resides in Roanoke County. He has two sons, Craig and Cole Herndon, and "loves being a Pa-Pa to their children."

In his spare time, you will often find Herndon on the football or softball field as a VHSL referee. He has been officiating games for 22 years. He also referees travel softball. His favorite pastime is being on the field helping coach his grandson Matthew.

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WBHS Terrier Spotlight of the Week



Dionne Nichols



Laurie Dunn



Andrew DeCoster



Marisa Arrieta

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Each week the Administrative Team at William Byrd High School recognizes faculty and staff members for their wonderful contributions to our students and community.

The first Spotlight of the Week announced on March 5 is Dionne Nichols. This is a special spotlight not only because she's an excellent English teacher and department chair, but she also happens to be our first "royal spotlight." That's right, Nichols is connected to the Tudor bloodline, as her ancestors were part of King Henry VIII's royal court. Despite her royal roots, Nichols has taken up the noble art of teaching, which we couldn't be more thankful for. Her passion for literature and love for her students is invaluable. Outside of teaching the literary arts, she enjoys baking, drinking a cup of coffee or tea, going for a hike,

and of course, reading. Thank you, Dionne Nichols, for all of your hard work and kindness this school year.

Our next Spotlight of the Week is Laurie Dunn. Dunn is a veteran teacher of 19 years who teaches culinary arts as well as fashion and interior design. This West Virginia University grad cuts a popular figure among students in grades 9-12. If you've ever seen the food projects they do in class, then this should come as no surprise. Whether it's houses made of pop tarts, quinoa, or the fruit pizzas witnessed this week, students love the hands-on activities and tasty treats they whip up in class. When not teaching students the finer points of high society, Dunn enjoys kayaking or traveling to experience new cultures and places. We'd like to say thank you again for all of

the fun and exciting things you do for our students in the classroom.

Next up is the most interesting man at Byrd: Andrew DeCoster. He is affectionately known by the students and his understudy Coach Kessler as "Big Money." This mysterious math teacher and track coach lives up to the name. Whether it's snorkeling with the dolphins, running with the bulls, or summiting Mount Everest, Coach DeCoster is a man of many feats and talents. Fortunately for us, this jack-of-all-trades has decided to devote his time and energy to mastering the art of teaching. Coach DeCoster, along with his trusty sidekick Coach Kessler, are producing phenomenal results for our Algebra I students. From lesson planning and instructional delivery to student support, these two are rock stars

in the classroom. So, one last time, thanks again, Coach, for all that you're doing both in the classroom and on the track.

Our last spotlight of the week is for the one and only Marisa Arrieta. The former William Byrd grad has served as a guidance counselor here for the past four school years. During this time, she's done a fantastic job providing academic, social, and emotional support for her students. Her talent, work ethic, and the positive relationships she has with her students have not gone unnoticed.

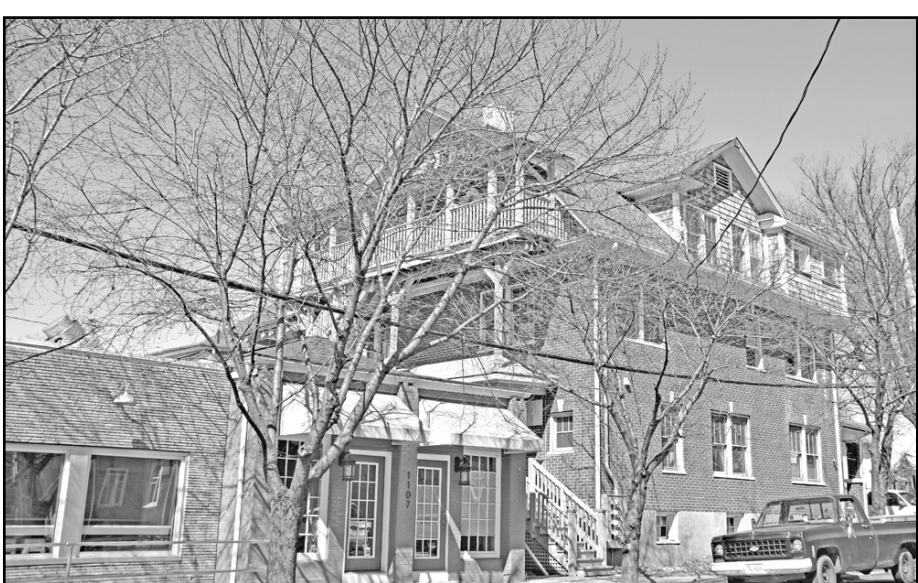
It's also worth mentioning that Arrieta is just a lot of fun to have around. Her sense of humor and playful spirit are a constant source of entertainment in the guidance department. Unless, however, it's a competitive game or event, and I use the word competitive here

lightly. In such cases, Arrieta turns into M.J. and she will win at all costs. Outside of school, she enjoys playing tennis with her adorable son, Josiah. Thanks again, Marisa Arrieta, for being a phenomenal guidance counselor and a Terrific Terrier.

Finally, we'd like to recognize Jason Taylor as we host our first home varsity football game. Safely returning to athletics has been a significant challenge this school year. Taylor has had to react and adapt to constant change. Through it all he has done a magnificent job and he deserves a big round of applause. So again, to our awesome athletic director, we say thank you!

By the Administrative Team at William Byrd High School

Airbnb from page 1



The future Airbnb is located in the Wasena area in a prime location at the corner of Main and Winona.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Renovations will create two one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments in the historic home for short-term rental.

Garland Properties, LLC, and its commercial property manager. Brown is the residential property manager. Apple is the residential/commercial property and operations manager. (He is also Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 235 in Vinton.)

The group teamed up not with the goal of reaping financial benefits from the Gauntlet competition to

finance the renovations, but to go through the process of developing the business and gain knowledge on how to set up the Airbnb platform once the house is ready for occupancy.

The property they are in the process of renovating was built in 1922, with the typical architectural features of that era. Garland says they suspect that "it was

originally a duplex with two very large units and later converted to a boarding house, probably during the Depression.

"According to my neighbors, it has a recent history of being a bit of a slum and has been a host to some interesting characters," said Garland, who lives in Wasena. "I am interested to learn a bit more about the history

so that we might be able to include this as a feature of our accommodations."

Their property is located in the heart of Wasena near the Bloom Restaurant and Wine Bar, RND Coffee, the Taproom, the Green Goat Restaurant, River Rock Climbing, the Roanoke River Greenway, surrounded by many single-family homes.

"Ella's husband, Mark Linson, is a trained chef and has been on the launch team for many of Roanoke's finest restaurants, including Bloom Restaurant where he currently works," Garland said. "Ella sometimes moonlights as a waitress at Bloom. A couple years ago Mark took a break from his career as a full-time chef and worked on our construction team for long enough to work on the renovation of and build out of both the RND and Bloom buildings."

Garland and his father, John, are partners on the Airbnb building.

"My father is an engineer, and he has managed the design and construction," Garland said. "We have subcontractors who work for us regularly for both trade work and labor. Garland Properties provides a support role on all our development projects, so Ryan and Ella are normally involved in some capacity such as bookkeeping or leasing. On this project they are taking a more direct role helping to make design decisions that will optimize the building for short term rentals."

Garland has years of experience as a real estate investor and developer and continues to manage and develop a portfolio of properties along with his family as part of Garland Properties, LLC, which he found-

ed in 2012. His expertise and focus have been on the redevelopment and management of historic properties in downtown Roanoke and the surrounding neighborhoods as mixed-use buildings that include apartments and commercial spaces. Properties he has been involved with include Crafteria, (formerly the S&W Cafeteria and Downtown Athletic Center), The Aurora (formerly Leggett's Department Store), and many others.

He formerly worked in the outdoor recreation industry and in bike advocacy and has carried his passion for an active lifestyle into his real estate career, seeking to build livable communities.

"The property that we are currently focused on has common ownership with Garland Properties, however Ryan, Ella, and her husband Mark are working to create a separate business focused on capturing the increased value of short-term furnished rentals," said Garland. "The new business would have a master lease on the property and sublet the space through Airbnb or a similar platform."

As for why they selected Wasena as the location for their new business, Garland says, "In short, we didn't choose to develop this business in Wasena; we were already here, and we decided to develop the business."

In identifying their potential customers, the group believes they will attract a large variety of guests from travel nurses to weekend guests who want to escape the environs of cities like Washington, D.C., to out-of-town wedding guests, to those attending graduation ceremonies at the numerous colleges and universities in the area. They hope

to attract those who want the opportunity to stay in a neighborhood home rather than a hotel. Guests might be staying for a couple of months or just overnight.

"Garland Properties has been a sponsor of the Gauntlet for a couple years, but we had never really been involved," Garland added. "The Gauntlet gives us a nice framework from which to create this new business, and we are at the same time able to network with other businesses that may want to lease space through Garland Properties."

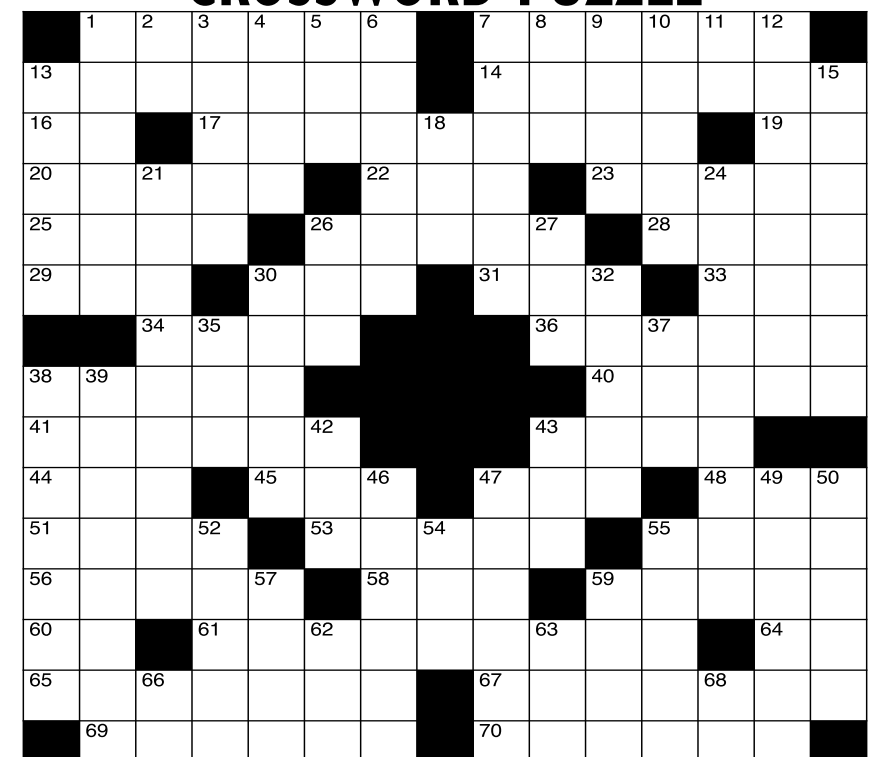
The group plans to complete the business classes and enter the final competition for prizes. They participate in the virtual sessions each Tuesday night, as much as possible, and catch the reruns if they have previous obligations.

The Gauntlet is now into week five and Garland says he has "enjoyed learning about all the other business concepts as well as the stories told by speakers about their businesses."

The team says they plan for renovations to the Wasena property to be completed in April for a May opening. There will be two one-bedroom apartments and two two-bedroom apartments, with some connectivity possible between and kitchen facilities.

Shannon Dominguez, director of Business Development for The Advancement Foundation which established the Gauntlet, says, "We are excited to have Aaron Garland, Ella Brown, and Ryan Apple. Wasena is a great spot for a bed and breakfast. Their participation in The Gauntlet Business Program & Competition will fast track their success with this project!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 40. Organic compound | CLUES DOWN | 30. Indian instrument |
| 1. Large dung beetle | 41. Section at the end of a book | 1. An ape or monkey | 32. Bleated |
| 7. Representation of a plan | 43. Flat tableland with steep edges | 2. Chemical element | 35. Cablegram (abbr.) |
| 13. In a fervid way | 44. Criticize | 3. Zodiac sign | 37. Root mean square (abbr.) |
| 14. The Book of Psalms | 45. Split pulses | 4. Removes | 38. Jellyfishes |
| 16. Morning | 47. Brief trend | 5. Brew | 39. Individual TV installations |
| 17. Exactly the same | 48. Cool! | 6. Nickname | 42. Talk |
| 19. About | 51. Purposes | 7. Architectural structures | 43. More (Spanish) |
| 20. Brown & basmati are 2 | 53. Brews | 8. Trigonometric function | 46. Leaseholder |
| 22. Swiss river | 55. Skin condition | 9. Postmodern architectural | 47. Monetary units |
| 23. Philippine island | 56. Pops | 10. Henderson & Fitzgerald are 2 | 49. Hostility |
| 25. Expressions of surprise | 58. American air travel company | 11. Mountain (abbr.) | 50. Work stations |
| 26. An ant | 59. Minute bug | 12. Landscaping practice | 52. Linguistics giant |
| 28. Common Japanese surname | 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord) | 13. Capacitance unit | 54. Female sheep |
| 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid | 61. One who rides in your car | 15. Redirect | 55. Calendar month |
| 30. Car mechanics group | 64. One of the Gospels | 18. Hat for women | 57. Seasoning |
| 31. A person's brother or sister | 65. City in southern Spain | 21. In a way, dressed down | 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey |
| 33. Ancient pharaoh | 67. Inquisitive | 24. Granny | 62. Single Lens Reflex |
| 34. Quantitative fact | 69. Jean Paul __, author | 26. Feed | 63. A way to remove |
| 36. Vividly colored bird | 70. Pop singer Harry | 27. Endpoint | 66. Virginia |
| 38. Your home has one | | | 68. Old English |

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Luke Vance and Jayme Siet were married on October 12, 2020. He is the son of Richard and Julie Vance of Vinton. Her parents are Kenneth and Ellen Siet of Marlboro, N.J. The wedding was officiated by Luke's sister, the Rev. Katie Vance Lucas, and Jayme's brother, David Siet. Best man was Luke's brother, Josh Vance. Matron of honor was Jayme's cousin, Ariel Doxey. Ringbearer was Desmond Doxey,

Angie Chewing

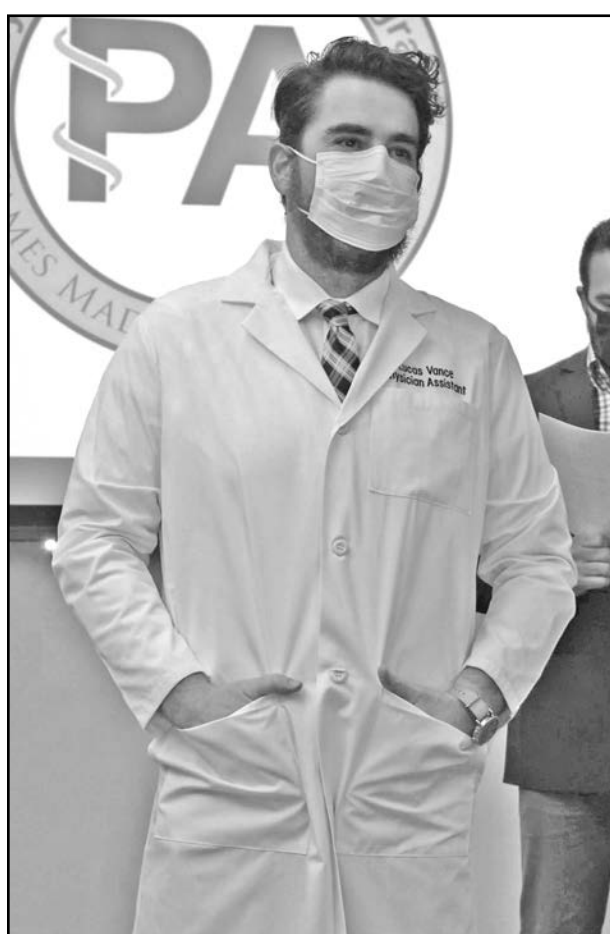
Filling in for Bootie

cousin of the bride. Flower girls were nieces of the groom, Emerson and Everleigh Lucas.

Luke also graduated from James

Madison University's Physician Assistant (PA) Program on December 13. He is employed by Midlothian Family Practice.

I would love to take a readers' poll on what they want to do once all the Covid restrictions are lifted. What have we missed the most? What are we most looking forward to? Send responses to angie@vintonchamber.com or call the Chamber office at 343-1364.



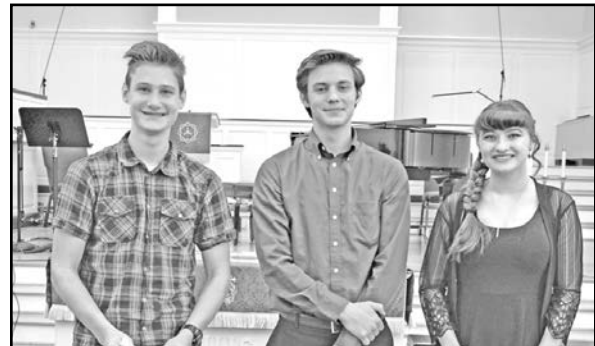
Bland Music

from page 1

ing.”
Pierce and Shelton, as first place winners, will advance to the Lions Club Regional Competition to be held on May 16 at Community Church in Sa



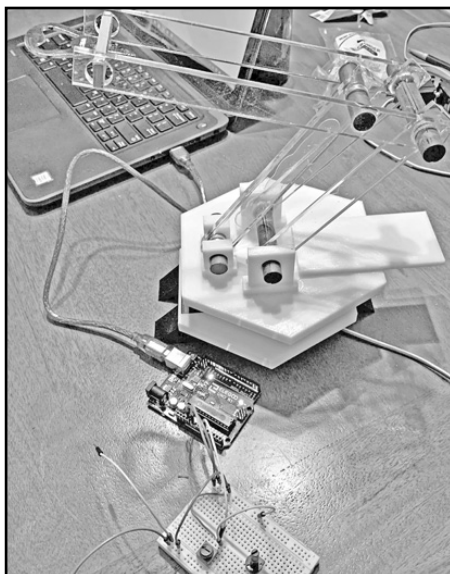
Local students competed in the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club annual Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition at Thrasher Memorial on March 7. Winners in the instrumental category were (left to right): third place winner Chloe Hopkins, second place winner Andrea Gonzalez, and first place winner Latriva Pierce.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Winners in the vocal category in the Bland Foundation Music Scholarship Competition were (left to right), third place winner Paul Sealey, second place winner Simon Sealey, and first place winner Abby Shelton.

William Byrd students participate in 2021 RVGS Project Forum



SUBMITTED PHOTO

WBHS junior Hunter Sipe teamed with Coleman Grindstaff from Franklin County High School to build a robotic arm to open glass bottle tops, inspired by the pandemic.



William Byrd senior Isaac Fix competed in the 2021 RVGS Project Forum with a project entitled "Superior Solar."



WBHS senior Taylor Dawson won third place in the Behavioral and Health Sciences category at the RVGS Project Forum.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Rebecca Qiu, a sophomore at William Byrd High School, won first place in the Materials Science category at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology 2021 Project Forum with her teammate Ainsley Robertson from Cave Spring High School.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Ten students who attend both William Byrd High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology (RVGS) participated in the 2021 RVGS Project Forum on March 6. RVGS is located on the campus of Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke. The event is usually held on site but was held virtually this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The forum has been referred to as "a science fair on steroids." Students prepare for months for the competition, including the entire month prior to the event.

RVGS Director Mark Levy described the 2021 Project Forum as "unconventional" this year due to the pandemic, but "students were still actively engaged in research." They proved themselves to be "a determined group of students who persevered."

Levy said the themes of the year were flexibility, resilience, and communication. Students in past years generally worked together in person in teams planning, researching, and completing their projects. That was not the case this year. Almost 260 participated in the Forum, but teamwork looked a little different this year as team members attended the Governor's School in person on opposite days operating—two days in person and three days virtually. The students communicated using the online system established for classes.

This process ensured that all students had the opportunity for hands-on experimental work without cutting available research time in half. That allowed each project to make daily forward

progress and the teams had a student on-campus to receive help from the teacher.

RVGS set high expectations for students when virtual learning became necessary. Students were expected to not only be present for virtual sessions but attend for the full class period and take written notes which they submitted at the end of the class.

Each year a panel of judges evaluates the projects and determines scores based on strength of presentation, comprehension of subject matter, and depth of research.

The presentations to the judges were also drastically different this year. Students did not construct the traditional display boards and instead created PowerPoint (PPT) presentations of their work. They presented to judges virtually in real time using microphones and the PPT presentation. Most students presented from home. A few with slow or inconsistent Internet access were permitted to present from RVGS.

WBHS students participating in the 2021 Project Forum were freshman Griffin Jakob, sophomores Maggie Parkhurst and Rebecca Qiu, juniors Haley Day and Hunter Sipe, and seniors Taylor Dawson, Elizabeth Fedor, Isaac Fix, Adi Iyer, and Joseph Sandzimier.

Award winners from William Byrd for 2021 were:

Rebecca Qiu, who teamed with Ainsley Robertson from Cave Spring High School to win first place in the Materials Science category with their project "The Application of a Chitosan Cross-linked Poly (acrylic acid) Hydrogel in the Removal of a Model Pollutant from an Aqueous Solution."

Elizabeth Fedor, who teamed with Tracy Harrison Callis of Patrick Henry High

School to tie for second place in the Behavioral and Health Sciences category with their project, "An Investigation of the Accumulation of Mutations in the COVID19 Genome."

Griffin Jakob, who teamed with Courtney Monard from Hidden Valley High School to win second place in the Animal Sciences Level B category with their project "The Effect of Propolis on the Regeneration Rate of *Dugesia tigrine*."

Taylor Dawson, who teamed with Owen McKenna of Patrick Henry High school to tie for third place in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category with their project, "Comparing the Change in Genetic Composition of the HA Protein of Influenza A Subtypes Over Time."

Haley Day, who teamed with Katherine Cross from Lord Botetourt High School to tie for third place in the Materials Science category with their project "The Effect of Natural Polymers on the Sustainability of Adhesive Hydrogels for Tissue Repair."

Joseph Sandzimier, who teamed with Jacob Tozier from Cave Spring High School to tie for third place in the Systems Software B category with their project "Web Scraping Within Python to Enhance Online Shopping."

Qualifiers will advance to the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair, scheduled for March 20—in virtual format once again.

Other William Byrd students and their projects were:

Adi Iyer in the Plant Science B category with his project: "The Effect of Light, Stratification and Genotype on the Germination of *arabidopsis thaliana*."

Isaac Fix in the Engineering Mechanics B category, who partnered with Evan Jen-

nings from Lord Botetourt High School with their project "Superior Solar."

Hunter Sipe in the Engineering Mechanics C category with his partner Coleman Grindstaff from Franklin County High School for their project "Robotic Arm Opening Glass Bottle Tops."

Maggie Parkhurst, who partnered with Claire Wei and Sophia Schumaecker from Cave Spring High School for their Plant Science B project "The Effect of Juglone in the Conjunction with Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes on the Germination and Radicle Length of Legumes."

Hunter Sipe said that he and Grindstaff selected the robotic arm project as a direct result of the COVID crisis. "It was a good project connected with COVID which made it relevant. The robotic arm could actually be used on a daily basis."

As for the unusual attendance arrangements this year with partners attending RVGS in person on alternating days, Sipe said they were able to talk about the project online and make changes to their experiment as needed. "Whoever was in class that day did the work."

Sipe said he chose to attend the RVGS for its rigorous curriculum to help him prepare for college, where he hopes to study engineering, and also play baseball.

Taylor Dawson and her partner McKenna chose to study and compare the change in influenza A over time since it is extremely common.

"Everyone is aware of the importance of receiving a flu vaccine each year due to how flu viruses mutate. However, flu A is able to mutate at a much higher speed, so it is important to understand how much it changes over

the years and this information could be used to create a longer lasting vaccine or possibly one that someone only has to take once when they are a child."

This fall Dawson will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Isaac Fix and teammate Jennings chose the project "Superior Solar," because "Solar panels today are very inefficient, and most panels only convert about 15 percent-18 percent of the sunlight that hits them into electricity. Because of this, my partner and I were trying to make solar panels more efficient to move one step closer to sustainable energy."

"We were interested in solar energy because it is becoming very popular, but it is quite expensive, so our thought was that more efficient solar panels will create more power and lower electric bills, possibly even to zero. Also, this might give some people a power surplus that they would be able to sell to the electric companies."

Fix will be attending Davidson College in North Carolina to major in physics, and also play baseball. "RVGS is a great opportunity to learn and grow as a student, and it helped give me direction to what I wanted to study in college."

The RVGS was founded in 1985 as a half-day specialized regional public STEM school for highly motivated students in grades nine through twelve and serves students from high schools in Roanoke City, Salem City, and Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, and Franklin counties. Establishment of the RVGS has allowed participating school systems to pool their resources and those of the community to the advantage of all.

Council focuses on finances at annual retreat

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council members and department heads held their annual strategic planning retreat on the afternoon of March 5 in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. This was their first in-person meeting as a group in Council Chambers since July of 2020 when new council members Laurie Mullins and Keith Liles, along with Mayor Brad Grose, were sworn in for new terms. The room, in fact, the Municipal Building itself, has been closed to the public for much of the intervening time due to the pandemic. Council has been meeting virtually.

First on the retreat agenda was updating the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, followed by revenue analysis and fund balance discussions for FY21, anticipated capital improvement plans for FY21-FY28, an operating budget and employee compensation review, and confirmation of the budget timeline.

The FY21 budget was revised downward when the COVID-19 pandemic hit last spring with predictions of a severe economic downturn. Those fears do not seem to have been realized to the extent predicted. According to town staff, FY20 ended in a much better than anticipated revenue position, adding approximately \$700,000 to the Fund Balance in the General Fund.

“Cash on hand” is in the most favorable position in recent history. The FY21 General Fund forecast has begun to stabilize around \$500,000 above budget. That funding can be appropriated to fund important one-time projects or capital needs.

The town’s current policy is to “strive to maintain a General Fund balance

equal to two months discretionary General Fund revenues.” The Government Finance Officer’s Association’s recommendation is a minimum of two months. Staff now recommends a policy of maintaining four months of General Fund Budgeted Revenues with excess revenues to be spent on one-time projects or the Capital Improvement Plan.

Town Manager Pete Peters presented the FY21-FY28 Capital Improvement Plan—year by year, beginning with FY21 projects anticipated, underway or completed. He commended and thanked Principal Planner Nathan McClung and Vinton Financial Services Analyst Brandon Gann for developing a comprehensive scoring matrix ranking the proposed CIP projects in order of needs.

Capital projects for FY21, which basically came to a halt during the pandemic budget revisions, include \$1.25 million for projects involving PTO (Paid Time Off) conversion, Municipal Building and parking lot improvements, traffic signal updates on Clearview Drive, Hardy Road paving, Glade Creek Streambank Stabilization, and Gish Mill Delivery. Funds (\$550,000) are being held in reserve for a sharing match with VDOT for rebuilding and repairing Mountain View Road in FY25-26.

Projects for FY22 (estimated cost of \$835,000) currently include replacement and updating of five Gateway signs and landscaping, the Glade Creek Greenway required match, Gish Mill parking and façade, traffic signal improvements at various intersections (to reach a goal of eventually replacing signal lights at all 11 signalized intersections), a worksite and work zone safety package, ERP computer software replacement, repairs to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

Council Chambers in the Municipal Building before renovations.

Vinton History Museum (electrical upgrades, basement waterproofing, and porch repair), streetscape planters, and body cameras for the Vinton Police officers in the amount of \$100,000.

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drummond told council that the department has applied for a state grant in that amount through the Department of Criminal Justice Services 2021 Body-Worn Camera Grant program. The body cameras cost approximately \$4,140 per unit and the department is asking for 20 cameras.

The Police Department will use its own forfeiture funds to replace outdated in-car cameras.

FY22 Capital Projects for the Utility Fund in the amount of \$4.37 million will be financed by debt issuance to be repaid over a 10-year period, and will include SCADA system and water meter upgrades, along with renovations and upgrades at the Third Street Lift Station.

Peters reminded council that all the wastewater in the town passes through the aging Third Street Lift Station.

Peters also commented that the town may be receiving more CARES funding, with more flexibility in spending requirements.

Proposals for Capital Improvement Plan projects in FY23 (estimated cost, \$540,000) include TASER and radar replacements, a wood-chipper, funds for closing the Vinton Swimming Pool, establishment of



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Council Chambers in the Vinton Municipal Building after renovations.

a skate park, another Glade Creek 2b match, more traffic signal improvements at various intersections, and sidewalks along Vinyard.

Peters informed council that the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club is planning to construct a new playground/park at the former swimming pool location once the pool is capped with concrete.

He also commented that all tax revenues from Rosie’s Gaming Emporium—estimated at \$550,000 annually—are to be designated for Capital Improvement projects.

Suggested projects on the list for FY24 (estimated cost, \$549,000) include replacing fuel pumps at Public Works, more traffic signal replacements, purchase of a dump truck, snowplow, and salt spreader, underground fuel storage tanks, and sidewalks along Bypass Road. Opening the Meadows Well at a cost of \$350,000 is also on the list for FY24. (The Route 24 well may be closed then.)

The fuel pumps project is under discussion with Roanoke County. The two governments are considering partnering for a new site.

FY25 projects (estimated cost, \$550,000) include more traffic signal improvements, funds for bridge maintenance on Garthright Bridge (one of two bridges in the town), and sidewalks along Cleveland Avenue.

Utility projects for a sewer easement jetter and Pitt/Peake water line replacement are also under discussion for FY25.

The CIP shopping list for FY26 (estimated cost \$530,000) includes more funds for Garthright Bridge maintenance, completion of remaining traffic signal improvements, contingency funds for Mountain View Road Revenue Sharing, along with connection and transfer switchgear. Utility projects include replacement/realignment of the Valley Hall water line and purchase of a pickup truck with a dump body.

FY27 improvements on the list and under review (estimated cost, \$547,450) include guardrails on Giles Avenue, Third Street, Niagara and Woodland Place, enclosing the Public Works equipment shelter, replacing the roof on the Municipal Building, and repairs and improvements to the Public Works storage area.

And in the final year discussed, FY28, long-term plans (estimated cost, \$632,000) include reconstructing the Public Works parking lot, replacing the backhoe/front-end loader, installing a bathroom along the Wolf Creek Greenway, replacing a refuse truck, and installing guardrails on Chestnut Avenue.

To develop the FY22 budget, department heads were asked to fill out operating budget spreadsheets and justify their budget requests. The Finance/Budget team will combine all department budget, payroll, and capital requests and meet with the town manager to review line items requests to justify and prepare a balanced Manager’s Proposed

Budget. Public budget hearings will be scheduled for late spring and the budget adopted in June.

In the absence of public meetings and with CARES funding available, the town has used the intervening time to renovate Council Chambers with new laminate flooring replacing carpeting, and chairs replacing outdated upholstered seating, making the space easier to clean, disinfect, and sanitize for the well-being of staff and citizens. Wallpaper, lighting, and ceiling tiles have also been updated, using town dollars.

“We will likely keep one side of the room set with row seating for council meetings and one side will be set in conference room layout and used in between council meetings for smaller department meetings, client meetings, etc., and reset with row seating for council meetings again every other week,” said Peters. “We are keeping our conference room in the manager’s office, although it is limited to no more than 10, so the council chambers will give us the ability to host larger gatherings of 10-25.”

Peters said that a “plethora” of contractors have worked on the project, “doing various aspects of the work, from flooring, lighting, construction, plumbing, electrical, painting, wallpaper, HVAC, doors, furniture—it has been a constant parade of traffic since August.”

The Vinton Messenger

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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.

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DEAN’S LIST

Edwards named to the University of Rhode Island Dean’s List

Ethan Edwards of Vinton was named to the 2020 Fall Dean’s List at The University of Rhode Island.

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Abigail Neidigh on Hollins Dean’s List

Abigail Christine Neidigh, a senior political science major at Hollins University, has been named to the Dean’s List for the 2020 Fall Semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Neidigh is the daughter of Kraig and Crystal Neidigh of Fincastle and is a graduate of William Byrd High School.

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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From the Pulpit

'What Can I Do?'

"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of homes (Isaiah 58:12)."

A couple of weeks ago, my parents traveled from North Carolina to stay with us for a few days. One of the activities Mom brought for the boys was a Perler kit from Smithsonian Crafts. Each set includes 2,000 beads, 2 pegboards, a pattern sheet with instructions, and ironing paper.

The purpose of the craft is to arrange each tiny, colored bead on the pegboard in such a way that ultimately creates a three-dimensional space shuttle and launch tower. It is a tedious process that requires a lot of patience and perseverance.

After all of the beads have been individually placed in their proper position, the instructions call for an adult to place a hot iron on top of the beads with a sheet of ironing paper in between. The heat of the iron will fuse the beads together, so that the space shuttle and launch tower become one piece and cannot separate or fall apart again.

It is a great craft that the boys enjoyed building for hours. However, trying to be sure all of the beads stay where they are supposed to be before they are fused together is difficult. It is easy, if not inevitable, for your hand to knock off entire sections of previously placed beads while positioning new ones. This happened to both boys several times throughout the process, which drastically increases the time it takes to complete the craft.

After Carter's hand knocked over and mismatched the colors of an entire section of his launch tower, I was not sure he was going to keep going. I thought he might give up out of frustration and exhaustion. Instead, without any prompting from the adults in the room, he looked down at that pile of jumbled up beads and said to himself, "Now let's see, what can I do to fix this?" Then slowly but surely, he began carefully picking up and placing each bead within his reach where it needed to go, in order to restore his launch tower.

At the end of the Book of Isaiah, the prophet was writing to a group of post-exilic Hebrews—Jews who had come back to Jerusalem following decades of exile in Babylon. Many did not return;

they chose to stay in Babylon where they had built a life.

For those who returned, they found their city jumbled up and in disarray. The Babylonians had destroyed everything and left the City of David in ruins. The people were devastated; they were ready to give up in frustration and exhaustion. In response, Isaiah reminded them of who God had called them to be. He said, "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of homes."

Instead of giving up and going somewhere else, God expected his people to rebuild what had been ruined, repair what had been broken, and restore what had been lost. In essence, rather than leaving or looking to someone else, he wanted them to ask themselves, "Now let's see, what can I do to fix this?"

When we look at our world today, there is so much that is jumbled up and in disarray—pieces missing and out of order, fragile sections that easily topple over with one slip of the hand, a multitude of disconnected beads that just cannot seem to fuse together. We may feel like one reviewer of the same space shuttle craft my boys built who wrote: "It's a neat concept but the peg board has almost too tiny of pegs, so the beads fall off really easy. The beads don't even want to stay together when you iron them . . . I'm really disappointed in this purchase."

Like this reviewer and those returnees from exile, we too may be a little disappointed at times in the world we were given. We too may feel a bit exhausted and frustrated with all that needs to be done. As such, it can be easy to look around at what everyone else should be doing to make things better. And yet, according to Isaiah, as God's people, we have been called to rebuild, repair, and restore. In essence, rather than leaving or looking to someone else, those who are willing to, consider, "Now let's see, what can I do to fix this?" Then slowly but surely, carefully picking up and placing each bead within our reach where it needs to go in order to restore our world.

By The Rev. Travis Russell,
Senior Pastor
Vinton Baptist Church

Derby from page 1



Lizzy Etzler won the Best in Show award for her Unicorn car displayed by Scoutmaster Hawk Hillberry (left) and Pastor Tim Hatfield of Living Water Christian Church in Salem.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Cub Scout Chase Garvey won third place in the second annual Pinewood Derby held at Living Water Christian Church at Northside on March 6 for Troop and Pack 42.

Families and Scouts were able to view the event from their cars in the parking lot on a large screen TV or to watch it livestreamed via Zoom or Facebook from their cars or at home. For the first time, friends and families were able to watch the races from across the country.

The meeting opened traditionally with the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Scout Motto, and Pledge of Allegiance, followed with the command to "Start your engines."

Hillberry noted that the scouts were racing on a new track this year—donated by another troop. This one made of metal, 35 feet in length, with three lanes. Racers in each division—Cub, Troop, and Adult—competed against all other cars in the division and had the opportunity to run in all three lanes.

An electronic eye at the end of the course determined the winner of each heat. Their speed in miles per hour was also registered. Competition continued in heats until the winner was determined.

Hillberry commended participants for the "great details on their cars."

Winners in the Cub Scout division were: first place, Landon Gutshall with a winning speed of 183.07 mph; second place, Wyatt Hunley with a speed of 171.24 mph; and third place, Chase Garvey, racing "Foxy" with a speed of 157.14 mph.

Other participants in the Cub Scout division were:

Gabe Manus racing "The Dragon," and Lily Giulano racing "Daddy's Truck."

In the Troop division, first place went to Nate Wainwright racing "Duncan and Knuckles" with a winning speed of 191.32 mph; second place to Skyler Hunley with a speed off 184.75 mph, and third place to Lizzy Etzler, with a speed of 179.79 mph.

Others racing in the Troop division included Joshua Harding, William Harding, Kingston Lees, Daymien Manus racing "Mach 5," Braeden Markham racing "Green Bean," R.W. Markham racing "Hokie," and Noah Weeks.

In the Adult Division—"racing for pride and speed"—winners were Hawk Hillberry in first racing "Skool Bus" with a speed of 192.45 mph; Gary Mason in second racing "Blue Lightning" with a speed of 191.62 mph; and Courtney Pugh in third racing "Ol Smoky" at a speed of 190.78 mph.

Other participants in the Adult division were Patrick Holmes, Lauren Holmes racing "Forky," Stephanie Manus racing "Shark Do Do Do," Chris Pugh racing "Redemption," Logan Pugh, and Krystal Etzler.

The final race was a grudge match between members of the Pugh family, running backwards on the tracks.

All Scouts received Pinewood Derby patches for their participation. First place winners won trophies; other places received ribbons. Several

"race official" ribbons were presented to Scouts and Scout leaders who assisted with the event—Chris Pugh, Logan Pugh, Joe Ostronic, Courtney Pugh, Jayden Sink, and Alexis Etzler, among others.

A special award was also given—the "Best in Show"—chosen by impartial judges. This award went to Lizzy Etzler for her "Unicorn" car.

When the local Blue Ridge Mountain Council/Great Valley District of Scouts BSA realized there was an unmet need locally in the inclusion of children with special needs in Scouting, the ScoutAbilities Committee was formed in 2019 and that led to the formation of Troop and Pack 42.

Troop and Pack 42 first organized in July 2019 for scouts of all ability levels. They worked so diligently that they were able to hold their first Court of Honor ceremony in October of that year. They held their second Court of Honor, within pandemic health guidelines, for 12 members in November 2020.

The troop has continued to grow and now counts 15 members, with a newly chartered Cub Pack starting out with seven scouts.

Troop 42 and Pack 42 welcome boys and girls of any and all ability levels. If you would like more information, their email address is troop42roanoke@gmail.com. Their website is <https://troop42roanoke.wixsite.com/troop42roanoke>.

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, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOUR SQUARE

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",

Vinton Worship Directory

DEALING WISELY

1 Samuel 18:1 through 20:42

"In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him" (1 Samuel 18:14).

If ever there were ample reason to justify retaliation, David certainly qualified. Repeatedly wronged by King Saul, David always responded with respect and love. Even when he had the opportunity to kill the treacherous king, David restrained himself. Because of his willing submission to Saul's God-given authority, David was crowned king over Israel. There are times when we too are wronged by those in authority over us. At such times, we often feel justified in rebelling, thinking that we are simply standing up for ourselves. But rebellion will only reduce us to the spiritual maturity (or immaturity) level of the authority who is hurting us. Instead of rebelling, we should seek to discuss any problems with our abusive authority (Romans 12:18). If our authority continues in the abuse, then we, like David, must do all we can to protect ourselves by leaving the abusive situation. Leaving, however, does not imply license to judge our abusive authority. Only God has the right to judge and to vindicate.

Thought for Today: Abusive people are wounded people, and wounded people often hurt others.

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.

Pack 235 Cub Scouts donates to RCACP

Franklin A. and Marshall D., both fifth graders at W.E. Cundiff Elementary, along with Cubmaster Ryan Apple, recently dropped off donations to the Roanoke Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection (RCACP). The donation was part of a service project, itself a completion of requirement for attaining the rank of Arrow of Light, the highest rank in Cub Scouts.

The Cub Scouts were faced with challenges stemming from the pandemic over the past year, which made it difficult to meet in traditional ways to complete rank requirements. The two Scouts will now cross over to Troop 235. Troop activities are

designed for Scouts who are in sixth grade, on up to the age of 18.

With the onset of the global pandemic in March 2020, and a slate of cancellations and state-mandated “stay at home” orders, the traditional Scouting experience for Pack 235 and Troop 235 was impacted. This included the closure of the local Scout Reservation and the cancellation of the annual summer camp experience. The local Scouting program also faced financial impacts in the form of lost revenue to support programs and services, as the traditional store-front popcorn sales were unable to be held. Popcorn sales are the largest fundraiser the Pack has each year and

provide the bulk of the support for Scouting activity expenses.

In the true spirit of Scouting, members of Pack 235 learned new ways to meet, utilizing digital meeting platforms, and committed to doing in-person activities with an eye toward health and safety recommendations. Both Pack 235 and Troop 235 continue to meet safely, and new members are always welcome. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, their annual Blue and Gold Banquet and Cross-over ceremony have been delayed until later in the spring.

Pack 235 is sponsored by Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CUB SCOUT PACK 235

Cub Scouts from Vinton Pack 235 recently dropped off donations at RCACP as a service project. Shown left to right are Cubmaster Ryan Apple with Scouts Franklin A. and Marshall D., both fifth graders at W.E. Cundiff Elementary.

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK



“Dahlia”, Female Spayed, 5 yrs old
Dahlia is a sweet girl who loves to go on adventures. She enjoys car rides and going on long walks in the park.



“Matthew”, Male Neutered, 2 yrs old
Matthew is a sweet boy who loves to be petted. He comes off as shy at first but he warms up really fast and begs to be loved on.



“Alec”, Male Neutered, 6 months old
Alec may be tiny but that doesn't stop him from being rambunctious. This sweet boy is ready to play at any moment.

One-year observance of first known COVID-19 case in Virginia

Cynthia Morrow, MD, MPH

It has been almost one year since we learned of the first known case of COVID-19 in Virginia. As we commemorate this solemn anniversary and honor what we have lost, it is also important to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we can look forward to. Let us take stock of where we are by celebrating the past accomplishments of the incredibly challenging year we have all had, and by looking forward to the joy of what lies ahead of us.

Partnerships: One of the most important accomplishments over the past year has been building meaningful partnerships. Understandably, many people in our communities remain focused on when they will be able to get

vaccinated. The Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts will continue to work in partnership with healthcare systems, healthcare providers, emergency managers, local officials, community-based organizations and volunteers in order to get shots in arms as quickly, safely, and efficiently as possible.

Decreasing COVID-19 activity: Last week, we celebrated our sixth consecutive week of declining COVID-19 activity in our health districts after reaching peak activity in January. Despite this wonderful news, as spring beckons us to plan gatherings, now is not the time to relax our prevention practices. Research has confirmed that wearing masks, maintaining six

feet of distance from others, and hand-washing have the power to reduce the transmission of the disease. The guidance has not changed: avoid crowds, wear a mask, stay home when you are sick, and take the vaccine that is available to you when it is your turn.

Vaccine: This week is our 12th straight week of vaccine clinics. At times, it feels like it was just yesterday that we received our first shipment of vaccine, and at times it feels like we have been holding vaccine clinics forever. Based on data reported to the Virginia Department of Health, over 90,000 vaccines (including both first and second doses) have been administered to the Roanoke City & Alleghany Health

Districts' residents through our efforts and the efforts of our partners. That is truly something to celebrate.

Virginia Army National Guard: Five members of the Virginia Army National Guard (VANG) have been posted to our districts for the past several weeks to support our vaccination efforts in the community. Last week we welcomed 38 more VANG members to support our Salem and Berglund vaccination clinics. Their skills were quickly put into good use this past weekend as troops spectacularly planned and executed traffic flow at large drive-through clinics at the Berglund Center. With the support of VANG and volunteers, our partner Carilion Clinic vaccinat-

ed approximately 8,000 people this weekend.

Projections: Based on the most recent information, we are expecting to see a very significant increase in our vaccine supply by the end of March. If the supply is delivered as predicted, we can expect that most of the population who wants to get vaccinated will have the opportunity to do so by the end of May. This means that we may even be able to reclaim our summer – now surely that is something to really celebrate!

The past year has challenged us in ways we could not have imagined. By continuing to follow our community mitigation strategies and by getting vaccinated when it is our turn, together, we have much to look forward to.

LOA wraps up another successful Soup for Seniors campaign

The annual Soup for Seniors campaign sponsored by the LOA in January and February had another successful year with 33,377 pounds of food collected—despite the pandemic. The organization and its partners distributed 2,303 loaded bags of food.

“We are so appreciative of all the volunteers who came out and helped in one capacity or another,” is the message from the LOA. “We could not have done it without such tremendous support from the community.”

The LOA Soup for Seniors campaign project is one of the many ways the organization shows its

dedication to the mission of helping seniors remain independent for as long as possible through Meals on Wheels.

“Millions of seniors in our nation live at or below the poverty line,” the LOA emphasizes. “The Local Office on Aging asks members of the community to help provide a hot meal on a cold day and remind thousands of seniors that the local community has not forgotten them. Especially at a time like this, when seniors are more isolated from their friends and family than ever.”

Soup for Seniors began in October of 2006 as a Make a Difference Day Project for LOA's Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. That first year the LOA had very modest goals of serving those within the program as well as the Meals on Wheels recipients. The community fully embraced the project. So much soup and crackers were donated that the

LOA was able to service all of its clients, and other needy seniors in the community as well as others in neighboring communities.

In 2011, with new restrictions on the founding programs, the LOA took the project on as an agency-wide service and joined forces with AARP Virginia. Collection and distribution were moved to early February in order to serve the senior population in the most vulnerable part of winter.

For many of the Meals on Wheels recipients, the hot lunch meal they receive is the only meal they have all day.

Monetary contributions are still being accepted and appreciated. Funds will be used to purchase non-perishable food items, as well as PPE and sanitation supplies to keep clients, staff, and volunteers safe.

To make a donation, visit www.loaa.org/services/criticalassistance/soup-for-seniors/ or call 540-345-0451.

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	C	A	R	A	B	S	C	H	E	M	A		
F	I	E	R	I	L	I	P	S	A	L	T	E	R
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Call 540-529-2745
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For Sale - Misc

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

Help Wanted - General

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

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Contact Tina Lane @ 992-2678

Executive Director Friends of Claytor Lake

Promote/implement FOCL's mission by serving as main contact for Board and public. Duties include fundraising, social media and website management, organizing events, maintaining finances, corporate documents, and database, day to day management, and accounting/payroll. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Communications, Business, Nonprofit or related field required or equivalent, with minimum 2 years non-profit experience. Excellent written/oral communication skills with dedication to customer service. Skill in social media. MS Office, accounting and recordkeeping. Excellent organizational skills with ability to multitask. Public speaking, and knowledge of Claytor Lake preferred. 30 hours per week. Send Resume and References to claytorlakegirl@gmail.com



Help Wanted - General

Job Opening:
The Craig New Castle Public Service Authority has an opening for a full-time position as Operator/Trainee for the Authority. The Position requires the applicant to be able to do a wide variety of tasks which include but are not limited to, meter reading, grass mowing, pipeline construction, lab work, operation of the water and sewer plants, equipment and vehicle operation and maintenance, and all other aspects of running and operating the Craig New Castle Public Service Authority. The Craig New Castle Public Service Authority is offering Operator Trainees an annual salary of \$25,000 which will include full health and dental insurance, life insurance, vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, and a retirement plan. Salaries for applicants who already possess certifications in wastewater and or water operation will be negotiable.

Application will be accepted until position is filled. Resumes can be emailed to psasgans@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 128 New Castle, VA 24127, and application can be picked up in the office.

Craig New Castle Public Service Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

Now Hiring Dishwasher at the Swinging Bridge Restaurant in Paint Bank.

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Legals - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Case No. CL21-53
Complainant, v.
ELMER DAVID PARKER JR., ET AL,
Respondent(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 89-234 Account No. 27204 All that certain lot or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being situated in Botetourt County, Virginia and being more particularly described as follows: All that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate in Botetourt County, on Stoney Battery branch, a branch of Back Creek waters of James River and is bounded as follows to-wit: Beginning at an iron stake, at 1, at the west end of the bridge across "Dry Branch" and in the middle of the road leading from county road, toward the factory now or formerly owned by Jere Lemon's and running thence with said road S. 70 E. 190 feet to a stake (2) in the road corner to the land of Jere Lemon and with the same along the fence N. 31 1/2 E. 138 6/10 feet to a fence post (3), on the east side of the Spring branch, corner to the lot now or formerly of Mullin, and with the same N. 67 W. 184 8/10 feet, to a fence post (4), corner to the lot now or formerly owned by Emory Boguess and thence with the same S. 32 1/2 W. 148 5/10 feet to the

Legals - Botetourt County

beginning at 1, containing 5/8th's of an acre, more or less. And being the same property conveyed to Elmer David Parker Jr., from Bertha Kelly Connor by Deed dated November 15, 2010 and recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt County, Virginia on November 19, 2010 as Instrument Number 100004683. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 12 at Page 471, Deed Book R at Page 474. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Elmer David Parker Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; April Parker, whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; Joshua Parker, whose last known address is 848 Cookbrook Road, Apt 6, Vinton, Virginia 24179; Stormy Parker, whose last known address is 2446 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, Virginia 24175; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before April 14, 2021 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 22nd day of February, 2021.

Tommy L. Moore Clerk

I Ask For This:
Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)
Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)
Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC

Legals - City of Radford

Public Notice Tyler Avenue / East Main Street Connector, Phase 1 City of Radford

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Radford propose to construct Phase I of a new 2 lane connector road from Tyler Avenue to East Main Street. Phase I shall include reconstruction of the existing skewed Tyler Avenue/Auburn Avenue intersection, construction of approximately 620LF of the Connector Road, and the construction of approximately 900LF of re-aligned Auburn Avenue.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 23 CFR Part 771, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Tyler Avenue/East Main Connector and was approved by the Federal Highway Administration for public availability. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places has been provided in the CE.

The document is available for review and comment for 10 business days at the City of Radford Office located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Please call ahead at 540-731-3603. Call ahead to ensure the availability of

Legals - City of Radford

appropriate personnel to answer your questions. The comment period expires March 24, 2021. Comment regarding the document should be mailed to the City Manager at City of Radford Office, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141; or emailed to radfordengineering@radfordva.gov. Please reference "Tyler/E. Main Connector – Categorical Exclusion" in the subject line.

The City ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact 540-731-3603.

State Project: U000-126 106, C501, P101, R201
Federal Project: STP-5126(107)
UPC: 76402

LEGAL NOTICE Tyler Avenue/East Main Street Connector – Phase 1 City of Radford Notice of Public Review

Find out about a project to construct Phase I of a new 2 lane connector road from Tyler Avenue to East Main Street. Phase I shall include reconstruction of the existing skewed Tyler Avenue/Auburn Avenue intersection, construction of approximately 620LF of the Connector Road, and the construction of approximately 900LF of re-aligned Auburn Avenue.

Review project information and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation in the form of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) are available at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, 540-731-3603. Please call ahead so the City can make arrangements for personnel to share more information or answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, City is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Radford City Manager, the City of Radford Office located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 on or prior to April 9, 2021. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the phone number listed above.

State Project: U000-126-106, C501, P101, R201
Federal Project: STP-5126(107)
UPC: 76402

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

Pizza Den LLC, trading as Pizza Den, 1302 W Main St, Salem, Virginia 24153-4.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Res license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jason Booker, Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317
Case No. CL21000021-00
Pulaski County Circuit Court Hope Marie Moles LONG v Robert William LONG, Jr.

Legals - Montgomery County

The object of this suit is to: obtain a divorce from the bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the grounds of living separate and apart for a period exceeding one year. It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address of residence was 1670 Spruce Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; that the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown; and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Plaintiff to ascertain Defendant's whereabouts without effect; that the Plaintiff previously sought service of process on the Defendant at his last known address stated above; and the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Virginia has filed a return of service stating that the process has been in his hands for 21 days and that he has been unable to make service of process; it is ORDERED that the Defendant appear before this Court on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and protect his interest herein.

It is ORDERED that Robert William Long Jr. appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

2-16-2021
Trish L. Albert
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21000326-00
MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT
55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
CHARLES PHLEGAR
KAREN PHLEGAR
v.

JAMES FULTON HOGE, DECEASED
UNKNOWN OF HEIRS OF JAMES FULTON HOGE
The object of this suit is to: REMOVE THE REMAINS FROM ABANDONED FAMILY GRAVEYARD It is ORDERED that THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JAMES FULTON HOGE, DECEASED appear at the above-name court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 26, 2021.

FEBRUARY 24, 2021
Bridget Adams
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Town of Vinton

NOTICE:
COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA v. BARBARA WILCHER MOORE, ET AL
Roanoke County Circuit Court Hearing on 4/8/2021 at 10:00 AM regarding proceeds from sale of property. Any legal heirs with an interest in Ms. Moore's estate must appear at this hearing to protect their interests.

TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15.2-1800 (B) et seq., of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., or immediately thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning the proposed granting of a lease to Cargill Animal Nutrition for three (3) lots lying on the south side of 11th Street identified as 60.14-2-24, 60.14-2-25 and 60.14-2-26 and five (5) lots lying on Railroad Avenue identified as 60.14-2-1, 60.14-2-2, 60.14-2-3, 60.14-2-4 and 60.14-2-5, all of which are located in the Town of Vinton, Virginia, said lease to be for one 15 month period with the option to renew said lease for no more than three additional one-year renewal terms.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed Ordinance by emailing johnson@vintonva.gov, leaving a message at

Legals - Town of Vinton

540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the Ordinance will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to johnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, March 15, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional

Legals - Town of Vinton

information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date.

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

Susan N. Johnson
Town Clerk

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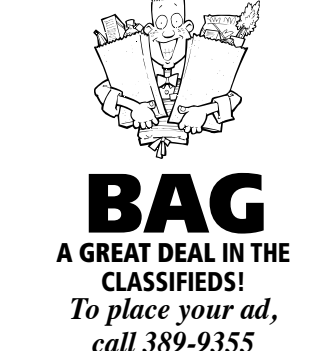
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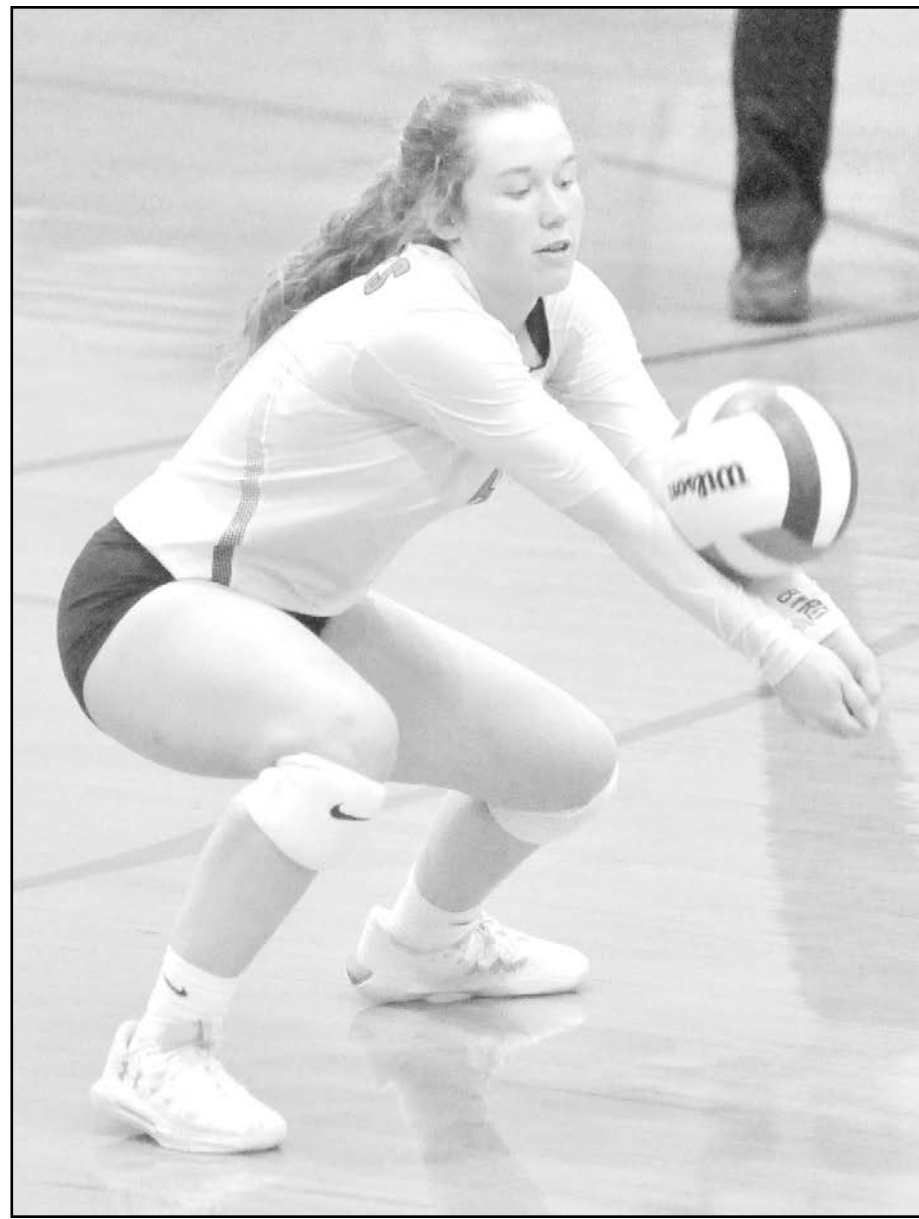
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Byrd's Grayce Dantzer goes low to dig out a serve.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers come from behind again to bump Northside

The William Byrd girls have been the “comeback kids” in the early part of the volleyball season. For the second time in as many matches the girls fell behind on Tuesday, only to come roaring back for a win over Northside in their home opener Tuesday in Vinton.

Byrd opened the season last Tuesday by taking three sets in a row after dropping the first two to Lord Botetourt. That was a huge win, as it snapped LB’s 56 match win streak.

On Tuesday of this week in the girls dropped the first set again, 26-24, to the Vikings. However, they completely turned things around by winning the next three convincingly, 25-15, 25-17 and 25-16.

Mattie Andrews led the team offensively with 18 kills and Kamryn Sigafoes added 11 kills.

Trinity Hynton dished out 25 assists and put up two blocks for the Terriers. Setter Carsyn Kotz added 11 assists while Grayce Dantzer picked up 13 digs in the match. Senior Kasey McKee added five aces.

Now 2-0, the Terriers will try to keep the ball rolling tonight with a match at Staunton River. Byrd had a match with William Fleming cancelled last Thursday.

“The Fleming game was canceled due to Covid at Fleming,” said Byrd coach Allison Thornton. “They have since dropped all games from the schedule so we will not be playing William Fleming this season. We are picking up some games with Bassett.”

Byrd hosts BRD golf at Blue Hills

Blue Hills Golf Course was the site of the Blue Ridge District tour this week as the William Byrd golfers took their turn to host. The mini-match was scheduled for Wednesday.

The first mini-match of the season was held at the Westlake Golf Course in Hardy last week and Lord Botetourt dominated, shooting a team score of 285 for just 17 over par as a team. Franklin County was next at 314 followed by Northside at 340. William Byrd was fourth at 370, 102 strokes over par for the combined scores of the four scoring golfers. Staunton River brought up the rear at 377 and William Fleming did not field a team.

The top score of the day was an even par 67 by Samir Davidov of Lord Botetourt as the Cavaliers had the three best scores at Westlake. Byrd’s low score was 87 by Evan Mullen. Also scoring for the Terriers were Kendrick South at 93 and Griffen Horacek and Nathan Carter both shot 95. Also playing from Byrd were Koby Turner, with a 99, and Chris Blankenship at an even 100.

WB cross country opens this week

The William Byrd cross country team was scheduled to open this week on a sunny Wednesday in Franklin County. The Terriers had their first meet at Waid Park.

Eric Royal returns as William Byrd coach and he has a strong roster of girls. Senior Elizabeth Recktenwald and sophomores Olivia Hurd, Maci Glass and Emma Gordon should all be regular scorers for the Terriers.

“With the addition of several girls

we are looking to have a strong girls’ team,” said Royal.

Ryan Krawczyk, a senior, is expected to be the fastest to the line among the boys’ team.

After Wednesday’s meet the Terriers are scheduled to run at Moneta Park in a meet hosted by Staunton River on Monday of next week. Then, they’re off to Greenfield in Botetourt County a week from today.



Local girls play for Ferrum

Two William Byrd girls saw their abbreviated college basketball season come to an end in the semifinal round of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference basketball tournament Tuesday. Jacy Marvin (left) is a junior point guard for Ferrum College and Briona Hurt (#50 below) is a junior center. Ferrum played Roanoke College in the tournament semifinal on Tuesday and dropped an 88-58 decision at the Cregger Center in Salem. Marvin averaged 10 points per game and led the Panthers in assists this year. Hurt came off the bench to provide front court depth. The Panthers finished the season at 2-10 with a schedule that was disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MARVIN



Hayden Lyle, left holding little brother Rawlings, and Luke Taylor, right, committed to play baseball at Bluefield College last weekend. Standing is Rams’ assistant coach Garrett Schilling.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Taylor, Lyle commit to play baseball at Bluefield College

William Byrd seniors Luke Taylor and Hayden Lyle will continue their education and baseball careers at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Virginia. The two Terriers took a trip to Bluefield last weekend and decided to commit.

The Rams are coached by Mike White, who is the longest tenured coach at the school and also the assistant athletic director. He’s been head coach since 2006 and has over 400 career wins.

The Bluefield College baseball team plays at Bowen Field, the home of the Bluefield Blue Jays minor league team, an affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. It’s located in Bluefield City Park, straddling the West Virginia-Virginia state line. The stadium was built in 1939 but has seen \$3 million worth of improvements in recent years. Recent additions include a batting facility with indoor cages and weight lifting equipment.

Bluefield is a member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference and the NAIA. The Rams are currently 7-6.

Brian Hoffman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Do you realize that Thursday of this week is Day 366 AG of the sports stifling coronavirus pandemic?

That’s right, Thursday is May 11, exactly one year to the day after the Utah Jazz game was cancelled just before tip-off because center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19. Within days all NBA games, the NCAA “March Madness” Tournament, Major League Baseball spring training, NASCAR, professional golf and any number of other events were put on hold due to the virus. As a sports guy I look at May 11, 2020, as the official beginning of the pandemic.

It’s been a long year, to say the least. Many people have died, many businesses have closed and many people have suffered, physically, mentally and financially. It was disappointing to lose so many sporting events, but in the big scheme of things that was the least of our problems.

Now, one year later, things are getting better. We still don’t have arenas filled with fans, but we had a great NFL football season, enough college football to keep us entertained and both NBA and college basketball. March Madness is scheduled to go on, although with limited fans it won’t be as “mad” as usual.

After going nine months with few sports to cover I’m busy again, and I love it. We have Virginia High School League fall sports squeezed between winter and spring sports, and it’s sort of cool to still have some football to enjoy a month after the Super Bowl.

I’m optimistic we’ll be back to normal by the fall sports season. We now have three vaccines and I’m hoping everyone is smart enough to get vaccinated while continuing to “mask up” at large gatherings.

Of course, there will always be people who buck the establishment. I had someone recently tell me he wasn’t going to get vaccinated because it was the government’s plan to put a chip in everyone, so they could track you wherever you go. He also said the vaccine was very dangerous, and that doctors who spoke out about this were being murdered to keep it quiet.

I certainly hope that’s not true, but if we can save humanity I’ll gladly have a chip implanted in me. Just don’t put it where I have to sit on it every day.

Happy one year anniversary, Rudy Gobert. Maybe that’s why you were the last one picked in the all-star game draft.



SPORTS

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



Above left, Byrd's Hunter Flynn(#65) leads El-Amin Shareef through the hole in last week's game with Franklin County. Above right, Jeff Williams(#23) makes a tackle for Byrd and, below, Ethan Tinsley makes a diving try for a pass. PHOTOS BY BILL HOAL



Big game for WB at Botetourt Friday

The William Byrd football team has a chance to pick up some big time Virginia High School League points this Friday when the Terriers travel to Daleville to take on Lord Botetourt at 7 pm.

The 2-0 Cavaliers are the top ranked team in Region 3D with a 24.0 VHS point rating. William Byrd, 1-1, is fourth at 19.0 and that's important as only the top four teams in the region make the playoffs this year. Carroll County is second at 22.0, Abingdon is third at 21.0 and just behind Byrd is Cave Spring at 17.5.

Teams are rewarded for playing schools of higher classification and teams with good records in the point system, and Botetourt figures in the latter. The Cavaliers have won their first two games, 70-6 over George Washington of Danville, and 49-6 over William Fleming.

"They're a very talented team," said Byrd coach Brad Lutz of the Cavs. "They are the number one team in the state, and that challenge will motivate our players."

Byrd is coming off a 41-26 loss to Franklin County in the Terriers home opener last Friday. Byrd trailed just 21-20 at the half and led on three different occasions.

El-Amin Shareef scored on a 15 yard TD run after the Terriers recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff, but the extra point attempt failed. The Eagles then went ahead on a four yard run by Jayron Smith to go up 7-6 after the first quarter.

Shareef scored again on a three yard run to regain the lead but the Eagles answered with a 61 yard punt return to score. Dylan Hatfield regained the lead for Byrd again with a 10 yard TD, but a fumble just before the half enabled the Eagles to score on a 30 yard pass play and take a one point lead at intermission.

"The fumble before the half was a huge momentum swing in the game," said Lutz. "In the first half we were winning the line of scrimmage on offense, and limiting their strong running game. As a staff, we felt like we out played them the first half, but the score, after the fumble, gave them valuable momentum going into the half. With that said, that play didn't cost us the game."

The Eagles scored three unanswered touchdowns in the second half to blow the game open at 41-20. Hatfield scored on a four yard run to account for the final score.

"Every game between two good teams will come down to three or four plays that make the difference," said Lutz. "Our team was on the bad end of those three or four plays."

"Our team played hard, but we made a few mistakes that changed the game. Franklin County has a good team and they earned the opportunity to win the football game, but we need to limit mistakes before we can take the next step."

Byrd moved the ball well on the ground with two 100 plus rushers. Shareef had 152 yards rushing on 26 carries and Hatfield carried 18 times for 105 yards as well as accounting for 86 yards passing.

On defense Hayden Lyle forced a fumble that Jake Hilliard recovered. Andy Lucas also had a fumble recovery on the opening kickoff.

This week's game marks the midway point of the COVID-shortened season. The Terriers are tentatively schedule to host Martinsville the following week, on March 19, but that game could be cancelled as Martinsville is currently going through protocols. Byrd officials should know by the end of this week if that game can still be played.



Cunningham leaves Byrd basketball program

Josh Cunningham has resigned as William Byrd boys' basketball coach after four years to concentrate on his new profession as a pastor at Lighthouse Bible Church in Vinton. Josh resigned as a teacher at Byrd in January, but left the option open to continue coaching. He decided to leave the coaching bench after the recently completed season, which was cut to just 10 games due to the pandemic. Cunningham, a William Byrd graduate, had a four year record 24-58 after coming from Roanoke Catholic to replace Kevin Tuck as Terrier head coach.

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