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Vinton Mayor Brad Grose delivered the annual State of the Town address virtually on March 25, produced and broadcast by RVTV.

Mayor delivers State of the Town address

Debbie Adams
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Vinton Mayor Brad Grose delivered the annual State of the Town address on March 25. This year's address was online, produced and broadcast by RVTV.

His remarks were preceded by a welcome from Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning.

"The Vinton Chamber has hosted the State of the Town for many years, but it is my pleasure to welcome you to our first virtual State of the Town address 2021," Chewning said. "This year's State of the Town will allow us to share in the Chamber's mission to promote our community as a great place to live, shop, play, work and do business. This has been especially important during this COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Chamber recognizes the importance of supporting economic development as well as the needs of our community. The growth in our town is a product of the efforts put forth by our town

and area community leaders. We would like to thank them for their collaborations in making so many new and wonderful things happen in our town and are excited for the many developments to come.

"We will emerge from these uncertain times stronger and with even more determination to continue along the paths we have forged to a brighter future," Chewning said.

Chewning introduced Grose, who is in his fifth term as mayor. He has been a resident of Vinton for 36 years and owns Dominion Electronics. He currently serves as chairman of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

The mayor's theme throughout the presentation was one of thanks to the many who were steadfast and determined during a challenging year. He asked citizens to "reflect on 2020 and how we have been blessed in our town, even though the year was filled with many obstacles and challenges.

"Angie, Katherine Sowers, Jus-

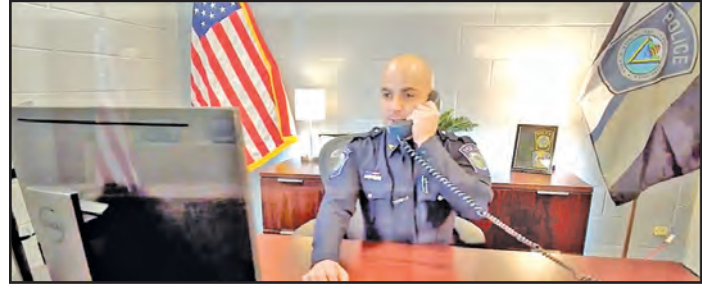
See **Town Address**, page 5



In the State of the Town address, Mayor Grose touted the many economic development projects completed or underway in Vinton, such as the redevelopment of the historic Gish Mill.



The mayor thanked the town's largest and most visible department, Public Works, for extraordinary efforts during the year of the pandemic.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RVTV

The mayor pointed out the many uses of CARES and local funding for improvements to town facilities to enhance public safety and adhere to health guidelines, such as renovations to the Vinton Police Department, which is led by Chief Fabricio Drumond.

WBHS/WBMS welcome students back to in-person instruction four days a week

William Byrd High School welcomed students back to four-day-a-week instruction, beginning on March 22, as did William Byrd Middle School. Bonsack, Herman L. Horn, W.E. Cundiff, and Mount Pleasant elementaries welcomed their fifth graders back to four days of in-person instruction on March 15. Wednesdays remain virtual learning days. Students also have the option of 100 percent remote instruction.

Faculty and staff, along with several members of the Marching Terriers Band, greeted students with a gigantic sign expressing the sentiment, "Terrier Nation Reunited." Seniors in the Reindeer Club and Dog-Pound made similar signs celebrating a return to "almost normal."

WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb communicated with parents and students on Friday saying, "Terrier Nation is finally going to be reunited. I am excited to see everyone together and look forward to a great last nine weeks of school. I encourage all students to finish strong."

Newcomb reassured parents that "we have taken every precaution to keep the students and staff safe." She reminded them of health guidelines requiring masks covering the mouth and nose; seating between three and six feet apart; morning temperature checks for all students and staff; and thorough cleaning of high-touch areas and restrooms throughout the day.



The WBHS faculty and staff and the Marching Terriers welcomed students back to four-days-a-week instruction with a "Terrier Nation Reunited" display.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WBHS

Seniors in the Reindeer Club and DogPound greeted returning students on March 22.

Middle and high school students have spent the first three nine weeks of the school year on a hybrid plan with two days of in-person instruction and three

days of virtual learning for most students. Students were able to opt for 100 percent online instruction if they chose from the beginning of the school year.

WBHS/BCAT students win National Scholastic Art awards



National Silver Medalist Urunna Anyanwu, who attends WBHS and BCAT.



National Silver Medalist Andrea Gonzalez, who attends WBHS and BCAT.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIFETOUGH

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Urunna Anyanwu and Andrea Gonzalez, both seniors at William Byrd High School and the Center for Visual Arts (CVA) at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT), have won Silver Medals in the 98th annual 2021 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. The winners were announced on March 17.

"More than 230,000 works of art and writing were submitted for the 2021 Scholastic Awards," said their BCAT art instructor, Natalie Strum. "Our two students from Burton were selected by some of the foremost leaders in the visual arts for excellence. Only 2,000 works received a National Medal, which places our students in the 1 percent of all submissions.

"Since 1923, the awards have celebrated artists and writers," Strum said. "Our amazing students are now part of the legacy, joining the ranks of notable alumni, including Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, Kay WalkingStick, and Andy Warhol—all of whom won Scholastic Awards when they were teens."

Students' entries are blindly adjudicated by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts. Luminaries who have served as judges include Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Judy Blume, Paul Giamatti, Lesley Stahl, and Nikki Giovanni.

Jurors look for works that exemplify the awards' core values: originality,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Pieces of Me" by Urunna Anyanwu won a silver medal at the National Scholastic Art Awards.

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See **Art Awards**, page 6

Vinton First Aid Crew volunteers recognized for 25+ years of service



Vinton First Aid Crew volunteer Sydney Myers was recently honored by Roanoke County Fire and Rescue for 65 years of service to the community.



Doug Adams served on the Vinton First Aid Crew for 48 years. His award was presented posthumously to his daughter, Donna Adams Phillips, and his son, Mike Adams. Adams also served the community on Vinton Town Council.



Greg Meinel has been a volunteer for the Vinton First Aid Crew for 28 years.

Debbie Adams

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Roanoke County Fire and Rescue recently recognized volunteer members who had given more than 25 years of service to the Vinton First Aid Crew.

The awards were planned for the spring of 2020, but the Covid pandemic delayed presentations until now.

Eight members had accumulated a total of 327 years of volunteer service:

- Sydney Myers, with an amaz-

- ing 65 years of service
 - Tom Philpott, 48 years
 - Doug Adams, 48 years (posthumously awarded to his daughter, Donna Adams Phillips, and his son, Mike Adams)
 - Mitch Vaughan, 46 years
 - Wayne Guffey, 34 years
 - Sandy Guffey, 31 years
 - Greg Meinel, 28 years
 - Jason Peters, 27 years
- The Vinton First Aid Crew was founded in 1939 and celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2019. The crew's motto has long been "Greater love hath no man than

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," from John 15:13. According to "Roanoke County Fire and Rescue: A Reflection of 150 years," on October 5, 1939, 18 men with a strong desire to help their friends and neighbors in need met in the basement of Vinton Baptist and officially established the Vinton First Aid Crew, Inc., as one of the first 16 volunteer first aid organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Herman L. Horn was elected to serve as the first president.

"Their beginnings were humble," the book states. Members "relied on personal vehicles and a 1934 panel truck, a donated first aid kit, and a few pieces of homemade equipment." The crew received its first "real" piece of equipment on December 2, 1939—an H&H inhalator donated by Sam Oakey of Oakey's Funeral Service. The Vinton First Aid Crew assists with all types of calls ranging from assisting the fire department with house fires to natural disasters, to car wrecks, to assisting

someone who has fallen or needs their vitals checked—in Vinton, East Roanoke County, and beyond. The crew assists as a standby at William Byrd High School football games. Current officers are Chief and Chaplain Tom Philpott, Assistant Chief Chris Sayre, Captain Mitch Vaughan, First Lieutenant Megan Sayre, Second Lieutenant Chase Caldwell, Sergeant and Interim President Jason Peters, Treasurer Sydney Myers, Secretary Sandy Sayre, and Public Relations Officer Brandan Arthur.



Shown left to right are Vinton First Aid Crew volunteers Mitch Vaughan, Jason Peters, and Chief Tom Philpott. Vaughan has been a volunteer for 46 years, Peters for 27 years, and Philpott for 48 years.



Sandy Guffey has served the Vinton community as a First Aid Crew volunteer for 31 years; Wayne Guffey for 34 years.

Dogwood Committee plans 'Blooming Again Drive-by and Walk-by Vinton Dogwood Festival Yard and Window Parade'

The 2021 Dogwood Festival Committee invites residents and businesses along Washington Avenue and downtown Vinton to help create and decorate for the 2021 Vinton Dogwood Festival Walk-by and Drive-by Parade in the yards, porches, storefronts and windows along Washington Avenue and downtown Vinton April 23-25.

The committee asks the community to "think about using decorations you have, or creating whimsi-

cal, springtime and family friendly themes. We are also reaching out to volunteers to help create and install decorations on your behalf." "We encourage folks to decorate with what they have available, pick-up some of the free supplies or allow volunteers to set-up decorations from April 16 through 22. "Due to the current State of Virginia COVID guidelines, we are unable to have the traditional parade this year. However, we want to

offer a great opportunity for visitors and residents to stay safe, and feel festive and encouraged by an event that looks a little bit different. "Please email Mary Beth Layman at laymandogwood@gmail.com for information, to confirm your participation, or to give permission to decorate your yard." Layman and volunteers are developing ideas, researching Pinterest and Googling and are reaching out to resources and groups

to help with this event. Precision Fabrics Group of Vinton has donated a large amount of fabric for the project. The committee is also accepting new or used party props, silk flowers, floral wreaths, latex paint, tempera paint, rope/twine, mono-filament line, paint brushes, hot glue, zip ties, inexpensive disposable plastic tablecloths, wood scraps, sheets of wood, yarn, wood hoops, hula hoops, marking tags or shipping tags with holes, clean crocheted or knitted afghans and scarves, round plastic trays, rebar, sturdy cardboard tubes and more. Offsite volunteers may also pick-up items to create decorations for the parade route. A large cargo bin is available on the porch of the Vinton Community Center at 820 Washington Ave. to receive donations of items needed and available for pick-up of items needed for creating decorations. Come up with your own

ideas or consider some of these suggestions: Plywood murals painted by families or neighbors and placed on Washington Ave. properties Invite people who like to knit, crochet, fiber arts to "Yarn Bomb" trees, posts, etc. I think afghans, long knit scarves, and other similar items (from Goodwill) could possibly be used to wrap and decorate trees, posts, and lawns. Designate a specific tree as a "Wishing Tree" and another tree as a "Favorite Memories" tree. People could write wishes on marking or shipping tags and tie them on the public trees. Vinton Baptist Church has volunteered the trees on their property next to the Family Life Center for "Wishing" and "Favorite Memory" trees. Create large flowers out of hub caps and attach to rebar or something similar for yard art. Large flowers can also be created out of plastic trays, metal steamer

baskets and more. Painted bottleheads. Turn 2-liter bottles upside down, paint with whimsical faces and place over rods in the ground. Hang vinyl (33 or 45 rpm) records from a tree. Create huge cupcakes from a large Dollar Tree bucket, insulating foam on cardboard for icing, color straws for sprinkles. Make large flowers from cheap disposable tablecloths. Create floral rings and/or round wreaths and hang from trees or hooks. Hula hoops or wood hoops can be used as a form. Or hang several ready-made wreaths. Decorate broomsticks turned upside down with faces. Create whimsical scarecrows and place in the ground or a container. Invite a friend to park their classic car in your driveway or front yard. Hang miniature lights or patio lights on trees, porches, windows.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11			12		13				14			
15					16				17			
	18			19	20				21			
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30						31						
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				38	39	40		41	42			
				43			44					
		45	46									
47	48			49				50	51	52	53	54
55				56				57				58
59				60				61				
62				63				64				

CLUES ACROSS

- As soon as possible
- Gateway (Arabic)
- Doctors' group
- Madder genus of plants
- A team's best pitcher
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Go up
- Neither
- Bolivian river
- Manila hemp
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- British School
- Human reproductive organs
- Surrenders
- Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
- Sun up in New York
- Lead alloy
- Eastern Asian plant
- Rapid deployment force

(abbr.)

- Japanese warrior
- Festivity
- Interruptions
- Nonsense (slang)
- Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- Calvary sword
- French river
- Global business conference (abbr.)
- Afflicted
- Con man's game
- No (Scottish)
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Camera term (abbr.)
- Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- A continuous portion of a circle
- Genus of seabirds

- Infant's dining accessory
- Native Americans from Arizona
- Popular fruit
- Poisonous plant
- Scolded
- Assists
- Hand (Spanish)
- Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
- Basics
- Cain and ___
- Malaria
- Indicates particular shape
- Respiratory disease
- Central Standard Time
- Imitate
- Golf score
- A place to lay your head
- Three cards of the same suit
- Not in

- Human gene
- Ancient Chinese philosophical concept
- French river
- Thinks up
- Type of geological deposit
- Helps little firms
- Area units
- A device to remove
- Secret political clique
- Polite interruption sound
- Foundation
- Clare Boothe ___
- American writer
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Resistance fighters
- Speak disrespectfully of

Greenway will run for re-election to School Board



Tim Greenway, who represents the Vinton Magisterial District on the Roanoke County School Board, has announced that he will run for re-election this fall.

Greenway joined the School Board in 2015 when Mike Stovall resigned mi-term and was elected to a full term in 2017. He has served as both chairman and vice chairman in his years on the board. He has championed renovations to William Byrd High School, building a new W.E. Cundiff Elementary due to its obsolete open classroom concept, and construction of a new Burton Center for Arts

and Technology to serve all county students. He said he has agonized over the impact of COVID-19 on the school system and urged a faster return of students for in-person learning, but ultimately supported the school system's Return to School plan. Greenway owns Mountain View Real Estate, LLC, located in Vinton. He is a 1982 graduate of William Byrd High School and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Radford University.



From the Pulpit

An Asian-American Perspective

We are in the Lenten season – a season of self-examination, confession, and a walk with Jesus through the wilderness, alienation, betrayal, death and ultimately resurrection.

As we journey with Jesus through Lent, we see that we are currently in a period of darkness because there has been a quick and continuous rise in the hatred and violence against the Asian-American community.

I believe that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” as John 1:5 says.

As a pastor, a Christian, and as an Asian, I can’t ignore the incident of last week [the Atlanta shootings]. I don’t have all the answers, but I realize now more than ever that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

I hope and pray to help raise awareness on hate crimes against all people. Please know that I decided on addressing this issue and sharing it with you because I feel at least Thrasher is a safe space for me.

It’s because of your love, support, and prayers that I am able to stand here as who I am. Thank you for accepting me as just who I am, no matter how my skin color looks like, what background and culture I bring, and what language I speak.

Thanks to those asking how I am and reaching out with texts, emails, and messages. Thanks for grieving, standing, and praying with me.

I have mixed feelings: sadness, grief, mourning, anger, frustration, depression, disappointment, insecurity, fear, and so on.

I’m still processing what happened this past Wednesday in Atlanta even standing right now in front of you this morning.

So, I ask for your grace as you hear, and if you are also processing this, please bear with me and let us go through and get through this together as I share

God’s Word today.

As you all know and have heard from the news, on March 16, 2021, on a Tuesday night, a 21-year-old white American shot and killed eight people – seven were women, six victims were Asian women, four being Korean women.

These are names of the eight victims of the shooting in Atlanta: Soon Chung Park, age 74; Sun Cha Kim, 69; Yong Ae Yue, 63; Hyun Jung Grant, 51, a single mom of two children; Xiaojie Tan, 49, a spa owner and a mom of one daughter; Delauna Ashley Yaun, 33, a mom of a 13-year-old son and an 8-month-old baby; Daoyou Feng, 44, a spa worker; and Paul Andre Michels, 54. May you rest in paradise and your families find healing and peace. Amen.

Anti-Asian racism is not new; there has been a continuous rise of physical violence against Asian Americans across this country and the world we live in, more during the pandemic.

Hate crimes, murder, sexism, racism, and discrimination cannot be justified by “having a bad day” or “having a sex addiction.”

My colleague pastor in Richmond states, “There is no way to justify any forms of violence against people based on their colors and ethnicities. It is not only anti-cultural and anti-ethnic but also anti-human.”

I’ve lived for 20 years as a minority in a dominant culture both in South America and here in the United States. There was no single moment that I was not worried or afraid for my safety.

As an Asian, I’ve heard the racist jokes and name calling. I often dealt with it by just ignoring what was said. But I realized that ignoring it won’t help anymore. That’s why I am standing here with authenticity and vulnerability.

One of the reasons why I go to Kroger to buy groceries right before it closes late at night is

because of the incident that happened to me last year after the pandemic that I’ve shared with you – a white American man telling me to “go back to China,” “go back to your country.”

Since then, I am afraid of going to get groceries and even going out to a restaurant by myself. Since the Atlanta shooting happened this past Tuesday, I’ve been dealing with fear, anger, and grief. I tried to eat, sleep, rest well, and process it. I tried to take care of my soul, emotions, and body. I was literally sitting all day on Thursday to reflect, lament and grieve.

In South America, I didn’t let my mom go to grocery store by herself. I, my brother, or my dad always went with her. No matter what. This past Friday my parents had an overnight layover in Dallas on the way to Korea. I had to explain what happened in Atlanta and I told them, especially mom, not to go anywhere without dad at the airport and the hotel. I told dad to watch mom even as she goes in and come out of the restroom at the airport.

Do you know how sad and nervous I was and how fast my heart was pounding at that moment? Because this incident could’ve happened anywhere to anyone. I hate to imagine that this can happen to my parents as well. But that’s the reality in this country and the world – not anything is safe, certain, and guaranteed.

Even Jesus was discriminated against and insulted by his own people. Pilate called Jesus “the man people call the King of the Jews.” Soldiers who mocked Jesus called him “the King of the Jews.” In addition, the words “the King of the Jews” were clearly written on the cross. All of these were mocking expressions. However, Jesus took all those evil deeds and proved that he really is the King. Our shames are resolved by Jesus be-

ing mocked and insulted.

Each and every one of us is made and created by God uniquely and differently. There is beauty in the diversity that God has given. We Christians are the ones who are anointed by God to be the disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we journey, seeing and walking the hill of Golgotha, carrying the cross in us in the world, we might get racism, sexism, discrimination, mocking and insults by society and the world. But as Jesus has fought against all evil deeds, overcome the world, and conquered the power of sin and death – winning the victory on the cross through resurrection – let us continue to raise our voices fighting against the world of evil and violence.

Let us be the light in the world of darkness and brokenness. Let us show that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords through living out our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In this diverse country and the world that we live in, there is no such thing as high or low in race. We are all equal. Not just Black lives matter, but also American lives, Hispanic lives, Asian lives, and all lives matter. All men and women matter. We all matter both in heaven and here on earth.

We proclaim that racism, sexism, and discrimination are serious sins and are against the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My colleague pastor also said, “Our baptismal vows remind us that we are called to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We must stand together against racism and stop it.”

I am personally reflecting on what our witness should be as followers of Jesus Christ. Of course, this is personal to me as an Asian-American and a pastor in the United Methodist Church, but I think it is so much larger than my own response.



To hope that things will turn, and I will see definitive changes in my lifetime might be naive. But we have to start! We have to start now, for the future of our next generation. We have to come together. We should be for the love of Christ by standing against racism and oppression and marginalization and condemnation and violence.

Our faithful work of making disciples of Jesus Christ will never stop until we have successfully embraced diversity – the least, the lost, and the last among us. As a pastor, I will continue to serve God and His people with courage and love, and will continue to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

As we continue to journey in the Lenten season, please join me in prayer, but also consider joining me in action, to stand with those who are oppressed and attacked, and to witness to God’s love in a broken and violent world. I hope and pray that we all, as disciples of Jesus Christ and as children of God, show mercy, share God’s love, and preach the Gospel to others.

Shared by Pastor Seong Jae Jo of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church from his sermon on March 21. Pastor Jo is a native of South Korea; he moved as a child to South America with his parents who are missionaries. He came to the United States for college and then entered the ministry.

Three incumbents will run for re-election to Roanoke County Board of Supervisors



Jason Peters



Phil North



David Radford

The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors incumbents from Hollins, Vinton and Windsor Hills magisterial districts have announced their party nomination to run for re-election in the November 2 General Election.

Jason Peters (Vinton), Phil North (Hollins), and David Radford, (Windsor Hills) will each represent the Republican Party this November on the ballot. Peters is the current chairman; North and Radford have both served as chair in previous years.

According to their news release, each of the three candidates have and continue to support:

- Conservative Fiscal Values: For example, they have moved

up the capital timelines for the Hollins Library from 2030 to 2026 to avoid \$6 million in higher costs; lowered business license taxes in 2018 and 2019; and the real estate tax rate has been stable for 14 straight years.

- Transportation Safety Improvements: They have supported Smart Scale Funds amounting to \$42.5 million for safety improvements including the 460 East Corridor, Hollins Plantation Road, and Tanglewood Route 419-220 diverging diamond interchange improvements.

- Economic Development: Over the past two years they have supported \$277 million in county local investment and 1,600 jobs (Metis Holdings re-developed offices in Oak Grove;

Carilion Clinic at Tanglewood Mall, for a children’s pediatric clinic to open in Fall 2021; Mack Truck facility in Glenvar; and Vinton’s Billy Byrd Apartments, Roland E. Cook Lofts, and Vinyard Station repurposing former schools and an auto dealer). Broadband funding has been increased to advance broadband coverage initiatives. They adopted the 419 Town Center Plan and Hollins Center Plan into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan and continued development of the Oak Grove Center Plan with Roanoke City and other stakeholders.

- Quality Education, Facilities and Funding: They have worked on a local apprenticeship program to match local

businesses with students; improved schools capital funding by \$14 million over 10 years (2020); held county school funding harmless in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic and lower enrollments; supported the 2020 Regional Career and Technical Education Center (CTE) Study; and provided schools operating funds derived from a local joint county-schools nationally awarded funding formula based on school enrollments and economic growth.

- Public Safety Improvements for Fire & Rescue, Police and Sheriffs: They have received a Federal Grant (SAFER) to enhance Fire & Rescue response with an additional 15 emergency responders; supported

improved compensation for fire, rescue, and sheriffs (2021); advocated for a new fire & rescue station in Bonsack along the 460 corridor (2021).

“I look forward to continue serving the Vinton District as we build Roanoke County for the next generation,” Peters states.

North says, “I look forward to continue serving the Hollins District, Roanoke County and the region in 2021 and beyond, to make our home a great place to live, work and play.”

Radford states, “I want to continue serving the Windsor Hills District for another term while leading and helping our community grow, prosper, and remain an attractive lively home for generations to come.”

Progress continues on Vinton's Bank of Botetourt

The new Vinton branch of Bank of Botetourt under construction downtown on Pollard Street is making steady progress. The bank is located across from the Vinton Public Library and the Vinton Municipal Building.

"While our construction started slow, the weather has cooperated recently and our general contractor is ready to go full steam ahead," said Andrew Shotwell, senior vice president and chief information officer for the bank. "The concrete slab (floor) was completed last Thursday, and steel is now being erected. We expect exterior walls will follow shortly."

Bank of Botetourt broke ground on November 24 for its newest office. The new bank will be ap-

proximately 2,700 square feet and will include an ATM with deposit capabilities. This office will also house the bank's mortgage company, Virginia Mountain Mortgage.

This is Bank of Botetourt's third new office in the area in four years. Hughes Associates Architects and Engineers are providing architectural and civil engineering services for this project, developing the building and site plan. The contractor is G&H Contracting Inc.

Bank of Botetourt is 121 years old; it was chartered in 1899 and operates 12 retail offices in Botetourt, Rockbridge, Roanoke, and Franklin counties and the City of Salem. The company also operates a mortgage division, Vir-

ginia Mountain Mortgage, and a financial services division, Botetourt Wealth Management.

The bank announced in February 2020 that it would be expanding into the Town of Vinton in the former High's Ice Cream location. Demolition of the long-vacant building began on March 9, 2020, and anticipates completion in 2021.

Bank of Botetourt is known as a strong community partner, making charitable contributions on a regular basis to support and promote education, culture and the arts, social service agencies, philanthropic activities, community and economic development, and other programs that impact the needs of the communities it serves



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Progress continues at the new Bank of Botetourt Vinton branch on Pollard Street. The concrete floor was completed last week and steel is now being erected, with exterior walls to follow shortly.

DAR recognizes Taylor as DAR Good Citizen 2021

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held their monthly meeting virtually on March 20. The chapter will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

During the meeting, they recognized William Byrd High School senior Erin Taylor as the 2021

DAR Good Citizen of the Year. The DAR Good Citizen program is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. It is open to all senior class students. The award recognizes individuals who possess qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism to an outstanding degree in their homes, schools, and communities.

Each year the DAR Good Citizen is nominated by the faculty and then the senior class votes on the top three students. Only one student is chosen for this prestigious honor.

Once a student is chosen as the DAR Good Citizen, they are then invited to participate in the scholarship portion of the program and write an essay on a topic involving "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It."

Students are given an hour to write their essay (limited to 550 words), answering a question they receive sight unseen. Those who win at the District level advance to state competition, as was the case with Taylor.

Taylor is the daughter of Kari and David Taylor of Vinton. During her high school years at WBHS, she has been involved with many school and extracurricular activities. She co-founded the Red Cross Club and has also been a member of the Prevention Club and an officer in the Student Council Association.

She has served as a mentor for Team Terrier working with elementary school students for the past two years. She has been a member of the Student Service Association, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Leo Club, the Math Pound, the Latin Club, DECA, the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, the Homecoming Court (as a junior), and Habitat for Humanity.

She was on the volley-

ball team, the Academic Team, and has participated in cross country. Taylor is a Beta Club member, a valedictorian, and was a Junior Marshal.

"Throughout my high school career, I have dedicated many hours to serving my community," said Taylor. "The summer before my junior year, I worked with my local Red Cross Chapter to establish a club at my school. Over the past two years, I have served as vice president and president, and have coordinated events that benefited my community both locally and nation-wide. Our most notable event was the annual blood drive, where both students and faculty came together to make a huge difference. We had an impressive turnout and many of my fellow classmates received letters telling them that their blood had helped save someone and listed the state where it had been shipped so that they could see the direct impact their donation made."

"Outside of school, I volunteered at Carilion Clinic in the Emergency Department. I served patients by providing them with directions to navigate the hospital, escorted them to their room when ready to be evaluated, and provided warm blankets and drinks to those waiting."

"Though I was tasked with what seemed like less than significant jobs in comparison to all of the professionals around me, I learned that something as simple as a heated blanket and a smile could make all the difference in the day of someone who is clearly at a low point. I loved the patient interaction and being able to bring comfort to those around me."

Her extracurricular activities in addition to volunteering at the Carilion Clinic Emergency Department, include time as an Appalachia Service Proj-

ect volunteer—a Christian ministry specializing in home repair in disaster-stricken areas, plus various youth mission activities with her church.

Taylor has played travel volleyball with NRV and Roanoke United, and played in the church volleyball leagues. She has worked for Once Upon a Child.

Taylor plans to attend college but is undecided which one as of yet. She has received a pin, a check, and a certificate for her DAR Good Citizen achievement.

At each meeting, the chapter supports the DAR's America 250 Project—which will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026—by honoring the Patriot ancestor of one member, "to raise the visibility of our Patriots and enthusiasm for what they accomplished."

Treasurer Shannon Campbell shared information on her ancestor, General Joseph Martin, for whom Martinsville is named. Martin (1740-1808) served as brigadier general in the Virginia militia during the American Revolution. His frontier diplomacy with the Cherokee people is credited with not only averting Indian attacks on the Scots-Irish and English American settlers who helped win the battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens, but with also helping to keep the Indians' position neutral and from siding with the British troops during those battles.

Martin, born in Albemarle County, ran away to fight the Indians at age 17. In 1774 he came to Henry County, established himself at Belle Monte on Leatherwood Creek, for nine years sat for his district in the General Assembly, and in 1793 was made a brigadier general of the state militia. He was "a brawny, picturesque man, more than six feet tall and the father of 18 children; wore buckled knee breeches and a great beard, braided and thrust

inside his shirt."

He served as a member of the North Carolina Convention called to approve the United States Constitution, and served several times in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was subsequently elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, until he finally chose to retire because of his advanced age. During his time in the Virginia legislature, Martin was one of the primary supporters of James Madison's Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions.

The RVCDAR is taking on a new project—recycling plastic film overwrap which is used in the Next-Trex recycling program, processing the materials into decking. They will be setting up locations to collect grocery and retail bags, case overwraps, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, Ziploc and other recloseable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, cereal box liners, and wood pellet bags. Groups who collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags) receive a donation of a high-performance composite bench for the community.



UBMITTED PHOTO

DAR member Shannon Campbell shared the story of her Patriot ancestor, Brigadier General Joseph Martin, at the DAR meeting on March 20.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFETOUCH

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognized the 2021 DAR Good Citizen of the Year, Erin Taylor, at their meeting on March 20. Taylor is a senior at William Byrd High School.

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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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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Town Address from page 1

tin Davison and the entire Chamber board work tirelessly to create family-friendly programs and events throughout the year, as well as representing the Vinton businesses community on a daily basis by generating positive awareness and value-added services for the chamber members," said Grose. "Thanks for all you do for Vinton, particularly during such a difficult year for our business community."

Grose thanked members of Town Council – Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, and council members Keith Liles, Laurie Mullins, and Mike Stovall for "their vision, leadership and friendship. I thank each of you for your dedication to our community. You are shaping Vinton for the better and I am extremely fortunate to serve alongside each of you. You are doing a great job for the citizens of Vinton."

He expressed his appreciation to his family – his wife of 42 years, Debby, and his daughters Mandy and Melissa – for their support, patience, love, and understanding.

He recognized the town's leadership team: Town Manager Pete Peters, Police Chief Fabricio Drummond, Town Treasurer and Finance Director Anne Cantrell, Town Clerk and Executive Assistant to the Town Manager Susan Johnson, Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins, Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillian, Community Programs and Facilities Director Chasity Barbour, and Public Works Director Bo Herndon.

Grose also thanked former Town Manager Barry Thompson, who retired in 2020, and former Police Chief Tom Foster, who was appointed last year as the U.S. Marshal serving the Western District of Virginia, for their contributions to Vinton's successes.

Grose recognized local and regional partners, including Roanoke County, Roanoke County Public Schools, the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission, the Roanoke River Blueway Committee, the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission, the Roanoke Regional Partnership, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, the Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection, the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, the Western Virginia Regional Water Authority, the Salem District Office of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Roanoke Valley Television, the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, Valley Metro, the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Vinton Volunteer Fire Department, the Vinton First Aid Crew, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and Botetourt County.

The mayor praised "all of our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in serving the citizens of Vinton, particularly during 2020 with all of its challenges. It would have been easy to say, 'we can't,' but the team pulled together at every level of the organization to make the best of the circumstances to get the job done, whatever that might have been, with a smile and a great attitude time after time under the pressures of the pandemic.

"While things weren't ideal in 2020 and we certainly missed many of our special events, festivals and personal interactions that make Vinton such a special place, Vinton was able to endure in many ways to become even stronger," Grose remarked. "I know that I can say on behalf of my fellow council members that no stone was left unturned, and the effort never wavered when it would have been easy to just give in. I can say with all my heart, we are blessed to have a wonderful staff at the Town of Vinton. Our team is awesome!

"To our business owners, we say 'thank you' for your devotion to this community, your perseverance to do whatever it took to overcome your personal challenges of the pandemic and your ingenuity to continue to find ways to meet the needs of your customers or provide your services.

"To the schoolteachers, public safety, emergency service employees and health care providers, you have been

a true inspiration to us all by running towards the danger to protect and serve your community. You are a special group of people in the best of times and an absolute God-send during the most difficult of times such as those we experienced over the past 12 months.

"The town has worked to continue to solidify our partnership with the Vinton Historical Society," Grose noted. "The leadership of the society is energetic, passionate, and more engaged than ever as they grow and expand programs and do a wonderful job in operating the Vinton History Museum.

"The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club is the very definition of a community service organization," Grose said. "This year's projects included a partnership to provide new Valley Metro bus shelters for the busy intersection of Vinyard Road near Kroger, the Lance- lot and Rosie's, as well as one at the entrance of town near PFG on Virginia Avenue.

"Annette Patterson and her team at The Advancement Foundation are based here in Vinton, although they continue to grow throughout the region as they support entrepreneurial growth through the Innovation Mill (now in its second year of operation) and the Gauntlet Competition, now celebrating its seventh year."

His presentation included examples of "how the pandemic impacted the way we do business in all walks of our daily lives and how 'out of the box thinking' and 'can do attitudes' made the very best out of a very difficult time for our country and this community.

"Our largest single department and perhaps the most visible is Public Works. These professional men and women do an amazing job in providing many services that our citizens sincerely appreciate and rely on almost daily. This includes refuse and recycling, street sweeping, snow plowing, water and wastewater utility, maintenance of our town facilities, as well as public right of way and grounds maintenance to include roads, alleys, traffic signalization and sidewalks.

"Just as an example of the volume of work being done on an annual basis, this year the street sweeper covered a total of 2,100 miles, staff completed approximately 936 work orders, collected nearly 4,000 tons of refuse, handled over 50 waterline breaks and performed over 2,000 Miss Utility markings.

"To complement the recent large equipment replacements such as our refuse truck and street sweeper, the Public Works Department will be changing out its fleet of pickup trucks in 2021. Through a creative leasing arrangement this will serve to modernize our aging fleet while also reducing the town's overall outlay for vehicle repairs.

"Through the availability of CARES Act funding in 2020, the Public Works facility received much needed renovations including an updated locker-room and breakroom, new paint, lighting, flooring and office reconfiguration to allow for socially distanced workspaces and safe working areas for interacting with the general public.

"We are very proud of our Police Department that continues to represent the town positively on all fronts and continues to attract some of the very best in talented officers. Our officers continue to engage with the citizens through their Community Policing Programs, school outreach and neighborhood programs. Some of the highlights from 2020 include:

- a Modified Social Distancing Movie Night for National Night Out
- Participation in the Angel Tree Program

Facilitating a downtown parade for William Byrd's 2020 graduating class who did not get to have a normal graduation ceremony due to the pandemic.

Birthday drive-thru parades for several Vinton residents that could not have parties due to the pandemic

Color Guard for Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff students to teach flag eti-

quette.

Assisting Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff with modified school drop-off/pickup procedures

Assisting with keeping the public safe during festivals and concerts.

"The Police Department also underwent extensive renovations to include updates to flooring and lighting, office reconfiguration to better accommodate socially distant workspaces, an updated breakroom, updated storage for evidence handling and physical exterior improvements.

"Thanks to the Planning and Zoning Staff for their tireless work behind the scenes on so many aspects of the town's community development efforts. In 2020, the department continued to oversee the building and construction permitting responsibilities with the county, worked with the Planning Commission and engaged citizen feedback to update zoning and subdivision ordinances and continues to oversee the town's Storm-water Utility.

"Staff also managed the planning and construction of the newest addition to the Glade Creek Greenway and planned for multiple transportation enhancement projects to include bike and pedestrian improvements and signalized crosswalks at two of the town's most heavily traveled intersections, which will provide for safe connection from Vinton's perimeter neighborhoods to its blossoming downtown and public amenities. The P&Z staff also assisted in working with Valley Metro to provide for various public transportation adjustments for bus stops and worked with the Lions Club on two new bus shelters to enhance the users' experience at two of the most heavily utilized stops.

"Thanks to the Finance/Treasurer's Office for their diligent efforts on the financial oversight, daily payment collection responsibilities, attending to customer utility accounts and business accounts, management of employee payroll and handling the town's accounts payable and receivables. This office perhaps has the largest and most consistent customer interactions of all our departments.

They have been very creative in establishing and providing their customers with new efficiencies and conveniences to include automated payments, pay-by-phone, an improved drive-thru window and the utilization of a drop box for 24-hour service. These were proven timely, as staff was able to maintain these important services throughout the pandemic, despite reduced lobby hours, increased limits on personal interactions due to social distancing requirements and rotating teleworking requirements to address operational protocols. The Finance/Treasurer's Office also received office improvements with social distant workspaces and an improved counter and a new drive-thru window to better serve customers.

"In addition to these annual operational tasks, this year the department facilitated a radio-read water meter replacement program and began a software conversion to modernize office operations, applied and managed a utility forgiveness grant program to assist customers that had fallen in default, assisted Roanoke County with a \$100,000 CARES Act Grant contribution to small businesses and managed the accounting responsibility of the CARES Act projects across all departments. We are very pleased to announce that the department was also recognized once again by GFOA for the 2019 CAFR and for the FY2020 Budget Document.

"Thanks to our Human Resources and Risk Management staff this year, who oversaw the physical building renovations for all departments and successfully integrated socially distant guidance and safety protocols across all work areas. Staff also effectively implemented numerous policy and procedural adjustments within the town's various operational documents and manuals to account for new workplace guidance as a result

of the pandemic.

"We also want to thank the Community Programs Department for their great work and for the creative efforts in 2020. In a typical year, the staff plans and oversees the town's public facilities, which provide wonderful spaces to host meetings, weddings, and pay respects to our veterans. The locations include the Vinton War Memorial, the High Ground Monument, the Farmer's Market, and the Charles R. Hill Community Center. As with all other aspects of our community, this department quickly responded to the pandemic by rescheduling and modifying activities, as well as providing invaluable leadership to the community and to our local businesses on the numerous and ever-changing operational guidelines being offered by the CDC and operational restrictions that were put in place by the governor.

"Working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Roanoke Small Business Development Center, the Community Programs staff quickly adopted the role of community conveyor to communicate COVID-19 operational guidelines, post links to resources and grant opportunities, and helped businesses quickly adapt to remain open and serve their customers with new innovative approaches such as outdoor dining and curbside pickup.

"In addition, the Community Programs staff worked with the Chamber to establish virtual celebrations and modified events such as the Mingle at the Market and Fall Festival to allow the activities to continue in a social distant and safe manner. Their diligence resulted in activities that worked within the governor's restrictions to offer several outdoor social gatherings to maintain some semblance of normalcy to socialize with friends and neighbors in a responsible manner. We look forward to restoring many of our treasured celebrations in this coming year that were unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic, such as the Dogwood Festival, Independence Day fireworks and the Christmas Parade.

"As with many other town departments, the Community Facilities also received updated workspaces and office reconfigurations, renovated public restrooms at the Community Center and Farmer's Market to address COVID best practices, and a very important designated generator was installed at the War Memorial to provide for future public shelter needs should they arise.

"Along with the renovations mentioned previously, the Municipal Building also received additional building

updates in the administrative suite, public restrooms, front and rear entrances to the building and conference rooms. The Council Chambers was upgraded to make it a multi-functional space to accommodate meetings and training for staff. All these renovations will allow better social distancing and safer working environments for our staff and citizens to interact.

"The town continues to develop and improve its walkability with the next phase of the Glade Creek Greenway that is anticipated to be opened by late April and will help connect Vinton with the rest of the Roanoke Valley Greenway System. The town completed the Washington Avenue/South Pollard and Hardy/Vinyard Roads and pedestrian signalized intersection improvements to include pedestrian signals, high-visibility crosswalk markings, improved signage, and sidewalk improvements to meet ADA compliance. Both the projects were realized through several years of planning and the use of transportation funding provided by VDOT.

"In 2021, we will be looking forward to construction beginning on the first of three phases of the Walnut Avenue bike and pedestrian improvement project, which will establish an important third gateway corridor into the attractive and functional town. The initial phase has been designed from the town limits to Fifth Street and will incorporate much-needed bike lanes, sidewalks, a shared use pathway and landscaping to improve this vital entrance into our downtown. In total, the town has been awarded almost \$10 million in VDOT funding over the next five years to complete all three phases of this project.

"The town announced in the spring of 2020, the re-development plans for Gish Mill. An agreement was reached to sell the property to two local business owners to rehabilitate and convert the structure into a mix-used project to include a restaurant, speakeasy, seasonal market, and a small hospitality component to include up to five suites available for rent through an Airbnb format. The town has since acquired nearly \$750,000 in grant funding to assist with the renovations and construction is expected to get underway in spring of 2021.

"River Park Shopping Center announced its plans for renovations in preparation for the new and larger Big Lots, which had a grand opening on March 13. A new Bank of Botetourt broke ground in fall of the year in our downtown. Rosie's Gaming Emporium announced plans for expansion and broke

ground in early 2021 on an 18,000 square-foot addition to include a three-story parking deck structure, an additional 350 Historic Racing terminals for a total of 500, and an expanded concert venue equipped with a larger full-service bar and restaurant.

"Several new dining options opened for business in downtown – Big Belly's Pizza & Subs and Our Daily Bread, offering two new freshly renovated spaces with expansive menu options to complement the many existing restaurant options within the Town of Vinton.

"Two existing and beloved restaurants also announced plans to expand in the coming year, as the town reached agreements with both the Dogwood Restaurant and Farmburguesa to lease space for each to establish outdoor dining patios to allow them to serve more customers and create much desired outside dining options within downtown Vinton.

"In 2020, the town also watched the successful renovation of Vinyard Station. This redeveloped project was a partnership with Roanoke County, the development team of Dale Wilkinson and Greg Rhodes and the Vinyard family. The project's first tenant, Joe Goodpies, recently opened to great crowds, providing another full-service and family-friendly dining option for residents and visitors alike.


"2020 was a year like no other, but as it came to a close, it was a year worth remembering for all of the good that has happened in the Town of Vinton," Grose said in conclusion. "Vinton Town Council and the town staff made a commitment to work hard and not give up as we faced the challenges brought on by the pandemic. With faith in God and confidence in each other, we made the necessary sacrifices and pressed forward. We did not give up and it paid off! We have truly been blessed in the Town of Vinton.

"We know that we are stronger and better suited to face the future before us and that 2021 will be a great year to be IN VINTON. Thank you and may God continue to bless our country," Grose said.

The State of the Town Address may be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/V63XpB-myG18>.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Art Awards

from page 1

technical skill, and the emergence of personal voice or vision.

Anyanwu and Gonzalez won numerous awards in February at the regional Scholastic Art Awards hosted by the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley. Gold Key winners advanced to the national level in March.

The Scholastic Awards program, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, is the nation's longest running and most prestigious recognition program for young adults in the arts in grades 7-12.

Anyanwu won three Gold Keys, one Silver Key, and three Honorable Mentions in the regional competition. Her Gold Key works included "Hair Woes," "Pieces of Me," and "Cornucopia." Anyanwu's Silver Key piece was entitled, "Severed Sisters." Her Honorable Mentions were for "My Nigeria is Dying," "Hide Behind Flopsy," and "Seriously."

Her National Silver Medal was for "Pieces of Me."

Gonzalez won one Gold Key, two Silver Keys, and three Honorable Mentions in the regional showcase. Her Gold Key piece was named "Queen Elizardbeth."

The Silver Key awards were for "Color and Texture" and "Home Inside a Home Inside a Pandemic." Her Honorable Mentions were for "Ego Timorem Sum," "Knit Knit Purl," and "Titipupu Cantando."

Her National Silver Medal was for "Queen Elizardbeth."

In presenting the awards for the Southwest Virginia Region, the Fine Arts Center emphasized they were proud once again to be the official affiliate for the Scholastic Art Awards in the region.

"We are all aware of the challenges educators, students and their families have faced this past year just trying to continue some semblance of schooling. Despite these difficulties, students across the region overcame these challenges and again submitted a tremendous body of work across a variety of media. This is a testament to those students, their teachers, and their families who, despite adversity, continued to create and explore their talents. Every child who continues to make art, and every teacher who guides them, and every family member who nurtures young artists, whether that art is shared with us or not, is a winner. Keep making art."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Queen Elizardbeth" by Andrea Gonzalez won a silver medal at the National Scholastic Art Awards.

BBB Scam Alert: Beware of third stimulus check phishing scams promising to expedite direct deposits

With many Americans waiting to receive the third round of stimulus checks, BBB Serving Western Virginia (BBB) warns consumers of scammers trying to gather sensitive bank account information to expedite direct deposit payments. BBB shares important information along with tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of economic impact payments and Government Agency Imposter scams.

The American Rescue Plan, signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides the third round of stimulus payments up to \$1,400 for adults and any dependent. Households with earnings of more than \$80,000 for single filers, \$120,000 for Head of Household filers, and \$160,000 for married filing jointly will not receive any payment. The payments begin to phase out at \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,500 for Head of Household filers, and \$150,000 for joint filers—meaning about 89 percent of filers will receive a payment.

The law maintains the federal unemployment supplement at its current level of \$300 a week for weeks beginning after March 14 and before September 6, 2021.

Previously, BBB Scam Tracker received numerous reports from people who were contacted by scammers through text messages, emails, and phone calls about their COVID-19 stimulus checks. BBB received recent reports of the same tactics being used again along with a new twist to speed up direct deposits in hopes of capturing personal and banking information.

"Beware of scammers pretending to call from a government agency, promising quicker deposit by confirming personal information and checking account numbers," says Julie Wheeler, president and CEO of BBB Serving Western Virginia. "Other times, scammers claim additional funds are available or that the consumer can receive funds immediately once a small 'processing fee' is paid with a pre-paid debit

card. These are all red flags and should be reported to BBB Scam Tracker."

In an email or text messages variation of the con, messages instruct consumers to click a link to "request benefit payments." The link connects to an application prompting the entering of personal information to "make sure you are getting all the payments owed to you." But beware, this "application" is really a way to phish for personal details and commit identity theft.

Government Agency Imposter scams ranked number one in 2020 in the local BBB service area. From January 1, 2020, there have been 160 reports filed to BBB Scam Tracker with \$1,650 total dollars lost. The median dollar lost was \$825 with an average of \$1,500 attempted. Reports filed also showed scammers' top means of contact was by phone and the most common method of payment to scammers was by credit card.

Tips to Spot a Government

Imposter Agency Scam:

Stay calm. Resist the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story is. Scammers try to get people to act before thinking about the situation.

Don't reply directly. Don't respond to unknown calls, texts, or emails. If you think the message may be real, find the government agencies' contact information on the internet and contact them directly. Don't click on links or open attachments.

Check for look-alikes. Research to see if the government agency or organization that contacted you actually exists. Scammers often make up names of agencies and/or grants.

Do not pay any money for a "free" government grant or program. It is not really free if there is a fee involved. A real government agency will not ask for an advanced processing fee. Instead, find out if the agency is legitimate by checking grants.gov.

Paying money does not shorten stimulus payment deposit

time.

Don't give sensitive personal or financial information to unsolicited calls, texts, or emails. If your bank reaches out to you, they will not ask for confidential information — such as your card PIN, access code, or online banking password.

You should not have to verify your information to receive payment. Those who do ask you to verify your information are imposters.

Check when and how your 2021 payment was sent with the IRS Get My Payment tool at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

Learn more about government grant scams in this BBB tip article and for more information about scams related to the coronavirus, see BBB.org/coronavirus.

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

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

Extraordinary Gratitude

Read 1 Samuel 1:1 through 3:21

Nancy attempted to read her toddler's favorite bedtime story while Davy snuggled close, but her tears kept blurring the pages as she read about the childhood of Samuel the prophet. She couldn't imagine doing what Samuel's mother, Hannah, had done—leaving her young son at the temple to serve God. What extraordinary gratitude for the gift of a child.

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord" (1 Samuel 1:27-28).

Nancy and her husband couldn't imagine ever

letting go of their only child. So it came as a shock when Davy began sensing a call from God to become an Air Force pilot. A military career was the last thing his parents would have chosen. Yet, when they sought the Lord's guidance, He confirmed the call. By faith, they released Davy to God's will out of gratitude for His gift of a child.

Davy went on to become an honored officer whose glowing faith is winning souls to Christ.

Thought for Today: By releasing our children to Jesus' care, we free them to shine for Him.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 1:17-28

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

1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE

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

PRESBYTERIAN

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:45pm; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Thursday Girl

Scouts 7:00pm; 2nd Monday Supper with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's 6:30pm; 2nd Tuesday Luncheon with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Skip Hastings-Interim Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST

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

WESLEYAN

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

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

The FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Auctions

PUBLIC NOTICE
The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction March 26, 2021 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D12
1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

For Rent - Apartments

2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120



For Sale - Firewood

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For Sale - Misc

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Or Indian artifacts
540-988-2420

Help Wanted - Clerical

Accounting Manager in Elliston, VA.
Min. req.: MBA in Accounting. Mail resume to Rowe Fine Furniture, Inc., Attn: Benjamin Jarrell, 2121 Gardner St., Elliston, VA 24087.

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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Legals - Botetourt County

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Virginia Electric and Power Company is requesting a permit from Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install one (1) aerial fiber optics cable within an existing easement, crossing the James River, North Creek in three (3) locations and Jennings Creek in eight (8) locations as part of the Pole E2003MJ6300 to J214OK0400 Fiber Optics Project in Botetourt County. Send Comments/Inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov.

Legals - City of Radford

Public Notice Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce an informational briefing and public hearing on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facility to manage hazardous waste in in Radford, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: March 24, 2021 to May 24, 2021.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING: To address protective measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, an electronic briefing will be held via GoToWebinar teleconferencing on April 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. DEQ will present details of the proposal at the informational briefing. An electronic public hearing will be held via GoToWebinar teleconferencing on April 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and DEQ will accept formal comments during the public hearing.

GoToWebinar INSTRUCTIONS: To attend and/or speak at the informational briefing and/or public hearing, you must register, provide the required information, and follow instructions on ways to join. To register use the following links or copy and paste the address to your chrome web browser. INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4221166289885215758>

PUBLIC HEARING: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5964504647886944270>

If a decision is made to hold the hearing and briefing in person, information will be posted on DEQ's website at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits-regulations/public-notices/land-protection> and the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website no later than 3 days prior to the meeting. If you prefer to attend the hearing by telephone without internet access and do not plan to speak, contact Ashby Scott at (804) 698-4467 or ashby.scott@deq.virginia.gov to obtain a telephone number.

PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Treatment Permit, EPA ID No. VA1210020730
APPLICANT NAME: Radford Army Ammunition Plant
FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Radford Army Ammunition Plant, 4050 Peppers Ferry Road, Radford, VA 24143.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Radford Army Ammunition Plant applied for a reissued permit on September 17, 2015, for thermal treatment of waste explosives by open burning. The facility is in Radford, Virginia. The draft permit will allow the facility to thermally treat waste pyrotechnics, explosives, and propellants by open burning.
HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet, and application at the DEQ, Blue Ridge Regional Office at 901 Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153, every workday by appointment.

Legals - City of Radford

Copies of the permit documents are also available at the DEQ, Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Radford Public Library, 30 W. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, and the DEQ website www.deq.virginia.gov. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Ashby Scott; DEQ, Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia, 23218; Phone: 804 698-4467; Fax (804) 698-4178; E-mail: Ashby.Scott@deq.virginia.gov.

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 - Montgomery County

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.

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** The Board of Zoning Appeals will also hold a work session at **6:15 p.m.** prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:
1. A request by the Town of Vinton, for a variance of specific requirements set forth in the FO-Floodplain Overlay District of the Vinton Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of this request is to allow for the redevelopment of the historic Gish Mill properties, located at 350 and 0 Gus Nicks Boulevard, Vinton, Virginia, Tax Map Numbers 060.11-04-22.00-0000 and 060.11-04-23.00-0000. The variance, if granted, will include all necessary redevelopment activities for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that:

a. The criteria of Article IV, Division 13, Sec. 4-73 of the zoning ordinance are met, and
b. The structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damage during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.

Further information concerning the public hearing, may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179, by phone-540-983-0605. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by BZA members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on this request by emailing nmclung@vintonva.gov, by calling 540-983-0605 or writing to the Principal Planner, Town of Vinton, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voicemails, emails and other messages containing comments on the request will be provided to the BZA members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to sjohnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, April 5, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before each meeting date. Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the Town Manager's Office, Town of Vinton, Virginia at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179 or by phone at (540) 983-0607, or Virginia Relay Service 711 until March 30, 2021 at 5pm.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607.

Nathaniel S. McClung,
Principal Planner

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Town of Vinton, Virginia, hereby gives notice of a joint public hearing to be held by the Planning Commission and the Town Council on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:
1. Petition of the Town of Vinton, to rezone the historic Gish Mill properties, from M-1 Limited Industrial to Mixed Use Development (MUD) District, in order to redevelop them into mixed-use properties that will accommodate restaurant, retail, residential, and lodging uses. The properties are located at 350 and 0 Gus Nicks Boulevard, Vinton, Virginia, Tax Map Numbers 060.11-04-22.00-0000 and 060.11-04-23.00-0000.

Further information concerning the public hearing, may be obtained from the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179, by phone: 540-983-0605. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, participation in this public hearing by Planning Commission members, Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on this request by emailing nmclung@vintonva.gov, by calling 540-983-0605 or writing to the Principal Planner, Town of Vinton, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voicemails, emails and other messages containing comments on the request will be provided to both the Commission and Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to sjohnson@vintonva.gov by 12 Noon on Monday, April 5, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vintonva. Additional information concerning the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date. Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the Town Manager's Office, Town of Vinton, Virginia at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179 or by phone at (540) 983-0607, or Virginia Relay Service 711 until April 6, 2021 at 5pm.

Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607.

Anita J. McMillan,
Planning and Zoning Director

STATEWIDE ADS

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G&E Virginia Premium Assured Heifer/Cow Sale. March 27th, 2021 12:00 noon. G&E Test Center Gretna, VA. Call George Winn at 434-489-4458.

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Byrd beats LB again to retain BRD lead

The William Byrd girls solidified their hold on first place in the Blue Ridge District volleyball standings with a win over Lord Botetourt last week. The Terriers swept the season series and the match in a big win in Vinton.

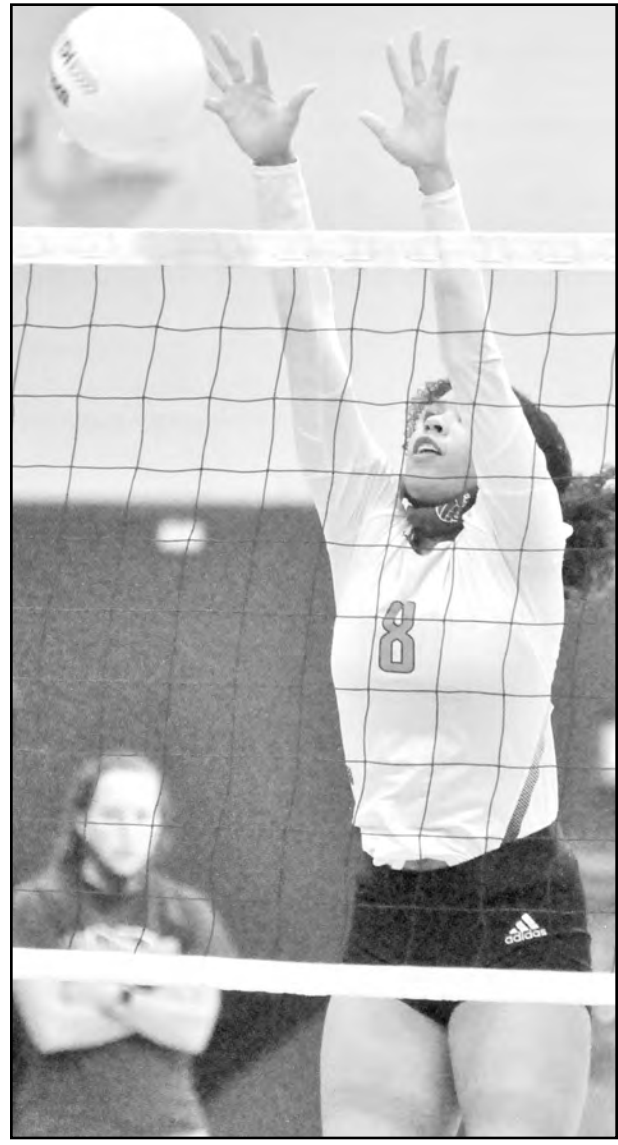
"I love watching these ladies work together," said Byrd coach Allison Thornton. "The chemistry they have has been a big part of our success."

Byrd needed five sets when they beat LB in Daleville in their season opener, but this time the Terriers only needed three. They won 25-21, 25-19 and 25-20.

Mattie Andrews had 16 kills for Byrd in just three sets to pace the offense. Kamryn Sigafos had eight kills and three aces and Grayce Dantzler had 17 digs and three aces. Setter Trinity Hylton dished out 19 assists and also contributed three digs.

With the win Byrd improved to 5-0 on the season, and the Terriers haven't played since last week. They were originally scheduled to play William Fleming on Tuesday but the Colonels have cancelled their season due to COVID concerns. Byrd picked up Bassett to replace that match but the Bengals also had COVID problems and that match was cancelled as well.

The girls return to action tonight with a match at Northside, followed by a home match with Staunton River next Tuesday. Then, they wrap up the regular season with a match in Rocky Mount against Franklin County on April 1st. That's shaping up to be a big one as the Eagles have only lost once, and that was to Byrd in Vinton.



Left, Byrd's Kasey McKee tips one over the net in last week's win over Lord Botetourt. Above, Terran Brown goes up for a block.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Above left, the William Byrd boys are off and running at Greenfield Park last week. Right, Maci Glass is on her way to a seventh place finish.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Busy week for William Byrd cross country team

The William Byrd cross country team has been busy with two meets in the span of six days. Byrd competed in two four-team 5,000 meter races, one in Botetourt County last week and the other in Vinton on Monday.

Last week the Terriers joined Hidden Valley, Northside and host Lord Botetourt for a St. Patrick's Day run at the Greenfield Recreation Park in Daleville. The Hidden Valley girls and LB boys were team winners.

The girls' individual winner was Elle Anderson of Hidden Valley with a time of 20:25. Byrd had three girls in the top 11, led by Maci Glass with a seventh place finish in 22:53. Claire Glover was 10th at 23:02 and Olivia Hurd was 11th in 23:20. Also scoring for Byrd were Emma Gordon in 19th place and Bethany Beecher in 30th.

Evan Gates of LB won the boys' race in 17:40 while Ryan Krawczyk was Byrd's first finisher in

eighth with a time of 19:18. Next for Byrd were Dakota Bell and Kollin Slusher at 21 and 22, and also scoring were Reagan Lilley and Brayden McCulloch at 25 and 26. John Belcher was 30th.

"Kollin Slusher and John Belcher have returned this year to the team after being out the previous season with injuries," said Byrd coach Eric Royal. "They have both enlisted into the Marines and are using cross country as additional conditioning besides PT several days a week with their recruiter."

On Monday Byrd was the host team at the cross country course winding through the school campus and Stonebridge Park. Lord Botetourt, Northside and Franklin County joined the Terriers for this run and Botetourt swept the meet. The Byrd girls finished second.

"The girls performed well," said Royal. "We are starting to get into cross country shape and looking

forward to the next few weeks to prepare for the region meet at Bassett."

Addie Shorter of Franklin County was the girls' winner in this race with a time of 21:43. For Byrd, Glover was third in 23:59 while Glass was fifth in 24:24 and Hurd was sixth in 24:31. Also scoring were Gordon with a 14th place finish and Elizabeth Recktenwald in 25th among 49 competitors.

For the boys Franklin's Nathan Atchue was the winner in 18:21. Krawczyk led Byrd again with a 10th place finish in 20:30 and also scoring were Bell in 24th, Lilley in 29th, Slusher in 31st and McCulloch in 36th.

"Ryan is working really hard to get in the best shape for post-season," said Royal. "Dakota is turning into a solid runner for us."

The Terriers are scheduled to return to action today with a meet at Staunton River that was postponed from March 15.



Byrd's Nathan Carter chips to the green in a recent match at Blue Hills.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

BRD golfers return this week

The William Byrd golfers resume play this week after taking a week off from the Blue Ridge District tour. Byrd was scheduled to play a BRD "mini-match" at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club on Wednesday of this week.

Through two rounds Evan Mullen leads the Terriers with 13.5 points in the district point system. That puts him 13th among 32 ranked players in the Blue Ridge. Chris Blankenship is close behind in 14th with 10.25

points. Griffen Horacek and Nathan Carter are tied for 20th with six points. Lord Botetourt's Samir Davidov has a healthy lead over teammate Ashton Harper, 60-48, to lead the district individual rankings.

While the varsity took a break the jayvees played a nine hole match at Hanging Rock last week against Northside. Madeline Cunningham, an eighth grader had Byrd's best score with a 51.



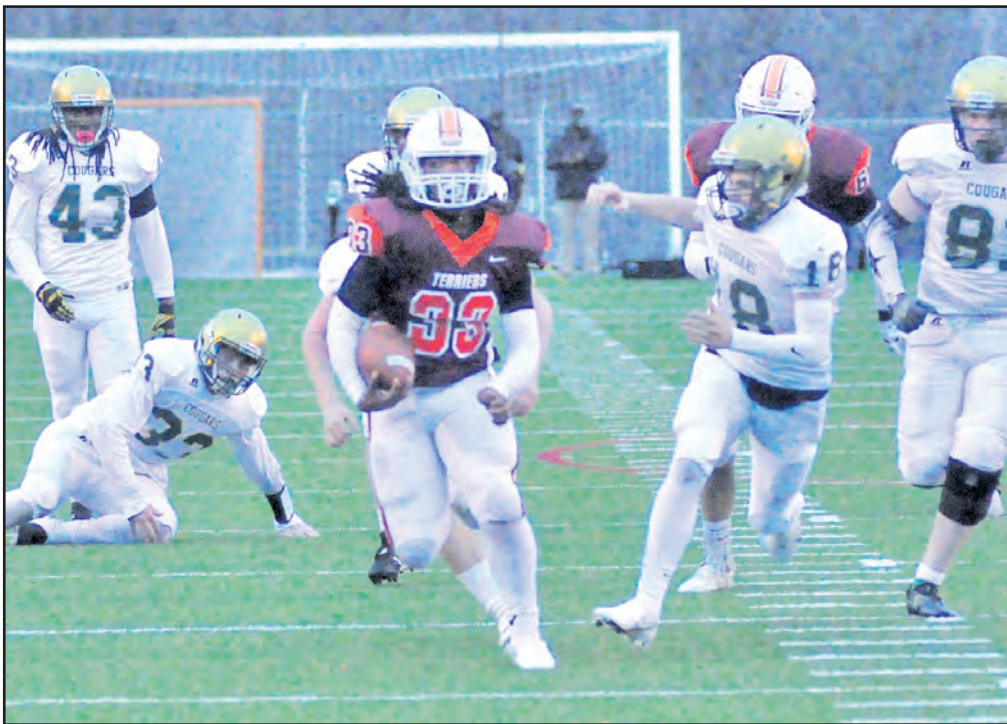
Former teammates meet on the diamond

Two former William Byrd High School baseball teammates were in opposite dugouts last weekend when the UVA-Wise baseball team traveled to Gaffney, South Carolina to play Limestone University. Hunter Meador(left) is a freshman infielder for Wise and Gehrig Spradlin(right) is a junior pitcher for Limestone. Over the weekend Limestone won three games in a four game series. Meador, who hit .381 in the shortened 2020 season, had five hits in the series against Limestone while Spradlin threw two and a third innings of relief, allowing no earned runs and just one infield hit. They faced each other once and Meador reached on an error on an infield grounder.

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SPORTS

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Left, William Byrd's El-amin Shareef breaks through the line and runs for one of his six touchdowns in last Thursday's win at Vinton's Patterson Stadium. Right, linebacker Nick Reedy(#44) makes a tackle for Byrd. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers run over Patrick, host Northside Saturday

It wasn't on Amazon Prime but Thursday Night Football came to Vinton last week when William Byrd High played host to Patrick County. The Terriers show no ill effects from a short week of preparation as they hammered the visiting Cougars, 49-6, behind a rushing attack that could not be stopped.

The Byrd offensive line of Blake Sankbeil, Dustin Richards, Bryson Lutz, Hunter Flynn, Hunter Richards and Jake Hilliard opened big holes all night and tailback El-amin Shareef was happy to run through them. Shareef finished with 226 yards rushing and six touchdowns on a special night for the Byrd senior. He wore uniform number 33 instead of his usual number 1 to honor Army Spc. Clarence Adams, who was a high school teammate of Byrd coach Brad Lutz at Varina High School.

"In September 2004 Clarence was killed by an IED in Baghdad, Iraq," said Lutz. "Since that day, the football programs that I have been a part of have used the game of football to teach our players the true meaning of sacrifice by honoring Clarence in different ways. The year Clarence passed away, our running back at Varina High School, the school Clarence and I played at and the first high school I coached at, forfeited his jersey number to honor Clarence by wearing 33. That tradition was carried to Broadway High School, and we brought that tradition to William Byrd. El-amin was extremely honored to pay tribute to Clarence, and I was very proud of him for helping us pay tribute to him."

Shareef couldn't have had a better night. He ran for four touchdowns in the first half on bursts of 42, 23, 46 and nine yards as Byrd built a 28-6 lead. Then, he put two more scores on the board in the second half with a 16 yard run in the third period and a nine yard run for good measure in the fourth with the clock running

continuously due to Byrd's big lead.

"Our offense continues to improve each week," said Lutz. "Our offense takes a lot of pride in preparing for a balanced game plan. On Thursday, Patrick County was prepared to defend our passing game, so our run game led the offense. Our offensive line led the way."

Byrd's only touchdown not scored by Shareef came in the third quarter when Tyler Dean intercepted a pass and returned it 27 yards for a score. It was Dean's first game in uniform after missing the first three games with an injury, and he made his presence known with a game high 14 tackles.

"Tyler brings a lot of energy to our team," said Lutz. "He is a very competitive athlete and loves football. It was great having him back. He brings a lot of confidence to the defense."

In addition to Shareef's rushing yardage Dylan Hatfield had 125 yards passing, hitting Ethan Tinsley and Hunter Harris twice each and Isaac Fix and Jeff Williams once each. Fix was perfect on seven extra point kicks and Isaac only had to punt twice.

The win evened Byrd's record at 2-2 on the season and this week they play Northside at home on Saturday afternoon at 1 pm. It's a big game as the Vikings are just one spot behind Byrd in the Virginia High School League 3D rankings. Byrd is fourth and the Vikings are fifth and only the top four make the playoffs this year.

"Northside is a very talented team," said Lutz. "Their quarterback is as talented as any quarterback in Roanoke and they have a ton of speed and size. We are lucky to have a few extra days to prepare and get healthy."

This week will be Byrd's final home game and the Terriers will observe Senior Day as well as their annual Soldier Tribute Game.

Also, the Byrd junior varsity team beat both William Fleming and Franklin County last week while the middle school team won at Glenvar, giving the program a 4-0 week. The middle school team is still undefeated.

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TERRIER DEFENSE

Above, Hunter Richards(#56) and Hayden Lyle(#32) trip up a Patrick County ballcarrier in last week's win in Vinton. Left, Tyler Dean(#22) returns an interception 27 yards for a Byrd touchdown.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



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