

William Byrd Class of 2021 surmounts challenges to graduate

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

The William Byrd High School Class of 2021 faced many challenges in the past year due to the pandemic. Sports seasons were curtailed or cancelled. Homecoming, prom, and many traditional senior activities were revamped due to ever-changing guidelines and restrictions from the state. But the administration, faculty, and staff at WBHS did everything in their power to make Graduation Day 2021 for the seniors one to remember.

Instead of the usual ceremony at the Salem Civic Center, graduation was held at Patterson Stadium at Byrd so that families could attend, seated outside in pods, without masksand attend they did. Families were instructed to join the admission line at 9 a.m. for the 10 a.m. ceremony- and the line was long of those waiting to celebrate the accomplishments of their children.

Seniors and faculty entered the stadium through a balloon archway, then divided into two lines and walked both sides of the track to their seats on the field.

Senior Council President and Valedictorian Natalie Mullins led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dog Pound leaders Caroline Gibbs and Keaton Band led students in the traditional "Hum" played at games and pep rallies.

Valedictorian Urunna Anyanwu welcomed the graduates with "we all wondered if this day would ever come. As Terriers we are capable of big dreams and even bigger futures, but only as long as we remain convinced that the impossible is possible."

Principal Tammy Newcomb noted that

See Class of 2021, page 7



Several student leaders spoke during the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony including (left to right) Valedictorian Urunna Anyanwu, Dog Pound Leader and Valedictorian Keaton Band, Dog Pound Leader Caroline Gibbs, Valedictorian Elizabeth Recktenwald, Valedictorian and Student Council President Natalie Mullins, and Top Terrier and Valedictorian Dylan Hatfield.

Vinton Public Works adopts new logo

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

The Town of Vinton

colors of the Town Sealmaroon and gold. The bottom half of the logo is gray and gold, featur-Public Works Depart- ing the gray the department has adopted in its new paint scheme at the facility on Third Street. The logo is encircled in gold. Herndon says the department came up with the logo to establish its own identity within the town, similar to what the Vinton Police Department and Vinton War Memorial have done. Symbols on the new

Gauntlet Competition celebrates 2021 winners

(front).

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

The Gauntlet Business

See Gauntlet, page 6



William Byrd administrators wait under the balloon archway to lead the Class of 2021 onto the field at Patterson Stadium for their graduation ceremony. Shown left to right are Assistant Principal Travis Anderson, Vinton's School Board representative Tim Greenway, and Principal Tammy Newcomb with the school mascot.



PHOTOS BY BY DEBBIE ADAMS

WBHS Senior Choir members performed "Rainbow" during the graduation ceremony. Shown left to right are Michelle Price, Bayla Kessler, Kamryn Dodd, Zach Minter, Tess Griffin, Haleigh Bush, and Arielle Price with their Choir Director Matt Bartley

ment has designed a new logo for the department representing the services it provides to the town. Public Works Director William "Bo" Herndon presented the concept for the new logo to Town Council at its meeting on May 18.

The logo is based on the Town of Vinton Seal and includes several of its features. The top half of the circular logo continues the traditional

See Logo, page 2



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Candace Monaghan of Beaver Dam Farm Sunflowers won first place in the 2021 Gauntlet Competition, earning \$23,925 in cash and in-kind prizes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF VINTON

The Town of Vinton Public Works Department has designed a new logo for the department representing the services it provides to the community.

Twin Creeks debuts Business Window Decal Program



The Town of Vinton has established a Business Window Decal Program to "dress up" the windows of the businesses in the downtown area undergoing expansions. First up is Twin Creeks Brewing Company. The window mural was created by John Comstock. SunSolutions will be working with the town to create other window decals.





Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Town Manager Pete Peters has been working with Twin Creeks Brewing Company and Sun Solutions to create a Business Window Decal Program in order to better "dress up and communicate the positive energy and growth within downtown Vinton." The decals will be perforated vinyl window statics, featuring both the business and the "InVinton" brand-

"While locals may be aware of the activity, it occurred to me that we have so many commuters and visitors coming through town, that perhaps they wouldn't know what Twin Creeks, the Dogwood, or Star City Playhouse and others are up to

See Decal, page 3

Carilion Clinic Ironman bicycle course coming through Vinton June 6

2021 Carilion The Clinic Ironman 70.3 Virginia's Blue Ridge is scheduled for Sunday, June 6. The cycling portion of the triathlon event will pass through Vinton and Washington Avenue will be closed for much of the day (approximately 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

Race weekend activities will officially begin on Friday, June 4, with athlete check-in at Roanoke's River's Edge Park-North. On Sunday, June 6, athletes will begin their Ironman 70.3-mile journey–a 1.2-mile swim, followed by a 56-mile bike ride, and then a 13.1-mile run through Roanoke and the surrounding areas.

The race begins at Carvins Cove Reservoir on Sunday at 6:30 a.m. for the swimming portion of the event. (Average water temperatures at Carvins Cove in early June are in the 70s.) The event begins with a rolling start, where athletes self-seed based on anticipated total swim time.

Once out of the water, athletes will take on the 56-mile bike course that is surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. Athletes will depart from Carvins Cove in Roanoke

County and continue east into Botetourt County towards the Town of Buchanan. It is the starting point for an epic five-mile climb on Route 43 to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Athletes will ride and descend 21 miles of completely closed roads to the Town of Vinton at Route 24/Washington Avenue. They will follow Washington Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the town, until they reach Maple Street. Bicyclers will turn left onto Maple, right onto Lee Avenue and then left onto Walnut Avenue at the Vinton Farmers' Market. They will continue on Walnut until it exits Vinton and becomes Wise Avenue in Roanoke.

The bicycle ride will end at River's Edge Park, next to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, in the heart of Roanoke.

Athletes will close out their 70.3-mile journey when they take on a 13.1mile run. The run course follows the paved Roanoke River Greenway path along the banks of the Roanoke River. This provides athletes shade while running through several parks along the course. The finish is conveniently in River's Edge Park.

Carilion has released "Road Impact" information for the Ironman Triathlon as follows:

The portion of the Ironman Cycling Route within East Roanoke County/ Town of Vinton will be as follows and will take place between approximately 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.:

• Exit Blue Ridge Parkway at Washington Ave/ Rte 24.

• Follow Washington Ave, turn left on Maple

• Turn right on Lee Ave Ave

• Follow Walnut until exits Vinton and transi- low. tions into Wise Avenue

Road closures as a result in and near Vinton June 6, the Interior Lane include:

between Rt. 43 (Buchanan) and Rt. 24 (Vinton) will be closed 5 p.m. June 5 through 2 p.m. June 6.

• Beginning at approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 6, the westbound exterior lane (right lane) of Rt. 24/Washington Avenue will be closed from the Blue Ridge Parkway interchange to Bypass Rd in Vinton. Lane is expected to reopen at 2 p.m. Vehicles will be allowed ly at 2 p.m. There will be to travel within interior no cross traffic permitted. (left lane) throughout the

event. Cross traffic will only be allowed to cross closed lane of Rt 24 at the discretion of police officers • Turn Left on Walnut stationed along the route when a natural break in the athletes will safely al-

CARILION CLINIC

· Beginning at approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday (left lane) of Washington • Blue Ridge Parkway Avenue will be closed. Only westbound traffic existing onto Washington Avenue will be allowed to travel on exterior lane (right lane). No cross traffic will be permitted.

> • Beginning at approximately 8 a.m. on Sunday June 6, both Eastbound Lanes of Washington Ave/ Gus Nicks Boulevard will be closed from King St. to Bypass Rd. Lane is expected to reopen approximate-

• Beginning at 8 a.m., Maple Street between Washington and Jackson will be closed, expected to reopen at 2 p.m. No cross traffic permitted.

70.3[®] Virginia's Blue Ridge

• Beginning at 8 a.m., Lee Avenue between Walnut and Poplar will be closed, expected to reopen at 2 p.m. No cross traffic permitted.

• Beginning at 8 a.m., Walnut Avenue will be closed to the Town Limits by Cargill (formerly Southern States), expected to reopen at 2 p.m. No cross traffic permitted.

Carilion has released some human-interest stories involving the triathlon.

Stoney "The Skuller" Hale, age 41, from nearby Goodview, is a professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter supporting a record of 12-3 and 68-9 in Welterweight boxing. He has been looking for a new challenge to scare him. The distance of an Ironman triathlon appeals to him because he has completed multiple Ultra marathons and 24-hour races, so he feels he can handle the distance with the right training. Stoney believes that this new opportunity will help make him a better person while taking his talent out of the ring and onto Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Robert Reid, age 42, of Goodview, is a firefighter for Roanoke City. He is racing to promote better physical fitness for a job that requires it, yet surprisingly has a high obesity rate and death rate due to cardiovascular events. He is showing his colleagues that with a little work, big things can happen.

logo represent the core services provided by

from page 1

LOQO

Public Works: Trees represent the grounds work and landscaping completed by the Public Works crews and town arborist

A faucet symbol signifies the town's water system

Refuse and recycling containers symbolize

those vital services provided to the citizens and businesses

The fourth symbol is an excavator, representing the construction projects Public Works crews complete- replacing and maintaining lines, streets, sidewalks, and other building projects.

While the official

Town Seal is labeled employee uniforms, ve-"Town of Vinton, Vir- hicles, and letterheads. ginia, 1884" the new department logo will allowed improvements to include "Town of Vin- the Public Works facility ton Public Works" in the in the past year, and it design.

town and department logo as well, especially have talked for years since new uniforms are about establishing its being purchased for the own symbol or logo, first time in 10 years. which will be placed on

CARES Act funding seemed an appropriate Herndon said the time to adopt the new Herndon, graphic de-

signer Sherri Winkler of Nite Owl Artz, and Chasity Barbour, Vinton Director of Community "bounced Programs, around ideas" about the design of the logo. They decided they wanted to keep parts of the Town of Vinton Seal, but add

the town," said Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton. "From roads and sidewalks to water and recycling, the job that Public Works does every day makes Vinton a community of which we can all be proud."

The Vinton Public Works Department is currently advertising for new employees, especially interested in hiring operators with CDL licenses.

Herndon points out that working for a gov-ernment body has many attractive benefits for employees not found ment System (VRS). The town currently contributes 12.46 percent per pay period to the employee's retirement fund.

2x salary in life insurance coverage-free to employees

24 days of Paid Time Off (PTO)- which increases after one year of service

12 Paid Holidays

Starting Pay: Equipment Operators, \$14.32/ hour; Crew Leaders, \$18.27/hour; Assistant Mechanic Position, \$16.58/hour

Sign on bonus

Tuition/Certification Reimbursement Pro-



With a focus to encourage vibrant living and individual wellness, 2021 brings exciting new senior apartment options and convenient Town Center



amenities catered to those looking for an active, independent lifestyle to Richfield's Salem Campus.

Join our vibrant Independent Living community!



New options at Richfield include The Villas and Lake Retreat apartments, both now leasing! You can put your own sense of style on any of our comfortable, convenient floor plans and enjoy

maintenance-free living.

Our beautiful surroundings, combined with a broad range of services and accommodations, provide a setting where individuals become members of a secure, supportive, and active community.



Add in a convenient, amenities-rich Town Center and a robust Richfield social calendar, and you'll have every opportunity for a joy-filled lifestyle. Additionally, should your health or the health of a loved one change, you'll have access to a full continuum of health care services without leaving the Richfield campus.

Community Highlights

- Town Center
- 24-hour Wellness Studio
- Restaurant-style and casual dining venues
- Salon/Spa
- Community room with scheduled activities
- Chapel
- Outpatient therapy with salt water pool
- Gift shop
- Outdoor walking paths on 52-acre campus
- Underground heated parking
- Retail and restaurants nearby



some elements exclusive to Public Works. Herndon says that the

new logo will contribute to building morale among employees, giving them recognition as their own department providing their own vital and specialized services to the residents.

"Our Public Works crews are special because they get to touch nearly every aspect of in private industry, in particular the free (\$0 premium) monthly health insurance option for employees.

Human Resources Director Donna Collins lists benefits for Town of Vinton Public Works employees as:

Free health insurance coverage offered for employees, which includes medical/dental/vision Automatic enrollment

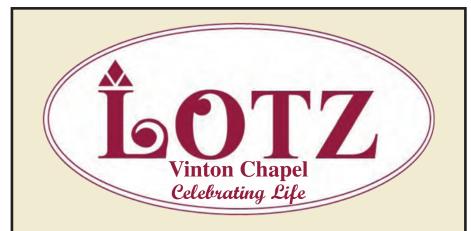
in the Virginia Retire-

grams Additional optional

benefit programs Uniforms and safety boots provided

The town will also provide training and pay to assist employees in obtaining their CDLs that might be helpful as well. Contact Collins at 540-983-0604 or email her at DCOLLINS@ vintonva.gov for more information on employment.

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.



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

Most service options are now fully available.

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Congratulations, Graduates! versity of Lynchburg with a BS in Interdisciplinary

Angie Chewning Filling in for Bootie

The focus has been on recognizing high school graduates in the past few weeks, but there also have been quite a few college graduates with connections to our area to honor. College graduates rec-ognized by Vinton Bap-

tist Church include: · Madelyn B. Gibbs is graduating Cum Laude from Roanoke College with a B.S. in Elementary Education; she plans to teach elementary school locally.

· Drew Hayden has graduated from Virginia Tech with a Master's Degree in Engineering Mechanics.

· Nicole Olsen will graduate August 14 from Shenandoah University with her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

· Stephen Olsen has graduated Summa Cum Laude with Honors from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Computational Modeling & Data Analytics and minors in Math, Statistics, and German.

· Chad Michael Robertson has graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management.

· Joanna Leigh Williamson has graduated from Radford University with a Master of Social Work.

College graduates recognized by Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church include:

· Reid Clark is graduating from Radford University with a BS in Psychology

· Paige Crocker is grad-

uating from Ohio State elementary teacher University with a Doctorate in Occupational graduating from Virginia Therapy

· Cassi Folks is graduat- Education ing from Liberty University with a Juris Masters graduating from Pima in Compliance

uating from JMU with istration a degree in Health Science employed by LewisGale nize, a wedding, shower, Medical Center

ating from VCU with a PLEASE send it to me Masters of Social Work; at angie@vintonchamwill be working full-time ber.com. I would love to at the VA Hospital in share your stories! Richmond

· Alex Heck is gradu- COVID-19 restrictions, ating from Montreat- the Vinton Chamber is Anderson College with very excited. It looks like a BS in Psychology and our upcoming Mingle at Human Services; attend- the Markets will be a pering Liberty University fect time for folks to get in Fall 2021 to pursue a out and enjoy some music degree in Clinical Health and fun. We have a great Counseling

· Katherine Stanley is you can join us. graduating from the Uni- Mingles are held at the

Studies, employed as an

· Brittany Sutton is Tech with a Master's of

· Gwynne Warren is Medical Institute with a · Macon Hale is grad- BSin Healthcare Admin-

If you have a graduate Administration, you would like to recogor birthday celebration · Will Hale is gradu- you would like to share,

> With the easing of line up this year. We hope

Vinton Farmers' Market in downtown Vinton. Each concert lasts from 7 to 10 p.m. with great bands and food trucks available. Here's what's coming up:

 June 12: The Oddfellows Band, with Ken & Jayne's Burgers & Dogs

• June 26: Vinyl Nation, with Mountain Grille Food Truck

• July 10: Five Dollar Shake

• July 24: Five Shades of Grey, with Munsey's Smoke House

• August 14: Adam Rutledge, with Mountain Grille Food Truck

• August 28: On Common Ground, with Yani's Hot Kitchen

September 11: Crew, with Hardrive Mountain Grille Food Truck

• September 25: Five Dollar Shake, with the Lazy Bull Dog Food

The always popular and repeatedly postponed (due to COVID-19) Senior Expo has been rescheduled for September 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial.

Fall Festival/Oktoberfest is coming up on Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Vinton and at the Vinton Farmers' Market.

The Vinton Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 2 at 7 p.m. in downtown Vinton.

To end up 2021, the Chamber's Holiday Open House will be at the Charles Hill Community Center on December 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Call the Chamber office for more information, 540-343-1364, on these events or visit our Facebook page.

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has a new website- thanks to Sherri Winkler of Nite Owl Artz. Take a look https://www.vintonat chamber.com/.

What's ahead for the William Byrd Class of 2021?

William Byrd High School students in the Class of 2021 are headed in many different directions after their graduation on May 26. Here's where some of them will be going:

Apprenticeship: Tyler Roseberry

Bluefield College: Hallie Cox, Hayden Lyle, Luke Taylor

Central Virginia Community College: Timothy Turner, Jr.

Converse: Hanna Chappell

Davidson: Isaac Fix Eastern Kentucky University: McCaffrey Sim-

mons Emmanuel College:

Arielle Shiloh Emory and Henry: Ashlyn Harris, Bryson

Lutz, Blake Sankbeil Ferrum: Joshua Barker

Hollins University: Haleigh Bush, Cabria Mutz

James Madison University: Preston Fleitz, Seth Hodges, Brooke Johnston, Bayla Kessler, Kassity Morris, Ethan Powell, Sarah Stanley, Taylor West, Madisin Witt, Ainsley

El'Amin Shareef, Ethan Tinsley

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Taylor Dawson

New River Community College: Payten Richardson

Oklahoma State University: Dylan Wimmer

Radford Carilion: Christopher Blankenship, Kamryn Dodd, Emma Roberts

Radford University: Morgan Bohon, Nick Boksa, Derek Burton, Sarah Butterworth, Erin Courtemanche, Olivia Darnell, Kerrigan Ferguson, Kara Harvey, Carson Jernigan, Joseph Johnson, Mack Johnson, Carson Leonard, Hannah Martin, Tyler Martin, Jackson Meador, Kyla Murray, Faith Parrish, Michelle Price, Haley Rogers, Haley Thomas, Megan Thomas, Katie Wheeler

Rappahannock Community College: Felicia Davis

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Joseph Sandzimier

Roanoke College: Cade

Donald McCadden, Seyanah Quiles-Sisk

United States Army: Gavin Ellis, Zachary Minter

United States Marine Corps: John Belcher, James Cawley, Craig Hall, Kollin Slusher, Tanner Smith

United States Navy: Zariah Turner

UTI: Edward Kubik University of Chicago:

Urunna Anyanwu University of Missis-

sippi: Nicholas Colvin University of Virginia:

Elizabeth Fedor, Hailey Ramsey, Elizabeth Recktenwald,

Virginia Commonwealth University: Augustus Blake, Andrea Gonzalez, Matthew Murray,

Virginia Tech: Keaton Band, Amna Becirevic, Tyler Buxton, Grayce Dantzler, Tyler Dean, Caroline Dullaghan, Dylan Hatfield, Hanna Howell, Adi Iyer, Ryan Krawczyk, Autumn Krebs, Kasey McKee, Kaitlyn Morgan, Natalie Mullins, Emily Summey, Erin Taylor, Stella Taylor, Reagan Tuck, Faith Turner Virginia Western Community College: Alayna Brandon Abdelhadi, Acker, Luis Alatorre, Emily Andrews, Noe Bau-Dylan tista-Cardenas,

Beckner-Pollard, Garrett Belcher, Morgan Booth, Kaylynn Bryant, Samuel Bunn, Nicholas Carter, Landon Cobble, Aaliyah Cochrane, Darion Coleman, Rachel Cruff, Kenneth Davis, Kinsey Dollberg, Leighton Doss, Gracie Fairbanks, Dane Gabris, Savannah Gantt, Kevin Genaro, Aaron Germano, Tess Griffin, Emily Hale, Emily Hodges, William Howell, Nollan Kern, Andrew Kroese, Zaylee Lopez, Alyssa Macauley, Jaden Marsh, Amelita Martin, Isaac Masanja, William McBride, Wills, Ethan Wray, Abi-Chevenne McCoy, Erica gail Wright, Hollie Yates, Meador, Wyatt Milton, Eh Landon Young Tha Moe, Zachary Moore, Katelyn Morgan, Nali- sity: Ryan Garland yah Moyer, Spencer Naff, Christopher Nutter, Tyler Catherine Oliver, Emilie Penning- and Athena Liao ton, Dillon Peters, William Pickeral, John Rusinak, Gibbs Silvia Saad, Madison Saunders, Andrew Scott, Anderson, Christopher Tristan Shanks, Noah Beckner, Kenneth Blan-Shoemaker, Andrew So- kenship, Josiah Bommer, rial, Annie Stevens, Em- Jenna Boyette, Robert ily Sutphin, Autumn Brown, Kerion Carter,



West Virginia Univer-

William and Mary: Dullaghan

Caroline Wingate:

Workforce: Marcus Thompson, Steven Tin- Dustin Clark, Dylan Brooklyn Tinsley, Daniel, Natalie

Marron, William Marsh III, Miranda Meador, Chase Miles, Matthew Miller, Nicholas Neifert, Donovan Nolan, Joshua Owen, Bailey Palmer, Matthew Paul, Konnor Phillips, Nicholas Reedy, Dia Reeves, Ethan Roberts, Ashlyn Robinson, Elise Schneider, Darian Simpson, David Smith, Tyler Sowers, Cameron Strauss, Tristan Stull, Evan Vaught, Eben Webster, Christopher Williams

Young

Liberty University: Hunter Harris, Isaac Roth, Kelsey Roth

Old Dominion University: Erin Kirtley Randolph Macon:

Decal from page 1

with regards to expansions," said Peters.

"With so much going on, but in various stages of construction, I felt we were missing an opportunity to show off that growth in a more attractive and consistent manner," Peters said. "My hope is to continue to provide this assistance and work with each property owner to design a highlight to showcase their business, incorporate the "InVinton" branding, and accurately communicate that something new and exciting is in proHanson, Alivia Paradis, Morgan Witt Seton Hill: Nic Clements Shenandoah: Ellen

Frary United States Air Force:

William Trail, Mya Tra- son, Hunter Flynn, Mavis, Dakota Turner, Julie son Gibson, Rafael Gon-Wang, Jerze Webb, An- zalez, Blaine Hall, Isaiah drew White, Christine Henegar, Dominick Hill-Widener, Bryce Wil- igsberg, Jason Holling-liams, D'aja Williams, sworth, Andrew Jenkins, Jeffrey Williams, Alexia Andrew Krebs, Dylan Other graduates: Kay-la Asbury, Summer Bell, Kian Bradac, Autumn Brockerman, Taylor Gibson, Kalynn Postles, Aaliah Rodgers, Charlotte Rose, Chase Siebert, and Sean Sowers

duction. These aren't

meant to be permanent-just a temporary solution until they are ready to open and show off what's inside.

"Twin Creeks used their own artist to design their mural and the town's Facade Improvement Program covered the expense," Peters added.

Twin Creeks co-owner Andy Bishop says that John Comstock with the Comstock Design Group is the artist who created their mural. Comstock and Bishop both work at

Magnets USA in Vinton as well.

"He is a huge proponent of local businesses in the valley and as he puts it, 'a raving hockey fan,'" said Bishop. "He also designed the new Railyard Dawgs logo.

"We wanted a window covering to act as a mural," Bishop said. "John took our basic logo and expanded it across the entire front of the building and added rich colors that look like the Blue Ridge. The guy pouring the beer has a thick beard made of hops and

look. The hand in the project with the town. image is in fact mine pouring a beer. We by Jeff Belcher and loand modern statement in Vinton, specializes in about Brewing Company with tinting, and graphics. it attracts lots of folks reputation for his innoto take selfies in front vative designs throughof our brewery."

Prior to the painta fairly mundane gray tarp in the window.

Sun Solutions was

a stalk of grain to give delighted to take on this him almost a Viking unique business decal

The company, owned wanted to make a bold cated on Walnut Avenue Twin Creeks vehicle wraps, window this mural and we hope Belcher has developed a out the valley.

If you have been on ing of the mural, Twin the streets and highways Creeks, on Pollard of the Roanoke Valley Street in the heart of and found your attendowntown Vinton, had tion drawn to vehicles that look like "moving billboards," wrapped vividly with advertisements, chances are they were created by Sun Solutions. The company recently wrapped a vehicle for the town, driven by Chasity Barbour, Director of Community Programs.

The town is next working with Jeff Janney of Vinton Appliance on a design by Sun Solutions for its warehousing space at 121 West Lee Avenue.

Vinton History Museum hosting ice cream social

The Vinton History Museum will host an ice cream social on Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the museum, 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton, featuring free ice cream and free admission.

In addition to the free ice cream, the museum will be open for viewing historic artifacts in the Sight and Sound Room, School and Church Room, Gish's Corner, Vinton Room, Children's Room, Victorian Bedroom, Quilt Display, Tools and Trades Room and Vinton Room.

Community Scavenger Hunt Packs and the Little Free Library will also be available.

The Vinton History Museum is generally open Monday, Wednesday, Fridays and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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Vinton will host a Fourth of July celebration

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council had serious issues to discuss at its meeting on June 1—public hearings on the proposed budget for FY2022, adoption of a new Paid Time Off (PTO) policy for employees, and a resolution adopting the Performance Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Gish Mill Redevelopment Project. However, the best news of the evening might have been the announcement by Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour that there will be a Fourth of July celebration in Vinton this year, complete with fireworks at the Vinton War Memorial.

Details on the event will be forthcoming, but those attending the council meeting (via Zoom) were excited to hear the news that more normalcy is returning to the town after many cancellations this past year due to COVID-19.

Barbour also announced a new partnership with Roanoke City with "Ridin' to the Market." On Saturday, July 3, shoppers will be able to take a bus from the Vinton Farmers' Market to downtown Roanoke to shop at its City Market—and vice versa. Buses will run on the hour, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

In other news, Town Council will return to in-person meetings in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building beginning on July 6 and the time of those meetings will switch to 6 p.m. permanently. Council traditionally meets on the first and third Tuesdays and that schedule will continue. Council meetings will continue to be streamed live on Facebook and recorded for ondemand playback on the Town of Vinton website.

Council held a public hearing on appropriating funding for the proposed transition from the current employee leave benefit plan to an employee PTO benefit and adopted a resolution for that purpose. Funding is not to exceed \$280,000.

At the direction of Town Council, the administration developed the PTO Policy to replace the town's existing Vacation and Sick Leave Accrual Policy. Council and the administration did not want to adversely impact any employees transitioning to the new plan and included a payout calculation for any current balance that would cause the employee to exceed the maximum leave limit within the following 13 months.

The draft plan was presented to town employees who were each given three options to choose to transition from the current leave plan to the new PTO plan. Each of the three options will permit town administration to meet the transition objectives while preserving, to the extent possible, the employee's tenure and service with the town within the new paid leave plan, which takes effect on June 1.

Later in the meeting, council adopted a resolution approving the new PTO Policy as explained by Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins.

As with virtually all issues that come before Town Council, council members had been briefed thoroughly in previous meetings on the topic before action was taken.

Council held a public hearing on the proposed FY2021/2022 budget. Town Manager Pete Peters noted the proposed budget "represents a balanced budget with an optimistic outlook despite the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our locality."

The FY2021/2022 proposed budget for all funds totals \$14,179,981: approximately \$8 million for the General Fund, \$384,800 in the Grant Fund, \$4.5 million for the Utility Fund, \$835,000 for the Capital Fund, and \$414, 328 in the Stormwater Fund. The proposed budget represents an increase of 21.57% (\$2.5 million) over the current budget, but that figure is misleading in that the FY21 budget was significantly reduced due to fears over the effect of the pandemic on the economy.

Personnel costs make up 40% of the new budget, followed by operating costs of 27.89%. Sixty percent of general revenue funds go to the Public Safety and Public Works Departments.

The budget includes increases in planning and zoning fees, which have not been adjusted since 2005 and will now be in line with surrounding localities.

Under the proposed budget the town will have 73 budgeted full-time employees, with one added in Planning and Zoning and one in the Finance Department.

Proposed budget highlights include a 1% cost of living adjustment for all employees, implementation of a new classification plan, continuing to offer a free employee health plan, funding the first year of a seven-year Capital Improvement Plan, and continued economic development.

The budget, for the first time in a decade, includes the funding for a Capital Improvement Plan. In FY21-22, those capital projects will include traffic signal improvements at various intersections, ERP software

replacement, Gish Mill parking and façade improvements, gateway signs, the Glade Creek 2B grant match, a worksite and work zone safety package, history museum repairs, and body cameras for the Vinton Police.

Finance Director Anne Cantrell told council that the town's total debt across all funds-General, Utility, and Stormwater—is approximately \$12 million. The town has a per capita debt of \$1,369—quite an achievement.

Council will take action on the budget at their meeting on June 15. Town Charter requires that a budget be adopted by July 1 for the new fiscal year.

Town Council also adopted a resolution authorizing the town manager to execute a Performance Agreement between the Town of Vinton, the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Gish Mill Davii, LLC for the Gish Mill Redevelopment Project.

The agreement is valued up to \$910,000 over a 10-year period, which is intended to incentivize the redevelopment of the historic Gish Mill property to encourage the mixed-use commercial, residential and retail development.

The financial terms of the agreement include:

• A single lump sum payment at closing for public infrastructure, gateway and parking improvements in the amount of \$250,000

 Reimbursement of all permitting and utility connection fees paid to the town by Gish Mill Davii, not to exceed \$40,000

• Reimbursement of all building permitting fees paid to the county by the company, not to exceed \$20,000

Five equal payments of \$80,000 each year in the initial five years of the agreement

• Five equal payments of \$40,000 each year in the last five years of the agreement

• Providing a \$468,500 Industrial Redevelopment Loan (IRF)

The performance terms of the agreement include: minimum investment of \$2,700,000, creation and maintaining at least 37 new jobs for 10 years, generating and paying at least \$40,000 annually in meals taxes to the town for 10 years, and repayment of the IRF loan in full to the town.

Council was briefed on the Performance Agreement at the meeting on May 18; the Roanoke County EDA unanimously approved the Performance Agreement at its meeting on May 19.

Vinton Town Council also adopted a resolution authorizing the town tanager to execute an MOU between the Town and Roanoke County. Roanoke County has agreed to a funding agreement in the form of an MOU to reimburse the town for a portion of the Incentive Grant for Gish Mill in the amount of \$40,000, which is to be paid in annual installments over a fiveyear period.

The installments will be based on the net revenue that the county expects to generate as a result of the redevelopment project. The MOU will also reimburse up to \$20,000 of building permit fees paid to the county. The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the MOU on May 11.

Information on the proposed FY2021-2022 budget is available online at https://www. vintonva.gov/100/Budgets-Reports.

School Board briefed on construction cost increase for WBHS renovations/additions

The Roanoke County School Board was briefed on increased construction costs for the William Byrd



High School renovations received and upped the project at its work session cost of the project. on June 1. Final guaran-

RCPS Director of Fateed prices were recently cilities and Operations Chris Lowe informed the board that due to rising costs in the construction industry the WBHS project has increased from approximately \$20 million to \$27.5 million. That figure represents no cut in the scope of the project.

The cost per square foot has risen from \$201 per square foot to \$265 per square foot. Lowe advised the board that those prices were probably good for the next seven to ten days, but that they needed to make a quick decision on whether to sign a revised contract with Avis Construction and Hughes and Associates Architects and Engineering so that the project can get underway.

to \$750,000; metals have increased from \$437,000 to \$967,000; woods, plastics, composites prices have increased from \$51,000 to \$113,000; the price of doors/windows/etc. has increased from \$1 million to \$1.25 million; HVAC and plumbing have increased by \$2.5 million. The is no increase in "soft costs" such as furniture and testing with prices already locked in.

Finance Director Susan Peterson said that the increase in costs can be covered in the short term by shifting bonds from the Glen Cove and W.E. Cundiff construction projects in order to sign the contract, with final approval by the Board of Supervisors.

tects to analyze the current Burton Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) program and determine multiple conceptual footprints for a new Burton (one with wings, one compact, two in the middle). This information will allow RCPS staff to access the feasibility of different sites for the Burton project. No additional funds are required.

Recently RRMM was mmissioned to provide a feasibility study for the relocation of the Burton Center of Arts & Technology facility to the Central Office Cove Road location. During that presentation it was determined that one of the next steps in the Burton process is to determine potential conceptual Burton square footage footprints that could be utilized to determine suitable site acreage needed for a relocated Burton.

ital funds to hire Balzer & Associates, which is on a Roanoke County contract, to locate and assess properties in Roanoke County for a potential BCAT location. Balzer's scope of work would include properties owned by Roanoke County Public Schools and other potential properties in Roanoke County. Balzer will evaluate multiple properties and give a report on the feasibility and costs for developing for a Burton school by August 1, 2021. During the work ses-sion, the School Board interviewed four applicants for the Catawba School Board seat being vacated by Don Butzer-Brent Hudson, Deneen Evans, Tyrel Tullis, and Patricia Wood. The new board member will serve until voters choose a new representative in the November elections. The board will announce the selection on June 10.

Lynn Hurst, General Manager	inurst@ourvalley.org
Matt de Simone, Editor	fincastle.editor@ourvalley.org
Debbie Adams, Staff Writer	dadams@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, Sports Editor	bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Betty Jo Barger, Copy Editor	fincastle@ourvalley.org
James "Tucker" Frye, Advertising.	tfrye@ourvalley.org

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

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Asked by the board for line-item increases, Lowe said that the cost of masonry for the project has increased from \$422,000

The School Board voted to approve signing of the contract.

Lowe also asked the board to approve a request to expand the scope of services for RRMM Archi-

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Lowe also requested \$10,000 from Minor Cap-



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

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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.



Vinton area schools bid farewell to retirees



WBHS retiree Julia Link

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

Several faculty and staff members at Vinton-area schools are retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Julia Link and William McBride have retired from William Byrd High School.

Link, a biology teacher, has spent her entire teaching career of 27 years at WBHS.

"WBHS has been a great place to teach because of the amazing faculty and staff as well as wonderful students and parents," said Link. "I have never wanted to teach anywhere else."

Her plans for retirement include "beach trips and traveling to new places, spending more time with family and friends, catching up on reading, and so many possibilities I haven't even thought of yet."

Link says she will miss the daily interactions with students and her "coworkers who are like family."

Link is a graduate of William Byrd High School as are her three children.

"Teaching this last year during a pandemic was challenging in many ways, and yet I enjoyed my students so much," Link said. "We have all had to be flexible, and adjust to social distancing, virtual learning, new technologies, eating lunch together, cleaning and mask protocols, and just not getting to 'do school' like we have always done, but students were understanding, respectful, and appreciative. While I wish the pandemic had not happened, I will remember this as a very special year that we all managed to survive together!"

Billy McBride is retiring as a building operator at WBHS. He has spent 25 years working with Boanoke



WBHS retiree Billy McBride

cial industry with J.C. Bradford & Co.

Bushnell says that she would like to spend some time in retirement "enjoying nature a little more by visiting some nature trails, and maybe do some hiking." She plans to substitute teach for Roanoke County, as well.

"The best thing about my years at WBMS-I appreciate all the support I've received over the years working here," Bushnell said. "We have supported each other in many ways. Helping others is something I enjoy doing."

She says she will miss the adult and student interactions.

Bushnell and her husband are awaiting the birth of their first grandchild in November. "We are so excited. My son returned home from Houston, Texas, where he attended and graduated from Universal Technical Institute, just last week. My daughter works at UVA. She's a PICU RN. She has recently gone back to school for her degree as a Nurse Practitioner. My son-in-law teaches at a private school near Charlottesville and, is working on completing his doctor-ate degree. My husband has been in the tire repair industry for many years. It is his hope to retire in the near future. We have an upcoming wedding anniversary on June 1, 36 years.

"I love my family so much," Bushnell said. "I really don't know what I'd do without them. I love animals, which comes from growing up on a farm; I have my parents to thank for that. Family is important to me and as I retire, my hope is to spend more time with them. I would also like to be more involved with my church."

Becky Reed has worked



WBMS retiree Cynthia Bushnell

for federal and state campgrounds upon retirement. She says the best thing about her years at WBMS was the "feeling of being family with my colleagues." As for what she will miss most in retiring, "it's the kids."

She plans to continue as Ham Radio Club sponsor at WBMS and as a minister to children at Parkway Wesleyan Church.

Sandra Hogan, Linda Hughes, Kathleen Lunsford, and Jenny Stallard are retiring from Bonsack Elementary School.

Sandra Hogan has worked for nine years at Bonsack and for Roanoke County Schools. She is an instructional assistant. Her plans for retirement are spending time with her family.

Special Education teacher Linda Hughes has taught for 34 years in Roanoke County Schools in several schools. She will be enjoying her retirement on her land in a neighboring county.

Kathleen Lunsford has taught at Herman L. Horn and Bonsack Elementary, for a total of 12 years with Roanoke County, in Grades 1 and 3, and art. She has been a RCPS employee for 13 years.

"I came to public education late and worked in many places," Lunsford said. "I've been a professional artist all my life and I am looking forward to creating new works."

Her plans for retirement are "making art and spending time with my family. We are a family of creative people who enjoy work and creative activity.

"My years in Roanoke County Schools have been one of the highlights of my life," said Lunsford. "I have loved the staffs and the students. They have made each day an adventure. I will miss the people-the kindness of those I have worked with and for has enriched my life." Jenny Stallard was one of the original staff members at Bonsack Elementary, coming to Bonsack with several others from Roland E. Cook for a total of 29 years with Roanoke County Schools. She says she "loved working in



W.E. Cundiff retiree Donna Dewease

the cafeteria with the little ones" and was an office IA. She plans to enjoy retirement with traveling and her family.

Phyllis Satterfield and Ronda Wickham are retiring from Mount Pleasant Elementary.

Satterfield has been involved in the field of education for 42 years, 22 of them in Roanoke County. She has served as a guidance counselor at Mount Pleasant.

"I have been blessed to work with many wonderful educators, parents, and supportive communities," Satterfield said. "The children have taught me so much and will forever be in my heart."

Wickham has worked at Mount Pleasant for 32 years, the last 27 in kindergarten. Her years in Roanoke County Schools total 38, including teaching at Burlington, Glenvar, and Bent Mountain Elementary Schools.

As for her retirement plans, "I will be doing the extended work plan, so I'll still be able to hang out at school here and there! I want to spend more time with my grandchildren as well as older family members who need care and assistance."

Wickham says the best things about her years with Roanoke County schools is "the sense of purpose and accomplishment I have felt. What a privilege it has been to shape young minds and watch them learn and to help them feel loved and worthy. It has truly been a calling in my life."

As for what she will miss, "In addition to the children, I will miss my colleagues. It has been a blessing to work in a school where everyone is family. When one hurts, we all hurt, and when one has victories, we all share in the iou."



Bonsack Elementary Principal Leanne Leftwich and retiree Kathleen Lunsford



Mount Pleasant Elementary retiree Phyllis Satterfield



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mount Pleasant Retiree Ronda Wickham

ters-in-law, Kaitlin and Kristin, and we're blessed with four sweet grandchildren.

"There is no greater gift than knowing that I have somehow touched lives and made a difference in the world," said Wickham. "I sincerely hope that every single person who works in Roanoke County Schools feels the same."

Donna DeWease has retired from W.E. Cundiff Elementary as an instructional assistant. She spent her first two years with Roanoke County working at Herman L. Horn Elementary and then at Cundiff for 30 years. She says she will miss the children and the friendships she has made. As for retirement, "I plan to spend a lot more time with my family."

County Public Schools.

Cynthia Bushnell and Becky Reed are retiring from William Byrd Middle School.

Bushnell, administrative assistant, has worked at WBMS and in Roanoke County Schools for 15 and a half years. Prior to coming to Roanoke County, she worked for fifteen years in the finanat WBMS for 16 years and for 20 years with Roanoke County. She teaches Special Education.

She previously taught in Bedford County Schools for five years and at the Minnick Education Center for five years.

Reed plans on volunteering as a campground host J0y.

Wickham has served on Mount Pleasant's PTA board for many years, contributing to the planning of events and activities for their students.

"I have been married for 37 years to my wonderful husband, Roger," Wickham said. "We have three grown children–Steven, Daniel, and Jenna. We have two daughHerman L. Horn Elementary did not have any retirees this year.

Roanoke County Public Schools had 72 retirees for the 2020-2021 school year with an accumulated 1,583 years of service.

Churches sponsoring yard sale on June 5

Under the Bridge Ministries on Walnut Avenue in Vinton is joining with Roanoke Avenue Baptist and Christ Temple to host a yard sale to benefit their ministries on Saturday June 5.

Pastor Frank Broughman says the yard sale will take place at Under the Bridge Ministries, located at 421 Walnut Avenue, beginning at 8 a.m.

Items for sale include household items, clothing, some furniture, Hot Wheels, paintings, and more.







Gauntlet from page 1

final competition after 10 weeks of business development classes.

The Gauntlet was founded by Annette Patterson and The Advancement Foundation. Participants from across the region participate. Over 650 Gauntlet participants have completed the program in since 2015, assisted by 250 mentors.

The Gauntlet is the best of the American dream," said Patterson.

Nearly 150 entrepreneurs, representing 104 businesses participated in the business program this year, with 56 businesses competing for cash and inkind prizes.

Patterson and TAF Board Chair Becky Freemal presided over the awards ceremony. Guest speakers included Brent Hershey of State Farm Insurance, the lead sponsor for the Gauntlet.

Gauntlet alumni Andy Bishop of Twin Creeks Brewing, Richard Mansell of IVO, and Carrie Poff of Brown Hound Tree Services shared their experiences with the Gauntlet program and their successes which they attribute to the program.

WSLS-TV anchor Rachel Lucas, a Gauntlet alumni, hosted Facebook Live coverage of the event.

The Gauntlet first place winner for 2021 iss Candace Monaghan of Beaver Dam Farm Sunflowers in Buchanan with winnings of \$23,925 in cash and prizes (\$8,500 in cash). The festival at the farm began in 2016 with 20 acres of sunflowers and, capitalizing on their unique beauty, now hosts everything from craft/food vendors, to sunset dinners, and goat yoga. The annual Sunflower Festival has grown to tens of thousands of visitors over its two-weekend period.

Second place went to Cynthia Forbes of Fyvie Farms, who won \$20,540 in cash and prizes (\$7,750 in cash). Fyvie Farms is a 135-acre event venue in Alleghany County near Covington, featuring weddings, meetings, parties, outdoor concerts, car shows, and craft fairs. Future outdoor activities will include access to the Jackson River, biking, glamping, a nine-hole disc/ golf course, ATV trails, and paintball.

Allyson Davoll of Inspired to Enhance in Roanoke won third place and \$18,185 in cash and prizes (\$5,750 in cash). This is a new beauty and grooming salon featuring services for all hair textures and styles, as promoted by Davoll's passion for diversity and inclusion. Other Platinum level winners included: Tamara Dennis, of Priss

E. Nerd, creating unique, themed jewelry and accessories to bring out everyone's inner nerd, winnings \$17, 050 in cash and prizes

John Tucker, On Course Ratings Systems, LLC, allows you to run safely on your own in nearby parks and compete virtually for your rank with others around the country, \$18,850

Daryanne Neilson, Bluebell Bakers homebased-bakery moving into commercial space in Buena Vista, \$17, 575

Virginia Barkett, The Pie Shoppe, sells chicken, vegetarian, breakfast, and dessert pies, \$12,550

David And Cecilia Fencer, Great Tables by Reclaimed Innovations, family-operated business in Shenandoah Valley reclaims, recycles, and repurposes old barn wood by making handcrafted tables and other furniture, \$12,000

Callie Altman, North Mountain Candle, handcrafted high quality fragrance products, \$11,785

Kimberly Whiter, Elder Care Solutions, consultation and coordination to assist with bridging the gap to long-term care, \$11,850

Ryouga Kasper, Kasper UAV, commercial drone service offering roofing inspections, mapping, cinematography throughout Virginia, \$11,910

Whitney Pugh, Agenacare Housecalls, medical care at convenience of client, \$10,905

Kim Nicholson, Signature Stager, specializing inhome staging preparation, \$11,185

Laurie Andrews, LAT Personal Training, synergistic approach between exercising the mind, body, and spirit through integrative practices, safe and effective exercise for all walks of life, \$8,780

On the Gold level:

Chris and Marie Shiraki, White Tree Inn, turn of century (1896) Victorian home being restored, boarding house and Airbnb in Buena Vista, \$11,680

Mitchell, Dorothy Mountain Edge Adult Day Care, structures activities to keep aging adults and mentally disabled adults engaged and living life to its fullest,

yard and small-scale premium winery in Grayson Moyer, Muddy Squirrel, ad-County, \$4,725

Teresa Lyons, Roanoke ginia's Blue Ridge, \$1,700 Teach, a start-up non-profit agency addressing readiness Foster's Home Improvefor underserved school-aged ment, family-owned comchildren in Roanoke Valley pany performs all aspects of through application of the home improvement from science of learning, \$3,880

Dana Long, Let's Party en and bath remodeling, Creatively, innovative and \$1,830 custom-designed events which include team building ness and fundraising, workshops, backed, heart-centered propublic parties, and private gram that helps reduce stress parties for special occasions, and/or PTSD, helps tap into \$3.050

Bonnie Chavez, Building Beloved Communities, a consulting business for small business owners, nonprofits, and individuals seek- area, \$2,255 ing business consulting and executive coaching, \$3,110

Brooke Buehring, Wel- world a better place through come Basket, delivers house- lemonade, \$1,760 warming gifts to people who purchase homes in Roanoke, Blessed Varieties LLC, d/b/a Salem, Vinton, Botetourt, Sassy Beauty, retail beauty Franklin County, Smith supplier and clothing store, Mountain Lake and the catering to minority com-NRV, \$3,205

Tina and Paul Brockman, ginia, \$3,920 the Grandin Pharmacy independent community phar- ven Artisan Gallery, creatmacy in Grandin Village, ing digital channel to show-\$2,900

Wendy Witt, Electrico- abroad while promoting Art, a full-service restaurant, emerging artisanal brands, wine and beer garden with \$1,825 live music, \$2,750

Chis and Lynette Rome- Green Show, ro, Romero Albums, hand- growth of cannabis indusmade wedding albums, try, member of Hemp Mill, \$2,600

At the Silver Level:

Michael Clark, Cornell vate the Game, therapeutic Business Services, manag- sports training program ing employee relations, team mixing mental health techbuilding, and taking chal- niques and self-awareness lenging operations in need of improvement and implementing changes to provide quality and customer service, \$1,955

Robin Poteet, Poteet Studios, creates whimsical home goods with meaningful connection to animal welfare, \$1,810

Anthony Giorgetti, Power Up Online Promotions, makes business POP by telling their stories to people looking for them, \$1,455

Jaclyn Nunziato, Huddle Up Moms, non-profit dedicated to empowering women through support, connection, education, \$2,225

Paul Welsch, The Vinton Nest Co-working, provides remote working space for professionals, affordable option for start-ups, \$2,255

Tim Miller and Lisa with sports specific skills and drills, \$1,800 venture sports through Vir-

Jon and Rebekah Foster,

simple paint jobs to kitch-

Dr. Melinda Hall, Well-

power of brain for wellness,

Chaos, purchased Miami Ice

Snowcones in Cave Spring

Bug Lemonade, making the

Judah Clements, Judah

Anthony Mitchell, A&D

munity in Southwest Vir-

Josephine Arbaugh, Wo-

case Ecuador's rich culture

Bonnie Cranmer, B.

Daniel Brooks, Moti-

\$1,655

supports

Laurie Munoz, Drink

\$1,800

science-

Matters,

Brent Styler, Coiner Country Store in Buena Vista, \$2,570

Johanna Shiraki, Scattered Sunshine Therapeutic Massage, structural and Ido massage for stress reduction, pain relief, increased mobility and general well-being, \$2,670

Bronze Level awards included:

Garrett English and Jessica Downs, Peer Journey's, creating a peer communal living program for supportive housing in a single-family home, facilitated by regular peer support from professionally certified Peer Recovery Specialists in 1-on-1 sessions and groups, \$1,550

Patrice Freeland, Wonderful Land of Oils, prepares individual wellness plan, essential oil application treatments, full line of essential oils, \$1,575

Julie Beckner, Meadow Spring Hideaway, four luxury yurts and amenities with view of Blue Ridge Mountains, access Appalachian Trail or fish in spring-fed pond, \$1,500

Amanda Bocchi and Alex Wood, Appalachian Vibes, a show challenging expectations and highlighting diversity of music in Appalachian region, \$1,400

Panagore, Andreas Ecoscape landscaping and installations sustainable to run more self-sufficient homestead in modern setting, \$1,550

Breyton Fraction, Stratamas Group, helps organizations create thriving corporate cultures, \$1,605

Mary Rosser-Furr, Fetal Anticonvulsant Syndrome USA, non-profit support organization to bring national attention to FACS by education, awareness, and campaign advocacy, \$1,490

Katrina Robinson, BHWD Wellness, spreads awareness about importance of self-care for mind, body, soul, a more holistic lifestyle, \$1,595

Mary Jo Boone, The Well, natural health and wellness retail store in Bedford, adding a variety of natural health modalities, \$1,450

Shay Brown, Nubian Messy Bun Momma, variety of sweet treats, custom-made candy, \$1,435

Beth Davidson, Why Not Workshop, non-profit serving at-risk students by providing primary and supplemental educational services in non-traditional setting, \$1,550

Latoya Johnson, LJ's Delicious Delightz, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, puddings, \$1,420

Shannon Dominguez, Director of Business Development for The Advancement Foundation that facilitates the Gauntlet program, was recognized, along with staff members Kelly Turner, Judy Wood, Missy Paxton, and Kiki Scott.

A Gauntlet Business Showcase, featuring this year's Gauntlet entrepreneurs, was held at the Vinton War Memorial prior to the awards ceremony.

The ADVANCEMENT FOUM Farms

Second place in the 2021 Gauntlet Competition went to Cynthia Forbes of Fyvie Farms, who won \$20,540 in cash and prizes.



\$13,600

Rolando Holmes and Alaina Ledyard, The Foundry, a company devoted to unlocking human potential, help people discover and develop their strengths and talents to impact the world profoundly, \$4,580

Mickey Cowden, Cowden Family Farms vine-

Carol Joy Smales, Persunality, LLC, network of companies integrating different strengths to create content, tools, and products for entertainment, healthcare, and education industries, \$1,755

Angie Hernandez, Gardner's Frozen Treats, ice cream retail, \$2,235



Allyson Davoll of Inspired to Enhance won third place in this year's Gauntlet Competition with \$18,185 in cash and prizes.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Over 140 entrepreneurs participated in the 2021 Gauntlet Business Program; 56 of the businesses moved on to the competition with the final awards ceremony held at the Vinton War Memorial on May 27.

Luttrell named to Union **University President's List**

Three hundred forty-three students have been named to the Union University President's List for the spring 2021 semester, including Austin Luttrell of Bedford.

The President's List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

this was the 98th annual commencement ceremony for William Byrd High School. She was the principal for most of the students in the Class of 2021 at William Byrd Middle School and then at WBHS.

"This has been a fast seven years," Newcomb said. "As freshmen you were present for the dedication of this field and now you are the only class to graduate in the stadium. I have treasured our time together."

She spoke of the "abrupt closure" of schools last spring with the pandemic and the "trials and tribulations" which followed. However, students bonded together, persevered, and learned to adjust. In that experience, "everyone came to value the little things we had always taken for granted."

"Graduation is a milestone and just a beginning," she told the Class of 2021. "Always strive to achieve; always be kind to one another; help those less fortunate; and remember, it's never wrong to do the right thing."

She told the audience that of the 245 graduates, 168 were wearing gold tassels, indicating that they had earned GPAs of 3.0 or higher and thus were designated as honor graduates. Forty-five had GPAs of 4.0 or higher, qualifying them as valedictorians. One hundred thirtyone were wearing gold pins, indicating they had earned Advanced Study Diplomas; 116 will be attending twoor four-year colleges or universities, or technical trade schools.

She named 11 graduates who will be entering the Armed Forces and thanked them for their commitment: Gavin Ellis, Will McBride, and Zach Minter entering the U.S. Army; Madison Crowder and Zariah Turner enlisting in the Navy; John Belcher, Jamie Cawley, Kollin Slusher, and Tanner Smith joining the U.S. Marine Corps; and Donald McCadden and Seyanah Quiles-Sisk entering the Air Force.

Newcomb introduced the 13 student athletes who will be furthering their athletic careers and education: Dylan Hatfield and Tyler Dean who will be playing baseball at Virginia Tech; Luke Taylor and Hayden Lyles who will be playing baseball at Bluefield College; Isaac Fix who will play baseball at Davidson College; Cabria Mutz who will play basketball at Hollins; Nic Clements who will play soccer at Seton Hill University; Hanna Chappell who will play soccer at Converse College; Blake Sankbeil and Bryson Lutz who will play football at Emory and Henry; and El'Amin Shareef and Ethan Tinsley who will play football at Randolph

Macon College. She applauded Faith Parrish who earned her Associate Degree at Virginia Western while earning her diploma at WBHS.

In addition, Newcomb recognized National Merit Scholar Taylor Dawson who will be attending MIT this fall-where the admission rate is 6.7 percent.

She also introduced Robert Brown and Kevin Genaro who completed apprenticeships while they were fulltime students at Byrd.

Sixty-seven graduates have already secured full-time employment in the workforce.

As a whole, the Class of 2021 has accepted \$534,311 in scholarships and grants, not counting financial aid.

"Each student graduating is a symbol of success," Newcomb said. She paid tribute to families and especially the WBHS faculty for their support for students-"job well done."

She said goodbye to retiring biology teacher Julie Link who has taught for 27 years.

"Continue to work hard, just like you have for the past four years," Newcomb told the graduates. "Be productive; be honest; be thankful and be kind."

She quoted from Aristotle saying, "happiness depends on ourselves.'

Top Terrier and Valedictorian Dylan Hatfield delivered the Top Terrier Address. He asked his fellow students, "What is your passion now as you leave Patterson Stadium? What will be your driving

force in life?"

As a future Virginia Tech baseball player, he talked about his passion for baseball, commenting that when he was 8 years old, he joined a competitive traveling team, assigned to right field.

"At that age there aren't many balls hit to right field, so it was the best spot for me," Hatfield said. "My mom and sister say they would sit in the stands and pray no one would hit a ball in that direction because I probably wasn't going to catch it. Truth is, I prayed a ball didn't come my way, too."

Hatfield said he loved the game and wanted to get better, so his dad started working with him outside of practices and taught him he "did have talent in baseball; I just had to work to develop it. If I had a passion, I needed to go after it and make my dream a reality.

'Each of us has a passion or gift. Will you pursue that passion and more importantly, will you do it well?"

Hatfield quoted from a speech delivered by Martin Luther King to junior high school students.

"When you discover what you will be in your life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it," King said. "Don't just set out to do a good job. Set out to do such a good job that the living, the dead or the unborn couldn't do it any better."

"If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.'

Let's leave this place and pursue our passion," Hatfield said. "Let's be the best at what we do. Don't let anyone outwork you, out-hustle you. The days you do not feel motivated, be disciplined enough to keeping pushing through."

Hatfield thanked New-

comb and the faculty at William Byrd for being people who did find the passion and did their jobs well, and helped the Class of 2021 get through the challenges of the year.

"They went above and beyond to give us as much normalcy as possible," Hatfield said.

Senior members of the William Byrd Choir—Haleigh Bush, Kamryn Dodd, Tess Griffin, Bayla Kessler, Zach Minter, Michelle Price, and Arielle Shiloh-performed "Rainbow" by Kacey Musgraves with the lyrics, "The sky has finally opened, the rain and wind stopped blowin', there's always been a rainbow hangin' over your head. It'll all be alright."

Graduate Elizabeth Recktenwald read a poem she composed for graduation, which described the challenges of the past year during the pandemic. COVID has "added value to our time together and it has made a bond between us that is more tightly tethered."

ates were then called to the time as seniors at WBHS. stage to receive their diplomas from Principal Tammy Newcomb, along with Assistant Principals Marcee Cook and Travis Anderson, Dean of Students Phillip Martin, and members of the Guidance Department.

The 45 valedictorians led the way: Urunna Anyanwu, Keaton Band, Amna Becirevic, Christopher Blankenship, Sarah Butterworth, Tyler Buxton, Erin Courtemanche, Grayce Dantzler, Olivia Darnell, Taylor Dawson, Kinsey Dollberg, Caroline Dullaghan, Catherine Dullaghan, Elizabeth Fedor, Isaac Fix, Preston Fleitz, Ellen Frary, Andrea Gonzalez, Cade Hanson, Hunter Harris, Dylan Hatfield, Hanna Howell, William Howell, Adithya Iyer, Brooke Johnston, Bayla Kessler, Autumn Krebs, Athena Liao, Kasey McKee, Natalie Mullins, Mathew Pampley, Faith Parrish, Dillon Peters, Michelle Price, Hailey Ramsey, Elizabeth Recktenwald, Emma Roberts, Charlotte Rose, Joseph Sandzimier, Annie



School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely greeted Class of 2021 graduates as they exited the stage with their diplomas. They were also greeted by Vinton's School Board representative Tim Greenway and David Linden who serves the Hollins District on the board. Shown left to right are senior Kamryn Dodd, Dr. Nicely, Tim Greenway, and David Linden.



PHOTOS BY BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Class of 2021 gradu- The Class of 2021 performed "The Hum" for the last



William Byrd High School seniors took a trip down memory lane with visits to their elementary schools the day before graduation. These students spent their elementary school years at Bonsack Elementary.

Stevens, Emily Summey, Erin Taylor, Mya Travis, Reagan Tuck, and D'aja Williams.

Roanoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely, Vinton's School Board representative Tim Greenway, and Hollins' School Board member David Linden waited at the bottom of the steps to congratulate each graduate. (Dr. Nicely shook the hands of about 1,100 Roanoke County graduates at ceremonies for all five high

schools.)





ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - 1ocated 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.christianchurchofchristclearbrook.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-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 FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOURSQUARE

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

LUTHERAN

Looking for Wisdom

Read Esther 1:1 through 3:15

When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her (Esther 2:15).

What do you do when you're a young woman vying to be the king's next queen?

We don't know much about Esther's personality or feelings. But the Bible does give us some clues about this young heroine of the faith. From this passage, it seems Esther was wise enough to seek—or at least listen to—and follow the

advice of more experienced people.

First she listened to Hegai. We don't know what he told her about winning the king's heart, but it worked! And other Scriptures tell us that Esther repeatedly asked for and followed Mordecai's advice.

God often places other people in our lives to give us counsel. We're wise when, instead of trying to go it on our own, we ask for help from others who are godly and have more life experience.

Prayer Suggestion: Ask God to send you wise counselors.

Quicklook: Esther 2:15-19



va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/ 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE

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

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHER- 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible AN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 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.

62 L F !!

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

UNITED METHODIST

THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHOD-IST 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.



and how the firm qualifies as a Minority or Female concern.

Such requests should be addressed or faxed to:

Total Action For Progress ECHR Department P.O. Box 2868, Roanoke, VA 24001 Attn: Lee Lovern (540) 353-2961 Or Attn: Liz Puckett (540) 283-4882 TTY: Dial "711" (540) 283-4897 Fax: (540) 777-4833



Eanes. The proposal must be received at the City office no later than 4:00 PM on Jun 7, 2021.

pursuant to Sections 15 2-. 2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Bethel Baptist Church, Inc.,

All contracts will be made on a competitive basis. TAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Business and Employment Notice

Total Action For Progress is preparing to carry out the Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program through the use of federal HOME grant Funds. In the implementation of this project the following job types may be available:

Carpenter

Plumber

HVAC

Other Construction Related Jobs

In carrying out this project, Total Action For Progress its contractors and subcontractors will, to the greatest extent feasible, will utilize qualified persons who permanently reside within the Counties of; Rockbridge, Botetourt, Roanoke, Bath, Alleghany, Henry, Franklin, Floyd, Pulaski, Patrick, Giles, Montgomery, Bedford, and Craig for employment and training positions.

All job openings will be listed with the local office of the Virginia Employment Commission. Persons gualified for the jobs listed should register at the following location: 3601 Thirlane Rd NW suite 2, Roanoke, VA 24019 Additionally, the following contracts and procurements will/may be made: General Contractors, Septic System Contractor, Well Diggers and HVAC Constructions materials, building supplies, appliance suppliers and HVAC suppliers. Total Action For Progress will, to the greatest extent feasible, use businesses located in and owned by persons residing in Section 3 in the Counties of; Rockbridge, Botetourt, Roanoke, Bath, Alleghany, Henry, Franklin, Floyd, Pulaski, Patrick, Giles, Montgomery, Bedford, and Craig. Any person residing or firm located in the above named locali-

ties may request to participate in procurement opportunities associated with this project by contacting the following person within ten (10) days of this notice.

> Liz Puckett 302 2nd Street SW, Roanoke, VA 24011 Phone: 540-283-4882 Virginia Relay: 711 Fax: 540-777-4833

Written requests should include the name, address, product or service and phone number. All above-referenced procurements will be made on a competitive basis. The names of businesses who respond to this notice will be included on procurement lists for this project. Names of job seekers will be given to contractors.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Total Action Against Poverty, Inc. is preparing to carry out the INDOOR PLUMBING REHABILITATION PROGRAM, through the use in whole or in part of HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS.

The implementation of this project will require the use of General Contractors, Septic Contractors, and Well Drillers, for housing rehabilitation and the installation septic systems and wells. These projects may occur in any of the following jurisdictions; Counties of Allegheny, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, and Rockbridge.

TAP will carry out this project with contractors qualified to work in the designated program area. Any contractor may request to be added to the contractors list for this program by contacting TAP at the information below. Contractors must have at least a Virginia Class B License, proper insurance, and be eligible to work in the designated areas.

Requests should include name, address, contact information, product or service.

Such requests should be addressed or faxed to:

Total Action For Progress ECHR Department P.O. Box 2868 Roanoke, VA 24001 Attn: Lee Lovern (540) 353-2961 Or Attn: Liz Puckett (540)283-4882 TTY: Dial "711" (540)283-4897 Fax: (540)777-4833

All contracts will be made on a competitive basis. TAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

the property located at 6 Front Avenue (Tax Map # 234-6-2) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to HBD Highway Business District with proffered condition 2. Consider the request of Peter R. Fields and Vivian

D. Fields, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 303-305 South Colorado Street (Tax Map # 121-10-4) from RMF Residential Multi-Family to **TBD** Transitional Business

3. Consider the request of MCLIP Properties, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 901 South Colorado Street and 110 7th Street (Tax Map # 184-4-8) from LM Light Manufacturing District to **CBD** Community Business District.

4. Consider the request of Timothy J. Toohig and Lonzie L. Linkous, Jr. property owners, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a two-family dwelling on the property located at 335 Roanoke Boulevard (Tax Map # 146 - 1 - 3).

5. Consider the request of Total Motion Performance. lessee, and 751 Union Station, LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow athletic instruction services on the property located at 773 Union Street (Tax Map # 183 1 1).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY James E. Taliaferro, II Executive Secretary

Tips for family camping trips

For nature lovers, perhaps nothing is more enjoyable than packing up the camping gear, traveling to a favorite campsite and getting away from it all while sleeping under the stars. Such an experience can be transformative, turning first-time campers into lifelong enthusiasts.

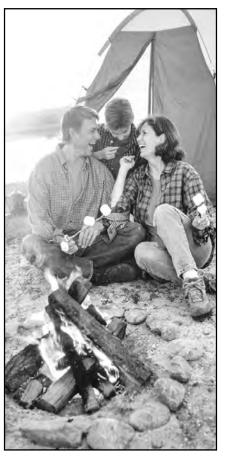
The opportunity to turn youngsters into nature enthusiasts who can't wait to spend time outside may be one reason why so many families go camping. A 2018 report Kampgrounds of America found that 52 percent of campers have children, making camping among the most popular and family-friendly ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

Camping with youngsters can help families make lasting memories. Parents who have never before taken their children camping may benefit from employing a few strategies to make the trip as fun as possible.

• Make a trial run in the backyard. A night camping in the backyard won't be exactly the same as a night in the woods, where wildlife, and particularly insects, may be less welcoming hosts. But a backyard camping night can acclimate children to their sleeping bags and their tents. A fun night sleeping under the stars in the backyard also may make kids more enthusiastic about an upcoming camping trip in the woods.

• Go over safety early and often. Use every opportunity to explain camping safety measures to youngsters in advance of your trip. Emphasize the importance of staying together in the woods, and teach youngsters how to identify potentially harmful plants like poison ivy, making sure they know to avoid coming into contact with these and other poisonous plants. Contact your local parks department, or the campground where you will be staying, for some additional advice on camping safety.

 Let kids help when choosing camping equipment. Youngsters may be more excited about camping if they're allowed to choose certain equipment, including their sleeping bags and tents. Before visiting your nearby camping retailer, explain to kids that tents come in various styles because they're designed to protect campers from certain elements that may be more common in certain areas than others. Such an explanation can make it easy to explain to youngsters why you're



purchasing certain items, even if those items weren't kids' top choices.

• Plan the family menu in advance. Plan the menu in advance so you can ensure everyone will continue to eat healthy. But make sure to include a few kid-friendly camping classics, like s'mores, in the meal plan as well.

• Prepare a camping-friendly firstaid kit. Bandages and topical antibiotic creams are part and parcel of any first-aid kit, regardless of where you're going. But the elements pose a different set of challenges that require a more extensive firstaid kit. When designing a first-aid kit for your camping trip, be sure to include all the usual items but also over-the-counter medications that can treat pain, allergies, constipation, and diarrhea. An extra gallon or two of water also makes for a wise addition to campers' first-aid kits.

Family camping trips can instill a lifelong love of the great outdoors in youngsters. A few simple strategies can help parents make such trips safe and memorable.

County

ORDER OF

PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH

OF VIRGINIA

Case No. CL21000845-00

55 East Main Street Suite 1

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Montgomery County

MASTROGIOVANNI,

Circuit Court

Metro Creative Graphics

Strategies to spend less time on your smartphone

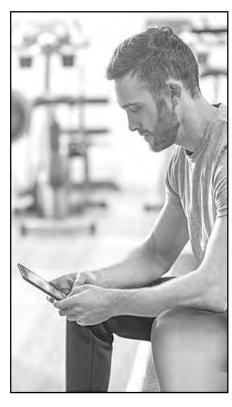
Smartphones are a significant part of life in the 21st century. According to the technology, data and analytics experts at Zenith, in 2019 the average American adult spent three hours and 30 minutes using mobile internet every day, with estimates suggesting that number could increase to more than four hours per day by 2021.

It's no secret that many people struggle when it comes to putting down their smartphones. The secret lies in learning how to unplug from smartphones, especially for the millions of people who are spending untold hours on such devices every day. A strong will to put smartphones down can help people do just that, and some additional strategies might make it easier to unplug as well.

• Keep your phone in another room. Many people are drawn to their smartphones by a seemingly endless stream of notifications. The addictive nature of notifications is debatable, but blaming notifications and merely turning them off may not be as effective a means to reducing smartphone reliance as you think.

• A 2020 study by researchers at the London School of Economics and Political Science found that 89 percent of interactions with phones were unprompted. That suggests people are simply picking up their phones even when notifications or incoming calls aren't making them do so. Keeping a phone in another room when dining, reading a book, engaging with family members, or participating in other activities can help people avoid that familiar urge to pick up their phone.

• Utilize apps to curtail your usage. Various apps allow users to block their own access to other apps and websites. These apps, which include Flipd and Freedom, are designed to help smartphone users regain productivity they might have lost due to their smartphone usage. The apps can be utilized in various ways, and one such way is to restrict access to games and websites during the workday. They also can be used to restrict access during family time or other hours of the day when people don't want to be distracted by the internet.



 Set up auto reply. Many professionals set up out-of-office messages to notify colleagues and clients when they're on vacation or engaging in projects that will prevent them from answering emails. The same principle can be applied to text messages. According to a 2019 survey from CTIA, which has tracked the evolution of the United States wireless industry since 1985, two trillion text messages were exchanged in 2019.

That's a lot of messages, and texting is a significant reason why so many people have problems putting down their phones. An automatic response informing friends, family and colleagues that you're away from your phone can be a great way to spend less time texting.

Smartphone usage is on the rise, even among people who want to put their phones down more often. Such users can try various approaches to spend less time on their phones.

Metro Creative Graphics

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Legals - Craig County

Public Notice Code of Virginia, Title 58.1

Section 3911 Craig County 2021 1st half real estate taxes are due on Monday, June 7, 2021. Taxes must be paid or postmarked by midnight on this date. Penalty will be assessed on June 8, 2021 and inter

Legals -Montgomery County

General Business zoning district. The subject property is an approximate 1.15-acre portion of a 4.409-acre parcel, located at 710 Peppers Ferry Road, N.W., and is identified as Tax Map Number 435-((A))-23 (Parcel ID 021274). The property is designated as Residential on the Future and Use M Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. A request by Aztec

Rental (Applicant), on

behalf of New River

Community College

(Landowner), for a

operate a business

involving the outdoor

machinery, such as mini backhoes and excavators,

within the B-3 General

Business zoning district.

The subject property is

in size located at 412

Roanoke Street, and consists of two parcels

identified as Tax Map

(Parcel IDs 032021,

designated as

approximately 2.441 acres

Numbers 527-((A))-200, 202

032023). The property is

Business/Commercial on

the 2013 Christiansburg

Comprehensive Plan.

the Future Land Use Map of

Town Hall will be open and

available to receive public

comment in-person at the

time of this Public Hearing.

be streamed live on the

YouTube channel at

once the meeting

please visit

publichearings.

Town of Christiansburg's

www.christiansburg.org/

youtube and will remain on

the Town's YouTube page

concludes. For information

on contactless methods for

submitting public comment,

www.christiansburg.org/

A copy of the applications,

the Town's Zoning Map,

Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may

be viewed in the Planning

Department Office, 100 E.

VA 24073 during normal

office hours of 8:00 a.m. -

5:00 p.m. Monday through

Manager, at (540) 382-6128

Friday. Contact Andrew

Warren, Assistant Town

ext. 1130 or by email at

you require reasonable

accommodations.

awarren@christiansburg.

org with any questions or if

Main Street, Christiansburg,

Additionally, the meeting will

Conditional Unit Permit to

Legals -STATEWIDE ADS Montgomery AUCTIONS

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assessed beginning July 1, 2021.

If you have not received a tax notice or have questions call 540-864-5641. If you have questions concerning the assessments on your notice, call the Commissioner of the Revenue at 540-864-5641.

Jackie M. Parsons Craig County Treasurer

> Legals -Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF

VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL21000419-00 Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073 VADEN, KEILA ADAIRE

VADEN, JOSHUA LEE The object of this suit is to: COMPLAINT OF DIVORCE It is ORDERED that JOSHUA LEE VADEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 4.2021.

May 4, 2021 ERICA W. CONNER CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. A request by Peed and Bortz, L.L.C. (Applicant), on behalf of John D. Elmore (Landowner), for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a contractor storage facility within the B-3

JENNIFER EVANS, MICHAEL TAHIR The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE ON A MINOR It is ORDERED that MICHAEL TAHIR EVANS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her display, storage and rental interests on or before JULY of contractor equipment and 20, 2021.

> MAY 27, 2021 ERICA W. CONNER CLERK

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL21000748-00 Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073 ARROYO, ESMERALDA RUIZ HERNANDEZ, ERNESTO ARROYO The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE

It is ORDERED that **ERNESTO ARROYO** HERNANDEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 26, 2021.

MAY 27, 2021 ERICA W. CONNER CLERK



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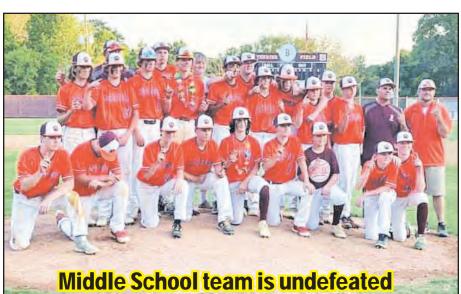
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TERRIERS PREPARE FOR REGION TRACK MEET

Left, William Byrd's Isaac Roth is up and over the bar in the pole vault competition in a recent meet at William Byrd High School. Right, Terrier sprinter Sela Beatty comes flying down the stretch on the track at Patterson Stadium. The Terriers were scheduled to wrap up the regular season with a Wednesday morning meet in Vinton this week, then get ready for the Region 3D meet, which will be held at Christiansburg High School next Wednesday, June 8. PHOTOS BY JEFF MARVIN



The William Byrd Middle School baseball team recently completed a perfect season. The Terriers won all nine of their games with 10 eighth graders and 11 seventh graders on the team. Bottom row, left to right, are Ethan Powell, Conner Amos, Landon Haithcock, JW Vaughan, Tyler Harris, Payton Steahly, Andrew Carter, Tyler Chambers and Torin Bundy. Back row, left to right; Kam McKee, Hayden Eads, Cannin Lutz,, Head Coach Brian Jones, Hayden Eads, Ryan Hurley, Hunter Obenchain, Connor Jones, Jarrett Shepherd, Aidan Robbins, Tate Kotz, Brogan Dent, Jake Courtemanche, Kylind Spence, Cason Nichols, Asst.coach Kevin Witcher and Asst coach Justin Dent. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Byrd lax to host Glass tonite



The William Byrd boys are scheduled to complete the regular season tonight with a home game against E.C. Glass, but that will be a game time decision. With school completed for the summer coach Truman Farmer isn't sure if he'll have enough play-



Ball Vinton Orioles of the Tee iway

Jerze Webb has had a good season for the Byrd lacrosse team. PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY

ers to play.

" We are scheduled to play Glass Thursday but this will depend on the number of players,' he said. "We will not be playing in post season, due to not having enough players.

The girls have completed their regular season and they're expecting to compete in the region tournament. That will begin on Monday, June 14, against an opponent still to be determined.

June 8, to host Staunton

River in a girls-boys dou-

bleheader, with the girls

opening the twin-bill at

5:30 pm.

Girls shut out Fleming on pitch

scored as the William Byrd soccer team shut out William Fleming Patterson Stadium. With Northside, and they're the win the girls improved to 6-2 overall and trail only Lord Botetourt in the Blue Ridge District standings.

Hanna Chappell scored the first goal of the night off a cross from Maddy Simmons, then Simmons scored the second off an assist from Riley Firebaugh. Sarah Stanley and Briannah Hall scored the third and fourth goals, both assisted by Ella Ashworth.

Addisyn St. Clair scored the fifth goal off an assist from Hall. Claire Glover joined in the fun with the sixth goal of the night off a pass from Maci Glass, and Glass finished the scoring for the first half, making it 7-0 at the break.

The second half goal scorer was Madeleine Wolters-Argenio off an assist from Hannah

Eight different girls Sutton. That ended the back home next Tuesday, game by slaughter rule, 8-0.

The girls are back on Tuesday night at in action Friday at

Hanna Chappell(#8) and Anna Martin(#21) control the ball for the Byrd girls. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Tee it Up!

smacks a hit in a game at the Bonsack Elementary School Field. PHOTO BY PAULA GREENWAY

Boys have "Sr. Nite" Tuesday

The William Byrd boys hope to end their regular season soccer schedule on a high note when they play the second game of a varsity doubleheader with the girls next Tuesday. The girls will open the twinbill at 5:30 pm against Staunton River with the boys to follow, both at Patterson Stadium in Vinton.

It's been a tough year for the Terriers, who have lost seven straight since beating Northside, 4-1, in their second game of the season. Byrd has lost two overtime games in that streak, including a 5-4 loss to LB in Daleville last Friday. That followed a strong effort in a close loss to Franklin County, the first place team in the Blue Ridge District.

"We had what was probably our best performance of the season at LB," said coach Russell Dishman. "It was unfortunate that we lost, but they guys played well and put it together throughout the match. It was a back and forth match and it was very noticeable to watch how the momentum swung through the match. I thought we were able to move the ball well through the middle of the field and create some quality chances."

Landon Niday had two goals for Byrd while Ben Guertin and Braden



Byrd's Josh Roop pushes the ball down the field for the boys' soccer team. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Crossan had one each. Bricen Lancaster had seven saves in the goal.

"I was proud of the guys for keeping their heads up and sticking to what we worked on,' said Dishman. "There were a lot of great individual performances, but the guys were able to make everyone around them better as the match went on."

On Tuesday Byrd played at William Fleming

Bricen Lancaster had 7 saves on the night and goals were scored by Landon Niday (2), Ben Guertin and Braden

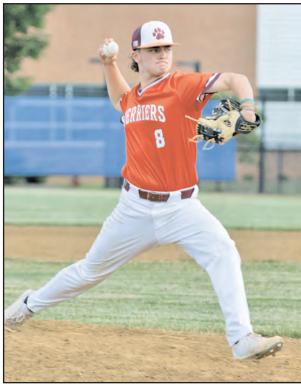
On Tuesday of this week the Terriers played at William Fleming and dropped a 4-0 decision.

"We struggled to build off the momentum we had gained the previous matches," said Dishman. "I thought the start of the match we did well to deny them chances and build forward. As the match drew on we struggled with organization and we tried forcing the ball forward at times and we were not successful."

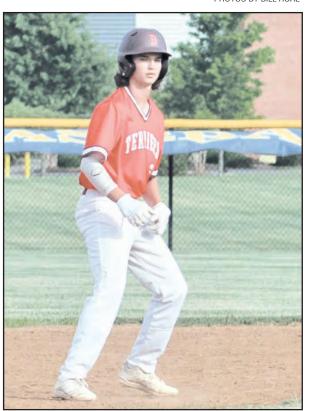
Tuesday's Next match with Staunton River is "Senior Night."

Crossan.

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



Above, Byrd's Trenton Sayers is on his way to pitching a shutout against William Fleming Tuesday. Below, Hunter Harris is on second after one of his two doubles. PHOTOS BY BILL HOAL



Big week for Byrd baseball team

The William Byrd baseball team can make up some ground in the Region 3D rankings with four games in as many days this week. The Terriers already had two wins on Tuesday, and were scheduled to play a big game with Lord Botetourt in Vinton Wednesday.

The Botetourt game was originally scheduled for last Friday, but a late afternoon thunderstorm postponed the game and it was rescheduled for Wednesday of this week. Botetourt had beaten Byrd the first time around, 14-3 in Daleville, and the Terriers were hoping for some revenge with Tyler Dean on the mound.

With a 7-2 record after sweeping a doubleheader from William Fleming Tuesday, the Terriers are hoping to solidify a spot in the top four of the region. As of today Abingdon and Tunstall hold the top two spots and Byrd can finish as high as third by winning out, but Wednesday's game with Botetourt was a big one. The Cavaliers were 7-2 prior to Wednesday's action and they still have 9-1 Franklin County to play on Friday in Rocky Mount.

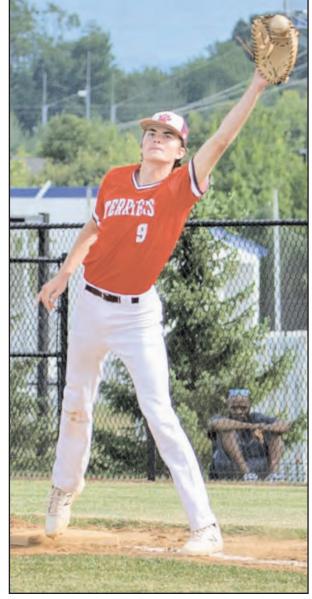
Byrd's doubleheader with Fleming, in Roanoke, was little more than a tuneup for the important stretch drive. The Terriers won 12-0 and 11-0 and in four games with Fleming this season they outscored the Colonels a combined 50-0. None of the four games went close to going the distance.

On Tuesday Ethan Tinsley pitched the first game and shut out Fleming on two hits. Hunter Harris was three-for-three with two doubles and three runs batted in, Hayden Lyle was two-for-two and Hunter Sipe had a double and two RBIs.

In the second game Trenton Sayers pitched a one hit shutout, fanning five. Bryson Lutz had two runs batted in.

Now the easy games are over as Byrd travels to Northside Friday, then wraps up the regular season with a 5:30 pm game at Walthall Park next Tuesday. Isaac Fix is slated to start against Northside with Dean back on the bump for Staunton River.

The Region 3D playoffs will include 10 of the 12 teams in the region. It will begin on Saturday, June 12, with the seven through 10 seeds playing and the top six getting a bye to the next round.



Ross Divers stretches for a putout against Fleming. PHOTO BY BILL HOAL

Wm. Byrd softball looks to bounce back

The William Byrd softball team will try to get both times to Class 6 Franklin County. back on track Friday when the Terriers play host to Northside in a Blue Ridge District softball game.

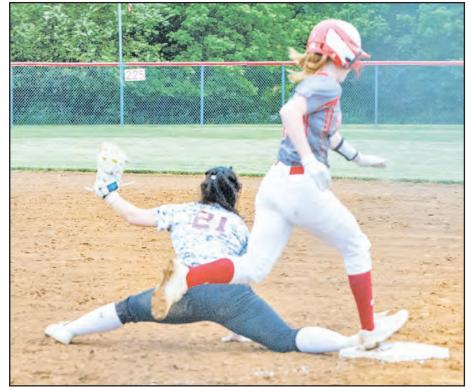
The Terriers were scheduled to play at Northside Wednesday, hoping to bounce back from last week's 7-0 loss at Lord Botetourt. It's been a while since the

2019 state champs have been shut out, and in fact in their other two losses this season they scored seven runs in both, losing

Botetourt pitcher Rhyann Jones held the Terriers to just two hits, singles by Maddy Tuck and Sydney Bewett. She struck out five and walked none.

Hallie Cox took the loss for Byrd, pitching five innings before Chloe Varney pitched the sixth. Botetourt had nine hits.

With the loss Byrd fell to 6-3 overall and 4-3 in the Blue Ridge District. Staunton River leads the BRD and the Terriers will host the Eagles next Tuesday, June 8





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Linda Tissiere CEO, YWCA Richmond



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

Above, Byrd firstbaseman Rachel Cruff stretches to nail a Lord Botetourt runner in last week's game. Below, catcher Maddy Tuck blocks a ball behind the plate.

PHOTOS BY JIM DEVINNEY

