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## Vinton to receive up to \$8.4 million from American Rescue Plan Act

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

Vinton Town Council focused on finances at its meeting on June 15. Members adopted an ordinance approving the budget for FY2021-22 presented by Finance Director Anne Cantrell.

The budget has been under development and discussion for months with multiple briefings at council meetings, a work session, and a public hearing on June 1. The balanced FY22 budget for all funds totals \$14,179,981. The new budget represents an increase of \$2.5 million (21.57%) over the FY21 budget. That figure is misleading in that the FY21 budget was significantly reduced due to fears over the effect of the pandemic on the economy.

The highlight of the council meeting was a briefing by Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton on the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 which will bring almost \$8.4 million to the town over two payments, one year apart. The town expects to receive the initial payment of \$4.2 million

this month, in fact "any day now." Town staff has been receiving guidance and input from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and other regional localities regarding distribution and spending of the funding.

Sexton presented a succinct, but comprehensive, "high level overview" of the ARPA funding and its projected impact on the town—based on what is known at this time. Council will be updated as more information becomes available.

"We are currently in the planning phase of identifying and prioritizing a list of projects that appear to meet the approved uses of the ARPA funding," Sexton said. "(Town Manager) Pete Peters has indicated that he anticipates sharing these projects with Town Council for their consideration and direction in the near future, potentially being ready to move forward with several of them by early fall."

Sexton noted that there seems to be more latitude, "a much larger window of opportunity," on how

the ARPA funds are spent than with the previous CARES funding, although there are a number of considerations and "a fair amount of restrictions."

In his presentation, Sexton indicated that the ARPA funds "must be used to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy."

"The funds must be spent on direct services to citizens, employees, or infrastructure in the community," Sexton said. "We can't put it in a bank account and sit on it."

Possible expenditures being considered by the town include investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; providing "premium pay" for essential workers (especially public safety and frontline workers such as Public Works); addressing negative economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency; replacing lost public sector revenue; and supporting public health expenditures.

He noted that funding new water and sewer line development

See **Rescue Plan**, page 2



The Oddfellows Band performed at the first Mingle at the Market Concert for 2021 at the Vinton Farmers' Market.

## Great crowd, great weather for Vinton's first Mingle at the Market Concert



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

A large crowd came out to celebrate the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions at the first 2021 Mingle at the Market concert in Vinton.

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

A great crowd turned out for the first Mingle at the Market Concert for 2021, which was sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. The weather was perfect—low 80s and low humidity.

The Oddfellows Band performed, featuring lead singer/guitar player Tyler Parrish, rhythm section Gary Hall and Perry Mabry, and guitarist Brian Mehalso. They describe themselves as "a group of local guys born in four different decades covering hit songs from the last 65 years" and that's exactly what they delivered. Every age group found many tunes from their own era to hum, sing, and dance along to.

The featured—and busy—food truck was Ken and Jayne's Burgers and Dogs, along with Deb's Lemonade and Delicia's Gourmet Ice. Adult beverages were provided by Blue Ridge Beverage.

The next Mingle at the Market concert is scheduled for June 26, featuring music by Vinyl Nation and food by the always popular Mountain Grille Food Truck.

Member One is the lead sponsor for the 2021 Summer Concert Series, along with special sponsor Roanoke

County. Diamond Level sponsors include Blue Ridge Beverage, the Vinton War Memorial, and the Town of Vinton. Gold sponsors include Carilion Clinic, Winters Storage, and Servpro. Silver level sponsors include Berkshire Health Care, HomeTrust Bank, Lotz Funeral Home, Neely's Accounting, PFG, Coastal Insurance Planning of Va., and The Vinton Messenger. Sherri Winkler of Nite Owl Artz has done the design work for the concert with printing by Vertex Signs.

COVID restrictions have finally been lifted for the Mingle concerts with one exception—masks were required for those not fully vaccinated.

Mingle concerts continue throughout the summer with two scheduled each month June through September. Many crowd favorite bands will return, namely Five Dollar Shake, Adam Rutledge, Hardrive Crew, On Common Ground, and Five Shades of Grey.

Food trucks over the summer will include Mountain Grille, Finger Wingin' Good, Munsey's Smoke House, Yani's Hot Kitchen, and the Lazy Bull Dog.

"What a perfect night to be outside," said Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewing of the event. "I hope everyone had as much fun as I did at our season opener of Mingle at the Market. It was a great night, and the season is just starting! I hope everyone will mark their calendars and join us at each of our summer concerts! See you on the 26th!"

See **Mingle**, page 4

## US Army celebrates 246th birthday, Flag Day at Vinton War Memorial

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

The Allegheny-Blue Ridge Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) hosted its annual birthday and Flag Day celebration at the Vinton War Memorial on June 13. The U.S. Army, the oldest branch of the U.S. Military, was established by the Second Continental Congress on June 14 in 1775, the "first to fight for the right and to build the nation's might," as "The Army Song" goes. Two years later, on June 14, 1777, the Congress adopted the United States Flag, made up of 13 stars and 13 stripes.

The AUSA is a national, non-profit organization providing the

voice for the Army and support for soldiers. It is the only such professional organization that looks after the "Total Army," all ranks, all components. The local chapter, the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Chapter, includes the area of Virginia from Harrisonburg southwest to the North Carolina line and into southern West Virginia to Huntington.

Its primary constituencies are the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, 26 Army Junior ROTC high schools, eight institutions offering SROTC and the active-duty recruiters. The chapter is also very active with the local Virginia Veterans Care Center and the Salem VA Medical Center.

Col. (Ret.) John Miller, newly re-elected president of the chapter, acted as master of ceremonies for the birthday celebration. The 29th Division Band Ensemble of the Virginia National Guard (based in Troutville) performed a musical prelude, the national anthem, and a rousing Patriotic Musical Tribute during the program, and closed the ceremony with "The Army Song," inviting those present to sing along.

The Bedford Science and Technology JROTC Color Guard presented the Colors, led by Cadet Sgt. Winter Altizer. JROTC Cadet 1st Lt. John Payne led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was delivered by the Rev.

See **Flag Day**, page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Allegheny-Blue Ridge Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) hosted its annual birthday and Flag Day celebration at the Vinton War Memorial on June 13. Shown (left to right) are Vinton Mayor Brad Grose (an Army veteran), guest speaker Maj. Gen. Timothy Williams, VA Medical Center Chaplain Rev. Evan Spencer, JROTC Cadet John Payne, and Col. (Ret.) John Miller, Master of Ceremonies for the event.

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# DAR/Town of Vinton partner in 'Recycle Beyond the Bag' project

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is partnering with the Town of Vinton to collect and recycle household plastic bags and films as an effort to receive a park bench from the Trex Corp. for the Glade Creek Greenway Phase II Trail in Vinton.

Groups that collect more than 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (that's about 40,500 plastic bags) receive the donation of a high-performance composite Trex bench for the community.

Accepted plastics include store bags, produce bags, ice bags, Ziplocs and other reclosable bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers.

Plastic bags and films should be clean, dry, and free of food residue.

Recycling bins are located at the Vinton Municipal Building at 311

South Pollard Street and the Charles R. Hill Community Center (at the Vinton War Memorial complex). Look for the large white boxes labeled for plastic recycling out in front of each location. Simply place the clean plastic bags within the box and DAR will take care of the rest.

The goal is to raise 500 pounds of recyclable plastics by April 2022.

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, like all DAR chapters, is made up of a membership of women who can prove a direct lineage to someone who fought or provided service during the American Revolution.

DAR is a service organization focusing on God, home, and country. The Roanoke Valley Chapter provides support to active troops as well as veterans through various projects. They collect items for the rescue mission and the DAR-supported schools. They present a DAR Good Citizen award to a senior

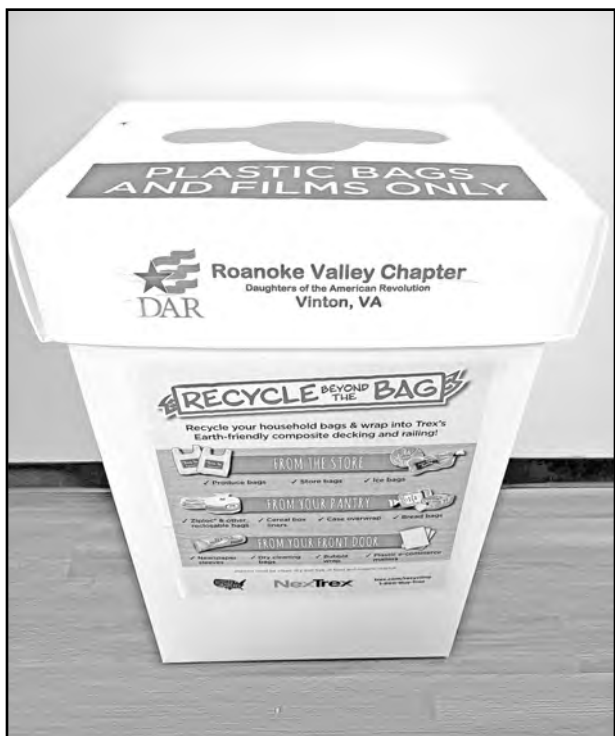
at William Byrd High School each year. The local chapter also plants American flags in the Municipal Building garden on several patriotic holidays during the year.

During the recent pandemic, several members have made and distributed over 2,000 face masks. Conservation is also a focus through various activities such as this

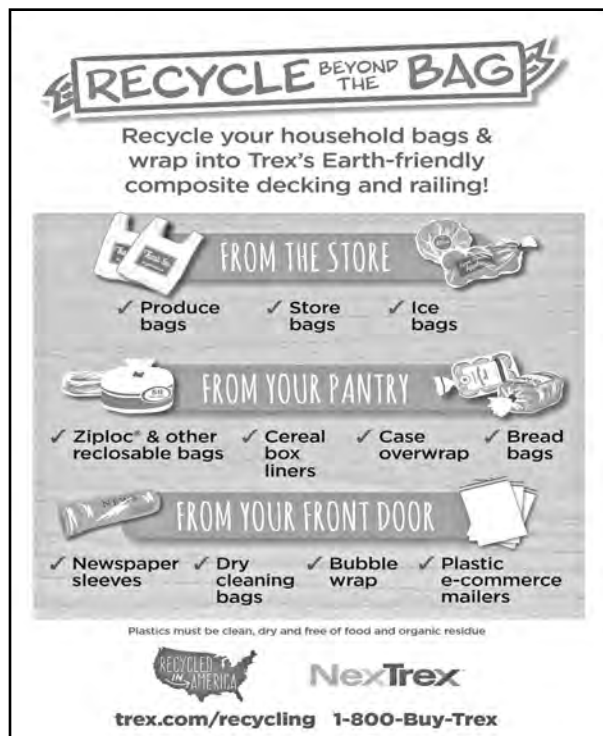
forementioned recycling program. The Roanoke Valley Chapter is also collecting plastic to donate to the Botetourt Preservation Society for the Trex Recycling program as well in

hopes of getting benches for the Greenfield Historic Area.

Contact DAR Regent Cindy Higgins with questions at [cglhiggins@comcast.net](mailto:cglhiggins@comcast.net).



The local DAR Chapter is partnering with the Town of Vinton for a "Recycle Beyond the Bag" project collecting plastic bags and film. Collection bins will be at the Municipal Building and at the Charles R. Hill Community Center.



The local DAR Chapter and the Town of Vinton are partnering on a recycling project which will result in donation of a bench from the Trex Corp. for the Glade Creek Greenway.

## Rescue Plan

from page 1

or upgrading existing systems, and additional broadband deployment and partnerships, are the "biggest ones for us" at this point. He said that while those projects won't be highly visible and involve building new buildings, they will be "transformational investments for the town."

Sexton explained that if a use of funds is allowable with the CARES funds, it will generally continue to be eligible under the new funding.

There are two ineligible uses of the ARPA funding: government services do not include paying interest or principal on outstanding debt and may not be used to replenish financial reserves, such as a rainy-day fund.

"You can't put it in savings or pay debt or pension costs; the government expects the funds to be pushed out into projects," Sexton said.

As for which projects to choose, "We could fund projects that are directly eligible for funding under ARPA in order to move budget capacity around on the back end to fund projects that are not eligible for funding under ARPA," he said.

"For example, it is like when someone gives you a Kroger gift card for \$100," he explained. "Yes, I would rather have \$100 cash to spend on my car payment, but since I was already going to spend money at Kroger regardless, I will use the gift card for the grocery budget and shift what I saved on groceries to spend on my car payment. This is the kind of brainstorming we are actively doing; creating what-if scenarios for moving money around the different funds to ensure that we are using ARPA appropriately for eligible projects and seeing what money is left over, on the back end, to pay for non-ARPA projects."

One of the next steps in preparing for the ARPA funds will actually involve adopting a "wait and see" approach over the summer while the General Assembly and governor make decisions on how to spend state funds. The town would not want to use its own ARPA funds for projects that might be funded by the state. There is also a federal infrastructure bill in Congress currently being debated that might impact options.

"There are lots of balls in the air," Sexton remarked. "Lots of rules are still being set. You don't want to jump out too fast, but you also don't want to

wait until all the contractors have been taken up" for projects.

Meanwhile, the town will continue to receive updates from government agencies on the ARPA funds and "engage council and other stakeholders regarding potential projects eligible" for the funding, and "what may rise to the top of the list."

In other business, Principal Planner Nathan McClung briefed council Vinton's 2021 annual progress report on specific mitigation projects set forth in the 2019 Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted by council.

Completed or in-the-works projects include providing informational brochures on emergency weather events, installation of generators at public infrastructure facilities, emergency shelters, and public buildings (already completed at Vinton War Memorial, and town well lots using CARES funding), maintaining the town's CRS Class 8 flood insurance rating, maintaining an accurate database and map of repetitive loss properties, seeking funding for site-specific hydrologic and hydraulic studies of areas with repetitive flooding (already completed at Gish Mill and Glade Creek Greenway), construction/streambank restoration projects (as funding becomes available), and identifying locations for IFLOWS (Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System) monitoring and stream gauges. McClung informed council that one of these flood sensors will be installed this summer underneath the bridge over Glade Creek at Gish Mill.

Council authorized the town manager to execute an agreement between the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the town for an Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) of \$468,750 for the Gish Mill Redevelopment Project. IRF grants leverage local and private resources to achieve market-driven redevelopment of vacant and deteriorated industrial and commercial properties.

Council then adopted a second resolution granting a loan to Gish Mill Davii, LLC, for \$468,750 from the IRF grant. The town, in partnership with the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority, will provide the funds to the developers in the form of a 30-year loan

with a 2.5% interest rate and a 20-year deferment. The loan must be repaid to the Town of Vinton and will then be reused for other projects.

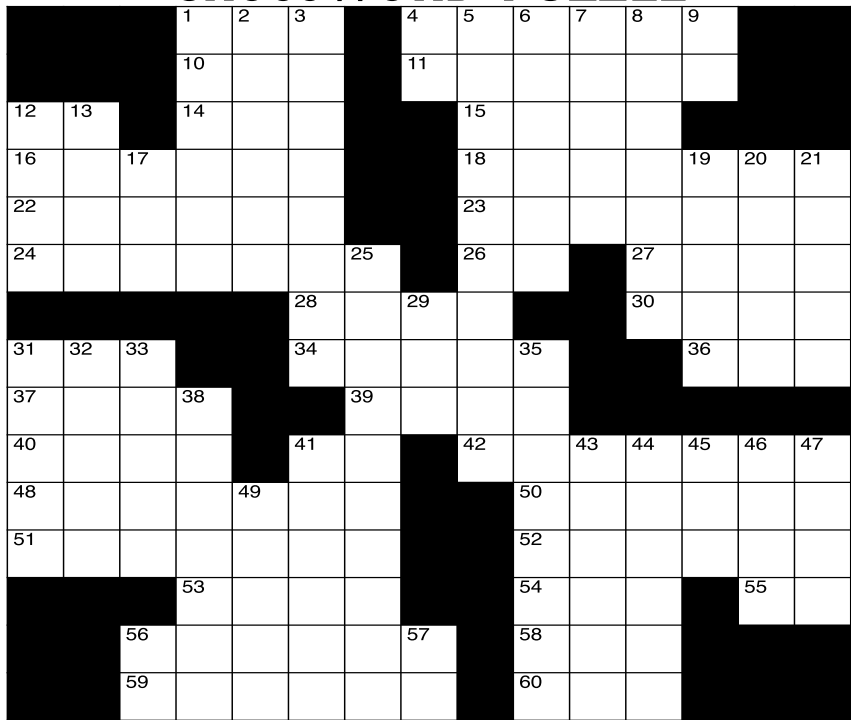
Peters stated that the loan is "a necessary piece of the puzzle to make the Gish Mill finances work; it's not feasible without the loan."

He thanked the DHCD for their generosity to the town over the past several years with a \$750,000 downtown revitalization grant, a \$35,000 housing planning grant, a \$200,000 VIDA grant in partnership with The Advancement Foundation, in addition to the IRF grant—for a total of about \$1.5 million.

Councilman Keith Liles pointed out that the town staff has worked extremely hard over the years to obtain these dollars from the DHCD.

Peters said that staff has applied for another grant from DHCD—a \$60,000 planning grant which will focus on River Park Shopping Center to determine "its highest, best use."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan
  - 4. One of Santa's reindeer
  - 10. Before the present
  - 11. Type of butter
  - 12. Location of White House
  - 14. Motion
  - 15. Tree part
  - 16. Regions around the North Pole
  - 18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
  - 22. Discuss after it's happened
  - 23. Milk substitute for coffee
  - 24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
  - 26. Equally
  - 27. Famed director Forman (abbr.)
  - 28. Popular apartment style
  - 30. British School
  - 31. Advanced degree
  - 34. Order of architecture
  - 36. Investment account (abbr.)
  - 37. Snake-like fishes
  - 39. Children's tale bear
  - 40. Norse personification of old age
  - 41. Atomic #58
  - 42. Moving your head
  - 48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
  - 50. Frankfurter
  - 51. Small, seedless raisin
  - 52. Device in papermaking machine
  - 53. Go
  - 54. Open payment initiative
  - 55. "Westworld" actor Harris
  - 56. Saturated with salt
  - 58. Marry
  - 59. Report on
  - 60. Midway between north and northeast
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Rays
  - 2. Self-centered person
  - 3. One you look after
  - 4. Prosecutor
  - 5. Portion
  - 6. Speaks ill of
  - 7. Formal system for computer programs
  - 8. To make angry
  - 9. Rural delivery
  - 12. Group of languages
  - 13. Large First Nations group
  - 17. Circulating life force in
  - 19. Excludes
  - 20. Body cavity of a metazoan
  - 21. Swedish monetary unit
  - 25. Works with
  - 29. Partner to "to"
  - 31. Rewards (archaic)
  - 32. One of Caroline Islands
  - 33. Type of alcohol
  - 35. Eat a lot
  - 38. Nuns
  - 41. Dog
  - 43. Become more serious
  - 44. Choose
  - 45. Newspapers use it
  - 46. World's longest river
  - 47. Commanded to go faster
  - 49. Cabs
  - 56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
  - 57. Document signed (abbr.)

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## PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

## Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Many, many thanks and congratulations to all the athletes that participated in the Ironman June 6. Wow! What an accomplishment! It was so amazing to watch all of them ride through our town – what a great opportunity for our little town. This is a world-known event and many eyes were on every movement of these athletes. Many forms of advertisement were used for many months to promote and inform people when, where and how things would be on race day. I know that some were inconvenienced for a short amount of time and I am sure our town leaders will address those concerns. Our town leaders, Police Department, Public Works, Town Council and many others went the extra mile and I want them to know they are appreciated and their work does not go unnoticed! Hopefully next year many people will join in and volunteer, or participate or just a bystander to cheer them on – become a part of the event!

Many thanks to so many for an awesome season opener of Mingle at

the Market! Thank you to all our sponsors, Tyler Parish and the Oddfellows, Blue Ridge Beverage, Ken & Jayne's Burger & Dogs, Delicia's Italian Ice and Deb's Lemonade for making a stop at the end of their day.

Thank you, Page Stovall, for lining up a great team of volunteers for the night, Brian Lovern, Stephanie Boyd, Mike and Patsy Stovall, Aaron Blankenship, Tracy Powers, Karen Hill, Chris Craft, Patty Feazell, Kat and Jimmy Pascal, Michelle Barklow, Justin Davison, and Felicia Hart; and of course, my tried and true Drake Houston Lewis, Hannah Jones and Steve and Tara Jones.

Hope to see everyone on June 26!

Perdido Key, Fla., was something else for Chuck, Tracey and Shaffer Kelly. It was real and fun and really fun. Look at the size of those fish. I believe Snapper and Trigger are some of the hardest fighting fish for their size. Their trip was to visit Lisa, and family - Gregory, Grayson, and Colton at their sweet pad! Chuck and Tracy had the boat to get it done! And they got it done in Alabama and Florida! Got lots of Red Snapper, Trigger, Maui, and King Mackerel! Hey guys—when's the fish fry?

What a wonderful weekend it was! Callie St.Clair and Maddie drove 13 hours from Pensacola to surprise Paul St.Clair and the kids at Addisyn St.Clair's soccer game Friday night. They had an amazing weekend full of love and lots of laughter as they soaked in every moment together. I know Casey, Paul and the whole family were glad to see them!

Congratulations to all the high school graduates! I know there are many – but here's a few listed from area churches.

2021 High School Graduates recognized by Vinton Baptist Church

- Sarah Elizabeth Butterworth is graduating from William Byrd High School as a Valedictorian; she plans to attend Radford University to study Social Work.
- Sarah Stanley is graduating from William Byrd High School and plans to attend James Madison University.
- Annie Blake Stevens is graduating from William Byrd High School as a Valedictorian with Honors; she plans to attend Virginia Western Community College.
- Erin Nicole Taylor is graduating from William Byrd High School as a Valedictorian; she plans to attend Virginia Tech, majoring in Human Nutrition, Food, & Exercise.

- Caroline R. Gibbs is graduating with Honors from William Byrd High School; she plans to attend Wingate University to study Nursing.
- Kasey Lillian McKee is graduating from William Byrd High School as a Valedictorian; she plans to attend Virginia Tech and major in Human Nutrition, Food, & Exercise. Her goal is to become a Physician's Assistant.
- Kaitlynn Grace Mul-



- Gus Blake, graduating from William Byrd High School, attending VCU in Fall 2021
- Sierra Cox, graduating from Cave Spring High School, attending Virginia Western Community College, Fall of 2021
- Ethan William Curry, graduating from Turner Ashby High School in Bridgewater, attending Blue Ridge Community College, Fall of 2021
- Zooie Kimbrough, graduating from Christiansburg High School, attending Virginia Western, Fall 2021
- Emily Martin, graduating from Floyd County High School, attending New River Community College, Fall 2021

lins is graduating from Cave Spring High School; she plans to attend Virginia Western Community College and transfer to Radford University to study Social Work.

ed Methodist Church

community College, Fall of 2021

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize or share their celebration with us, a wedding, a shower, a birthday celebration, vacations you would like to share, please send it to me, Angie Chewing, at [angie@vintonchamber.com](mailto:angie@vintonchamber.com). I would love to share your stories!

## Flag Day

from page 1



The 29th Division Band Ensemble of the Virginia National Guard provided the musical entertainment for the celebration.

Evan Spencer, staff chaplain at the VA Medical Center.

Col. Miller introduced guest speaker Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the adjutant general of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and his wife, Cheryl. Williams has been in the news frequently in the past year with his Virginia National Guard duties.

Williams commands the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard, and the Virginia Defense Force. A native of Richmond, he received his bachelor's degree in Management Science from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business. He was a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Regimental Band, the Highty-Tighties. He earned his Master of Arts in Management from Webster University. A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, he earned his Master's in Strategic Studies at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

He was commissioned as a Field Artillery 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from Virginia Tech. He served on active duty in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Bliss, Texas. While in the regiment he served as a fire support team chief, battery fire direction officer, squadron fire support officer, and regimental nuclear targeting officer.

Upon leaving active service, Williams joined the Virginia Army National Guard, where he commanded at the field artillery battery and battalion level before transferring to the Quartermaster Corps. He commanded the Vir-

ginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group for four years.

Mobilized in 2003, he supported Operation Noble Eagle, working with security operations for the U.S. Air Force installation in the Mid-Atlantic states. He deployed in 2007 to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he supported theater level logistics transformation.

His most recent military assignment prior to becoming adjutant general was as a J-8 Director of Resource Management on the Virginia National Guard Joint Staff.

In June 2014, he was sworn in as the new Adjutant General of Virginia. Promoted to major general in June 2016, Williams is responsible for the combat readiness of units, and the administration and training of more than 8,600 Virginia Army and Air National Guard personnel.

Serving in the National Guard is a tradition in

his family. His brother, a retired lieutenant colonel, and his father and grandfather all served in the Virginia National Guard. His son currently serves in the Virginia Air National Guard.

Williams opened his speech by saying that "the Army's history is our country's history" which can "meet any challenge, overcome any obstacle, as a force for good in a world where so many challenges face us."

He focused his remarks on the duties and challenges faced by the Virginia National Guard during the COVID-19 pandemic and during the violence at the United States Capitol on January 6— "perhaps the most consequential 16 months" in their history.

Members of the Virginia National Guard have been called upon for the past 418 days to support their fellow citizens through food banks, in severe weather flooding situations and civil



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The birthday celebration concluded with the traditional cutting of the Army's birthday cake by Major General Williams with a ceremonial saber.

disturbances, the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, and on testing and vaccination teams for covid. Some have been deployed overseas.

He reminded guests that September 11, 2021, will mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and the crash of Flight 93, with some soldiers currently serving not even born then. "This is YOUR National Guard and YOUR Army," Williams emphasized.

Other dignitaries attending the ceremony included Virginia State Senator David Suetterlein, State Delegate Joe McNamara, Vinton Mayor Grose and his wife, Debby, and Bill Bestpitch, who serves on

Roanoke City Council. Grose and Bestpitch are both Army veterans.

The program concluded with the tradi-

tional cutting of the Army's birthday cake by Williams and JROTC Cadet John Payne with a ceremonial saber.

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# Vinton History Museum welcomes two summer interns

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton History Museum has welcomed two college students as interns for the summer—Grace Johnson and Ben Tate. In fact, they began volunteering at the museum back in April for the Dogwood Festival Open House.

Johnson has lived in Vinton since the seventh grade. She graduated from William Byrd High School with honors in the Class of 2018. While at WBHS, she was a member of the Cheer Team, president of the FCCLA, and a member of numerous clubs.

She is now a rising senior at Roanoke College, majoring in history, with a minor in secondary education. Her plan at this point is to become a high school history teacher. She will be doing her student teaching this fall at James Madison Middle School in Roanoke City. She is considering working toward her master's degree, and eventually would like to teach history at William Byrd High School.

Johnson says history has "always clicked" with her. "It was always easy for me; it told a story, but the story could change with new discoveries and research."

She elected to do an internship since the 120 hours earned count as one class, giving her one less class to take while completing her student teaching. She chose interning at the Vinton History Museum because of its proximity to her home and its flexible hours.

After emailing museum Executive Direc-

tor Judy Cunningham, Johnson concluded that interning with the Vinton History Museum was a perfect match for her. Even though she has lived here since middle school, she says she didn't know a lot about Vinton, and she has enjoyed her time at the museum so far, "finding out about the town."

Her duties at the museum have included giving tours of the museum to visitors, helping with research, and reorganizing old clippings about William Byrd sports from as far back as the 1950s. She has worked with Ben Tate, the other intern, on creating displays for the museum—so far one paying tribute to William Byrd High School graduates in May and another on local June weddings.

Johnson is accumulating her internship hours during regular museum hours. She expects to have completed the required hours by August, in time for the beginning of fall semester at Roanoke College.

Johnson will also be completing a presentation on her internship experience to be presented to her supervising professor Dr. Samantha Rosenthal, Associate Professor of History at Roanoke College.

She says her other interests aside from history include reading most anything—she just started a book about the Bedford Boys of World War II. She enjoys spending time with her family and her dog—a Labrador/Pitt mix. Back in the days when she had more time, she coached gymnastics.

Johnson says she has enjoyed her internship



**Roanoke College students Ben Tate and Grace Johnson are completing internships at the Vinton History Museum this summer.**

at the Vinton History Museum a great deal so far, especially working with children and catching their "looks of shock and amazement" as she introduces them to old televisions, radios, typewriters, record players and telephones, and explains how they work. She has also enjoyed helping guests in their research.

"It's great here," said Johnson. "There is something new every day and you just roll with the punches. Judy (Cunningham) has been very helpful and understanding."

Ben Tate is from Boones Mill. He has been a homeschooler and is now a rising senior at Roanoke College, majoring in history.

"I always had a passion for history," said Tate. "I love learning about past events and how they have formed society today." One of his favorite time periods is the first half of the 20th century.

He is as of yet undecided about his future

plans once he graduates. He, too, was interested in completing an internship with the history museum and having it count as a class credit. He needed flexible hours, and Johnson suggested doing the internship at the museum.

He talked with Cunningham and thought spending the summer at the museum would fit perfectly with his summer schedule. He had wanted to get some museum experience during his college years and working at the Vinton History Museum was the "perfect opportunity."

He has spent most of his time so far doing research and helping with projects at the museum—the graduation and wedding displays namely. He and Johnson are considering a display on military history next. Creating displays is a special interest. Tate says he collects World War II memorabilia and has mannequins at home which could be used in the graduation and wedding displays



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Summer interns Ben Tate and Grace Johnson create the June wedding display on the second floor of the Vinton History Museum. Stop by for a tour.**

for the museum. He has some new ideas for how to "spruce up" the museum.

Tate will also be completing 120 hours at the museum, finishing up sometime in August, working the regular museum hours, also supervised by Dr. Rosenthal.

In addition to his passion for history, Tate is an award-winning swimmer for Roanoke College. The team won the ODAC title in the 2020-21 season. He was named Most Valuable Player by his coach and an ODAC Athlete of the Week. He has broken some team records and won several individual ODAC races in his time at Roanoke College. He was named to the 2020-2021 VASID College Division All-State Men's Swimming Awards First Team in Distance Freestyle, Butterfly, and a host of Medley and Freestyle Relays.

In high school, he swam for the Marlins and Gators. He says one of his hobbies is

powerlifting and he is interested in the field of exercise science.

Tate says he has enjoyed his time at the Vinton History Museum very much and is amazed at the extent of the collection housed there.

Cunningham is delighted with Johnson and Tate, their enthusiasm, their creativity, and their dependability, and the contributions to the museum they have already made, only a few weeks into their internships.

Guests may view their historic wedding display this month during regular museum hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and the first Saturday of each month. The museum is located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton, just across the street from the Vinton Library.

More information is available on the Vinton History Museum and "Vinton Memories and History" Facebook pages.

## Mingle from page 1

"It was a great kickoff to the Mingle season," commented Justin Davison, president of the

Vinton Chamber. "It was a great feeling to actually see so many smiling faces and families

enjoying themselves. We're looking forward to the rest of the Mingle season and a big thank

you to all the sponsors, chamber members and volunteers that make it all possible!"



**Mingle at the Market concerts are family-friendly events, with all ages welcome.**

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

## The Vinton Messenger

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# Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it's always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling

of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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# June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month



**This is Monique, a 2-year-old spayed female. She is very shy, and needs her space, but once she gets attached to you, she will come looking for you.**



**Journey is very shy, but she was a wonderful momma cat prior to weaning her last litter. She loves head scratches and cozy beds to hide in until she is ready to socialize.**



PHOTOS FROM RCACP  
**Lasagna, aka "Nani" had a double hip replacement. She is a 2-year-old spayed gal who has quite the story to tell. Thanks to the community and Friends of RCACP who raised money for her surgery, she is finally ready to find her fur-ever home. She is such a cuddle bug that everyone loves her. Come by and meet her today!**

Adopt a Shelter Cat Month takes place every June to highlight the immense need for cat adoptions and why a shelter is the best place to find your next feline friend.

"By adopting a cat, you're not only saving that particular cat, but you also make space for the next cat coming into a shelter," said Samantha Bell, from Best Friends Animal Society. "Adoption is also very cost-effective, as cats are usually fixed, vaccinated, microchipped and ready to go home with you for one low fee."

The Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection (RCACP) in Roanoke posts photos of pets available for adoption on their website continuously. Check out the adoptable Pets of the Week awaiting their "forever" homes at <https://www.facebook.com/regionalcenterforanimalcareandprotection>. "Adopt, don't shop!" is their message.

According to the Best Friends Society, cats make great pets for just about anyone. "Whether you are hardly ever home or you are a total couch potato, there's a 'purrfect' cat wait-

ing for you at a shelter or rescue."

If you're wondering about how to choose the right cat or kitten for your lifestyle, here are some tips:

- **Busy?** There are cats for that. Shelters and rescues often have two adult cats who have grown up together and would be happy to go home together. It's heartwarming to see a pair of cats who are already friends get to stay together. And while you're away, they'll have each other for company and security.

- **Extroverts need love, too.** If you are home quite often, then you'll have more time to play with an active kitty who needs lots of wand toy play time. Some cats can even be trained to walk on a leash or go for stroller rides.

- **Consider a solo artist.** There are many cats who are great with people but terrified of other cats. They don't always make a great first impression on potential adopters, especially if they're in a shelter surrounded by other cats. But once they're in a home with you, they'll flourish.

- **Involve the whole family.** It's important to

take everyone in the home when possible, especially children, to meet all prospective cats so you can observe how they interact with the cat. Every child has their own unique energy, and every pet reacts differently to every child.

- **Keep an open mind:** Don't get hung up on color, sex or age. Not all cats' personalities fit into stereotypes. Every cat is an individual, so don't discount a cat because they aren't male or female or orange or fluffy. By doing so, you'll have the best odds of finding a great match.

- **With kitten season in full swing,** many people will be tempted to adopt one, but kittens require an extra level of care.

"Kittens are adorable but be aware that they are more work than an adult cat. Kittens need to be fed more often and use the litter box much more often," Bell said. "Single kittens need lots of positive reinforcement training so that they don't end up being bite-y or scratchy adults."

The American Humane organization says, "Not only are thousands of new-

born kittens joining the millions of cats already in shelters, but a lack of foot traffic, funding, and supplies at many shelters struggling to maintain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic further threaten these beautiful animals and their hopes to find a forever home."

Cats are the most at-risk pets across America, accounting for 69% of animals killed in shelters. It's crucial to find them loving homes.

Even if you can't adopt a cat or kitten, you can still help:

- **Paste a reminder message on your Facebook page for friends that "June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month: Save a life: Adopt a cat!"**

- **Contact your local shelter, like RCACP, or rescue group and make a donation, or ask if they have a donation wish list.**

The RCACP is always in need of dry cat and dog food, canned cat and dog food, as well as cat litter. If you would like to donate other items that are needed, please check out their Amazon Wishlist for more ideas at <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wish->

[list/ML3D973N9E49/ref=cm\\_sw\\_su\\_w](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wish-list/ML3D973N9E49/ref=cm_sw_su_w).

The Regional Center serves the City of Roanoke, the Counties of Botetourt and Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton, and is an "open intake facility." The Regional Center primarily handles stray animals picked up by the Animal Control officers employed by the municipalities, but also accepts strays that are found, and animals owned, by citizens of the municipalities served. Each year the Regional Center receives between 6,000 and 7,000 animals.

RCACP has an adoption program, a foster program and a Community Pet Pantry they accept donations for.

If you want to cuddle and care for kittens, but are

not ready to adopt, fostering may be for you. Fostering is free and fun! When you foster with RCACP they provide all the supplies you'll need to care for your kittens while you provide plenty of love and a place for them to stay.

For more information on fostering, adopting, or other programs with RCACP visit their website at <http://www.rcacp.org/>.



**Robert Dewey Stevens**

March 23, 1940 ~ January 17, 2021

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, June 19 at Bonsack Baptist Church.

Visitation – 1 p.m. Memorial Service – 2 p.m.

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**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](http://www.vintonbaptistchurch.org).

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**, 1101 Jamison Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013, 540-343-7502, Worship Services every Sunday at 11:00AM, Pastor Terry Brace. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON** - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 3679 Sandlewood Road, Roanoke VA 24018, (540) 206-6160. Repent & Be Baptized... Acts 2:38. Come study the Bible with us! Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m., [www.christianchurchof-christclearbrook.org](http://www.christianchurchof-christclearbrook.org)

**ECKANKAR**  
**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) for program listings, [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group), or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org) for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

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

# Worship Directory

**I Need Help**

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

**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](mailto:tfrye@ourvalley.org)**

**LUTHERAN**  
**ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, [sttimothy1201@verizon.net](mailto:sttimothy1201@verizon.net).

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

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; [cmpe2verizon.net](http://cmpe2verizon.net) Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible School; Tuesdays & Thursdays Yoga

9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:45pm; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Thursday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 2nd Monday Supper with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's 6:30pm; 2nd Tuesday Luncheon with Rev. Skip at Famous Anthony's; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Skip Hastings-Interim Pastor.

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

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





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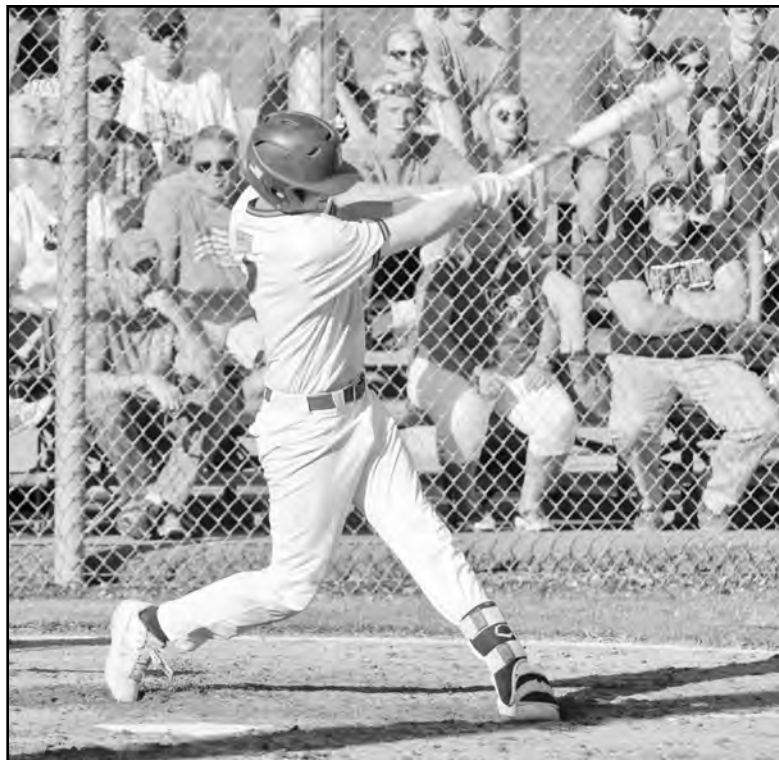
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# SPORTS

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## GAME CHANGER

Far left, William Byrd's Luke Taylor loads up, and near left he unloads on a long homer to lead off the fourth inning of Byrd's region quarterfinal win over Cave Spring Monday. Below, Luke(#2) is greeted by teammates after circling the bases. The home run turned the game around as Byrd took a 12-2 win over the Knights to advance to the Region 3D semifinal game.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & BILL HOAL

## Byrd opens Region 3D baseball with big win over Cave Spring

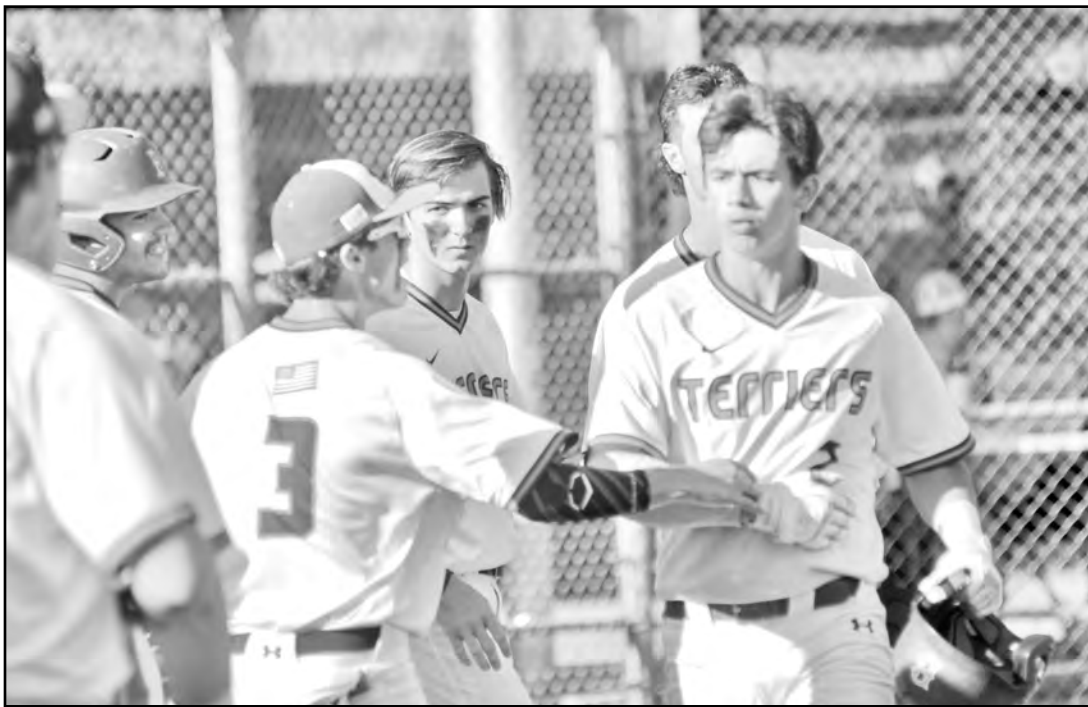
It's not how you start a baseball game, but how you finish that really matters. The William Byrd baseball team proved that on Monday as they took a 12-2 slaughter rule win over Cave Spring in the quarterfinal round of the Region 3D baseball playoffs at Vinton's Walthall Park.

With the win Byrd advanced to Wednesday's region semifinal game against Christiansburg, a 5-1 winner over Carroll County on Monday. Undefeated Abingdon played host to Tunstall in the other semifinal Wednesday, and the two winners will meet Friday for the region championship at the site of the highest remaining seed.

There was a lot at stake for Byrd on Wednesday. Results were too late for publication, but coach Neil Zimmerman sent unbeaten senior lefty Isaac Fix to the mound to try and keep Byrd's season alive. The Terriers have 11 seniors on the team and they've been waiting for this year since many of the seniors played on the varsity as freshmen in 2018.

If Byrd beat Christiansburg on Wednesday the Terriers could be home Friday with a Tunstall upset of Abingdon. Otherwise Abingdon will be home for the championship game.

The state tournament will be on two days next week. The semifinals are Tuesday, June 22, and the Region 3D winner will have



to travel to the site of the Region 3C champ. The state championship is on Saturday, June 26, and the 3D-3C survivor will host that

game.

Byrd's season was in the balance on Monday when the Terriers trailed Cave Spring 2-0 after three innings. Knights' ace Holden Wilkerson was cruising when Byrd senior Luke Taylor stepped to the plate to start the home fourth. Taylor crushed Wilkerson's first pitch, sending the baseball deep into the trees behind the leftfield fence for a momentum turning home run.

"Luke really got us going," said Zimmerman. "That changed the momentum 180 degrees. We not only cut the lead in half but we had no outs and were able to push another run across."

And the Terriers kept pushing. They pushed eight runs across in the bottom of the sixth, highlighted by a bases clearing double by Tyler Dean. Then they plated two more in the sixth to win by the 10 run slaughter rule, 12-2, with Dean hitting a sacrifice fly to put the nail in the coffin.

Dean pitched the first five innings for Byrd to pick up the win. He struck out seven and allowed just one earned run and three hits to run his record to 3-1.

Taylor finished with two hits and two runs batted in, Dean had four runs batted in and Hayden Lyle had an RBI for the Terriers, who improved their record to 10-3 overall.



Left, Byrd's Ethan Tinsley lays down a bunt in Monday's win over Cave Spring. Right, Isaac Fix pitches Byrd to a 3-0 shutout win in last week's regular season finale against Staunton River. Fix was slated to start Wednesday's Region 3D semifinal against Christiansburg.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN & BILL HOAL

## Eagles edge Byrd in Region 3D softball

William Byrd's reign as state softball champion officially came to an end Monday when the Terriers were eliminated from the Region 3D tournament. Visiting Staunton River edged the Byrd girls, 7-6, just three days after the Terriers ended the season with an 8-5 win over the Eagles.

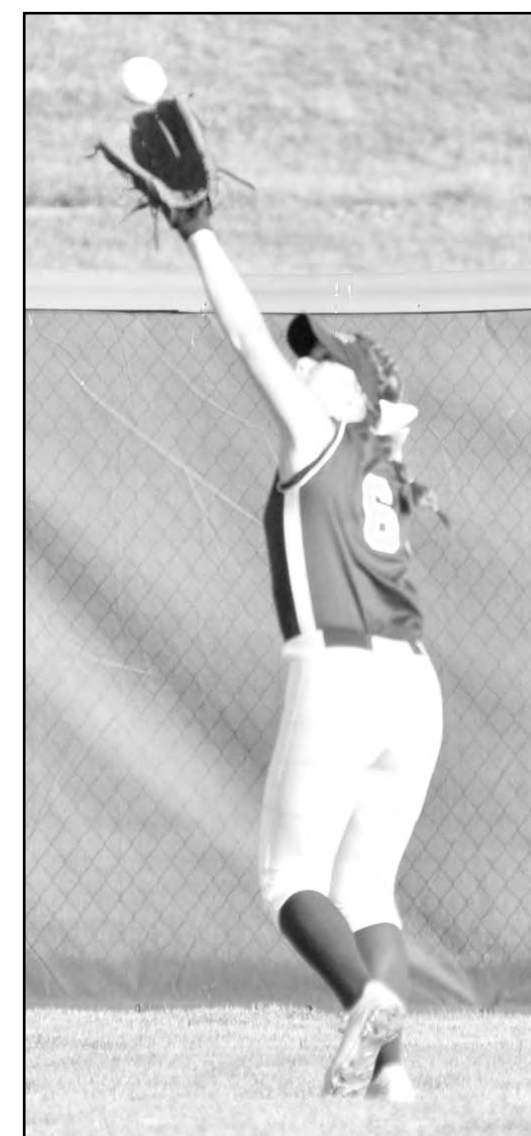
On Monday the Terriers dug themselves into a hole, falling behind by four runs in the top of the second. Byrd rallied back to take a 5-4 lead with five runs in the bottom of the second. Haleigh Vaughan, Keely Hoal, Maddy Tuck, and Erin Courtemanche each drove in runs during the big inning and the Terriers looked to have righted the ship.

Staunton River struck back in the fifth with three runs to go back ahead, 7-5. Sydney Blewett answered with a home run in the bottom of the second but that was all the Terriers could muster as the Eagles held on for the win, advancing to Wednesday's Region 3D semifinal.

Hallie Cox started on the mound for Byrd but was relieved by Chloe Varney with two outs in the second. Varney gave up three runs and was saddled with the loss. Blewett and Logan Pekala had multiple hits for Byrd.

The Terriers ended their season with a 9-4 overall record, tying Franklin County for the best record in the Blue Ridge District regular season at 7-3 each. Ironically Byrd beat Staunton River just last Friday, in Vinton, 8-5 to end the regular season.

Byrd had 11 hits in that game, including three by Vaughan. Cox pitched the first five innings, fanning five. Varney pitched the last two frames and picked up the win when Byrd broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth on a single by Olivia Lyle, starting a big inning.



Left, Byrd shortstop Keely Hoal takes a throw at second to force out a Staunton River runner in Tuesday's game. Right, Terrier centerfielder Brooklyn Peters runs down a long fly for an out.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN





Left, after a rain delay during the Region 3D meet last Wednesday, William Byrd's **Sela Beatty**(right in photo) won the 200 meter title with a time of 26.81. Above, Byrd's **Chloe Harrilla** ran a strong lead off leg for the Terriers' 1600 m relay team at the Region 3D.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Byrd girls take second in region track meet, state is Friday at Liberty U.

William Byrd will be well-represented when the Class 3 state track meet takes center stage at Liberty University on Friday. The meet will begin with field events at 9 am, followed by running events at noon.

The top four athletes in each event from last week's Region 3D meet in Christiansburg advanced to the state. The William Byrd girls took second in the region with 109 points, 11 behind host Christiansburg. The Byrd boys were seventh as Blue Ridge District rival Lord Botetourt took the region first place trophy.

Byrd had some outstanding performances. In

the field events **Chloe Harrilla** won the long jump, breaking her own school record with a leap of 16' 3.5". **Chloe** also finished fourth in the high jump, clearing 4'8".

In the discus **Myra Rosser** won first place with a toss of 87' 7". **Sarah Fuchs** took third in that event with a throw of 81' 11".

**Sela Beatty** won the 100 meter dash in a time of 12.72 seconds and also took the 200 in 26.81. **Sela** also ran on the winning 4x100 relay team with **Harrilla**, **Remi Figart** and **Emma Dalton**. They ran a time of 50.82 seconds.

**Figart** won the 400 meter dash in 1:02.63, a season's best time for her. **Remi** also finished fourth in the 200 at 27.61.

In the boys' meet **Isaac Roth** won the pole vault by clearing 12'6". He also ran on the fourth place 4x100 relay team with **Jackson Meador**, **Noah Thompson** and **Jeffery Williams**. They ran a time of 46.09.

**Walker Nance** qualified for the state in the 110 meter hurdles with a third place finish in 16.85, and freshman **Kendal Howard** was third in the shot put with a season's best 42' 10".

## Soccer girls fall to Demons in region

The third seeded William Byrd girls were upset by sixth seeded Christiansburg Monday night in the Region 3D soccer quarterfinal. The visiting Blue Demons shut out the Terriers, 3-0, to advance to Wednesday's semifinal round.

Christiansburg scored at about the 10 minute mark and that turned out to be the winning goal. The Demons led 2-0 at the half and started wearing down the host Terriers on a hot night on the artificial turf.

"We had several opportunities but could not find the back of the net," said Byrd coach **Molly Cox**.

Christiansburg scored once more in the second half for some insurance. **Sophia Chrisley** had seven saves in the cage for the Terriers, who finished the season with a solid 8-3 record.

"The loss ended our season but we're looking forward to having many strong returners next season," said **Cox**.



Left, Byrd's **Maddy Simmons**(#10) battles for the ball in Monday's game with Christiansburg. Right, **Maci Glass** pushes the ball down the field for the Terriers.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Left, William Byrd lacrosse goalie **Haley Firebaugh** makes a save in Monday's Region D game with Salem at Patterson Stadium. Right, **Bethany Beecher**(#44) scores one of her three goals in the game.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## Lacrosse girls lose to Salem in Region D quarterfinal game

The William Byrd girls' saw their lacrosse season come to an end with a 14-5 loss to Salem at Vinton's Patterson Stadium Monday.

Byrd got a home game by being the third seed and Salem was the sixth seed. However, that was somewhat misleading as Salem had to forfeit a couple easy wins when it was discovered they had an ineligible player. The experienced Spartans had a better team than their record indicated and that showed against the young Terriers.

"I thought we had a great season, finishing the regular season 5-4 and seeding third in the region," said coach **Dan Eberhardt**. "We had a very small team of 14 with three new players. What hurt us this year was the small bench and we were unable to give the players any rest. Hopefully next year we have a few extra players so the midfielders can have some rest."

The Byrd girls carried the action to Salem early in the game, but the more numerous Spartans wore down the Terriers as the game progressed on a hot night in Vinton. The artificial turf field made the heat even more of a factor.

**Bethany Beecher** scored eight goals for the Terriers and keeper **Haley Firebaugh** kept the Byrd girls in the game with some nice saves.

## Dawgs home games

The Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs ice hockey team has received the home game schedule for the upcoming 2021-2022 season. The team will play a 56 game regular season, split evenly between home and away games. The team's full schedule including away games, opponents, and promotional nights will be released at a later date.

The 2021-2022 home schedule features 22 Friday and Saturday games, along with three Thursday dates and three Sunday dates. Special dates to highlight include Black Friday (November 26), the day before Christmas Eve (December 23), and New Year's Eve (December 31). The puck drops at 7:05 P.M. unless otherwise noted on the schedule.

Roanoke's last home game was February 22, 2020, just before the 2019-2020 SPHL season was cancelled due to COVID-19. After 601 days without hockey in the Star City, the Rail Yard Dawgs look to have a big season on the ice and in the box office. Full and half season tickets will continue to be available for purchase, however the front office will now begin booking group outings as well. Quarter Season (Seven Game) Packages and Kid's Club Packages will go on sale in the coming weeks.



The William Byrd swim team competed against Read Mountain and Forest Hills at the Forest Hills pool on Monday. The Muskies scored 723 points to win the meet, with Vinton taking second and host Forest in third in the combined team scores. Vinton's boys finished first on the night. Next Monday the Vinton team will be at the Elks Club, and Hidden Valley will also be included. Here **Elyse Johnston** hits the water for VAST.

PHOTO BY CANDACE HOYOS

VAST



# Town of Vinton receives CRS flood insurance recertification

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum standards set up for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

In exchange for a community's proactive efforts to reduce flood risk, policyholders can receive reduced flood insurance premiums for buildings in the community. These reduced premiums reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community efforts toward achieving the three CRS goals:

- To reduce flood damage to insurable property
- To strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP
- To encourage a comprehensive

approach to floodplain management

The Town of Vinton is one of the few communities in Virginia that have applied for and have been accepted into the CRS program. Due to the continuing efforts of Town administration, every Town of Vinton property owner—residential or commercial—whose property is located within the Special Hazard Flood Area (SHFA), may be eligible for a 10% discount on their annual flood insurance premium.

Under the NFIP, a community starts with Class 10, with no discount for the flood insurance premium rates. Under Class 9, the insurance holders will get 5% discount; in Class 8 they get a 10% discount.

The Town of Vinton became a CRS Community Class 8 in 2016.

Roanoke County is CRS Class 8 and the City of Roanoke, Class 7.

In order to remain under Class 8, on an annual basis, the town must submit the required paperwork outlining the flood mitigation activities that are spelled out in the CRS manual such as mailers, videos and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that are done with Roanoke City and County and produced by RVTV, and making sure that any development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) (100-year floodplain and/or floodway) meets the floodplain regulations and building codes for buildings in the SFHA.

In addition to the annual submittal to remain a CRS Community Class 8, in every five-year cycle, the town has to go through a recertification process which requires

submittal and review of the flood mitigation activities beginning in March and a daylong, in-person meeting with a CRS ISO Specialist that includes site visits of properties located in the SFHA.

Principal Planner Nathan McClung started working with Emily Schmidt, the town designated CRS Insurance Services Office (ISO) Specialist in March. On May 21, Schmidt, McClung, and two other CRS ISO Specialists, held a remote cycle visit from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to finalize the five-year recertification process.

McClung handled all the required paperwork, mailers, and coordination with Roanoke County personnel, and the CRS ISO Specialist, etc. Julie Tucei, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, continues to update and post on the town's

website and social media on flood related events, education, etc.

For example, with the recent activities regarding the Gish Mill redevelopment—since the building is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area, the structure had to be designated as an historic structure; Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) variance approval, hydrology and hydraulic analysis had to be done; building improvements must meet specific building codes in the SFHA (mechanical equipment has to be elevated, flood elevation certificate), etc.

To find out if your property is located within the SHFA, contact the Vinton Planning and Zoning office at 540-983-0605. If you have questions regarding your insurance premiums, please contact your insurance agent.

# Boys & Girls Clubs visit UScellular during Internet Safety Month

Students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia paid a visit to the Vinton UScellular location on June 4 to learn about Internet Safety and how the wireless industry works during Internet Safety Month.

"June is Internet Safety Month, so it's a great time to have conversations with our children about digital literacy, safety and responsibility," said Nakeita Stewart, director of sales and operations for UScellular in the Mid-Atlantic. "More families rely on technology to keep their children learning, entertained, and connected to friends. It's important that children and parents have the necessary skills and resources to stay safe online."

Daily life looks different for parents and children in the pandemic world. The majority of people's time has shifted to online: working from home, attending school virtually, interacting with friends, attending online summer camps, and using telemedicine are just some of the ways Internet usage has increased. With so many aspects of people's lives going digital, data shows that it is

more important than ever to stay safe in digital lives.

UScellular employees wanted to present tips on Internet usage since use of technology is at a record high as a result of the pandemic.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia toured one of three new area wireless stores opening in Roanoke in early June and learned about wireless safety, about the telecommunications and tech industries, and jobs from engineering to customer-facing store personnel.

Parents worry about introducing social media into their children's lives and the common threats of cyber bullying, inappropriate content, being befriended by strangers, and remembering that any post, even deleted ones, have the potential to stay there forever.

UScellular presented the following examples of Internet Safety Tips for both children and their parents:

- Be nice: Just as in person-to-person contact, mean behavior is not OK. Treat everyone with respect, kindness, and consideration, especially when you are posting a comment or photo of

others.

- Check your privacy settings: Most social media sites default to a public exposure of your account. Always set your privacy settings where only friends can see what you post, because you never know whom your friends are friends with online.

- Only accept requests from people you know: While friend requests from strangers often turn out to be spam bots, fake profiles by those you know are also created for cyber bullying.

- You can never really delete something published on the Internet: Even though you can delete a post, picture, comment, etc., someone may have taken a screen shot and can share the screenshot on numerous social media platforms within seconds.

- Avoid using location services: Disable location services when posting photos. Avoid posting photos while on your vacation, wait until you are home, that way people you are connected to, won't know you are away.

- Never meet up with someone you meet online: Tell an adult if you get a request to meet up, share



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia visited UScellular in Vinton for some tips on Internet Safety during Internet Safety Month. Shown left to right are: Zack Whiteman from ANW Wireless; Boys & Girls Club members Kaleb and Sierra; Chloe Johnson, BGC staff; Boys & Girls Club members Jasmara, Nate, Christian; Jason Storey from UScellular; and Tyler Turner, BGC staff.

provocative pictures, personal information like your address or phone number, or any requests that make you feel uncomfortable.

- Pause first: Always take a pause before hitting "Enter" for a post or photo. Think about what you have said or what photo you are posting. Would you be embarrassed if your grandmother read or saw it? Have you asked permission from your friend to post that photo?

U. S. Cellular provides resources especially for parents as well about safe technology use, since the pandemic has increased the importance for Internet savvy parents:

- Knowledge is power. The more you know, the more you can play an active role in keeping your children safe online. A good place to start is talking with your child about online safety, agreeing to boundaries, and helping them select age-

appropriate websites and apps. UScellular's Digital Family Matters website is a great resource for parents and children and also provides a Parent-Child Agreement to help facilitate the discussion with children around cellphone use.

- Keeping children safe online. Using resources available in Google's Digital Wellbeing Family Guide, parents can decide with their children when the appropriate time is to hand them a device of their own. By providing tools and resources for discussions about healthy digital habits and Internet safety, both parents and children can gain confidence with the new device added to their family.

- Add a router accessory. There are many devices that you can add to your home router, like Disney's Circle Plus and accompanying app, that allows you to

monitor multiple connected devices, Internet usage, restrict specific websites and apps, as well as pause access to the Internet with just a touch of a button.

- Get advice from the experts. There are numerous sources for parents to select age-appropriate online content for children. One of these is Common Sense Media, a website that reviews apps, video games, TV/movies and books, and tells parents exactly what they need to know about each. PluggeDIn is another great site that offers reviews, including YouTube Channels.

UScellular is the fourth-largest full-service wireless carrier in the United States, providing national network coverage and industry-leading innovations designed to elevate the customer experience. UScellular in Vinton is located at East Vinton Plaza on Washington Avenue.

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