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Mount Pleasant kicks off 2021 'One School, One Book' program

By Debbie Adams
Mount Pleasant Elementary School has kicked off its 2021 "One School, One Book" program, in which the entire school reads the same book at the same time. This fall students and staff will be reading "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl. The reading initiative is designed to promote literacy from the school to the home. The program was organized by reading specialist Kristen Seth.

"All Pre-K through fifth grade classrooms are reading the book during the school day (by the teacher)," said Seth. "We plan to read two books each year—one in the fall and one in the spring."

There is a national "One School, One Book" program in which each family is given a book to read at home. Mount Pleasant has tweaked the concept.

"We wanted to use this as a way to build excitement in reading as a school community, so we'll be reading the books during the school day," Seth said. "We are reading two chapters a day so it will take three weeks to finish reading the book."

"We had a kickoff event before we started reading the book," she said. "Since we weren't able to have a school-wide assembly due to COVID, we recorded most of what we would've done, then were able



Mount Pleasant Elementary has kicked off the "One School, One Book" program for 2021. Assistant Principal Stephanie Burris (left) and Principal Dana Stevens visited each classroom to deliver a copy of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and a chocolate treat for each student.

See **One School, One Book**, page 3

RCPS far surpasses goal in Load the Bus campaign

Debbie Adams
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Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS) collected an estimated \$29,648 in school supplies for students in need during the 2021 Load the Bus Campaign—an annual event for over two decades. This far exceeded this year's goal of \$25,000. The impetus for "Load the Bus for Kids" is to provide school supplies for students who might not be able to afford the tools they need to be successful in school.

For the past few years, Load the Bus has been held during Virginia's tax-free weekend—this year from August 6-8.

Chuck Lionberger, director of Community Relations for RCPS, presented a report to the School Board on the most recent Load the Bus event at the board meeting on September 23 and recognized the many partners who made the drive such a success. Certificates of appreciation were presented to several individuals. Lionberger informed the

board that the fundraising event is in its 20th year; he has spearheaded the project since the beginning when the project was limited to Roanoke County Schools. The totals for the first few years when the campaign was known as "Pack the Bus"

and sponsored by Q-99 Radio, are not documented, but from 2007 to 2013 between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in supplies were collected each year.

The total jumped to about

See **RCPS**, page 5



Members of the Roanoke County School Board recognized Annette Verplanken from the Bonsack Walmart for her role in helping RCPS to collect over \$29,000 in school supplies for children in need during the 2021 Load the Bus campaign. Shown left to right are School Board members David Wymer, Mike Wray, Jason Moretz, and Tim Greenway, Annette Verplanken, and School Board member David Linden.

What's 'Coming Soon' to downtown Vinton?



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Another window decal has gone up on a business in downtown Vinton with a tantalizing "Coming Soon" in the former Star City Playhouse building on Pollard Street.

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Another window decal has gone up in downtown Vinton in the former Star City Playhouse building at the corner of Pollard Street and Washington Avenue, featuring In-Vinton branding, some rather enigmatic dining scenes, and a tantalizing "Coming Soon" message.

The building at 107 Pollard has been purchased from Vinton attorney Bruce Mayer. It was once the location for Gus Nicks Furniture Store, Sam's Variety Store, an antique mall, and a church.

No details are available as of yet, but rumor has it that the building

See **Coming Soon**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Jayden Sink receives his Eagle Scout pin and neckerchief from Troop 42 Scoutmaster Hawk Hillberry as his mother Janette Hunt looks on.

Sink receives Scouting's highest honor at Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony

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Jayden Sink of Troop 42 received Scouting's highest honor at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at Living Water Christian Church on September 25. Sink has been involved in Scouting since he joined Cub Scout Pack 235 at Thrasher Memorial as a fifth grader in 2014. He has worked for seven years to reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jayden is a junior at William Byrd High School and the son of Jannette Hunt.

The Eagle Scout Court of Honor is a prestigious, memorable, and traditional event. Scout leaders review the candidate's Scouting history from induction to the Eagle Scout rank, stressing his growth in the ideals of Scouting and share anecdotes about his journey.

When Jayden joined Pack 235 in Vinton, Greg Pino was his first Cubmaster and served as Master of Ceremonies for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Greg Leslie, who was his first Scoutmaster when he advanced to Troop 235, participated in the ceremony, along with Jayden's current Scoutmaster in Troop 42, Hawk Hillberry.

The ceremony opened with the Presentation of Colors by members of Pack and Troop 42, followed by the recitation of the Scout Oath and Law and an invocation which emphasized the ideals of Scouting. "Our Father make us trustworthy, for there are those who trust us. Make us loyal, for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.

Teach us to be helpful, for through helpfulness do we forget our selfishness. Make us friendly, for there are so many who need a friend. Train us in courtesy, for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor. Make us kind, for kindness is the oil in the cogs of life's machinery. Make us cheerful, for cheerfulness is the green grass among the rocks in the path of life. Train us in thrift, for thrifty habits brighten our future. Help us to be clean in thoughts, in speech, and in deed. Among all things, help us to be reverent toward all things which you have made for our enjoyment when we are in the great outdoors, among the trees, along the streams, and on the hillsides."

In welcoming guests to the Court of Honor, Pino said, "Scouting is no doubt one of the greatest organizations in the world to foster the highest ideals of citizenship. It is no wonder that so many of our nation's greatest leaders had some of their earliest leadership experiences in Scouting. As most Scouts enter Scouting, they picture themselves becoming Eagle Scouts, but there are so many activities and interests clamoring for their attention that the flames that were burning inspiration dim to ashes and die away and the youth stop short." Becoming an Eagle Scout is a long and arduous process, the capstone of a Scouting career. Fewer than 8 percent of youth involved in Scouting advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. In 1911 the Boy Scouts of America chose the Eagle to symbolize the highest achievement—a symbol of Scouting's best. The Eagle Scout rank is a title held for life. "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle."

Pino said, "What does the Eagle badge represent? It means that a Scout set a goal and worked to achieve that goal. The Eagle Scout badge stands for strength of character. The Eagle Scout rank is a sym-

See **Sink Honored**, page 6

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Vinton Fall Festival and Bluegrass Festival scheduled for Oct. 2

Over 80 vendors—food and craft—will fill the streets of Vinton from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Vinton Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 2. But that’s not all—the fun will continue with the first annual Bluegrass Festival taking over the stage and Vinton Farmers’ Market from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. that evening.

In addition to the vendors and food trucks, Fall Festival will feature entertainment on two stages—at the Municipal Building and on the Farmers’ Market Stage. (Fall Festival is free of charge.)

- Performances on the Municipal Stage include:
- The Fame All Stars from 10:30 to 11:30
- The Floyd Ward Dance Company from 11:30 to 12:30
- The Susan Lewis Music Studio from 12:30 to 2

On the Famers’ Market Stage:

- Mish Moves Dance will perform from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Dogs will compete in the Annual Pet Costume Contest (sponsored by Pawsh Salon for Dogs) from 11:30 to noon
- Defy Gravity Ninja will perform from noon to 1

Children’s activities include the always popular Petting Zoo.

Fall Festival Diamond level sponsors include Blue Ridge Beverage, the Vinton War Memorial, and Member One; Special Sponsor Roanoke County; Gold sponsors Carilion Clinic, Winters

Storage, and ServPro; and Silver level sponsors Berkshire Health Care, Home-Trust Bank, Lotz Funeral Home, Neely’s Accounting, Coastal Insurance Planning of Virginia, The Vinton Messenger, PFG,

and FOX Radio 910, along with Vertex Signs and Niteowlartz.com.

The Bluegrass Festival will feature Pickin’ and Grinnin’ from 3 to 5 p.m. followed by the High Fidelity Bluegrass band at

5:30. There is a \$5 cover charge for the bluegrass event.

Food will be available from local restaurants for the bluegrass show: Joe Goodpies, Farmburguesa, and Big Belly Pizza and

Subs. Twin Creeks will host a beverage garden.

Sponsors for the bluegrass event include Joe Goodpies, the Town of Vinton, and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce.



The High Fidelity Bluegrass Band will perform at the first Vinton Bluegrass Festival on October 2 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Vinton Farmers’ Market.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Boys & Girls Clubs receive grant for afterschool programs

Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA (BGCSWVA) has received notification of a new grant award from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) totaling over \$786,000 per year for three years to run after-

school and summer programs in Roanoke County and Salem.

Boys & Girls Club CEO Michelle Davis said, “VDOE has approved applications for Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Com-

munity Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants submitted for Andrew Lewis Middle School, Burlington Elementary School, East Salem Elementary School and G.W. Carver Elementary School, Herman L. Horn

Elementary School and W.E. Cundiff Elementary School.”

The 21st CCLC grant is a three-year grant with annual continuation awards. The grant period for the first-year award is July 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022. With these funds, BGCSWVA will open new after-school and summer camp programs on-site at the following locations: Andrew Lewis Middle School, East Salem Elementary School, G.W. Carver Elementary School, Burlington Elementary School, and Vinton Baptist Church serving Herman L. Horn Elementary and W.E. Cundiff Elementary.

Rebekah Meadows, BGCSWVA’s Director of Programs said, “School shutdowns during COVID necessitated strong partnerships with our local school districts like Roanoke County to get kids back to school and parents back to work. We are proud to continue our partnership with Roanoke County, and form a new collaboration with Salem City Schools, to provide accessible after-school and summer care for more kids in our region.”

In a recent email, Dr. Ken Nicely, Superintendent of Roanoke County Schools, stated, “We are very grateful to Boys & Girls Clubs for finding a solution to meet the after-school needs of students and families served by these three elementary schools [Burlington, Horn, and Cundiff]. These new programs will make a real difference in the lives of these students and families and support their academic and social-emotional learning.”

Dr. Curtis Hicks, Assistant Superintendent of Salem City Schools said, “The Salem City School Division is excited to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia to create an active after-school learning environment for more of our students. This free program will support academic, physical, social, and emotional growth and development for students and support families by providing after-school care and meals. We have no doubt that this program will help our school division ensure higher levels of growth and achievement for our students while providing a service to our community.”

New programs are scheduled to begin the week of October 4. Boys & Girls

Clubs of SWVA is currently hiring for over 64 full- and part-time positions, including hiring current school teachers at each school to work as tutors. Additional needs include part-time and full-time youth development staff at each location.

Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA is a 501c3 non-profit serving in Roanoke and Salem cities, and Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties.

BGCSWVA serves children ages 6-18 and provides youth development programming focused on academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship. Programs are low cost or free and operate both after school and during the summer months.

For more information on how Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA changes the future for hundreds of youth in the region each day, visit the website at www.bgcswva.org or call the office at 540-904-7401.

Travis Russell, Senior Pastor at Vinton Baptist, said, “On Sunday, March 28 of last spring, after hearing from Michelle Davis, CEO of Boys and Girls Club SWVA, Vinton Baptist unanimously voted to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia once again as a site for one of their afterschool programs.”

“Many may remember that our church partnered with the Boys and Girls Club during the fall of 2020 as a site for virtual learning for the Roanoke County School District. This gave parents a safe place for their children to go on the days their children could not be physically at school. Once most elementary school students were allowed to go back to school for in-person learning, the Boys and Girls Club no longer needed our church to provide a virtual learning space for students. However, over the course of our time together, the Boys & Girls Club discovered the need for an afterschool program for the elementary schools in Vinton.”

“In response, our church was contacted and given the opportunity to be the new site for this needed ministry in our community,” Russell said. “Thankfully, after months of anticipation, we have received confirmation that beginning October 4, Vinton Baptist will host between 12-15 children from

2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. During those hours, a portion of our facility will be designated for the children and adults of this ministry. The Boys and Girls Club will provide the staff for an 8:1 ratio of children for each adult.”

“I am so excited for this new partnership to begin, and the opportunity it provides our church to reach out to the children and families of our community and provide such an important ministry. As I noted during our first partnership, I think this is what Jesus meant when he said: ‘You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).’ I cannot think of a better way to ‘let our light shine’ in our community than by providing a safe space for the children of Vinton to come after school to learn, play, and grow.”

“Unfortunately, the uncertainty of COVID-19 remains,” Russell said. “Due to the emergence of the Delta variant, we are still wading through the waters of a global pandemic that will not go away quietly. We are still trying to cope with our losses and adapt to the many ways this virus has changed our society, both temporarily and permanently. We are still trying to mend fences and heal from all of the division this unprecedented time has created. As the darkness of COVID-19 lingers, rather than wishing it would end or things would return back to the way they were, may we look for ways to share the love and be the light of Christ. I believe partnering with the Boys and Girls Club is one such opportunity. As we welcome them back to Vinton Baptist and continue to serve our church and community in a number of ways, may we put our light on a lampstand for all to see. May we do our best to fill our world with the hope and promise of the one who is ‘the light of life.’ For we are assured that he was, is, and always will be, the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia have received a grant to fund afterschool programs throughout the Roanoke Valley, including a location at Vinton Baptist which will serve students attending Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Numbers cruncher

4. Creator

10. A type of center

11. About spring

12. Equal to 64 U.S. pints (abbr.)

14. Precursor to the EU

15. Something that can be cast

16. Gold-colored alloy

18. A salt or ester of acetic acid

22. A hard coating on a porous surface

23. A type of detachment

24. Filmmakers need them

26. Promotional material

27. ___ Blyton, children's author

28. Short, sharp sound

30. Feeling of intense anger

31. Popular TV network

34. Island entry point

36. Disfigure

37. College army

39. One who's revered

40. Long, winding ridge

41. Football stat

42. Stealing

48. Hawaiian island

50. More raw

51. In one's normal state of mind

52. Daniel LaRusso's sport

53. Tropical American monkey

54. Measures heart currents

55. Midway between south and east

56. Knotted again

58. Born of

59. Value

60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Mother tongue

2. Removes potato skins

3. True

4. Early multimedia

5. The making of amends

6. Discovered by investigation

7. Small arm of the sea

8. More seasoned

9. Atomic #81

12. Type of pear

13. Chemical compound

17. One's mother

19. Vietnam's former name

20. Snow forest

21. Church officer

25. Hardens

29. Ancient

31. Advertising gimmick

32. Subatomic particle

33. Not fresh

35. Loosens

38. Religious symbols

41. Film

43. Orthodontic devices

44. Grilled beef sandwich

45. Journalist Tarbell

46. Brooklyn hoopsters

47. Japanese social networking service

49. Romantic poet

56. Dorm worker

57. Poor grades

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Angie Chewning

Filling in for Bootie

And that's a wrap! The 2021 Mingle at the Market Summer Concert Series is done! We are sad to see it end – but look forward to other events and the planning of next year's entertainment! So many people deserve many thanks for all their help this year! We (Kathryn and I) could not do any event without the help of volunteers – starting with our tireless Board President Justin Davison. Justin is at every event we do throughout the year and works so hard to promote and support the Chamber.

Many thanks to our other board members, our sponsors, volunteers, the Town of Vinton, Vinton Police Dept., our bands—The Oddfellows, Vinyl Nation, Five Dollar Shake, Five Shades of Grey, Adam Rutledge, and Glamor' Kiti. To

our food vendors, Mountain Grille, Blissful Baked Treats, Ken & Jayne's Burgers & Dogs, Munsey's Smoke House, Yani's Hot Kitchen, & Lazy Bulldog Food Truck. And of course, thank you to everyone that came out to support each event! We can't wait till next year!

Join us this Saturday, Oct. 2, for our Vinton Fall Festival and Bluegrass Festival. Fall Festival will have over 80 food and craft vendors, petting zoo, doggie costume contest and much more from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bluegrass Festival at the Vinton Farmers' Market gates open at 3 p.m. till 7 p.m. Local area restaurants – Joe Goodpies, FarmBurguesa, and Big Belly's – will be running food from their restaurants. \$6 admission.

Kennedy Leigh Barker made her grand entrance into this world on September 21, 2021 at 1:56 p.m., weighing in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces. Parents are Josh Barker and Tori Slusher. Grandparents are Dale and Kim Barker, Mindy Campbell and Jeremiah Slusher. Welcome home, baby girl



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mount Pleasant Lions perform sight screening

Mount Pleasant Lions Club members performed sight screenings at Mount Pleasant Elementary this past week. The club's SPOT machine, a device that detects six different sight abnormalities, was put to good use. More than 100 Pre-K, kindergarten and third graders were screened with approximately 10 percent of those students being referred on for a professional eye examination.

The Lions have provided volunteer eye screenings to both Roanoke County and Roanoke

City Schools for more than five years. This year, however, Roanoke City Schools contracted with Carilion to handle all screenings—sight, hearing and oral health. These screenings are required by the State of Virginia and are supposed to be completed in the fall of each year. In 2020, due to the Covid pandemic, all kinds of exceptions were granted to school districts.

The SPOT machine is non-invasive, and non-touching, in its operation. The screener sits three feet from the student and

once that child stares at a kaleidoscope of bright colors in the porthole of the device for about five seconds the machine scans for the six defects it can find and notifies the operator if a further full exam is called for. If there is a concern, a stylized face with the defect noted is printed out for the school nurse, who will determine what follow up is needed.

There is one abnormality, amblyopia, commonly called lazy eye, that can become permanent if not caught and treat-

ed by about age 7. This is one important reason the state requires that the health screenings be completed in the fall of each year. Other Lions Clubs perform this same free sight screening in their localities, fulfilling the Lions' motto "We Serve."

The Lions Club International, founded by Melvin Jones in 1917, is especially recognized for the dedication to projects for the blind and hearing impaired. The organization now has 1.4 million members around the world in 48,000 clubs in 200

countries—all dedicated to "making a difference wherever they exist."

The Mount Pleasant Lions, founded in 1961, have always been active in the community with service projects benefitting children and adults. The club has adopted three schools in the Mount Pleasant area—Mount Pleasant and Garden City Elementary Schools and the Rivermont School. The eye screening is one of many community service projects involving the schools.

History Museum hosts Holiday Shoppe during Fall Festival

The Thrasher Quilters are partnering with the Vinton History Museum for a quilt sale. All quilts are made at home

by the quilters, and either tied by hand or machine quilted. There are many sizes to choose from. Stop by the mu-

seum and take a look.

The Vinton History Museum will be open on Saturday, Oct. 2, during the Vinton Fall

Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the Holiday Shoppe. In addition to the Thrasher Quilts, there are gift baskets,

holiday décor, and gift items to choose from—on the lawn.

The Vinton History Museum is located in

downtown Vinton at the corner of Jackson and Maple, catty-corner from the Vinton Library.

One School, One Book

from page 1



Principal Dana Stevens (as Willy Wonka) and her Oompa Loompas distributed sweet treats, a copy of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and one Golden Ticket to each classroom at Mount Pleasant Elementary to kick-off the "One School, One Book" event.

to share the video with classrooms to watch.

"Various teachers participated in creating the kickoff video, which included reading/acting out the first chapter and two Oompa Loompa dances. One of our fifth grade students played Charlie in the video. Our resource officer, Office Wertz, played Mr. Bucket."

Mount Pleasant Principal Dana Stevens read aloud the first chapter in the video, introduc-

ing the characters—the Bucket family—and setting up the plot of the book. Children were introduced to several other books by author Roald Dahl that they might want to read as well and available in the school library.

After the video was shown in the classrooms, Stevens, dressed as Willy Wonka, and the Oompa Loompas (various staff members) delivered a copy of the book to each classroom and chocolate

treats for each student.

"Students were given a piece of chocolate and the student who had the 'Golden Ticket' hidden inside received a prize," said Seth. "After we finish reading, we will send home activities for families to do together that we normally would've had as an evening family event" at the school.

Seth says that the reading team, made up of the principal, assistant principal, reading specialist, librarian, Title

One teacher, and remediation teacher worked together to choose the book and select the dates for the project.

"This is our first year reading a book as a school, so we wanted to pick a book that would really get the students interested and excited about reading," Seth said. "We thought that 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' was a classic story for students to hear since they may have seen the movie before

but never have read the book."

The Title One reading program helped in purchasing the books and items for family activity bags. Food Lion provided the sweet treats.

A letter was sent home to parents announcing the kick-off of the "One School, One Book" event, the book that had been chosen, and the fact that two chapters would be read in school by a teacher or staff member each day.

"We will have a question of the day on the announcements for students to answer to help create interest as

they are listening to the chapters." Students who answered the question correctly had a chance to win another "sweet prize."

"The students were so excited! What a fun way to connect all of our students together—by reading the same book!" the letter continued. "You can join in the excitement by asking your child each day what happened in the book that day! Also be on the lookout for some fun activities to do with your child after we finish reading the book. Thank you for helping us promote the love of reading!"



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

One lucky student in each classroom found a Golden Ticket in their chocolate treat during the kick-off of "One School, One Book."



Mount Pleasant Principal Dana Stevens (dressed as Willy Wonka) and members of the faculty and staff (dressed as Oompa Loompas) prepared a video to introduce "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

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RCPS

from page 1

\$6,500 when the event was rebranded as Load the Bus in 2014; increased to \$11,500 in 2015; \$18,700 in 2016; \$19,964 in 2017; and around \$23,000 in 2018 and 2019. Unfortunately, the pandemic hurt the campaign significantly in 2020, with just \$9,774 in supplies donated.

Lionberger noted that through the years neighboring school systems have joined the campaign and now include Roanoke City, Salem City, and Craig County. The school districts partner with the Walmart Corporation for Load the Bus with supplies collected at the Bonsack, Salem, Clearbrook, and Valley View Walmart locations.

He emphasized that Walmart is “determined to make the program bigger and better each year.” The company promotes the event heavily in the stores and encourages customers to donate generously.

The back-to-school shopping lists distributed to customers entering the stores included: backpacks, glue sticks, notebooks, 3-ring binders, crayons, colored pencils, notebook paper (college and wide-ruled), pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, folders, scissors, and construction paper. They also requested classroom items like tissues, hand sanitizer, printer paper, dry erase markers and more.

Shoppers were invited to bring their donations to the school bus parked in front of each Walmart during announced hours, but they were also collected at the registers and in bins throughout the stores during regular business hours.

Lionberger recognized representatives from the area Walmart stores at the School Board meeting on September 23, including Store Manager Annette Verplanken from the Bonsack Walmart as well as those from Salem, Clearbrook, and Valley View. He also recognized several members of the transportation department, including Donna Inserra, Melissa Welch, Chris Hogan, and Barry Dudley.

Lionberger says there is “a big bar to cross” in next year’s Load the Bus Campaign.

Volunteers, including School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely and School Board Chair Jason Moretz, plus teachers and staff from all the participating localities, Central Office staff, bus drivers and aides, and student organizations (bands and cheerleaders) helped to collect the supplies and load them on the bus in hot and humid weather, where they were sorted by categories.

The real work begins on the Monday after the Load the Bus event, with “Unload the Bus,” di-

viding the thousands of items donated between the four participating school systems and among all their schools.

Donations at the Bonsack, Clearbrook, and Valley View Walmarts are shared between Roanoke County and Roanoke City. The Salem Walmart splits their donations between Roanoke County, Salem City, and Craig County.

Lionberger and his team set what they considered to be a modest goal of \$25,000 worth of supplies for 2021 and were amazed at the community’s response.

By Sunday evening when the drive came to a close, boxes were “overflowing” with supplies.

In addition to school supplies, monetary donations were also accepted.

Lionberger credits the contributions made by the personnel at the Walmart stores, the RCPS warehouse staff, and a multitude of volunteers for the efficiency and success of the program over such a long period of time.

Members of the School Board commended Lionberger—a man “who wears many hats”—and the many volunteers who made this year’s Load the Bus so successful once again.

Each year, Lionberger emphasizes that “every item and every cent of donations” goes to help students in need.

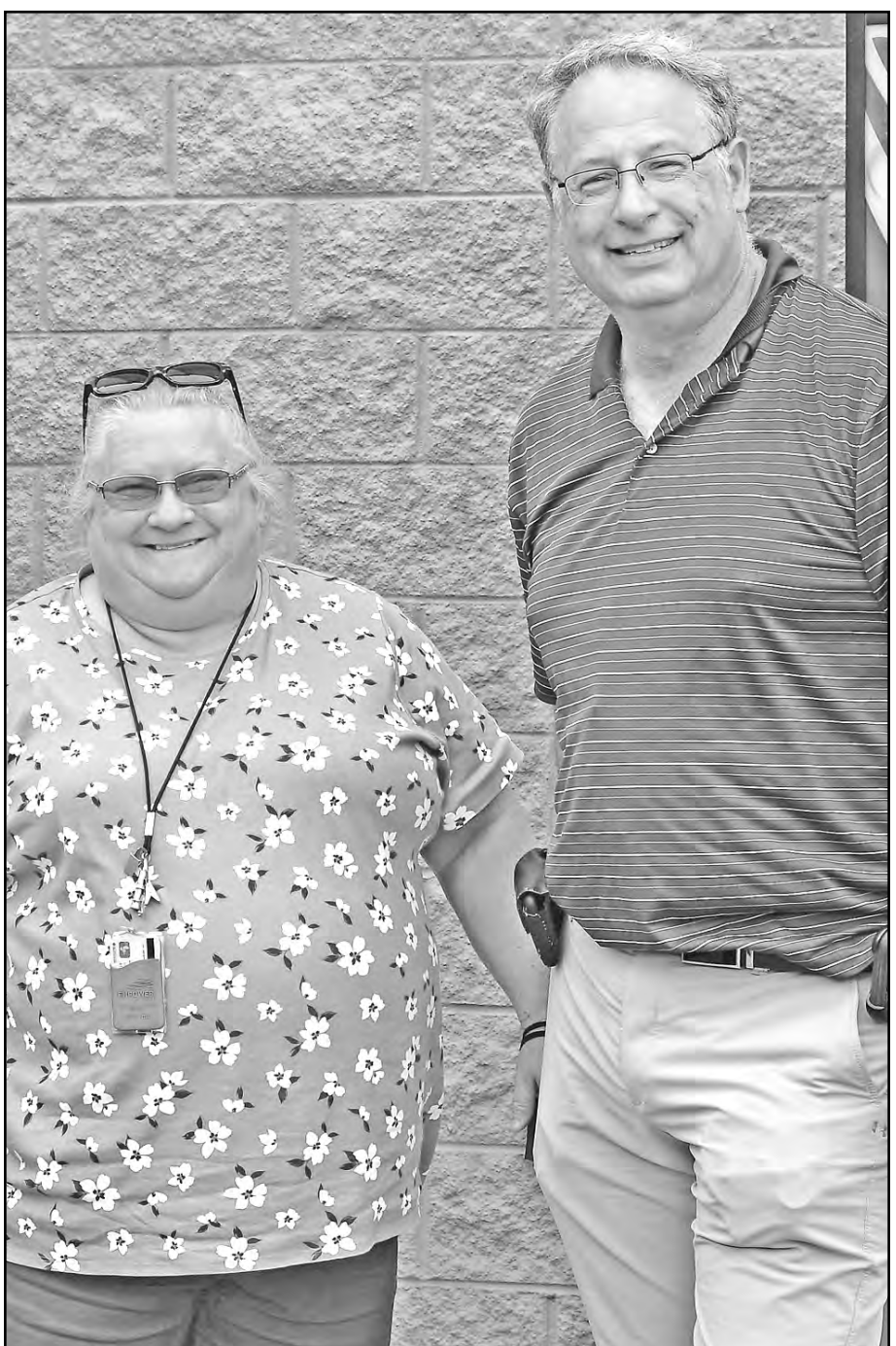


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Bus driver Melissa Welch and Roanoke County Schools Director of Community Relations Chuck Lionberger collected donations at the Bonsack Walmart on August 7. Lionberger organized the program some 20 years ago to provide school supplies for children in need. Welch has volunteered her time collecting donations for the past eight years. Welch was recognized by the School Board for her efforts at the meeting on September 23.

Coming Soon

from page 1

will house a full-scale restaurant with renovations beginning in 2022. The building has been gutted on the inside.

Jeff Belcher, owner of Sun Solutions on Walnut Avenue, has partnered with the Town of Vinton to create and install unique custom window designs in businesses in the business district. The decal project is funded by the town. Decals were already up at Twin Creeks and at the Vinton Appli-

ance Warehouse on Lee Avenue.

“We wanted to dress up and communicate the positive energy and growth within downtown Vinton,” said Town Manager Pete Peters. “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 Vinton Appliance, Twin Creeks Brewing, the Dogwood, or Star

City Playhouse and others are up to with regards to expansions.

“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 production. These aren’t meant to be permanent—just a temporary solution until they are ready to open and show off what’s inside.”

The decals are perforated vinyl window statics, featuring a theme and the “InVinton” branding.

The project has been funded under a façade grant program in the Town of Vinton Econom-

ic Development Marketing Account which is allocated to promote the town in various manners.

“The business owners have also been very supportive and agreeable to participate,” Peters said. “All in all, it’s a ‘win/win’ for everyone involved and I think it really helps sell the town in the sense of better visualizing some of the progress of buildings being updated for future businesses, and this whole idea simply helps rein-

force the theme of being ‘In Vinton’ all throughout our downtown.”

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OBITUARY

Charles Leon Sult



Charles (“Charlie”) Leon Sult, 98, passed away on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, in Roanoke, Va. Charlie was born in Wytheville, Wythe County, Va., on March 8, 1923, the son of Charles William Sult and Ruth Virginia Six Sult. He was educated in Wythe County Schools and was a multi-sport athlete, earning varsity letters in football, baseball, and track. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II (Staff Sergeant, Medical Detachment, 581st Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion) in England, France, and Germany, receiving battle stars for service in the Allied Rhineland Campaign (Remagen Bridgehead) and the Central Europe Campaign. Under the GI Bill, he attended and graduated from Emory and Henry College (B.A.) and Vanderbilt University (M.A.). Upon completion of his studies he was employed by IBM (Administrative Management Division), with assignments in Evansville, Nashville, Cleveland, Chicago, and Roanoke, where he retired after 40 years of service. A long time member of Cave Spring United Methodist Church, Charlie sang in the choir and took part in many church activities, including the Thursday Morn-

ing Music Club. He was also a member of Wytheville Masonic Lodge 82, Roanoke Scottish Rite, and Kazim Shrine Temple, and held memberships in several civic organizations, including the Rotary, Exchange, and Kiwanis clubs. Charlie was preceded in death by his first wife, Juliet Taylor Sult of Big Stone Gap, and second wife, Elizabeth Lester Sult of Wytheville; sisters, Gladys Sult Hale, Minnie Lee Sult Copenhaver, and Juanita Sult Smith; brothers, Fred William Sult and Elbert Joseph Sult.

He is survived by his sister, Audrey Sult Jones of Wytheville; his wife, Shirlee Mitchell Sult of Vinton; two sons, Charles W. Sult, wife Florence, and granddaughter Bethel Sult Aviles of Mount Laurel, N.J.; Thomas W Sult and wife Julie of Atlanta, Ga.; step-children, Sherrie Mitchell Boone, John Mitchell, Neil Mitchell, Kathie Mitchell and Beckie Mitchell; and 11 grandchildren. The family received friends from 2 until 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at Oakey’s South Chapel. A private graveside service was held. Memorial contributions can be made to Cave Spring United Methodist Church, The Rescue Mission or The Salvation Army.

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Sink Honored

from page 1

bol of what a Scout has achieved, but more importantly, it represents who they are and who they will continue to be in the future as they grow.”

The Eagle Scout ceremony continued with the Order of the Arrow “Wisdom of the Winds” ceremony led by a team of Exemplar Ceremonial Scouts, the introduction of Jayden’s mother, and presentation of the Eagle Pin and Neckerchief by Scoutmaster Hillberry.

Greg Leslie gave the new Eagle his charge: “Your position is one of honor. You are a marked man. As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed a solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and your brother Scouts. I charge you to be among those who dedicate their skills and ability to the common good. Build America on the solid foundation of clean living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and reverence for God, and whatever others may do, you will leave behind a record of which every Scout can be proud.”

Jayden himself presented several pins and special recognitions to those who have assisted him on his Scouting journey, beginning with his mother, who received seven roses—one for each rank of Scouting, which he earned in seven years.

“No one travels the trail to the Eagle alone,” Jayden noted. “Many people have been involved with me in my progress and I am so grateful to them all for their wisdom, and for believing in me and the Scouting programs. In Scouting there is another person who is honored in addition to the Eagle Scout and that is the Scout’s mother. From the first overnight camp-out to the pinning on of my Eagle, she has been there for every adventure in Scouting. She has watched me mature from a young, shy child to a young man with a purpose, who is passion-driven, and a voice for those who need one.”

Jayden brought Betty Wimmer to the podium to pay tribute to her son, Scoutmaster Rick Wimmer, who passed away in 2018. He noted that he met Rick Wimmer at Camp Atari in 2015 and it changed his life. “He was an amazing man. He was my dad in Scouting. He was someone you would trust with your life. Because of him, I wanted to be in the Order of the Arrow. I wouldn’t have had the strength to become an Eagle Scout without him.”

Jayden also presented a mentoring pin to his friend Scout Nick Leslie (accepted by his father, Greg) who he met in Troop 235 and who assisted him in

working through the ranks of Scouting.

He recognized Scoutmaster Hillberry saying that meeting him was “the best thing that has happened to me; I wouldn’t have gotten to OA or Eagle without you.” Hillberry helped found Troop 42 in 2019 as a “Scoutabilities” troop, described by Jayden as “our area’s all-abilities unit” to meet the needs of scouts of all ability levels. As a result, Jayden has become an advocate for all abilities, to include, understand, and work with scouts who needed more patience, a different perspective, and a feeling that they do belong. “As my Scouting career has progressed, I have found that my strengths and leadership skills center around those with different abilities.”

Jayden presented an Eagle Scout neckerchief to 7-year-old Chase Garvey of Pack 42, who says he wants to be just like Jayden, who makes him feel included and special.”

In concluding the ceremony Scoutmaster Hillberry presented several more badges to Jayden earned beyond his Eagle Scout rank.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Scouts must:

- Progress through the ranks in the following order: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle

- Earn 21 merit badges, including: First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science or Sustainability, Personal Management, Swimming or Hiking or Cycling, Camping, Family Life

- Serve six months in a position of responsibility.

- Plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or their community.

- Successfully complete their board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.

For his Eagle Scout Project. Jayden chose to build an inclusion playground at the Troutville Church of the Brethren.

“Scouting renewed my spirit and helped me believe in myself,” Jayden said. “I know that I would not have recognized my purpose, found my talents, made lifelong friendships, or have confidence in myself and my abilities if it wasn’t for the Scouting programs. I have learned who I am, who I want to be, who I can be, and who others see me as from scouting opportunities and the many volunteer leaders that guided me.”



New Eagle Scout Jayden Sink recognized several individuals who had been most significant in his journey to Eagle Scout, including Scoutmaster Rick Wimmer who passed away in 2018. Jayden presents a mentor pin to Wimmer’s mother, Betty Wimmer.



Jayden Sink presented an Eagle Scout neckerchief to 7-year-old Chase Garvey and was thanked by Lauren Holmes for making her son feel “included and special.”



Scoutmaster Hawk Hillberry, Jayden Sink, and Janette Hunt are shown on the night of Jayden’s Eagle Scout Court of Review, a preliminary to being named an Eagle Scout.

ANGLICAN

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hersherberger, 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.

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.

ECKANKAR

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

FOURSQUARE

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

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, “The Church Under The Cross”, 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday

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Blind Allegiance

Read John 18:1 through 20:31

By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover (John18:28).

The old saying, “can’t see the forest for the trees,” takes on a whole new meaning in this verse. The Jewish priests were extremely concerned about entering the palace. Some scholars believe the Jewish people feared entering the home of a Gentile because it was rumored that Gentiles buried their dead under their homes. As per Jewish custom, a Jewish person would remain unclean for seven days after being near a dead body.

These Jewish leaders were preparing for Passover and had no time for such a wait. In their piety, they refused to enter the home of a Gentile, yet had no problem sentencing an innocent man to die.

These leaders allowed rules and tradition to regulate their lives. They lost sight of the purpose behind many of their traditions. In doing so, they were unable to recognize their Savior.

Prayer Suggestion: God, help me to keep my eyes on You and not get caught up in doing things the way they’ve always been done at the expense of Your plan.

Quicklook: John 18:28–32

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

School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE

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

PRESBYTERIAN

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir

7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, 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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