Senior Lifestyles Inside



Thursday, November 18, 2021 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville

Town Council briefed on Premium Pay, gratitude bonuses for employees

Debbie Adams

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Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond opened the Vinton Town Council meeting on November 16 with a tribute to Officer Michael Chandler of the Big Stone Gap Police Department who lost his life in the line of duty on November 13 while conducting a welfare check at a vacant home.

Chief Drumond described Officer Chandler as "a devoted community servant who dedicated his life to his very last moment to protecting our way of life.

"The incident occurred on Officer Chandler's 29th birthday," Drumond said. "He was recently married, and is survived by his wife, a deputy with the Wise County Sheriff's Office, his daughter, and stepdaughter.

"In addition to serving with the Big Stone Gap Police Department, he also served as a volunteer with the Big Stone Gap Fire Department. Officer Chandler is remembered as an integral piece to his community where he was involved in many community activities.

"Any American who gives his life in the defense of our communities deserves everlasting memories in our hearts," Drumond said. "As a community we send our condolences to the Big Stone Gap Police Department and to Officer Chandler's family, in knowing that he is now eternal.

'Officers such as Officer Chandler do not wear the badge for glory, but for the single principle of love of service and the preservation that is enshrined in the rule of law," Drumond continued. "It is our profession, the law enforcement profession, that is depended upon to preserve the sanctity of life throughout our great nation. It is the selfless sacrifice and the final actions of those, such as Officer Chandler, that solidify that there is no greater calling than to serve others in time of need.

"Today, I ask all of those in law enforcement to reflect on the path you walk and the oath you have taken. Our profession will always be united by one shared goal- to protect and serve our communities and hold the fine line that separates order from disorder. Believe in your profession; believe in yourselves; and the courage you exhibit everyday you put on your uniform.

"This evening, when you bow your heads for a moment of silence, keep Officer Chandler, the Big Stone Gap Police Department, and the community in your thoughts and your heartfelt prayers," Drumond said in conclusion. "While words may fall short of expressing the sorrow we have for this tragic loss, may the love and comfort that only God's grace can provide be bestowed to those that loved him the most."

There were no actionable items on the council agenda for the evening; however, there were three briefings— two dealing with COVID funding. Assistant Town Manager

Cody Sexton detailed a draft ordinance authorizing Premium Pay up to \$138,869 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Vinton's sworn public safety employees and essential public works employees and gratitude bonuses for all other Town of Vinton employees.

The Virginia General Assembly, in a 2021 Special Session, approved federal ARPA funds to provide a one-time \$3,000 bonus for sworn sheriffs, sheriff's deputies, and regional jail officers. The town wants to offer the same benefit to public safety and public works employees "whose job functions were critical to the community and who faced a higher level of potential COVID transmission from working with the public,' in recognition of their hard work and dedication during the pandemic.

Once the ordinance is passed, sworn officers in the Police Department and essential employees in the Public Works Department employed prior to July 1, 2021, will receive \$3,000 bonuses of ARPA Premium Pay. Those employed after July 1, 2021, will receive \$1,500.

See Town Council, page 2

Thrasher UMC volunteers glean crops to feed the hungry

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Volunteers from Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton spent the afternoon on November 14, gleaning turnips at Windy Hills Farm in Riner.

On the sunny, but chilly day, 28 members of the Thrasher youth group, several families, and the Ten Brave Christians group filled about 140 bags of turnips, weighing 15-20 pounds each- a little over a ton of turnips in total.

About two-thirds of those turnips ended up in Lynchburg at Gateway Ministries, the Salvation Army, Come to the Altar Ministry, and the New Prospect Food Pantry by the end of the day. (The turnips are generally distributed in 10-pound bags and some agencies provide recipes for families for the less famil-

Bank of Botetou

iar produce- like turnips.) The gleaning project was organized through the Society of St. Andrew (SOSA), facilitated by Sarah Ramey, the Virginia Gleaning Coordinator for the Society, and arranged by Bonnie Jones, the youth director at Thrasher.

According to the Windy Hills Farm website, each year the 450-acre farm works with the Society of St. Andrew to provide fresh vegetables to local food banks, donating 80,000-100,000 pounds of turnips and other fresh produce.



"Everything we raise is for **Twenty-eight members of the Thrasher youth group, families, and the Ten Brave Christians group spent**



food banks and donations," said owners Tabitha and Darin Greear. "We can do it, and like it. It's our hobby. We feel blessed by all we have duty to help other people. Our farm is open each fall for gleaning and giving back to

afternoon on November 14 gleaning for turnips at Windy Hills Farm in Riner for distribution to local food banks. They gathered about a ton of turnips.

the community."

The Greears purchased been given, and feel it is our the farm in 2007 and planted a field of turnips and alfalfa. The turnips outgrew the al-

falfa- producing thousands and thousands of pounds of turnips. They didn't want them to go to waste and got in touch with Ramey. The

Greears have donated turnips every year since, and now plant six to seven acres for the sole purpose of growing food for SOSA. November is turnip harvesting time.

Windy Hills sees this as "an excellent opportunity for

"Tonight, I am finishing

four years as the chairman

of this great organization.

See UMC, page 4

Vinton Mayor honored for years of service as RVARC chair





PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

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The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission honored Vinton Mayor Brad Grose for his years of service as chairman at their annual banquet on October 28.

Debbie Adams dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Mayor Brad I had previously served a Grose, in addition to his du- three-year term. It has been ties with the Town of Vin- a wonderful time for me ton, has served as chairman that has provided some of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commis- this term with a profound sion (RVARC) for the past sense of gratitude for the four years from 2017-2021. Regional Commission, for He previously served in that you as members, for our position from 2006-2009.

At the annual RVARC for Wayne Strickland (exdinner held on October ecutive director who retired 28, the Commission recognized and thanked Grose for his service to the region, has proven himself to be presenting him a plaque to a highly qualified, very honor his accomplishments and leadership.

great asset to the organization during his time as leader," the Commission noted.

At the dinner, Mayor to say a few words about RVARC.

great experiences. I finish awesome staff, and of course in June). We all know that Wayne

knowledgeable leader who is well respected through-"Mayor Grose has been a out the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, I can confirm that he has always been great to work with and he loves our region. Wayne Grose took the opportunity has set the performance bar very high with many exceptional accomplishments, including, what I think is his greatest achievement, assembling and maintaining an awesome staff. Most importantly, Wayne has been the embodiment of a truly honorable gentleman throughout his tenure as the executive director here at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

In addition, Grose

Janice retired from Jef-

Chair of the Nursing De-

partment in 2013. She

performed volunteer work with Virginia Skyline Girl

Scout Council as Service

Unit Chair, Camping

Trainer for Leaders, Day

Camp Counselor, and

troop leader. Currently,

Janice volunteers as Regis-

trar for Vinton's Roanoke

Valley Chapter of Daugh-

ters of American Revolu-

married in Decatur, Ill. in

1971. Shortly thereafter,

Bob was transferred to

Fort Wayne, Ind., where

they spent 15 years and

raised their three children.

They have made Roanoke

County their home since

1986. Their son Bryan

lives in St. Louis, Mo.;

Catherine lives in San Jose,

Calif.; and Stuart resides in

the Allen, Texas. The Tay-

lors have five grandchil-

Robert and Janice were

tion.

Town of Vinton announces holiday schedule

The Town of Vinton offices will be closed next week on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The Refuse Pickup Schedule has been modified for Thanksgiving Week 2021:

Town Council from page 1

The Premium Pay for public safety employees is not a true bonus; it reflects a retroactive payment of \$13/hour for a maximum of 231 hours as provided for in ARPA guidance from the United States Department of Treasury.

All other full-time employees working for the town before July 1, 2021, will receive a \$2,000 gratitude bonus. Those employed after July 1, 2021, will receive \$1,000.

Part-time workers employed before July 1, 2021, will receive a \$500 gratitude bonus. Part-time workers employed after July 1, 2021, will receive \$250.

The total for these gratitude bonuses will come from the General Fund (up to \$37,813), the Utility Fund (\$13,887) and the Stormwater Fund (\$781).

These proposals align with actions of the General Assembly and those of other governments in the region.

Council will take action on this item at the December 7 meeting, with plans to pay the bonuses on December 14 if the resolution is adopted.

Treasurer/Finance Director Anne Cantrell briefed council on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the use of state and local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the COVID-19 ARPA SLFRF Municipal Utility Assistance Program.

The Town of Vinton has been awarded federal State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through ARPA in the amount of \$118,089. The award will be used to directly assist residential municipal utility customers in the Town of Vinton with arrearages greater than 60 days between March 12, 2020, and August 31, 2021.

Roanoke County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the town to facilitate assistance to eligible customers thus the MOU.

Cantrell said these funds will be much easier to administer than previous CARES funding as customers will not need to fill out applications but may be pre-qualified. Action will be taken on this item at the December 7 meeting.

Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Donna Collins presented the final briefing to council on the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health COVID-19 Permanent Standard updates. Small training sessions were held for ing "the right people."

Monday 11/22/21 will be on normal schedule for refuse and bulk pick up.

On Tuesday 11/23/21 Tuesday's and Wednesday's refuse and bulk will be picked up.

On Wednesday 11/24/21 Thursday's and Friday's refuse and bulk will be picked up.

Vinton employees at the end of October; changes became effective November 1 for all town employees and include:

Employers are to follow the CDC Transmission Data Map to determine risk of transmission.

All employees, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings if six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

An anonymous Whistleblower Hotline has been implemented for COVID concerns and complaints.

Limits to workplace density have been established for employees.

Employees are required to sanitize and disinfect their workspaces at the end of each day. Janitorial staff will clean and disinfect common areas.

Pre-screening, including temperature checks, will continue indefinitely.

The town will implement a symptom-based strategy for employees returning to work known or suspected to be infected with COVID-19.

Public Works Director Bo Herndon reported on the latest Public Works Committee meeting. Topics of discussion were the signal lights at 3rd Street and Virginia, PFG, Bypass Road, and Hardy Road which are all moving along as quickly as possible given sup-ply chain issues. The town received a bid from Boxley for \$800,000 for next summer's paving. Meter replacement continues with nearly half of the business meters replaced and about a fourth of residential meters. Boring and a geo-technical study are expected to take place on Mountain View Road in early December.

Town Manager Pete Peters commended Herndon and the Public Works employees for their expedited and efficient work on Walnut Avenue, which was closed for repairs last week, but reopened ahead of schedule. He noted the well-executed detour which had been in place beginning on November 8.

"They did a great job on Walnut and had it back open by Friday," Peters said. "A job well done by our own employees."

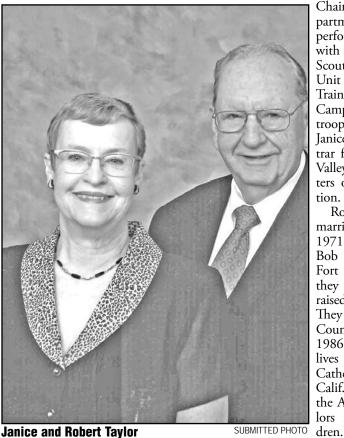
In closing remarks from Town Council before adjourning to a closed session, members praised the "powerful and professional staff" in Vinton and thanked Donna Collins for the "great job she has done" in hiring and retain-

Taylors celebrate 50th anniversary

Robert and Janice Taylor will celebrate 50 years of marriage on November 20, 2021.

Bob retired from Norfolk Southern Railway in

1995 as Project Manager. active in the Fincastle Res-He served as a volunteer for olutions Chapter of Sons Vinton's Boy Scout Troop of American Revolution. 18 and a docent at Smithfield Plantation in Blacks- ferson College of Health burg. Currently, Bob is Sciences as Secretary to



Downtown Christmas Storefront Decorating Contest announced

Many business storefronts in downtown Vinton will be festively decorated again this year for the 2021 holiday season.

The Town of Vinton will be sponsoring the "Christmas Storefront Decorating Contest." Flyers advertising the competition are being distributed to local businesses located in the downtown business district encouraging them to participate.

All storefront decorations must be up by December 1 (in time for the Vinton Christmas Parade on December 2) and will be judged on December 13.

Winners will be chosen in four categories: Best All Around, Mayor's Choice, Most Creative, and Best Exemplifies the Spirit of Christmas.

Those who have lived in Vinton for many years remember nostalgically when all the shops in downtown Vinton decorated extensively for the holidays.

Questions about the Christmas Storefront Door Contest can be emailed to Vinton Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour at CBARBOUR@vintonva.gov or call her at 540-400-1942.



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00 **EARLY DEADLINES FOR** THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the Nov. 25 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by Thursday, November 18 at noon to dadams@ourvalley.org. Send ads by Thursday, November 18 at noon to tfrye@ourvalley.org. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem. The paper will be printed on Tuesday, Nov.

23 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. The office of The Vinton Messenger will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving.

RCPS celebrates American Education Week, applies for ARPA funds

The Roanoke County School Board adopted a Resolution of Recognition at the meeting on November 11, declaring November 15-19 as American Education Week—the 100th anniversary of the event.

The Resolution states:

"Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality."

"By equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future."

"Education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism."

"Schools are community catalysts, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise."

During the "Hearings of Citizens" segment of the meeting, William Byrd Middle School student Jacob Smith, an eighth grader, spoke to honor his teachers for their hard work during the pandemic and thanked the School Board

for keeping schools open and Roanoke County Schools for "ensuring that I have a great education." He said that addressing the board was part of a Civics class community project.

In other action at the School Board meeting, Finance Director Susan Peterson asked the board to approve submitting applications for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grants, which are due in November and December. The board was advised of the new grant opportunities at the November 3 meeting.

Peterson said the Virginia Department of Education has made these grants available for school divisions:

• American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds to Support HVAC Replacement. VDOE allocated \$2,674,479 to II Unfinished Learning Roanoke County Public Schools. This grant requires a 100% local match. We can include any ESSER-funded project and/or bond-funded project (William Byrd Plan Elementary and High School HVAC replacement) as part of the local match. (applications Fund Competitive Grant are due November 15)

• American Rescue Plan Elementary and has approximately \$21 Secondary School Emer- million available for apgency Relief (ESSER) III plicants. Peterson said Fund Competitive Grant they will look into wheth-

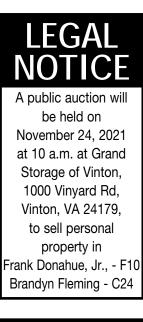
Moretz, Jacob Smith and his mother Tara, and board members David Linden and Tim Greenway. opportunities VDOE has approximately \$21 million available for applicants. The funding would allow Roanoke County Public Schools to continue the summer program through June/ July 2023. The ESSER grant funded the summer program for June/July 2021 and June/July 2022 (application due November 23)

• American Rescue Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III for Before and After School Programs. VDOE for Summer Programs. er these programs will be successful and apply for funding as needed (application due November 23)

• American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund Competitive Grant for Addressing Unfinished Learning. VDOE has approximately \$65 million available for applicants. Peterson will review the August stakeholder list and reductions in the ESSER III grant to identify any additional needs that will qualify. There are two requirements in order to apply for this funding stream: the LEA will expend no more than 35% of its ARPA Act ES-SER III formula funds on construction, renovation and/or HVAC projects (staff allocated 6.57%) of the formula grant on this), and the LEA will implement an individualized remediation plan for each student that failed the 2020-2021 reading or mathematics SOL (application due November 23)

• American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds. VDOE allocated \$32,927.55 to Roanoke County Public Schools (application due December 3)

Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, presented the latest COVID update to the School Board, which was encouraging. Although this area remains at "high transmission" levels, the numbers of positive cases and quarantined students and staff are trending down. She hopes the level will drop soon to "substantial" and changes to mitigation strategies may be permitted.



RVARC from page 1

thanked the RVARC staff for their commitment and dedication to public service- the driving force behind many of their achievements.

He thanked the members of the Commission for their time in preparing for and attending meetings which demonstrate the importance of the Regional Commission.

According to the RVARC website, in 1968, Virginia was divided into planning districts based on the community of interest among counties, cities, and towns. (Planning Districts are created by local governments, encouraged by the state.) Currently there are 21 Planning Districts in Virginia. In 1999, the local Fifth District Planning District Commission changed its name to the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission. It is made up of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments, such as the Town of Vinton. The stated purpose of the Planning District is "to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing- on a regional-basis- problems of greater than local significance. The resulting cooperation is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

One important duty of Planning Districts is "to cre- pleted over 150 projects ate a strategic plan for their during the past four years, region of service, in coop- not including those related eration with local govern- to those completed by the ments, businesses, citizen TPO. organizations, and other interested parties. The plan nated with localities and is intended to help promote VDOT to secure over \$31 the orderly and efficient de- million in funding for Survelopment of the district by face Transportation Block stating goals and objectives, Grant and Transportation strategies to meet those Alternatives projects, as well goals, and mechanisms for as over \$35 million in urban measuring progress.

RVARC also provides projects. staffing for the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan significant changes in our Planning which is involved in trans- RVARC to operate in a portation planning in the more efficient manner,"

RVARC staff have com-

RVARC staff coordiand rural SMART SCALE

"In addition, we made Organization by-laws that will allow the urban area in and around Grose added. "We also formed a Search Committee RVARC currently in- to find the replacement for was happy to find that one of our own, Jeremy Holmes, was the best candidate.

"However, by far, our most important accomplishment over the past few years is the strengthening of the relationships between members of our great region- I consider that to be our most important prod-

"I want to express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous honor of serving as chairman of our Regional Commission," Grose said. "The best part of serving as chairman has been the friendships I that

Of course, the committee Council will allow me to serve in that capacity.'





WBMS student Jacob Smith addressed the Roanoke County School Board at the meeting on November 11,

thanking the members for keeping schools open during the pandemic and the school system for providing him

a quality education. Shown left to right are School Board members Mike Wray, David Wymer, and Chair Jason

Planning Districts also "promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future."

Planning Districts "provide a variety of technical and program services to member local governments. They include grant application assistance, management services for program implementation, land use planning services and mapping, transportation planning (highway development, ridesharing, airport planning, and specialized transit).'

Within their region they serve to build regional approaches to issues like economic development, solid waste management and legislative priorities.

Roanoke.

cludes Alleghany, Botetourt, Wayne Strickland, after he Craig, Franklin, and Roa- announced his retirement. noke Counties, the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount, and Vinton, and the Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem.

Grose named several specific accomplishments by RVARC during his time as Chairman:

RVARC completed the Regional Housing Market Study Analysis, identifying housing needs and strategies in Franklin County, the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and the City of Salem. This work assisted the Commission in applying for and receiving a \$2 million Virginia Housing Grant to assist in the development of affordable housing units in the region.

RVARC expanded and improved its public input process supporting all of its planning efforts with new online targeted surveying tools, resulting in recognition from the National Association of Development Districts and a featured presentation at the National Conference on Virtual Public Engagement.

RVĂŘC launched and grew the regional Blueways programs, including the production of a Blueways facilities map and support for the localities as they improved access and signage along the blueway.

RVARC's commuter software program rose to the challenge of COVID, developing telework education, presenting at virtual Chamber of Commerce events, and developing a new social bicycle tour platform, with a number of regional partners.

have developed with fellow members and the staff. I plan to remain a member of the Regional Commission, as long as Vinton Town



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Moretz details the State of the County schools

This year's State of the County event was presented by Jason Peters, Chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and Vinton's representative to the Board and Roanoke County School Board Chairman Jason Moretz at the Green Ridge Recreation Center on November 10, hosted by the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Here are the remarks from Jason Moretz on the state of the county schools:

As has been expressed by members of the board of supervisors many times over the years, Roanoke County Public Schools is the crown jewel of Roanoke County. Our reputation for outstanding instruction from outstanding teachers brings families to Roanoke County from across the nation and beyond.

It takes a great deal of work, dedication, and investment to keep this crown jewel polished and shining brightly.

First, I'd like to thank my fellow board members for all their hard work this year. I'd especially like to thank David Wymer, who returned to the board on a temporary basis while the citizens of the Catawba district elected a new representative.

Let me begin by stating that, despite the unprecedented challenges of the past 18 months, and thanks to the resilience and support of students, staff, parents and the community, the state of Roanoke County Public Schools is strong.

School divisions across Virginia have borne much of the brunt of the challenges of the pandemic, as they have attempted to balance the needs of continued learning and safety.

From the beginning, when schools were allowed to reopen in August 2020, our school leadership team, under the direction of our superintendent, Dr. Ken Nicely, were

able to provide in-person instruction for students in addition to online options. Roanoke County Public Schools is only one of a handful of districts in Virginia to accomplish this feat while continuously moving forward throughout the school year to include more and more in-person opportunities for students.

This year, under the theme of Shifting Gears, Moving Forward, public schools in Roanoke County are charging full-steam ahead to meet students where they are academically and provide needed support as we continue to implement the vision of our C-Change Framework.

We recognize some students still have unfinished learning to do, particularly some who elected for 100% online instruction. We developed the WIN (What I Need) program to directly meet the remediation needs of students to bring them back up to speed on instruction, while simultaneously keeping all students moving forward.

As articulated by our C-Change Framework, both climate and learning culture play key roles in supporting student learning, and include the values of kindness, respect, and responsibility. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, is an evidencebased framework that supports the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of all students by setting clear expectations.

There are three main keys of the PBIS program - Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. We are using this program to focus on social and emotional learning, school safety, trauma, and equity of opportunity. Through PBIS we're also working to prevent substance abuse and bullying by setting and teaching positive expectations and accountability. It's all about creating a great environment for learning for all students--and that leads to academic success.

The proof of this success can be found in the Class of 2021. More than 95% of our seniors graduated on time--well above the state average. Roanoke County has one of the highest graduation rates in the state for large school divisions and the highest among large school divisions in the western half of the state.

Also in 2021, Roanoke County Public Schools was among the first school districts in the Commonwealth to earn the distinction as a "School Division of Innovation" by the Virginia Department of Education.

Roanoke County Public Schools is working to prepare our students to be Opportunity Ready--ready to take advantage of the wide array of opportunities that come after our students graduate.

We're proud to announce today that we are in the final phases of developing a new Opportunity Ready Certification that students may earn along with their high school diploma. This certification verifies that a student has developed the key skills of citizenship, collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking as described in our Profile of a Graduate.

This is where you come in.

We're looking for businesses and higher education institutions to partner with us. When you see a future applicant with the Opportunity Ready certification from Roanoke County Public Schools, you can be assured that this is a graduate who will be a valuable employee or college student, and we hope you will give this applicant additional consideration. We're putting our reputation behind this certification, and we hope you'll support this effort.

We also are looking for your help to expand opportunities for our students. In 2017, Roanoke County Public Schools developed a very successful student registered apprenticeship program and have since expanded this program to include Salem and Roanoke City schools.

Registered apprentices work in a paid part-time position at your business, while also working towards an industry-specific certification. The program currently includes 10 partner businesses, but we need more apprenticeship opportunities. Some of our current business partners are represented today and we thank them for being part of our team. We hope you will join us. To learn more, contact the career and technical education department at any of the Roanoke Valley school districts.

Career and technical education is a high priority in Roanoke County Public Schools. Many of the positions your businesses are looking to fill don't require a four-year education. We're working to help our students and parents see the value of all kinds of career pathways. Some pathways begin with a college degree, but many more do not.

In the last decade we've developed many programs in response to the changes in workforce needs including cybersecurity, game design, introduction to nursing and emergency medical technician. And these are just the most recent CTE opportunities--we have all sorts of CTE programs that lead to all sorts of different career pathways.

Just like our student registered apprenticeship program, we need to expand our opportunities in career and technical education. This is no more important than at the Burton Center for Arts and Technology. Next year, the Burton Center will be 60 years old. While we have some

schools that are older, they have been significantly renovated. The Burton Center has not. Each year, we turn away hundreds of students because we don't have the space to expand or add classes. These are hundreds of students that don't have the opportunity to work to earn industry certifications, and receive advanced instruction in CTE areas, and the arts.

Students that are admitted into the Burton Center programs need the space to not only learn and develop the skills specific to their program, but also modern space to develop customer-service skills, business skills and artistic skills related to their program.

It's long past time to build a bigger and better Burton.

We are working right now with the Board of Supervisors and a Burton Center Citizens Advisory Committee, appointed by both boards, that is developing and examining new opportunities for Burton. We understand workforce development is something your businesses rely on, and we want to be able to help provide that workforce. This is an ongoing project, and we'll need your support to make this a reality.

In the meantime, we're hard at work on renovations at William Byrd High School. This is an exciting project to expand and finally renovate the home of the Terriers. We look forward to completing this project in summer of 2023.

On behalf of the Roanoke County School Board, I'd like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of our schools. We're incredibly fortunate in Roanoke County for the strong relationship between the school board and board of supervisors. You don't find that in many other localities and we're proof that working together, we can continue to make Roanoke County the best place in Virginia and in the nation to live, work, learn and play.

UMC from page 1

student groups to experience life on a working farm while giving back to those in need."

SOSA estimates that almost 115 billion pounds of food have been wasted in the United States already in 2021- in fields, during transportation, and in supermarkets, restaurants, and homes.

The food wasted in the fields may be left because it



vesting or because the crops been distributed to hungry weren't attractive enough for people through 1,745 feedand nutritious, but not com- 130,943,007 servings of fresh mercially marketable.

In 2021, through Octoabout 43.6 million pounds of since 1979. fresh produce in 5,694 events

is missed by mechanical har- donated by 789 farmers has supermarket shelves- edible ing agencies- for a total of food shared.

SOSA has been working ber, SOSA has so far gleaned, with farmers, volunteers, orgathered, and distributed ganizations, and faith groups

That's when two United with 15,693 volunteers. Food Methodist ministers, Ken Horne and Ray Buchanan, right out of seminary, had a vision of a world without hunger. They were living in rural Virginia working on hunger issues for the Methodist church, trying to practice living simply and being good stewards of the land. Using a converted sheep shed in Big Island as an office, they conducted workshops for church groups on responsible living in a world where many people go hungry. In 1983, at a church on Virginia's Eastern Shore, Horne and Buchanan spoke to a church group about transforming their primarily educational organization into one committed to feeding hungry people. The men discussed the possibility of collecting food that would be thrown away because it didn't fit market standards and using it to feed people.

willing to talk to other potato farmers on the shore to help Horne and Buchanan achieve their goals. One farmer gave them a pickuptruck load of potatoes from his field, which quickly led to 13 tractor-trailer loads of potatoes donated by other farmers. As a result, the Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project was born, putting people into fields to gather fruits and vegetables that remain after harvest.

Beginning in 1992, the Society of St. Andrew expanded into other states in the form of regional offices and gleaning ministries. Although SOSA was begun by Methodist ministers, it is now an interdenominational nonprofit organization which has spread across the nation. Gleaners gather a variety of produce depending upon their location, from citrus fruits in Florida, to watermelons in Kansas, to potatoes, apples, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, blueberries, cabbage, onions, squash, corn, turnips, and cucumbers throughout the country. The SOSA mission is biblically based, taken from Deuteronomy 24: 19 (NIV) which says, "When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for

the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

Their name is taken from Andrew, the disciple of Jesus, who introduced the little boy with five loaves and two fishes to Jesus in the Bible story of the feeding of the 5,000.

Since SOSA was established in 1983, volunteers have salvaged and distributed hundreds of millions of pounds of produce across America to food banks, soup kitchens, group homes, reservations, food pantries, low income and elderly housing complexes, local churches, homeless shelters, rehab facilities, and other hunger agencies for distribution to those

dinates gleaning for SOSA throughout the state. She is always on the lookout for volunteers to glean and for new farmers and orchards to work with. SOSA is flexible and willing to work with farmers who might have an overabundance of produce on a one-time basis or on a regular schedule. There are advantages for the farmers since growers can receive a state and federal tax deduction for gleaned and donated crops.

Gleaners can be of any age but should be able to bend over to pick up fruit and lift several pounds of produce. Anyone allergic to bees should beware.

Ramey says gleaning was mewhat limited during the worst of the pandemic, due to fewer volunteers, although the work is outside. She says the Thrasher group had a particularly good day on November 14. She remembers in particular a family with two young sons who were very hard workers. One of the boys kept running up with tur-nips, calling out, "This is a record-breaker." Check the Society of St. Andrew website at https:// endhunger.org/ for more information or call 1-800-333-4597.

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

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$44 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$48 a year in adjoining counties, \$52 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

Potato farmers from that church said they would be experiencing food insecurity.

"In Southwest Virginia, gleaning generally begins in July with corn and continues into December with turnips, root vegetables, and winter squash," said Ramey. "In the Tidewater area, gleaning is possible 10 to 11 months of the year."

Because the produce is donated, the Society of St. Andrew pays only for the transportation and packaging of the food.

Ramey began gleaning in 1994 when she lived in Winchester. Now she coor-



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.

ADVERTISE!

Call Tucker Frye at 309-9485 or email ffrye@ourvalley.org to advertise in this space.

VINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE Dec 2, 2021 6:00 PM

Downtown Vinton Vinton, Virginia 24179 Annual Christmas parade over 100 entries. The Parade that kicks off the holiday season! 6PM- Tree lighting ceremony and entertainment at the Vinton Municipal Building **7PM Parade** Parade ends at the The Vinton Farmers' Market where you can visit and have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus while enjoying refreshments and entertainment. Twin Creeks Brewery and many other downtown Vinton Businesses will be open late as well.



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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

As a mom, one of the best things you can have is familv and friends that love your kids as much as you do. This amazing love shined bright this past weekend. My son, some know as Baby Drake (from this column) married his love with people that love them as much as we do.

Hannah Jones and Drake, Tara and Steve Jones, Emilee Jones, myself and Greg, Drake's dad David, his sisters Abbie Lewis and Cydney McGhee, along with so many, were blessed to feel this love. Family and friends came from all over including South Carolina, Lynchburg, Richmond, North Carolina. With Pastor Jake Huffman officiating, the beautiful ceremony took place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Villa Heights Baptist Church.

Family and friends that stood side by side with the happy couple were best man Drake's father David Lewis; groomsmen Bradley Harless, Bobby Conner, Ryan Dippel, Greg O'Neil, Brandon Sells; ring security, Drake's nephew Kellen McGhee; maid of honor, sister of the bride Emilee Jones; bridesmaids Morgan Perulous, Kayla Meyers, Jessica Brammer and sister of the groom Abbie Lewis; and flower girl Berkely



Sells. Randy Nicely sang "When I Say I Do" during the Unity Sand Ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the guests moved to the Vinton Moose Lodge event venue to be welcomed in the worm glow of candles on the tables, soft music provided by none other than Joey Nicely- he DJ'ed Tara and Steve's wedding in 1993. And for cocktail hour - my friend Nonie Hall created the most beautiful charcuterie bar you have ever seen. It was spectacular. (Take a look at my Facebook to see all the beautiful pictures.) Special thanks to her "assistants" Nancy Mastry, Raven Griswald, Cydney McGhee, and Cheri Carroll.

Once the wedding party arrived, they were introduced, followed by Father/ Daughter and Mother/Son dances- there wasn't a dry eye in the house- followed by an amazing dinner provided by Mike Wheeler BBQ, cake cutting with delicious cake/cupcakes by Cindy Gardner, the traditional garter and bouquet

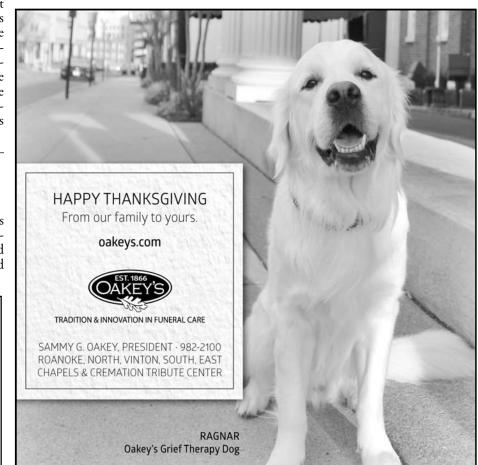
tosses and lot of dancing. After a "staged" sparkler exit the dancing continued, joined by karaoke provided by Aaron Blankenship into the night.

Everything was cap-tured by the amazing LaPradd Elizabeth check out her Facebook https://www.facepage, book.com/elizabethsuephotography; hair and makeup for the wedding party was by The Hair Company IN Vinton, https://www. facebook.com/thefamilyhaircompany; nails by LA Nails in Tanglewood, https://www.facebook. com/pages/L%20A%20 Nails/163638190331118/; and for me, Nail's 'n Rays Vinton, https://www. IN facebook.com/profile. hp?id=100052358893548.

Special thanks to Kim Barker for stepping in as "director" - I have said many times recently, I have been directing weddings for years, but when it's your own child's wedding, it's a whole different ballgame and very hard to step into a different role. And thanks to Emilee's boyfriend Holden O'Boyle for being "on call" throughout wedding week and joining us in tears every chance we got. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone that joined us in this special day. We love you all.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



Lin inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Elysia Lin of Hardy was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Lin was initiated at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Lin is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff,

and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10 % of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 % of the number of candi-

Submit your community news and photos

to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

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

dates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.





on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN) MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE) VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Ave., Vinton, Virginia. 343-7685. Rev. Travis Russell. Sunday Services: Contemporary Service 8:45 a.m., Sunday School 9:50 a.m., Traditional Service 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Services: Family Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Bible Study 6:15 p.m., Children's Ministries 6:15 p.m., Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.vintonbaptistchurch.org.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DIS-CIPLES 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.eckva.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, Vin- FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., ton, (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 LUTHER-AN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross",

Mec

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

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

NAZARENE

SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday 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 METHOD-IST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School -9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN

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



Auditor and Housekeeping. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

COMBINATION TECHNICIAN PEMBROKE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Fowler, Jerry The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual Fowler, Jerry parental rights to Lula The object of this suit is to: Fowler. To terminate residual It is ORDERED that Fowler. parental rights to Eli Fowler. Jerry appear at the above-It is ORDERED that Fowler, named Court and protect Jerry appear at the abovehis or her interests on or named Court and protect before 12/07/2021 his or her interests on or 01:00PM.

Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Eli Commonwealth

before 12/07/2021

foregoing portion of this order be published for once a week for two successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Botetourt, VA, it appearing that a report of the account for said Estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the Administrator's qualification as Administrator.

returned to the unsuccessful bidders Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's



Pembroke Telephone Cooperative is currently seeking a Combination Technician. This individual will install, maintain and service telephone lines fiber optic systems. terminals, protection devices and customer owned equipment. Also, may diagnose and repair trouble in switching equipment, broadband equipment, and key systems.

The individual must have strong communication skills, problem solving abilities, must have experience with computer applications and must be detail oriented. A twoyear degree in electronics. computer science or equivalent work experience is preferred.

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative offers an excellent benefits package.

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications may be picked up at our office and should be accompanied by a resume:

Pembroke Telephone Cooperative 504 Snidow Street P.O. Box 549 Pembroke, VA 24136

Application Deadline: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 by 5:00 pm

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

01:00PM.

10/18/2021 Jessica Hall Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ014314-05-00 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Eli Commonwealth

Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM

10/18/2021 Jessica Hall **Deputy Clerk**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ014315-06-00 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth

Unknown Father The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that

Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM

10/18/2021 Jessica Hall Deputy Clerk

10/18/2021 Jessica Hall Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ014313-04-00 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic **Relations District Court** Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Lula O Commonwealth Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual

parental rights to Lula Fowler It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM

10/18/2021 Jessica Hall Deputy Clerk ORDER OF

PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ014302-04-00 Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic **Relations District Court** Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Wright, Cooper Solstice Commonwealth of Virginia

Martin, Holly Isabella The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright It is ORDERED that Martin, Holly Isabella appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests

on or before 12/07/2021

01:00PM. 10/19/2021 Jessica Hall Deputy Clerk Entered this 5th of November, 2021. Tommy L. Moore, Clerk Joel R Branscom Judae I ask for this: Counsel for Jane Judah, Administrator of the Estate of Georgina B. Hutchens, deceased Michael A. Cleary (VSB #19989) 4519 Brambleton Avenue, Suite 210 P.O. Box 21136 Roanoke, VA 24018 Telephone: (540) 400-5467 Email: mclearylaw@gmail.com

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

Dolgencorp, LLC (Used in VA by DolgenCorp, LLC), trading as Dollar General Store#23058, 2001 W. Main St, Radford, VA 24141-1665.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stephen Sunderland and Emily Taylor, Managers of LLC

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

11/17/2021, 11/24/2021

the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services. L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting and/or Rocky Mount Title, Inc. and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510 File No. 222193-02, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Sale, available for review or

ABC NOTICE

Magdy Ghaly, trading as Ghaly Inc, 301 South Main St Suite 106, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24060.

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

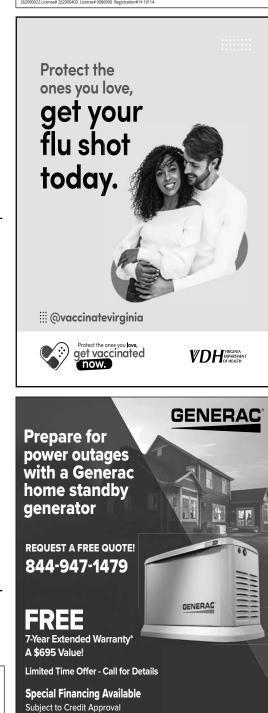
Magdy Ghaly, Officer

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



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Sports

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



William Byrd's Olivia Hurd placed 13th in the Class 3 State Championship on Saturday, running a time of 19:38.9 at Green Hill Park. PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Byrd's Hurd finishes 13th in Class 3 race to earn all-state cross country honors

William Byrd junior Olivia Hurd ended her cross country season on a high note last Saturday with a 13th place finish in the VHSL state cross country meet at Green Hill Park in West Roanoke County. That's good for All-State honors in Class 3.

"What a way to end the 2021 cross country season!" said Byrd coach Eric Royal. "Having just the third girl achieve All-State under my time at Byrd. Olivia was super focused the last six weeks of the season and really asserted herself into the next level of runner. What a post season she had, All-BRD, All-Region and All-State.

Hurd was third in the Blue Ridge District race, then took sixth in the region to earn a spot in the state field. Her time of 19:38.9 was four seconds better than her regional time and the best of her high school career.

"Olivia had a great race," said Royal. "She was aware of her place and what it would take to stay there. After the race she told me, 'I was uncomfortable the whole time,' I just smiled at her. As a distance runner you need to be able to put the discomfort away and just focus on running fast."

Hurd was the only Byrd runner in either the boys or girls race.

"I was talking with coach (Brad, football) Lutz

earlier in the week about the upcoming state meet, and I told him, 'of course I would love to have a team going, however it is super cool to plan every workout specifically designed for making Olivia the best she can be for that day."

Royal and Hurd went out to the course on Friday and discussed strategy.

"Olivia applied it almost perfectly," said Royal. "She outran several runners who beat her in the region meet. From the very start of the race she was in the top 15 and did an incredible job fighting to stay there."

Coming into the last 800m Olivia was closing in on the group in front of her, going into 13th place and closing in on 12th. She finished less than a second behind the 12th place runner, 19:38.1 to 19:38.9 for Hurd.

"After the race I was not sure if All-State was top 10 or 15," said Royal. "Covid changed it last year. After confirming it was top 15, we all screamed a bit and hugs went around the group. I hope Olivia's success will inspire others to #GETOUTANDRUN."

The winning time in the Class 3 girls race was 18:30.by Ava Bordner of Skyline High. Team champions were the Maggie Walker Governor's School girls and the Abingdon boys.





Roanoke County School Board recognizes Murtaugh

William Byrd junior Colin Murtaugh was recognized by the Roanoke County School board for his swimming accomplishments as a sophomore at their November 11 meeting. Colin was the Class 3 state champion in both the 50 Free Style and 100 Butterfly. Here Colin is congratulated by school board member Tim Greenway. Byrd athletic director Jason Taylor and assistant principal Marcee Cook were also in attendance. "Colin is "humble, kind, and a leader by example," said Byrd swim coach Krista Martin. "We are lucky to have him on the team. He is so mature at such a young age. We are proud of Colin and his accomplishments and the type of student athlete he is." SUBMITTED PHOTO

\$52,000 IN 52 WEEKS TO 52 WORTHY CHARITIES

"Shining Stars Sports Academy's (S3) goal is to provide students with the greatest school experience they've never experienced! S3 is the newest Co-ed Independent Private School in the state of VA. This donation by Rosie's will help Shining Stars Sports Academy invest in providing vital resources for our students."

Star Wills ·

Founder | Shining Stars Sports Academy



Every week in 2021 we will award a local charity from a community in which we operate a donation of \$1,000. Helping those communities around us is at the core of our operational philosophy. We truly believe that high tides raise all ships and we are determined to add value to the communities in which we operate.

Through the charitable program, Rosie's Gives Back, Colonial Downs Group has made **monetary and in-kind donations of more than ^{\$}1,369,500,** and has logged over 2,500 service hours in Virginia communities.



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



Protect the ones you love, get your flu shot today.



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Last Dance for "Coach Fu" is with the Devils

The Virginia Tech football team defeated Duke, 48-17, on Saturday at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg and three days later Justin Fuente was relieved of his duties as head coach. J.C. Price will take over as interim head coach while athletic director Whit Babcock conducts a search for Fuente's successor. The Hokies are 5-5 with two games remaining, this Saturday at Miami and November 27 in the big rivalry game with the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Above, Tech's Keshawn King scores on a 47 yard touchdown pass from Braxton Burmeister to give Tech a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter in Saturday's win over the **Blue Devils.**