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The story behind the Western Virginia Water Authority



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN VIRGINIA WATER AUTHORITY
Roanoke County Administrator Elmer Hodge and Roanoke City Manager Darlene Burcham celebrated the landmark decision of 2004 that established the Western Virginia Water Authority between the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County.

By Debbie Adams based on information from the WVWA website and Sarah Baumgardner, Director of Public Relations for the Authority

On July 1, 2022, the Town of Vinton will transfer ownership and operation of the Vinton Water and Wastewater System to the Western Virginia Water Authority (the Authority).

This is foreseen as a mutually beneficial arrangement which, according to the town and the Author-

ity, will “provide better rate stability, drought protection, infrastructure planning, and maintenance for all Authority customers. The Authority’s footprint across multiple jurisdictions supports economic development in the entire valley through high quality and quantity of water, sewage treatment capacity, and competitive rate structures. Customers in the Town of Vinton will receive a high level of service and an investment in water supply,

treatment, and delivery that is more readily available on the larger scale the Authority can offer.”

While most people know something of the role of the Authority and see vehicles bearing its logo multiple times each day, most are not familiar with the story behind its development.

On July 1, 2004, the separate water and wastewater operations of the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County consolidated to become the Western Virginia Water Authority. It was the first authority in the Commonwealth formed from two existing entities to treat, deliver, and administer water and wastewater.

According to Sarah Baumgardner, Director of Public Relations for the Authority, prior to 2004, each of the four separate governments in the Roanoke Valley – Roanoke County, the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton – had its own water supply agency. There had been discussions and negotiations for the governments to join

to form one water agency, which were ultimately futile.

“A series of political and severe climatic events, starting in 2002, finally compelled the two largest governments, the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County, to come together to form one agency, the Western Virginia Water Authority,” Baumgardner explains.

The water supply controversy in the valley dates back to the 1960s but “escalated in the early 1980s when Roanoke County planned the construction of a larger roller compacted concrete (RCC) dam for off stream storage of water from the Roanoke River; however, just prior to construction, the City of Roanoke withdrew from the agreement,” Baumgardner says. “Roanoke County elected to proceed with the dam construction, but the subsequent debt service spread over fewer ratepayers resulted in significant rate increases for county residents. Needless to say, there were heated discussions of the situation throughout the community.

See **Water Authority**, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Then Vinton Police Chief Tom Foster with “Princess Cut 3” director Sheilah Munger in November 2018.

Grandin Theatre debuts Watchman Pictures movie filmed partly in Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Back on November 15, 2018, filmmakers Sheilah and Paul Munger from Watchman Pictures took over the Vinton Police Department for the day, turning it into the location for lock-up and office scenes in a faith-based romance movie.

The cramped offices and hallways were crowded with cameras, lights, actors, crew, make-up artist, and caterers—in addition to the Vinton law enforcement officers on duty. At the time, the Mungers

were working concurrently on the second and third episodes of “The Princess Cut” trilogy.

Next week, on February 10, the film “Princess Cut 3: Beauty from Ashes” will premiere on the big screen at the Grandin Theatre in Roanoke at 8:15 p.m. Its prequel, “Princess Cut 2: Hearts on Fire,” which was released last fall with little fanfare due to COVID, will be shown at 6 p.m.

The Mungers are from Winston-Salem and worked as writers, producers, and di-

See **Movie**, page 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton Town Council approved appropriation of funding for the Woodland Place Restoration Project.

Council approves funding for Woodland Place Restoration Project, MOU with Roanoke County

By Debbie Adams

Members of Vinton Town Council and the Vinton Planning Commission met in another joint work session on February 1 to continue a briefing on a revised Zoning Ordinance. Nathan McClung, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning, completed the presentation begun at the last council meeting on January 18.

Topics he covered on February 1 include Homestays, Off-Street Parking Regulations, Dimensional Regulations, proposed New and Revised Use Regulations, and Landscape, Buffering, and Screening Requirements. Signage and Accessory Dwelling Units were discussed at the previous work session.

Town staff and the Planning Commission have been working for the past three years to complete an in-depth revision of the existing Zoning Ordinance, last completed in 1995. Once the revi-

sions are complete, the town will hold a public hearing on the ordinance.

During the regular council meeting, members conducted a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the town’s FY2021-2022 budget to appropriate funding from the FY21 Virginia Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) for the Woodland Place Restoration Project in the amount of \$570,000— and then adopted the resolution. (Public hearings are required for localities to amend their budgets when the amendment exceeds 1% of the total expenditures in the adopted budget.)

In May 2021, staff contacted Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI), for engineering services related to the development of a conceptual stream restoration plan for the SLAF grant application regarding potential sites to reduce pollution from stream run-off.

Staff and the consultants visited mul-

multiple sites to determine the most appropriate location for such a project, including Glade Creek at the proposed Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B, the Tinker Creek Canoe Launch site, Wolf Creek at Washington Avenue, the Hargis property behind River Park Shopping Center, the Mansard Well site, and Woodland Place.

The project team discussed multiple goals and objectives for potential restoration sites including sediment load reductions, flood mitigation, infrastructure protection, habitat creation, and recreational opportunity enhancement. Since the town would be seeking state funding, achievable sediment load reduction relative to the project cost was a major driver in assessing individual sites.

WSSI recommended a further study of the Woodland Place site and the Hargis property since those two have the

See **Woodland Place**, page 5



PHOTO BY DONALD RIDENHOUR, VMA PHOTOGRAPHER

Clark Crawley (right) presents a check from the Vinton Moose Lodge Family Center 1121 to Willard Smith.

Vinton Moose Lodge donates \$10K to Vetshouse

Vinton Moose Lodge Family Center 1121 has made a \$10,000 donation to Vetshouse, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps homeless veterans to secure housing and job opportunities in the Hampton Roads region. This important philanthropic donation was made possible through member donations and proceeds from legal charitable gaming and other member funds.

“The Vinton Moose Lodge is so proud to support Vets-

house, where their programming truly does change lives for the better by offering ‘a hand up, not a handout,’” said Clark Crawley, administrator of the Vinton Moose Lodge. “We are honored to play a part in offering these veterans, who have already given us so much, a second chance at obtaining a reliable job and a long-term home.”

Vetshouse operates a unique 12-month program that provides homeless veterans with transitional

housing in contemporary homes, food, transportation, and job placement, personal skills and development counseling. Since its launch in 1992, over 500 homeless veterans in the region have been assisted, and over 70% of residents have successfully completed the program.

Vetshouse estimates there are over 2,500 homeless veterans in the Hampton Roads area, and that one out of every four homeless persons in Hampton Roads is a military veteran.

In its most recent report, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/pit_count.asp) estimated more than 37,200 American veterans experienced homelessness in January 2020.

In addition to member donations, fundraisers, and grants, state-regulated charitable gaming, which is the oldest form of regulated gaming in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is indispensable to the Virginia Moose Association’s charitable giving – enabling the organization to support local veterans, students, children and families.

“Charitable gaming is essential to our ability to raise funds and support people in local Virginia communities,” said Crawley. “Whether through bingo hall nights, raffles or the operation of electronic pull tab machines,

See **Vetshouse**, page 5


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Council/Planning Commission continue review of Zoning Ordinance

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council and the Vinton Planning Commission members continued their review of a revised Zoning Ordinance in a joint work session on February 1 prior to the regular council meeting.

In 2018, the town was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP) to propose revisions to the Town Codes for zoning and subdivision. For the past three years, town staff and the Planning Commission have conducted an in-depth review of the current Zoning Ordinance. With the final draft ready for review, the results have been presented to Town Council in two work sessions.

Topics covered by Planning and Zoning Assistant Director Nathan McClung in the February 1 work session included Homestay, Off-Street Parking, Dimensional, and Landscape, Buffering, and Screening Regulations, and a catch-all proposed New and Revised Use Regulations.

Town Manager Pete Peters commended staff and the Planning Commission for proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance which is now readable “by the average Joe,” rather than buried in legalese.

McClung first covered regulations on Homestays, a growing trend across the nation. These are short-term rental units housed within the homes or accessory dwelling units of individuals and used as a secondary source of income.

Staff recommended regulations include:

The dwelling shall be the principal residence of the host occupant who must occupy the dwelling unit during stays
The rooms shall be rented

only on a daily (minimum is 24 hours) or weekly basis and for not more than 14 days

No recreational vehicles, buses, watercraft, personal utility trailers, or recreational equipment trailers shall be parked on adjoining streets or property

No outdoor signs shall be on display in conjunction with the Homestay

Safety regulations for fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, means of egress, and agreement to inspections must be followed

Transient lodging taxes must be paid

Owner must register with the town each year

Proposed Zoning Ordinance revisions also include modernizing and updating Off-Street Parking standards and eliminating excess parking spaces. Recommendations include:

Calculating parking by square footage, rather than number of employees or number of seats in an establishment

Maximum parking standards should be added to the ordinance for non-residential uses. For instance, currently a medical or dental clinic must have five parking spaces per doctor, plus one per employee. The proposed standard would require one parking space per 250 square feet. A church currently must provide one parking space per four seats in the main auditorium; the proposal is one space per 50 square feet of assembly area. Restaurants now must have one space per 100 square feet of floor area; the new standard would be one per 175 square feet.

Reductions in required spaces could be made for on-street parking due to lot frontage on a street or proximity to public transit

All parking areas are subject to ongoing maintenance and kept in a safe condition and

good repair so as not to constitute a hazard to public safety or visual or aesthetic nuisance. Signage and pavement must be maintained.

Pervious or semi-pervious parking lot surfacing materials could be approved

The Zoning Ordinance Proposed Dimensional Revisions based on a consultant study resulted in the following recommendations:

Reduce front yard setbacks from 25 feet to 15 feet in Residential-Business (R-B) zoned areas. McClung stated that the justification for this setback reduction is that most of the R-B zoning is along Washington and Virginia Avenues where there are a number of older homes converted or converting to commercial uses with setbacks smaller than 25 feet. Reducing the setback to 15 feet could bring these into compliance and would also promote walkability— one of the town’s strategic planning goals. Currently, 49% of properties zoned R-B are not in compliance. Changing the setback would bring 83% into compliance.

Increase the height limit in the Central Business (CB) District from 35 feet to 45 feet or four stories, whichever is less. This would allow for greater density, especially for future mixed-use development with dwelling units being located above retail spaces. Currently, the tallest business in the CB District (downtown Vinton) is 36 feet in height. This change will encourage future developments or redevelopments of mixed-use formats.

Revise the front yard setback in the CB District to a maximum of 15 feet. This would incentivize walkability and keep storefronts closer to the sidewalks where pedestrian traffic would flow. In fact, staff recommends a zero-foot minimum

setback. There are currently 66 properties in the CB District; 34 have a zero-foot front yard setback.

New and Revised Use Regulations presented by McClung include a multitude of topics. Staff recommendations include:

Allowing multi-family dwellings by right (without a special use permit) up to specifically set dwelling units per acre. Twelve or fewer dwelling units per acre would fall within the “by right” classification. From 13-24 units per acre would require a special use permit.

Alternative Financial Institutions: Check cashing as a primary use establishment, vehicle title lenders, payday lenders, or precious metal dealers would be allowed by right in General Business (GB) Districts, but not permitted in the Central Business District (downtown).

Massage Parlors and Massage Clinics would be differentiated. Massage Clinics are defined as establishments where all active employees as certified and licensed by the Virginia Board of Nursing as massage therapists. The Zoning Ordinance would classify Massage Parlors under the “adult use” category in the Zoning Ordinance and would be required to be located in specifically permitted zoning districts.

Counseling Services in an office setting for “only part of a 24-hour day” would be permitted “by right” in R-B, GB, and CB Districts. This classification would not include an establishment dispensing pharmaceuticals.

Research and Development Facilities in technology-intensive fields (R&D of communication systems, alternative energy sources, transportation, GIS, multi-media and video technology) would be permitted in GB and CB Districts by right. No exterior odor, dust, noise,

or other objectionable impacts would be permitted, and hours of operation could be restricted to protect adjacent users.

As for Pet Daycare (grooming, training, exercising, socialization training) and Animal-related facilities, animal hospital or veterinary clinics with outside runs, play yards, pens, or training areas would require a special use permit in GB Districts. Pet shops, pet grooming, and pet daycare facilities completely enclosed would be classified as “by right” in R-B, GB, and CB districts.

Breweries (producing more than 315,000 gallons a year) and Distilleries (capacity of greater than 5,000 gallons of finished product per year) are restricted to M-1 and M-2 Industrial Districts, by right. Microbreweries (a capacity of not more than 315,000 gallons/year) and Micro-distilleries (not more than 5,000 gallons of finished produce per year) in the GB and CB Districts are allowed by right.

Smaller scale retail stores, shops, and boutiques would be permitted by right in R-B, GB, and CB Districts. Larger format retailers and shops would require special use permits in GB and CB Districts.

The final topic covered by McClung involves new landscaping standards to enhance the town’s aesthetics and environment, taking into account stormwater implications and safety standards. There have been screening and buffer requirements in the Zoning Ordinance, but the revised code will provide greater guidance. McClung said these provisions are intended to be flexible and allow space for creativity during the design and construction phases of a development or redevelopment project— taking a “common sense” approach. Most will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.



From the Pulpit

Letting Go

On New Year’s Eve, someone close to me sent this joke text:
“We each choose to celebrate the New Year in our own way. Looking back on 2021, I’m choosing to focus on the bitterness engendered by the triumph of my many enemies and the disappointment brought about by the failure of my many unfulfilled dreams.”
OK, so it is a joke, and I think no one needs a Ph.D. in psychology to realize that hanging on to bitterness and dis-

appointment is not the path to happiness and fulfillment. Quite the opposite, being able to “let go” is a crucial part of mental and emotional health. We were blessed with a gorgeous foliage display here in Southwest Virginia last October and November, and as someone wrote, “Trees in autumn are proof that letting go is beautiful.”
Whether it is bravely changing jobs, leaving a job to return to school, giving an adult child the wings to fly the coop, or maybe realizing you have “outgrown” a relationship, there is a time to “let go.”

I used to work at a school where one secretary had a plaque on the wall with this in fancy script: “Everyone brings joy to this office. Some when they come in, and some when they leave.”
Below is a poem I first heard in a Charles Swindoll podcast that explains what “letting go” is and isn’t.
To “let go” does not mean to stop caring, it means I can’t do it for someone else.
To “let go” is not to cut myself off, it’s the realization I can’t control another.
To “let go” is not to

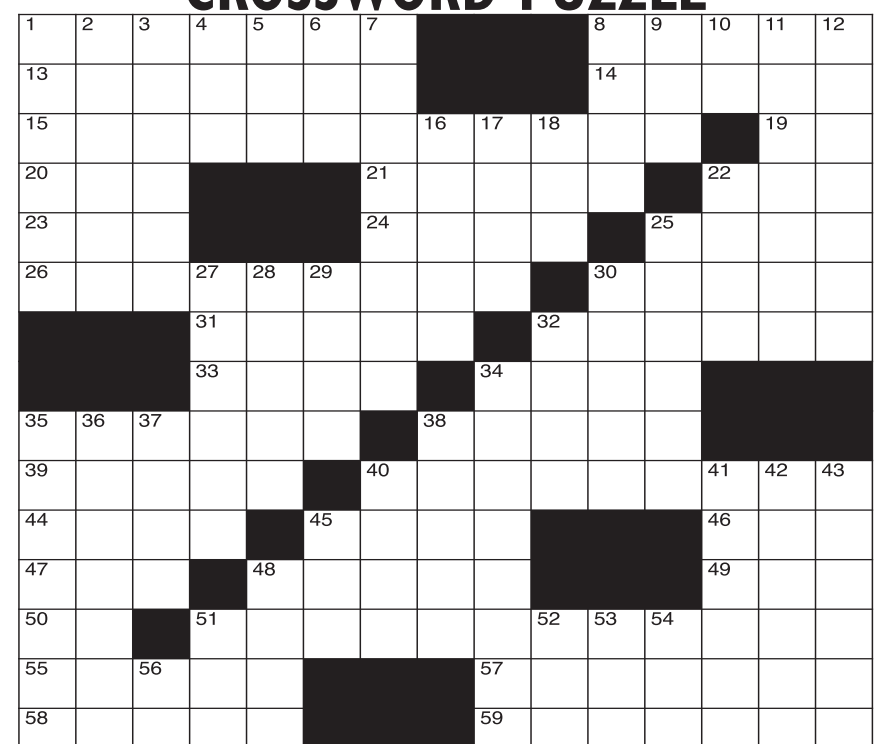
enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.
To “let go” is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.
To “let go” is not to try to change or blame another, it’s to make the most of myself.
To “let go” is not to care for, but to care about.
To “let go” is not to fix, but to be supportive.
To “let go” is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.
To “let go” is not to be in the middle arranging the outcomes,

but to allow others to affect their own destinies.
To “let go” is not to be protective, it’s to permit another to face reality.
To “let go” is not to deny, but to accept.
To “let go” it not to nag, scold or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings, and correct them.
To “let go” is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes, and cherish myself in it.
To “let go” is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become

what I dream I can be.
To “let go” is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.
To “let go” is to fear less, and love more.
— Attributed to Alice Cordy
As we launch into the unknowns of 2022, is there anything you need to “let go” of?
This column is republished with permission from The Roanoke Star. Scott Dreyer lives in Roanoke. A licensed teacher since 1987, he leads a team of educators teaching English and ESL to a global audience through DreyerCoaching.com.

By Scott Dreyer

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. ___ de Mornay, actress
8. Surrenders
13. Omission
14. The white poplar
15. They become butterflies
19. Used to chop
20. Select
21. Volcanic craters
22. Consumer price index
23. Utilize
24. “True Blood” actress Paquin
25. Got up
26. Sank in
30. Retail
31. Giants
32. Most bald
33. Changes color
- 34. Unit of loudness
35. Undresses
38. Fathers
39. Learned skill
40. Remove qualification
44. Covered with frost
45. Speak up
46. Nowhere to be found
47. Part of surgery
48. Type of wrap
49. Church seating
50. Mathematical figure
51. College football conference
55. Turkish officer title
57. Organized body of knowledge
58. Smooth and glossy
59. Left
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Get back
2. Pass or go by
3. Having a sharp taste
4. Midway between east and southeast
5. Cairo Regional Airport
6. Peace officer
7. Brings to life
8. Automotive vehicles
9. One point south of due east
10. Football position
11. Goes by
12. Most attractive
16. Road divisions
17. Not the sea
18. Small, faint constellation
22. Cabbage
25. Least frequent
27. A country in NE Africa
29. Metric units of measure
- 30. More coherent
32. Make uninteresting
34. Nausea
35. Institution of Oceanography
36. Of little value
37. Hindu model of the ideal man
38. Biblical exclamation
40. You throw it at a board
41. Be about to happen
42. Brutal
43. Opened one’s mouth widely
45. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
48. Saturate
51. The woman
52. Someone who is highly skilled
53. A way to launch an attack on
54. Where golfers begin
56. Atomic number 58

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Herman L. Horn Pre-K teacher awarded grant

Lambda Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa annually awards classroom grants to teachers in Roanoke County and Salem City Schools.

The 2021-2022 grants have been awarded to the following educators: Cave Spring Middle School special education teacher Cathy Glebus to make a giant number on the wall of her classroom; Cave Spring special education teacher Patricia Gentry to purchase adaptive story books for her classroom; East Salem Elementary guidance counselor Mary Gregory to purchase Julia Cook books for her guidance library; G.W. Carver librarian Terri Vangelos to purchase plants for the library; Green Valley Elementary ESL teacher

Paula Newbill to purchase a dollhouse and bilingual books for her classroom; and Herman L. Horn Elementary Pre-K teacher Monique St.Clair to purchase props for "theme play" in her classroom.

St. Clair has been working as a preschool teacher at HLH since 2020.

Alpha Delta Kappa is an international sorority for women educators whose purposes include promoting excellence in education, altruism, diversity and inclusion, and world understanding. In addition to classroom grants, Lambda Chapter annually awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a senior in Roanoke County and Salem City high schools who will major in education.

Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Congratulations to Trevor Thompson, who was placed on the Dean's List at Clemmer College/East Tennessee University. For a full-time college athlete and student to accomplish this is so amazing! So proud of Trevor! Trevor is the son of Dean and Jenna and grandson of Nancy Thompson, all of Vinton.

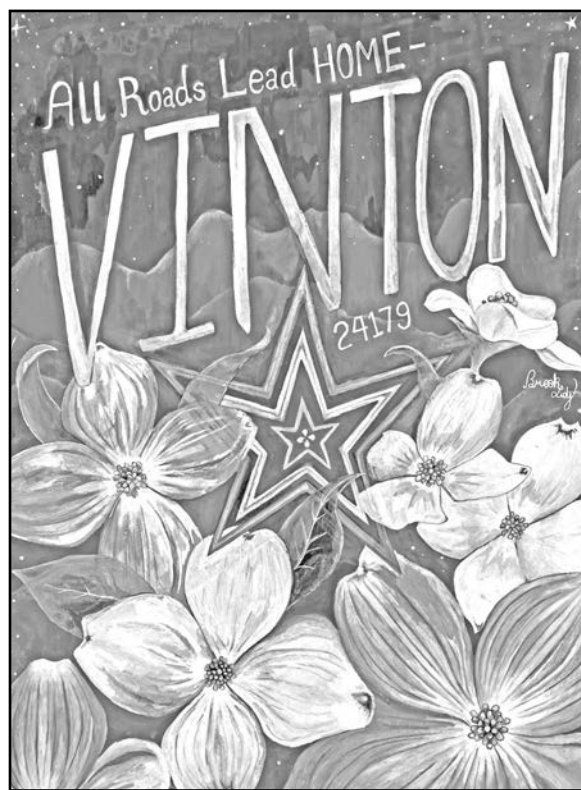
The Thompsons also welcomed new grandson Tyson Aaron Thompson, born January 24, 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Tyson is the son of Aaron and Sara Thompson and baby brother to Juliet and

Josie. The family is now living in Texas. Congratulations to you all!

The Chamber is now taking preorders for our new Vinton flag. You can purchase a garden size for \$12 and a house size for \$20. Please call the Chamber office to place your order, 540-343-1364 or email angie@vintonchamber.com.

BoomTown CrossFit held its ribbon cutting and grand opening in Vinton last week. Heard from two of the owners of BoomTown, Joel Linkenhoker and Michael Venable, about what they offer and why they chose a location in Vinton to open their gym.

Visit boomtowncrossfit.com for more info or to sign up for a class.



RECIPES OF THE WEEK:

Quick and Easy Mexican-American Meals

Mexican Vegetarian Casserole

- 15 oz. can of corn, drained
- 15 oz. can of black beans (or pinto beans), drained and rinsed
- 10 oz. can tomatoes and chilis (like Rotel)
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 8 oz picante sauce
- 8 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups cooked rice
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 cup or so of chopped green onions
- 8 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Combine corn, beans, Rotel, sour cream, picante sauce, shredded Cheddar, pepper, and cooked rice; spoon into lightly greased 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with green onions and Monterey Jack cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

Chicken Enchiladas

- 1 lb. cooked chicken, cut into small bits
- 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 2 cups water
- 8 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 8 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 pkg. Enchilada Sauce mix
- 1 pkg flour tortillas, large

Combine Enchilada Sauce mix, tomato sauce, water. Bring to a boil. Add cooked chicken. Simmer for 15 minutes.

Place a large spoonful of sauce in center of tortilla; add some of each cheese. Roll and place seam side down in baking dish. Pour remaining sauce over tortillas. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Mexican Lasagna Soft Taco Bake

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- Small can chopped green chilis
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 2/3 cup water
- 19 oz. can Enchilada Sauce
- Pkg. large flour tortillas to fit circular dish or pan

Brown ground beef, garlic, onion, and chilis. Stir in pkg. of taco seasoning and water. Cook until most of the liquid evaporates.

Cover the bottom of the baking dish with Enchilada Sauce. Top with one tortilla. Spread 2/3 cup meat mixture on top. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese. Repeat layers 4 times, ending up with meat mixture and cheese.

Pour remaining enchilada sauce on top. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Top with more chopped onion, tomatoes, and lettuce to serve. You can easily substitute cooked chicken for beef and add drained corn or black beans to the mixture.

Blue Ridge Quilters hosting National Quilting Day event

The Blue Ridge Quilters will be hosting a National Quilting Day event on Saturday, March 5, at Colonial Baptist Church in Blue Ridge from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The guest speaker for the event is Lee Chappell Monroe from North Carolina.

She is the creative designer of May Chappell Designs, a recent guest on The Quilt Show, author of "Jump into Sewing," a Creative Spark instructor on The Quilting Hour, and also has publications on the MQG website.

Her lecture will be on

"Applying Color Theory" and will feature a trunk show of her creative quilts.

You can pre-register for the event at <https://blueridgequilters.com/> or on Facebook at Blue Ridge Quilters. Pre-registration will include lunch provided by the youth of Colo-

nia Baptist Church, door prizes and one chance to win an opportunity quilt.

Donated quilts for National Quilting Day were created by members of the guild. "Blue Hills and Happy Valleys" measures 62x84 inches, quilted in a 'Posies' edge to edge. "Tall

Pines" measures 74x83 inches, quilted in all over swirls.

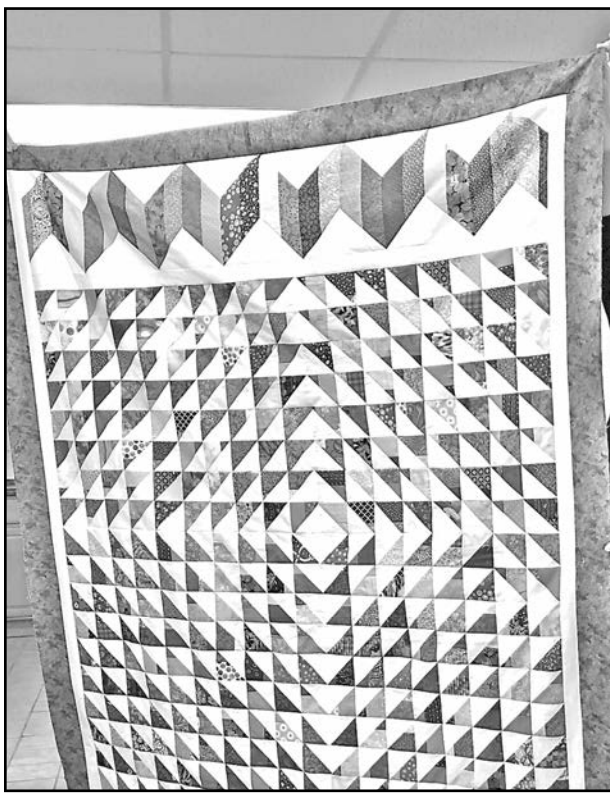
More opportunity chances can also be purchased. Tickets at the door will not include lunch. Quilts and door prizes will be awarded after lunch. For more information, call 540-556-3304 or 540-797-3914.

The Blue Ridge Quilters Guild is dedicated to educating, sharing new skills, and promoting fellowship with all who are interested.

The members proudly serve their community in Quilts of Valor Quilts, making quilts for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system, NICU quilts, scent babies, and pillowcases for Ryan's Case for Smiles.

They meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Bon-

sack Road in Roanoke. Colonial Baptist Church is located at 221 Hillcrest Drive in Blue Ridge.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Blue Ridge Quilters invites the public to celebrate National Quilting Day with them on March 5 at Colonial Baptist Church. Registration includes a chance to win either the Blue Hills and Happy Valleys quilt, or Tall Pines quilt, created by members of the Quilters Guild.

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Remembering Vinton

with the Vinton Historical Society

50 years ago this week

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

The first week of February was a busy one in Vinton 50 years ago in 1972. Members of the Vinton Junior Woman's Club were out collecting donations for their Dogwood Tree Planting Project. They needed to raise \$600 to plant 200 native dogwoods in Vinton that spring.

They received a donation for \$100 from the Vinton Burger King and another \$200 from Oakey's Vinton Chapel. The Burger King had just held its grand opening on January 11 and demonstrated their community spirit by donating to the community improvement project. Kathryn Sowers accepted the checks as president of the Junior Woman's Club and secretary of the Vinton Chamber of Commerce.

Another civic organization, the Vinton Jaycees, held their first annual Bosses' Dinner in February 1972.

The William Byrd High School Band and their Booster Club were soliciting donations as

well for a 14-day trip for the band to Mexico with a stop at Disney World. Their goal was \$19,000 with each band member needing to come up with \$300. There were 75 members of the band at the time; they would need eight chaperones to go along on the trip.

Mrs. R.J. Flippen was celebrating her 96th birthday. She had received a personal birthday note from President Richard Nixon and his family on the special occasion. Mrs. Flippen, a lifelong Democrat, said she "appreciated the personally signed card from the President, but it would not change anything in her voting pattern." She and her husband had 13 children, 31 grandchildren, 60 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Delegate Richard Cranwell had come up with the option of "staggered terms" for members of the Board of Supervisors and presented it to the General Assembly. Up to this point, there had been a turnover of the entire boards at once for four-year terms.

The four regional governments (Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem, and Botetourt County) were making progress on sewer regulations negotiations. Vinton was not served by the Roanoke treatment plant at the time, but was being included if it passed a binding resolution to participate in the regional plan.

The local leaders were in a hurry to reach an agreement by March 1 so they would not miss out on \$8 million in state and federal grants for construction of treatment facilities. The localities had come to an agreement on the length of the contract—30 years—and that Roanoke City would own and operate the treatment facility. Thirty years was necessary to facilitate revenue bond sales. The agreement also called for joint interceptor lines between the localities.

About 4,000 Norfolk & Western employees (around 1,000 in Roanoke) were about to receive a 43% pay increase over three and a half years due to a railway union agreement on back pay. Unfortunately, with the pay raises, work-

force cuts were expected.

The Vinton Messenger reported that 355 bears had been shot by hunters during the 1971 bear season across the Old Dominion—the fourth highest in history.

The February 2 newspaper seemed to be filled with obituaries.

The fourth annual draft lottery was scheduled for February 2 for young men born in 1958—assigning random sequence numbers to those born that year.

Two Vinton men serving in the military were recognized by the newspaper. Navy Petty Officer Third Class James L. Nicholas was serving aboard the USS Plymouth Rock off the Maine Coast in an operation involving 30 ships and 15,000 men in anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, close air support, and moderate scale amphibious assault on Maine's Reid State Park.

U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Alphonza Banks was on duty with the Strategic Air Command at U-Tapao Airfield in Thailand, assigned to the 307th Strategic Wing. The 307th flew

bombing missions against Viet Cong targets in Vietnam.

The Roland E. Cook Elementary School menu for the week featured tomato soup, chili beans and cornbread, spaghetti with meat sauce, turkey burgers, and hot dogs.

H&H Supermarket was selling five pounds of Florida oranges for 59 cents, a pound of bacon for 67 cents, and five Morton Pot Pies for \$1. Light bulbs were two for 25 cents at SuperX.

Ice Follies tickets were advertised for the show coming to the Roanoke Civic Center the following week, ranging in price from \$2.50 to \$5.50.

The classified ads noted that a Black Angus bull was lost and wandering through the Flatwoods section.

With the average cost of a new car being around \$3,750, Mountain Trust Bank was offering a 9.32% interest rate, making the payment about \$98/month for three years.

Thanks to the Vinton History Museum for assistance in research.



Mrs. R.J. Flippen celebrated her 96th birthday in February 1972. A lifelong Democrat, she received a personally signed birthday card from President Richard Nixon.



Oakey's made a donation to the Junior Woman's Club for their dogwood tree planting project. Louis Spangler, Oakey's manager, presented the \$200 check to Mrs. Joseph H. Folk, Mrs. G. Everette Sowers, and Mrs. Larry K. Bower.

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2500	114.58	93.75	79.86
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ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE: 9.32% 9.32% 9.31%

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The Vinton Messenger

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

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JAYCEE DINNER--Pictured here, left to right, Ray Badgett, Bob Meador, Wilmore Leffell, Bill Dillion, and Ed Wingate. the recent Vinton Jaycees Bosses' Night, are:

The Vinton Jaycees celebrated Bosses Night. Shown left to right are Ray Badgett, Bob Meador, charter member Wilmore Leffell, Bill Dillion, and Ed Wingate.

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

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

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

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

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Woodland Place

from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour accepted the 2021 Government/Municipality Award from the Latinas Network.

most potential for pollutant load reductions. Based on further analysis, the Woodland Place site was selected for the SLAF application. The Woodland Place venue is in essence losing its parking lot due to erosion.

Council was stunned at the time by photographs of the extensive erosion at the Woodland Place site presented by Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan.

In July 2021, council authorized Town Manager Pete Peters to file a grant application for the allocation of SLAF funds to allow the removal of pollutants (sedi-

ment, phosphorus, nitrogen, and suspended solids) to meet the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements.

Staff was notified by DEQ in December 2021 that the grant request had been authorized dependent on the receipt of construction bids and their approval of a final project based on those bids. A grant agreement with the town is to be executed by June 30, 2024. This grant program is reimbursable, so the town council is required to

authorize the monies to be spent for the engineering design services and construction of the stream restoration project.

Peters briefed council on an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 2019 between Vinton and Roanoke County which replaced the gainsharing agreement between the two governments which had been in place for 20 years.

The MOU provided for sharing certain local tax revenues and costs of certain public services and assigning responsibility for certain aspects of public safety. Council's action on February 1 was to memorialize the completion of obligations under the 2019 MOU and amend the agreement in regard to disposition of certain assets, fiscal obligations, and provision of public services.

This MOU amendment was integral to the recent Western Virginia Water Authority negotiations transferring ownership of the Town of Vinton Water and Sewer System to the authority.

Under the MOU, the town agrees to pay \$150,000 in total for E911 service for the Vinton police in FY2023 and increasing each year thereafter, voiding the existing agreement. The town currently pays \$450,000,

so the agreement with Roanoke County represents a reduction of \$300,000 to the county revenue.

Under the MOU, Roanoke County agrees to pay the full Roanoke Valley Resource Authority (RVRA) tipping fees estimated at \$225,000. Currently, the town budgets \$110,000 so the initial increase is \$115,000 for the FY2023. The county will be assuming all responsibility for providing fire, emergency medical, and related services to the town.

Another provision of the MOU is that the county agrees to appoint one of its three representatives to the WVVA board with a person mutually agreed upon by Vinton Town Council and the Board of Supervisors to represent the Vinton community. Town Council is expected to adopt the resolution at its next meeting on February 15. The county will consider the resolution next week at the supervisors' February 8 meeting.

Peters expressed the town's appreciation to the county for being willing to assist the town, saying the budget "would have been difficult" without the county's assistance. It was vitally important to the transfer of the utility systems to the WVVA and, in fact, made it

even "feasible." The transfer "might not have happened, at least at this time, without Roanoke County."

Mayor Brad Grose also thanked the county for being "great partners" in the transfer, which is a "big move for the Town of Vinton."

In other action, council adopted a resolution allowing Town Treasurer/Finance Director Anne Cantrell to remove outstanding Personal Property delinquent taxes and Vehicle License Fees over five years old from the active records to a permanent file. According to State Code, collection of local taxes is only enforceable for five years. Cantrell noted that the Finance Department has a collection rate of 98.3% on these taxes. The outstanding Personal Property delinquent taxes amounted to \$5291 in 2016; the Vehicle License Fees amounted to \$12,783.

Cantrell also asked council to remove outstanding water and sewer delinquent bills over five years old from the active records. The amount deemed uncollectable for 2016 is \$14,306. The town has a collection rate of 99.58% on these bills.

During the awards section of the council meeting, Chasity Barbour, Director of Community Programs, notified members that she and the town had been recog-

nized by the Latinas Network with their 2021 Government/Municipality Award. The award is presented to a government entity or municipality who support the advancement of Latinas Network Initiatives."

Barbour explained that Kat Pascal, leader of the Latinas Network and co-owner of the Farmburguesa restaurants, had reached out to her about the Latinas Network she was establishing for Latino women. This was to be a small group of women in all professions who would need a small space to meet once a month.

"Their mission is to lead with purpose and passion together, building the Roanoke and New River Valley's community of professional Latinos," Barbour said.

The women just celebrated their first anniversary at the Vinton War Memorial, where they have been meeting— a group now made up of 300 members. (Barbour noted that the association with the Latinas Network has brought in several bookings for the War Memorial facility.)

Pascal sent a message to council, saying, "Thank you to the Town of Vinton for always supporting all walks of life. Chasity Barbour got right beside us and said, 'How do I help?'"

Movie

from page 1

rectors on the two films.

In addition to the scenes in Vinton, the movies also feature locations at Smith Mountain Lake, in Roanoke, and at an alpaca farm in Hardy. The Mungers spent about eight weeks filming in the area.

Information posted on the Grandin Theatre website describes the storyline of "Princess Cut 2." "Two expectant couples who are

best friends face crushing upheavals in their lives which force them to make life-altering choices." The plot for "Princess Cut 3" is described as "A single mom struggling to make ends meet as a waitress witnesses a domestic disturbance and develops an unexpected relationship with the policeman investigating the case."

The first movie in the trilogy, "Princess Cut," was their debut film

under the Watchman banner and released in 2015. That movie told the story of Grace Anderson, a farm girl in North Carolina who "dreamed all her life of the day when 'Mr. Right' would slip a Princess Cut diamond on her finger and swear to love her forever."

In that first "Princess Cut" script, things don't go as planned. Romantic dreams come crashing down.

Grace is forced to adjust her thinking. It's a love story told from a Christian worldview which explores the concept that "we all have the desire to love and be loved. Finding a true and lasting love takes time and hard work, but it's worth waiting for," according to Paul Munger.

Munger said they hope the "Princess Cut" film "left audiences inspired and challenged to pursue

a biblical love in all their relationships." Their hopes were that the trilogy would open up dialogues in families, especially with teens. Both Mungers grew up in Christian homes and accepted Christ early in their lives.

They are both graduates of Bob Jones University and married in

See **Movie**, page 6

JMU recognizes Vinton students on Fall 2021 President's List

James Madison University in Harrisonburg has announced that the following students made the President's List for the Fall 2021 semester:

Sarah Shinault of Vinton, who is majoring in nursing.

Bayla Kessler of Vinton, who is majoring in theatre.

Wienke named to Georgia Tech Fall 2021 Dean's List

Erin Wienke of Vinton made the Dean's List for the Fall 2021

semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. This design-

nation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester. Wienke graduated as a valedictorian with the William Byrd High School Class of 2020.



REBECCA	CEDERS
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CATERPILLARS	AX
OPT	MAARS
USE	ANNA
PERMEATED	SALES
OGRES	BAREST
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STRIPS	SIRES
CRAFT	DECERTIFY
RIMY	TALK
IYA	SARAN
PI	SOUTHEASTERN
PACHA	SCIENCE
SLEEK	SECEDED

Vetshouse

from page 1

the Virginia Moose Association and our lodges rely on these proceeds for our charity work and year-round programming."

However, in recent years, the growth of illegal gambling in Virginia has severely cut into legal charitable gaming revenues. Illegal gaming – which is unregulated and untaxed – is oftentimes difficult to distinguish from legal, charitable gaming programs. As such, there is a need for the General Assembly to protect legal charitable gaming and the local charitable donations it supports, according to Crawley.

Vinton Moose Lodge 1121 is a private, chari-

table service organization. It was chartered on January 3, 1961, and celebrated its 60th anniversary just last year.

In Virginia alone, the Moose organization has 83 Lodges with over 50,000 members.

The international service organization was founded in 1888, and today has over 1 million members and Lodges in 49 states and four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain and Bermuda.

Moose Lodges conduct between \$70 million and \$100 million worth of community service (counting monetary donations, volunteer hours worked,

and miles driven) annually. The Moose are known for establishing Mooseheart Child City and School, a 1,000-acre campus near Chicago to care for children and teens in need, and Moosehaven, a 70-acre retirement community near Jacksonville, Fla.

The International Moose organization, including Vinton, supports Special Olympics softball on a national basis, the Safe Surfin' Internet safety program which protects children from predators, and St. Jude, to name just a few of their causes.

The Vinton Moose Family Center is located at 2127 Washington Avenue.

OBITUARY

Doris Dowdy Maxey

Doris Dowdy Maxey, 82, a lifelong resident of the Town of Vinton, went to be with Jesus in her forever home on Saturday, January 22, 2022.

Doris was born to the late Norman Dowdy and Ethel St. Clair Dowdy on November 22, 1939. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by brother, David.

She is survived by beloved husband of nearly 62 years, Richard Davis Maxey. Additionally, children Todd (Becky), Tammy (Chris), and Tim, as well as daughter-in-law Mitzi, are left to hold her in heart and memory, along with grandchildren, Katie (Josh), Zach, Kendall, Evan, Ryan, Asher; great-grandson, Ayden; sister Sandra Larkins (Cliff); two nieces; and several cousins. Dottie, to many family and friends, was a 1958 graduate of William Byrd High School and devoted planner and celebrant of class reunions. In 2004, she retired from Oakey's Funeral Service after many years of service. There were many things Doris en-



joyed in this life like bird watching, reading, game shows, fellowshiping with friends, trips to visit family as well as the Sight and Sound Theatre where many stories of her faith were brought to life. But Doris found most meaning in connecting with those in need of word of encouragement through a handwritten note or telephone call.

Doris felt blessed to call Vinton Baptist her church home. It was there that she faithfully taught Sunday school for children, sang in the adult choir, and helped sponsor the youth choir and their trips for many years. A celebration of her life was held on January 26, 2022 at Vinton Baptist Church at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Chris Monroe officiating. The family received friends at 10 a.m. at the church prior to the service. Burial followed the service at Mountain View Cemetery. Donations may be made in Doris's memory to Vinton Baptist Church, 219 E. Washington Ave., Vinton, Va. 24179.

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Water Authority from page 1

“Then, in 2002, the valley experienced a severe drought. Coincidentally, the City of Roanoke’s water supply was reduced by almost 30% during this time as the city’s groundwater supply system at Crystal Spring was off-line during construction of its new treatment plant. Carvins Cove, the City of Roanoke’s other primary water supply, began to drop fast and reached historic lows. This led to mandatory water restrictions in the city.”

“In the surrounding Roanoke County, the Spring Hollow Reservoir was full, and no mandatory or voluntary water restrictions were ever needed,” Baumgardner continued. “The heated dialogue in the valley started to reverse as higher water rates in Roanoke County now looked attractive since supply was adequate. Because of the City of Roanoke decision in the early 1990s to withdraw from the Spring Hollow project, adequate water interconnects were not built, and Roanoke County was limited in its ability to provide water to the City of Roanoke.”

At this point in the drought, Baumgardner says the city and county laid out a plan to combine water resources in the valley “to mitigate risk to everyone.” The

result of that plan was the regional Western Virginia Water Authority, which has “off-stream storage, groundwater supply, and watershed storage so that the collective valley community can better withstand water shortages.”

Baumgardner notes that water supply is a major issue confronting localities across the nation, often leading to “bitter feelings and mistrust between government entities. This story is not unique to Roanoke. What is unique is that the Roanoke area, confronted with a crisis, overcame animosities to establish a regional water system for the benefit of all residents.”

The formation of the Western Virginia Water Authority in 2004 was preceded by two years of planning for the utility departments of both jurisdictions to consolidate their operations on July 1, 2004. The following timeline outlines the comprehensive steps taken to arrive at that point and beyond:

- In the summer and fall of 2002, county and city staff held monthly meetings to outline an initial planning phase.
- On February 27, 2003, the Roanoke City Council and the Roanoke County Board of Super-

visors voted to authorize and direct their staffs to jointly plan and create a regional water and wastewater authority. From that date forward, employees from both jurisdictions worked in 22 teams to consolidate utility operations.

• In the fall of 2003, community meetings were held in the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County to receive public input on the Water Authority.

• In late 2003, seven individuals were selected to serve on the Water Authority board by the governing bodies of Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke. Roanoke County and City of Roanoke governing bodies each selected three board members. The seventh was selected by the six board members and confirmed by the Roanoke City Council and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors. The original board consisted of Supervisor Michael Altizer, the first Authority board chair, and Councilman Rupert Cutler, who were selected to serve two-year terms. Two administrators, City Manager Darlene Burcham and County Administrator Elmer Hodge, were selected to serve three-year terms. County resident H. Odell “Fuzzy” Minnix and

city resident Robert Lawson were selected to serve four-year terms. The seventh member selected was George Logan of Salem.

• In early 2004, both jurisdictions formally approved the formation of the Water Authority.

• On March 2, 2004, the Commonwealth of Virginia bestowed the state Articles of Incorporation to the Water Authority.

• On July 1, 2004, the Western Virginia Water Authority became operational and from that point it continued to expand.

• On November 24, 2009, the State Corporation Commission issued a Certificate of Restatement, amending and restating the Articles of Incorporation of the Western Virginia Water Authority. With this action, Franklin County became an official member of the Water Authority.

• On July 1, 2015, the State Corporation Commission granted Botetourt County official membership in the Water Authority.

• In December 2021, Vinton Town Council approved a Resolution of Intent to have formal discussions with the Western Virginia Water Authority Board of Directors regarding the Authority’s

ownership and operation of the town’s utility system. Discussions to finalize this acquisition will take place over the next several months, and it is anticipated that all parties will officially approve this proposal by July 1, 2022, to provide the best long-term rate and infrastructure stability, service, and water quality for current and future customers of both the town and the Authority.

The Authority currently provides water service to over 64,000 customer accounts and wastewater service for more than 57,000 accounts in the City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, Franklin County and Botetourt County. The Authority also contracts to operate the water and wastewater systems for the Town of Fincastle. Once the Authority takes on Vinton customers, their customer base will increase by approximately 5,200 more customers.

For more information about the Western Virginia Water Authority, visit <https://www.westernvawater.org/home>.

For more information on the transfer of utility services from the Town of Vinton to the Western Virginia Water Authority, visit www.westernvawater.org/vinton.

Movie from page 5

1999 and are now parents to nine children. Paul comes from a family of homeschoolers. His father, Greg, co-founded Piedmont Educational Services in the Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina in 1987 to serve private schools and homeschooling families with educational products and services. Paul worked for the company making and distributing materials for homeschoolers. The filmmaking career came about when Paul and his father decided to create a wildlife documentary for the homeschool market, which resulted in the award-winning “Animals in the Bible.” When he wrote and edited the animated animal documentary, Paul realized how much he enjoyed making films.

After that, the Mungers worked on several feature films including “Hero,” “Alone Yet Not Alone,” and “The Screenwriters.” It was then time to branch out on their own with the formation of Watchman Pictures.

Filmmaking became their full-time profession.

At the time of the filming in Vinton in 2018, the Mungers said their vision was “to craft excellent films for the glory of God.” Paul served as writer, producer, and director of “Princess Cut” with Sheilah as co-writer. She is also an actress with several credits, including “Princess Cut,” and a resume of work as props master and production coordinator on various film sets.

The couple basically stepped out in faith to write, produce, and distribute “Princess Cut.” They co-wrote Episode Two but hired a screenwriter for Episode Three when their attention was diverted by funding, location, and casting issues. Paul directed Episode Two; Sheilah, Episode Three. They co-produced both films.

The Mungers were not new to Vinton. They lived here for four months while filming “Alone Yet Not Alone” at Explore Park sev-

eral years ago. The entire family worked on the set of that movie.

Episodes Two and Three of the “Princess Cut” trilogy, filmed in the Roanoke area, widened the scope of the Anderson family story to focus on Grace’s siblings and friends. Episode Two involves eldest brother Robert who faces adversity in his marriage and deals with “how a family can grow together when their eyes are on Christ.”

Episode Three focuses on son Drew, “learning the nuances of love and how to manage life and family.”

The scenes filmed at the Vinton Police Department centered on family friend Tessa, who witnessed a domestic violence situation with her statement being taken by Officer Coleman, while the perpetrator is being arrested and held in custody. The officer is intrigued by her, and the film includes the story of their unfolding friendship.

Main characters for this episode filmed in the Roa-

noke area included Kate MacCallum as Tessa, Ben Davies as Mike Coleman, Chandler Macocha as Drew, Mike McClendon as Bruce, and Joseph Durbin as Sgt. Alex. Sheilah described their crew and cast as “experienced and excellent,” with about 35 crew members and a cast of 40+ who came from all over the country.

The cast also included some of Vinton’s police officers, then Chief Tom Foster, Deputy Chief Fabricio Drumond (now chief), Detectives Brandon Hill and Todd Bailey, and then Officer Dustin Bray all took part in the shooting; whether they will appear in the final released version depends upon editing. The scenery is in the department itself is a little different now after many upgrades and improvements in the past year.

According to Sheilah, once filming is wrapped up, there is still a long process before a film premieres. Filmmaking starts with develop-

ing a concept, writing, and refining a script, locking in funding, locations, and dates, securing actors, and doing the principal shooting. Then comes post-production with editing, scoring, adding color and special effects, the marketing phase, and distribution. That post-production phase and COVID have delayed the release of the “Princess Cut” films past the anticipated 2020 date.

Location scout Joseph Durbin said he just randomly came across the Vinton Police Department when he was scouting locations a few weeks ahead of filming. General conversations often lead to “someone who knows someone” and that’s how he met Chief Thomas Foster, then Vinton’s chief of police, now the U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Virginia.

They became friends and that opened the door to filming in Vinton. In addition to filming in the Police Department at the Municipal Building, the Mungers also filmed

at a special events venue in Vinton, at a nearby shooting range, the Alpaca farm near Smith Mountain Lake, in homes, and a convenience store, with some bridge footage from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Sheilah said Chief Foster and the department were “most cooperative and very helpful” in sharing their space and meeting their needs.

The couple awaits God’s guidance for their next project. “We see His hand all the time, leading us,” she said. They have come to accept that their filmmaking “is not always about us; our approach to film comes from the Gospel of John— “The Lord must increase; I must decrease.”

The cost of admission is \$10 for each showing. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://www.grandintheatre.com/>. For more information on the Princess Cut trilogy, including other viewing options, visit watchmanpictures.com

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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.

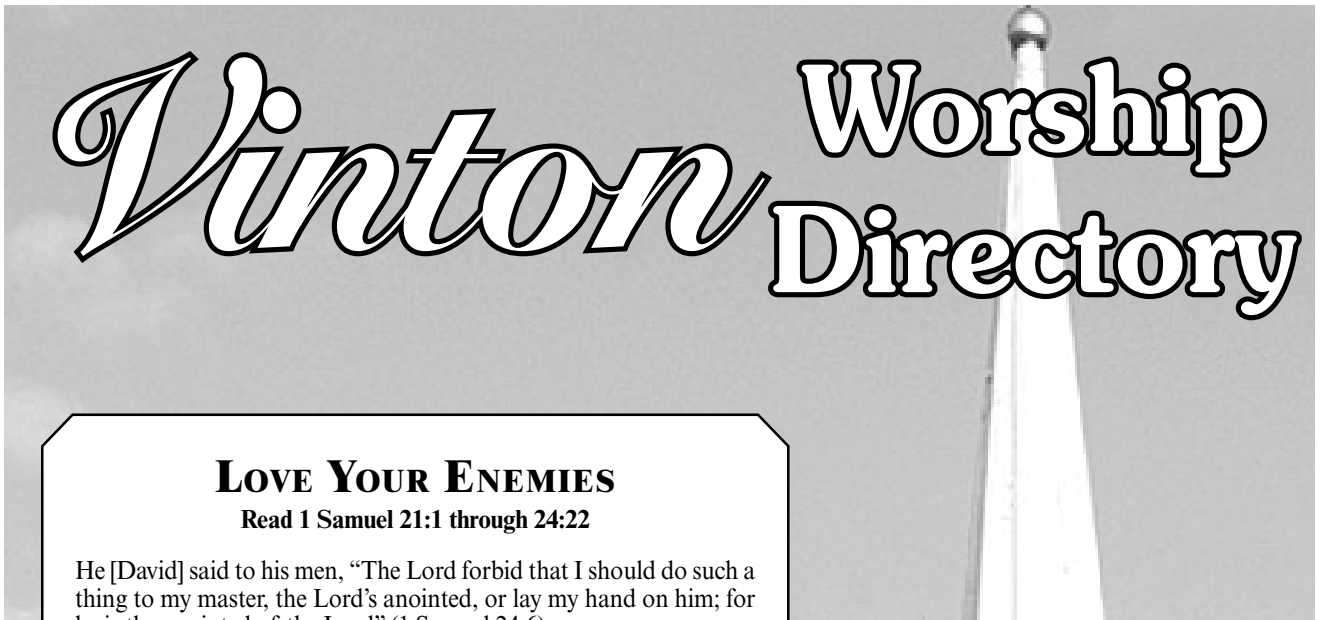
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BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), 1101 Jamison Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013, 540-343-7502, Worship Services every Sunday at 11:00AM, Pastor Terry Brace. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

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-vva.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

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

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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



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord” (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord’s anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God’s protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David’s is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

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; cmcp2verizon.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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Left, Byrd's Michael Hoyos swims the 100 Breast in the Blue Ridge District swim meet in Franklin County Tuesday. Right, Emma Copening swims the 100 Butterfly.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Byrd boys, combined team wins Blue Ridge swim championship

The William Byrd boys and the combined swim team won the Blue Ridge District meet at the Franklin County YMCA on Tuesday. The Byrd girls took third among six teams with Lord Botetourt coming out on top.

"I'm so proud of all of these swimmers," said Byrd coach Krista Martin.

"They have been training hard and Tuesday was a great way to kick off our post-season."

District champions from Byrd in the boys meet included Austin Nielsen in the 200 IM and 200 Breast, Colin Murtaugh in the 50 Free and 100 Fly, Dawson Brinkley in the 200 Free, Aiden Brinkley in

the 100 Back and Nathan Miller in the 100 Free.

Byrd also swept three relay events. Nielsen, Murtaugh and the Brinkley brothers combined to win both the 200 Medley and 400 Free while Griffin Horacek, Evan Copening, Elliott Gaines and Miller won the 200 Free.

Next up for the swimming Terriers is the Region 3D meet next Tuesday, February 8, in Christiansburg.

"I can't wait to see what we can do," said Martin. "I'm excited for our 12 seniors to make some good memories as they finish their high school swimming careers."



Byrd's Camden Richardson looks for a lane to the hoop in a recent game.

PHOTO BY PAULA GREENWAY

Terriers host Fleming Friday

It will be a battle of "Williams" Friday night in Vinton when the William Byrd boys basketball team plays host to William Fleming in an important Blue Ridge District game.

The visiting Colonels had their 10 game win streak snapped by Lord Botetourt on Monday and the Terriers would like to add to their misery on Friday. Fleming is currently tied with Northside at the top of the Blue Ridge with one district loss, and the Terriers have both teams on the schedule this week.

Byrd traveled to Northside on Tuesday and dropped a 62-53 decision before putting a scare into the Vikings. The game was tied at 41-41 at the end of three quarters before the Vikings prevailed.

"Tough game to lose after being tied at the end of three quarters against such a good team," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "Our guys tried their best to do everything we asked them to do. Just a great effort on our guys' part. Unfortunately Northside just made a few more plays than we did and that's the way it goes against a really good team sometimes."

Trevor Ruble led the Terriers in scoring with 13 points. Ross Divers had a dozen and Camden Richardson and Garrett Hendrick had nine each with Jaiden Childress chipping in eight.

"I really like the way we fought and responded as they took an early lead and we hung on and kept making plays ourselves," said Greenway. "We are heading in the right direction."

The Terriers were 6-11 after the loss and scheduled to play at Staunton River on Wednesday. After Friday's home game with Fleming the Terriers will head to Daleville next Tuesday to take on Lord Botetourt.

Byrd girls beat Northside

The William Byrd girls improved to 8-10 with a win over Northside in Vinton Tuesday night. The Terriers broke open a close game with a big quarter for a 47-33 victory.

Byrd led just 22-20 at the half, but came out with a vengeance in the second half. The Terriers outscored Northside 19-1 in the third quarter to open a big lead.

"Putting together a 19-1 third quarter was huge for us," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. "Our team defense was the best it has been all season. I was so proud of the girls, especially the seniors, for their hard work and the tenacity they bring to the program."

Emilie McCaskill led Byrd with 17 points and Gretta Walls had 14, including a couple three pointers. Alexis Helton and Mya Rosser had four points each for Byrd.

Last Thursday the Terriers hosted a strong Carroll County team and the visiting Cavaliers improved to 16-1 with a 61-40 win. Byrd fell behind 35-14 by the half and there was no catching the talented Cavaliers.

"They built their lead to 21 at half and won by 21 so we played even in the second half," said Bush. "Really loved the girls' effort."

McCaskill had 17 again to lead the Cavs. Samantha Martin had six points and Sarah Fuchs, Riley Firebaugh, Ashlyn Stover and Jaylen Rosser had four



Ashlyn Stover brings the ball up for the Terriers.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

points each.

The girls will be back in action with two games this weekend. They're at William Fleming on Friday and home to Franklin County on Saturday afternoon with a 2:30 pm start. Next Tuesday, February 8, Lord Botetourt comes here.



Byrd senior Logan Stroop(on knees) wrestles in the recent Big Orange Classic in Vinton.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Big Orange seniors sweep on "Sr Nite" against FC, NHS

The Big Orange wrestlers beat Franklin County and lost a close one to Northside on Senior Night in Vinton last week. The Terriers are now off until the region meet.

Byrd took a 51-30 win over Franklin. Against Northside the score was tied at 36-36 after all the matches were wrestled, but the Vikings won on "criteria" to claim the close victory.

All the Byrd seniors won their matches. Going 2-0 were Aden Lamay Lee at 170 and Nick Long at 182 while Logan Stroop at 126 and Hunter Richards at 285 went 1-0.

"It was good sending the seniors out winning all of their final matches at home," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler.

Byrd will now prepare for the Region 3D tournament, scheduled for February 12 at Northside. The top four in each weight class qualify for the state tournament at the Salem Civic Center.

"We have been dealing with some injuries and sickness and we are hoping to heal up for the regional tournament," said Kessler.

Byrd's Richards chooses E&H to play football

William Byrd senior Hunter Richards has decided to continue his education and play football at Emory & Henry in the fall. The school is moving up to the Division II level this year and has many local players on the squad. Hunter was selected first team offense and second team defense on the All-Region 3D football team in the fall.

PHOTO BY JIM DEVINNEY



Byrd indoor team will compete in Blue Ridge meet Saturday

The William Byrd indoor track team will be competing in the Blue Ridge District meet this Saturday at Heritage High School. The meet is scheduled to begin around 4:30 pm.

Last weekend warnings of inclement weather kept some schools from attending indoor track meets but not William Byrd. The Terriers' high school team ran at the Bulldog Invitational at Liberty University last Saturday and the Middle School team joined the ninth and 10th graders for a middles school and jayvee meet at Heritage High.

The upperclassmen who competed at LU in Lynchburg had a very good showing. The girls' sprint medley relay of Sela Beatty, Sydney Blewett, Remi Figart and Olivia Hurd set a meet record with a time of 4:36.67. In the 200m, Beatty finished 4th with a time of 28.93.

The girls 4x200m relay of Blewett, Emma Dalton, Maddy Simmons and Madison Tuck finished 7th with a time of 1:55.24. Chloe Harrilla finished 5th in the high jump with a height of 4'8" and Figart finished 7th, clearing 4'4". Harrilla also finished 7th in the long jump with a distance of 15'8.5" while Figart finished at 9th in the triple jump with a personal best jump of 31'.

In the girls' shot Blewett finished 3rd with a throw of 32'7", Mya Rosser finished 6th with a throw of 30'10", Jalen Rosser finished 7th with a throw of 30'.05" and Madison Tuck finished 10th with a throw of 29'3.75".

On the boys side the 4x200m relay of Dylan Hughes, Wyatt Bailey, Noah Thompson and Brady Reachy finished 9th with a time of 1:38.76. Hughes also ran a time of 24.07 to take second in the 200.

At the Heritage middle school and JV Invitational

Emma Matthews finished 6th in the 55m dash with a time of 8.34 seconds. Riley Roth finished 2nd in the 500m dash with a time of 1:45.72 and Alexandra Bonilla finished 3rd in 1:45.82. I

In the hurdles, Maileigh Redmond finished 4th with a time of 12.23, Emma Matthews was 5th in 12.56 and Emily Fisher finished 6th with a time of 12.66.

Gracie Mick finished 2nd in the long jump with a jump of 14'2.75" and Oladeo Anyanwu finished 2nd with a throw of 25'10.5".

On the boys side Bodie Gonzalez finished 3rd in the boys 55m dash and Jalen Toler finished 4th with a time of 7.35. In the 300m dash Ryan Carista finished 7th with a time of 44.59. Jhaquin Johnson finished 4th in the 500m with a time of 1:29.50 and Adam Dunbar finished 5th in 1:31.17. Reagan Lilley finished 4th with a time of 3:33.93 in the 1000m run.

In the shot put Jack Hinkle had a seasons' best throw of 29'9" and William Thompson had a seasons' best throw of 25'6".



Chloe Harrilla long jumps at Liberty University.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Hutchison is new MS football coach, Mitchell is high school jayvee coach

Ryan Hutchison has been named the new football coach at William Byrd Middle School, replacing Andrew Mitchell.

Mitchell will remain in the Byrd program. After several years as head football coach at the middle school Andrew has been promoted to head coach of the high school jayvee team. He will also be a varsity assistant.

"Coach Mitchell has done an outstanding job as our head coach and we will miss him as he moves up the coaching ranks," said middle school principal Todd Kageals. "It is my pleasure to announce that Ryan Hutchison will now assume the role of head coach for William Byrd Middle School football."

Hutchison's coaching experience includes five years as a boys' varsity football assistant coach at Salem High School from July 2011 until Aug 2016. During his time at Salem, Ryan's experience included jayvee scout team coach, varsity offensive signal caller, varsity scout team

offensive play-caller and statistician. At William Byrd Middle School, Ryan has also been the assistant boys' basketball coach for one year.

Hutchison's philosophy stems from his time with former Salem head coach Stephen Magenbauer, former Spartan jayvee coach Marty Yuhus and Andrew Lewis Middle School

coach Brian Hooker.

"All of these men taught Ryan that being a positive influence on kids and making an impact in their lives is what coaching is all about," said Kageals. "A coach's worth isn't found in their won-loss record, it's about their impact in the game and, more importantly, the impact in their players' lives."



RYAN HUTCHISON



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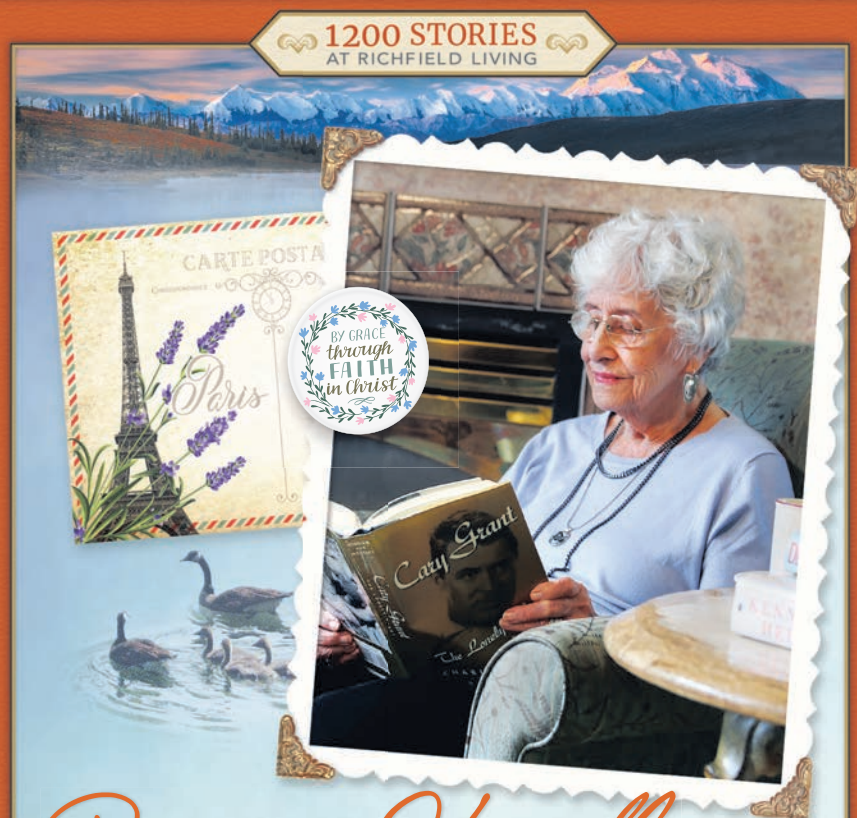
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Ramona Howell

Ramona H. has lived in Joseph C. Thomas Assisted Living for about three years after a stay in Short Term Rehab following emergency surgery. She liked the care, playing games, socializing, and watching the geese and rabbits outside.

She wanted to become a hot shot secretary so she studied those skills in college. But she met a young man who joined the Air Force and got orders to go to Alaska. Ramona and Clell were married in one day by a pastor they found in the phonebook. They had four children, Richard, Rita, Frank, and Raymond. The family was living in France when Clell had a cerebral aneurism while driving. Although they were both injured, her husband was transferred to Germany for a long convalescence. He had large memory loss so they returned to Virginia. Ramona kept children to support the family. They were married 54 years before he passed in 2008.



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I have been through a lot, my church and Christian women helped me. The Lord is there, so I do not need to be anxious.

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