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Gish Mill begins transformation

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Gish Mill Redevelopment Project has been in the works since 2015 when the Town of Vinton purchased the historic property, which at that time was known as Holden's Country Store.

There has been continual speculation about what the renovated property would look like when completed. However, through months spent on planning, design, and applications for historic state and national grants, little work has been visible to passers-by.

Over the past several months, dumpsters have been noticed on site

as work began on the interior of the structure, but nothing identifiable as actual renovation or construction has been evident from the outside.

Now that has changed and the project seems more of a reality with the recent dismantling of the eastern (far right) end of the building, leaving a concrete pad.

Vinton Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning Nathan McClung, who is the town's project manager for Gish Mill, says that, despite appearances, much has been going on inside, including stabilization and repair work.

The Gish Mill stabilization and repair is supported by a grant from the Emergency Supplemental His-

toric Preservation Fund (ESHFP) administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

"Using town funds, we have completely cleaned out the building of all debris, leftover storage items, and even dust/dirt using a local company. It looks incredible inside, almost like stepping into a completely different building."

The town purchased the property at a cost of \$126,000 in October 2015 as Town Council and much of the citizenry wanted to preserve the historic mill, which appears on the

See Gish Mill, page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Gish Mill Redevelopment Project is underway with work on the exterior in the beginning stages.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton Police Department was featured in scenes from the movie "Princess Cut 3: Beauty from Ashes," which had its world premiere at the Grandin Theatre in Roanoke on February 10. Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond is shown with the film's director Sheilah Munger.

Vinton has a starring role in 'Princess Cut' movie

Debbie Adams
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The Town of Vinton has a starring role in the new Watchman Pictures movie "Princess Cut 3: Beauty from Ashes" which had its world premiere on February 10 at the Grandin Theatre in Roanoke.

Watchman Pictures founders and filmmakers Sheilah and Paul Munger and several members of the cast and crew were on hand for the movie's debut, along with Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, who was involved with the filming back in 2018.

The movie was filmed over the course of about eight weeks, in the Vinton Police Department offices, in downtown Vinton, in Roanoke, and

at an alpaca farm near Smith Mountain Lake.

Location scout (and actor) Joseph Durbin said he 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.

On November 15, 2018, Watchman Pictures took over the Vinton Police Department for the day, turning it into the location for lock-up and office scenes in the faith-based

romance movie.

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

The plot for "Princess Cut 3" involves "A down-on-her-luck waitress—and single mother— who witnesses a domestic disturbance and develops an unexpected relationship with the policeman investigating the case." That's why the producers were searching for a police department for the filming.

Quite a few scenes in the movie involved the Vinton Police in one way or another—the actors portraying police officers in the film wore VPD

See Princess Cut, page 6

Vinton Town Council holds annual retreat



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Town Council met at the Municipal Building for the annual retreat on February 11. Shown left to right are Councilman Keith Liles, Councilwoman Laurie Mullins, Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty, and Councilman Mike Stovall.

Debbie Adams
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Members of Vinton Town Council held their annual retreat at the Municipal Building on February 11. Town Manager Pete Peters, Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton, Finance Director/Treasurer Anne Cantrell, and Police Chief Fabricio Drumond shared information with council which included an update of the town's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, finances and budget development, and ongoing or proposed Capital Improvement Plan projects.

Sexton opened the meeting with an overview of the Town of Vinton's transfer of its utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority, focusing on the timeline being followed in the

process.

Peters reviewed the benchmarks of the five-year Strategic Plan adopted in 2020 when council envisioned "a safe and engaged community welcoming to visitors with a vibrant atmosphere that promotes a high quality of life for residents of all ages and interests."

Goals established in the Strategic Plan include:

Enhancing the town's infrastructure and walkability

Maintaining an efficient and high-performing government

Ensuring the town's continued financial viability by actively pursuing quality economic development

Strategies established in 2020 for reaching those goals included: an emphasis on community policing and engaging residents

enhancing the condition and appearance of the town's public infrastructure and amenities

encouraging home ownership, housing rehabilitation, and creating new, high-quality, and affordable housing stock

using available technology within municipal offices to improve efficient service delivery

conducting efficiency reviews in municipal offices and making changes based on the results

maintaining a structurally balanced budget to sustain service levels and maintain public facilities, and

aggressively pursuing economic development opportunities to enhance retail and dining options.

The town has been described

See Retreat, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mayor Brad Grose (left) presents a proclamation to County Administrator Dan O'Donnell on his retirement.

Town Council honors O'Donnell, receives outstanding financial news

Vinton Town Council recognized Roanoke County Administrator Dan O'Donnell at its meeting on February 15. O'Donnell retired from his position on February 1 after 21 years and eight months of "distinguished service to the citizens of Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton."

Council members issued a proclamation honoring O'Donnell, which said in part, "During his tenure as County Administrator, Mr.

O'Donnell recognized and encouraged strong regional partnerships through projects and services which helped to create a positive environment for economic development efforts for Roanoke County and was instrumental in many of the partnerships with the Town of Vinton, improving the quality of life for the citizens he served, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which replaced the Gain Sharing Agreement, the Vin-

yard Station and Gish Mill Redevelopment projects, the Vinton/East County Hotel Project, and the transfer of the town's utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority."

Mayor Brad Grose commented that he was impressed with O'Donnell's ability "to work with everyone for the good of our citizens." Councilman Mike Stovall said that the word that best describes O'Donnell is "steady," and that steadiness helped Roanoke County and Vinton to prosper.

O'Donnell introduced Richard Caywood, saying that "the county is in good hands" with him as the new county administrator.

Council adopted a resolution appropriating funding in the amount of \$115,000 from the Stormwater Account to the Special Projects

See O'Donnell, page 6

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Vinton and WVWA work behind the scenes to prepare for transfer of services

On December 7, 2021, representatives from Vinton Town Council and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) announced that the town would transfer ownership and operation of the Vinton Water and Wastewater System to the Authority on July 1, 2022.

Back in August 2021, Vinton and Roanoke County leaders began initial discussions about the transfer.

In September, the WVWA joined the discussions to “paint the broad strokes of the agreement,” according to Assistant Town

Manager Cody Sexton. They continued to meet throughout October and November to consider major questions to be resolved regarding the transfer. All parties agreed to move forward. The town’s Human Resources Department began working with the WVWA Human Resources Department on the impacts on employees who would move to the WVWA.

On December 3, the town leadership met with town staff to inform them of the proposed transfer, and then the move was made public on December 7.

Throughout December 2021, the Vinton’s Planning and Zoning staff met with the WVWA staff regarding engineering standards, site plan review, and development questions. Coordination between the two staffs will continue throughout the project.

Meanwhile, in back in August the town had undertaken a previously planned and budgeted water meter replacement project, updating meters for residential and commercial customers, which, in January, has replaced one-third of resi-

dential meters and 50% of commercial ones. The town expects the project to be completed before the transfer of services to the WVWA this summer—a milestone for the town.

Another milestone project is replacement of the 3rd Street Sewer Lift Station, begun in January, which has been “looped in” with the WVWA transfer.

There were many meetings during January between the town’s Steering Committee, Roanoke County, and the WVWA leadership for the purpose of drafting and then circulating the master transfer agreement.

Customer Service and Billing Teams began meeting in January. Town staff and WVWA utility and engineering staff have begun transferring and converting customer and billing data. Work is beginning to finalize the customer transfer date and to adopt the final billing schedule. Town staff has worked to refine the data for the Authority.

An Infrastructure and Operations Team has begun meeting as well. The town and WVWA utility and engineering staff have been discussing systems operations and scheduling tours of the town’s utility for the Authority that will take them over in

July. Sexton noted that citizens will be seeing WVWA utility vehicles in the town as this process continues. WVWA staff are touring well sites. Land transfers are being researched. The Authority will begin sending crews to town around May 1.

In January, Town Attorney Jeremy Carroll focused on a review of the Town Ordinance in regard to utility provisions. Planning and Zoning began an inventory of the utility properties for ownership transfer.

On January 25, the town and the WVWA hosted an open house at the Vinton War Memorial to gain public input and answer questions from the public about the pending transfer.

In February, the town and Roanoke County will update a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding utility service and cost-sharing considered by both governing bodies.

Also in February, town staff impacted by the transfer will shadow WVWA staff in positions related to theirs.

From February through April the plan is for staff teams to continue to meet and finalize details of the transfer.

An anticipated Master Transfer Agreement is expected to be finalized in May and approved by the town and

the WVWA—and celebrated with a signing ceremony.

In May, Town Council will also be considering ordinance updates. The WVWA will begin assisting with water breaks and other routine operations for hands-on learning of the system prior to the final transfer.

Customer data will be finalized; customers will receive information on upcoming changes to billing information.

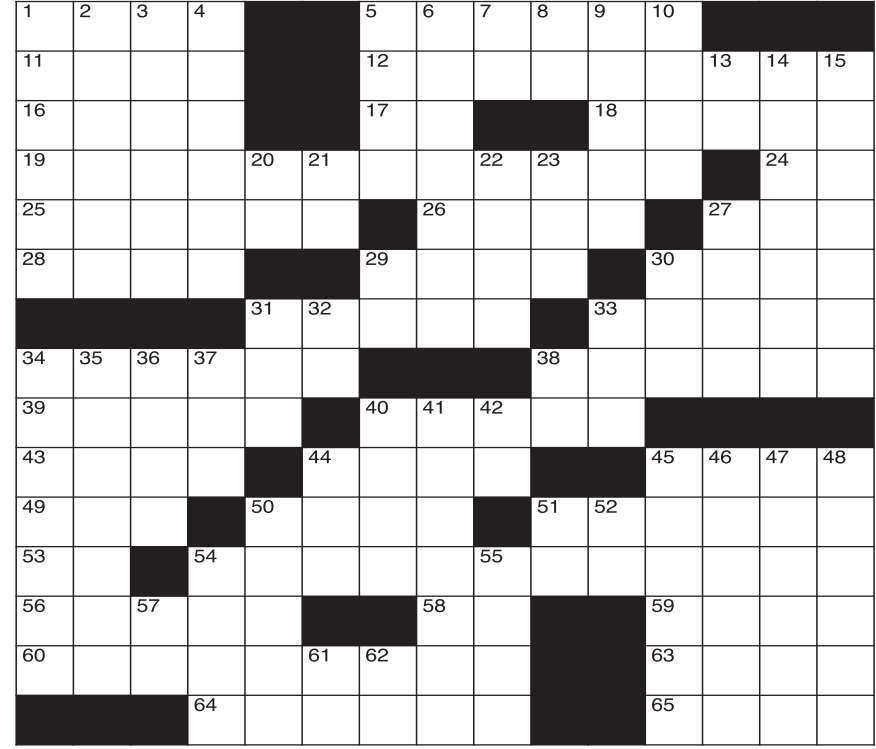
It is anticipated that on June 11, customer data will be converted to the Authority.

The final utility bill customers receive from the town will be due and processed by the town on June 18.

On July 1, the Western Virginia Water Authority will assume ownership of the utility system and current customers will become “new fresh customers with the WVWA,” Sexton said.

Sexton presented this timeline to Town Council at its annual retreat on February 11—to “memorialize where we’ve been, and how we got here” in an overview. He commented that the process of transferring ownership and operations has been “eye-opening” to say the least, with so many parts of the puzzle and steps in the process to pull this transfer together.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Remain as is
 - 5. Functional
 - 11. News magazine
 - 12. Popular treat
 - 16. Area units
 - 17. Artificial intelligence
 - 18. Marten valued for its fur
 - 19. Forms of matter
 - 24. Home of the Dodgers
 - 25. Bordering
 - 26. Part of the eye
 - 27. It might be nervous
 - 28. Visualizes
 - 29. Crest of a hill
 - 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
 - 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
 - 33. Not easily explained
 - 34. Song in short stanzas
 - 38. Detonations
 - 39. Intestinal
 - 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri
 - 43. Balmy
 - 44. New Mexico mountain town
 - 45. Gobblers
 - 49. Insecticide
 - 50. Golf scores
 - 51. Has its own altar
 - 53. “Pollock” actor Harris
 - 54. Being livable
 - 56. NHL play-by-play man
 - 58. “The Great Lakes State” (abbr.)
 - 59. Unpainted
 - 60. Swam underwater
 - 63. Native American people
 - 64. Containing salt
 - 65. Exam
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Small bone in middle ear
 - 2. Long, angry speech
 - 3. Move out of
 - 4. Male organ
 - 5. Two-toed sloth
 - 6. Making dirty
 - 7. Article
 - 8. Oil company
 - 9. Emits coherent radiation
 - 10. Amounts of time
 - 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
 - 14. Forbidden by law
 - 15. Drains away
 - 20. Not out
 - 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
 - 22. Bird genus
 - 23. Gratuity
 - 27. ___ and feathers
 - 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
 - 30. Hot beverage
 - 31. Pouch
 - 32. It followed the cassette
 - 33. Large northern deer
 - 34. Ones who offer formally
 - 35. Famed genie
 - 36. Bequeathed
 - 37. Skeletal muscle
 - 38. Atomic #56
 - 40. Silk garment
 - 41. They deliver the mail
 - 42. Equally
 - 44. Check
 - 45. Light-colored breed of hound
 - 46. Drug that soothes
 - 47. Railroads
 - 48. Most slick
 - 50. Jacket
 - 51. A radio band
 - 52. Hello
 - 54. His and ___
 - 55. Supporter
 - 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
 - 61. Railway
 - 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)

Dogwood Festival call for entries

The Vinton Dogwood Festival is accepting parade participants and vendors for the 66th annual festival to be held April 30.

Groups and individuals are encouraged to enter parade floats, marching entries, bands, costumed characters and novelty units in the parade. Float entries are free. Vendor spaces are available in the business showcase for businesses,

retail and non-profits for the business showcase and food vendors.

The festival will feature a wide variety of activities for all ages, including a craft show, crowning of the dogwood queen and court, live entertainment on two stages, a children’s area with free activities, car show, food and retail vendors and the annual parade, which begins at 2:30 p.m.

For more information or to sign up as a vendor, please visit www.vinton-dogwoodfestival.org to download information or submit an on-line application. Applications may also be mailed, e-mailed, or picked up and dropped off at the Vinton War Memorial. For more information, contact Chasity Barbour at 540-283-7077. You will hear a voicemail with information.



“Many thanks to our friends at Rosie’s for their very generous gift! Rosie’s support will help ACTS keep at-risk neighbors in the Greater Richmond Area who are in financial crisis from eviction and becoming homeless. We are grateful for Rosie’s heartfelt support!”

William H. “Billy” Poarch, CEO
Area Congregations Together in Service (ACTS)

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Through the charitable program, Rosie’s Gives Back, Colonial Downs Group has made **monetary and in-kind donations of more than \$1,700,000**, and has logged over 2,500 service hours in Virginia communities.



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Our Vinton VA plant is located at 323 West Virginia Avenue, Vinton VA 24179. (From I581, take Elm Ave toward Vinton. (Elm turns into Bullitt Ave, then into Dale Ave and then finally West Virginia Ave –just stay straight) The “Welcome to Vinton” sign is in our front yard.

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Cummings retires after 23 years with Vinton Police

Detective Sgt. of Criminal Investigations Valerie Cummings has retired from the Vinton Police Department. She has been employed with the Town of Vinton since July 13, 1999.

"After a 23-year law enforcement career, we wish Detective Sgt. Valerie Cummings a happy retirement," was the com-

ment from Police Chief Fabricio Drumond. "The dedication and service you committed to the Vinton Police Department and our community have been instrumental in our agency's success. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter of your life. May the future always continue to be

bright for you."

Cummings is the first woman to have retired from the Vinton Police Department. She served in the all-important role of Accreditation Manager for the Vinton department for several years and received the Award of Excellence for her efforts.

On the occasion of her final call, the depart-

ment thanked her for her service to the citizens of the community and described her as a "pillar in the investigation department. Your knowledge and leadership have inspired and encouraged others...in a career full of distinctions and zero liabilities, you have set an example for others to follow."



Detective Sgt. Valerie Cummings

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Duane Rice and myself had a surprise meet up with long-time friends Chris Keaton and Tim Hall. We crashed their coffee time at the new RND Coffee Shop in Vinton. What a great time catching up! Tim is in town checking on Momma Ginny. Hope to see the whole family soon! Check out Tim's site, www.emorningcoffee.com. The Boothe family had

a wonderful visitor this week. While Colin (Rice) was on assignment, Taylor and Rylan came for a visit! A lunch at Joe Goodpie's with the family before she headed back included Grandma Nikki Boothe, Granddad Duane Rice, Great-Grandparents Shirley Rice, Carolyn Spradlin, and Ed and Betty Boothe.

A happy birthday celebra-



tion was held at Pancho's, then Bob's, then Vinton Bowling

Alley on Saturday for Baby Drake. He ain't a baby no more, lol, he's 26. Those joining us were his wife Hannah, her parents Steve and Tara Jones, Steve Griffiths, Greg Chewing, myself and Greg Boitnott.

Welcome to Jameson Todd Bennett, who made his entrance into the world after 24 plush ours of labor on February

7, 2022 at 8:53 p.m., weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce and 21 inches long. Plus, he has a head full of blonde hair! Proud parents are Allison and Jordan Bennett, grandparents Jeff and Cheryl Bennett, Susan Bryan and late Jim Bryan. Aunts and uncles are Jennifer and James Garner, Christina and Dock Epperly, and Jeremy and Brit-tany Bennett.



Angie, Tim, Chris, and Duane



Allison and Jordan Bennett with baby Jameson Todd

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Quinn receives National Safety Award

Ginger Quinn of Roanoke has received the 2021 National Safety Award, given by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to a public official, recognizing their contributions to highway safety.

Winners of four national awards (the Chairman's Award, the National Safety Award, the National Media Award, and the Mark of Excellence Award) were announced at the 52nd Annual Convention and Traffic Expo in Tampa, Fla., held February 11-15.

Quinn is the Work Zone Safety Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

According to the ATSSA, Quinn has spent four decades in roadway safety, beginning at the Blue Ridge Parkway as a flagger, restoring trails and making temporary and permanent signs.

She joined VDOT's Salem District Office in 1987 where she expanded her work to include designing temporary traffic control (TTC) plans, reviewing work zones, teaching work zone traffic control districtwide and developing safety improvement projects for the Route 220 corridor that included guardrail, signs, and pavement markings.

Two decades later, she transferred to VDOT's Richmond office and helped develop work zone safety policies, worked with manufacturers to test TTC devices, revised work zone training materials and procedures, and wrote and produced a flagger training video.

Quinn returned to VDOT's Salem District Office in 2018 and oversees work zone safety, guardrail and work zone

training in addition to assisting designers, manufacturers, researchers, traffic engineers, utility companies and state and federal transportation officials.

In addition, she has worked closely with ATSSA in reviewing training materials and coordinated the adoption of VDOT's flagger training video by ATSSA for nationwide use.

Quinn also has worked with researchers at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) and the Virginia Transportation Council—a partnership between VDOT and the University of Virginia—on the design, implementation and evaluation of several roadway safety projects including a work zone builder app and queue management systems.

She has been a member of the Virginia ATSSA Chapter since its inception, serving on subcommittees and playing a key role in developing policies used throughout Virginia.

"As a manufacturers' rep of multiple traffic products, I have reached out to Ginger on nu-

merous occasions for her input on the product, testing and advice," Virginia ATSSA Chapter President Jennifer Miles of Sales Solutions Inc. wrote in nominating Quinn. "She has always made herself available to me and to any member of the Virginia ATSSA Chapter."

"Quinn is considered an expert in Virginia in all things dealing with work zone signage, flagging, pavement marking and work zone traffic control training, and her opinion, advice and counsel are sought throughout the industry," VDOT Work Zone Safety Program Manager David Rush said in nominating Quinn for the award that recognizes an employee or recent retiree of a government agency who made a significant contribution to the safety of our nation's highways.

"Ginger has always advocated for the highest standard in work zone safety and has been the driving force in many of our advanced work zone safety requirements in Virginia due to her passion for safety for all," Rush

wrote.

Paul Kelley, retired assistant work zone safety coordinator for VDOT and the 2019 recipient of the National Safety Award, also nominated Quinn and noted that she has always advocated for work zone safety standards and that many of the typical standards in Virginia's Part 6 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) have been shared and adopted by other state DOTs as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

In 2011 she developed Temporary Traffic Control for roundabouts for VDOT's Part 6 that will be published in the next revision to the MUTCD."

Quinn is familiar to Vinton residents as an instructor at the Lancelot Sports Complex in swimming and health and fitness.



Ginger Quinn

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

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SPOTLIGHT ON TOWN OF VINTON STAFF

Keith Childress

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger have united to “Spotlight the Town of Vinton Staff” during their respective birthday months. The town is proud to have these employees on staff and wants the community to see who is behind the scenes making Vinton

look great and operate efficiently. Keith Childress is an Equipment Operator 2 in the Public Works Department. He has been employed by the Town of Vinton since July 29, 2019. He has a wife, six children, and three grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf and is

well-known for keeping people laughing. “The Vinton Public Works Department touches the lives of thousands of people every day in a very professional manner,” says Mayor Brad Grose. “The dedicated individuals in the department enhance the quality of life in Vin-

ton by maintaining all the systems that provide safety, convenience, recreation, and a pleasing appearance in our town. We are truly blessed to have such skilled, devoted people in the Vinton Public Works Department.” Thanks for all you do, Keith Childress!



Keith Childress PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF VINTON

GFWC challenges citizens to become Heart Healthy

A message from the Vinton GFWC Woman’s Club February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. By living a healthy lifestyle, you can help keep your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels normal and lower your risk for heart disease and heart attack. What can you do to protect yourself from cardiovascular diseases? There’s a lot you can

do to protect your heart:

- Ask your doctor about your blood pressure, cholesterol, and A1C.
- Reduce the sodium, and increase the fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in your diet.
- Be physically active.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Don’t smoke.
- Manage stress.
- Keep your diabetes under control

We can also hug it out. We

could all use more hugs, and not just because they’ve been scarce these past couple of years and they make us feel happy, loved, and warm and fuzzy. Science shows that hugging is good for us both mentally and physically. A close embrace has been shown to help relieve stress and anxiety by ramping up the body’s production of oxytocin, which has a calming effect and may reduce blood pressure and steady

heart rate. Physical touch also lowers levels of cortisol, a stress hormone. Tapping into your inner “zen” is one of the most important ways to support a healthy heart, as chronic stress can put you at risk from factors such as type 2 diabetes and obesity. While we might not be able to give out free hugs just yet, hold a family member close so you can both soak up some well-being.

The GFWC Woman’s Club of Vinton is challenging all to start this month with the small steps—like scheduling their medical appointments, getting active, and eating healthy—so that people can get back to living big. Attend the club meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6:45 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial for informative games on heart health and getting a jump start towards a healthy you.

School Board approves signing bonuses for bus drivers/aides

At its meeting on February 10, the Roanoke County School Board approved signing bonuses for bus drivers and aides and recruitment bonuses to be paid to those who help the school system find bus drivers to hire. Director of Human Resources Jim Bradshaw

noted that currently Roanoke County Schools have 13 bus driver vacancies “making it very challenging to operate daily. To cover all bus routes we are using technicians, lot attendants, route supervisor, and transportation supervisors as drivers.” Staff recommended

and the board approved signing bonuses for drivers and aides of \$1,000 for those with no experience to be paid after driving for 90 days; \$1,500 signing bonuses for those with CDLs to be paid after driving 90 days; and \$500 for bus aides. Recruitment bonuses

of \$500 will be paid to all RCPS employees who recommend/recruit bus drivers after the recruit completes training and 30 days of service. A similar program using signing and recruitment bonuses was quite successful a couple of years ago. Brent Hudson, who

represents the Catawba District, expressed his desire to reward current transportation employees for their loyalty to the system as well. Later in the meeting, Hudson and Tim Greenway, who represents Vinton on the board, spoke of their intention to increase pay for county teachers.

In other news, Dr. Rhonda Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, presented a much-improved report on COVID statistics and was commended by the board for her work on mitigation strategies over the past two years during the pandemic.

Gish Mill

from page 1

Town Seal, and put it back into use. In 2019 the town issued a Request for Proposals.

David Hill of Hill Studio and developer David Trinkle, incorporated as Gish Mill

Davii, LLC, and presented their proposal to council for converting the property to mixed-use development and signed a contract of sale with the town in April 2020—contingent upon environmental, structural, and historic assessments of the property, and obtaining funding. The project includes a restaurant and seasonal market on the first floor, a special event space in the basement, conversion of the original mill structure, concrete silos, and upper floors into lodging or apartments, along with outdoor dining on a deck with patio space. The historic “sluice” will be utilized as an intimate seating area with stairs that cascade down to Glade Creek. David Hill said that “the eastern wedge is the area most damaged by previous weather events and is in the worst structural condition. It is not habitable. The slab will remain, and the area will become an outdoor plaza that will accommodate the future restaurant and mercantile uses. The space will be used

for dining, leisure, and recreation in the area overlooking the creek.” According to Katie Gushall with Hill Studio, “The National Register nomination describes it as a ‘post-1955 frame addition’ and it is considered non-historic.” McClung says, “Based on what I’ve heard from stories, that non-historic portion of the building was previously

used as incidental storage to the prior business. I remember hearing about them having forklifts inside that portion of the building which gives credence to that idea.” The goal of the Gish Mill Redevelopment Project is to return life and prosperity to the founding structure of the Town of Vinton. Gish Mill was built in the 1770s and was in continuous operation

in one form or the other since then—until it closed as Holden’s Country Store in 2015. Gish Mill has been placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places as a “circa 1846 three-story brick grist mill situated along the south bank of Glade Creek. Hill expects to complete construction in 2023.

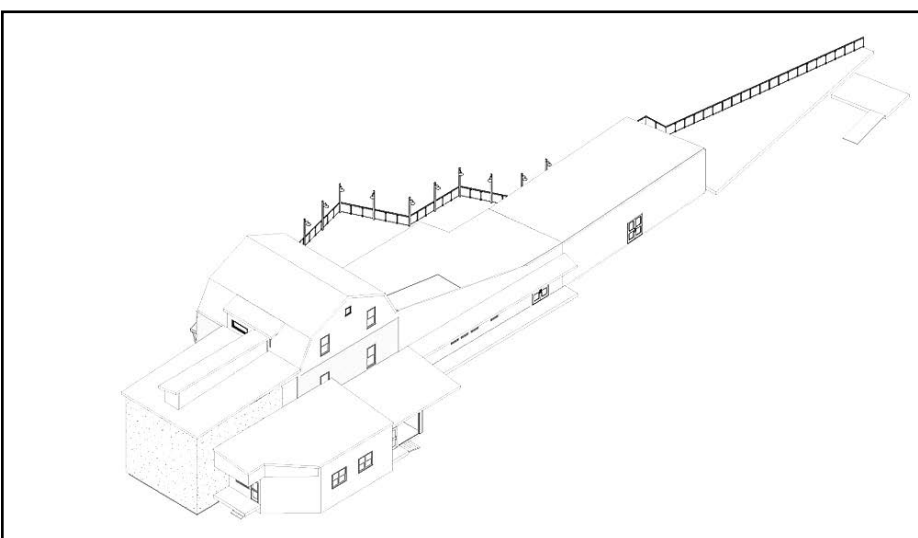


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS Conceptual drawing of the Gish Mill mixed use redevelopment project.

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops. If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it’s always nice to feel as if you never left. The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound. Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020
 (540) 473-2741
 1633 W. Main St.
 Salem, VA 24153

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org
 To subscribe: (540) 473-2741

ourvalley.org

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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

Time to register for annual Backpack Run

Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is presenting the 9th Annual Backpack Run. Proceeds will be used to provide financial support for Roanoke County Public Schools education programs including grants for teachers and scholarships for students through the Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation.

The Backpack Run is scheduled for March 19 and 20 at Green Hill Park in Salem.

Once again, this year they are offering the best of both worlds— in-person and virtual races. New this year are an in-person eight-miler and the Backpack Challenge.

If you participate in all three events— the 5K, 10K and 8-miler, you earn not only the three individual finisher medals, but a fourth exclusive Backpack Challenge medal.

Virtual events can be completed at your own pace. Any kind of exercise counts— running, walking, treadmill, bike, elliptical— anything. Best of all, you can do this at your pace;

you can do a mile or two at a time and combine those miles over time to meet the requirement for each event or the Backpack Challenge. Mileage is on the honor system.

Virtual/challenge medals will be available for pickup or shipping in May.

Registration fees:
5K (held on March 19): \$25-\$40
10K (March 19): \$40-\$60
8-Miler (March 20): \$65-\$80
Backpack Challenge (5K, 10K, & 8-Miler + 4th exclusive medal): \$140-\$160

The guaranteed T-shirt deadline for in-person races is registration by March 1.

Those registering after March 1 may not receive a shirt, depending on available supplies.

The course for the 2022 Backpack Run 5K and 10K is unchanged from recent years. Runners will begin near the front parking area at Green Hill Park, curving around the south side of the Green Hill property. Runners will cross the creek and use a short trail

to connect to the south side of the baseball field access road. Runners will then pass along the baseball parking lot and connect to the greenway, passing the water station. Runners will follow the greenway back to the greenway parking lot near the entrance of Green Hill Park. At this point, runners will turn around and follow the same course in reverse. 5K runners will complete one lap of this out-back course. 10K runners will complete two laps of this out-back course.

The course for the new 2022 Backpack Run 8-Miler is very similar to the 10K course— two laps of a four-mile course starting near Diuguids Lane.

Register online at <https://www.active.com/salem-va/running/distance-running-races/backpack-run-2022>. If you are not a runner, the Roanoke County Education Foundation appreciates donations for its programs. Visit <https://www.rcps.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=4148> on the Roanoke County Schools website.

Restaurant Week is back for 2022

Restaurant Week is back in the Roanoke Valley in 2022. After a great first year in 2021, Roanoke County Economic Development and community partners brought back the program to showcase the area's local restaurants in Roanoke County, Salem, and Vinton once again.

Restaurant Week 2022 runs from February 15 through March 1.

Participating merchants offer specials in a few tiers: \$10 and under; \$20 and under; \$30 and under; and Restaurant Choice (a family meal deal, experimental dish, or anything else that doesn't fit the other tiers).

Participating restaurants can be found on the <https://www.yesroanoke.com/> website. Macado's, Farmburguesa, Joe Goodpies, and Bob's Restaurant are on the list of Vinton restaurants.

Retreat

from page 1

as "booming" in recent months. There are no plans to slow down that progress.

Peters and Chief Drumond noted some of the most significant achievements in Community Policing and Engagement: the Vinton Police Department has been restructured and promotions made from within. Drumond was appointed police chief last year; Tim Lawless was named deputy chief, and several officers have been promoted to lieutenant, sergeant, and corporal with more promotions to come. The vehicle fleet has been updated and modernized through the process of leasing. Grants have been obtained to fund body-worn and in-car cameras. An additional officer has been added through ARPA funding. Due to the lifting of COVID restrictions, the community resource officer has been able to return to his position and special events are being restored to the town's schedule.

Targets for Community Policing and Engagement include enhancing compensation and providing sign-on bonuses for recruitment and retention of police department employees; the upcoming re-accreditation of the department; and formation of a Violent Crime and Drug Task Force with the Virginia State Police, Roanoke City, and Salem.

Achievements in enhancing the town's public infrastructure include completion of stormwater projects on Blair, Niagara, and Walnut Avenue; transportation planning involving Mountain View Road, Smart-scale scoping of Bypass Road, and a walkability study; traffic signal replacements at Clearview Drive, PFG, and 3rd Street; and a "more robust than usual" paving budget which allowed for increased neighborhood and Hardy Road paving.

Other infrastructure ac-

complishments include public facility updates at the Municipal Building, Public Works, the Vinton War Memorial, and the Charles R. Hill Community Center; and parking and pedestrian accommodations at Vinyard Station. Utility systems have been or are being updated with the 3rd Street Lift Station, SCADA, new radio-read water meters, and the 1st Street waterline is in design.

The utility system is being transferred to the Western Virginia Water Authority which will lead to rate stability for customers, an increased infrastructure replacement program, and debt reduction.

Woodland Place/Niagara Road erosion will be contained through a grant. Mountain View Road will be rebuilt using grant funding with a town match— core drilling has indicated some fairly severe issues with asphalt and gravel thickness. There is even talk of a roundabout at Hardy and Bypass Road in the distant future.

The discussion included projects with transportation design and construction on Walnut Avenue, crosswalks on Hardy Road and Gus Nicks Boulevard, and completion of the several phases of the Glade Creek Greenway. Traffic signals are on the list for Hardy, Vinyard, and Niagara, with a goal of synchronizing all the traffic signals in the town.

The town has plans for an increased paving budget (\$800,000) and striping (\$30,000) in the next fiscal year. A project is in the works for expanded downtown parking (80-110 spaces) on the McClung property near the Farmers' Market.

Vinton has worked to encourage home ownership, housing rehabilitation, and new high-quality housing stock through comprehensive zoning and subdivision ordinance updates. There are pending grant applications in-

volving the River Park Shopping Center area.

Targets for further community development include blight abatement (acquisition, demo, and rebuilding), and flood mitigation projects. The town would like to rehabilitate existing homes, enhance walkability with sidewalk repair and replacement, add crosswalks, and complete the greenway connections. There are plans to expand the number and variety of community events, along with visions of a skate park, an amphitheater at the Farmers' Market, and completion of a Lions Club Park at the old Vinton swimming pool.

Some targets for efficient service by town staff include transitioning to more advanced technology with radio-read meters, converting to the MUNIS software system, and exploring Code RED Mass Communication software.

Peters emphasized the value of partnerships the town has formed with Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, the Roanoke Regional Partnership, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, and the area's Chambers of Commerce.

The list of economic development achievements in Vinton in recent years is legendary: Rosie's, a hotel, Gish Mill, business window facades, Vinton branding initiatives, Vinyard Station, and the Roland E. Cook and Billy Byrd apartments, to name a few.

Numerous new businesses have celebrated their openings in Vinton— Tractor Supply, Joe Goodpies, RND Coffee, BoomTown Crossfit, Bank of Botetourt, Our Daily Bread, a new Big Lots, all in recent months. Several existing

businesses have announced expansions— the Dogwood, Farmburguesa, LaCasa, and the Hemp Mill.

There is talk of grant funding a shell building at the Vinton Business Center to attract industry. The town has set its sights on attracting national brands and franchises in both dining and retail, as well as promoting local ownership retail.

Finance Director Anne Cantrell was up next at the retreat for reports on revenue and fund balances, budget development for FY23, and the budget timeline.

Vinton remains proud of its structurally balanced budget which sustains service levels, maintains public facilities, and is the envy of many other localities.

Cantrell noted that Town of Vinton revenues are quite diversified— a good thing. The five top sources of revenue for the town are the meals tax (17% of the revenues), highway maintenance funding (14%), state sales tax (12%), pari-mutuel taxes, (11%), and business license taxes (8%). She pointed out that in many localities, revenues are heavily dependent on personal property and real estate taxes, which is not the case in Vinton.

She predicts that General Fund revenues will continue their upward trend through FY2025, along with highway maintenance revenues, pari-mutuel tax revenues, meals taxes, business license taxes, real estate and personal property, bank stock taxes, and vehicle license fees. The state sales tax may take a dip in FY23. The prediction is for communication sales/use and utility tax revenues to decline

as many individuals are abandoning cable and landline phones. While cigarette tax revenue has been steady in FY22 and probably in FY23, it will most likely be in decline after that.

The Town of Vinton strives to maintain a fund balance equal to four months of budgeted General Fund revenues, so that the town could continue to operate if there were no revenues coming in for four months. This is far above the recommended amount.

As for the Operating Budget, 60% goes to personnel costs, 34% to operating costs, and 6% to debt payment.

Major changes in FY23 (mostly due to the transfer of the utility system to the WVVA) will include movement of Utility Debt into the General Fund; absorption of personnel costs and operating costs previously shared with the Utility Fund; Roanoke County will now cover the full Roanoke Valley Resource Authority tipping fee; and E911 costs will decrease from \$450,000 to \$150,000 due to an MOU with Roanoke County.

Changes to the personnel budget include a new pay plan adopted by the town and a 5% COLA for all employees. The town's VRS rate surprisingly decreased; health insurance premiums increased.

The median town wage for employees is approximately \$50,000. The town currently employs four full-time employees in Town Administration; five in Finance; four in Planning and Zoning; 23 in Public Works, 27 in the Police Department, and three in Community Programs— making Public Works and

the Police Department combined 75% of the personnel budget.

The transfer of the utility system to the WVVA will result in a decrease of seven full-time positions in FY23. Some of those are vacancies— three will be eliminated. Three or four employees will be moving to the WVVA. No one will lose their job.

The remainder of the retreat was spent in discussion of the Capital Improvement Projects, many of which were mentioned as targets in the Strategic Plan. Peters explained that \$7.1 million is available in one-time funds. About \$6.2 million has been received from staff in CIP requests. Peters proposes to "front load" the budget for some of these CIP projects.

"There were items we had expected to fund July 1 with new FY23 money," Peters said. "Instead, we have funded them immediately due to our current budget outperforming our projections."

He provided a lengthy list of CIP projects to council for their consideration and for them to prioritize as the budget season progresses.

Cantrell said the goal is to adopt the FY23 budget on June 7.

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Princess Cut from page 1

seals on their uniforms and were seen in Vinton Police T-shirts. In one scene, the exterior of the police department was relocated from the Municipal Building across the street to the Vinton Fire Department (renamed the Vinton Police Department through the magic of computers). There's a brief glimpse of the Vinton Branch Library and one scene is set at a nearby Blue Ridge Parkway underpass. (The scenery is

a little different now in the Vinton Police Department after many upgrades and improvements in the past year.)

The scenes filmed at the Vinton Police Department centered on Tessa, who witnessed a domestic violence situation. Her statement was taken by an officer while the perpetrator was being arrested and held in custody. It was virtually love at first sight for the officer—not so much for Tessa. The

film tells the story of their unfolding friendship and blossoming romance.

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,” and the movie stays true to that concept.

Sheilah Munger 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— Chief Foster, then Deputy Chief Drumond, Detectives Brandon Hill and Todd Bailey, and Officer (now Corporal) Dustin Bray all took part in the shooting. Bray is the one who made the cut into the final version of the movie, making an arrest.

The Mungers were not new to Vinton with the “Princess Cut” movie. They

lived here for four months while filming “Alone Yet Not Alone” at Explore Park several years ago.

According to Munger, once filming is wrapped up, there is still a long process before a film premieres. Filmmaking starts with developing a concept, writing, and refining a script, locking in funding, locations, and dates, securing actors, and doing the principal shooting. After filming, in post-production, there is 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 their anticipated 2020 date to February 2022. (There are, in fact, three “Princess Cut” films, as of now.)

More information on watching or purchasing the “Princess Cut” trilogy is available at <https://watchmanpictures.com/>.



“Princess Cut 3: Beauty from Ashes,” which was filmed in part at the Vinton Police Department, debuted at the Grandin Theatre on February 10 with many cast and crew members present.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond (left) is shown with Joseph Durbin, an actor in the “Princess Cut” movie and also the location scout who worked with former Vinton Police Chief Tom Foster to arrange the filming of scenes at the Vinton Police Department in 2018.

O'Donnell from page 1

account to replace the stormwater pipe and attached structures in the area of 116 South Poplar Street that had failed.

Roanoke County Real Estate Valuation Director Ken Fay briefed council on the Roanoke County Real Estate Reassessment for 2022. All property owners in the town and county received a letter detailing their new and increased assessment values in early January. On average, real estate assessed values, residential and commercial, in Roanoke County increased by 8.55%—mainly due to increased market value.

Residential property in the Town of Vinton had an assessed value in 2021 of \$424.9 million, which increased to \$466.9 million for 2022. Commercial property values increased from \$108 million in 2021 to \$111.6 million in 2022.

A single-family home in Vinton had a median sales price of \$185,000 in 2021. The median sales price for a single-family home in Roanoke County was \$255,000.

In 2021, there were 126 homes sold in Vinton, with no foreclosures. There were 1,706 homes sold

in Roanoke County in 2021, with only two foreclosures.

Formal appeals of assessments may be made to the Board of Equalization at meetings on April 28, July 28, and October 27, 2022. Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemptions are administered through the Commissioner of Revenue's Office, as are tax freezes for the elderly and disabled who qualify. The number to call for more information is (540) 776-7116.

Town Manager Pete Peters briefed council on a Parking Lot Lease and Real Property Purchase Right of First Refusal between the town and property owner David. S. McClung for approximately 1.464 acres located at 7 Walnut Avenue, located just behind the Vinton Farmers' Market stage.

Staff has been working with Town Attorney Jeremy Carroll and McClung to finalize the terms. The Parking Lot Lease would provide the town with additional public parking options (80-100 spaces) for its Farmers' Market, downtown businesses, and special events, seven days a week.

The Purchase Right of First Re-

fusal would provide the town with the opportunity to purchase the property during the term of the lease, in order to protect the town's investment in making improvements to the parking lot on the property. Annual rent would be paid to McClung for a term of 10 years. The draft agreement lists that cost as \$12,000/year. The town will maintain the lot.

Peters said that the agreement would be equally beneficial to the town and the property owner. Hill Studio will be doing the parking lot design.

Council next adopted a resolution authorizing the town manager to execute an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 1, 2019, between Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton. That MOU replaced the Gain Sharing Agreement between the town and county which had been in existence since 1999. The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors approved the amendment at its meeting on February 8.

This MOU amendment is integral to the recent Western Virginia Water Authority negotiations trans-

ferring ownership of the Town of Vinton Water and Sewer System to the WVWA.

The MOU provides for sharing certain local tax revenues and costs of certain public services and assigning responsibility for certain aspects of public safety.

Under the MOU Amendment, 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.

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 WVWA board with a person

mutually agreed upon by Vinton Town Council and the Board of Supervisors to represent the Vinton community.

Town Attorney Jeremy Carroll praised the MOU amendment, stating that “it wraps up many ancillary agreements.”

Finance Director/Treasurer Anne Cantrell presented the December Financial Report to council for approval. The report was very favorable, indicating cash on hand of \$10 million (\$4.7 million restricted) and investments of \$3.3 million at the end of December 2021.

Council was delighted to hear Cantrell's summation that as of July 1, 2022, the town's net debt will be reduced to \$1.2 million. This is due to a great extent to the Western Virginia Water Authority assuming debt in the transfer of ownership and operations. Mayor Grose said that he “never dreamed we would be in this situation.”

Town Council will next meet on March 1. The annual State of the Town address is scheduled for March 10 at the Vinton War Memorial.

ANGLICAN

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on 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 (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.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, Vinton, (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 982-3694. Pastor-Tim Wright. Sunday, 10 AM - Worship Service, SuperChurch for Children; Wednesday 6:30-8PM - AWANA Clubs for ages 3-5th grade, Adult Bible Study.

LUTHERAN

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

Vinton

Worship Directory

PLACE OF REFUGE

Read Numbers 32:1 through 36:13

Select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that a person accused of murder may not die before he stands trial before the assembly. (Numbers 35:11,12).

God commanded that if anyone died because of violence, and murder was assumed, the murder suspect was not automatically to be considered guilty. Instead, he was allowed to flee to a city of refuge (one of six to be chosen in the Promised Land) that would assure the accused would be treated justly and justice would be done. In this way God provided justice in a culture where protecting the innocent was not a typical response.

When we hear accusations of guilt against others, our first response should be to provide them with a place of refuge in our hearts. That is, we should not rush to judgment, assume their guilt, and be careless in our speech about them. We should treat them fairly, as God intended.

Prayer for Today: Ask the Lord to make your heart and mouth a place of refuge rather than a fount of accusation for others.

Quicklook: Numbers 35:6-15

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 Su.ndays; 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.

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

Yard Sales - Botetourt County

Large Items Sale: Exercise Bike, Chipper/Shredder, Leather Recliner, Bikes
 Items available for view from 9 am to 2 pm Feb 19/20
 Call 540-750-6142 to confirm time/location (Troutville area)
 Shipping/delivery unavailable unless asking price paid in full
 Cash only

LiveSTRONG Recumbent Exercise Bike
 Mod no LS6.0R, manual included; condition - as is, very light use
 Price: \$150.00
Troy Bilt Chipper/Shredder
 Mod No CS 4325, 250 cc Briggs & Stratton engine 5 bushels, Reduction Ratio 10-1; max 3" branches, 13 ga hopper 10" x 4" tires; owner's manual included; condition - never used, no fluid in engine
 Price: \$300.00
Smith Brothers of Berne, NC - Recliner (pressback)
 Style/model 705-33; deep red leather; moderate usage, good condition
 Price: \$150
Bicycles - 1 men's, 1 women's
 2009 Specialized Globe, Carmel 7/4 700C; #P9CA30910; black
 Usage: men's - light, women's none; condition - needs minor work
 Price \$60 each, \$100 for both

Yard Sales - Craig County

Indoor Yard Sale
 61 Meadow Ave New Castle
 Friday Feb 25 & Saturday Feb 26 9-5
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Legals - Botetourt County

ABC NOTICE

Garrett's Bistro and Spirits LLC, trading as Garrett's Bistro and Spirits, 19386 Main St, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia 24066.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Daniel Garrett, Member

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.

Legals - City of Radford

ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21006521-00
 Radford Circuit Court
 619 SECOND STREET, 24141
 KESSINGER, JOSEPH L. v.
 KESSINGER, PATRICIA G.
 The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DICORCE FROM THE BOND OF MATRIMONY
 It is ORDERED that PATRICIA G. KESSINGER appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before APRIL 5, 2022.

February 8, 2022
 Angel Turpin
 Deputy Clerk

Legals - City of Radford

Notice
 ESTATE of
 Charlie Preston Hall
 (11/27/1935 – 03/09/2021)
 Seeks Biological Children or Possible Heir(s) of Mr. Hall's estate to contact 540-392-8445.

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ018698-15
 Montgomery County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court MCDSS
 v.
 Charles E. Barkley, Jr.
 The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Charles E. Barkley, Jr. legal parent of James Barkley a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition.
 It is ORDERED that Charles E. Barkley, Jr. appear at the above-named Court and protect her interests on or before March 14, 2022.

2-1-22
 Amie Blankenship
 Clerk

Classified Advertising Delivers

Legals - Montgomery County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA,
 a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
Case No. CL21001960-00
 Complainant,
 v.
 JAMES W. DEAN AND BETTY DEAN FAMILY TRUST,
 Respondent(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
 The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows:
 Tax Map No. 287- A 87
 Account No. 004809

All that certain lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin the west side of Water Street Extended, at the northeast corner of the Lot, now or formerly owned by, Pauline Bowles Dillon; thence, with the line of said lot S. 49 degrees 20'E. 80 feet to an alley, a corner; thence, with said alley N. 49 degrees E. 200 feet to Water Street, Extended, a corner; thence, with said Water Street Extension, N. 38 degrees 20'W. 80 feet to the point of beginning.

And being the property conveyed to James W. Dean and Betty Jane Dean Family Trust, from James W. Dean and Betty Y. Dean (Also known as Betty Jane Dean), husband and wife, by Deed dated September 1, 1994 and recorded September 30, 1994 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 853, Page 634.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 71 at Page 234.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: James W. Dean and Betty Dean Family Trust, whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before March 7, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 25th day of January, 2022.

Robert M. D. Turk
 Judge

I Ask For This:
 John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
 Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
 Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
 Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372)
 Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609)
 Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158)
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 TACS No.: 742177

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the **Planning Commission** of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Planning Commission will also hold a dinner on February 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by a work session at 6:30 p.m., prior to the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments concerning:

An ordinance repealing in its entirety the Vinton Town Code, Appendix B - Zoning Ordinance as adopted by Ordinance 634, enacted December 19, 1995, with amendments, and adopting by reference the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Vinton, Vinton, Virginia.

Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearing.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of February, 2022.

Anita J. McMillan
 Planning and Zoning Director
 Secretary, Vinton Planning Commission

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meetings. Please call (540) 983-0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements may be made.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton's FY 2021-2022 budget to appropriate funding as follows:

1. From the FY21 Federal and State Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Road Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) for the Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$403,912.00.
2. From the FY20 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for the Hardy Road Midblock Pedestrian Crosswalk Project in the amount of \$497,911.00.
3. From the General Fund \$307.00 transfer to the Stormwater Fund for local matching requirements.

Any additional information on this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

Susan N. Johnson
 Town Clerk

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Left, Israel Hairston of William Byrd shoots a three in last Friday's home game with Franklin County. Right, Cam Richardson drives the lane to score two of his 20 points.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Region 3D basketball tournaments feature 10-team brackets

William Byrd boys open at home Monday against Carroll Co., girls go to Lord Botetourt Tuesday

The William Byrd boys and girls basketball teams will be opening Region 3D play next week, with the boys' playing on Monday and the girls' starting Tuesday. Both tournaments are 10 team brackets with the top six teams getting a first round bye.

The boys are the eighth seed and they'll host ninth seeded Carroll County on Monday. The other Monday game has 10th seeded Magna

Vista playing at seventh seeded Christiansburg.

If the Byrd boys win Monday they'll have their work cut out for them in Tuesday's quarterfinal round, as top seeded Cave Spring awaits. The Knights are 23-1 after winning the River Ridge District tournament on Tuesday with a 60-34 rout of Blacksburg.

The region semifinals are a week from today at the sites

of the top remaining seeds and the championship game is Saturday, February 26. Northside and Lord Botetourt of the Blue Ridge District are seeded second and third in the region, respectively.

The Byrd girls are the fifth seed in their Region 4D tournament so they don't have to play Monday. First round games find ninth seed Christiansburg at eighth seed Abingdon and 10th seed Bassett at seventh seeded Northside.

Byrd will take on a familiar opponent next Tuesday, fourth seeded Lord Botetourt, in Daleville. The winner of that game will most likely travel to top seeded Carroll County a week from today for a semifinal game. Carroll County, a member of the mostly Class 2 Three Rivers District, is the top seed in the region with one loss while undefeated Staunton River, a Class 3 team from the Blue Ridge District, is the second seed.

Blue Ridge District tournament games were played this week but neither Byrd team qualified, as only the top four in the district were invited and both the Terrier boys and girls finished fifth. They both had a chance to make the field with games against Franklin County last Friday, but the Eagles swept both games.

In Vinton, the Terrier boys led for most of the way before the Eagles used a huge fourth quarter to pull out a 65-63 win. Byrd led by 18 points in the second quarter and the Terriers were still up by 12 points heading into the fourth quarter but let the game slip away.

"Not really sure how to explain the difference in the second half and the first half," said Byrd coach Brad Greenway. "They didn't do anything new in the second half, we just didn't defend as well late in the game."

Camden Richardson led the Terriers with 20 points but he fouled out in the fourth quarter and things went downhill from there.

"It seemed like after

we lost Camden early in the fourth we were in a bit of a fog," said Greenway. "We had five or six extremely good looks from three in the fourth quarter that just for whatever reason didn't go down. If any of them fall we probably win the game. Just needed one or two."

Trevor Ruble had 17 points for the Terriers and Ethan Hairston had eight as Byrd fell to 8-14 overall. Franklin County grabbed the fourth spot in the BRD tourney with the win and they also finished the regular season at 8-14. Northside and William Fleming were playing for the Blue Ridge tournament championship Wednesday.

In Rocky Mount Friday the Byrd girls also needed a win to edge out Franklin County for the fourth spot in the dis-

trict tournament, but they also came up short, 41-25. Emilie McCaskill led the Terriers with 10 points and scored her 1,000th career point early in the game. Alexis Helton had nine.

"We did not play very well," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. "The offense stalled and they made a run that we did not recover from. We're looking forward to the preparation for the regions and seeing the team working together again."

Byrd finished the regular season at 9-13 with the loss and they were still without their point guard and one of their top players, Sophia Chrisley. Meanwhile, Staunton River and Lord Botetourt were scheduled to play for the Blue Ridge championship Wednesday night in Moneta.



Byrd's Ross Divers goes high to block a shot in last Friday's game with Franklin County.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



ONE GRAND TERRIER

William Byrd coach Randy Bush presents a ball to Emilie McCaskill after she scored her 1,000th point at Franklin County High School last Friday night.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roanoke College Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse is site for Region 1-4 indoor track meets

The Cregger-Kerr Indoor track at Roanoke College in Salem will be the site of region track meets in Classes 1 through 4 this weekend, including athletes from William Byrd in the Class 3D meet.

The meet for Region 1C, 1D, 2C and 2D will be held on Friday evening. Field events

begin at 3:30 pm with running events to take the gun beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Region 3D meet, with William Byrd athletes, will begin at 9 am on Saturday morning and will run through an awards ceremony at 3 pm. The Region 4D meet will be held on Saturday evening.

SPORTS

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Above left, Dominic Pascoe of William Byrd is on top in his region semifinal win over Evan Mefford of Christiansburg at 120. Above, Xavier Preston has hand raised by official Steve Hale after defeating TJ Piluso of Lord Botetourt to remain undefeated at 160. Left, Aiden Lucas(left in photo) is on his way to a semifinal win over Anthony Jones of Northside at 195. Below, Hunter Richards puts the finishing touches on a 285 pin of Cave Spring's Preston Lonker in the region semifinal. The win was the 100th of Hunter's high school career.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Big Orange will take half a dozen to state mats this weekend

The William Byrd "Big Orange" wrestling team will be well-represented when the Salem Civic Center plays host to the Virginia High School League Class 1, 2, and 3 state wrestling tournaments this weekend.

Action begins on the civic center floor with eight mats Friday morning for the first round. At 1 pm there will be quarterfinals for Class 1 through 3 and first round consolation matches for Class 3. Class 1 and 2 tournaments have the top three from each region while Class 3 has the top four. Consolation matches for all three classes will begin at 4:30 pm.

On Saturday morning semi-finals begin at 10 am, followed by consolations semifinals at noon and consolation finals at 1:30 pm. The championship matches will begin at 5 pm.

The Big Orange will be represented by six wrestlers after the Terriers finished fourth in the 12 team Region 3D tournament at Northside High School last Saturday. Staunton River won the tournament with 244 points to outscore second place Lord Botetourt with 222. Christiansburg was third with 192 and Byrd had 152 ½ to edge out Northside for fourth by two points.

"We finished up fourth in the Region with a relatively young and inexperienced team," said Byrd



coach Thomas Kessler.

The top four in the region qualified for the state and Byrd will send six. The Terriers had four in the region finals and came out with one champion, Xavier Preston at 160. He beat Jacob Baier of Christiansburg in the final, 3-2, to remain undefeated at 26-0.

"Xavier will look to keep his undefeated season alive at 160," said Kessler. "If he gets to the finals he will, more than likely, match up with Nick Vafiadis of New Kent who is looking for his fourth state title."

Dominic Pascoe of Byrd finished second in the

region at 120 and he is now 22-9. Dominic lost to undefeated J.B. Dragovich of Hidden Valley in the final.

At 195 Aiden Lucas finished second, falling to Dalton Oxley of Lord Botetourt in the championship match. Aiden is 17-10.

Hunter Richards was defeated by Aiden Lacombe of Christiansburg in the 285 pound final, finishing second. Hunter is now 24-4 and in the semifinal round he pinned Preston Lonker of Cave Spring in 51 seconds for his 100th high school win.

In the consolation finals Gage Cockran beat Caleb Fitchett of Carroll County in the 113 pound third place match with a 22 second pin to make the state tournament. Bricen Lancaster finished fourth at 145 to round out the Byrd group of state qualifiers.

Finishing in the top six, but failing to advance, were Aden Lamay Lee with a fifth at 170, Stephen Underwood with a fifth at 152 and Brycen Nielsen with a sixth place at 182.

The state tournament is back to a two-day affair after trimming the event to one day last year due to the pandemic. Also, fans were not permitted in the Salem Civic Center last year and this year it's back to normal, so expect lots of noise and excitement. Tickets are now on-sale on line.



11 Terriers in state swim meet in Richmond Sat.

William Byrd will have 10 boys and one girl competing in the Class 3 state swim meet in Richmond Saturday at the Swim RVA pool. Representing Byrd will be Aiden Brinkley, Dawson Brinkley, Evan Copenig, Colin Murtaugh, Nathan Miller, Matthew Hoyos, Michael Hoyos, Cole Kovacevic, Griffin Horacek and Austin Nielsen in the boys' meet and Emma Copenig in the girls meet. "I am so excited for State and so are these swimmers," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "We have never had so much depth. We have our sites on the podium." Left is the Byrd 200 Freestyle Relay team that won the region and set a new Byrd school record in the process. Left to right are Dawson Brinkley, Austin Nielsen, Nathan Miller and Colin Murtaugh.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cook is guest speaker for RVSC meeting Monday

Murray Cook, who built the "Field of Dreams" baseball diamond in Iowa used for the White Sox and Yankees game last summer, will be the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club next Monday, February 21.

Cook turned the site in Dyersville, Iowa from a tourist attraction into a big league ballpark. The original field was the setting for the movie "Field of Dreams," starring Kevin Costner. The big league game was a big hit last August, drawing international attention.

Cook is the official field consultant for Major League Baseball and is the president of BrightView Sports Turf Division. It's a far cry from his days in Salem, when he lived just off the Boulevard, which runs parallel to the stadium now known as Salem Municipal Field.

Cook is a member of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame, and an accomplished banquet speaker. Anyone who would like to hear him speak on Monday and is not a member of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club can go to the club's website to sign up at roanokevalleysportsclub.com.



MURRAY COOK

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN