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Bill Cundiff not only completed the Teton Dam half marathon in Idaho after heart surgery, but won his age group.

Cundiff completes half marathon after heart surgery

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Bill Cundiff recently completed his 42nd marathon race out of the 51 that are on his bucket list—after undergoing open heart surgery in January.

“I would like to share a praise to God from this past weekend,” Cundiff said in a Facebook post. “Last fall I had to stop running due to a congenital heart valve issue, and in January I had open heart surgery. On

follow up, my surgeon said I could start to run. Gradually I regained my endurance so that four and a half months later I completed the Teton Dam half marathon that commemorates the collapse of the dam in 1976.”

In early June, Cundiff and his wife, Beth, took a non-stop flight from Charlotte to Salt Lake City, then took a rental car three and a half hours to Rexburg, Idaho, for the race.

“Arriving at our hotel

See **Cundiff**, page 5

Town Council adopts \$17.7 million budget, McCarty and Stovall running for re-election

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council adopted a budget of \$17.7 million for all funds for FY22-23 at its meeting on June 21. This represents an increase of 27.6% over the previous fiscal year. The significant increase in the budget total is due mainly to one-time gains in revenue from various funds and grants related to the pandemic (such as ARPA funds) and to proceeds from the sale of the town’s water and wastewater system to the Western Virginia Water Authority.

The FY23 budget has been meticulously developed, discussed, and revised over a period of many months in departments, in council meetings and work sessions, and in a public hearing on June 9.

During the course of the council meeting, Vice Mayor Sabrina McCarty

and Councilman Mike Stovall announced that they have acquired the required number of signatures from Vinton residents to place their names on the ballot in November to run for Town Council once again. A change in state law has moved local elections, such as Town Council, from May to November. Both McCarty and Stovall said that moving the election to fall has made the collection of signatures more challenging during the summer months.

Town Council adopted a resolution authorizing Town Manager Pete Peters to submit documents for the FY22 Community Impact Market Analysis Grant and appropriated funds in the amount of \$45,000 for a housing study. Staff received notice they had received the grant in February 2022. The funds will facilitate projects supporting economic development and will study four parcels, including River

See **Town Council**, page 3

McCulloch teaches love of music to students of all ability levels

Debbie Adams
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Carol McCulloch has been “teaching the love of music using the piano” for about 12 years—a second career. While she teaches both typical and special needs students, she feels a special affinity for students facing challenges—but she sees not disabilities, but possibilities. As far as she’s concerned, “every student is truly a unique blessing.”

“Although I love teaching all my wonderful students, I have an extraordinary desire to work with our special needs community which sometimes gets left behind in too many extra-curricular areas,” McCulloch said.

Her students recently performed in their annual Spring Recital on June 5. (See this week’s article, “Lala’s piano students present Spring Recital 2022.”) Twenty-five of her 32 students played an entertaining variety of music selections which included classical, contemporary, and religious arrangements.

“Every student per-

formed beautifully,” said McCulloch, “but seeing my special needs students shine like never before was absolutely phenomenal!” She shared that watching their dedication, preparation and steady progress has been “one of the most satisfying aspects” of teaching and of her life.

“From the youngest, age 6, to adults from 20 to their 60s, all these students work hard to present their best efforts during each lesson, as well as during event performances.”

McCulloch’s first student 12 years ago was Chukie Elechi.

“My son, Chukie, who is on the Autism spectrum, has been a piano student of Carol McCulloch since September 2010,” said his mother, Uchenna Elechi. “We have watched him grow from a child who could barely sit for more than three to five minutes at a time during piano lessons, to a young man who a few Sundays ago walked up to the piano, sat down, and played three music pieces ALL BY HIMSELF. Only by the grace of God, patient endurance, dedi-



Chukie Elechi was Carol McCulloch’s first piano student 12 years ago.



McCulloch’s music student Alana Kiedrowski was recently named Honorary Princess at the Staunton River High School Senior Prom.

See **McCulloch**, page 12



Olive Laughinghouse performed “The Princess Waltz” at Carol McCulloch’s Spring Recital. Here she is reviewing note values with The Rhythm Ball Game during music class.

Lala’s piano students present Spring Recital 2022

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The piano students of Carol McCulloch (also known as Lala) presented their annual Spring Recital on June 5 at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

McCulloch uses the piano to teach the love

of music to both typical and special needs students.

Students performing this year, their recital selection(s), and comments from McCulloch include:

Natalie Peters, “Catch a Falling Star.” “Natalie is such a joy to work with. She is dedicated and patient and prepares for every lesson in detail. She is very involved in church youth activities and especially likes to participate in their dramas and musicals.”

Kennedy Bentley, “Morning Prelude” and “Got Lotsa’ Rhythm.” “Bentley is simply a joy to teach and to watch grow (even on frustrating days). She always prepares, shows grace under pressure, and appreciates a new challenge. Kennedy puts a positive spin on things and a big smile on her face.”

Levi Laughinghouse, “Sweden.” “Levi is so much fun to be around and a wonderful student. He takes his music seriously. As the oldest of five siblings, he has some great leadership qualities which are reflected in his overall work habits. Positive, outgoing, talented, and helpful—all of these are Levi’s specialties.”

Alyssa Walker, “Sunday Best.” “Alyssa started lessons with me in upper elementary and even then, she was such a quick study with fingers that felt at home all over the keyboard. She’s one of those students who excels in sports, academics, and music, but she continues to work hard to conquer new goals in



Alyssa Walker (left) and Elizabeth Martinez (center) were named as this year’s Star Piano Students by teacher Carol McCulloch.



The piano students of Carol McCulloch presented their annual Spring Recital at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on June 5.



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See **Recital**, page 8

Commander Jeremy Obenchain retires from Coast Guard

Commander Jeremy Obenchain has retired from the United States Coast Guard. His retirement was marked with a ceremony on May 20, 2022. Obenchain is the son of Billy and Karen Obenchain of Vinton and is a 1995 graduate of William Byrd High School.

He has served his country with honor since joining the Coast Guard in 2002. From 2004-2006, he served as Deployable Team Leader on Law Enforcement Detachment 404 at U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team South. In this role, Obenchain deployed to the Eastern Pacific Ocean, where the team inter-

dicted cocaine bound for the United States, and the Middle East, operating in the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, and Iraq.

In 2007, Commander Obenchain was selected as one of three Coast Guard Congressional Fellows to serve in the United States House of Representatives. In this role, he served for two years as advisor to the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee and to the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism responsible for Coast Guard oversight and national/homeland security is-

sues. From 2009-2011, CDR Obenchain served as the Future Operations and Middle East Training Team Leader at Patrol Forces in Southwest Asia.

After successfully completing Arabic Language training at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington in 2011, he served at U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe in The Netherlands as a Port Security Liaison Officer working throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

From 2014 to 2016, CDR Obenchain served as the Coast Guard's Liaison to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in

Bahrain.

He was next assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Manila in the Philippines where he advised the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine National Coast Watch System.

In July 2019, CDR Obenchain reported to the Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) Affairs Office of Europe and Asia as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer. There he served as the INL Indonesia Program Officer, advised on maritime law enforcement capacity building, and worked across the department on behalf of the U.S. Coast

Guard.

Commander Obenchain's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, three USCG Guard Commendation Medals, four USCG Achievement Medals, four USCG Overseas Service Ribbons, Army and Navy Achievement Medals, and Department of State Franklin and Eagle Awards.

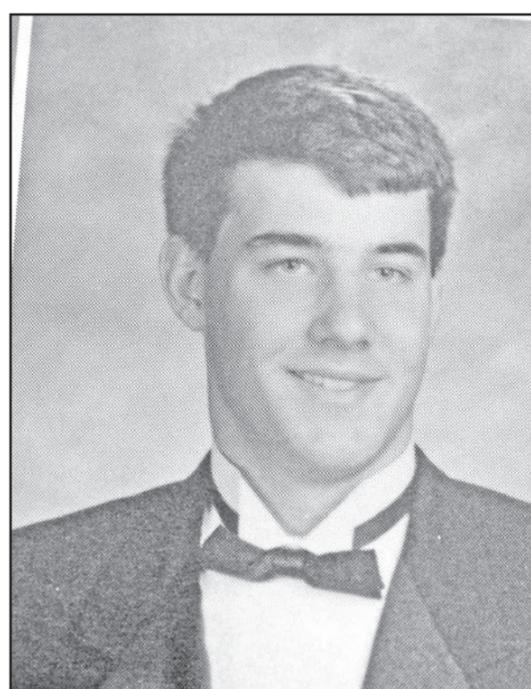
Commander Obenchain and his wife, Yee Loo, their two daughters, Olivia and Natalie, and shih tzu Mako plan to travel before settling somewhere between the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Asia.



Coast Guard Commander Jeremy Obenchain's retirement was celebrated with a ceremony on May 20, 2022.



Commander Jeremy Obenchain with his mother, Karen Obenchain.



Commander Jeremy Obenchain is a 1995 graduate of William Byrd High School.

DMV Connect returns to Vinton Library June 27-28

DMV Connect is one of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle's service outreach programs that serves Virginians who may not be able to travel to a DMV office. DMV Connect

will be at the Vinton Library on Monday, June 27, and Tuesday, June 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed from 1-2 p.m. for lunch).

No appointment is required; walk-ins are

welcome.

The DMV Connect program can conduct all DMV transactions, except vital records and testing. Available services include:

Apply for or renew

an ID card; apply for or renew a driver's license; get a copy of a driving record; obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, or transcripts; order disabled parking placards or plates;

update an address in the DMV record; update voter registration address and/or organ donor status; request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to set up a myDMV account,

which will allow you to receive DMV notices via email or phone and conduct secure transactions on the DMV website; and search for other state services through a Virginia Internet portal

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Lynn Haven Baptist Church invites children to 'Monumental Vacation Bible School'

Lynn Haven Baptist Church will host "Monumental Vacation Bible School" from July 10 to July 15 at 1501 Washington Avenue in Vinton.

At Monumental, kids will explore the sunbaked Southwestern desert. Children will participate in Bible-learning activities, sing songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to re-

mind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer.

Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canyon Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Monumental is for kids from 3 years old (potty trained) through fifth grade groups. Please reg-

ister using the grade your child just completed. VBS gets underway at 6 p.m. each evening and runs through 8:30 p.m. In addition, a free dinner will be held for kids at 5:30 each day.

Lynn Haven Baptist invites you to "Come eat with us, or just come for VBS."

For more information, call 540-344-9091. Or register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/d3kids>.

See more at www.vintonmessenger.com

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Parade- 5PM • Fireworks- 10PM

ENTERTAINMENT

June 28 - Seven Mile Ford
June 29 - High Road
June 30 - Glenn Shelton
July 1 - OFF
July 2 - Showdown
July 3 - Blue Connection
July 4 - Michelle Motley
July 5 - True Cadence

July 6 - Wound Tight
July 7 - Mason Creek

CLOGGERS
June 30 - High Voltage Cloggers
July 7 - Rebels of Rhythm Cloggers

www.townofbuchanan.com/carnival/

Car enthusiasts turn out for first Vinyard Cruise-In of the summer

The Vinton Cruise-In has been revived and renamed—now the Vinyard Cruise-In—and drew a large crowd of car owners and enthusiasts to downtown Vinton and the Vinton Farmers' Market on June 18.

Vinton Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour noted that there were 80 cars participating in the event and about 250 or so people in attendance on a day with perfect weather. Many brought lounge chairs to spend some time visit-

ing with friends.

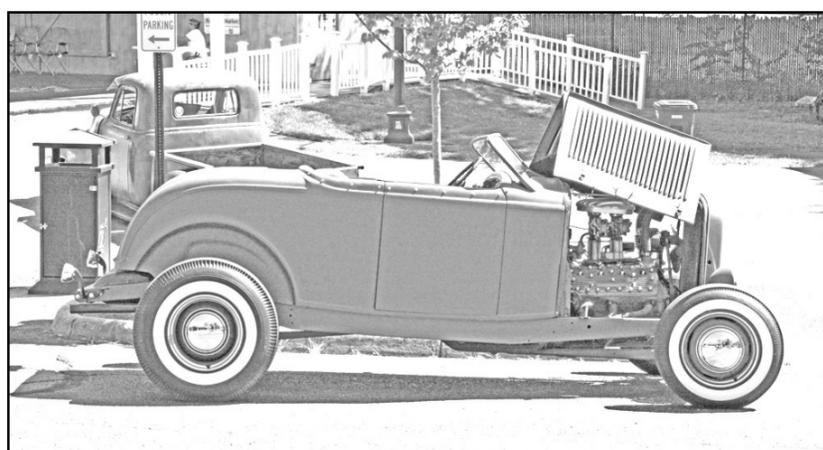
For many years, the Vinton Cruise-In was a staple in the parking lot at Valley Hall on East Washington Avenue, then moved downtown to the Vinton Motors lot at the corner of Washington Avenue and Pol-

lard Street, until the pandemic put a damper on the event.

However, the gathering of cars has been renamed in honor and memory of the late Billy Vinyard, who owned Vinton Motors. The event will continue each month during the sum-

mer—scheduled for July 16 and August 20 from 3 to 7 p.m.

The community is welcome to “come, park, cruise, and listen to the music of the '60s and '70s at the Vinton Farmers' Market,” and to bring their cars for display.



Jim Cunningham had his 1932 Ford Roadster on display at the June 18 Vinyard Cruise-In at the Vinton Farmers' Market.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

About 80 cars showed up for the first Vinyard Cruise-In, a longtime tradition in Vinton, now revived. The next event is planned for July 16.

Wilkerson receives Bonsack/Blue Ridge Ruritan Club scholarship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Deedie Kagey from the Bonsack/Blue Ridge Ruritan Club presented a scholarship to William Byrd's Cadence Wilkerson.

Deedie Kagey from the Bonsack/Blue Ridge Ruritan Club awarded their club's scholarship to Cadence Wilkerson at the William Byrd High School PTSO Scholarship and Senior Awards Assembly on May 17.

The club awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year—one to a William Byrd student and one to a Lord Botetourt student. The Ruritan Club is very active in the community and bases the awards on a

students' service to the community, in addition to their academic achievements.

Wilkerson was one of this year's valedictorians at William Byrd and will be attending Roanoke College.

Town Council

from page 1

Park Shopping Center. No local match is required.

On June 7, council adopted a Transfer Agreement with the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) for the town's water and wastewater system to the Authority. As part of the transfer, the town agreed to convey several parcels of property to the Authority. A public hearing was held at the June 21 meeting, followed by council approving the conveyance of about three dozen properties including wells, pump stations, tanks, booster stations, and others to the Authority.

When former Town Treasurer/Finance Director Anne Cantrell resigned in the spring to accept a position in Bedford, council appointed Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton as interim treasurer while the recruitment for a new treasurer/finance director was underway. Town Code requires that council appoint an official to manage investments and have secondary signature authority over checks.

Andrew Keen has been hired as the new finance director. Sexton will formally fill the role of treasurer as Keen gets acclimated to the new finance position. This was the same procedure followed when Cantrell was initially hired.

Town Manager Peters and members of council commended Sexton for the “great job” he has done in assuming the position in the Treasurer's Office, especially while dealing with the transfer of the utility system to the Authority and his host of regular duties at the same time.

Lydia Verdillo was appointed by council to serve as deputy treasurer, with the ability to sign checks in Sexton's absence. She is a long-time employee of the Treasurer's Office and Finance Department with extensive knowledge of the town's system.

Council adopted a resolution approving the updated Emergency Operations Plan for the town presented by Public Works Director Bo Herndon. This vital document details procedures to use and a list of contacts in case of an emergency or disaster situation to protect the health and safety of citizens. It was extensively employed during a derecho several years ago and during the pandemic.

The 245-page document must be ap-

proved by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management every four years. Members of the committee made up of Herndon, Executive Assistant to the Police Chief Mandie Baker, Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins, and Police Chief Fabricio Drumond were commended for their diligence in completing the task.

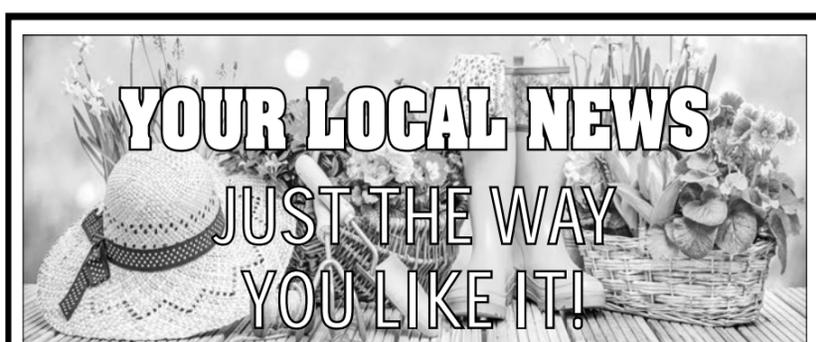
Treasurer Cody Sexton presented a positive report on the town's financial state from the April 30 Financial Report which was approved by council. At that time, the town had just over \$10 million in cash on hand and \$3.3 million in investments—an enviable financial position for a municipality. Sexton attributed the town's sound financial situation to the hard work of department managers and the leadership team who continue to be “prudent and cautious” in spending.

Peters updated council on several projects. Staff members have met with Shentel about permitting applications for GloFiber. Engineering and planning are near completion; they anticipate construction getting underway in the third quarter. Shentel will begin a marketing campaign soon within the town to promote its availability. Most of their construction/installation will be overhead. Peters said the town was impressed with Shentel's work thus far.

Peters noted that preventive maintenance is coming up this summer on Garthright Bridge on Gus Nicks Boulevard. A Request for Proposals has been issued, due July 15. He pointed out that the bridge is perfectly safe and in good condition—this is “preventative.” Most of the work on and below the bridge will be completed at night, but some lane closures will be necessary during the process.

In other upcoming projects, staff has begun working with a consultant on design of the pedestrian signalized crosswalks on Gus Nicks Boulevard and Hardy Road. The town is also working with a consultant on concepts for the park proposed for the Vinton War Memorial space occupied by the swimming pool.

Citizens are also reminded of the \$1.1 million in paving in the town coming up in August. This is triple the usual amount spent on paving each summer.



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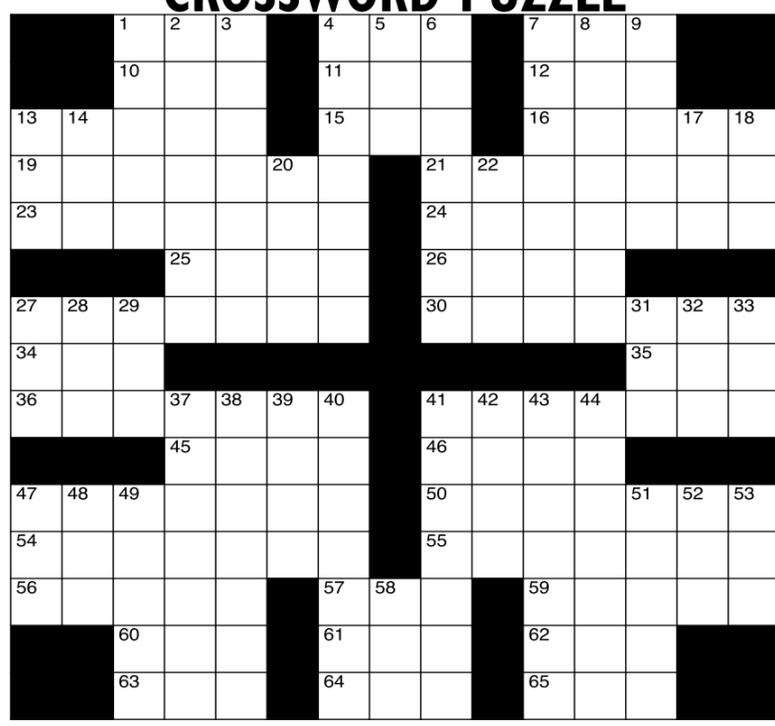
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4. Anecdotes about a person
7. Central Standard Time
10. Beverage receptacle
11. Football's Newton
12. Be in debt
13. Tattles
15. Musician ___ Lo
16. Arrange again
19. A binary compound of carbon with a metal
21. Brazilian futbol great
23. Feared
24. Annoy
25. Unit of heredity
26. Small freshwater fish
27. Muscular weaknesses
30. Fined
34. One-time EU currency

CLUES DOWN

1. Put fear into
2. Partner to corned beef
3. Interiors
4. Agrees to a demand
5. No (Scottish)
6. ___ Hess Corp.
7. Ornamental molding
8. Garment
9. Electric car company
13. Decimal digits in binary (abbr.)
14. Gibbon
17. Sun up in New York
18. ___ the line
20. A vale
22. Old Irish alphabet
27. A type of band
28. A team's best pitcher
29. Floor covering

CLUES DOWN

31. A ___ in the machine
32. Supplement with difficulty
33. Prosecutors
37. Place in order
38. Japanese lute
39. Mongolian city ___ Bator
40. Perceived
41. A cloth for washing dishes
42. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
43. Grassy plain
44. Barometer
47. Father
48. Of the ear
49. Thomas ___, British dramatist 1652-85
51. After eighth
52. Where golfers begin
53. Time units (abbr.)
58. Basics

Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce shows off new location



Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Assistant Kathryn Sowers welcomes visitors to the Chamber's new offices located at 118 East Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton.

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce held its first Business After Hours on June 16 in its new location in downtown Vinton.

The Chamber offices had been located on the Vinton War Memorial campus in the Charles R. Hill Community Center but made the move in recent weeks to East Lee Avenue in the heart of downtown Vinton.

The building dates from 1924 and includes office space for Executive Director Angie Chewning and Executive Assistant Kathryn Sowers, along with a board room. Current Chamber Executive Board members include President Jason Boothe, 1st Vice President Allison Finney, 2nd Vice President Page Stovall, and Past President Justin Davison.

Other Chamber board members include Michelle Barklow, Andy Bishop, Donald Childress, Anthony Conner, John Conner, Tyler Fisher, Tim Greenway, Tim Nininger, Kat Pascal, Paula Robins, Justin Smith, and Dr. Richard Turner.

Mayor Brad Grose, Town Manager Pete Peters, and Charity Barbour, Director of Community Programs, represent the Town of Vinton on the board.

Past occupants of 118 East Lee Avenue include a dress shop, a consignment shop, a law office, a counseling office, The Vinton Messenger, and Tim Greenway's Greenway Construction and Mountain View Real Estate. Greenway bought the building from the Ott Goode estate about 20 years ago and is renting to the Chamber.

The event was held on the back courtyard of the new offices, with music by Tommy Gill and was sponsored by Greenway Boothe Real Estate and Fisher Financial Services, Inc.

Current members of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce supporting the Chamber and the community include: 101.5 WVMP-FM, A Cleaner World, A+ Price is Right Auto Parts and Supplies, Inc., Beth Abbott, Acme Therapies, The Advancement Foundation, Agenacare Housecalls, Alars, Inc., American Efficiency Inns, American Family Care (Doctors Express) American Massage Professionals, LLC, American National Bank & Trust, Amerilife Virginia, Ameriprise Financial—the Myrias Group, ANW Wireless, Appalachian Power, Arabella Permanent Makeup & Advanced Esthetics, Aramark Uniform Services, Atlantic Union Bank, Aunt Dude's Glamp Camp, Aztec Rental, B&C Exterminating, Balance Wellspace Integrative Medicine, Bank of Botetourt, BB&T, Belcher Electric & Construction, Bob Benninger, Berkshire Health Care Center, Blue Ridge Catering, Blue Ridge Copier/Ethos, Blue Ridge Dental Group, Alberto de Bobé, Bob's Restaurant, Boomtown CrossFit, Boxley, Boxtree Lodge/BraeLoch/On the Glen—VMCC, LLC, Brown Hound Tree Services, Buddy's Auto Body, Budget Blinds of Vinton, W. C. Butler Heating/AC, C & L Creations/C & L Remodeling, Caleb Mann Agency, Cardinal IG, Cargill, Carilion Clinic, Carrington Cottage Memory Care, Carter Bank & Trust, Charles Lunsford Sons & As-

sociates, Christ's Fellowship, Clean Valley Council, CORA Physical Therapy, Cornerstone Antiques, Coastal Insurance Planning of VA, Council of Community Services, Cox Communications, Cranwell & Moore, PLC, Creative Kids, Creative Occasions Flowers & Gifts, Cross, Lavinder, Quinn, & Park Family Dentistry, Cundiff Drug Store, Judy and Jim Cunningham, Cyndi's Touch of Class, Dayspring Delights, Deb's Frozen Lemonade, Desert Sun, D. Hayes Company, Discounts and Deals, Dogwood Festival of Virginia, Dogwood Restaurant, Dominion Electronics, Domino's Pizza/New River Valley Pizza, Don Lilly Agency—Futurity First Insurance Group, Dr. Beth Brown Science Foundation, Dr. Neal Jessup, Dynamic Medical, Earthworks & Artworks, Edward Jones—Jacob Beekman, Eileena's Quilts, Elm Park Estates, Evangel Foursquare Church, Expect More Home Inspections, Farmburguesa, Family Stone, Field of Dreams Dog Training, First Bank—VA, First Citizens Bank, First Impressions Printing, Fisher Financial Services, Floyd Ward School of Dance, Food Lion, Freedom First Credit Union, GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton, Glo Fiber Enterprise by Shentel, Good Samaritan Hospice, Goodwill Industries of the Valley, Grace Family Church, Grand Rental Storage of Vinton, Greg Jerez, Greenway Boothe Realtors, GRN DRMZ, Growing Years Daycare, Len Hall, Hay's Home Improvement, Hayden Insurance Agency, Hemp Mill, Homestead Creamery, HomeTrust Bank, Howard's Preci-

sion Machinery, Jerry Roberts Plumbing, Joe Goodpies, Keller Williams Realty—Vinton, Kembel Tax Service, Dr. George Kevorkian, Kroger, La Casa Del Burrito Taco Shop, Lancerlot Sports Complex, Last Stop Lounge, Leisure Media 360, Leonard's Copy Systems, Lionberger Construction Company, Lotz Funeral Home, Luna Fe LLC, Macado's, Magnets USA, Larry "Moe" Mattox, Attorney Bruce Mayer, McCarthy Tire Service, McDonald's, MemberOne Federal Credit Union, Michelle Barklow, Mid-State Insurance, Moorman's Wildlife Management, Mountain Grille, Mountain View Cemetery, Mountain View Orthodontics, Mountain View Real Estate, Musselwhite & Associates, Neely's Accounting Services, Next Generation Designs, Nite Owl Artz, Nishi Food Mart # 8, Northwest True Value Hardware, Oakey's Funeral Service, Olde Colony Realty, Omni Source, Our Lady of the Valley Retirement Community, Page Stovall, Pampered Chef and Traveling Vineyard, Parkway House of Prayer, Pawsh Salon, Pinnacle Bank, Powers Landscape & Irrigation, Precision Fabrics Group, Primary Solutions Physical Therapy, P.S. Massage Clinic, Radiance Wellbeing, Rays Unlimited, Renewation, Jim Reynolds, Richardson Mechanical, Rickman Realty, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, Roanoke County Schools, Roanoke Gas, Roanoke Valley Association for Realtors, Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, Roanoke Valley Community SPCA, Robbins Nest Primi-

tives and Antiques, Ronald McDonald House Charities SWVA, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, Salem Red Sox, Sam's Club, Scents by Debi, Senior News Magazine, SERVPRO of Roanoke County, Simon-Kinsinger—Clear Financial Vision, Simmons Insurance Agency, Socialphin, Springtree Health & Rehab, Sports Haven, Stanley Steamer of Roanoke, Star City Pest Control & Wildlife Services, State Farm—Susan Balderson, Storage King USA, Super Dollar, Support System, The Conner Group, The Crusty Bark, The Foundry, The Glebe, The Grandin Theatre Foundation, The Reserve at Daleville, The Weather Pros, Town of Vinton, Tractor Supply Co., Transcend Insurance Solutions, Dr. Richard Turner, Twin Creeks Brewing Company, United Way of Roanoke Valley, Valley Printers, Valley Star Credit Union, Vertex Signs, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4522, Viking Fence Co., Vinton Appliance Center, Vinton Baptist Church, Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, Vinton Computer, Vinton Historical Society and Museum, Vinton Laundromat, Vinton Magazine, Vinton Messenger, Vinton Moose Family Center # 1121, Vinton Roofing, Inc., Vinton Veterinary Hospital, Virginia Title Center, Virginia Western Community College, WDBJ TV, Western Virginia Water Authority, Western Virginia Workforce Development Board, WFXR & WWCW, William Byrd Middle School, Winter's Mini Storage, William Byrd High School, and Wood's Service Centers.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Chamber held its first Business After Hours gathering at the new offices on June 16, with music in the back courtyard by Tommy Gill.

Mountain State Oral and Facial Surgery celebrates Vinton opening

Mountain State Oral and Facial Surgery (MSOFS), with Dr. Marshall Green, is now open in Vinton. The office is located at 895 East Washington Avenue in the former practice of Dr. George Kevorkian who recently retired.

The dental practice held an open house on June 16 for the staff and local medical personnel. A ribbon cutting is planned with the

Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce in the near future.

Dr. Green sees patients seeking dental implants, extractions, wisdom teeth removal and other dental services, similar to those offered by Dr. Kevorkian. Through the Facial Center, other MSOFS practitioners offer a wide variety of aesthetic and cosmetic services to help patients main-

tain a youthful and vibrant appearance.

"The decision to open a Mountain State Oral and Facial Surgery location in Vinton was largely based on our excitement to bring world-class care to Virginia, as we currently have locations in West Virginia and Kentucky," said Keely Blankenship, marketing manager for MSOFS. "Dr. Green recently joined our

team of surgeons, and when the opportunity to open an office in Virginia came along, we knew Dr. Green would be the perfect

fit for that office location. Vinton seems like a wonderful community that we are proud to become part of."

For more information about Mountain State Oral & Facial Surgery's services, visit <https://mtstateoms.com/>.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The new Mountain State Oral and Facial Surgery dental office recently opened on Washington Avenue in Vinton and celebrated with an open house on June 16. Guests included several doctors from other MSOFS facilities: front row, Dr. James Henderson (left) and Dr. Marshall Green; middle row, Dr. Jack Krajekian and Dr. John Brock; back, Dr. Manuel Rodriguez and Dr. Jose Ravelo.

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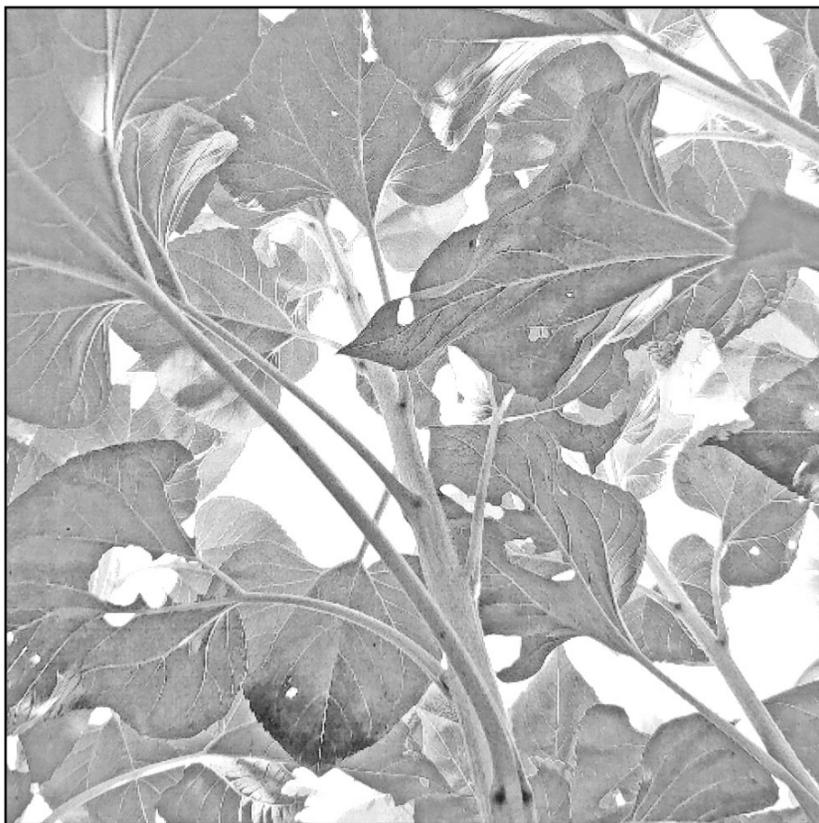


PHOTO BY WILLIAM BYRD HIGH SCHOOL

This photograph by William Byrd student Bennett Burger will be hanging in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., for the next year, as a winner in the Congressional Art Competition.

WBHS artwork to hang in US Capitol

Artwork by recent William Byrd High School graduate Bennett Burger will soon be hanging in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. One of her photographs was chosen by Sixth District Congressman Ben Cline as the runner-up in this year's Congressional Art Competition and will be on display at the Capitol for one year. Her teacher at WBHS is Alyson Goin.

Each spring, a nationwide high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in each Congressional District. "All students from Virginia's Sixth Congressional District are encouraged to participate in this year's art competition," Cline said when the competition was announced. "This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their artistic ability and for the selected winner to have his or her artwork on display at the Capitol for the next year."

The Congressional Art Competition was open to all high school students in the Sixth Congressional District. The winning artwork will also soon be featured online on the Congressional Art Competition page at <https://www.house.gov/>.

WBHS graduate Hunter Muddiman's work will also be on display as a winner in the competition. "Both students are exceptionally talented and represent our school and community well," said WBHS Principal Tammy Newcomb

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Cundiff

from page 1

at 4:30 a.m., I was able to sleep till 6 a.m., then out to the starting point at 7:30 a.m.," Cundiff continued. "The good Lord provided a hedge of protection around me, and I finished first in my age group. Unbelievable!"

After the race, the Cundiffs were able to stay a couple more days in the area to visit Yellowstone Park (before the flood) and the Grand Tetons—the "most beautiful mountains" he has ever seen.

Cundiff says his wife doesn't run. She fills the role of "tourist."

Rexburg is the home of Brigham Young University-Idaho. He and his wife found the town to be a "breath of fresh air" with its college town atmosphere.

The Teton Dam Marathon takes place every year around the anniversary of the breaking of the Teton Dam on June 5, 1976. The collapse of the dam resulted in a deadly flood which caused \$500 million in damage, took 14 lives, and made thousands homeless in Rexburg and the surrounding areas. With the dam's collapse, a large reservoir of water 280 feet deep was dumped on the farms and towns below.

According to race organizers, "This tragedy was turned into triumph by the victims' own faith and courage and by an outpouring of aid by many volunteers from Idaho and nearby states. For this reason, each year hundreds of runners flood the streets to take on their own personal challenge of running a race."

With their late arrival the night before, Cundiff was concerned about getting his race packet on time. Contacted online,

the race director hunted him down the next morning personally with his packet.

Cundiff says that during the race, he felt his fingers begin to tingle, a circulation problem indicator, but God provided that "hedge of protection" and he was able to complete the race with no ill effects.

"What a trip--God is good!" is how Cundiff summed it up.

Cundiff's goal is to eventually run races in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Most of the states still on his list are in the Midwest—Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Maryland, North Dakota, Alaska, and Nevada—plus Massachusetts and Vermont.

Cundiff is well-known in Vinton, although he now lives in Salem. He graduated from William Byrd in the Class of 1975 and played football there. He grew up in Vinton Baptist Church.

He, his late father, Wallace, and his brother, Sam, are all pharmacists—Wallace and Sam at Cundiff Drug Store in Vinton, Bill at Richfield and then Friendship. Bill worked at Cundiff's as a delivery boy and then a pharmacy technician in his youth. He retired a year ago.

He says he ran some

in college, but not high school. He lived in Richmond while earning his pharmacy degree and ran through downtown Richmond past the monuments and the Capitol.

He returned to the Roanoke Valley after pharmacy school and "became a gym rat." He and some friends would be waiting outside the gym for it to open at 5:30 a.m. and started running during the wait. He gradually built on that.

As for the heart surgery, Cundiff had a congenital heart valve condition in which his heart wasn't pumping enough blood and had to work harder.

He had "passed out five times" while running before the surgery ("syncope") which involved "not enough blood getting to my brain." He says if you notice the signs, you can catch it, but that's difficult to do. On three of those occasions, the Rescue Squad was called, but Cundiff declined going to the hospital.

He and his doctor planned the future surgery, but one day he passed out at an intersection near Glenvar High School while running. When he woke up, he was surrounded by students, the Rescue Squad, and traffic cones.

After the surgery in which they "cracked open his chest," and fully repaired his valve, he received clearance from his cardiologist to run, but not lift anything heavy. He started out again walking with a friend and little by little got back into running, with the approval of his doctor.

Cundiff says that after the initial Marine Corps Marathon, he ran one in Richmond, then the famous New York

Community meeting scheduled to discuss routing Roanoke River Greenway from WVWA to Blue Ridge Parkway

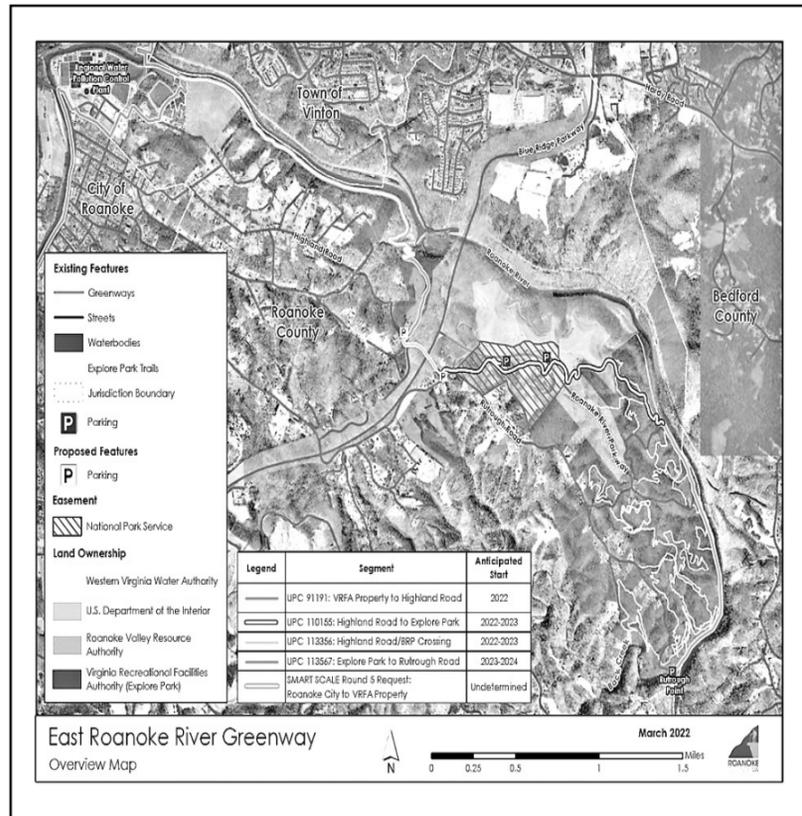


PHOTO FROM ROANOKE COUNTY

The community meeting at the Explore Park Visitors Center on June 30 will allow citizens to share their input on how to best route the East Roanoke River Greenway from the WVWA to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Roanoke River Greenway is an important regional project that will eventually run over 30 miles along the Roanoke River from Montgomery County to Explore Park.

As a part of this regional greenway, Roanoke County is evaluating how best to route the East Roanoke River Greenway from the Western Virginia Water Authority Water Pollution Control Plant to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The county will be hosting a community meeting on Thursday, June 30, to review and discuss preliminary greenway alignments that are being considered in this area. The meeting will be held at the Explore Park Visitor Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Representatives from Roanoke County and VDOT will be on hand to an-

swer questions. This is an open house event where you can come and go, as you please.

Paper surveys will be distributed at the meeting for feedback and mail-back.

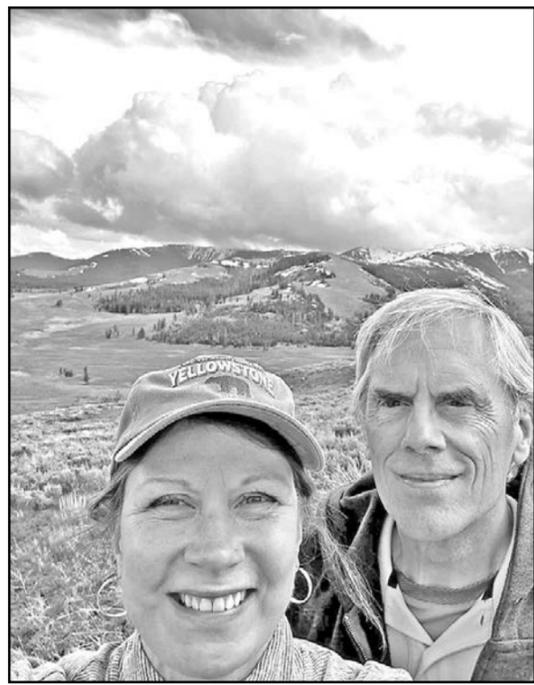
The survey will also be available online at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/ERRGap, on July 1.

The county will also mail out the preliminary greenway alignment exhibit and a paper copy of the survey to residents and property owners around June 30, which can be mailed back to Megan Cronise at 5204 Bernard Drive, P.O. Box 29800, Roanoke, VA 24018.

Contact Megan Cronise with questions by email at mcronise@roanokecountyva.gov or by phone at (540) 772-2106.

Marathon. He has run a marathon in Hawaii on the island of Kona and was able to take one of his sons and his daughter along. Cundiff says that surprisingly that was his hardest race—running through large fields with no trees and no shade—heat radiating both up and down.

He has attempted to complete two or three races each year, one in the spring and one in the fall, to "knock out the last nine" on the list. He is running about two days each week this summer, depending upon the heat and humidity, and will increase the miles as he prepares for the actual marathon he selects for fall. The Bismarck (North Dakota) Marathon, in September, may be next.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

After the Teton Dam race, Bill Cundiff and wife Beth were able to visit the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone Park.

In honor of
4th of July

OUR NEWSPAPER
offices will be closed on
Monday, July 4th, 2022
And will reopen on
Tues., July 5th
@ 8:30 a.m.

All ads for July 6th
and July 7th papers
need to be in our
office by
Friday, July 1st
at 12:00 Noon.

Super-sized Mingle with two bands coming up on June 25



Glam'r Kiti

The June 25 Mingle at the Market will feature a “Super-sized” concert with not one, but two bands—Glam’r Kiti and Adrenaline 6. Glam’r Kiti describes themselves as “the nation’s premier 80’s rock tribute band with music from Cinderella, Skid Row, Guns N Roses, Kix, Kiss, Britney Fox, Poison, Motley Crue and more.”

Adrenaline 6 is a six-piece band from Roanoke with decades of experience in just about every type of music genre.

The Mingle at the Market concert series is sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce at the Vinton Farmer’s Market. This week the music gets underway on the HomeTrust Bank stage at 6 p.m. and concludes at 10 p.m.

The extremely popular Mountain Grille Food Truck will be at Mingle with their Butter Burgers and more.

Admission is just \$6 for adults. This is a family friendly event. Kids under 12 are free.

There will be the usual beer garden—ID required. The Chamber asks that you have your ID out and ready for volunteers to check to speed up entry to the event.

Bring your own chair. No pets are allowed. No outside food or drink.

Volunteers from the Sassy Sisters Women’s Group and the Vinton Moose Lodge will be volunteering to help facilitate the event.

Sponsors for this year’s Mingle at the Market concerts include Oakey’s, Coastal Insurance Planning, MemberOne, PFG, Mountain View Real Estate, Fox Radio 910, ServPro, Winters Storage, Bank of Botetourt, the Vinton War Memorial, Blue Ridge Beverage, the Greenway Boothe Real Estate Team, Roanoke County, HomeTrust Bank, the Town of Vinton, Food Lion, the Vinton Messenger, Farmburguesa, Vertex Signs, Magnets USA, Cox, Carilion Clinic, Brad Grose, and KP Strategies.



Adrenaline 6

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From the Pulpit

“For Such a Time as This”

As I think about the recent events in Laguna Woods, Calif., Buffalo, N.Y., and Uvalde, Texas, I cannot help but consider the hard realities and easy responses that come with such tragedies. It is hard to witness such violence. It is hard to make sense of

it. It is hard to see the excruciating pain of others, and wrestle with the reality that what happened to them could happen to us.

As a result, it is easy to get angry about what could have been done differently to prevent such tragedies. It is easy to feel

afraid about the possibility of this happening in our church, at one of our grocery stores, or in one of our schools. It is easy to become cynical and judgmental, placing blame in a number of places—people, policies, politicians, and parties. It is also easy to direct our fear, confusion, and sadness toward God, asking: “Why would you allow something like this to happen?”

As I was considering these realities and wrestling with these emotions one morning while driving to the office, I heard a familiar song on the radio. It was a song by Matthew West that I had not heard in a while. In the midst of my sadness, anger, fear, judgment, and blame, it was a song I needed to hear. Through these words, I felt God speaking directly to me. Maybe you will, too.

Below is a portion of West’s song “Do Something.”

I woke up this morning

Saw a world full of trouble now, thought

How’d we ever get so far down, and

How’s it ever gonna turn around

So, I turned my eyes to Heaven

I thought, “God, why don’t You do something?”

Well, I just couldn’t bear the thought of

People living in poverty Children sold into slavery

The thought disgusted me

So, I shook my fist at Heaven

Said, “God, why don’t You do something?”

He said, “I did, yeah, I created you” (now listen)

If not us, then who If not me and you

Right now, it’s time for us to do something, yeah

If not now, then when Will we see an end

To all this pain Oh, it’s not enough to do nothing

It’s time for us to do something.

In the Book of Esther, after having heard the

news that the Jews were facing the tragedy of annihilation at the hands of the Persian King, Ahasuerus, Mordecai tore his clothes and began to grieve. He too was filled with sadness, anger, and fear. In response, he chose to do something.

He devised a plan wherein his niece, Queen Esther, would stand before King Ahasuerus, show him evidence of the plot against her people and ask him to intervene. Fearing her own safety, Esther pleaded with Mordecai: “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death (Esther 4:11a).”

In response to Esther, Mordecai replied: “Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this (4:14b).” Through Mordecai’s insistence that

Esther do something in response to the tragedy that awaited the Jews, Esther found the strength to stand before the Persian king, reveal the plot against her people and plead for his help. As a result, the king listened to Esther, seized Haman, and the nation of Israel was saved.

Though most of us are not royalty, or have the ability to stand before royalty, we all have a sphere of influence. Wherever we find ourselves during this season of our lives, “Who knows? Perhaps you [and I] have come to [this place] for such a time as this.”

In the wake of these recent tragedies, how can God use us? What is something that we can do to bring hope, healing, and comfort in the lives of the people around us? May we follow in the footsteps of Esther and find our courage to go and do likewise.

By The Rev. Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

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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

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

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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Remembering Vinton

with the Vinton Historical Society

Fifty years ago in June 1972

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Looking back at Vinton Messenger archives from 50 years ago is always enlightening. Back in June 1972:

The Vinton Pool reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony after a \$24,000 renovation project. The cost to use the pool was 50 cents a day for children, \$1 for those over 16. In 2022, the pool is permanently closed with discussions underway about its future use as a park.

The Town of Vinton had started on summer paving in June 1972. The allotment for paving Ruddell Road from Mt. View to Lendy's, Fourth Street, Etna Avenue, Highland Road, the new Niagara Road from Hardy to the Lake Drive Swim Club, Bedford Avenue, Vinton Heights, Shelbourne Avenue, Clearview from Hardy past the Lake Drive Shopping Center, and Duke Drive was \$15,000.

The paving budget in 2022 is \$1 million—although that is about three times higher than usual due to one-time funds.

There was discussion of having two area code numbers in Virginia—804 and 703.

The Tootin' Terriers from William Byrd High School (59 of them plus 12 chaperones and some Lions Club members) were preparing to leave on a band trip to Mexico to perform at the International Lions Club Convention in Mexico City. They also performed in a parade with over 100 bands from all over the world.

Band members had spent months raising funds for the trip (\$22,000). They sold cushions, homemade candy, tickets for a color TV, held a talent show, conducted a Miss William Byrd Band Pageant, and promoted a subscription campaign for The Vinton Messenger. Steve King was the band director at the time.

Almost all of the spots at Lake Drive Plaza were filled and the center was planning a three-day Grand Opening Gala. Stores included: Kroger, the Virginia ABC Store, Keystone Shoes, White's Auto Store, G.C. Murphy, Sidney's, People's Federal

Savings and Loan, SuperRx, the Bank of Virginia of the Roanoke Valley, Hallmark, Dr. David Armstrong, Optometrist, and Dr. David Blac, Dentist.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new sanctuary and educational building for Mineral Springs Baptist Church on Route 24.

The Vinton Lions Club was celebrating the community service projects members had completed during the year: donating \$4,000 to the Eye Bank of Virginia, funding 16 eye exams and 17 pairs of glasses for the State Eye Conservation Committee; donating \$5,200 to the Vinton First Aid Crew to purchase a boat and trailer, and emergency communications systems for members; \$2,500—plus time and labor—to install and paint the football scoreboard at William Byrd, and a donation of \$585 for the Marching Terrier trip to Mexico. And these were just a few of their projects.

The town was willing to go halves with property owners who wanted curbing and gutters installed along their property at a cost of \$1.65 per running foot for the property owner.

Town Council adopted a budget of \$821,696—a 25% increase—without upping taxes. The new budget would hire more police department employees, renovations at Town Hall, salary increases for municipal employees, and work toward establishing an independent water system for the Town of Vinton. In 2022, the FY23 budget is approximately \$17 million.

Treasurer Elizabeth Harvey pointed out to Mayor Gus Nicks that there was an increasing gap between pay for male and female administrative employees of the town.

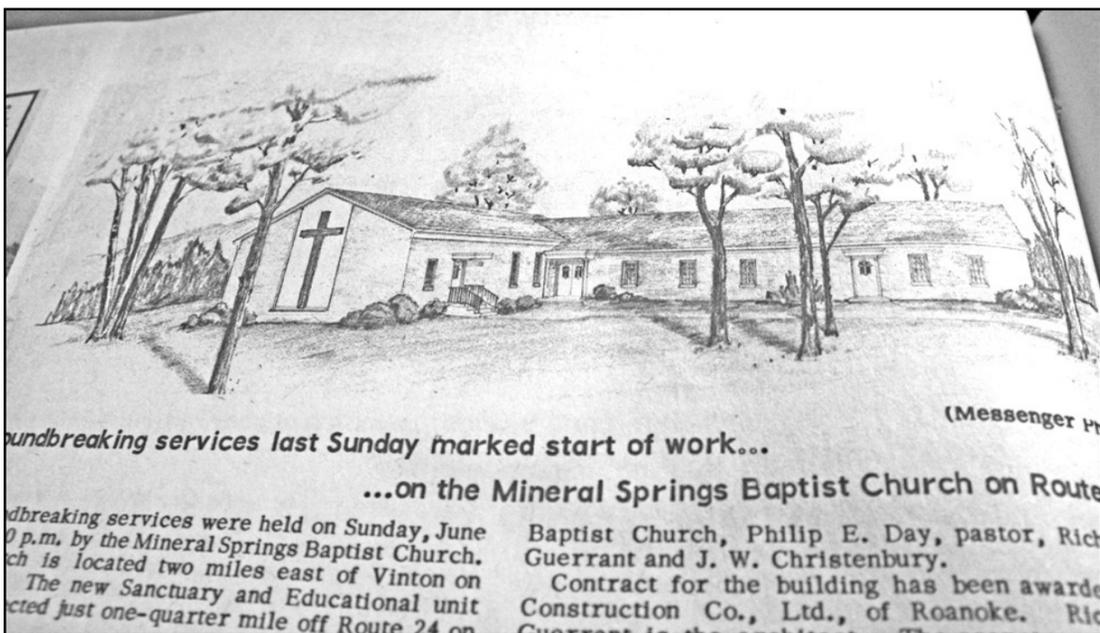
Heavy rains and flash floods closed the Vinton sewage treatment plant for 24 hours that month and caused damages of about \$50,000 throughout the town. For a brief time, all roads into Vinton were blocked by high water at low-level bridges. The Fire Department and First Aid Crew assisted many residents in pumping out basements (some with as much as 3.5 feet of water) and evacuating buildings.



Lake Drive Plaza was celebrating its Grand Opening in June 1972.



Members of WBHS Tootin' Terriers are shown here. The Tootin' Terrier Marching Band from William Byrd flew to Mexico City to perform.



Mineral Springs Baptist Church broke ground for their church on Route 24.

PHOTOS FROM THE VINTON MESSENGER ARCHIVES/VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

RECIPES

German Blackberry Pudding Cake

1/4 cup butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
3 eggs, separated
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 and 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup fresh blackberries
6 Tbsp. sugar
Cream butter and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Add salt and egg yolks, mixing well. Combine baking soda and buttermilk. Add flour to creamed mixture, beating well after each addition. Fold in berries. Spoon into greased 9-inch square pan. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes.
Beat egg whites until stiff. Gradually add 6 Tbsp. sugar, beating well. Spread meringue on top of cake and bake 10 minutes longer or until lightly browned. Cut cake into squares. Top with Blackberry Sauce. (If you are not a meringue fan, you can omit the meringue.) Serves 9.

Blackberry Sauce

2/3 cup melted butter or margarine
3 Tbsp. flour
1 and 1/4 cups sugar
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg (optional)
Dash of salt
1/4 cup water
2 cups fresh blackberries
Combine butter and flour in saucepan; add sugar, nutmeg, salt, water, and blackberries. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thickened. Makes 3 cups. (Sauce is also good served over ice cream.)



PHOTO BY KATERYNA MOSKALOVA

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news and photos to

vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	C	I	A	N	A	C	S	T					
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Recital from page 1

all those areas. Although we have most of her lessons virtually, she manages to exceed expectations on a regular basis. Alyssa is a true class act at a very young age."

Matt Graybill, "Speak Softly, Love" and "The Godfather Waltz." "Matt is another adult who thinks every single note, dynamic, and musical marking should be played to perfection, and I've had very little luck persuading him otherwise. He has always been a quick study, and he is ready, willing, and able to take on several new pieces at once."

Peter Anderson, "Jurassic Park." "Peter was recently part of the North Cross School Spring Musical cast. He excels in music theory, including great transposing skills. He also enjoys other school and community activities like basketball and cross country. Even when we Zoom our lessons, he's fun to have on board."

Maddie Dooley, "Pastorale." "Maddie is sweet, spunky, talented, and prepared. She is always ready to do more than expected and has grown so much in the area of performance. She absolutely adores taking care of her animals, as well as just hanging out with them. It wouldn't surprise me to hear that she has taken a keyboard outside for a barnyard concert."

Norah Laughinghouse, "In Christ Alone." "Norah is one of the most thoughtful and kind people I know. To be so young, she is quietly wise beyond her years and those qualities are truly assets when it comes to appreciating the therapeutic value of music. When she selects a piece to work on, I can

be sure she will give it 100%."

Alana Kiedrowski, "Aura Lee." "Alana is that person we would all like to call our friend. Facing a few obstacles in her life only makes her a stronger and more optimistic lady who I'm delighted to visit with each week. No matter how frustrated my day has been, in walks Alana and it's all forgotten. She was recently crowned Honorary Princess at the Staunton River High School Senior Prom which shows the love of her peers for her. And nobody plays 'Happy Birthday' with the enthusiasm and grace that she does."

Margaret Bryant, "Amazing Grace." "Margaret is an adult student who has that special 'piano touch' which is a God-given gift. Since taking lessons, it's been my pleasure to hear her prep for her Sunday morning preludes at church and to see her confidence grow each and every week. After a stressful day at work, she arrives ready to wind down by playing several beautiful hymns as well as lesson book assignments. She's a lovely lady who uses her talent in the loveliest of ways."

Abbie Dooley, "The Other Side" and "Night of the Tarantella." "Abbie has been expanding her music horizons for years now, and she has never stopped preparing to the best of her ability. She plays a variety of music genres and doesn't shy away from more complex arrangements. She has become proficient in 'making a piece her own'. Abbie is now using her talent to play piano for church. What a blessing she will be in that capacity."

Tyler Jones, "My Invention." "Tyler has a laid back, fun-loving attitude toward his pursuit of music. His extroverted personality and kind demeanor are special."

Maggie Laughinghouse, "Build Me Up, Buttercup." "Maggie is one of those people who lights up the room when she walks in a room. She plays the piano with zest, especially when she picks out the music, but she knows the importance of keeping up with the basics. She is a busy young lady with school, church activities, sports, and being a 'Mother Hen' helping her mother keep up with her baby brother."

Mazlynn Otey, "New World Symphony" and the duet "Deep and Wide." "Mazlynn is a diva in the most awesome way. She never shys away from a new piece of music, always wants to be assigned more, and is downright upset if a worksheet is not part of her weekly lesson. She is a little live wire who brings her very best to every lesson and what more could any teacher ask?"

Courtney Walls, "Meet the Flintstones." "Courtney always enjoys our games and floor piano antics, but she's also come a long way in taking on more serious music challenges. She enjoys cheering, basketball, traveling with her family, and special girls' nights out with her friends. She is a polite little lady who is a good listener, not only a great quality for a piano student, but for anyone in general."

Vivian Olsen, "It's a Small World." "Vivian is relatively new and making steady progress

and developing a good and consistent practice schedule. She is a great sport as well."

Elizabeth Martinez, "Fascination" and "All Through the Night." "I'm really proud of the progress she's made in piano and as a student leader at William Byrd Middle School. She and her partner developed a presentation about the inequities of current SOL testing which took them to both the state legislature and the county school board. Musically this lovely young lady just shines brighter and brighter with every performance. She never stops striving to excel and it shows."

Olive Laughinghouse, "The Princess Waltz." "This young lady hasn't yet completed a full year of lessons, but she is rocking her music assignments each and every week. I never have to remind her about practicing, or reviewing theory, because she is continually looking ahead for more to do! Smart, sassy (yet respectful), Olive is preparing for a great future in piano, as well as anything else she decides to tackle."

Siena Hurst played several selections in the prelude to the recital, including "Yankee Doodle" and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." "Sienna is another one of those special people who grace our lives with the kind of positive attitude that most of us can only wish we had. She never lets negativity invade her space. She has taken to the piano with such enthusiasm and dedication, and she considers herself fortunate to have music as a new challenge. Regardless of any obstacle that's been

thrown at her, she just uses that obstacle as another stepping stone. It's been wonderful to work with her in piano, and more wonderful to have her as a friend."

Chukie Elechi, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and "Come Bless the Lord." "Chukie is a treasure in so many ways, not the least of which is his music journey the past twelve years. He practices; he doesn't show frustration; and he has come so far over the years, because he never gives up."

Mimi Olsen, "Morning." "Mimi is one of the most dedicated and motivated students I have. She never fails to complete an assignment; she practices consistently; and she wants to improve weekly. What more could I ask?"

Sofie Ingraham, "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," "Lead Me to Calvary," and "A Marvel Melody." "Sophie amazes me. She's smart, spunky, and plays the most difficult pieces like they were written only for her personal pleasure. Most of all, I've seen her grow in her music choices, including beautiful hymns which she incorporates into her own style."

Kendall Adams, "Do Re Mi." Kendall is a very polite young lady to teach and it's a pleasure to see her walk through my door on Wednesday. She realizes the importance of practice and is quite pleased when she sees that work ethic pay off. She is a well-rounded fifth grade student at W. E. Cundiff."

Katie Cataldo, "Ocean Waves." "Katie has had less than three months of instruction but has exhibited outstanding dedication, preparation, and a de-

lightful piano presence. I couldn't believe she wanted to participate so soon in a recital, but she decided that she wanted to dive right in and she certainly made the right choice. Her beautiful smile and her quiet sweet personality are truly gifts."

Logan Jones, "Casey Jones" and "This Train." "Logan is structured, intelligent, opinionated, clever, talented and funny. Since beginning piano in elementary school, he has never accepted mediocrity. He is a rising senior at William Byrd High School."

Students unable to participate in the Spring Recital include Chloe Conner, Madison Hare, Teresa Nester, Stephanie O'Donnell, Dot Phillips, Julia Russ, Frank Stiff, and Kaylynn Wilson.

For the first time in 12 years, two students tied for the Star Piano Student Award, Alyssa Walker and Elizabeth Martinez. This recognition is not based solely on talent and performance, but also on the student's attitude, respectfulness, on-time completion of all assigned projects and going above and beyond what's required of them. Both met and exceeded these requirements.

"Alyssa will be a seventh grader at Read Mountain Middle School and Elizabeth is a rising freshman at William Byrd High School," McCulloch said in presenting the awards. "Both are outstanding in academics and excel in sports as well. Their talent and dedication to music blossom in every single lesson!"

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

DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Boteourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net. Updated each week with a new sermon by Mike Mazzalongo, four minutes of video showing our nearly six acres of land and our beautiful, functional inside facilities, articles, events, news from Christian sources around the world and here locally plus much, much more. See how many ways Dale Ridge is "Reaching Out There" to the Roanoke Valley with the "Good News of Jesus. By clicking on "visit us virtually" real time access to our Worship services is available via your computer, a tablet or smartphone: Just follow the instructions. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe the Holy Spirit is a gift to every Christian upon their response to the Gospel as demonstrated by the 3000 obedient souls in (Acts 2:38). We believe Jesus is the only author of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Have you been looking for a church (family that is) progressive, outside the box thinkers, led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (John 16:13). You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) Real time contact thru our website via email.

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

Worship Directory

Vinton

I Need Help

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

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

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

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

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

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

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org

Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

ECKANKAR

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

FOURSQUARE

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

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday 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; cmpc2verizon.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 Sunday 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

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Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21000744-00
Botetourt County Circuit Court 1 West Main Street/ P.O. Box 219, Fincastle, VA 24090
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **Jimmie Lois Williams**
The object of this suit is to: Appoint guardian and conservator for Jimmie Lois Williams. It is ordered that known relatives of Jimmie Lois Williams and Samuel Jones appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 13, 2022**
Signed by: Judge Joel R. Branscom June 6, 2022

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CW21000078-00
Botetourt One West Main St, Suite 120, Fincastle, VA 24090
Commonwealth of Virginia in re **MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED**. The object of this suit is to LOCATE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. It is ORDERED that ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before **JULY 29, 2022**. Dated **JUNE 17, 2022**. Tommy L. Moore, Clerk.

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The undersigned, wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the V.A. Code Sec. 55-419 Virginia Self Storage Act, hereby gives notice of the sale under said act to wit; Thursday the 7th day of July, 2022 at 10:00 AM, on that day will conduct a public sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, FOR CASH ONLY, the contents of spaces at iStorage, 70 Market Ridge Lane, Daleville, VA, 24083 Kelly, Ashley 398 full size mattress and box springs brown sofa several throw pillows. Loboschefski, Atasha 561 Fan, boxes, totes, tv., Loboschefski, Atasha 562 Dog crates, kennels, trash can, exercise Equipment, fan, stuffed animals THIS SALE IS BEING MADE TO SATISFY THE LANDLORDS LIEN. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AT LOCKERFOX.COM, SALE IS SUBJECT TO ADJOURNMENT.

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

Sree Murl LLC, trading as H.K. Market, 5383 West Main Street Salem, Roanoke County, VA 24153..

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

Dilip Patel, Owner.

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.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION COUNTY OF AVERY
FILE NO. 22-CVD-105

TINA MARIE JACKSON, Plaintiff,
-v-
CHARLES MARTIN JACKSON, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled proceeding. The nature of the relief sought is: **JUDGMENT OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE**. You are required to Answer this Complaint not later than July 27, 2022, that being 40 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff herein will seek the relief sought by the action. This, the 16th day of June, 2022.
Thomas G. McMurray, Esq. Attorney for the Plaintiff 756 West King St. Boone, NC 28607 (828) 386-1116

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL20000259-00
CITY OF SALEM 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem VA 24153. **RICHARD HARDY V. MIA WALK-HARDY**. The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that MIA WALK-HARDY appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **AUGUST 5, 2022**. Dated **JUNE 7, 2022** Stacy L. Owen, D.C., Clerk

Legals - Craig County

LAND FOR SALE

The Craig County Board of Supervisors is offering land for sale: Tax Parcel 47A3-1536-A-22, A portion of the Craig County Landfill Property located near State Route 609 and Landfill Road. The 53.324-acre parcel located at the Craig County Landfill site includes a 6.473 acre "Closed Area" tract from the previous landfill. The County will retain approximately 11.5 acres. The County of Craig will receive sealed bids for the remaining parcel consisting of approximately 41 Acres. The "Closed Area" and all Ground Water Monitoring Wells will be maintained in accordance with DEQ regulations by the purchaser. All bids must be submitted on a per acre basis. The County reserves the right to reject any bids and reserves the right to engage in negotiations with any offerors or other interested parties.

Please submit sealed bids to: R.R. Dan Collins County Administrator County of Craig P.O. Box 308 108 Court Street New Castle, VA 24127 Submit all Bids by: Noon, June 30th, 2022 Requests for additional information, please contact the County Administration Office by calling (540)864-5010 or in writing to P.O. Box 308, New Castle, Virginia 24127.

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§ 1-211 1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL22000837-00
Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073 Adkins, Shay Marie v. Commonwealth of Virginia The object of this suit is to: Name Change of a Minor It is ordered that Billy Baxter Mullins appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 29, 2022**.
May 25, 2022
Erica W. Conner, Clerk

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL22-447**
Complainant, v. **ARCHIE E. CROMER, JR., ET AL.,** Respondent(s).
ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce he 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. 091-A35 Account No. 004387.

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto, lying and being in the Riner District, Montgomery County, Virginia, lying on the waters of Plum Creek, located south of (now or formerly) Lee Highway, about five miles west of the Town of Christiansburg, to-wit: BEGINNING at an iron in a line of (now or formerly)Charlton's land; thence with a line of said Charlton land and with the line of the land of Ruth C. and Archie E. Cromer, Jr. (now or formerly) S 55 degrees 45 minutes E (passing said Cromer's corner at 79 feet) 1000 feet to a chestnut snag at a corner in said Cromer's lines; thence with another line of the land of said Ruth C. and Archie E. Cromer, Jr., S 35 degrees 10 minutes W 400 feet to an iron; thence running two new lines with P.H. and Beulah Mae Wright as follows: N 55 degrees 45 W

Legals - Montgomery County

1000 feet to an iron and thence N 35 degrees 10 minutes E 400 to the BEGINNING, containing an area of 9.1815 acres, according to a survey and plat, dated June 14, 1955, made by John W. McNair, Jr., Certified Land Surveyor, plat of which was recorded in the Montgomery County Circuit Court's Office on July 8, 1955 in Deed Book 194 at Page 160B, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description. And being the same property conveyed to Archie E. Cromer and Ruth Charlton Cromer, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship, from P.H. Wright and Beulah Mae Wright, husband and wife, by Deed, dated July 1, 1955 and recorded July 8, 1955 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 194 at page 160. 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 Deed Book 194 at Page 160B, Deed Book 566 at Page 810, Deed Book 861 at Page 269, Deed Book 458 at Page 232. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identities and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known address

for the Respondents herein are as follows: Archie E. Cromer, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Ruth Charlton Cromer, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Archie E. Cromer, III, whose last known address is 2809 Plum Creek Rd, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Charlton Cromer, whose last known address is 1725 Gate Rd #6, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; 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 July 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 8th day of June, 2022. Erica W. Conner, Clerk I Ask For This: John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone:(804)545-2500 Facsimile: (804)545-2378 TACS No.: 647066

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Legals - Montgomery County

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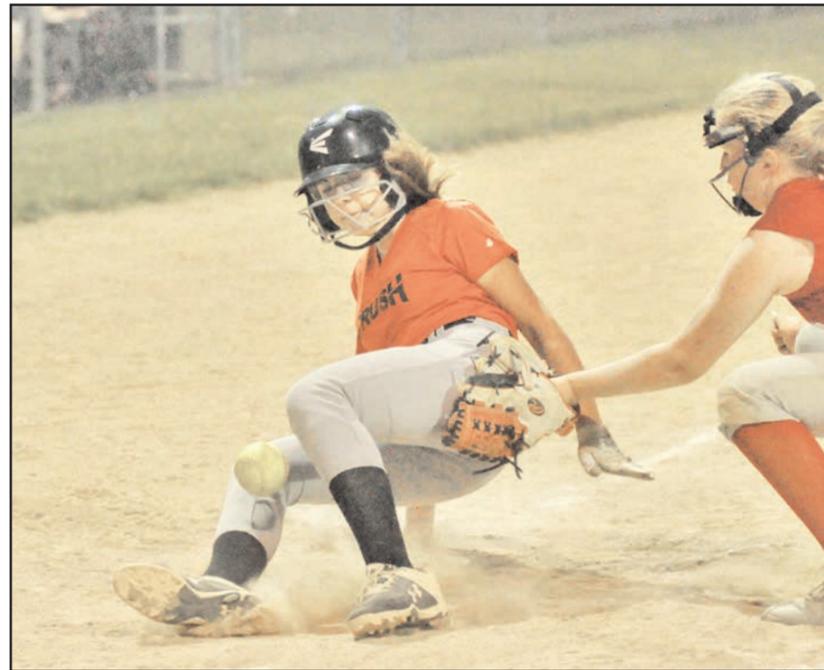
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BYRD GIRLS COMPETE AT E&H HOOP CAMP

The William Byrd girls jayvee and varsity basketball teams competed in a team camp at Emory & Henry College recently and had a good week. The two teams combined for a 12-6 record in games played. "More importantly," said coach Randy Bush, "they definitely came together as a team. They endured hot gyms, short benches and a ghost story. It was a great three days." Above left, Logan Andrews plays defense for the Terriers. Right, girls pose for a group photo.

PHOTOS BY ALVIN MACAULEY & SAMMI WEBSTER



Local teams in RAYSA softball tournaments

Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association (RAYSA) tournaments are being held at Darrell Shell Park in south Roanoke County this week and Vinton and Mount Pleasant teams are participating. In the five team 10 and under division Vinton opened with a loss to Salem on Monday, then dropped a game to Glenvar on Tuesday to be eliminated from the double elimination tournament. As of Wednesday Salem and North Roanoke were still alive in the winners' bracket while Glenvar and South County were hanging on in the losers' bracket. The championship is scheduled for Friday night. Mount Pleasant has a team in the four team 13 and under tournament, which opened Tuesday. South County Red defeated the MP "Crush" and sent Mount Pleasant to the losers' bracket, where they were scheduled to play South County White on Wednesday night. Craig County and South County Red were playing in the winners' bracket that night and the championship is also scheduled for Friday. Above left, Jenna Cruz of Mount Pleasant knocks the ball loose with her slide to score a run on Tuesday. Above right, Anya Moore of the Crush is tagged out just before reaching the plate. Right, Vinton 10-U coach Gary Janney talks things over with Charlie Tyree and, far right, Hayden Janney pitches for Vinton. Below left, Serenity Jones handles an outside pitch and, below right, Nicole Eggleston takes a rip.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



McCulloch from page 1



The Jones Brothers, Tyler (left) and Logan, with Carol McCulloch delighted the audience at the Spring Recital on June 5.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sienna Hurst has overcome so many obstacles to accomplish her piano goals. She loves using pictures and other crafts to enhance her music, and performed at her very first recital this month. Sienna prefers to have the keyboard keys labeled with a number system instead of letters for the notes.

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cation, and love from our beloved Ms. Carol is this possible.”

McCulloch credits God with this second career and a second chance, as well. She graduated from college with a degree in English and Journalism. She taught and worked in other related fields, always with a thought for the inequities experienced by special needs students in the back of her mind until life gave her a big push in their direction. She experienced the life-altering death of a family member and the birth of a grandchild with spina bifida.

She and friends established a recreation group at Cave Spring Baptist Church for special needs students, “Friday Night Friends.”

She took a leap of faith and put out feelers to see if anyone was interested in private music/piano lessons for individuals with special needs. Not feeling quali-

fied to teach piano performance, she decided to put the emphasis on teaching the “love of music” using the piano as a tool.

McCulloch started piano lessons herself at age 7 or 8. She fondly recalls a piano teacher who made lessons fun and allowed students’ input into what they would learn and has patterned that approach.

She started out with five students and has expanded from there. She has taught individual lessons and even groups of students through Lutheran Family Services. She teaches at her home in Vinton and virtually through Zoom.

She is a master of adaptability in meeting the needs of all her students, whether they are typical or have special requirements. Her special needs students include those with Down Syndrome, dyslexia, those on the Autism spectrum and with attention deficit disorders, and even those with visual impairments.

McCulloch says it’s her philosophy to teach unique lessons to each student, designed specifically for them—“I don’t teach anyone the same way.”

There is not a standard

lesson series; she uses more than one program for the basics. She likes to seek input from her students on what genres of music appeal most to them and incorporate their wishes and even their interests outside of music. She spends time evaluating how they learn best.

She teaches using games, a floor piano, races and competitions, a “crazy” bag of prizes, a keyboard (labeled with numbers, not letters on the keys) and the grand piano in her living room.

McCulloch says she has learned far more from her students than they have learned from her.

One of the personality traits she admires the most about her special needs students is their honesty, to the point of bluntness in some cases.

She tells the story of a group lesson on pitch—high notes and low notes—at the Lutheran center. She was doing a rousing imitation of Jerry Lee Lewis at the piano, which concluded with her falling to the floor at the end to emphasize the low notes. When her doctor (Dr. Rhea) found out, he cautioned

her about breaking bones at her age.

At her next appearance at the center, she refrained from falling on the floor. She explained about fragile bones when asked by her students why she had changed her routine. One of her special needs students responded, “You might be getting older and losing your attractiveness, but you have a really good heart and I like that!”

Another trait that many of her special students have which she has tried to emulate is their organizational skills, with routines, structure, and everything in its place.

Music lessons are beneficial in many ways to those with special needs, other than learning notes and technique, or improving motor skills.

“My son, Logan, has always loved music,” said Stephanie Jones. “It has always been very comforting to him. He has taken piano since he was 10 years old. He is now 17. Mrs. Carol McCulloch is such a patient, caring, loving, and intuitive piano teacher. When I asked Logan why he loves piano he told me that it makes him happy. He said it calms him.”

“Sienna [Hurst], age 27, found her interest in learning to play the piano during the long days of the pandemic,” says her caregiver, Dee Burks. “She pulled out a little keyboard given to her years ago by her great aunt. She reached out to her dear friend, Carol McCulloch, for lessons. A year and a half later, Sienna has found great joy and accomplishment as she has her own keyboard and participated in her first recital. She frequently asks if her aunt would be proud of her. ‘I’m sure she is listening from heaven with a smile on her face’ is my reply.”

“Our daughter Alana, age 20, who has Down Syndrome has been taking lessons with Carol since last September,” said Loretta Kiedrowski. “Alana feels so proud and confident that she can play songs by herself. We were blessed to find Lala’s piano and couldn’t be happier with her lessons. To say that Carol is an under-statement. She truly loves her students and selflessly shares her musical gift and talent with them. A special moment we will always remember is when Alana played ‘Happy Birthday’ on our keyboard for her nephew Taylor’s first birthday.”

McCulloch says it’s not just the special needs students she has received blessings from—it is also the camaraderie of all her students and their families, and their support and care for one another.

“I appreciate the grace and love all my students show one another,” McCulloch says.

For more information on music classes with Carol McCulloch for students of all ages and ability levels, visit her website at www.lalaspianoplayers.com.



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