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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jasmine Bray is one of this year's Gauntlet Business Program and Competition graduates and winners. Her new business is Jazzy's Soulfull Catering, LLC.

Introducing Gauntlet graduate, award winner Jasmine Bray of Jazzy's Soulfull Catering

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

In 2022, 153 entrepreneurs signed up for the Gauntlet Business Program and Competition. After 10 weeks of classes, 66 of those businesses were selected to compete for \$400,000 in cash, grants, and

in-kind prizes. One of those is Jasmine Bray, owner of Jazzy's Soulfull Catering, LLC.

Bray was a Bronze Level Award winner with \$2,345 worth of advertising, legal services, a 24-hour free rental of the Vinton War Memorial kitchen, market-

See Jasmine Bray, page 6

Vinton shows its love for retiring pharmacist Sam Cundiff

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The scene in the parking lot at Cundiff's Drug Store in Vinton on June 28 was reminiscent of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," when a town gathers to celebrate a citizen who has dedicated his life to the good of the community. The Vinton community, and especially members of Vinton Baptist Church, turned out en masse to surprise and cheer on beloved pharmacist Sam Cundiff as he retires this week and the store closes.

An invitation to the surprise party circulated to friends, customers, and colleagues via an email that began "Shhh—it's a surprise for Sam Cundiff! We hope you will be able to join us to wish Sam the best in his new journey and thank him for his dedication to the town of Vinton for so many years."

Cundiff's longtime friends David Semones and Len Hale, among others, organized the event, which drew dozens and dozens of friends and cus-

tomers to Cundiff's for the parking lot party farewell.

Vinton Police Sgt. Christopher Froeschel was sent into the store as it was about to close for the day to lure Cundiff outside. The sergeant spun a tale about an accident in the parking lot and damage to a downspout, but Cundiff caught on part way through the store saying, "Something is going on," and was overwhelmed when he saw the crowd waiting outside.

He had sent a letter to his customers once his decision to retire was made, saying:

"Cundiff's Drug Store has a distinguished history in Vinton, Roanoke, and Bedford counties. My dad started Cundiff's Drug Store in December 1959. We started not only as a pharmacy, but as a small department store, including an unbeatable lunch counter. I began working there after school and over the summers, first working as a clerk, then as a delivery driver, before working beside my dad as a pharmacist. I am both proud and blessed to have



Pharmacist Sam Cundiff (front right) thanks the crowd who gathered to celebrate with him as he retires from Cundiff's Drug Store.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Sam Cundiff (on left) and his wife, Terri, thank longtime friend Len Hale for his part in the surprise retirement party.

See Sam Cundiff, page 2

School Board approves additional deputies for elementary schools, safety fencing at Horn and Cundiff

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Roanoke County School Board met twice during the week of June 20—once for a work session on June 20 and then for the regular meeting on June 23.

During the June 23 meeting board members approved funding for additional School Resource Officers (SRO) to serve the county's elementary schools, a topic which they had discussed at length during the work session.

In order to expedite the hiring and training of these additional deputies, the board appropriated \$180,000 from the personnel budget to fund salaries for four SROs, and salaries and equipment for two SROs, with the understanding that the Board of Supervisors assume the responsibility for this funding as a public safety need.

According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Nicely, "Over the past four years, RCPS has established a strong partnership with public safety officials in Roanoke County, including Roanoke County Police, Roanoke County Fire and EMS, the

Roanoke County Sheriff's Office, and the Vinton Police. RCPS and these public safety partners take school safety and security seriously, working through the Roanoke County School Safety Taskforce and investing countless hours and resources planning, preparing, and proactively taking steps to enhance safety and security.

"Having armed, trained, law enforcement-certified School Recourse Officers at our schools is an indispensable component of school safety and security," Nicely said. "While some areas of the state and country have sought to scale back the number of SROs on school campuses, RCPS affirms the need for having SROs on our school campuses, and believes that, when they respond in a timely manner, according to their training, SROs are an essential asset to public safety and security at our schools. The School Board and administration have established a goal and have requested that an SRO be provided for each RCPS school as a public safety need.

"As a measure to add to the number of SROs serving RCPS schools, the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office has offered to fund equipment, hire

See School Board, page 10

Henritze Dental celebrates renovations with ribbon-cutting

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org



The Henritze Dental Group in Vinton celebrated the completion of an extensive renovation project with a ribbon-cutting on June 23. Shown left to right are Dr. Gregory Skinner, Tammy Barton, Dr. Michael Board, Patti Franklin, Kaitlyn Kiedrowski, Kara Trail, Sonya Hensley, Jamie Lantz, Claudette Selkirk, Dr. Andrew Henritze, Sharon Doss, and Audrey Taylor.

The Henritze Dental Group in Vinton celebrated an extensive renovation of the offices on Washington Avenue with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce on June 23, followed by an open house that evening.

The dental office was first opened in 1974 by dentists Dr. Ralph Greenway and Dr. George Richardson.

Almost four years ago, the practice joined the Henritze Dental Group, a dental service organization founded by dentist Dr. Andrew Henritze in 1997.

On April 4, 2022, Dr. Gregory Skinner and the staff of the Orange Avenue Henritze Dental office joined the Vinton office.

There are now three dentists in the Vinton Henritze group— Dr. Kevin Greenway, Dr. Michael Board, and Dr. Gregory Skinner, along with 11 other employees. Their services include general dentistry, tooth protection, cosmetic dentistry services, and dental implants.

The Vinton offices, located at the corner of Washington Avenue and Meadow Street, were last remodeled about 23 years ago. The recent remodel began in January with the practice remaining open the entire time until the project was completed in April.

According to Marketing Director Kaitlyn Kiedrowski, "The Vinton staff did an incredible job working around and through the renovation process."

The renovations included adding a handicapped accessible restroom and completely updating the entire facility with state-of-the-art technol-

PHOTOS BY HENRITZE DENTAL GROUP



The Henritze Dental Group celebrated with a ribbon-cutting with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce.

clover

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See Renovations, page 5

SPOTLIGHT ON TOWN STAFF

Donna Collins is Vinton's Human Resources and Risk Management Director. She has been employed by the Town of Vinton since August 2014. She started out as Human Resources Specialist before being promoted to Human Resources Director just a few months later.

In her role, she has overall responsibility for Human Resources policies and the development of programs to help strengthen employee training, retention, and recognition. She hires staff, but she also is well-known for her dedication to supporting staff once they are hired.

"Donna Collins does a wonderful job as our Human Resources Director," said Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "Vinton Town Council is very proud of the powerful professional staff we have at the Town of Vinton. Donna

is one of the main reasons that our staff is highly qualified, hardworking, and well-trained. Perhaps the strongest feature of the staff is that they function well as a team. Donna's approach to team building starts with the hiring process and continues as she provides support and training for our staff members. The team knows that Donna is always working to help provide a safe workplace, substantial benefits, and opportunities to grow. I am very thankful for Donna and the team she has assembled at the Town of Vinton!"

Collins grew up in Pittsburgh. She earned her degree in Human Resources from DeVry University. Prior to working for the Town of Vinton, she worked in HR in the private sector for Freight Car of America and Hanover Direct. She also worked as

a preschool teacher before changing careers.

As for her hobbies, Collins enjoys reading, puzzles, music, walking, camping, and sketching. She created most of the artwork decorating the windows and doorways of the Municipal Building this past Christmas. She also loves to fish and sing karaoke.

Collins has a son, David, age 24, and fur-babies Marlowe and Bailee.

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger have partnered this year to recognize town employees in the month of their birth so that citizens become aware of who is working behind the scenes to make the town look great and operate so successfully. Collins is certainly responsible for a great deal of that success.



PHOTO FROM THE TOWN OF VINTON

Donna Collins, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management

Beyond Books

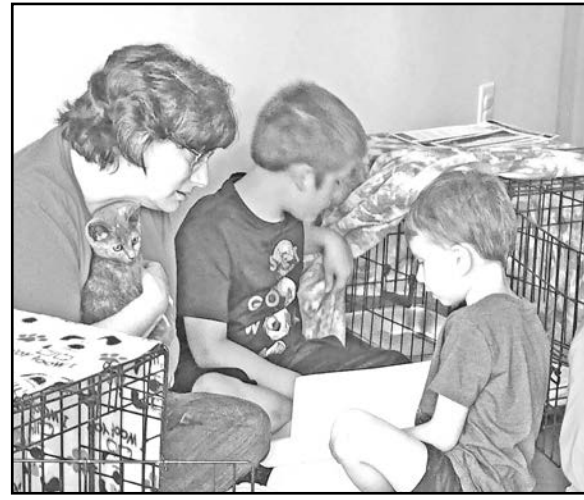


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Another Saturday is coming up at the Vinton Library on July 23. Register online to read to cats.

Beyond Books for July Summer is finally here, school is out, and our Summer Reading Program, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," is in full swing! If you haven't already, be sure to register online to read three books before August 6 and be entered to win some awesome prizes. Visit the library website (rocolibrary.org) for more information.

You may have noticed that we have started automatically renewing books two days before they are due (as long as they have no outstanding holds on them), making it easier to read and get your items back in on time.

In addition, Roanoke Valley Libraries is excited to announce we've launched a new service to make your life easier. Find out when your items are available when they come in with automatic email notifications. If you need to update your information or add an email to your account, please contact your library.

Need some help understanding retirement? Elaine Engleman and Robbie Boyd from the Local Office on Aging will be here Thursday, July 21 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. to discuss insurance for people over the age of 65, or on disability and/or Medicare. Lois Caliri will also be doing a presentation on Enrollment Virginia: Insurance for People under the age of 65. They will cover everything you need to consider for retirement. You can also join us for our Medicare 101 program on July 25 at 11 a.m. with Patrick Harmon of Harmon & Prouty Financial Group.

On Monday, July 11 at 11 a.m., Riley Ginger with the Better Business Bureau will be here to discuss Keeping Kids Safe Online. Come to learn the best practices for keeping your children and their identities safe while using the Internet.

Need some technology-related help? It happens to us all at some point! Thankfully, the Vinton Library is here to help you with Tech Time. Register for an appointment to bring your device and/or questions to the library and a member of our staff will help you get sorted.

Join us throughout the summer for Saturday

Morning Cartoons on the patio from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., weather permitting. Open Bridge will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. and the Roanoke Valley Dulcimers will meet Saturday, July 16 from 10:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The DMV Connect service will be back Wednesday, July 27-Thursdays, July 28 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closing from 1-2 p.m. for lunch.

This month the Vinton Book Club will discuss "The Great Circle" by Maggie Shipstead on Thursday, July 7 at 3 p.m., and the As the Page Turns Book Club will discuss "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguro on Wednesday, July 13 at 2 p.m.

Be sure to register the whole family for a special production of "Curious George: The Golden Meatball" by Mill Mountain Theater on Saturday, July 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Space is limited.

Children are invited to participate in our Field Day program on Tuesday, July 19 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. on the lawn of the Vinton War Memorial. Popsicles and ribbons will be provided! Drop by on Wednesday, July 20 from 1-2 p.m. to participate in unique STEM activities provided by Kids Square, upstairs in the meeting room.

Our popular Saturday program will be back on Saturday, July 23 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Register online to reserve a reading slot! Space is limited.

On Wednesday, July 27 at 11 a.m. join us for Water Play! Dress to get wet and plan to have fun with a variety of sensory objects. Weather permitting.

Storytime continues through the week of July 18. Jammie Time is on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (for ages 3-5) and Family Storytime is on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. (for ages 0-5). Register online.

Teens can drop in on Wednesday, July 13 from 3-4 p.m. to Make Your Own Glass Photo Magnets using photographs and flat-backed glass beads. Join us on Monday, July 25 from 6-7 p.m. for the Teen Book Club to discuss what you're reading, get recommendations from your peers, and have some delicious snacks!

By Vinton Library Assistant Molly Meador

WVWA takes over Vinton's utility system

Effective July 1, 2022, the Western Virginia Water Authority takes over the Town of Vinton's water and wastewater utility system.

According to Vinton Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer Cody Sexton, customers with any questions and/or concerns about service after June 30 should contact the Water Authority directly by phone at 540-853-5700 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) or by email at info@westernvawater.org. You can also complete a "Contact Us" form at www.westernvawater.org/contact on their website.

If customers experience an emergency after hours, they should call that same number and will receive service through Roanoke County's Emergency Communications Department. The Authority has standby crews available 24 hours a day for assistance with emergencies.

While town staff is always willing to talk about an issue, contacting the Water Authority directly will be quicker and more efficient for customers.

Customers have recently been informed through individual mailings that their billing account information, including domestic meter data associated with their accounts, has been transferred to the Water Authority billing system. Authority account number, customer numbers, and account holder names were included in the most recent letter to customers from the Water Authority and should be used to pay bills

online at www.westernvawater.org. Look for a green "View and Pay Your Bill" button.

If you were set up with automatic bank drafting with the town, you will have to enroll for banking drafting through the Authority at https://www.westernvawater.org once you have received your first utility bill from the Authority. Your first bill for consumption in June will be processed at the beginning of July.

If you have automatic drafting through your bank, you will need to contact your bank to add your Authority account number and update your bank information.

The Authority offers a variety of ways to pay bills: Automatic Bank Drafting, mailing in a check and payment stub, paying online or with the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System, paying at the payment kiosk at the downtown Roanoke WVWA office located at the corner of Jefferson Street and Franklin Road, or placing your non-cash payment in the payment drop box at the end of the payment drive-through at the Vinton Municipal Building. Details on all of these options are available at www.westernvawater.org.

The Authority has a system in place to notify customers of widespread outages—a reverse 911 system customers will want to sign up for. This is in case of emergency repairs or water quality updates. Customers need to enroll at this service at www.westernvawater.org/everbridge.

Customers having difficulty paying for water and/or sewer services may apply for Authority Cares funds. These funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with \$28,500 available in total each month. Apply at www.westernvawater.org/AuthorityCares.

If you would like to help someone in need, you can donate to the Authority Cares fund by filling out a donation form at www.westernvawater.org/CustomerCares. You can donate by rounding up your bill to the nearest dollar each month or adding a donation to your monthly bill.

The Authority bills all customers once a month with a due date 20 days after the bill date. If the bill isn't paid on time, a 10% payment penalty (minimum \$1.50) is added to the account. If the payment is 30 days past due, water service will be disconnected. The Authority will mail a delinquent notice and make two automated calls to the customer before the residential water service is disconnected.

New customers will find the Water Authority website at www.westernvawater.org to be a valuable resource as the transition in services is made from the town to the WVWA



Byrd/BCAT student places in national SkillsUSA Championship

Staceyjo Cook, a student at William Byrd High School and the Burton Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT), was named 14th in the nation in Plumbing at the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference held in Atlanta, Ga., June 20-24. The competition showcases Career and Technical Education students.

Cook won first place and a gold medal at the state SkillsUSA Championship earlier this year which enabled her to advance to the Nationals.

BCAT Principal Christian Kish says Cook's achievement, especially given that it is her first year of competing, was

"quite impressive."

More than 6,500 outstanding Career and Technical Education students — all state contest winners — competed hands-on in 108 different trade, technical and leadership fields in Atlanta. Students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, plumbing, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts.

The contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

William Byrd/BCAT student Staceyjo Cook placed 14th in the nation in the National SkillsUSA competition in Plumbing.

Sam Cundiff from page 1

carried on the family tradition." The original Cundiff Drug Store was located further downtown on Polard Street for many years. Sam's father, Wallace, who founded the pharmacy, was known as a pillar of the Vinton and broader Roanoke Valley community throughout his life.

"As many of you know, I have had my health challenges during the past 10-plus years, being away for extended periods of time," Cundiff said. "I wish I could thank each one of you personally for staying with me and my staff through these times. There does, however, come a time to step back from the operation of this business and retire. Please know that I care for each and every one of you. You are my extended family."

Sam's wife, Terri, thanked those who came to honor Sam who have "prayed them through the years of his illness," and made him a "walking miracle."

Cundiff officially retired on June 29 and "entrusted the Kroger Pharmacy to continue to provide excellent healthcare" for his loyal customers.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Police Sgt. Christopher Froeschel lured Cundiff to the parking lot for the surprise.

Vinton plans another spectacular Fourth of July Celebration

The only way to describe Vinton's 2021 Fourth of July Celebration is "spectacular." Many spectators claimed it was the best ever seen in the Roanoke Valley.

Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour promises another impressive show this year with fireworks again by Grucci. In fact, the budget has increased over last year.

The festivities will get underway on Monday, July 4, at 7 p.m. (food trucks begin serving at 6:30) at the War Memorial with a patriotic program followed by music from DJ Flex before the fireworks show at 9:30.

Those who attend are reminded to bring a chair or blanket to sit on the front lawn. No pets are allowed. There is no charge for admission.

Food will be available from DG Ice, Duck Donuts, Saltys Lobster & Company, Tinker Mountain Kettle Korn Co., Munsey's Smoke Shack, and Deb's Frozen Lemonade.

The Vinton War Memorial is located at 814 Washington Avenue in Vinton.

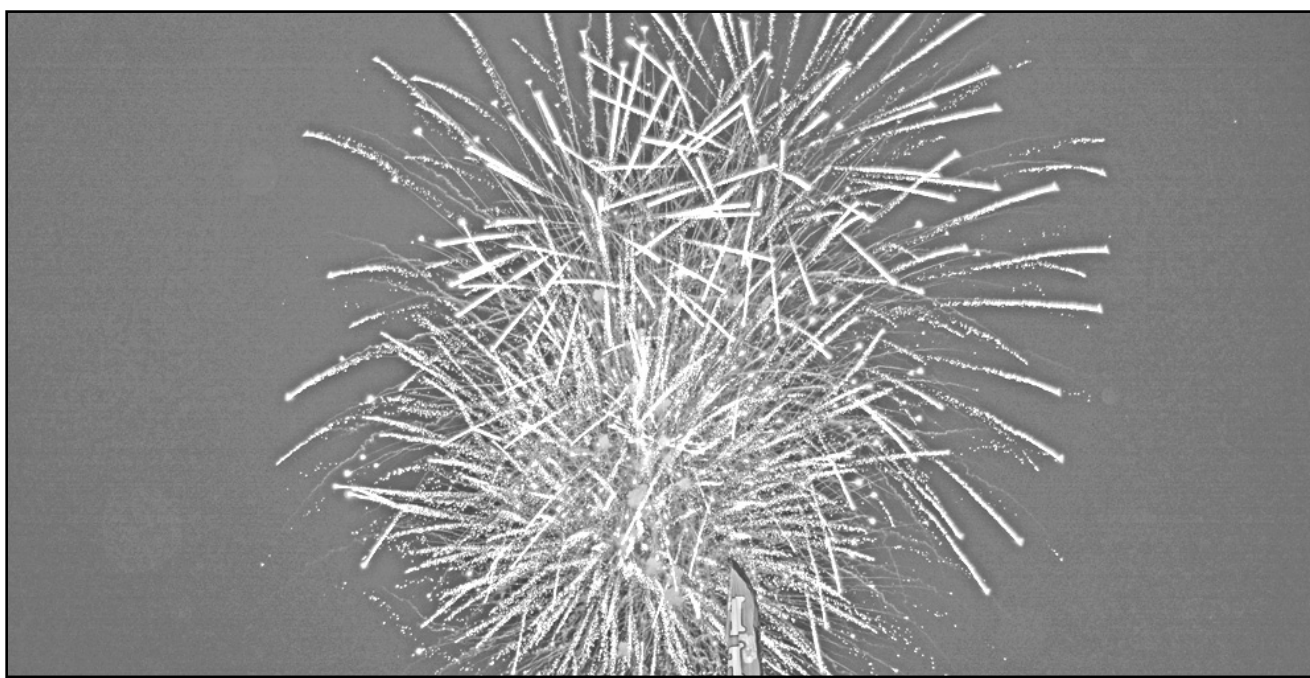


PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Town of Vinton plans another spectacular Fourth of July Celebration for 2022. This was the scene on July 4, 2021.

Vinton Town Council meeting cancelled for July 5

The regular Vinton Town Council meeting scheduled for July 5 has been cancelled, in as much as there are no essential items to

come before council. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, at 6 p.m.

Vinton Baptist schedules Vacation Bible School

Vinton Baptist Church will hold the annual Vacation Bible School from July 18-21 for children ages 3 through 5th grade (com-

pleted). Their theme is "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness." Register at [vbspro](https://vintonbaptistchurch.org/vbspro).

—PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS—

Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Many heartfelt Thank Yous to the Cundiff family and happy retirement to Sam Cundiff. Cundiff Drug has been a staple and a landmark in our town for MANY years and will be missed tremendously. Hope to see you around town!

Another Wow, Wow, Wow night for us at Mingle at the Market presented by Member One Federal Credit Union. Many thanks to all our other sponsors; VIP Sponsors – Greenway Boothe/ Alcovia/ Coastal Insurance Planning/ United Health Care.

The crowd was on fire listening, rockin' and totally jammin' out to the bands – Glam'r Kiti and Adrenaline 6 were amazing. If you haven't heard either one of these bands – do yourself a favor and find them, go see

them, you will not be disappointed!

Of course, Mountain Grille was there with their butter burgers and much more, Dodge's Chicken Sandwiches and Delicia's DG Italian Ice, Blue Ridge Beverage with cold beverages – no one was hungry or thirsty.

Many thanks to our volunteers – The Sassy Sisters from the Vinton Moose Lodge and friends/family, Page Stovall, Kim Barker, Karen Smith and William, Brian Lovern, Greg, Mike Stovall, Tracy Powers, Helen Curtis, Shannon Kendall and Kenny Kendall and Haylee Wheeler. Also thanks to Jason Boothe, and the William Byrd football team for their help. And many thanks to all of you that came out to support our event!

Mark your calendars for July 9 with Vinyl Nation, Malanie's Food Truck, Blue Ridge Beverage, and Dodge Store. Volunteer group will be Coastal Insurance Planning of Va.

Town of Vinton

4th of JULY

★ INDEPENDENCE DAY ★

Celebration

Mon, 4 July 2022
7PM-10PM

VINTON WAR MEMORIAL

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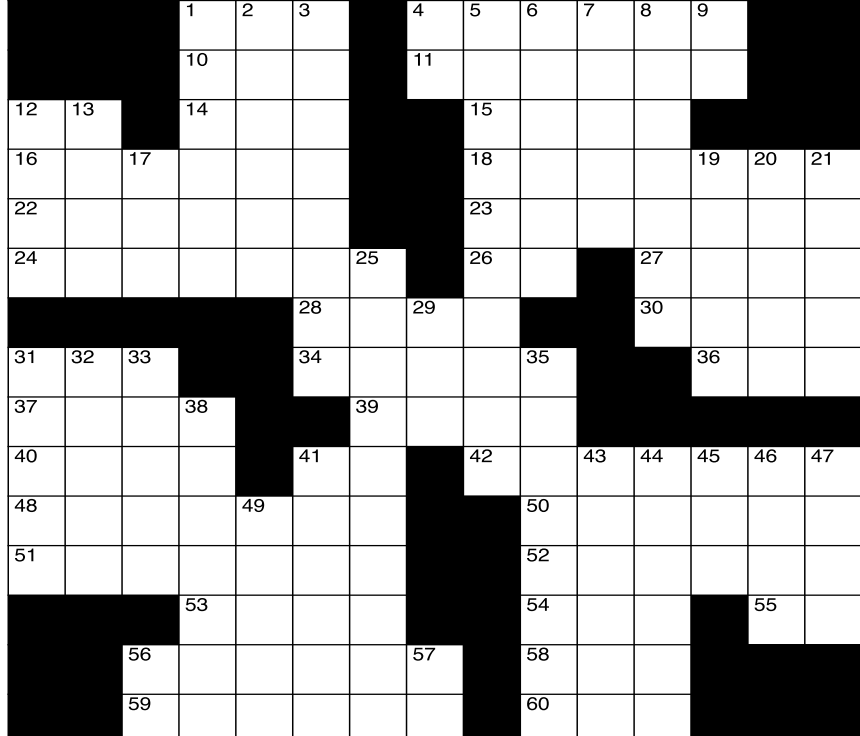
BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET, NO PETS ALLOWED

Music by DJ Flex

TINKER MOUNTAIN KETTLE CORN CO.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Basics In a new way ___ Paulo, city Jailhouse Expresses surprise Trigraph A small stream Dissimilar Promote Gives a boost Lawmaker Orthodox Jews Actor Harris Wild cherry Participate in democracy Opposite of begins A Brit's mother Set of moral principles | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Very fast airplane Czech river Private school in New York Israeli dance Electron volt Adjusting Duct by the bladder Small burger Begin again Unstuck Jai ___, sport Get free of For instance Hotel chain A team's best pitcher Extracts from various sources Indefinite period of time | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> St. Francis of ___ Supported United in working It cools your home Predicting Irritated Popular talk show host Fabric edge A resource for employees Broadway's Jackman Small water buffalo City of Angels: ___ Angeles Asteroids Tailless amphibians German expressionist painter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What drives you N. Vietnamese ethnic group Gold coin used in British India Have deep affection for Ponds Breaks between words Hairstyle Print errors Family of iron alloys Sidelined in bed Many couples say it Brazilian hoopster Allman Brothers late frontman German city One hundred grams (abbr.) One billionth of a second (abbr.) |
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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.

Red, White, and Blue Desserts

Here are some Red, White, and Blue desserts to help celebrate the Fourth of July.

Easy Red, White & Blue Cheesecake Strawberries

- 1 8-oz. block cream cheese
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup Cool Whip
- 10 strawberries, cut in half lengthwise
- 30 blueberries

Use a mixer to beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla until fluffy. Fold in Cool Whip. Put mixture in piping bag or spread by hand over cut side of strawberries. Top with blueberries.

Red, White & Blue Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1 cup margarine
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 and 1/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 6 oz package chocolate chips (regular or mini or mix in some white chips)

Red, white, and blue M&M candies
Cream margarine and sugars. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat well. Gradually add flour, sifted with baking soda and salt. Add chocolate chips and M&Ms. Refrigerator dough for two hours. Drop by tablespoonful on greased cookie sheet. Bake for about 10 minutes at 350.

Red, White & Blue Jell-O Poke Cake

Box of white cake mix and the ingredients needed to prepare it (listed on the box)
Blue Jell-O
Red Jell-O
Cool Whip
Patriotic Sprinkles (or substitute blueberries and sliced strawberries)
Bake the cake by package instructions in 9x13 pan. Allow to cool for 20 minutes. Prepare the Jell-O, using 1 cup of boiling water and 1/2 cup cold water for each box. Use a straw, small wooden spoon handle, chopstick, skewer, etc., to poke holes all over the cake. Pour or spoon the blue Jell-O over part of the cake and the red Jell-O over the other. Refrigerate for 6 hours. Spread the Cool Whip on top. Add patriotic sprinkles or fruit.

Register for the Four on the 4th race, now in Vinton

American National Bank and Fleet Feet are sponsoring the "Four on the 4th" race to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA. This year the race will take place in Vinton. The four-miler will begin and end at the Vinton War Memorial.

"Four on the 4th" is one of the main annual fundraisers for the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA; in 2021, the race raised over \$18,000.

The organization relies on the financial support from this race to provide summer camps and after

school programs for disadvantaged youth in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City, Franklin County, Montgomery County, and Vinton. One of their programs is housed at Vinton Baptist Church and serves students from Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools

Register at www.fouronthe4th.com for the Four on the 4th 4-miler race (in-person or virtual) and the Four on the 4th Kids Fun Run. The adult race begins at 8 a.m.; kids at 9 a.m.

In case of inclement weather,

the race will go virtual.

Dogs and pets are not permitted to participate in either race. Strollers are allowed.

There will be race awards and T-shirts.

Sponsors of this year's Four on the 4th include: American National Bank & Trust Company FocusOne, Cox, Freedom First, Roanoke Valley Orthodontics, Fleet Feet, the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA, the Sign Factory, Q99, K92, the Town of Vinton, Lionberger Construction, BJ's, and Gentry Locke.

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Four on the 4th

NEW RACE ROUTE IN VINTON!

REGISTER TODAY!

MONDAY, JULY 4TH, 8A.M.

PRESENTED BY FLEET FEET

KIDS FUN RUN AT 9!

Event benefits Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia

Virtual Race Opportunity Available

Race t-shirt and awards!

WWW.FOURONTHE4TH.COM

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

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

Michael Showell, *Publisher*.....
Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*..... lhurst@ourvalley.org
Matt de Simone, *Editor*..... fincastle.editor@ourvalley.org
Debbie Adams, *Staff Writer*..... dadams@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*..... bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*..... fincastle@ourvalley.org
James "Tucker" Frye, *Advertising*..... tfrye@ourvalley.org

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

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.

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?

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From the Pulpit

'Language of Deed'

Mary McLeod Bethune was one of the most influential civil and women's rights leaders of the 20th century. Born on a farm in South Carolina on July 10, 1875, Bethune grew up in what she described as a loving, Christian home.

Her parents were dedicated members of their Methodist congregation and, according to Bethune, gave her an "unusual advantage" as a child by their unfailing commitment to their faith and unceasing love for her.

In her autobiography she wrote, "I was loved before I came into being, and I have treasured that heritage of love and have made it the foundation of my life."

After graduating from Scotia Seminary and becoming an educator because of the lack of opportunities for women clergy at that time, Bethune would eventually become the first African-American woman to establish a four-year institution of higher learning, found a national organization to lobby the federal government, and hold such a high-level government appointment as director of the Negro Division of the National Youth Administration.

She worked on the campaign of Franklin D. Roosevelt, served as an advisor to three U.S. presidents, and received numerous awards. Today, her former residence in Washington, D.C. is a National Historic Site, her former home in Daytona Beach is a National Historic Landmark, and a 17-ft. bronze statue of her stands in Lincoln National Park.

Bethune is remembered by many for her social activism, which was certainly central to her life's work. However, what is often overlooked is the foundation for her life's work and that was her Christian faith.

In one of her famous speeches, entitled "Girding for Peace," Bethune declared: "The church is beginning to acquire new courage in the application to life of the great moral truths.... But too often these principles are merely preached in beautiful language when there is the pressing need to set them forth in

the specific language of deed."

Our deacons at Vinton Baptist have been working through a visioning and discernment process over the last few months. One of the parts of this process required them to work together to determine the core values of Jesus. After dividing into small groups and searching the gospels to determine the top values of Jesus, the three that were found to be illustrated most by the stories and teachings of Jesus were love, compassion, and forgiveness. According to the biblical research of our Fellowship of Deacons, the New Testament contains more examples of love, compassion, and forgiveness than any other values represented in the life and teachings of

Christ.

As we consider the importance of these three values, may we be reminded of Mary McLeod Bethune's words from almost 100 years ago that remind us of the importance of putting these values into action. How might our actions and interactions, conversations and responses, choices and decisions this week reflect the love, compassion, and forgiveness of Christ, "set forth [through] the specific language of deed?" If these values were exemplified above all others throughout Jesus' life, what changes might we need to make in our lives so the same can be said of us?

By The Rev. Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

New laws take effect in Virginia July 1

According to Virginia State Senator David Suetterlein, the majority of the bills passed by the 2022 General Assembly will go into effect on Friday, July 1. They include:

Gas Tax Rising Again: Virginia's Gas Tax will go up 7% on July 1 because legislation passed in 2020 requires the Gas Tax to increase whenever the Consumer Price Index (Inflation) goes up although it remains the same rate if the CPI goes down. The increase amounts to about three cents a gallon more.

Counting Early Votes by Precinct: Early votes will now be counted by the voter's local precinct instead of in large, central absentee pools for an entire county or city.

Limits on Emergency Executive Orders: Limits the duration of any executive order issued by the governor pursuant to his powers under the Emergency Services and Disaster Law to no more than 45 days.

Reporting Crimes at Schools to Law Enforcement and Parents: Requires that school principals report to law enforcement certain enumerated acts that may constitute a misdemeanor offense and report to the parents of

any minor student who is the specific object of such act that the incident has been reported to law enforcement.

Making Parole Board Votes Public: Makes the individual votes by Parole Board members public records.

Allowing Sunday Hunting: Permits hunting on Sunday on public or private land, so long as it takes place more than 200 yards from a place of worship.

Car Tax Relief: Grants localities permissive authority to return surplus personal property tax revenues to taxpayers. Several localities have now chosen to do this.

Safe Haven Protections for Newborns Delivered to Hospitals: Provides an affirmative defense in certain criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings regarding child abuse or neglect to a parent who safely delivers his child within the first 30 days of the child's life to a newborn safety device located at a hospital that provides 24-hour emergency services or at an attended emergency medical services agency that employs emergency medical services personnel.

Criminal Penalty for

Misuse of Power of Attorney: Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for an agent under a power of attorney to financially exploit an incapacitated adult who is the client of that agent.

Removing Red Tape on Restaurants: Provides that regulations adopted by the State Board of Health shall not include the proposal requiring an establishment that sells only prepared food to have a certified food protection manager on site during all hours of operation.

Invalidating Surrogacy Contracts that Require Abortion: Provides that any provision of a surrogacy contract requiring the surrogate mother to receive an abortion or "selective reduction" is against the public policy of the Commonwealth and is void and unenforceable.

Farm Use Plates Require Actual Farm Connection: Motorists wishing to get Farm Use plates in lieu of the regular registration and inspection must pay \$15 to DMV and provide the name of the owner of the vehicle for which the exemption is claimed; location and acreage of each farm on which the vehicle is to be used; the type

of agricultural product produced there; and a statement, signed by the owner, that the vehicle shall only be used for one or more of the exempt purposes.

Weekly Lists of Decedents to Department of Elections: Requires the State Registrar of Vital Records to transmit to the Department of Elections a weekly list of decedents from the previous week.

Bicyclists in Traffic: Prohibits persons riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, or motorized skateboards or scooters two abreast from impeding the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and requires such persons to move into a single-file formation as quickly as is practicable when being overtaken from the rear by a faster-moving vehicle.

Board Certified Optometrists May Perform Laser Surgery

Ensuring Parental Notification of Any Explicit Instructional Material: Requires the Department of Education to develop no later than July 31, 2022, model policies and each local school board to adopt no later than January 1,

2023, policies for ensuring parental notification of any instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to ensuring parental notification; directly identifying the specific instructional material and sexually explicit subjects; and permitting the parent of any student to review instructional material that includes sexually explicit content and provide, as an alternative, non-explicit instructional material and related academic activities to any student whose parent so requests. The bill provides that the local school board policies shall be consistent with but may be more comprehensive than the model policies developed by the department. The bill states that the provisions of the bill shall not be construed as requiring or providing for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools.

Allowing Police Use of Facial Recognition: Authorizes local law enforcement agencies, campus police departments, and State Police to use facial recognition

technology.

Legalization of Switchblades: Eliminates the prohibition for selling, bartering, giving, furnishing, or possessing a switchblade.

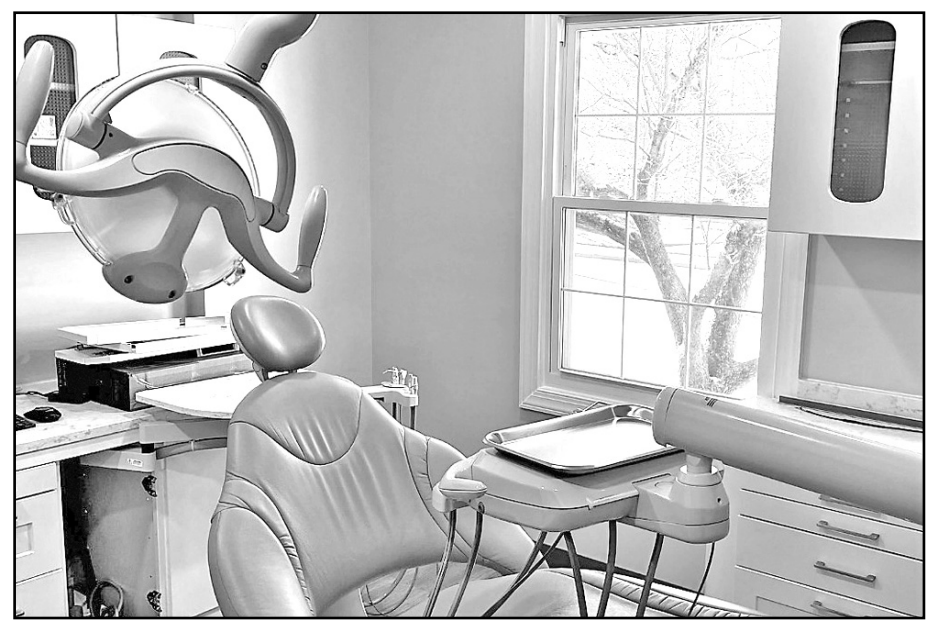
Gambling Education: Requires instruction concerning gambling and the addictive potential thereof to be provided by public schools as prescribed by the Board of Education.

Tax Relief for Small Businesses: Permits a qualifying pass-through entity, defined in the bill, to make an annual election in taxable years 2021 through 2025 to pay an elective income tax at a rate of 5.75 percent, created by the bill, at the entity level for the taxable period covered by the return. The bill also creates a corresponding refundable income tax credit for taxable years 2021 through 2025 for any amount of income derived from a pass-through entity having Virginia taxable income if such pass-through entity makes such election and pays the elective income tax imposed at the entity level and allows an individual to claim a credit for similar taxes paid to other states for taxable years 2021 through 2025.

Renovations from page 1



Vinton Mayor Brad Grose (on right) presents a plaque to Dr. Andrew Henritze, founder of the Henritze Dental Group.



The entire Henritze Dental Group facility on Washington Avenue in Vinton has been renovated to include state-of-the-art technology.

The Henritze Dental Group now has eight offices in the region in Vinton, Daleville, Brandon Avenue/Salem, Rocky Mount, Collinsville, Madison Heights, and Martinsville. The Brambleton office is in the remodeling process and will open July 11.

The Henritze Dental Group website provided background information on the three dentists in the practice.

"Dr. Kevin Greenway, son of practice founder Dr. Ralph Greenway, was born and raised in the Roanoke Valley and has been providing dental care in the region for more than 20 years. He

attended Ferrum College and the University of South Florida, and then went on to receive his doctorate at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. Upon graduating, he joined the practice of his father, Dr. Ralph N. Greenway, and Dr. George T. Richardson. He volunteers at the Bradley Free Clinic in Roanoke. He is the proud father of daughters, Jessica and Rachel, and enjoys traveling, reading, and playing golf."

"Dr. Gregory Skinner is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry. His wife is a native of the Roanoke area, and they have identified the

Roanoke Valley as home for the past 17 years. It has been a great place to raise their four daughters."

"As member of the Academy of General Dentistry, Dr. Skinner is dedicated to being an exceptional dental care provider and is passionate about using his abilities and blessings to provide services for those who do not have access to dental care. He has conducted multiple dental clinics in Haiti, as well as serving families in remote regions of Panama. In 2018, Dr. Skinner became a founding board member of Just Have Faith International, a nonprofit organization committed to bringing healthcare and education to under-

served adults and children in Haiti. When he isn't working, Dr. Skinner enjoys running, hiking, and fishing."

"Dr. Michael Board was born and raised in Roanoke. He graduated from Hidden Valley High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School in 2010. Coming from an all-Hokie family, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a minor in Chemistry at Virginia Tech in 2014. He continued his education and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry in 2019 where he was inducted into the dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon. Following dental school, Dr.

Board continued his education with a year of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training at Virginia Commonwealth University and Emory University. Dr. Board has a love for general dentistry and demonstrated strengths in oral surgery and oral pathology."

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Chamber of Commerce President Jason Boothe, and Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewning were on hand to congratulate the Henritze Group on the completion of the renovations and the grand opening.

The mayor presented a plaque to Dr. Henritze which said, "Congratulations on the Grand Opening of your

newly remodeled Vinton location. We are glad you are InVinton!"

Office hours for the Vinton Henritze Dental Group are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The contact number for new patients is 540-342-2949.

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Jasmine Bray from page 1

ing classes with The Advancement Foundation (TAF) which sponsors the Gauntlet, membership in the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, and more.

The Gauntlet is Virginia's largest business program and competition, developed by Annette Patterson, founder and president of TAF. It is a proven business development system which connects entrepreneurs to the training, mentorship, and resources needed for success. The ten weeks of classes cover every possible aspect of opening a new business or expanding an existing one.

Jazzy's Soulfull Catering is based in Roanoke. Bray cooks "soul food," which she defines as "comfort food." She discovered there weren't many restaurants offering her specialties in the Roanoke area and "that's my lane. It's food that's good for your soul, makes you feel good; the kind of food you eat and take a nap afterwards."

She caters events both large and small from dinners for two (or even just one), to meals for families, weddings, conferences, luncheons, special events, and festivals. She likes to focus on large events for up to 200 people, but hopes to build her clientele for smaller family meals as well. She caters locally but will travel throughout the region.

Her menu is extensive and astounding. While most Gauntlet participants showed up at the

final competition with poster board displays describing their businesses, Bray came with food. A line formed and the food vanished.

Her signature dishes are chopped BBQ (pulled pork or chicken) and the homemade sauce that goes with it, ribs, chicken, stew beef, seafood lasagna, baked macaroni and cheese, and corn bread muffins. But the list also includes a wide variety of meats—"fried wing flings," pork chops, fried whiting, kielbasa and Italian sausages, creamy butter chicken, and baked chicken. There are sandwiches: Italian, steak and cheese, chicken parmesan, pork rolls, empanadas, cheeseburgers, and veggie burgers.

The variety of pasta dishes she offers include baked ziti and spaghetti, shrimp scampi, stuffed shells, manicotti, and chicken alfredo.

Then there are the salads: garden, macaroni, potato, coleslaw, buffalo chicken, seafood, and chicken Caesar. And the sides: collard greens, seasoned green beans, loaded potatoes, red beans and rice, stuffed peppers, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, broccoli, and asparagus.

She also accepts special orders.

Bray leaves the desserts to her daughter Alaysia Williams (Lays strawberry, blueberry, mixed berry, and chocolate muffins are a specialty) and looks for advice from her mother, Karen "Nia" Compton.

She does her preparation and cooking at the commercial LEAP kitchen on Patterson Avenue in Roanoke.

This is her first business venture. Bray says she has loved cooking since she was 13 years old, starting out with donut balls made of flour and sugar, and "improving" from there. She says her mother is an excellent cook and "cooked a lot."

Bray's full-time job is as a Certified Nursing Assistant and medical aide. She is not originally from Roanoke. She moved here in 2013 from New Jersey. Other members of her family have joined her, including her mother and sister.

Bray found out about the Gauntlet Business Program and the competition when she contacted the TAP organization for information on the process of buying her own home. That led her to Kelly Turner, Director of Regional Revitalization and Resources at The Advancement Foundation in Vinton, and their VIDA program which assists individuals in purchasing homes or starting a new business through a grant program.

Turner asked her if she had ever thought of opening her own business, and that's how Jazzy's Soulfull Catering got its start.

"Kelly has been a wonderful mentor," Bray said. "She guided me, helped me write a business plan and li-

cense my business both before and during the Gauntlet program."

"Jasmine Bray is an extremely hardworking, motivated, and talented young woman," Turner said. "Jasmine came into the VIDA Program (a \$4,000 grant and individual development program facilitated by The Advancement Foundation and the Commonwealth of Virginia that can be used towards creating a business or first-time homeownership) with the hopes of purchasing her first home and, in turn, graduated as a successful business owner.

"When the real estate market shifted, so did Jasmine, and she pivoted into a business startup to create an additional stream of income that she will use in the near future to purchase her first home!" Turner said. "Jasmine is a scholarly example of how truly beneficial the VIDA Program can be as she completed all the required financial literacy and asset training courses with great enthusiasm, and she has used every resource and additional training that The Advancement Foundation offers to her great advantage.

"She created an amazing down-home catering company, Jazzy's Soulfull Catering, and you would not believe how delicious her food is!" Turner added. "I highly recommend booking Jazzy's Soulfull Catering for your next event or

meal! It has been a privilege to have been part of Jasmine's growth and success."

Bray says she never really considered becoming an entrepreneur before meeting Turner at TAF. Nursing is a well-paying career, but "times change" and she thought, "why not try something new."

Her dreams are expanding with thoughts of eventually opening her own restaurant—family-oriented, with games for children, and "Date Night" specials, preferably downtown. She is also interested in producing her own prepared meals for sale in stores—the meal kit type product, prepped and ready to cook or possibly frozen meals.

Jazzy's Soulfull Catering is building a clientele; Bray already has regular customers and welcomes new ones. She offers discounts for referrals.

Bray says she gained a great deal from the Gauntlet program, the first competition of any type she had been through in her life.

"I learned so much and met so many incredible people," Bray said. "I gained a broader perspective on life through networking and my mentors. I learned about all of the amazing resources out there to help set up a business. There were lots of speakers with lots of knowledge who opened my eyes."

The Gauntlet Business Program has ex-

panded over eight years from about 15 participants in its first year to those 163 in 2022. Until the pandemic, classes were held on Tuesday nights at the Vinton War Memorial and also broadcast to fledgling entrepreneurs in the Alleghany Highlands. In the first COVID year, TAF pivoted (a business strategy they emphasize), and the Gauntlet went virtual permanently in order to reach the most participants.

The program has grown exponentially and now includes entrepreneurs in Vinton, Roanoke City and County, Botetourt, Bedford, the Alleghany Highlands, Buena Vista, Rockbridge, Martinsville, and more.

Bray says the online classes were really helpful to her, and convenient for others—"all situations are different." She could sign on and participate in the classes through an earpiece even when she was at work.

Bray is also grateful to her mentors at TAP—Sierra Sallah and Robert Humphreys—who guided her through the financial aspects of home-owning and connected her with TAF and the Gauntlet, and subsequently her catering business.

Jazzy's Soulfull Catering, LLC, has no regular hours—all of Bray's work is on demand—"whenever someone calls, I am open." She can be reached at 540-331-0302.

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.

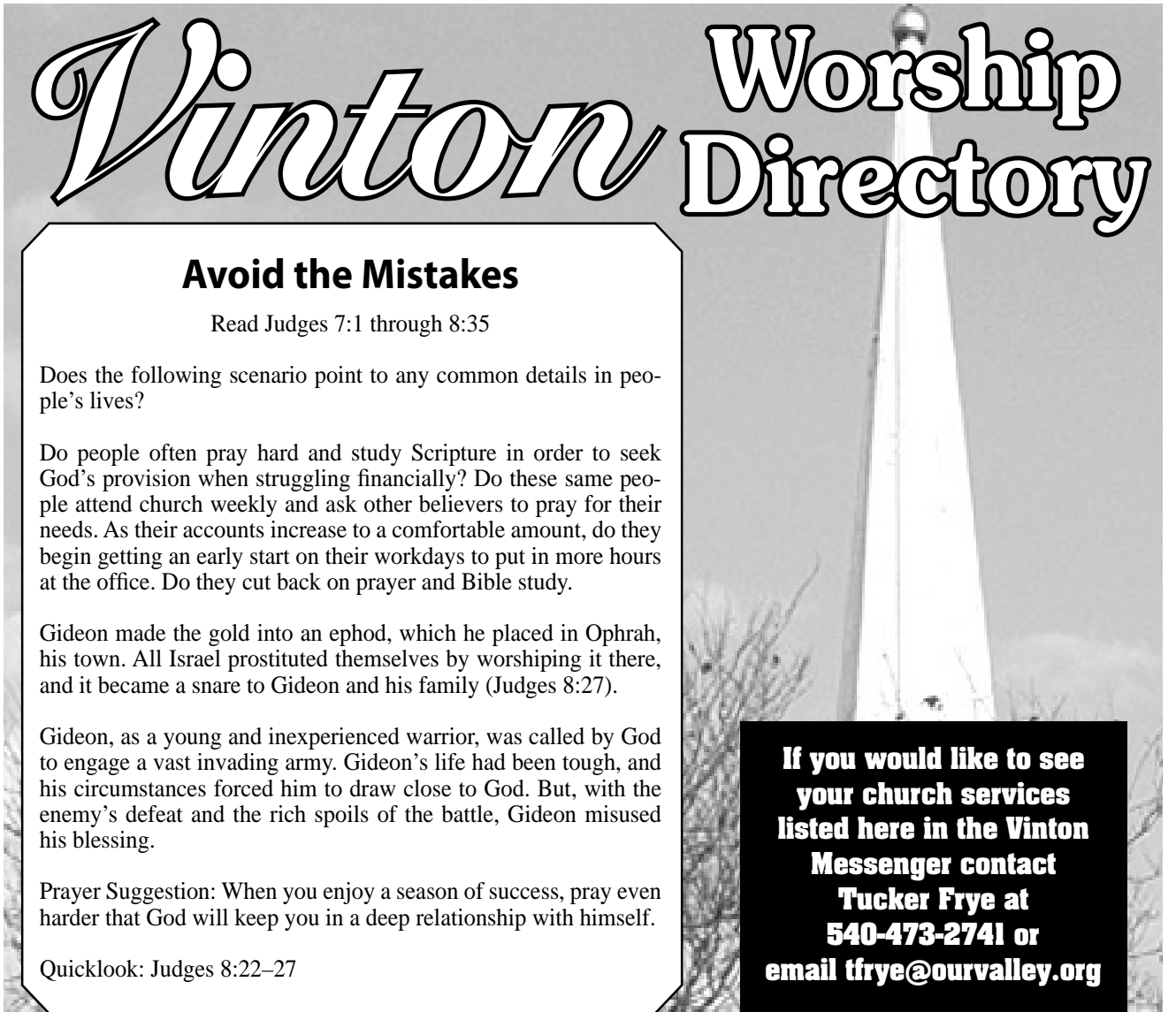
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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 Botetourt 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



Vinton

Worship Directory

Avoid the Mistakes

Read Judges 7:1 through 8:35

Does the following scenario point to any common details in people's lives?

Do people often pray hard and study Scripture in order to seek God's provision when struggling financially? Do these same people attend church weekly and ask other believers to pray for their needs. As their accounts increase to a comfortable amount, do they begin getting an early start on their workdays to put in more hours at the office. Do they cut back on prayer and Bible study.

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

Gideon, as a young and inexperienced warrior, was called by God to engage a vast invading army. Gideon's life had been tough, and his circumstances forced him to draw close to God. But, with the enemy's defeat and the rich spoils of the battle, Gideon misused his blessing.

Prayer Suggestion: When you enjoy a season of success, pray even harder that God will keep you in a deep relationship with himself.

Quicklook: Judges 8:22-27

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 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.

See more at

www.vintonmessenger.com

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SPORTS

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Byrd athletes compete in national meets

On the weekend of the June 18 and 19 four members of the William Byrd Track and Field team competed in the New Balance Nationals meet and the Adidas National meet. The New Balance Nationals meet took place at the historic Franklin Field on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Adidas Nationals Meet took place at North Carolina A&T.

William Byrd rising sophomore DeShawn Austin competed in the freshman 400m hurdles event at the New Balance Nationals meet after qualifying with his 300m hurdle time from earlier in the season. He ran a time of 1:06.64.

At the Adidas Nationals meet at North Carolina A&T Ethan Haston finished 14th in the freshman long jump with a distance of 5.69m. Wyattte Bailey ran a time of 52.53 in the 400m National Elite division and Caleb Thompson finished 23rd with a throw of 34.61m.



DeShawn Austin, left, competed in the New Balance Nationals while Caleb Thompson, right, participated in the Adidas Nationals.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rail Yard Dawgs announce home dates for 2022-23 season

The Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs announced their home game dates for the 2022-2023 season on Tuesday. Opponents, puck drop times, and the road game dates will be announced at a later date.

Opening Night is scheduled for Friday, October 21, and will be sponsored by Haley Toyota of Roanoke. The Dawgs will also be on home ice on

Black Friday, November 25, and New Year's Eve. The final regular season home game will take place on Saturday, April 8.

Single game tickets and single game parking passes will go on sale starting Wednesday, September 21, at the Berglund Center box office and online. The 2022-2023 season tickets, flex packages and

group tickets are on sale now. Contact Andrew King at andrew@railyarddawgs.com or 540-853-682 for more information.

For fans who have already purchased a package that requires the selection of seven or 14 games, a selection form will be sent out once the promotional schedule is released.

USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships in the Roanoke Valley this week

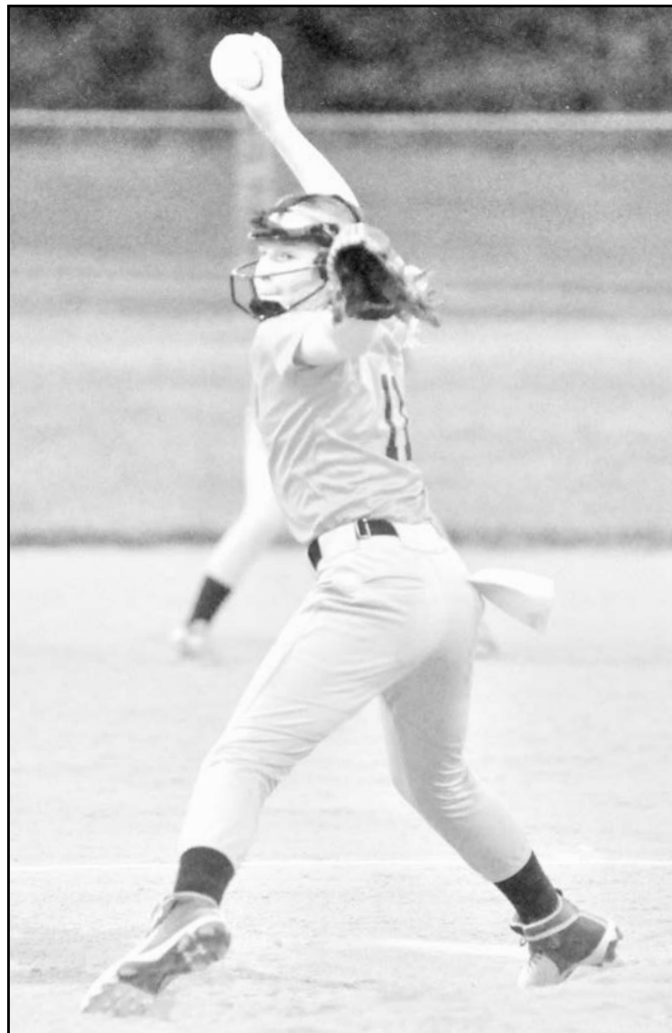
Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Botetourt County and the City of Roanoke are working with USA Cycling to bring their 2022 and 2023 USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships to Virginia's Blue Ridge (VBR) this week. Several hundred athletes from all over the country will be competing for a chance to win national titles in the road race, individual time trial, and criterium from Wednesday, July 29, to Saturday, July 2nd.

During the week racers will compete in age groups from 11 to 22 years of age in three different races. On Wednesday, June 29, racing kicks off with the Individual Time Trial in Botetourt County on U.S. Route 11, basing operations at the Troutville Elementary School. Distances

include, 6 miles, 14 miles, 17 miles and 19 miles.

On Thursday, June 30 and Friday, July 1 the road races will begin at the Botetourt Sports Complex and traverse the county with age dependent challenging 23-mile and 7-mile courses. The top athletes will climb just under 9,000 feet throughout their races.

The four-day event concludes on Saturday, July 2 with a sprinters' race or criterium. The race will take place in Downtown Roanoke. Racers will tackle a unique, broad, five-corner course that will test all riders. The races will kick off at 8 a.m. and run until 7:15 p.m. With speeds approaching 30 mph on a technical course this event is like a Formula 1 car race on bicycles.



Mt. Pleasant takes second in RAYSA softball

The Mount Pleasant Crush 13-and-Under softball team finished second in the Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association tournament last week. The tournament was held at Darrell Shell Park in south Roanoke County.

The Crush lost both games to the eventual champion, South County Red, in the double elimination tournament. Mount Pleasant lost to SC Red in the opener, but rallied back with wins over South County White and Craig County to make Friday's championship game. South County Red then defeated Mount Pleasant to finish undefeated and win the tournament.

South County also won the 10-U and 17-U tournaments.

Above left, Kara Watkins of the Mount Pleasant U-13 softball team fires the ball to first, and above right Tenley Hardifer pitches for the Crush. Below, left to right, Alexis Short bats, catcher Izabella Fleisher fires the ball to second and Jenna Cruz blocks a ball in the infield. The Mount Pleasant team was runner-up in last week's RAYSA tournament at Darrell Shell Park.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



School Board from page 1

and train four part-time SROs to supplement existing SRO police officers and SRO sheriff deputies. The Sheriff's Office would be reimbursed the cost of salaries. The Sheriff's Office is willing to hire and train two additional SROs, for a total addition of six, provided they be reimbursed for equipment costs as well as salary. The additional SROs will also need

vehicles to be provided."

Tim Greenway, Vinton's representative on the School Board, has requested that at least eight SROs be hired to cover the 16 elementary schools in the county.

"I will continue till we have all 16 covered full time," Greenway said. "I'm also asking the Vinton Police Depart-

ment to provide one additional officer, so our two Vinton schools are covered from start of day till the end of the day."

At present, officers from the Vinton Police Department visit Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools (which lie within the town limits) on a regular basis.

During the work session on June 20, Dr. Rhonda

Stegall, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, briefed the board members on the state-mandated School Safety Audits, which involve walk-throughs and inspections in each school by law enforcement and building administrators and are meant to drive best practices across the state.

Each local school board is required to collaborate with the chief law enforcement officer of the locality when conducting the safety audits and to share the results of the audits and walk-through checklist reports completed for each school.

The Roanoke County Police Department is currently completing the School Safety Inspections and providing a copy of the report to each principal.

Principals use this information to develop the Written Safety Assessment that summarizes the most immediate safety concerns at each school. That information is then used to develop a list of safety needs that is due the end of August. However, this summer principals have been asked to submit all immediate safety concerns right away rather than waiting to submit this report late August. A list is being generated and the safety needs are being prioritized for immediate attention by the Facilities and Operations Department.

The School Safety Audit Surveys are due to the state in August. A School Safety Inspection Checklist Certification is required by the state once every three years and one is due in 2022-23. Roanoke County completes these audits on a yearly basis.

The safety audits have indicated the need for installation of fencing at some elementary schools to enhance safety and security. Those schools include Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff Elementary Schools in Vinton. Other county schools which will add fencing include Oak Grove Elementary, Mason's Cove, Clearbrook, and Penn Forest.

The cost of fencing at Herman L. Horn will total \$24,904. The total at W.E. Cundiff is \$48,235. Funding will come from minor capital reserves with the total for all six schools being \$138,718.

The School Board approved the funding at its meeting on June 23. Greenway says the playgrounds and tracks at the two schools will remain available to the public for their use after school hours.

Dr. Nicely broached the topic of parent conferences with School Board members at the work session. Communication between home and

school is essential for student success. Up until the 1990s, schools scheduled traditional meetings with parents, generally on Parent Conference Days. Election Day became the first Parent Conference Day each year, mainly because schools were already closed for Election Day, and teachers would be available to meet with parents during regular work hours. Parents could also request conferences throughout the year as needed.

In the 2000s, that concept was modified to change the conference hours in Roanoke County Schools from noon to 7 p.m. to accommodate parent work schedules.


In 2019-2020, the School Board adopted a calendar allowing teachers to schedule conferences on a flexible basis rather than on a designated parent conference day. Teachers documented the time they spent meeting with parents.

The pandemic changed the nature of parent-teacher

conferences even more, with virtual meetings, and less face-to-face contact between school and home.

Dr. Nicely asked the School Board to consider a return to designated parent conference days on Election Day and in February to re-establish and reinforce the connection between home and school — to "extend the welcome mat."

He proposed first asking parents, teachers, and principals to respond to a survey for their input on adding back traditional conference days, with the understanding that other options would remain available for parent unable to attend in person — virtual meetings, phone calls, emails, or scheduling a meeting at another time. The board agreed to his suggestion and the survey will be forthcoming during the summer. Depending upon response and timing, the designated conference days could be added back in the coming school year.




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Fencing to enhance student safety and security will be installed at Herman L. Horn Elementary School in Vinton.



A safety audit completed by Roanoke County indicates the need for fencing at W.E. Cundiff Elementary.

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