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# The Vinton Messenger

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Crews extinguishing hot spots at D.R. Music early on July 2.

## Face of downtown Vinton forever changed by devastating fire

Debbie Adams  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

Saturday, July 2, was a devastating day in the Town of Vinton. The town lost one of its historic landmarks to a fire which began in the early hours of the morning in the heart of downtown Vinton. At approximately 1:54 a.m., Roanoke County Fire & Rescue and the Vinton Police Department responded to a commercial structure fire at the corner of South Pollard Street and East Lee Avenue. The crew from Station 2 (Vinton) arrived within four minutes, joined soon after by

first responders from Roanoke County and Roanoke City. First-arriving crews from Vinton found heavy smoke and fire showing from the first floor of D.R. Music at 101 East Lee Avenue. Nearby businesses affected by the fire included Edward Jones Investments at 103 East Lee Avenue, whose roof collapsed, Faith's Hair Studio at 206 South Pollard, and Anita's Alterations at 208 South Pollard. Rustic Creations at 107 East Lee sustained some smoke damage as well. "In addition to several first-floor businesses, the fire

See **Downtown Fire**, page 10



Demolition begins.



Demolition crew workers recover musical instruments after the fire.



Demolition crews bring down the D.R. Music wall on Pollard Street.

## Vinton celebrates America's birthday with astonishing fireworks show

Debbie Adams  
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The sentiment was that it would be hard to beat the spectacular fireworks show Vinton put on a year ago in 2021—but the Town of Vinton surpassed all expectations with the 4th of July extravaganza in 2022. The fireworks themselves lasted several minutes longer than in the past and were even more breathtaking and thunderous. The most frequently heard comment from spectators making their way down Washington Avenue after the show was "awesome." One person said, "I thought last year's show was the best I had ever seen in the Roanoke Valley, but this topped it." The crowd spread out blankets and chairs on the front lawn of the Vinton War Memorial. The celebration began at 7 p.m. with a prayer and remarks from Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "We are here to celebrate the birthday of the greatest nation on earth—the United States of America," Grose said. "First, I want to thank God that we are all here as free Americans. We all know

that our freedoms have cost us an enormous price. For nearly two and a half centuries, many devoted patriots have paid the ultimate price by sacrificing their lives for our freedoms. We will never forget those brave Americans. Here in Vinton, our citizens have constructed the beautiful High Ground monument to honor all our veterans." He then asked the huge crowd, which completely filled the front lawn of the Vinton War Memorial, to show their appreciation as veterans and active military personnel were asked to stand or wave. "Many Americans serve our nation and their local community throughout the year in various ways," Grose continued. "Some people volunteer to serve through their churches, clubs, civic, or service organizations. Some great Americans serve as first responders such as firefighters, rescue squad members, police and Public Works professionals." Grose asked first responders to stand for recognition from the crowd, as well. "The Fourth of July is the



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS  
The Fourth of July Celebration in Vinton opened with remarks from Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, an introduction from Vinton Director of Community Programs Chasity Barbour (left) and a performance of the national anthem by vocalist Nefateria Nash.



PHOTO BY DANNY ADAMS  
The Vinton Fourth of July Celebration fireworks were spectacular, once again.

See **Fireworks Show**, page 6

## A perfect day for Vinton's first Four on the 4th race



The Four on the 4th race to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA kicked off at the Vinton War Memorial High Ground Monument at 8 a.m. on July 4 – run for the first time in Vinton.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS  
The Four on the 4th event also included a Kids Fun Run, starting off from the Vinton War Memorial at 9 a.m.

Debbie Adams  
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The weather was absolutely perfect for Vinton's "Four on the 4th" race benefiting the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia. The four-miler is sponsored by American National Bank and Fleet Feet. This year marked the 11th annual Four on the 4th, but the first time that it was run in the Town of Vinton. In past years, Roanoke City has been the site of the event. Blaine Lewis, co-owner of Fleet Feet, noted that since this was the first race to take place in Vinton, "everyone will be able to set a course record." In fact, there were two races on the morning of the Fourth of July, the regular four-mile race at 8 a.m. which proceeded from the Vinton War Memorial down Washington Avenue and along Walnut Avenue and the Greenway to Fallon Park and back. Following that event there was a Kids' Fun Run down Washington Avenue—again starting at the War Memorial. The "Four on the 4th" race is one of the main fundraisers for the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA. In 2021, the event 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 after-school programs is housed at Vinton Baptist Church and serves students from Herman L. Horn and W.E. Cundiff



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See **4th Race**, page 5

# Thrasher Memorial and Virginia Children's Theatre partner for theatre camp

**Debbie Adams**  
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Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton partnered once again with the Virginia Children's Theatre (VCT) for their annual theatre camp for elementary school children during the week of June 27.

Twelve children participated in the half-day camp this year learning, VCT says, to "sing, dance and shine on stage, while making friends and memories." Some were members of the church and others were from throughout the area.

The idea for hosting the camp at Thrasher originated with Tina Yates, the former Christian Formation Director at the church. Yates wanted to offer an option for children who were not so much interested in sports, art, or outdoor camps during the summer.

She saw the theatre camp as another way to introduce children to Thrasher, as well. She and Brett Roden, Producing Artistic Director of Virginia Children's Theatre,

had planned the camp for 2020, but had to delay their plans until the summer of 2021 when the children were able to perform "Rock N' Wonderland" based on the children's classic "Alice in Wonderland."

This year, Kristen Smith has taken over the position as Director of the Children's Ministry at Thrasher and wanted to continue the special theatre program. Her part was working with VCT to bring the camp to Thrasher, recruiting participants, then organizing, coordinating, and facilitating the event during the week of camp, which took place in the church fellowship hall.

The students spent the five days learning their lines and the lyrics for the "Encanto Cabaret" production, building sets, putting together costumes, rehearsing, re-hearsing some more, and finally performed in a showcase for their families, friends, and guests on Friday, July 1.

"Encanto" is a recent Disney movie which tells the story of an extraordinary family, the Madri-

gals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia, in a magical house, in a charmed village called the Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift from super strength to the power to heal—every child except one, Mirabel.

The theatre campers performed several songs from the musical, including the popular "We Don't Talk about Bruno" (the outcast uncle).

Students who participated in this year's camp were: Ace Adkins, Crystal Carter, Emma Crawford, Loren Fields, Mason Fields, Kennedy Hernandez, McKenzie Neel, Julia Russ, Camren Smith, Jaylen Smith, Owen Smith, and Holden White.

Bethany Costello, Education Outreach Coordinator for the VCT, directed the production.

According to information from VCT, "She is a North Carolina native teaching artist, educator, actress and musician. An avid traveler and lover of wellness, Bethany is a proud graduate of The South Carolina School

of the Arts (2019) and holds a BFA degree in Musical Theatre. Costello has served as a Musical Theatre Artist (music director, educator, assistant director, performer, vocal coach, and accompanist) with companies including The REV Theatre Company, Florida Repertory Theatre, Lexington Children's Theatre, Missoula Children's Theatre, CentreStage and Anderson University.

The mission of VCT is "to inspire, empower, and transform," the lives of children, because "theatre skills are life skills."

"We inspire our youth and audiences to be critical thinkers, use their imagination, build confidence and come together as a community," VCT states on their website. "We empower them and provide them with the tools to be successful. Through inspiration and empowerment, we then seek to transform our community through the magic of live theatre."

As an independently owned and operated non-profit organization, VCT is the professional theatre



**Campers created the sets and decorations for the "Encanto" production.**

in the Commonwealth of Virginia solely dedicated to youth, schools, and their families. It was originally founded as the Roanoke Children's Theatre in 2008.

VCT produces a variety of high caliber professional Broadway-style musicals, concerts, plus issue-driven plays (for teens) each season. These productions are produced here in the Roanoke Valley and toured throughout the commonwealth of Virginia.

The VCT Theatre Academy provides year-round high-quality music, theatre and dance education for students in Pre-K through 12th grade through in-school residencies, in-house classes and camps and outreach across the commonwealth.

Productions for 2022

have included The Adams Family, Cinderella, Just Like I Wanted, Peter Pan Jr., Madagascar, with "A Brand New Day: VCT Concert" coming up in August.

The upcoming VCT 2022-2023 season will feature "The Secret Garden" in October, "Beauty and the Beast" in December, "Lift Every Voice" in February, "Willy Wonka, Jr." in April, "James and the Giant Peach," also in April, and "A Whole New World: A VCT Concert" in July 2023. And if all goes as planned, VCT will be back at Thrasher for another theatre camp next summer.

Visit the VCT website at <http://virginiachildrenstheatre.org/> for more information on classes, camps, and tickets for theatre productions.



**Thrasher Memorial UMC and the Virginia Children's Theatre partnered for theatre camp the week of June 27. The cast of "Encanto Cabaret" included Ace Adkins, Crystal Carter, Emma Crawford, Loren Fields, Mason Fields, Kennedy Hernandez, McKenzie Neel, Julia Russ, Camren Smith, Jaylen Smith, Owen Smith, and Holden White.**



**VCT Director Bethany Costello (front) leads a rehearsal at Thrasher's theatre camp.**

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

# Thrasher Memorial UMC welcomes new pastor

**Debbie Adams**  
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The congregation at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton welcomed new pastor John Hemming for his first worship service at Thrasher on Sunday, July 3.

Hemming follows Pastor B. Failes, who retired in June after 11 years at Thrasher and nearly 40 years in the minis-

try. Hemming comes from Culpeper United Methodist Church where he had served since 2019.

He is originally from Williamsburg. He and his wife Karen met as students at the College of William and Mary. After graduation, he worked for an IT company in Northern Virginia for about five years before he was called to the ministry. He gradu-

ated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

He is not new to the Roanoke area, having served as Associate Pastor at Cave Spring United Methodist from 2008 to 2012. His second appointment was as Lead Pastor for Powhatan United Methodist from 2012-2019, before moving to Culpeper UMC.

The Hemmings have three children—Luke, Aaron, and Anna.

"God is surely moving and working at Thrasher Memorial and the Hemming family is blessed to experience that reality," Pastor Hemming said in a message to the congregation. "As I step into the Lead Pastor role, I am humbled to take this position. With Christ's help, we will prayerfully work on this transition together. I am overjoyed to see how God will work in and through all of us in this

next chapter of ministry at Thrasher Memorial UMC."

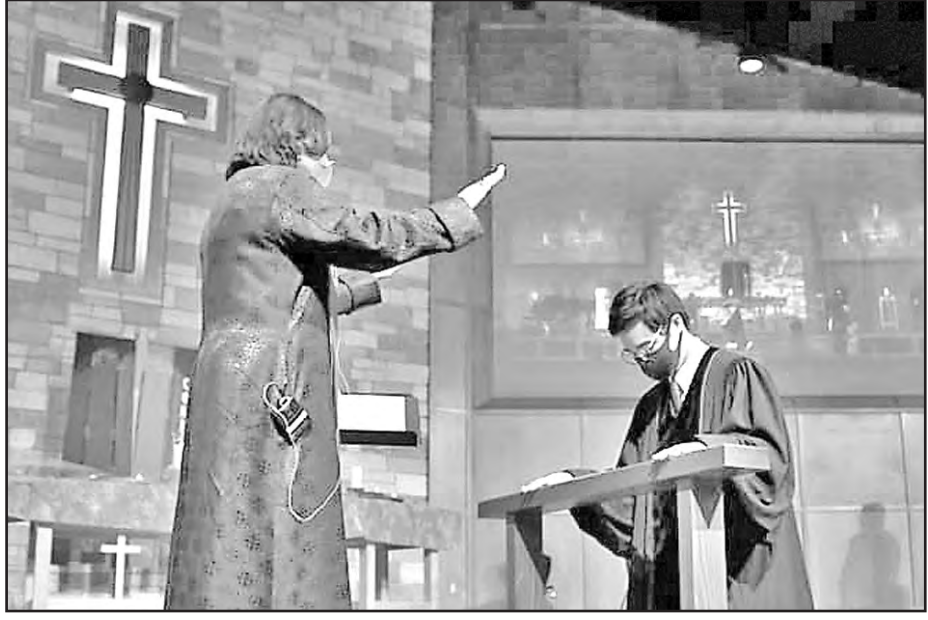
Pastor Seong-Jae Jo was commissioned as a Provisional Elder at the United Methodist Church Virginia Annual Conference in June and will continue as Associate Pastor at Thrasher and will also assume the duties of Youth Pastor.

Kristin Smith was recently named as Director of the Children's Ministry.



**Thrasher Memorial UMC celebrated the arrival of the new pastor, John Hemming, and his wife Karen on July 3. They are shown with Associate Pastor/Youth Minister Seong-Jae Jo (right) and Children's Ministry Director Kristen Smith (left).**

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS



**Pastor Seong-Jae Jo (kneeling), the Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor at Thrasher, was commissioned at the Virginia United Methodist Church Annual Conference this spring as a Provisional Elder by Bishop Sharma Lewis.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Mount Pleasant UMC hosts unique outreach ministry with gas giveaway

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church in Roanoke recently found an unusual but timely outreach mission project.

On Saturday, June 25, church members paid for the first \$20 of each gas purchase at the Mt. Pleasant Citgo Quik Mart on Jae Valley Road. They purchased gas for 70 people during the two and a half hours they

were at the station.

With the recent dramatic increase in gas prices, the church's plan was to ease the financial pain for those who stopped by the station to buy gas.

Pastor Robert Stutes, who has been the pastor at Mount Pleasant UMC since 2013, served as window cleaner for the event.

According to Out-

reach Ministry Chair Kim Gembala, there were no strings attached to the gift—church members just wanted to bless the community and show them their love.

Gembala noted that one lady who received the \$20 of gasoline said she couldn't remember the last time she had put that much gas in her vehicle.



**Mount Pleasant UMC Pastor Robert Stutes and members of his congregation supplied \$20 of free gas to members of the community who stopped by the Mount Pleasant Citgo Quik Mart on the morning of June 25.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Herman L. Horn hosts annual Ice Cream and Books Night

Herman L. Horn Elementary School hosted the annual Title I Ice Cream and Books Night on June 30, sponsored by Freedom First.

Children and their families gathered on the playground and in the picnic shelter at the school. Freedom First parked the ice cream truck in the drive-

way and families lined up for a treat. Students rummaged through giant containers of books to select a favorite to take home.

Title I provided the books; Freedom First donated the ice cream. All Herman L. Horn students were invited to the event. After the celebration at the

school, Title I took the party to the Longwood Apartments where they distributed more books and treats to Horn students.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Title I program and Freedom First Bank treated Herman L. Horn students and their families to their annual Ice Cream and Books Night on June 30.

## SWVA Pride hosting fundraising spaghetti dinner

The non-profit SWVA Pride organization will be hosting a "Great Spaghetti Dinner and Auction" on Saturday, July 9, at the Vinton War Memorial. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the silent auction begins at 5 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. Dinner also includes entertainment.

The event is being catered by Pumpernickel Pickle.

Tickets are on sale online at <https://www.swvapride.org/>. Tickets are \$25 for individuals up to \$200 for a table of 10. Plates to go are also available for \$20.

Proceeds will be used to fund future programs and the Inaugural Pride Fest to be held at the Vinton War Memorial in mid-September.

## Line dancing classes offered at Charles R. Hill Community Center

Free line dancing classes are available at the Charles R. Hill Community Center (at the Vinton War Memorial) in Vinton on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

These classes are appropriate for be-

ginners and open to everyone. Registration is not required.

For more information call 540-983-0645 or email [cbarbour@vintonva.gov](mailto:cbarbour@vintonva.gov).



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Line dance classes are offered at the Vinton Community Center on Tuesday mornings.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

SWVA Pride is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner at the Vinton War Memorial on July 9.

## PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

### Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Wow, what a week! We said good-bye to a staple in Vinton, Cundiff's Drug Store. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement, Sam. We will miss you and your staff, but hope to still see you around town!

We also said good-bye to a landmark, DR Music, after a devastating fire on Saturday morning. I want to send out big Thank Yous to Vinton McDonald's for breakfast to all the folks working hard since early morning in downtown Vinton; and to Rosie's for lunch; Deb's lemonade for their donation; Firehouse Subs and Big Belly's.

There were so many people on the scene working hard to secure the area. AEP, Roanoke Gas, Western Va. Water

Authority, Roanoke Co. Fire Marshals, Vinton and Roanoke EMS, Roanoke Co. Fire & Rescue, Roanoke City Fire, Building Commissioner Morgan Yates, Town of Vinton Public Works and Police Dept.

A donation bin will be on the side porch of the War Memorial. We will share more info as it develops. The Chamber will be also collection items at Mingle at the Market this weekend!

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to help the businesses and families involved. Vinton is truly a family!!

A big Thank You to the Town of Vinton for the awesome fireworks. You out-did yourselves again!

Mom had a couple of visitors this week- Jack and Shelly Wainwright and Bud McWhorter. She enjoyed the visit!

Reminder of Mingle at the Market this Saturday, 7-10 p.m., Vinton Farmers' Market - the band is Vinyl Nation. Come hungry - we are excited to have Malenie's Food Truck for the first time!

Submit your community news and photos to [vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org](http://vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org).



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# Next Mingle on July 9 features Vinyl Nation

The summer is rolling by and it's already time for another Mingle at the Market concert on July 9. This week's event features Vinyl Nation.

Remember regional favorite 7 Mile Ford? Vinyl Nation features 7 Mile Ford's lead singer Christy Bowles (vocals), David Bowles (drums), Jimmy Carper (bass/vocals), Jim Gober (guitar/vocals), Tyler Parrish (guitar/vocals), Paul Salvey (keyboards), and Wes Bradley (sound). The band plays popular music hits from the '70s, '80s, and '90s into 2021.

Mingle concerts are sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and MemberOne, and take place on the Vinton Farmers' Mar-

ket HomeTrust stage in downtown Vinton; this week, the event goes from 7 to 10 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults. Since this is a family-friendly event, kids under 12 enter free.

This week's on-site food truck is Malenie's (their first time at Mingle), serving "the best tasting Philly cheesesteak you will ever have," along with burgers, hot dogs, and sides.

Volunteers assisting with this week's Mingle are from Coastal Insurance Planning, owned by Donald Childress.

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.

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, Mayor Brad Grose, and KP Strategies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINYL NATION

The band Vinyl Nation will be performing at the July 9 Mingle at the Market concert.

# MINGLE AT THE MARKET

PRESENTED BY MemberOne

JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> 7 - 10PM

Vinyl Nation  
Malenie's Food Truck

JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> 6 - 10PM

Low Low Chariot & Adam Rutledge  
FOOD ON THE GO FOOD TRUCK & SALTY'S Lobster & Co

NO PETS

\$6.00 ADMISSION COST / KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

**ID REQUIRED**  
Please have out and ready for volunteers to check

**BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

**COME HUNGRY**  
Food Truck will be on site

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The next Mingle at the Market concert is scheduled for July 9 at the Vinton Farmers' Market.

## From the Pulpit

### 'Living Vessels'

One of the most distinguishable structures of the ancient Roman Empire that can still be found throughout modern-day France, Spain, Greece, North Africa, and Turkey is the Roman aqueduct.

Though early civilizations in India and Egypt used aqueducts, the Romans were the first to develop a complex network of aqueducts that spanned across their empire.

These engineering marvels were made from a series of tunnels, canals, and bridges that brought fresh water from natural sources to cities and towns throughout their territory.

This water was used

for drinking and irrigation, as well as to supply the fountains, baths, and lavatories throughout their most populated cities. Today, tourists travel from all over the world to view and tour these ancient wonders.

Though these aqueduct systems were built over the span of 500 years, beginning in the fourth century B.C. to the early third century A.D., the beauty of their structures and masonry was not what the ancients valued most. Though the Romans were lovers of the arts and constantly strove to create beauty, their aqueducts were valued most for their ability to effectively and consistently deliver fresh wa-

ter to the people.

Each aqueduct's worth was based on its identity as a vessel that could connect the people with one of the most vital sources of life— fresh water. According to the ancients, it was better to have an old, rickety wooden aqueduct full of water than one beautifully constructed, yet dry and waterless.

In Jesus' response to the Samaritan woman at the well, he said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never

thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of living water welling up to eternal life."

As Jesus explained, he is the source of living water. It is through him that all are able to drink of the Spirit and never be thirsty again. The water he gives is the only water able to quench the insatiable thirst of our souls. As Christ followers, those connected to the eternal source of living water, we are called to be Christ's aqueducts— those who effectively and consistently deliver his living water to the

people.

We live in a world obsessed with image. Most of us are constantly aware of our physical appearance. We do our best to look our best. Though image matters, I wonder if we need to be reminded that an old, rickety aqueduct full of water holds far more value than one bearing architectural beauty, yet is bone-dry.

The Roman aqueduct was a vessel intended to improve life by connecting the people to a source of fresh water. As Christians, our job is similar. We are to be living vessels— those

who help connect others to the source of all life— the living water of Christ.

This week, may we spend less time and energy on our appearance, and concentrate more on what is flowing through our lives. Energy flows where attention goes. May we ensure our attention is on the source of living water, allowing our energy to go toward being the best aqueduct we can be— living vessels that carry the living water of Christ to the people.

By Pastor Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church



Roman aqueduct

PHOTO COURTESY OF VBC

The Vinton Messenger

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# RECIPES

## So Many Cucumbers

**Debbie Adams**  
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If your garden is overrun with cucumbers, here are two simple recipes, plus one vintage pickle recipe from my mother, Alice Holpp.

Alice Holpp's 14-Day Sweet Pickles

My dad loved pickles and grew tons of cucumbers every year. I remember my mother making a crock of sweet pickles every summer over a period of 14 days—not an easy process, and involving lots of boiling liquids and heavy lifting.

Put two gallons of cucumbers—washed and sliced lengthwise—into a stone jar (crock). (If you don't slice them, they will shrivel.) Dissolve 2 cups of salt in one gallon of boiling water and pour over cucumbers while hot. Cover and weight down the cucumbers and let stand for ONE WEEK.

On the 8th day, drain the cucumbers. Then pour one gallon of boiling water over them and let them stand 24 hours.

On the 9th day, drain and pour one gallon of

boiling water with 1 Tbsp. powdered alum over pickles and let stand 24 hours.

On the 10th day, again pour one gallon of boiling water over them. Let them stand 24 hours and then drain.

For the pickling mixture, combine 5 pints of vinegar, boiling hot, 6 cups of sugar, 1/2 ounce of celery seed,

and a 1-ounce cinnamon stick. Pour this over the cucumbers and drain off for three mornings, reheating, and adding 1 cup of sugar each morning.

With the third and last reheating of the pickles, pack them into sterilized canning jars, pour the hot liquid over them, and seal with lids immediately.

### Basic Cucumber & Onion Salad

Five or six small pickling cucumbers or a couple larger ones, or even English cucumbers

Half of a medium sweet onion, sliced as thin as you like

1/2 cup white vinegar

1/2 cup water

2 tsp. sugar

1 tsp. salt

1 clove minced garlic (optional)

Black pepper

Peel cucumbers and slice to your liking. Peel and slice onion, to your liking. Combine in bowl. Combine vinegar, water, sugar, salt, and garlic and pour over cucumbers and onions. Allow to sit for at least an hour before serving. Sprinkle with black pepper.

### Cucumber Tzatziki Sauce & Gyros

Tzatziki Sauce is a tasty topping for gyros, and both are simple to make.

#### Ingredients for Tzatziki Sauce:

- 1 small onion, chopped
  - 1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded, chopped
  - 1/2 cup sour cream (or Greek yogurt)
  - 1/2 tsp. dried dill
  - 1/2 tsp. salt
  - 2 tsp. lemon juice
- Mix all ingredients and chill.

#### Ingredients for Greek Gyros:

- 1 lb. ground beef or lamb, or combination
- 1 cup fresh bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp. ground fenugreek
- Dash of cayenne pepper
- Pita bread

Mix the gyro ingredients. Shape into 4x6" patty, one inch thick. Broil, turning once, until well-browned on each side, for about 15 minutes. (Or you can form into regular patties and grill.) Let rest 10 minutes before slicing.

Warm pita in foil in oven or in microwave. Place slices of meat in or on pita topped with Tzatziki Sauce. Top with chopped tomato and shredded lettuce.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Holpp family stone crock which produced 14 day pickles for decades.

# Roanoke River Bridge reopening delayed

The Roanoke River Bridge Rehabilitation Project on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Explore Park has been delayed. The bridge will now reopen on July 11.

The Roanoke River Bridge project began in May of 2021 and was due to be completed by July 1, but delays in the bridge guardrail completion have caused the change in reopening dates.

The bridge closed during the summer of 2021 for a long-scheduled, major rehabilitation project.

The National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration identified this project as a priority in 2015, as part of the ongoing, multi-year road maintenance planning cycle for the Blue Ridge Parkway.

This project has included concrete repairs to bridge piers, reconstruction and drainage repairs to approach areas, removal of existing asphalt surface and waterproofing membrane, installation of new waterproofing membrane and asphalt surface, and repainting of the steel super structure of the bridge.



Blue Ridge Parkway Roanoke River Bridge Closure



Disclaimer: It is understood that the data displayed through this application is subject to constant change and that its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The maps have been created from information provided by various government and private sources at various levels of accuracy. The data is provided to you as is, with no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any of the information provided herein. It is the responsibility of the user of the data to be aware of the data's limitations and to utilize the data in an appropriate manner.

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Date: 7/1/2022

The Roanoke River Bridge on the Blue Ridge Parkway has postponed its reopening to July 11.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRP

## 4th Race

from page 1



David Angell of Blue Ridge was the winner of Vinton's first Four on the 4th race.



Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters finished the course with a respectable time of 41:56:0.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Elementary Schools.

Over 500 participants turned out for this year's event. Most were dressed patriotically in red, white, and blue in honor of the occasion, including several in tutus. It was a family-friendly event with many children, quite a few in strollers.

Michelle Davis, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA, opened the race by thanking the Town of Vinton for being incredible partners in welcoming "Four on the 4th", especially the Public Works and Police Departments for their efforts to make things go smoothly.

She also expressed her appreciation to Fleet Feet and American National Bank for being faithful sponsors and to the many volunteers it takes to put on the race.

Mayor Brad Grose welcomed race participants to the town and signaled the start of the race with the official shotgun start and the runners were off. The first one back to the finish line in 20:51:4 was David Angell of Blue Ridge. Coming in second was George Tolton of Salem with a time of 20:56:4. The first female runner to finish the race was Erica Howes, also of Salem,

with a time of 25:02:4.

Vinton's racers made a good showing. Town Manager Pete Peters finished 14th in his age division with a time of 41:56:0. His goal had been to make it in under 50 minutes.

Vinton First Aid Crew Chief Chris Sayre came in ninth in his division at 1:08:57.8. Shaun Gower, age 14, finished first in his age group with a time of 27:48:2. Vernon Hudson came in third in the age 70 and above group. William Byrd High School Tammy Newcomb finished fourth in her age division.

Brent Warner of Roanoke came across the finish line pushing a baby stroller with two passengers.

Racers received medals and cheers as they crossed the finish line; overall winners and age-group winners received prizes from K92 and Q99 and commemorative T-shirts at a celebration after the races were complete.

Sponsors of this year's "Four on the 4th" included: title sponsor American National Bank, FocusOne, Cox, Freedom First, Roanoke Valley Orthodontics, Fleet Feet, the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA, Dominion Risk Ad-

visers, ON Shoes, Press Press Merch, RND Coffee, Krispy Kreme Donuts, Texas Tavern, the Sign Factory, Q99, K92, the Town of Vinton, Lionberger Construction, BJ's, and Gentry Locke.

Donations were accepted at the race for victims of Saturday's fire in downtown Vinton. Chasity Barbour, Director of Community Programs in Vinton, and Mayor Grose sincerely thanked those who contributed. Many members of town staff had spent Saturday assisting at the fire scene and were faithfully back for the race early Monday

morning and the fire works that evening.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA, visit <https://www.bgcswwa.org/>.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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# Fireworks Show from page 1



**Vinton Town Councilman Keith Liles, owner of Deb's Lemonade, entertained the crowd with his motorized cooler.**

one day of the year that we can and should put aside our differences and come together in celebration and support of our nation and each other," Grose said. "Most people can agree to celebrate our togetherness on this one day. I'm here to tell you that Americans support and help each other on more occasions than just once a year. A great example of that happened here in Vinton just a few days ago. Due to a tragic fire, a historic building in our downtown that represented countless precious memories for many of our citizens was lost.

"Of course, our first responders did an awesome job as they worked most of one night and into the next day to contain the blaze. What might surprise some people is the immediate and heartfelt response of the citizens and businesses in our town. Several restaurants—McDonald's, Big Belly Pizza, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, and Deb's Lemonade—stepped up and provided food and drinks for everyone working on the scene.

"Thank God there was no loss of human life; regrettably some pets did perish in the tragedy and there was significant loss of property. Unfortunately, four apartments were destroyed, and the eight residents lost everything. Our citizens immediately responded by donating clothing and money to help some neighbors they did not even know.

"So that American spirit of caring for each other and supporting each other is still alive and well!" said Grose. "A few days ago, we saw that attitude on full display right here in Vinton. I'm convinced that same feeling, that same approach towards helping one another happens everyday throughout this great nation, typically in a more private matter.

"So, tonight, as we watch the fireworks

fill the sky, let our hearts and minds be filled with appreciation for all those who have served our nation and those who are serving now," the mayor said. "Let us rededicate ourselves to pray for our nation and its leaders. Let's do our part to build strong local communities; let's continue to help our neighbors and always remain loyal American patriots. May God bless you and may God continue to bless America."

The mayor was followed by much-acclaimed vocalist Nefateria Hash performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Chasity Barbour, Director of Community Programs who coordinated the Fourth of July Celebration, introduced DJ Flex, who kept the crowd entertained until the fireworks began precisely at 9:30.

He had a playlist to please any taste, a huge Megatron screen, laser lights, a CO2 machine providing special smoke and fog effects, along with cannonball mini fireworks throughout the evening. He was assisted by Sound Dawg Productions on a stage constructed on the portico of the War Memorial.

There was a long line of food trucks feeding what appeared a very hungry crowd. Food trucks and vendors included Deb's Lemonade, Tinker Mountain Kettle Corn, Duck Donuts, Munsey's Smoke Shack, Salty's Lobster & Company, Wicked Lemon, and DG Ice. A little farther down Washington Avenue, you could find the Two Brothers Lemonade stand.

There were "InVinton" glow sticks to keep the children entertained and lots of dancing on the hillside in front of the War Memorial.

Vinton is not as small as it once was, except in remaining a tight-knit community, but it still defines Americana at its best.



**Families enjoyed the simple things in celebrating the Fourth at the War Memorial.**



**Thrasher Memorial UMC served up a Fourth of July favorite— free ice cream.**



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAM

**There was even an independent lemonade stand at the Vinton Fourth of July celebration— Two Brothers Lemonade.**

## 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](http://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](http://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 Botoourt 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](http://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

## Wits' End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27-28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed through many tests in the

past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end corner' but again and again we have found ourselves singing."

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life.

Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

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](http://www.eck-va.org) for program listings, [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:tfrye@ourvalley.org)**

# Marketplace

ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD | The Vinton Messenger | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES REGISTER | News Messenger | RADFORD News Journal

## Garage Sale

### Long Term Garage Sale

Downsizing 60 years of accumulation. New things EVERYDAY. Every Sat and Sun rain or shine. 5/7-10/2 10 am until dark 2135 old Fincastle rd. 24090 Household, antiques, collectable, furniture, vinyl, tools, Coca-Cola, building materials, Lionel, 540-598-6664 Curtis Parr

## Help Wanted

### Quality Inn Radford

Hiring Full-Part Time Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor and Housekeeping. Apply in Person. Ph-540-639-3000

## Part Time Newspaper Production Help

Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

## Help Wanted - Lawn & Garden

### Help Wanted In Salem After Injury

Start immediately. Mulching, planting, ladder trimming.\$20/hour. Daylight hours. Text 602-663-3303 or call 540-387-5830

## For Sale - Misc

### FOR SALE

Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

## For Rent

### Mobile Home

Large Mobile home lot for rent. Serious inquiries only. Call (540)9472314 before 10pm.

## For Sale - Firewood

### FIREWOOD

Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-529-2745 Delivery in Botetourt only

## 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 - Montgomery County

### VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Case No. CL22-447 Complainant, v. **ARCHIE E. CROMER, JR., ET AL.,** Respondent(s). ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 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 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

## Legals - Montgomery County

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

## Legals - City of Radford

### ABC NOTICE

7-ELEVEN, INC./CAMPUS CONVENIENCE INC., trading as 7-ELVEN 35781 B 302 Tyler Ave. Radford, VA. 24141.

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.

GOBINDSINGH CHAWLA, President

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## Legals - City of Salem

### Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL22000259-00 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

## STATEWIDE ADS

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## STATEWIDE ADS

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### SERVICES

DIVORCE - Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$225.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. HYPERLINK "https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com" https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

Up to \$15,000.00 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company-844-509-1697 or visit HYPERLINK "http://www.Life55plus.info/vapress" www.Life55plus.info/vapress

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## STATEWIDE ADS

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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org), or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • [ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)



Byrd's Maddy Tuck is second team all-state in softball and the Blue Ridge District Player-of-the-Year.



James Purcell is a second team all-state selection in baseball who will play in the Commonwealth Games.



Landon Niday was Byrd's leading scorer and a second team all-state soccer player.

## Three Terriers named to Class 3 All-State teams

Wm. Byrd well-represented on All-Region, All-BRD teams; Taylor, Mitchell-McCroskey are top district coaches

The Virginia High School League All-State sports teams were recently announced and William Byrd had three athletes recognized in Class 3. Byrd was represented in softball, baseball and boys' soccer.

In softball, recently graduated senior Maddy Tuck was named to the All-Class 3 second team in the outfield. Tuck was a first team selection on the All-Region 3D team and was joined on the first team by Byrd teammate Haleigh Vaughan, a junior who was selected for an "at large" position. Second team all-region went to Sydney Blewett in the outfield, and Logan Pekala was Honorable Mention at second base.

Tuck was the Player-of-the-Year in the Blue Ridge District and a first team outfielder while Vaughan was first team at third base. Second team All-BRD honors went to Blewett in the outfield and Pekala at second base.

In baseball, junior James Purcell was named to the Class 3 All-State team in an "at large" position. James was a catcher for the Terriers and he'll be playing for former Byrd player and coach Rodney Spradlin for the West team in the Commonwealth Games the weekend of July 15.

Purcell was also a first team "at large" selection on the All-Region 3D baseball team, and senior lefty Hunter Sipe was also named to the first team as a pitcher. Senior Ethan Hairston made the second team all-region at shortstop and senior Trenton Sayers was deemed Honorable Mention.

Purcell, Sipe and senior secondbaseman Matthew Scavelli all made first team on the All-Blue Ridge

District team. In addition, Sipe was named BRD Pitcher-of-the-Year and Byrd coach Jason Taylor was named the BRD Coach-of-the-Year. Second team All-BRD Terriers were Sayers on the mound, Hairston as an at large, senior Ross Divers in the outfield and junior Devon Foutz at designated hitter.

In boys' soccer senior Landon Niday was named to the Class 3 All-State second team at forward. Landon was also a first team selection in Region 3D, only at midfield, and two other Terriers were second team all-region, junior Caden Bowles at forward and junior Dylan Hughes on defense.

Niday, Crossan and Hughes were all named to the All-Blue Ridge District first team. Sophomore forward Dexter Gaines and freshman midfielder Ian Sigmon were selected to the all-district second team.

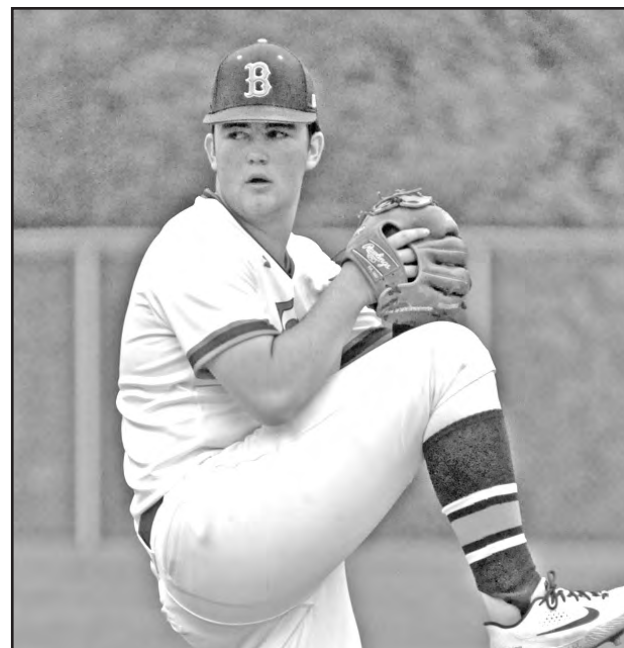
There were no Byrd girls on the all-state soccer team but two girls made first team All-Region 3D, junior Maddy Simmons at forward and senior Anna Milliron at midfield. Junior defender Maci Glass was an all-region second teamer.

Simmons, Milliron, Glass and senior at large selection Riley Firebaugh all made the All-Blue Ridge District first team. Junior defender Ella Ashworth and sophomore forward Addisyn St. Clair made the all-district second team.

In girls' lacrosse two Terriers made the All-Region D second team, senior Ashlyn Stover at midfield and freshman Annika Hylton at attack. Honorable Mention went to senior Trinity Hylton and junior Oliva Hurd at midfield.

Byrd was also represented on the All-Blue Ridge

District boys' and girls' tennis teams. Sophomore Ryan Carista was on the all-district boys' team while senior Alexis Aquino and sophomore Makenna Jacobsen made the girls' team. Byrd coach Kayla Mitchell-McCroskey was named the BRD girls' Coach-of-the-Year.



Senior Hunter Sipe was named Blue Ridge District Pitcher-of-the-Year.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

## Roanoke College is starting competitive cycling program

Tom Rambo, dean of students at Roanoke College, has announced that RC will launch a competitive cycling program for women and men. Rambo broke the news at the recent announcement concerning the 2022 USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships, which were held in the valley last week.

Although cycling as a sport will be new to Roanoke College, there is a strong connection between Roanoke College and cycling. Roanoke College women's soccer captain Shelley Olds '03 became a world class cyclist after graduating from the College in 2003. She was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team and competed in the 2012 London Olympics.

"I am ecstatic about the news that Roanoke College will have a collegiate cycling team," Olds said. "There couldn't be a more perfect location for competitive cycling. The terrain and beauty of the Roanoke area is an easy draw for both recreational and amateur cyclists of all ages. I think many student-athletes, current and prospective, will see this as an incredible opportunity to enhance their collegiate experience as well as their athletic growth and development.

"I will be rooting for the team, and I know that anything that Roanoke College commits to, they end up doing very well. I have no

doubt that the collegiate cycling team will be well-run and extremely successful."

Roanoke College has registered both men's and women's teams with USA Cycling, competing this fall as a club sport. The teams, for men and women, will elevate to varsity status within a few years and at that time will compete as part of the Atlantic Collegiate Cycling Conference (ACCC).

"USA Cycling is excited to have Roanoke College back on board after more than a 10-year hiatus," said Justin Evans, USA Cycling's Collegiate and Interscholastic Programs Manager. "The new leadership is pushing the program in the direction of success, so we are excited to see how this program grows from their restart as a club and the transition to varsity in the coming semesters."

The College will begin the search for a cycling coach this summer. There is already interest in the program and the College is recruiting students to take part in the booming cycling culture in Virginia's Blue Ridge. One recent addition to that culture is Virginia's Blue Ridge TWENTY24, a national cycling team that

aims to prepare female cyclists for the Olympics. The team is based in the Roanoke Valley.

"The Virginia's Blue Ridge TWENTY24 team is recognized as a valued recruitment platform for young athletes heading to college, with eight professional athletes and 27 junior athletes currently in the program," said Nicola Cranmer, founder and general manager of Virginia's Blue Ridge TWENTY24 cycling team. "I'm thrilled that Roanoke College will be an additional pathway to education for cycling students. The timing is perfect with USA Cycling Amateur National Championships coming to Virginia's Blue Ridge in the coming weeks, and this is a super opportunity for students to experience first-hand what the area has to offer."

Virginia's Blue Ridge is home to excellent cycling assets as America's East Coast Mountain Biking Capital including a Silver-level Ride Center designation from the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Region-wide the area has excellent road cycling on the Blue Ridge Parkway and greenways as well as emerging gravel trails.



Cyclists are off and peddling in last week's 2022 USA Cycling Amateur Road National Championships, that had a starting point at the Botetourt Sports Complex on Thursday and Friday. The event covered four days of racing on area streets and trails.

PHOTO BY MATT DE SIMONE

# Downtown Fire from page 1

also affected a number of second-floor apartments,” said Town Manager Pete Peters. “Upon arrival, first responders rapidly confirmed that no residents and business owners remained inside the primary or adjacent structures, while members of the Town of Vinton Public Works and Police Department worked to close streets and secure the downtown to allow fire crews to work the site.”

Early on, crews from AEP, the Western Virginia Water Authority, and Roanoke Gas were called in to assist, and disconnected power and gas lines leading to the affected buildings where necessary.

The WVWA issued a statement at about 8:30 a.m. about the fire’s effect on the downtown water supply.

“Customers in the downtown Vinton business district may experience reduced water pressure and/or some discoloration of their water as additional thousands of gallons of water have been pulled through the distribution lines to fight the fire. Reduced water pressure will return to normal pressure after the firefighters have completed their job.”

“From approximately the time of the call, to well after 7 a.m., fire crews actively worked the fire until it was sufficiently extinguished,” Peters said. “There were no injuries to the human occupants or first responders; however, three cats perished in the fire. There has been no determination yet made as to what caused the fire, although due to the extensive damage sustained by the building, the primary structure located at 101 East Lee Avenue was determined to pose a public hazard and was ordered to be taken down by the Roanoke County Building Official’s Office.”

After the roof collapsed on D.R. Music, Incident Command was concerned that the entire building could collapse and so some units had to

back away from the building temporarily.

Due to the large presence of fire and EMS personnel and equipment, and also due to the possibility of a building collapse, most of the streets in downtown Vinton were closed.

“Several adjacent structures also experienced significant damages, although additional building assessments will be needed in the coming days and weeks to determine their eventual fate,” Peters said.

Roanoke County Fire Marshal Brian Simmons said that the fire was one of the most intense commercial fires Roanoke County Fire & Rescue has been called upon to fight. Brian Clingenpeel, Community Outreach Coordinator for Roanoke County Fire & Rescue, says causes are sometimes difficult to determine when there is damage as severe as in this case.

Demolition experts from W.E.L. Environmental Services arrived on-site early in the morning to prepare for taking down the music store.

According to Clingenpeel, the Roanoke County Fire Marshal’s Office was on scene throughout the day to investigate and provide a damage estimate. Officials could be seen continually raking through the debris and taking photographs of the damages.

Hot spots continued to flare up throughout the morning, leading the fire department to continue spraying water throughout the day as debris was dragged from the building by the excavator once demolition was underway. A heavy thunderstorm in the afternoon eventually extinguished any remaining areas of concern.

“There were apartments above both of the commercial structures that were on fire,” Clingenpeel said. “Eight adults from four apartments were displaced as a result. The American Red

Cross was on scene to assist those displaced.”

As of July 6, Peters said that one lane remained closed on both South Pollard Street and East Lee Avenue “so Roanoke County can complete building assessments on the adjacent side of the structure and additional fencing barricades can be put up to restrict access to the site and contain any falling debris.” Caution tape had blocked off the area since Saturday.

Most of the Town of Vinton leadership team was present throughout the day on Saturday including Mayor Brad Grose, Councilman Keith Liles, Town Manager Pete Peters, Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton, Public Works Director Bo Herndon, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, Deputy Police Chief Tim Lawless, Human Resources/Risk Management Director Donna Collins, Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour, along with Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning, all offering support and organizing the resources of the town to assist. Many town employees from several departments were involved throughout the day from the early morning hours on, along with Roanoke County Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Campbell, Roanoke County Building Commissioner Morgan Yates, and many other Roanoke County officials.

“On Saturday, July 2, 2022, the Town of Vinton suffered a tragic blow to its downtown business section and to the memories of many of its citizens,” said Mayor Grose. “A rapidly spreading fire destroyed the historic building at 101 East Lee Avenue. We thank God there was no loss of human life; regrettably, some pets perished in the heartbreaking event and there was significant loss of property.”

“I certainly understand that the loss of the historic

building is very difficult for many of our citizens as it represented countless precious memories,” Grose said. “As mayor, I want to thank all our first responders for their quick and professional response. The fire departments, rescue squad, police and Public Works department did an awesome job as they worked throughout the night and into the next day to contain the blaze. Unfortunately, four apartments were destroyed, and the eight residents lost everything.”

“It has been truly heartwarming to see the businesses and citizens of Vinton respond to the needs of those directly impacted by the fire. Several restaurants (McDonalds, Big Belly Pizza, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, Firehouse Subs, and Deb’s Lemonade) provided food and drinks for everyone working at the scene. Many of our citizens have already donated money and clothing to help their neighbors during this terrible time.”

“Although very sad, I’m sure we will recover from this experience, and I pray all those that were impacted by the fire will find peace as we move forward together,” Grose said.

D.R. Music owners Rhonda and Donnie Wray lost not only their business and thousands of dollars in inventory, but their dream and 39 years of memories and service to the community. D.R. Music touched so many in the Vinton community with musical instrument rentals, repairs, lessons, and sales and, also their famous hot dogs.

One of the most heart-rending sights of the entire day was seeing burned and melted musical instruments being carried from the scene by the demolition crew—trombones, trumpets, maracas, drums, a tuba, guitars—one by one. One man in the crowd commented that he had inherited a guitar from his father which was at D.R. Music for repair.

Many members of the community visited the scene during the day to share their memories and offer assistance and sympathy. Owners of local businesses were there to offer support as well. There were many tears and many hugs. Mayor Grose and Angie Chewning noted that Vinton is always a community that pulls together in good times and in bad.

Once D.R. Music was torn down, demolition, police, and public works employees gathered bricks from the historic White Front Pharmacy/Clover Creamery sign to be given as keepsakes.

Financial advisor George Lester of the Edward Jones Investments firm affected by the fire was at the scene most of the day. While his business is mostly computerized and can be run from another location, he was concerned about securing the office and its equipment which sustained heavy water damage. He also had personal items, which the fire department was able to remove for him, including an American Flag.

Dawn Sullivan, owner of Rustic Creations, was escorted to her building by first

responders as well and able to look through the window at damages. While her business did not sustain as much damage as the others, she was concerned about her neighbors.

Clingenpeel updated the situation on July 3, reporting damage estimates at \$500,000 for D.R. Music and a total in damages of at least \$1.5 million.

The downtown structures affected by the fire were nearly a century old. The building housing D.R. Music was built in 1930. It was the home to White Front Pharmacy, owned by Kenneth Furbush. The pharmacy had occupied the building beginning in the 1930s into the 1950s. Those who frequent the downtown area will recall the iconic “White Front Pharmacy/Clover Creamery” sign painted on the Pollard Street side of the building. The sign was refreshed by a local artist in recent years, after being hidden behind siding until the early ’90s.

The Edward Jones Investments, Faith’s Hair Stu-

dio, and Anita’s Alterations buildings were constructed in 1920.

The Town of Vinton, Fleet Feet owner Blaine Lewis, and Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA CEO Michelle Davis determined that the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA “Four on the 4th Race” scheduled for the morning of July 4 would continue as planned through Vinton, but was slightly rerouted to avoid Lee Avenue.

The town and the Chamber of Commerce announced that they would immediately begin accepting donations at the Community Center located at the Vinton War Memorial and at the Chamber office on Lee Avenue for those displaced by the fire. Participants in the race and those who attended the Vinton Fourth of July Celebration at the War Memorial brought clothing and goods to donate. Donations will also be accepted at the July 9 Mingle at the Market concert.



Demolition continues.



George Lester’s American flag was rescued from Edward Jones Investments by the fire department.



The iconic Clover Creamery sign falls.



Downtown devastation with the loss of a piece of Vinton’s history.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

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