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New Lighthouse Christian Academy now enrolling students

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The new Lighthouse Christian Academy (LHCA) will be opening on August 11, 2022, at Lighthouse Bible Church in Vinton. The church is located at 2500 East Washington Avenue near William Byrd High School. The school has been established to provide Christian education and to fulfill the Great Commission by “educating students in a Biblical worldview.”

LHCA is now enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year. The school is open to everyone— you need not be a member of Lighthouse Bible Church to attend.

The private Christian school will be serving students from Pre-K through sixth grade this year, with plans for adding another grade level in each year of operation to allow students who begin their education at the school to continue through high school. Their original plan was to enroll Pre-K through fifth grade students this first year, but they received so much interest from the community that they have added sixth grade in this opening year.

There are currently slots for pre-



Lighthouse Christian Academy will be opening on August 11 and is now enrolling students.

school (ages 3-4) full-day students, as well as in grades K-6.

Kathy Barton is the School Administrator. She returned to school to earn her Master’s degree with an endorsement in Administration and Supervision for PreK-12th grades when discussion of opening the school began and is now in charge of the program.

“We desire to meet the needs of all students by helping them reach their fullest potential spiritually, academi-

See **New Academy**, page 6



Preschool classroom at Lighthouse Christian Academy.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

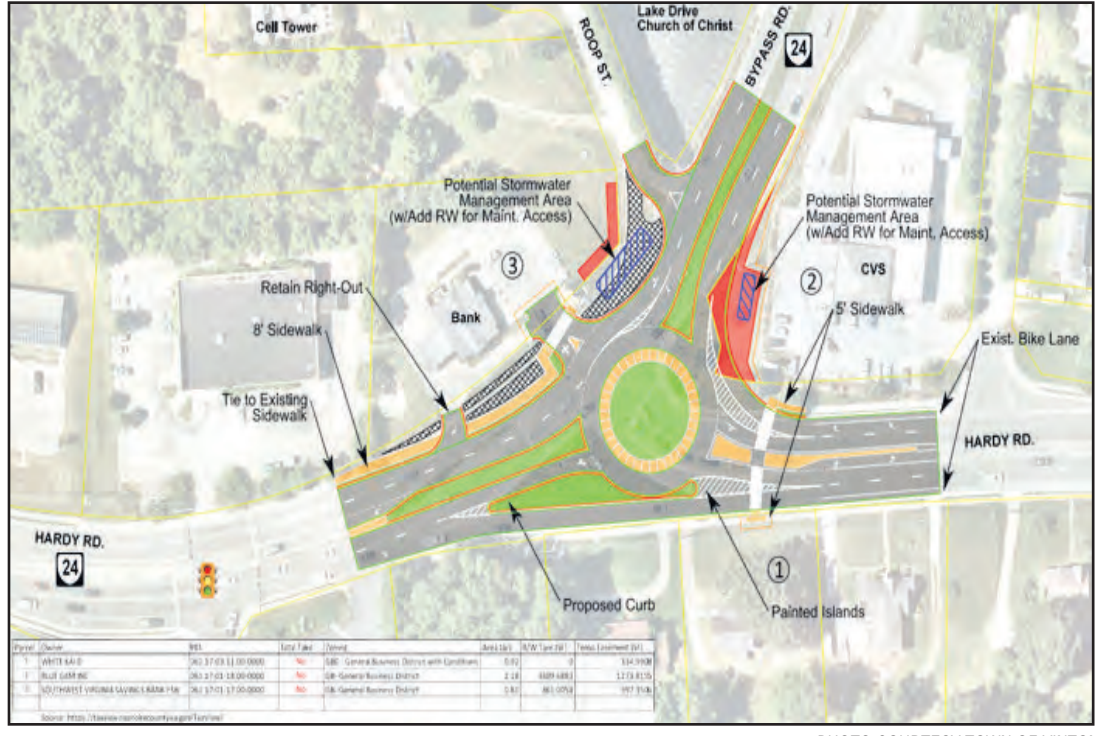


PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

Vinton Town Council approved an application to VDOT for a roundabout project at the intersection of Hardy/Bypass Road and Hardy Road. This is an early conceptual drawing of the project— subject to change.

Town Council updated on First Aid Crew activity, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Roundabout Project grant application

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

At their meeting on July 19, Vinton Town Council welcomed newly appointed Finance Director Andrew Keen. He assumed his position on June 27, but this was his first council meeting. Keen previously worked for Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare as their Budget and Finance Manager. He has extensive experience in budget development, contract and reporting management, and payroll processing. Keen said that he is excited to be working for the Town of Vinton and appreciates the opportunity.

First Aid Crew Chief Chris Sayre presented an update on the activities of the volunteer crew from January through

July of 2022. He reported that truck mark-up (staff and vehicle prepared for dispatch) was 329 out of a possible 544 hours (60% of the volunteer hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and 24 hours/day on weekends). There were 825 calls dispatched during volunteer hours. The crew responded to 478 of those calls (58%) and handled 51% of them.

The career staff handled 347 calls that the First Aid Crew was dispatched to during volunteer hours. These could have been because the Crew did not have a unit in service or had a second or sometimes third emergency call.

So far in 2022, the First Aid Crew has volunteered for 7,534 man-hours as compared to 5,103 in the first

half of 2021.

The Crew’s fractal response times (the ability of the department to respond within a given time) was a notable 5.33 minutes, far faster than their goal fractal time of 9.33 minutes. Fractal response is measured from the time of dispatch to the time the unit arrives on the scene. Advanced Life Support vehicle mark-up averaged 41%; Basic Life Support, 59%.

Sayre told Council that they crew is beginning an active recruitment campaign to attract new members, including high school students (the minimum age is 16). Currently there are three people in the application process; two of those are expected to join the Crew in August.

See **Roundabout**, page 6

Thrasher team makes a difference on ASP mission trip



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thrasher ASP mission team builds a new porch for a family in West Virginia.

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) team from Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church spent the week of July 10 in Huntington, W.Va., at the Cabell County Center, with the goal of “making homes warmer, safer, and drier.”

Youth leader Bonnie Jones says the team “certainly did that.” Two of the four groups in the team worked together on a house to replace the siding. Another group built a porch, while the fourth group replaced a roof and painted.

The Appalachia Service Project, created in 1969, brings thousands of volunteers from around the country to Central Appalachia annually to repair and replace homes for low-income families. It is meant to be a transformational service experience for volunteer as well.

More than 25 communities are served by over 15,000 ASP volunteers each year, impacting over 350 families. More than 3,000 repair

projects are completed each summer with more than 20 new homes built and gifted through ASP.

ASP repairs roofs, walls, floors, foundations, and bathrooms, in addition to making homes accessible through porch and ramp repairs or additions.

“It was a hot week, but we knew we would get ice cream at the end of the day, so we preserved,” Jones said.

This was the 23rd year the Thrasher youth have participated in ASP. Fourteen youth and 10 adults made the trip. Only two of the youth had ever been on an ASP trip before because of the two years the church had to take off because of COVID.

“It was pretty much a brand-new group, but they stepped right up and did an amazing job under the leadership of mostly veteran and adult ASP leaders,” Jones said. “We even had one of our former youth come back as an adult leader this year.”

The team members were worshipped at the 8 a.m. worship service at Thrasher on July 10, just before they started their journey.

Team members included: Isaac Anderson, Bob Benninger, Shane Clay, McKenzie Crow, Madison Crow, Molly Crow, Dom Crutchfield, Andrew Fleisher, Izabella



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See **Thrasher**, page 2

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

Congratulations to Logan Glass who was recently awarded “World’s Best Employee” by Carilion Culinary. Logan has always strived to do the very best he can in everything he undertakes to do. Everyone is so proud of him.

Logan is a William Byrd graduate. His proud parents are



Angie Chewing

Filling in for Bootie

Robin and Dan Glass.

If only all employees could be like Logan, all employers would be happy. Go Logan!

Unfortunately, the last Mingle at the Market concert with Vinyl Nation had to be postponed due to inclement weather. We are working on a make-up date TBA.



Logan Glass (center) with proud parents Robin and Dan Glass.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Visit Our Daily Bread for Pancakes with Police

The Vinton Police Department and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce have scheduled another community outreach program for Thursday, July 28. This month it’s “Pancakes with Police.”

The stated mission of the Vin-

ton Police Department is “to improve the quality of life by preserving the peace and safety of the community through the formation of partnerships and creating positive interaction between the public and the police while continuing to serve the unique

needs of the Town of Vinton.”

The event is scheduled at Our Daily Bread at 126 East Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton from 8 to 10 a.m. The two organizations invite the public to stop by, join the conversation, and form those partnerships.

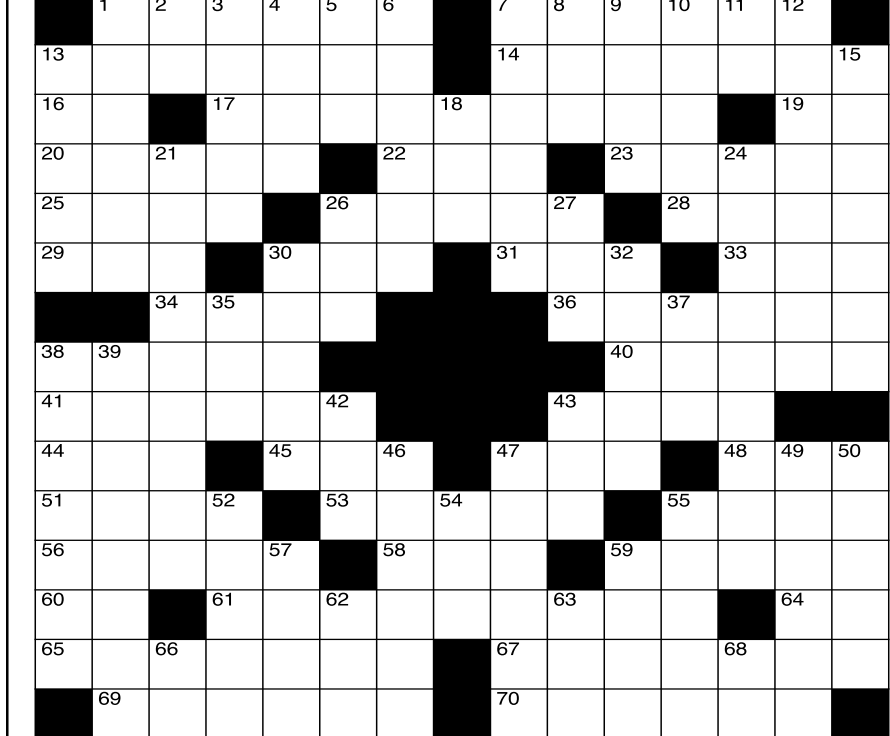
PANCAKES WITH POLICE

THURSDAY, JULY 28TH
8 - 10 AM
OUR DAILY BREAD
LOCATED AT 126 E LEE AVE

Come out and join us for great food and great conversation.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 41. Counts on | CLUES DOWN | 32. Belonging to the bottom layer |
| 1. Eurasian shrubs | 43. Dad | 1. Flowing | 35. Black tropical American cuckoo |
| 7. Strikes and rebounds | 44. Woman (French) | 2. Computer department | 37. Music genre |
| 13. Group of advisers | 45. A digital tape recording of sound | 3. Lasts | 38. Indicates one is in mourning |
| 14. Modern necessity | 47. Polish Baltic peninsula | 4. DiFranco and Samsonyan are two | 42. Bodily cavity |
| 16. Top lawyer in the land | 48. Recipe measurement | 5. ___ de sac | 43. A dog is one |
| 17. Philadelphia university | 51. Requests out of dire need | 6. Merchant | 46. Chose to do something |
| 19. Of I | 53. Precious stone weight unit | 7. Hosts film festival | 47. Annoy persistently |
| 20. Functions as a laser | 55. The immaterial part of a person | 8. State of agitation of fuss | 49. Large hotel rooms |
| 22. Basketball phenomenon | 56. Anoint | 9. A way to praise | 50. Beg |
| 25. Famed island | 58. Golf score | 10. Opaque gems | 52. Docket |
| 26. Parent-teacher groups | 59. Supernatural | 11. McKinley is one | 54. Subway dwelling rodent |
| 29. Distributes | 60. Northwest Territories | 12. Smallest interval in classical Western music | 55. Sources |
| 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual | 61. Can be made suitable | 13. Famed designer Lauren | 57. Mild Dutch cheese |
| 29. Ad ___ | 64. A professor's helper | 15. Occupies | 59. Spanish city |
| 30. Circulation problem (abbr.) | 65. Having a toothlike edge | 18. Small island (British) | 62. Consumed |
| 31. Brother or sister | 67. Got atop a horse | 21. Misuse of the sacred | 63. Ballplayer's tool |
| 33. A famous "Squad" | 69. Judged | 24. Covers with a thin sheet | 66. Midway between north and east |
| 34. Stage actor Anthony | 70. Static balance between opposing forces | 26. Most valuable player | 68. Atomic #3 |
| 36. Violent seizure of property | | 27. Title of respect | |
| 38. Saclike cavities | | 30. Investigated discreetly | |
| 40. Sound units | | | |

Roanoke County School Board adopts revised budget

The Roanoke County School Board has approved a revised general fund budget of \$174,578,134. Combined with several special purpose funds, the total 2022-2023 revised budget is \$235,754,670. The board adopted the revised budget at its meeting on July 14.

Following the approval of the state budget, the revised Roanoke County Public Schools budget includes a total of \$7.52 million in additional state and local funds. The general fund budget increased by about \$2.46 million, and the major projects fund increased by \$4.31 million.

Key highlights in this revised budget include:

An increase in the pay raise for all employees from 6% to 7%.

An increase in bus driver substitute's pay by \$1 per hour (to \$17.50 an hour) and other increases in bus driver pay for extra runs and summer school runs.

Funding for six additional School Resource Officers (SROs) and equipment (the School Board is requesting the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors ultimately cover this expense as a public safety need).

A bonus of at least \$575 (this could increase) for all employees in December to be funded using ARPA revenues of \$1.4 million.

Purchase of land for the new RCPS Career and Technical Center (now known as the Burton Center for Arts and Technology or BCAT) using part of the additional revenue in the major projects fund.

An additional \$4.3 million for the VDOE School Construction Grant Program entitlement was added to the budget as a funding source and included in the BCAT funding.

“We are grateful for the extra revenue provided by the state and the county, and we're pleased we can use that extra funding to increase the pay raise for our employees,” said David Linden, chairman of the Roanoke County School Board.

“I'm happy that the board is continuing their commitment to improving staff salaries and I'm also pleased that our employees will get an extra bonus in December,” said Dr. Ken Nicely, superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools. “Our teachers and staff go above and beyond

every day to help our students learn and succeed, and I want our staff to know that their work is greatly appreciated. We are going to continue to explore ways to increase salaries in the future.”

The School Board met in a work session on July 11 to finalize the budget before it was presented for a vote on July 14 as part of the consent agenda. There was a lengthy discussion on the revised Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) included in the budget at the work session before it was re-ordered.

“Per the verbal direction of the majority of the School Board members (David Linden, Mike Wray, Cheryl Facciani, and Brent Hudson), the CIP was re-ordered to move the Burton Center for Arts and Technology to the top of the projects list. That relegates much-needed improvements at W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove Elementary Schools into the 2030s.

A lengthy discussion preceded this “verbal direction,” with Tim Greenway, the Vinton Magisterial District representative to the board, adamant that the previous CIP plan that recommended concurrent improvements at BCAT, W.E. Cundiff, and Glen Cove Elementary Schools be maintained.

W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove are both open-concept classroom buildings—no longer a recommended practice. Former State Superintendent of Schools James Lane noted on a visit last year that they are the only two schools in the state with that design. Both were built in the early 1970s.

Greenway's stance is that the Board of Supervisors should be able to come up with the money to build all three schools at once, due to the immediacy of their needs for replacement. He urged fellow board members to “stay the course” and continue to make all three schools a top priority.

The others on the board said they believe the board should take advantage of the emerging momentum to build the new CTE as a first priority.

The estimated cost of the new CTE center is \$84.5 million currently.

The revised budget will be presented to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors for approval on July 26.

Thrasher from page 1

Fleisher, Maddie Hamren, Aaron Montague, Eli Richardson, Taylor Hemming, Luke Hemming, Dylan Richardson, John Romeo, Ginger Hughes, Olivia Hurd, Bonnie Jones, Quinn, Muna Seagle, Jae Song, Kat Dave Jones, Ania Joseph, Jacob Stanley, and Mary Ann St. Clair.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

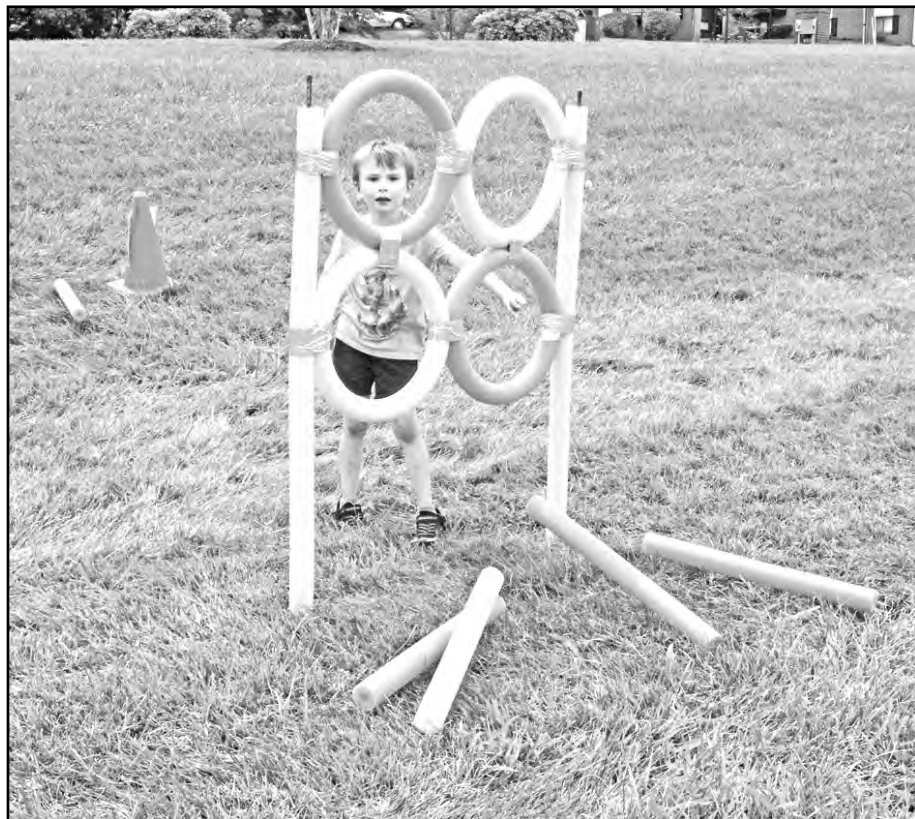
Members of the Thrasher ASP mission team complete home repairs for low-income families in West Virginia.

Vinton Library hosts 'Field Day Fun'

The Vinton Library celebrated summer with "Field Day Fun" on the front lawn of the Vinton War Memorial on July 19.

Members of the Vinton and Roanoke County library staff set up a series of activities on the lawn, including hopscotch, water bottle bowling, pool noodle target, an egg race, a

sponge race, and a bean bag toss. Children who completed all the activities earned a blue ribbon, along with a popsicle and bottled water.



The pool noodle target game.



One Field Day activity was the sponge race. Soak your sponge with water and squeeze it to fill up the jar. Repeat.



The traditional egg in the spoon race.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mingle Concert on July 23 is a super-sized double feature

The Mingle at the Market concert on Saturday, July 23, will feature not one but two bands—the always popular Low, Low Chariot, plus Adam Rutledge.

Mingle concerts are sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and MemberOne and take place

on the Vinton Farmers' Market HomeTrust stage in downtown Vinton. This week the event goes from 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Two bands equals two food trucks on site: Food on the

GO and Salty's Lobster & Co.

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.

Volunteers assisting with this week's Mingle are from Bank of Botetourt.

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 Bo-

tetourt, 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.



Low, Low Chariot



Adam Rutledge

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Bank of Botetourt's Chelsea West graduates from Leadership for Roanoke Valley Program

Bank of Botetourt Merchant Services Officer Chelsea West has graduated from the Roanoke Regional Chamber's Leadership for Roanoke Valley (LRV) Program. West was part of the Workforce Development Team.

LRV was established in 1983 to encourage community leadership in the region. The interactive 10-month program helps participants better understand issues facing the Roanoke Valley.

Monthly programs are created, organized, funded, and facilitated by participants under the guidance of advisors. Programs address overarching topics chosen based on trends in the community. Creative ideas and approaches help build leadership skills and show participants how to make a difference in business and the community.

"We are proud of Chelsea and her continued efforts to learn, expand her network and give back in our community," said Laurie Hart, SVP—Chief Strategy & Retail Officer.

West's focus in her role at the bank is assisting customers with payment options and business so-



Chelsea West

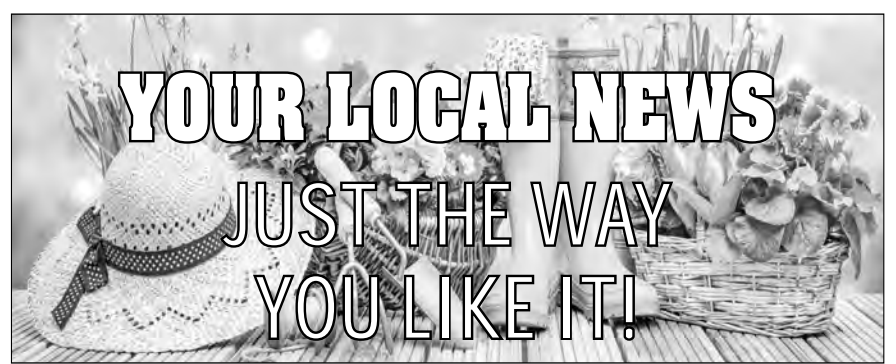
SUBMITTED PHOTO

lutions through Clover® point-of-sale systems.

While West will cover the bank's entire branch network from Fairfield to Salem and Smith Mountain Lake, she will be based out of the Cave

Spring Office on Electric Road in Roanoke.

West grew up in Roanoke and currently resides in Vinton with her husband Cody West and stepchildren Camden, Riley, and Keenan.



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Dulcimer musician Sam Edelston in concert July 24

Innovative dulcimer musician and instructor Sam Edelston will present a concert on Sunday, July 24, at Gethsemane Baptist Church, located at 4720 Jubal Early Highway in Boones Mill. The 30-minute concert open to the public begins at 5 p.m.

Depending on the audience, you might hear Edelston play rock, folk, or country music, old “standards,” children’s shout-alongs, off-the-wall funny songs, originals, or you never know what else.

He accompanies himself on acoustic and electric mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, and occasionally hammered dulcimer. In fact, Edelston is an innovator and leading advocate for bringing dulcimers into modern music.

His music videos have received more than 1,000,000 online views. Based in southwest Connecticut, Edelston has performed or taught at a variety of festivals and other venues around the Northeast, and at events as far away as Kentucky, Minnesota, Louisiana -- and

in 2020-2022, New York City, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Vermont, and more Kentucky. For more information on Edelston, visit www.SamTheMusicMan.com.

In addition to performing in concert on July 24, Edelston will be teaching two mountain dulcimer classes. The classes are for all levels.

The first class, “Fifty Shades of Play,” a grab bag of playing techniques and power-user tips will begin at 2 p.m. The second class, “Rock & Roll Dulcimer” begins at 3:30 p.m. and focuses on ‘60s and ‘70s rock.

The cost is \$20 for one class or \$30 for both classes.

The concert and workshops are co-sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Dulcimers. Students should email roanokevalleydulcimers@gmail.com to reserve a space for the July 24 classes. Additional information can also be obtained through this email address.

A free-will offering will be accepted at the concert.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dulcimer player Sam Edelston will be in concert at Gethsemane Baptist Church on July 24.

RECIPES

Simple Summer watermelon recipes

The Vinton Messenger

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Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

With watermelons being so plentiful and tasty this year, here are a couple of basic recipes.

Watermelon Fruit Basket

This is simple to make, delicious, and makes a great centerpiece.

Ingredients:

One ripe, seedless watermelon—small, medium, or large, depending upon your purpose—picnic, baby shower, birthday party, etc.

Other fruit that you like and that’s colorful—cantaloupe or honeydew balls, grapes (red, green, black), kiwi, pineapple, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, peaches, oranges, nectarines, or mangoes.

Directions: Cut a thin slice off the bottom rind of the watermelon so it will stand on its own. Cut the watermelon in half or into a special shape for a special occasion (you will be amazed with all the possibilities if you Google

“Watermelon Fruit Basket”).

Remove the watermelon pulp with a melon baller and place in large bowl. Add other fruits; stir to blend flavors.

Cut a design into the edge of the halved watermelon with a knife—zig-zags are the easiest. You

can draw the design on the outside of the watermelon first if you like. You can leave some watermelon rind for a handle if desired.

Gently arrange fruit in basket. Guests can spoon it out or use toothpicks.

Watermelon Slushie
Blend enough water-

melon cubes to make three cups of puree. Add 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. orange rind, and 3 Tbsp. orange juice. Freeze in 9x13 pan for an hour and a half until the edges are frozen but the middle is still mushy. Scoop into glasses and eat with a spoon.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

There are so many designs for watermelon fruit baskets. Here’s one I made for a baby shower.

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.sttofof.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)
VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Ave., Vinton, Virginia. 343-7685. Rev. Travis Russell. Sunday Services: Contemporary Service 8:45 a.m., Sunday School 9:50 a.m., Traditional Service 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Services: Family Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Bible Study 6:15 p.m., Children’s Ministries 6:15 p.m., Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.vintonbaptistchurch.org.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Boteourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net. Updated each week with a new sermon by Mike Mazzalongo, four minutes of video showing our nearly six acres of land and our beautiful, functional inside facilities, articles, events, news from Christian sources around the world and here locally plus much, much more. See how many ways Dale Ridge is “Reaching Out There” to the Roanoke Valley with the “Good News of Jesus. By clicking on “visit us virtually” real time access to our Worship services is available via your computer, a tablet or smartphone: Just follow the instructions. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe the Holy Spirit is a gift to every Christian upon their response to the Gospel as demonstrated by the 3000 obedient souls in (Acts 2:38). We believe Jesus is the only author of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Have you been looking for a church family that is progressive, outside the box thinkers, led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (John 16:13). You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) Real time contact thru our website via email.
CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday

Worship Directory

Vinton

Been There; Done That

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1 through 4:16

The familiar phrase “been there; done that” is often said by those who feel they’ve seen it all and done it all, and they’re bored by it. This appears to be the outlook of the author of Ecclesiastes.

He concluded that everything he had experienced was meaningless, including the pursuit of wisdom and pleasure—things many in our modern culture seek. Even the hedonistic lifestyle of “wine, women, and song” proved to not be satisfying. These indulgences created only fleeting enjoyment.

Much of happiness depends on attitude.

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 3:12–13).

Once we determine to find satisfaction in life’s simple things, including what God has given us to do, we will no longer base our worth or our hope in the accumulation of more things.

Thought for Today: “People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be.” —Abraham Lincoln

Quicklook: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

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.

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

Mt. Pleasant Lions continue National Night Out planning

Recently the planning committee for the upcoming Mount Pleasant National Night Out, which will be held on Tuesday, August 2, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church outdoor pavilion, met at the Lion's Den to further finalize the plans for the event.

The four core members of the committee, Anne Ferguson and the Rev. Robert Stutes from the Lions Club, and Cindy Pasternak and Carla Pickeral representing the Riverdale Farm Neighborhood Assn., compared notes as to what had been accomplished so far and what else needed to be done. Carla brought along the banner that the Association had prepared, Cindy reported that the Roanoke County Sheriff's office would be providing hot dogs and buns and that a small petting zoo from her farm might be possible. The Rev. Stutes, who was the impetus for the Lions to sponsor this year's Night Out, had arranged for a kids' face painter to be contacted and whom Anne followed up with

and confirmed she would be there. Various committee members will oversee the provision of condiments, other foods, paper products and utensils.

There is a history of a National Night Out in Mount Pleasant. Robert and Marie Ham had been the patrons of the night for approximately 15 years, but due to health issues there has not been such a celebration for about five years. It was noted that this happening is for the benefit of the Garden City.

Mount Pleasant and Riverdale areas. Other communities, such as Williamson Road in Roanoke City and Vinton will host their own affairs.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police and neighborhood camaraderie to make localities safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between residents and law enforcement while reinforcing a true sense of community. Also, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neigh-

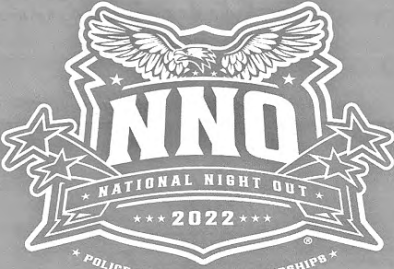
bors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of citizens take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide, most often on the first Tuesday in August.

Neighborhoods have block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, emergency responders' visits and whatever else fertile minds can conjure up.

So, this year all denizens of the Garden City, Mount Pleasant and Riverdale areas are invited to the free National Night Out being held on the grounds of the United Methodist Church, at 3035 Mount Pleasant Boulevard for this inclusive event. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided; bring your lawn chairs, sides and sweets to share. Classic vehicle enthusiasts are encouraged to cruise in their rides so that others may see and enjoy those rolling icons.

By Mike Ferguson



MOUNT PLEASANT - ROANOKE COUNTY, VA
SPONSORED BY MT PLEASANT LIONS CLUB

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

TUESDAY, AUG. 2, 2022 6:30 - 8:30 PM

PARKING LOT & GROUNDS - MT PLEASANT UMC
3035 MOUNT PLEASANT BLVD
HOT DOGS AND DRINKS PROVIDED
BRING LAWN CHAIRS, SIDES AND SWEETS TO SHARE

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER, MORE CARING PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK



The Mount Pleasant National Night Out will honor first responders.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Mount Pleasant National Night Out committee meets to plan for the event. Shown left to right: Carla Pickeral, Robert Stutes, Cindy Pasternak, and Anne Ferguson.

Time for Load the Bus 2022

It is once again time for the annual "Load the Bus for Kids" campaign—a partnership between Walmart and local school systems (Roanoke County, Roanoke City, and Salem City) to collect school supplies for students in need across the Roanoke Valley. This is the 21st year for the event.

This year "Load the Bus" is scheduled for August 5-7 at the Bonsack, Valley View, Salem, and Clearbrook Walmart stores.

Chuck Lionberger, Director of Community Relations for Roanoke County Public Schools, invites the community to come out to any of the Roanoke Valley Walmart stores and donate school supplies for students who might not be able to afford the tools they need to be successful in school. School supplies will be collected at the registers and in bins at each store throughout the day.

The school divisions will be accepting donations of back-to-school supplies and/or monetary donations for students in need. Any money collected at the event will be used to purchase school sup-

plies. Every item and every cent of donations will go to help students in need.

What kind of supplies are needed?

They need backpacks, glue sticks, notebooks, 3-ring binders, crayons, colored pencils, notebook paper (college and wide-ruled), pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, folders, scissors, and construction paper. They also need classroom items like tissues, hand sanitizer, printer paper, dry erase markers and more.

The official hours that volunteers will be at the stores and a bus will be on site are:

- Aug. 5: 3-7 p.m.
- Aug 6: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Aug 7: Noon-6 p.m.

However, anyone can put donations in the bin located in each store if "Load the Bus" representatives are not on site at that particular time.


The campaign collected about \$29,000 worth of supplies in 2021. Their goal this year is to top \$30,000. Lionberger says the campaign will need a lot of support from the community to reach that goal in these difficult financial times.

Load The Bus for Kids!

ROANOKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS | WALMART

Donate school supplies for kids in need at the Bonsack, Clearbrook, Salem and Valley View Walmart stores.

August 5: 3-7 p.m.
August 6: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
August 7: Noon-6 p.m.



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

New Academy from page 1



The developing library at LHCA.



The sanctuary/gym at LHCA.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

cally, personally, and socially through partnering with parents and families to help them become productive citizens in our community and our world," Barton says.

The school's mission is simply "JOY – Love Jesus, Serve Others, Shine Your Light to the World."

Lighthouse Christian Academy is accredited through the Association for Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS). Its instructors are ACTS certified. Currently there are two preschool teachers and two teachers for grades K-6, and an instructional assistant. Barton will be working as a teacher, as well. More instructors will be added as enrollment increases.

Barton says the church housed a school several years ago and the desire to include a school in their ministry "never really went away."

Almost two years ago, Barton presented a plan to the Elder Board for reestablishing the school, which was approved. Then 98 % of the church voted in favor of the proposal. A School Board with nine members was formed in the fall of 2021 and now the

school is ready to open this August.

"I think people see a real need in our community to share the love of Christ with children, starting at an early age," Barton said.

The school's capacity will be up to 100 students, although they expect to open with about 30. Class sizes will be small to provide individual attention.

The school will be known as the Home of the Lighthouse Chariots, with the chariot wheel as their mascot. The inner workings of a lighthouse rely on a "chariot wheel" to rotate the lenses. This symbol will represent being the "light of the world."

Barton says the benefits of a Christian education are that students focus on learning their purpose in life. She says that public schools do a great job academically, but a Christian education is able "to give peace and hope in a sometimes-chaotic world. A Christian education helps students know who they are in Christ."

The school is considered an outreach ministry of the church. Students will be attending weekly chapel services

with the church's pastors and elders.

Barton says that LHCA will closely follow the Roanoke County Schools calendar; they also open on August 11. Hours will be from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Students may be dropped off beginning at 7:30 a.m.

There will be no transportation provided in the first year. Parents/families will drop off and pick up. There is an afterschool program available from 2:45 to 6 p.m. for those attending LHCA.

LHCA is located in the two buildings that make up Lighthouse Bible Church. In addition to classrooms, there is a gym (the sanctuary), a playground, a huge outdoor pavilion, a chapel, and a new and growing library in what usually serves as the youth area. Library materials were donated by a school in Lynchburg that was closing.

The kitchen area is limited at present so students will be packing lunches—although the staff is planning special lunch days, collaborating with local restaurants.

The school will be teaching a standard cur-

riculum supplemented by materials from Christian publishers – BJU press and Purposeful Designs. These are PreK through 6th publications, rigorous academically, but supplemented with a Biblical foundation.

Through direct instruction or in small, cooperative learning groups and hands-on activities, students will learn to problem solve and think critically.

A typical school day at LHCA will include a mixture of academics (reading, writing, spelling, math, social studies, and science) paired with STEM and STEAM learning activities, a focus on the arts, time for socialization and physical education— all from a Christian perspective. Liberty University has donated several computers to the academy for student use. There will be field trips and holiday celebrations.

"We stand for the pledge of allegiance to the Bible, the Christian flag and the American flag. We honor diversity because God created us all with a purpose and a plan in His image," the school leadership says.

Students in grades

kindergarten and up will be spending one hour each week completing unique "Purpose Projects," based on the concept of "Genius Hour." Time will be devoted to working on projects they are interested in or passionate about, in a structured process requiring research, in order to discover, "What is my purpose in life; what can I give back to my community?"

Students at LHCA will not be doing SOL testing, although they will be assessed to ensure they are progressing through the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

LHCA has held several fundraisers in recent months. Another one is coming up in mid-October— a mystery dinner theatre. The title is "Just Desserts." The plot involves the judge of a bake-off who drops dead while tasting the sweet treats. This is an audience-participation mystery.

Lighthouse Christian Academy will be holding an open house on August 9 to meet with parents. Children are also welcome to attend.

LHCA will thoughtfully be hosting a "Tears and Cheers" breakfast

for parents on the opening day of school to help them through what is often a poignant experience in sending children off to school for the first time or anytime.

Barton says that the school recently underwent a "threat assessment" conducted by Virginia State Troopers and is in the process of adding security cameras in the parking lot and throughout the facility to insure student safety.

For more information on Lighthouse Christian Academy visit their website at <https://lhcavinton.org/> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lhcavinton/>. Tuition rates and applications are available online. (LHCA tuition will be comparable to other Christian schools in the area.) You can also reach them by phone at 540-890-3304 or email info@lhcavinton.org.

Tuition assistance is available through RenewaNation based on eligibility. Information on completing an application may be found on the LHCA website. LHCA is also recruiting substitute teachers. Those interested can use the same contact information listed above.

Roundabout from page 1

Three new members have been brought on board in the past two months. Two members have upgraded from EMT status to the Paramedic level.

The Vinton First Aid Crew currently has 27 EMT's, two advanced EMT's, two EMT Intermediates, and four Paramedics.

Sayre noted that staffing was somewhat difficult during the months of COVID, but interest in volunteering with the crew has grown in recent months. There are many pluses for joining the First Aid Crew. Trainings are provided on a monthly basis to ensure volunteers are

prepared "to respond to everything."

There is a feeling of camaraderie and family among crew members. The requirement is for volunteers to serve a minimum of 24 hours each month in two 12-hour shifts, on dates of their choosing.

The Vinton First Aid Crew provides an invaluable service to the community and their fellow citizens. They are virtually always present at town events, and many events in local schools.

Sayre responded to a question from Mayor Brad Grose about what happens when the Crew receives several calls

at a time, as they had on the previous night when three back-to-back calls for assistance came in. His answer was that crews from the surrounding areas of Roanoke County and Roanoke City provide back-up in that case, as the Vinton crew backs up other squads as well.

The Vinton First Aid Crew has a website (<https://vintonems.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/vintonems>) for those interested in becoming volunteers.

Assistant Public Works Director Nathan McClung briefed council with the Annual Progress Report

on mitigation projects set forth in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in October 2019 by council. Under this plan, localities, such as Vinton, are tasked with revisiting specific mitigation projects.

Some of those projects currently include determining the need for generators at public infrastructure facilities, emergency shelters, and public buildings, participating in and remaining in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, reducing future flood damage through enforcement of floodplain ordinances and availability of discounted flood insurance for property owners, and maintaining an accurate database and map of repetitive loss properties.

The Town of Vinton is participating in the Roanoke City Glade Creek Streambank Restoration Project Planned for FY 2022-2023, the Woodland Place Stream Restoration Project, in which a contract has been awarded, and installing a new flood gauge on Glade Creek in 2022. Council noted

the myriad of behind-the-scenes projects the Planning and Zoning Department is involved in which contribute to the high quality of life in Vinton.

Under action items, McClung asked council to adopt a resolution which would authorize the town manager to file an application for the allocation of VDOT SMART SCALE funds for a Roundabout Project at Hardy Road/Bypass Road (Rt. 24) and Hardy Road (Rt. 634). The grant application is due on August 1.

The grant would fund the conversion of that intersection from a signalized intersection to a two-lane roundabout. This would facilitate the flow of traffic and reduce traffic backups in the congested area. The project would also include sidewalk and shared-use path in the immediate area of the roundabout. The cost of this project, as currently envisioned, is about \$4 million. It would be administered by VDOT.

McClung presented an early conceptual rendering of the project and explained that this is a long-term project which would most likely not get under construction until 2028. The parameters are subject to change. Once the application is made, the town will receive notification of whether they grant or not next June.

The resolution to support the filing of the application was approved by council, although there was some discus-

sion among council members on the chosen location for the roundabout.

There was also much discussion of the recent fire that engulfed parts of downtown Vinton on July 2. Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer Cody Sexton thanked Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, who was first on the scene at 3 a.m. and quickly organized the town's initial response to the fire at D.R. Music. Sexton thanked several other members of town staff for their efforts that day—Public Works Director Bo Herndon and his staff, Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour, who, along with Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Cheuning, quickly began organizing relief efforts, and Human Resources/Risk Management Director Donna Collins.

Sexton noted that there was a heartwarming regional response in supporting the town during that weekend and afterwards.

In other news, Sexton noted that the second multi-million-dollar payment of ARPA federal funds is on the way to the bank through the state. These funds will provide "a huge boon to projects in Vinton moving forward."

National Night Out on August 2 at the Vinton War Memorial will take the place of the regular council meeting. Council members will be on hand at the event to talk informally with citizens.

If you could plan your own funeral, what would you choose? A traditional service? A big party? A small gathering?

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Marketplace

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Yard Sales - Botetourt County

Huge Indoor Yard Sale

At Southview United Methodist Church
3539 Peterscreek Rd
Roanoke, Virginia
Friday: July 29th 7am-2pm
Saturday: July 30th 7am-1pm

Yard Sales - Salem

Multi-Family Yard Sale

Sat., July 23rd, 8am to 2pm (Rain date 30th)
Chamberlain Lane At Tarpley Lane, Salem

Auction

Bert's Self Storage

2656 W. Main Street
Salem, VA
Auction Sale
7/30/22, 10:00 AM
(540)389-1382

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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

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Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. Code Ann. §§8.01-316.-317
Case No. 22-7
Botetourt County Circuit Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **James Daniel Hull Amy Diane Hammond, Stephen Holloway Hammond v. James Brandon Hull**
The object of this suit is to: Adopt James Daniel Hull by stepparent, Stephen Holloway Hammond. It is ORDERED that James Brandon Hull, whose location is unknown appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 15, 2022.
Signed and dated- Tommy L Moore, Clerk 06/24/2022

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY GROVER HOWELL, DECEASED

NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Lenden Eakin, attorney for the administrator c.t.a. of the estate of Gary Grover Howell, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Gary Grover Howell and all persons in his estate are hereby notified that I have fixed the 17th day of August, 2022 at 9 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Gary Grover Howell or his estate, the priorities among them, a the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Gary Grover Howell, deceased, and persons interested in his estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest. Given under my hand this the 15th day of July, 2022. Malcolm McL. Doubles Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO LLC., trading as CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL 4345, 7406 Lee Highway, Radford VA. 24141

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

TIMOTHY LUSKIN,
Licensing Manager.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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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. CL22000756-00 Complainant, v. Mimia Lee Moore, 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. 406-4 90-93 Account No. 008301. Beginning at a point on the east side of Peach Street corner lot number ninety-four (94), Midway Heights, which beginning point is 125 feet south of the Intersection of Peach and Oak Streets; thence from said beginning point and with the line of lot number ninety-four (94), S 74° 00' E 200 feet to a point, common corner of lots numbers ninety-four (94), ninety-three (93), one hundred fifty-six (156) and one hundred fifty-seven (157); thence with the lines of lots numbers one hundred fifty-seven (157), One hundred fifty-eight (158), One hundred fifty-nine (159) and one hundred sixty (160), S 18° 00' W 100 feet to a point, common corner to lots numbers one hundred sixty (160), one hundred sixty-one (161), ninety (90) and eighty-nine (89), N 74° 00' W 200 feet to a point on the east side of Peach Street, thence with the east side of Peach Street, N 18° 00' E 100 feet to a point, corner to lot number ninety-four (94), the point of the beginning, and being all of lots number ninety (90) ninety-one (91) ninety-two (92) and ninety-three (93) as shown and designated on a map of Midway Heights, which map is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 140, page 497. And being the same property conveyed to Ira J. Moore and Mimia L. Moore by Rickey L Stowers and Karen M. Stowers by Deed dated October 29, 1985, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia on November 15, 1985. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.
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: Mimia Lee Moore, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3055 Peach Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Ira J Moore, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before August 12, 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

Legals - Montgomery County

interests in this cause. Entered on the 6th day of July, 2022.
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr., Judge 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 - Town of Vinton

Notice to Our Family Medicine Patients

Effective Saturday, July 30, 2022, R. Parker Slayton, M.D., will no longer practice from Carilion Clinic Family Medicine in Vinton. Your confidential medical records will remain with Carilion Clinic. If you choose to continue your medical care with us, you do not need to take any action. If you choose to transfer to another provider and need a copy of your Carilion Clinic Family Medicine record, please contact our office for a medical record request/transfer form. After you return the form and the request is processed, your medical record will be sent to another provider of your choice within a reasonable time. If you need help finding a physician in a different office, please call the physician referral line on Carilion Direct at 800-422-8482.

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STATEWIDE ADS

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West takes silver medal in Commonwealth baseball

Rising William Byrd High School senior James Purcell had an RBI double as the West baseball team took the silver medal in the Commonwealth Games Tournament last weekend. The North team won the gold medal at Liberty University in Lynchburg.

Purcell was the catcher for the West team in two of the four games as the West went 2-2 on the weekend in the four-team tourney. He was officially one-for-six at the plate but walked three times and had two long balls caught that would have been home runs at most of the high school parks where Byrd plays. Instead, they were long fly outs at Liberty.

The West, coached by former Byrd coach and baseball alum Rodney Spradlin, beat the Central team, 8-5, and the East team, 7-6 in eight innings. Both losses were to the North team, which was loaded with VHSL Class 5 and Class 6 players who were good hitters. North beat the West 11-5 in the round robin and 13-4 in the championship game.

The North team swept the round robin and finished 4-0 on the weekend, defeating the East team 13-7 and the Central team 22-9.



William Byrd's James Purcell was a catcher for the West baseball team in last weekend's Commonwealth Games. Left, James follows through at the plate and, right, fires the ball to second.

PHOTOS BY GARY WALTHALL

Grant leads Elon in OB%

Megan Grant, a 2019 graduate of William Byrd High School, recently completed her junior year on the Elon University softball team.

Megan finished the year with a team high .407 on base percentage. She walked 31 times to lead the team, a dozen more than the next high, and didn't hit into a doubleplay all season.

Grant finished with a .255 batting average while starting all 52 games for the Phoenix. She was fourth on the



team in batting average and second in at bats and hits. She scored 24 runs and drove in 15. Her five triples were tops on the team, including a game where she had three triples in the same game. Megan had a slugging percentage of .359.

Elon finished the season with a 30-22 overall record.

Maggie Walker wins Class 3 Cup, Byrd is 32nd

Some familiar faces and a first time winner led the way in the 2021-22 National Guard Cup competition, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard for year-long athletic success in Virginia High School League sports. The award was previously called the "Wells Fargo Cup" prior to this year.

William Byrd High finished 32nd among 40 Class 3 schools with 40 points. The Terriers scored all 40 points in the winter season.

William Byrd won the cup three years in a row from 1996 to '98 when there were just three VHSL classifications, competing in Group AA. The VHSL expanded to six classifications in 2014 and Byrd is in Class 3, with Class 1 being the smallest schools in the state and Class 6 the largest.

First awarded in 1990, the Cup

represents 33 seasons of excellence, with six Cups awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications. A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. Points are awarded on the following basis: first place, 50; second place, 45; third place, 40; fourth place, 35; fifth place, 30; sixth place, 25; seventh place, 20; and eighth place, 15. In a tie, the schools receive an equal number of points based on the number of schools that tie and the number of schools that finish higher in the standings. For example, semifinal losers split third and fourth place points (37.5 points each). Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award earn 50

points each.

In Class 1, Auburn won for the fourth straight time and the fifth time in six years, as no Cups were awarded in 2019-20 due to COVID-19. Glenvar won for the second time in Class 2 while, in Class 3, Maggie Walker claimed its seventh Cup overall after winning six in a row in Class 2 from 2014-19. In Class 4 Western Albemarle won its fourth straight Cup and seventh overall after winning the past three in Class 3. In Class 5 Deep Run won its fourth Cup since 2017 and Battlefield won for the first time in Class 6.

This is the first year the Virginia Army National Guard is sponsoring the trophy. To learn more about the Virginia Army National Guard, visit their website at <https://nationalguard.com/select-your-state/VA>.

Uberstine took road less traveled to climb Boston ladder

By Chelsea Roemer
Salem Red Sox Promotions & Social Media Assistant

Gripping the baseball firmly while holding it behind his back, he runs his fingers across the seams as his eyes gear directly toward home plate, waiting for the catcher's signal. After receiving the go-ahead, he winds up and gives a solid release of the ball that meets the mitt after crossing the middle of the plate. Strike three.

Tyler Uberstine walks off the mound after recording five strikeouts across five innings in his debut for Northwestern. It became a surprise for many to learn that this was not only his first outing in a Wildcat uniform but marked his official collegiate start and the first time he has pitched for a team in roughly six years.

The Manhattan Beach native has been competing on the baseball field since he was three years old, but the path that led him to his current position in the Boston Red Sox organization differs greatly from most professional athletes. His travels took him to Salem this summer, where he was promoted to Greenville in the Red Sox organization two weeks ago.

The narrative of Uberstine's career began after the T-ball stage, as he was consistently told he was not good enough to make the team and was left behind. Fast forward ten years, Uberstine was on the freshman team for Chaminade college prep, yet he barely faced any batters.

"Once the field started getting bigger after little league the opportunities to play became scarcer," Uberstine said. "I was the kind of guy that was placed on the freshman team as a sophomore and still rode the bench."

His time to prove himself on the mound was limited, but his tenacity and passion for the game remained consistent. Showing slight improvement, he began to throw harder and made the varsity baseball team by his senior year. With the idea of playing baseball at the next level continuously on his mind, Uberstine began to browse Division III institutions, leaning toward the academic side of the process. Unfortunately, due to his lack of outings, scholarship opportunities were not arising.

"I reached out and applied to several schools I thought I could attend because I always maintained a really good GPA," Uberstine said. "But I ended up never hearing back from anyone."

In the fall of 2018 Uberstine headed just northeast of his hometown to attend the University of Southern California, where he began to study Business. However, baseball was still a frequent topic on his mind.

To satisfy his craving of being back on the mound, he decided to join the university's club baseball team. After one semester of participating, Uberstine had the desire to play at a more competitive level. This led him to seek permission from Dan Hubbs, the USC varsity baseball coach at the time, to try out for a spot on the roster as a sophomore.

Once permission was granted, Uberstine went to work.

During his second semester of college, he was out the door at 6:00 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, taking an Uber an hour and a half each way to PFA (Preparation, Fitness, Attitude) in Claremont, California. There he trained with Dave Coggin, a former pitcher in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, throwing and getting in a workout before returning to campus for a full day of classes. To take his dedication one step further, he would long toss a baseball with his roommate on top of a parking garage to get more reps in at night.

It did not take long before he saw improvement and was launching pitches in the mid-to-high 80s range by the time he took practice with USC's team in the fall of his sophomore year.

"When I threw in the fall it was my first time getting on the mound since I was in high school and I had to really work through the nerves," Uberstine said. "I knew it was going to be tough because there were 39 guys competing for a spot on a 35-man roster and I had to wow the coaching staff."

His outings in the fall impressed the USC coaching staff enough for them to invite him to official team practice that started in January. Uberstine continued to work with the team during the winter months, but everything took a turn once official cuts came just two days before the season was underway.

"I received a text from my coach wanting to meet in his office where he told me that there was not going to be a spot for me on the roster that season," Uberstine said. "Since I had gone through media day and even received a custom glove, the news really shocked me."

The story of Uberstine's career could have ended with his attempt to walk-on, but his determination added another chapter with the decision to



enter the transfer portal in search of another chance.

Uberstine upped his training and began to contact several institutions to express interest, one of which was Northwestern. He touched base with Northwestern's pitching coach Josh Reynolds, sending him videos of his scrimmages at USC. However, there was still no guarantee of a spot on the roster.

"I remember receiving an email of Tyler throwing and that opened up a conversation about him possibly coming here," Josh Reynolds said. "We had a potential spot to cover if one of our guys got drafted, but it was a tough situation because it was so up in the air, and I could not promise anything."

Luckily, the spot that was deemed uncertain opened as Uberstine and Reynolds remained in contact. Uberstine sent Reynolds a video of him firing the ball at over 90 MPH and secured his fate.

"He responded to the video of me throwing with, 'WE WANT YOU AT NORTHWESTERN,' in all caps," Uberstine said.

Uberstine toured the campus in the spring and officially committed to the university on May 16, 2019. He settled into his new city right away, as he moved in early to take summer courses. Once everything geared up in the fall for both school and academics, he immediately gelled with Reynolds and showed he was ready to compete.

"We knew he had a great arm but did not have a lot of experience throwing at the college level," Reynolds said. "However, his work ethic and drive are just something I have never seen before and he never stopped working to be better every day, even during the

offseason."

During his first year, the redshirt sophomore dominated on the mound before the season was cut short due to COVID-19. In only four starts, he achieved 15 strikeouts through 22 innings pitched and earned a 2-0 record with a 2.86 ERA.

After sports were cleared to resume, Uberstine came back even stronger. As a redshirt junior, he tossed four scoreless innings in a win over Penn State and struck out a career-high eight batters in five innings against Rutgers, in his first full baseball season since his senior year of high school.

Now that he was turning heads while pitching at the collegiate level, his next goal of playing professionally started to manifest. Uberstine's skills on the mound caught the attention of Alonzo Wright, a Midwest area scout for the Boston Red Sox organization.

"In the fall I could not see him live due to COVID, so I went off clips and thought it was crazy that he had no player history," Wright said. "I thought his athleticism was insane despite not having a full year of baseball under his belt and knew he had grit like no other guy I had seen."

Wright and Uberstine met in person for the first time in December of 2019. It was then that Wright knew he was going to be his biggest advocate for him to get drafted. The two kept in touch during the months leading up to the draft and built a solid relationship.

"Immediately I had a gut feeling he was going to be special, and made a big case for him," Wright said. "When the draft was going on I had no idea what was going to happen, but I got a phone call with Boston's decision to take him."

In the 19th round of the 2021 draft, Uberstine received a phone call with an offer to become part of the Red Sox organization. He made it official after signing on the dotted line on July 24th.

"Going pro had been a dream of mine since I could remember and it was a long journey to get here," Uberstine said. "I would have never made it this far without the motivation from all the teams that cut me from their program."

Today, Uberstine and Wright keep in touch, with Wright cheering him on all the way from the Midwest.

"The second I met him I knew he wanted it and he would do anything to achieve it," Wright said. "He is very genuine; I can't say enough good things about Uberstine, and I wish there were more athletes like him."

From the Pulpit

Frances Bellamy was born in 1855 in Mount Morris, N.Y., to David and Lucy Bellamy. His father was a Baptist pastor who loved the church. When Bellamy was 5 years old, his father was called as the pastor of First Baptist Church Rome, N.Y., where he would remain as the minister until his untimely death four years later. Though Bellamy was a young boy when his father died, he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a Baptist minister after graduating from the University of Rochester with a degree in theology.

Bellamy's ministry would lead him to join a Christian publication known as "Youth's Companion." It was a magazine geared toward helping teenagers remain faithful to Christ in the midst of a secular world.

In 1888, "Youth's Companion" began a campaign of selling U.S. flags to public schools in hopes of placing a flag above every school in the country.

Four years later, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the Americas, the magazine

began promoting a national Columbian Public-School Celebration. A flag salute was added to the official Columbus Day celebration, and Bellamy was charged with writing the pledge that would accompany the salute. In the September 8, 1891, edition of "Youth's Companion," Bellamy's salute was published: I pledge Allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

In 1924, the phrase "my Flag" was replaced with "the flag of the United States of America." Bellamy's salute with the above amendment was adopted 18 years later by the U.S. government.

On June 4, 1954, with the encouragement of many Christian groups petitioning the federal government, as well as his own personal convictions, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law to add "under God," rendering the Pledge of Allegiance we know today: I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation

under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Since then, a number of groups have filed lawsuits against the Pledge of Allegiance, believing it to be a violation of the separation of church and state. Defining what "under God" means to our nation has a long history of heated debates. Some believe it to be inseparable from the principles on which our Founding Fathers established our nation. They believe American patriotism and Christianity to be one-in-the-same; to be fully American is to be Christian.

Others believe "under God" is not exclusively Christian, but a phrase that includes all people of every faith who submit to a higher power. They believe "under God" is an acknowledgement of the religious freedom found in America. There are also those who believe "under God" to be an antiquated and exclusive term that pushes a religious agenda on Americans and violates one's constitutional freedom, which includes freedom from religion.

What does "under God"

mean to you? That is the most important question. When our focus becomes what this phrase should mean for our nation, then the focus shifts to another—what it should mean for them. This seems to implicate the masses more than influence them—telling them what they should believe as American citizens, rather than showing them what we believe as Christian Americans whose citizenship is not of this world.

Writing to the Philippians, Paul described it this way: 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:17-20).

What is required of a citizen of heaven? How do we begin to embrace an identity we do not completely understand and cannot fully receive in this life? I think the last line of our Pledge of Allegiance provides some insight: One nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

What does that statement require of us? How can we see beyond the political polarizations of our country and strive to be One nation? What can we do to move past the individualism of our time and recapture an indivisible spirit with each other that looks beyond our differences? As those who serve a Lord who came "to set the captives free," where is God calling us to restore Liberty and Justice for all?

What does "under God" mean to you? Maybe it is choosing to live as citizens of heaven today by striving for the vision of our country's very own Pledge of Allegiance.

By The Rev. Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

Time to vote for Vinton's favorites

Quite a few individuals and businesses from Vinton have been nominated for "Best of Roanoke" this year.

Nominees include VPD Sgt. Michael Caldwell for Best Law Enforcement Officer, Bruce Mayer for Best Attorney, Dr. Law for Best Dentist, and LeeAnn Shupe for Best Bartender.

Desert Sun received nominations for Best Day Spa and Best Tanning Salon.

Rosie's was nominated in the Best Customer Service category, the Best Place to Work (under 50 employees), and the Best Burger category.

The Vinton War Memorial was nominated for "Best

Place to have a Corporate Meeting or Conference" and "Best Wedding Venue."

Vinton has no shortage of outstanding wedding venues—Boxtree Lodge and Woodland Place also received nominations for Best Wedding Venue.

Thrasher Preschool was nominated for Best Day Care.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia were nominated for Best After School Care.

Vinton Veterinary Hospital was nominated for Best Veterinarian.

Country Corner and Creative Occasions Florals & Fine Gifts are among the vot-

ing choices for Best Florist/Nursery.

Wood's Service Center Towing & Transportation is in contention for Best Auto Service Shop

You can cast a vote for the Lancerlot for Best Gym/Fitness Center.

Our Daily Bread is on the list for Best Bakery.

Twin Creeks Brewing Company has been nominated for Best Brewery.

Farmburguesa was also nominated for Best Burger.

Sal's has been nominated for Best Italian Restaurant.

Macado's has been nominated for Best Outdoor Dining.

And, of course, New York Pizza has been nominated for Best Pizza.

Pancho Mexican Restaurant in Vinton is on the list for Best Mexican Restaurant.

Bohon Construction is nominated for Best Home Building/Remodeling.

Glo Custom Spray Tanning was also nominated for Best Tanning Salon.

The Cross, Lavinder, Quinn, & Park Family Dentistry practice has also been nominated for Best Dentist.

Carilion Clinic Family Medicine in Vinton and Dr. Randall Rhea have been nominated for Best Family Doctor.

Cundiff's (now sadly closed) was nominated for Best Pharmacy and Best Local Pharmacy.

The Billy Byrd has been nominated for Best Apartment Community.

Gene West Painting—nominated for Best Home Repair.

WC Butler—nominated for Best HVAC

Vinton Roofing—nominated for Best Roofing

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Virginia earns top Federal Special Education Rating for 11th consecutive year

For the 11th consecutive year, Virginia has earned the U.S. Department of Education's highest rating for improving outcomes for students with disabilities and compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA.

The annual IDEA report card scores states on the participation and performance of students with disabilities on state and national reading and mathematics tests and on the success of states in improving graduation rates for special education students.

The report card also includes indicators related to discipline, the identification of minority students for special education services, the evaluation of students for services and the development of individualized education programs, and the resolution of disputes.

"Results-driven accountability looks beyond compliance with the provisions of IDEA to see whether the efforts of special educators at the state and local levels are actually improving outcomes for students with disabilities. This latest federal rating shows that Virginia's special educators continue to do just that," Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow said. "I think every school in the commonwealth can take a page from the special education playbook by providing individualized instruction plans and tailored interventions for all students."

The commonwealth received a "Meets

Requirements" designation for 2022 under the federal education department's Results-Drive Accountability System for special education. The rating reflects student outcomes and compliance data from the 2019-2020 school year — the most recent data available under the federal special education reporting system.

The Virginia Department of Education expanded its special education monitoring program during the 2021-2022 school year to include expanded criteria for investigating complaints and a new process for confirming that school divisions implement required corrective actions. The enhancements addressed 2020 recommendations from the federal Office of Special Education Programs and the commonwealth's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

"The enhanced monitoring program has increased our ability to identify local programs that need improvement and our ability to make sure that corrective actions are carried out," Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services Samantha Hollins said.

IDEA requires states and school divisions to ensure that children with disabilities receive educational services that meet their educational needs and prepare them for further education, employment and productive lives. IDEA also requires states to establish targets in their annual state performance plans for achieving the objectives of the law.



PHOTO BY ELEMENT5 DIGITAL