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# The Vinton Messenger

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## Vinton Chamber of Commerce installs 2023 officers and directors

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

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce installed officers and the board of directors for 2023 at the Jan. 26 meeting in Chamber offices. They were sworn in by Vinton Mayor Brad Grose.

The officers and board are not just business owners and leaders in the area—they are an integral part of the life of the Town of Vinton and vigorously promote the community. They are familiar faces among the volunteers who staff the special events in the town from the Mingle Concert series to the Christmas Parade and more.

Chamber officers for 2023 are:

- President: Jason Boothe
- 1st Vice President: Allison Finney
- 2nd Vice President: Page Stovall
- Past President: Justin Davison

Chamber President Jason Boothe is a realtor at Mountain View Real Estate in Vinton. He is very active in the Vinton community where he has served as a board member and coach for the Vinton Booster Club and Vice President and President of the William Byrd Baseball Booster Club from 2017-2020. Along with his board positions, Boothe has also coached in the Vinton community for over 15 years. His “love for the kids and parents” has made him lifelong friendships. He has also served as a deacon at Lynn Haven Baptist Church.

Boothe has been married to his wife Nicole for 26 years. She works at William Byrd High School. They have two children. His daughter Taylor and son-in-law Collin reside in Georgia where Collin serves in the Army. His son Bryce works for Roanoke City’s Stormwater Department.

“I am the very proud Pappi to my new granddaughter, Rylan, who lives with Mommy and Daddy in Georgia,” Boothe says.

“I can’t express how excited I am to be able to work with such an amazing group of people who truly care about the town,” said Boothe. “I look forward to serving the members of this great Chamber, and we will do everything we possibly can to make Vinton the place to bring your business.”

Allison Finney will continue serving as First Vice President of the Chamber. She is a graduate of William Byrd High School and Virginia Tech where she majored



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The 2023 Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce officers were installed on Jan. 26. Shown left to right are: front, Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewning and Executive Assistant Kathryn Sowers; and back row, 2nd Vice President Page Stovall, President Jason Boothe, 1st Vice President Allison Finney, and Past President Justin Davison.

in Housing, Interior Design and Resource Management with an option in Residential Management. She manages several residential properties (apartments and single-family homes) in Roanoke, Salem, and Vinton. Finney also manages American Efficiency Inns, an extended stay motel located in downtown Vinton, as well as two other commercial properties.

She has been involved with many organizations over the years. She is a founding member of the Square Society, serving on the board for many years and eventually becoming president. While serving as president, she also served on the Center in the Square Board of Directors. She has been on the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 11 years and on the Executive Board for going on nine years.

Page Stovall will continue to serve as the Second Vice President of the Chamber. She is a 2007 graduate

of William Byrd High School and a 2012 graduate of Radford University, where she received her Bachelor’s in Science. Stovall is the Business Office Manager at Pheasant Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center in Roanoke.

She continues to have a passion for the geriatric population and has worked in the long-term care setting for almost 10 years. She enjoys engaging with the Roanoke Valley through multiple networks allowing her to show what Vinton truly has to offer. She is grateful to be a part of the evolving things happening in Vinton.

Outside of the long-term care setting, Stovall enjoys spending time with her husband, Brian, family, and friends. She enjoys traveling, concerts, and being a bonus mom to Brian’s daughter Kayla.

Justin Davison serves as Past President for the

See Chamber, page 7



Michelle Barklow FILE PHOTO



Donald Childress PHOTO COURTESY OF DONALD CHILDRESS



Anthony Conner PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY CONNER

## Challenging Gish Mill Redevelopment Project ready to move forward

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

The Gish Mill Redevelopment Project has been in the works in the Town of Vinton since 2015, when the town purchased the historic mill site from the Holdren family for \$126,000 with two objectives: to

rehabilitate and preserve the town’s founding structure (the mill appears on the Town Seal) and to create a leasable space for employment and new revenue generation.

The years 2016-2018 were spent on planning and environmental

See Gish Mill, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Gish Mill Redevelopment Project continues. Exterior of the Mill, Jan. 2023.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Some of the fishing tackle on sale from Grumpaw’s Tackle.

## Vinton Business of the Week: Grumpaw’s Tackle

By Debbie Adams with Matt Estes

If you see a white trailer with a copper silhouette of a big brown trout on the side, that’s Grumpaw’s Tackle, LLC, a mobile business in and around Vinton.

Owner Matt Estes designs, assembles, markets, and sells fishing tackle for trout, bass, and other gamefish. He sells house-made inline spinners and jigs, soft plastics under his brand, alongside brands like Appalachian Baits, NRV Baits & X Factor Tackle. He carries dough baits from Appalachian Baits as well, and a good selection of flies.

See Grumpaw’s, page 3

## Bonsack Elementary student Rory Grant wins Roanoke County Spelling Bee

Bonsack Elementary School student Rory Grant won the 2023 Roanoke County Schools District Spelling Bee after 21 grueling rounds of competition on Jan. 31. The final 12 rounds were what RCPS Director of Community Relations Chuck Lionberger described as a “slugfest” between two outstanding spellers—fifth grader Grant and Emmanuel Evans of Cave Spring Middle School.

Ultimately, Grant emerged triumphant after correctly spelling “retinol,” a Championship word.

Grant will represent Roanoke County Schools in the upcoming Regional Spelling Bee. Evans will serve as the alternate. The winner



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Rory Grant


of the Regional Bee will advance to the Nationals in Washington, D. C., quite a prestigious honor.

Judges for the District Spelling Bee were RCPS Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Nicely, Executive Director of Elementary Education Stephanie Hogan, Executive Director of Secondary Education Mike Riley, and Social Studies Supervisor Krissy Schleicher-Maloney.

One of the most important tasks—serving as “Pronouncer”—went to Hidden Valley High School teacher Lois Kessler.

The District Spelling Bee was held at the RCPS Administrative Offices, facilitated once again by Joe LeGault, Supervisor of English and RCPSOnline.


See Grant, page 3



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# Patsy Talbert celebrates 40 years at Vinton Baptist



**Patsy Talbert** PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

By the Rev. Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

As Whitney and I were preparing to come to Vinton Baptist for our call Sunday almost five years ago, my mom reached out to one of her closest friends, Earlene, to ask for prayer. Mom told Earlene that I was going to a church in Virginia to preach and possibly be called as the new pastor.

Earlene asked, "What part of Virginia?" After telling her the name of the town was Vinton, Earlene inquired, "May I ask what church in Vinton?" A bit confused as to why Earlene wanted to know the name of the church, Mom responded, "Vinton Baptist." With the most amazed look in her eyes, Earlene said, "Colleen, my sister has been the secretary of Vinton Baptist for over 30 years!"

Mom knew that Earlene was from Virginia; she knew Earlene had sisters that lived in Virginia. But in all their years together, they had never discussed exactly where they lived and worked in Virginia. When I met Patsy Talbert for the first time on a Thursday afternoon in May of 2018, our lives were already uniquely connected.

In the years since then, I cannot even begin to describe my gratitude and appreciation for Patsy. She is one of the pillars of Vinton Baptist and a treasured part of our church family. I am still amazed by how

many people Patsy knows. When someone comes into the office, not only does she know their name, but she can tell you the names of their spouse, parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, children, and grandchildren. She can name their profession, where they work and live, and even some of the hobbies they enjoy.

Even more importantly, she remembers when important events have taken place in their lives: their wedding anniversary, a difficult loss they've experienced, an upcoming surgery they have scheduled, or a significant life transition they are trying to manage.

As impressive as it is that Patsy can remember all these things, even more extraordinary is the way in which she reaches out and ministers to our church family. Whether it is stopping to listen when someone comes into the office, making a phone call, or sending a card in the mail, Patsy is constantly reaching out to our church family with care and compassion. When someone comes into the office, she greets them with a smile and warm hello; she stops what she is doing and makes herself available to listen; she goes out of her way to help them with whatever it is they need. Patsy loves God; she loves people; she loves Vinton Baptist Church.

The congregation and staff at Vinton Baptist honored Patsy on Jan. 29, giving thanks for her 40-year ministry.

# Vinton History Museum expresses thanks to intern Hailee Brandt

Debbie Adams  
dadams@ourvalley.org

Hailee Brandt has completed her internship with the Vinton History Museum. She is a student at Hollins University and began volunteering with the museum in the fall of 2022. She completed an intensive month-long internship at the museum on Jan. 31, creating an impressive and invaluable program which will eventually digitalize all the artifacts and documents in the museum collection.

Members of the Vinton Historical Society gathered on Jan. 25 for a reception in her honor.

She has now returned to classes at Hollins with hopes for several more internships in her future.

Brandt is from California and came east to become a history major at Hollins. She anticipates completing her undergraduate degree in 2025 and then entering an accredited graduate program. Her career goal is to become an archivist at a museum, specifically at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Brandt says she "fell in love with history" as a child, signing up for extra history courses beyond what was required.

Her interest in a career involving museums stemmed from traveling east after eighth grade and visiting the Smithsonian. In high school she enrolled in college level history courses and her love for history deepened.

She hopes to complete an internship at the Smithsonian while at Hollins. She says that's one reason she chose the university in Roanoke—because of its proximity to Washington, D. C. and the ultimate museum, the Smithsonian. In fact, she is hoping to be accepted for internships at several museums.

In digitalizing the artifacts and documents of the Vinton History Museum, Brandt organized the website room by room as the museum is arranged and then added photographs of and information on the contents of each room, starting with the Military Hall.

Vinton History Museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham said that Brandt's internship proves that "it takes a team to run a museum. Hailee has gotten a taste of cold weather, a crowded museum, Internet problems," but has overcome the obstacles

and greatly helped the museum.

Vinton Historical Society treasurer Debbie Pitts says the digitalization project Brandt has undertaken at the museum will continue with many interns to come. "It started with Hailee; she took off with it and created a framework to build on that other interns will continue. We are excited about her work. We had wanted to do this for a long time, but we had no idea how to make it happen.

"Hailee paved the way for more interns from Hollins and other schools," Pitts said. "We have learned from her.

"Small museums are run mainly by volunteers," Pitts emphasized. "Several individuals in Vinton had a vision about 30 years ago to open a history museum; the town made an historic building available; the community brought donations of their family heirlooms, photos, and clippings, until now thousands of artifacts fill the museum to overflowing. During the years the museum has been open, it has depended on older, retired individuals to keep the museum in operation. Now we have interns showing us new technology."



Volunteers and staff at the Vinton History Museum held a reception for intern Hailee Brandt on Jan. 25. She has made a great contribution to the advancement of the museum by creating a program to digitalize the artifacts and documents housed there. Shown are (from left): front, volunteer Joanne Newman, intern Hailee Brandt, volunteer Debbie Pitts; second row, new intern Alyssa Moorman and Executive Director Judy Cunningham; back row, Julie Tucei and Mary Beth Layman.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Volunteer and master quilter Jan Dickens (right) made a quilt as a going away gift for Brandt.

Over several years, the museum has been fortunate to have interns in the summer and throughout the year from local colleges and William Byrd High School.

The museum expects the project to take from three to five years to

complete. The ultimate goal is to share the documentation with the public online through the history museum website and with visitors in-house.

The Vinton History Museum, located on Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton,

is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you or a friend or family member are interested in an internship or in volunteering at the museum, please stop by.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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		63	64									65			
															67

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Shed tears
  - 5. Luxury jewelry designer
  - 10. Goddess of wisdom
  - 12. Convert into a particular form
  - 14. Working-class people
  - 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
  - 18. A princess can detect its presence
  - 19. Red-brown sea bream
  - 20. Defunct retail empire
  - 22. Vase
  - 23. Demeter's equivalent
  - 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
  - 26. French and Belgian river
  - 27. Small amount
  - 28. High schoolers' test
  - 30. Animal's foot
  - 31. Some is red
  - 33. Per \_\_\_: each
  - 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
  - 37. Plate for Eucharist
  - 38. Train line
  - 40. Russian pop duo
  - 41. Stake
  - 42. Plant by scattering
  - 44. Female sibling
  - 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
  - 48. Popular cookie brand
  - 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
  - 52. A team's best pitcher
  - 53. Vomits
  - 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
  - 56. Men's fashion accessory
  - 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
  - 58. Expensive cut of steak
  - 63. Popular James Cameron film
  - 65. A \_\_\_ relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
  - 66. Kids' snow toys
  - 67. Flip side to yin
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Global public health agency
  - 2. Snake-like fish
  - 3. Midway between north-east and east
  - 4. Dabbed
  - 5. TV show
  - 6. Folk singer DiFranco
  - 7. Canadian flyers
  - 8. Of the dowry
  - 9. Commercial
  - 10. The act of imitating
  - 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
  - 13. Lands of an emir
  - 15. Swiss river
  - 17. Island
  - 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
  - 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
  - 23. Garfield is one
  - 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
  - 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
  - 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
  - 32. Body part
  - 34. Touch lightly
  - 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
  - 36. \_\_\_ Hess: oil company
  - 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
  - 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
  - 43. Pink Floyd's Roger
  - 44. Short and thick
  - 46. Small, sac-like cavities
  - 47. Performer \_\_\_-Lo
  - 49. Entrails of animal used as food
  - 51. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
  - 54. Where construction is done
  - 59. Chap
  - 60. Investment vehicle
  - 61. Often mixed with tonic
  - 62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_\_
  - 64. Against

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Friendship Casserole

This recipe got its name because it makes two large casseroles—one for yourself and one to share with a friend or take to a dinner.

**Ingredients:**  
 2 lbs. ground beef  
 1 4/8 oz. jar of spaghetti sauce  
 2 Tbsp. sugar  
 16 oz. package of medium egg noodles (other types of pasta, like rotini, work just as well)



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH.COM

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
 1/2 tsp. onion salt or onion powder  
 1/2 tsp. garlic salt or garlic powder

See Recipe, page 3



## Recipe from page 2

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
 12 oz. package shredded mozzarella cheese  
 Preheat oven to 350°. Brown and drain ground beef. Add spaghetti sauce and sugar and simmer 20 minutes. Cook noodles or pasta as directed (al dente). Drain and toss with margarine, salts (or powders), and Parmesan cheese. Spray two 9x13-inch pans with non-stick spray. In both pans, layer half the meat sauce, all the noodles, the rest of the sauce; then top with

mozzarella cheese. Cover with foil; bake 45 minutes.

You can add sauteed green peppers, mushrooms, and/or onions, to the sauce.

If you are freezing the casserole to use later, don't bake it. Thaw it out when you are ready to use, then bake. Keeps in freezer about three months—foil pans are best for freezing.

Fun Fact: The word "casserole" seems to have come from the French, and relates to the dish the food is prepared in. The first documented casserole recipe was one

for macaroni and cheese from the year 1250. Casseroles grew in popularity with the invention of Pyrex dishes in 1915. The story goes that Bessie Littleton asked her physicist husband, Jesse, who worked at Corning Glass Works, to find an alternative to the highly breakable stoneware of the time. He reportedly brought home the sawed-off bottom of a battery jar made of special shatter-resistant glass used by railroads— and Pyrex was born.

## Grant from page 1

It was sponsored by The Roanoke Times and the Scripps National Spelling Bee organization.

LeGault told students before the competition began that they were already champions because they had won the bees at their individual schools.

Other Vinton area students participating in the competition were:

- Owen Seth from Herman L. Horn Elementary
- Cadence Gearhart from Mount Pleasant Elementary
- Shelby Hensley from W.E. Cundiff Elementary
- Emma Thierry from William Byrd Middle School

The remainder of the spellers came from across the district: Gabrielle Amo-Mensah (Back Creek), Phoenix Armstrong (Burlington), Tvisha Jha (Cave Spring), Alexandra Landrum (Clearbrook), Matthew Gard (Fort Lewis), Horacio Ramos (Glen Cove), Emily Blankenship (Glenvar), Zachary Causing (Green Valley), Edison Huffman (Masons Cove), Kellen Davis (Mountain View), Abigail Craft (Oak Grove), Sri Perarulalan (Penn Forest), Lilly Smith (Hidden Valley Middle), Sophia Miller (Glenvar Middle), and Giovanni Conigliaro (Northside Middle).

LeGault explained to the audience, mostly made up of parents, that the spelling bee words called come from the Scripps word list. Students are allowed to use strategies to improve their chances of spelling the words correctly by asking for them to be repeated, for their definition, for the word to be used in a sentence, or for the word's language of origin.

Dr. Nicely commended them for their skills in spelling and reminded them to thank their families and teachers for helping to prepare them.

This spelling bee featured a double elimination format—students had to spell two words incorrectly before being eliminated from the competition, not just one.

The purpose of this format is so that "the best speller, not the luckiest speller, advances to regional competition," LeGault explained.

Many of the words called were quite challenging—head-scratchers such as zoolatry, quittance, ruffled, indefatigable, phalanges, vespertine, rabbinic, and fitch—that would send many searching for a dictionary and/or Spell Check.

Educators say that while spelling tools are prevalent, spelling remains an important skill to master. Studies show that proficiency in spelling supports both



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Vinton area students participating in the 2023 RCPS District Spelling Bee included (left to right) Shelby Hensley (W.E. Cundiff), Rory Grant (Bonsack), Owen Seth (Herman L. Horn), Cadence Gearhart (Mount Pleasant), and Emma Thierry (William Byrd Middle School).**

reading and writing composition.

The Roanoke County students not only displayed skill in spelling, but poise in speaking into a microphone in front of a panel of judges and a packed board room full of spectators, while keeping their wits about them to concentrate on the words called.

In an interview with Lionberger after being named winner, Rory said that the secret to his success was the practice sessions he had with his parents. He said he was astounded that he would

get to represent the entire county at the Regional Bee and commended runner-up Evans for his "amazing" spelling skills.

Rory's proud parents are Emily and Jeffrey Grant.

If winning the spelling bee and earning the privilege to represent all Roanoke County Schools regionally wasn't enough, Rory will also be appearing in the Attic Productions of "Treasure Island" this weekend (Feb. 3-5) and next (Feb. 10-12), in the role of Jim Hawkins.

## Grumpaw's from page 1



**Estes has expanded his product line to include earrings.**

"We're always looking to connect with hobbyist bait-makers and fly-tiers who don't want to jump through all the hoops of making their pastime into something more demanding, but who want to offset the cost of their hobby," Estes says. "Our retail goals are to offer high quality and 'locally sourced' tackle that you won't find in a big box store."

"In 2019, I decided to sell off some of the jigs I had tied up for my own use," Estes says. "I'd made way more than I could reasonably expect to use on my own, but I didn't want to stop tying them just because my boxes were full. So, I put a listing up on Facebook Marketplace just to thin out my collection."

"I had a guy reach out to me who fishes striped tournaments and asked me if I could tie up a specific style of jig that I'd never tied before. The gentleman who had been supplying him passed away, and he needed more. He sent me a couple pictures and I got to work. I found a way to flare out the hair and give the jig a larger profile without bulking it up with too much hair. Let's just say they were very effective, so he ordered a bunch more."

"I'd never thought before about my tying being a way to make money, but that opened up the door. And it really couldn't have happened at a better time. My

oldest is on the Autism Spectrum" with costs for occupational and speech therapies. "It wasn't an overnight success or anything, but this tackle-related opportunity was laying the groundwork to be able to get those therapy bills paid."

Estes has a day job as an account executive with Trust Point Insurance. He calls Grumpaw's Tackle his "retirement plan," hoping that in 20 years "it'll be my only job."

"Grumpaw's Tackle isn't really about employing me," Estes says. "At least not for the next two decades. My oldest will be graduating high school in a few short years. I'm blessed, and grateful, that he's on the High Functioning end of the Autism Spectrum, but that's not the same thing as saying I can expect that he'll be ready to 'fly the nest.' He does well in school and has a deep passion for learning and a thirst for knowledge. But he does require a one-on-one instructional aide."

Estes says "more than half of young men and women on the Spectrum end up unenrolled in secondary education or unemployed for the two years following graduation from high school. So, as we've moved beyond just a means to cover therapy costs, the focus has been on identifying which business functions will play to my son's strengths, so that Grumpaw's Tackle can create a position to help him transition to

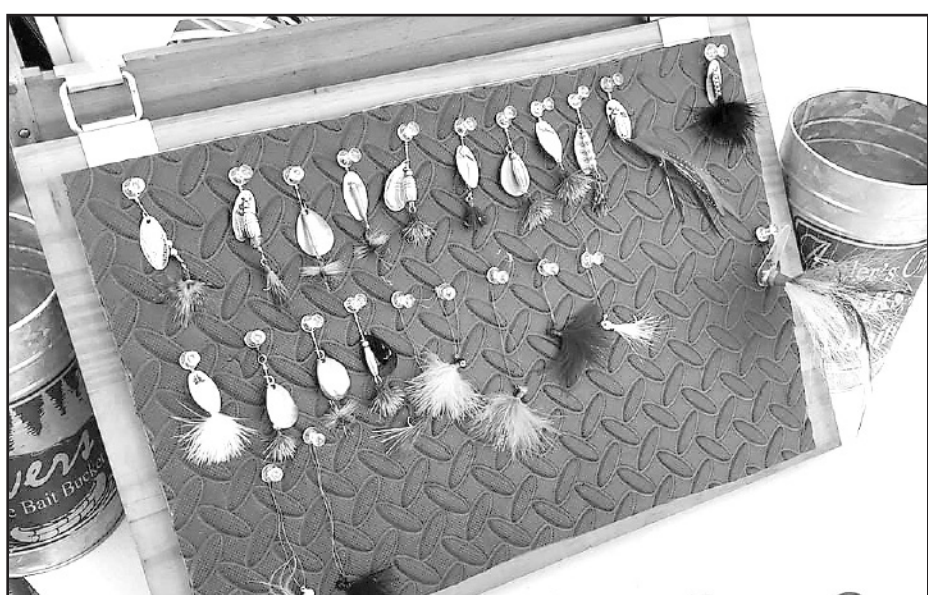
the working world. Many kids on the Spectrum possess a very high level of attention to detail, which is exactly what you want when making quality fishing tackle."

"Grumpaw's Tackle seeks to be a launchpad where young men and women on the Spectrum can work in a for-profit environment that is accommodating of their different abilities and helps start their careers. We don't 'hire to retire,' we 'hire-to-advance' and will celebrate each 'Aesome Employee' who leaves us for a better opportunity."

Estes sets up his trailer at various events, like the upcoming Augusta Fishing Expo the weekend of February 11-12, the Sharpshooter Men's Event at Fincastle Baptist Church, and the Sunflower Festival in Buchanan. He set up at the Vinton Fall Festival last October. During the spring, Grumpaw's Tackle can be found every Saturday morning at The Hidden Gem, a pay stream on Porter Mountain over the Bedford County line. KB Mercantile in Vintonlets Estes setup outside their shop.

As a result of festivals, Grumpaw's Tackle has diversified and added fishing-themed earrings under a product line called "She's a Catch" to "help lady-anglers share their passion through their fashion."

At his first festival, he kept drawing crowds of women who thought at



PHOTOS BY GRUNPAW'S TACKLE

**Matt Estes is the owner of Grumpaw's Tackle, a mobile and online business based in Vinton, selling fishing tackle.**

first glance he was selling earrings. His significant other, Megan, encouraged him to add them to his product line—"Fish like shiny things; so do people." Estes says that at in-person events he tends to sell more earrings than tackle.

The earrings are typically made entirely or partly from fishing tackle. Estes says some of the jewelry has been described as "kitschy," but some are actually quite lovely. He says it's "not high fashion; it's fun fashion."

As for the name of his business, Grumpaw's Tackle, Estes says he chose the name based on Proverbs 13:22, which says in part, "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."

"I've been fortunate to have two fathers that have earned the title of 'Good Men' in this sense. I'm not saying they left me money, land or stuff. What I've inherited from them combined is work ethic, a sacrificial love for my kids, and a passion for fishing. 'Grumpaw' is what my kids call my father who is still living. He's the one that really sparked my love of fishing and the water. Way back before I was born, he was eaten up with bass fishing. I have some solid memories of fishing with him on a few occasions, but for the most part he spent his time working hard and 'horse-trading' vehicles (and forklifts) to keep his household and three kids afloat.

Meanwhile, I was raiding his tackle box in the attic on the weekends I was with him. Not only was I stealing his lures and rods, but also the knowledge from his notebook. It was a little spiral bound book that noted what lures he caught them on, and the weather and water conditions he was using at the time. So, it's an homage. It helps that it's a catchy and unique name, but I hope in some ways it ultimately honors both men and impacts the lives of my kids as well."

Estes, originally from Tennessee, moved to this area because of his work; he says he chose Vinton because of "the community and the location. When I look around, I see hard working folks like me. People who are out there every day working to make the best lives they can for their families. It's just generally good, honest folks making their way through life. And it's also conveniently located near some of my favorite stretches of water in the Roanoke area."

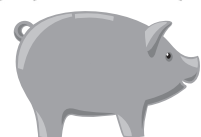
Estes is also using his business to raise funds for autism awareness. April is World Autism Month. This past April, Grumpaw's Tackle was able to raise about \$550 for Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center (BRAAC) by selling stickers.

"This April, we are asking that people make a donation directly to BRAAC or a non-profit called Autism Anglers,"

Estes says. "When they send us a screenshot of the donation, we'll mail them an autism and fishing-themed sticker. In the meantime, we're selling a larger version of the '22 sticker for a suggested price of \$5, or whatever they want to give. That's to help offset the cost of the stickers that we'll be giving away in April."

Grumpaw's Tackle does not have regular retail hours. People can shop at <https://grumpaws.com/> 24 hours a day and schedule free local pick-up. They can call 540-870-1266 to set up an appointment to browse in person, or they can text "GRUMPAW" to 540-870-5583 to get updates by text on where you can find Grumpaw's Tackle. Estes keeps a stock of merchandise on hand, but a lot of his items are made to order. Take a lot at the products and scheduled events on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/grumpaws/>.

**Etzler's Hams**



**This Friday, Jan. 27th  
 Fresh Hams &  
 Pork Bellies**

**5448 Blacksburg Road,  
 Troutville  
 540-992-2297**



# PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Bootie and Angie Chewning



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

**Mark Johnson has earned his MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.**

Congratulations to Mark Johnson, who received his Master of Business Administration degree this week from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Mark is the husband of Mitzi West Johnson (Desert Sun) and father of Luke, Landon and Logan. They are all so proud of him.

A birthday celebration for Jimmy Echols was held Saturday night at Macado's. Those joining in celebrating were his parents, Jim and Nita Echols; Jimmy's lovely wife, Sonya; his beautiful daughters, Ally and Lauren, along with Nancy Horn, John Shotwell, and Cary and Kathy Salyer.

Happy sixth birthday to Ethan Dailey, grandson of Debbie and Danny Adams of Vinton.

# Heroes volunteer here: Vinton salutes its First Aid Crew

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger are saluting members of the Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC) for their generous contributions of time and effort to the community. This week's featured volunteer is Megan Sayre. She is an EMT-Intermediate and has been with the crew for 12 years.

Sayre is from Vinton. Her day job is as a Cardiac RN.

She began volunteering with the Cave Spring First Aid Crew, joining as "just something to do."

"I came to Vinton because it had more of a family atmosphere," Sayre says.

Sayre's husband, Chris, is the chief of the Vinton First Aid Crew. They met volunteering for the crew and now have one son. Her mother-in-law Sandy Sayre is also a long-time volunteer with the Vinton crew. In her spare time, Megan enjoys crafts.

She says that volunteering for the crew helps the community and provides a great education, all in a family atmosphere.

"We are truly blessed to have the Vinton First Aid Crew in our town," says Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "The crew has a long history of service to the residents of Vinton and the surrounding area. Many of our citizens have amazing stories about the wonderful service provided to them by the devoted members of the crew."



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Vinton First Aid Crew member Megan Sayre**

"A common trait among individual members of the crew is their desire to serve their fellowman," the mayor said. "The Vinton First Aid Crew offers an opportunity to serve, and it also provides valuable medical training that can truly be lifesaving. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and family in the crew that is rarely duplicated in organizations of its size."

"The citizens of Vinton can rest assured that they will always receive professional and caring service from the dedicated members of our Vinton First Aid Crew."

Thank you for your service, Megan Sayre!

## Upcoming Events Feb. 2-Feb. 8

**Charles Hill Community Center:** Tai-Chi, Feb. 2 at 9 a.m.; Senior Card Games, Feb. 2, 10:15 a.m.; Line dancing Feb. 7, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.

**Roanoke County Schools:** School Board work session meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, Central office on Cove Road.

**Rosie's Gaming Emporium:** Blue

Connection performs at 8 p.m. on Feb. 3; Shattered Glass performs on Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. Both are free shows.

**Vinton History Museum:** open Feb. 4 for First Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Vinton Public Library:** Soup for Seniors drop-off from Jan. 27-Feb. 6; "Groundhog Day" movie, all day on Feb. 2; stop by the library and pick up your bird feeder kit Feb. 6-17 with information on the birding app; Vinton Book Club, Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. to discuss "Beneath a Scarlet Sky"; As the Page Turns Book Club on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. to discuss "We Were Never Here"; Open Bridge every Tues. from 1-4 p.m.; DMV Connect, Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.); Groundhog Day crafts in the children's area all day on Feb. 2; Crafternoon on Feb. 8 from 4-5 p.m.;

**Vinton Town Council:**

Town Council meeting, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building

Please submit Upcoming Community News announcements to dadams@mainstreetnewspapers.com.

## The Vinton Messenger

USPS 660-020

(540) 473-2741

1633 W. Main St.

Salem, VA 24153

ourvalley.org

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: (540) 473-2741

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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified by telephone before publication. The Messenger reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style.

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$44 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$48 a year in adjoining counties, \$52 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

## Mount Pleasant Library to close mid-February for remodeling

The Mt. Pleasant Library is undergoing a remodel starting mid-February. The staff is excited about all the updated improvements being made to better serve the community.

*Renovation highlights include:*

- More natural light with new windows
- New shelving, fixtures, and service desk
- New doors, lighting, and HVAC
- An updated restroom

A specific closure date will be

announced as the library gets closer to the renovation time.

While Mount Pleasant Library is closed, patrons may visit the Vinton Library located at 300 South Pollard Street in downtown Vinton, or South County Library, at 6303 Merriman Road in Roanoke County. You may also place holds at www.rvl.info. Watch for outreach visits near the Mt. Pleasant Library for limited library services.

Submitted by Mount Pleasant Library

www.vintonmessenger.com

**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

**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 Bote-tourt 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 Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

**ECKANKAR ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd

# Vinton Worship Directory

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord" (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord's anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God's protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David's is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can 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 Wor-

ship 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; cmpe2verizon.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 METHOD-IST 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**



# VINTON HISTORY: WASHBOWL AND PITCHER

What are a washbowl and pitcher? The washbowl and pitcher set was created for personal hygiene hundreds of years ago. Pottery companies saw this set as an effective solution to solving the plumbing challenge. They were usually placed on a washstand close to a window for easy disposal of used water.

As indoor plumbing became standard in homes into the 1900s, it gradually put a stop to the use of these sets.

Collectors now love to display washbowl and pitcher

sets, appreciating the historic charm offered by the vintage pieces.

Reports say Napoleon had a solid gold washbowl and pitcher set that followed him through his battles. The middle to lower class had sets produced from ceramics and bone china. The wealthy preferred fanciful, hand-painted sets made from cut glass or even sterling silver.

Pictured is a set on display at the Vinton History Museum donated by Darnell Vinyard, which was originally used in the Ponce De Leon Hotel in

Roanoke. The history museum is located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton – open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stop by and see the items on display.

To learn more about the Vinton History Museum, please visit their website at [www.vintonhistorymuseum.org](http://www.vintonhistorymuseum.org).

*Submitted by Vinton History Museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham*



PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM  
**This washbowl and pitcher set was donated to the Vinton History Museum by Darnell Vinyard and originally used in the Ponce De Leon Hotel in Roanoke.**

## Gish Mill from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF HILL STUDIO

**A recent rendering of the planned deck area at Gish Mill.**

assessments using grant programs. In 2019, the town issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to which Gish Mish Davii, LLC, responded with a project that would convert the historic property into mixed use development, accommodating a restaurant (with indoor and outdoor dining and a wrap-around deck), a speakeasy in the basement, retail space (hopefully including an ice cream shop or seasonal market) and lodging. The contract of sale was signed on April 8, 2020.

In Fall 2020 the town was awarded grant funds of \$250,000 from the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF) for repair and stabilization work and \$468,750 from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) in the form of a loan. (The property has been designated on both the Virginia and National Historic Registers.)

In June 2021, the town approved a Performance Agreement providing financial incentives with the developers, also approved by the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority (EDA).

In 2022, the project utilized \$250,000 of the DHR resources to stabilize the creek bank, solidify and shore up the foundation, and repaint much of the visible historic brick. (The town was required to maintain ownership of the structure until the preservation grant was concluded.)

In July 2022, with skyrocketing costs in the construction industry worldwide, the developers approached the town to discuss filling the funding gap necessary to move the project forward. The parties came up with updated terms in an Amended Performance Agreement.

“The recent inflationary market, materials, labor costs, and interest rate hikes resulted in a funding gap that was previously unaccounted for when the original Performance Agreement was authorized in the spring of 2021,” Town Manager Pete Peters said. “Rather than allow the project to dissolve, town staff and the developers went back to work to find a means for the project to move forward.”

In October 2022, town council approved requests from Peters for authorization to execute an Amended Performance Agreement between the town, the Roanoke County EDA and Gish Mill Davii, LLC and to execute a Construction Loan and an IRF Loan among the three groups.

As part of the amended agreement, the town will provide a Development Incentive Grant in the amount of \$398,750 for site work, gateway enhancements, and façade improvements to the structure as well as reimbursement of Utility Connection Fees and various Permitting fees.

The town will also utilize a Construction Loan to provide an additional \$1 million in five equal installments at various stages of construction, with the final payment

being made when the property receives an Occupancy Permit.

The project’s total cost is approximately \$3.9 million. The developer has secured \$2 million in private lending, resulting in just over half of the total investment—51% private funding, 49% public.

Developer David Hill of Gish Mill Davii LLC, says he and business partner David Trinkle are “hopeful that our team will be able to complete the financing documents and move forward with this important project in 2023.”

“A lot of people from Vinton—indeed all across the Roanoke Valley—have invested an extraordinary amount of time into this project,” Hill said. “We are grateful and humbled by all of this work. This dedication further demonstrates that Gish Mill is truly a community-building project and inspires me to affirm my commitment to push it over the bar to get into construction.”

“A lot of people have told me, ‘This is not going to be an easy one,’ and you know they are right,” Hill remarked.

There have been some naysayers along the way—those who scoffed at the idea of spending taxpayer money to preserve the grist mill, the main section of which was built around 1846 with multiple additions in 1930 and 1955.

Vinton’s Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning, Nathan McClung, recently detailed the progress that has been made:

- Through an initial grant, the town was able to hire engineering services to complete a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) study to determine that the proposed repair and stabilization work will not impact the pre-project base flood elevations.

- Support the hiring of professional services to complete our formal historic nomination process.

- Complete necessary investigative work throughout specific areas of the structure and utilize A&E services for the structure design of flood recovery and rehabilitative efforts.

The town has been able to complete the following tasks for restoration on the structures (in specified areas) and the stabilization of the adjacent streambank along Glade Creek.

- Removal of vegetation from interior and exterior completed.
- Clean interior and exterior masonry, reinstallation of loose brick and repoint joints completed.
- Remove non-historic ceiling tiles and partitions.
- Completed investigative work.

The next phase of actually reinforcing and designing a means of creating a foundational system for parts of the building will utilize other grant funds and resources.

- Remove roof and wall areas retaining the concrete slab (non-historic portion of building). A temporary wall sheathing was put up to protect the building from the elements and trespass.
- Remove flooring as needed to determine stabilization strategy.
- Complete a full-scale streambank



PHOTO BY NATHAN MCCLUNG

**The town has completed the Gish Mill stream stabilization project along Glade Creek, adding rip-rap to stabilize the bank.**



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Seven lodging units are planned in the silo section of the historic grist mill.**

stabilization project using the placement of rip-rap to stabilize critical points adjacent to the structure. The rip rap will prevent floodwaters from scouring the bank and undercutting the mill foundations in the future.

In his report, McClung listed several significant successes related to the grant funding:

- The contractor mobilized in January and was able to complete identified tasks by August.
- The reinstallation of the loose brick and repointing process completely saved that wall from future failure and restored it to its former strength and character.
- The completion of the streambank stabilization process will fortify the streambank for many years to come and protect the historic structure from scouring and further erosion.

He also noted some significant challenges experienced in relation to this grant:

- A significant 6+ month delay after being awarded the grant related to federal review processes pushed the entire project timeline back a significant amount

of time. (Once the agreement was signed with DHR and permission was given to proceed, the DHR staff was “incredibly efficient” and “timely.”)

- In one area the foundation was found to be in a compromised position that would require a stabilization measure costing substantially more than what was originally planned/budgeted for. We were fortunate to be able to find this out early in the project using ESHPPF funding with professional service consultants and contractor. We can now effectively plan for the next phase.
- The close proximity of the structure to the creek required the use of cranes to complete work on the streambank and related work on the northern side of the structure. This was already a known requirement but is still a challenge to note when working close to creeks and waterways.

McClung advised that the next phase of the project includes multiple funding sources from private investment, local funds, a state loan/grant program (IRF loan through DHCD), and historic tax credit incentives.

The town has requested an extension of the completion date to July 1, 2024.

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# FROM THE PULPIT

By Reverend Travis Russell, Vinton Baptist Church

3 Be on your guard! If a brother or sister sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. 4 And if the same person sins against you seven times a day and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive.' 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

In last Sunday's sermon, I talked briefly about the relationship between forgiveness and repentance. Jesus' words in Luke's Gospel seem to indicate that forgiveness requires repentance. According to John McKinley, writer and associate professor of theology at Talbot School of Theology, Jesus' instructions in the above passage make it clear that forgiveness is not possible (or required) without repentance. McKinley contends:

"Overlooked in common Christian understanding of forgiveness is the necessary part of repentance by the wrongdoer. This part is implied in Jesus' command: 'If your brother sins, go and show him his fault' (Matt 18:15, NASB). The result of telling the other person what was done to us is that the brother, who may or may not have known he had done wrong, once being made aware of the fault, takes responsibility in repentance. In other words, when that person repents, forgiveness is the next step and free response of removing another's guilt.

Jesus is clearer about repentance as

the necessary condition of forgiveness in Luke 17:3-4, 'If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," you must forgive him' (NASB)."

Though McKinley's argument is valid and consistent with Jesus' instructions in this portion of Luke's Gospel, I think he misses one of the greatest examples of forgiveness also found in Luke's Gospel. While hanging on a cross and suffering some of the worst abuse and trauma imaginable, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." In the same verse, Luke also recorded, "And they cast lots to divide his clothing." When Jesus offered these words of forgiveness there was no repentance. Among the wrongdoers, no one took responsibility for their actions or showed remorse for his pain. Instead, they were placing bets (i.e., casting lots) for who would get to take home his stuff. When he asked for something to drink, he was mocked and given vinegar. When he cried out to heaven in agony, the soldiers were silent and dismissive.

And yet, in the midst of his despair, trauma, and pain, Jesus forgave them. Even more astonishingly, he asked God to forgive them. On the cross, he demonstrated the very words he preached in his Sermon on the Mount, "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . . (Matthew 5:44)." In the midst of his suffering, Jesus chose forgiveness long before his enemies even recognized their sin or considered the possibility of repentance. As a result, he was able to release himself of the burden of their

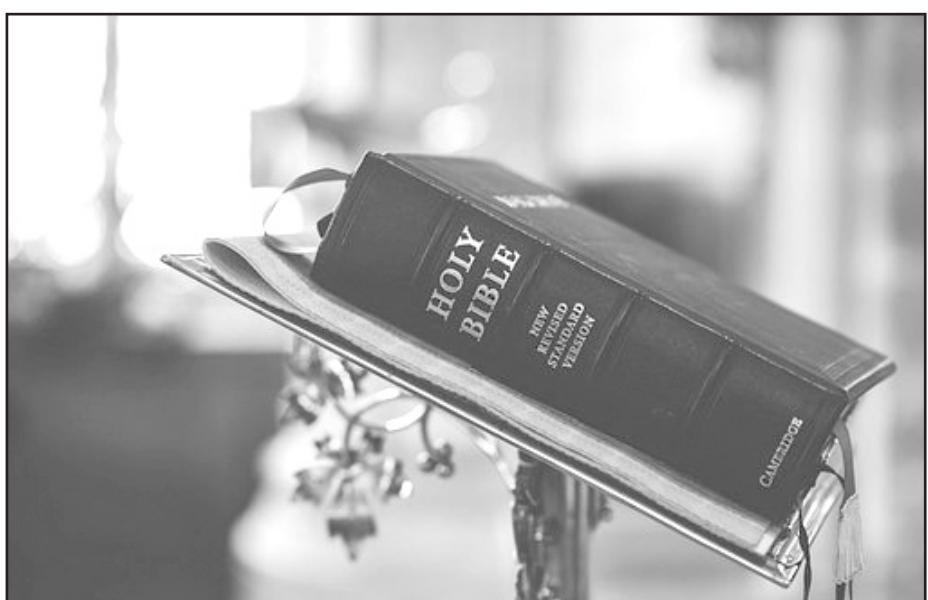


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

sin, commend [his] spirit into the hands of the Father, and be free to experience the fullness of God's love.

Though it would be satisfying for those who have wronged us to repent, in some cases that is just not going to happen. The reason is most likely multifaceted. Some may not believe our pain is their fault. Others may blame us. Some may know they were wrong but are too ashamed to face it or admit it. Whatever the reason, if we withhold our forgiveness until we receive their repentance, we will always be bound by the burden of their sin. The miracle of forgiveness is not only what it does to the one who needs to be forgiven, but also what it does to the forgiver. Not only does it release the wrongdoer from their debt, it also frees the one holding that debt from its weight.

Like McKinley, I believe repentance is required in order to be released from

the weight of our own sin. Unless we acknowledge our sins, apologize and turn from them, we will always carry the burden of their weight. However, I disagree with McKinley that our call to forgive those who have sinned against us is required only if the wrongdoer repents. The miracle of God's grace not only releases us from the guilt and pain of the sins we have committed, it also allows us to release the pain and burden of the sins committed unto us. We no longer have to carry that weight, be defined by their pain, or bound by their sin. They must carry the burden of their sin. If we withhold forgiveness for their sins, we too will carry the burden of their sins. By offering forgiveness even when there is no repentance, like Christ, we too can commend our spirit into the hands of the Father and be free to experience the fullness of God's love.

## Bank of Botetourt records profitable 2022; Board votes to pay preferred dividend and increase common dividend

BUCHANAN, Va.— Buchanan-based Bank of Botetourt (OTCPK: BORT and BORTP) announced today its unaudited financial results for the three and twelve months-ended Dec. 31, 2022. The Bank produced net income amounting to \$2,191,000 or \$1.13 per basic share in the fourth quarter. This amount compares to net income of \$1,501,000 or \$0.77 per share, for the same period last year. For the twelve months-ended Dec. 31, 2022 the Bank produced net income amounting to \$7,805,000 or \$4.04 per basic share. This amount compares

to net income of \$6,879,000 or \$3.58 per share, for the same period last year.

At Dec. 31, 2022, select financial information and key highlights include:

- Return on average assets of 1.10%
- Return on average equity of 12.99%
- Book value of \$32.48
- Total deposit growth of 7.8%
- Total asset growth of 7.8%
- Total loan growth of 13.2%
- Community Bank Leverage Ratio of 10.32%
- Strong liquidity position
- Net interest margin

of 3.67% at Dec. 31, 2022 compared to 2.98% one year prior.

As a result of the solid financial performance, the Board of Directors voted to pay the 7.00% preferred dividend, which calculates to \$0.49 per share on February 9, 2023 to preferred shareholders of record February 2, 2023. The Board voted to increase the quarterly common dividend from \$0.185 to \$0.1925 per share, or \$0.77 per share annualized which is payable on Feb. 17, 2023 to common shareholders of record Feb. 13, 2023.

President & CEO, G. Lyn

Hayth, III stated, "We are gratified by the exceptional financial performance of our Bank during 2022. We were able to successfully meet business objectives that we established for 2022, especially increasing shareholder value."

Financial Condition  
At Dec. 31, 2022 total consolidated assets amounted to \$713,718,000, an increase of 7.8% above total assets at Dec. 31, 2021 of \$662,230,000, an increase of \$51,488,000. Total net loans increased \$56,263,000 or 13.2% from \$425,899,000 at Dec. 31, 2021 to \$482,162,000 at Dec. 31, 2022. Total deposits

at Dec. 31, 2021 amounted to \$597,122,000, compared to \$643,923,000 at Dec. 31, 2022, an increase of 7.8% or \$46,801,000. The increase in deposits is attributable to organic growth.

As of Dec. 31, 2022 Bank of Botetourt reported its CBLR ratio at 10.32% which meets the required regulatory minimum ratio. This compares to a CBLR ratio of 9.14% on Dec. 31, 2021.

- Bank of Botetourt

# Celebrating The Town of VINTON!

The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it's always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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# Chamber

from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER FISHER

**Tyler Fisher**

PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

**Tim Greenway**

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Chris McCarty**

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAT PASCAL

**Kat Pascal**

COURTESY OF LIBBY PATTERSON

**Libby Patterson**

COURTESY NEELY'S ACCOUNTING

**Joy Rierson**

COURTESY BANK OF BOTETOURT

**Paula Robins**

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. TURNER

**Dr. Richard Turner**

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Christopher Wheeler**

COURTESY OF JULIE WHEELER

**Julie Wheeler**

FILE PHOTO

**Mayor Brad Grose**

COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

**Town Mgr. Pete Peters**

Chamber. He was first elected as President in 2017 and has volunteered with the Chamber since 2014. Davison was born in New Jersey but has called Vinton home since 2009. He is the Market Manager at the Member One Federal Credit Union in Vinton. He was selected for the Roanoke Magazine's "40 Under 40" for 2022 for career achievements, community involvement, and accolades. He currently serves on the board at the Roanoke Valley Speech & Hearing Center and enjoys helping the Chamber, Junior Achievement, Center in the Square and Big Lick Entertainment with the great things they do in the community as well as spending time with friends and family. He has a servant's heart and is always looking for ways to make an impact on the community and help those in need.

Members of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in 2023 include Michelle Barklow, Donald Childress, Anthony Conner, Tyler Fisher, Tim Greenway, Chris McCarty, Kat Pascal, Libby Patterson, Joy Rierson, Paula Robins, Dr. Richard Turner, Christopher Wheeler, and Julie Wheeler.

**Michelle Barklow** is Store Leader for Dodge Stores in Troutville. She grew up in Illinois, then relocated to Florida with Star King Enterprises, which brought her to Vinton several years ago. She and her husband, Brian, owned The Salad Factory in downtown Roanoke. Barklow has quickly become a "Vintonite," and loves being involved in the community and its growth. She and her husband have three sons, Michael, Jordan, and Devin.

**Donald Childress** is a life-long resident of the Town of Vinton. He attended William Byrd High School where he played basketball and baseball, graduating in 1994. He attended Emory and Henry College and graduated with a BS degree in Business Management.

After college, Childress began his career in the insurance industry. He has spent over 20 years helping his clients make decisions with Medicare benefit plans, Final Expense plans and Annuity Planning. He decided to start his own business in 2009, Coastal Insurance Planning of Va. His growing office is in the Town of Vinton behind the Farmers' Market.

He is the proud father of one adult son, Damon. He also has one granddaughter, Aleaya.

**Anthony Conner** is a financial services professional with The Conner Group, a locally owned financial practice. Anthony works with a wide variety of clients including business owners and pre-retirees. Prior to his start in the financial services industry, Anthony earned his B.S. Degree from Carson-Newman University in 1982.

Anthony is proud to be a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT) for the last 17 years. He also is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). When he is not working, Anthony enjoys serving the community on the Chamber, traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his wife, Lisa, of 38 years. They have three children.

**Tyler Fisher** is a licensed agent with Fisher Insurance Services representing Rockingham Insurance. After graduating from Radford University in 2016 with a double major in Accounting and Finance, Fisher is stepping into his father's footsteps to begin an insurance career. He was born and raised here in the Roanoke Valley, graduating from Northside High School. As a two-sport athlete, he was the first to attain state championships in both football (2009) and baseball (2011). In his free time, he enjoys giving back to the community by coaching football at his alma mater and traveling with friends.

**Tim Greenway** is the owner and broker of Mountain View Real Estate, LLC in Vinton. He is a lifelong resident of Vinton and a William Byrd High School graduate— Class of 1982. He continues to be a huge supporter of his alma mater and can be seen at many of the sporting events cheering on the Terriers.

Greenway graduated from Radford University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. The degree led him to work as the controller for Cycle Systems, Inc, a local recycling firm, for over 16 years.

Then another dream and another path in life presented itself in building houses, which he has engaged in for the past 25 years. In 2002 he received his real estate license, and his broker's license in 2017 and opened Mountain View Real Estate, LLC.

Greenway has been married for 37 years to Paula Greenway; they have three children, Maia, Brad and Chelsea. He is a fixture in Vinton as he attends Vinton Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon. He proudly represents Vinton on the Roanoke County School Board.

In his brief downtimes, Greenway enjoys most sports, hunting, golf, and, of course, "spending time with those grandkids." He is a supporter of many charities, but his favorite involvement is when he can help children.

**Chris McCarty** graduated from William Byrd High School in 1985 and from Radford University with a BS in Business Management in May of 1989. McCarty worked in the family businesses— McCarty's Hardware and Grand Rental Station—in 1989 and 1990 and managed Grand Rental Station from 1990 until 2008 when the business was sold to Aztec Rental.

In addition to managing Grand Rental Station, McCarty ran Grand Storage of Vinton from 1998 until the rental store was sold in 2008. Grand Storage of Vinton was a family business started in 1998 by Chris's father, Charles McCarty. McCarty managed Grand Rental Station/Grand True Value Rental for Aztec Rental and managed Grand Storage of Vinton from 2008 until he retired from Grand True Value Rental in October of 2022. He currently runs Grand Storage of Vinton.

**Kat Pascal** is an experienced business advisor with a demonstrated history in operations management. She has worked in banking and manufacturing, managed multiple small businesses, and served non-profits as well. Her skillset includes coaching, sales, team building, and business development.

Pascal started Spotless America in 2011 and has co-owned Farmburguesa Restaurants since their inception in 2018. She also founded Latinas Network, a regional non-profit for Latina professionals, in 2020. Pascal has continued her education at Virginia Western Community College. She and her partner Jimmy Delgado are proud parents to two sons: Julian and Jacob, and three playful pups: Jax, Jackie, and Skye. In her free time, Kat enjoys family time.

**Elizabeth (Libby) Patterson** is a proprietor of The Hemp Mill, located in the heart of Vinton, on Pollard Street. She is new to the Vinton Chamber, but not to the town itself. After moving to Vinton in 2004, the town helped raise Libby, setting for her the first real example of what a true "community" looks like. Leaving the valley to attend the University of Mary Washington, Patterson received her undergraduate degree in Psychology. She went on to earn her Master's degree in Clinical Counseling from Virginia Tech and spent two years working locally as a trauma counselor, eventually leaving the field and setting her sights on ownership of the Hemp Mill.

Despite switching fields, Patterson's studies in counseling have proved invaluable in her new venture. With her background in counseling and her passion for helping people find natural and holistic ways to heal, she is able to meet the needs of her customers with the empathy, patience and understanding they deserve. However, if you ask Patterson, she will tell you that it is her life that is changed, daily, by the clients she helps.

**Joy Rierson** joined Neely's Accounting Services, Vinton, in September 2021 as the Office Manager and Staff Accountant. She received a Bachelor of Science in Management with a minor in Accounting from Saint Mary's College of California. She is a QuickBooks® Pro Advisor and brings over 20 years of accounting experience in business accounting, payroll, taxes, and audit prep. Originally from California, Rierson loves spending time on the lake with family enjoying water sports and making memories.

**Paula Robins** started at Bank of Botetourt in August 2001. She has been in banking a total of 40 years. She is

now AVP/ Branch Manager at Bank of Botetourt Vinton location. She is married to Reggie Robins and has two children and two grandchildren.

"I love working in Vinton," Robins says. "I get to walk daily in downtown Vinton at lunch."

**Dr. Richard Turner** has served as the Roanoke Area Site Coordinator for James Madison University's Educational Leadership Program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center since 2016. He supervises student teachers and teaches graduate classes for JMU.

He is currently the Chief Marketing Officer for Fritz Sports and Event Enterprises, which specializes in NASCAR sponsorship opportunities. He works for NASCAR and worked previously for BK Racing from 2013-2017.

Turner graduated from Northside High School in 1978, completed his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech in 1982, earned his Master's Degree at Virginia Tech in 1987, and his Doctorate from Nova/Southeastern University in 1994.

He served as Assistant Principal at William Byrd High School (92-99) and as Principal from 1999 until 2016. He also served Roanoke County Schools as a Marketing Specialist and developed the current Apprenticeship Program in 2016-17.

**Christopher Wheeler** has been working full-time for Wells Fargo Bank for 25 years. He grew up in Bedford County but has lived in Vinton for the past 20 years.

"I became friends with the owners of Twin Creeks Brewing Company when they were still brewing in Barry's garage," Wheeler says. "Once they decided to start a business, I was there from the beginning helping with construction, painting, and, of course, taste testing. Once the brewery was up and running, I was there so often they offered me a job to make a little extra money on the side."

He has now worked part-time at the brewery for six years.

"For the past year and half, I've been running the social media and booking the music for the brewery," said Wheeler. "My goal was to showcase what the brewery has to offer and to partner with other local businesses to cross promote and grow the Vinton community as a whole. I hope being part of the Chamber gives me those connections and opportunities."

He is a single dad with two boys who have grown up around the brewery and who love to play bingo, trivia, and listen to the music there.

"My sons are both musicians and get to hang out and talk to the bands we have in, which encourages them to pursue their dreams. We enjoy the outdoors, fishing, kayaking, and going to concerts. They are at the center of everything I do and I hope being on the Chamber board helps us be more connected with our community."

**Julie Wheeler** works at the Vinton HomeTrust bank and has seven years of banking experience. She grew up in Fredericksburg but has been a Vinton resident since 2008. She is an Army veteran who served six years and has been stationed all over the country including Hawaii.

She is passionate about volunteering, blood donation and supporting local businesses. She has been married to Nathan Wheeler for 20 years and they have a senior (Riley) and a sophomore (Connor) at William Byrd High School.

In her free time, Wheeler enjoys working in community theatre and is the board secretary at Showtimers Community Theatre in Roanoke. She also can usually be found out and about at Vinton events. She is excited to join the Chamber and to be a part of helping Vinton grow while still maintaining the small town charm that makes this town so special.

Town of Vinton representatives to the Chamber Board include Mayor Brad Grose, Town Manager Pete Peters, and Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour.

**Mayor Brad Grose** is the Owner/President of Dominion Electronics Inc. in Vinton. He has served as mayor of Vinton since 2004. He was first elected to Vinton Town Council in 2000. He has also served as Chairman of the Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional

Commission Executive Board and as the Vinton Chamber President. He has received the Virginia Municipal League "Certified Local Government Official-Gold Award" and a commendation from the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly for Public Service.

**Richard "Pete" Peters** was appointed as Vinton Town Manager as of January 1, 2021. He previously served as Assistant Town Manager and Economic Development Director for the Town of Vinton for five years, spent 10 years as Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for Botetourt County, two years as Director of Athletic Programs and Facilities at Roanoke Catholic School, and seven years with the City of Roanoke Department of Parks and Recreation.

Peters graduated from William Byrd High School in 1993. He received his Bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Ferrum College, and his Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management from Virginia Tech.

He and his wife Cameron have been married for 22 years and have two children, Cadence and Falan. His hobbies include mountain biking, kayaking, and camping.

**Chasity Barbour** has been employed by the Town of Vinton since 2014 and has served as Community Programs Director for the town since 2019. She has a hand in planning, organizing, coordinating, and/or facilitating just about every event that takes place in Vinton, as well as several combined events with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. She enjoys spending time with her "better half" Sean Stores and her daughters, Kaidence and Skylour.

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce has two employees— Executive Director Angie Chewning and Executive Assistant/Financial Coordinator Kathryn Sowers.

**Angie Chewning** became Executive Director of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 2010. Her passion for the community leads her to take an active role in promoting business, industry, and tourism in the area. She believes that growth starts with people who are willing to share their ideas and ask questions.

Chewning has three children, Cydney, Drake, and Abbie, and one grandchild, Kellen.

She serves on the Roanoke Regional Partnership Board, the Urban Development Advisory Committee, and the Vinton Moose #1121 Lodge Board of Directors Lodge. She is also a member of the Sassy Sisters at the Lodge. Their events include food drives at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Blood Drives, and many other community events. She served as Chair of the Vinton Relay for Life from 2012-2016. She has served as a member of the Town of Vinton Revitalization Committee and the Preventive Council Committee. She loves promoting all things Vinton and is always encouraging folks to "Shop Local." She loves volunteering for events and organizations that help people and make our community a better place to Live, Work, Shop and Play.

Chewning has enjoyed her collaboration with Chasity Barbour and Roanoke Valley Television promoting local businesses in their "All Things Vinton" series that can be seen on YouTube and social media.

She enjoys being part of the Chamber of Commerce and getting to know fellow business owners— supporting their efforts as they support hers. She feels that it is important to give back.

**Kathryn Sowers** works part-time for the Vinton Chamber of Commerce as Executive Assistant and Financial Coordinator.

She is a native of Vinton. She has one son, Todd, and three grandchildren, Christiaan, Austin, and Hannah.

Volunteering is an important part of her life. Sowers is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Vinton-Roanoke County "High Ground" Veteran's Monument on the grounds of the Vinton War Memorial. She serves on the Board of Directors for General Federation of Women's Club International, Southeastern Region, state of Virginia, Blue Ridge District, GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton and

See Chamber, page 10



# Virginia Department of Education and Department of Labor and Industry sign teacher apprentice agreement

Representatives of the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry signed an agreement this month approving VDOE's application to create a registered teacher apprentice program in the commonwealth.

Virginia's newly approved program is one of only a handful of teacher apprentice programs nationwide that meet U.S. Department of Labor and Industry standards and are eligible for funding through several federal workforce-development grants.

Teacher apprentice programs allow divisions to hire classroom aides, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers

and other unlicensed school employees as teacher apprentices and provide a mentored pathway for them to complete the coursework and on-the-job training required to become fully licensed teachers.

Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure Joan Johnson and VDOLI Commissioner Gary G. Pan signed the agreement — known as a "certificate of commitment" — on January 26 during an annual VDOLI awards ceremony at Brightpoint Community College in Chester.

"Teacher apprentice programs expand the new teacher pipeline and open new career opportunities for school

employees who may have considered full licensure and a teaching career out of reach," Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow said. "I thank Commissioner Pan for his enthusiastic support of teacher apprenticeships and for his agency's assistance as VDOE implements its strategic plan to meet the objectives of Governor Youngkin's executive directive on addressing teacher shortages in the commonwealth's public schools."

"This collaborative effort is critical in addressing the state's teacher shortage and represents a significant step towards developing the next generation of educators," Pan said. "We are so proud

to be part of this initiative and hope this will be the model for future partnerships among state agencies looking to build their workforce pipeline with registered apprenticeships."

In November, VDOE awarded \$143,000 in grants to nine universities to develop teacher apprentice residency programs in partnership with nearby school divisions. VDOE will announce another round of grants this year to support training for mentors, the hiring of new apprentices and tuition assistance. Priority will be given to partnerships that received a planning grant in 2022.

*Submitted by VDOE and VDOL*

## Virginia Western Educational Foundation announces Elam, Lemon joining Board of Directors



Stephen W. Lemon



Katherin A. Elam

Katherin A. Elam and Stephen W. Lemon have joined the Board of Directors of the Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation as at-large members.

Elam retired in 2022 as the longtime president of Junior Achievement of Southwest Virginia. Lemon is an attorney and principal at the firm of Martin, Hopkins & Lemon, P.C.

The volunteer Board of Directors guides the Educational Foundation's mission as an independent nonprofit organization supporting student scholarships, faculty development and endowment initiatives at Virginia Western Community College. Board members are the driving force behind Virginia Western's Community

College Access Program (CCAP), a successful public-private partnership that provides up to three years of tuition to eligible students. CCAP celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2023, having served 3,856 students to date and provided \$9.1 million in tuition assistance.

As of 2023, the Educational Foundation is led by: Deborah L. Petrino, chair; Russell Ellett, vice chair; Tammy Moss Finley, secretary; Chris Carey, treasurer; William Farrell II, immediate past-chair; and College President Dr. Robert H. Sandel. John R. Francis is the chair of Virginia Western's Local Board.

*- Virginia Western Community College*

## Salem-Roanoke Co. Chamber holds its 2022 annual meeting

Update given by local economic development leaders



An economic outlook update was provided during the meeting by Tommy Miller, from left, John Hull, Landon Howard and Megan Baker. Gene Marrano moderated the panel.

Aila Boyd  
[aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com)

The Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Meeting and Economic Outlook Update last Friday, Jan. 27 at Roanoke College's Colket Center.

"Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us today. I've had the pleasure of serving as the president of our chamber for this past year and I'm very proud of the work that we've done to connect businesses to communities in Salem/Roanoke County," Ashley King, director of general services for Roanoke County, said.

She recognized the various individuals who have contributed to the chamber over the past year, including members of the board of directors, committee members and

ambassadors. Later, she recapped some of the major events the chamber held in 2022, including the Annual Meeting and Economic Outlook Update, Annual Business Awards Breakfast and Annual Gingerbread Festival.

King also introduced Amanda Livingston, who joined the chamber in October as its new executive director. "We are very lucky to have her serving our membership," King said. "In a very short time, she has demonstrated great drive and passion for our chamber."

She added that Livingston's ability to connect with others and create personal relationships has already provided the chamber with a "strong growth in membership and sponsorships."

**Attorney General update**  
 Matt Hall, a community liaison officer with the Office of Attorney General of Virginia,

## OUTDOOR REPORT



PHOTO COURTESY OF DWR

While not the ideal spot (according to the homeowner), bears can even make their winter den under porches or unsecured crawl spaces.

### Think you found a bear den? Please leave it alone!

As temperatures fall and food sources become less abundant, many bears in Virginia will enter a winter den. Other bears will greatly reduce their movements during but may remain active throughout the season. Movements and denning behavior vary greatly across regions of the state depending on weather and available food resources. With the abundant hard mast crop (acorns) across much of the state, many bears will likely delay den entry this year until few acorns can be found.

Black bears in Virginia will den in a variety of places including: brush piles, trees (cavities within tree), rock outcroppings, ground nests, debris piles, and occasionally under porches or unsecured crawl spaces. Not all black bears den for the full winter season. Often, black bears that enter a winter den are females who will birth their cubs in the den or females with yearlings. Male black bears may den, but generally do not stay in a den for the entire winter due to the lack

of extreme cold weather and snow across much of Virginia. Here are a few tips to avoid disturbing a bear den and what to do should a female leave her den.

**Tips to avoid a den**

- Avoid hiking in dense brushy thickets or young cutover timber stands. If you must work in these areas be mindful of brush piles, gullies with debris piles, or storm damage areas with thickets of limbs/root balls.
- Always maintain your dog on a leash to avoid a dog-bear encounter at a den site.
- When burning a brush or debris pile on your property, look around the entire pile for signs of digging (fresh dirt, holes) or entry routes into the pile.
- If you notice large excavated holes or fresh trails into debris or brush piles listen closely for the sound of cubs from a distance of at least 30ft away. They often emit a high pitched cry or "squal".
- To prevent a bear from denning under an occupied dwelling ensure

that crawl spaces, mobile home underpinnings, and porches are closed and secured prior to December 1st each year.

Tips if you find a den

- If you find a den on your property or while recreating do not disturb it or approach the area. Leave the area and if on public property alert an employee of the location.
- If you inadvertently flush a female bear from a den, DO NOT approach the den. Take a GPS point of the location (or mark a nearby area with flagging) and leave the area immediately. If you have a dog with you, leash it and keep it maintained on a leash as you leave the area. Contact the Wildlife Helpline (1-855-571-9003) to report the den location.
- Most often when left alone the female will return to the den, although they may not return until night. Do not go back to the den area as additional disturbance may cause the bear to leave again and not return.

*- DWR Bear Team*

spoke about his office's local and statewide efforts.

"I wanted to give you an update on what we've done over the past year. We've launched one of the largest crimefighting programs in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We've launched Operation Ceasefire."

He went on to explain that two prosecuting attorneys have been allocated to cities to prosecute violent crimes, including gun-related crimes. He pointed to two attorneys who have been hired to prosecute such crimes in Roanoke.

Other initiatives Attorney General Jason Miyares has priorities that Hall pointed to include youth violence intervention and preventative opioid addiction education.

"We have to get this right," he said. "We really want to educate folks that one pill can truly kill with fentanyl."

**Economic outlook update**

An economic outlook update was delivered via a panel of local officials, including Tommy Miller, Salem's director of economic development, John Hill, executive director of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, Landon Howard, president of Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, and Megan Baker, Roanoke County's economic development director.

It was moderated by Gene Marrano, editor of Valley Business FRONT and reporter/anchor for WFIR.

Baker started her role in late October. She said, "I came into a very vibrant and active community. We have the Board of Supervisors that have set some great priorities for Roanoke County." Right now, she said, she's taking stock of the economic development situation in Roanoke County but is looking forward to what 2023 has in store for the county.

One area of focus she touched on for the upcoming year is a review of how the county markets itself to outsiders, including businesses.

Howard said, "2022...I'll tell you the first quarter was not that great because of this thing called COVID, but we've recovered. The last numbers I've seen, we've had \$117 million in total revenue for our hotels and if you compare that to 2019, it's exactly even. That revenue has recovered."

However, room demand, he said, is still down roughly 11%. His agency is forecasting that leisure in the region in 2023 will be up compared to 2019.

"We're back! And we're excited about that," he said.

Hull noted that his agency was involved in the announcement of eight new site developments last year. The impact of those announcements, he said, "exceeds any level in the last five years."

"We've had a really strong year," he said. The





# Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

### Positions Wanted

Quality Inn  
Hiring Full/Part Time  
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Ph-540-639-3000

### General Information

**Liquit 2x®** is recognized safe & effective by U.S. CVM against hook & round worms and has a 3 year expiration. H&H Outdoors 254- 2420 (www.fleabeacon.com)

**Worried about deadly mold and bacteria in your home?** Air purifier that kills 99.99% of the virus that causes COVID-19. Call 540-320-0089

### Services

**SINGING VALENTINE'S QUARTETS RETURN**  
Feb. 13 & 14.  
\$60 For more information  
CALL VA GENTLEMEN at 540-977-0472  
Available 9 am to 6 pm in the Roanoke area.

### Legals - Botetourt County

**Affordable Mini Storage, LLC**  
1250 Lee Highway  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
Date: Saturday, February 4, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Units: G33, D10, D06, H30, W14, J28, W48  
Cash only.  
Buyer has 24 hours to remove items from unit.  
Cody Manspile, Auctioneer, VAL# 2907004430

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **CASE No. CWF210000261** BOTETOURT Circuit Court 1 W. Main Street, Fincastle VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ARTHUR BERNHARDT HENSLEY, JR., DECEASED. The object of this suit is to: authorize the Administrator of the Estate of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. to distribute the entire estate to the descendants of the decedent's mother. It is ORDERED that any unknown heirs, devisees, successors and assigns of Arthur Bernhardt Hensley, Jr. appear at the above named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 6, 2023. January 13, 2023 TOMMY L. MOORE; CLERK

### Legals - City of Radford

### Order of Publication

VA Code Ann. §§8.01-316, -317 Commonwealth of Virginia City of Radford Circuit Court located at 619 2nd Street # 149 Radford, VA 24141 **Case no. CL22-6839 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Estate of Charles Preston Hall, DECEASED.** The object of this suit is to: Establish a copy of a will as the true Last Will of Charles Preston Hall. It is ORDERED that any interested children/ descendants of Charles Preston Hall appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 28, 2023 Entered: 12/20/22 by: Melissa White, Deputy Clerk

**ADVERTISE!**

### Legals - Craig County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3484 DICKS CREEK RD, NEW CASTLE, VA 24127

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$107,100.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.250000% dated April 30, 2014, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig as Deed Book 192, Page 584, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Craig, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Craig located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia on February 28, 2023 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit:  
LOT 3, BLUE HEALING SPRINGS  
Tax Map No. 66-1-3  
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 21-288873. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002185-16-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, JACOB LUCAS  
The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is five (5) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002184-18-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, Mason Gray The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born

### Legals - Craig County

to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that James Cook appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, clerk 12/19/2022

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 **CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE Case No JJ002184-19-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia EVANS, Mason Gray The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

### Legals - Montgomery County

### TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY

3692 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 24162 Tax Map No. 112- A 58C, Parcel No. 140170 In execution of a Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2007, in the principal amount of \$123,731.30, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 2007004988 and corrected in Instrument Number 2011007896, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on February 9, 2022 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:  
All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances belonging, lying in the Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, being more particularly described as New Tract A1, containing 2.478 Acres, as shown on that certain plat entitled, "PARTIAL SURVEY AND MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR JONATHAN D. LINKOUS SHOWING THE RESUBDIVISION OF NEW TRACT "A" (3.518 Ac.) AND CREATING NEW TRACT A1 (1.040 Ac.) AND NEW TRACT A2 (2.478 Ac.)

### Legals - Montgomery County

**SITUATE ON ALLEGHANY SPRINGS ROAD,** dated February 25, 2007, Job No. 1847, prepared by David A. Perfater of DOC Land Surveying, LLC, which plat is recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 27, page 78. TOGETHER WITH New 40' Ingress/Egress Easement as shown on the above mentioned survey of record in Plat Book 27, page 78. Pursuant to Section 8.9A-604 of the Virginia Code, a 2007 Oakwood Manufactured Home, Serial No. RIC241988NCAB will be sold with the real property. TERMS: Cash – Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale. WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Trustee For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

### Public Notice

Under Provisions of Article 55.1-2902 of the Lien Law of the State of Virginia, Bolt Storage LLC, (814) 983-0099, will sell the personal property stored by the following tenants. Three occupants at 1579 Depot St. NE Christiansburg, VA 24073: Charles Estep-B3; Blair Deskins-D16; Justin Golden-A23. Five occupants at 2860 Roanoke St. Christiansburg, VA 24073: Charles Estep-23B, Adam Goodall III-52B, Elizabeth Palmer-47B, Jennifer Crawford-45F, Mindy Nance-63B. Payment from the buyer will be taken by credit or debit card only. Auction will be held online through storagetreasures.com with open bidding starting on Friday, February 10, 2023 at 8:00 am. Bolt Storage LLC reserves the right to bid at the sale; refuse any or all bids, and to cancel the auction at any time for any reason. To settle this claim please call (866) 300-2658.

### City of Salem

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§1-211.1; 8.01-316, 20-104 **CASE No. CL23-40 ROANOKE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT 305 E. MAIN STREET, SALEM, VA 24153** Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHLOE GRACE DUNN v. The object of this suit is to: change the minor's name. It is ORDERED that MICHAEL MATTHEW DUNN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before March 14, 2023 @2:30pm. JANUARY 11, 2023 STEVEN A. MCGRAW, clerk

### Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the continued release of treated wastewater into a water body in Roanoke County, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: January 19, 2023 to February 18, 2023 PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284, PO Box 538, Salem, VA 24153; VA0077895 FACILITY

### City of Salem

NAME AND LOCATION: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 STP; 3233 Catawba Valley Drive, Roanoke County. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 has applied for reissuance of a permit for the private Roanoke Moose Lodge #284 STP. The applicant proposes to release treated sewage wastewaters from the Lodge at a maximum rate of four-thousand seven-hundred gallons-per-day into a water body. Septage from the treatment process septic tank will be disposed by transfer and further treatment at the Roanoke Regional Water Pollution Control Plant. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters in Masons Creek in Roanoke County in the Roanoke River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: physical and chemical properties, nutrients, organic matter, solids, and bacteria. HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses or email addresses of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Susan Edwards; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153-3068; Phone: (540)795-9749; E-mail: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (540)689-4178. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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# Meeting from page 8

announcements account for north of \$200 million of economic impact and 435 jobs. "Our opportunity pipeline is double what it was pre-pandemic times. Lots of interest. Lots of activity."

Miller, who joined Salem in the first half of 2022, noted there has been a considerable amount of economic development-related activity in the city over the past year.

"I came onto an office empty for about two years. I thought I was going

to spend a lot of time working on a strategic plan, but there has been a lot more work I'm excited about," he said.

Some of the projects he has been involved in over the past year included streetscape developments, a new hotel, an announcement about the former Valleydale site and restaurant coming into downtown and building relationships with existing businesses.

**Upcoming event**  
Towards the end of the meeting,

Livingston noted that one of the chamber's next events will be on Feb. 17 at 7:30 a.m. The "Business Advocacy Breakfast Series 1: Breakfast with our Congressmen" event will be in the WDBJ7 Community Room. Reps. Morgan Griffith and Ben Cline will participate in the meet and greet.

She ended the meeting by saying, "We have a lot to look forward to. We really encourage you to participate and get involved."

# Chamber from page 7

GFWC Totera Woman's Club.

She is Secretary/Treasurer of the Arnold R. Burton Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to two William Byrd High School students each year. She is also very involved in her church, Vinton Baptist, and the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association and WMU.



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