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Army Association celebrates Flag Day, recruits, and 248th birthday of the US Army



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Dignitaries attending the AUSA Celebration of Flag Day, the Army's 248th birthday and a salute to new recruits included (left to right) Phil North from the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Major General Cedric T. Wins USA (Ret.), and State Senator David Suetterlein.

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Monument.

The War Memorial was opened to the public in 1948, built to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II. The Vinton-Roanoke County Veterans High Ground Monument, on the grounds of the War Memorial, was a project initiated by citizens to honor residents who were killed in action, along with military men and women who have or are currently serving. It was dedicated in 2011.

The mayor thanked all those who have served in the military, especially those in the U.S. Army who have remained "constant, consistent, and honorable," over

See **Army**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Artist Walt Hodges partnered with the Council for Community Services Drop-in Center and the Garden City Recreation Center for an art show on June 11. Hodges created 27 new works of art for the "Just Off the Easel" event, including "The Three of Us."

Artist Walt Hodges partners with the Roanoke Drop-In Center for benefit art show

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"unite people with his art while supporting the center's community services and reviving the recreation center by housing the event there." Admission to the show was a canned food donation with the intention of "filling the food pantry" at the center. "Walt has a very special way of connecting with others, in person, and

Renowned local artist Walt Hodges partnered with the Roanoke Drop-In Center, a program of the Council for Community Services, for a benefit show entitled "Just Off the Easel" at the Garden City Recreation Center on June 11.

His goals were to

See **Artist**, page 11

Galliher and Perdue will face off in Republican Primary for Roanoke County Clerk of Court



PHOTO COURTESY OF RHONDA PERDUE

Rhonda Perdue, now Interim Clerk of Court in Roanoke County, is running in the Republican Primary on June 20.

Rhonda Perdue, now serving as Interim Clerk of Court for Roanoke County, is running in the Republican Primary on June 20 to become the permanent Clerk of Court, an eight-year position.

Perdue is a Roanoke native and has been a resident of Roanoke County for 30 years. She graduated from Patrick Henry High School and attended Virginia Western Community College in 1990-91. She has been married for 25 years and is the mother of two. Perdue attends Bonsack Baptist Church.

Her accomplishments and

credentials include:

- Twenty-six years of service in the Clerk's office with four promotions, being hired as an entry level Deputy Clerk I (1997), appointed by the Clerk as Chief Deputy (2016), and appointment by the Court on February 1, 2023, as the Interim Clerk
- Led the way in converting to fileless records, electronic filing and retrieval of real estate, civil

See **Perdue**, page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Michael Galliher, who is running for Roanoke County Clerk of Court in the June 20 Republican Primary election, stopped in Vinton to visit with citizens on May 20.

Michael Galliher is a candidate for Roanoke County Clerk of Court in the Republican Primary coming up on June 20. The winner of the primary advances to the November general election, representing the Republican Party.

Galliher is not from Vinton—he was raised in the Catawba area and graduated from Northside High School in the Class of 1999.

However, he does have a Vinton connection—his wife Stephanie is a third-grade teacher at Herman L. Horn Elementary. They have two children, a son and a daughter, who are students in Roanoke County Public Schools.


Galliher graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication with a concentration in Public

Relations.

He works as Deputy Clerk in the Roanoke County Circuit Court (Criminal Division), having worked his way up from an entry level position. He has been trained through the Supreme Court of Virginia. He has been involved in over 8,000 cases as court cases clerk (juries, bench trials, pleas, motions, hearings, etc.). He assists and prepares Grand Juries, works with the Virginia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Virginia with cases appealed from our Court. He has served as Deputy Drug Court Clerk.

As for community involvement, Galliher has been a Rotarian

See **Galliher**, page 3




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PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton Public Library celebrated summer and its Summer Reading Program on June 8 with a host of activities, including face painting and balloon animals.

Enthusiastic crowd kicks off Summer Reading Program at Vinton Library

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A large and enthusiastic crowd attended the kick-off of the Summer Reading Program at the Vinton Public Library on June 8.

Library staff planned a variety of activities which drew over 300 to

the STEAM Powered Reading Party and encouraged readers of all ages to participate and read, read, read.

Patrons only need to read three books to begin earning prizes. Children who complete the three books will win a train whistle and book. Teens will win a Liquid

See Reading, page 11

Vinton adopts FY23-24 Budget; plans new community projects

Vinton Town Council adopted the annual budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 at the June 6 Town Council meeting.

The approved budget for this upcoming year totals \$14.2 million and includes \$1.3 million allocated for a variety of new projects and over \$1 million dedicated to paving roads in Vinton, which is an increase from the previous year's allocation.

The town will see new projects in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 that focus on redeveloping underutilized properties for the highest and best uses. These projects will help serve community needs and support local businesses.

Among these projects is the Walnut Avenue parking lot, which will create approximately 80 new parking spaces behind the Vinton Farmers' Market in



COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

proximity to the heart of downtown Vinton.

New projects also include planning for a new multi-generational park and public-private partnerships such as the redevelopment of the former Cleveland Mart into a mixed-use space with a commercial unit and seven new residential units.

"The Fiscal Year 2024

budget reflects the Town Council's vision for Vinton and aligns with our strategic plan," said Vinton Finance Director Andrew Keen. "The adopted budget will allow for the town to engage in new economic development initiatives, procure new equipment for our Public Works

See Budget, page 9

First Mingle at the Market Concert a huge hit



Vinyl Nation wowed the crowd at the first Mingle at the Market this season, sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce

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The first Mingle at the Market Concert for 2023 on June 10 was a big hit – very big. Vinyl Nation band was fabulous; the weather was perfect. The crowd was enthusiastic. There was dancing in the streets. Blue Ridge Beverage served the cold drinks; Mountain Grille, the Butter Burgers.

Vinyl Nation was a crowd-pleaser, "reliving the glory days of 'vinyl Rock & Roll,' fronted by award-winning vocalist Christy Bowles.

"As I have said before, I don't get nervous often, but hosting events makes my nerves rattle a bit," said Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewing. "I worry if people will come; I worry if they will be entertained. Well, folks showed up and showed out! Many thanks to everyone that helped make our season opener a huge success. Eight more to go. See you on June 24."

"This is such an awesome event," said Jason Boothe, president of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are becoming a staple for the community, not just Vinton. Angie and the crew have done a great job making this event what it is. We could

not do it without the Town of Vinton and their support and the sponsors that underwrite the event to make it possible. New this year, we have commercials running on Channel 7 and streaming. Alcova Mortgage, Vinton, and Mountain View Real Estate have helped underwrite and sponsor those. What a great night and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

Volunteers on June 10 included Page Stovall, Brian Lovern, Dale Barker, Ryan and April Yost, Julie Wheeler, Shannon and Kenny Kendell, Sharon Llewellyn, Justin Davison, Jason Boothe, Drake and Hannah Lewis, and Tracy Powers. The William Byrd football players and coaches set up for the event beforehand – a huge help.

VIP sponsors for this year's Mingle at the Market concerts are Mountain View Real Estate, Alcova Mortgage, and Jason Boothe Realtor. Other sponsors include Coastal Insurance Planning, MemberOne, PFG, Fox Radio 910, ServPro, Winters Storage, Bank of Botetourt, the Vinton War Memorial, Blue Ridge Beverage, The Vinton Messenger, Vertex Signs, Magnets USA, Lotz Vinton Chapel, Carilion Clinic, TL Electric, HomeTrust Bank, the Town of Vinton,



All ages took to dancing in the streets at the first Mingle concert.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Mingle at the Market concert series is hosted by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce. Jason Boothe serves as president; Angie Chewing is the executive director.

Vinton McDonald's, Roanoke County, US Cellular, Food Lion, and RVTV.

Mingle concerts are sponsored twice monthly by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce during summer months, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Vinton Farmers' Market. Admission is \$7. This is a family-friendly event with children under 12 admitted free.

Coming up on June 24 will be Mended Fences, with Food on the Go and Elote Alebrije Mexican Street

Corn. The remainder of the concert series includes the Eric Wayne Band and Mark Osbourne on July 8, Glam'r Kiti and Adrenaline 6 on July 22, Filthy Souls and Gasoline Alley on Aug. 12, \$5 Shake on Aug. 26, Fuzzy Logic Band on Sept. 9, and Five Shades of Grey on Sept. 23.

Any organizations interested in volunteering at the Mingle events may contact the Chamber office at 540-343-1364.

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Wed., July 5th
@ 8:30 a.m.**

**All ads for July 5th and
July 6th papers need to
be in our office by
Friday, June 30
at 12:00 Noon.**



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Four on the 4th race benefitting the Boys and Girls Clubs of SWVA returns to Vinton in 2023. This photo is from the 2022 Kids Race event.

Four on the 4th race benefitting Boys and Girls Club of SWVA returns to Vinton

Debbie Adams
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After a successful 2022 event, the American National Bank & Trust's Four on the 4th race will be returning to the Town of Vinton. Event partners are Fleet Feet, the Boys and Girls Club of SWVA, and the Town of Vinton. The race benefits underserved youth in the Roanoke region. It also celebrates the spirit of community and the nation's 247th

birthday. "Vinton was such an excellent host that we are continuing the race in Vinton, starting and finishing at the Vinton War Memorial," organizers commented. This annual four-mile run on the 4th of July attracts more than 500 runners each year. As of June 12, 224 participants had already signed up for this year's race. A free Kids Fun Run makes the event exciting for the entire family.

The start and finish lines are at the Vinton War Memorial. The race course features a downhill start (down Washington Avenue), less than 150 feet of elevation gain throughout, and a run through picturesque downtown Vinton, including the Vinton Farmers' Market, newly developed Vinyard Station, and the Boys and Girls Club site at

See **Four**, page 5

Perdue

and criminal records

- Certified Deputy Clerk from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and Division of Continuing Education with the University of Virginia, 1998
- Graduated from Roanoke College's Management Institute, 2022
- Graduated from Leadership Roanoke Valley, with the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce, Class of 2023

"Over the past 26 years, I understand the value of hard work, dedication, and teamwork," Perdue said. "My responsibilities have broadened from an entry level position to my current role as Interim Clerk. These responsibilities have built upon one another, brick by brick, with each promotion. Early duties included processing adoptions, civil cases, and marriage licenses, then expanding to administrative, financial and personnel development as Chief Deputy. I managed all aspects of the office's operations, both civil and criminal, for the last seven years.

"My vision is to maintain our office's modern practices, while

being open to new and creative solutions, and to continue investing in the training and development of employees. By focusing on the necessary programs, equipment, and technology, we can ensure the success of our staff in every aspect of their job while providing excellent customer service to our citizens."

"I am blessed by the support and encouragement of friends and family, co-workers, and colleagues (local and statewide), who encouraged me to set and accomplish nearly three decades of goals," Perdue said. "Our office will continue working and growing as a team, providing excellent customer service, with a vision of training and using state of the art technology. I am proud to lead our office into the future."

Registered voters may vote early at the Roanoke County Elections Office, located at 900 Chestnut Street in Vinton (Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) with Special Saturday voting on June 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. You may also vote at the Brambleton Center Elections Satellite Offices, 3738 Brambleton Avenue.

Submitted by Rhonda Perdue

Galliher

from page 1

since 2013. He is an Elder at First Christian Church in Salem and served as treasurer of the Disciples of Christ District 3 Board. He was the Deschutes 2 Roanoke Campaign Manager, served as Chair and Co-Chair for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Virginia Roanoke event; is a past Board Member for Children's Trust and Prevention Council of Roanoke County; and volunteers for multiple organizations throughout the valley.

"In my almost 27 years of working in both private and public sectors, I have held many positions, from entry-level jobs to management positions, and what I have looked for in any job is a strong sense of purpose, meaningful work, and building relationships," Galliher said in explaining his run for the office of Clerk of Court.

"Having the advantage of working in the private sector for half of my career has allowed me to see the differences in leadership styles and innovative ways to perform jobs and achieve goals. I started working in the Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's office in 2011, and it did not take long to realize that this office has a purpose and meaningful work, and you can build relationships within our community and other offices throughout the Commonwealth."

"Within my time in the clerk's office, I have witnessed in court, especially as the deputy clerk over Drug Court for Roanoke County, people who have almost lost their lives to addiction are now living their best lives, and some are helping others with their addictions; children gaining families through adoption; people come into the office after losing loved ones and come out thanking our office for showing them compassion and being there to help them navigate through the steps of probating a Will and the administration of estates. It is much more than just a job. It is about the people and our community and having a purpose and being there to serve."

Galliher says he has a vision for the future of the Circuit Court Clerk's office with numerous goals and priorities if he is elected to be the next Roanoke County Clerk of Court.

"In my time working as a deputy clerk in the Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's office, I have had the opportunity to observe the office and services, discuss and listen to citizens and other clerk's offices throughout the Commonwealth to serve the citizens of Roanoke County better," Galliher said. "I have many goals and priorities for this office to serve the citizens and others that do business within the clerk's office, which include innovating and working for all citizens of Roanoke County, employee development, communication, seeking input and advice from Roanoke County citizens, other clerk's offices, and people that do business within the clerk's office, preserving and promoting the history of Roanoke County, and retaining community leaders. These goals, among others, have been thoroughly considered, and while ambitious, they will address the need to serve Roanoke County citizens better."

Once elected, Galliher says he will continue to explore the opportunities to implement these goals after consultation with the Clerk of Circuit Court's staff and verify that these services can be offered without increasing fees.

He plans to be a working clerk to conduct the more than 800 duties set out in the Code of Virginia.

- Other goals include:
- Exploring new and additional technology to make information and documents more accessible and complete information and services readily available to the public and offices doing business with the clerk's office while keeping costs low.
 - Working with vendors to implement an option to electronically pre-apply for a marriage license and apply for and renew a concealed weapons permit. (First-time applicants will be required to pick up their license in person with their photo ID) Replace our paper concealed weapon permits with plastic card permits.
 - Explore implementing additional services, such as offering passports.
 - Take advantage of Supreme Court training and classes to create a more consistent and uniform practice of job responsibilities and services in the Clerk's Office.
 - Encourage and enroll Deputy Clerks in the Virginia Court Clerk's Association Career Development Master Deputy Clerk Program.
 - Work with the Virginia General Assembly delegation and Roanoke County Board of Supervisors to increase wages for current and entry-level Deputy Clerks.
 - Build relationships with our local assisted living facilities, hospitals, Hospice, and funeral homes to communicate the next steps and make the probate process easier for family members.
 - Obtain Circuit Court Record Preservation grants through the Library of Virginia to preserve Roanoke County's historical records, including their digitization.
 - Work with museums to display Roanoke County historical records for educational purposes.
 - Work with local schools and colleges to provide opportunities for Roanoke County students and teachers regarding the clerk's office responsibilities and Roanoke County history. Develop an internship program for rising seniors looking to work in local government, the clerk's office, a law firm, or seeking a law degree.
- Registered voters may vote early at the Roanoke County Elections Office, located at 900 Chestnut Street in Vinton (Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) with Special Saturday voting on June 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. You may also vote at the Brambleton Center Elections Satellite Offices, 3738 Brambleton Avenue.

Submitted by Michael Galliher

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Formed by burning tobacco
 - 4. Luxury automaker
 - 7. Religious residences
 - 12. Crusaders
 - 14. Puzzled
 - 15. In a curt way
 - 18. Selling tool
 - 19. Solid material
 - 20. Gold
 - 21. Thick piece of something
 - 24. Pouch
 - 27. "Wonder Years" actor
 - 30. Strong and healthy
 - 31. Waste matter
 - 33. Apply lightly
 - 34. Type of squad
 - 35. Secret political faction
 - 37. Mock
 - 39. Immoral act
 - 41. Early Syrian kingdom
 - 42. Neutralizes alkalis
 - 44. Loud, confused noise
 - 47. Sweet potato
 - 48. Yemen's largest city
 - 49. Farm state
 - 50. Bird's beak
 - 52. Measures distance
 - 53. Pacify
 - 56. Spanish noble
 - 61. Lodging supplied for public convenience
 - 63. Womanized
 - 64. Not divisible by two
 - 65. Monetary unit
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used in perfumery
 - 2. Arabic man's name
 - 3. Assess
 - 4. Prickly plants
 - 5. Falsely assess
 - 6. "___ the whistle"
 - 7. Mama
 - 8. Rocker ___ Vicious
 - 9. Toward
 - 10. Prefix meaning within
 - 11. Midway between south and southeast
 - 12. Cause to be embarrassed
 - 13. Pandemonium
 - 16. Fall behind
 - 17. Cantonese
 - 22. Shad
 - 23. A way to make dark
 - 24. Specialized systems consultant
 - 25. Wings
 - 26. Taxi driver
 - 28. Linear units
 - 29. Large Philippine plant
 - 32. Celebration
 - 36. Fugitives are on this
 - 38. Chinese tree
 - 40. Not sour
 - 43. "Bourne" actor Matt
 - 44. Former OSS
 - 45. Runners run this
 - 46. Offered again
 - 51. Sanctuary
 - 54. Food suitable for babies
 - 55. Caused by a reflection of sound
 - 56. Mortar trough
 - 57. Days in mid-month
 - 58. Exhibit the courage to do
 - 59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology
 - 60. Protects from weather
 - 62. Manganese

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FROM THE PULPIT Encountering God

Travis Russell, Senior Pastor
Vinton Baptist Church

“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:36-37).

Have you ever been in need of a real-life Good Samaritan? Last week, my family met some old friends at Oak Island, N.C., for a long weekend at the beach. It was a great trip filled with lots of time on the beach, ice cream, putt-putt, seafood, and old stories with friends who have known me for most of my life. The trip went even better than we had planned, but getting there was a different story.

As our family was driving through Asheboro, N.C. on I-73 South, the van started losing power. It began with a sudden jolt and a flashing sign on the display panel that read, “Check Charge System.” Within minutes the A/C and radio turned off, and the entire instrument panel died. The van was still moving, but like our homes during a power outage, every other system within the van was out.

I knew we were on limited time and frantically searched for an exit. Finally, we found one; but it was an exit with no gas stations, restaurants, or businesses in sight. Moments after taking a right off the exit ramp, the van slowed to a stop, and we found ourselves on the side of the road in what seemed to be the middle of nowhere.

As Whitney began to call for roadside assistance

through our car insurance, I noticed an older man mowing his yard not too far from where we were stranded. Hoping he might be able to give us a few more options than our roadside emergency number, I approached him and introduced myself. He greeted me with a smile and a handshake. His name was Keith, and he knew the owner of a local repair shop. He invited all four of us to sit down at their outdoor patio table in the shade. Within minutes his wife, Cindy, pulled up with groceries. She began bringing out water bottles, bananas, and packs of nabs.

After the tow truck left with the van, Keith and Cindy urged us to wait with them until the van was diagnosed. We spent the rest of the afternoon with them talking about our faith, church, college football, and all of our North Carolina connections. Once the mechanic called and confirmed the van would be ready shortly, Keith drove our family to the shop, and we said our good-byes. In less than four hours, we were back on the road with a story we will never forget.

I do not recall encountering a clearer example of the Good Samaritan than the one provided by Keith and Cindy. Keith could have easily given me the number to the local repair shop and sent me on my way. I would not have expected anything more. Instead, he and Cindy stopped everything they were doing, used their connections to get us help, gave us a comfortable place to wait, fed us, allowed us to use their bathroom, and waited with us until we were ready to continue on our journey.

Despite the inconvenience of our presence and the interruption of their day, they welcomed us like

neighbors, cared for us like the Good Samaritan, and treated us like friends.

Later that night the boys asked, “Why were they so nice?” This gave us an opportunity as a family to talk about the story of the Good Samaritan through a real-life example of that today. Almost every night since then, when the boys are saying their nightly prayers they add, “And God, thank you for Mr. Keith and Ms. Cindy.” Their kindness did more than help us out of a jam; they gave our two boys a personal encounter with God’s love and compassion in our time of need.

Reading our Bibles prepares us for an encounter with God by helping us to know more about God. But it is only through a living encounter with God that we can actually know a living God. Through Keith and Cindy, our boys were given an opportunity to know the living God who loves and cares for them. It is through these encounters that our faith can become their faith; and according to Paul, it is through faith that they will “obtain access into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1-2).

The Good Samaritan gave the man attacked by robbers more than help in his time of need. He gave him an opportunity to know God through a real-life encounter with God. The Russell family was given a similar opportunity through Keith and Cindy.

What opportunities might God offer you in the coming weeks to actually know him? How might you provide others a chance to know God by giving them an encounter with God?

The Vinton Messenger

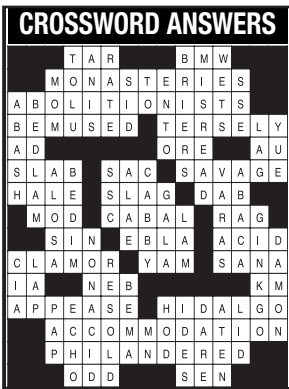
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CHURCH OF CHRIST
DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Botetourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridge-churchofchrist.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,

WINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

ALMIGHTY GOD
 Read Genesis 40:1 thru 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh’s cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation’s highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

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

VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd 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 - 2330 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM.

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; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST
THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN
VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave., Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

Four from page 3

Vinton Baptist Church.

The four-mile race begins at 8 a.m. The half-mile Kids Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. Parents are encouraged to join their kids.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of SWVA (BGCSWVA) currently serve students ages 6-18 in 11 locations in all-day summer camps at little to no cost to families. BGCSWVA has locations in Montgomery County, Franklin County, Roanoke County, Salem City, and Roanoke City. In 2022, 1,188 youth were served through their after-school program, summer program, and community outreach.

This event raises more than \$30,000 annually to support summer programs including field trips, academic support and mentoring, and summer meals for youth who need help most.

Many race awards will be presented including Top 3 Males, Top 3 Females, Top Male Master (40+), Top Female Master (40+), Top Male Grand Master (50+), and Top Female Grand Master (50+). These winners will receive a pair of shoes from Fleet Feet.

In addition, awards will be presented to the top three males and females in each age group category.

All kids will receive a race bib along with a Kids Fun Run finishers medal when they cross the finish line.

The cost for the four-mile race is \$44 plus a signup fee. Registration ends on July 4 at 7:30 a.m.

The Kids Fun Run is free, unless you would like a race T-shirt. Then the cost is \$10 plus a signup fee. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/VA/Vinton/Fouronthe4th> to register.

If you are unable to join the race, donations are welcome. All donations for Four on the 4th support Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia and their mission of enabling local youth, especially those who need them most, to reach their full potential. For more information, visit www.fouronthe4th.com.

All contributions help the BGCSWVA reach their 2023 Fill the Gap Campaign goal of \$620,000 and enables them to fulfill their mission of serving more than 1,000 youth with identified need this year.

Volunteers are also needed for the race. To sign up, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Roanoke/Fouronthe4th>.

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



COURTESY ROANOKE COUNTY

William Byrd High School students (from left) Adam Megdadi, Jayla Barger, and Noah “Zep” Shelor complete a storm drain stenciling project to educate the public about the importance of keeping stormwater runoff pollution free.

Army from page 1

the years. “I am proud of what the Army has done for this nation in spreading freedom and defending the flag.”

SFC (Ret.) Rob Hankins, Vice President of the AUSA chapter, in observance of Flag Day, read the poem “Old Glory,” which says, in part, “I am the flag of the United States of America. I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am recognized all over the world. I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years: Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and in the Persian Gulf and a score of places long forgotten, by all but those who were there with me. I led my Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. I followed them and watched over them. They loved me. I was on a small hill in Iwo Jima. I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, but my Marines and Sailors cheered me. And I was proud. I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of countries that I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of my own country and when it is by those I have served in battle with, it hurts. But I shall overcome, for I am strong. I have slipped the bonds of earth and from my vantagepoint on the moon, I stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space. I have been silent witness to all of America’s finest hours. But my finest hour comes when I am torn in strips to be used as bandages for my



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Color Guard from the Susie G. Gibson Science and Technology Center in Bedford presented the colors.

wounded comrades on the field of battle, when I fly at half-mast to honor my Soldiers, my Airman, my Sailors, my Marines, and when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving mother, at the graveside of her fallen son or daughter. I am proud. My name is ‘Old Glory.’ Long may I wave, dear God, long may I wave.”

The JROTC Color Guard from the Susie G. Gibson Science and Technology Center in Bedford presented the colors, followed by the playing of the national anthem by the 29th Division Band, and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General Cedric T. Wins, USA (Ret.), who is currently serving as the 15th Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute (VMI).

Wins is a 34-year veteran of the U.S. Army and a 1985 graduate of VMI with a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics. He was also a standout basketball player—one of the top five scorers in school history. He was commissioned into the Army as a field military officer. He holds a Master’s

Degree in Management from the Florida Institute of Technology and another Master’s Degree in national security and strategic studies from the National War College.

During his years of service, he held leadership and staff assignments in the 7th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Ord, California; the 2nd Infantry Division, Eighth United States Army, Korea; Combined Army Support Command (CASCOM), Fort Lee, Virginia; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, G-3/5/7, Headquarters Department of the Army and the Joint Staff, The Pentagon; the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Strategic Planning, J-8, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; Program Analysis Evaluation Directorate (PAED), Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8; and the Requirement Integration Directorate (RID), Army Capabilities Integration Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. He was deployed

in Egypt and Afghanistan.

Major General Wins presented a brief history of the U.S. Army, which had its origins in 1775 during the Revolutionary War with the Continental Army, even before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Virginia provided two of the first six companies of soldiers for the Army.

Wins said that Virginia’s commitment to the U.S. Army has not abated in the years since. He applauded the two dozen military installations in Virginia, its two military colleges (VMI and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets) and Mary Baldwin’s Virginia Women’s Institute of Leadership.

He noted that military service is “not an easy task,” born out by the fact that less than 1% of adults in the United States serve in the military and only about 6% have ever served.” Those who have chosen to enlist in the armed forces, have served “in national crises and peace time” and “continue to step forward to answer the nation’s call.”

CPT Shelby Mueller,

See **Army**, page 10

Local students educate public by stenciling storm drains – ‘Only Rain Down the Drain’

A group of environmentally minded Ecology students from William Byrd High School recently participated in the Storm Drain Stenciling Project to educate other students and passers-by about the importance of protecting area waterways.

Spearheaded by Ecology teacher James “Rusty” Galbreath, the students stenciled a “Dump No Waste, Drains to Creek” message on the high school’s storm drainage inlets, which are scattered about the property.

Stenciled storm drains help raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution. Stencils tell people not to dump and why.

Roanoke County’s Department of Development Services initiated the program and provides the necessary supplies. A stencil kit comes complete with a Mylar stencil, non-toxic paint, a whisk broom, work gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and a drainage map on which the stenciled storm drain inlets will be identified.

The county collects this data for its Geographic Information System (GIS) and for annual reporting related to compliance under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

The county is actively seeking volunteers to stencil additional area storm drain inlets. To learn more about the program or to sign up as stenciling team, call Stormwater Program Manager Cindy Linkenhoker at 540-772-2036 or send an email to: clinkenhoker@roanokecountyva.gov.

Linkenhoker says on the Roanoke County website, “A fun way to serve your community is to make fellow citizens aware of stormwater runoff pollution by stenciling storm drain inlets. These painted messages remind residents of the link between streets and a waterway’s health. It’s a community effort with lasting effects.”

Many citizens do not understand the connection between storm drain inlets, stormwater, and local streams, rivers, and lakes. Citizens mistakenly believe that storm drainage systems carry stormwater to a treatment plant prior to it being discharged into the nearest waterway. However, stormwater is

See **Students**, page 7

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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Wrays Celebrate 60 years

Mrs. Wray, the former Barbara Booth of Hardy, married Wayne Edward Wray of Roanoke on June 15, 1963, in a small ceremony at White Rock Baptist Church in Hardy.

They made a home together in the Mount Pleasant area of Roanoke, where they raised two children, David and Kimberly. They saw them marry and begin families of their own.

The Wrays now have five grandchildren, Kallie and Brody Parrish, and Ethan, Claire and Mary Wray, all of whom currently reside in the Mount Pleasant community.

On June 15, 2023, Mr. and Mrs. Wray celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary quietly in their home. A dinner was prepared by the couple's family for them to share privately.



Barbara and Wayne Wray celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 15.

Submitted by Heather Wray

Students from page 5

not treated, and it discharges directly into the area's receiving waters. Often, stormwater is polluted with oil, sediment, cigarette butts, grass, trash, lawn and leaf debris, pet waste, and more. Stenciling storm drain inlets is an easy way to provide a visual reminder that stormwater goes, untreated, to nearby waterways.

Storm drain stenciling is a practical, positive, easy first step toward public education, involvement, and support. Stencils tell people not to dump and why.

The county is encouraging a variety of groups to take storm drain stenciling on as a project, including not just educators, but Girl and Boy Scouts (to earn conservation badges), local governments (helps meet permit requirements), business and industry, conservation organizations, PTAs, and neighborhood organizations and churches.

The county's website advises that it takes about 15 minutes to stencil one storm drain. You need permission from Roanoke County, and possibly VDOT.

The process is simple: wait for a time when the pavement is dry and warm. Use the broom to sweep away dirt and debris. Place the stencil on the inlet where it will be most visible. Spray paint over the message. (Watch out for drifting paint near parked vehicles.) Return the stencil and leftover products to Roanoke County Storm Management. Accept the thanks of a grateful community for your efforts.

Submitted by Roanoke County, The Vinton Messenger

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Remembering Ralph Chumley, long-time Vinton business owner

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.com

Ralph Chumley was one of the friendliest and most familiar faces in downtown Vinton, as owner of Citizen's Upholstery for over 58 years. He passed away on June 6 at the age of 84.

In December 2019, Chumley talked with The Vinton Messenger about his "good and fulfilling life."

He was the sixth of 13 children, a native of Hurt, Va., born to Clifford and Laura Chumley. The children walked to school and then returned home to work on the family tobacco farm in the afternoons.

He completed sixth grade and then quit school to work on the farm. When he was 17, he wanted to do something different, and "set off to see the United States." He left with \$10 in his pocket and traveled with two cousins and a friend in a 1947 Cadillac looking for adventure and work. For a while, he said their address was "Cadillac USA."

The group stopped in Baltimore to earn more money working for the railroad. After two months, they lost those jobs when the railroad discovered they were underage. The young men traveled on through Detroit and Chicago taking small jobs to earn enough money to keep going. In Utah they helped dismantle a carnival show and then traveled to the next town and helped set it up again – earning a grand total of \$80.

They eventually made it to Sacramento and got jobs on a fruit ranch picking apricots. Until their first payday, all they had to eat was apricots. After a couple of months, Chumley's cousins and friend decided to go back home to Virginia. Chumley, who was "almost" 18, decided to stay in California. He got a "pretty good job" at a warehouse and then a heating company.

He described himself as "unschooled but not uneducated" as he picked up a great deal of knowledge along the way. He said he learned "by doing and by trial and error," and learned something new every day of his life.

When Chumley's grandson, Josh O'Leary, was a fourth grader at Bonsack Elementary he wrote a biography of Chumley's "interesting life" entitled "A Kid Named Ralph" dedicated to his "Pawpaw."

O'Leary described his grandfather dressed in the "snazzy" style of the times – long sideburns, wavy hair, and white buck shoes – applying for a job at a Ford Motors factory in California. The manager took one look, said "Come on, Elvis," and gave him the dirtiest job in the plant assembling truck tires and motors. Chumley stuck with the job and the two became good friends.

He married in California and had two children, Kim and Dwayne.

Chumley returned to Virginia in 1962 and met his wife Mary by happenstance when she was just about to graduate from high school. Chumley said he believes "the Lord had something to do with it".

They married four months later and went on to have three children – Cliff, Clint, and Paige. They were married for 56 years when she passed away in June 2019.

The Chumleys first lived in Danville where he worked for a heating company. When it went out of business, they moved to the Vinton area where she had family who worked for the railroad.

Unfortunately, Chumley discovered he was four months too old to be hired by the railroad himself, so he ended up with Johnson Carper Furniture (Singer). He worked there for 13 years, beginning on the production line and then as supervisor for seven years.

Chumley said he was a hard worker and learned fast – about furniture making on the line and about operations as supervisor. He learned the skills that enabled him to fulfill his dream and open a business of his own. He started in the upholstery business part time in southeast Roanoke while still working for Johnson Carper. For several years he didn't get home before 10 p.m. as they worked nights and weekends. "I intended for the business to grow."

He "met a fellow who had a little business with a Sears contract. I bought him out for \$1,000 and renamed the business."

In 1965, Chumley and his wife decided to move their business to Vinton where business licenses and taxes were cheaper, and the rent

was lower.

"Everything about Vinton clicked for us," Chumley said.

His first business in Vinton was located in two rooms upstairs at 117 ½ Lee Avenue in what was once a bake shop. He took over the downstairs when the former occupant moved to a new location.

In 1975 Chumley bought 125 East Lee where Citizen's Upholstery is now located and added more commercial work to his business. He bought some nearby properties and business remained steady through the years.

At the time of an earlier interview with The Vinton Messenger in 1977, Chumley owned five lots, three buildings, and one parking lot. The business had grown from a man-and-wife operation to a company with several full-time employees and three trucks to serve the valley and the surrounding area.

He was proud to be able to offer customers about 500 different styles of furniture and fabrics.

"If a customer could draw it, or describe it, we could build it, and to fit a certain room."

He expanded his work into medical offices and restaurants. They did the furniture repair and upholstery work for Sears for a time and made connections with their customers. At one time they sold carpet and drapes. For a time, the business had a manufacturer's license and built custom-made furniture on the premises.

Chumley attributed his success over the years to "hard work and help from the Lord. I give God the glory for anything I have accomplished. I haven't done a thing on my own."

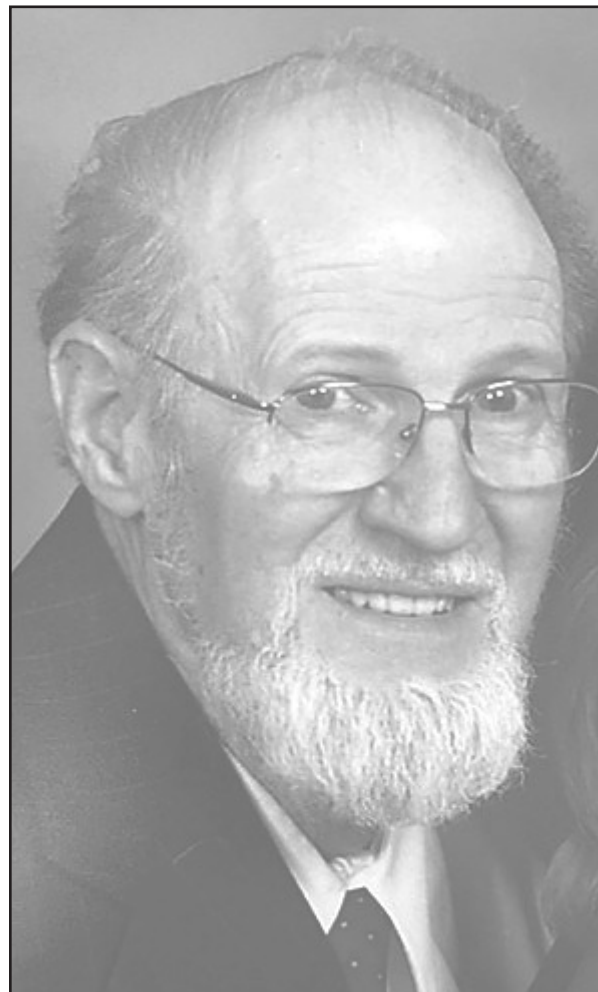
Mary Chumley was a valuable asset at Citizen's Upholstery. He said she was able to do everything in the store. As the business prospered, his wife was able to spend less time with the company and more time at home with their children. She was dedicated to their church, New Hope Christian, and in general was the "Energizer Bunny" in whatever she was involved with.

He also credited his son Cliff with being an integral part of the family business, stopping by after school to help.

Chumley was an elder and Trustee at New Hope Christian Church for 50 years and served at the Woodmen of the World (WOW) as State Representative and on the Executive Board and held many other offices at the WOW.

At one time, he was president of the Downtown Merchants Association, formed by local businesses. They sponsored festivals and special events such as the Bluegrass Festival held on the Vinton Farmers' Market for 20 years.

Chumley loved bluegrass music. He and Mary sang with "Leon Richardson and the Bluegrass Gospel Singers" on Saturdays and they were featured on a local bluegrass radio station. For most of those years, he exceeded the gospel sing on Sunday night. He played for a while with the Bluegrass Boys but gave up the guitar when his



Ralph Chumley, 1939-2023

COURTESY OF CHUMLEY FAMILY

wife became ill.

Chumley had many loves and passions but his family, his church family, and his customers were everything to him.

Over the years, Chumley had many people working for him in the business that aided in the growth of his business. The most recent employee was Jessie Gira, she brought a ray of sunshine to the business, and he was extremely appreciative of her.

He was predeceased by his parents; his wife, Mary; his sons, Dwayne and Clint; his brothers, Carl and Billy Ray; and his sisters, Penny, Bobbie, Tootsie, and Teeny.

He leaves behind his children, Kim Rosa and (Don) of Watsonville, Calif., Cliff Chumley and (Jennifer) of Roanoke, and Paige O'Leary and (Tim) of Blythewood, S.C.; his grandchildren, Joseph, Ann, Janelle, Kristy, Nicole, Evan, Joshua, Lori, Jenna, Kenny, Emma, and Jacob; and his great-grandchildren, Trenton, Myra, Bauer, Hudson, Sutton, and Leah.

He was surrounded by his children in his final hours. His final words to everyone were, "See ya!" He had a full expectation that if you said to him, "See ya," you would join him in Heaven one day.



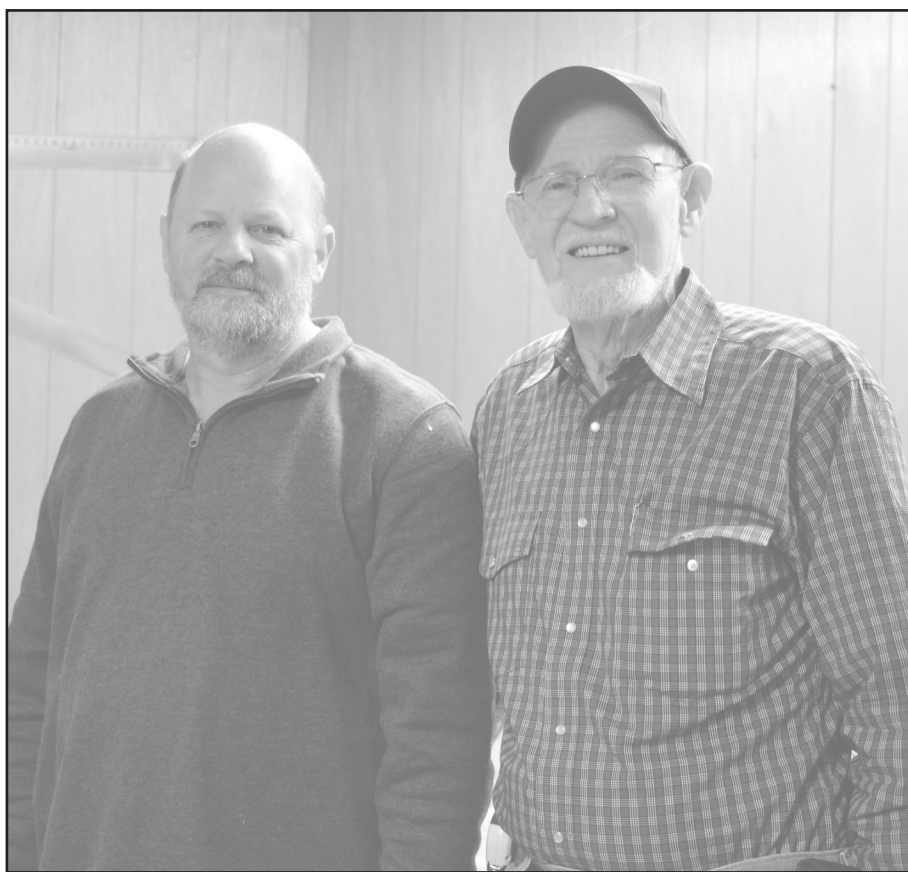
PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Ralph Chumley was a winner in the Vinton Christmas window contest one year with a display of Teddy Bears – a favorite of his wife Mary.



Ralph Chumley and his wife, Mary

COURTESY OF CHUMLEY FAMILY



Ralph Chumley and son Cliff, who has been an integral part of the Citizen's Upholstery business

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

OBITUARIES

Marie Jeanean Dearman Lewis

Marie Jeanean Dearman Lewis passed away on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at her home since 2009, The Legacy at North Augusta in Staunton, Va.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lelia Bryant Dearman, and her father, James Myrkle Dearman; her brother, James Marvin Dearman; her first husband, Dr. H.L. Keaton; and her second husband, J.M.B. Lewis III.

Surviving are her son, Chris J. Keaton (Gina) of Vinton; son, Michael L. Keaton (Nancy) of Midlothian, Va., and daughter, Sherilyn Keaton (Don Cunningham) of Tucson, Ariz; three grandchildren, Ashley Burke of Greenville, Va., Ben Keaton of Greenbush, Maine; and Maddi Keaton



of Chicago, Ill.; and two great-grandchildren, William and Mason Burke of Greenville.

As a young child, she started playing piano and never stopped. Nita Akin, organist at First Methodist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas and professor of organ at Midwestern University, was Jeanean's teacher. Jeanean served as church organist at a

multitude of churches including Thrasher Memorial UMC and Windsor Hills UMC where she also directed the hand bell choir and several churches in Staunton. She also shared her God-given gift playing for Sunday services at The Legacy. She served as President of the Roanoke Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and national President of The Association of Plastic Surgeon Assistants.

The family expresses sincere gratitude for the love, care and attention given by the staff and administration of The Legacy at North Augusta, the Memory Care Unit and Legacy Hospice. Arrangements are pending.

Robert Graybill

Robert "Bob" Graybill, beloved father, grandfather, trusted friend, and Army veteran, passed away in Annapolis, Md., on June 7, 2023.

Bob was born on August 11, 1940, and lived a life full of friendship, love, laughs, and hard work. He served his country with honor as a member of the US Army.

Bob was preceded in death by his loving wife, Delores Graybill.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Stanger, and son-in-law, Bob Stanger, of Davidsonville, Md., and his grandchildren, Mason Stanger and Chloe Stanger.



He is also survived by his son, Scott Graybill of Newport, and grandchildren, Madison Graybill of Charlotte, N.C. and Jacob Graybill of Newport, N.C.

Bob had a great passion for motorsports and made numerous contributions to the community. He was

active in the Vinton Rec Department as a football coach and as a supporter of the many activities that his kids were involved in during their childhood.

Bob owned a race team in Vinton in the '70s and worked with the Wood Brothers NASCAR team throughout the '80s.

The family will welcome friends, family, and acquaintances to a reception to celebrate Bob's life in Maryland. Details will be provided at a later time by his children, Kimberly and Scott. Condolences may be made online at: KalasFuneralHomes.com.

Ronald Alvin Motley

Ronald Alvin Motley, 85, was promoted into Heaven on June 7, 2023.

Having fought many health battles at the end of life, Ronnie, or Ron as many called him, ascended to Heaven from the beautiful mountains of his beloved Roanoke Valley.

A Vinton native and having lived across the Roanoke Valley, Ronald was preceded in death by his wife, Lacey (Gordon Cundiff) Motley (formerly of Blacksburg, Roanoke and Richmond); his parents, John "Richard" and Ruth Motley of Vinton; brother, Kenneth



Motley of Vinton; and sister, Sandra Robinson of Texas.

In addition to many family members, he is survived by his loving sister, Carolyn Trainor of Fincastle, and his devoted daughter, Rachel Schaefer, and her family of Stephens City, Va. (husband

David and children Andrew and Sarah).

Ronald retired from Yokohama in Salem, was an Army veteran, a big brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters, previously co-owned the Bread Basket Restaurant in New Castle, Va., loved railroad collectibles, selling at yard sales and told jokes until the very end.

In lieu of flowers, consider showing someone you adore extra love or being extraordinarily generous to those in need.

A graveside service will be held on June 17 at 11 a.m. in Mountain View Cemetery in Vinton. All are welcome.

Budget

from page 2

Department, develop restrooms along the greenway system, and much more."

The strong operational budget allows the town to comprehensively plan projects in the community, including investment in public facilities. This upcoming year will see further development of the Glade Creek Greenway and completion of Phase 2B, which will help connect the path from W. Virginia Avenue to Gus Nicks Boulevard. The Vinton War Memorial will also see renovations for its playground, which was recently updated to maintain usability while the new playground is planned.

"The town is in a strong financial position, and we do not take that

for granted," said Vinton Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton. "We work every day to ensure that we are balancing today's goals with a financially sustainable future. Our citizens, businesses, and visitors are our highest priority, and we are continuing the investment of public money into the community to make Vinton better for many years to come.

Additional projects and initiatives included in the budget reflect flood mitigation, employee cost of living adjustments, and public safety enhancements in the Vinton Police Department.

Submitted by Town of Vinton

VINTON HISTORY: MEN'S COLLAR BOX

Before the mass production of clothing began in the 20th century, all clothing was made by hand and was a rather costly and time-consuming task.

Men's shirts were especially difficult to maintain with clean and intact cuffs and collars. So, cuffs and collars were often made and worn as separate pieces and pinned on with buttons called "studs." Since laundry could take a day to a week to complete, it was easier to replace just the dirtied cuffs and collars.

Additionally, the wear and tear that these pieces received was cheaper to combat by replacing them, as opposed to purchasing materials for and sewing together a whole new shirt.

It is believed that the detachable collar was invented in 1827 by Hannah Montague, who decided to save herself some time one



BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

This men's collar box on display at the Vinton History Museum dates from the 1890s and was donated by Odell Simmons.

day by cutting off her husband's shirt collar and sewing on a clean one.

Pictured is a men's collar box from the 1890s that stored shirt collars. It was owned by and donated to the Vinton History Museum by Odell Simmons. This box is on display

among thousands of other artifacts at the museum and can be viewed Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and first Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



Wayne and Barbara Wray celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 15.

By Angie Chewning

Luke Johnson started his new job on Monday. Get this – he's a Hokie now! If you know the Johnson family, you know they are huge UVA fans, but when your son gets a job at another university – you cheer him on!

Luke is the new Assistant Director of Basketball Operations for the Virginia Tech men's basketball team. His parents, Mark and Mitzi, are so proud of him.

Wayne and Barbara Wray celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 15. Happy Anniversary, you love birds.

Many thanks to so many for an amazing season opener of Mingle at the Market on the HomeTrust Stage. We could not be more thrilled. Thanks to our sponsors, vendors, Vinyl Nation, volunteers and, of course, everyone who



COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Luke Johnson, son of Mitzi and Mark, is the new Assistant Director of Basketball Operations for the Virginia Tech men's basketball team.

came out to support the event.

Mark your calendar for June 24 – Mended Fences will rock the

stage; Food on the Go and Elote Alebrije Mexican Street Corn will be there. I can't wait!

RECIPES OF THE WEEK

Fabulous, Frosted Zucchini Cake

This is truly a great cake and a way to use up zucchini later in the summer.

Zucchini Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting
1 cup shredded zucchini (no need to peel)

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 and 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and 8x8 inch baking pan. In large bowl, mix together zucchini, sugar, oil, and eggs. Combine flour, cinnamon, salt, baking powder, and baking soda in separate bowl. Gently stir dry ingredients into



Frosted Zucchini Cake

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

the wet. Spread the batter in the greased pan. Bake at 350 for 28-32 minutes. Cool completely.

Frosting (or you can use canned, ready-made cream cheese frosting)

3 oz. cream cheese, softened

4 Tbsp. softened butter
1-2 Tbsp. milk or cream
1/2 tsp. vanilla

2 cups powdered sugar
Beat together cream cheese and butter until smooth. Beat in milk, vanilla, and powdered sugar. Spread onto cooled cake.

Mount Pleasant Lions install officers



COURTESY OF MIKE FERGUSON

Pictured left to right are newly installed Mount Pleasant Lions Club officers Mike Ferguson, Janet West, Kenny Price, Brenda Musselwhite, Zone Chairman Chris McCarty, Anne Ferguson, Pat Musselwhite and Lea Whitbeck.

by Lion Mike Ferguson

At its last meeting, the Mount Pleasant Lions Club officers for the year 2023-2024 were duly installed. This installation of officers was again, for the 23rd year, held at the club's annual picnic at Smith Mountain Lake. Handling the installation was Chris McCarty, the Zone Chairman for that portion of Lions District 24-C that includes the Mount Pleasant club.

The officers for the coming year are Anne Ferguson, President; Tommy Moore, Vice President; Janet West, Recording Secretary; Lea Whitbeck, Corresponding Secretary; Pat Musselwhite, Treasurer; Kenny Price, Tail Twister; Brenda Musselwhite, Lion Tamer; and Mike Ferguson, Board of Directors Chairman. They will serve through June 30, 2024.

Lion Chris McCarty is a member of Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, and it was appropriate that a member of that club perform the ceremony as the original Vinton Host Lions Club, formed back in the 1930s, was the sponsor for the Mount Pleasant Lions Club formation and chartering on June 21, 1961.

The Charter Night dinner, 58 years ago, was held at the Vinton War Memorial where 26 new Mount Pleasant Lions received lapel pins designating them as Charter Members. The Vinton Host Club, which met in the evening, some years ago merged into the Breakfast Club which meets at 6:30 a.m.



COURTESY OF MOUNT PLEASANT LIONS

The Mount Pleasant Lions Club Shoe Collection Project has been extended through June 24.

At the meeting it was noted that the club's shoe collection project has been extended to June 24. Anyone having gently used shoes that are collecting dust in a closet is urged to contact Mike Ferguson at 540-529-7531 for pick up.

All shoes from sandals to boots are accepted, and they will eventually be shipped to a Third World country and distributed to people who could not otherwise afford decent footwear.

Army from page 5



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Recent Salem High School graduate Cooper Purl was recognized for enlisting in the U.S. Army and sworn in by Major General Wins during the AUSA event.

USAREC, introduced Cooper Purl, a recent Salem High School graduate, who is entering the U.S. Army to serve as a combat medic. Purl was sworn in by Major General Wins. Four William Byrd graduates in the Class of 2023 also are joining the Army – Sam Bautista-Cardenas, Dennis Friedel, Holley Morehead, and Samuel Wilcox.

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of the Army's 248th birthday cake with the ceremonial saber and the singing of "The Army Song."

The AUSA is a national, non-profit organization providing the voice for the Army and support for soldiers. It looks after the "Total

Army," all ranks, all components with membership open to anyone.

The local Allegheny-Blue Ridge Chapter includes 49 counties in Southwest Virginia and in West Virginia up to Huntington. Its primary uniformed constituencies are the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, 20 Army Junior ROTC programs in Virginia and 14 in West Virginia and 8 Senior ROTC programs in colleges and universities, the Army recruiters and Army Civilians. The chapter is also very active with the local Virginia Veterans Care Center and the VA Medical Center in Salem.

Growing Years Daycare celebrates graduation, new curriculum

Growing Years Daycare, located at 2102 Hardy Road in Vinton, held a graduation ceremony on June 8, with five students graduating and 30 attending the ceremony. The daycare serves children from ages four weeks to school age from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"We're excited about successfully getting these guys and girls ready for kindergarten," said owner/director Joseph Bennett. "Growing Years Daycare was started as a family day-home in 1991. We've had preschool curriculum since we opened up our commercial facility in 2014, but now we really get to show it off. With our small, family-like atmosphere, we're able to focus one on one with children."

Bennett says, "Thanks to the Virginia Department of Education, we've been working on implementing a new curriculum and quality rating system. Up until recently, the Department of Social Services has come out to our sites to conduct safety inspections, but in-depth quality of education inspections weren't even a thing. Now, Virginia has developed the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) which recognizes the impact of every classroom, provides feedback to every educator, and supports all publicly funded birth-to-five programs to improve."

"VQB5 is a measurement and improvement system that focuses on the quality of all publicly funded birth-five classrooms and supports families to choose quality programming across different program types," Bennett continues. "VQB5 sets shared expectations for measuring quality and supporting teachers for all birth to five programs. Through VQB5, teachers and leaders will receive the feedback and support

they need to help young children learn.

By fall 2023, all publicly funded programs will be required to participate in VQB5 with ratings shared publicly in fall 2024. Growing Years has had VQB5 for two practice years starting in July 2021. Over the next couple of years, VDOE has worked with a variety of professionals to implement and scale VQB5.

Here's the implementation schedule:

- 2021-2022: VQB5 Practice Year 1 began July 2021. Participation available in current PDG communities (Available to 85% of programs)
- 2022-2023: VQB5 Practice Year 2 begins July 2022. Participation available through Ready Regions (Available to 100% of programs)
- 2023-2024: VQB5 Year 1 begins July 2023. All publicly funded programs required to participate, including childcare subsidy, VPI, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education.
- Quality Ratings from Year 1 will be publicly shared in the fall of 2024.

VQB5 will measure the quality of infant, toddler and preschool teaching and learning based on two nationally recognized quality indicators: Interactions and Curriculum.

Teacher-child interactions will be measured using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). The CLASS is an observational tool that looks at multiple age-appropriate aspects of teacher-child interactions that support children's learning and development. CLASS observations will be conducted twice annually in every



Growing Years Daycare graduates are shown with Owner/Director Joseph Bennett and Pre-K Department Lead Teacher Maggie Bennett.

classroom by trained and reliable observers.

How will curriculum use be measured in VQB5? As a first step to support curriculum use in all programs, the new system will recognize programs that use an approved curriculum in at least one classroom. Support to obtain a curriculum will be provided to programs participating in the practice years.

"Over the last two years, our teachers and little guys have been working hard getting ready for kindergarten with the Learn Every Day™: The Preschool Curriculum," Bennett noted.

"Learn Every Day™: The Preschool Curriculum consists of 36 thematic units and more than 1,300 learning activities. The curriculum incorporates literacy, math, science, social studies, and creative arts into each unit.

The curriculum offers guidance on how to individualize based



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH BENNETT

Growing Years Daycare Director Joseph Bennett shakes hands with Waylon Grady, one of the preschool graduates at the ceremony on June 8.

See Daycare, page 3

Artist from page 1

through his art," said Roanoke Vice Mayor Joe Cobb. "The Drop-In Center focuses on that human connection too... That's what makes this partnership so unique."

Hodges introduced 27 new pieces at the show to much acclaim and sold quite a few during the afternoon.

The was Hodges' first in-person art show since 2015. His first solo exhibit was in November 2012 at Metropolitan Community Church.

Hodges grew up in the Mount Pleasant area, the youngest of four children, and the only son. He discovered his unique talent when he won his first art competition in second grade—a crayon drawing of trees. He says he was a child who loved the outdoors and nature, and those elements of nature have heavily influenced his life. Some of his most beloved paintings include butterflies, fireflies, stars, and the cycles of the moon.

He graduated from William Byrd High School, where he was a drum major for the WBHS Terrier Band, and then studied fine arts at East Carolina University.

In a recent interview with Angie Chewning on "Vinton Chatter," Hodges explained that when he came out of college as an artist, his father suggested that he attend cosmetology school. That led to a years-long career as a hairstylist, beginning in Greensboro.

"There is such a unique relationship between fine arts and cosmetology," said Hodges. "They involve the same elements of color, shape, form, design, and texture. They are a good fit."

He eventually returned to the Roanoke Valley to take a position as director of a local



Hodges invited the public to join in the artistic process with "Creative Assembly" in which everyone was asked to contribute to one collaborative painting. Here, Hodges' sister Carolyn Hodges Campbell (center) and Creative Director Cameron Masters add to the group painting.

school of cosmetology and to be near his aging parents. He owned and operated Masterpiece Hair Studio in the Garden City area.

Hodges says he "can't remember a time I didn't do art. When I was a hairdresser, I was able to showcase my art at the salons where I worked."

Then something fairly simple changed his course. He purchased three tuxedo shirts at Burlington Coat Factory and painted them as gifts. After three years, he had painted over 300 shirts. Then he branched out to hand-painting glasses. His business "took off." With the advent of social media, he was able to sell his artwork online. He transitioned from being a hairstylist to becoming a full-time artist.

He continues to especially enjoy creating works that include elements of the natural world. His 2012 show, "In the Garden: An Homage," focused on butterflies, with a family story behind the painting. Both his parents had just passed away—in their 90s. Months after their deaths, Hodges noticed a pair of butterflies flitting around his yard. He photographed

the butterflies and then turned the photographs into a painting.

Hodges' sister Donna passed away in January 2023. He included a portrait of her in his new show.

He says that art "allows him to tell stories I may not have the words to tell. Art speaks to people."

"I no longer paint for people just to see a piece of art," Hodges told Chewning during her interview. "I want them to feel something; I want them to experience something. I want them to have some emotional attachment."

During the June 11 show, attendees were able to participate in what Hodges christened "Creative Assembly," a collaborative art process to create one cohesive piece.

Everyone attending the show was invited to paint whatever they wished on a large canvas, which evolved into one piece of art as the afternoon progressed, and as people "left some of themselves for everyone to see and enjoy in the years to come." Hodges planned to add some finishing touches, along with some finishing polyurethane and then donate the painting to the

Garden City Recreation Center for permanent installation.

In the "Vinton Chatter" interview, Hodges commented that the art show had been almost two years in the planning and producing, working with his creative director, Cameron Masters. The pandemic caused some glitches. And it was difficult to keep 27 new pieces of art a secret.

His desire was for the show to be "memorable," and it exceeded expectations.

Hodges was recognized in both 2022 and 2023 at the Gold Level by the Roanoker Magazine as the "Best Place to Buy Local Arts & Crafts." His art business is unique in that it is a two-person (Hodges and Masters) online-only business.

For more information and to see a gallery of Hodges' works, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WaltHodgesFineArt/>, or contact Cameron Masters, creative director for Walt Hodges Fine Art at 540-524-8511 (PST) or cam@socialcollective.com.



One of the most poignant paintings was one of Hodges' sister Donna Hodges Carter, who passed away earlier this year.



A crowd favorite was Hodges' painting, "Reflections," "beckoning us to connect with the love of our ancestors."

Reading from page 2



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

More happy children with painted faces and balloon creatures.



COURTESY OF VINTON POLICE

The Vinton Police Department provided hot dogs for the Summer Reading Kick-off party. Lt. Michael Caldwell (bottom photo) did the grilling; Community Resource Officer William Holland and Officer Daniel Valladares did the serving (top photo).

Motion Timer Rocket notebook. Adults will win a USB charger and stand.

At the end of the summer, each library location will offer a drawing to all participants that complete the program with a library branch gift basket per age group and a grand prize for each age group for the entire Roanoke County Public Library system. Prizes may vary.

There has been a kick-off party at each Roanoke County Public Library in recent days. The one in Vinton featured balloon animals by Lib's Lab Balloons, face painting, a chalk-drawn obstacle course, tattoos, corn hole, free bags of Kettle Korn, plus hot dogs grilled by the Vinton Police.

The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

To register for summer reading, visit the user-friendly Beanstack website at <https://rocolibrary.beanstack.com/reader365> or download the app on your smart device.

Daycare from page 10

on children's interests, strengths, and needs. The curriculum:

- Provides activities in all developmental domains, but research-based teaching practices are most evident in the domains of Literacy and Mathematics
- Provides specific strategies and resources to support parent and family engagement
- Includes specific prompts to extend children's learning throughout activities
- Provides specific guidance on how

to establish the daily schedule, routines, and well-organized, engaging indoor and outdoor environments

- Offers specific adaptations for children with disabilities, suspected delays, or other special needs

Growing Years Daycare currently has a waiting list but expects to have openings in the fall. Email admissions@growingyearsdaycare.com for more information.

Submitted by Joseph Bennett, Growing Years Daycare





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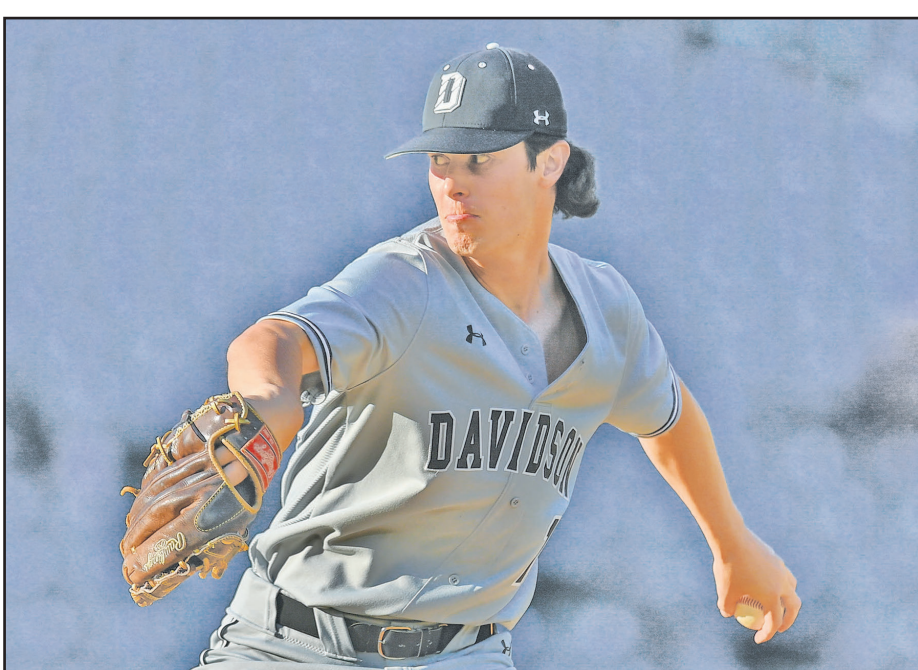
SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to bhoffman@ourvalley.org, or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • ourvalley.org



Tyler Dean, above left and right, and Isaac Fix, below, recently completed their sophomore seasons pitching for Virginia Tech and Davidson College.

PHOTOS BY DAVE KNACEHLVT SPORTS & TIM COWIE/DAVISONPHOTOS.COM



Former Terrier standouts are pitching at Division I colleges

In 2021 William Byrd's dynamic pitching duo of Tyler Dean and Isaac Fix gave the Terriers a terrific righty-lefty combination on the mound. Both have gone on to play in college, and two years later they both contributed to their respective teams, Dean at Virginia Tech and Fix at Davidson College.

Dean went to Tech as the number 10 incoming freshman in the Atlantic Coast Conference, as ranked by "Perfect Game." He was number 51 among Perfect Game's top 500 freshmen going into the 2022 season.

Tyler made six relief appearances as a true freshman during the 2022 season, striking out seven over four innings while allowing nine walks and six earned runs. He struck out the side in a win over Wright State, and got a strikeout for the final out in a win over High Point.

This past season Tyler appeared in over twice as

many games as a true sophomore, pitching in 13 games, all in relief. He pitched 12 innings and struck out 15 while walking 14 and allowing 16 hits. He finished the season with a 6.75 earned run average and picked up his first collegiate win against Charlotte on March 3 when the Hokies scored two runs in the bottom of the 10th inning after Tyler got a strikeout for the third out in the top of the inning.

Fix signed with Davidson College in North Carolina following his senior season at William Byrd. As a freshman Isaac pitched in 12 games, making two starts and compiling a 1-1 record and a 3.60 ERA over 25 innings, holding hitters to a .217 average.

This past year was a challenging one for Fix. On February 21 in a start against North Carolina A&T he took a line drive off his jaw from the first batter

of the game. The trainer came out to check on him and Isaac said he was fine, and the next batter lined a ball right by him that resulted in a doubleplay. The third batter hit one off Isaac's leg and he gathered the ball and threw him out to end the inning. Isaac stayed in the game and pitched four innings, giving up one unearned run to pick up the win.

After the game Isaac said he felt fine, but upon further evaluation it was discovered he had a broken bone in his jaw and was out the rest of February and the entire month of March, returning to action the first week of April.

Isaac finished with a 5.67 earned run average. He ended up pitching 27 innings over 13 games with 18 strikeouts. He had a 3-2 record with wins over Massachusetts and Saint Louis in addition to the win he was credited with in the game he was injured.



Maddy Simmons(above) and Sophia Chrisley(below) have been named to the All-Class 3 second team in soccer.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Byrd girls are named to All-State Class 3 soccer team

The Virginia High School League announced its 2023 Class 3 all-state girls' soccer team this week and William Byrd had two girls on the second team. Byrd senior Maddy Simmons was named at forward and senior Sophia Chrisley is the second team goal keeper.

Simmons was Byrd's leading scorer and Chrisley did an outstanding job in the cage for the Terriers this year. Byrd finished with a 17-2-3 record and made it to the state quarterfinal round in Class 3.

Brentsville District's junior midfielder Peyton McGovern is the Class 3 Player of the Year, and Brentsville District's head coach Scott Kerns is the Class 3 Coach of the Year. McGovern scored 31 goals and had 16 assists this season for the Tigers, including a goal in the state quarterfinals against York, two assists in the state semifinal against Charlottesville, and the game's only goal in the state championship game against Lafayette.

In his first year as head coach at Brentsville, Kerns led the Tigers to a 21-1-0 record and their first state title in girls' soccer since 2003 with a 1-0 win over defending state champion Lafayette in the finals. It was the team's 16th shutout of the season. Kerns has won 203 games at four different high schools.

The all-state soccer team consists of four forwards, four midfielders, four defenders, one goalkeeper, and three at-large positions. The All-State selection committee comprises eight soccer coaches, with two from each region.



Action between the Vinton Twins and Cardinals from a game at Vinyard Park. This year the new RAYBA All-Stars will play at Green Hill Park.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

RAYSA softball opens Monday, new baseball tournaments begin June 24

The Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association post-season tournaments will be held beginning next Monday at Darrell Shell Park in Roanoke County.

In past years the tournament was played at Darrell Shell and the James I. Moyer Complex, but due to construction at the complex in Salem all the games will be held in the county this year.

Three tournaments will be held with age brackets for girls 10-and-under, 13-and-under and 17-and-under. The 10U and 13U tournaments begin Monday with the 17U scheduled to begin on Tuesday of next week.

In the 10U tournament the Vinton team will open at 6 pm Monday against South County Red. The tournament is scheduled to run through Friday, June 23, and eight teams are included.

In 13U Vinton opens Monday at 8 pm against Salem. The five-team tournament is scheduled to run through June 23 with an "if game" on June 26.

The 17U tournament has just three teams, Botetourt County, South County and Franklin County.

This year for baseball the newly formed Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association(RAYBA) will have tournaments for 10U and 12U teams beginning June 24 at Green Hill Park in west Roanoke County. Teams in the association include Salem, Glenvar, Vinton, Franklin County, Mount Pleasant, North Roanoke and Craig County, although not all areas will have teams in both tournaments.

Vinton baseball teams will both open on Saturday, June 24. The 10U team will meet North Roanoke at 3 pm and the 12U team will play North Roanoke at 3:30 pm. The 10U tournament will run through June 28th with an "if game" June 29th and the 12U tournament will run through June 27th with an "if game" June 28th.