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The Vinton Messenger

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Citizens air concerns to Town Council about traffic reconfiguration project

<u>Debbie Adams</u>

dadams@ourvalley.org

More than the usual number of Vinton's citizens turned out for the Vinton Town Council meeting on March 4. Most were there to express their frustration with the new traffic lane configuration being tested on Gus Nicks Boulevard- a joint project with the City of

The two localities are partnering on a demonstration project on Gus Nicks Boulevard from Eastern Avenue to Pollard Street to assess the feasibility of transitioning the roadway from four lanes to three, with the goal of improving safety and traffic efficiency.

The project began on March 3 and things did not run smoothly in the first 24 hours. There was a host of comments on social media about the changes; council members expressed their appreciation to those who showed up to express their opinions in person, generally respectful, well-spoken, reflective, and with tangible

One citizen who lives on Highland Road, just off Gus Nicks, asked council to "go back to the way it was" because the new configuration was causing a worse traffic back-up than before and is "not good for the community.'

Another citizen in the same area, near the Billy Byrd Apartments, noted that her family has had two cars totalled in recent years trying to enter Gus Nicks from Highland. "The idea of a turn lane is appealing with a reduced speed limit and a turn lane where disabled vehicles can be moved to. People use Gus Nicks as a superhighway, flying through.'

A 19-year veteran of the Vinton First Aid Crew expressed concerns about first responders in emergency vehicles being unable to respond to often critical calls because they are stuck in traffic in the new pattern. He brought along a video of his experience this week, unable to answer a call promptly because of the traffic back-up. Mayor Brad Grose asked town staff to explain the

reason for the new traffic pattern, which is "just in

the testing stages" at this point. Town Manager Pete Peters noted that the primary objective for the lane reconfiguration is to reduce vehicular conflict between vehicles, bikers, and pedestrians in the corridor, that slowing the speed in the area and reducing the number of lanes that must be crossed makes a safer roadway. Another speaker who uses the Gus Nicks roadway

multiple times each day said he believes that the new traffic pattern will lead to more accidents, not reduce them. He also stated that the reconfiguration would

See **Reconfiguration**, page 8



Historic milling equipment at Gish Mill

Vinton Town Council tours historic Gish Mill redevelopment project

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Developers David Hill and David Trinkle of Gish Mill Davii, LLC, welcomed members of Vinton Town Council and staff to the historic Gish Mill for an update tour on March 4. Vinton Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning Nathan McClung noted that interior stabilization is almost complete on the iconic mill which was built around 1846.

The project is being financed through private and public funding, including historic tax credits, Brownfields grants, and Department of Housing and Community Development and Industrial Revitalization Funds. The property has been designated on both the Virginia and National Historic Registers.

Hill commented that the changes so

far have been mainly inside the building and not visible to passersby. Much effort has been spent to make the building level so that it can be redeveloped into restaurant, retail, and lodging space.

In some places, the floor was nine to ten inches out of level. The floor has been raised with a whole new subflooring installed in some areas. The original flooring has been painstakingly preserved, with each nail removed and will be reinstalled.

Trinkle noted that the stabilization has moved slowly and methodically over about an eight-month period; however, new construction will begin in about two weeks and the public will "really see some action" at that point.

E.J. Miller is the stabilization contractor. He and his crew have built a pier foundation system under the eastern end of the building, built foundation



The milling equipment will be preserved in the lodging area. PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

walls under the old exterior walls and gotten the walls plumb, placed in-roof beams that meet current standards, and leveled the floor.

According to Hill, "The crew must do it super-slowly to prevent cracking the several-hundred-year-old structural

elements. Just millimeters a day!"

Trinkle said that the project is currently a blank slate which will eventually include a large restaurant on the main floor with an outdoor deck for dining overlooking

See Gish Mill, page 8



Vinton Town Council and staff toured the Cleveland Commons development project with the developers and general contractor. Pictured left to right are Asst. Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung, Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton, Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins, Mayor Brad Grose, Town Manager Pete Peters, co-owners/developers Emily Dowdy and Chris Dowdy, Economic Development Specialist Marshall Stanley, Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan, general contractor Mike Vanderpool of Noah Construction, and developer/co-owner Dominic Basile.

Town leadership visits Cleveland Commons project

Vinton Town Council and town staff were treated to a progress tour of the Cleveland Commons redevelopment project on February 26. Owners/ developers Chris Dowdy and Dominic Basile led the tour. Plans are for a May

That will mark two years since the Town of Vinton, the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority, and CMART Holdings signed a Performance Agreement to redevelop the former Cleveland Mart into the mixed-use commercial and residential property. The purpose was to revitalize a neighborhood near downtown, increase commercial opportunities, generate new local tax revenues, and add to the housing

Dowdy and Basile of CMART

describe the project as a "unique blend of residential and commercial spaces, perfect for those seeking a vibrant, safe, and convenient lifestyle."

The building houses seven apartments (two one-bedroom/one bath and five twobedroom/1 bath), and one commercial space on East Cleveland Avenue.

The commercial space measures 1,160 square feet. Zoned mixed-use, it is appropriate for office space, retail, a barbershop, salon, etc. The space includes a breakroom and bathroom, and is ADA accessible. The developers will "build to

The two smaller residential units are about 700 square feet in area; the larger

See Commons, page 8

Two killed in Vinton shooting, suspect arrested

According to the Vinton Department., two men were killed last weekend in a shooting in the rear parking lot of the Vinton Municipal Building.

On Sunday, March 2, at approximately 5:13 p.m., officers responded to a report of a disturbance in the rear parking lot of the Vinton Municipal Building at 311 South Pollard Street.

Upon arrival, Vinton officers located two men suffering from critical injuries. Both were later pronounced dead at the scene. The deceased were identified as Jeffrey Alan Catron, 31, and Brian Christian Sledd, 29, both of Bedford County.

The investigation determined that both individuals died from gunshot wounds, and their deaths are being investigated as homicides.

Vinton officers were able to quickly identify a suspect, Jordan Daniel

Pierce, 45, of Salem, who

was still on scene. He was

taken into custody without

incident. Pierce is charged interact with someone they with two counts of second degree murder and two counts of use of a firearm investigation. in the commission of a felony.

He is being held without bond in the Roanoke County Jail.

According to local media reports, the incident happened during a custody exchange. Pierce was at the Vinton Municipal Building "safe drop location" to drop off his three sons. The suspect allegedly fired around 13 rounds in front of his children, the children's mother, and two Roanoke County firefighters. Catron was reportedly the fiancé of the children's mother and Sledd was an acquaintance of the children's mother.

The Town of Vinton established the Safe Exchange Zone in February 2017 as a "designated area, which is under 24-hour camera surveillance, for child custody exchanges, meeting persons for Internet sales, or any other lawful activity where one might need to briefly

don't know." This remains an active

The incident resulted in road closures of E. Jackson Avenue and Walnut Avenue, and E. Jackson and S. Pollard Street for a time.

-Submitted by VPD



ROANOKE COUNTY JAIL **Jordan Daniel Pierce**

ones, between 780 and 900 square feet.

Lane reconfiguration demonstration launches on Gus Nicks Boulevard, aiming to improve traffic safety

The Town of Vinton and the City of Roanoke are partnering on a demonstration project on Gus Nicks Boulevard from Eastern Avenue to Pollard Street to assess the feasibility of transitioning the roadway from four lanes to three, with the goal of improving safety and traffic efficiency.

This initiative began on Monday, March 3, and will continue for approximately two weeks (including one or two weekends) as town and city officials monitor the section of roadway during rush hours and throughout the day to determine what tweaks and adjustments need to be made to the traffic pattern to enhance traffic flow.

Vinton Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton says that traffic seems to be moving constantly, but slowly, with several modifications already made to traffic signal timing and lane configurations. Adjustments will continue to be made throughout the demonstration period. Public Works Director Bo Herndon and Ian Coffey, Traffic Engineer for the City of Roanoke, have been making changes as necessary since the project

Traffic counts for the corridor were taken in January, along with pre-condition vehicle queuing and travel time analyses in order to best understand the existing

The current demonstration is marked using orange barrels provided by LMC Safety Barricade Corp. The temporary setup will allow traffic engineers to gather



A crew from LMC places cones along Gus Nicks Boulevard for a lane reconfiguration demonstration which began on March 3.

real-time data on travel times, congestion levels, speed reductions, and impact on future traffic patterns.

"Demonstration projects like this allow us to test potential improvements in real-world conditions before making permanent changes," Coffey said.
"Gus Nicks Boulevard serves as a key corridor

connecting Roanoke and Vinton, making regional collaboration essential," said Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters. "This project underscores the importance of working together to evaluate transportation solutions that benefit both our communities. Gus Nicks Boulevard is a major thoroughfare, and this effort will help us determine the best long-term approach for improving travel conditions."

Following the two-week test, data will be analyzed to assess its impact on travel times and overall road safety. The City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton encourage drivers to remain attentive to the temporary traffic pattern and ask for your patience as the project

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton Dogwood Festival prepares for 70th anniversary 🦨



The Vinton Dogwood Festival got its start in 1956 as a means to purchase new band uniforms for the Tootin' Terriers from William Byrd.



Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Dogwood Vinton Festival officials are busy preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the festival the weekend of April 25 and 26. The festival will include the traditional crowning of the Dogwood Queen, a parade, bands, the antique car show, and streets filled with vendors and

Most Vintonites know the history of the Vinton Dogwood Festival which began on May 5, 1956, as an effort by the William Byrd High School Band Boosters to purchase new uniforms.

In attending a football game between Byrd and Jefferson High School, Vinton businessman Otto Goode, also a member of the Band Boosters, and WBHS Principal Charles Jennings noticed that the Jefferson band "looked sharp," especially compared to the Byrd band whose "shabby" uniforms lacked the sparkle and shine of the "Magicians." Jefferson They decided the Tootin' Terriers Marching Band needed new uniforms, which would cost about

\$8,000. (They needed more instruments, but that was taken care of through U.S. Navy

The Boosters decided to raise the funds by selling dogwood trees. They sold trees (both pink and white) in late winter downtown at the corner of Lee Avenue and Pollard Street while the Byrd band performed. Band Boosters made themselves available to plant the trees for customers. They ended up selling over 100

dogwoods. The idea of raising funds for uniforms mushroomed into plans for making Vinton the Dogwood Capital of Virginia. (The dogwood had just recently been declared the state flower.) The Boosters planned to plant 1,000 dogwoods a year for the next five years. Town Council gave its approval and ordered the first 50 trees.

Mayor S.M. Craig, Band Booster President Mrs. Curtis Kirby, Chamber of Commerce President Dr. Curtis Woodford, and Goode, uniform chairman (and eventually president of the Dogwood Festival from 1956-1958), broke

ground at the Vinton War Memorial to plant the first dogwood in the campaign.

The tree-planting initiative evolved into the idea of holding a band festival and a date was selected for early May

WBHS Band Director Jimmy Sims invited over 50 bands from across Western Virginia to compete. Sixteen agreed to participate.

Someone else suggested that visiting bands each choose a "Dogwood Princess" who would compete for the title Dogwood Queen. (Nowadays, the princesses and queen are all William Byrd seniors.) Even though William Byrd would only be hosting and not competing, the school chose Shelvy Plunkett as its princess that first year.

Tom Bush from the Vinton Chamber made a trip to Richmond to ask Gov. Thomas B. Stanley to serve as the first Dogwood Parade grand marshal.

Numerous businesses, clubs, organizations entered the parade including Burlington Mills, the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce, the Lions

Club of Vinton, the American Chapter of War Mothers, the Vinton Garden Club, the Byrd Band Boosters Club, the Vinton Merchants Trade Promotion Committee, the 4-H Club, the Vinton Woman's Club, and the Vinton Chamber of Commerce.

Other marching units included the local Girl Scout Troop of Vinton, the FFA Club of William Byrd, the 116th Infantry, and the Kazim Temple.

That first year, the parade followed route marching down Avenue Washington from the War Memorial, turning onto Maple Street, continuing three blocks onto Jefferson Avenue, one block on Pollard Street, then back to Washington Avenue, finishing up at the Byrd

On Dogwood Festival Day 1956, the parade stepped off at 1 p.m. followed by a band competition on the Byrd Field from 2-3:30 p.m. and the awarding of trophies at 3:30. At the time the George Wythe High School band was highly esteemed and marched away with the most trophies.

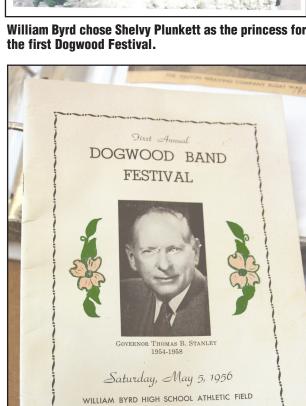
Janet Bowman from Jefferson High School in Roanoke was crowned as the first Dogwood Queen.

An article in what was then the town's newspaper, the "Vinton Booster," predicted thousands of spectators and an estimated 10,000 did come for the festivities.

The event was so successful that it became an annual event and was incorporated as a non-profit community organization in November 1956. It has succeeded through 70 years because of the huge number of volunteers who have given their time and hard work each year to plan, organize, and produce the event.

This year's Dogwood Festival kicks off on Friday night, April 25 at 6 p.m., with "Trial by Fire," a North Carolinabased Journey tribute band. Admission is \$5; beverages are available. Featured Band, the Island Trio

groups at the festival on



Governor Thomas Stanley was the grand marshal of the first Vinton Dogwood Festival Parade.

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The Vinton Dogwood Festival originated as a band festival.

Saturday, April 26, include Big Daddy Ray, Mason Creek, the William Byrd Jazz Band, Andrew Nicely, and more.

Again, this year there will be a Dogwood Queen and her court riding in horse-drawn carriages, a walking Dogwood Parade downtown, several bands (the William Byrd Marching Terriers, the James River Marching

Steel Drum Band, the

Virginia Tech Pep Band, and a bagpipe band, the traditional antique car show, a free Kids Zone, streets filled with vendors,

Officers for this year's Dogwood Festival iree President Joey Nicely, Vice President Heather Beamer, Secretary Susan Teass, Treasurer Jeff Teass, Publicity Chair Mary Beth Layman, and Entertainment Chair Joey Nicely.

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Sabrina McCarty celebrated her retirement from Pinnacle Financial Partners with members of her family. Pictured are (from left) stepdaughter Katlyn Wallace, granddaughter Charlotte, husband Chris McCarty, and Sabrina with grandson Jackson.

McCarty retiring from Pinnacle Financial Partners in Vinton

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Sabrina McCarty is retiring from her position as Senior Vice President at Pinnacle Financial Partners in Vinton. Her final day at the bank is scheduled for March 4.

She has been involved with the banking industry for 34 years, beginning with First Union at the call center on Plantation Road, working in the bankcard division. She then moved into the branches where she started as a teller and quickly moved up to Teller Supervisor. She worked for the National Bank of Commerce, advancing to Assistant Manager, and then was employed by Valley Bank (now Pinnacle) as a manager and Bank Officer before advancing to her current position.

McCarty was born and raised in Huddleston in Bedford County. She graduated from Staunton River High School and attended Liberty University, then subsequently moved to Vinton to be closer to work.

McCarty will continue to serve the community as a member of Vinton Town Council. Before winning her seat

on council, she served on the Vinton Board of Zoning Appeals as a certified member. She was first elected to council in 2013 and is now serving her third term, which will expire on December 31, 2026.

She served on the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for several years- her last three years as president of the organization. She also serves on the executive board of the Roanoke American Heart Association and is a member of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club.

She is married to Chris McCarty. Her plans for retirement include traveling and spending more time with her parents and grandchildren. A trip to Alaska is in the works for their 10th anniversary.

McCarty was recognized with a retirement party at the bank on February 28 with many friends and customers stopping by. Many of the customers had stories about how she had helped them through the many years she has worked with Pinnacle.

McCarty says what she will miss the most about her job is "my clients and helping them with their financial needs."

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



By Angie Chewning

The Vinton Chamber of Commerce is hosting annual Senior Services Expo on March 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at William Byrd Middle School. Mark your calendars and join us. We are still accepting applications. The change in location this year is because the Vinton War Memorial, where the Expo is usually held, is closed for renovations.

Pine Spur Hunt Club, established in 1953, will be hosting its first annual Spring Festival & Horse Pull on April 12 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., located off Route 24 in Vinton; turn onto Route 635, Jeters Chapel Road, then make a left on Pine Spur Road. Parking is free. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids. Kids under 4 are

There will be horse breed demos, agriculture

Publication Dates: March 26 & 27

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educational experience and ride, quilt raffle, Kid's Fun Zone, a petting zoo, business booths, craft booths, food vendors, and music.

At 5 p.m., 100 tickets will be sold, first-come, first-serve, for a BBQ dinner. The horse pull starts at 6 p.m.

If anyone would like to do a sponsorship at this event, email triplemfarm3.barn3@ gmail.com for more information.

Town of Vinton

Building, located 311 S. Pollard Street in downtown Vinton.

appointment, RedCrossBlood.org

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Submitted by Town of

sponsoring blood drive

is hosting a blood drive on Monday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Vinton Municipal schedule

to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/ RapidPass to complete a pre-donation reading and health history questions of the

call 1-800-RED-CROSS or 1-800-733-2767 or visit REDCROSSBLOOD.org and download the Blood Donor App.

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22. Chinese frying pan 23. Cave-dwelling salamander

26. About the moon

30. Jet cabin requirement dawn

29. AKA Tao

61. Minerals 24. Any thick messy substances substance

19. Lively, merry play 21. Make indistinct 62. Hypothetical original 63. Hit with the open hand figure associated with floods 64. Political action committee 25. Washing sponge

38. L. Comfort's illuminator

45. Minute tunicate genus

de Janeiro

56. Head of the RCC

59. Scientific workplace

57. Twines

46. Green regions of desert

12. Greenbay teammate 13. Brass that looks like gold 52. A particular instance of selling 14. School graduates

66. W. states time zone

. Man or boy (Br.)

Method of birth control

6. City founded by Xeno-

8. Beckham's spice girl

3. W. African nation

CLUES DOWN

phanes

7. Legumes

Explosive 11. 1936 Nobel winner Otto

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Fault's incline from vertical34. Cease living

42. Mire 43. Bring two objects together

32. Sun in spanish

39. Flames up

33. Helps little firms

40. Egyptian sacred bull

63

66

28. Impounds for lack of payment

29. Radiotelegraphic signal

17

51. Oil cartel

50. Israeli dance

53. Microelectromechanical

54. Var. of 45 across 24. Egyptian mythological 55. Goat & camel hair fabrics 56. Soda 58. A firm's operational head 65. Winged goddess of the 27. Old name for nitrogen 60. Seaport (abbr.)

Greenway announces decision on School Board seat

Tim Greenway has announced in a social media post that he has decided not to run for re-election to the Roanoke County School Board.

"After much thought and consideration, I've decided this will be my last term on the School Board. Hard to believe it's been 10 years, but in November it will officially have been 10 years. It's been incredible, it's been rewarding, and it's been some sleepless nights trying to fight for the Vinton District. I've loved every minute of it, and I wouldn't have changed a thing."

Greenway said he is announcing his decision at this time to "give everyone enough time to consider running

for the Vinton School Board position.'

"I had no idea what to expect when I stepped on the board and to see what we've been through in 10 years has been amazing. Byrd renovated, Cundiff renovated, many facilities upgraded and our school administration (in each school in the Vinton District) has been aligned to be the very best in any district anywhere. "I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments of the

last 10 years and I did it for only one reason, to give back to my community. A community that has given me everything!

"Many of you have reached out and asked me to run again, but I think it's time to let new ideas flow and new thoughts flourish. I've tried to make our community

better than where I found it, and that was hard to do, because this was already the best place in the world to

"Through these years, I didn't vote for a party/ ideology, and I didn't vote for an agenda; I voted for what I thought was best for all our constituents, staff and students. I'm proud of the fact that I don't owe anyone any favors; I don't have to bow down to the Republican Party; I don't have to leave with any regrets of having compromised any values; I didn't stab anyone in the back along the way; and I didn't serve for my ego, just to be in an elected position.

"There are many people to thank along the way, but if I start naming names, I'm afraid I will leave someone out so I'm not going to name anyone. You certainly know who you are, though- especially my family, having to put up with many meetings, many days with distractions from the family gatherings and such. I love and appreciate you all. I can't thank friends and family enough for the kind words of appreciation I've received as I've told many people about my decision. Each of you know what you mean to me and each of you will always have a special place in my heart.

'Thank you, Vinton, for always supporting me. I tell everyone this is the best place to live, raise a family, and



Tim Greenway

"Now, let's find someone to come on the board that loves this place as much as I do and will take care of our children, because the struggle is real. I was told many times I focused too much on the Vinton District and not enough on other districts. I'll let you imagine what my response was."

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton History Museum celebrates National Day of Unplugging



William Byrd Leo Club members spent National Unplugged Day volunteering at the Vinton History Museum. From left are Raelyn Lancaster, LEO Club Advisor Lisa Stover, and Jayden Niday.

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The Vinton History Museum recognized the National Day of Unplugging a little early this year on March 1, a "First Saturday" when the museum is typically open, rather than from sundown on March 7 to sundown on March 8, when it will be held around the

The purpose of National Unplugging Day is to "unplug from screens, relax, reflect,

The Vinton

Messenger

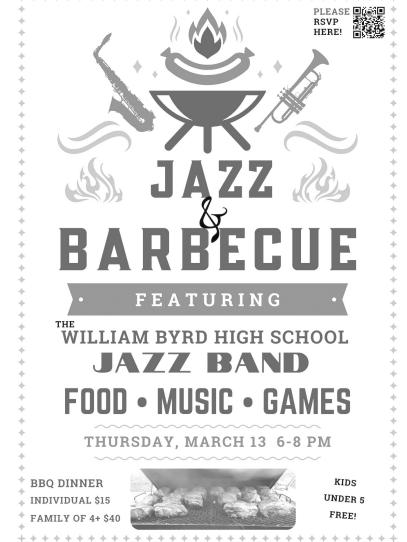
be active, visit the outdoors, a library, or a museum, and connect with loved ones." At the Vinton History Museum, many high school and college students spent their "unplugged" time volunteering for tasks the museum needed to complete; they sorted items, gave out children's books with the Little Library, worked on displays of artifacts and other projects, and researched artifacts.

Fifteen students donated their time to the museum on March 1, eight from the William Byrd High School Leo Club (with Advisor Lisa Stover), several from the Staunton River High School Honor Society, plus two interns from Hollins University who participated.

With today's technology and other distractions, it is wonderful seeing the young generation giving back to their community," said Judy Cunningham, executive director of the museum. "Their support of the Vinton History Museum is appreciated with them in action helping to 'Preserve the Past for the Future."

The Vinton History Museum, located at 210 Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton, is open for tours and research every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information email info@vintonhistorymuseum. org or call 540-342-8634.

- Vinton History Museum



Community invited to WBHS Jazz Band BBQ fundraiser dinner

The William Byrd High School Jazz Band will host the annual Jazz & Barbecue fundraiser on Thursday, March 13, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist

The evening will include live jazz music by the WBHS Jazz Band, barbecue, music, and games.

Tickets are \$15 for individuals; \$40 for a family of four. Kids under 5 eat

Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church is located at 707 E. Washington Avenue in Vinton.

- Submitted by WBHS Jazz Band

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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.

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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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From the Pulpit

By Pastor Bryan Crouch, **Lynn Haven Baptist Church**

Faith That Moves Mountains

the topic of "Walking in Faith" at Lynn Haven Baptist Church. This week's devotional focuses on the power of faith to overcome obstacles. Drawing from

During March, we are focused on Matthew 17:20, we are reminded that even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains when we trust in God. The passage encourages believers to keep their eyes on Jesus and rely on

His strength rather than their own.

Remembering examples from the Bible, like David facing Goliath and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, we see how God works through faith to accomplish what might seem impossible.

Faith doesn't mean we won't face

challenges, but it means we believe God is bigger than those challenges. We should always remember that trusting in Jesus is the first step to experiencing the power of God in our lives.

And as always, try to be more like Christ tomorrow than you were today! Please join us this Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Backpack Run returns to Green Hill Park for 12th year

The Backpack Run, presented by the Roanoke County Public Education Schools Foundation, is back for the 12th year. This year's Backpack Run offers both in-person and virtual races for the 5K and 10K. Both in-person races will take place on March 22 at Green Hill Park. The 5K

and 10K start at 9 a.m. Runners are invited to accept the Backpack Challenge. Participate in both race events (5K and 10K) to earn both individual finisher medals and a third exclusive custom Backpack Challenge medal/item. Challenge runners may participate in both events in-person

or virtually.

Registration fees for the 5K race are \$20-\$35. Fees for the 10K are \$35-\$55. The Backpack Challenge (5K and 10K) is \$50-\$75. Prices vary depending on age (student or adult) and participation. Register at www.rcps.us/ backpackrun.

Runners' participation



9 a.m.

March 22

Green Hill Park

Details and registration at www.rcps.us/backpackrun

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RCPS

supports the Roanoke County Public Schools Education Foundation, 501©3 non-profit organization that, since

1991, has provided more than \$1.6 million in support, including grants for teachers and scholarships for students

in Roanoke County.

Submitted by RCPS

Vinton Passport Savings book

A savings book, also known as a passbook, is a small paper booklet used to record transactions on a savings account. The passbook is a historical record of each transaction, whether a deposit or withdrawal and is manually entered by a bank teller or through an automated machine, providing a tangible record of the account activity.

Passbooks appeared in the 18th century, allowing customers to hold transaction information in their own hands for the first time. Until then, transactions were recorded in ledgers at the bank only, so customers had no history of their own deposits and withdrawals.

Also, a passbook was a way to identify the account holder without needing further identification.

Several passbooks from local banks are on display at the Vinton History Museum in the "Banking Corner" with other banking artifacts. The pictured passbook was from Mountain View Bank, now the location of HomeTrust Bank in downtown Vinton.

You are invited to visit the Vinton

History Museum, located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "Preserving the Past for the Future."

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Executive Director, Vinton History Museum

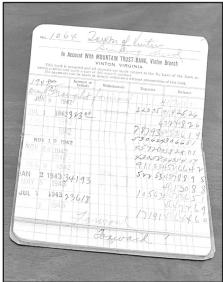


PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

KECIPES OF THE WEEK

Copycat Doubletree Chocolate Chip Cookies

Best Chocolate Chip cookies ever! Ingredients:

1/2 pound (2 sticks) butter, softened 3/4 cup plus 1Tbsp. white sugar 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar

2 large eggs 1 and 1/4 tsp. vanilla

1/4 tsp. lemon juice 2 and 1/4 cups flour 1/2 cup rolled oats

1 tsp. baking soda 1 tsp. salt Pinch of cinnamon

2 and 2/3 cups semi-sweet chocolate 1 and 3/4 cups chopped walnuts

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Cream the butter, sugar, and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes.

Add eggs, vanilla, and lemon juice, blending with mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then medium speed for about 2 minutes, or until light and fluffy, scraping down bowl.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

With mixer on low speed, add flour, oats, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon, blending for about 45 seconds. Don't overmix.

Remove bowl from mixer and stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.

Portion dough with a scoop (about Tbsp.) onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper about two inches

Bake for 20 minutes at 300° until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.

Remove from oven. Cool for about 1 hour.

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

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)

VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington Avenue, Vinton. Rev. Dr. Travis Russell, 343-7685. Sunday Services (year-round): Sunday School 9:15 AM, Morning Worship 10:30 AM; Wednesday Services (during the school year): Worship, Bible Study, Children's Choirs & Youth Ministry 6:15 PM.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST -Will you "come back to the Bible", learn more and follow Him? If you live locally in this beautiful Roanoke Valley or Botetourt County area, there is a Church, you will know it's the ONE when you see the name on the end of the building that reads Church of Christ. 7165 Cloverdale Rd., NW, Roanoke, VA 24019. We offer a free 3 lesson, OPEN Bible course entitled "Back to the Bible." Only available in home or where our Church meets: Sign up now on our website, daleridgechurchofchrist.net or email us at comeback2thebible@gmail.com and request to be scheduled for lesson #1 of 3 entitled "who has the Authority In Religion today". You will be contacted promptly. All studies are conducted by 2 individuals, never alone. May God Bless you in choosing this "open book Bible study.

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. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more

WALK IN HIS STEPS

Read Deuteronomy 32:1 through 34.12

"What would Jesus do?" Pastor Charles Sheldon of Topeka, Kansas, asked his congregation this question in 1896 when he preached a series of messages on the topic. Sheldon then wrote a book of fiction titled In His Steps. The book asks what Jesus would do when confronted with poverty, racism, pride, and homelessness. In the 1990s the motto was revived and people wore bracelets and T-shirts with the letters WWJD?

Before he died, Moses reminding the Israelites to consider God's

"Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life" (Deuteronomy 32:46–47).

Teaching the next generation is the responsibility of the present generation. We do this best by leading by examples. When we face tough issues, we can be sure people are watching our reactions. At these times, it is good to ask

ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

Prayer Suggestion: God, with Your help, I will walk as Jesus walked.

Quicklook: Deuteronomy 32:44-47

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Alixandria Wall

at Cell: (276) 732-6083 awall@mountainmedianews.com

information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

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, Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342-1715,

Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@

verizon.net.

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZA-RENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRES-

BYTERIAN 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. Jona-

than 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.

/arketplace

ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD

Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal Theory are reported as your Radiosof first

Help Wanted

Liturgical Musician

The Church of the Transfiguration Catholic Church is seeking a parttime. This position provides musical accompaniment for Masses (Saturdays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 8:30am), special liturgies, weddings and funerals. The abilities to play the keyboard/piano competently and to sight read music when required are essential. Vocal skills and knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy are preferred but not

email of interest and a resume to Suzanne Bowling at office@churchofthetransfigu ration.com.

required. Interested

applicants should send an

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Legals -City of Salem

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and were diagnosed with Ovarian/ Gynecological Cancers, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC **HEARING**

FOR THE PURPOSE OF **DETERMINING THE** NUMBER OF PUBLIC VEHICLES, TAXICABS, AND FOR HIRE CARS FOR WHICH CERTIFICATES OF **PUBLIC CONVENIENCE** AND NECESSITY SHALL BE ISSUED DURING THE NEXT YEAR AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF **DETERMINING TO WHICH** PERSON OR PERSONS SUCH CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED. IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: Pursuant to the provisions

of Section 98-94 of The Code of the City of Salem, City of Salem hereby gives notice that at the regular meeting of said Council to be held on March 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem. Virginia, a public hearing will be held for the purpose of determining the number of public vehicles, taxicabs, and for hire cars for which certificates of public convenience and necessity shall be issued during the next year and for the purpose of determining to which person or persons such certificates

shall be issued. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such certificates should or should not be granted. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, **VIRGINIA**

H. Robert Light Clerk of Council



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Legals -**Craig County**

AMENDED NOTICE

OF TRUSTEE'S

SALE,

of all that certain lot, tract or

parcel designated as Lot

Three (3) containing 29.204

acres in the Simmonsville

Magisterial District of

Craig County, Virginia,

designated as Tax Map

Number 115-A-17C

(previously incorrectly

designated as Tax Map

Number 114-A-17),

in execution of a Deed of

Trust, in the original

principal amount of

\$72,000,00, with an annual

interest rate of 6.0% dated

November 3, 2015,

recorded among the

land records of the Circuit

Court for the COUNTY OF

CRAIG as Deed Instrument

Number 150000517, the

undersigned appointed

Trustee will offer for sale at

public auction all that

property located in the

COUNTY OF CRAIG, at the

front of the Court House

building for the County

of Craig located at 182 Main

Street, New Castle, Virginia

24127, on Thursday, March

6. 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the

property with improvements

to wit: 2288 Northside

Road, Newport, VA 24128,

containing approximately

29.204 Acres - Tax Map

Number 115-A-17C;

THIS COMMUNICATION

IS FROM A DEBT

COLLECTOR. TERMS OF

SALE: CASH OR CHECK

Additional terms to be

announced at sale.

Trustee, John N. Spicer,

C/O Spicer, Olin &

Associates, P.C.,

504 South Main Street

Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-0007.

Legals -

Montgomery County

NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING

OF THE

MONTGOMERY

COUNTY

PLANNING

COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions

15.2-2285 of the Code of

amended, the Montgomery

Commission hereby gives

notice of a public hearing to

be held on March 19, 2025

at 7:00 p.m. in the County

Christiansburg, Virginia, in

comments regarding the

Planning Commission's

A request by Fotheringay,

LLC (Agent: Balzer and

amendment to the 2025

Comprehensive Plan to

change the policy map

of property, located off

Route 11/460 (Roanoke

Road and Graham Street,

Road) between Crozier

Stewardship to Village

Expansion. The request

would further designate

307.72 acres of the total

Expansion as Open Space,

633.72 acres in Village

with the remaining 326

Residential, within the

The Medium-Density

Residential policy

designation permits

Elliston Lafayette Village.

single-family housing at a

density of no greater than

The property is further identified as Tax Map

five dwelling units per acre.

Numbers 072-A 2, 54.343

acres (Parcel ID: 023523);

(Parcel ID: 013681); 059-3

58, 15.3 acres (Parcel ID:

013682); 059-3 57,59, 60.7

acres (Parcel ID: 013683);

acres (Parcel ID: 013684) 072-A 4A, 0.04 acres

(Parcel ID: 180205) and a

162.15 acre portion of Tax

Map 072-A-4, 188.1 acres,

ordinances or amendments

Planning and GIS Services,

County Government Center,

755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A. Christiansburg, Monday

through Friday between the

hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00

http://www.montgomerycou

ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio

(Parcel ID:013680).

plans, applications,

may be examined

at the Department of

Copies of the proposed

072-1 60,73(1)6, 304.4

072-1 56, 37.824 acres

acres designated as

Medium-Density

approximately 633.72 acres

Montgomery County

intention to act on the

following Ordinance:

Associates) for an

designation of

from Resource

order to hear citizen

of Section 15.2-2204 &

Virginia of 1950, as

County Planning

Roanoke St.,

Legals -Montgomery County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **PLANNING**

COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives

notice of a public hearing to be held on March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in

order to hear citizen

comments regarding the

Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by Amazonite, LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Short-Term Tourist Rental within an existing single-

family dwelling on property

located at 940 Nellies Cave

Road, approximately 0.4 miles east from the intersection of Grissom Lane, 0.05 miles east of the Town of Blacksburg jurisdictional line. The property is further identified as Tax Parcel 055-A 8 (Parcel ID: 012766), 0.183 acres, zoned Residential (R-3) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the

2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the

hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00

p.m. or at montva.com/pc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **PLANNING** COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery

County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St.,

Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request: A request by J. William Colbert II Declaration Trust and Jo Ann Bandi Colbert Declaration Trust for a Special Use Permit (SUP)

to allow a Short-Term Tourist Rental within an existing single-family dwelling and attached accessory dwelling on property located at 1480 and 1482 Clay Street, approximately 0.07 miles from the end of state maintenance, 0.22 miles east of the intersection of Cedar Orchard Drive (State Route 1237). The property is further identified as Tax Parcel 041-A 63G (Parcel

ID: 032846), 1.082 acres, zoned Residential (R-2) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications,

ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services. County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00



p.m. or at montva.com/pc.

To place your ad, call 389-9355

Legals -Montgomery County

NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING** OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **PLANNING** COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions

of Section 15.2-2204 &

15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on March 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance: AN ORĎINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA BY AMENDING SECTION 10-52 TO CLARIFY THAT **ZONING COMPLIANCE** OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATORS ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR IN ADMINISTRATION AND **ENFORCEMENT OF THE COUNTY ZONING** ORDINANCE AND BY ADDING DUTIES AND POWERS AUTHORIZED BY STATE LAW AND BY UPDATING THE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL VIOLATION **PENALTIES** Copies of the proposed ordinance amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A,

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE **MONTGOMERY** COUNTY **PLANNING** COMMISSION

Christiansburg, Monday

p.m. or at

through Friday between the

hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00

http://www.montgomerycou

ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio

of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinances:

A request by Carriage Road, LLC to rezone 1.571 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to Traditional Neighborhood Development Infill (TND-I), to allow a mixed-use development. The proposed mixed-use development will mainly consist of a community center, coffee shop, and soccer practice facility. The property is located at 1708 & 1714 Carriage Road, Riner, at the intersection of Carriage Road (State Route 704) and Five Points Road (State Route 671). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 119-A A 8, 9 (Parcel IDs: 070635, 070611), 1.571 acres, zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Mixed Use in the Prices Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00

p.m. or at

http://www.montgomerycou

ntyva.gov/pendingapplicatio

Legals -Montgomery County CczC-3101

VIRGINIA: IN THE **CIRCUIT COURT** OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES P. WIGHTMAN, **DECEASED SHOW CAUSE AGAINST** DISTRIBUTION

ORDER

It appearing that a report of the accounts of National Bank of Blacksburg, Executor of the Estate of James P. Wightman, Deceased, and of the debts and demands against his Estate have been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the qualification, on Petition of National Bank of Blacksburg, Executor, it is ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate to show cause, if any they can, on the 19th day of March, 2025, before this Court at 8:30 a.m., against the payment and delivery of the Estate of James P. Wightman, Deceased, to the distributees with or without requiring refunding bonds as the Court prescribes . IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this Order be published in The News Messenger, a newspaper published in Montgomery County, Virginia, once a week for two successive weeks. ENTER this Order this 19th day of February, 2025.

I ask for this: Bettye Ackerman CAMPBELL & ACKERMAN 320 Clay Street SW Blacksburg, VA 24060 540-951-2953 phone 540-951-2966 fax VSR #72564 Counsel for National Bank of Blacksburg. Executor of the Estate of James P. Wightman, deceased

Honorable

Robert M.D. Turk

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS

Truck and Trailer March 20th -10:00AM!Over 30 Tractor Trailers available! Bid Live or Online! See Woltz com for a complete inventory list and additional information Auction representative will be onsite for previews on 3/7, 3/8, & 3/15 from Noon – 4PM. Property located at 1550 Lynn Brae Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012. 10% Buyer's Premium Woltz & Associates, Inc. Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers Roanoke, VA (VA #321) 800-551-3588.

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Commons from page 1

They include energy and space-saving high-efficiency HVAC and appliances with dishwashers and in-unit washer/ dryers. There are granite counter-tops in both kitchens and baths and stainless steel appliances. The flooring is LVP (luxury vinyl plank). Living areas are "open-concept."

All units are high-speed Internet ready, with fiber and coaxial infrastructure. There is a fire suppression system throughout the structure. All unitsresidential and commercial- have dedicated parking spaces, off the street.

Council and staff members on the tour were suitably impressed with what the developers have accomplished. The apartments are large and welcoming with great lighting and high ceilings on the upper level. There are bathtubs, not just showers, and large closets. There is privacy with corridors, outside entrances, and walls thickly insulated so neighbors don't hear each other.

Insulation and drywall have been installed, along with cabinetry in some of the units. Work on the flooring is underway. Appliances also await installation.

Mike Vanderpool, owner of Noah Construction, is the general contractor. His attention to quality workmanship and detail is evident.

Cleveland Commons is located in the area of Vinton near the newly renovated Roland E. Cook Lofts, about halfway between downtown Vinton and Lake Drive Plaza and easily walkable to both. The project has already sparked

residential development projects on nearby properties. The town does not foresee the area becoming primarily commercial, but will remain mostly residential.

In recent months, the Western Virginia Water Authority has completed a project replacing all utility lines on Cleveland Avenue, with subsequent repaving of the



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Developer Dominic Basile (right) guides Vinton Town Council members Keith Liles (left) and Mike Stovall through one of the Cleveland Commons well-insulated basement apartments.

road.

more information or a tour, contact Dowdy and Basile at clevelandcommons528@gmail.com or call 540-227-4108.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Gish Mill from page 1



The Gish Mill restaurant will overlook Glade Creek

Glade Creek (the mill is said to have its own otter). He indicated locations of the kitchen, potential retail space, and the areas where guest rooms will be located.

Council members were able to maneuver their way through most of the building, which at this time is filled with scaffolding. Trinkle and Hill pointed

out the historic milling equipment that will remain on site, either in place or on display.

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 with two objectives:



The Holdren's Country Store space within Gish Mill

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

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 generating new revenue.

According to town leaders and the developers, the project has been challenging, with many obstacles to overcome along the way.

The town and the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority approved Performance Agreements with the Gish Mill Davii to make the redevelopment financially feasible. The project is expected to be completed in

Reconfiguration from page 1

"diminish the community" and reduce the number of visitors who shop, eat, and attend events in Vinton, because "they will just use alternate routes" to escape the traffic congestion and bypass downtown.

Another said that the new plan is "not reasonable. I sat through six cycles to get through the light at King Street. If it's not broke, why fix it? The town needs to ask citizens, not just engineers, who actually travel the road on a daily basis. You need to reconsider this plan."

One citizen expressed concerns about the nearby Roanoke County Schools bus lot with buses entering Gus Nicks twice each day. "You need to make the road safer without

shrinking it."

In the same vein, another said that "taking the roadway down to a single lane will hinder emergency services. People will just take alternate routes and clog the side streets. You are creating a problem, not fixing it. The town needs to assess traffic volume on the side streets, now that traffic is being indirectly routed through the neighborhoods." Deputy Iown Manager

Cody Sexton, who spent most of the first two days of the project, including three rush-hour stints, attempting to alleviate problems which had arisen in the early phases, described the adjustments the town and city had made in just the first 48 hours. Signal light timing had been modified at shorter on Tuesday as the traffic signal at King Street and Gus Nicks to allow more vehicles to get through the light in a more timely fashion. Lanes had been lengthened closer to Pollard Street. He added that the town would deploy staff through the areas including Midway, Berkley's Bottom, Ruddell Road, and others to monitor traffic volume and movement on those alternate routes.

He noted that the traffic signal contractor- flying in from Texas- will spend the remainder of the week monitoring the signals and making modifications. He also stated that while the traffic queue had been significantly lengthened on the first day of the project (Monday), it was adjustments were made.

Another citizen commended council for efforts to test the new pattern and said that his experience had been better on Tuesday than on Monday.

'Change uncomfortable," he said. "This is a great idea. Stay the course. It will be good in the long run."

about tangential issues to the traffic issue. One bike rider suggested using the funds for the lane reconfiguration on cleaning up debris from the streets in Roanoke City and on the greenways.

Peters noted that the greenways had suffered recent and debris removal and restoration of the trail was underway. Another spoke about crime concerns at the Charles R. Hill Community Center at night and the need for security cameras and lighting. Peters stated that the Vinton War Memorial is now being renovated, with upgrades to the Community Center following soon after.

Council member Mike Stovall thanked those who attended the meeting to express their opinions. He emphasized that this lane reconfiguration project is "just a test" at this point, lasting for about two weeks. A decision will be made by council after that.

Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins asked citizens to "bear with us." This is a joint project with Roanoke City who invited the town to join in an analysis of the potential for changes in the traffic pattern to make the Gus Nicks corridor safer.



Council member Keith Liles also emphasized that "this is just a test, underway for less than 48 hours. The traffic cones will not always be there. Give it a chance." (If the lane reconfiguration is adopted, the lane changes would be through re-striping the roadway, not cones.)

Mayor Grose also stressed that currently Two others spoke this is "just a test. The first day was a mess but adjustments are being made. The safety factor is the main driver of this project. There have been many accidents through the years through there. According to traffic engineers, this should work." He also reminded the citizens that members of "Vinton Town Council are the most accessible in the world. We are glad to establish a dialogue to address your issues and concerns." Citizens are encouraged to sign up to speak at council meetings.

In other actions on March 4, council declared "Multiple March as Sclerosis Awareness Month." Deputy Police Chief

Tim Lawless expressed the condolences of the town to the families of those lost in an incident over the weekend.

He presented the Annual Police Department Report for 2024. The department has 22 sworn officers; two more are currently attending the police academy and will graduate in May. There is one vacancy as of March 4. The department also employs two civilian staff.

Lawless informed council that the Vinton Police Department first became accredited 2002 and received its fifth re-accredited assessment in 2022. It will be re-assessed again in 2026, with a mock assessment scheduled for March 13 in preparation.

He described the various grants the department has received totaling \$68,125, including a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, a Byrne/Justice Assistance

and a DMV Selective

Grant,

Equipment

Enforcement Grant for

Police Traffic Services. Lawless presented statistics indicating that warrants had decreased last year to 1,073, along with concealed gun permits (107). Officer subpoenas

increased to 502. The Patrol Division received 13,452 calls for service (a decrease of 14%) and completed 3,067 security checks of businesses and residences (another

Traffic stops decreased to 2,240 along with traffic citations issued (1,425). Total accidents were 395.

decrease).

There were 396 arrests (another decrease) and 912 warrants served.

Forty-one felony criminal cases were investigated with eight currently active.

In 2024, Vinton police continued to be heavily involved in community events, including Arbor Day, National Night Out, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Hot Chocolate with a Cop, Shop with a Cop, National Drug Take Back Day, the Little Feet Meet, the LE Torch Run, the Shred-A-Thon, the Summer Reading Program at the Vinton Library, Movie Night with a Cop, the Pink Warrior breast cancer awareness walk, and the Santa Crawl.

Police Chief Fabricio Drumond added that the decreases in most statistics are a "good thing" and that the increased involvement in the community is even better.

In final action, council held a public hearing and adopted an ordinance rezoning portions of the currently split-zoned properties located at 0 Highland Road from the R-2 Residential District to the M-1 Limited Industrial District. Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung had briefed council on specifics at the February 18 meeting. The main purpose of this action is to allow for a commercial entrance off of Highland Avenue for the

mini-warehouses located

there and expansion of the

self-storage facility.



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PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

These William Byrd athletes, in photos taken in past meets, led their teams at the state Class 3 indoor meet in Lynchburg this week. Above left is DeShawn Austin and above right is Ethan Haston. Below is Lily Perez of the Byrd girls' team.

William Byrd takes 10th in Class 3 state indoor track meet this week

Austin is state champ in 55 hurdles

The William Byrd boys finished 10th and the girls were 25th as Liberty University in Lynchburg hosted the Virginia High School League Class 3 indoor state track meet this week. The meet was held Monday and Tuesday and state champions were the Grafton boys and the Heritage girls.

There were 36 teams that scored at least a point in the state meet among over 50 VHSL schools participating in Class 3. Grafton dominated the boys side with 63.5 points, followed by Lafayette with 38. Byrd finished the meet with 24, the most by a Blue Ridge District school.

Byrd has a state champion in senior DeShawn Austin, who won the 55 meter hurdles. DeShawn had the best time in the preliminaries with a time of 7.55, then lowered that to 7.49 with a winning effort in the finals. He also scored with a second place in the triple jump at 47' 8.75" and just missed scoring with a ninth place in the long jump.

Senior Ethan Haston earned all-state honors with a third place effort in the long jump with a distance of 22' 5.25". Ethan was 13th in the triple jump and 22nd in the 55 meter dash. Byrd's 4x200 relay was 10th with Austin, Haston, Jerrett Shepherd and Gray Matthews.

The girls' meet was closer in the team scores, as Heritage of Lynchburg finished with 68 points and Western Albemarle was runner-up with 57. Byrd finished with five points.

Junior Lily Perez had Byrd's best placement with a fifth in the high jump, clearing 4'10". Lily was also 10th in the 55 hurdles and 13th in the

Senior Grace Onwi scored in two events, taking seventh in the 500

meters in 1:20.38 and eighth in the 300 at 43.19.

Other state competitors included Ellie Ruble and Olivia Bustamante, who took 10th and 12th in the high jump, and the 4x200 relay team that finished 10th. The relay team consisted of Perez, Emma Matthews, Michal



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN Maroons make NCAA D-III hoop tourney

The Roanoke College men's basketball team has earned an at large bid to the NCAA Division III and

will open play Friday against Pfeiffer University at 4 p.m. at Christopher Newport University in the

Freeman Center. The other half of the four-team

bracket has CNU facing John Jay University, with

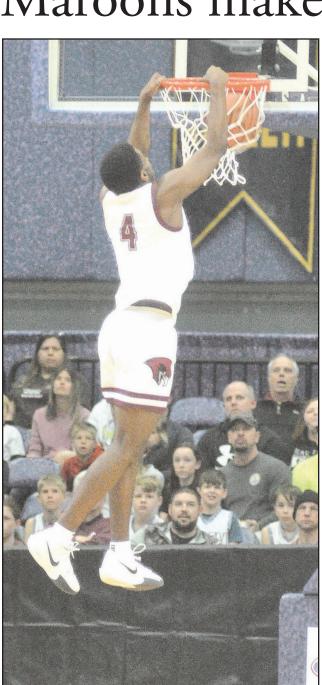
the two winners competing on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

The Maroons are one of four ODAC teams to make the field, joining Randolph-Macon, Hampden-

Sydney and ODAC tournament winner Guilford.

This is the fourth time overall -- 2010, 2013, 2024 --

for the right to advance to the round of 16.



and second straight season the ODAC has seen four teams qualify for the Division III men's basketball championship. Randolph-Macon has featured on each of those occasions. Championships in Division III feature a few changes in 2024-25 starting with a bracket increase for several sports. Men's basketball maintains a full 64-team bracket with 43 schools earning automatic

bids like GC and 21 garnering at-large nods like H-SC, RMC, and RC. The method in which at-large selections were determined also changed this season. New for all Division III team sports is the NCAA Power Index (NPI). All teams in a given sport -- 410 in D-III men's basketball -- feature a NPI rating. Those NPI ratings are ranked sequentially and form a transparent method of selecting teams at-large to Division III brackets, replacing the former process of the

sport championship committees selecting teams at-large based on predetermined selection criteria. Once the 43 automatic qualifiers are known, the next 21 best NPI-rated teams form the list of at-large selected programs to fill out the bracket. The Maroons, ranked No. 19 in last week's

D3hoops.com Top 25 poll, are 23-5 on the season. Roanoke advanced to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) title game, falling to Guilford College 79-74. The loss broke a nine-game winning streak. Roanoke earns its 14th NCAA Division III

Tournament appearance in program history and the first since the 2001 campaign. RC is 13-15 all-time in NCAA play and advanced to the national semifinals in 1983.

Pfeiffer (18-7) earned the USA South's automatic

bid, defeating North Carolina Wesleyan University

in the tournament finals. The Falcons competed against four ODAC schools this season, going 2-2 Pfeiffer defeated Averett University (62-52) and the University of Lynchburg (66-63), but fell to Guilford (85-72) and Hampden-Sydney (96-67)

Colleges. Tickets are now on sale at the Freeman Center Ticket Office. Chair back seats will be \$15 and general admission tickets will be sold for \$10.

Guilford (22-6) claimed its fifth ODAC men's basketball trophy on Sunday. That helped the Quakers finish with the 24th-best NPI rating (62.251). Guilford, a national semifinalist last season, is making its second straight and eighth overall appearance in the Division III bracket.

The Quakers are positioned in the upper-left quadrant of the bracket and will begin their journey at Emory University. Guilford opens play with Berry College (19-8), while the host Eagles (20-5) square off with Huntingdon College (22-6) in the other first round game in this four-team pod. Emory is ranked 12th in the country, while Berry and Huntingdon are both unranked.

Hampden-Sydney (21-5), which defeated Guilford in last year's semifinals on the way to a national runner-up finish, earned its third straight and 17th overall berth to the national tournament. Ranked seventh in the country by D3hoops.com, H-SC owns the 11th-highest NPI rating (64.393) in the country.

The Tigers are located in the upper-right portion of the bracket and will host early round play for a second straight season. Hampden-Sydney takes on Bryn Athyn College (20-8) in the later of the two first round games, while The College of New Jersey (20-7) meets University of Pittsburgh-Bradford (23-

3) in the earlier outing. Randolph-Macon (23-4) saw its 20-game winning streak snapped by Guilford in the ODAC semifinals on Saturday. RMC is ranked fifth by D3hoops.com

and boasts the seventh-best NPI rating (65.604). The Yellow Jackets can be found in the lowerleft quadrant of the bracket and will travel north to Franklin & Marshall College for first and second round competition. Randolph-Macon squares off with Westfield State University (21-6), while the host Diplomats (21-6) meet Catholic University (22-5) in the other first round contest.

Josh McClary of Roanoke College gets a dunk in last Saturday's win over Lynchburg in the ODAC tournament.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

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PHOTOS BY SAWYER BOLEN

Above left, Byrd's Darin Witcher has New Kent's Tristan Carter in a precarious position in the Class 3 120 pound state semifinal. Right, Darin is on top and in control in his championshp match against Warren Hicks of Northside. Below right, Witcher's hand is raised in victory for his second straight state championship.

Big Orange takes 7th in state wrestling, Witcher wins 2nd straight championship

William Byrd junior Darin Witcher won his second straight state championship and the Big Orange finished seventh as a team as Heritage High School hosted the Class 3 wrestling finals Saturday. The tournament was held all on one day in Lynchburg after being postponed a week by bad weather.

Skyline High won the state championship with 218 points, followed by 2023 and '24 state champ Staunton River of the Blue Ridge District with 178.5. Byrd had 88 points in finishing seventh among 45 teams who sent wrestlers to the tournament.

Byrd put five wrestlers on the podium, including a champion at 120 with Witcher and a state runner-up in Lane Brunk at 106. Stephen Underwood, at 175, and Graylen Castleberry, at 215, both took fifth and Zane Taylor was sixth at 144.

"We had a very successful weekend," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler.

Witcher had pins in three of his four matches. He opened with a 1:02 pin over Liam Donley of Lakeland, then pinned Miles Neil of Rocktown in



the quarterfinals. That set up a big semifinal against two-time state champion Tristan Carter of New Kent. Darin considered that to be his biggest challenge of the tournament.

"That was a revenge match" he said "He was the

"That was a revenge match," he said. "He was the kid who beat me in the state finals my freshman year."

That was at 106 pounds in 2023, and both are bigger and better two years later. This time Witcher proved to be a little better as he took a 10-5 win over Carter, who finished his season 35-11.

Darin met a familiar opponent in the finals, Warren Hicks of Northside. Witcher won the All-Blue Ridge District final when he pinned Hicks in the first period just 1:32 into the match.

"When I got a tight crossface to a bundle, I felt pretty confident that I would win at that point," he said.

With the win Darin finished the season with a 32-5 record. In his three years on the team he's won 99 matches and lost just 13. He'll be looking for his third state championship as a senior.



Above left Lane Brunk took second in the state and, above right, Zane Taylor was sixth. Below left and right, seniors Stephen Underwood and Graylen Castleberry both took fifth places in Class 3. PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER







"He has an opportunity to become the school's first three-time state champion," said Kessler.

That's impressive in a program that's been as successful as the Big Orange. Witcher credits his coach and teammates for helping him achieve his goals.

"Coach Kessler made sure to seek out tough competition to help our team prepare," said Darin. "My team pushes me to work hard and they are my biggest supporters. We had a great season together."

Byrd has another strong lightweight in sophomore Brunk at 106. Lane had pins of 2:57, 5:25 and 5:23 to reach the final where he lost to Paden Alyea of Skyline. Alyea won by tech fall to finish 49-4 on the season and Brunk was 28-11.

"All of his matches leading to the finals were tough and he pulled out falls late in the matches," said Kessler of Brunk.

Underwood and Castleberry are seniors and won fifth place matches to finish their Byrd careers with victories. Underwood was 33-10 at 175 and Castleberry was 30-11 at 215.

"It's very satisfying for them to end their careers on the state podium," said Kessler. "Both guys battled back through the bracket and earned their all-state honors."

Taylor, a sophomore, won his first two matches before dropping to the consolation bracket and finishing sixth. He was 28-11 on the season.

"He had a tough loss in the blood round," said

Raymond Johnson also wrestled in the tournament but did not score as the Terriers took seventh overall. That's five spots better than last year, and with three state place winners returning and some talent on the rise the future looks bright for the Big

Murtaugh, Terrell lead Byrd girls to 9th place finish in state swim meet

The William Byrd girls were ninth and the boys were 28th at the Virginia High School League Class 3 swim meet this week. The meet was held at the SwimRVA facility in Richmond as Western Albemarle High School won both the girls' and boys' team championships.

Byrd's top finish was a second in the 500 Freestyle by junior Lindsay Murtaugh. Lindsay, who was recently named the Region 3D Female Swimmer of the Year, had the best time in the preliminaries at 4:59.81. She went under five minutes again in the finals at 4:59.97 but was second to Western Albemarle freshman Meghan Ayres, who finished in a blazing 4.56.98. Murtaugh also took a fifth in the 200 Free with a time of 1:52.92.

"Lindsay is such a talented distance swimmer," said Byrd coach Krista Martin. "She's so consistent and she's tough! I can't wait to watch Lindsay smash some of our school records during her senior year. It's going to be fun."

Freshman Hadyn Terrell took a fourth in the 100 Breast with a time of 1:05.27 and a fifth in the 200 Individual Medley in 2:08.13..

"Hadyn is incredible to watch," said Martin. "Two top five finishes as a freshman is just fantastic! This is just the beginning for Hadyn."

The girls' 200 medley relay was 10th with Murtaugh, Terrell, Kayleigh Barber and Gabby Romeo. The same four took 12th in the 200 free relay.

The boys' 400 free medley team was 14th with Brody Parrish, Blake Richardson, Chris Hurd, Evan Copening. The same four took 15th in the 200 medley relay. Ben Gardner, Jay Rozenboom and Keith Schult were also on the state team for Byrd.

ley relay. Ben Gardner, Jay Rozenboom and Keith Schult were also on the state team for Byrd.

"These kids swam great," said Martin. "I was so proud of each and every one of them. I am so grateful that we got to have this meet and make these

memories after it was rescheduled so many times."





PHOTOS CURTESY WM. BYRD SWIMMING