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Vinton real estate tax rates remains the same

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council members, including Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Council members Sabrina McCarty, Keith Liles, and Mike Stovall, adopted an ordinance leaving the current real estate property tax rate at \$0.07 per \$100 of assessed value. Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton briefed council on the ordinance at a public hearing held prior to the vote. No public comments were received. Real estate taxes for 2025 are due on June 5 and December 5.

Council also adopted an ordinance setting personal property and machinery and tool tax rates at \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value in 2025. No change was recommended for either tax. Council members voted to keep the tax levy at \$0.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation for one motor vehicle owned and regularly operated by a disabled veteran, subject to qualifications. Personal property taxes are due on May 31.

Prior to the regular council meeting, a work session was held to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Sexton provided a “snapshot” of current FY26 budget preparations which department heads and staff have been working on diligently for several months. With the work session, they were seeking council’s input on what the final budget should look like.

Sexton noted that revenue in the Town of Vinton has seen significant growth in recent years, due to consumer activity (mainly from the host of

See **Council**, page 8



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The GFWC Vinton Woman’s Club, Vinton Town Council, and members of the Vinton Police Dept. planted the annual Pinwheel Garden at the Municipal Building on April 1 to promote National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Pictured are (from left): front, Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, Judy Bannik and Carol Mills from the Woman’s Club, Councilman Mike Stovall, and Deputy Chief of Police Tim Lawless; back row, Officer Sean McKittrick, Lt. Scott Hurt, Council members Sabrina McCarty and Keith Liles, and Kathryn Sowers from the Woman’s Club.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Selma Ferris and Thomas Akers, owners of the Appalachia Training Institute in Vinton

Appalachia Training Institute founded by three partners not interested in retirement

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Interested in a job in the security field? Need to recertify for a security job already held? Want to learn the basics of handguns? Talk to Tom Akers and Selma Ferris, CEOs of Appalachia Training Institute (VA DCJS #88-10749) in Vinton. They are licensed by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. “Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Wisdom” is the core principle behind their business. (Their business sign is a photo of a bridge in Appalachia, one of Akers’ favorite places.)

They say they believe in “delivering top-tier training to both new and experienced security professionals. Whether they work as security officers, private investigators, or special conservators of the peace, it’s essential to ensure they are receiving the best training possible.”

Akers is the Senior Instructor and Training School Director for the company; Ferris is the Chief Information Officer. Akers’ wife, Sharon, is the Chief Financial Officer. They incorporated their business in February 2024, located at 227 S. Maple Street in downtown Vinton.

Ferris and Akers met when she signed up for a recertification class he was teaching. She was “impressed by how great an instructor Tom was; I learned so much—more than in any other class

I had taken.”

At the time, she was a private investigator and security officer. She graduated in 1990 from Blue Ridge Community College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Engineering Technology but eventually began working as a security officer. Her boss suggested she enhance her experience by training in investigations, so she took the course to become registered and kept it renewed through the years.

Later she moved to Roanoke and began working for a private investigation firm handling personal injury cases. Her husband retired, and she chose to be voluntarily unemployed until October 2019, but still signed up to renew her registration for investigations in a training school, where Akers was her instructor.

Akers, a Navy veteran, was working as a fraud investigator for a local bank headquarters. Previously he had conducted investigations with retail and private security and was also a Special Conservator of the Peace (SCOP) at Roanoke College. He had also been the administrator of campus security at Virginia Commonwealth University, where his father had been a police lieutenant. He had served as a regional jail officer. He had also been a truck driver on and off since 1981 off and on, a photographer.

See **Appalachia**, page 8

Herdman shares her knowledge of Native American culture, and Tai Chi

The Central Appalachian Cherokee Tribe is a 501(c)(3) community-based educational tribe. CAC members are descendants of the Cherokee people who once thrived in the area of what is today East Tennessee, East Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, parts of North Carolina, and southern West Virginia.

Their website defines their purpose as helping to support the communities of the central Appalachian region through volunteerism and philanthropy and to keep the memory of their ancestors alive. “We want to remember them, as we know that their life was hard, and their true identity was considered shameful in this time of American history.”

Since many descendants of the Central Appalachian Cherokee assimilated or died before the Indian Removal Act of 1830,

as well as before the organization of the Dawes Rolls from 1899-1907 listing those accepted as Native American (a paper genocide), tribal membership is based on Native American blood quantum and/or family history (oral or documented).

Ren Herdman, who grew up in Vinton and graduated from William Byrd High School in the 1980s, is the CEO “Chief” of the tribe—the first female to hold that position. Her interests and careers have expanded through the years. She started off as a radio and TV reporter and broadcaster (including as a meteorologist), magazine writer, movie actor, educator, martial arts instructor, member of the military, chaplain, author, and speaker – living and working in many parts of the country.

Her goal seems to always have been “to

make a difference in the world.”

Although she now lives in South Carolina, Herdman frequently visits Southwest Virginia to share her knowledge, most recently through her program on “Native America: Different Tribes, Different Journeys.” On March 29, she presented the program at the Charles R. Hill Community Center in Vinton.

Not only is Herdman an educator on Native American culture, she is also the highest-ranked, multi-ethnic female martial artist in the world in her form of hand-to-hand combat having earned a 7th-degree black belt. That led to another appearance at the community center in Vinton on March 31 for a class in Defensive Cane Tai Chi, adapted for the elderly in the community where she lives.

See **Herdman**, page 5

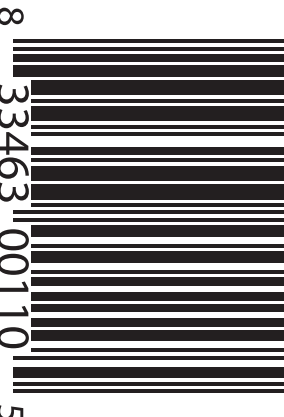


Native American and Vinton native Ren Herdman (left), along with Ashes Dearing, and Cherokee Princess Aleni Garcia (right) display a Cherokee ribbon shawl at the Native American presentation in Vinton on March 29.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Ren Herdman, a 7th-degree black belt, demonstrates techniques of Cane Defense to a class at the Vinton community center on March 31.



Dogwood Festival through the Decades – 40th Anniversary in 1995



Country music star Tom T. Hall, the grand marshal of the 1995 Dogwood Festival Parade, crowned new Dogwood Queen Christine Marie Grecus.



Attorney Bryce Mayer served as president of the Dogwood Festival in 1995.



Local artist Ethel Dickerson participated in the 1995 Dogwood Festival Art Show.



The William Byrd High School Tootin' Terriers led the 1995 Vinton Dogwood Parade.



The Kings performed at the Vinton Dogwood Festival in 1995

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

In 1995, the Town of Vinton celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Vinton Dogwood Festival. Attorney Bruce Mayer served as the president of the festival that year. The 1995 Dogwood Festival was held on a warm, sunny Saturday – April 29.

Mayer said that the trick to a successful Dogwood Festival was “the right mix of tradition and change. The Dogwood Parade is an expression of the American spirit.”

In the early years of the festival (which originated in 1956), the Dogwood Queen had been selected from visiting bands by their student bodies. Then for a time, the Miss Dogwood Festival Pageant had been affiliated with the Miss Virginia and Miss America Pageants, but that relationship ended in 1994. In 1995, the Dogwood Committee decided to honor a William Byrd High School senior as queen, a tradition which has continued from then on.

In 1995, the queen was one of 10 seniors at WBHS selected by the Senior Class. The girls were interviewed by a panel of judges, who then named the new Dogwood Queen. Judges that year were former Vinton Dogwood Festival Queen and Miss Virginia 1984 Lisa Aliff, Vickie Damico, and designer Alberto de Bobe.

Christine Marie Grecus, the daughter of Robert and Marie Grecus, was chosen as the Dogwood Queen in 1995 and crowned by Parade Grand Marshal and country music recording star Tom T. Hall.

Her activities included interning at WSLs Channel 10 News, serving as anchorwoman of WBHS Video News, and running cross country as captain of the team. She was the MVP of the

track and field team at WBHS for two years, served as the high school newspaper editor, and was a member of the Beta and German Clubs. Her future plans were to major in communications at Virginia Tech and enter the field of broadcast journalism.

Grecus was crowned at noon at the Vinton War Memorial and honored with a luncheon.

Grand Marshal Tom T. Hall got his start in the Roanoke Valley. He moved to Roanoke in 1957 after serving his time in the Army, worked as a radio copy writer, and studied writing at Roanoke College. He wrote his earliest successful songs while living in Roanoke.

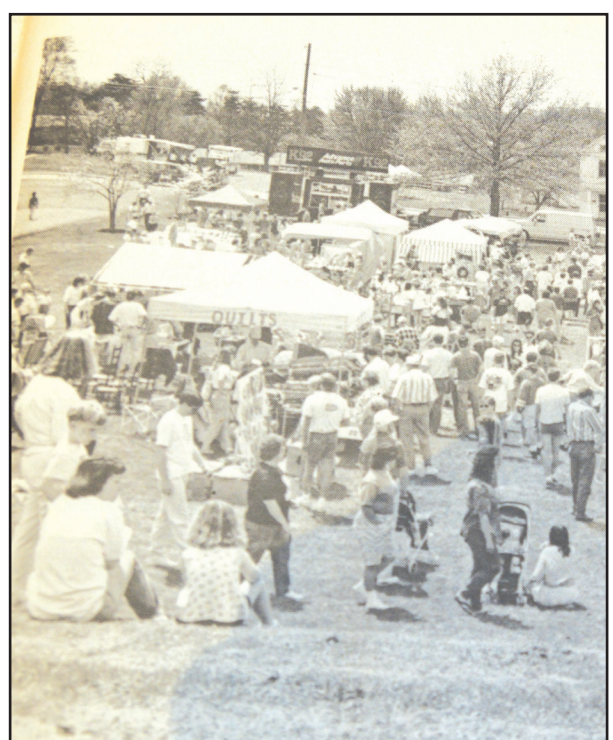
The Tootin' Terriers from William Byrd High School led the parade. The band from Staunton River High School won first place in the competition. The parade also featured some 200 members of the Kazim Marching Patrol in 40 vehicles with clowns from six states.

Dogwood Day activities included not just the crowning of the queen and the parade, but the traditional Antique Automobile Show, festival rides (a new addition at the Vinton Farmers' Market), and the Festival Foot Race (with 200 entrants).

The 1995 festival brought back the Art Show which had been on hiatus for several years. Fifty artists entered, including Vintonites Ethel Dickerson, Jim Reynolds, Patsy Crowder, Dorothy Doss, and Lois Boitnott Poff.

All weekend, Roland E. Cook Elementary sponsored the Franzen Brothers Circus, featuring elephants, lions, tigers, clowns, jugglers, and aerial artists.

The parade was followed by a “jam session” featuring the “Load,” meant to attract a young adult crowd, at the request of Mayer’s 19-year-old daughter, Julie, who wanted to make the festival attractive to all age groups. Live music was also



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM
Attendance was up at the 1995 Dogwood Festival with a large crowd visiting the vendors at the Vinton War Memorial.

presented by the highly acclaimed “Kings.”
The 2025 Vinton Dogwood Festival is coming up on April 26 and 27, featuring a concert on Friday night and a full day of activities on Saturday, including the crowning of the new Dogwood Queen, who will once again be riding with her court through the streets of downtown Vinton via horse-drawn carriages.

Vinton 2050 Plan coming down the homestretch

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For the past year, the Town of Vinton, the Planning Commission, and many citizens have been working with consultants from 3TP Ventures to develop a long-range plan for Vinton’s future in the next 25 years – the Vinton 2050 Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan includes a future land use plan, a town-wide plan to identify appropriate areas for residential, commercial, mixed-use, and industrial development and areas to be preserved for parks and open space. The plan will also identify future public investments, such as major street improvements, new sidewalks and greenway trails, new parks, and community infrastructure needs such as stormwater facilities.

Nine citizens have donated their time serving on the Advisory Committee to help



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

develop the plan over the course of the year; they anticipate completion of the plan in May 2025. They include town residents, business

owners, property owners, developers, long-time and new residents, a member from the Planning

See 2050, page 5

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Vinton Oakey’s hosts Employee Appreciation Day

The Oakey’s Funeral Home Vinton Chapel held the Annual Employee Appreciation Day on March 26. Mayor Brad Grose was the guest speaker and updated the staff who attended on recent and future happenings in Vinton.

“As I looked at Oakey’s history, I found it to be very impressive and inspiring,” said Mayor Grose. “One thing that really struck me was a description of what happened in 1866. The website stated, John Oakey soon turned his talent and aptitude to the ‘public service’ feature of his business.

“My thoughts were, what a great foundation for a business and what a wonderful goal for all of us. Especially if you want to have a great town.

“Oakey’s early support of the Roanoke Life Saving Crew and other civic organizations is evidence of the ongoing contributions that

Oakey’s has made to this entire valley. A recent demonstration of Oakey’s continuing support of our community was the sponsorship of the ‘Lunch and Learn’ activity organized by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Because of their commitment to quality service, Oakey’s has enjoyed great success over the years.

“The Town of Vinton has experienced some success too, especially during the past few years: the Glade Creek Greenway, the Walnut Avenue Parking Lot, the McClung Building, the Downtown Vinton fire-damaged property, the new hotel, the Vinton Dry Cleaners building, the Cleveland Commons Apartments, the MA Banks Park improvements, the Vinton Community Park (near the War Memorial), street paving, and the Vinton War

Memorial improvements.

“In addition, most of our businesses are doing well. The Town of Vinton has truly been blessed, and we are doing well, although not perfect. The town recently demonstrated (tested) a new proposed traffic pattern that was not well received.

“Recently, I was asked what I meant by the term ‘Vinton Experience.’ I explained that in Vinton we are seeking growth, maintaining our core values, and supporting change.

“That seems very close to the Oakey’s slogan of ‘Tradition and Innovation in Funeral Care.’”

Oakey’s holds Appreciation Days at all their locations. The business was established in 1866. The Oakey’s location in Vinton opened in 1971.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

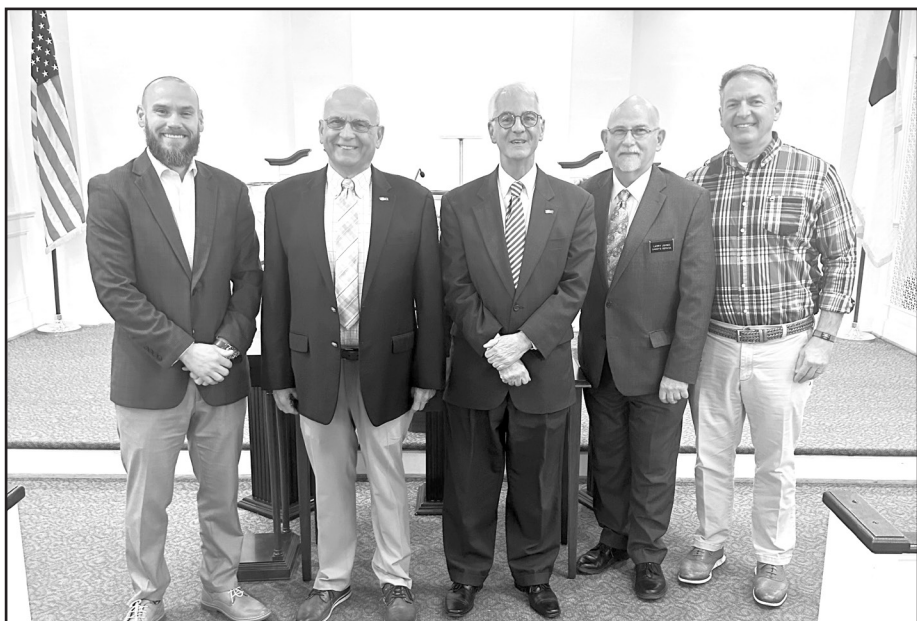
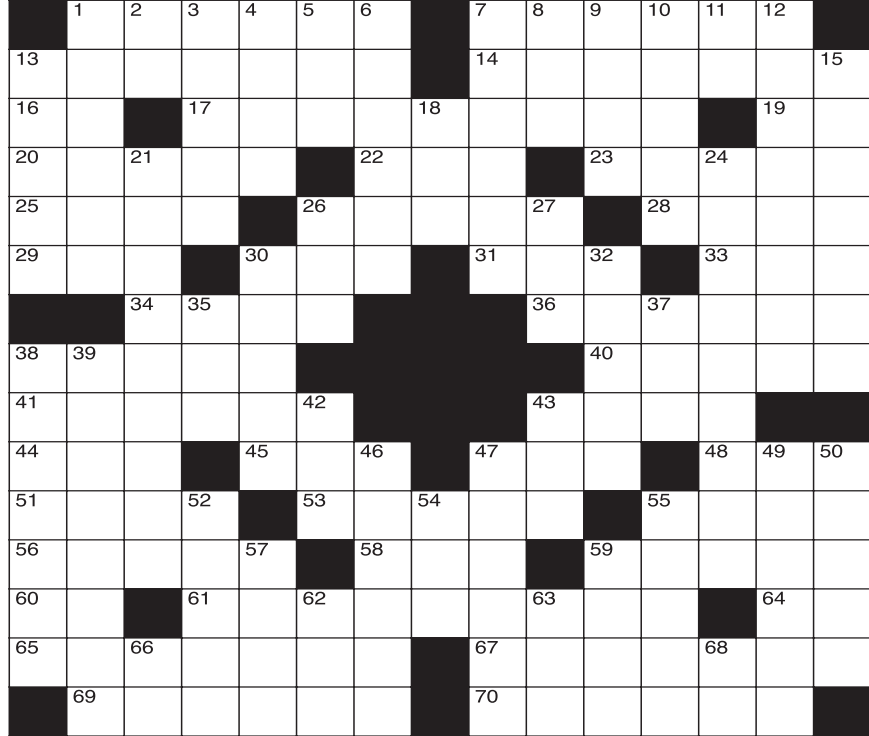


PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH ABBOTT

Pictured left to right are Oakey’s General Manager Joshua Dama, Mayor Brad Grose, Oakey’s President Sam Oakey, Vinton Chapel Manager Larry Joines, and Chief Financial Officer Charles Garner.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. “The First State”
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. “Dallas Buyers’ Club” actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel’s partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulpit
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position

VINTON HISTORY: Wilbourn Saddles

The Wilbourn Saddle, later known as a Buena Vista Saddle, was invented by William Wilbourn of Lexington, Va. The Wilbourn Saddle Tree was patented by Wilbourn in 1883 with its unique design that involved the tapering of the tree for the comfort of the rider. The width of the saddle tree also made the saddle less stressful to the horse’s back. Made as late as the early 1960s, they remained consistent in appearance throughout their production.

The Wilbourn/Buena Vista Saddle was often made and sold to outside contractors for finishing or even sold to individuals as a “kit,” complete with leather and hardware. The Wilbourn/Buena Vista Saddle was never a Confederate pattern saddle; however, it was a very common and popular commercial saddle pattern that was manufactured from 1883 until the early 1960s.

Knock-offs are made today although the old original Wilbourn/Buena



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE TUCEI

Vista Saddles were very durable and are occasionally still found in regular use. (Source: www.confederatesaddles.com:

See History, page 4

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

BAPTIST (COOPERATIVE)
VINTON BAPTIST CHURCH - 219 Washington 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

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

SICK WITH SIN

Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22

Every one of the world’s billions of people will face injury and illness in life. No one can escape pain and suffering. When we hurt, we usually seek help. We bandage wounds, take medication, visit a physician—all in an effort to gain healing.

Why aren’t we as eager to cure sin? Why don’t we deal with it as we do other ailments? God provided a solution for sin: repent, confess, and forsake the sin. Yet we often ignore it or let it go until it looms full-blown and potentially life-threatening (Psalm 38:5,6).

I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin (Psalm 38:18).

The best time to address sin is when we first experience sin symptoms. It’s best to remove a sliver before it gets infected, even though it may cause momentary discomfort. In the same way we should dig out any scrap of embedded sin before it leads to something worse.

Jesus is our Great Physician and the Bible our spiritual medicine chest. Our Divine Doctor prescribes daily doses as preventative treatment against sin.

Thought for Today: What remedy do you find today in God’s Word?

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8–18

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, “The 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 NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 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.



GRAPHIC COURTESY ROANOKE COUNTY LIBRARY

Vinton to celebrate Arbor Day

The Town of Vinton will partner with the Vinton Library to host their annual Arbor Day Celebration on Thursday, April 24, at 11 a.m. Toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend. Please pre-register at <https://roanokecountyva.libcal.com/event/13454877> as space is limited. Registration is now open. Enjoy a special tree-themed story time and craft in honor of Arbor Day and meet special guests and forest friends.

~Submitted by Town of Vinton



FILE PHOTO

Pine Spur hosting Spring Festival/Draft Horse Pull

The Pine Spur Hunt Club, established in 1953, will be hosting the Spring Festival and Draft Horse Pull on April 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The club is located off Route 24 just outside of Vinton. This will be a public event for all ages with craft vendors, a quilt show, food vendors, live music, business booths, a Kids Zone (pony rides, games, petting zoo, etc.), horse breed demos, agriculture demos, and a Horse Educational Experience and Ride, with a Draft

Horse Pull to finish off the day. Turn onto Route 635, Jeters Chapel Road, then make a left on Pine Spur Road. Parking is free. The event is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids. Kids under 4 are free. Tickets are sold at the gate. 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. In 1953 a group of horse-loving families in the Vinton area established the Pine Spur Hunt Club to offer “fellowship, recreation, social activities, and an opportunity to enjoy and share the privileges and

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Bootie Chewning
Well, it’s Mom to the rescue of Angie, since she has rescued me for the past eight years while I have been on the sick list. Yes, my baby girl, Angie, had rotator cuff surgery on her right shoulder last Thursday, and, yes, she is right-handed. She has been in so much pain. What we do to help often hurts afterward. Carol Mattox had hers done two weeks ago, and her pain has been terrible, too.

Angie doesn’t miss work often and especially because of health issues. It’s hard to take off due to so much going on with the Chamber. Yep! Lunch and Learn, Mingle at the Market and other meetings, etc. And Momma can’t help her physically like I used to. Prayers with you to get well soon, Angie. Love ya!

Jodie Moore, a William Byrd graduate, is still going strong with her music, after years of being a musical director on, and touring in, several shows over the years. She left this past Monday on a cruise sailing from Miami to Cozumel, Mexico, from March 31 to April 4 as a conductor with “The Broadway Cruise 3.” I did see that one of



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOTIE CHEWNING

On a trip to New York—front row, Jodie Moore (left) with Stacie Brown Brinkley, and back row, Dawson Brinkley and Kendall Gordon.

the stars is Wayne Brady. Smooth sailing Jodie! Jodie had some excitement a couple of weeks ago. Her friend of many years, Stacie Brown Brinkley, son, Dawson, and Kendall Gordon visited and had a blast in New York. Jodie has got to be a great guide. Talking about Broadway – the final Arnold R. Burton class at the Center for Performing Arts will perform their last show on April 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. and on the 26th there will be a matinee a 2 p.m. at Glenvar High School. That big show is “Chicago,” directed by Kelli Manor. What a big undertaking; however, I’m sure the group can handle it. Break a leg to all! P.S. – sure hate to see this program stop being. Did they not think of where the kids are going to go for theater? Put the dates on your calendar now and attend.

beauty of the great outdoors and to promote good sportsmanship.” They held their first horse show in 1954 at the Gross family farm, off of Mountain View Road in Vinton. Pine Spur is now a non-profit group made up of horse owners/appreciators, and friends. They have three shows a year (April, July, and September) with their 72nd annual horse show coming up in July.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

The Vinton Messenger

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1633 W. Main St.
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ourvalley.org

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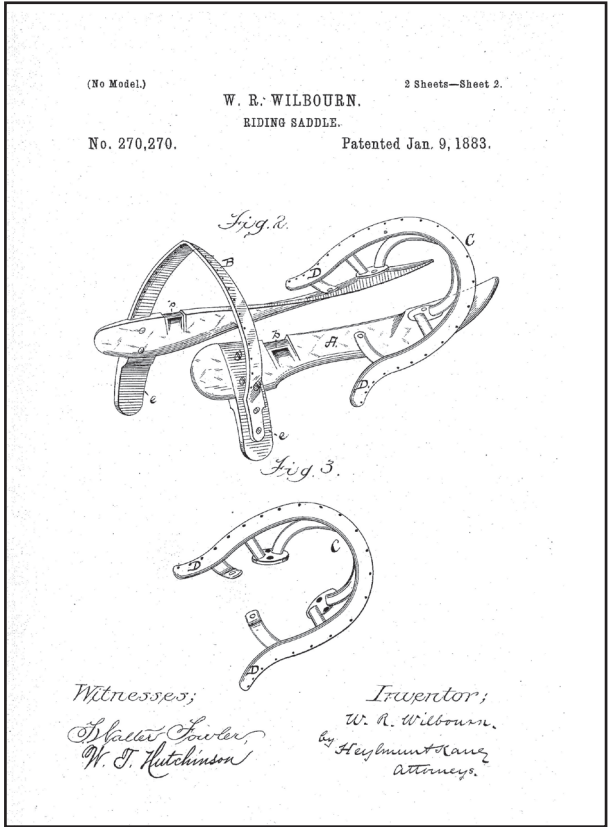
Michael Showell, *Publisher*.....
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....aboyd@ourvalley.org
Matt de Simone, *Editor*.....fincastle.editor@ourvalley.org
Debbie Adams, *Staff Writer*.....dadams@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*fincastle@ourvalley.org
Ali Wall, *Advertising*.....awall@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$46 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$50 a year in adjoining counties, \$54 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

History

from page 3



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE TUCEI

Commercial and Catalog Saddles of 19th & Early 20th Century America by Ken R. Knopp, October 29, 2008)

The Wilbourn Saddle housed in the Vinton History Museum’s collection was made by John Miller Saddlery Co. in Louisville, Ky., and was owned by Dr. Robert Hunter Garthright.

Born in Henrico County, Va., on April 4, 1858, Dr. Garthright studied medicine at the Medical College of Virginia and was regarded as one of the leading physicians in Southwest Virginia. He moved to the Vinton area in 1889 and faithfully served the Vinton community and surrounding areas as a physician for 55 years. Dr. Garthright was often referred to as the “Daddy of Vinton.” Shortly before his death on May 2, 1944, he was credited with delivering his 1,939th baby! The bridge over the NS Railway tracks on Gus Nicks Boulevard was dedicated in his honor in 1952 by then Virginia Governor John S. Battle as the Garthright Memorial Bridge. (Source: Vinton History 1884 to 1984 by Irma Trammel Moseley and Madeline Simmons Forbes)

See this unique saddle at the Vinton History Museum, located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton; open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. “Preserving the Past for the Future.”

Stop by the Museum on April 5 (a first Saturday) for an event honoring volunteers.

Submitted by Julie Tucei

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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2050

from page 2

Commission and Town Council, a former council member and former regional stormwater committee member. They are a diverse group of individuals offering a mix of backgrounds and experiences to ensure a well-rounded and inclusive approach to developing the plan.

Advisory Committee members are Keith Liles (a member of Town Council and the Planning Commission), Seth Wilkinson (property manager for the Roland E. Cook Lofts), Stephanie Brown Mead (property and business owner, property management company); Anthony Conner (property/business owner of the Conner Group), Jonathan Murrill (resident/property owner/artist), James Wright (Vinton resident/property owner/Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church), Ray Sandifer (long-time Vinton resident/property owner/former Town Council member/citizen rep for RVTv), Tiffany Rawling (property owner/resident), and Kerry Werner (resident/property).

After a year of meetings and discussions, the consultants have zeroed

in on 10 “vision elements” for the 25-year plan focused on the needs of the community, land use planning, and improvements to transportation. During their sixth official meeting on March 26, the Advisory Committee focused on prioritizing the “big, impactful” elements of the plan.

3TP Consultant Mike Callahan chose four potential actions for each vision and the committee prioritized them using the mentimeter app on their phones for polling.

Priorities chosen by the Advisory Committee were:

- Vision 1: For “Keeping Vinton as a sociable and welcoming town” the vote was for “developing a master plan for town-owned properties both downtown and around the Vinton War Memorial” as the highest priority. There was an intense side discussion on modernizing the Charles R. Hill Community Center.
- Vision 2: For “Developing a thriving and authentic downtown” the top choice was “moving the post office and fire and rescue station out

of downtown.” It was pointed out that the Post Office does not generate any revenue for the Town of Vinton as it is operated by the United States Postal Service.

- Vision 3: For “Making Vinton an Outdoor Recreation Hub,” committee members considered building the greenway between Gish Mill and Vinyard Park as the top priority.
- Vision 4: For “ Housing for All Phases of Life,” members ranked modernizing zoning to support more housing townwide as most impactful.
- Vision 5: For “Safe Streets for All,” committee members favored a “fill the gap” program for sidewalk construction. However, the exorbitant costs of sidewalk construction was a focus of the discussion.
- Vision 6: For “Becoming an Environmental Stewardship Leader,” members ranked investing in landscaping, trees, and green infrastructure downtown to “reduce stormwater run-off and summer heat” as most important for inclusion in the plan.
- Vision 7: For “Parks for All,”

developing a master plan for Gearhart and Glade Creek Parks was ranked as the highest priority.

- Vision 8: For being “Adaptable,” Advisory Committee members chose updating the town’s zoning code to provide more flexibility of land uses in the areas on the vision map designated as “transform” and “revitalize.” This zoning reform is a nationwide trend to remove obstacles from development.
 - Vision 9: For “Exceptional Town Services and Infrastructure,” the committee’s choice was to invest in green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff. There was discussion of the aging underground pipes in Vinton, many of which need to be replaced sooner rather than later.
 - Vision 10: For “Connected and Collaborative with the Region,” supporting improvements to streets connecting Vinton and downtown Roanoke was selected as most impactful to the future of Vinton.
- Callahan sees the plan as “coming down the homestretch” and hopes to have the Vinton 2050 draft plan completed by the end of April.

Herdman

from page 1

During the presentation on Native America, Herdman spoke of her multi-ethnic background (she is Cherokee on her father’s side of the family, Asian on her mother’s), why so many who believe they have Native American ancestry are unable to prove their lineage, and her Christian faith. She brought with her many artifacts, some archaic, and talked about what they were used for and where they were found.

She brought feathers, which are considered to be very spiritual in Native American cultures, because birds fly closest to the creator. She brought a buffalo hairpipe bone chest protector, worn by warriors and a bone choker necklace, also representing warriorship. She displayed and explained a war club, a box turtle powwow shaker, Cherokee regalia and the

European influence on Native American clothing through trade.

She brought projectile points, gaming stones, scrapers, and innumerable rocks formed into many shapes with many uses. Stone was the one hard and easily found material the Indians had. Herdman says there are rock preforms (unfinished tools) scattered all around the area which “people don’t know exactly what it is, but they know it’s something.”

She talked about the importance of blankets in Cherokee culture as related to the Trail of Tears. Native Americans used what they had so Cherokee jewelry generally used beads from seeds, nuts, shells found in the Eastern United States – not from turquoise found out West. Shells were also used as money.

Herdman noted that Native

Americans in the Roanoke area lived in longhouses, not tepees, adding sections as a family grew. She explained that Native American cultures are matriarchal – the women are in charge. And most of the roads throughout Southwest Virginia began as Native American hunting trails.

She said that in Virginia for many years it was actually “illegal” to be Native American – you had to be classified as black or white.

As for the Cane Tai Chi session on March 31, Herdman visited the Community Center’s “Eight Immortals Tai Chi Cane and Defensive Cane Class” several months ago, taught by Steve Garay. That visit inspired her to develop a form of the program which she is now teaching to the elderly in her tribe, a combination of Cane

Defense and Korean Hapkido.

Herdman, with the assistance of Garay, demonstrated several different defensive moves using the cane, beginning with bringing the cane tip down on top of the assailant’s foot, in their solar plexus or on their head. She emphasized the use of the waist in twists and thrusts, and urged participants in the class to vocalize while responding to an attack with screams, “ughs” and other frightful sounds.

She and Garay pointed out the advantages of always carrying a cane, which can go places a gun can’t – and are legal on airplanes.

Herdman will be back in Vinton again at the end of April for the Vinton Dogwood Festival with the CAC Tribal Summit 2025. The organization will be setting up on the greenway by Glade Creek behind the Billy

Byrd Apartments for tours along the creek “where Native Americans have left their mark.” Local artifacts will be on display, some found in the Glade Creek area.

The dates are Friday, April 25, with tours at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 5 p.m. and on Saturday, April 26, with tours at 10 a.m. and 12 noon, with presentations by members of the tribe after the tours.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 26th, CAC members will be participating in the walking Dogwood Festival Parade. There is ample parking in the lots and by the walking path.

Also, on the day of the Dogwood Festival, Garay and his class will be doing a Tai Chi performance in observance of World Tai Chi Day at 10 a.m. in the parking lot behind Vinton Baptist Church.

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316; -317, 20-104
Case No. CL25000550-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
Kayla Dawn Comer, Stanley Hunter Early v.
Commonwealth of Virginia,

The object of this suit is to: Name change of a minor
It is ORDERED that Anthony Paul Early appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 26th, 2025 @ 9:00 AM.
Entered March 17, 2025
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316; -317, 20-104
Case No. CL25000555-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073
Megan Alyssa Sawyers v.
Elden Raul Gonzalez

The object of this suit is to: Divorce
It is ORDERED that Elden Raul Gonzalez appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 27, 2025 @ 9:00 AM.
Entered March 25, 2025
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 295 NEWTOWN ROAD, SHAWSVILLE, VA 24162.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 2, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$139,200.00 recorded in the Clerk’s Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007013212. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or

Legals - Montgomery County

any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on May 19, 2025, at 1:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDE OF NEWTOWN ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF SHAWSVILLE, SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF NEW PARCEL 2, CONTAINING 0.374 ACRES AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF C.B. SISSON AND R.D. SISSON BOUNDARY LINE REVISION AND LOT LINE VACATIONS, PREPARED BY C.S. CORRELL, L.S. PLAN #P-1095, DATED APRIL 2, 1999 A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED HEREWITH IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 74, AND TO WHICH MAP REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREBY CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder’s deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser’s deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee’s Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the

Legals - Montgomery County

Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. A form copy of the Trustee’s memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.
Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.
For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-375117-1.

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Cemetery Plots
For Sale

NOTICE OF INTENT
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Evergreen Develop Co., Inc., owners of Evergreen Burial Park declares its Intention to recover the abandoned cemetery lot know as Section O, Lot #14 own by and in the name of John W. Payne and Annie Frances Payne. If there is no response from said lot owners or their heirs of assigns within 120 days from the publication of this notice, the interment rights shall be deemed abandoned and shall revert to Evergreen Burial Park, 1307 Summit Avenue, SW

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The position calls for a motivated individual to run a variety of equipment including laser cutter, turret punch, press brake, and other equipment as needed. Medium to high volume orders will require paying strict attention to detail. Requirements include understanding and performing machine setups, resolving machinery issues to clear bottlenecks, and performing equipment preventive maintenance.

We're looking for problem solvers with critical thinking and analytic skills and a good work ethic. Reliable transportation needed. All candidates may be required to operate a forklift and pallet jack. Performing timely quality checks and having safety awareness are necessary to the job.

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Help Wanted
PleasantDale Church of the Brethren seeks a pianist to play at the 11 o'clock Sunday service. Salary negotiable. Call Pastor David Tozar, 540-580-3257 or Gary Creed, 540-537-2412.

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Legals -
City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Gwynn Properties, LLC, contract purchaser, to rezone the property located at 220 Brand Avenue (T/M# 74-2-8) from HBD Highway Business District with conditions to HBD Highway Business District.
2. Consider the request of Riverland Oaks, LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 19 Carey Avenue (T/M# 83-1-11) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to RB Residential Business District with proffered conditions.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY: Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

Legals -
Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF 249 RAINBOW
FOREST DRIVE,
BLUE RIDGE, VA
24064.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 26, 2021, in the original principal amount of \$310,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 210002895. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BLUE RIDGE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 1, IN BLOCK 1, SECTION 2, SHOWN ON "MAP OF SECTION 2 OAK WOOD", MADE BY T. P. PARKER & SON, ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS, AND OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGE 192. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the

Legals -
Botetourt County

deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-364124-1.

TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF 1412 Narrow
Passage Road,
Buchanan, VA
24066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$260,988.00 dated June 24, 2022 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on June 24, 2022 as Instrument Number: 220002472, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on May 2, 2025 at 4:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: All that certain tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon located and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, situated in Botetourt County, Virginia, on the North side of Highway No. 43 (Narrow Passage Road, formerly Springwood Road) and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit; BEGINNING at a stake in the North line of Highway No. 43 (Narrow Passage Road, formerly Springwood Road), corner to the tract sold to Thomas Molony (see Deed Book No. 97, page 48, in the following name Clerk's Office), and thence with the latter, North 9° West 1382.5 feet to a stake in the outside line; thence with the same, North 49° East 150 feet to a stake in said line; thence a new line South 9° East 1470 feet to a stake in the line of said Road or Highway No. 43, and with the same South 79° 58' West 122 feet to the point of BEGINNING, and containing 4 acres of land, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT 1.40 acres which William Owen Breedlove and his wife, Dolly Kelly Breedlove, sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia for Highway No. 81 — a description of which land so sold off and which is reserved and excepted from this conveyance will be found in Deed Book 139 at page 481 and Deed Book 149 at page 491, to which Deed Books and pages in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, reference is here and now made for a description of the land so sold to the Commonwealth of Virginia and which land is reserved and excepted and excluded from this Deed and Conveyance, Thus, the land hereby conveyed by this Deed contains approximately 2.60 acres, more or less; Tax ID: 22174. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a

Legals -
Botetourt County

communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 24-011096) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this sale. Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832.

Legals -
City of Radford

Order of
Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Civil Case No. **24-7300 VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF RADFORD,**

THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA
Plaintiff vs
The heirs and devisees of HOWARD WALKER, deceased
PATSY WALKER WHITTAKER, deceased
The heirs and devisees of JOHNNY LEE WALKER, deceased
JOHN "J.C." WALKER
JAMES TRACY
CARILION NEW RIVER VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER
MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Plaintiff for delinquent taxes against certain real estate described as follows: All that parcel of land in the City of Radford, Virginia, known as 2412 Second Street and designated as tax map number 19- (7)-SEC 17-14 standing in the name of Howard Walker, pursuant to Section 58.1-3965 et. Seq. of the Code of Virginia. And an affidavit having been filed that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Emma Leigh Whittaker and Ma kea la Whittaker, whose last known post office address is 1780 Gallimore Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073; that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Melody Johnston Martin, whose last known post office address is 1408 Grove Drive, Pulaski, VA 24301; that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Thomas Linkous, whose last known post office address is 222 Allen Avenue #49, Radford, VA 24141; and that due diligence has been used to ascertain the location of Hallie Linkous, whose last known post office address is 108 Jeffries Drive, Unit J, Radford, VA 24141. It is ORDERED that this order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Radford News Journal and that the parties named herein appear on or before 6.20.25, at 9:30 a.m. in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this suit. Enter this 20th day of March, 2025. Angel Turpin CDC Clerk

I ask for this:
James W. Elliott p.q.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1410
Yorktown, VA 23692
(757) 898-7000

Legals -
Montgomery County

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen

Legals -
Montgomery County

comments regarding the Board of Supervisors' intention to act on the following Ordinance:

A request by **Fotheringay, LLC** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) for an amendment to the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan to change the policy map designation of approximately 633.72 acres of property, located off Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road) between Crozier Road and Graham Street, from Resource Stewardship to Village Expansion. The request would further designate 307.72 acres of the total 633.72 acres in Village Expansion as Open Space, with the remaining 326 acres designated as Medium-Density Residential, within the Elliston Lafayette Village. The Medium-Density Residential policy designation permits single-family housing at a density of no greater than five dwelling units per acre. The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 072-A 2, 54.343 acres (Parcel ID: 023523); 072-1 56, 37.824 acres (Parcel ID: 013681); 059-3 58, 15.3 acres (Parcel ID: 013682); 059-3 57, 59, 60.7 acres (Parcel ID: 013683); 072-1 60, 73(1)6, 304.4 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, (Parcel ID: 013680).

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.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatin> ns.

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor'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.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatio> ns.

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

Legals -
Montgomery County

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on April 14, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisor'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.

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 April 9, 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 request: A request by **Stateson Homes** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) to rezone 276.66 total acres, owned by Fotheringay, LLC, from Agricultural (A-1) to Planned Unit Development-Residential (PUD-RES), with proffered conditions. The proposed request would rezone a 32.52 acre portion of 53.343 acres of Tax Map 072-A 02 (Parcel ID 023523); a 35.531 acre portion of 37.824 acres of Tax Map 072-1 56 (Parcel ID 013681); 15.3 acres of Tax Map 059-3 58 (Parcel ID 013682); 60.70 acres of Tax Map 059-3 57, 59 (Parcel ID 013683); a 122.03 acre portion of 304.40 acres of Tax Map 072-1 60, 73(1)6 (Parcel ID 013684); and a 10.58 acre portion of 188.10 acres of Tax Map 072-A 4 (Parcel ID 013680). The requested rezoning would facilitate the development of a mixed residential development consisting of up to 409 residential units, at a density of 1.5 units per acre. The proposed development would consist of a mixture of single-family detached and single-family attached (townhouse and villas) residential units. AND A request by **Stateson Homes** (Agent: Balzer and Associates) for a Special Use Permit to allow increased height in the PUD-RES zoning district on property owned by Fotheringay, LLC. The requested Special Use Permit would allow maximum height of 40 feet for single-family detached units and villa units and a maximum height of 45 feet for single-family attached (townhouse and villas) lots. The property is currently located in an area designated as Resource Stewardship in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the

Legals -
Montgomery County

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 April 9, 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 intention to act on the following Special Use Permit request:

A request by Shah Development LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a Contractor's storage yard. It is proposed that an existing structure on the site will be used for storage as will on-site outdoor storage. The site is located at the western terminus of Flanagan Drive, Christiansburg (F060), and is located approximately 1.2 miles west of Riner Road (St. Rt. 8). The property is further identified as Tax Map 106-A 7C1 (Parcel ID: 290036), 18.784 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Riner Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Resource Stewardship 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 <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplicatio> ns.

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 **April 9, 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 Rezoning request: A request by **Northstar Church** (Agent: Balzer & Associates) to rezone 10 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Community Business (CB), with proffered conditions, to allow for future expansion opportunities for the existing church. The property is located at 3929 Price's Fork Road and is further identified as Tax Map 052-A 127 (Parcel ID: 210174). The property is currently located in an area designed as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designated as Traditional Neighborhood Design and Open Space in the Prices Fork Village Plan. The property is in the Prices Fork Magisterial District. 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.

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**Legals -
Montgomery County**

**New River Valley
(NRV) HOME
Consortium &
Town of
Blacksburg
Notice of Public
Hearing
2025 Annual Action
Plan & Citizen
Participation Plan
for HOME
&Community
Development Block
Grant Programs**

In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the NRV HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg will hold a public comment period regarding the draft 2025 Annual Action Plan for the NRV HOME Program, Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and proposed revisions to its Citizen Participation Plan. The public comment period begins on April 2 and ends on May 1, 2025. The Annual Action Plan provides a yearly accounting of HOME and CDBG funds allocated to the implementation of objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan identifies community needs and proposed solutions in the areas of Housing, Special Needs, Economic Development and Non-Housing Community Development. The Citizen Participation Plan details how the public will be involved in CDBG and HOME program planning. Funding for the 2025 fiscal year is unknown at this time. This Action Plan was developed using 2024 allocation amounts of \$541,225 CDBG funds and \$547,113 HOME funds. All proposed project budgets will be proportionally

**Legals -
Montgomery County**

increased or decreased to match actual allocations.

Contingent on funding, CDBG goals and proposed use of 2025 funds are:

- 1) Support affordable housing - \$355,558
- 2) Prevent and end homelessness- \$17,685
- 3) Support non-homeless special needs- \$59,736
- 4) Administration- 108,245

CDBG TOTAL - \$541,225

Contingent on funding, proposed use of 2025 HOME funds are:

- 1) HOME Administration - \$54,711
- 2) Community Housing Development Organization Operations- \$27,346
- 3) Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$236,137
- 4) Stroubles Ridge Project – \$70,000
- 5) Claremont School Redevelopment - \$158,919

HOME Total - \$547,113

The 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, draft 2025 Action Plan, and draft revised Citizen Participation Plan is available at: www.blacksburg.gov/HUDpl an

A public hearing to share comments on the 2025 Action Plan and revised Citizen Participation Plan will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 12 pm via zoom and 5pm in person at the Housing and Community Connections office, 303 Wilson Ave, Blacksburg. Please email jmmaher@blacksburg.gov for the zoom link or to submit comments. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1615.



**Legals -
Montgomery County**

**Order of
Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.**CA25000005-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST
MAIN STREET, SUITE 1,
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA
24073

GILLIAN ROSE SCHNIDER
MANNEBACH and
MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER
MANNEBACH, Petitioners
v.
Commonwealth of Virginia,

The object of this suit is to:
ADOPTION OF CHILD TO
BE KNOWN AS CORY
ROSE IRENE RODGERS
It is ORDERED that
EDWARD LEE RODGERS
appear at the above-named
court and protect his/her
interests on or before May
16th, 2025
@ 9:00 AM.
Entered March 17, 2025
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk
Judge

**Order of
Publication**

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.**CL25-260**

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE COUNTY
OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY OF
MONTGOMERY,
VIRGINIA, a Political
Subdivision of the
Commonwealth of Virginia,
Complainant, v.
PATSY ANN CALDWELL,
ET AL., Respondents.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 063-A-2-35,36
Account No. 002962

**Legals -
Montgomery County**

All those two (2) certain lots or parcels of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and being Lots No. Thirty-Five (35) and Thirty-Six (36) as shown and described on a map of the portion of the E.P. Eskridge Property on New River, which map is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 1111 at Page 186.

And being the same real property conveyed to Charles E. Caldwell and Patsy Ann Caldwell, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship, from Larry Snow Vaught and Hilda May Vaught, husband and wife, by deed, dated August 28, 1967 and recorded September 27, 1967 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book 279 at Page 368.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 1111 at Page 186, Instrument Number 2019006289, Deed Book 306 at Page 417, Deed Book 399 at Page 379, Instrument Number 2020006394.

Deed Book 399 at Page 379, Instrument Number 2020006394.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Patsy Ann Caldwell, who is believed to be

**Legals -
Montgomery County**

deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Charles E. Caldwell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Carolyn A. Graves, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Harvey Graves, whose last known address is 1490 Mahone St, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Ricky W. Caldwell, whose last known address is unknown; Gary W. Barker, whose last known address is unknown; Charles E. Caldwell, Jr., whose last known address is 1201 Virginia Ridge Dr, Hardy, Virginia 24101; Phyllis Jean Caldwell Poff, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Monica Noble, whose last known address is 3353 Vista Rd, Pulaski, Virginia 24301; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before May 1, 2025 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 24th day of March, 2025
Honorable
K. Mike Fleenor, Jr.
Judge

I Ask For This:
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffery A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No.30591)
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)

**Legals -
Montgomery County**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF 1035
CHESTNUT DRIVE,
CHRISTIANSBURG,
VA 24073.**

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated February 5, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$163,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2020000865. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 28, 2025, at 3:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING ALL OF LOT FOURTEEN (14) ON A MAP OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE, PREPARED BY CLEMENTS AND DRAPER, CLS, DATED JANUARY 6, 1971, WHICH SAID MAP, ALONG WITH CERTIFICATE OF CRAIG MOUNTAIN, SECTION ONE SUBDIVISION, APPEARS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGE 77 AND DEED BOOK 311, PAGE 217. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of

**Legals -
Montgomery County**

ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-371165-1.

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From the Pulpit

Trusting God's Timing

By Pastor Bryan Crouch,
Lynn Haven Baptist Church

In recent weeks, Lynn Haven Baptist Church has been focused on the topic of “Walking in Faith.” This week’s devotional emphasizes the importance of trusting God’s perfect timing, even when we feel impatient or unsure. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us that

God makes everything beautiful in its time. Stories like Abraham and Sarah waiting for Isaac, and the Israelites waiting for the Promised Land, illustrate the blessings that come when we trust God’s timing. This should encourage believers to remain faithful

in the waiting, knowing that God is working behind the scenes for their good.

Waiting is not wasted time; it’s a time for growth, preparation, and dependence on God. This is also important for us in knowing that

salvation through Jesus came in God’s perfect timing, and I encourage all readers to trust Him with their 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.

Appalachia

from page 1

He holds a VA DCJS instructor certification as well as a VA DCJS registration for private investigator.

Sharon Akers studied accounting and banking and finance at Virginia Western. They met Ferris and began the discussion about opening a business together.

In Virginia, becoming a private investigator is primarily about meeting DCJS requirements. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, clear a background check and pass a 60-hour private investigator course with at least a 70% score. After completing the course, they can receive their registration and begin working in the field. Opening a private investigation agency requires additional steps, including securing a business license and registering with the State Corporation Commission.

After much discussion, in late 2019 the three decided to go into business together as private investigators. Unfortunately, that was just when the COVID pandemic hit, bringing with it lockdowns and quarantines.

However, the pandemic also increased the need for moving goods, so they modified their plans to fit the situation they were presented with. In lieu of obtaining their CDL licenses they decided to open a business (Tea2Sea Transport) using a cargo van—a 2019 Mercedes-Benz sprinter van.

They partnered with a secondary company to provide “last mile delivery” service transporting office goods to homes and businesses. There was little traffic on the road during the pandemic, but it was hard to find an open restaurant. Fuel prices were increasing; the challenges were mounting, so the discussion was revived about private investigation work.

They sold the van and started Tea2Sea LLC (VA DCJS Business License #11-19986) in May 2022, mainly doing background investigations, quick clean deed scans, skip tracing for attorneys and creditors, fraud investigations, and heir vetting. (Ferris is a genealogist and used to researching family trees.) They used the Akers’ home in Vinton as their base to bypass costly office rent. The Town of Vinton assisted with rezoning.

They have retained the Tea2Sea, LLC, private investigation business, in addition to establishing the Appalachia Training Institute in 2024.

Appalachia Training Institute provides proper security personnel education and offers the most up-to-date, instructor-led training, which includes real-life experiences and role-play scenarios.

Instructor-led sessions provide personalized feedback and hands-on experience, allowing students to learn directly from veteran security professionals. Role-playing allows students to experience real-life scenarios in a controlled setting. These exercises increase awareness and improve decision-making skills under pressure.

Their game plan with the training institute is to offer courses not only in Vinton (there are two training rooms in their building on Maple) but throughout Southwest Virginia. Akers says that is what sets them apart from other training schools—their willingness to travel and teach courses after hours (on weekends and evenings), either at a business or another venue, enabling students not to be absent from work for training.

They have a mini-academy coming up starting on April 7, for those interested in entering the private security field who would like to become an armed security officer. The academy includes:

- Unarmed Security Officer Entry-Level Core Subjects, scheduled for April 7-8 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.
- Armed Security Officer Arrest Authority, scheduled for April 9 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Security Officer Handgun, scheduled for April 10-12, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

Courses they currently offer are Security Officer Core Subjects (entry and in-service level), Private Investigator (entry and in-service level), Arrest Authority, Special Conservator of the Peace (entry and in-service levels), Entry level Handguns, Handgun Re-qualification, Shotgun (entry and re-qualification) and Security Officer Handgun Course (entry level).

They also have a new night course coming up on April 23. The class, titled “Advanced Report Writing,” will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. This course is not just for security; it is also beneficial for those in other employment sectors, particularly to enhance your skill set.

Appalachia Training Institute also conducts trainings that are not Division of Criminal Justice Services, such as how to prepare for emergencies, classes for concealed carry firearms, what to do during a natural disaster, or preparing home security checklists. Ferris and Akers set up a booth at the recent 2025 Vinton Senior Expo to make senior citizens and their caregivers aware of the services they provide.

Akers says they generally require a group of five to arrange a class which usually costs \$50 for four hours.

For more information, contact Appalachia Training Institute by phone at 540-595-9316, visit the website at www.appalachiatraininginstitute.com, email takers@appalachia-training-institute.com, or stop by their office at 227 S. Maple Street in Vinton (across from the Vinton Library and Vinton History Museum).

Council

from page 1

new restaurants in Vinton) and economic development projects. However, while total revenues are currently sustainable, they are projected to decrease in the short-term. Natural growth is beginning to slow.

While town revenues have increased in a high-interest rate environment, Sexton said, “What the fed giveth, they can taketh away.” Thus, expenditures by the town need to be strategic.

The town has also received large inflows of one-time money from the sale of the utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority (\$3 million) and from ARPA funding during COVID. Those monies artificially inflated the budget for several years but are ending.

Unlike most localities, Vinton has diverse revenue streams, not solely dependent upon real estate taxes; however the opportunity for new revenues is limited.

The town’s major revenue sources include real estate taxes, personal property taxes, business licenses, state sales taxes, meals taxes, and pari-mutuel taxes from Rosie’s. The town also receives a substantial amount from state highway funds each year. Any downturn in the economy at large puts the town at risk.

The Finance Department is expecting real estate taxes to level off as home prices stabilize. They have seen a slow and steady growth in business license taxes. There has been a flattening across the valley in state sales tax, possibly because consumers are not confident that the economy will continue to grow. The 41 restaurants in Vinton have led to the increase in meals tax revenue, but the area may have reached the saturation point with restaurants. Pari-mutuel taxes have seen massive growth in recent years; however, the town estimates those revenues very conservatively in budget planning to give the budget some flexibility.

Town Manager Pete Peters noted that the town has “maintained a conservative approach where the yearly budget is concerned, which has worked for us.”

The town has a General Fund which is what they use to “pay the bills” and a Capital Fund which funds one-time projects.

As for expenditures, Sexton thanked town staff for “prudent” spending, allowing for a “mean and lean” budget.

Personnel expenses are the largest proportion of the budget (\$7 million, 52%). This year’s proposed budget factors in a 3% COLA raise for all employees (aligned with other localities in Virginia), targeted increases for Public Works and Police Department employees, and no change in health insurance premiums.

Major expenditures also include the cost of annual paving and payment for economic development performance agreements.

The work session included discussion of contributions the town makes to community organizations (such as the Dogwood Festival and Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia) and joint local government services (such as RVTV and the greenway program).

There were rounded figures of current commitments in the budget, including economic development incentives, renovations to the Vinton War Memorial, construction of the multi-generational park, replacements to the stormwater infrastructure, property acquisition to facilitate blight removal, additional paving, and support for the community center and Farmers’ Market. The expanded CIP list also includes equipment the town needs to add or replace long-term and short-term.

Sexton warned that there may be “tougher budgets” in the future if there is an overall economic downturn, but that the town has built in options with the budget.

The town manager and staff will present their recommended budget for FY26 on May 6. A public hearing is scheduled for May 20, with adoption of the budget most likely at the Town Council meeting on June 3.

Prior to the regular council meeting on April 1, GFWC Vinton Woman’s Club members, several Vinton Police officers, and Town Council members planted the annual blue and silver Pinwheel Garden at the Municipal Building to promote April as National Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month.

During the council meeting, Woman’s Club member Kathryn Sowers talked about the significance of the garden as it brings the community together to increase awareness of child abuse. “Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families,” she said.

The GFWC is celebrating 135 years of service and volunteering, with clubs in all 50 states and 13 countries. Similar pinwheel gardens are planted across the United States. The pinwheel was introduced by Prevent Child Abuse in 2008 as the official symbol of a great childhood. The GFWC is also recognized as a powerful force against domestic violence.

Sowers thanked the town for also allowing the Vinton Woman’s Club to plant a yellow tulip “Hope Garden” at the entrance to the Walnut Avenue parking lot. “The garden is planted to spread hope and smash the stigma around mental health and suicide.”

Council members presented the Woman’s Club members with a proclamation declaring April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Sowers also presented a report on the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, where she serves as executive assistant.

“So far this year, we have seen growth, collaboration, and innovation within our business community. We have welcomed new members and strengthened our partnerships with the goal of building a more connected, prosperous, and vibrant community.”

She mentioned several events that the Chamber has been or will be involved in (Downtown Trick or Treat, the St. Patrick’s Day Block Party, the 4th of July Block Party, Lunch and Learns, Senior Expo, Casino Night, Winter Restaurant Week, Regional Restaurant Week, ribbon cuttings, Afterhours, Mingle at the Market concerts, golf tournaments, Fall Festival, and the Christmas Parade). She also announced that Page Stovall Lovern has just been selected as Chamber president for the upcoming year.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 6 p.m.



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VintonMessenger.com

William Byrd girls beat Titans in soccer, 3-2

The William Byrd girls returned from spring break Tuesday with a big win over Hidden Valley. The Terriers downed the Titans, 3-2, to improve to 2-1 on the season.

The first half was scoreless as both teams had opportunities but couldn't convert. Then, early in the second half, Byrd's Mia Martin broke the ice with a score off a through ball from Bella Barrette.

That lead was short-lived as Hidden Valley was able to tie the score, but about halfway through the half Bella Barrette found her sister, Maddie Barrette, who converted for a 2-1 Byrd lead.

With about 10 minutes to go the Terriers got some insurance when Kendall Ranson scored off an assist from Logan Andrews. That proved big when Hidden Valley scored late in the game as Byrd was able to hang on to the 3-2 win.

The Terriers will be home Friday to host Magna Vista. Then they hit the road again for a game at Cave Spring on Wednesday, April 9.



Kendall Ranson scored what proved to be the winning goal in Tuesday's victory over Hidden Valley.

Tennis teams fall to Titans

The William Byrd tennis teams returned from spring break Tuesday and ran into a buzz saw. Both the girls and boys lost matches to strong Hidden Valley teams.

The boys lost 7-2 to the Titans in Vinton. Kassius Ayres won 6-3, 7-5 and Cody Gardner won 6-1, 6-2 to

account for Byrd's two points.

The girls played at Hidden Valley and were shut out, 9-0. They're hoping for a better result today when they travel to Bassett, and the Byrd boys' will host the Bengals on the Terrier courts at William Byrd High this afternoon.



Hunter Butterworth serves one up for Byrd on Tuesday.

Maroons have open football practice

The Roanoke College football team will have an open practice this Saturday in conjunction with "Alumni Weekend" festivities.

The football team's open practice, or the 'Maroon Football Showcase', starts at 10 am and will

run until noon on the Maroon practice field, Alumni Field. It's free to the public.

The team will be hosting about 30 members of their freshmen class that day. The drills will be geared toward game-like situations.



Left, Byrd's Ian Sigmon controls the ball in Tuesday's game with Hidden Valley. Right, Conner Whitehead goes high for a header.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terrier boys can't break through against Hidden Valley

The William Byrd boys hosted Hidden Valley in soccer Tuesday and dropped to 1-2 on the season with a 3-0 loss to the Titans. It was the first game back from spring break for the Byrd boys, who hadn't played in nearly two weeks.

"It's always tough to come off spring break and open with a

game on day two," said William Byrd coach Kevin Niday. "We had a tough loss against Hidden Valley. They played well and we struggled to find the back of the net."

The Terriers have now failed to score in two straight games and they hope to turn that around Friday when they travel

to Ridgeway to take on Magna Vista. Next Wednesday, April 9, Byrd is back home to host Cave Spring for a 7 pm varsity match.

"We need to adjust a few things and work on a few things," said Niday. "We just aren't finding the groove that I know this team has. Back to the drawing board and the training grounds."

Xavier Preston is first team All-ODAC wrestler

The Roanoke College wrestling team captured three of the top four

major awards as the Old Dominion Athletic Conference released the All-ODAC team Tuesday, voted on by the league's coaches. Roanoke had eight student-athletes earn spots on the all-conference team.

Junior 141-pounder Mark Samuel was voted the league's Wrestler of the Year, Maroon head mentor Nate Yetzer was tabbed as the Coach of the Year and freshman Jonah Paulino earned Rookie of the Year accolades.

Roanoke also had six other wrestlers earn All-ODAC honors, including William Byrd grad Xavier Preston who made the first team at 174 pounds. Other Maroons on the All-ODAC team include Vincenzo Corvetto (first team, 184 pounds), Isiac Paulino (second team, 125 pounds), Jarrod Pominville (second team, 157 pounds), Dustin Smith (third team, 149 pounds) and Andru Boyd (third team, 165 pounds).



XAVIER PRESTON

Dawgs put playoff tickets on sale

Single game tickets for the 2025 SPHL President's Cup Playoffs are now on sale. Tickets and parking passes will be available both online on the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs website and at the Berglund Center box office.

The Dawgs are set to draw either the Knoxville Ice Bears, Evansville Thunderbolts, or Quad City Storm in their first round matchup to begin the postseason. Regardless of opponent, the Rail Yard Dawgs are set to hit the road for Game 1 of their first round series in the President's Cup Playoffs on Wednesday, April 9, at a time to be determined later. Roanoke would then host Game 2 on Friday, April 11, and Game 3 on Saturday, April 12 (if necessary) in the best-of-three series. Puck drop times for each of those games at Berglund Center will be at 7:05 P.M. EST.

Roanoke will be on the road this weekend to round out its regular season schedule, starting on Friday, April 4 against the Knoxville Ice Bears at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum. Puck drop is scheduled for 7:05 P.M. EST in Tennessee, and the Dawgs will play in their regular season finale in Knoxville on Saturday.

Red Sox open Carolina League season Friday

The Carolina League baseball season will open this weekend when the Salem Red Sox host the Delmarva Shorebirds in a three game series. The Shorebirds are a farm team of the Baltimore Orioles.

Opening day is Friday with the first pitch scheduled for 6:35 pm. On Saturday evening at 6:35 pm the Sox will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Carilion Clinic Field in Salem, and Sunday's 1:05 pm start is a "Bark in the Park" day with dogs welcome.

The 2025 Salem team was breaking camp in Florida and arriving this week.

This year's manager is Ozzie Chavez, who has been promoted to that position after spending the last two seasons as bench coach. He previously managed the Red Sox' Dominican Republic Academy from 2019-22 and has been with Boston since 2015.

Once again the Sox are teaming up with the Virginia Tech School of Communication for the fifth consecutive year to broadcast all 2025 Red Sox home games. Braden Schenck will be the voice of the Salem Red Sox with games aired on streaming services and MiLB.com.



DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS VS SALEM RED SOX

APRIL 4TH6:35 PM

Opening Night

APRIL 5TH6:35 PM

30th Anniversary of Carilion Clinic Field

APRIL 6TH1:05 PM

Bark in the Park

Maroons have open football practice

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Dent strikes out 11 Titans in win

William Byrd senior lefty Brogan Dent struck out the first eight batters he faced to lead the Terrier baseball team to a win over Hidden Valley Tuesday. The Byrdmen slaughter-ruled the Titans, 14-4, at Walthall Park to improve to 2-1 on the season.

Dent came out smoking, striking out the side in the first and second innings. He struck out the first two in the third before Hidden Valley's number nine hitter got a single on a check swing. The third out was made when batters' interference was called on an attempted steal.

Byrd scored a run in the first and two in the third to take the lead and Dent fanned two more

batters in a scoreless top of the fourth for 10 k's in the first four innings. The offense then went to work in the bottom of the fourth, putting a crooked six on the rightfield scoreboard.

Tyler Harris had a two run double to highlight the fourth inning uprising. Hayden Eads and Kyland Spence also had RBI hits in an inning that went on and on as Dent sat in the dugout waiting to take the mound for the fifth, and he wasn't as sharp when he came back out. Brogan allowed three hits and two walks around another strikeout before being relieved by Connor Jones on the mound.

"He said he was fine but the long bottom of

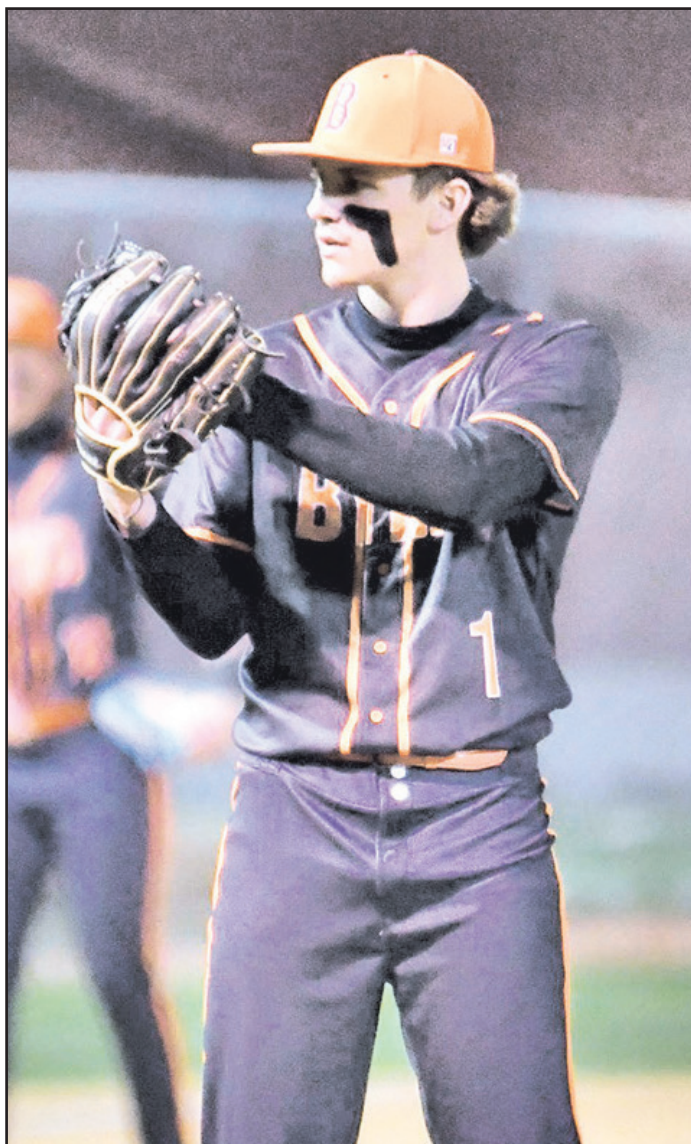
the fourth obviously affected him," said Byrd coach Jason Taylor. "That's okay, I like to see our players face some adversity sometimes because it helps them later in the season."

Hidden Valley ended up scoring four runs in the inning but Byrd answered with three more in the bottom of the fifth for a 12-4 lead. Then, Byrd used a bunch of walks in the sixth to end the game by the 10 run

rule, and ironically it was Dent who walked with the bases loaded to force in the run that ended the game.

Brogan ended up with 11 strikeouts in four and a third innings and he also had four runs batted in at the plate. Harris was three-for-four with three RBIs and Spence was two-for-three.

The Terriers were off Wednesday but they'll hit the road for back-to-back games beginning tonight in Brookville. On Friday they return the trip to Magna Vista, a team the Terriers beat 9-6 in the season opener in Vinton.

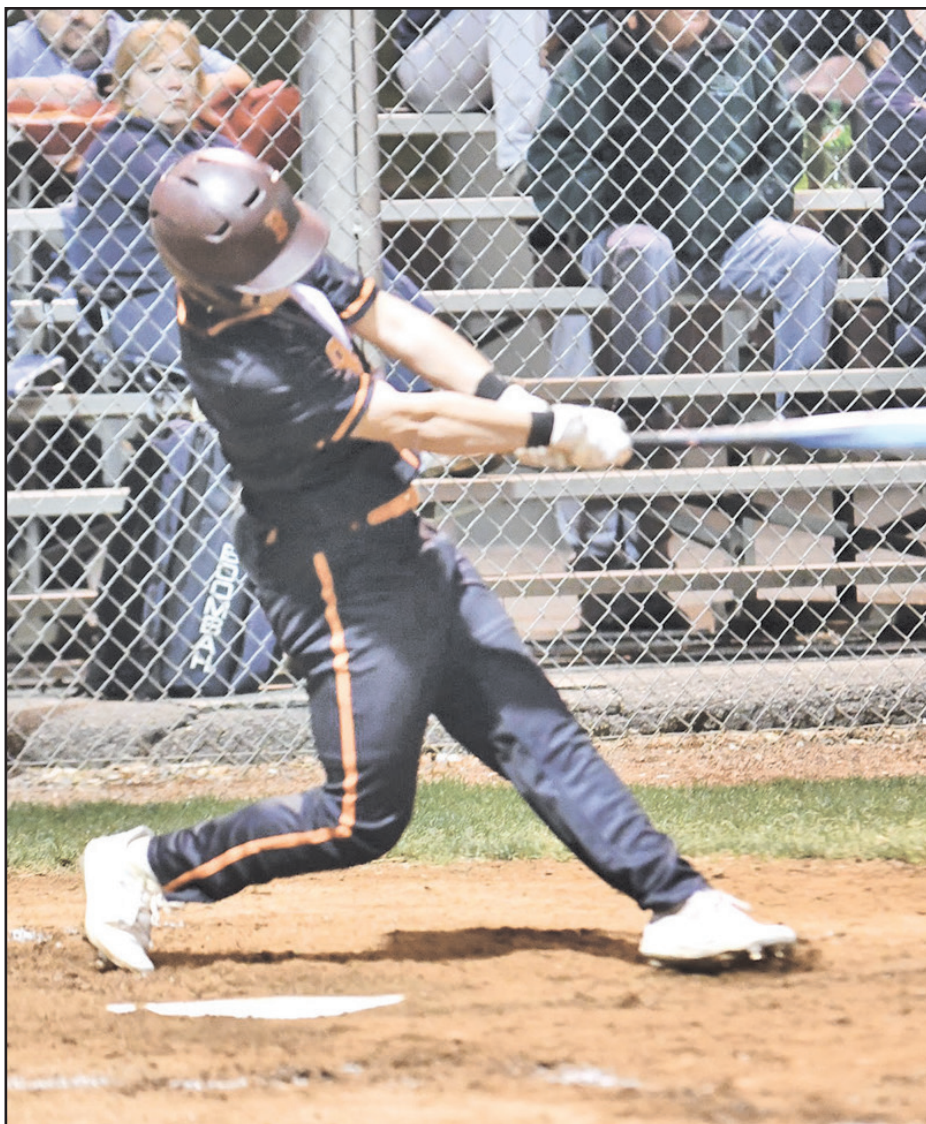


PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Brogan Dent struck out the first eight batters he faced.

Next week the Terriers stay busy. They play home games against Cave Spring and William Fleming on Wednesday and Friday, then play their annual Saturday afternoon game at Hidden Valley on April 12. It's always a little special for Byrd coach Taylor, who coached the Titans before coming to Vinton.

"I guess it is because I coached there but it's been 11 years and the only ones I know anymore are the coach and one player," said Taylor. "Sure I want to beat Hidden Valley, but I want to beat everybody."



Tyler Harris rips one of his three hits he had against Hidden Valley Tuesday.

Softball team downs Hidden Valley for first win

The William Byrd softball girls picked up their first win of the season when they beat Hidden Valley on Tuesday. The Terriers won 9-5 at home to improve to 1-3 on the season.

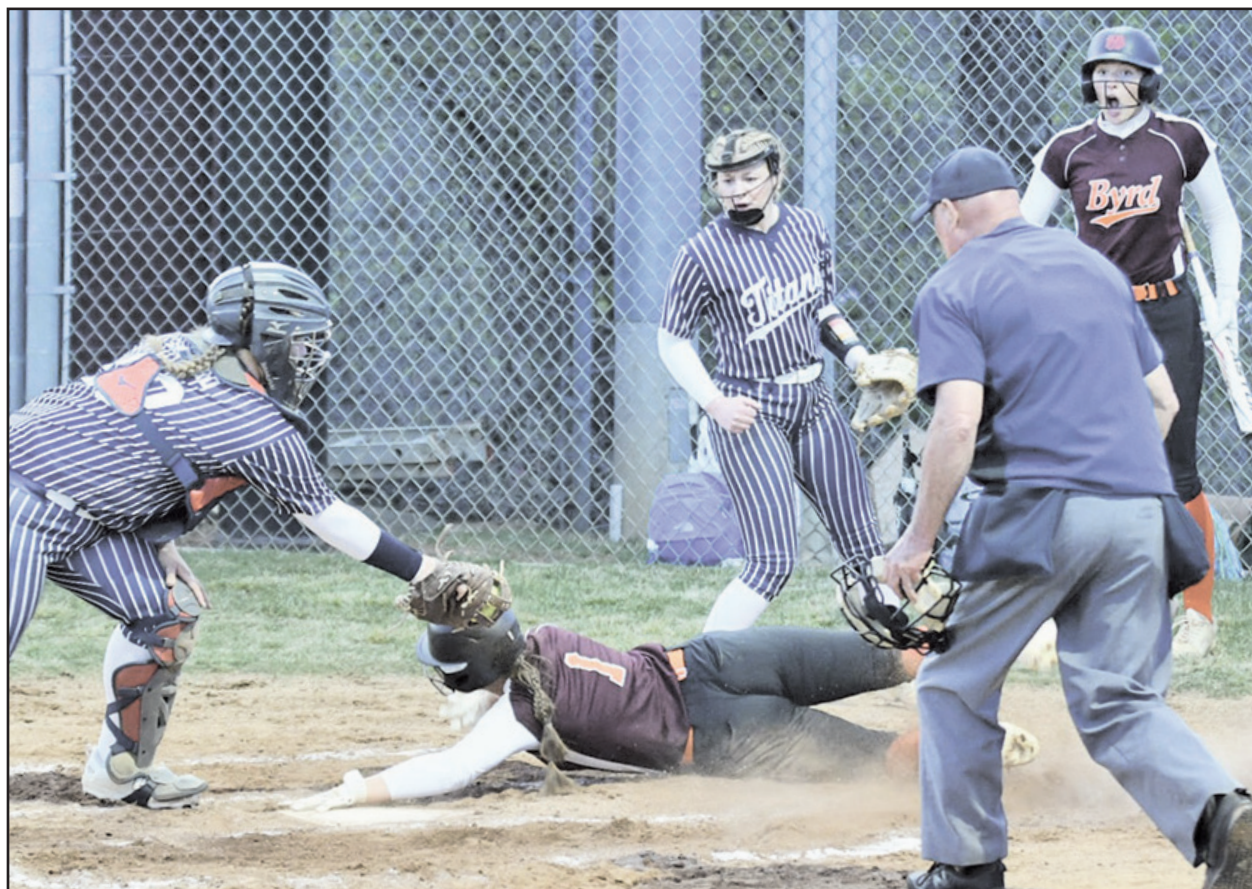
The game didn't start out well for Byrd as the Titans struck first with two runs in the top of the first inning. However, the Terrier offense exploded for eight runs on eight hits in the bottom of the third to take a 9-2 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a triple by Addison Clark that drove in two runs.

Clark was able to keep the Titans at bay on the mound and pick up the win. She surrendered eight hits and five runs, two of which were unearned, over seven innings for the complete game victory. Addison struck out 11.

Carson Wood and Hadyn Grubb led the offense with three hits each. Clark and Mallory Peroulas each drove in two runs for Byrd and Sydney Tuck stole two bases. Byrd had four total steals in the game.

The Terriers are back in action Friday when they travel to Salem for a jayvee-varsity doubleheader at the newly renovated James I. Moyer Complex. The jayvees are scheduled to start at 5 pm with the varsity to follow.

Friday is the first of five straight road games for the girls. Next week they travel to Pulaski County Monday, Cave Spring Wednesday and William Fleming Friday, then return the trip to Hidden Valley on April 12 for a 2 pm Saturday game.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Left, Byrd's Mallory Peroulas slides home safely with a run in the Terrier's win over Hidden Valley Tuesday night. Right, Hadyn Grubb connects for the Terriers.

Byrd boys' lacrosse team has home opener tonight after beating Franklin County in overtime Tuesday

First year William Byrd boys' lacrosse coach Kaden West came up a winner in his first game at the helm Tuesday as the Terriers pulled out an 8-7 win. Byrd won in overtime over Franklin County in Rocky Mount.

This one was close all the way. Byrd led 2-1 after the first quarter but the Eagles scored three unanswered goals in the second quarter to lead 4-2 at the half.

Byrd battled back in the third quarter, outscoring the Eagles 3-1 to tie the game at 5-5. The fourth period was even at two goals apiece, and Byrd won the game in overtime when Ben Waid hit the net to set off a Terrier celebration.

Justyn Rosenboom led the Terriers with four goals. Waid scored twice and Kevin Green and Dawson Brinkley scored one goal each.

The Terriers will be back in action tonight when they host Cave Spring for their home opener. The jayvees will open play at 5:30 pm followed by the varsity at approximately 7:15 pm.

The girls' lacrosse team was weathered out of their season opener with Franklin County on Monday and that game has been rescheduled for April 8. The girls are at Bogle Field tonight to take on Cave Spring for their first game of the season.