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Byrd softball field named for Coach Greg Barton



Greg Barton Field was recently named after the longtime William Byrd softball coach. Here, Barton (middle) stands alongside his family.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Brian Hoffman
bhoffman@ourvalley.org

When Greg Barton was playing sports for William Byrd High School in the late '70s, he didn't think in his wildest dreams one of the fields at his alma mater would someday be named for him. But that was the case last Saturday when friends, fellow Vinton celebrities and a slew of former players honored him when the school named the softball field "Greg Barton Field."

"I don't really know what brought this up but after being a little embarrassed by it all I've accepted it and it's one the greatest accomplishments of my life," said Barton, who has been with the softball team for 26 years, including the last 16 as head coach.

"It's a huge day for my family and I feel like I am just one person of many who have fought hard to build our softball facilities and the program."

After a week of rain, a beautiful Vinton day greeted the throng of well-wishers at the softball field Saturday. The dirt around home plate was decorated with "Greg Barton Field" in chalk; the current William Byrd team sat on the grass behind second base, and a whole lot of guests talked about Greg and the Terrier program.

Daughter Lindsey talked for Greg's family, members of the 2019 championship team reminisced; long-time friend Tim Greenway of the School Board made some remarks along with a host of politicians, school administrators and Dean Peroulas, president

See **Barton Field**, page 13



A sizeable crowd turned out for the VDOT hearing on the Bypass/Hardy Road roundabout on May 20, including fourth grader Tucker, who has concerns about speeding motorists on Hardy Road in front of his school.

Citizens bring questions to VDOT hearing on Hardy Road roundabout

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Representatives from VDOT hosted a public meeting on the proposed Hardy Road/Bypass Road roundabout on May 20. The open-house style event at the Charles R. Hill Community Center was well-attended; citizens came with well-thought-out questions about the project and its impact. VDOT brought the details and some helpful display boards. Several members of Vinton Town Council and town staff stopped by to hear citizen comments and concerns as well.

The proposed project will convert the existing signalized intersection of Hardy Road/Bypass Road (Rt. 24) and Hardy Road (Rt. 634) to a one-lane roundabout with slip lanes at all three legs. Its purpose:

- to mitigate congestion, improve traffic flow at the intersection, reduce travelers' delay time, and improve safety
- to improve pedestrian facilities by adding crosswalks and medians and reconstructing sidewalks to connect pedestrian facilities at the corridor
- to improve access to the Atlantic Union Bank by shifting the entrance further from the intersection and providing a separate exit that can utilize the roundabout

This VDOT project is approved and

funded through the state's SmartScale process; it is not a town project.

Construction is targeted for early 2028 to fall 2029. Bids will go out in the fall of 2027.

Detours will be involved (for four to six months), most likely one to Feather Road and one to Clearview/Dillon to minimize the disruption to W.E. Cundiff Elementary School, businesses, and residences, as much as possible. Ten partial "right of takes" are anticipated, but the project will not displace families, businesses, or non-profits.

The estimated cost is \$16.1 million in total (\$2.2 million in preliminary engineering, \$1 million for right of way and utilities, and \$12.1 million for construction). The total length is 0.107 miles.

A study was conducted at the intersections of Hardy and Bypass Roads / Hardy Road and Clearview Drive in 2022 to evaluate operational and safety conditions, as well as identify improvements that would enhance the corridor of Route 24. The results showed:

- Regarding congestion: (Level of Service ranges from A to F, where A is operating fully functionally, and F is extreme delays). Intersection analysis results showed Bypass/Hardy

See **VDOT**, page 9



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Citizens came to the public hearing for answers to their questions about the impact of a roundabout on Hardy Road.

Budget presented, police officers promoted at Town Council meeting



Vinton Police Officer Jason Call has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. From left are Deputy Chief Tim Lawless, Chief Fabricio Drumond, and Sgt. Call with his wife Ashley and their daughters.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Highlights of the Vinton Town Council meeting on May 20 included a presentation of the FY26 budget by Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton in a public hearing, the promotion of two police officers, and recognition of Public Works employees. Council was previously briefed in detail on the budget at the May 6 meeting by Town Manager Pete Peters.

According to Sexton, this year's budget represents a balanced budget with an optimistic outlook. There are no tax increases. The proposed FY26 budget for the General Fund totals \$13,557,181, which represents a decrease of .40% from the previous fiscal year. The proposed

budget for all funds totals \$14,061,181, an overall decrease of 5.48%. This overall decrease for all funds is primarily due to the elimination of the Stormwater Fund as a stand-alone fund. Its operations and projects are now in the General Fund.

Sexton noted that while total revenues are currently sustainable, they are projected to level off with a slight decrease in the short term. Major revenue streams have experienced significant growth in recent years, but natural growth is beginning to slow. The town needs to remain attuned to the possibilities of increasing inflation and the potential effect of tariffs, he said.

The fund balance reserves of one-time money have earned interest in

recent years in a high-rate environment. It is necessary to spend them down strategically. Total operational expenditures in departments are essentially flat, due to "prudent spending" by the departments.

Personnel expenses continue to make up the largest portion of the budget (over half). This year's budget calls for a 3% COLA raise for all employees, an amount which is aligned with other localities in the region. The budget also includes targeted increases for employees in Public Works and Police Depts. in excess of other localities—to attract more candidates.

There is no increase in employees' health insurance premiums this year.

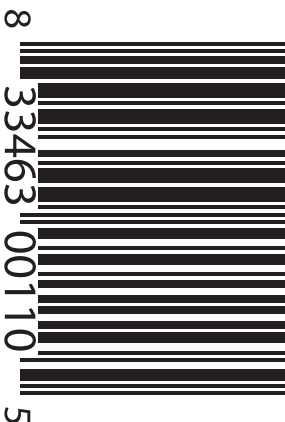
Sexton noted major expenditures in the upcoming budget—the costs of annual

See **Council**, page 9



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Police Officer Andrew Hagy has been promoted to the rank of corporal. He is pictured with his wife Chelsea.





Congratulations William Byrd Class of 2025





As you celebrate the culmination of so much hard work and dedication, we wish you a joyful day and a rewarding future!

Congratulations and Best of Luck!

1135 Vinyard Rd, Vinton, VA 24179
(804) 557-5480



GREAT JOB

Class of

2025

BEST OF LUCK IN THE FUTURE!






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Vinton, VA


 <p>Alyssa Adams</p>	 <p>Cyrus Adams</p>	 <p>Bakr Alkaradi</p>	 <p>Natalie Altice</p>
 <p>Conner Amos</p>	 <p>Blake Anderson</p>	 <p>Mario Arias</p>	 <p>Ava Ashworth</p>
 <p>DeShawn Austin</p>	 <p>Logan Austin</p>	 <p>Kassius Ayres</p>	 <p>Alex Bailey</p>
 <p>Caleb Bailey</p>	 <p>Jaleiya Bannister</p>	 <p>Layla Bannister</p>	 <p>Christian Barbour</p>




CONGRATS CLASS OF 2025!

YOURS, ROANOKE

WHEN YOU LEARN AMID MOUNTAINS, YOU KNOW HOW TO MOVE THEM.



ROANOKE COLLEGE




















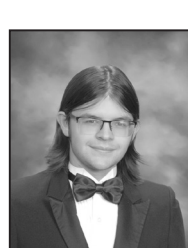










Congratulations graduating Seniors! ~ Vinton Messenger staff

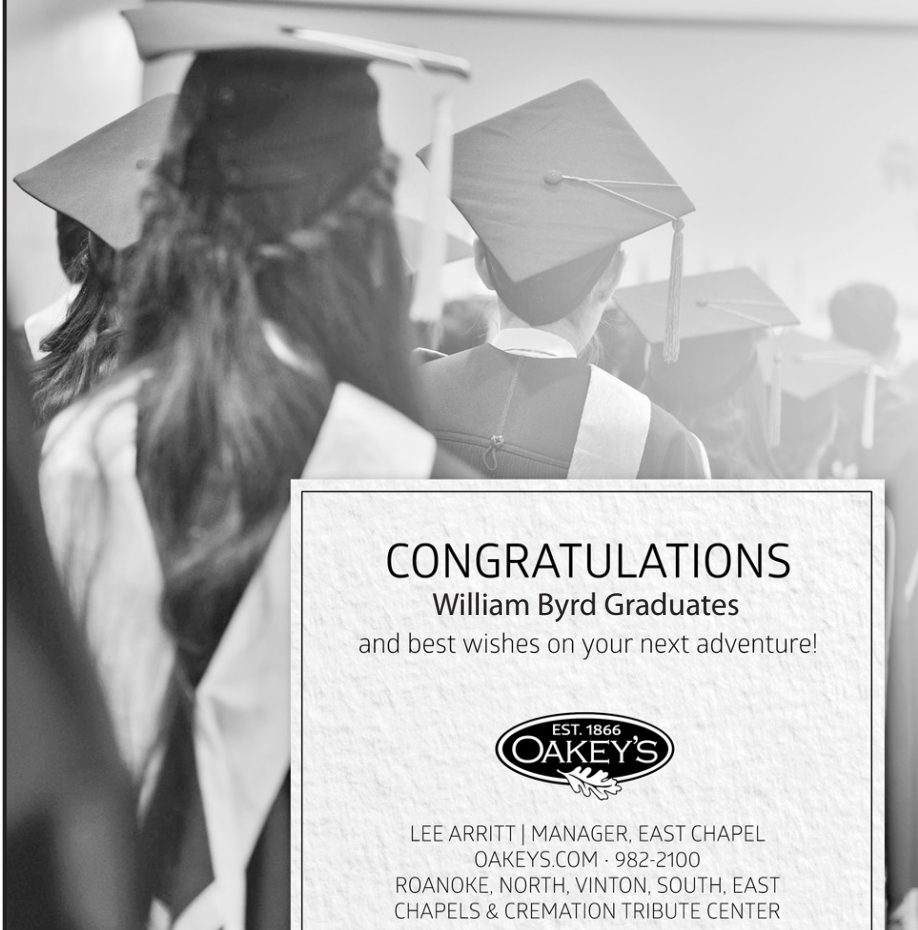


Congratulations

William Byrd Class of 2025




								
Christian Barrette	Logan Beavers	Carson Bivens	Isaiah Blevins	Isaiah Board	Justin Boles	Wyatt Bowles		
								
Carson Bramble	Brooke Brant	Dawson Brinkley	Daniel Britts	Izayah Brown	Grant Bryson	Torin Bundy	Parker Burgess	Maurice Burnette
								
Nicholas Bustamante	Daniel Butterworth	Hunter Butterworth	Graylen Castleberry	Emanuel Castro Rivera	Barry Cheatwood	Alexandria Cook	Erika Coon	Evan Copening
								
Lily Cornett	Matilyn Cox	Emma Craddock	Maileigh Culver	Nevaeh Davila	Anthony Davis	Hayden Davis	Zahara Davis	Abigail Day
								
Brogan Dent	Graysen Divers	Gabriel Dixon	Caleb Dogan	Alejandro Dooley	Beckham Draper	Camryn Dullaghan	Kaitlyn Duncan	Hayden Eads
								
Skylar Edwards	Lauren Eggleston	Hannah Endaya	Ethan Engleman	Frank English	Genaro Enriquez	Alyssa Fairbanks	McKinley FiGart	Emily Fisher
								
Savanna Fisher	Skylar Fitzgerald	Alex Fortune	Jude Foster	Devin Freeman	LeNorah Garcia	Donnie Garman Jr.	Bailey Gibson	Lacie Gibson
								
Carson Gill	Emily Glass	William Glover	Kendall Gordon	Lilah Gregory	Wendy Grimm	Landon Haithcock	Macie Hall	Payton Hall





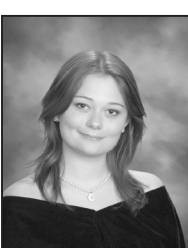



CONGRATULATIONS

William Byrd Graduates
and best wishes on your next adventure!



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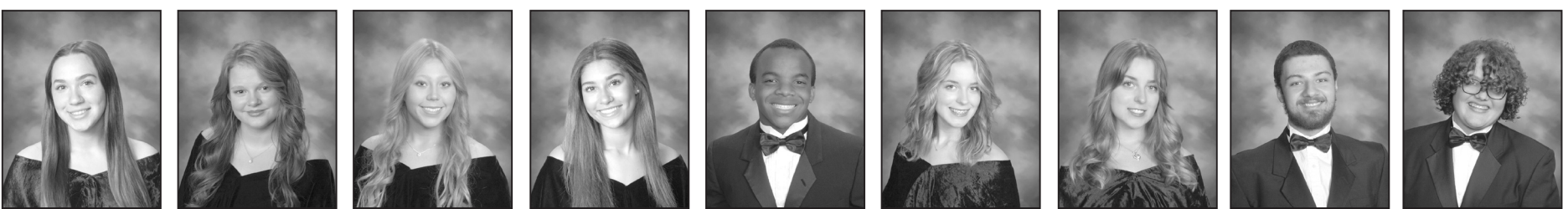
			
Shyanne Hall	Hayden Hamblin Lish	Aidan Hardy	Sadie Harmon
			
Keegan Harnish	Abigail Haroulakis	Jocelyn Hartman	Ethan Haston



Congratulations William Byrd Class of 2025



Riley Helmintoller Luke Hemming Michaya Henderson Barbara Hernandez Nathan Hiemstra Megan Higgins Tristan Hirtz Sophie Holcomb Steven Hornady Jr.



Annika Hylton Allie Jamison Hannah Janney Jada Johnson Jhaquin Johnson Lillian Johnson Mallory Johnson Jermaine Jordan Nicolas Joy



Balin Joyce Nicholas Kelley Aidan Kelly Sara Kingery Kristin Kochendarfer Aiden Kolb Saunders Hayley Lackey Raelyn Lancaster Sara Lang



Kendall Lecas McKenzie Lee Sergio Leon Valero Aubree Likens Max Livingston Kennedy Lohrmann Noah Lowe Aidan Lucas Nathaniel Lynn



Kaylee Makuch Elizabet Maldonado Zoey Mann Ryan Markham Landon Martin Samantha Martin Aldahir Martinez Garcia Brayden Mason Emma Matthews



Jenna Matthews Zachary McAllister Cierra McDaniel Devon McGhee Kameron McKee Taelor McPherson Madison Miller Peyton Miller Ryan Mills



Alexander Montgomery Madeline Moock Jake Moore Allysen Morgan Abigail Mosher William Obenchain Andrew Oliphant Grace Onwi Eliza Otey



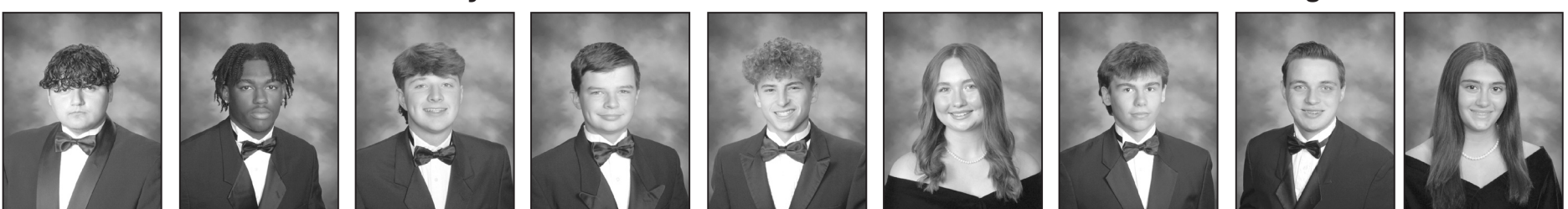
Ellawyn Pagan Christian Parker Genevieve Paul Ethan Pekala Spencer Peters Mickayla Phlegar Caleb Pickeral Madelyn Pittman Brady Poindexter



Marcayla Poindexter Isabella Posadas Ethan Powell Savannah Powell Madalyn Price Becca Radford Meera Raichura Jaidynn Ratcliffe Lillie Reed



Elizabeth Reid Blake Richardson Kara Rickey Sean Rickman Elyse Rider Curtis Roberts Isabelle Robertson Nathan Rogers Gabriel Rosales



Jose Rosales Jonathan Rosser Jr. Nathan Rowland Johnathan Rozenboom Jr. Reid Ruble Emma Rupe Robert Sankbeil Landon Sarver Vanessa Sattah



Congratulations William Byrd Class of 2025





**Madison
Saunders**

**Ryleigh
Saunders**

**Jerrett
Shepherd**

**Nathan
Short**

**Ian
Sigmon**

**Shae
Simmons**

**Benjamin
Singh**

**Jhorden
Sink**

**Camden
West**

**Maddux
Sizemore**

**Luke
Skelton**

**George
Slusser**

**Zheniya
Staples**

**Gregory
Stiltner**

**Kevin
Stultz**

**Josephine
Taylor**

**Kayleigh
Taylor**

**Lucas
Thomas**

**William
Thompson**

**Deontae
Tingler**

**Jalen
Toler**

**Elijah
Trogdon**

**Abigale
Tyler**

**Javier
Tzompaxtle**

**Stephen
Underwood**

**Jesse
Vass**

**Jaydan
Weldon**

**Charles
West**

**Connor
Wheeler**

**Sarah
Wilcox**

**Aaron
Winegard**

**Ambrielle
Wood**

**Grace
Woodcock**

**Zackary
Wooldridge**

**Dakota
Woznik**

**Mary
Wray**

**Virginia
Yonce**

**Braeden
Young**

**Emma
Young**

Class of 2025!!

WBHS seniors graduating but not photographed include Christian Alatorre Gomez, Gino Ruks, Elice Ashby, Walter Barrows, Maggie Bond, Marshall Bruner, Nia Bumgarner, Maranda Freeman, Jahir Garcia-Davila, Noah Harig, Devin Harmon, Hunter Harper, Henry Hill, Colby Huffman, Jr., Christopher Jackson, Kaylee Jackson, Dakota Lawhorn, Dylan McSherry, Sean Overbay, Cole Slusher, Elijah Smith, Bryce Stacey, and David Wise.

Thanks for your service, retiring educators!

Several teachers and staff members are retiring from Roanoke County Public Schools in the Vinton area at the end of this school year. They will be sorely missed by students, fellow teachers, and their administrators.

Business teacher **Jayne Atkins** has taught Economics and Personal Finance, Accounting, and Cybersecurity for Roanoke County Public Schools for nine years. During that time she taught at William Byrd High School and traveled to Hidden Valley High School, Cave

Spring Middle, and Glenvar High School.

“It was a privilege to have the opportunity to teach the students at RCPS,” Atkins said. “My favorite part of the job was working with the students and helping them to succeed. I am looking forward to spending time with my family and catching up on a few home projects!”

Jill Morris is retiring from William Byrd High.

“Retirement is bittersweet for me,”

Morris says. “I was hired by Roanoke County Schools in 1987 as a Marketing teacher. I have been at WBHS for 38 years teaching every Marketing course we offer, Teachers for Tomorrow and have been a DECA Advisor. I have planned and attended many trips with students including NYC, NBA and NFL games, DECA State and National Competitions and more.

“I have taught multiple generations of families while at Byrd, taught through three renovations/additions, and survived

four principal changes.

“Eight years ago, I attained my real estate license with the aspiration to teach Real Estate Marketing. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with clients, including teachers and former students, in buying and/or selling their homes. I plan to continue to work in real estate in my retirement, travel, and spend time with my family. I will miss building those relationships with students the most in

See **Educators**, page 9



Jayne Atkins (WBHS)



Jill Morris (WBHS)



Brian Butler (WBHS)



Bill Hughes (W.E. Cundiff)



Rachel Reedy (W.E. Cundiff)



Elaine Lane (Mount Pleasant)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS, BILL HUGHES, JAYNE ATKINS

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	45	46	47								
48									50	51	52
55											
59											
62											

CLUES ACROSS

1. One who regrets

5. Time zone

8. Subway dweller

11. Bend in a river

13. Alias

14. Isodor ____, American Nobel physicist

15. Very (music)

16. Zero

17. Phil ____, former CIA

18. Competitions

20. Unwell

21. Puts in place

22. Gets rid of

25. Allows light to pass through

30. Climbed quickly

31. We all have it

32. There's a North & South

33. Emaciation

38. Supervises flying

41. Very dark colors

43. Unwanted

45. Grants

48. Three visited Jesus

49. Wife of Amun

50. Broadway actress Daisy

55. A Spanish river

56. I (German)

57. French opera composer

59. Six (Spanish)

60. Last letter

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. A curved shape

63. Make a mistake

64. Tall plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Computer memory

2. "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)

3. Ancient Syrian city

4. College army

5. Cassava

6. Talented

7. Capital of Estonia

8. Finger millet

9. In a way, assists

10. Men's fashion accessories

12. Misery

14. Skin disorder

19. Selling at specially reduced prices

23. Good friend

24. Stationary portion of a generator

25. Expression of disappointment

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Where birds fly

28. Midway between north and northeast

29. Chaotic states

34. Comedic actress Gasteyer

35. Kids' dining accessory

36. Snake-like fish

37. Midway between south and southeast

39. Assign lifelike qualities to

40. One who cites

41. Midway between east and southeast

42. North wind

44. One or the other

45. Cavalry sword

46. Of the Hungarian language

47. Life stories

48. Flat tableland with steep edges

51. Swiss river

52. Plant that makes gum

53. French cleric

54. One point east of northeast

58. Free from



Amber Reed

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER REED

Reed announces candidacy for Roanoke County School Board

Amber Reed is running for a seat on the Roanoke County School Board representing the Vinton District. She is a lifelong resident of Vinton and a graduate of William Byrd High School with the Class of 1996. She attended Herman L. Horn (formerly East Vinton) and then grades 4 and 5 at Roland E. Cook. Her son is a 2022 graduate of WBHS.

“I am a third-generation resident of our wonderful community,” Reed says.

Reed has a Bachelor’s Degree in Science with a major in Education and a minor in Special Education from Liberty University, and is working toward her Master’s Degree in Education at Mary Baldwin. She teaches fourth grade at Westside Elementary School in Roanoke City.

“As far back as I can remember, I’ve wanted to be a teacher,” said Reed. “Even as a young child, I would line up my dolls and stuffed animals as my ‘students,’ mimicking the lessons I’d learned in school and pretending to run my own classroom.

“That early passion only grew stronger with time. I was always eager to absorb as much information as I could—not just for myself, but so I could share it with others. There’s something deeply fulfilling about helping students discover their potential, watching their confidence grow, and being a part of their ‘aha’ moments. Teaching isn’t just a profession for me, it’s ‘a calling.’ I became a teacher because I believe in the power of education to transform lives, and I wanted to be a part of that transformation every day.

“As a teacher, my job goes far beyond delivering lessons—it’s about building long-lasting relationships with my students and creating a learning environment where they feel seen, supported, and challenged. I immerse them in literacy and guide them through the rich history of Virginia studies, helping them grow both academically and personally.

“For instance, this year, my students

worked incredibly hard in preparation for the first round of SOL testing, and their effort paid off—our class achieved an 87% mastery rate. I couldn’t be prouder of their dedication and growth. One student in particular went from a score of 316 (which is considered below basic) to a 500 on her reading SOL this year, as ‘passed advanced.’

“Teaching Virginia studies has been especially rewarding. We take field trips to historical landmarks like Jamestown and Monticello, giving students the chance to experience history firsthand. For many, these trips offer opportunities they may not otherwise have, bringing the past to life in powerful, memorable ways.

“Being a teacher is not just my job—it’s my passion. Every day, I have the privilege of shaping young minds and opening doors to new possibilities.

“I have been teaching for eight years. Prior to teaching, I worked as a branch manager for 15 years in distribution and sales.

“I have volunteered for and been an avid supporter of the Roanoke Rescue Mission, and I have also been involved with Habitat for Humanity with building homes for the less advantaged. I am a member of Chamblissburg Baptist Church where I have attended with my family since 2000. As a child, I attended church at Midland Baptist in Vinton with my grandmother and then East End Baptist Church.

“I have not served in a formal office; however, I do serve as a mentor teacher for first year teachers at my school. I have been successful in grant writing for programs to benefit my students and our school. I was recently chosen as the recipient of a grant from DonorsChoose.org for the teacher of Virginia; that grant has provided a significant amount of money for my classroom and our entire school. I am also involved with the counselor at our school for the L.E.A.D.E.R.S program, which is a program for students who go above and beyond, maintain

satisfactory grades and demonstrate what a true LEADER is.

“I decided to run for the School Board because I believe it’s essential to have voices from within education at the decision-making table. As someone who works in the school system every day, I see firsthand what our students, teachers, and staff truly need to succeed. I understand the challenges and opportunities that exist within our classrooms—not just in theory, but in practice.

“In addition to my experience in education, I also bring a strong background in budgeting and the allocation of funds. I believe School Board members should not only be passionate about education, but also capable of making fiscally responsible decisions that directly benefit students and educators.

“Our schools deserve leadership that understands the realities of the classroom and can advocate effectively for the resources and policies that will make a meaningful difference. That’s why I chose to run—to be a voice for those inside the school system and to help shape a better future for all our students.

“If elected to the School Board, my goal is to be a strong advocate for students, teachers, and families by ensuring that every decision made reflects the real needs of our schools. I hope to bring a practical, classroom-based perspective to the board—one that understands the day-to-day challenges educators face and the support our students require to thrive.

“Some of the issues that are most important to me include ensuring equitable funding across all schools, increasing support for teachers and staff, and maintaining high standards for academic achievement while also prioritizing student well-being. With my background in education and experience in budgeting and resource allocation, I aim to help our schools

See Reed, page 8

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

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

TIME TO REST

Read Exodus 30:1 through 32:35

“This project has to be done right, and it has to be done soon. Work all weekend if you have to.” Some work assignments make us wonder if we need to make a few clones to help us get the work done. Life’s responsibilities may seem larger than we can handle, yet we need to learn the importance of rest.

“It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed” (Exodus 31:17).

God created the Sabbath for two key purposes. First, people need to set aside a day to worship God and fellowship with His people. Second, we need a day of rest and refreshing. Scientific research bears this out.

Nearly everyone must contend with deadlines and expectations from others. God, however, wants us to set aside time to rest and to seek Him. Obeying His instructions for rest and worship actually helps us gain the energy and renewal we need to be more effective and productive in the responsibilities we carry.

Prayer Suggestion: God, please direct me in ways to better rest in You.

Quicklook: Exodus 31:14-17

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

Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more 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, Pas-

tor, 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; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tues-

days & 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 Jefferson Ave., 540-345-3385; Sunday Service 10:30 AM.

VintonMessenger.com

Field of Honor dedicated in Vinton

The Town of Vinton dedicated the 2025 Field of Honor at the Vinton War Memorial to all the “Fallen Military Members and First Responders and those who continue to serve” at a ceremony on May 15.

Chaplain Darren Potter, founder of the Shield Chaplaincy organization, led the service during National Police Week and 50 years after the end of the Vietnam War.

Potter said, “This is a good thing you are doing. People will drive by and be reminded of, and grateful for, the blood and sacrifice of those they have never met who have fallen or continue to serve.”

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose thanked town staff for their efforts in bringing the Field of Honor project to fruition. He noted that the formation of 300 flags flying on the front lawn of the War Memorial is fitting for the town with its dedication to veterans evident in the building of not just the War Memorial, but the High Ground Monument, the Veterans Wall in the Municipal Building, and the many special events honoring veterans and first responders throughout the year.

Vinton Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins, who is chair of the Vinton Veteran Outreach Committee, thanked everyone who has been involved, and noted the impact the Field of Honor has on families in seeing the tribute paid to their loved ones.

This was the second Field of Honor at the War Memorial. The first was last November in observance of Veterans Day. In addition to the 300 American flags on the lawn, flags representing each branch of the armed forces are flying on the portico.

The Town of Vinton has been a designated Virginia Values Veterans Employer since 2015, with the message to future employees that “Vinton Values Veterans!”

The Field of Honor will be up through May. To make a donation or purchase a flag, visit <https://www.healingfield.org/event/vinton-va/>. Proceeds go to Shield Chaplaincy, a non-profit established in 2018 which works with law enforcement officers to help them cope with trauma experienced on the job.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Town of Vinton Field of Honor dedication ceremony participants included (from left): front row, Police Lt. Michael Caldwell, Chaplain Darren Potter, Service Dog Scarlett, Cpl. Jesse Dibble, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond; second row, Mayor Brad Grose, Exec. Asst. to Town Manager Megan Lawless, Police Records Manager Ginny Rhodes, Police Lt. Scott Hurt, Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins, Community Programs Director Amanda Payne; back row, Administrative Asst. Shay Hicks, Cpl. Brandon Charlton, Dep. Chief Tim Lawless, Det. Sgt. Todd Bailey, Officer Brandon Hill, and Det. Cpl. Justin Baker.

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BOOMTOWN
CROSSFIT

MEMORIAL DAY

26 MAY 2025

“MURPH”

1 MILE RUN

100 PULL-UPS

200 PUSH-UPS

300 AIR SQUATS

1 MILE RUN

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VPD

BoomTown CrossFit, Vinton Police invite community to participate in Murph Challenge

BoomTown CrossFit, in partnership with the Town of Vinton Police Department, will host The Murph Challenge on Monday, May 26 at 8 a.m. It is a free, community-wide fitness event in honor of U.S. Navy Seal Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who gave his life in combat while serving in Afghanistan.

Held annually on Memorial Day across the nation, The Murph Challenge serves as a powerful tribute to the fallen and a way for individuals to test their mental and physical strength. BoomTown CrossFit invites the entire community to participate in this meaningful event.

This free community event is open to all fitness levels — with multiple scaling options so everyone can participate.

Organizers say, “Let’s come together to remember, sweat, and support one another.”

The Murph Workout includes a 1 mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, and another 1 mile run. Participants may complete the workout with or without a 20-pound weighted vest, mimicking the body armor Lt. Murphy wore during his final mission. All fitness levels are encouraged to participate as The Murph Challenge is scalable to all levels of ability.

“The Murph Challenge is more than a workout—it’s a way to come together, push ourselves, and remember the sacrifices of those who served,” said Michael Venable, co-owner of BoomTown CrossFit. “We’re proud to host this event and welcome everyone, no matter what their fitness level.”

After the workout guests are invited to enjoy a community cookout, served by Vinton Police Department, and featuring Smooshed ice cream.

Doors will open at 7 a.m. on Monday with an optional briefing at 7:45 a.m. Heats will begin at 8 a.m. with 15-minute waves to follow.

Donations are accepted to benefit The Murph Foundation at <https://murphfoundation.com/>.

BoomTown CrossFit is located at 703 Tinker Avenue in Vinton (near Cargill and the railroad crossing).

Visit www.boomtowncrossfit.com for additional information and to register.

Submitted by Vinton Police Dept.

William Byrd announces Terriers of the Month for April

William Byrd High School has announced its Terriers of the Month for April—the final group for the 2024-2025 school year.

Each month, William Byrd High School recognizes students and staff who “go above and beyond” to make the school a better place. Their hard work, dedication, and positive attitude truly embody “Terrier Pride.”

Student Terriers of the Month for April were Ezra Akers, Jeimy Avilez Rodriguez, Royce Apple, Erica Barton, Elijah Blanton, Hunter Butterworth, Sydney Coles, Chloe Gill, Chase Gonzales, Owen Humphreys, David Hutsonpillar, Carmen Janney, Sara Kingery, Juan Maldonado, Peyton Miller, Melany Molero Cordero, Tyler Moran, Ivey Nipper, Tyler Pickeral, Maddie Pittman, Meera Raichura, Summer Routhier, Jay Rozenboom, Emma Rupe, Rachael Shanks, Gwen Summo, and Darin Witcher.

Faculty and staff Terriers of the Month for April were Matt Bartley, Edward Donahue, Catherine Long, Amy Sartell, Brady Paschal, Travis Welty, Laura Woods, and Lisa Stover.

All WBHS students and staff may nominate individuals who they believe exhibit the “Terrier Way” (being safe, respectful, responsible, and embodying the best of WBHS).

The Terrier of the Month program is sponsored by ALCOVA Mortgage in Vinton and its branch manager Matt Crizer—a William Byrd graduate. Crizer was looking for a way to honor students and teachers who are doing great things in and out of the classroom and the project grew from there to include free

See **Terriers**, page 8



Student Terriers of the Month for April include (from left): front row, Chloe Gill, Owen Humphreys, Erica Barton, Summer Routhier, Ivey Nipper, and Tyler Pickeral; back row, Carmen Janney, Jeimy Avilez Rodriguez, Ezra Akers, and Rachael Shanks. Not pictured are Royce Apple, Elijah Blanton, Hunter Butterworth, Sydney Coles, Chase Gonzalez, David Hutsonpillar, Sara Kingery, Juan Maldonado, Peyton Miller, Melany Molero Cordero, Tyler Moran, Maddie Pittman, Meera Raichura, Jay Rozenboom, Emma Rupe, and Gwen Summo.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Student/staff Terriers of the Month for April include (from left) Edward Donahue, Catherine Long, student Darin Witcher, Amy Sartell, Brady Paschal, Travis Welty, and Lisa Stover. Staff member Laura Woods is not pictured.

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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Herman L. Horn among ‘March Mathness’ winners



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER
Herman L. Horn second grade math teacher Jennifer Pineo (left) is shown with Colleen Burt and Joss Voss from IXL, who sponsored a pizza party for the Most Proficient Classroom in the county during the annual “March Mathness” competition.

Winners have been announced for the second annual Roanoke County Public Schools “March Mathness” competition. Herman L. Horn Elementary earned third place as “Most Proficient School.” Second grade HLH teacher Jennifer Pineo’s class earned “The Most Proficient Classroom Award” in the county, and a pizza party from IXL, an online math practice program which hosts the competition. The “March Mathness” competition was developed by Sarah Bayer, math supervisor for Roanoke County, to help students and teachers review before the Spring SOL tests. All 26 RCPS schools participated. The competition lasts for three weeks—this year from March 3-21. Students earn points for every math exercise they complete on the IXL program during school hours. More proficiencies earned equal higher scores. In 2025, 170,000 proficiencies were

completed county-wide. Fort Lewis Elementary won first place for “Most Proficient School” with Penn Forest coming in second. Other top ten finishers in the Vinton area were Mount Pleasant Elementary, which placed fifth, and Bonsack Elementary, which placed seventh. All schools are divided up among four teams: the Fractions of Fury, Dunkin Denominators, Number Ninjas, and Guardians of Geometry. Herman L. Horn was part of the Fractions of Fury team; Mount Pleasant Elementary was on the Dunkin Denominators team; Bonsack, W.E. Cundiff and William Byrd High School were on the Guardians of Geometry team; and William Byrd Middle School was on the Number Ninjas team. Number Ninjas was named the Winning Team Overall.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

It was a sad weekend for our family. My father-in-law, Paul L. Boitnott, age 89, passed away on Saturday, May 17, at Berkshire Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Roanoke on September 18, 1937, and was a retired employee of Norfolk Southern. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Hazel Jenkins Boitnott; his parents, James L. and Birdie Huffman Boitnott; a brother, Wayne, and a sister, Virginia. He is survived by three children, Michael Boitnott, Vicky Smith (Ken), Greg Boitnott (Angie); five grandchildren, Joshua Powell, Benjamin Powell, Cydney McGhee, Crystal Mattson, and Elena Boitnott; five great-grandchildren, Austin Powell, Chaemen Powell, Kellen Kennedy McGhee, Cole Mattson, Kinsley Mattson; and several nieces and nephews. His graveside service will be held Thursday, May 22, 2025, at Mountain View Cemetery at 10 a.m. with Pastor Brian Gieser officiating. There is no visitation. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Vinton Chamber’s Spring Golf Tournament. We had 26 teams. Thank you to all our sponsors, Blue Hills Golf Club, and thank you to all the businesses who donated door prizes. Even though the rain cut things short, I think everyone had a good time. We will have another one on September 19. Please contact the Chamber office if interested.



Congratulations Terriers Class of 2025!

Good Luck!

DAR: Our Patriot Ancestors

In recognition of the upcoming 250th celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the DAR America 250! Committee is placing a spotlight on members’ Patriot ancestors who helped the country achieve American independence. The DAR recognizes three types of service that an ancestor can have performed for a woman to join: served in the military, provided supplies, or supported the efforts of the colonies in other ways. Colonel John Tayloe II is the Patriot ancestor of NSDAR Roanoke Valley member Sabra Bailey Breslin. He was a Virginia planter, politician and early industrialist. He served in the Virginia Governor’s Council under Lord Dunmore and was a colonel in the Virginia Militia but is best remembered as a “model Virginia planter, planting tobacco, wheat and corn and raising livestock.” Tayloe was born May 28, 1721, in Richmond County, Va. He was the second son of John Tayloe I and Elizabeth Gwynn. His siblings included an older brother, William, who died at the age of 9, a twin sister, Elizabeth, and a younger sister, Ann Corbin Tayloe. When Tayloe’s father died in 1747, the young John Tayloe II inherited a fortune, including the Neabsco Iron Foundry which his father, John Tayloe I had founded 10 years earlier. The foundry was ideally located and relied upon the water power from the Occoquan River and Neabsco Creek, charcoal from the forests of Prince William County, and oyster shells from Freestone Point used as the “flux” to lower the temperature in the furnace at which iron would separate out from the ore. The business became a multifaceted industrial plantation. Its activities included farming, leatherworking, milling, shipbuilding, shoemaking and smithing, as well as supplying raw materials used as weaponry during the American Revolution. The business grew and expanded when Tayloe II bought the Occoquan Ironworks Company and eventually ran it as one business with Neabsco. Tayloe supplied the Virginia Navy with “Cannonball, Plant, and Pigg iron” primarily from his various iron foundries located in Prince William County. Ships used to transport farm and

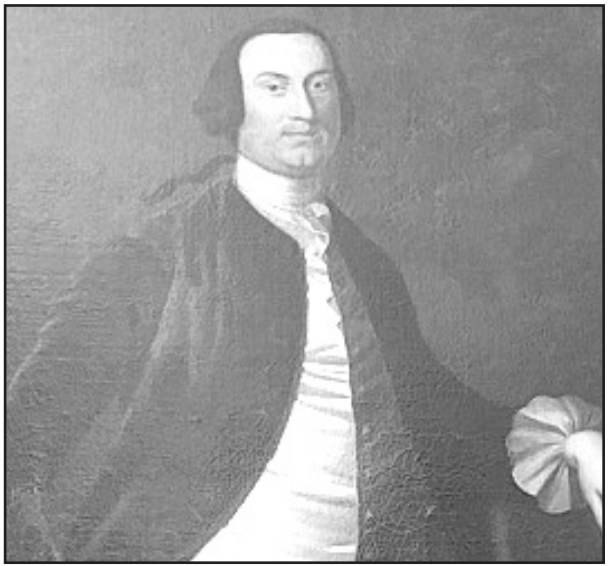


PHOTO COURTESY OF SABRA BRESLIN
American Revolution Patriot Col. John Tayloe II

industrial production were also produced there. These iron furnaces played an important role in the American Revolution by creating industrial self-sufficiency from Great Britain. In fact, the munitions created at the Neabsco Iron Furnaces were so vital to the American military that the British government ordered the furnace be destroyed during the War of 1812. The mission failed and the furnace continued operation until the late 1820s. Colonel Tayloe died suddenly on April 18, 1779, at the age of 57. The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political organization open to any woman who has lineage to a Patriot who contributed to the success of the American Revolution. Founded in 1890, the DAR is dedicated to preserving American history, education and patriotism.

Submitted by DAR member Sabra Breslin



From the Pulpit

During May at Lynn Haven Baptist Church, our sermon series has been “Strength for the Journey.” We wrap up this series with the title “Strengthened by His Power” which explores the deep encouragement of Ephesians 3:16-19, where Paul prays that believers be strengthened through God’s Spirit. True strength, as Paul teaches, comes from the inside out as Christ dwells in our hearts and the Holy Spirit empowers us. Rooted and grounded in God’s love, we are reminded that His love is wider,

longer, higher, and deeper than we can ever fully grasp. This strength allows us to stand firm during life’s storms and face challenges with courage. Today’s devotion likens our need for God’s power to a lamp needing to be plugged into a power source—without Him, we can do nothing. Filled with God’s Spirit, we overflow with His love, power, and peace, living boldly for Him. Romans 8:37 assures us that through Christ, we are “more

than conquerors.” Let’s end today with a focus on salvation through Jesus, emphasizing that His power is available to all who believe. Through faith in Christ, we are forgiven, filled with His Spirit, and strengthened to live the abundant life He promises. If you are looking for a conservative, friendly, Bible-preaching church to attend you will love our church. As always, I encourage all of you to “be more like Christ tomorrow than you were today!”

RECIPES OF THE WEEK So Many Strawberries!

It’s strawberry season and here are a couple of ways to use up a few of those berries. **Strawberry Amaretto Sunrise**
Ingredients:
10 ounces strawberries (about 10 or so), washed and hulled
2 and 1/2 cups vanilla ice cream
1/3 cup cold milk
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. Amaretto liqueur (or more)
Directions: Wash and hull the berries. Put them in a blender with the ice cream, milk, powdered sugar, and Amaretto (an almond flavored liqueur). Blend until smooth. Taste and add more Amaretto, if desired. Pour into glass. Top with whipped cream. If you are really picky, you can strain the drink to remove strawberry seeds, but it’s not necessary. Serve ice cold. Strawberries are known for being low in calories, fiber-

rich, potassium-packed, containing more Vitamin C than an orange, and rich in Folate and phytochemicals. (These two recipes – probably not so low in calories.) **Fresh Strawberry Mousse**
Ingredients:
1 pint fresh strawberries
1/2 cup sugar
3 oz. strawberry Jello
2 cups whipping cream
Directions: Mash washed and hulled strawberries. Drain and reserve juice. Set pulp aside. Add enough water to the strawberry juice to make 1 and 1/2 cups liquid. Bring juice mixture to boil. Add gelatin, stir to dissolve. Chill until consistency of unbeaten egg whites. Combine the strawberry pulp and sugar. Stir into gelatin mixture. Pour whipping cream into chilled bowl; beat until soft peaks form. Fold into strawberry mix. Chill until set.

Terriers from page 7

t-shirts for winners of the honor, and recognition on the school’s digital sign and in the Vinton Messenger. The project also drew in school art classes, with the t-shirts being designed by teacher Alicia Spangler’s digital art classes and then voted on by the student body. This year, the students named as Terriers of the Month also receive a postcard from the individual who nominated them, indicating what prompted their selection and what has made them stand-outs in the student body at William Byrd. The program is facilitated by Asst. Principal Kevin Richardson and Life Counselor Lauren Pomeroy. Richardson says that with the Terrier of the Month program, the school wishes to focus on students “who are doing the right things.”

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Reed from page 6

make smart, impactful financial decisions that directly benefit teaching and learning. “I’m especially passionate about strengthening early literacy, supporting intervention programs, and making sure all students have access to meaningful learning experiences—both inside and outside the classroom. My goal is to help our schools keep progressing forward, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to grow, achieve and succeed. “I believe I will be an effective School Board member because I bring a unique combination of educational insight and a strong business background. As an educator, I understand the daily realities of the classroom and how School Board decisions directly affect students, teachers, and learning outcomes.

This perspective allows me to advocate for policies that truly support our schools from the inside out. “In addition, my background in business has provided me with valuable experience in strategic planning, financial management, and efficient resource allocation. These skills are essential for making informed, responsible decisions that ensure our schools are not only well-funded but also operate effectively and sustainably. “By blending my knowledge of education with sound business principles, I will work to

make decisions that are student-focused, fiscally responsible, and aligned with the long-term goals of our district. I’m committed to listening, collaborating, and leading with both heart and strategy. “I am committed to serving the Roanoke County school system and our community with experience, integrity, and a clear focus on student success. I would be honored to earn your vote and represent our community on the School Board.”

-Vinton Messenger staff report



Terrier of the Month Matt Bartley PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
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VDOT

from page 1

Road operating at a Level of Service of D and E in existing conditions.

- Regarding safety: Over a five-year period, 17 accidents were reported at the Hardy/Bypass Road intersection. The majority of these crashes were rear-end and angle crashes, with some of these collisions resulting in severe injuries.

Multiple concepts for the intersection were considered, but, according to VDOT, a roundabout offered the highest level of safety with the least amount of conflict points than other intersection configurations.

The roundabout aims to improve traffic flow, improve sight distance for Roop Street, reduce conflict points, reduce entry speeds at the intersection, and therefore reduce crashes/congestion. The proposed roundabout projects a Level of Service C or better for traffic forecasted in the year 2045.

A traffic count in 2023 showed the daily traffic count at the intersection was approximately 15,400 vehicles on Route 24 and 12, 200 on Route 634.

While roundabouts are intimidating to some who are unsure how to navigate them, there are many benefits to the traffic design:

- They reduce the number of points where vehicles can cross paths and eliminate the potential for right-angle and head-on crashes since vehicles are all moving in one direction. The Yield-controlled design means fewer stops, fewer delays, shorter queues. Roundabouts are designed for lower vehicle speeds, giving drivers more time to react (designed not to exceed 30 mph at roundabout entry with use of entry curves/angles of deflection).
- Roundabouts provide enhanced traffic flow, reduce collisions, improve pedestrian safety, and offer environmental benefits. They efficiently handle high traffic volumes, leading to smoother traffic patterns and reduced congestion. The circular design lowers collision risks and eliminates left turns across traffic, enhancing safety.
- Roundabouts eliminate the need for traffic signals and allow vehicles to flow continuously in one direction without complete stops. They reduce the likelihood of back-ups and delays during peak hours. They minimize abrupt stops and starts, which can lead to rear-end collisions.
- Roundabouts force reduced speeds, eliminate left turns across traffic and reduce T-bone collisions.
- Roundabouts enhance pedestrian safety with dedicated crosswalks and refuge islands. Designated crosswalks are set back from circulating lanes, allowing pedestrians to cross smaller sections of traffic at a time. This gives drivers more time to see and react to pedestrians.
- Roundabouts reduce emissions, improve air quality, and decrease fuel consumption. They minimize idling and stop-and-go traffic, leading to lower levels of harmful pollutants being released into the air.

As for driver confusion from unconventional traffic patterns and multiple entry points, this emphasizes the need for clear signage, proper lane markings, and driver education to enhance safety and traffic flow, VDOT says.

Some specific concerns expressed by citizens at the meeting involved large vehicle traffic, such as buses, as well as tractor-trailer traffic coming from Cardinal Glass and other businesses and how they would navigate the circle. The answer is that the raised island in the center of the roundabout will allow extra space for trucks to navigate by driving over its approximately two-inch edge.

There were also questions about whether the traffic signal would be kept at Clearview Drive and about pedestrian vulnerability at the crosswalks, especially at exits to the roundabout heading down Hardy Road.

The impact on emergency vehicles was also an issue—how does traffic clear for them if there is only one lane?

A fourth grader at W.E. Cundiff took the opportunity of the public meeting to express his concerns to VDOT about traffic safety in general on Hardy Road in front of his school. Tucker very articulately described the difficulties in the traffic pattern at Cundiff, especially during school opening and dismissal times. Too many motorists speed through the corridor; more noticeable flashing lights are needed (if turning right from Dillon Drive, you are unable to see the flashing light that indicates school is opening or ending for the day), and more law enforcement would be helpful to assist with traffic during those particular times of day to enhance safety for students.

Those who were unable to attend the meeting may still submit comments through May 30 to Hayden.Hill@vdot.virginia.gov, referencing “Hardy Road Roundabout in Vinton.”

Council

from page 1

paving (\$797,011) and payment of Economic Development Performance Agreements of some \$913,000. He expects the growth of expenditures to begin outpacing natural revenue growth and fringe benefit costs to increase in the coming years, although new revenue streams are developing with the construction of a new hotel, new businesses, and more restaurants opening in the town. However, this is also the final year of payments from the Western Virginia Water Authority’s purchase of the town’s utility systems.

The Capital Improvement Program for FY26 (\$500,000) includes purchases of a new streetsweeper and downtown furniture, HVAC upgrades for Public Works, Gateway entrance signs to the town, and a contribution to the Vinton History Museum to make its proposed cargo/personnel lift to the second floor a reality.

There were no comments from citizens during the public hearing. Council will vote on the FY26 budget at its meeting on June 3.

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond and Deputy Chief Tim Lawless presided over the promotion of two Vinton officers. Jason Call was promoted to sergeant and Andrew Hagy advanced to corporal.

Sgt. Call joined the department in October 2023; Cpl. Hagy in June 2023. Both have received many accolades since joining the VPD. Their families were present for the promotion ceremony. Mayor Brad Grose thanked the families for supporting the officers in a difficult job.

Public Works Director Bo Herndon introduced employees who placed in the annual Southwest Virginia Public Works Academy Rodeo at the Berglund Center on April 2:

- Garrett Chappell placed first in the Knuckleboom Competition
- Keith Childress, second in the Snow Plow Competition
- Andrew Critcher, first in the Zero Turn Competition
- Jason Davison, first in the Bucket Truck Competition and second in Knuckleboom

Steven Newman, third in Zero Turn Competition

Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins read a proclamation declaring the month of May as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month. Guillain-Barre Syndrome and Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy are rare, paralyzing, and potentially catastrophic disorders of the peripheral nerves. The cause is unknown, and the length of the illness is unpredictable. Rick Forney, the liaison for the local area chapter, linking patients, physicians, nurses, and families, developed the syndrome some 16 years ago and was present for the recognition.

Council member Sabrina McCarty read a proclamation declaring May 18-24 as National Public Works Week in Vinton.

Council noted that, “Our community of 8,000 citizens depends on the men and women of the Public Works profession who work tirelessly, every day and often at night and on weekends, under all weather conditions, with quiet dedication to make our communities dynamic places to live and work.”

Public Works employees promote the quality of life in Vinton and also provide critical responses capabilities, experience, and support in times of emergency. If there were regional awards for ice and snow removal, clean streets, and clean-up after events, Vinton Public Works would win every time.

In his report on the latest meeting of the Public Works Committee, Herndon said that the stormwater project at Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church is now complete; another stormwater repair is nearly complete at the Lancerlot. “Boring studies” will be completed on Third Street to determine how to move forward in repairing the roadway which is experiencing significant issues. The paving contract is complete in the Bali Hai area and on Cleveland Avenue. Next up will be the Virginia and Hardy Road areas. Herndon also said that Public Works has obtained a new spray-painting machine for roadways and will be adding stop bars at intersections through Vinton where needed.

In his report, Finance Director Andrew Keen shared the good news that the town is still collecting nearly \$35,000 each month in interest from bank deposits. Revenues are exceeding expectations. Vinton has over 600 active business licenses and the pari-mutuel revenues are also exceeding what was predicted. Two options are being explored for the renovations to the Vinton War Memorial. Town Manager Pete Peters informed council that the sale of the hotel property has closed.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Several employees of the Public Works Dept. were recognized for placing in the Southwest Virginia Public Works Academy Rodeo. Pictured from left are Asst. Public Works Director Jill Acker, Jason Davison, Andrew Critcher, Garrett Chappell, and Public Works Director Bo Herndon.

Educators

from page 5

my retirement. I know some say working in education is difficult, and it can be, but it is also so rewarding. It is all about the perspective you take.”

Brian Butler is retiring from his position as a science teacher at WBHS. “My first year out of Virginia Tech, I worked for RCPS as a long-term sub at Northside Middle School. I came back to education many years later and have been teaching Earth Science, Biology, and Ecology at William Byrd for 19 years. This was a second career for me.

As for his future plans, “No plans set in stone at this time. I have committed to subbing for RCPS for the next five years, but I may get bored and look for something else to do full-time.

“I am a Byrd grad myself, so it was nice to be able to come back and be a part of its history. I am grateful to have worked with so many outstanding educators here (including many that I had as a teacher when I was a student). I have enjoyed working with all the students in my classes and those I coached in track and girls basketball. I consider myself blessed to have had a small part in teaching so many amazing young ladies and gentlemen from a community that means so much to me. I will miss the daily interactions with all these young adults—I can honestly say there has rarely been a dull moment in life as a teacher.”

Bill Hughes is retiring from W.E. Cundiff Elementary. “I have had the privilege of being the Physical Education Specialist for W.E. Cundiff Elementary for the past 19 years for Roanoke County Public Schools. “Retirement will allow me the opportunity to continue my outside interests (reading, fitness, and traveling) along with discovering new ones.

“I’ll have good memories of the energy of the students, the excitement and fun as they participated in the various activities and the pure joy of accomplishing something for the first time like hula hooping, jumping rope, juggling or making a basket at the big basket.

“Seeing the students that are not already physically capable persist and make the effort to keep trying until they succeed, really stand out as highlights of my teaching career

Rachel Reedy is retiring from W.E. Cundiff Elementary. “I have been an instructional assistant at W.E. Cundiff for 10 years and with Roanoke County Schools for 14 years. I am also retired from Norfolk Southern with 22 years of service. I am the mother of two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I thank the Lord for the honor of every student I have worked with at Roanoke County Public Schools. I also have had the special honor of working for Ashley McCallum and Heather Everhart.”

Elaine Lane is retiring from her position as a Title I reading instructional assistant. She worked at Mount Pleasant Elementary for seven years and for 14 years at W.E. Cundiff teaching reading part-time. Her future plans are “spending time with my grandson.”

Karen Terrell is retiring from her position as Special Education coordinator at Mount Pleasant Elementary.

Melissa Caston is retiring from her position as a Special Education teacher at Mount Pleasant.

Ethel Ward is retiring from Bonsack Elementary where she has worked as an instructional assistant.

“I’ve been with Roanoke County Public Schools for 20 years,” Ward says. “I worked at Burlington Elementary from 2004-2013 and Bonsack Elementary from 2014-2025. I’ve been a Special Education instructional assistant at both schools, working in all grade levels, K-5. I have loved working with the kids and plan to substitute. I look forward also to camping, coloring, and time with my husband and dogs.”

Retiring educators featured in the May 15 Vinton Messenger were Ben Watts (WBMS), Robin Ard (W.E. Cundiff), Vicki Henschel (W.E. Cundiff), Tracy Broughman (Mount Pleasant), and Melissa Peroulas (Bonsack).

Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program Returns Millions to Citizens Each Year!

Look for the 2024 list of unclaimed properties in next week's newspaper.

What is Unclaimed Property?

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New Castle, VA

A variety of household items, tools, books, clothes, and more. Something for everyone!

Help Wanted

Wanted: Caregiver for adult male with special needs in Christiansburg.

Adult male is non- verbal and must have assistance with all aspects of daily living. We are looking for a long term person with a good employment record who has experience with a non-verbal adult. Safety is a priority. Candidates must be reliable; have kindness and patience; and show creativity (Music ability a plus). Hours will vary according to the needs of the gentlemen and his family. Pay is \$13.61 through Medicaid and CDCN. Candidates must pass a criminal background check and must have recent references (at least 3). No cellphone use while working except for emergencies. If interested, please call (540)838-5037 for an interview.

The Craig County Circuit Court has an opening for a Deputy Clerk 1

Key Responsibilities:
Record keeping, financial transactions, document preparation, customer service, administrative support, and technology. Technology

Skills and Qualifications:
High school diploma, strong work ethic and organizational skills, attention to detail, customer service skills, computer proficiency, and communication skills.

Please turn your resume into the Craig County Circuit Court Office.

Please put your phone number on your resume. Please turn in by May 27, 2025 Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk



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Legals - Montgomery County

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless

(Verizon Wireless) proposes to install new antennas at centerline heights of 23 feet and 24 feet on a 17-foot building with an overall building height of 30.5 feet at the approx. vicinity of 560 Depot Street, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA 24073. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, McKayla Ordak, m.grasham@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 410-853-7128.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Code Amendment request by Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Section 42-11 – Amendments to chapter (c) Notice and hearing. The request is to 1) remove the requirement for notices of public hearings to be published once a week for two successive weeks and 2) amend the advertising requirements to the first notice appearing no more than 28 days before and the second notice appearing no less than seven days before the date of the meeting referenced in the notice. The change would bring Town Code into alignment with Code of Virginia § 15.2-2204. (Advertisement of plans, ordinances, etc.; joint public hearings; written notice of certain amendments).

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Mary Frances Keith, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow a Single-Family or Two-Family Dwelling in the General Business District (B-3) on property located near the intersection of Boxwood Dr NW and Redwood Dr NW, identified as Tax Parcels 466-(1)-49, 50, 51, and 52; Parcel ID 013934, and consisting of approximately 0.480 acres. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

C. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties, LLC, Property Owner, and David Beasley, Applicant, to allow for a Kennel in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 1605 N. Franklin Street, identified as Tax Parcel 466-((A))-20C, Parcel ID 013214, and consisting of approximately 10.9 acres. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

D. Rezoning request by RN Investments Annex, LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, to rezone property located at 115 Farmview Rd NW, identified as Tax Parcels 466-((1))-60A-67A, Parcel ID 070719, consisting of approximately 9.050 acres, from General Business District (B-3) to General Industrial District (I-2). The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at rjackson@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

RESOLUTION SETTING PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATE SCHEDULE FOR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Public Service Authority does hereby agree to set the following proposed preliminary schedule fixing and classifying rates, fees, and charges for water and sewer service:

WATER RATE
Proposed 13.87% Increase
From: \$14.42 to \$16.42 per 1,000 gallons

SEWER RATE
Proposed 13.27% Increase
From: \$10.55 to \$11.95 per 1,000 gallons

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Montgomery County Public Service Authority, that the Public Service Authority hereby authorizes the Director to advertise a public hearing in accordance with Section 15.2-5136G of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to be held on June 02, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Board Room, in order to receive citizen comments on the preliminary schedule fixing and classifying rates, fees and charges for water and sewer service.

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Blacksburg Planning Commission Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Town of Blacksburg will conduct the following public hearings on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, during its meeting beginning at 6:30 PM in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Council Chamber, 300 South Main St, Blacksburg, VA on the following item:

RZN-25-2-Clydesview Planned Residential Development from R-5 Transitional Residential to PR Planned Residential at 103 Jefferson Street for Shah Development, LLC (owner). Request to rezone to Planned Residential (PR) to permit the construction of ten (10) two-story single family detached homes. Each home will have 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. There are 20 bedrooms proposed in 10 units with a maximum density of no greater than 15.3 units per acre (10 units) or 30.5 beds per acre (20 beds). Resident parking will be provided in the parking lot adjacent to the homes and accessed from Jefferson Street. Total parking spaces will be 20 spaces or 2 spaces per unit. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use designation is Medium Density Residential. This proposed development does not increase density above the Future Land Use (FLU).

RZN-25-3-801 North Main Street Rezoning Amendment to amend RZN-24-2 approved March 2025 to add the former Speedway Gas station at 825 North Main Street for LV Hokie GP, LLC (owner). A rezoning amendment request to amend RZN-24-2 (approved March 11, 2025) to PR Planned Residential which would permit the construction of an 8-story multifamily building with commercial on the ground floor and townhome-style multifamily buildings, with up to 869 bedrooms total. The property is located at 801 North Main Street and includes parcels on Kabrich Street, Winston Avenue, Progress Street and the former Speedway Gas Station at 825 North Main Street which was not included in the original rezoning request (RZN-24-2). There is a companion request (ROW-25-1) to vacate Town-owned alley and additional right-of-way. The Comprehensive Plan

Legals - Montgomery County

Future Land Use designation is Commercial and Medium Density Residential. The request for 265 bedrooms per acre represents an increase in the density above the Future Land Use (FLU).

Persons affected by or interested in the rezoning and rezoning amendment requests may appear and present their views. After the hearing, the Planning Commission may take action. Copies of the applications, staff report and all related items may be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. You may also call the office at (540) 443-1300 for more information. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in the public hearing on the above should contact the Planning & Building Department at (540) 443-1300, or (540)-443-1000-TDD.

Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale 133 RIDGEVIEW CIRCL, ROANOKE, VA 24019 (Parcel ID: 13766/107E(1)BK5-9)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 7/18/2009, in the original principal amount of \$155,652.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Botetourt County, Virginia on 8/7/2009, as Instrument No. 090004397, Loan modification recorded on 4/3/2024 as Instrument No. 240000818, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 7/10/2025 at 1:00 PM, Botetourt County Circuit Court, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090, the property designated as 133 RIDGEVIEW CIRCL, ROANOKE, VA 24019. All that certain lot or parcel of land, with any and all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying, being and situated in:

The Land situated in the County of Botetourt in the State of VA Lot 9, Block 5, according to the Revised Map of Section 4, Botetourt East, which map is recorded in Plat Book 8, page 74, in the Clerk's Office of the County of Botetourt, Virginia.

Being the same property conveyed to STEVIE W. SHIRES and BARBARA T. SHIRES, husband and wife as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated March 20, 1991 of record in Deed Book 385, Page 730, in the Botetourt County Clerk's Office. Group Number: N/A Commonly known as: 133 Ridgeview Circl Roanoke, VA 24019

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$15,565.20 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-34358, Tel: 888-313-1969

Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale 344 LLOYD TOLLEY RD, NATURAL BRIDGE ST, VA 24579 Parcel ID: 113E100A00000030

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated 4/29/2008, in the original principal amount of \$101,042.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Rockbridge County, Virginia on 4/30/2008, as Instrument No. 080001623, Loan Modification recorded on 12/20/2017 as Instrument No. 170003480, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on 6/30/2025 at 1:30 PM, Rockbridge County Circuit Court, 20 S Randolph St, Lexington, VA 24450, the property designated as 344 LLOYD TOLLEY RD, NATURAL BRIDGE ST, VA 24579. All that certain lot or parcel of land, with any and all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying, being and situated in:

Being that certain real estate, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, and the rights and appurtenances thereunto, belonging, situate in the Natural Bridge Magisterial District of Rockbridge County, Virginia, containing 0.42 acre, more or less, and being more particularly described on a survey of B.S. Clark, Jr., dated February 6, 1968, said plat being attached to a deed to Raymond V. Shanks from Helen Chiles Mason and husband recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Rockbridge County, Virginia, in Deed Book 301 at Page 574.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$10,104.20 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Vylla Solutions - Virginia, LLC, 283 Constitution Drive, Suite 102, Office B, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, File No. 25-33255, Tel: 888-313-1969

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given

to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on June 11, 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:

Consider the request of R & S Investments LLC, property owners, for the issuance of a special exception permit to allow a retail sales, smoke shop for the property located at 132 Electric Road (Tax Map #80-2-1).

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

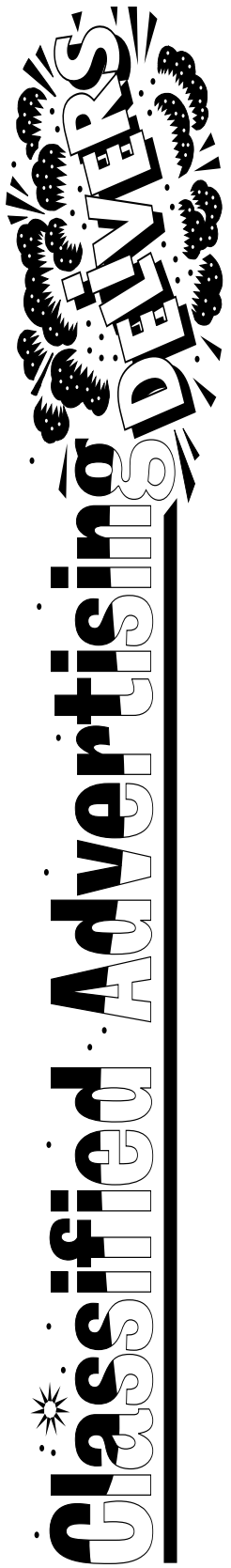
At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

BY: Christopher J. Dorsey
Executive Secretary

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

There was lots of action at the dish when William Byrd played Northside in a big Blue Ridge District baseball game at Clyde Strutt Field last week. Above left and right, Byrd catcher JW Vaughan took a throw from leftfielder Hunter Obenchain and tagged out the potential winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Below, Byrd's Kam McKee gets a hand on the plate to score in a game Byrd eventually won, 4-3 in eight innings.

William Byrd teams will play in Region 3D tournaments

William Byrd sports teams are scheduled to begin Region 3D play in the coming week. Opponents for most teams will be decided this week due to rain that wiped out most of last week's schedule.

This year Blue Ridge District champions will be crowned by regular season record. Tournaments were originally planned, but due to rescheduled games it was decided to have just the top two teams play for championships on Friday of this week. However, when more postponements came that plan was scrapped and now just the regular season winners will be declared Blue Ridge District champions.

The first region games will be this Friday when the lacrosse teams take the field. Byrd's boys finished the regular season 8-6 and earned the fifth seed. They'll travel to Blacksburg Friday for a first round game.

The Byrd girls' lacrosse team finished 9-5 and will play at E.C. Glass in Lynchburg in Friday's opening round game. The girls finished the

regular season with an 18-3 win over Christiansburg in Vinton Monday.

The tennis teams are scheduled to open their tournaments on Tuesday of next week. Tennis tournaments include team play as well as singles and doubles.

The Region 3D openers for baseball, softball and boys and girls soccer are scheduled to begin on Wednesday of next week, May 28. Seedings are yet to be determined with games being played this week.

The baseball team has likely clinched a spot in the 10 team tournament with a big 4-3 win over Northside last week. The Vikings were previously unbeaten in Blue Ridge District play but Byrd pulled out a 4-3 win in eight innings.

The Terriers led 3-0 into the bottom of the seventh after Brogan Dent pitched six shutout innings. However, Northside rallied in the bottom of the seventh and scored three runs to tie it. Hunter Obenchain threw out the potential winning run at the plate to save the game for Byrd before the



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terriers scored in the top of the eighth to regain the lead. Connor Jones then closed out the win in the home half of the eighth. Kyland Spence had a home run at Northside.

"It was a big point win for us and gave us a spot in the region," said coach Jason Taylor. "I think the team is at a good point. You want to be playing well at the end and I think that is where we are."

Byrd hosted Staunton River on Tuesday of this week for "Senior Night" and dropped a 4-2 decision. The Terriers are now 10-12 and will wrap up the regular season tonight at 5:30 pm when they make up a game with

Franklin County that was previously postponed.

The softball team is also scheduled to play tonight, hosting Pulaski County in a non-district game at 5:30 pm. The Terriers were also scheduled to host Northside on Friday but the Vikings might call that one in citing a lack of players due to the Memorial Day weekend. If that happens Byrd gets a forfeit win and, counting that game, the Terriers would be 10-13 overall and finish 6-6 in the district. They lost at Staunton River Tuesday, 5-4 in eight innings.

The boys' soccer team ended the regular season

with a 6-2 win over Staunton River on Monday in Moneta. It was the third straight win for the Terriers, who will enter the Region 3D tournament with a 10-6-1 record. Ian Sigmon and Daniel Britts scored two goals each against the Eagles and Ethan Sutton had two assists.

The Byrd girls' soccer team hosted Staunton River on Tuesday and ended the regular season with a scoreless tie. The girls will enter region play with a 7-7-4 overall record. They won at Northside last Friday, 7-1, as Bella Barrette, Kendall Ranson and Ryan Markham had two goals each.



PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

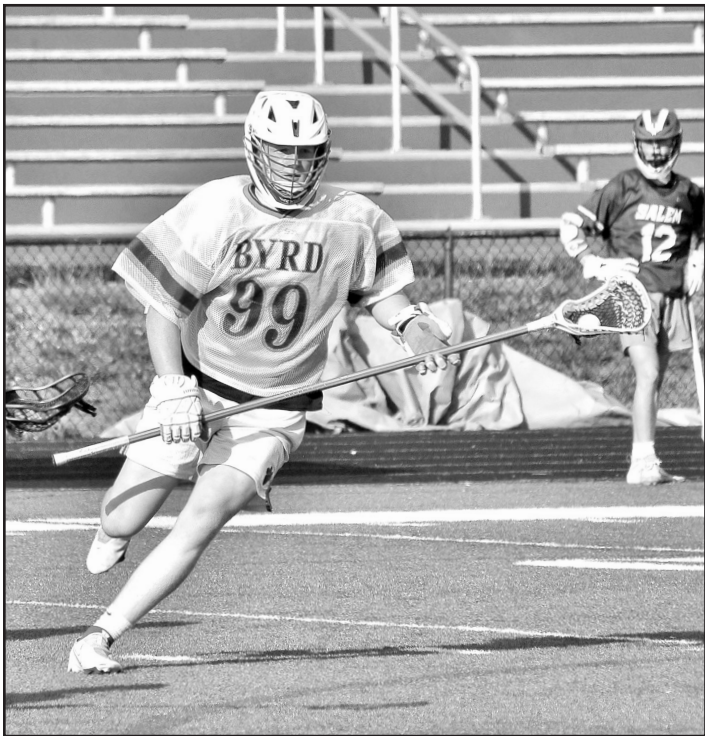


PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



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The post-season is about to begin for William Byrd spring sports teams. Above left, Annika Hylton of the girls' lacrosse team takes a shot on goal. Above middle, Mason Hershel clears the ball for the boys' team against Salem last week. Above right, Heidi Dixon takes the throw at first for the softball team. Below left, Emma Milliron settles the ball for the girls' soccer team. Below middle, Shaun Gower scores for the boys' team against Northside last week and, below, Luke Hemming hits a return for the boys' tennis team.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



Above, former players and coaches join Greg Barton behind home plate at Saturday’s field naming ceremony. Below left, Greg addresses the crowd. Below middle, players from the 2019 team give some remarks. Left to right are Rachel Cruff, Lexi Powell, Bri Hodges, Maddie Tuck and Morgan Webb. Right, Greg unveils the sign declaring the softball facility “Greg Barton Field, Home of the Lady Terriers.”

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



Barton Field

from page 1

of the softball booster club, who was instrumental in getting the field named for Barton.

After all the accolades were concluded, a very humble Barton took the microphone to make his remarks. He thanked wife Tammy for her support over the years and acknowledged all who attended, including some from afar, while spreading the credit around to assistants, former players and others who helped make the program and the beautiful softball facility possible. After noting that he was just two wins away from 200 as head coach, he looked to the outfield grass and implored the current team to get him those wins this spring. Then, folks gathered around the concession stand/restroom building as Barton unveiled the new sign that proclaimed the facility “Greg Barton Field, Home of the Lady Terriers.”

It was a special day for the community and for Barton, who bleeds maroon and orange. A 1979 graduate of William Byrd High School, his best sport was track where he was a middle-distance runner. He also wrestled for the Big Orange under Roanoke Valley Wrestling Association Hall of Famer Chuck Altice and played two years of football under former Byrd Coach Don Oakes, who played professionally for the Patriots and Eagles and is in the Virginia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame.

“I loved being on the team and listening to the stories about pro football,” said Barton. “I remember him saying ‘You ought to try tackling O.J. Simpson.’ But I was six foot and 140 pounds and played on the scout team on offense and defense, so I didn’t see a lot of playing time.”

After high school Greg was a lineman, but not of the football variety. He went to work for Appalachian Power Company where he served as a lineman for 33 years. For most of that time he was also coaching softball at Byrd.

“I averaged 1,100 overtime hours a year and coached on top of that,” he said. “I think I missed three games in all my time at Byrd.”

Barton was introduced to softball when his daughter Lindsey took up the sport at a young age.

“Lindsey started playing softball at 6 years old and she just loved it,” said

Barton. “When Marcee Cook was head coach, she said I needed to come out and help and I joined the staff along with Mike Andrews, who’s been with me ever since.”

Moving between the jayvee and varsity teams Greg was an assistant for 10 years. He served under Cook, then Andrews and then Mike Mitchell, who encouraged him to apply for the head coaching position when he stepped down. Mitchell is the current head coach at Roanoke College.

“I wasn’t sure I wanted to be the head coach, but (then Principal Richard) Dr. Turner told me I was the one they wanted, so I decided to apply,” said Barton. “It was a lot of hours along with my work, but it just worked out.”

The past 16 years have been a joy for Barton. He got to coach daughter Lindsey, who went on to play at Bluefield College and is now married to former Hidden Valley basketball player Matt Partsch. They’ve given Greg and Tammy two grandchildren.

Greg’s daughter Laura was a manager for the Big Orange wrestling team and married former Byrd state wrestling champ Michael Bryant, and they have three children.

His youngest, son Will, was a wrestler, and he’s still single and living in Vinton.

Of course, the highlight of the past 16 years was the 2019 state softball championship. The Terriers had a terrific team prior to that season but so did Woodgrove, and Byrd lost to the Wolverines in the first round of the state tournament in 2017 and the state semifinals, 1-0, in 2018.

In 2019, Woodgrove was looking for a third straight state title but the Terriers denied them with a walk-off state championship win. Sydney Burton singled in Megan Grant with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh for a 3-2 win in the Class 4 championship game at the Moyer Complex in Salem.

“We won three games in the state in the bottom of the seventh,” said Barton. “It was magical. It still puts tears in my eyes to think about it.”

His only regret is that his father passed away that season prior to the championship win. Greg’s mom is still living and attended the ceremony

Saturday.

The girls from the 2019 team remain close and often gather to relive the state championship. Barton had a cookout at his house last summer and many of the girls from that team attended.

Unfortunately, the Terriers didn’t get to defend their title a year later. In the spring of 2020, they finished one scrimmage when the COVID epidemic hit and all spring sports were cancelled. Several of the girls played their last year of college softball this past season but few from that team would question that the 2019 championship was the highlight of their softball careers.

In addition to the high school team, Barton has coached travel ball for the past 15 years. He started with the Scrappers for 10 years before starting his own team, the Star City Outlaws. That lasted two seasons before he returned to the Scrappers where he currently helps Jessie Grubb with the 18-and-under team.

Two of Grubb’s daughters, junior Ryleigh and freshman Hadyn, play for Greg on this year’s Byrd team.

Barton shows no signs of slowing down, and after retiring from AEP two years ago he has more time to devote to the field and the girls. He’s been popular

with the players and parents and hasn’t been burdened with parental issues like some other coaches he knows.

“I’ve probably had three negative conversations in all my years at Byrd,” he said. “I can relate to players who are disappointed with playing time, because I was that kid. You just want them to be out here and have fun. We’ve proven you can have fun and still win.”

Greg is the fourth person to have something named for him at the school.

The football stadium is named for his former Principal Bob Patterson, and the field in the stadium is named for a former football and soccer coach, Jeff Highfill. The baseball park is named for former Coach Gary Walthall who attended the ceremony Saturday. Barton is humbled to be mentioned in the same breath as those former Byrd greats.

“I’m so proud of how far we’ve come in my 26 years at Byrd,” he said. “Just to be in the same category as Coach Walthall, Coach Highfill and Mr. Patterson is beyond incredible to me. I have been blessed with the greatest young ladies, assistant coaches, boosters and administrators. I never thought of this as work, it’s just been my passion for many years.”



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William Byrd boys and girls are BRD track champions

The William Byrd boys and girls both won Blue Ridge District track championships last week at Northside High School. The boys scored 166 points to 110 for second place Northside and the girls posted 206 to outscore second place William Fleming, who

had 124. DeShawn Austin won three Blue Ridge District championships for the boys. He won the 110 hurdles in 14.38 and the 300 hurdles in 42.47, and DeShawn also finished first in the 400 with a time of 51.02.

DeShawn was second in both the long jump and the triple jump.

Ethan Haston was a two-time champ for the boys. He won the long jump at 22'20.5" and the triple jump at 44'6". Ethan took third in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes and added a second place in the pole vault, clearing 11 feet.

Colton Sotherden took a second place in the 3,200 meter run and a sixth in the 1,600 meters. James Smith was fourth in the 100 while Gray Matthews took sixth. Giovanni Pandolfini took third in the 800, Chase Gonzales was sixth in the 3,200. Logan Austin was fifth in the 110 hurdles and Dorian Hollis was fifth in the 300 hurdles. Logan tied for second in the high jump and Paxton Brown was fourth. Ashton Williamson was third in the pole vault and Parker Minnix was fifth.

In the throwing events Gregory Stiltner took third in the discus with a state qualifying throw and fourth in the shot put. Titus Beatty was third in the shot while Logan Hodges took sixth in the discus.

In the relays Byrd's 4x400 team was second and both the 4x100 and 4x800 teams took thirds.

In the girls' meet several Terriers had a big day. Grace Onwi won the 400 in 58.99 and took second in the 200. Lucy Whitenack won the 800 in 2:42.43 and also was first in the 1,600 in 6:10.64.

Byrd's 4x800 meter relay team of Jadyn St. Clair, Emma Thierry, Jacey Weddle and Keeli Emery won with a time of 11:46.80. In the 3,200 Weddle was second and Thierry was third.

Byrd girls won both throwing events. Anya Moore won the discus with a heave of 93'8", Skye Moore was second and McKinley Figart took third. In the shot put Williams was the winner at 31'8", Moore took third and Carleigh Leonard was fifth.

Byrd went 1,2,3 in the girls' pole vault. Spencer Peters won the event, clearing 8', while Alexia Donahue was second and Audrey Booze was third.

Lily Perez scored in five events. She tied for second in the high jump and took thirds in the long jump, triple jump and both hurdle races. Brooklyn Strother was fourth in the 300 hurdles.

Byrd's 4x100 and 4x400 relays both finished second.

Others who scored in the top six included Jadyn St. Clair with a second in the 800, Jenna Petersen

with a third in the 1,600 and a fourth in the 800, Bella Craddock with a fifth in the high jump and a sixth in the triple, Mallory Michalski with a fifth in the triple jump, Michal Hamlar with a sixth in the 100, Alexia Donahue with a sixth in the 400 and Shelby Krawczyk with a sixth in the high jump.

The next stop for the Terriers will be the Region 3D meet That's scheduled for Thursday, May 29th, at Christianburg High School.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Above left, DeShawn Austin is on his way to a first place finish in the BRD 110 hurdles. Above, Spencer Peters is up and over the bar to win the girls' pole vault.

Happy New Beginning!

Today we celebrate the end of one journey and the start of another. As you embark on the next step, we wish you good luck and great happiness. Don't be afraid to go after your dreams, and enjoy the adventure. You're capable of great things, and we'll be rooting for you. **Congratulations!**

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