Best of Roanoke Valley Winners inside this issue!





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Thursday, July 3, 2025 · Dogwood Capital of Virginia · Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville

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Corporal Dibble named Vinton Police Officer of the Year for 2024

Nominated by his peers, Vinton Police Corporal Jesse Dibble has won the 2024 Officer of the Year Award. His fellow officers say that "if you evaluate Corporal Dibble's work ethic, it becomes evident that he is passionate about his profession and committed to making a positive impact on the community he serves.'

According to the VPD, "Throughout his tenure at the Vinton Police Department, Corporal Dibble has undertaken several projects aimed at improving the quality of life in our town. He is always willing to support his fellow officers, often sacrificing his own time, and we even rely on him for his expertise in IT and organizing community events.

"Corporal Dibble's willingness to assist others extends beyond Vinton Police Department. Hе played a vital role in the Town's first Breast year, he has represented Campaign, which was as the VPD, at various



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON POLICE DEPT.

Officer of the Year Corporal Jesse Dibble

inaugural year.

"As a military veteran, Corporal Dibble also serves on the Town of Vinton's Veterans Committee. In the past Awareness military veterans, as well highly successful in its venues, including the

Vinton Veterans of Foreign Wars, Field of Honor, American Legion, and his own ruck event in the Town

Dibble "Corporal is also the creator of Vinton Police

See **Dibble**, page 8



Author Cece Bell demonstrates the bulky hearing aids she used as an elementary school student.

Awarding winning author/illustrator/cartoonist Cece Bell captivates audience at Vinton Library

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

The Roanoke County Library staff who planned this year's Summer Reading Program activities across the county have outdone themselves with their choices of presenters. The best example so far is the author talk by renowned author/illustrator/cartoonist Cece Bell on June 27. She has won both the Newbery Medal and the Eisner Award for her book "El Deafo."

You would expect that a book talk for children might consist of an author reading his/her new book aloud to a group of squirming children and their parents. Instead, Bell introduced herself with one of her early graphic novels, "El Deafo," revealing that while she is a writer who has used her hands and eyes in writing books for over 20 years, she is unable to use her ears. She is deaf in both ears and has been

See **Bell**, page 8

Mark Frye thanks customers and staff for 30 memorable years at Creative Occasions

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Mark Frye has spent the month of June 2025 celebrating the 30th anniversary of his business, Creative Occasions, Events, Flowers and Gifts, in downtown Vinton. He has thanked his customers for their continued patronage and his vendors for contributing to his success with their floral sundries and supplies.

Creative Occasions started out as Obenchain's Flowers, a landmark in

Vinton for decades, owned by Francis Obenchain. When she retired in February 2000, Frye purchased the business and property, promising to continue its "great reputation" and the "excellent quality its customers had been used to." And he has succeeded beyond his dreams.

Frye and his wife, Debbie, owned a home-based business in Roanoke called Creative Occasions, which specialized in floral arrangement for weddings, private

See Thanks, page 9



Mark Frye (kneeling on right) celebrated 30 years of business in Vinton with many of his loyal staff who have worked with him through the years. His mother, Anna (seated next to him) came from Radford to celebrate her son and his success.



Town of Vinton hosts Annual Fourth of July Celebration at Vinton War Memorial

The Town of Vinton is excited to host the annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Vinton War Memorial on Friday, July 4. This free event is open to the public and includes fun for the entire family.

The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with a short patriotic program at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by DJ Flex. The fireworks show (by Grucci) will begin at 9:30 p.m.

The crowd-favorite foam pit will once again be part of the festivities

this year.

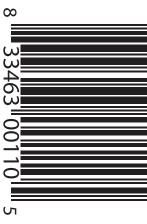
Food vendors will include Copper Dog, Deb's Lemonade, DG Ice, Duck Donuts, Get Glazed, Hangrey, Munsey's Smoke Shack, Social Bites, Tinker Mountain Kettle Corn, and Tinker Mountain

Shaved Ice. Please bring blankets or chairs for seating on the lawn. Please leave all pets, alcohol, and firecrackers or other

similar items at home. Several roads will be closed at various times on July 4th to accommodate

the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia Four on the 4th run and the Fourth of July

See July 4, page 9



Friday, July 4th and Saturday, July 5th ANY SINGLE ITEM UP TO \$50 WITH THIS COUPON!

One coupon per customer. Max Discount \$25. Excludes Sale items Gift Cards, Yeti Drinkware, Stanley Drinkware, Propane, Propane Tanks and Ammunition. No Rainchecks. Items over \$50 receive \$25 OFF.

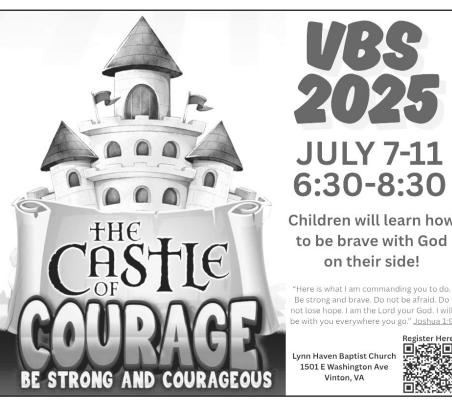
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Diaper Depot opens at Lynn Haven Baptist, Vacation Bible School starts July 7



6:30-8:30 Children will learn how

Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I wi





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*Limit one pack each per visit and must have ID

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF LYNN HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere

Register for VBS online on their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LynnHavenBaptist/ or scan the flyer, or call the church office for information on VBS or the Diaper Depot at 540-342-6102.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Lynn Haven Baptist Church in Vinton has opened the "Diaper Depot," a new community service project. Free diapers and wipe packs (limit one wipe pack per visit with ID) are being distributed from the church office on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Simply stop by the church office and speak to staff.

Lynn Haven Baptist is located at 1501 East Washington Avenue in Vinton. Their mission is "Live for Christ; Love One Another; Lead by Example.'

for Vacation Bible School beginning Monday, July 7 and extending through Friday, July 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening. This year's theme is "The Castle of Courage; Be

The church also invites the community to join them

Strong and Courageous," based on the scripture found

"Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope.

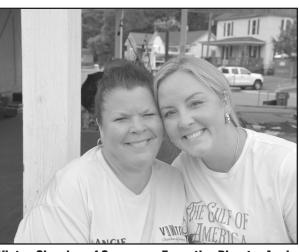
It takes more than a little thunder and lightning to stop a Mingle concert



Karlee Raye was the opening act at the June 28 Mingle.



Eric Wayne (on left) and Derek Kelly



Vinton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning (on left) and Chamber President Page Lovern



Shavante Hughes, drummer for the Eric Wayne Band

Despite the threat of thunderstorms and the occasional flash of lightning, a huge crowd showed up for the June 28 Mingle at the Market concert in Vinton. From comments overheard, many of those who attended are devoted followers of Karlee Raye and the Eric Wayne Band—and weren't about to leave.

Raye kicked off the evening with a great mix of original songs and country classics before the Eric Wayne Band took the stage, where Raye performed with them on one song. She comes from Lynchburg and is always a big hit when she performs in Vinton. She says her philosophy to keep her enthusiasm for the songs the audience always asks her to sing is to "play two for them and one for me." The Eric Wayne Band, from Roanoke, is a dynamic

southern country rock band that includes Eric Wayne, Derek Kelly, Shavante Hughes, and Tyler Carter. They are known for their high-energy shows-which they brought on Saturday—and their original music. Roanoke Roadside Grill was the food truck on site,

along with "mobile donut bakers" Get Glazed Donuts and Blue Ridge Beverage.

Vinton Moose Lodge #1121 sponsored the Kidz Zone at the family-friendly event.

Sponsors for the Mingle at the Market concerts hosted by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce currently include: Renewal by Andersen of Roanoke, Bank of Botetourt, Carilion Clinic, Crooked Shoreline, HomeTrust Bank, Dirk Padgett, PLC, Neely's Accounting, Rosie's, the Vinton War Memorial, PFG, Roanoke County, MemberOne, ALCOVA Mortgage, LAMAR, Pollard 107 South, the Shepherd Realty Group, RVTV3, the Town of Vinton, Winters Storage, Star City Pest Control, Roanoke County Schools, SERVPRO, Vinton McDonald's, Vertex Signs, McCarthy Tire Service, Star Valley Containers, Farmers Insurance—Caleb Mann, Star City Christmas Lights, Elliot, EC Contracting, Star City Crawlspace, Perfection Masonry, William Byrd Middle School, Oakey's, Blue Ridge Beverage, the Vinton Messenger, Magnets USA, Fox Radio 910, Ashley Wickstrom, and

the Vinton Moose. The William Byrd High School Terriers football team and coaches volunteer at each concert, setting up and tearing down. Defy Gravity volunteered to assist with the 50/50 raffle and ticket sales; Bank of Botetourt kept

the beer garden running smoothly. Organizations or individuals interested in volunteering at the Mingle events or in helping to sponsor the series should contact the Chamber office at 540-343-1364.

The 2025 Mingle at the Market concert series continues on Saturday, July 12. The Low, Low Chariot will be presenting their new 90s-2000s HOT FUSS rock act. Chris Keaton and the Millennials will open that evening, taking the stage for the first time—their

According to Chamber Executive Director Angie Chewning, "both acts are new to the lineup and are sure to bring great energy and fantastic music to the stage. Join us for a fun-filled time with fresh sounds and good

Also new to Mingle that night will be Cousins Maine Lobster Truck and a crowd favorite, Get Glazed Donuts.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton town manager, deputy, participate in VLGMA leadership conference

Recently, Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters and Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton attended the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) conference, where they were invited to participate in a panel discussion about leadership. The panel consisted of Chief Administrative Officers and their Deputies from across the state, discussing how the deputy manager supports the manager, highlighting both positive success stories and how they navigate difficulty and adversity.

The discussion was entitled "Who is your Wilson?" based on the movie Castaway, in which a volleyball became Tom Hanks' "Wilson," who helped him navigate the obstacles and challenges of life on a deserted island. The VLGMA panel focused on how deputies help managers navigate the challenges of their professional

Peters and Sexton have worked together in Vinton as Town Manager and Deputy since 2021 and view their



Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters (third from left) and Deputy Town Manager (fourth from left) participated in a panel discussion on leadership at the recent VLGMA conference.

leadership of the Town as a collaborative effort. The panel discussion was lively and provided many lessons learned for the other local government leaders at the

New laws which took effect in Virginia July 1

The Virginia General Assembly passed, and Governor Glenn Youngkin signed into law, a host of new laws which took effect on July 1. To reach Governor Youngkin's desk this session, any bill must have first passed both the 21-19 Democrat-controlled Virginia Senate and the 51-49 Democratcontrolled House of Delegates. Ultimately, Governor Youngkin signed 727 bills into law and vetoed 196 bills.

One that will affect most everyone is the requirement for everyone in a vehicle, front seat and back seat, to wear seat belts. However, police cannot stop a vehicle solely because an occupant of the vehicle failed to wear a seat belt. Officers can issue tickets as a secondary offense during traffic stops for other infractions. The civil penalty for failing to wear a seat belt is \$25.

Other New Laws Effective July 1

Charging Drug Dealers Who Sell Fentanyl with Manslaughter: Allows prosecutors to charge those who knowingly manufactured or sold drugs, including fentanyl, that then resulted in the death of another person, with involuntary manslaughter.

Nitrous Oxide Sales to Minors Banned: Prohibits selling nitrous oxide delivery devices to minors and adds nitrous oxide to the list of illegal

Banning Student Cell Phone Use on a Bell-to-Bell Schedule: Requires school boards to develop and implement policies relating to student cell phone and smart device possession and use on school property from "bell to bell," by, among other things and subject to limited exceptions, restricting student cell phone possession and use from the time the first bell rings at the start of the school day to begin instructional time until the dismissal bell rings at the end of the school day (with exceptions for health or learning needs).

Drivers Must Stop for Pedestrians Lawfully Crossing the Road: Makes it a traffic infraction if a driver operating a motor vehicle fails to stop for pedestrians, and a Class 1 misdemeanor if such infraction results in serious bodily injury or death of a vulnerable road user lawfully crossing the road.

Allowing Local Governments to Authorize Tiny Homes: Allows a comprehensive plan prepared by a local planning commission and adopted by a local governing body to include the use

Standards of Learning Reforms: Overhauls Virginia's SOL assessments to use a 100-point scale, improve design, and reduce instructional time lost to testing.

Listing Non-Apparent Disabilities on Driver's Licenses: Adds non-apparent disabilities, including those that could impair communication, to the list of conditions the DMV is required to indicate on an applicant's driver's license or ID card, when requested and properly documented.

Extending Student Sports Physical Validity to 14 Months: Changes the requirement for high school or middle school athletes to have an authorizing physical within the last 12 months, extending it to the last 14 months.

Overdose Notification Requires schools to notify parents within 24 hours of any confirmed or suspected student overdose that happens on or near school grounds. Assaulting Sports Officials Now a

Crime: Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to assault a sports official during or after a game; organizations and venues may also ban attendance at future Foster Youth Must Be Informed of

Their Rights: Foster children age 12+ and their caregivers must be given contact information for the Children's Ombudsman when a case opens. Food Vendors Are Banned from

Using Polystyrene: No food vendor with more than 20 locations in Virginia, along with national vendors and franchises, shall dispense prepared food in an expanded polystyrene food service container. By July 1, 2026, all other food vendors must comply.

Pricing Transparent Businesses must clearly show the full price of goods and services, including mandatory fees, at the time of display or checkout.

Disclosure of Identity of Virginia Lottery Winners: Prohibits the Virginia Lottery from disclosing the identity of any individual who wins a prize of \$1 million or more, unless the winner provides written consent. Previously, this applied only to prizes exceeding \$10 million.

Cocktails-To-Go Made Permanent: Removes the pending sunset for the delivery of wine, beer, and cocktailsto-go by licensed third-party delivery providers, continuing public safety

protections related to packaging and labeling.

New Penalties for Allowing Unlicensed Teen Drivers: Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to knowingly allow an unlicensed person or minor to drive if it results in a crash causing

DMV Materials for Autistic Drivers: Directs the DMV to create communication tools, such as envelopes, for drivers with autism to use during traffic stops.

Higher Towing Fees: Increases the maximum hookup and towing fee for standard passenger vehicles from \$150 to \$210 under Virginia towing regulations.

Court May Dismiss Violations for Licensing Compliance: Allows judges to dismiss certain traffic violations, like driving without a license, if the driver proves compliance with the law and pays court costs. Mail Theft Is Now a Felony: Creates

a Class 6 felony for stealing, destroying, or tampering with someone else's mail, including use of counterfeit mailbox keys. Exhibition Driving Added to

Reckless Driving Law: Prohibits stunt driving behaviors like burnouts or street takeovers, with expanded penalties for aiding or abetting. This law is already in force due to an emergency clause. Nazi Symbols Used to Intimidate

Now Banned: Makes it a Class 6 felony to place a Nazi emblem, such as a swastika, on private property or in public with intent to intimidate. Including Work-Based Learning in Public Experiences

Assessments: Updates Virginia's accountability system to include participation in work-based learning experiences as a measure of high school post-secondary readiness. Increasing the Age to Play Fantasy

Sports for Money to 21: Adults ages 18 to 20 will no longer be allowed to legally play fantasy sports for money.

Protective Orders Extended for Repeat Abuse: Courts may issue family abuse protective orders for up to four years if the offender has a prior permanent protective order.

Gun Threats Against Buildings or Transit Now Penalized: Makes it a Class 5 felony—or a Class 1 misdemeanor for juveniles—to threaten or falsely claim a shooting or attack on a building or

Trespassing with a Drone Near Defense Sites Now a Felony: Creates a Class 4 felony for unauthorized drone use to capture images at contracted defense facilities. Includes protections

for facility staff. Crisis Arrest Training for Police: Requires officers to complete training on arrests involving individuals

experiencing mental health crises.

Questioning: Bans officers from making false statements or using fake documents to get confessions from minors during interrogations. AI Can't Be Sole Basis for Justice

Police Can't Lie to Kids During

Decisions: Prohibits judicial or correctional decisions from being based solely on recommendations from artificial intelligence-based tools. Virginia Coordinate Systems; Federal

Updates: Updates references in the Code to the Virginia Coordinate System of 2022 and aligns state law with federal changes in measurement standards, replacing the U.S. survey foot with the international foot. Read Dwight Yancey's article at https://cardinalnews. org/2025/02/28/suetterlein-wants-tochange-how-we-measure-the-earththis-is-serious-science/ for more on this

Other New Virginia Laws with Delayed or Conditional Effective Dates:

- Social Media Limits for Minors: Platforms must limit users under 16 to one hour per day, with parental controls. Effective Jan. 1, Baby Food Protection Act:
- Bans baby food with toxic heavy metals and initiates a safety study. Effective
- Text Message Opt-Out Options Required: Users can reply "STOP" or "UNSUBSCRIBE" to unsolicited texts, and companies must honor the request for 10 years. Effective Jan. 1, 2026. Ban on Artificial Food Dyes:
- Public schools may no longer serve foods with synthetic color additives like Red 40 or Yellow 5. Effective July 1,

To read all the bills proposed this session and actions taken, visit https:// lis.virginia.gov/bill-search.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

Payne, Gary Leo

Gary Leo Payne, 67, of Goodview, passion for racing was only rivaled by

Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Born on March 15, 1958, in Roanoke, Gary lived a life defined by hard work, genuine kindness, and deep devotion to his family and friends.

Gary was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Juanita Gertrude and Leo Payne, and his sister, Kathrine.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Joy, with whom he built not only a beautiful life but also a thriving business. Together, Gary and Joy founded Vinton Roofing Company, which they proudly operate in Vinton for over 30 years, earning the respect and trust of countless customers and colleagues.

Gary is also survived by his siblings, Edward, James, Ronald (Bill), and Larry. He leaves behind his cherished children, Jason J. Webb (Yeni), Susan R. Lynch (Josh), and William H. Payne (Lisa). His legacy lives on in his nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, who were truly the lights of his life. Gary's special neighbors, Trevor and Judy, Tim and Dorina, and Dave and Lynne, along with his loyal dog, Brutus, and his cat, Puck, will miss him dearly.

A lifelong NASCAR enthusiast and an unwavering Bill Elliott fan, Gary's

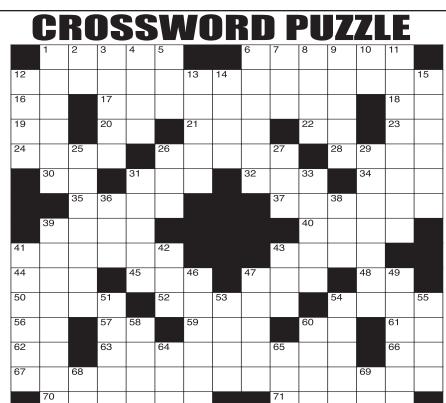
VA, passed away peacefully on the love he had for his grandchildren,

who brought him endless joy and pride. Known for his honesty, patience, and humility, Gary was a man of true integrity who left a lasting impression on everyone he met. He never met a stranger and welcomed all with a warm heart and an open hand.

Special thanks to Lewis Gale Hospital Cardiac Care

Unit and Good Samaritan Hospice. Gary's life was a beautiful example of loyalty, hard work, and unconditional love. His absence will be deeply felt, but his spirit will continue to guide and inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at Oakey's Vinton Chapel. His funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025, at Oakey's Vinton Chapel with Pastor Bob Phaup officiating. Interment to follow at Jordantown Memorial Gardens, 5663 Jordantown Road, Vinton. All are welcome to join in A Celebration of Life luncheon at 12 noon at Stewartsville Volunteer Fire Department, Jordantown Road Vinton. Condolences may be shared with his family by visiting www. Oakeys.com.



CLUES ACROSS 1. Notes

6. Long-haired dog breed 12. ESPN's nickname

Spanish be 17. Disadvantage 18. Of I

19. Actor Pacino 20. On your way: _ 21. Fifth note of a major

22. Companies need it

23. News agency 24. Faces of an organization 26. Ponds 28. Samoa's capital 30. Partner to 'Pa'

31. Adult male 32. Cool! 34. Used of a number or

amount not specified 35. No No No 37. Hosts film festival 39. British place to house

convicts 40. Made of fermented honey and water

41. Chief 43. College army 44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone 45. Consume

47. One point north of due east 48. For instance

50. Brews 52. Alaskan river 54. Not soft

56. Atomic #22 57. 'The Golden State' 59. The world's most famous arena

60. Larry and Curly's pal 61. One billion gigabytes 62. Conducts inspections 63. Malaria mosquitoes 66. Unit to measure width

70. Affairs 71. Letter of Semitic abiads **CLUES DOWN**

1. Follower of Islam 2. Trauma center 3. French young women 4. Norse god 5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)

6. Merchant 7. Peyton's younger brother 8. Jungle planet in 'Star Wars' galaxy

9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America 10. 'Pollack' actor Harris 11. Stuck around 12. Put on 13. Influential Norwegian

playwright 14. Christian , designe 15. Fulfills a debt 25. Style 26. More (Spanish) 27. A baglike structure in a 47. Gardening tool 49. Ancient country 51. Frightening 53. Wimbledon champion Arthur 54. Popular plant 55. Database management system

plant or animal

31. Disturbance

39. 1900 lamp

41. Motionless

36. Express delight

38. Brooklyn hoopster

42. One's mother (Brit.)

43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

46. Compels to act

33. 'The Martian' actor Matt

29. Remedy

58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two 60. Where soldiers eat 64. Tenth month (abbr.) 65. Illuminated 68. Atomic #18

69. Adults need one to travel

All your Vinton news is right here!

VintonMessenger.com



From the Pulpit

By Pastor Bryan Crouch, Lynn Haven Baptist Church

Our sermon series for the month of June at Lynn Haven Baptist Church is 'Let It Rain – Unlocking God's Blessings in Your Life".

The Bible tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver." There's something special about giving with joy. It's not about feeling pressured or guilty—it's

about overflowing with love. When our hearts are full of God's grace, generosity becomes natural.

Have you ever given someone a gift and felt happier than the person receiving it? That's the joy of giving. It comes when we stop thinking, "What do I have to lose?" and start thinking, "What do I have to give?"

A generous heart doesn't come from having a big bank account. It comes from having a big view of God. When we trust that He will provide, we're free to give without fear.

Generosity also connects us to God's mission. Every act of givingbig or small—is a way of saying, "God, I trust You. Use me to bless others." Don't miss out on the joy of giving. Start today. Be generous with your time, your kindness, your resources. And watch how God uses it all. And as always, try to be more like Christ tomorrow than you

Community Meeting

to review, discuss and comment on preferred potential greenway routes to connect existing segments of the Roanoke River Greenway.

Both meetings are identical so please attend the meeting that is most convenient for you. These are open house-style community meetings where attendees can come and go as they please.

July 9, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Charles R. Hill Community Center 820 Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179

July 10, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Explore Park Visitor Center

Community meetings scheduled for East Roanoke River Greenway Gap

Roanoke County has begun an East Roanoke River Greenway Gap Feasibility Study to determine a potential alignment for the last remaining section of the East Roanoke River Greenway between the City of Roanoke and new greenway in Roanoke County near the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Two community meetings have been scheduled for residents to review, discuss, and comment on preferred potential greenway routes to connect existing segments of the Roanoke River house-style community meetings Greenway:

Charles R. Hill Community Center (820 Washington Ave., Vinton) July 9, 5–7 p.m.

• Explore Park Visitor Center (56 Roanoke River Parkway Rd., Roanoke)

July 10, 5–7 p.m.

Both meetings are identical, so please attend the meeting that is most convenient for you. These are open where attendees can come and go as

Completing the Roanoke River Greenway isn't just another project it's one of two signature priorities for VOICe. Closing these gaps will deliver the kind of connected, accessible outdoor infrastructure this region deserves. Although there isn't currently funding available for the project, showing up to these meetings matters.

When the community is engaged, decision-makers pay attention and use your input to drive funding requests. Let's make it clear that this is a priority not just for VOICe, but for the entire

Can't attend? Take the survey! https://www.surveymonkey.com/

- Roanoke County

The Vinton Messenger

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

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Vinton Elementary Schools engage in Summer Reading Challenge

Herman L. Horn, Mount Pleasant, and W. E. Cundiff Elementary Schools are competing this summer in the Roanoke County Library Summer Reading Challenge.

Students sign up for the competition through the Vinton Public Library or Mount Pleasant Library and read a required number of books, which they log. The principal of the school whose students read the most books becomes the "Queen of Summer Reading." The principals are Julie Sandzimier from Herman L. Horn, Ashley McCallum from W. E. Cundiff, and Jill Lane from Mount Pleasant.

The more books students read and log, the better the chance their school has of coming out on top and winning the Queen of Reading Challenge.

Participants can also win prizes all summer long. Logs



Three Vinton area schools are competing to make their principal the "Queen of Summer Reading." Pictured left to right are Ashley McCallum (WEC), Julie Sandzimier (HLH), and Jill Lane (MPE)

must be turned in by August 2. Show your school pride and read today!

- Submitted by Herman L. Horn Elementary

Subscribe to The Vinton Messenger today!

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www.VintonMessenger.com

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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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



Pictured left to right are the happy newlyweds, Jeff and Kimberly Ramsey, along with Angie Chewning and her husband, Greg Boitnott.



Pictured left to right at Awful Arthur's Downtown Roanoke closing are Chasity Barbour, Megan Byrd, Skylour Stultz, Tori Givens, Megan Reed, Sharon Llewellyn and Angie Chewning.

By Angie Chewning

What a fun, actionpacked weekend! Up first... the beautiful wedding of Kimberely Hunter and Jeff Ramsey. What an honor to be a part of such a great night. As if the pre-wedding posts and the wedding weren't enough to bring

us to tears (happy tears, of course), the speeches given by daughters Hailey Ramsey, Anya Hunter Lucas, and Jocelyn Hunter—sent us all over the happy crying edge. Congratulations to two beautiful people and two beautiful families!

Saturday was Mingle at the Market, and a great

one it was. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our event and stayed even though there was a bit of a weather threat. Now on to #3, on July 12th. Don't miss it. For the first time to our stage, Low, Low Chariot presents Hot Fuss, and our very own Chris Keaton will bring his Nashville/Las

Vegas entertainment with the new Chris Keaton and the Millennials.

Another first-timer to our Mingle is Cousin's Maine Lobster Food Truck. Oh, my GOOOODNEEESS! And of course, Get Glazed Donuts.

Even though we were tired, we could not let the last day of Awful Arthur's Downtown location close without one last hoorah! Thank you, Jonathan Pate and Todd Lancaster, for all the years. We look forward to many more years at your other ventures-Awful Arthur's Salem, Pollard 107 South in Vinton, and Crooked Shoreline in Daleville. Thank you for all you do!

TON HISTORY: Rolling Pins

By Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

The rolling pin has a long history, with origins dating back to ancient Egypt around 3,000 BCE. Early rolling pins were made from stone, wood, marble, or bone and were used to flatten and shape dough for bread and pastries. Commercial production of rolling pins began in the mid-19th century, using hardwoods like cherry and maple. Glass rolling pins were also popular wedding gifts in the 18th century.

From its origins as a simple tool for shaping

dough to its status as a culinary essential, the rolling pin has played a vital role in shaping the way we eat. The most common type of rolling pin is a cylindrical rolling pin with handles, made from

Pictured are several rolling pins on display at the Vinton History Museum, located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vintonopen Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every First Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—preserving the past for the future.

the Fourth of July holiday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN) SPRINGS MINERAL **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 (yearround): 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 wood or plastic for better grip and control.

The museum will be closed on July 4 and 5 for

Wits' End Corner

ife can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27–28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed hrough many tests in the

Read Psalms 106:1 through past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end we have found ourselves sing ing.

> Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chroni cles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, trust You to still the storms

Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

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, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

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

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon. net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; 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.

Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST THREE **OAKS FELLOW-**SHIP 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

WESLEYAN VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 Jefferson Ave., 540-345-3385; Sunday Service 10:30 AM.

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Legals -**Craig County**

CIRCUIT COURT FOR CRAIG COUNTY

VIRGINIA: IN THE

JOHN N. SPICER. TRUSTEE, Plaintiff

BRIAN VAVALA and

CHELSEA RICK and JOSEPH S. HILL AUDREY E. HILL,

Defendants. Case No. CL 25-112 ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this suit is to

Foreclosure Sale Property known as 2288 Northside Road Newport, Virginia, in Craig County, Virginia, also

finalize accounting for

referred to as Lot Number Three (3) containing 29.204 acres and designated as Tax Map Number 115-A 17C, cannot conveniently be made as Defendant, Brian Vavala,

whose whereabouts are unknown to all of the parties hereto, and that the best interests of all interested parties would be

has not been seen nor

heard from, and

promoted by the surplus of funds due to Defendant, Brian Vavala, be deposited with the Circuit Court of Craig County, Virginia and move forward with the Final Accounting of Foreclose Sale. An affidavit having been

made and signed that Brian Vavala, is an individual whose last known address and whereabouts are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED, that the said party appear on or before

July 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and do whatever is necessary to protect his interest for his surplus funds. It is further ORDERED that

this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in The New Castle Record, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Craig. ENTERED THIS 5th DAY

OF June, 2025

Judge I ask for this: John N. Spicer (VSB # 68845) SPICER, OLIN & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 504 South Main Street Blacksburg, VA 24060 Phone: (540) 552-0007 Fax: (540) 951-5139

E-mail: j.spicer@spicerlawfirm.com Plaintiff

Legals -**Botetourt County**

Order of **Publication** Case No.CL16-916-01

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT In re: Abigail Rose Bryant (DOB: 02/19/2015) ORDER FOR

PUBLILCATION This Day came Christopher M. Di Risio, counsel for the Intervenors, Andrew Vandegrift and James Tracy, and filed a Motion for Order of Publication, and a hearing shall be held in this Court, 205 North Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24090 on October 7th, 2025 at 1:00 PM, or as soon

thereafter as they may be heard. NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED,

ORDERED, AND DECREED, that Phillip Eric Bryant appear at the hearing and be heard as to why the Motion to Intervene, Motion for Appointment of Guardian ad Litem, or Motion to Amend Custody of the minor child, should

not be granted. Failure to appear shall waive any objection to the heretofore mentioned Motions. THE CLERK OF COURT IS DIRECTED to send a certified copy of this Order to the Fincastle Herald, to P.O. Box 127, Fincastle,

Virginia 24090 to be published once per week for four consecutive weeks, to be posted at the front door of the Courthouse, and a copy mailed to counsel, and the parties to the matter at

their respective address of record. This cause is continued on the docket of this Court. Entered this 17th day of June, 2025.

Honorable Joel R. Branscom, Judge

I ASK FOR THIS:

Christopher M. Di Risio

Legals -**Botetourt County**

(VSB No. 96948) The Law Office of James Steele, PLLC 3048 Brambleton Avenue Roanoke, Virginia 24015 chris@jamessteelelaw.com Tel. (540) 339-7775 Fax: (540)492-4244 Counsel for Intervenors

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1572 Little Catawba Creek, Troutville, VA 24175

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$146,818.00 dated May 25, 2021 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on May 26, 2021 as Instrument Number: 210002890. the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on July 28, 2025 at 3:30 PM the property described in said deed of trust. located at the above address and briefly described as: Being Lot No. 3, according to the Map of Duffield Estates, made by Charles R. McMurray, C.L.S., dated September 10, 1980, and recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 75.

Tax/Parcel ID#: 85A(1)3 Tax ID: 25649. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$10,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 25-005509) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orlans Law Group PLLC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orlans.com The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this sale Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-28

Legals -City of Salem

NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114, N. 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 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 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA H. Robert Light

Salem VA **Planning**

Clerk of Council

Commission Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular 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

Legals -City of Salem

- 1. Consider the request of J Cline Properties LLC, property owner, to rezone the property located at 106 110 Butt Hollow Road (Tax Map #174-1-7) from BCD **Business Commerce District** to LM Light Manufacturing District with proffered conditions and to request the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow athletic instruction services.
- 2. Consider the request of McJohn Investments LLC, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a telecommunications tower on the property located at 319 Rowan Street (Tax Map #232-1-1).
- 3. Consider the request of Brad Graham Real Estate LLC, contract purchaser, to rezone the property located at 638 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #33-2-3) from AG Agricultural District to RSF Residential Single-Family District and to request the issuance of a Special Exception Permit for 638, 672 and 696 Dalewood Avenue (Tax Map #s 33-2-3. 33-2-2 and 33-2-1) to allow their inclusion in the Cluster Housing Overlay.
- 4. Consider the request of ABoone Real Estate Inc., contract purchaser to rezone the property located at 1002 Newman Drive (Tax Map #58-1-1) from LM Light Manufacturing District with proffered conditions to RMF Residential Multi-Family

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

Legals -Montgomery County

Executive Secretary

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, July 8, 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. Conditional Use Permit request by Main Street Preservation LLC, Property Owner, and Joseph L. Simmons, Applicant, to allow residential use specifically the construction of ten (10) townhomes, in the General Business District (B-3) on

property located at 511 Roanoke Street, identified as Tax Parcel 528-((35))-1 (Parcel ID 031706), and consisting of approximately of 1.008 acres. 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. -

Friday. Contact Retta Jackson, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1120 or by email at

5:00 p.m. Monday through

rjackson@christiansburg.or g, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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meeting on July 16, 2025, at requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

Legals -Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF **CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING** COMMISSION The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will

> Monday, July 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by

hold a Public Hearing on

DW, LLC, Property Owner and Applicant, to rezone property located on the north side of Brammer Lane NE. and adiacent to the east side of 2500 Brammer Lane NE, consisting of approximately 2.57 acres identified as all of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) - 13D Parcel ID 021972; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 - (1) -13F, Parcel ID 025070; a portion of Tax Parcel 501 -(1) - 13D1, Parcel ID 300315; and a portion of Tax Parcel 80 - (5) - 1 Parcel ID 033688; from Agricultural District (A) to General Industrial District (I-2). The property is designated as Industrial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Lauren-Ashley Elizabeth Potts and Dustin Storm Potts, Property Owners and Applicant, to allow for a single-chair beauty parlor as a major home occupation on property located at 450 Hemlock Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 529 ((19)) - 3 (Parcel ID 024689), consisting of 0.331 acre, in the Two-Family Residential (R-2) District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 -Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, 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.or g, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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Legals -Montgomery County

Order of **Publication** Case No. CA25000006-OO **COMMONWEALTH OF** VIRGINIA VA CODE 1-211 1, 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court

55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 ADDRESS OF COURT

Commonwealth of

Virginia, in re.

DAVID PRINE v. **COMMONWEALTH OF** VIRGINIA The object of this suit is to:

ADOPTION OF ANA MARIA GUTIERREZ CORREA It is ORDERED that

NELSON DE JESUS

GUTIERREZ PINO appear at the abovenamed court and protect his/her interests on or before. AUGUST 20, 2025

6/18/2025 Honorable K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

Legals -City of Radford

Public Notice is hereby given that

Code 15.2-1719 **Radford City Police Department**

property which is currently being stored in our evidence room. If you have lost property and it matches the descriptions below, please call (540)731-3624 to identify and claim your property. Bicycles, Wallets,

Chainsaws, Medical and Carriers, Tobacco Products, Hygienic Devices, Keys, Purses, Jewelry, Coins, Cameras,

Clothes, Radios, Electronics, Fishing Equipment, Construction Materials/ Equipment. You must show proof of ownership or provide a detailed description of your property. All unclaimed property will be disposed of after July 12th, 2025.



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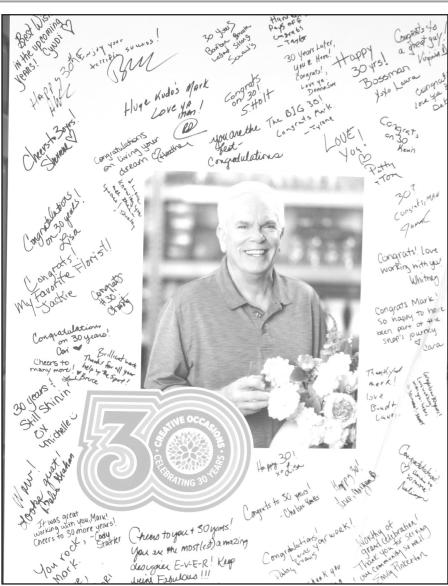






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Congratulatory wishes for Mark Frye from his loyal customers, friends, and employees.

parties, and anniversaries. "We did business by word of mouth, and people started calling us," Frye said at the time in an interview with the Vinton Messenger. "The business kept growing."
As a teenager, he

worked at Northside Flower Shop in Radford, where he started out sweeping floors and making deliveries.

"As I showed more interest in the business, the owner, Mrs. Hines, let me arrange bud vases, and later I helped make arrangements for weddings. I worked there after school, on weekends, and summers."

Frye graduated from Radford University with a bachelor's degree in communication disorders and a master's degree in speech pathology. He was employed by the Roanoke County School system as a speech pathologist for over five years.

When he was asked, in 2000, the secret to his success, Frye noted that Honorable Mention when he did weddings

with the original Creative Occasions, he gave his customers a survey form to fill out after the wedding was over.

"Many customers said I spent the time with them to make sure they got what they wanted,' he stated. "People said that if I told them I was going to do something, I made sure it was done. His goal when he took

over Obenchain's was to "nurture the sense that it was still a community shop. I want the shop to keep the small-town atmosphere, not the feel of a big city."

Frye has maintained over his years in business that weddings "should look and feel like the bride and groom and embody their personalities." He believes "funerals should symbolize the character of the deceased."

Another Vinton Messenger article in 2003 touted Frye as the winner of one of two awards in the prestigious Sylvia Cup competition sponsored by Association of American Florists. The previous July, he had been named "Designer of the Year," winning first place in the Virginia Professional Floral Association contest.

He has been chosen twice as a floral designer for the White House during the holiday season. He was also one of the first florists involved in the acclaimed Hotel Roanoke Fashions for Evergreens fundraiser and has worked with the hotel in many capacities

His mother, Anna, has said his "is a God-given gift." During a reception for current and past employees at the shop on June 28, she noted what a hard worker Mark has always been, doing what is generally a 7-daya-week job. She also spoke of the "beautiful store where they all get along and of the great camaraderie among

Bell from page 1



Author Cece Bell visited the Vinton Library for an author talk. "El Deafo" is one of her best-known books.

since 1975, when meningitis left her with a 90% hearing loss at four years old. In "El Deafo," hearing aids gave her the superpower of Super Hearing and the keys to friendship. In the book, technology turned her into a superhero.

Bell brought along the same bulky hearing aids she used in elementary school—the Phonic Ear—which she wore strapped to her chest. The device has cords with earpieces. The hearing aid worked with her teacher's microphone and amplified her voice. Bell soon discovered that she could hear the teacher not only in the classroom but throughout the building, going about her activities.

Initially, Bell was placed in a classroom with others who were hearing impaired, but later on, she was mainstreamed into a class with students with normal hearing. The educational strategy used with the hearing impaired at that time was to master lip reading—sign language was a no-no. Bell said that she did have an advantage over other students who were hearing impaired—she had lived for almost five years being able to hear, so she understood the basics of language.

She talked about the disadvantages of lip reading, mainly that when someone turns away from you, you can't read their lips. Also, many letters look the same when they are spoken—for instance, "bear" and "pear" look like the same word. In addition, "every mouth is different," so mouth positioning will vary from person to person.

Bell next did an activity with the children, asking them to name what they had eaten for breakfast that day while she doodled a "Breakfast Monster," based on what she thought they had said. Answers included granola and milk, toast with cream cheese and cinnamon, eggs, waffles, bacon, bananas, peaches, and, inexplicably, pepperoni and spaghetti.

Bell moved on to the second book she planned to discuss, her new one-"Animal Albums from A to Z!" This is not the expected "A is for apple" book, but "an homage to the golden days of album-cover art." The ABC book covers all the alphabet by 26 invented animal recording artists in a variety of genres ranging from classical to hip-hop.

The children at the book reading seemed fascinated by her vintage record player and her albums featuring famous artists from the past. Many seemed never to have seen such items-especially the record player—before.

Her author reading for the day was a poem from the Animal Albums book, entitled "My Aromatic Armpit is Astonishing to All." Most of her books are filled with humor.

Bell is originally from Salem but now lives in Montgomery County. She completed her undergraduate degree at the College of William and Mary, then earned her graduate degree in illustration and design at Kent State University. She is married to children's author Tom Angleberger.

Bell's original artwork from "Animal Albums from A to Z" will be featured in an exhibition at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University from July 17 to September 21, along with the paraphernalia crafted by Bell for use in music videos created for the book. There will be an interactive listening station set up in the gallery. A reception is scheduled for July 18. Visit https://www.hollins. edu/the-eleanor-d-wilson-museum/ current-and-upcoming-exhibitions/ for

Dibble from page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON POLICE DEPT

Recent graduates of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy include Officer Jordan Henegar and Officer Derek Runyon. Pictured left to right are Henegar, Runyon, Chief Fabricio Drumond, Deputy Chief Tim Lawless, Lt. Scott Hurt, and Vinton Deputy **Town Manager Cody Sexton.**

Department's militaryinspired vehicle and has proudly represented our agency at several events, showcasing both the town and the professionalism of our department. 'Some notable

incidents involving Corporal Dibble during the 2024 campaign include:

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March, Corporal Dibble, alongside his colleagues, responded to an incident at the Billy Byrd Apartments, where a male subject had accidentally shot himself. Although it was a team effort, Corporal Dibble played a crucial role in ensuring the victim's survival by administering first aid.

In September, he responded to a situation where an individual, armed with multiple firearms, was threatening officers from his porch. During this incident, his supervisor commended Corporal Dibble for taking the initiative to reposition himself advantageously, allowing him to monitor the subject—who had

already threatened to harm officers several times—and ensure the safety of all officers on

"Corporal Dibble embodies the values we strive for every day at the Vinton Police Department. We are fortunate to have him on the team, and his efforts truly merit this acknowledgment."

Congratulations also to Officers Jordan Henegar and Derrik Runyon for graduating from the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy's 85th Entry Level Law Enforcement

- Vinton Police Dept.

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Google purchases land in Botetourt County for potential data center campus

Matt de Simone

Managing Editor

Botetourt County officials announced that Google has purchased land zoned for industrial use and data centers in the Botetourt Center at Greenfield. The announcement came during the June 24 meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday afternoon. A packed conference center heard comments from County Administrator Gary Larrowe, Amsterdam Supervisor Steve Clinton, John Hull of the Roanoke Regional Partnership, and Virginia Senator Chris Head welcoming Google to Botetourt County.

Today, BOCO just won the 'Super Bowl of Economic Development' and the new industrial sector announcement here in this part of the world," Larrowe said during the presentation last Tuesday.

According to a countyissued press release, Google will be responsible for covering any expenses associated with bringing utility services to the site. Local officials say that tax revenue from a facility of this scale could support a wide range of public priorities, including school facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades, first responder equipment, and other critical services.

The recent announcement could have important regional implications for Vinton. Although the facility is not

within Vinton's boundaries, its proximity positions the town to benefit from the project's effects, economic ripple including potential job creation, increased housing demand, and expanded support services.

Infrastructure investments, particularly in broadband and energy, could enhance regional connectivity locally. development also elevates the Roanoke Valley's profile as a tech and AI hub, potentially attracting future investment and grant opportunities for Roanoke County.

Additionally, workforce and education programs supported by Google or regional partners could provide training and job pathways for Vinton residents. While Vinton won't receive direct tax revenue, its participation in regional partnerships and planning efforts could ensure it shares in the broader benefits of this

As part of the deal, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority (EDA), in collaboration with Google, have entered into a performance agreement that will span 20 years of taxation for the server equipment associated with the potential project. If developed, the data center campus could generate substantial long-term revenue and enable Botetourt to expand its community programs and projects.

The sale of the 300-acre

parcel to Google - purchased for approximately \$14 million, with an additional \$4 million in community investments has already produced revenue that will go toward funding key county services, including public safety, community programming, and education. The

county worked alongside the Roanoke Regional Partnership, the Virginia Development Economic Partnership, and Appalachian Power to bring this opportunity to fruition. As part of the incentive structure, the Botetourt County EDA sold the land to Google for \$45,000 per acre, slightly below its listed price of \$50,000 per acre.

When reaching out to administration last week, officials responded clarifying that while the specific development timeline has not yet been publicly announced, the project will involve multiple steps before construction can begin. These include finalizing design plans, securing permits, and coordinating with state and local agencies. Updates on timing will be provided as the project progresses.

While the exact number of jobs the project will create has not been confirmed, officials noted that a facility of this nature typically brings a broad ripple effect across various sectors of the local economy. More information about employment opportunities is expected in the near future.

As for the financial impact, Botetourt leaders emphasized Google's investment in both real estate improvements and high-tech equipment is expected to result in major direct revenue for the county. Although the full investment total has not been publicly disclosed, officials described the magnitude as "a game changer." Data centers, the press

release noted, are the engines powering modern digital life - from email and credit card transactions to mobile phone usage. Botetourt County could soon become one of those critical connection points. These facilities, officials added, typically require minimal local services while delivering high tax revenues, making them ideal economic partners for rural communities like Botetourt.

Elected leaders and partners celebrated the announcement in the release:

"We are always looking for communities that have the innovative and collaborative leadership necessary to bring complex projects like data center campuses to life, and we are optimistic about the partnership we've built so far with Botetourt and the entire Roanoke region," said Amber Tillman, Google's head of Data Center Public Affairs, North America.

Governor Glenn Youngkin also praised the project: "Google has invested significantly in the Commonwealth, and I am proud that they have chosen Botetourt County as the site of their newest data center. This latest investment reinforces Virginia's global leadership in the industry."

Administrator County Larrowe emphasized the broader potential of the partnership, especially in artificial intelligence: "A data center campus also allows us to become a leader in AI in rural communities. Who would have ever thought that one of the largest private investments in the history of western Virginia might land in Botetourt?"

The Roanoke Regional Partnership's John Hull echoed the enthusiasm: "The emerging AI industry will be a huge economic driver, and this investment shows that the Roanoke Region could be at the forefront of developing this technology."

Delegate Terry Austin called the decision "a tremendous win" that could help strengthen schools, reduce county debt, and support infrastructure and workforce development.

Senator Chris Head said the project "will transform Botetourt County and the entire region," marking a milestone as the first data center project in western Virginia on the AEP system.

For additional information and community updates, residents are encouraged to visit the project FAQ page at www. botetourtva.gov/greenfield.

Summer Sides



Southern Potato Salad and Extra Special Baked Beans

KECIPES OF THE WEEK

By Debbie Adams

Here are a couple of family-favorite side dishes— Southern Potato Salad and Extra Special Baked Beans.

Southern Potato Salad Ingredients:

1 and ½ pounds small or medium potatoes

½ cup mayonnaise

1/8 cup yellow mustard

1 tsp. apple cider vinegar

1 tsp. sugar

¼ tsp. onion powder

1/4 cup sweet pickle relish 1/4 cup chopped onion—or more

1 stalk celery, chopped

2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste Paprika to sprinkle on top

Cut each potato in half. Place in a large pot and cover with an inch of water. Add a tsp. of salt and bring to a simmer. Simmer until fork tender all the way through—about 20 minutes. Drain well. Let cool, then peel and discard skins. Cut into bite-sized pieces.

In a small bowl, mix together mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, sugar, and onion powder. Pour over potatoes and mix well. Add relish, celery, onion, and chopped eggs. Mix. Add salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least

Extra Special Baked Beans Ingredients:

1 15 oz. can kidney beans 1 16 oz. can pork and beans

1 10 oz. pkg. frozen lima beans 34 cup ketchup

2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 Tbsp. dry mustard ½ cup brown sugar

4–5 slices bacon, fried and chopped

1/4 cup chopped onion Cook frozen limas until tender, and drain. Fry bacon until crisp. Add onion and brown. Mix all ingredients together. Bake at 350° in a 9 x 13 pan for one hour.

Conference from page 2

"Pete and I may differ on our approaches and backgrounds, but our values have always aligned," said Sexton. "We balance and complement each other in order to support the community and empower the organization to do great work.'

"I believe Cody and I maintain a great balance in managing various aspects of the Town's projects and daily operations, and I enjoyed sharing with the group of other local government professionals how we interact with each

other and our coworkers," Peters said. "Our complementary skill sets work well together, and despite us both having different strengths and professional backgrounds, we are almost always in agreement on the result or outcome. When in a leadership role, it's incredibly important to have someone you can trust and turn to for advice or just to bounce an idea around a bit and help identify any blind spots."

The VLGMA is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization composed primarily

of city, town, and county managers and key members of their management teams. It is an affiliate of the Virginia Municipal League and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), as well as the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

The administration's primary goal is to strengthen the quality of local government through professional management. Sexton served as Secretary of the organization this past year. In the

upcoming year, which began on July 1, he is serving as Third Vice President and Chair of the Professional Development

The Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) works to support local government managers by building great communities through inclusion, innovation, and leadership.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

July 4

July 4th Road Closures in the Town of Vinton - Thursday, July 4, 2025

STREET CLOSED	EVENT	SIDE OF ROAD	CLOSED FROM	CLOSED TO	TIME Closed	TIME OPEN
E. Washington Ave	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	Bypass Rd	Pollard	6:00 AM	11:00 AM*
E. Washington Ave	4th of July Celebration at War Memorial	West Bound	Bypass Rd	Blaire St	6:00 AM	12:00:00 AM July 5th
E. Washington Ave	4th of July Celebration at War Memorial	East Bound	Bypass Rd	Blaire St	4:00 PM	12:00:00 AM July 5th
S. Maple St	Four on the 4th Run Four on the 4th Run and	Whole Road	Washington Ave	E Lee Ave	6:00 AM	11:00 AM
S. Pollard St	107 South Pollard 4th of July Event	Whole Road	E. Washington	Jackson	6:00 AM	7 AM July 5th
Lee Avenue	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	S. Poplar St.	Walnut Ave	6:00 AM	11:00 AM
Walnut Ave	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	W. Lee Ave	8th St	6:00 AM	11:00 AM
5th St	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	Walnut Ave	Etna Ave	6:00 AM	11:00 AM
Cedar Ave	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	4th St.	Glade Rd	6:00 AM	11:00 AM
Glade Rd	Four on the 4th Run	Whole Road	Cedar Ave	West Virginia Ave	6:00 AM	11:00 AM

*Please note, the west bound lane of Washington Ave will be closed from 6:00 AM on July 4th through 12:00 AM on July 5th.

The east bound lane will only be open between 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Road closures and times are subject to change.

Celebration at the Vinton War Memorial. Citizens should plan for additional travel time when traveling through the Town of Vinton on July 4th.

Please visit www.vintonva.gov/july4th for more information and for a complete list of road closures. It's not too late to register for the Four on the 4th

Race, which takes place on Friday morning, July 4.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia and

the Town of Vinton are excited to partner for the 14th annual Four on the 4th race presented by Vinton Moose Lodge #1121. The Town of Vinton is looking forward to welcoming hundreds of racers to the Town on July 4th. The event will start and finish at the Vinton War Memorial and kicks off at 8:00 a.m.

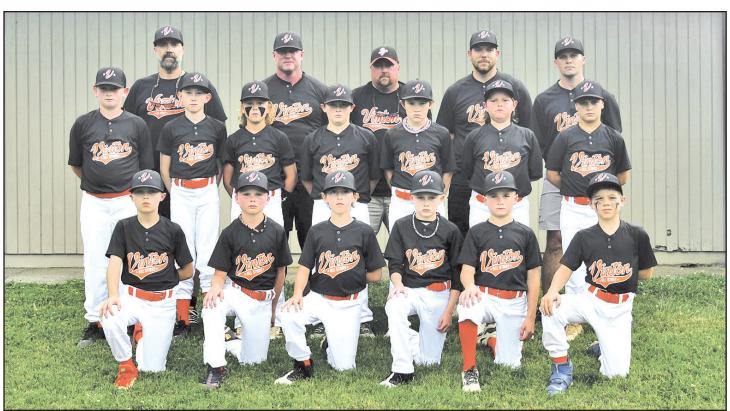
Registration is open to all ages at https://runsignup. com/Race/VA/Vinton/Fouronthe4th. The four-mile GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

race will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m., followed by a Kids Fun Run which begins at 9:00 a.m. Registration is open now and will remain open until 7:30 a.m. on

- Town of Vinton

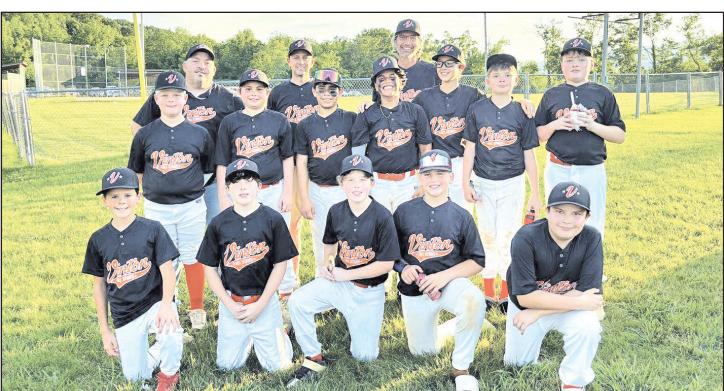
SPORTS

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



Vinton 10u RAYBA All-Stars

The Vinton 10u RAYBA baseball All-Stars. Front row left to right - Wyatt Duncan, Mason Pelletier, Jackson Childress, Cannon Jones, **Micah Palmer and Levrett** Miller. Middle row - Maddox Dooley, Emmett Erickson, Easton Nicely, Shane Clinebell, Gunner Shepherd, **Callen Reynolds and Malaki Dunbar. Back row coaches -**Erick Erickson, Nick Jones, Jason Childress, Lincoln Miller and Patrick Pelletier.



Vinton 12u RAYBA All-Stars

The Vinton 12u RAYBA baseball All-Stars. Front row, left to right; Drew Bonham, Jace Weddle, Jacoby Weddle, Austin Wright and Ethan Holland. Middle row, left to right; **Dalton Damiano, Carrington** Gill, Angel Alatorre, Noah Burwell, Jackson Price, Sylar Nute and Owen Gibson. Back row, left to right, coaches Christopher Holland, Cory Bonham and Jacob Nute.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Austin earns All-American status at New Balance track meet

DeShawn Austin, a spring graduate of William Byrd High School, traveled to Philadelphia, PA to the University Pennsylvania for The New Balance Nationals Outdoor Track Meet at historic Franklin Field.

DeShawn was entered into the Championship 400m hurdles and the open 400m dash. In the 400m hurdles he won his heat with a time of 51.98 seconds and finished 6th overall, just .32 seconds behind the first-place finisher from New Jersey, earning All-American honors with his 6th place finish. Austin also finished 67th out of 119 athletes in the open 400m dash with a time of 119.

"Many people do not know that DeShawn had a hard fall his freshman year in this race, but he vowed to come back to this race at Franklin Field and do his best to become an All-American," said William Byrd track coach James Pannell. "I'm proud of him for setting goals and seeing them thruough in his four years at William Byrd High School."

be \$15.



DeShawn Austin stands in front of the sign proclaiming his time at the New Balance Natonals Outdoor Track Meet in Philadelphia.

Tickets for first RC varsity football season now on sale

The Roanoke College athletic department has announced that tickets for the 2025 football season are now on sale. This is the first season of varsity football for the College since 1942, when it was forced to disband the program because

of the constraints of World War II. Tickets will be sold for \$10 individually or \$40 for all five home games if purchased online in advance. Tickets purchased at the gate on game day will

The Maroon football program is joining the Division III and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) ranks in 2025 after competing last fall as a club sport. The Maroons finished the season 4-0 with two home games and

two road contests. Roanoke will open the season at home on Saturday, September 6, against the Virginia University of Lynchburg. Salem Stadium, near Roanoke's Elizabeth

Campus, will serve as the Maroons home field and four of the five home con-

tests this year will have 2 p.m. kickoffs. The home finale vs. Guilford will have a 6 p.m. kickoff.

The ODAC portion of the schedule opens with a home date on Sept. 27 against Gallaudet University. RC hosts defending ODAC champion Randolph-Macon College on Oct. 4, and will also host conference foes Shenandoah University (Oct. 18) and Guilford College (Nov. 1).

Promotions for the 2025 season include:

Sept. 6: vs. Virginia University of Lynchburg - Maroon Out 2 p.m. Sept. 27: vs. Gallaudet University - Deaf Awareness 2 p.m.

Oct. 4: vs. Randolph-Macon College - Breast Cancer Awareness 2 p.m. Oct. 18: vs. Shenandoah University - Ronald McDonald House Charities of

Southwest Virginia 2 p.m. Nov. 1: vs. Guilford College - Military/First Responders & Canned Food

Drive 6 p.m.