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The Vinton Messenger

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Herman L. Horn Elementary celebrates Read Across America Day



Leo Club members from William Byrd High School volunteered to read to students at Herman L. Horn for Read Across America Day. From left are: front row, Arianna Krista, Emmalee Harris, Kyndall Agee, and Skye Williams; back row, Connor Whitehead, Leo Club sponsor Lisa Stover, Carleigh Leonard, Lily Carrell, Caleb Brunk, Darin Witcher, Jamya Rosborough, Taylor Jacobsen, Bella Trumble, Maddy Brown, and Carina DiBenedetto. Olivia Lorek is not pictured.



Student athletes from William Byrd who read to students on Read Across America Day included (from left): front row, Cason Nichols, Keith Schult, Bryce Simpson, and Anna Carter; back row, CD Boykin, Conner Whitehead, Jason Hernandez, Justyn Rozenboom, Darin Witcher, Tyson Brady, Kevin Green, Kaylee Hayes, Ryleigh Grubb, and Kara Watkins. Makenzie Scott, Ava Sexton, and Kayla Lovern are not pictured.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Herman L. Horn Elementary School in Vinton celebrated "Read Across America Day" (also known as Dr. Seuss Day) on March 6, joined by members of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, the William Byrd High School Leo Club (sponsored by the Lions), and several student athletes from Byrd.

Caleb Brunk, Arianna Krista, Maddy Brown, Skye Williams, Bella Trumble, Carleigh Leonard, Carina DiBenedetto, and Jamya Rosborough.

Students athletes from William Byrd reading to students included Kara Watkins, Makenzie Scott, Cason Nichols, Kevin Green, Justyn Rozenboom, Keith Schult, Kalee Hayes, Bryce Simpson, Anna Carter, Jason Hernandez, C.D. Boykin, Ava Sexton, Tyson Brady, Kayla Lovern, Conner Whitehead, and Ryleigh Grubb.

Readers brought their favorite books from home or chose one from the selections available at the school. They read to the students and then answered questions about themselves that the HLH students asked.

Student Taylor Jacobsen read to Wendy Niday's kindergarten students who were not shy about asking a variety of questions:

- What is your favorite color?



Vinton's School Board member Tim Greenway read to fifth graders at HLH and then took questions, mainly suggestions for school improvements.



WBHS Leo Club member Taylor Jacobsen reads to kindergarten students in Wendy Niday's class.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

- (pink)
- What grade are you in? (senior)
 - Where are you going to college? (Virginia Tech to major in health and

- exercise)
- What is your favorite animal?

See Read, page 7



FILE PHOTO

Mildred Scott with Republican leaders at a gala at the Vinton War Memorial

Remembering Mildred Scott, baker, caterer, banker, staunch Republican

Mildred Scott passed away on March 6 at the age of 97. She is well-known in Vinton for her famous coconut cakes, her cooking and catering, the weddings and galas she has planned, her work for the Town of Vinton, and her stalwart support for the Republican Party.

often 40-hour weeks. She was also very successful at collecting delinquent taxes for the Town of Vinton in person or by letter.

While Scott once said that although she loved finance and "thrived on figures," she "cooked my children's way through college."

She was a well-known figure at the Vinton War Memorial, cooking, catering, and planning events.

Scott was a member of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton for well over 40 years, many of those serving on the kitchen committee.

Mildred is survived by her daughter, Cherie Scott Charalambous and her husband, Marko. She was a grandmother to Alexandra Mercer and her husband, Brian; Amanda Charalambous-Jones and her husband, Trevor; Alissa Charalambous, and Victoria Scott. She also leaves behind three great-grandchildren, plus her niece, Linda Holt, and nephews, Sidney Harlow and Brian Harlow.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alonzo Rufus Harlow and Carrie Bessie Milton Harlow; as well as her son, James Henry Scott, III; her daughter, Catherine Jeanne Scott; brothers, Russell Harlow and Sidney Milton Harlow; and sister, Catherine Holt.

Details on services will be announced at a later date.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

Vinton's new five-year Strategic Plan is official

Vinton Town Council has officially adopted a new Strategic Plan to chart the course for the town in the next five years, from 2026 to 2030. According to town leaders, the plan "outlines a bold vision for the future of our community."

"This plan serves as a roadmap for the next five years, guiding priorities that strengthen our town, enhance services, and support continued growth while preserving the character that makes Vinton special.

"Town leadership and staff will use this plan to guide decisions, allocate resources, and ensure we continue building a community where residents and businesses thrive. Together, we're building the future of Vinton!"

Beginning in the fall of 2025, the plan was developed with consultants Mike Callahan of 3TP Ventures and Vlad Gavrilovic of New Paradigm Planning and the town's leadership team.

The Strategic Plan focuses on key principles and projects such as:

- Supporting stable, safe, diverse, and connected neighborhoods
- Investing in critical public infrastructure
- Collaborative, high-performing and transparent decision-making
- Strategically promoting economic development



GRAPHIC COURTESY TOWN OF VINTON

In brief, the new Strategic Plan outlines the Vision, Mission, Key Principles, and Strategic Projects the Town of Vinton will use in the next five years.

Vision: The Town of Vinton desires to be a regional destination that blends small-town charm with forward-thinking growth. We deliver well-maintained infrastructure, offer diverse housing, and provide exceptional public services and amenities for all. Our historic downtown is the heart of the walkable, vibrant community where businesses thrive and people gather.

Mission: As employees of the Town of Vinton, we are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards for livability, services, and infrastructure while protecting our unique character and values. We strive to build and preserve a solid financial future through proactive, high-quality economic development and provide transparent, efficient, and responsible governance.

By communicating clearly, honestly, and frequently with our citizens, we ensure a prosperous and well-connected community.

Key Principles:

- Public Trust— collaborative, high-performing and transparent decision-making
- Engagement— clear, honest, and frequent communication
- People First— support staff through professional growth and investment
- Neighborhoods— promote stable, safe, diverse

See Plan, page 7





Girl Scout Troop 434, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

Adventurers Girl Scout Virginia Skyline Council celebrates 40th anniversary

The Adventurers Girl Scout Virginia Skyline Council group for girls 11+ turns 40. GS Virginia Skyline Council includes girls from 36 counties in Central Virginia.

Adventurers is an action-oriented group of older Girl Scouts who are seeking exciting, stimulating activities to challenge their capabilities, broaden their horizons, and increase their self-confidence. Members often participate in rock climbing, caving, kayaking, backpacking, travel, hiking and other similar high-adventure activities. Adventurers may be active in regular Girl Scout troops, but individually registered girls can also participate in this Program Pathway.

As a group, the girls brainstorm, research and vote on several high adventure trips each year. Trips and activities take place on weekends, school breaks and summer months, and may include an overnight camp-out.

Adventurer activities include programs at World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, five world centers, hiking the entire Appalachian Trail in bits and pieces, visiting all Virginia State Parks and paddling the



(l to r) Laura Burchett, Amy Hudson, Debbie Clark, and Betsy McLeod

rivers of Virginia.

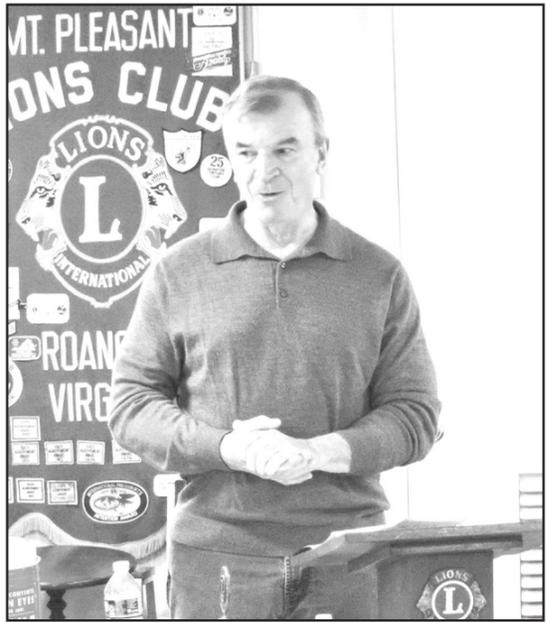
Girl Scout Troop 434 meets at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. Angie Ramsey has led the girls to “Our Chalet” in Switzerland. Betsy McLeod, another 434 leader, was recently trained as an Adventurer coordinator and received her pin.

The Wild Women’s and Men’s Adventurers coordinator’s training weekend was held at Camp Icimani, Roanoke County Feb. 27 through March 1. Coordinators planned girl-requested outdoor adventure activities for the next GS year. Fourteen new coordinators were welcomed.

-Submitted by Barb Duerk



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BARB DUERK



Lions Club guest speaker Steve Pasternak



Mount Pleasant Lions welcome new members. Pictured from left are Lion Brenda Musselwhite, new member Norma Darr, Lion Joel Lytton, new member Richard Darr, and Lion Pat Musselwhite.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE FERGUSON

Mount Pleasant Lions Club back in action

After missing the February meeting due to the four-inch ice storm that made the parking lot a skating rink, the Mount Pleasant Lions are back in full force. At the March meeting, two new members, Richard Darr and Norma Darr, were inducted into the club. Handling the ceremony was Joel Lytton, a member of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club

and Zone Chairman for four clubs—Bedford, Forest, Mount Pleasant and Vinton. Membership certificates, name tags, Lion pins and caps were provided to the new Lions along with many congratulations.

The featured speaker for the evening was Steve Pasternak, who retired after 37 years as an emergency room physician.

He traced his path from Indiana roots to medical school, to choosing emergency medicine as his specialty, plying his skills in Portland, Maine, and ultimately moving to this area in 1988 where he practiced mostly at Carilion and Lewis-Gale.

His sense of humor and anecdotes provided a lively and entertaining

evening for the Lions and several guests. One of his milder witticisms was “A psychologist and a proctologist opened a joint practice— they called it Odds and Ends.”

A potluck dinner was held at the conclusion of the meeting.

-Submitted by Mount Pleasant Lions Club

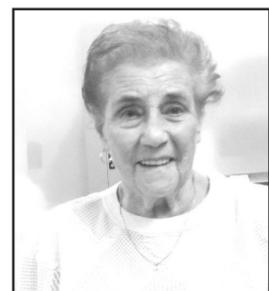
PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning
Mildred Scott – how in the world do I not have more pictures of this woman! All of the events we have done together, and I am struggling to find the right picture.

Words can never describe this lady. She was a ball of energy, a force to be reckoned with and the sassiest person I think I knew. Mildred, to say you will be missed is an understatement. Your talent

in the kitchen, your knowledge in your work, your faith, your spunkiness, and your support in all you stood for – we will all be forever grateful! Rest in Peace my friend, I will miss you!

Happy Birthday to Coach Paul Barnard. You have touched the lives of so many young men and women, all in a positive way, and they all loved you.. Thank you so much for being a role model.



Mildred Scott



Pictured with Coach Paul Barnard are his baby girls, Crystal Bernard Lineberg and Ginger B. Davis.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Submit your community news and photos to vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.



From the Pulpit

By Pastor Bryan Crouch

At some point, the conversation about judging others must turn inward. It is easier to critique from a distance than to examine our own hearts, motives, and blind spots. Yet lasting change rarely begins with pointing outward. It starts when we allow ourselves to be shaped by the same grace we hope others will receive. Jesus made this personal when He said, "With the measure you use, it

will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38, NIV). Those words invite reflection.

Are we generous with patience? Quick to assume the best? Willing to listen before concluding? The standards we apply to others often reveal the expectations we live by ourselves. A grace-filled life does not ignore truth, but it handles truth carefully. Ephesians reminds believers to speak truth "in love"

(Ephesians 4:15, NIV), not as a weapon but as a tool for growth. Love changes the tone, the timing, and the intent behind our words. Without it, even correct statements can cause unnecessary harm.

When people encounter consistent grace, something powerful happens. Walls come down. Conversations deepen. Repentance becomes possible,

because it is safe. In a culture marked by outrage and quick verdicts, choosing restraint and mercy is countercultural. Judging others may feel righteous in the moment, but grace leaves a lasting legacy. It reflects the heart of Christ and reminds us all that we are not finished yet – and neither is anyone else. Try to be more like Christ tomorrow than you were today.

Defensive Cane Tai Chi classes return to Vinton Community Center

Defensive Cane Tai Chi classes have restarted at the Vinton Community Center, taught by Steve Garay. The class meets on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Garay will be teaching 24-form which includes Tai Chi Walking—the most practiced form of Tai Chi.

Other classes available at the community center

(across the parking lot from the Vinton War Memorial) include Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Line Dancing, Mexican Train Dominos, Hand and Foot Canasta, the new Downsizers Club, and Senior Tai Chi.

There will be a Happy Hearts Dance this Saturday, March 14, at the community center

from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$10.

Call the Community Programs Department at 540-983-0645 for more information or visit the Vinton Calendar page at <https://www.vintonva.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=21>.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



Steve Garay teaching Defensive Cane Tai Chi

FILE PHOTO



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCACP

New RCACP Executive Director Melinda Rector (left) and Special Projects Manager Mike Warner

New RCACP Executive Director named

The Executive Committee of the Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection (RCACP) has appointed Melinda Rector as Executive Director, effective March 14. Current Interim Executive Director Mike Warner will continue in a reduced capacity as Special Projects Manager and support

Rector during the transition.

Rector began working with the RCACP in June 2017 as Director of Operations. Prior to joining the RCACP, she served as Business Coordinator for Roanoke County's General Services Department. Rector worked for the county for nearly 36 years, taking on increasing

levels of responsibility.

"I'm excited to step into this role and continue building on our lifesaving programs while helping more families keep their animals in loving homes," said Rector. "We're fortunate to have a dedicated staff

See RCACP, page 7

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: AWA-NA 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. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

TRUST THE TRUTH
Read 2 Timothy 1:1 through 4:22

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

The Greek word orthotomeo, translated here as "correctly handles," is rendered "rightly dividing" in other versions.

It carries the idea of cutting straight like a surgeon and getting to the heart of the matter. Paul's letters to Timothy emphasize sound doctrine, which must be taught in the churches so believers will be established in the truth. Is false teaching being advocated? Stand firm on God's truth. Do unbelievers mock our Christian life? Stand firm on God's truth.

We are all to be students of God's Word—diligently studying it, faithfully putting it into practice in our daily lives, and effectively sharing it. We should never be ashamed to be identified with Christ, nor do we want to be embarrassed by our lack of preparation for witnessing.

We need to be ready with knowledge of the truth and guided by God's Spirit in sharing it with others.

Thought for Today: Train in the truth and trust its teaching.

Quicklook: 2 Timothy 2:7-15

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Aليxandria Wall at Cell: (276) 732-6083
awall@mountainmedianews.com

and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540-353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. "Building People to Change Our World"

LUTHERAN
ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342-1715, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

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

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

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

Remembering Vinton

50 Years ago in March 1976

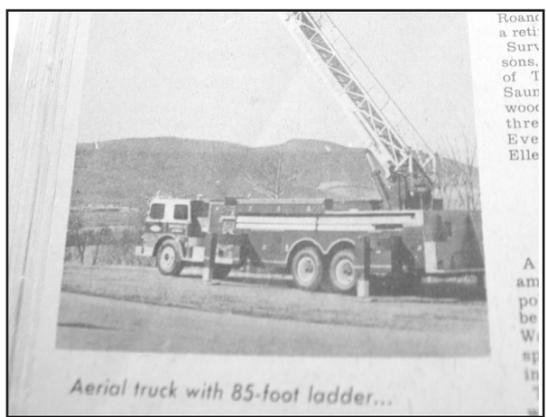
with the Vinton Historical Society



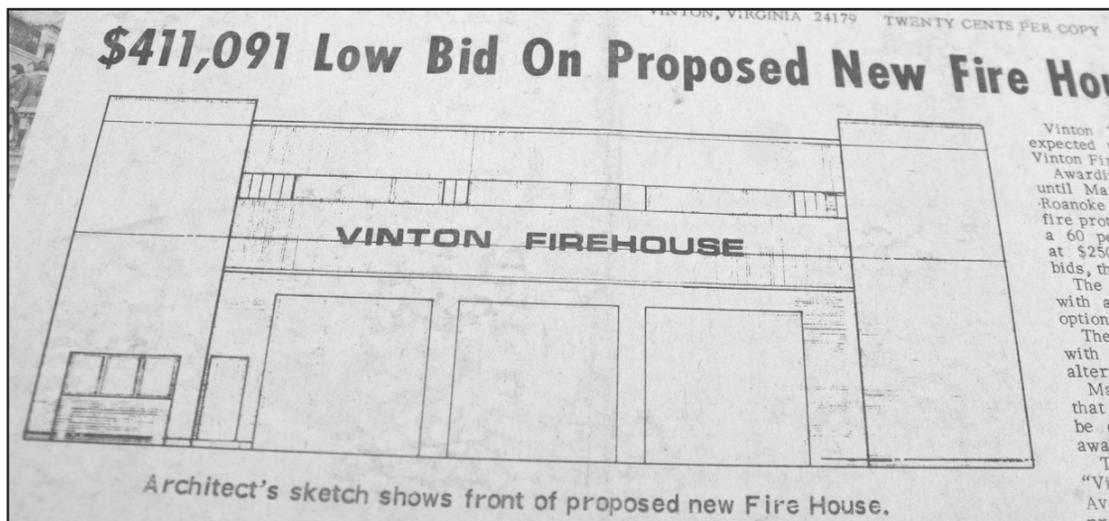
Design concept for Berkshire Nursing Home in 1976



Sherry Leigh Stallard was named Miss William Byrd Band in March 1976.



The Oren-Roanoke firetruck firm continued to grow on Third Street in Vinton.



Artist's sketch of proposed Vinton Firehouse

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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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Students at Roland E. Cook perform a "Bicentennial Sing In."

Debbie Adams
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Just as in 2026, the Town of Vinton was focused on

new construction projects 50 years ago in 1976. The town was considering bids on a new fire station and hoping to collaborate with Roanoke County on a cost-sharing arrangement for the new facility. Low bidder on the project was B&J Construction with a bid of \$411,600.

The new firehouse was to be constructed on the "Vinyard Property" at the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Jackson Avenue. Town Council passed a resolution asking Roanoke County to pay for 60% (\$276,000) of the costs of the new Vinton firehouse—based on the percentage of total calls the Vinton Fire Department answered in the county in 1975.

Eventually, after many heated discussions, the county contributed \$150,000 towards the project. One point of contention was that the county Board of Supervisors had paid the full \$250,000 for the new Clearbrook Fire Station. The board chair took issue with the "frills" proposed for the new Vinton facility, including a community room, an apartment, and a commercial kitchen.

The Volunteer Fire Department reported that with 32 active members, they had answered 368 alarms in the past year. Five of their members were juniors between the ages of 18 and 21. The department had several pieces of equipment including a Jeep

brush truck, a Plymouth Fury chief's car, a Dodge aerial ladder truck, two tanker trucks to compensate for the scarcity of fire hydrants in the town, and two other Ford trucks.

Two new health-related facilities were also in the works for the area behind Lake Drive Plaza—the \$1 million Vinton Bowling Center and the \$2.2 million, 120-bed nursing home (now Berkshire).

Overall, building permits increased in Vinton from the previous year—129 were issued in 1975.

The Town of Vinton celebrated its 92nd anniversary on St. Patrick's Day 1976.

"Night prowlers" were busy in Vinton during the month. In fact, they struck six times in one night, including damaging a vehicle, stealing a radio, along with a bowling ball, tennis shoes, a CB radio, two harmonicas, a sound system and TV set, and four wheels and tires at different businesses and residences. Pharmaceutical supplies were stolen from a vehicle at Lake Drive Plaza. In another incident, burglars stole a set of custom gauges and a hood assembly from two separate vehicles. With spring on the way, garden-tiller thieves were at work.

Vandals were busy smashing 21 windows on Shelbourne Avenue as well. Vandals also set a grass fire at William Byrd Intermediate School. A Roanoke man was charged with forgery

at Mountain Trust Bank in Vinton. Two shoplifters were charged with stealing cigarettes from Kroger and the IGA Foodette.

Subsequently, citizens from the Bali Hai subdivision showed up at the next Town Council meeting asking for help from the town in reducing the crime rate in Vinton. The town manager suggested a neighborhood watch type program, in addition to discussions with the police chief.

The result was a crime prevention meeting for citizens at the Municipal Building on March 31 for the police to share details on how to protect their homes and property. Chief Clarence Irby reminded citizens that removing valuables from vehicles was the safest step in preventing vehicular burglaries. (In March 1976, the Vinton Police Dept. had 13 officers, divided into four platoons, working three shifts.)

The Vinton First Aid Crew also presented their yearly report to council. In 1975, they had responded to 1,257 calls, expending 4,983 man-hours and traveling 24,188 miles.

At the same meeting, council voted to purchase material for new uniforms for waitresses at the Vinton War Memorial.

In a somewhat questionable move, Roanoke Valley Cablevision requested a "secret" closed meeting with Vinton

See 1976, page 7

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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	61						62					
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			64							65		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Blockchain-based entity
 - 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 - 7. Painted with glue
 - 12. Legendary crooner
 - 15. Structure made with strips of wood
 - 16. Tropical fruits
 - 18. Commercial
 - 19. Comedienne
 - 20. The Ocean State
 - 21. Ancient Scot
 - 24. Basics
 - 27. Stated propositions
 - 30. Scottish island group
 - 31. Expression of annoyance
 - 33. Large tree
 - 34. Engine additive
 - 35. Conspiracy
 - 37. Drunkard
 - 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
 - 41. Ancient Syrian city
 - 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 - 44. Carry (slang)
 - 47. Sweet potato
 - 48. European river
 - 49. The Golden State
 - 50. Windy City ballplayer
 - 52. New Testament
 - 53. Possess spiritually
 - 56. A treeless grassy plain
 - 61. Popular historical novel
 - 63. In a law-abiding way
 - 64. A place to sleep
 - 65. Criticize
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Impression in a surface
 - 2. Computer language
 - 3. Relating to the ear
 - 4. Occupant
 - 5. Member of Great Plains people
 - 6. Social media firm
 - 7. Digital audiotape
 - 8. Midway between east and southeast
 - 9. Chronic, progressive disease
 - 10. Chinese lute
 - 11. Not wet
 - 12. Moves wings up and down
 - 13. Communication devices
 - 14. Swiss river
 - 17. Female sibling
 - 22. Receive
 - 23. Relating to a type
 - 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
 - 25. Steep bank
 - 26. Taxi driver
 - 28. Moves into without difficulty
 - 29. Bicycle manufacturer
 - 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
 - 36. Fugitives are on it
 - 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
 - 40. Die
 - 43. Matched
 - 44. Literary genre ___-fi
 - 45. Cannon
 - 46. Pounded
 - 51. British rock group
 - 54. Debt relief order
 - 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
 - 56. Green vegetable
 - 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
 - 58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 59. Ailments
 - 60. Famed singer Charles
 - 62. Camper



THE FINCASTLE HERALD | The Vinton Messenger | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES REGISTER | News Messenger | RADFORD News Journal

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Software Engineer II, Blacksburg, VA. Design.

develop, and maintain ERP applications and integration solutions to support all aspects of operations to include business management systems, technology infrastructure management systems and automation solutions in a cloud based AWS environment. Position will have a significant focus on network and systems automation and integration. Master's degree in Computer Science or related field. 3 years of experience. AWS Certification. Conviction check reqd. Full job description & apply online at <https://jobs.vt.edu> or mail A. Pifer, 1770 Forecast Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060

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Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. **CL24-2145** VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE

JOHN K. PRILLAMAN, and COMPTON M. BIDDLE, Plaintiffs v. TRACY MABES, JASON MABES, and UNKNOWN PARTIES, Defendants.

TO: THE RESPONDENTS: The object of this suit is to: Determine the proper disposition of surplus funds from a foreclosure sale of certain property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 6090447.

An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Mary Shepherd (a/k/a Mary Martha Mabes), who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the 6th day of April, 2026, and claim such excess funds.

It is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §8.01-317, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Salem Times Register, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in the City of Roanoke, Virginia.

Entered this 13th day of February, 2026
L.K. Ciaffone, Judge

I ASK FOR THIS: John K. Prillaman, Esq. VSB #81306 OPN LAW PLC 3140 Chaparral Drive Suite 200-C Roanoke, Va 24018 P: 540) 725-8194 F: 540) 772-0126 E: jprillaman@opnlaw.com

Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE

TO: ALBERT HONAKER, JR., FATHER OF A MALE CHILD BORN UNTO AMBER BOOHER ON JULY 10, 2013 (JUVENILE CASE NO: 25-JA-220-RF)

ALBERT HONAKER, JR., FATHER OF A FEMALE CHILD BORN UNTO AMBER BOOHER ON NOVEMBER 29, 2015 (JUVENILE CASE NO.: 25-JA-221-RF)

Pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 4, Section 601 of the Code of West Virginia, notice is hereby given to you that a petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Mercer County, West Virginia, alleging that your child is a neglected and/or abused child, which proceedings can result in the permanent termination of parental rights. This matter has been scheduled for a hearing on the 12th day of March at 9:30 a.m., before the Honorable Ryan J. Flanigan, Judge of the Circuit Court at the Mercer County Courthouse, Princeton, West Virginia.

Michael Magann, 307 Federal Street, Suite 210, Bluefield, WV 24701. (304) 325-2100, has been appointed as counsel of record for Respondent Albert Honaker, Jr.

You are hereby notified that you may be present at such hearing and defend your rights.

Dated February 24, 2026
JULIE A BALL
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
BY: Martha Neely
HER DEPUTY CLERK

Diamond Towers V LLC

proposes to build a 254-foot self-support communications tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes.

The Site location is 40 Eastpark Drive, Roanoke, Botetourt Court, VA 24019 [Lat: 37-20-34.49, Long: -79-52-36.47]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1378203.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/application) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com, 7700 West Highway 71, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-519-9388.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. W240000148 BOTEOTURT COUNTY, 5 WEST MAIN STREET, FINCASTLE, VA 24090

ESTATE OF DOUGLAS MARKEE GIMBERT, DECEASED

The object of this suit is to: CREDITORS AND ALL OTHERS SHOW CAUSE AGAINST PAYMENT AND DELIVERY OF ESTATE It is ORDERED that it appearing that a report of the accounts of Mary Barbara Gimbert, Executrix of the Estate of Douglas Markey Gimbert, deceased, and of the debts and demands against his estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months

Legals - Botetourt County

have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of Mary Barbara Gimbert, Executrix, IT IS ORDERED that the creditors of, and all other persons interested in the above estate show cause, if they can, on the 8th day of April, 2026 a 9:00 a.m. before this Court at its courtroom, against payment of the debts of the estate in the order and proportion in which they may be entitled and distributing all remaining assets to the beneficiaries entitled thereto under the Last Will and Testament of Douglas Markey Gimbert, without requiring refunding bonds, subject only to the retention by the Executrix of sufficient funds to satisfy the remaining costs of administration.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing portion of the Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald, a newspaper published in Botetourt County. Entered this 24th day of February, 2026

I ask for this: Lindsey A. Coley, Esq. (VSB No. 75551) Coley Law Firm 16440 Booker T. Washington Hwy Suite 304B Smith Mountain Lake Virginia 24121 P:540-407-9859 F: 540-675-4002 lindsey@coleylaw.legal

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1302 LAYMANTOWN ROAD, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 26, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$303,750.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 220000407. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on April 3, 2026, at 10:45 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, LYING AND BEING IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: PARCEL 1: BEING LOT 4, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5 RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. PARCEL 2: LOT NO. 5, BLOCK 24, ACCORDING TO MAP NO. 3 OF BLOCKS 11-24, RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C. B. MALCOLM & SON, SCE'S, DATED JUNE 29, 1962, CONSISTING OF SHEETS 1 THROUGH 5, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, AT PAGE 143. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the

Legals - Botetourt County

terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-380025-1.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF WANDA F. PARKER, DECEASED NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Scott A. Butler, attorney for Georgia Knighton, executor of the estate of Wanda F. Parker, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Wanda F. Parker, and all persons in any way interested in her estate, are hereby notified that I have fixed the 8th day of April, 2026 at 10 o'clock a.m., at my office at 13 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, Virginia as the time and place for determining an account of the debts and demands against said Wanda F. Parker or her estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Wanda F. Parker, deceased, and persons interested in her estate should appear at the time and place named, or any other time or place to which the proceedings may be adjourned, and protect their interest. Given under my hand this the 4th day of March, 2026. Malcolm McL. Doubles Commissioner of Accounts

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 7:15pm or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed Ordinances Temporarily changing the A-3, E-3 and F-3 Precinct Polling Place from Squires Student Center located at 290 College Avenue, Blacksburg, Virginia, to Johnston Student Center located at 920 W. Campus Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia, for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election Only.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. **CL25001172-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

LEIA RAQUEL KING v. JAMES RUSSELL SMITH IV

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE It is ORDERED that JAMES RUSSELL SMITH IV appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests

Legals - Montgomery County

on or before April 27th, 2026 Entered 2/24/2026 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. **JJD1488** MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 2A, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 MONTGOMERY COUNTY DSS v. SHANNON NICOLE BAILEY

The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Shannon Bailey, legal parent of James D. Bailey, Jr., a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition.

It is ORDERED that SHANNON NICOLE BAILEY appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 6th, 2026 @ 9:00 AM. Entered March 3, 2026 Amie Blankenship, Clerk

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.-317,20-104 Case No. **CL26000414-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 DATRIA SPENNACCHIO-PARKER, JARIA MARIE BATCHELOR v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The object of this suit is to: name change of minor child It is ORDERED that JARVIS DEMOND BATCHELOR appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before May 2, 2026

Entered February 27, 2026 Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE,

all those certain lots, tracts or parcels of real property situate, lying and being in the Town of Christiansburg, Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, designated as Tax Map Numbers 497-18 15A and 497-18 16, in execution of a Deed of Trust, in the original principal amount of \$124,000.00, dated October 31, 2012, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY as Deed Instrument Number 2012009501, the undersigned appointed Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, at the front of the Court House building for the County of Montgomery located at 55 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the property with improvements to wit: Tax Map Numbers 497-18 15A and 497-18 16; THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: CASH OR CHECK. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Trustee, John N. Spicer, C/O Spicer, Olin & Associates, P.C., 504 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-0007.

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1976 from page 4



CENTENNIAL BUGGY: Obenchain's Flowers. Pictured with the vehicle is Billy Obenchain. VINTON MESSENGER ARCHIVES

Obenchain's Flowers also marked the Bicentennial year with a decorated truck.

officials at the Steer House restaurant in Vinton to discuss a rate increase.

It was time for Town Council elections in May 1976. Incumbents Armand Sanders and O.L. Horn chose not to run for re-election. Charles Hill, Bobby Altice and Rufus Hall announced they would be running for the two positions.

Bus fares for Valley Metro buses increased to 40 cents— up from 30 cents.

The Oren-Roanoke fire truck firm continued to grow. Purchased by Grumman Corporation in early 1975, the company had orders for 225 fire trucks made by 85 employees at costs ranging from \$20,000 to \$185,000.

A two-car collision on Route 24, near William Byrd High School, resulted in injuries to four people, with one charged with reckless driving. The Vinton Fire Department and First Aid Crew responded.

The Board of Supervisors was considering a re-districting proposal to balance the populations between county districts,

although some Vinton officials questioned the removal of some citizens from the Bonsack area currently in the Vinton District, to the Hollins District. Vinton's supervisor, Deal Tompkins, said that in the interests of the school children attending Vinton schools, they should remain in the Vinton District.

School enrollments continued to increase in the Vinton area with 3,955 students at the five schools: William Byrd High School, Roland E. Cook, East Vinton, and Hardy Road Elementary Schools, and William Byrd Intermediate School.

The William Byrd High School varsity cheerleaders won "Most Outstanding Squad" in the Blue Ridge District.

In the Miss William Byrd Band Contest on March 18, 11 contestants competed based on beauty, poise, and talent. Sherry Leigh Stallard was the winner. Bootie Chewning served as the master of ceremonies.

First place winners in the annual Bland Music Contest, sponsored by the

Vinton Lions Club, were Tina Earhart (vocals), and Stefanie Scholand (instrumental). Cindy Lou Dillon placed second.

Schools were preparing for the Bicentennial, including Roland E. Cook, whose students presented a "Bicentennial Sing-In." The program featured songs by each grade level. Music included "America," "America the Beautiful," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "This Land is Your Land," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "Dixie." Cheryl Gillespie won the Roland E. Cook Spelling Bee for 1976.

Obenchain's Flowers was also celebrating the Bicentennial year with a red, white, and blue delivery truck.

A late season snowstorm led to closed schools and traffic delays.

In March 1976, chuck roast was 68 cents a pound, a gallon of paint was \$7.99, rates for coast-to-coast phone calls were 54 cents a minute, and checking accounts were being promoted as a modern convenience as an alternative to cash.

RCACP from page 3

and strong rescue partners working together to support animals across our community."

Current Executive Committee Chair and Botetourt County Administrator Gary Larrowe said, "RCACP plays an important role for our region, and Melinda brings both institutional knowledge and a genuine passion for animal welfare. We're confident her leadership will continue strengthening RCACP's impact across our community."

Warner joined the RCACP in July 2017 as Interim Executive Director.

"I'm proud of what our team has accomplished over the past eight years to help our homeless animals," said Warner.

"This has been a rewarding opportunity

for me, and I'm confident Melinda will continue moving it forward."

The RCACP serves the City of Roanoke, the counties of Botetourt and Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton and is an open-intake facility. The center receives between 4,000 and 6,000 animals annually. The RCACP operates a foster program, dog training initiatives to improve adoptability, a pet food pantry, and partners with adoption centers and rescue organizations. The center also hosts an Adventure Dog program that allows residents to take adoptable dogs on day-long outings.

- RCACP

Read from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Lions Club members participating in Read Across America included (from left): front row, Peggy Stovall, Sam Cundiff, Jeff Stovall, Jeff Mason, Gary Melchers, and Bob Benninger; back row, Zach McCarty, Chris McCarty, Anthony Conner, Tim Greenway, and Dave Shimp. Neil Zimmerman is not pictured.

(platypus)

- Do you have a job? (yes, at the golf club)
- What other activities do you do? (cheerleading for most of her life)

Lion Tim Greenway, who represents Vinton on the Roanoke County School Board, was peppered with suggestions for how to improve the schools. He took notes and agreed to present them to the school personnel in charge of each request. Their concerns were:

- More recess
- Swings on the playground
- More absorbent paper towels or hand-dryers
- Colder water in the water fountains
- Microwaves in the cafeteria for upper grades to heat up their

lunches

- Doors with foot-openers
- Filtered water, better quality

Read Across America Day was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association and remains the nation's largest celebration of reading, with millions participating each year. Read Across America Day calls upon everyone to read and engage with children to make reading a more fun and interactive experience.

The nationwide celebration takes place annually near the March 2 birthday of children's author and cartoonist Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known by his pen name, Dr. Seuss. The day encourages children to experience the joys of reading.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go," Geisel wrote in one of his books.

March was also chosen for the observance because March is traditionally designated as National Reading Month.

Read Across America Day at HLH was coordinated by Reading Specialist Dorr Boan.



Plan from page 1

and connected neighborhoods

- Community Spirit— bolster popular town events
- Revenue Growth— responsible and proactive economic development to provide for a stable future.

Strategic Projects and the strategic actions to support those projects include:

Building walkable connections in and to downtown:

- Develop a walkability action plan for downtown and implement improvements
- Divert cut through traffic from Lee Avenue through signage and design
- Prioritize sidewalk gaps and dedicate funding to sidewalk construction
- Advance Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 to construction ready

Update and modernize the town's zoning ordinance:

- Align the zoning code and map with the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies
- Modernize the zoning code to support more housing options, especially downtown
- Modernize the zoning code's design and development standards
- Invest in quality housing for all phases of life:
- Study and consider new incentives for housing development
- Increase height and density for new housing in the downtown and mixed-use areas
- Pursue grants for repairs and accessibility improvements to aging housing
- Consider financial options, such as tax abatement or a revolving loan fund, to support improvements to aging housing
- Partner with regional housing organizations to bring their services to Vinton

Strategically promote economic development:

- Seek opportunities to purchase real estate in Vinton to support economic development, community design, and infrastructure goals
- Market opportunities for investment and development within Vinton
- Create an economic development strategic plan
- Invest in critical public infrastructure:
- Maintain street pavement data and investment in the paving program so that all streets are in a state of good repair
- Upgrade water supply to the eastern part of Vinton to support future development
- Develop a comprehensive stormwater system dataset and stormwater master plan
- Dedicate new funding sources towards stormwater infrastructure replacements and upgrades

Over five years ago, Vinton's leaders

created the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. Some of the faces have changed from that time with a different town manager, one new council member, a new chief of police, new finance personnel, a new town clerk, a new director of Cultural Placemaking and Events, and a new Public Works director.

The process changed somewhat in developing the new Strategic Plan. In 2020 there were different consultants, but the task was the same— developing a plan for where the town would be five years down the road.

The goals chosen in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan included enhancing the town's infrastructure and livability, maintaining an efficient and high performing government, and ensuring the town's continued financial viability by actively pursuing quality economic development. The town would encourage home ownership, housing rehabilitation, and the creation of new, high-quality, and affordable housing stock; utilize available technology within municipal offices to improve efficient service delivery; conduct thorough organizational efficiency reviews in municipal offices and implement changes based on results; maintain a structurally balanced budget to sustain service levels and maintain public facilities; and aggressively pursue economic development opportunities to enhance local retail and dining options.

If you attend, watch online, or read about Vinton Town Council meetings, you will note that almost every action that is taken by council relates to a specific goal in the Strategic Plan.

There were many items on the last Strategic Plan (2020-2025) which have been completed— an extension of the Glade Creek Greenway, improvements to Walnut Avenue, streambank restoration, Billy Byrd and Roland E. Cook conversions to housing, transfer of the utility system to the Western Virginia Water Authority, and numerous grant awards.

The town expects to be equally successful in accomplishing the goals of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan now being implemented.

Council members and Town Manager Pete Peters remind citizens that the town's top priority is still maintaining the services it provides to its citizens, along with an emphasis on retention of an outstanding town staff. With the new Strategic Plan, Town Council and staff are focused on building upon what the town is already doing well.

View the full Strategic Plan here: <https://www.vintonva.gov/486/Town-of-Vinton-Strategic-Plan>.

-Town of Vinton, Vinton Messenger staff

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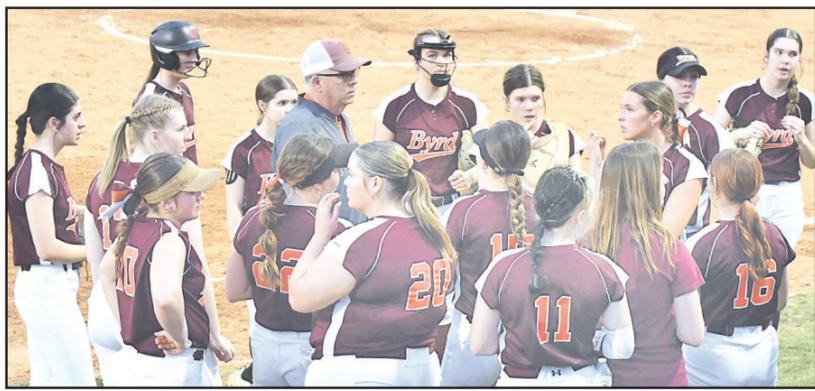
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SPORTS

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William Byrd spring sports teams took advantage of the nice weather for scrimmages and practices last week. Left, Mitchell Sigafoes(#19), Carson Gordon(#5) and Mason Campbell(#3) of the Byrd soccer team guard the box in a scrimmage with Patrick Henry in Vinton. Above, coach Greg Barton talks to the softball team between innings in a scrimmage with Auburn on Barton Field. Below left, pitcher Tyler Harris and catcher Ethan Sink get their ducks in a row in an intra-squad baseball scrimmage at Walthall Park. Below right, new Terrier baseball coach Cam Cassidy conducts pregame warmups. PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Spring sports open Monday

Daylight savings time has arrived and the temperature is rising. That's a sign that spring sports are just around the corner.

Next Monday, March 16, is the official opening day for spring sports for Virginia High School League teams. William Byrd boys and girls have been on the diamonds, pitches, courts and track preparing for the new season with high hopes.

The last scrimmages are today and Friday. Today, Thursday, Byrd will host scrimmages for boys' tennis at 4:30 pm, baseball against Glenvar at 5 pm and girls' lacrosse against Lord Botetourt at 5:30 pm. The girls' tennis team is at Bassett and the varsity softball team is at Glenvar.

On Friday the girls' soccer team will host Patrick Henry for a jayvee-varsity doubleheader, with the jayvees opening at 5:30 pm on Highfill Field.

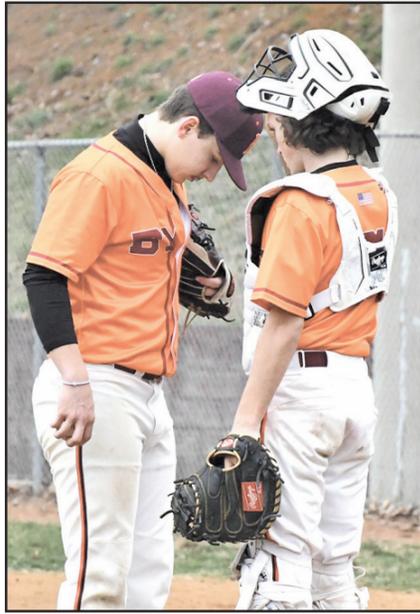
On Monday everything counts, and Byrd has a full slate of action. The

tennis teams will play Glenvar with the boys at home and the girls in West Roanoke County. New baseball coach Cam Cassidy will have his first game when the Terriers go to Bassett, and the girls' soccer team is also at Bassett. Byrd will host the Bengals in boys' soccer, beginning at 7 pm.

Next Tuesday, on St. Patrick's Day, the Terrier baseball team will have their home debut against Salem at 5 pm. Byrd will also host Salem for boys' soccer at 7 pm while the girls' soccer team is at Spartan Field in Salem for a 7 pm match. The Byrd softball team will take on the Spartans at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem at 5 pm.

The Byrd lacrosse teams will make their season debut on Wednesday, March 18, against Franklin County. The boys will host the Eagles at 7:15 pm while the girls go to Rocky Mount for a 6 pm game. Also next Wednesday, the softball team is at Pulaski County.

A week from today, on March 19,



Byrd will host a girls-boys lacrosse doubleheader against Hidden Valley at Patterson Stadium. The girls will draw at 5:30 pm with the boys to fol-

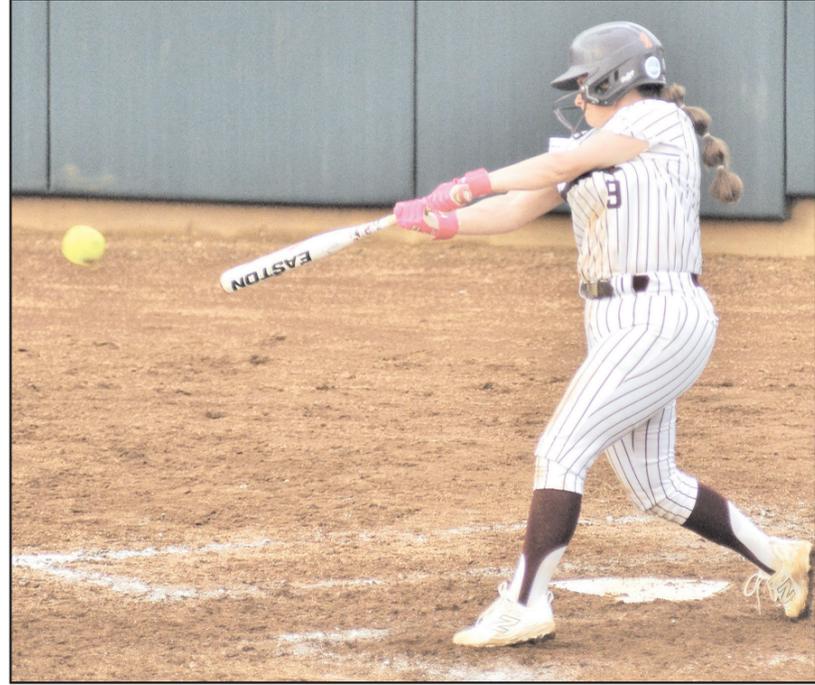
low with a scheduled 7:15 pm faceoff. Follow all the William Byrd High School sports every week in the Vinton Messenger sports section.



Jr. Big Orange on middle school mats

The Junior Big Orange wrestling event was held at William Byrd Middle School last Saturday, put on by the Vinton Booster Club. High School wrestlers volunteered as referees and table workers. Here Byrd's Cameron King officiates a youth match.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER



Vaughan patrols hot corner for RC

William Byrd graduate Haleigh Vaughan is a junior thirdbaseman for the Roanoke College softball team. The Maroons are 5-7 on the season after sweeping a doubleheader from Southern Virginia last weekend. RC will open their ODAC schedule this Saturday with a doubleheader in Harrisonburg against Eastern Mennonite. Here Vaughan connects in a game with York at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem last week.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



CLASS 3 TRACK

William Byrd athletes competed in the VHSL Class 3 state indoor track meet at Liberty University last week. Left, James Smith of the Terriers, shown here during qualifying, placed 7th in the Class 3 state 55 meter dash finals with a time of 6.58. Center, Titus Beatty placed 14th in the Class 3 shot put with a best throw of 40-11.0. Right, Byrd's Lily Perez placed 3rd in the long jump (17-08.25). Lily also placed 4th in the triple jump (35-08.25).

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING