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# The Vinton Messenger

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PHOTO BY CHERRY BELL FARRINGTON

**WBHS Class of 2026 speakers were (from left) Brooke Hershel, Miley Moses Pinion, Principal Evan Noell, Makenzie Scott, and Darin Witcher.**



**The WBHS Choir performed "Time After Time." Pictured are (from left): first row, Choir Director Matt Bartley, Ashley Arven, Haylee Cockran, Brody Parrish, Owen Humphreys, Sofia Arthur, Miley Moses Pinion, and Brooke Hershel; second row, Sidney Draper, Taylor Spangler, Gabriella Norris, Ryker McKay, Ava Lorton, Alexander Jones, Aubrey Booze, Lily Perez, and Kaeleigh Swan. (Seniors are in graduation gowns; students in black are underclassmen who joined the seniors to help balance voice parts.)**

## William Byrd Class of 2026 celebrates graduation

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The William Byrd High School Class of 2026 celebrated graduation on May 27 at the Salem Civic Center—the 102nd annual commencement for WBHS. Approximately 280 graduates, including 66 valedictorians, walked across the stage, shook hands with school administrators, and accepted their diplomas.

The graduation ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors by the Roanoke County Corps of Cadets, which is based at WBHS. (They also presented for Cave Spring and Hidden Valley High Schools.) SCA President Makenzie Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance. Miley Moses Pinion, one of the valedictorians, delivered the Commencement Address:

“There is a quote I would like to share by Harriet Tubman that says, ‘Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.’

“We spent four years counting down to graduation...and now that it’s here, it feels like it showed up way too fast. Freshman year, most of us walked into school not knowing where our classes were, or honestly what we were doing at all. And now, somehow, we’re here, ready to take on whatever comes next.

“Before anything else, I want to take a moment to thank the people who helped us get here. To our teachers, who pushed us even when we didn’t want to be pushed. To our parents and families, who supported us through every late night, early morning, and stressful moment. To our principals, whose leadership helped shape our school and keep us moving forward. And to the staff, coaches, and

mentors who believed in us and guided us along the way—this milestone wouldn’t be possible without you.

“I am honored to stand here today as a part of the graduating class of 2026. Over the past four years, I’ve spent a lot of time learning—not just from classes, but from the people around me. But looking back on those moments—the highs, the stress, and everything in between—I’ve realized something. We didn’t just go through high school. We grew through it. And that growth didn’t happen by accident. It came from the very things in that quote we heard earlier: strength, patience, and passion.

“First...strength. And I don’t mean the kind you see in movies with dramatic music in the background, I mean the quiet kind. The kind that shows up when you get a grade back that isn’t what you hoped for, but you work just as hard on the next assignment anyway. The kind that gets you out of bed on mornings when you’re already tired before the day even starts. The kind that keeps you sitting at a desk trying to focus while your brain is completely fried. We all had those days. But strength wasn’t about never struggling. It was about showing up anyway. Even when we were unsure. Even when we were overwhelmed. Even when your only motivation was the fact that missing class meant more work later. And somehow...we made it through all of that.

“Second—patience. And honestly, this one deserves its own award, because if there’s anything we’ve mastered over the last four years, it’s waiting. Waiting for Friday. Waiting for summer. Waiting for graduation. Waiting for life to finally feel like it’s ‘starting’. And now that we’re here, it’s kind of wild how fast it all went. But patience

taught us something important: Not everything is supposed to happen quickly. Friendships and relationships take time. Confidence takes time. Figuring out who you are takes way more time than we want it to. And even now, standing here, none of us have everything figured out, but that’s okay. Because patience isn’t about having the whole map. It’s about trusting that you’re still moving forward, even when you can’t see what’s ahead.

“And finally—passion. This one looked different for all of us. For some, it showed up on the field, the court, in a gym, or on a stage. For others, it showed up in notebooks, late-night study sessions, or quiet moments of just trying to get better. And for some of us...it showed up as simply trying to survive first period without some type of energy drink. But passion was always there. It was the effort no one clapped for. It was in the work people didn’t see. It was in the moments we kept going just because we cared enough not to quit. And maybe the most important part? Passion doesn’t always feel obvious while you’re living it. Sometimes you only recognize it in hindsight...like, ‘Wow, I really did care about that more than I realized.’ And that means something. Because passion isn’t about having it all figured out. It’s about being willing to care deeply, even while you’re still becoming who you are.

“So, if we put it all together...Strength is what got us through. Patience is what kept us grounded. And passion is what kept us moving forward. And those things didn’t just get us through high school. They built who we are right now.

“As we move forward, I hope we don’t forget that. Be strong when things don’t go as planned, not because you won’t



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**The Roanoke County Corps of Cadets presented the colors at graduation.**

struggle, but because you already know you can survive it. Be patient when life doesn’t move on your timeline, even when it feels like everyone else is somehow ahead of you. And be passionate about whatever you choose next, even if you’re still figuring out what that is. Because honestly, most of us are still figuring things out.

“And that’s kind of the point. Changing the world doesn’t always look like changing the world. Sometimes it looks like showing up for your friends when they need you. Sometimes it looks like choosing kindness when it would be easier not to. And sometimes it just looks like not giving up on yourself when things get hard. That’s where real impact starts. Not in huge moments... but in consistent ones.

“So, Class of 2026, we didn’t just sit through high school. We learned how to grow through it. We learned how to keep going. How to keep waiting. How to keep caring. And even when it didn’t feel like it, we were becoming something stronger, steadier, and more real than we were when we started.

“So, as we take this next step...whatever it looks like for each of us...don’t forget what brought you here. The strength you didn’t always notice. The patience you didn’t always



PHOTO BY CHERRY BELL FARRINGTON

**WBHS graduate Camden Thepsimuong passed away in December. He was remembered with flowers and his photograph on what would have been his seat at graduation.**

want. And the passion that showed up even when life was messy. Because the world isn’t just waiting for dreamers. It’s waiting for people who kept going when dreaming got hard. It’s waiting for us.”

Principal Evan Noell then recognized some of the special accomplishments of the Class of 2026.

- This year, 66 graduates are wearing white stoles – signifying that they have achieved a

- GPA over 4.0.
- 150 graduates are considered Honor Graduates with a GPA of 3.5 and higher.

- Students within the Class of 2026 have earned nearly \$100,000 in grants and scholarships.

- 15 students are graduating with The Seal of Bilingualism indicating that they are writing and speaking in a second or third language.

See **Class of 2026**, page 4

## Floyd Ward School of Dance cuts the ribbon at new location

**Debbie Adams**  
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Floyd Ward School of Dance celebrated the move to a new location in Vinton with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce on May 27. The co-owners are Delisa FiGart and her mother, Valerie Moses.

Chamber President/CEO Angie Chewning thanked the owners for “being in Vinton— and staying in Vinton.” Vinton Mayor Brad Grose represented the town, noting the impact that an asset like Floyd Ward has had on Vinton.

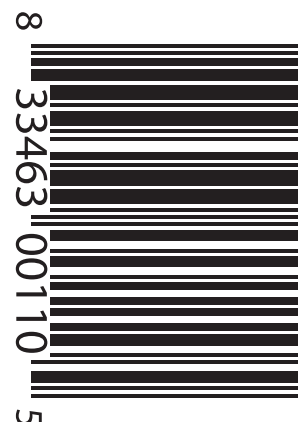
The school is now located at River Park Shopping Center on Dogwood Boulevard, which is owned by the Wilkinson Group. There is also a Floyd Ward school in Botetourt County across from Lord Botetourt High School.

The school is not a new venture. According to FiGart, Floyd Ward first opened its doors some 98 years ago in 1928, established by dancer Floyd Ward and her sister, Virginia. In the beginning, the “Floyd Ward’s School of Dancing” taught tap, ballet, and ballroom dancing. She eventually managed over 22 dancing schools across southwestern Virginia and beyond, known



PHOTO COURTESY OF VACC AND FLOYD WARD  
**Floyd Ward School of Dance co-owners Valerie Moses (left) and Delisa FiGart at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.**

See **Floyd Ward**, page 7





Vinton's new Finance Director Tiffany Stewart (left) and new Town Treasurer Kimberley Ramsey



The Public Works Dept. raised funds for the Boys and Girls Club through the sale of street signs at the Dogwood Festival. Pictured left to right are Councilman Mike Stovall, Boys and Girls Club Vinton Unit Director Allie Thompson and CEO Rebekah Meadows, Councilman Keith Liles, Mayor Brad Grose, Interim Public Works Director Jill Acker, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Jayden Hedrick from Public Works.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

New Vinton Police Officer Jason Sawicki (center) with Deputy Chief Tim Lawless (left) and Chief Fabricio Drumond

# Vinton Town Council welcomes new employees, adopts budget

Vinton Town Council members introduced Tiffany Stewart as the new Director of Finance and Kimberley Ramsey as the new Town Treasurer at their meeting on June 2. Both have been serving in interim positions since Finance Director/Treasurer Andrew Keen left to accept the position of Town Manager in Marion in January.

As Finance Director, Stewart oversees the day-to-day functions of the Finance Department. She came to the town in June 2021 from the private sector. She holds associate and bachelor's degrees in business administration from National College and a Master of Science degree in accounting from Liberty University. She is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) candidate and an active member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Town Manager Pete Peters noted Stewart's impressive work ethic, her calm demeanor, her attention to detail, and her initiative in her time with the town.

As Town Treasurer, Ramsey oversees the collection, safeguarding, and disbursement of town funds, directly interacting with taxpayers. She has been with the town since October 2021, coming from the private sector. She has completed the Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer certification classes from the Treasurer's Association of Virginia (TAV) and is an active member of the TAV. Peters commented on her professionalism when working with customers, her extensive knowledge of her profession and her willingness to research and learn more. Town Council adopted a resolution appointing Ramsey as Town Treasurer as required by law.

The Vinton Police Dept. also welcomed a new employee, Officer Jason Sawicki. He said he has wanted to become a police officer since he was a child and saw an officer breaking up a fight. He saw "police officers as people willing to step forward when others could not, protecting good and innocent people from harm."

He is a graduate of Staunton River High School and attended Virginia Western Community College where he studied Administration of Justice. While in college, he worked at Virginia Tech football games, interacting with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. He is a graduate of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy.

In other presentations, Interim Public Works Director Jill Acker presented a check for \$3,057 to the Boys and Girls Club, raised by the sale of Vinton street signs for \$10 each at the annual Dogwood Festival. The town has replaced street signs throughout the town and decided to raise money for a good cause by selling approximately 300 signs. CEO Rebekah Meadows accepted the check for the Boys and Girls Club and said, "Our partnership with Vinton means everything to us."

Council adopted an ordinance approving the Town of Vinton budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The FY27 budget is balanced and totals \$17,203,943 in the combined General, Grant, and Capital Funds— an increase of 22.35%. The overall increase results primarily from the large transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Capital Fund for one-time projects. The budget has been discussed extensively in committees, Town Council briefings, and at a public hearing over several months.

Council adopted a resolution authorizing renewal of the Town of Vinton employees' group health insurance coverage with the Local Choice Program for the coming year. The town will absorb the 7% increase in premiums.

Council also adopted resolutions amending Collaboration Agreements with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Vinton History Museum.

Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins explained the minimal changes, which include the town taking the lead in organizing the Vinton Christmas Parade and the Chamber providing eight volunteers who will receive mandatory training on parade line-up. Two Chamber events which have previously been held at the Vinton War Memorial—the Senior Expo and the annual meeting— will be held in the venues they have occupied during renovations to the War Memorial.

As for the History Museum, the amendment adopted concerns an increase in hours (from 600 to 750) for their part-time employee to compensate for work hours, holiday pay and mandatory training.

Acker reported to council on the numerous projects underway or upcoming which were discussed in the Public Works Committee meeting. Most involved road repairs, stormwater projects, paving, signal light repairs, and a route change for trucks operating in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Streets neighborhood. She announced that the new disc golf course near the Wolf Creek Greenway trailhead is virtually complete and already much acclaimed by local players.

## Bucklin family donates portrait of Nancy Nicks to Vinton History Museum

Nancy Nicks Bucklin, who graduated with the William Byrd High School Class of 1961, passed away on March 21 at the age of 82. She grew up in Vinton, the daughter of Gus Nicks,

who served Vinton as mayor from 1970 to 1979, and his wife, Lois. He will long be remembered as one of Vinton's staunchest supporters and biggest promoters.

Bucklin's niece, Teresa

Pregnall, returned to Vinton on June 1 to donate a painting of Bucklin to the Vinton History Museum from the family. The painting, which hung

See **Bucklin**, page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The family of Nancy Nicks Bucklin has donated her portrait to the Vinton History Museum. Pictured left to right are friends of Bucklin and the museum, Carolyn Hodges Campbell, niece Teresa Pregnall, Judy Kelley, Vinton Historical Society President Mary Beth Layman, Brenda Mitchell, and museum Executive Director Judy Cunningham.



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# Congratulations, retiring Roanoke County school employees



**Tami Oliver**

Several employees are retiring from Roanoke County Public Schools in the Vinton area, both teachers and staff: Tami Oliver from W.E. Cundiff Elementary, Teresa Nicely and Stephanie Carpenter from Bonsack Elementary, Terri Booth from Mount Pleasant Elementary, Lubeth Jones from William Byrd Middle School, and Chris Ayres and Leigh Anne Conner from William Byrd High School.

Tami Oliver has been a Title I teacher at W.E. Cundiff, predominantly in third through fifth grades. She has taught in Roanoke County for 19 years and in Botetourt County for two and a half years. She plans to do the extended work program at WEC in her retirement.

"The staff at WEC are top notch," Oliver says. "I consider them my extended family. I also love the kids; they are why we are there and establishing the relationships with them makes my job one of the best."

Teresa Nicely is a special education teacher at Bonsack Elementary. During the course of her career, she has taught students in grades K-8. She taught for 13 years at Bonsack (from 2006-2015 and 2022-2026) and for seven years at William Byrd Middle from 2015 to 2022. Prior to teaching in Roanoke County, Nicely taught for two years at Eagle



**Teresa Nicely**

Rock Elementary (2004-2006) and for two years at Nicaragua Christian Academy (1991-1993).

"My favorite thing about teaching has been getting to know my students, working closely with them to meet their needs, and watching them grow," Nicely said. "In retirement, I plan to spend lots of time with my family and enjoy each day the good Lord gives me."

Stephanie Carpenter is also retiring from Bonsack Elementary where she is an instructional assistant. This past year, she worked with third, fourth and fifth grades, but she has worked with all the elementary grade levels over the years.

"I've been with RCPS for 20 years," Carpenter says. "I started in August 2006 at Penn Forest Elementary and then transferred to Bonsack for the next school year in 2007, and I've been here ever since."

"My favorite thing about my job is the kids. They have zero filters; you always know where you stand with them, good or bad. My plans for retirement are traveling with my husband, Brian, and spending time spoiling my grandsons, Weston, who's 4, and Carter, who is 2 months."

Terri Booth is retiring from Mount Pleasant Elementary where she is the school nurse. She has worked with Pre-K



**Lubeth Jones**

through fifth grades there, but has worked with all grade levels as a nurse with the county schools. She began working with RCPS as a school nurse in 2004 at MPE. She then went to Hidden Valley High School in 2006 and worked at WBHS from 2011-2014. She then moved to Florida because of her husband's job.

"When I returned in 2020 (just in time for COVID), I returned to Mount Pleasant," Booth says. "I came 'full circle.' I've had a total of 15 years as a school nurse with Roanoke County. I have been a practicing registered nurse for 44 years. In my nursing career, I've had various roles as a nurse— from staff nurse to director of nursing. I have to say, some of my most precious memories are from working as a school nurse. (The school nurses are one of the school system's best-kept secrets!)"

"I love the students— all ages! I have been, and still am, so honored to have been in the role of their school nurse. My favorite thing about my job as a school nurse is just that— my job. Being a nurse has been the hardest, most rewarding career I could have asked for."

"My retirement plans are not definitive at this point, but I do plan to visit with friends and family and have more time with them. I will still do some per diem nursing. I'm not quite ready to give it all up



**Chris Ayres**

just yet!"

Lubeth Jones is retiring from her position as school counseling coordinator/counselor at William Byrd Middle School. She has worked with all levels through the years— 24 in Roanoke County and seven years in Roanoke City for a total of 31 years.

She says her favorite thing about her job has been "working with and being there for students. Also watching them grow, figuring out issues with them, and then celebrating all the successful moments!"

Her plans for retirement include traveling, reading, and volunteering with various charities.

Chris Ayres is currently the administrative assistant in the Counseling Department at WBHS.

"I started in August 2006 when my youngest started kindergarten at W.E. Cundiff Elementary," Ayres says. "I worked as an instructional assistant and was fortunate enough to help in grades K-5 during my time there. In July 2015, I took the position as administrative assistant in the front office at William Byrd High School and in July 2022, I accepted the position I currently hold."

"As with any job, there are mountains and valleys, but I would say I have been blessed with great co-workers and students at every level every year. A favorite part of the job? My co-workers! Everyone



**Stephanie Carter**



**Leigh Anne Conner**

works hard and plays hard, and the days go by in a blink. Roanoke County Schools has some very hard-working, dedicated folks, and I have been providentially placed to spend my days with some of the best. It makes retiring bittersweet. I will continue to see them when I substitute, but it is never the same.

"Retirement? I hope to spend time at home (my favorite place!) taking care of some long overdue projects, getting more involved at my church, reading a LOT, and some travel. My daughter and my siblings live in North Carolina, and I want to make more trips to visit



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RETIREES AND RCPS

**Terri Booth**

with them. I also hope to make a trip out West and eventually a trip to Ireland and Scotland. We will see...."

Leigh Anne Conner is

See **Retirees**, page 4

## SPRING SALEM HOLIDAY MARKET

**Craft & Vendor Show @ Salem Civic Center**

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**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
(9:00AM to 4:00PM)**

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**Free Admission**

**Bring canned foods or non-perishable items! Items will be donated to the Salem/Roanoke Food Pantry.**

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**NOTE: This location enforces a clear bag policy. Clear bags up to 12x12x6 are permitted.**

**BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)**  
**MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM  
**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 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](http://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](http://www.evangel4sq.com), Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. "Building People to Change Our World"

**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](http://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.

# VINTON

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

**Almighty God**  
 Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

**If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at Cell: (540) 389-9355 [tfrye@ourvalley.org](mailto:tfrye@ourvalley.org)**

# Retirees from page 3

retiring from her position at WBHS where she is the bookkeeper. She works with all grade levels, 9-12. She has worked for 26 years for Roanoke County Schools and for 15 years for the County of Roanoke.

“William Byrd is a family,” Connor says. “If you needed assistance, you could always count on someone to

be there. The job presented different challenges each day. Meeting the students and families was a nice bonus.

“I am excited about retirement. My plans include spending more time with my husband, being Gammy to our grandchildren, traveling more and relaxing at the beach as much as possible.”

# Bucklin from page 2

in her parents’ home, is of Bucklin in her role in the opera “Carmen.” (Coincidentally, the Nicks family lived upstairs in the Upson House for a time, which became the Vinton History Museum.)

Several friends and classmates gathered at the museum for the presentation.

According to the family, “Nancy possessed an extraordinary musical gift from an early age. She pursued that calling at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., where she refined her vocal talent as a soprano, and later continued her studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. Many of the world’s most riveting opera singers began their careers at the Academy of Vocal Arts; Bucklin was a member of their Class of 1969.

“Her exceptional voice carried her to performances across the United States, Europe, and

South America, where she sang in many styles and languages, sharing beauty, devotion, and joy through music.

According to her family, “Nancy later served as a featured soloist with several church choirs, including Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, Pa. It was at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian that she met her husband, Jim Bucklin, and together they shared a deep and abiding bond rooted in faith, music, and love.”

Her son Brian Bucklin says of his mother, “Never content to stop learning or serving, eventually returned to school to become a music therapist, offering comfort, peace, and healing to many through her work. Her music ministry was not only a profession but an expression of her faith and compassion.”

Outside of music and



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUCKLIN FAMILY

## Nancy Nicks Bucklin, WBHS Class of 1961

family, Nancy found profound joy in the natural world. She cherished the Blue Ridge Mountains where she grew up, treasured the National Parks across the United States, and delighted in the simple wonders of daily life.

Her son said, “Her life was marked by grace, kindness, faith, and song. During her decades with breast cancer, she continued to live fully and with great inner strength. Through her voice and warm spirit, she left a legacy of beauty and love that continues to resonate in the hearts of those who knew her.”

Pregnall said Nancy loved Vinton and was a true Vintonite, although she moved away after high school to further her education. Her last trip to Vinton was in 2022 for a class reunion. Her classmates asked her to sing during the festivities. At first, she declined; then relented and performed.

The history museum is delighted to accept the donation of the portrait of one Vinton’s own who went on to do great things. It will be on display at a later date, once construction of the ADA cargo/personnel lift is completed this summer.

*- Vinton Messenger staff report*

# Class of 2026 from page 1

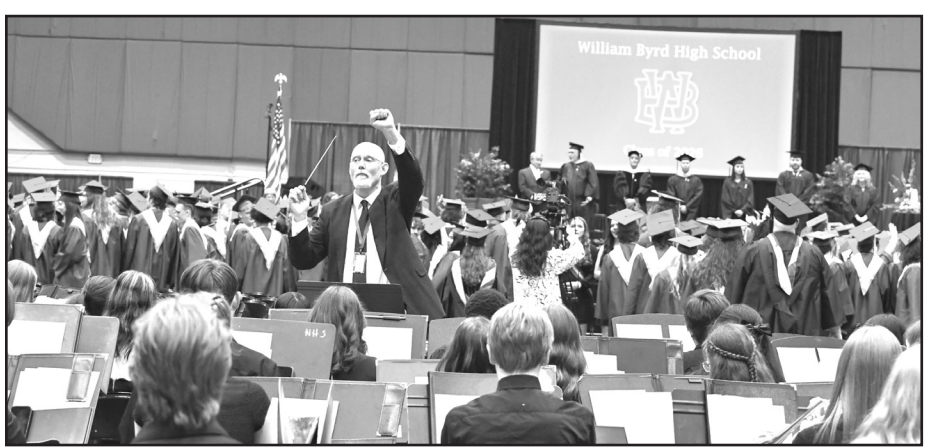


PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

## The William Byrd Band performed the processional, national anthem, “Alma Mater,” and recessional.

• Many students have taken part in the Roanoke County Public Schools partnership program with local businesses to form an apprenticeship program. Students that participate in the apprenticeship program receive on the job training, are paid through the companies, and can potentially earn full-time employment following graduation.

• Six students earned an Associate’s Degree and one has earned a Uniform Certificate of General Studies from Virginia Western, all while being concurrently enrolled at William Byrd.

• Many students have attended the Burton Center of Arts and Technology. Many of these have earned certifications that will serve them well in their future endeavors. We have students who will join the workforce with certifications in Cosmetology, Auto service, criminal justice, welding, motor sports, game design, mechatronics, computer information technology, cyber security, building trades, culinary arts, mass communications, and engineering.

• We have one student who has been concurrently enrolled at the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School, a highly competitive school that focuses on STEM education.

“Graduates, you will find there is no greater joy than serving others in this life. In addition to your work in the classroom, your focus on others has been extremely important to our surrounding community. Your class has accumulated nearly 2,000 hours of community service throughout this school year alone! We would like to thank sponsors Lisa Stover, Carla Hatfield, and Shayna Hastings for their work with the LEO Club, the BETA Club, and the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society for their leadership in these efforts.

“This commitment to serving others is part of some of your future plans as well... We have students who have committed to serving in our nation’s Armed Forces. We want to thank these students and let them know how proud we are that they have made this decision. Our nation thanks you for your desire to serve!

“Graduates, as you leave William Byrd... it is our hope that you never lose your servant’s heart. You will quickly realize— this life is far more fulfilling when you seek to serve others.

“You all have shown pride in your extra-curricular endeavors throughout the years. 157 members of you have spent time on athletic teams at William Byrd High School. Twenty-one of these student athletes have committed to playing collegiate athletics. This will serve you well as you will be required to be diligent in your studies, you will have to overcome obstacles, and you will have to function within the team concept.

“It is our goal in Roanoke County Public Schools to prepare Opportunity Ready graduates. This requires a focus on collaboration, critical thinking, and communication— skills that will foster success long after your work as a scholar is complete. This year, the class of 2026 had 219 students successfully defend their senior portfolio through the defense process.

“As you leave this chapter behind and step into the future, remember that success is not measured only by achievements, titles, or awards, but by the impact you make on the lives of others. You will each take different paths, face different challenges, and celebrate different victories. We encourage you to cherish the memories, friendships, and experiences that brought you to this moment. Also, you should take time to thank those that have helped you reach this milestone.

“So, Class of 2026, move forward with confidence, kindness, and courage. Take risks, learn from failure, and never

stop believing in your ability to make a difference. The future is waiting for you. When in doubt, remember that you are all Terriers at heart!”

Darin Witcher, nominated by the Senior Class and elected by the faculty as this year’s Top Terrier, delivered his address.

“To be honest with you guys, I don’t really know how to write a speech. So, I decided to ask my peers for advice. I was given back a multitude of advice: ‘Stick to the clichés’; ‘Please don’t use clichés’; ‘Keep it professional’; ‘Stay casual’; ‘Just do what Darin would do’, whatever that means.

“As you can see, this advice didn’t really help me pick a direction for this speech. This is symbolic of the era of life we’re approaching. There are so many directions to go, so many choices to make. Sitting among us are future doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, managers, military members, financial planners, physical therapists, entrepreneurs and everything else under the sun.

“Despite all of these wildly different paths we’ll take, one thing unites us. Those paths, started, crossed, and intertwined at William Byrd. Those paths are filled with Homecomings, Proms, pep rallies, games, meets, matches, performances. But those are the things we’ll look back on.

“As our paths disperse towards great futures, we’ll look back on the teachers that helped us out along the way, the staff that you could always talk to, and most of all, the friends that surrounded us.

“Our high school days weren’t filled with events; they were filled with people. The people all around us are what made high school so great. Memories are fine, but memories that are shared become special. I don’t hope, I know, that each and every member of this 2026 will take these memories into our futures and do great things.

“Yes, leaving what you’ve known for four years hurts, but as Mr. Galbreath and John Mellancamp would say, ‘It hurts so good’. While it may hurt for now, later we’ll look back on the memories, relationships, and friends with great awe.

“To anyone worried about what the future holds, know that you’re not alone. People will tell you to do this, do that, go here, stay there. There will be so many choices to make, so many places your path could go. Starting soon, we’ll have to make choices that decide where our paths wind up.

“Some of us will go into the workforce, some will go to college right down the road, some will go across the country, but all will continue their paths that started at William Byrd. Life is about finding your way, and the class of 2026 is about to do just that. Choose whatever direction you wish, just be sure your path ends up where you want it to.”

Next, Brooke Hershel, assistant director of the William Byrd High School choirs, introduced the performance of the Senior Song.

“Choosing a song for this moment was honestly really difficult because choir has been such a big part of my life and has given me so many memories and friendships that I’ll always carry with me. We chose ‘Time After Time’ by Cyndi Lauper because it’s a song about always being there for the people you care about, no matter how much time passes. As graduation gets closer, I’ve realized how special the people in this choir are to me, and how much I’m going to miss singing with them every day. I’m so grateful for all the support, laughter, and memories we’ve shared throughout the years. Thank you to my choir directors, my family, my friends, and everyone here tonight for supporting me along the way.”

See Graduation, page 7

**The Vinton Messenger** USPS 660-020 (540) 473-2741 1633 W. Main St. Salem, VA 24153 ourvalley.org

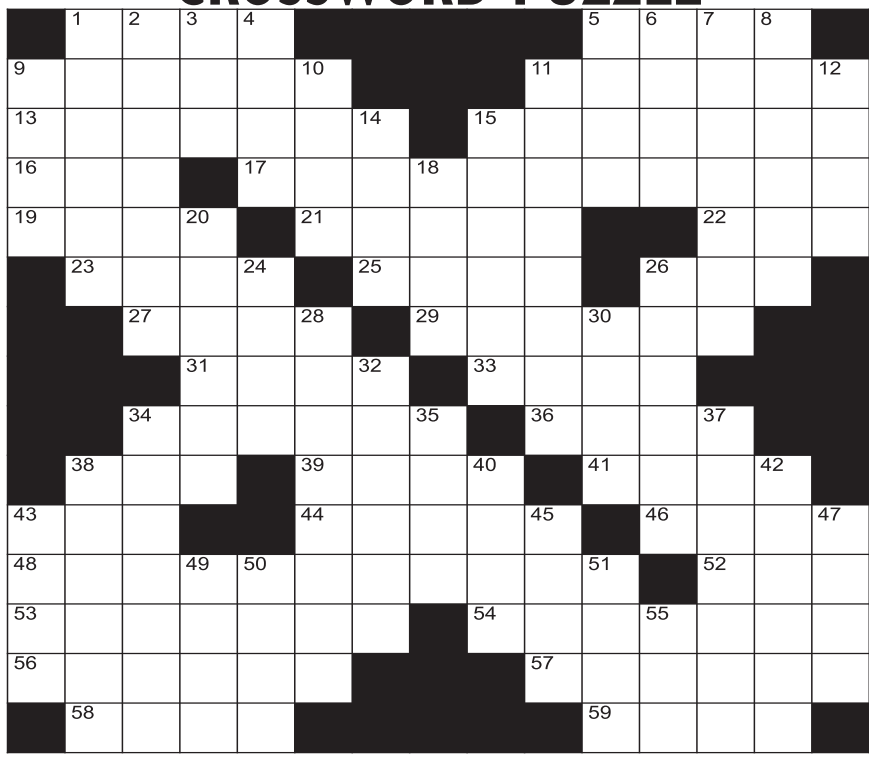
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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. 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.

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$49 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$55 a year in adjoining counties, \$57 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Slovenian mountain
  - 5. Growl
  - 9. Where things stand
  - 11. Made a sharp sound
  - 13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
  - 15. Deteriorate with age
  - 16. A way to save for retirement
  - 17. The Big Apple
  - 19. Intestinal pouches
  - 21. City in New Hampshire
  - 22. Giving a bad impression
  - 23. Samsung laptops
  - 25. Without (French)
  - 26. Scientist’s tool (abbr.)
  - 27. System of one more computers
  - 29. Captures
  - 31. Authentic
  - 33. Female mammal’s
  - nipple
  - 34. Pandemonium
  - 36. Satisfy
  - 38. Arrived extinct
  - 39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)
  - 41. Network of nerves
  - 43. Monetary unit
  - 44. Showed old TV show
  - 46. They help you hear
  - 48. One who eliminates
  - 52. Congress’ investigative arm
  - 53. Parties
  - 54. Most supernatural
  - 56. Takes illegally
  - 57. Breathes while asleep
  - 58. Sea eagles
  - 59. German surname
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Looks at for a long time
  - 2. Solution for diseases
  - 3. Belonging to a thing
  - 4. Former Packers fullback
  - 5. Contemptible person
  - 6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
  - 7. Helps
  - 8. Final section of the large intestine
  - 9. Invests in little enterprises
  - 10. Look for
  - 11. Unbeliefs
  - 12. Susan and Tom are two
  - 14. Female sheep
  - 15. A poet writes it
  - 18. Affirmatives
  - 20. “Full House” actress Barber
  - 24. Traveled rapidly
  - 26. Long upholstered seat
  - 28. Set wages
  - 30. Peter Gabriel song
  - 32. Sides of a jacket
  - 34. More beautiful
  - 35. Actress Kate
  - 37. Furniture with open shelves
  - 38. Indicate
  - 40. The cost of a room
  - 42. Gets rid of something
  - 43. Impudence
  - 45. No No No
  - 47. Drunkards
  - 49. Middle eastern country (abbr.)
  - 51. Primary component of ribosomes
  - 55. An informal debt instrument

**SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS FAYETTEVILLE WOODPECKERS**

**JUNE 9th 6:35 PM Bark in the Park**

**JUNE 10th 6:35 PM**

**JUNE 11th 6:35 PM Futbol Night**

**JUNE 12th 6:35 PM Mythical Magic Night**

**JUNE 13th 6:35 PM Dinos After Dark**

**JUNE 14th 4:05 PM**



# Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald

The Vinton Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

Radford News Journal

## Yard Sale

### Morgan's Chapel Church Yard Sale

Saturday, June 6th  
8am to 2pm

There will also be a bake sale which will include hotdogs with homemade chili.  
6540 New River Rd, Radford (Behind old C & L Campers)  
RAIN OR SHINE

## Legals - City of Salem

### LEGAL NOTICE

Our client is proposing to construct three (3) 70-foot monopole communication towers in Salem County, VA. Tower #71096 will be located at railroad mile post 262.10, approximately 1/2-mile west of the intersection of Blue Ridge Dr. and Peters Creek Rd. in Roanoke, VA 24018; tower #71098 will be located at railroad mile post 262.40, approximately 0.36-mile northeast of the intersection of Apperson Dr. and Cook Dr. in Roanoke, VA 24018; and tower #71100 will be located at railroad mile post 262.70, approximately 1/4-mile north of the intersection of Apperson Dr. and Cook Dr. in Roanoke, VA 24018. WSP USA, Inc., on behalf of our client, invites comments from any interested party regarding specific location information and/or the potential effects of the towers on historic properties. Comments may be sent to Kaylee Swords, 300 Wyandotte St. Suite 200, Kansas City, Missouri 64105, or by email at Kaylee.Swords@wsp.com. Comments must be received 30 days following published date.

## Legals - Botetourt County

### ABC NOTICE

WAWA INC., trading as WAWA #6626, 49 Glebe Road, Daleville, Botetourt County, VA 24083

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer, OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

John M Poplawski  
Vice President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

## VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CRAIG IN RE: ESTATE OF DICKIE LOUIS EAKIN SHOW CAUSE ORDER

It appearing that a report of the account of Frank H. Eakin, Administrator of the Estate of Dickie Louis Eakin, deceased, and of the debts and demands against his estate has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Craig, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the Administrator on October 21, 2022. On the motion of the Administrator, it is hereby ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested, in the Estate of Dickie Louis Eakin do show cause, if any they can, on the 20th day of July, 2026, at 11 a.m. before this Court at its courtroom in Craig, Virginia, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Dickie Louis Eakin, deceased, to the distributees under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without requiring refunding bonds, subject only to the retention by the Administrator of sufficient funds to satisfy the remaining costs of administration.

## Legals - Botetourt County

ENTER this 27th day of May, 2026.  
Hon. Joel R. Branscom, Judge

I ask for this:  
Scott A. Butler (VSB # 34544)  
Rhodes, Butler & Dellinger, PC  
318 Washington Avenue  
Roanoke, Virginia 24016  
(540) 342-0888  
(540) 342-4664 (fax)

## TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. 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 June 25, 2026, at 10:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the 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.aldridgepите.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.aldridgepите.com. VA-372477-1.

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.

## 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, June 22, 2026, at 7:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to receive public comment on a Proposed Ordinance Enacted Pursuant To Section 62.1-44.15:27, Of The 1950 Code Of Virginia, as amended, Amending Chapter 8 Entitled Planning And Development Of The Code Of The County Of Montgomery, Virginia Article III Erosion And Stormwater Management Section 8-87 in Order to Increase the Fee Schedule for Permit Issuance (Table 1), for the Modification or Transfer of Registration for the General Permit for Discharge of Stormwater from Construction Activities (Table 2) and Permit Maintenance Fees (Table 3). A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available for public inspection or copying Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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. **CL2600843-00**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
ASHLYN KING,  
CAMDEN ZEKE DILLOW  
v.  
Commonwealth of Virginia,

The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR  
It is ORDERED that CHANDLER DILLOW appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 22, 2026 @ 9:00 AM. Entered May 18, 2026  
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk  
Judge

## TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2676 DRY VALLEY ROAD, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$60,900.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2003010550. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 30, 2026, at 11:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT UN-NUMBERED PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 0.731 ACRE DESIGNATED AS RETAINED BY OLLIE BAIN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "PLAT FOR KYLE E. DAVIS AND SHARON B. DAVIS OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.0005 AC. LOT NEAR BAINS CHAPEL IN RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 5, 1997, DESIGNATED PLAT NO. 97-505, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 991, PAGE 410, AND TO WHICH LATREFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the

## Legals - Montgomery County

percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.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.aldridgepите.com. VA-378698-2.

## TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4366 BRADSHAW RD, ELLISTON, VA 24087.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$127,645.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 160003643. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on July 30, 2026, at 11:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.063 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT FOR DAVID E. VANDER VLIET OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.063 AC. LOT NEAR ROUTE 622 MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA" PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, L. S., DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1992, DESIGNATED AS PLAT NO. 92-688, WHICH PLAT IS OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 766, PAGE 561. PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 5.153 ACRES AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SURVEY FOR DAVID E. & ALTHEA L. VAN DER VLIET OF A 5.153 ACRE PARCEL SITUATE IN. THE MT. TABOR MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY JACK G. BESS, C.L.S., DATED JULY 24, 1995, DESIGNATED AS N.B. W-9 0-95648, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONATGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 886, PAGE 759. 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

A complete copy of the proposed Lease and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607. Megan Lawless  
Town Clerk

## Legals - Montgomery County

purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.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.aldridgepите.com. VA-372257-1.

## Legals - Town of Vinton

### TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800(B), the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as practical, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning the renewal of a lease to Cargill Incorporated for three (3) parcels lying on the west side of 11th Street near its intersection with Booker Avenue, which are identified as Roanoke County Tax Map Nos. 60.14-2-24, 60.14-2-25 and 60.14-2-26 and five (5) parcels lying on Walnut Avenue (also known as Railroad Avenue) near its intersection with 11th Street, which are identified as Roanoke County Tax Map Nos. 60.14-2-1, 60.14-2-2, 60.14-2-3, 60.14-2-4 and 60.14-2-5, all of which are located in the Town of Vinton, Virginia. The lease shall commence on July 1, 2026, ("Commencement Date") and terminate on June 30, 2027. The lease shall renew itself automatically on each anniversary of the Commencement Date, on the same terms and conditions for no more than four additional one-year renewal terms.

A complete copy of the proposed Lease and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607. Megan Lawless  
Town Clerk

## Legals - Town of Vinton

### TOWN OF VINTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800(B), the Town Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as is practical, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning renewal of a lease to VINDOS LLC for the parking area situated on Roanoke County Tax Map No. 060.16-06-33.00-000, also known as 814 Washington Avenue, and Roanoke County Tax Map No. 060.16-06-33.01-000, also known as 330 Meadow Street, which parking area is bounded by (1) the entrance to 814 Washington Avenue from Meadow Street to the south, (2) Meadow Street to the west, (3) the entrance to 330 Meadow Street from Meadow Street to the north, and (4) the storm water detention basin located on 814 Washington Avenue and 330 Meadow Street to the east. The lease shall commence on July 1, 2026 ("Commencement Date"), and terminate on June 30, 2027. The Lease shall renew itself automatically on each anniversary of the Commencement Date, on the same terms and conditions for no more than four additional one-year renewal terms.

A complete copy of the proposed Lease and additional information concerning this public meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office, located in the Vinton Municipal Building, (540) 983-0607. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public meeting should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607. Megan Lawless  
Town Clerk

## STATEWIDE ADS

### AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7570, advertising@commonwealthmediasolutions.com

West Virginia Real Estate Auction

## STATEWIDE ADS

- June 30 at 11 AM. 6,247± acres of wilderness spanning Fayette and Raleigh Counties will be sold in 19 tracts, offering opportunities for investors, outdoor enthusiasts, wilderness retreat and recreation. Auction and Previews Held at Tamarack Conference Center, Beckley, WV. Previews: June 13 and 14 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Visit Woltz.com for details or call Woltz Associates, Inc., Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. Jim Woltz, Broker (WVAL #1000), 800-551-3588. 5% Buyer's Premium.

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

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### SERVICES

DIVORCE - Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$86.00 court cost. WILLS - \$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

### JOB LISTINGS

MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE Virginia Press Association / Commonwealth Media Solutions seeks a high-energy sales professional for an in-office position in Glen Allen, VA. Responsibilities include developing print/digital advertising accounts, client outreach, proposal development, and account management. 5+ years B2B sales experience preferred; media/advertising background a plus. Competitive salary + commission, benefits, and 401(k). Send resume to stevev@vpa.net. For full job description, visit vpa.net/job/

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# BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY



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# Floyd Ward from page 1

for their spectacular annual spring reviews, teaching dancing to generations of students. Ward remained active in the dance world well into her life, living to be nearly 100 years old.

“Our artistic director, Jill Graybill, was a student under the direction of Floyd Ward herself, and Mrs. Jill is still sharing her love of dance with our students today,” Moses said.

“Our new studio features three large studios with a sound-proof wall between two of the studios so it can be slid back to make one giant dance room.” FiGart says. “There is a full kitchen where we can host parties, a homework room for dancers who need to work on class work between classes, girls’ and boys’ locker rooms and bathrooms, a staff room, office, costume closet and storage room.”

Wilkinson says with the renovations, they “approached the River Park space as an opportunity to continue our focus on attracting and enhancing local businesses. The space had been known for years as home to a national retailer. Floyd Ward owners had established their local,

loyal Vinton clientele over, literally, generations, and we hoped to assist them in providing updated facilities. Working together we were able to create a state-of-the-art studio by reimagining the old, confined, and functionally deficient space into a bright, attractive, creative studio for the dancing community.”

The dance school opened in the new location in February. It offers tap, ballet, jazz, lyrical, liturgical, contemporary, clogging, pointe, musical theater, and modern dance to approximately 340 students, taught by 12 instructors. There are plans to add adult classes in the fall like shag dancing and adult tap.

The dance classes generally run Monday-Friday from 3 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9-12. They plan to offer classes during the day for homeschoolers.

They are currently holding their first summer camp for ages 5-12, with 45 campers, three instructors, and 15 helpers. Following that, there is a musical theatre camp from June 29 to July 3, also for ages 5-12.

FiGart says the dance

school has chosen to remain in Vinton— “We love Vinton and this has been our home for years! Vinton is such a wonderful town which gives back to community which is so important. There’s always something happening in Vinton, from parades to festivals and so much more.

“We are grateful to the Town of Vinton for the support we have received over the years. The studio is a second home to so many wonderful dancers and we are so grateful that so many parents allow us the opportunity to be a part of their child’s life.”

FiGart has had a lifelong passion for dance, beginning at age 3. She joined the Floyd Ward family when she was 10 years old and was a member of the Floyd Ward Ensembles. After graduating from high school, she began teaching at Floyd Ward.

“When I was in college trying to figure out what I wanted to do, the dance school came up for sale. My mother and grandmother knew my love for dance and asked what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life and I responded with ‘I just really want to dance’ so they made the decision to



PHOTO COURTESY OF VACC AND FLOYD WARD

**A large group turned to celebrate the relocation of the Floyd Ward School of Dance to River Park Shopping Center.**

purchase the studio.” She took a break from teaching while raising her children, but always stayed very involved at the studio, working in the studio office, cheering on her own daughter and other Floyd Ward students, and helping to clean and perfect routines.

For more information call 540-345-1633 or visit the Floyd Ward website at <https://www.floydwarddance.com/> or

the Facebook page.

Another new business will soon be moving into River Park— the Vinton Sports Academy. Owner Jesse Grubb says they are currently upgrading space at the shopping center to open an indoor space for sports, including three indoor pickleball courts, up to nine batting cages, 7,000 feet of state-of-the-art turf for most any sport (which can be rented out), a small weight room, and a golf

simulation area.

He has lived in Vinton for 20 years and says that River Park is a great location for his vision— adapting the space so that most any outdoor sport can be played inside. His intention is to offer a facility to accommodate the sports needs for ages children to seniors in Vinton, without having to drive across the valley to find a similar one. Some parts of the facility will be accessible 24/7.

# Graduation from page 4



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

**Principal Evan Noell presents a diploma to a member of the Class of 2026.**



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Kendall Dodson--a happy WBHS graduate.**



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

**Graduates turn their tassels at the end of the graduation ceremony.**

The graduation ceremony concluded with the presentation of diplomas by Principal Noell and Assistant Principals Hannah Prater, Kevin Richardson, and Marcee Cook, with handshakes from School Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely and School Board members Tim Greenway (Vinton) and David Linden (Hollins).

Graduate Camden Thepsimuong who passed away in December from bone cancer was listed in the program and honored with a candle on stage and a bouquet of flowers on what would have been his seat in the ceremony. He was able to complete his studies and received his diploma last October.

Future plans for the Class of 2026 include (asterisks\* denote valedictorians):  
 Apprenticeship School Builders: Andrew Reynolds

Belmont University: Aubrey Booze\*  
 Bluefield University: Parker Minnix  
 Centenary University: Benjamin Wright  
 Coastal Carolina University: Tyson Brady\*

College of William and Mary: Napiray Sierra Prin\*, Noah Williams\*

Duke University: Braeden Booth\*  
 East Tennessee State University: Kelsey Bell, Cody Gardner, Bryce Simpson  
 Emory and Henry: Kevin Green, Jr., Ava Sexton, James Smith, Jr., Benjamin Waid, Morrison Wright

Ferrum College: Titus Beatty, Ainsley Bolen\*, Cannin Lutz, Miley Moses Pinion\*

G.J. Hopkins Fabrication/Sheet Metal: Lucas Partleton

High Point University: Mallory Summo

Hollins University: Abigail Saritelli\*, Dixie Venable, Skylar Williams

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: Benjamin Grimm, Keegan Harold

James Madison University: Olivia Bustamante\*, Anna Carter\*, Braelyn Coles, Brooke Hershel\*, Kenady Leonard\*, Mallory Peroulas\*, MaKiya Price, Mitchell Sigafoes\*, Peyton Wright\*  
 Liberty University: Addison Clark\*, Jaelyn English\*, Tyler Harris\*, Brian Kingery, Dominic Myers, Kaeleigh Swan\*  
 Longwood University: Bethany Pittenger\*

Mary Baldwin University: Jacob Courtemanche

Mission Work: Sydney Larson  
 Old Dominion University: Maurasia Burnette,

Nashville Auto Diesel College: Trevor Robinson

Piedmont University: Katelynn Franks  
 Radford University: Ceiliann Baldwin,

Allysa Brooks, Jordan Brown, Austin Bumgarner, Sydney Crossan, Paul Ferrebee II\*, Brooke Hale, Macabe James\*, Sean Jenkins, Cary Jones\*, Shelby Krawczyk\*, Gracie Mandakis, Dagan Miller, Titus Miller, Melissa Monk, Lilian Perez\*, Lennon Wright, Angie Zaragoza-Pena  
 Radford University—Carilion: Kyndall Agee \*, Olivia Basham\*, Jenna Bunce, Isabella Dudley, Lauren Johnson, Anya Moore, Oakley Wilkerson

Roanoke College: Jeremy Abbott, Shelby Ensor, Elizabeth Gheen\*, Alexander Hastings, Kalee Hayes, Taniyah Jackson, Tate Kotz\*, Ryan McIntyre\*, Justyn Rozenboom, Lucy Whitenack\*

Savannah College of Art and Design: Meisha Robinson\*

Shepherd University: Chase Gonzales  
 Southern Virginia University: Jamez Toler

Surry Community College: Joshua Vaughan

Tokyo Mode Gakuen: Miranda Chittum

Trevecca Nazarene University: Bladimir Cortes-Martinez

United States Air Force: Jason Hernandez Lemus

United States Marines: Juan Maldonado, Bridgette Wray

United States Navy: Matthew Sloane, Jr., Kaleb Wooldridge

University of Delaware: Lindsay Murtaugh

University of Lynchburg: Ryleigh Grubb, Addison Kincer, Evan Tabor

University of Mary Washington: Annabelle Teague\*

University of Miami: Brooklyn Linick\*  
 University of South Carolina: Lily Carrell\*, Sofia Gonzalez\*

University of South Florida: Kaylin Bumgarner\*

University of Virginia: Jayden Niday\*, Gabrielle Romeo\*, Makenzie Scott\*

Virginia Commonwealth University: Sydney Coles, Brooke Justus\*, Nathaniel Rucker

Virginia Tech: Blake Austin, Ashleigh Barton, Sawyer Bolen, Jacob Bray\*, Caleb Brunk\*, Asher Claybrook\*, Bianca DeMelo, Kendall Dodson, Braelyn Gibson, Chloe Gill\*, Luke Helton, Gavin Hilliker, Taylor Jacobsen\*, Tatianna Kubik\*, Carleigh Leonard\*, Carter Leonard\*, Elizabeth Martinez\*, Collin Mills\*, Kyle Saccocci\*, Keith Schult, Jr., Ethan Sutton\*, Taylor Spangler, Catherine Underwood, Darin Witcher\*

Virginia Western Community College: Joshua Abbott\*, Noelah Addo, Joshua Allen\*, Ashley Arven, Cristabella Banks, Andrew Bartley\*, Aiden Barton, Emily Bowden, Joshua Boykin\*, Ella Brady, Kassie Brant, Abigail Brigdon, Sophia

Brown\*, Kendra Brunk, Pedro Cardenas-Zambrano, Tyler Chambers\*, Madison Chandler, Khloe Chapman, Haylee Cockran-Whorley, Evelyn Dickason, Ashton Dillon\*, Alexia Donahue, Emma Dooley, Sidney Draper, Hannah Eakin, Nathaniel Edwards, Cameron Flanagan, Draven Flinchum, Samuel Geist, Shaun Gower, Rileigh Hackett, Philip Haroulakis, Avery Harper, Liam Harrell, Natalie Holland, Hope Huffman, Owen Humphreys, Taylor Lynn Jarels, Connor Jones, Jack Law, Jesus Leon, Kayla Lovern, Jose Martinez-Garcia, Cara May\*, Autumn Mills, Hunter Moseley, Charlotte Mullen, Emily Ngo\*, Cason Nichols, Lizeth Nolasco, Noah Owens, Sienna Perdue, Lola Pernot, Tyler Pickeral, William Regal, Ashlyn Rogers, Anna Sanderson, Jacob Smith, Jarrett Smith\*, Kyllind Spence, Kole Stephenson, Sabita Sunwar, Jacob Tang, Malik Thomas, Jaxon Toms, William Van Name III, Zane Vasser, Aliyah Ware, Dymire Watkins, Adyson Welch-Rogers, Micah Wheeler, Emma Williams

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Other graduates include Brenda Hermione Delgado Garcia, Kaden Alexander Falu, Sean Marshall Jenkins, Emberlynn Lee Lamonde, Terry Lee Robinson, Jr., Joshua Lee Rowberg, and Mija Ana Zavala.

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PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Above, William Byrd number one Ainsley Bolen hits a backhand. Left, Miley Moses Pinion serves one up.

## Season ends for William Byrd tennis teams

Ainsley Bolen represented William Byrd in the Region 3D singles tournament last week in Abingdon. Ainsley won her quarterfinal match against a Carroll County opponent, 6-2, 6-0, but lost her semifinal match to an Abingdon number one, 6-0, 6-1.

Brooke Justus and Miley Moses Pinion competed in doubles in region play. The Terriers opened against Lord Botetourt's doubles team and lost 6-3, 6-3.

The boys did not compete in region singles and doubles due to illness.

## OBITUARIES

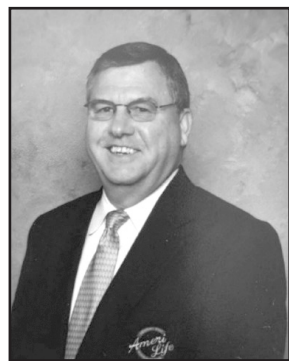
### Semones, Darell Lynwood

Darell Lynwood Semones, born on January 7, 1942, passed away peacefully with family by his side on April 22, 2026, at the age of 84.

He was a devoted Husband, Dad & Poppy. He will always be remembered for his kindness, humor, and the love he shared with family and friends throughout his life. Darell never met a stranger and if he did they were friends in no time.

Darell is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lois Nutter Semones; his daughters, Lisa Cassell and her husband, Chuck, and Lori Moran and her husband, Mickey; six granddaughters; and 10 great-grandchildren. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought him immense joy. He was proud of each of them and loved them unconditionally. They already miss their Poppy dearly. He is also survived by his siblings, Sue McDaniel and her husband, Jack, Larry Semones and his wife, Mary; his sister-in-law, Beth Semones; his brother-in-law, Gary Nutter, and

his wife, Sue; his sister-in-law, Alice Nutter;



nine great-nieces, three great-nephews, and many cousins and second cousins. He loved them all dearly.

Darell was preceded in death by his parents, Grover K. Semones and Dorcie Cox Semones; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jessie R. Nutter and Cordie Shelor Nutter; his brother, Mooch Semones; his brother-in-law, Kenneth Nutter; his nieces, Julie and Carla; his great-niece, Klara Morgan; and his great-grandson, Jasper Featherston.

Darell loved flowers, music, the outdoors, NASCAR, riding his Harleys, and family gatherings. He especially cherished the moments when his great-grandchildren ran up for a big hug or climbed into his lap. His warm smile and kind heart could light up a room. His career began in sales, including boats, trucks, and cars. He later changed paths and continued helping people invest in their futures through his work with AAL, Thrivent, Farmers, and AmeriLife Insurance. After retiring, he worked for Roanoke County Public Schools as a bus driver for Glenvar Schools.

Darell enjoyed serving the community.

To highlight just a few: Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, BBB where he was a senior arbitrator, Roanoke Valley Harley Club (riding for Toys for Tots at Christmas and other fundraisers). He served on church council at several area Lutheran Churches. Darell served as President of the Roanoke Valley Association of Life Underwriters as well as a member on the Board of Trustees at Virginia Lutheran Home & Brandon Oaks Advisory Board. He received numerous awards from the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counselors.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, June 12, 2026 at noon at College Lutheran Church, 210 S. College Avenue, Salem. Family and friends can gather to honor and share stories of Darell's life. Pastor David Drebes to officiate. Reception to follow the service.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff of Good Samaritan Hospice for their exceptional care and support through our journey with Dad. They truly became a second family to us and loved Dad well.

"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord" -- Matthew 25:23

Dad - We miss you so much already & YOU will always be loved!

In lieu of flowers please make contributions to Dementia Society of America.

### Bryant, Adriane Beth

November 16, 1977 - May 28, 2026

Adriane Beth Bryant, 48, of Roanoke, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her father, Roger Bryant, and grandparents, Helen and Luther Mercer and Lois and Clyde Bryant Sr.

Surviving are her children, Sierra Morgan Cox and Helen "Taylor" Cox; grandchildren, River Kenny and Richard L. Altice III; her mother, Linda Royal; stepfather, Roger Royal; sister, Sydney B. Chocklett; stepsister, Michelle R. Stein; stepbrother, Bo Royal; uncle, Bill Mercer (Joni); and cousins, Chris Mercer, Amanda M. Arrington (Justin) and their son, Owen Arrington.

Adriane was a graduate of William Byrd High School and continued her education to receive an A.D. in Fashion Merchandising/Marketing from Bauder College in Atlanta. She enjoyed swimming, skiing, concerts, dancing, landscaping,

dog sitting, dog walking, travel, and Dallas Cowboys games.

A special thanks is extended from the family to her friend, Lenora.

The family wishes to use this sad time to tell others to say no to drugs, seek help if using, and spare other loved ones from going through what we have. "Beautiful lives become sad lives when



drugs and alcohol take over."

"If Adriane could not be here, then where better a place to be than in Heaven with God. She is safe now away from the demons she faced here on earth. She is now with a loving and forgiving God."

The family received visitors from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Oakey's Vinton Chapel. A private interment will be held for family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the grandchildren's educational funds by contacting Linda Royal. Arrangements entrusted to Oakey's Vinton Chapel, 982-2221.

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# Perez is Field A-of-Year as Byrd girls take third in region track

The Region 3D track meet was held at Christiansburg High School last week and the William Byrd girls finished third as a team and the boys were 10th. The Abingdon girls and Cave Spring boys won team titles.

The top eight finishers in each event scored in the region meet and the top four will advance to the Class 3 state meet this weekend in Lynchburg. The Class 3 and 4 meets will be held at Liberty University's track on Friday and Saturday.

The Byrd girls had a good day in Christiansburg. The 4x100 meter relay team of Thalia Green, Michal Hamlar, Lily Perez and Ellie Ruble took a first place with a time of 50.66. The 4x800 foursome of Lucy

Whitenack, Jenna Petersen, Keeli Emery and Jaydn St. Clair took a second at 10:36 to qualify for state.

Individually Perez had a great day and was named Region 3D Field Event Athlete of the Year. Lily won the long jump, breaking her own school record with a leap of 18' 6.5", and also won the triple jump at 35'9". Perez cleared 5'2" to finish second in the high jump and on the track she took third in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 16.26.

Skye Williams state qualified in the discus before the regional meet, where she finished sixth, but also qualified for the state meet in the shot put by tossing the heavy ball 33'8" for a fourth place region finish. Brooklyn Strother finished fourth in the 300m

hurdles to place herself into the state meet with a time of 49.83.

In the boys' meet the 4x800 team of Jack Petersen, Colton Sotherden, Camden Ward and Giovanni Pandolfini finished third with a time of 8:31.56 to qualify for the state meet. Davion Wade finished fourth in the 110m hurdles in 16.30 to punch his ticket to Liberty University this weekend. Davion also scored with a seventh place finish in the 300 hurdles.

Jules Hippeau Coltat just missed advancing when he took fifth in the pole vault. Titus Beatty was fifth in shot put, Petersen was sixth in the 400 meters and Steven Byers was sixth in the discus.



Above left, Byrd's Davion Wade(middle) competes in the 110 hurdles at the Region 3D track meet in Christiansburg last week. Above right, Keeli Emery runs a leg of the 4x800 relay. Below left, Thalia Green(left in photo) runs the 100 meters and, below right, Jack Petersen runs the first leg of the boys' 4x800. PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY



# Best lax season ends with loss to defending state champs

The William Byrd boys' lacrosse team saw their most successful season end with a loss to Salem at Salem High's Spartan Field last week. The defending state champions eliminated Byrd from the Region D tournament with a 17-3 win.

The loss ended Byrd's season at 8-8, but it was not without some highlights and hopes for continued improvement. The Terriers won a post-season game for the first time in school history and were a couple goals away from posting a winning season.

"Throughout the year, the Terriers set new standards for the program with their hard work, dedication, and team-first mentality," said second year coach Kaden West, who played for Byrd as a student. "The season included numerous mile-

stone victories and the program's deepest postseason run to date."

Byrd was one win short of making the Region D championship game and that would have secured a spot in the state tournament. The Terriers will graduate seniors Justyn Rozenboom, Kevin Green, Jack Law, Cason Nichols, Ben Waid, Ben Wright, Morrison Wright and Dawson Young.

"While the season ended sooner than the team had hoped, the accomplishments and growth shown throughout the year have laid a strong foundation for the future of the program," said West. "The players, coaches and supporters have plenty to be proud of as the Terriers close the chapter on a historic season and look ahead to building on their success in the years to come."

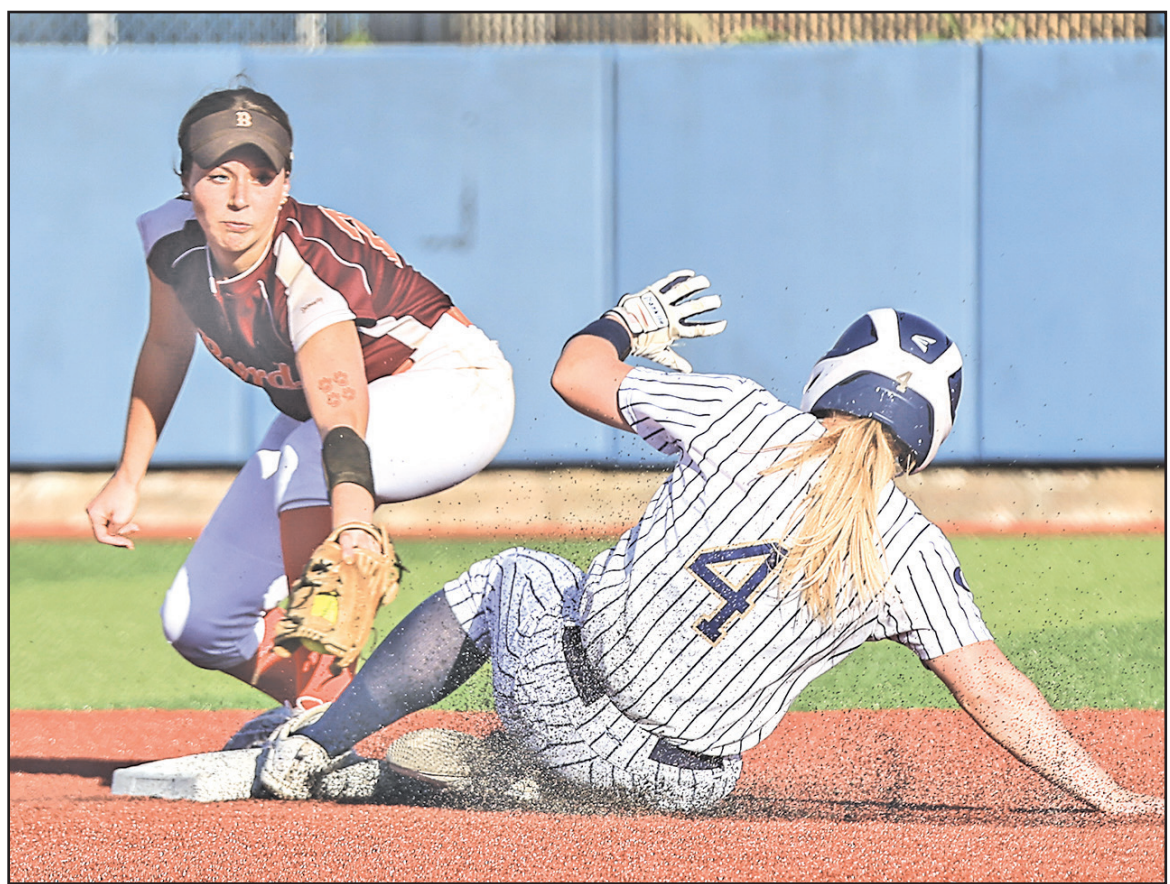
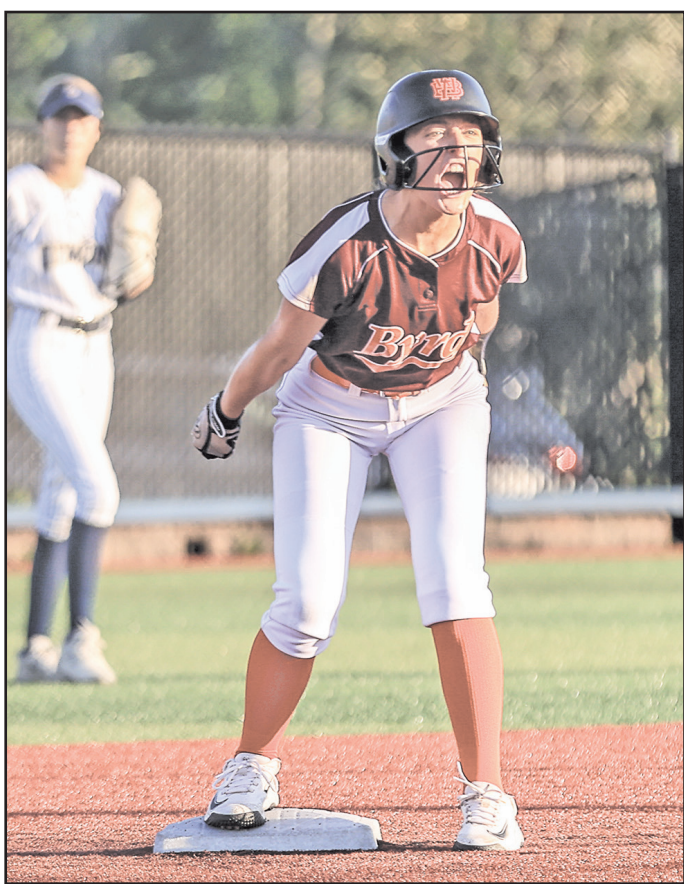


Above left, Byrd goalie Talon Gibson makes a save in last week's Region D game in Salem. Above right, Justyn Rozenboom(#6) goes to the goal. Below left, Iggy Rosenberg gathers a ground ball, and below right Cooper Kageals goes behind the net with the ball. PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN



# SPORTS

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PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Left, Byrd's Olivia Bustamante lets out a yell of encouragement to the bench in last week's game in Christiansburg. Right, Kalee Hayes takes the throw at second.

## Big inning by the Blue Demons ends Byrd's softball season

The William Byrd girls saw their softball season come to an end with a loss to Christiansburg in the opening round of the Region 3D playoffs last week. The host Blue Demons took a 10-4 win in Christiansburg.

The sixth inning was the difference in this game. Byrd led 4-3 after five and a half innings but the Demons rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the sixth for a come-from-behind win.

Byrd led for much of the game. The Terriers jumped on top 2-0 after a Ryleigh Grubb single drove in a run in the top of the third. The Demons then took their first lead in the bottom of the inning when Reagan Smith hit a two-run homer and Alliyah Akers singled in a run for a 3-2 Christiansburg lead.

The Terriers regained the lead in the top of the sixth. Olivia Bustamante

singled in a run to tie the game and Sydney Tuck doubled to center to put Byrd back on top at 4-3. However, Christiansburg exploded for seven runs on seven hits in the bottom of the inning and shut out the Terriers in the top of the seventh.

Addison Clark took the loss in the circle, allowing six earned run while pitching a complete game. She struck out two and walked three.

Ryleigh Grubb led Byrd with two hits in four at bats. Tuck, Kendall Agee, and Bustamante each drove in a run.

With the loss the girls finished the season at 12-11. They graduate eight seniors; Clark, Agee, Bustamante, Ryleigh Grubb, Mallory Peroulas, Shelby Ensor, Kendall Dodson and Kalee Hayes.

## Girls soccer team falls one win short of making state tournament

The William Byrd girls saw their soccer season end one win away from qualifying for the state tournament when the Terriers lost to Cave Spring Monday. The host Knights improved to 19-0-1 with an 8-0 win over the Terriers in the Region 3D semifinal at

Bogle Field.

"Unfortunately we were not close to our best and it showed," said coach Molly Cox. "We were down two goals at halftime and then the wheels really fell off."

The loss followed a win over Lord

Botetourt in the region quarterfinal round last week. Botetourt was the four seed and got to play at home against fifth seeded Byrd, but the Terriers beat the Cavaliers for the third time this season, this time by a 6-4 score.

Botetourt struck first, scoring just eight minutes into the game. However, Byrd answered when the Terriers were awarded a free kick outside the box that Kendall Ranson put in the net to tie the game.

LB regained the lead at 2-1 before Ranson found Bella Barrette for a goal to draw level again at 2-2. The Terriers then took their first lead 15 minutes before intermission when Maddie Barrette found Mia Martin for her first goal of the night and Byrd led 3-2 at the half.

Byrd took control after the break, scoring three goals in the first 10 minutes. The first was Martin's second goal of the game, assisted by

Bella Barrette, then Mia finished off a three goal hat trick off an assist from Maddie Barrette. Byrd then took a 6-2 lead when Bella Barrette scored off an assist from sister Maddie.

LB didn't quit, putting two more goals on the board with 24 minutes still remaining. However, the Byrd defense locked down from there and finished off the 6-4 win. Emmalee Dodson had nine saves on the night.

That put Byrd in Monday's game against Cave Spring, but the Terriers couldn't hang with a team that went to the state final last year and has yet to lose this season. Coach Cox is hoping Byrd will be ready to challenge all comers next year with a strong corps returning. The Terriers graduate just one senior off an 11-10 team and that's Logan Andrews, who missed the season with an injury.

"Fortunately, we are returning all players next year and hope to have another successful season," said Cox.

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Winner's will be published in

New Castle Record & Fincastle Herald on July 29  
& Salem Times Register & Vinton Messenger July 30

Right, Byrd keeper Bella Trumble goes high to protect the cage in last week's soccer win over Lord Botetourt in Daleville. Below, Tayler Austin (#15) and Kara Sutton (#12) push the ball up the LB pitch.

PHOTOS BY REGINA DEVINNEY

