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Council member Mike Stovall, Capital Projects Director Jamie Hurt, and Town Manager Pete Peters led a renovations tour of the Vinton War Memorial before the walls are closed up. An enormous light fixture and the bulkhead the ceiling will attach to are still visible.



The Vinton War Memorial is undergoing extensive renovations, mainly in the interior of the building.



The original portico roof at the Vinton War Memorial

Vinton War Memorial renovations continue apace

Vinton Town Council members and the town leadership team were treated to a progress tour of the ongoing renovations at the Vinton War Memorial on June 9. Town Manager Pete Peters, Capital Projects Director Jamie Hurt, and Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins led the tour, giving a final glimpse of the work that is nearly complete on the electrical, heating, lighting, flooring, fire suppression, and other key systems before the walls are closed up and the next phase of renovations begins— replacing and reworking what has been removed— and decorating.

Hurt said that the goal of the project is to restore the historic charm of the exterior of the facility built in 1948,

making no major changes there, while creating a visually pleasing interior space with state-of-the art equipment and design— to maintain the historic look outside while modernizing the interior.

Initially the project was to complete cosmetic renovations to the building, while leaving the footprint unchanged, and updating what has changed code-wise in the past decades.

When completed there will be new paint, new floors, new windows, and new draperies throughout the building, with a new roof and a new pergola. Second floor staff offices and the bridal suite area are being extensively renovated. (In the distant past the fire chief occupied that space.)

The Vinton War Memorial is one

of the town’s most beloved structures— if not the most. Many have attended weddings, parties, showers, and meetings there and have a sentimental attachment to the venue, especially the beautiful Grand Ballroom. (Adkins says that the facility usually hosts over 200 events each year and with a new fee schedule, expects to host even more once the building reopens.)

Thankfully, Hurt, Town Council, and town staff share that desire to maintain history while bringing the interior up to standard with the most advanced technology and innovative materials available.

Never fear— the fireplace where thousands of photos have been taken remains in place in the ballroom. The

room will be enhanced with one of the most spectacular ceilings available. The video and sound systems are being replaced with the most up-to-date technology to be found.

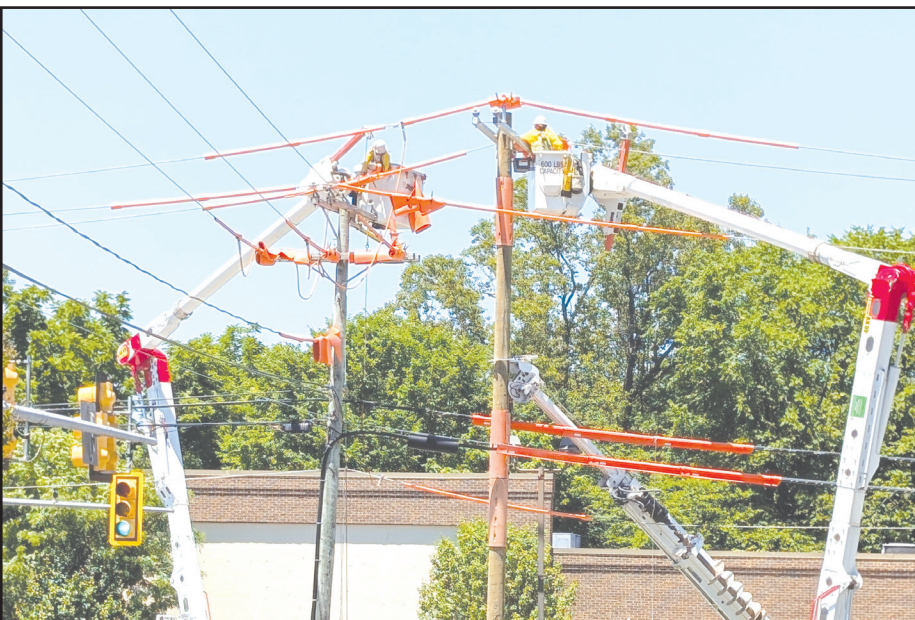
The bid summary of the project states that the project includes renovations of the first and second floors of the existing building, minor structural repairs in the basement, minor renovations to the building’s exterior finishes, new exterior doors and windows, and minor renovations to site lighting and hard surfaces adjacent to the building.

Another goal of the project has been meticulous attention to detail. Hurt says they have made every effort to minimize

See **Renovations**, page 7



The fireplace will remain in the ballroom.



The possible beginnings of the Wawa convenience store

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Celebrate the founding of Vinton with inaugural performances of ‘Land and Liberty’

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton is well-known for its patriotism—its veterans’ monuments, its Field of Honor, its spectacular fireworks show on the Fourth of July, and this year, for the first time, the inaugural performance of a one-act playing celebrating Vinton’s founding.

The Vinton Historical Society, in collaboration with Roanoke Bear Theatre, is presenting “Land and Liberty–The Vinton Story,” with performances this

weekend, Friday through Sunday, June 12-14.

The historical document which gave rise to the genesis of the “Land and Liberty” project is a 1781 land grant by then governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson, to two local men, Christian Vineyard and William Tabler—a years’ long process at a cost of 15 shillings. The land these gentlemen were granted was among the first to be settled within properties that now include the Town of

See **Land and Liberty**, page 7



The Land of Liberty cast (l to r) Melissa Hagen, Ellie Rosine, James Gabello, Blake Hill, Luke Dillon, Madeline Bedrosian, KJ Geo, and Kelli Hobson

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

Mingle at the Market series gets underway Saturday

June is here, so it’s time for the annual Mingle at the Market concert series to get underway, featuring favorite local performers, food trucks on site, and a beverage tent. The twice-monthly events are sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and held at the Vinton Farmers’ Market in downtown Vinton.

Here’s this year’s schedule:

- June 13: featuring throwback hits from “That 80’s Show” from 7 to 10 p.m., food trucks include Mountain Grille and Get Glazed Donuts with beverages from Blue Ridge Beverage
- June 27: featuring the Eric Wayne Band with

See **Mingle**, page 4

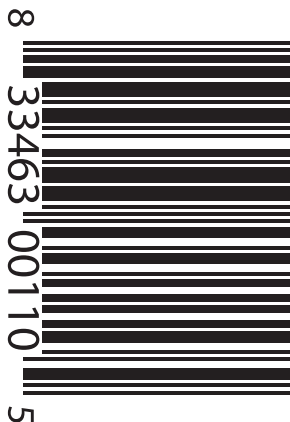




PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING
Angie Chewning was voted Female Star of the Star City in a Roanoker Magazine poll.

Chewning named Female Star of the Star City by Roanoker Magazine readers

Angie Chewning, President and CEO of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, has been chosen by readers of the Roanoker Magazine as the Gold Award winner of the Female Star of the Star City for 2026. Hers was one of 830 (Best of Roanoke Readers' Poll) awards given to local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Chewning has been the leader of the VACC since 2010.

"Over the more than 15 years in this position, I've built strong relationships and grown alongside the organization," she says. "I am passionate about communication, connection, and organization, and I value the opportunity to support local businesses and make a meaningful impact in the Vinton area and beyond."

Chewning says the Chamber is "constantly working behind the scenes to make sure our businesses feel supported, visible, and included in what's happening in our community."

"When our businesses succeed, our whole community grows, and that's why I love what I do."

"Being named a 'Best of Roanoke' winner is incredibly meaningful to me. It reflects the relationships, trust, and community we've built together through the Vinton Chamber. I'm so grateful for the support and proud to be part of something that helps our businesses grow."

She estimates that she has attended 350 ribbon-cuttings in her time with the Chamber, joining with other Chamber businesses and town officials to welcome new members.

She has led the Chamber in sponsoring (and co-sponsoring with the town) events such as the enormously popular Mingle at the Market summer concerts, the Vinton Fall Festival, the

Vinton Christmas Parade, the Senior Expo, the Lunch and Learn series, and the State of the Town address.

Her community involvement also reaches outside the town—this year she serves as President of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and has recruited Vintonites and Chamber members to assist. She also serves on the Roanoke Regional Partnership Board, the Urban Development Advisory Committee, and the Vinton Women of the Moose 2466 as Secretary. She served as Chair of the Vinton Relay for Life from 2012-2016.

She loves promoting all things Vinton and is always encouraging folks to "Shop Local." She loves volunteering for events and organizations that help people and make the community a better place to "Live, Work, Shop and Play." She hosts the "Vinton Chatter" program on Fox 910 radio and writes the "People, Places, and Things" column for The Vinton Messenger.

Chewning has three children, Cydney, Drake, and Abbie; bonus daughter, Elena Boitnott; and two grandchildren, Kellen and Lainey Bell. She is married to Greg Boitnott.

According to the Roanoker Magazine, eligible nominees are businesses or professionals based in the Roanoke metropolitan area, including the cities of Roanoke and Salem, Town of Vinton, and the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Franklin. While national chains are a part of daily life, this contest is focused on highlighting locally owned businesses and locally franchised establishments that are rooted in the community and give the valley its unique character and vitality.

Some of the other Vinton area winners

include: Jonathan Murrill (Platinum, Best Local Artist), Vinton Appliance (Platinum, Best Appliance Repair), W.C. Butler Heating and Air Conditioning (Platinum for Best Indoor Air Quality/Disinfecting Provider, Silver for Best HVAC Service), Star City Pest Control (Silver, Best Pest Control Company), Vinton Computer (Gold, Best Computer Repairs), Glo Custom Spray Tanning (Platinum, Best Spray Tanning Salon, Platinum, Best Spray Tanning for your Wedding Day), Tammy Shepherd (Platinum, Best Real Estate Agent), Brad Thomas (Bronze, Best Real Estate Agent), Pretty Paws (Gold, Best Pet Grooming Company), Vinton Veterinary and Specialty Services (Gold, Best Emergency Veterinarian Practice), Dr. Courtney Wiegard (Platinum, Best Veterinarian), Vinton Veterinary Hospital (Platinum, Best Veterinarian Group/Practice), Creative Occasions Flowers & Events (Gold, Best Florist, Gold, Best Local Florist)), Woods Service Center Towing & Transportation (Gold, Most Dependable Car and Repair Service Shop), Rodney Dearing R & R Vinton (Gold, Best Individual Mechanic), Flowers by Eddie (Silver, Best Local Florist), Bonsack Baptist (Platinum, Best Preschool/Pre-K, Vinton Public Library (Gold, Best Library Branch), JD Sutphin (Silver, Star City Hero of the Year), Hybrid Clinic Wellness Center (Silver for Best Weight Loss Clinic, Bronze for Best Holistic Healing Services), Rikki Ann McConnell (tie for Silver, Best Weight Loss practitioner), Oakey's Funeral Home (Platinum, Best Funeral Home), and Lotz Funeral Home (Silver, Best Funeral Home).

Woolwine places in state James Bland Music Scholarship competition

Ryleigh Woolwine, a student with the Susan Lewis Music Studio in Vinton, won fourth place and a \$1,500 scholarship in the state James Bland Music Scholarship Competition in Bristol on May 29.

Woolwine represented the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club with Division 1 in Voice (alto), performing "Little Girls" from the musical "Annie." She was accompanied by Susan Lewis.

"Bravo! Making it to the state music scholarship competition and receiving a \$1,500 scholarship is a huge honor in itself, but seeing Ryleigh take the stage with such captivating artistry was the real reward," said Lewis.

"Interestingly, most (if not all) of the performers at state competition were older than Ryleigh, who is only 14 years old and recently completed eighth grade. Ryleigh, I am incredibly proud of your growth and honored to be your teacher."

According to Vinton Lion Gary Myers, who coordinates the program at the local and district level, there were six voice and six instrumental contestants from three districts from all over Virginia represented at the competition.

Joel Ng from the Forest Lions Club represented Division 1 playing the violin and came in third place, winning a \$2,000 scholarship. Both Woolwine and Ng will be eligible to compete again next year if they win in their division. Only first place winners cannot compete in the Bland Contest again. First place winners receive \$3,000 scholarships each. Second place winners each receive



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN LEWIS
Music teacher Susan Lewis (left) with music scholarship winner Ryleigh Woolwine

\$2,500 scholarships.

The annual Bland Music Scholarships Program was established in 1948 to assist and promote cultural and educational opportunities for the musically talented youth of Virginia. The program consists of elimination contests starting at club level and continuing through the state final contest. The program is open to any boy or girl, vocalist or instrumentalist, properly sponsored by a Virginia Lions Club. Any resident of Virginia (or within the club jurisdiction) and attending elementary, junior, or senior high school is eligible to participate. Over \$25,000 is awarded yearly in state, regional, district, and local scholarships and cash awards.

-Submitted by Susan Lewis and Gary Myers



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHERRY BELL FARRINGTON
"Potential" by Meisha Robinson

WBHS graduate wins Roanoke Sister Cities art competition

Meisha Robinson, who just graduated from William Byrd High School and the Burton Center for Arts and Technology, tied for first place in the 2026 Roanoke Sister Cities art competition. Her artwork was entered in the digital category and entitled "Potential."

According to Sister Cities International, the aim is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community, at a time. The theme for the 2026 art showcase is "Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow," which "encourages young artists and authors to raise their voices during a historic moment as the United States celebrates 250 years since its founding, and Sister Cities International honors 70 years of building global friendships and cultural understanding. It reflects the ongoing journey from the country's founding ideals toward a more interconnected, peaceful world."

To enter the competition, students must be between 12 and 18 years of age and affiliated with a member of Sister Cities International—in this case, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities.

According to Mary Jo Fassie,

Roanoke Valley Sister Cities president, "The Roanoke Valley Sister Cities Young Artists Showcase is an annual event. All monetary prizes are awarded by our organization. Each year we invite the first place winner(s) and their teacher to our annual dinner in early June. The top five student entries this year were sent to Sister Cities International for further competition." At the international level, digital art, such as Robinson's, is in a separate category.

Roanoke Valley Sister City Awards are: first place, \$300; 2nd place, \$200; 3rd place, \$100; and honorable mention, \$25.

For those who advance to the International Competition, one artist is selected as the Sister Cities International Grand Prize Winner and receives \$1,000; second place, \$250; and third place, \$100.

Robinson, one of the valedictorians of the Class of 2026, plans to attend the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design. She is a well-known name in the local art world, and was also recognized recently at the national level in the Scholastic Art Awards competition.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

15th Annual Four on the 4th Race kicks off the holiday in Vinton

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, Fleet Feet, and the Town of Vinton are excited to partner for the 15th Annual Four on the 4th race/walk, presented by the Vinton Moose Lodge. This race generally attracts over 500 runners each year.

This year's event will be especially meaningful as the community comes together on July 4 to celebrate America's



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BGCSWVA

See Four on the 4th, page 2

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Roanoke County Public Schools earn ‘District on the Rise’ national rating

Roanoke County Public Schools has been named as a “District on the Rise” by the Education Scorecard, a national report on student growth in math and reading.

As part of its report on Virginia’s progress recovering from pandemic-caused reading lapses, the Education Scorecard highlights Roanoke County Public Schools’ C-Change Framework and the school division’s strategic approach to pandemic-era education, most notably the decision to maintain in-person learning, especially for the youngest learners.

“We are proud of our ongoing work to improve our student’s proficiency in reading,” said Dr. Ken Nicely, superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools.

“The C-Change Framework is our roadmap for learning. Ultimately, we are working to provide deeper learning for our students— learning that is engaging and purposeful through the development of key success skills. This kind of learning only happens with a strong support structure including professional development, a safe and nurturing school climate, a positive learning culture, and more.

“When the pandemic happened, we knew that we had to do everything we could to maintain as much in-person learning as possible, because we knew in-person learning was far more effective than virtual learning, especially for students in the primary grades. I’m pleased the Education Scorecard has recognized our amazing staff for their hard work teaching our students.”

According to a press release from Education Scoreboard, Roanoke County, Charlottesville City, Richmond City, Smyth County, and Danville City are leading the way in reading recovery relative to their peers.

Education Scorecard, now in its fourth year, is a collaboration between the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University, The Educational Opportunity Project at

Stanford University, and faculty at Dartmouth College.

Their latest report provides a high-resolution picture of where Virginia students’ academic recovery stands, combining state test results for roughly 35 million grade 3-8 students nationwide with national assessment data to describe changes in local communities. Here’s what was found in Virginia:

- Virginia ranks 10th out of 35 states in academic growth in reading between 2022 and 2025.
- In reading, the average student is performing about .04 grade equivalents below their 2022 level, and about .68 grade equivalents below 2019 levels.
- Several Virginia districts are emerging as Districts on the Rise. These districts have shown unusual progress relative to similar districts in their own state. Roanoke County, Charlottesville City, Richmond City, Smyth County Public Schools, and Danville City are leading the way in reading performance.
- Statewide, there is some good news on chronic absenteeism (students missing more than 10% of a school year), which has fallen from over 20% in 2022 to around 14% in 2025. However, chronic absence rates still remain 3 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.

Among Virginia’s reading Districts on the Rise, Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS) stands out for building a coherent instructional culture through a stakeholder-developed strategic framework and a curriculum approach designed to outlast any individual leader. The district’s C-Change Framework— built from feedback collected from teachers, principals, students, and community members— organizes the division’s work around five pillars: Instructional Balance, Classroom and School Climate, Learning Culture, Support Services, and Professional Growth.

All staff are trained on the framework during

onboarding, reinforced through 10 Leadership Academies per year attended by assistant principals, principals, and division leaders who then cascade targeted support to teachers. Rather than adopting a single curriculum, RCPS developed a Dynamic Curriculum Guide (K-10) aligned to Virginia’s Standards of Learning, integrating core content with enrichment and differentiated pathways— intentionally designed so teachers don’t have to learn new materials every time leadership changes.

On literacy, the division made the notable decision to keep its youngest students in person during the pandemic using alternative classroom spaces, a choice leaders credit in part for current reading outcomes.

A Division Literacy Plan grounded in the science of reading drives instruction across K-8, with individual reading plans for every student, site-based plans at every elementary and middle school, and a dedicated literacy coach at every middle school who co-teaches and models with ELA, special education, and content-area teachers.

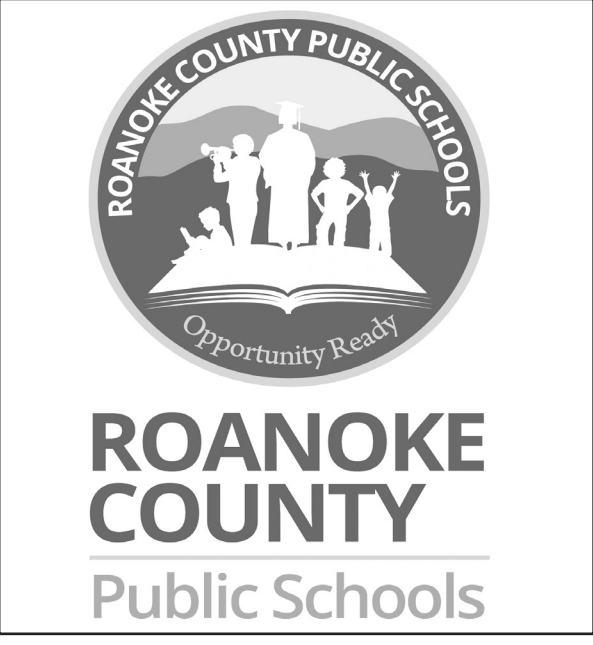
Data infrastructure is equally deliberate: MasteryConnect enables teachers to build and share assessments, monitor performance by standard, and analyze trends; PLCs meet regularly to review formative data and adjust instruction; and division-wide data meetings with principals and instructional leaders ensure timely mid-year adjustments rather than waiting for end-of-year results.

The division also takes a proactive stance on strategic planning— deploying coaches and resources in response to identified needs before state data is even released, while balancing guidance with enough autonomy for high-performing schools to sustain their own momentum.

“The C-Change Framework serves as the essential pillar for everything we do, providing a shared instructional language,” said

Dr. Nicely. “By centering our division on this shared mission, we ensure that every decision is filtered through a commitment to deeper learning and collaborative problem-solving. We’ve built a culture of shared ownership where teachers and division leaders alike are trained to analyze performance trends by standard and adjust instruction in real time. This disciplined approach allows us to direct targeted support and resources where they are needed most, ensuring that high-quality, evidence-based instruction remains consistent across every classroom in the division.”

-Submitted by Roanoke County Public Schools



FILE GRAPHIC

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewing

Family and friends gathered on Saturday, May 30, at the home of Mike and Patsy Stovall to celebrate the graduation of Kayla Lovern.

Kayla graduated from William Byrd High School on Wednesday, May 27. This fall, she plans to attend Virginia Western Community College, where she will pursue studies in the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Kayla is the daughter of Brian Lovern and Karey Worley and the stepdaughter of Page and Jeremy. Loved ones came together to honor her hard work, dedication, and accomplishments as she begins this exciting new chapter.

The family would like to extend a special thank



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

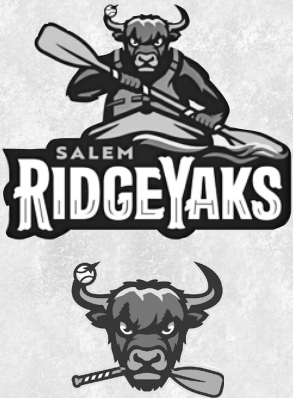
Kayla Lovern and family celebrate graduation from WBHS.

you to Karey, Jeremy, Mike, Patsy, Stephen, Susan, Kent, Lynn, Brittany, and Mia for their hard work and support in helping make the graduation celebration such a memorable and successful event.

Congratulations, Kayla, and best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavors.

Also, Vinton Moose Lodge WotM 2466 ladies were sworn in as committee chairs: Brittany Elkins, Fraternal Activities; Patsy Stovall, Financial Review; Danielle Boothe, Application Review; Shannon Kendall, MooseHeart/ MooseHaven; and Kimberly Hunter Ramsey, Membership. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment.

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JUNE 12th 6:35 PM
Mythical Magic Night

JUNE 13th 6:35 PM
Dinos After Dark

JUNE 14th 4:05 PM

VINTON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

WHAT WE NEED

Read Judges 17:1 through 21:25

Cities are racked by chaos. Innocents are cruelly victimized. People of all stripes—leaders and followers alike—lie and steal, thinking nothing of it. Rage, destruction, and brutality are the stuff of daily headlines. When did things get so bad?

This world is no stranger to dark times, including the period of the Israelite judges. Today’s reading is full of horrific violence and inhumanity. After the miracles that brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, how did everything fall apart? Was it because they had no ruler to keep them in line? After all, it was repeatedly emphasized that “Israel had no king.” But there’s more to it than that.

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit (Judges 21:25).

Our world is what it is because fit. God’s every action demonstrates that He desires peace, compassion, and community—things sorely missing from this world. Until we have the mind of Christ, politics will never offer hope. Our world doesn’t need a king. It needs God.

Prayer Suggestion: Father, remake my will from the inside out, so that I will desire what You desire.

Quicklook: Judges 21:15–25

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

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 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”

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.

Four on the 4th

from page 1

250th birthday while supporting youth across Southwest Virginia. The Town of Vinton looks forward to welcoming runners, walkers, families, volunteers, and community supporters for this patriotic tradition.

The Four on the 4th annual fundraiser benefits Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, which serves youth ages 5-18 through summer and after-school programs across nine clubs, located in Montgomery County, Franklin County, Roanoke County (including Vinton), and Roanoke City.

The race raises more than \$30,000 each year to support safe places, caring mentors, academic support, field trips, healthy summer meals and snacks, and life-changing opportunities for local kids and teens.

“As the CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, I am immensely grateful for the incredible support we receive through Four on the 4th,” said

Rebekah Meadows. “This year is especially exciting as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of this race and America’s 250th. It is heartwarming to see our community come together on America’s birthday to support local youth and help create great futures.”

Registration is open to all ages. The four-mile race will begin promptly at 8 a.m., followed by a Kids Fun Run at 9 a.m. Registration is open now and will remain open until 7:30 a.m. on July 4. Community members can learn more and register by visiting: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Vinton/Fouronthe4th>.

The starting/end point of the race has changed this year from the Vinton War Memorial to the Vinton Farmer’s Market in downtown Vinton due to renovations underway at the War Memorial. Free parking is available in several downtown parking lots.

Registration is \$35 through June 19 and \$44 from June 22-July 4. All 4-miler participants who register by June 12 will receive a finisher’s medal and commemorative T-shirt. For \$50, join the VIP Runners Tier and receive a commemorative T-shirt, finisher’s medal, and raffle tickets for an exclusive prize at the Post-Race Party drawing. (No deadline for VIP runners.)

All Kids Fun Run participants will receive a medal at the finish line. Their course is about a half-mile

in length.

Runners may register on-site on the morning of July 4 beginning at 7 a.m.

Kids run for free in the 4th Kids Fun Run.

The awards ceremony will start at 9:30 a.m.

- Top awards will be presented to: Top 3 Males, Top 3 Females, Top Male Master (40+)

- Top Female Master (40+), Top Male Grand Master (50+), and Top Female Grand Master (50+)

- Age group awards will be presented to Top 3 Males and Females in each age group category: 1-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 and up

- The Top 3 Males, Top 3 Females, Top Male Master, Top Female Master, Top Male Grand Master and Top Female Grand Master will win a pair of shoes from Fleet Feet

In case of inclement weather, the race becomes virtual. There is no refund. Dogs and other pets are not permitted. Strollers are allowed.

Sponsors include the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia, Vinton Moose Lodge 1121, the Town of Vinton, Fleet Feet, Branch, BJ’s, Mizuno, and First Bank.

~Submitted by Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia

The Vinton Messenger

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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.

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Mingle

from page 1

opener Annalyse Marie at 6 p.m., food trucks include Hot Bunz Hot Dogs, Get Glazed Donuts, and the Local Lemon

- July 11: The Kings will be playing at 7 p.m., food trucks include Bases Loaded and Get Glazed Donuts

- July 25: Gasoline Alley with opener Abbey & Andy NeiKirk get underway at 6 p.m.

- August 8: The show featuring Five Dollar Shake begins at 7 p.m.; food trucks include Food on the GO and Get Glazed

- August 22: Supafly Five opens at 7 p.m.; food trucks include Chef Claytor’s and Get Glazed Donuts

- September 12: Justin and Lindsey Prillaman open for Big Daddy Raye at 6 p.m., food trucks are Mountain Grille and Get Glazed

Donuts

- September 26: Chris Keaton and the Millennials open for Solacoustix; Food on the GO is this week’s food truck

Admission is \$7; children 12 and under are free.

Bring your ID and your own seating. No pets please. No outside food or beverages are permitted. Clear bags are required for admission.

Once again there will be a Kids’ Zone powered by Dave’s Moonwalk (sponsored by the Vinton Moose Lodge), a photo booth (powered by the Virginia Credit Union and provided by Flex LLC)—and dancing in the streets.

The stage is sponsored by HomeTrust Bank and Pok-E-Joe’s.

Parking is plentiful downtown at the Walnut Avenue lot, at Vinton

Baptist, on downtown streets, and in the Municipal Building lot.

The William Byrd football team traditionally volunteers to set up and take down for the Mingles—they are back. Defy Gravity will once again be working the gate and drink ticket sales.

The Vinton Farmers’ Market is located in downtown Vinton at 204 West Lee Avenue. The plan this year is to enter the concert/market area on Walnut Avenue.

If any individuals or organizations are interested in volunteering at the Mingle events, contact the Chamber office at 540-343-1364 or email info@vintonchamber.com. There are also sponsorship opportunities still available.

~Vinton Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Sealed with a kiss
5. Large sandwich
8. Swiss city
12. Japanese persimmons
14. When you hope to get somewhere
15. Wings
16. A name of God
18. Elected official (informal)
19. Abnormal breathing
20. OSeinfeldO character
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Something for sale
23. Gets rid of
26. One who touts
30. Blemished
31. Less than exciting
32. Born of

CLUES DOWN

1. Scottish island
2. River in the Netherlands
3. Asian people
4. Fuzzy fruit
5. Ninth month (abbr.)
6. An idealistic social reformer
7. What you owe
8. Colorless mineral
9. Overjoyed
10. Rattling breaths
11. Tropical Old World tree
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Greek mythological beauty
24. Wrath
25. Instrument to measure wind speed
26. Luxury carmaker
27. Bitterly regret
28. Not or

CLUES DOWN

29. Google certification
35. Midway between northeast and east
36. Space station
37. Relating to the ears
38. Congressman
40. Yelled at
41. Rudely assertive
42. Defunct European money
43. Shared oneO’s soul
44. Onion rolls
45. A way to state clearly
47. Relating to a lobe
48. Underlying message
49. Hollywood pig
52. Indicates pitch
53. Filament of a feather
54. Small ornamental ladiesO bag for small articles
55. Diminish

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Legals - Craig County

ABC NOTICE

RCLC, LLC, trading as CARPERS, 5178 Craig Valley Dr., New Castle, Craig County, Virginia 24127.

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

Robert Caper, 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.

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. 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)

Legals - Botetourt County

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.alldridgepите.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.alldridgepите.com. VA-372477-1.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY LEE AVIS, DECEASED NOTICE

Having been requested to do so by Lenden Eakin, attorney for Tamara Smith, executrix of the estate of Gary Lee Avis, Deceased, and in accordance with Section 64.2-550 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, all creditors of Gary Lee Avis, and all persons in any way interested in his estate, are hereby notified that I have fixed the 8th day of July,

Legals - Botetourt County

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 Gary Lee Avis or his estate, the priorities among them, and the names of the persons to whom they are due. All creditors of Gary Lee Avis, deceased, and persons interested in his 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 2nd day of June, 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, 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. **CL26000843-00**
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

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Legals - City of Radford

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a facility to continue to conduct cleanup (formerly called corrective action) activities at a series of cleanup units at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant facility in Radford, Virginia.
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: June 10, 2026 to August 10, 2026.
PUBLIC HEARING: An informational briefing will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and a public hearing will be held immediately after at 7:00 pm, at the Radford Public Library located at 30 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the informational briefing is to provide information and discuss related issues, and the purpose of the public hearing is to receive any public comments.
PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Management Permit for Cleanup, EPA ID No. VA1210020730
APPLICANT NAME: Radford Army Ammunition Plant
FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Radford Army Ammunition Plant, 4050 Peppers Ferry Road Radford, Virginia 24141.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) facility applied for a reissued permit on October 29, 2025, to continue to conduct cleanup (formerly called corrective action) activities at a series of cleanup units at the facility in Radford, Virginia. The draft permit incorporates the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed remedies as detailed in two Statement of Basis documents from 2011 and 2014. Final remedies were selected for nine solid waste management units (SWMUs), four Site Screening Areas (SSAs), and the Army Reserve Small Arms Range (ARSAR). Selected remedies consisted of Institutional Controls, Engineering Controls, and Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) and/or Long-term groundwater monitoring. The Former Mortar and Gun Range is also included in the draft permit, and the Corrective Measures Study for this site is under development. Additionally, SWMU 17A, the Stage and Burn Area, was added to the draft permit and will be included in this permit until RFAAP determines that the site is no longer needed as an active unit, at which time the site will be investigated and evaluated for either closure or corrective action/cleanup.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet, supplemental work plan documents, and this public notice at the Radford Public Library located at 30 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia 24141, during open hours. Copies of the permit are also available every workday by appointment at DEQ Blue Ridge Regional Office at 901 Russell Drive, Salem, VA 24153 and DEQ Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219, as well as the DEQ website at www.deq.virginia.gov.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sarah Dyer, DEQ, Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia, 23218; Phone: (804) 659-2823; E-mail: sarah.dyer@deq.virginia.gov



Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that the Vinton Town Council will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, concerning the proposed amendment and additional appropriation to the Town of Vinton's FY 2025-2026 budget to appropriate funding for building equipment, furniture and fixtures, traffic signals, a vehicle purchase, paving and striping, stormwater projects, and various operational expenditures, including personnel expenditures, maintenance projects, contractual services, and training in the total amount of \$1,612,300 in the General Fund and the Capital Fund. State law requires a public hearing to be held whenever a proposed budget amendment exceeds 1% of the locality's total budget.

Any additional information on 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

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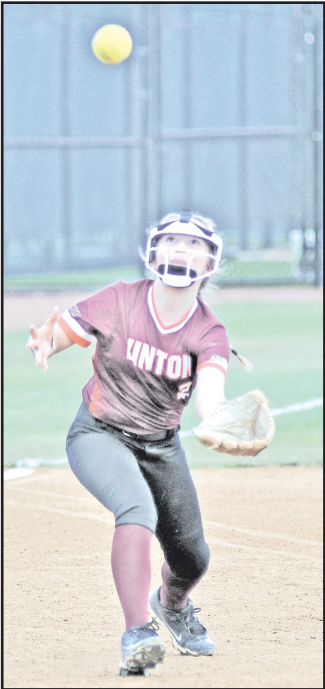
RAYSA SOFTBALL

continued from page 8

17U girls’ teams. Teams from Vinton, Botetourt, Salem, Glenvar, South County, North Roanoke and GSA competed in the 10U tournament. Vinton opened with a 7-3 win over Glenvar in Sunday’s opening game at Moyer, then lost to Botetourt to drop to the losers’ bracket. Vinton bounced back with a 12-8 win over North Roanoke on Tuesday but was then eliminated by Glenvar in a close game, 11-9. Botetourt, Glenvar and Salem were still alive at press time with the championship scheduled for tonight at Darrell Shell Park in Roanoke County.

In the 13U division Vinton was joined by teams from Salem, Clifton Forge, South County, North Roanoke, Botetourt, Franklin County and GSA. The Vinton team lost their first two games to Salem and GSA in the double elimination tournament. At press time South County, North Roanoke and Salem were still alive, with the championship scheduled for tonight at Darrell Shell.

There were only three teams in the 17U tournament, representing Vinton, South County and Franklin County. Vinton lost the first two and South County and Franklin County were scheduled to play for the championship Wednesday night.



Vinton 10U softball action from the RAYSA tournament. Left to right, Ryleigh Creech catches a popup, Addie Holmes goes high to grab a high throw and Annalise Aldrich pitches.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

OBITUARY

Davis, Thomas Marshall, Jr.

July 25, 1940 - May 30, 2026
Thomas Marshall “Tom” Davis Jr., 85, of Roanoke, passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Tom was born in 1940 and was a graduate of Andrew Lewis High School in Salem in 1958. Upon graduation, he was offered a scholarship to Virginia Tech but chose instead to enter the workforce. He began his career with Roanoke Paint & Glass and then went on to purchase White House Galleries on Maple Avenue in 1961. Eventually, he moved the business to 220 South after he purchased Dr. Pinkard’s property where he owned and operated the art gallery. He continued serving the community as a Custom Art Framer for more than 30 years.

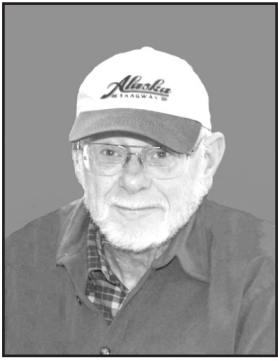
A dedicated worker throughout his

life, Tom was known as a true workaholic both on the job and at home. He enjoyed restoring over 100 automobiles and held a degree in Fine Art Restoration.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Davis Sr. and Nelda Ragland Orr; his sister, Rebecca “Becky” Grissett; and his beloved dog, “Redbud,” who was a constant companion to Tom.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of more than 20 years, Sula K. Davis of Roanoke; his sons, John Matthew Davis of Stewartsville and Danny (Dan) Marshall Davis

(Dana) of Callaway; nephew, Tracy Alexander Grissett of Marion; and niece, Catherine “Cathy” Yerkes (Rick) of Melbourne, Fla. Also left to cherish his memory are Angela Sengson (John) of Fincastle; Douglas Schmittler (Kathy) of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Noah Pace of Frederick, Md.; Harper Pace of Charlottesville; Barrett Pace of Fincastle; his sister, Nancy Routsen (Dan) of Des Moines, Iowa; his first cousin, Mary Jane Reid of Winston-Salem, N.C.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members, friends and neighbors.



Land and Liberty

from page 1

Vinton, named in part after the Vineyard surname.

Local playwright, director, and actor David Walton used that document, along with other information he discovered in the course of historical research, to produce the one-act play. He was commissioned by the Vinton Historical Society to write it in honor of this summer’s statewide Virginia 250 commemoration.

Walton explains: “The play is based on fact but imagines conversations between historically accurate characters during two important moments in history.” His goal was to dramatize the pursuit of and importance of land ownership in the creation of a new nation. Since it specifically addresses the early settlers of the Town of Vinton, its reliance upon historically accurate town ancestors as well as descriptions of the local topography is of interest to locals. The broader context of the Revolutionary War history makes it appealing to a broader audience as well.

Eight cast members will be presenting the play in the Thrasher United Methodist Church chapel, historic in and of itself.

They include:

KJ Geo portraying William Tabler, Anna’s younger brother, also in his late 20’s to 30’s, jovial, optimistic, also quick with a joke and not afraid of a drink. Geo was “raised by the theatre as a child,” performing roles such as Seymour (“Little Shop of Horrors”), Frank Butler (“Annie Get Your Gun”), and Renfield (“Dracula”). He’s grateful for being pulled down from the lighting booth after 12 years away from the stage to be a part of this very special play.

Madeline Bedrosian portrays

Anna Vineyard, a woman in her late 20’s to 30’s. She is her husband’s equal but in opposite ways. She is optimistic and unfettered by the stress of waiting on their land grant to be approved. Bedrosian is excited to help bring local history to life. She is also an artist. She was last seen as Anne Frank in “The Diary of Anne Frank” at Little Town Players.

Luke Dillon (Christian Vineyard) is a man in his late 20’s to early 30’s who is an impatient worrier anxious to take his place among the landowners in what he hopes will be the new country of America. Dillon is excited to be a part of this excellent show and cast celebrating this bit of Vinton history. He has been an actor since elementary school and was most recently on stage at Attic Productions in “Sense and Sensibility” and “Southern Hospitality.”

James Gabello portrays Thomas Jefferson in his late 30’s, and governor of Virginia. He is stately and dignified, but not above flashes of anger as he mentors his young secretary. Gabello is an avid reader of history and excited to bring this important story of the founding of the Town of Vinton to life. He has appeared in numerous local plays, most recently as Adam in Roanoke Bear Theatre’s production of “Buddies.”

Melissa Hagen portrays Lydia Vineyard, a woman in her 50’s who is kind, but stern, and fiercely proud of her family’s history. Hagen is excited to be in her first acting role in nearly 15 years. Growing up in the Vinton area, she’s especially honored to be a part of this production.

Blake Hill (William Short) plays the part of a young secretary in his late teens, and a student

at the College of William and Mary. He is eager and excitable, with a lot left to learn, and a burning desire to fight in the Revolution. Hill is honored to embrace Vinton’s history with Bear Theatre and the Vinton History Museum in “Land and Liberty.” He was last seen in “The Importance of Being Earnest,” along with “Sense & Sensibility,” as John Willoughby.

Kelli Hobson portrays Maria Tabler, a woman in her late 20’s to 30’s, who is William’s long-suffering wife. She also has a cough that worries everyone but her. Hobson recently made her directorial debut with “Never After Happily” at Attic Productions. Her favorite roles to date are Roz in “Moon Over Buffalo” and Countess Andrenyi in “Murder on the Orient Express,” both also directed by Walton.

Ellie Rosine portrays Mary Vinyard, a young woman about 18 years old who is spoiled and preoccupied with her social life. Rosine is a junior at Lord Botetourt High School and has been involved in several of the school’s theatre productions, both on and backstage. She enjoys spending her time playing Appalachian dulcimer, singing, and competing on her school’s speech and debate team.

A brief synopsis of the production sets the stage in the summer of 1884, on the eve of a Founder’s Day celebration in the newly named Town of Vinton in Roanoke County, said to be a combination of the names of two prominent families—the Vineyards and the Prestons. The town was previously named Gish Mill.

Lydia Vineyard finds that her daughter, Mary, lacks appreciation for what it took

to build the town she calls home, with thoughts mainly of her almost-fiancé, Davis Gish. Using flashbacks to the Revolutionary War period, a hundred years before, Mary learns the importance of land and liberty and what it means to those who work hard to achieve it.

The play is “dialogue-based” with minimal stage action. That dialogue is peppered with family names and places familiar to locals, including the Vineyard, Pedigo, Thrasher, Pollard, Funks, and Walker, along with Gish Mill, Glade Creek, Wolf Creek, Botetourt County, and Fincastle.

Underlying the focus on the founding of the town, and the wait for the land grant to be approved, is background on the American Revolution, the progress of the war, and the tyranny of King George III.

The stage is set for three character-groups appearing at once, but in different time periods– the Vineyard women discussing Founder’s Day and the naming of Vinton in 1884 in their overstuffed, over-furnished home; Jefferson and his secretary describing the war and the delay in issuing the land grant in 1781 in Jefferson’s office; and the Vineyard/Tabler families in a bare Colonial cabin focused on their future plans for occupying their land, also in the 1780’s. Meticulous attention to detail is obvious in both costuming and set design—down to choosing jewelry and the use of real green beans.

Lydia Vineyard closes the performance with speculation about what is to come in the Town of Vinton, which was built on the dreams and hard

work of those who came before, longing for “Land and Liberty.”

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 through <https://beartheatre.com> or at the door. A performance of 17th century music by the Roanoke Valley Dulcimer Group precedes each performance. A Southern-style dinner will be served from 5 to 6:30 p.m. before the evening shows on Friday and Saturday. For just \$20 a plate, guests will enjoy a specially catered meal featuring chicken, vegetables, rolls, and dessert. Reservations are required for the Friday and Saturday evening dinners.

All proceeds from meals benefit local non-profits and the free Community Drive-Thru dinners distributed on Wednesday evenings during the school year. The Vinton History Museum intends to use revenue from this event towards funding for an accessibility lift to resolve the limited access to the second-floor exhibits at the Vinton History Museum located in downtown Vinton. A portion of the revenue will go to the Bear Theatre to further their non-profit work in creating welcoming performance space that produces high-quality productions at reasonable prices.

Performance times are June 12 at 7 p.m., June 13 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and June 14 at 3 p.m. Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church is located on Washington Avenue across from the Vinton War Memorial.

For additional information visit <https://beartheatre.com> or contact the Vinton History Museum at info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or Roanoke Bear Theatre at info@beartheatre.com.

Renovations

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what might detract from the Vinton War Memorial experience on a visual basis, by minimizing elements such as excessive numbers of electrical outlets or sprinklers, more than are needed, hiding audio-visual equipment in the walls and ceiling, and installing sliding walls between the two main rooms which are more manageable for those setting up for an event.

Hurt says that as the interior was being demolished, problem areas with windows, doors, roofing, ceilings, and other elements were

uncovered resulting in some necessary change orders in the project and unexpected expenses. Some original wood needed to be replaced. The elevator between the basement and second floor did not need to be replaced, just upgraded. Hurt says replacing the entire elevator control system would have slowed the project significantly and increased the burden on the taxpayer-dollar.

The kitchen on the first floor remains. One of its improvements is removal of some ductwork and ventilation

equipment from the roof, and a hopeful resale of an overlarge, unused flat grill. Hurt says the town has been able to sell many items and save money on the project.

Removal of the windows revealed an antiquated lead weight system was used to raise and lower them and needed to be replaced. (During the last renovations in 2007, lower grade vinyl windows were used.) The new windows will be anodized aluminum on the exterior with wood inside.

One of the few noticeable exterior changes

will be the replacement of the pergola with a retractable polycarbonate roof to provide shade when desired for events which extend outdoors. The columns have also been moved to provide more space. Some of the outdoor lighting has been replaced for appearance and utility.

With so many exciting renovation and building projects underway in Vinton– the installation of the multigenerational park, the construction of the Vinton hotel, the addition of a disc golf course on the greenway

along with other greenway improvements, the extensive renovations at historic Gish Mill, the addition of new businesses and relocation of existing businesses, there was another location of interest this week in town– what appear to be the first steps in the addition of the approved and permitted Wawa convenience store in the space once occupied by Rite-Aid at the intersection of Hardy Road and Clearview Drive. Trucks were on-site this week, seemingly disconnected utility services. And– for seafood

lovers– the parking lot was poured at the new Long John Silver’s.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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SPORTS

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

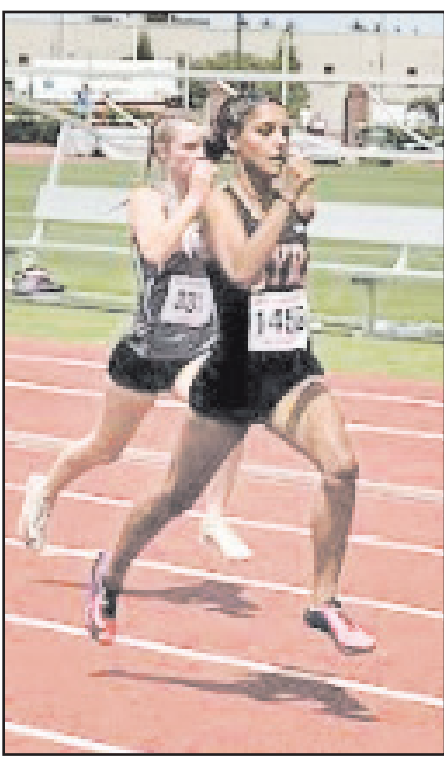
Byrd competes in state track meet

The William Byrd girls finished 19th and the boys were 23rd at the Virginia High School League state Class 3 track meet last weekend. The Lord Botetourt boys and Heritage girls won Class 3 state championships as Liberty University hosted the Class 3 and 4 meets.

Byrd's best finish on the weekend was a third place in the pole vault by Alexia Donahue, who set a new school record when she cleared 10 feet even. Lily Perez scored in two events for the girls, taking fifth in the long jump at 17'8" and sixth in the triple jump at 35' 9.5".

The boys' top scorer was James Smith, who took sixth in the 200 dash. James set a Byrd school record when he ran 22.11 in the preliminaries, then finished in 22.39 in the finals. James also ran on the fourth place 4x100 relay team with Jakeem Toler, Jamez Toler and Gray Matthews. They finished in 42.60.

Athletes who finished in the top six were deemed All-State in Class 3. Other athletes from Byrd who competed in the state meet were the girls 4x800m of Lucy Whitenack, Jenna Petersen, Keeli Emery and Jaydn St. Clair, who finished 10th, and the boys 4x800m of Jack Petersen, Gio



PHOTOS BY KATY NANCE

Left, William Byrd's Lily Perez competes in the long jump competition at the VHSL Class 3 state track meet at Liberty University last weekend. Above, left and right, Michal Hamlar and Brooklyn Strother run for the Terriers.

Pandolifini, Colton Sotherden and Camden Ward, who finished 13th. Davion Wade finished 17th in the 110m hurdles, Brooklyn Strother finished 15th in the 300m hurdles, Logan Hodges finished 10th in the discus and Skye Williams finished 13th in the shotput and discus competitions.

"These athletes have had an amazing year of working hard, pushing each other and making friendships with each other and athletes at other schools," said Byrd coach James Pannell. "I am proud of every athlete that has made a difference in the programs at William Byrd High School,

especially the seniors of 2026 as they impacted how the program has grown in a positive direction. Thank you to the William Byrd community for the support of the team as we look to take another step in a positive direction for 2027 for cross country and track & field."



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Justyn Rozenboom is 1st team all-region for the boys.

WB lacrosse players on All-Region 4D teams

The All-Region 4D lacrosse teams have been released and William Byrd is represented on both the boys' and girls' teams. Graduated Byrd senior Justyn Rozenboom, who will play for Roanoke College next year, was named to the All-Region first team at midfield. Byrd had two selections on the second team, junior Cooper Kageals on attack and sophomore Mason Hershel on defense.

For the girls, Byrd senior Ava Sexton made first team at attack. Senior Katelyn Franks made second team on defense.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Ava Sexton is first team All-Region for the William Byrd girls.

VOTE NOW!

Give a shout out to your favorite businesses around
The Roanoke Valley



Cast your votes from
May 24 to June 21



More than 100 categories—from
• Steakhouse • Wineries • Pizzerias
• Event Centers • Law firms • Jewelry Stores
• Ice Cream Shops • and much more,
You can cast your votes in each Category

mountainmedianews.com/bestofroanoke/

Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on. Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in

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



PHOTO BRIAN HOFFMAN

Ashley Lamonde is safe at third for Vinton's 13U team in the RAYSA tournament.

Vinton girls teams compete in RAYSA

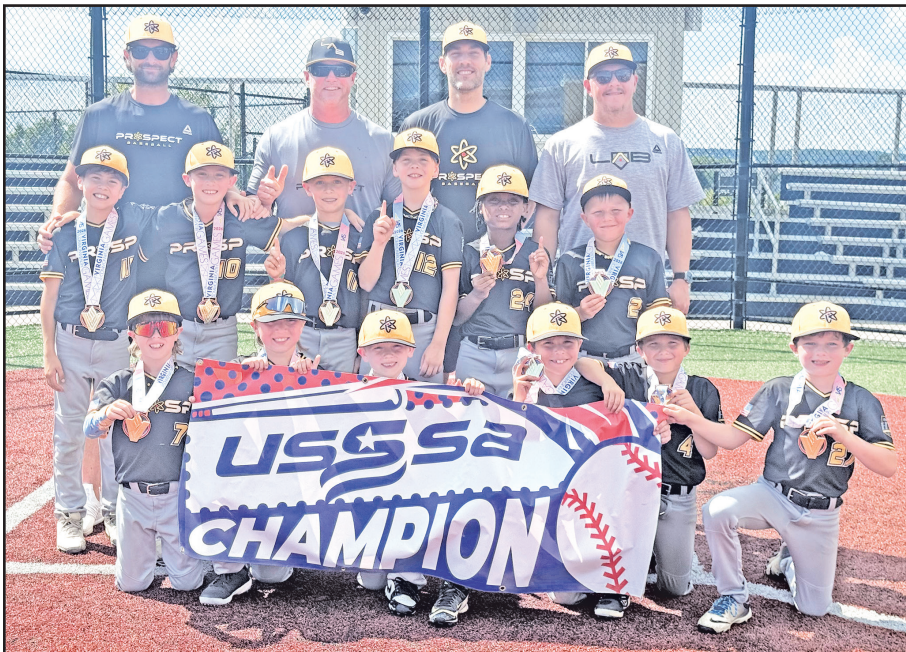
Three Vinton youth softball teams participated in the Roanoke Area Youth Softball Association(RAYSA) tournaments this week at the James I. Moyer Complex in Salem. Tournaments are being held for 10U, 13U and

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RAYBA baseball at BSC next week

The Botetourt Sports Complex will host the Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association(RAYBA) all-star tournaments for youth all-star teams next week. Participating areas include host Botetourt, Vinton, Salem, Glenvar, North Roanoke and Franklin County. Tournaments will be held for 10U and 12U all-star teams beginning Monday, June 15. In the 10U tournament Vinton and Salem will open play at 6 pm and the winner will face Botetourt at 8 pm. Glenvar and North

Roanoke also play at 6 pm. In the 12U Glenvar and Franklin County will play at 6 pm with Botetourt taking on the winner at 8 pm. North Roanoke and Salem also play at 6 pm with the winner taking on Vinton at 8 pm. Both tournaments are double elimination. The 10U championship will be at 6 pm Wednesday, June 17, with an "if game" at 8 pm. The 12U championship is on Thursday of next week, also at 6 pm with an "if game" at 8 pm.



Local 8U team wins Commonwealth Games

The LAB Prospect 8U baseball team, featuring mostly Vinton boys, won the youth division at the Virginia Commonwealth Games last weekend in Christiansburg. The boys went undefeated to claim the championship, their fourth out of five tournaments this season. LAB Prospect is now 21-2 on the season and has won their last 10 games. Front row, left to right, are Eric Grandfield, Luke Cincioni, Dash Jones, Gabriel Madonna, Andrew Kroner and Lucas Hall. Back row, left to right; Westin Trent , Maddox Spradlin, Rhett Rigsby, Marshall Miller , Julian English and Tucker Ferguson. Coaches in the back are Daniel Grandfield, Nick Jones , Matt Trent and Ian Ferguson. Not pictured are coaches Shane Spradlin and Matt Madonna.

PHOTO COURTESY LAB PROPECT BASEBALL