



VESTED
 PARTNERS
 MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE



Robyn Smith Ellis, Attorney
www.vestedmfo.com
 540.389.6060

LEGAL

FINANCIAL

FIDUCIARY

INSURANCE

The Vinton
 

Messenger

Haley Has It For Less...
 For Vinton!



Haley Toyota
 1530 Courtland Road NE,
 Roanoke, VA 24012 • 540.345.1666
Haleyhasitforless.com
 Bring this coupon in for
\$100 Off Your Best Deal!
 Limit One Per Customer
 Expiration Date: JULY 31, 2026

Thursday, July 9, 2026 • Dogwood Capital of Virginia • Covering Vinton, Bonsack & Stewartsville
 (USPS-660-020)
 OurValley.org • \$1.50



From left, vocalist Crystal Williams, Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, and Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chair Tammy Shepherd celebrate the 4th of July in Vinton.



Children enjoy the foam pit at Vinton’s 4th of July celebration.

Huge crowd celebrates America 250 with spectacular fireworks show in Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Despite the heat and humidity and an earlier passing thunderstorm, the Town of Vinton celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in fine fashion on July 4.

Festivities got underway at the Vinton War Memorial at 6:30 with a welcome from Vinton Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins, who introduced the guest speakers, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chair Tammy Shepherd and Vinton Mayor Brad Grose.

“Today is a day for celebration of our nation, and, also, for communities like ours,” said Shepherd. “We appreciate the ordinary people of today who are doing extraordinary things. This includes our service members and veterans who defend our country, first responders who keep our

communities safe, teachers who inspire the next generation, the local businesses and organizations that make our community unique, and neighbors who volunteer their time to strengthen our community.

“It takes all of us working together for something greater than ourselves, and I am so blessed to call this community home. As we celebrate America’s 250th, thank you to the town for allowing Roanoke County to partner with you in your annual event.”

Mayor Grose thanked those in attendance who, “chose Vinton as your place to celebrate the founding of the greatest nation on Earth, the United States of America!”

He recognized Vinton Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Town Council members Keith Liles, Sabrina McCarty, and Mike Stovall, and thanked Roanoke County for partnering with the town for this year’s special celebration through the Virginia 250 initiative.

“On this special evening, let us all truly thank God for giving us a nation where, for 250 years, we have enjoyed the freedoms that He intended for all of mankind. Let us also remember that many brave American patriots have paid an enormous price for our freedoms, many have made the ultimate sacrifice. Here in Vinton, we honor all those who have served our great nation with this War Memorial building and the Vinton-Roanoke County Veterans Monument.

“Independence Day gives us an opportunity to express our appreciation for our God-given freedoms and a special time to focus on our principals as found in the Declaration of Independence. On July 4th, and in fact all year long, we can see many important symbols that remind us that we live in a great nation with many honest, hard-working citizens that believe in this



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Fireworks by Grucci at Vinton’s 4th of July celebration

See **Fireworks**, page 7

Vinton Town Council welcomes Officer St.Clair



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
From left, Deputy Police Chief Tim Lawless, Officer Josiah St.Clair, and Police Chief Fabricio Drumond

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drumond introduced the town’s newest police officer, Josiah St.Clair, to council members at their meeting on July 7.

St.Clair was born in Jamaica and raised in Bedford County. He is a graduate of Staunton River High School and studied Biblical Studies at Cedarville University in Ohio, where he was a Dean’s List student. During his first year of college, he answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Army, where he ultimately earned the rank of sergeant while serving as a Field Artillery Cannon crewmember—a combat arms position. During his military service, St.Clair defended the nation in the global war on terrorism, serving in combat operations in Syria during Operation Inherent Resolve.

“Throughout his hiring process, it became abundantly clear that Josiah served his country with unwavering pride, humility, and dedication to our nation and its safety,” Drumond said. “His military evaluations consistently highlighted the same qualities. He was recognized as mission-focused, technically proficient, a trusted leader,

an exceptional teacher and mentor, instrumental to mission success, resilient under pressure, and wholly committed to the welfare of those around him.

“One accomplishment, however, stood above all the others to me. Recognizing that his unit lacked a chaplain, St.Clair took it upon himself to establish a voluntary prayer and Bible study group for his fellow soldiers. He sought to improve morale, provide encouragement during difficult times and create an environment where others could find strength, purpose, and hope. He routinely took the time to care for fellow soldiers who were struggling and demonstrated genuine concern for their mental well-being far beyond what was expected of someone in his position, much of this during his off-duty time. This, for me, says everything.”

While continuing to serve in the Army National Guard, St.Clair attended Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy, graduating in October 2025, where he excelled academically, graduated with outstanding scores, and earned the distinction of Class Officer, a reflection of the respect and confidence his classmates and instructors placed in

See **Council**, page 7



The 2026 Four on the 4th race begins.

Over 500 compete in Four on the 4th race/walk in Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Over 500 runners and walkers showed up for the 15th annual Four on the 4th Race in Vinton. The course changed this year, stepping off from the Vinton Farmers’ Market instead of the Vinton War Memorial. The race got underway at 8 a.m., wound through the streets of downtown Vinton and

then back to the market area. The temperature when the race began was 78° (with 65% humidity), climbing to 88° at 10 a.m. (The Vinton First Aid Crew was on hand, if needed.)

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose welcomed the athletes to the town and thanked them for starting their 4th of July celebration in Vinton. Many more than usual

were dressed in patriotic garb for the occasion.

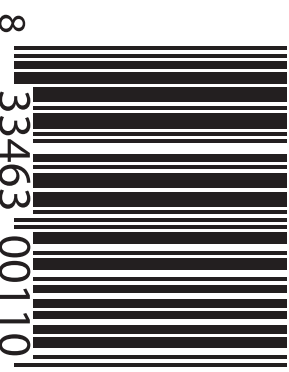
Amanda Dalton spoke on behalf of the Vinton Moose Lodge, which was one of the sponsors of the event benefiting the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia (BSCSWVA). Other sponsors included Fleet Feet and the Town of Vinton.

See **Four**, page 7



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Patriotism was on display in the Four on the 4th race.



8 33463 00110 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF VACC

Third Mingle at the Market concert coming up July 11

This week’s Mingle at the Market, sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, will showcase The Kings, the local band famous since the 1960s—”These Guys Play Everything.” Check out their playlist at <https://thekingsband.com/song-list/>.

The music begins at 7 p.m. Food trucks will include Bases Loaded (loaded potatoes, loaded hot dogs, loaded nachos, loaded fries, loaded Frito pies), Star City Sips (lemonade), Mrz. Sweet Cakez, and the Local Lemon.

Admission is \$7; children under 12 are admitted free. Bring your lawn chair and your ID.

The Mingles are held at the Vinton Farmers’ Market in downtown Vinton. In addition to great music and food, there is a Kids Zone powered by Dave’s Moonwalk sponsored by the Vinton Moose, and beverages by Blue Ridge Beverage.

The Chamber thanks the William Byrd football team for volunteering to set up the venue and take it back down after the concert ends. Volunteers from Defy Gravity work the gate and do drink ticket sales. 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.

Sponsors for the first Mingle included Stage Sponsors HomeTrust Bank

and Pok-e-Joe’s, the Shepherd Realty Group, Blue Ridge Beverage, PFG, the Salem RidgeYaks, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, McDonald’s, Davis H. Elliottt, Oakey’s, Pollard 107 South, Crooked Shoreline, Upward Financial Planning, the Vinton Moose Lodge #1121, ServPro, the Virginia Credit Union, the Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Star Valley Container, LLC, McCarthy Tire Service, Renewal by Andersen, LAMAR, Dirk Padgett Law, PLLC, Coastal Insurance Planning, the Ashley Wickstrom Lending Team, Lee Enterprises, Roanoke County Schools, Sun Solutions, EEC, MOI, My Mechanic, Vinton Roofing, One Stop Auto, and The Vinton Messenger.

There are two Mingle concerts each month, June through September. Chamber CEO/President Angie Chewning says the total number of Mingle concerts has now reached 122.

Great local bands continue throughout the 2026 season with Gasoline Alley, Five Dollar Shake, Supafly Five, Big Daddy Raye, and Solacoustix, and Chris Keaton and the Millennials.

Parking is no problem with the Walnut Avenue lot next door to the Market, Vinton Baptist, on downtown streets, and in the Municipal Building lot. Patrons enter the venue on Walnut Avenue.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

Public invited to meet new Roanoke County School Superintendent Dr. Jamie Soltis

Roanoke County Public Schools invites the community to meet Dr. Jamie Soltis, new superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools, at William Byrd High School on July 27 from 6 to 7 p.m. School Board members Tim Greenway (Vinton) and David Linden (Hollins) will join him.

Dr. Soltis will share his vision for RCPS and then participate in an open question and answer session.

Other community meetings include:

- July 20: Northside High School (6-7 p.m.) with Catawba District School Board member Brent Hudson and Hollins District School Board member David Linden

- July 21: Glenvar High School (6-7 p.m.) with Catawba district school board member, Brent Hudson

- July 30: Hidden Valley High School (7-8 p.m.) with Windsor Hills District School Board member, Dr. Ryan White

- August 6: Cave Spring High School (6-7 p.m.) with Cave Spring district school board member Shelley



PHOTO COURTESY RCPS

Dr. Jamie Soltis

Clemons

“I look forward to meeting with our students, staff, parents, and community members to talk about the future of Roanoke County Public Schools,” said Dr. Soltis. “We already have exceptional schools and staff. Now we’re looking to get even better, and I want to hear from those we serve as to how we can best do so.”

~ Roanoke County Public Schools

The Day Everything Changed

By Debbie Adams

Our family will always remember June 9, 2026, as the day our lives changed forever. On that day, my husband Danny was formally diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

ALS is a progressive motor neuron disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. It leads to muscle weakness and other symptoms that get worse over time. When motor neurons are damaged, they stop sending messages to the muscles, which then can’t function. There is no cure for ALS— as of yet.

In December 2025, Danny noticed a weakness in the muscles of his left arm (his dominant arm). Over the winter months, the loss of strength became progressively worse, along with slurring of his speech, difficulties in swallowing, coughing, and choking on certain foods and drinks, drooling, weight loss, and extreme fatigue.

In early spring, he experienced severe weakness in his left arm, some in his right, and almost completely garbled speech, which we took as signs of a stroke.

Our primary care physician in Vinton did some reflex and strength testing in her office and suggested some possibilities for what was occurring; she did not believe it was a stroke. She ordered an MRI of his brain and neck on an “urgent basis.” Once those results were in, she referred Danny to a neurosurgeon, who ordered another MRI and an EMG nerve conduction test.

The physician who conducted the EMG test spent quite a bit of time thoroughly explaining the results and suggested a “probable” ALS diagnosis. He arranged an appointment two days later with Carilion neurologist Dr. Lydia Sharp.

Basically, we were stunned when the doctor who conducted the EMG test mentioned ALS. That had been one of several possibilities mentioned by physicians Danny saw previously, but our thought was “surely not Danny.”

There wasn’t much to say over the next few days, waiting for the appointment with Dr. Sharp, other than praying she would find another cause for the issues he was experiencing, ones that could be resolved with surgery or medication.

During the appointment, Dr. Sharp reviewed the EMG results with Danny, did more testing in her office, and asked a series of questions



Debbie and Danny Adams

PHOTO BY KRISTIN LYNN

about whether he had served in the military, had Lyme disease, smoked, had experienced multiple concussions, had been exposed to environmental toxins at work or home, or had a family history of ALS (the disease is hereditary in 10% of ALS patients; the others are sporadic).

Her examination confirmed the initial ALS diagnosis. She told us how sorry she was about the diagnosis and asked what questions we had. At that point, we were dumbfounded and didn’t have many to ask, because essentially ALS was a mystery to us. However, she had a plan— which was what we needed. We didn’t need all the answers that first day, just a starting point.

Dr. Sharp ordered more lab work and referred him for occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy evaluations, and for the Multidisciplinary ALS Clinic which meets monthly at Carilion.

She suggested medications that would improve short-term survival and slow physical decline.

We did some basic research into ALS and discovered that it was first identified by a French neurologist back in 1869. It became more widely known in 1941, when it ended the career of baseball great Lou Gehrig, who played for the New York Yankees.

Gehrig was diagnosed with ALS on his 36th birthday after noticing several of the disease’s symptoms while playing— loss of strength, slipping, falling, and loss of coordination. Early signs of ALS often begin with muscle weakness, which can vary from person to person. Initially, these symptoms may be subtle

and easily overlooked and can affect one or more areas of the body.

Shortly after his diagnosis, Gehrig retired from baseball.

In recent years, ALS has become associated with Dr. Stephen Hawking, a theoretical physicist, cosmologist (one who studies the universe), and author, who survived for over 50 years with the disease.

ALS doesn’t usually affect the senses of seeing or hearing. It also doesn’t affect mental functioning in most cases. It’s not contagious. It is quite rare.

Since Danny’s diagnosis a month ago, we still don’t talk much about ALS. We are focused on managing or reducing the symptoms as much as possible, determining which foods are easiest to swallow, the most nutritious foods he can tolerate to stabilize his weight, how to place things on a level he can reach, how to put on a shirt, how to open bottles.

One nagging question at this point has been, “How will we pay for the drugs and treatments; what will the insurance cover?”

The progression of the disease seems to be different for each person, so we don’t really know what the future might be. We are just trying to live as normally as possible. Danny has always been an “It is what it is guy,” not a “Why me?” person, but this is hard. One of our hopes has become to raise awareness so that when we say Danny has ALS, people don’t ask, “What’s that?”

In future articles, we’ll share what we’re learning about the disease, the resources available to families, and the people in our community whose lives have also been touched by ALS.

What Makes Lotz The Better Choice

Our **“State of the Art” Audio/Video** equipmemt allows us to **record** and **webcast** every Chapel service and uploads to our website so that everyone, no matter their location, has the opportunity to view the service. Another service that makes us

The Better Choice

“Unmatched Service Excellence”

**305 East Washington Avenue,
Vinton, VA 24179
540-343-4986**

Kyle Emerich, Managing Partner

Lotz will match or beat any direct competitors price, guaranteed

VINTON HISTORY

PHOTO BY LEVI WHITCOMB

Crates of Etna Springs water bottled in Vinton

By Vinton History Museum Volunteer Levi Whitcomb

Over many years, the Vinton area has progressed from a small settlement to the bustling town as we know it today. However, throughout its chartered and unchartered history, Vinton has been propelled forward by its influential inhabitants. One such company that characterized Vinton was the Virginia Etna Springs Bottling Co., which produced quality drinks right here in town.

Throughout the company’s 58-year history from 1896 to 1954, it became known throughout the United States and even in Europe for its quality drinks of Lithia Spring Water, Specialty Ginger Ale, and other carbonated drinks flavored with a variety of fruits. Although operating out of its location where locals visited during trips to and from Roanoke, the business expanded to have offices in New York and New

See **History**, page 7

Long John Silver’s reopens after rebuild

The long-awaited Long John Silver’s restaurant has reopened at 801 Hardy Road in Vinton after months of construction. The former building was completely demolished and then rebuilt, and now reopened. Lines have been roped around the building ever since. Business hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. until midnight.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report



Long John Silver’s is back.

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY PARKS

Tavern Stage Music Series continues at Explore Park Friday

The fifth installment of the Tavern Stage Music Series is Friday, July 10, at Explore Park featuring Jack Marion, whose sound brings a youthful exuberance to modern country music. The Twin Creeks Brewpub lawn will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., with live music from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The complete 2026 schedule

and band listings are as follows:

- July 10 – Jack Marion
- July 24 – Creedence Clearwater Recital
- August 7 – The Brothers Young
- August 21 – Phat Anchovies

Admission is free and visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or

blanket to enjoy the sounds of summer on the Twin Creeks Brewpub lawn. Food and beverage options will be available on-site at Twin Creeks Brewpub. Visit www.RoanokeCountyParks.com/TavernStage or call (540) 387-6078, Ext. 0 for event details.

~Submitted by Roanoke County Parks

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

By Angie Chewing

Happy July! “Thank you” everyone for such an incredible 4th of July celebration throughout our town. It always gives me a sense of pride to drive through our downtown and see all the flags along the sidewalks. Thank you, Town of Vinton and Public Works for always making that happen on such important days. Many thanks to the town staff and, again, Public Works for pulling off

yet another incredible 4th celebration at the Vinton War Memorial. It truly takes everyone to make this happen in a way that seems effortless and seamless. Job very well done! I also want to thank all the businesses that also joined in the celebration, hosting events at their locations as well. Thank you for making our town welcoming and inviting. And thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our country’s 250th in the Town of Vinton.

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; cmpe2verizon.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

Families Deserve Respect

Read Numbers 1:1 through 2:34

In our fragmented families today, it is difficult to understand the closeness of Israelite families. They worked together, lived in the same area, and had tribal leaders who counseled them, taught them God’s Law, and arbitrated their disputes. God appointed a leader from each tribe to help Moses count the men of his tribe. God also told them where to arrange their tents so each tribe lived together. By living so closely together, they must have learned a great deal about getting along with one another.

So the Israelites did every

thing the Lord commanded Moses; that is the way they encamped under their standards, and that is the way they set out, each of them with their clan and family (Numbers 2:34).

In today’s society, respect is often a missing ingredient in families. Often, families intentionally live a distance from each other so they don’t have to spend much time together. Maybe we should return to the Israelite model and learn to appreciate and depend on one another more.

Thought for Today: The family structure is important to God.

Quicklook: Numbers 2:32–34

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

Subscribe to The Vinton Messenger today!

Just Call 473-2741 or 389-9355

www.VintonMessenger.com

‘Into the Woods’ opens tonight at Attic Productions

Attic Productions will present the Tony Award-winning musical “Into the Woods,” featuring music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by James Lapine, July 9-26. A large local cast has worked throughout the summer to bring this production to life. It is directed by Kerry Williams, with musical direction by Jessica Mansfield and choreography by Mandy Masching. The show will be presented at Attic’s D. Geraldine Lawson Performing Arts Center, 7490 Roanoke Road, Fincastle. Thursday and Friday performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$20. Tickets for students 18 and under, as well as groups of 10 or more,

are \$15 when paid by cash or check at the box office. Tickets may be purchased online at www.atticproductions.info. For questions or assistance with ticket purchases, call the box office at 540-473-1001. Volunteers will staff the

box office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. during the run of the show. At other times, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

See **Attic**, page 7

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

This is a great recipe, especially during blackberry season. Sometimes I just make the sauce and put it over ice cream.

Ingredients:
1/4 cup margarine
1 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
3 egg yolks
1/2 cup fresh blackberries
1 and 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/2 tsp. baking soda
Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add salt and egg yolks. Combine soda and buttermilk. Add flour and buttermilk mixture alternately. Beat well after each addition. Fold in berries. Spoon into greased 9-inch square pan. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes. Cut into squares and top with blackberry

sauce.

Blackberry Sauce Ingredients:

2/3 cup margarine
3 Tbsp. flour
1 and 1/4 cups sugar
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
2 cups fresh blackberries
1/4 cup water
Dash of salt
Combine butter and flour in saucepan. Add sugar, nutmeg, salt, water, and blackberries. Cover and cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thickened. Makes 3 cups. Spoon over blackberry pudding or even ice cream.

The Vinton
Messenger

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

Submissions: dadams@ourvalley.org
To subscribe: (540) 473-2741

Michael Showell, *Publisher*.....
Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*.....aboyd@ourvalley.org
Matt de Simone, *Editor*.....fincastle.editor@ourvalley.org
Debbie Adams, *Staff Writer*.....dadams@ourvalley.org
Brian Hoffman, *Sports Editor*bhoffman@ourvalley.org
Betty Jo Barger, *Copy Editor*fincastle@ourvalley.org
Tucker Frye, *Advertising*tfrye@mainstreetnewspapers.com

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



From the Pulpit

Prayer Is Our First Response

By Pastor Bryan Crouch

Too often, prayer becomes our last resort instead of our first response. We plan, strategize, worry, and attempt to fix what feels urgent—then pray if everything else fails. Yet Scripture points us in a different direction. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6, NIV)

Prayer is not weakness; it is dependence. It acknowledges that the Kingdom of God does not advance by human strength alone, but by divine power. When believers pray first, we align ourselves with heaven before engaging the world. The power of prayer is not in eloquent words. It is in the One who hears them. When a church prays, unity deepens. When families pray, peace settles in. When individuals pray, perspective

shifts. Anxiety loses its grip because sovereignty gains its focus. If our ultimate calling is to further the Kingdom of God, then prayer must be central, not occasional. Every decision bathed in prayer becomes an opportunity for God’s will to override our own. Prayer is not passive. It is active participation in what God is already doing. And when believers kneel, the Kingdom moves forward.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		
13								14						15	
16				17				18					19		
20			21				22				23		24		
25						26				27		28			
29					30				31		32		33		
			34	35					36		37				
38	39										40				
41						42				43					
44					45		46			47			48	49	50
51				52		53		54				55			
56					57		58					59			
60				61		62					63			64	
65			66										68		
	69														

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mended
7. Hymns
13. Commercial transport of goods
14. Poked holes in the ground
16. They precede C
17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
19. Larry and Curly's pal
20. Injured
22. Popular type of dance
23. Moon crater
25. American state
26. Places to lock valuables
28. Stalk that supports the capsule
29. Keyboard key
30. ___ death do us part
31. A type of cage
33. A place to sleep
34. Annual music awards show

36. Made over
38. Hard, stony substance
40. Incantations
41. Long-legged, wading bird
43. Breathe noisily
44. Congressman
45. Rip off
47. Golf score
48. Popular pickup truck
51. Where infants sleep
53. Music term
55. Small opening in a surface
56. Musical term meaning "very"
58. Soviet Socialist Republic
59. Treats with powder
60. Email subject line feature
61. A British lawyer
64. Expression of laughter

65. Farmer's calendar
67. Seeds used as food
69. Eurasian shrubs
70. Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

1. Hard things to kick
2. Collective of countries
3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet
4. One-time Alabama running back Eddie
5. One's sense of self-esteem
6. Of the teeth
7. Treat with care
8. Type of whale
9. Curved structure
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
12. Smallest interval in western music
13. Netherlands seat of government
15. Gives to charitably
18. Lout
21. Pastas

24. Release from restrictions
26. Female sibling
27. Title of respect
30. Silver coins
32. Region in India
35. Partner to cheese
37. Dark or dusky
38. Pacific Northwest tree
39. Exaggerate
42. Toddler
43. Touch lightly
46. Fundamentals
47. Jeopardies
49. Curved structures
50. Isolated, flat-topped hills
52. Forming the bottom layer
54. Reciprocal of sine
55. Genus of Old World birds
57. New York college
59. Cloak
62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
63. Vietnamese offensive
66. "The Great Lakes State"
68. "___, myself and I"

AARP Scam Alert: Watch for credit card skimming

With fuel pumps and ATMs as frequent targets, a surge of skimming devices is threatening consumers. Criminals attach sophisticated skimmers directly over legitimate card slots or splice them into internal wiring to secretly record your financial data. Many modern skimming devices closely resemble real hardware, making them difficult to detect at first glance. Vulnerable targets include standalone ATMs, unattended retail checkout lines, and card terminals located in busy tourist areas. The next time you fill your tank or use a card terminal, inspect the machine closely for loose, bent, crooked, or scratched components. Pull firmly on the card slot or wiggle the keypad before inserting your card. If anything feels loose or altered, do not use it and notify an employee immediately. To help stay safe, choose tap-to-pay options or digital wallets over physical insertion. Use credit cards for stronger fraud protections. Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to a fraud specialist about what to do next.

- AARP

SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS DELMARVA SHOREBIRDS



JULY 17th 6:35 PM

Faith and Family Night

JULY 18th 6:35 PM

Lilo and Stitch Night

JULY 19th 4:05 PM

Bark in the Park

VS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS

JULY 21st 6:35 PM Two for 1 Tuesday

JULY 22nd 6:35 PM

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY

Call Tucker Frye
at (540) 309-9485
or email
tfrye@ourvalley.org
to advertise in this space.

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Call (540) 389-9355

GOOD SELECTION OF RIMS! COME CHECK OUT OUR PRICES!



Price is Right

Auto Parts + Supplies

We sell used cars, bedliners, wheels, truck covers & boxes. Plus many other new & used parts - for every make of car!

IN STOCK NOW

New Headlights • New Mirrors • Wheels and Tires
And all your auto part needs!

Robert Cox
341 Walnut Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179

Sonny Arrington
800-982-8778
Phone: (540) 982-8777

VintonMessenger.com



Marketplace



ourvalley.org



Yard Sale

Yard Sale
Saturday July 11
7am to 3pm
Household, clothes, tools etc.
915 Norbourne Ave
Vinton

Indoor Yard/Estate Sale
Friday and Saturday
July 10th and 11th
9 am to 4 pm
2200 Irish Circle Salem
Household goods, women's
2x+ clothing, books,
furniture, Christmas
decorations, appliances,
and more!

Help Wanted

Application Engineer sought by Kollmorgen Corporation,
reporting to headquarters in Radford, VA to support mechanical engg automation systems. Telecommuting from anywhere in the U.S. permitted up to 5 days per week. Travel to various & unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. up to 20% of the time. Annual Salary: \$129,293/yr. Reqs a Bachelor's deg in Mechanical Engg, Electrical Engg, Mechatronics Engg, or related field plus 4 yrs of automation systems exp. Must have at least 4 yrs of exp in each of the following: Installing, testing, & troubleshooting automation components; Creating assembly & layout drawings, dsgn documentation, & Bill of Materials ("BOM") using CAD software; Performing field installations of prototype systems & training customer resources on the operation of the eqpmt; Preparing product proposals including technical descriptions; Providing technical training on automation systems; & supporting sales engg. Apply online using the posted job opening at: <https://regalrexnord.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Careers> or email your resume to humanresources@regalrexnord.com. Ref job # 00548.

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given
to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on July 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Community Church Inc, property owner and Cornerstone Classical Academy, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for an Educational Facility, Primary/Secondary, on the property located at 1923 East Main Street (Tax Map #78-1-14).

2. Consider the request of Robertson Family Revocable Trust, property owner and Amer Alsayadi, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a retail sales, smoke shop, on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).

3. Consider the request of The Preston Place Preservation Foundation Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow an assembly hall, nonresidential uses in an accessory structure, and nonresidential uses out of doors, and a Use Not Provided for Permit for outdoor gatherings of less than 500 people on the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map #138-2-7).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.CL26-1177
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant, v.
RUBY C. BONHAM, *et al*, Respondents.
The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No.064.01-03-17.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Ruby C. Bonham and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Ruby C. Bonham, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 14, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land. It is further ORDERED, pursuant to VA. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this order of Publication be published once a week for FOUR successive weeks in the *Salem Times Register*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia. Entered this 18th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
VSB#38650
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Virginia 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540)772-0126
Email: ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No.CL26-1091
VIRGINIA; IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, Complainant, vs.
CHARLIE L. PHELPS, a/k/a CHARLES L. PHELPS, *et al* Respondents.
TO; THE RESPONDENTS; The object of this suit is to: enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 087.11-03-25.00-0000.
An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Charlie L. Phelps, a/k/a Charles L. Phelps, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 1, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land. IT is further ORDERED, pursuant to Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the *Salem Times Register*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in county of Roanoke, Virginia. Entered this 9th day of June, 2026.
Honorable James R. Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
(VSB #38650)
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C
Roanoke Va 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail: ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

ADVERTISE!
389-9355

Legals - City of Salem

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1514 Golfside Avenue NW, Roanoke, VA 24017 Tax Map: 2461312

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated December 15, 2023, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, as Instrument No. 230010160, the Trustee will offer the above-described property for sale to the highest bidder at public auction on July 23, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke City Circuit Court, 315 W. Church Ave, Roanoke, VA 24010.

All that certain lot or parcel of land, lying and being in the City of Roanoke, Commonwealth of Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Lot Twelve (12), Block Five (5), according to the map of Carol Heights dated February 21, 1955, prepared by David Dick, State Engineer & Surveyor, a copy of which is recorded in the Clerks' Office of Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, in Map Book 1, Page 55.

Date of Sale: July 23, 2026 at 9:00am, at the Roanoke City Circuit Court, 315 W. Church Ave, Roanoke, VA 24010.

Terms: CASH; a deposit in the form of certified funds in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower. Settlement within thirty (30) days of date of sale. Time is of the essence.

OPTIONS:
1. All costs of conveyance, examination of title, recording charges, etc. will be at cost of purchaser with the exception of the grantor's tax. Neither the Trustee nor any other party guarantees or covenants to deliver or in any way to obtain possession of the premises for any third-party purchaser.

2. The Trustee reserves the right to reject all bids, extend the time to receive bids or withdraw the property from sale at any time. In addition, should the Trustee be unable, for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title, the successful bidder's sole remedy in law or equity shall be the return of his deposit. Upon refund of the deposit, the sale shall be void and of no effect.

Additional terms may be announced at the time of the sale. The Trustee will convey the above-described property to the purchaser(s) by Special Warranty deed at settlement and makes no additional representations or warranties of any kind regarding the title to said property.

John K. Prillaman, Esq. Trustee
For Information Contact: John K. Prillaman, Esq. OPN Law, PLC
3140 Chaparral Drive, #200-C
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
(540) 725-8194

Public Notification:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company proposes to construct two 60-foot positive train control towers with 10-foot antennas (max height 70'). The towers are proposed on the railroad right-of-way. Tower #71095 will be located at railroad mile post 261.1, in Roanoke, Virginia, Latitude 37.27033344/Longitude -79.99903731. Tower #71099 will be located at railroad mile post 261.7 in Roanoke, Virginia, Latitude 37.27257934/Longitude -80.01055476. This notice is being published in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR Pt. 1, Appx. C, § V.C. and 47 CFR § 1.1307) implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. CHA on behalf of our client invites comments from any interested party regarding the potential effects of the project on historic properties. Comments may be sent to Nicole Frazer, CHA, nfrazer@chasolutions.com, 3 Winners Circle, Suite 100, Albany, NY, 12205. Comments must be received within 30 days of the published date.

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, July 27, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the Board Room in the Montgomery County Government Center located at 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, in order to hear citizens comments on a proposed ordinance establishing a tax at the rate of \$1.00 per One Hundred Dollars of assessed value for a separate classification for tangible personal property taxation for motor vehicles owned or leased by certain members of a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department in the County of Montgomery, Virginia.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jeffrey T. and Jamie M. Zoellner, Applicants, and Ray D. Craggett Trust, c/o Anna C. Rogers, Trustee, Property Owner, to allow a Planned Housing Development consisting of one Two-Family Dwelling on property located at 185 New Street NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526 - ((A)) - 238; (Parcel ID 004144), and consisting of approximately of 0.465 acres. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Samuel Bishop, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow residential use in the General Business (B-3) zoning district on property located at 465 Stuart Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 527-((3))-50A and 527-((3))-49B; (Parcel ID 001756 and 001755), and consisting of approximately 0.18 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org or, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 3426 MOUNT ZION ROAD, BLACKSBURG, VA 24060.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 11, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$177,800.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No.2005002842. 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

Legals - Montgomery County

alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 3, 2026, at 12:45 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT A POINT, A ROD SET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MT. ZION ROAD (VA. RTE. 655), CORNER TO PROPERTY OF RALPH L. AND THERESA P. RUPERT; THENCE LEAVING MT. ZION ROAD AND WITH THE RUPERT LINE, N. 00° 24' 13" E. 284.49 FEET TO A POINT, AN EXISTING ROD FOUND AND CORNER TO THE PROPERTY OF GLEN E. AND DENISE G. PRICE; THENCE LEAVING RUPERT AND WITH THE PRICE LINE, S. 88° 21' 17" E. 76.84 FEET TO A ROD FOUND AT AN ANGLE POINT; THENCE CONTINUING WITH PRICE, S. 01° 31' 00" E. 191.00 FEET TO A ROD SET AT AN ANGLE POINT; THENCE STILL CONTINUING WITH PRICE, S. 64° 26' 19" E. 33.48 FEET TO A POINT, A ROD SET CORNER TO THE PROPERTY OF ROY B. MILLER, JR. AND DONNA C. MILLER; THENCE LEAVING PRICE AND WITH THE MILLER LINE, S. 15° 23' 00" W. 108.00 FEET TO A POINT, A ROD SET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MT. ZION ROAD (VA. RTE. 655); THENCE LEAVING MILLER AND WITH MT. ZION ROAD, N. 72° 15' 48" W. 79.15 FEET TO A ROD FOUND ON SAME; THENCE CONTINUING WITH SAID ROAD, N. 72° 45' 29" W. 10.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND BEING ALL OF THAT PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY BELONGING TO JAMES PATRICK ELLIOTT, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY AND BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2005, PREPARED BY JOHN R. CHRISTMAN, LAND SURVEYOR, A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK PAGE 25, PAGE 81. 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.alldridgepite.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.alldridgepite.com. VA-353027-3.



THE CLASSIFIEDS
Where the Deals Are!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS
A T T N . 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

NO RESERVE AUCTION! Mobjack Tavern & Restaurant. Micro Brewing, Kitchen & Bar Equipment, and More! July 14, 10am. Online Only. Hayes, Va. Bid at motleysindustrial.com. VAAL#16/NCAL#5914. HOME IMPROVEMENT

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line

installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$89.00 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>

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-262-5564

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-877-591-9950



*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13VH1096000

GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply





HELLO SUNSHINE

Goodbye Clogged Gutters

Upgrade your gutters this summer! LeafFilter blocks out common debris.

Save up to*

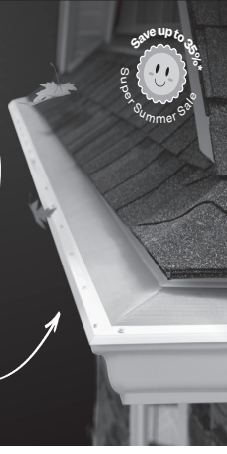
35% Off

Promo code: 285

+ Free gutter inspection, quote good for 1 year

Call 1-877-614-6667

*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. AR 96920026, AZ R00 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC0676203, DC 420222E-H1, FL C60066678, IA C127230, ID R0E-6904, LA 656644, MA 212392, MD MHIC112261, NC H04848, MI 262300331, MN 262300330, NE 262300329, NH 262300328, NJ 262300326, NM 262300316, NV 262300315, NY 262300314, OH 262300313, OK 262300312, OR 262300311, PA 262300310, RI 262300309, SC 262300308, SD 262300307, TN 262300306, TX 262300305, UT 262300304, VA 262300303, VT 262300302, WA 262300301, WI 262300300, WY 262300299





SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

Call 1-844-746-2332 now to **SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

- Instant shade at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.



BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY



Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
 Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356
 *Physical Exams * X-ray Services
 * Laboratory Services * Acute Care
 *Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING! **STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS**

Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
 Licensed & Insured
 carpetroanoke.com



540 404-9598
 1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
 WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM



Residential and Commercial Construction

540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083

www.southerntracellc.com

EADES & LOWER INSURANCE 5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100 P.O. Box 21483 Roanoke, VA 24018



SHERRI STINETTE HOLT INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124
 Fax (540) 981-1266
 sherri@eadesandlower.com
 www.eadesandlower.com



AUTO | HOME
 BUSINESS | LIFE

If you believe
 in your business
 and want to
 build it...

ADVERTISE!

Place your ad here,
 call 540-389-9355



Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®

540.353.7173 cell
 540.989.4555 office
 tbenson@mkbrealtors.com



Sunflooring Inc. STEVE SMITH

With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors,
 Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring,
 Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile,
 Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

540-556-3100



To place
 your ad here,
 call 540-389-9355



Place your ad
 here, call
540-389-9355



Lisa Martin, REALTOR®

Serving the industry for 30+ years
 Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains

Premier, REALTORS

(540) 597-0480
 Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
 1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
 Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
 HomeServices

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



Colonial Title and Settlement

Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley
 communities with all your real estate needs
 for residential, commercial, construction with
 MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate
 Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

*Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi
 for your next move!*

540-966-1260

1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

ADVERTISE HERE!

To place your ad, call 540-389-9355



**The best place to
 find it, sell it,
 buy it, &
 announce it.**



**AUTOMOBILES
FOR SALE**



**SITUATIONS
WANTED**



**BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES**



**APARTMENTS
FOR RENT**



**GARAGE
SALES**



**HOMES
FOR SALE**

To place your ad, call 389-9355

Attic

from page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATTIC PRODUCTIONS

Cameron Wimbish as Jack is learning a hard lesson from his mother, played by Carolyn Alvarez.

The story follows a baker and his wife, who long to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King’s Festival; and Jack, who hopes his cow will give milk. When the baker and his wife discover that a witch’s curse has kept them from having a child, they set out to break the spell. Wishes are granted, but the consequences of their choices soon return with disastrous results.

This production is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

- Attic Productions

Council

from page 1

him. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Samantha.

“We have every confidence that Officer St.Clair will serve our citizens with the same integrity, compassion, and servant’s heart that have defined his life thus far,” the chief said.

Next on council’s agenda was an update on six corridor improvements and greenway projects by Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan and Asst. Director Nathan McClung.

- Walnut Avenue Corridor Improvements–Phase 3. This project will construct approximately 1,600 linear feet of new sidewalk on the north side of Walnut Avenue and approximately 700 linear feet of new sidewalk on the south side. This includes pavement markings for 1,600 feet of bike lanes and the installation of a new crosswalk at 2nd Street. This SMART SCALE-funded project is being administered by VDOT at an estimated total cost of \$7.7 million. It includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way property and

easement acquisition, and utility relocation. The project is expected to be advertised for bids on October 13, 2026, with construction expected to be completed in Fall 2027.

- Dogwood Boulevard and Hardy Road Roundabout. The purpose of this project is to enhance safety, increase intersection capacity, and improve traffic flow by replacing the existing signalized intersection at Dogwood Blvd. (formerly Bypass Road) and Hardy Road with a single-lane roundabout featuring three slip lanes. It also includes relocating the entrance to the bank property, constructing a new bank exit onto Roop Street, installing crosswalks with pedestrian refuge islands on Dogwood Blvd. and Hardy Road, and constructing new sidewalk connections to existing pedestrian facilities. During construction, Dogwood Blvd. traffic which currently turns left onto Hardy Road will be detoured for four to six months. In 2023, average daily traffic volume at the intersection was approximately 15,400

vehicles on Dogwood Blvd. and 12,200 vehicles on Hardy Road. This is a SMART SCALE project, administered by VDOT. Total cost will be approximately \$14.1 million. A public hearing was held in May 2025. Construction is expected to begin in October 2027 and be completed in Fall 2029.

- Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3 Preliminary Engineering Study. This project will provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodation from the Glade Creek Phase 2 trailhead parking at Gus Nicks Blvd. to Vinyard Park. It is being administered by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC). RK&K is the project consultant. Funding for this project is provided through the Surface Transportation Block Grant. The cost is estimated at \$275,000.

- Route 24 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. This project includes 14 pedestrian crossing improvements, including five locations at unsignalized intersections and three

Trout benefit at Thrasher’s Pond

A “Trout Rodeo” to benefit Mike Sensabaugh to help with medical bills will be held Saturday, July 25, at Thrasher’s Pond, 2304 Cedar Lane, Buchanan. Sensabaugh is an active member of the Moose.

A \$25 donation will include: catch up to five trout (they will be cleaned and bagged), and a hot dog meal (with all the fixings) for the whole family. It starts at 10 a.m. with the meal at noon and ends at 3 p.m.

Registration will be taken at the gate.

Goody bags will be given out to all kids through age 10. Other activities include wagon rides, face painting, a Chinese auction with loads of prizes, and a gun raffle.

The event is held in memory of Steve Thrasher and organizers thank the Thrasher family for the use of the pond.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

VintonMessenger.com

History

from page 2

Orleans.

Two generations of the Peck family and a friend, William M. Miles, operated the business throughout its time. At its peak, it bottled 800 cases a day and employed 10-13 workers. Their spring water also became a staple and was served in the dining cars of Norfolk & Western Railway, where one of the proudest moments of the company was having President Grover Cleveland give testimony to its good flavor.

Closing in 1954, the owners never left the recipe for their acclaimed Specialty Ginger Ale and are now solidified in the memory of Vinton’s development. Several glass bottles of varying sizes, along with vintage crates, are on display at the Vinton History Museum, 210 E Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton.



PHOTO BY LEVI WHITCOMB

Artifacts from Etna Springs—one of its glass bottles

Fireworks

from page 1

country and its greatness.

“Perhaps one of our most recognized symbols is the flag of these United States of America. Like our country, there have been some changes to our flag, obviously the number of stars that represent each of the states. But some things have not changed, namely the 13 stripes representing the original 13 colonies. Most importantly, what has not changed are the core values that our flag has always represented, such as God-given freedoms, individual rights, justice, equality, and opportunity.

“Our flag has seen us through many challenges, such as wars and attacks from outside (9/11 and Pearl Harbor, just to name two). Our flag has seen us nearly tear ourselves apart during the Civil War and in many civil conflicts since. Our flag has seen severe economic downturns such as the Great Depression and numerous recessions—and yet our flag still stands.

“Our flag has seen us make strides in health, education, civil rights, justice, and opportunities for everyone to have a better quality of life. Although we still have challenges in all these areas, through it all, the good and the bad, our flag still stands!

“The American flag, and the freedoms it represents for everyone, has flown proudly around the world for 250 years. There are some in this world who do not like our flag and would destroy it and all

that it represents. That cannot happen!

“The hope for our flag to survive, the only hope, is in God! Our prayer is that this flag will always fly over this great nation and forever in our hearts! May God bless you and my God bless America!”

Crystal Williams, assistant to the Salem city manager, once again amazed the crowd with her rendition of the national anthem.

Vinton’s celebration of the Fourth included music by DJ Flex, a foam pit and patriotic swag for the children, and food and drink vendors, followed by fireworks by Grucci, which has been creating pyrotechnic displays since 1850.

This year’s celebration may have been the largest ever, despite ongoing renovations at the War Memorial building. Town Manager Pete Peters said, “It was the largest that I have ever seen in my time with the town [his ninth] as well as my many years attending as a kid. I could easily say more than 4,000 at the War Memorial based on the roughly two-acre lawn, and another 1,000 in the road itself– and not counting the folks who watched the fireworks display from downtown, their homes, or unofficial viewing areas such as Herman L. Horn and Mt. View Cemetery.”

Whatever the numbers, Vinton outdid itself once again on the Fourth of July 2026.

Four

from page 1

The Moose Lodge is a fraternal and service organization with over 900,000 members and 1,300 Lodges across the United States and Canada. The Moose are dedicated to caring for children and seniors, bringing communities together, and celebrating life.

If you have ever driven by the Vinton Moose Lodge on Washington Avenue and wondered what exactly do the over 700 local Moose do? They help provide education and a family environment for underprivileged children at Mooseheart in Illinois; they help provide for the needs of their seniors at Moosehaven in Florida; and at the local level they are engaged in community service and serving those in need. In 2025, the Vinton Moose gave \$250,000 to charity, with a good portion remaining local.

When the Moose were asked to donate to the BGCSWVA, they found that their sponsorship was a perfect fit because of their mission of caring for children. This year’s event was especially meaningful as the community came together on July 4 to celebrate America’s 250th birthday while supporting youth across Southwest Virginia. The BGCSWVA

serve 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 Four on the 4th 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.

Registration was open to all ages, although there was a separate Kids Fun Run half-mile in length after the regular race. Each child received a participation medal at the finish line.

A patriotic party and awards ceremony followed the race with awards for the “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 were presented to the top three males and females in each age group.

“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

Avenue right-of-way to adjacent parcels owned by the Lafferty Family, LLC, and Jeffrey and Amy Belcher, in conjunction with development of the Walnut Avenue Corridor Improvements Project Phase 3. Action will be taken at a later date.

After another public hearing, council adopted an ordinance to vacate, abandon, and discontinue any right, title, or interest the town may have in a 10-foot wide, 115-foot-long, platted, but undeveloped, alley that extends from East Cleveland near its intersection with Pine Street and bisects the parcel identified as 528 East Cleveland Avenue. A major portion of this undeveloped alley runs through the middle of the existing structure which currently contains a commercial space and seven residential units, redeveloped by CMART Holdings, LLC. The town was aware of the alley before and during the redevelopment of the property and it was the intention of staff to request this vacation/abandonment. This action allows for future deed, title, and land research and loan processes to not become problematic or cumbersome. This was the former Cleveland Mart and is now Cleveland Commons.

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.”

Members of the Voices of Appalachia from across the New River Valley performed the national anthem; then Mayor Grose fired the starting gun to get the race underway.

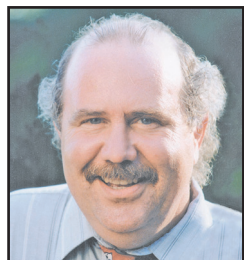
Coming in first was Joseph Darwin, age 33, of Roanoke who completed the race in 19 minutes, 57 seconds; second, Connor Kinkema, age 26, of Salem (20:20:2) and third, Spencer Thacker, age 19, of Roanoke (20:35:0).

First place female honors went to Emma Rogers of Williamsburg, age 26, with a time of 22:34:6. A 7-year-old girl from Boones Mill completed the course in 1:15:53.7, while a 6-year-old boy from Roanoke finished in 49:42:8.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
H	E	A	L	E	D	P	S	A	L	M	S	
H	A	U	L	A	G	E	A	E	R	A	T	E
A	B	E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	S	M	O
G	I	M	P	Y	T	A	P	H	E	D	I	N
U	T	A	H	S	A	F	E	S	S	E	T	A
E	S	C	T	I	L	R	I	B	C	O	T	
	A	M	A	S				R	E	D	O	N
C	O	R	A	L						R	U	N
A	V	O	C	E	T				P	A	N	T
S	E	N	R	O	B		P	A	R		R	A
C	R	I	B		T	A	C	E	T		P	O
C	R	I	S	A	I	S	S	R		T	A	L
R	E	S	S	O	L	I	C	I	T	O	R	H
A	L	M	A	N	A	C				L	E	G
L	I	L	A	C	S		S	T	A	S	E	S

SPORTS

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



Brian Hoffman

Philadelphia hosted the MLB all-star game for the Bicentennial season, will do so again for 250 celebration

The year was 1976, the Bicentennial celebration of the United States of America. It was 50 years ago but, to me, it seems like yesterday.

You probably have to be at least 60 years old if you remember anything about it. There was lots of patriotic stuff going on, and it was a healing time in America after Richard Nixon resigned from office in August of 1974. If you listen to Vice President J.D. Vance that wasn't a big deal, but I lived through it and, believe me, it was a big deal.

Gerald Ford was president in 1976, having taken over after Nixon resigned. To this day he's the only president who was not elected to either the presidency or vice president position, having taken over as Nixon's VP after the resignation of Spiro Agnew. And God Bless You if you remember him.

Americans celebrated the Bicentennial with parades, historical reenactments and the famous Operation Sail with tall ships gathering in New York, much like the event last Saturday. On TV we enjoyed "Bicentennial Minutes," with celebrities describing big events in our country's history during breaks in popular television shows of the day like All in the Family, Happy Days, Charles' Angels and M*A*S*H.

Of course, there was a lot of action in cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia that were front and center during the American Revolution. Philadelphia hosted many Bicentennial events, not the least of which was the 1976 Major League Baseball All-Star game.

I had already been working for the paper for two years in the summer of '76, having transplanted from southeast Pennsylvania by way of Roanoke College. It was a big deal for Philadelphia to host the All-Star game, much like it will be next Tuesday, and it was special to me having been a Phillies fan since I was seven years old.

This was the third time the all-star game was played in Philadelphia, and the first at Veterans Stadium. "The Vet" was a subject of ridicule in its later years with a hard artificial playing field, much like a patio with what amounted to a large green doormat covering the surface. It was one of those round "cookie cutter" ballparks, just like ones in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Kansas City and most ballparks not named Wrigley Field, Yankee Stadium or Fenway Park. It wasn't until Baltimore's Camden Yards opened did our modern day palaces start to replace the concrete monstrosities.

However, in 1976 I thought the Vet was the most luxurious ballpark I'd ever seen. Having grown up going to games at Connie Mack Stadium with hard wooden seats, benches in the bleachers and a constant stench of stale beer, Veterans Stadium was a comfortable, enjoyable place to watch a game.

It was all decked out in '76. Bunting, I love bunting, hung from the concourse and upper deck and the green outfield fence was painted with "Happy Birthday America" in big red, white and blue letters. It was a fitting place for the game in our Bicentennial year and some of the greatest in the game participated. The National League had stars like Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, Johnny Bench, Tom Seaver and hometown hero Mike Schmidt. The American League roster included Rod Carew, George Brett, Carl Yastrzemski, Catfish Hunter and the late Thurman Munson.

Both rosters were chocked with future Hall of Famers, but ironically the two starting pitchers would only walk the streets of Cooperstown as visitors. Randy Jones would start for the National League and Mark "The Bird" Fidrych was the American League starter.

Jones was off to a great start for the Padres that season, his fourth in the big leagues. He ended up winning 22 games in 1976 with a 2.75 ERA



but in the next six years he never had a winning record, ending his career with a 100-123 overall mark. Jones died in 2025 at age 75.

Fidrych was the big story in 1976. He was a rookie for the Tigers that year and was nicknamed "The Bird" because his lanky frame and curly hair reminded fans of "Big Bird" from Sesame Street. Through June he was the best pitcher in baseball and his bizarre antics only added to his popularity. He would "talk to the ball" on the mound, and that summer I did a tongue-in-cheek column like I was interviewing the ball. A writer in Detroit did an eerily similar column weeks later that was brought to my attention. I couldn't prove it but I suspect somehow they got ahold of my column and ripped off my idea. Actually, I was somewhat flattered.

Like Jones, Fidrych turned out to be a "one-year wonder." He finished that season with a 19-9 record and a 2.34 ERA but struggled with injuries after '76. He only pitched four more years and his career record was 29-19. I remember him being interviewed once the spotlight left him and he wasn't at all concerned about a promising career gone awry, noting, "I don't need baseball because I can fix cars."

As for the game, the National League won 7-1 with Jones pitching three innings of scoreless ball to pick up the win. Fidrych went two innings and took the loss, allowing four hits and two runs. George Foster homered off Catfish Hunter and Cesar Cedeno took Frank Tanana deep for the NL team. Rose was the only National League player with two hits and Rusty "La Grande Orange" Staub was two-for-two for the American League. The only run for the American League came on a solo homer by Freddie Lynn off Tom Seaver.

A lot of those players are no longer with us, I hate to say. Thurman Munson died in a plane crash three years later. Catfish Hunter passed from Lou Gehrig's disease a few years after he was our guest speaker for the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame banquet. Seaver and Morgan left us in 2020 and Rose died in 2024 without making the Hall of Fame due to his gambling activities.

As for the Bird, he was only 54 years old when he was found dead

Above, you could get an upper deck outfield front row seat to the 1976 All-Star game at Veterans Stadium for 10 bucks. Below, President Gerald Ford gets a laugh with all-star game managers Darrell Johnson(left) of the American League and Sparky Anderson of the NL.



beneath his ten-wheel dump truck at his Northborough, Massachusetts home in April of 2009. Authorities concluded that Fidrych had suffocated after his clothes had become entangled with a spinning power takeoff shaft on the truck.

I feel lucky I got to see those 1976 all-stars play, many in person and all on TV. My gosh it doesn't seem like 50 years ago. I remember getting excited about getting Johnny Bench's rookie card in a pack of bubble gum cards.

For many years I took team pictures of kids as a side job for some extra money, as weekly sports editor is a far cry from being Elon Musk. I had a Johnny Bench catchers' mitt I carried with me in case a kid was a catcher and didn't have his mitt for the picture. One time, 15 or so years ago, I was talking baseball with some boys on a 12 year old team and asked them if anyone knew who Johnny Bench was? Dead silence followed until one the youngsters piped up, "isn't he that guy on the paint commercial?"

Yes he was, and 50 years from now maybe Mike Trout's name will get that same reaction. That sounds like I'm setting you up for a fish joke but I won't go there.

It's now 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the All-Star game is back in Philly next Tuesday at beautiful Citizen's Bank Park. I most likely won't be here 50 years from now to reflect on it so break out the cheesesteaks, Tasty Cakes and birch beer and kick back and enjoy the game. You'll see a lot of future Hall of Famers on the field in Philadelphia, and if some of them don't make it I hope they can at least fix cars.



Mark Fidrych(left) and Randy Jones were the starting pitchers for the 1976 All-Star game in Philadelphia.

National Guard Cup winners announced for VHSL schools

The Virginia High School League has announced the 2025-26 winners of the National Guard Cup, presented by the Virginia Army National Guard for year-long athletic success.

Familiar faces returned to claim more trophies. Western Albemarle in Class 3 led the way, earning its 11th overall Cup and fifth in a row, while Auburn in Class 1 claimed its eighth consecutive Cup and ninth overall. Atlee in Class 3 earned its third straight Cup, and Robinson in Class 6 earned its third Cup in four years and fifth overall. In Class 5 Kellam earned its second straight Cup while in Class 2, Glenvar claimed a fourth Cup.

First awarded in 1990, the Cup represents 36 seasons of excellence. Six Cups are awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications. William Byrd won the cup several times in the '90s. The Terriers did not score this year.

A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in VHSL state championship competitions. In athletics, first place earns 50 points, second place earns 45 points, third place earns 40 points, fourth place earns 35 points, fifth place earns 30 points, sixth place earns 25 points, seventh place earns 20 points, and eighth place earns 15 points. Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

TERRIERS

YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

DATE: JULY 27TH - 29TH
TIME: 6PM - 8PM
LOCATION: WILLIAM BYRD HS
COST: FREE! (NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF TERRIER FOOTBALL FROM THE WILLIAM BYRD HS COACHES & PLAYERS

WILLIAM BYRD TERRIERS
FOOTBALL