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Messenger

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W.E. Cundiff Elementary welcomes new faculty, staff to newly renovated facility



The new state-of-the-art media center at Cundiff

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

W.E. Cundiff Elementary School on Hardy Road in Vinton has welcomed eight new faculty and staff members for the 2026-2027 school year. They are fortunate to be coming on board as renovations and expansions are being completed at the school just in time for this year’s opening. The renovation and construction project began in the summer of 2024. A grand reopening celebration is scheduled in the coming weeks.

New faculty and staff members include Assistant Principal Hallie Chewning Rowland, Special Education Coordinator Becca Bays, fourth grade teacher Shawna Hamilton, fifth grade teacher Abby McGuire, fourth grade teacher Ashlie Walker, and instructional assistants Katrina Hedrick, Jennifer Bickling, and Riley Hoff.

“As a proud Roanoke County Public Schools graduate, it is incredibly meaningful to return home and serve the students, families, and staff of the community that helped shape me,” **Hallie Rowland** says. “I am honored to join the W.E. Cundiff family and look forward to an amazing school year.”

Rowland was born and raised in Vinton. She is a graduate of William Byrd High School.

“I have always loved growing up in such a close-knit, supportive community,” Rowland says. “Vinton has truly always felt like home.”

“Both sides of my family have deep roots in the community, having lived, worked, owned businesses, and raised their families here for generations. Growing up in Vinton and now having the opportunity to give back to the community that invested so much in me truly feels like coming full circle.”

She earned her Bachelor of Education degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg and later completed her Master of Education in Administration and Supervision, also at Liberty University.

“For the past four years, I have taught

fifth grade at Burlington Elementary School. I have been incredibly grateful for my time there and for the relationships I built with students, families, and colleagues. While Burlington will always hold a special place in my heart, it has long been a personal and professional goal of mine to return to a school in the Vinton community. As someone who attended Roanoke County Public Schools from kindergarten through graduation, it is incredibly rewarding to now serve the same school division that invested so much in me.

“I chose to pursue school administration because I wanted the opportunity to serve the community that helped shape who I am. My years in the classroom have shown me how important it is for teachers to have administrators who are supportive, approachable, and willing to serve alongside them. I am passionate about creating a positive school culture where students and staff feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed. W.E. Cundiff has built that kind of environment, and I am honored to become part of the TeamCundiff family. My hope is that every student who walks through our doors knows they are loved, capable, and have people who believe in them.

“I had the privilege of completing my administrative internship alongside Ms. McCallum [W.E. Cundiff’s principal], and that experience confirmed what a special place W.E. Cundiff is. When the assistant principal position became available, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up. I was thrilled to join a school with such an outstanding reputation and a strong commitment to students, staff, and families.

“Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, staying active, traveling, and being outdoors. I also love building relationships and creating positive experiences that make school a place where students and staff enjoy coming each day.

“I am excited to help with Cundiff’s Girls on the Run team this year! I’ve always enjoyed running and living an active lifestyle, so I’m looking forward



One of the new classrooms awaiting students



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

New faculty and staff at W.E. Cundiff include (from left) Shawna Hamilton, Jen Bickling, Becca Bays, Hallie Rowland, Abby McGuire, Ashlie Walker, and Katrina Hedrick (not pictured, Riley Hoff).

to working alongside our incredible staff while encouraging and supporting our amazing group of girls throughout the season.”

Rebecca Bays will be serving as the Special Education coordinator at Cundiff, serving all grade levels, coordinating and monitoring Special Education programming.

“I am from the great V-town (Vinton). After college, I bought my first home in Vinton and haven’t left. I love this town!”

She is a graduate of William Byrd High School (“We accept the best at WBHS! I am a Terrier!”)

Bays earned her bachelor’s from Roanoke College, where she also played basketball; her master’s from Mary Baldwin; and her Educational Leadership certificate from James Madison.

“I have been in education for about 12 years. I completed my student teaching in Roanoke County, at Mount Pleasant Elementary. I was fortunate enough to work there as an instructional assistant and then as a Special Education teacher in 2012. I have worked at Penn Forest Elementary as Special Education

coordinator, and I served at W.E. Cundiff as their Special Education coordinator until 2022. The last four years I was the principal for Minnick Schools-Roanoke, a private day school in the area.”

Bays has also been serving in the Virginia Army National Guard since 2014.

As for why she returned to Cundiff, “I was ready to take a step back and get back to my roots. I love Vinton and the students we serve. I have passion for our community and want to see all of our students thrive!”

Shawna Hamilton will be teaching fourth grade math and science at WEC.

“I was born in Phoenix, Ariz., but I grew up in Waynesboro, Va., where I graduated from Waynesboro High School in 2012. After that, I attended Radford University and graduated in 2016 with my bachelor’s degree and my teaching license for Pre K through sixth grade.

“After college, I began my teaching career in Roanoke City Schools. I taught kindergarten for two years before moving

See **Cundiff**, page 7

Herman L. Horn welcomes new faculty, staff for 2026-27

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Herman L. Horn Elementary has several new faculty and staff members for the 2026-2027 school year: Grace Moss, Nicole Schramm, Kassidy Wrye, Chelie Plaster, Sunaijah Turner-Keyser, Ann Evory, Brittany Roberts-Emery, Maegan Watson, Jessica Pearson, Vera Chitwood, and Melissa Yates.

Grace Moss is teaching third grade reading, math, science, and social studies.

She is originally from Powhatan, Va., and graduated from Powhatan High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Roanoke College. This is her second year in teaching.

“I love spending time with family and friends, and spending time outside swimming, hiking, and walking. I enjoy yoga, dance, and music. I also teach dance in Salem.

See **Horn**, page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

New faculty and staff at HLH include (from left): front, Nicole Schramm, Sunaijah Turner-Keyser, and Grace Moss; back, Kassidy Wrye, Jessica Pearson, Maegan Watson, Vera Chitwood, Melissa Yates, Brittany Roberts-Emery, Ann Evory, and Chelsie Plaster.

PRESENTS

Dog Days
 of Summer 7

Saturday, August 22nd
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

ARE YOU IN?



“Cool” Fun
 for You & Your
 Furry Friend!



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LSC

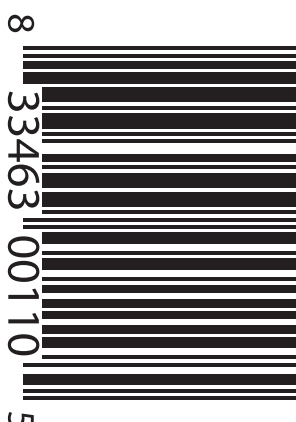
Time for ‘Dog Days of Summer’ at the Lancerlot

One of Vinton’s most popular events is the “Dog Days of Summer” held each August at the Lancerlot Sports Complex. This is the seventh year for Dog Days– and, as always, it’s a free community event. Pet owners, pets, and those looking for a pet are welcome.

This year’s event is scheduled for August 22 from 1 to 4 p.m., hosted by the Lancerlot and sponsored by Oakey’s Pet Funeral Home & Crematory, the Town of Vinton, Pretty Paws, and Noah’s Ark Animal Complex.

Dog Days offers two ways to enjoy the “cool” by

See **Dog Days**, page 4



Vinton Farmers’ Market welcomes special guests

The Vinton Farmers’ Market hosted a special event on August 6– a pop-up market in partnership with Brookdale Roanoke.

Vinton Community Programs Manager Amanda Payne said, “Many of their residents are unable to attend a Saturday market, so they reached out with the hope of a trip to experience the market on a smaller scale during the week. Their group created an opportunity to bring the market directly to patrons who might not otherwise have the chance to enjoy it.

“What has been most rewarding is the response from our vendors. While we expected a small market experience with it being a weekday, we had 12 vendors committed to participating.

“Several adjusted work schedules, arranged childcare, and made other accommodations to be part of this event. They understood it was unlikely to be a high-sales day, but they recognize that the opportunity to brighten someone’s day and create meaningful connections extends far beyond any monetary value.”

The response from Brookdale Roanoke was, “We had a wonderful outing to the Vinton Farmers’ Market last week! It was so fun to talk with the vendors about the vegetables, crafts, and baked goods, and it was even more fun to take some of our favorite items home. In addition to some banana bread, peaches, tomatoes, and handmade trinkets, we also bought items to gift to a few Brookdale Roanoke associates to show our love and appreciation. Special thanks to all the vendors and organizers of the Vinton Farmers’ Market and to the Vinton police officers who took the time to come out and talk with our residents. It was an unforgettable day for our residents and their families.”

~ Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON FARMERS’ MARKET AND BROOKDALE ROANOKE

Scenes from the Brookdale Roanoke visit to the Vinton Farmers’ Market

Vinton adopts new trespassing ordinance to strengthen property protection and public safety

Vinton Town Council has adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 62 of the Vinton Town Code to establish local trespassing provisions and provide additional tools for protecting private and town-owned property.

The new ordinance incorporates existing Virginia law regarding trespassing into the Town Code and establishes local penalties for violations. Under the ordinance, individuals who enter or remain on private property after being lawfully forbidden to do so may be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor, consistent with Virginia law.

In addition, the ordinance authorizes property owners, lessees, custodians, or other persons lawfully in charge of private property to designate the Vinton Police Department, in writing, as the party authorized to issue trespassing notices

on their behalf. The designation must identify the property, specify the period during which the authorization is valid, and be maintained on file with the Vinton Police Department.

The ordinance also addresses unauthorized access to certain town-owned properties. Individuals who enter or remain on town-owned property that is not intended for public access after being prohibited from doing so, or who deposit materials or otherwise encroach upon such property without authorization, may be charged with a Class 4 misdemeanor.

The ordinance was adopted pursuant to several sections of the Code of Virginia, including:

- Virginia Code § 18.2-119 (Trespassing)
- Virginia Code § 15.2-1429 (Penalties for violation of ordinances)
- Virginia Code §



FILE GRAPHIC

15.2-1717.1 (Designation of police to enforce trespass violations)

- Virginia Code § 55.1-1246 (Barring guests or invitees from rental property under certain circumstances)

Residents and property owners with questions about the ordinance or the process for authorizing the Vinton Police Department to enforce trespassing notices on private property are encouraged to contact the Vinton Police Department for additional information.

~ Town of Vinton

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

By Angie Chewing

Five down – three to go! Mingles, that is! We are just over half way through our Summer Concert Series, and if you haven’t been, please join us. Last Saturday, Five Dollar Shake once again proved they can still pack the place. Bird Dogs kept things going and fed the masses.

Many thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers– First Citizens Bank and Pawsh rocked the beverage line; the William Byrd football team for always doing such a great job; Defy Gravity for keeping the lines at the front gate and ticket tent moving along; and, of course, to everyone who came out to support the event.

Next on the calendar is Supafly Five, and you do not want to miss this one. And bringing their yumminess to the event are Chef Claytor’s Dream on a Plate and Get Glazed Donuts.

Last week we celebrated Mom’s (Bootie) 90th birthday– the great party at The Park Dance Club, followed up by a birthday dinner at Pollard 107 South on her actual birthday, August 5. Joining us at Pollard were Lee Lovern, John Sowers, Greg Chewing, Greg Boitnott, Nick Pickett and Abbie Lewis.

The Vinton Chamber is hosting the 2026 Fall Golf Tournament on Sept. 18 at Blue Hills Golf Club. For more information, visit the website at www.vintonchamber.com or call the Chamber office at 540-343-1364.

DESIGNER CLOTHING Clearance Sale August 14–16

FRIDAY, 8/14 | 10AM - 5PM
SATURDAY, 8/15 | 10AM - 5PM
SUNDAY, 8/16 | 10AM - 3PM

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ROANOKE, VA 24018

Please note: All items have been exposed to smoke and are priced accordingly.

- CASH ONLY
- ALL SALES ARE FINAL
- NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES
- By purchasing, you acknowledge and accept the condition of the merchandise.

Horn

from page 1

Nicole Schramm is teaching third grade at Herman L. Horn. She is originally from Long Island, New York, and graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a degree in Early Childhood & Childhood Education. This will be her fifth year in education. She taught second grade for two years at Pearl Sample Elementary in Culpeper and third grade for two years at Berkeley Glenn in Waynesboro.

“I am currently attending UVA to get my Master’s in Reading Education. I love to read and I hope to instill that love of reading into my class this school year as well!”

Kassidy Wrye is teaching first grade. She is originally from Kingsport, Tenn., but “moved to Vinton just before third grade so it has been home for a while.”

She graduated from William Byrd High School and then earned her B.S. in Elementary Education at Virginia Tech. This is her first year of teaching.

“I fell in love with first grade during student teaching, but truly I love all grades! First grade is a big year of growth, and they are still learning so many new things. I feel as though it is a very exciting grade level where so much fun can be had when learning.

“This past spring, I completed my student teaching at Herman L. Horn in the first grade. I was offered my position this spring while student teaching, and I knew I could not turn it down! I attended school here as a child and substitute taught here while completing my degree. It was the perfect position. Plus, how special is it to teach at the school you went to?

“I have lived here since I was 8 which came with involvement in many school activities in the Vinton area. I enjoy participating in community events as our town has so much to offer and even love running into students. I think there is something special about teaching in the community you live in. My brother also plays football for William Byrd, which fills my Friday nights in the fall! My fiancé, Conner, also grew up here and we cannot imagine living anywhere else.

“My parents both work for Roanoke County Schools, so I guess it runs in the family. I enjoy being creative, spending time with my family and friends, and currently wedding planning! This will be my only class before my name changes next summer which makes year one for me a little extra special.”

Chelie Plaster is teaching kindergarten. She is from Vinton and graduated from William Byrd.

“I graduated with my Bachelor’s in Childhood Pre-Education from Virginia Tech in 2024 and earned my Master’s in Teaching from Liberty University in 2026.”

This is her first year in teaching. “I chose to be a kindergarten teacher because I love working with young children and being a part of their first experiences in school. I want to help them learn, grow, and build a strong foundation while making their first year of school a fun and positive experience.

“I came to work at my current school because I attended the school when I was

younger and later had the opportunity to student teach here. Having grown up in this school community and then returning as a student teacher made it feel like the perfect place to begin my teaching career.

“Vinton has always felt like home to me, and I am excited to continue being a part of the community as a teacher.

“In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my dog, Jaws, and being outdoors whenever I can. I also coach for the Virginia Gators swim team, which allows me to continue working with children outside of the classroom in a different environment.”

Sunaijah Turner-Keyser is a Pre-K special education teacher. She is originally from Roanoke and a graduate of Salem High School. She earned her Associate of Science: Education degree from Virginia Western Community College and her Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education from Old Dominion University. This is her fifth year as an educator.

“I chose this position because I have always loved working with children and have done so for most of my life. I started out as a substitute so that I could find the area I loved the most, and after working in a preschool classroom in Roanoke County, I realized that that was where I was meant to be! I love being able to be a part of a student’s early learning journey and watching them grow throughout the year.

“Throughout the interview process I struggled to figure out which school that I wanted to work at. I spoke to my grandfather, and he told me to pick the school that I could see myself growing in. When I went to Herman L. Horn, I saw the potential to grow in the environment, so I hoped that I would end up there. Luckily, I did!”

Sunaijah loves horseback riding, working in her garden, reading, and having random dance parties with her students. She is also a big coffee lover.

Ann Evory is an instructional aid at HLH. She was born in Roanoke and graduated from Cave Spring High School in the Class of 1982, and Elon University in 1986. She has lived in several states over the past 40 years and is “delighted to be back in my hometown with my spouse Dan and two dogs, Oreo and Luna.

Brittany Roberts-Emery is an instructional assistant at Horn. She is originally from Roanoke and a graduate of Patrick Henry High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Radford University. She worked as a Therapeutic Day Treatment Counselor in schools for eight years.

“I have enjoyed working with and helping students in the school setting to reach their individual goals, whether they may be academic, social, or personal wellness.”

She lives in Vinton where she is raising her children. She currently has two children at WBHS and one at William Byrd Middle School. Her hobbies include reading and spending time with her family and pets.

Maegan Watson is a preschool instructional assistant at HLH. She is from Wytheville originally and a graduate of Fort Chiswell High School, Max Meadows, in

Vinton Town Council adopts ordinance establishing rules for use of town parks and trails

Vinton Town Council has adopted a new ordinance establishing rules governing the use of town-owned parks, trails, greenways, and other town-owned public property. The ordinance, approved on July 21, is designed to help preserve public spaces, improve safety, and ensure parks and trails remain accessible and enjoyable for all residents and visitors.

The new ordinance adds Article VII, “Use of Town Parks and Trails,” to Chapter 82 of the Vinton Town Code. It provides the town with clear regulations regarding the use of public parks, trails, and greenways while supporting the town’s ongoing efforts to maintain safe, clean, and welcoming public spaces.

Among the new regulations:

- Parks, trails, and greenways will be closed to the public between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., unless otherwise posted.
- Camping or sleeping overnight is prohibited in town parks, trails, greenways, associated parking lots, and other town-owned property.
- Personal property may not be left unattended on town property. Bicycles, strollers, carts, and other

personal transportation devices may be left for up to 72 hours if they are secured and do not obstruct public access.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in town parks, trails, and greenways unless specifically authorized by the town as part of a town-sponsored or approved event.
- Starting or attempting

See Rules, page 4



Vinton War Memorial Park

FILE PHOTO

the Class of 2016. She moved to Roanoke in 2024.

She has a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Liberty University and is in the process of completing a Master’s in Elementary Education at Liberty, “almost done!”

She has been a substitute for two years. “This has been my first year as an instructional assistant and I’m so anxious to get started. I want to gain experience before hopefully working as a full-time regular teacher next year school year, so instructional assistant seemed like the best step as I finish up my degree and establish myself in this field.”

Watson began working for RCPS as a substitute in 2025 and previously subbed in Wythe County before moving here.

“I live right down the road from Vinton, and I love the small town feel and close-knit community. I could see myself being here for a long time. I moved here to be closer to my mom, sister, and grandmother. I live with my husband and our cats. We enjoy reading, gardening, and going out and enjoying lovely Roanoke.”

Jessica Pearson is a Pre-K instructional assistant at Horn this year. She moved here from Citrus Springs, Fla., but is originally from Valdesse, N.C.

She earned her Associate degree in Elementary Education from Western Piedmont Community College, and her Bachelor in Social Work from Western Carolina University. This is her ninth year in the field of education.

“I love helping young children learn, grow, and build a strong foundation for their

future. Watching their confidence and skills develop each day is incredibly rewarding.

“I came to my current school after accepting a Pre-K instructional assistant position. I was excited for the opportunity to join a supportive team and work with young learners every day.

“Outside of school, I enjoy reading, coloring, knitting, building Lego sets, playing cozy video games, and spending time with my 10-year-old daughter.”

Vera Chitwood is an instructional assistant in various grade levels at Herman L. Horn. She has lived in Roanoke since she was 5 years old and graduated from Northside High School.

She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2002 and graduated from Hollins University with a Master’s in Teaching degree in 2005.

“Before staying home with my two daughters, I worked in Admissions for a local college. After they went to elementary school, I worked at a local preschool for a few years, and I have been a Remediation/ VALLSS tutor at HLH for the last two years.

“I love getting to work with students in small groups– it’s awesome to be a part of their learning process!

“I have lived in Bonsack for the past 17 years and my daughters attend William Byrd.”

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, walking their dog, and listening to live music.

Melissa Yates is an instructional assistant at HLH and a graduate of Radford University.

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

Peace in the Chaos

Read Luke 21:1 through 22:71

Do we ever look at our world and ask, “What happened?”

The moral climate seems to have plunged. Sin is rampant. Nuclear war threatens. A bad economy has become the new way of life. And what’s with all these record-breaking natural disasters?

It’s easy to wonder if the end of world is near and become so afraid that we panic.

“When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away” (Luke 21:9).

Many times through the past two thousand years, people have panicked over the state of the

world. Jesus had a word for them and for us: “Do not be frightened.”

The world may change, but God is still in control.

Bad times can bring good results. As society disintegrates people tend to turn to God, and revival can occur. Challenges even make believers depend on God more. Our survival plan should be to prepare ourselves spiritually for whatever God brings—in good times or bad.

Challenge for Today: Think of a way to point people to Jesus when they express their fears about the future.

Quicklook: Luke 21:5–18

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

VINTON HISTORY: Union Bayonet

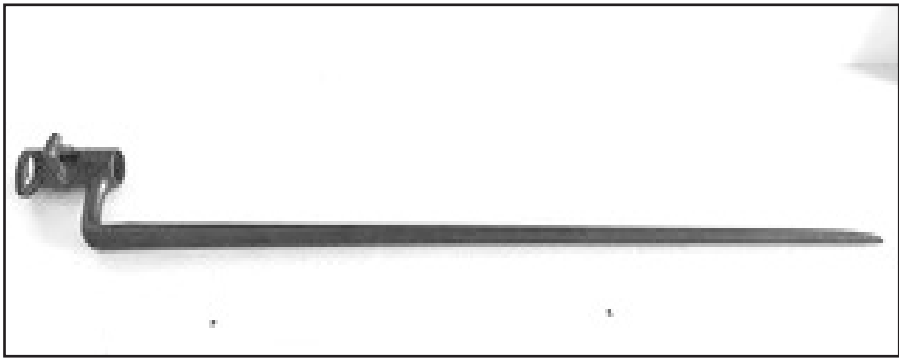


PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM

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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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As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, it becomes increasingly important to not hide from our past, but look back upon and learn from it. One such artifact that brings us back to a time of struggle is the Vinton History Museum’s Union bayonet, which was used throughout the Civil War of the 1860s. The woman who originally owned this bayonet said that her husband had found it on the battlefield and carried it the rest of the way through the war. Although it is indeed a Union bayonet, it was a Confederate soldier who found it and kept it until his family later donated

See History, page 7

Rules

from page 3

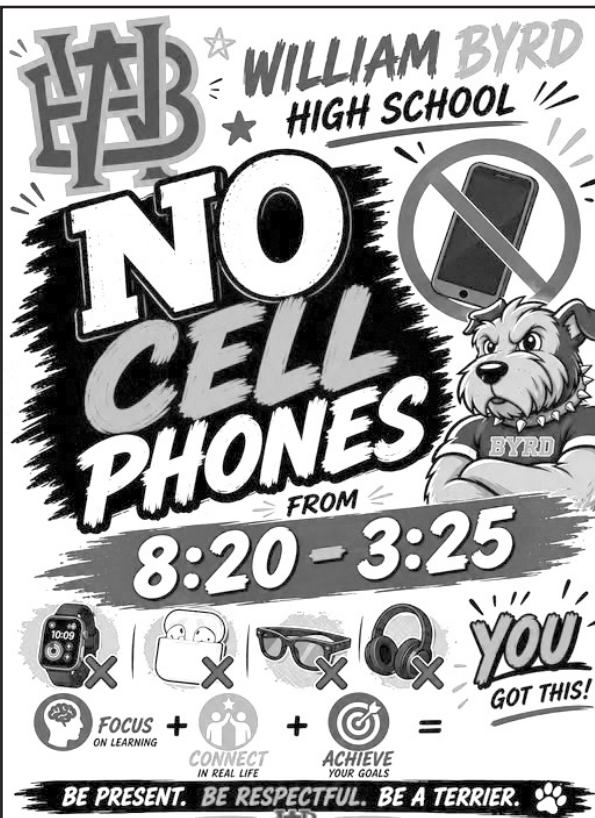
New for the 2026–2027 school sear: Bell-to-bell no cell phones

This school year, following state law, Roanoke County Public Schools is implementing a new “No Cell Phones” policy to help create a more focused, connected, and engaging learning environment for all students.

From 8:20 a.m. to 3:25 p.m., secondary students are expected to keep cell phones and other personal electronic devices—including smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, earbuds, wireless headphones, and similar devices—put away and not in use during the school day.

Middle and high schools: personal mobile devices are not to be used from the beginning of school to the end of school (including lunches and in hallways). The device must be “off” (or in airplane mode), kept out of sight at all times, and stored in a personal bag such as a bookbag from 8:20 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. Cell phones should not be on their person, which includes their pockets.

Elementary schools: personal mobile devices are not to be used from



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RCPS

the beginning of school to the end of school. The device must be “off” (or in airplane mode), kept out of sight at all times, and stored in a personal bag such as a bookbag from 7:40 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. Also, elementary students are not permitted to use personal mobile devices on school buses in the

morning or afternoon.

By limiting distractions, the policy is aimed to help students:

- Stay focused on learning
- Build stronger face-to-face connections
- Reach their academic goals

-Submitted by RCPS

to start fires is prohibited.

- Motorized vehicles, including ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes, golf carts, minibikes, mopeds, scooters, and similar vehicles, are prohibited in town parks, trails, greenways, and on town-owned property.

The ordinance does not apply to e-bikes operating where bicycles are permitted, ADA-approved

personal mobility devices, or emergency personnel performing official duties. Violations may result in the seizure of the vehicle.

Violations of the ordinance constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor under the Vinton Town Code. The ordinance also formally places the supervision and management of town parks, trails, and greenways under the authority of the

town manager, who may establish additional rules and regulations consistent with the Town Code to ensure these public spaces remain safe, well maintained, and accessible. The goal is to maintain safe, clean, and welcoming public spaces that can be enjoyed by everyone.

-Submitted by Town of Vinton

Dog Days

from page 1

humans and their furry friends– in the pool and on the ice.

In addition to the Dog Park on Ice and the outdoor Dog Swimming Pool, there will be a Dog Adopt-a-Thon, vendors, food and drinks.

The Lancerlot is located at 1110 Vinyard Road in Vinton, behind Lake Drive Plaza. For more information, visit the Lancerlot Sports Complex Facebook page.

-Submitted by the Lancerlot

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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60	61							62	63			64		
65								66				67		
68								69					70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Derived from ammonia
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest rate
18. Experts
20. Vascular tissues
22. Smooth and glossy
23. Administrative region in S. Korea
24. One from Damascus
28. Special interest group
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Twelfth star in a constellation
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in grades of size

41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
42. OThe Great Lakes State
43. Having earlike appendages
44. Momentarily stop
46. Ancient kingdom
49. Of I
50. White clerical vestment
51. Songs to one's beloved
55. Charges
58. Computer application originator
59. A place to dock a boat
60. One guided by reason
64. Slang for cigarette
65. Sailboats
66. OJerry Maguire
67. Screen type

68. Country legend Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you anticipate arriving
CLUES DOWN
1. Involuntary muscular contraction
2. Eastern US transit agency
3. Leaves a place
4. Cease to participate
5. Current units
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Earth vibration
9. Very strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie ___ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Indonesian island
25. Educational environment
26. Namibian peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Moves into a place of thought
32. Out of the way
34. Loads a ship
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. The ancient Egyptian sun god
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Relating to a wing
47. One who gives a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Sweet persons
56. Put into play
57. Small cattle breed
59. Millisecond
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They ___
62. Moon crater
63. A place to stay the night

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

Help Wanted

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Adult Choir Director

to join our worship team, lead our adult choir effectively and joyfully, and improve and encourage the musical capabilities of our musicians. Responsibilities include selecting music for the choir, leading weekly choir rehearsal (September – June), conducting the choir and congregation for Sunday morning and special services, planning and coordinating special music for summer services, and serving as coordinator/advisor for related musical groups. Qualifications: • Experience directing church choirs. • Formal education and background in music or music education. • Ability to collaborate with, teach, and inspire volunteer musicians in an affirming manner. Compensation: • Choir Director: \$11,000 - \$13,000 Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Piano and/or Organist

Accompanist to join our worship team and help lead our congregation in meaningful, spirit-filled worship. Responsibilities include playing music for Sunday morning and special services, practicing with and accompanying the choir and other musicians, selecting music, and maintaining our instruments in good working order. Qualifications: • Proficiency with piano and/or organ • Ability to sight-read music • Ability to work collaboratively with clergy, choir, and other musicians • Strong sense of musicality and sensitivity to worship Compensation: • Pianist: \$5,000 - \$7,000 • Organist: \$12,000 - \$16,000 Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

Storage Auction

STORAGE AUCTION
Salem Storage
736 Roanoke Street
Salem, Va. 24153
August 20, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Salem Storage will conduct a public sale of merchandise to collect liens from the following delinquent building.
Owner: Linda Devincenzi
Units 29, 103
Cash Only
We reserve the right to refuse bids.

Legals - Botetourt County

Commissioner's Sale

Pursuant to the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. Chapter 38A and the Secretary's Foreclosure Commissioner designation, a COMMISSIONER'S SALE of 360 Maple Ridge Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090 (Short Legal Description: TAX ID 27569) will occur at public auction outside the main entrance to the building of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on August 21, 2026 at 1:00 PM, pursuant to a default of a note secured by a deed of trust executed by Cary W. Obenshain and Patricia Y. Obenshain recorded 4/24/2012, in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA, Instrument Number 120001707, and the Assignment in favor of the Secretary of HUD recorded 10/31/2019, in the Circuit Court for Botetourt County Circuit Court, VA, Instrument Number 190004095. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. TERMS OF SALE can be reviewed by the recorded notice of default on file with the Botetourt County Circuit Court Circuit Court, for which all terms are incorporated herein into this notice. A 10% deposit

Legals - Botetourt County

payable to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is immediately required for winning bidder in certified funds. Third party certified checks will not be accepted. Full Terms of Sale and opening bids are listed at <http://www.virginialawoffice.com/hud>.
Anderson Law,
2492 N. Landing Rd, #104,
Va Beach, VA 23456.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. W240000024
BOTETOURT COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT, 5 W. MAIN STREET,
FINCASTLE VA 24090

ESTATE OF RUBY ANN HALL PERDUE, DECEASED

The object of this suit is to: CREDITORS AND ALL OTHERS SHOW CAUSE AGAINST PAYMENT AND DELIVERY OF ESTATE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION It appearing that the report of the account of Bria Lashae Stephens, Administrator of the Estate of Ruby Ann Hall Perdue, deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate have been filed in the Clerk's Office of this Court, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the administrator, on motion of Bria Lashae Stephens, Administrator, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the creditors of and all others interested in the estate do show cause, if they can, on the 6th day of October, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. before this Court at its courtroom in the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia, 1 W. Main Street #120, Fincastle, Virginia, 24090, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Ruby Ann Hall =Perdue, deceased, to pay all the unpaid taxes and levies thereon and all debts and demands reported by the Commissioner of Accounts that are approved and remain unsatisfied, and then to make payment and delivery of the remaining estate, if any, to the heirs, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with or without refunding bonds, as the Court Prescribes.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this Order be published for two (2) successive weeks in The Fincastle Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in The County of Botetourt, Virginia. Enter: July 27, 2026
Honorable Joel R. Branscom, Judge
I ask for this:
Michael S. Whitlow, (VSB No. 38320)
P.O. Box 779 Roanoke Va 24004
(540) 904-7835
Fax: (866) 684-7835
Counsel for Bria Lashae Stephens, Administrator of the Estate of Ruby Ann Hall Perdue

Legals - City of Salem

ABC NOTICE

CARINA DUE LLC., trading as DOM VITO'S, 10 WEST MAIN STREET, Salem VA. 24153.

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

Dominic Vito Marletta, Owner.

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.

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Legals - City of Salem

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season. Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497. Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employee

Legals - Montgomery County

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Christiansburg Residency which includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski during the winter of 2026-2027. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a bonus payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season. Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://plow4va.vdot.virginia.gov>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>). Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 18, 2026 may be eligible for a bonus payment. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Legals - Montgomery County

Questions can be directed to the Christiansburg Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-381-7201 Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

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, August 31, 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 The Economic Development Authority of Montgomery County, Virginia, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow a structure greater than 70 feet in height, specifically a manufacturing area with a footprint of 8,500 square feet and a height of 105 feet, in the General Industrial (I2) zoning district on property located at 2040 Parkway Drive SE, identified as Tax Parcel 558-((A))-24A (Parcel ID 300149), consisting of approximately 38.102 total acres. The property is designated as Mixed Use w/ Buffer (Industrial) 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, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4681 FISHERSVIEW ROAD, PILOT, VA 24138.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated November 22, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$196,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2013011218. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on October 8, 2026, at 4:15 PM, 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, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE NO. 609, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING THAT CERTAIN PARCEL CONTAINING 11.703 ACRES IN THE AGGREGATE, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT BY L.J. QUESENBERRY, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MARCH 30, 1978, AND REFERRED TO AS JOB NO. 115, A COPY OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 396 AT PAGE 926, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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.alldridgepate.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.alldridgepate.com. VA-384975-1.

Legals - Town of Vinton

VINTON TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia, the Vinton Town Council will hold conduct a public hearing on the following: RESOLUTION NO. ____ A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 15.2-202 REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF VINTON TO REMOVE AND/OR RESOLVE INCONSISTENT, OUTDATED, AND/OR UNNECESSARY LANGUAGE, TO CLARIFY LANGUAGE REGARDING THE TOWN MANAGER'S AUTHORITY, AND TO INCORPORATE OTHER LANGUAGE REQUESTED BY TOWN COUNCIL. If adopted, the proposed Resolution will permit the Vinton Town Council to request that the Virginia General Assembly approve the requested edits to the Town's Charter. A copy of the proposed Resolution may be examined either (i) at the Office of the Town Manager at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and by appointment on Friday, or (ii) on the Town's website (www.vintonva.gov). Citizens are encouraged to review the proposed Resolution, attend the public hearing, and present their views on the proposed Resolution. Citizens also may submit public comments in writing to the following email address: mklawless@vintonva.gov, by U.S. Mail to the Town Manager's Office, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA, 24179, or by hand-delivering comments to the Town Manager's Office. Comments will be distributed to members of Town Council and entered into the minutes as public records. Individuals requiring assistance to attend and participate in public hearings, or requiring additional information on the proposed Resolution, should contact the Town Manager's Office at (540) 983-0607 prior to the meeting. Megan Lawless Town Clerk

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Chloe Gill recipient of Teamsters Scholarship

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Scholarship Fund has announced the recipients of its Class of 2026 scholarship awards, including Chloe Gill of Vinton.

Chloe is the daughter of David Gill, a member of Teamsters Local 171, employed by UPS. is a recent graduate of William Byrd High School and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall. Teamsters Local 171 represents approximately 1600 members locally in a variety of industries.

The Teamsters Scholarship Fund awards 600 \$2,000 scholarships each year, and in just three short years, more than 1,600 scholarships have been awarded. The money raised for the Teamsters Scholarship Fund comes from the generosity of Teamsters local unions, Joint Councils, and member service providers. The Teamsters do not allow any employers to donate to the Scholarship Fund. The scholarships are awarded to high school seniors planning to enroll in a four-year college after graduation, community college transfer students, and students who plan to attend trade or vocational schools. Applicants must be the daughter, son, or financial dependent of a Teamster.

- Submitted by Teamster News



Chloe Gill PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAMSTER NEWS



From the Pulpit

By Pastor Bryan Crouch

Church Leadership

The image of a shepherd appears throughout Scripture because it captures the heart of biblical leadership. A shepherd does not stand behind the flock waiting for the sheep to decide where to go. He walks ahead, watching for danger, finding good pasture, and leading with care. In the same way, God calls pastors and church leaders to faithfully guide His people according to His Word, not according to popular opinion or personal preference.

Scripture says, “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” (Hebrews 13:17, NIV)

A healthy church is built when the congregation trusts the leaders God

has placed over them and follows their biblical direction with humility and unity.

This does not mean leaders are perfect or beyond accountability. Every shepherd is ultimately accountable to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and must lead with humility, integrity, and sacrificial love. The church belongs to Christ, and pastors are entrusted to care for His people rather than rule over them. Likewise, the flock honors Christ by supporting and praying for faithful leaders instead of resisting every difficult decision.

As Peter reminds church leaders, “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them— not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be.” (1 Peter 5:2, NIV)

When shepherds lead faithfully and the flock follows biblically, the entire church grows stronger in Christ.

OBITUARY

Rader, Martha Seibel

Martha Louise “Lou” Seibel Rader passed away peacefully at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital on August 5, 2026, at the age of 93. She was born in Harrisonburg, Va., on January 19, 1933, to John George Seibel and Sylvia Nadine Harrington Seibel.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Kenneth “Corky” Rader; daughter, Sylvia Lynne Rader Alger; son-in-law, Calvin Bruce Alger; as well as her siblings, Sybil King (Jerry), John Seibel (Hallie), George Seibel, Ginny Keith (Eddie); and brother-in-law, Lewis Hoback.

She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Rader Durham, and son-in-law, Al; sister, Betsy Seibel Hoback; and sister-in-law, Cookie Seibel; her grandchildren Katie Clark (Daniel), Erin Durham, Morganne Durham, Trey Alger (Taelor), C.B. Alger (Cheyenne), and Amanda Alger; great-grandchildren, Thomas Clark, Amani Taylor, Mila Gonzales, Stella Alger, and Jaden Armstrong.

Lou’s life was marked by education, faith, service, and devotion to her family and community.

Lou graduated from William Byrd High School and Longwood College, then earned master’s degrees from Radford University and the University of Virginia. She began her career as a science and home economics teacher at the former Stonewall Jackson Junior High School, later served as the school’s guidance counselor, and went on to become Supervisor of Guidance for Roanoke City Schools.

Lou was a lifelong and active member of Bonsack United Methodist Church, where she served in many capacities, including singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School,



serving as a youth leader, going on mission trips, and leading countless committees and projects.

After retirement, Lou and her husband enjoyed traveling across the country. They also devoted themselves to serving others through community service with Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, The Least of These Ministry, and RAM House, to name a few. Lou’s passion for service was especially evident in her involvement with Ruritan National and the local Bonsack/Blue Ridge Ruritan Club, where she served as club president until her passing. She also served the larger organization as a Ruritan National Director, was active with the Ruritan National Foundation, and served as a former First Lady of the organization. Lou successfully engaged Ruritan clubs across the nation to take an active part in the development of the National D-Day Memorial and remained active with the Memorial until her death.

Visitation will be held at Oakey’s East Chapel on Friday, August 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. A celebration of her life will be held at Bonsack United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 15, at 12 noon.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Bonsack United Methodist Memorial Fund, 4493 Bonsack Road, Roanoke, 24012; Ruritan National Foundation General Fund, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, Va. 24084; or National D-Day Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 77, Bedford, Va. 24523.

Lou will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her. Condolences may be shared with her family by visiting www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements are by Oakey’s East Chapel, 540-977-3909.

History

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it. Unfortunately, not much more is known about the piece, but this is a common story among early war artifacts, as many men from the Confederacy went into battle under-provisioned.

Even after such a period of strife, the country was able to build itself back to an even stronger entity which has stood the test of time. As Vintonites, Virginians, and Americans, let us join together in remembrance of those who have fought to get us here, and rejoice that we can stand side-by-side in the face of anything that may come against us.

More pieces from the Civil War collection await here for viewing at the Vinton Museum.

-Submitted by Levi Whitcomb, Museum Volunteer & WBHS Student

Cundiff

from page 1

up to fifth grade, where I spent the next five years. I absolutely love working with upper elementary students— their curiosity, humor, and growing independence make every day exciting.

“My husband and I moved to Vinton in 2018. We immediately fell in love with the community, and the schools impressed us from the start. We knew this was the perfect place to put down roots and raise our family.

“I’m truly grateful to now be teaching in the community my family calls home. It means so much to work at a school I’m proud to have my own children attend, and I look forward to contributing to the supportive, welcoming environment that makes Vinton such a special place.”

Abby McGuire is teaching fifth grade reading at Cundiff. She is originally from Goodview, and a graduate of Staunton River High School. She graduated from Ferrum College with her degree in elementary education. This is her first year of teaching school.

She chose to teach reading because “I absolutely love reading and I can’t wait to share that love with my students. I always want students to find something they love

to read and help them become better readers. I did my student teaching at Cundiff in the spring of 2026 and fell in love with it!

“My mom works at Wood’s Service Center, so I’ve been involved with the Vinton community through her since I was little. We always participate in the Christmas Parade and other local events.”

As for special interests, “I love riding horses and horse-showing. I currently show the hunters. I also volunteer at Healing Strides.”

Ashlie Walker will be teaching fourth grade English and Language Arts at W.E. Cundiff. She is originally from Roanoke and a graduate of William Byrd High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Old Dominion University. This is her first year of teaching.

“I completed my student teaching at W.E. Cundiff and knew I wanted to be part of the team!”

As for her outside interests, “I love spending time with my husband and two boys, reading, and hiking.”

Katrina Hedrick is an instructional assistant at Cundiff this year, supporting both students

and teachers. She is originally from Vinton and a graduate of William Byrd High School. She has been working for the past three years as a substitute teacher.

“I love working with kids of all ages. I love the atmosphere at Cundiff. Everyone here is so helpful and kind. I also have two older children who went through Cundiff and Byrd, as well as one in first grade this year.”

As for her special interests, “I have three children and a loving husband that I enjoy spending time with. I enjoy traveling and exploring new things and doing crafts.”

Jen Bickling is an instructional assistant at Cundiff this year. She is originally from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She has worked in education for many years and has over 10 years of experience as a substitute teacher with

Roanoke County Public Schools.

“I have always enjoyed working with children and helping them learn and grow. Being an instructional assistant allows me to support both students and teachers while making a positive difference every day.

“I worked in education for many years in North Carolina before switching

to banking after moving to Virginia to start my family. Even while working in banking, I stayed connected to education by serving as a substitute teacher. I’m excited now to be joining W.E. Cundiff full-time.

“My 16-year-old daughter attends William Byrd High School and my partner of 18 years also works for Roanoke

County Public Schools.

“Outside of school, I stay busy cheering on my daughter at her volleyball matches and swim meets. I’m also actively involved with the William Byrd Athletic Booster Club and enjoy supporting our student-athletes.”

Riley Hoff also is joining the W.E. Cundiff staff this year as an instructional assistant.

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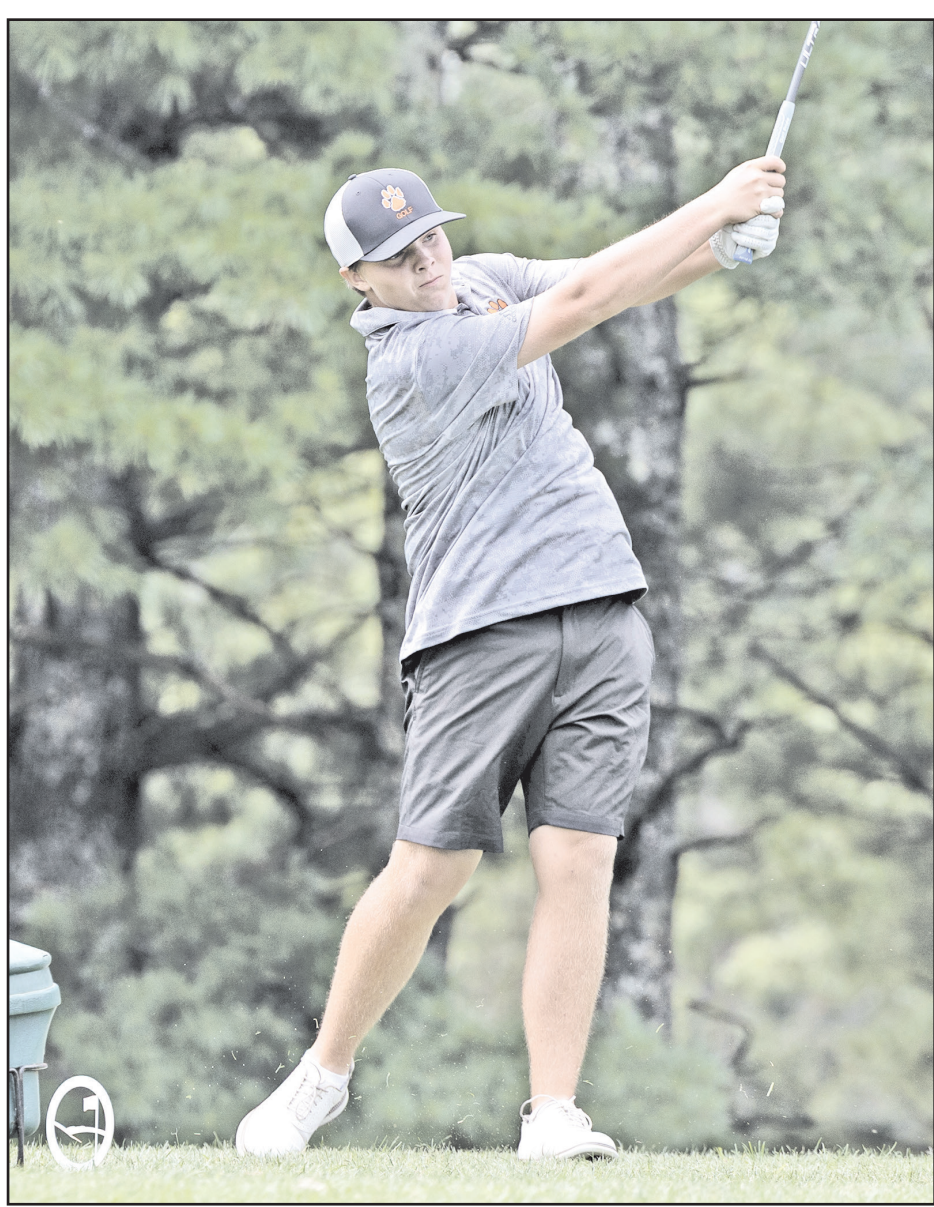
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Andrew Carter tees off for Byrd in last week's Metro Tournament in Troutville.

PHOTO BY SCOTT GARDNER

WB golfers have district match today after playing in Metro, County events

The William Byrd golfers will be back on the links today for the first Blue Ridge District match of the season. The Mariners' Landing course will host the event beginning at 2 pm.

The Terriers opened the season with two tournaments in past week. Last Tuesday, August 4, they participated in the annual Metro Tournament at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club in Troutville. Then, on Tuesday of this week, they played in the Roanoke County Cub championship at the Hidden Valley Country Club.

James River's Landon Bolling and the Auburn High School team were the big winners in the Metro. Bolling was the individual medalist and Auburn was the team champion in the annual event that traditionally tees off the high school golf season.

Bolling, a senior, shot a four under par 67 for the tournament, beating Gaston Wimmer by one stroke and Liam Smith by two. Wimmer and Smith both play for Auburn, who won the team championship with a score of 289, just five strokes over par for their combined four scoring players. Auburn won the big trophy after finishing second behind Floyd County last summer.

Second place goes to Cave Spring, 14 strokes behind the Eagles at 303. Then it gets close as Blacksburg and E.C. Glass tied for third at 306

and James River was just one stroke behind them at 307 for fifth place.

William Byrd shot a team score of 340 to finish in 17th place. David Foster led the Byrdmen with a 78 followed by Ethan Sink at 84. Jayden Beasley shot 86 and Reid Divers and Andrew Carter tied for the fourth counting score with 92 each.

Tuesday's match at Hidden Valley was scheduled for 18 holes but rain put an end to things after 10. The match included all five Roanoke County teams, Byrd, Cave Spring, Glenvar, Northside and Hidden Valley

"They found a winner by adding up everyone's 10 holes completed," said Byrd coach Scott Whitehead. "Hidden Valley and Cave tied for winning with a 160."

Northside was third with 178, Glenvar shot 185 and Byrd came in at 190. Foster led the Terriers again with a 43 over 10 holes while Sink, Divers and Carter all had 49. Andrew Draper of Cave Spring was the medalist with a 35, the only golfer to go under 40 in the 10 holes.

"We continued to gain valuable experience," said Whitehead.

Next Tuesday, August 18, the Terriers will compete in the second Blue Ridge District match of the season. This time Lord Botetourt will host at the Botetourt G&SC, with the first tee times scheduled for 1 pm.



Midnight Madness

The William Byrd football team had their annual "Midnight Madness" practice at Patterson Stadium last Friday night/Saturday morning, preceeded by recreation and middle school practices. This Friday the varsity Terriers will take on players in different colored uniforms for the first time when they travel to Glenvar to scrimmage two teams at Highlander Stadium. Byrd will take on Jefferson Forest at 5 pm, followed by a scrimmage with Glenvar. The Terriers will have their final preseason tuneup on Friday, August 21, when they host Alleghany on Highfill Field, beginning at 7 pm. Byrd will open the regular season with two straight games at Bogle Stadium, on August 28 against Cave Spring and on September 4 against Hidden Valley. Look for a preview of the Byrd team in the August 27 edition of the Vinton Messenger.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

