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# Messenger

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**New faculty/staff at William Byrd Middle School include (from left): front row, Sarah Skeen, Daniel Letz, and Ashley Grubb; second row, Jessica Rhodes, Julia Ormandy, and Samantha Wallace; and third row, Ty Christian, Carsyn Kotz, and Jordan Persinger.**



**New faculty and staff at WBMS include (from left): Mary Jo Niday, Hillary Jones, Elizabeth Lyons, and Amy Canoles (not pictured, Alexis Griffith).**

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

## William Byrd Middle School welcomes new faculty and staff

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

William Byrd Middle School has welcomed several new faculty and staff members for the 2026-2027 school year and some who have just switched positions. They include Jordan Persinger, Alexis Griffith, Ty Christian, Daniel Letz, Carsyn Kotz, Ashley Huff Grubb, Sarah Skeen, Jessica Rhodes, Samantha Wallace, Julia Ormandy, Hillary Jones, Mary Jo Niday, Elizabeth Lyons, and Amy Canoles.

**Jordan Persinger** has been named assistant principal for sixth grade students at WBMS and also athletic director. She is originally from Craig County and is a graduate of Craig County High School. She earned her Bachelor's in Business Finance from Hollins University, her Master's in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech, and her Master's in Educational Leadership from Radford University.

She has been working in the field of education for 10 years, beginning her teaching career at WBHS.

"I chose to become a middle school assistant principal because I wanted the opportunity to make a broader impact on students, staff, and the overall school community. After nine years as a high school marketing teacher, I was ready for a new challenge that would allow me to support both teaching and learning while helping students build a strong foundation for future success. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the Vinton community.

"Having previously coached softball and volleyball at the middle school, I had already built strong relationships with some of the students, families, and staff. Since the middle school feeds directly into the high school and is located on the same campus, the transition felt like a natural next step."

Alexis Griffith will be teaching at both WBMS and Northside Middle (homeschooling). Her subjects are sixth grade US History and Civics and Economics.

She is originally from Tazewell and a graduate of Tazewell High School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education PreK-6th with Middle School History Endorsement from Liberty University. This is her seventh year of full-time teaching. She transferred from teaching at Green Valley Elementary to a split position at Northside Middle and WBMS.

"Since my very own Virginia Studies experience in the fourth grade, I have always loved learning about history and the way it impacts us today. I taught Virginia Studies myself for years in elementary school, but shared my time teaching other subjects. When the opportunity presented itself to teach history and

See **WBMS**, page 5

## Vinton Town Council recognizes Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan, approves loan for Vinton War Memorial project

**Debbie Adams**  
[dadams@ourvalley.org](mailto:dadams@ourvalley.org)

Vinton Town Council recognized Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan for winning the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association's (APA Virginia) 2026 Bluebell Award– Virginia's Equity and Inclusion Advocate of the Year. The Bluebell Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies

community-driven, inclusive, and equitable planning practices that strengthen opportunity and quality of life across the Commonwealth.

Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung made the presentation at the council meeting on August 18. The original presentation was made at the chapter's annual conference in Danville on July 28.

"For more than three

decades, Ms. McMillan has demonstrated that equitable planning is achieved through sustained commitment, intentional investment, and a focus on the needs of residents who have historically faced barriers to opportunity. Ms. McMillan has approached these challenges with a steadfast equity-first mindset and spent the

See **Council**, page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

**Vinton Town Council recognized Planning and Zoning Director Anita McMillan for winning the 2026 Bluebell Award from the American Planning Association, Virginia Chapter. Pictured, from left, are Council member Mike Stovall, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, Assistant Planning and Zoning Director Nathan McClung, Mayor Brad Grose, McMillan, and Council members Sabrina McCarty and Keith Liles.**



**Group photo in Roanoke before their departure for Scotland**

## Vinton WorldTrekking tour Scotland

The Vinton WorldTrekking recently returned home from a trip across the globe to Scotland. The group, led by Dionne Nichols, a teacher with Roanoke City Schools, consisted of 16 people from the Vinton community. They left Roanoke on July 7 and returned on the 16th. The group works through Education First (EF) Tours, a company that provides student-based tours throughout the world.

In 2018, Vinton WorldTrekking, a group spearheaded by Cherrybell Damasco-Farrington, an ITRT and Spanish teacher at William Byrd High School, traveled through the capitals of the United Kingdom. That trip gave them a mere taste of the history and beauty of Scotland. They spent just over a day in Scotland and promised they'd return someday. That promise came to fruition this summer.

The WorldTrekking were joined on their tour by travel groups from two other schools – one from Maryland's peninsula, and one from Georgia. The group leader from Georgia is a good friend of Nichols and they planned this tour together from



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VWT

**Learning to play bagpipes at the National Bagpipe Centre in Glasgow**

the start. By the end of the time together, the three groups felt like they'd known each other for quite some time!

The nine-day trip was led by Tour Director Stephen Vallance. He works as a lawyer in the private sector as well as a

See **Scotland**, page 6



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LANCERLOT

## Dog Days and Rounds for Hounds at the Lancerlot

One of Vinton's most popular events is the "Dog Days of Summer" held each August at the Lancerlot Sports Complex (LSC). 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" for you and your 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.

And that's not all– the Lancerlot is also celebrating the second annual Rounds for Hounds, hosted by Modern Gladiator on the third floor of the Lancerlot. This event is scheduled for 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Last year, Rounds for

Hounds was a grappling event. Coordinator Antwon Curtis says they decided to change things up in 2026 with an open

See **Dog Days**, page 9

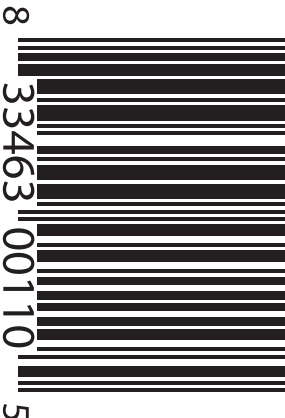




PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY CUNNINGHAM  
 Jim Cunningham on his 76th birthday, chopping firewood after the party.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS  
 Danny Adams (right) with brother James and grandson Ethan (center) building a treehouse this summer.

# The Day Everything Changed: ALS and Exhaustion

Part 4 of a series on ALS from the perspective of those who have been recently diagnosed and their caregivers

Debbie Adams  
 dadams@ourvalley.org

Jim Cunningham and my husband, Danny Adams, of Vinton were both diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) this spring. ALS is a disease of the nervous system that begins in the brain and spinal cord and affects nerve cells called motor neurons. The task of these motor neurons is to provide a line of communication between the brain and muscles, which produce movements like walking, chewing, breathing, and talking. ALS is rare; it is progressive. It is difficult to diagnose. ALS symptoms often mimic those of many other diseases. Initially, symptoms vary from person to person. (Jim's began in his legs; Danny's in his arms and mouth.) It often begins in just one limb, then spreads and

affects muscles throughout the body. Right now, there is no cure— there is just learning to manage, and hopefully reduce, the symptoms. When my husband was diagnosed with ALS, we were stunned. Looking back, there were subtle changes for months. The first change we can remember is that he began drooling and started carrying a Kleenex or napkin in his pocket all the time. At Christmas, we noticed his speech becoming slurred. I remember him dropping a hot fudge sundae at Dairy Queen— it just seemed to fall out of his hands. His handwriting became less legible. He had less and less use of his dominant left arm, which we at first attributed to arthritis. In early April he experienced what we thought was a stroke, which put us on the journey to the ALS diagnosis. After a

host of medical appointments, he was officially diagnosed in June. Jim was diagnosed with ALS shortly before Danny— in April 2026, discovered by an EMG nerve conduction test the day before a scheduled spinal surgery. Jim and Danny have always been strong, active men, never ill, always busy. While their symptoms were not especially similar, there is one symptom they have in common. They suffer from continual exhaustion. Jim's experience is that "it is TOTAL exhaustion of the whole body all the time and not being able to do anything." He said if he tries to do anything, it takes away any strength he has. "Oxygen helps some, but that is the only thing that helps." According to neurologist Dr. Lydia Sharp, Medical Director of the Carilion ALS Clinic who

treats both men, "Fatigue is one of the most common and burdensome symptoms of ALS. The reason for fatigue is still poorly understood. It is likely that the disease, the shortness of breath, poor nutrition, low mood, and sometimes poor sleep all play a role." According to the ALS Association, one of the reasons ALS patients so commonly experience fatigue is because the remaining muscles work much harder to move, breathing becomes harder, and damaged nerve cells slow down signals. Weak muscles work overtime to compensate for damaged ones; poor air flow reduces oxygen levels in the body; discomfort, pain, or breathing trouble at night prevent deep rest. As motor neurons die, the remaining motor units must compensate, forcing them to work harder and deplete energy reserves rapidly. This

compensation means struggling muscles require a significantly higher metabolic load for simple, everyday movements. Other factors that may aggravate fatigue include immobility, overexertion, excessive weight loss, protein malnutrition, too hot or cold weather, certain medications; alcohol or smoking; unavailability of people when help is needed, lack of financial resources to provide for needs to make life easier, or an inaccessible home environment. Ninety percent of those with ALS experience extreme fatigue as their most prevalent symptom. I can guarantee that if you ask my husband at almost any time how he is feeling, he will respond with "really tired." ALS fatigue is not relieved by rest; it does not go

See [ALS](#), page 9

**LIVE MUSIC**  
 AUGUST 22, 2026  
**SUPAFLY FIVE**  
 7PM  
 VINTON FARMERS MARKET | \$7 ENTRY | 12 & UNDER FREE

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

## SupaFly Five performs at this week's Mingle

Make sure Mingle at the Market is on your calendar for August 22. This week's band is local favorite SupaFly Five. The music starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$7; children under 12 are admitted free. Bring alawn chair and an ID. Food trucks this week include Chef Claytor's Dream on a Plate and Get Glazed Donuts. 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 Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Mingle concerts, not alone; they are truly community events. The Chamber thanks the William Byrd football team for volunteering to set up and break down the venue at each concert. Volunteers from Defy Gravity work the gate and do drink ticket sales.

Sponsors for the Mingles have included Stage Sponsors HomeTrust Bank and Pok-e-Joe's, the Shepherd Realty Group, Blue Ridge Beverage, PFG, Salem RidgeYaks, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, McDonalds's, Davis H. Elliottt, Oakey's, Pollard 107 South, Crooked Shoreline, Upward Financial Planning, Vinton Moose Lodge 1121, ServPro, Virginia Credit Union, the Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Star Valley Container, McCarthy Tire Service, Renewal by Andersen, LAMAR, Dirk Padgett Law, 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. The Chamber hosts two Mingle concerts each month, June through

See [Mingle](#), page 4

## History Museum crafters already at work on Hotel Roanoke Christmas tree competition entry



Vinton History Museum crafters get a head start on Christmas decorations for the Hotel Roanoke tree competition. Pictured are (from left): seated, Connie Tice and Shaye Hicks; standing, Mary Beth Layman, Julie Lee, Amanda Payne, Diana Lamoureux, Pattie Ross, Judy Cunningham, and Julie Tucei.

It's only August, but crafters at the Vinton History Museum have already begun work on decorations for the Hotel Roanoke Christmas competition which goes on display on Thanksgiving. The theme they have chosen for 2026 is "Patchwork," signifying how pieces come together to make a whole. The quilts also represent America's 250th birthday as part of the Virginia 250 celebration. Most of the ornaments they began creating at their first workshop on August 12 involve quilting in some fashion. Back in January, the museum asked for donations of old Christmas cards, fabric, vintage quilts, Styrofoam balls, and men's long-sleeved shirts (they still need more of these) to repurpose into Christmas decorations for this year's trees. Any fabric that is left will go to the Thrasher Quilters group from Thrasher Memorial UMC to make lap quilts and throws for the dialysis center. Their goal is 66 quilts. The history museum received mountains of cards which Shaye

Hicks and Connie Tice turned into ornaments using an Empress Die Cut machine, cutting the cards into origami shapes which were folded into ornaments. The Vinton History Museum has been participating in the competition for six years, after winning second place in the competition in 2021, its first year to enter. They are now guaranteed a spot on the Hokie Wall each holiday

season. Their trees have featured snowmen, Santas, Victorian and "treedazzled" ornaments, and Dogwood memorabilia. Crafters on August 12 included Shaye Hicks, Connie Tice, Judy Cunningham, Mary Beth Layman, Julie Tucei, Diane Lamoureux, Amanda Payne, Pattie Ross, and Julie Lee.

See [Crafters](#), page 4

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PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS  
 Shaye Hicks cuts repurposed Christmas cards with her Empress Die Cut Machine.

# PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Cheuning

I absolutely love seeing all the back-to-school pictures on Facebook. I hope all the students, teachers, faculty and staff have the best year!

Speaking of schools, I am in a little “Snack Battle.” In the first round, Angie and the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce went head-to-head with Amanda and the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber to see who could collect the most Snack Buddies. The response from our communities has been amazing, and now it’s time to keep that momentum going!

Round 2 is on! Now through September 25.

We’re asking our businesses, members, friends, and community supporters to help us collect individually packaged classroom snacks. Every box, bag, and package makes a difference! Suggestions include granola bars, pretzels, crackers, fruit snacks, individual snack packs, and other kid-friendly, individually packaged snacks.

Our goal is bigger than winning the

challenge. Together, we are helping provide classroom snacks so local kids can stay focused, learn, and succeed. So, choose your corner, grab some snacks, and help your Chamber take the win! Who will collect the most Snack Buddies – Angie or Amanda?

Round 2 ends September 25. Help the kids thrive. Donate snacks. Support classrooms. Make an impact!

You can drop donations off at the Chamber offices or at our drop sites on Sept. 25 –Vinton Farmers ‘Market from 11-2, Grand Home Furnishings–Tanglewood or Salem Civic Center.

Reminder– Mingle is this Saturday. SupaFly Five will be rocking the stage, Chef Claytor’s Dream on a Plate and Get Glazed Donuts will be there to serve up some great food. And Blue Ridge Beverage will have the drinks nice and frosty! Come join us.

The Vinton Chamber is hosting our Annual Fall Golf Tournament Friday, Sept. 18 at Blue Hills Golf Club. If you are interested in sponsoring or playing, please visit our website [www.vintonchamber.com](http://www.vintonchamber.com) or call the Chamber office 540-343-1364.



# SNACK BUDDY DRIVE SHOWDOWN!

THE CHALLENGE CONTINUES... LET'S SEE WHO CAN BRING IN THE MOST SNACK BUDDIES!



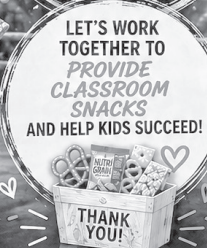
**Amanda**  
SALEM-ROANOKE COUNTY CHAMBER



**Angie**  
VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ROUND 2



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE CLASSROOM SNACKS AND HELP KIDS SUCCEED!



THANK YOU!

★ ROUND 2 ★  
NOW - SEPTEMBER 25TH!  
All snacks must be received by Thursday, Sept. 25th.

HELP KIDS THRIVE. DONATE SNACKS. MAKE AN IMPACT!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

# Vinton Breakfast Lions assist kindergarteners at Herman L. Horn on opening day

For the last few years, Lions have assisted the staff of Herman L. Horn elementary school with orientation of kindergarten students on their first two days of school. From exiting the cars, to walking the students to their assigned classrooms, Vinton Breakfast Lions provide a calm, helping hand to anxious students and parents alike.

This effort fulfills one of the Lions International's eight main causes,

Youth (Youth Services). Elementary school-aged youth, in addition to school orientation, receive vision screening, hearing screening, Reading Across America support, and

See **Lions**, page 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VBLC

Lion Chris McCarty helps a Herman L Horn student on the first day of school.

**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 Ser- vices: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

**ECKANKAR**  
**Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

**FOURSQUARE**  
**EVANGEL CHURCH** - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, [www.evangel4sq.com](http://www.evangel4sq.com), Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednes- day 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 PRESBYTE- RIAN CHURCH**, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; [cmpe2verizon.net](mailto:cmpe2verizon.net) Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Commu- nion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Mon- day 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.



## 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.

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# VINTON WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Overcoming Obstacles

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

Sometimes, in the pursuit of God’s will, we “spiritualize” our natural desire for com- fort. We make “faith state- ments,” claiming that if God is leading us, every problem should resolve itself. That is not the reality of godly living. Scripture is filled with exam- ples of God’s people encoun- tering obstacles while follow- ing divine directives.

Division of the Promised Land among the Israelites came with the responsibility of engaging enemy nations. Is- rael’s record in fulfilling that responsibility is spotty. As just one example, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh claimed their inheritance was too small.

“If you are so numerous,” Joshua answered, “and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for your- selves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites” (Joshua 17:15).

Joshua reminded the descen- dants of Joseph that much of their inheritance in the Prom- ised Land remained to be conquered. They needed to step up to that challenge.

Prayer Suggestion: As God shows you what He wants you to do, pray in faith that He will help you overcome the obstacles.

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14–17

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

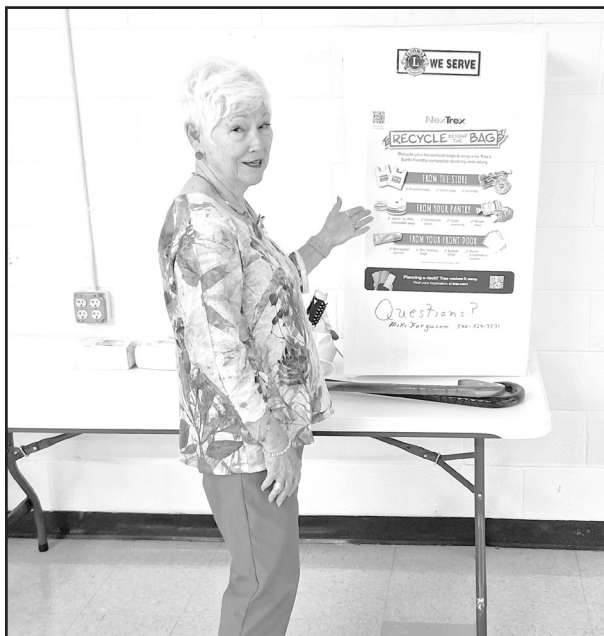


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT PLEASANT LIONS  
**Vinton area resident and Tai Chi exerciser Ann Anderson “channels Vanna White” in demonstrating the bag box**

# Mount Pleasant Lions stretch to recycle plastics

The Mount Pleasant Lions Club members have recently taken on a project to help save the world, at least their little corner of it, from discarded plastics overload and contamination. Newly elected Vice President Lynn Cochran has encouraged the club to promote the recycling of “stretchy” plastic, such as bread bags, grocery store bags, cling wrappings and the like. The club learned from a speaker she brought to the club about a program fostered by the TREX Company

(it makes the plastic decking boards) where the collection of 1,000 pounds of such plastic would be awarded by the presentation of a TREX-made, all-weather bench manufactured from recycled plastic. The bench could then be donated to a local elementary school for teachers to use during outside recess periods. Now, it takes a lot of bread bags to weigh even a pound, much less a thousand pounds, but club members have stepped up and, so far, President Steve Pasternak has delivered

about 250 pounds on his pick-up to the sanctioned drop-off site in Northwest Roanoke. So, the club is well on the way to the first bench, and there is that much less plastic floating around to foil the landscapes and waterways. In addition to the Mount Pleasant Lions Building at 2432 Mayfield Drive SE, Roanoke, the club has placed a receptacle box in the Charles R. Hill Community Center at the Vinton War Memorial. Users of the center, such as the

Thursday Morning Tai Chi class and the weekly card player group, have responded by filling the box to almost overflowing. Everyone is encouraged to bring a “bag of bags” to the clubhouse, the Community Center, or to a Lion, to do a good deed for the environment and for some hard-working local teachers.

~ By Mike Ferguson, Mount Pleasant Lions Club

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# Concert Friday at Free Will Baptist

The Kingsmen Quartet will be at Free Will Baptist Church on Gus Nicks Boulevard, behind Hardees, on Friday, August 21 at 7 p.m. It is a free

event and all are welcome.  
~ Vinton Messenger staff report

# VintonMessenger.com

## Crafters

from page 2

If you would like to assist with making the ornaments, their next session is at the Charles R. Hill Community Center on August 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum provides the supplies. Email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org if you are available to help.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report



**Julie Tucei folds die-cut cards into ornaments.** PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

## Mingle

from page 2

September. Remaining performances following SupaFly Five are Big Daddy Raye, Solocoustix, and Chris Keaton and the Millennials. Parking is available in the Walnut Avenue lot next door to the Market, at Vinton Baptist, on downtown streets, and in the Municipal Building lot.

Patrons enter the venue on Walnut Avenue. Contact the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 540-343-1364 or email info@vintonchamber.com for more information.  
~ Vinton Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    |

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mongolian politician

5. Coconut palms

10. Rounded knob

14. Japanese city

15. Covers in soft material

16. Walk around

17. Ancient region in Syria

18. French painter

19. Grandmother

20. Cow part

22. Rocky peak

23. Secret plan

24. Sings to one's lover

27. More (Spanish)

30. Father

31. Chinese philosophical principle

32. Hat

35. In agreement

37. A person's brother or sister

38. Evil spirit

39. Monetary units

40. Partner to cheese

41. About Sun

42. A place to dance

43. Performer \_\_\_ Lo Green

44. Beach accessory

45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)

46. Partly digested food

47. Pooch

48. Honorific title added to family name

49. Salts

52. Lichens genus

55. Lowest point of a ridge

56. Type of sword

60. Albanian language

61. Gold measurement

63. Italian seaport

64. Longtime late night host

65. Extremely angry

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. Mid-month day

68. Omitted from printed

matter

69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth

2. Cooking ingredient

3. Iranian city

4. Publicly outs

5. Steep-sided hollow

6. Spoke

7. General law or rule

8. Extravagantly theatrical

9. Very fast airplane

10. Arm bones

11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

12. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate

13. Gemstone

21. Counsels

23. Top exec

25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly

27. Extract money via taxation

28. Dyes

29. Cloying sweetness

32. Soft drinks

33. Capital of Guam

34. Chemical compound

36. The bill in a restaurant

37. Car mechanics group

38. Late comedian Newhart

40. Health care for the aged

41. Wise individuals

43. A passage with access only at one end

44. Trim

46. Former OSS

47. The upper surface of the mouth

49. Edible lily bulbs

50. Type of reef

51. Vaccine developer

52. Mottled citrus fruit

53. A place to store lawn tools

54. Rare goose native to Hawaii

57. Hollywood pig

58. Musician Clapton

59. Take a chance

61. Spanish soldier

62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

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Lions

from page 3

elementary school supplies. Middle school and high school youth receive support through the Breakfast Lions’ annual Bland Music Contest, Christmas Gift program, the close working relationship with the William Byrd LEO Club, and diabetic education at Camp 2 Sweet.

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club is always looking for new ways to support youth and youth services in the community and beyond.

The club reported a significant increase in service activities and eyeglass collection efforts this past year during the most recent meeting at Famous Anthony’s Restaurant where the club meets at 6:30 a.m. every second and fourth Wednesday.

A total of 1,135.5 volunteer hours were recorded across 124 activities, categorized as follows:

- Vision Programs (42 activities): Eyeglass collection/recycling, White Cane initiatives, and school vision testing
- Hunger (42 activities): Food collection, Meals on Wheels program
- Environmental (17 activities): GladeTown Cemetery and trail maintenance
- Humanitarian Aid (12 activities): Fundraising efforts such as the Dogwood Festival, Bingo, Senior Expo, and holiday gift programs.
- Youth (8 activities): Hearing screenings, Bland Music Competition, Reading Across America, HLH school orientation for new students, school supply donations
- Diabetes (2 activities): Annual Type 1 Diabetes walk, Camp 2 Sweet for youth
- Childhood Cancer (1 activity): Assistance in purchasing equipment for the new Pediatric Cancer Center at Carilion.

In addition, the eyeglass processing facility on Elm Avenue continues to receive significant contributions from local partners. This year, the Breakfast Club collected 1,857 eyeglasses from Bonsack (Kroger, Walmart, and Magnolia Eye Center) and 995 eyeglasses from Vinton (Kroger, Pinnacle Bank, Northwest Ace Hardware, Moose Lodge, Lotz Funeral Home, Blink Optometry, National Optical, and Oakey’s). The Lions extend their sincere gratitude to these establishments for their continued support of their mission.

- Submitted by Lion John Berry

WBMS

from page 1

civics full time, I was excited to accept the challenge!”

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and 3-year-old son, whether that be watching baseball, fishing at their favorite creek, or traveling to local historical sites.

**Ty Christian** is teaching seventh grade life science at WBMS. He is originally from Virginia Beach, where he graduated from Colonial High School.

“I attended the Legal Studies Academy, and though I decided very quickly I did not want to be a lawyer, I found a passion for science, studying the principles of Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation.”

He graduated from Virginia Tech in the Class of 2024 with a BS in Biological Sciences.

“This is my first year as a teacher, but I have worked in education and outreach for Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech for the past four years, running summer camps and programs during the school year. I have also previously served as a judge for science competitions for the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA).

He chose science as his subject area because “I am very passionate about how the natural world around us works.”

As for how he came to teach at WBMS, “My wife, Mrs. Canino, is an eighth grade English teacher at William Byrd Middle School. We attended high school together in Virginia Beach and moved out to Southwest Virginia to attend Virginia Tech together. She joined the school as a first-year teacher last year, and I decided to begin working as a substitute teacher at the school. I loved working as a substitute and decided to take my passion in education and outreach and become a teacher.

“I am a huge lover of all things insects. I studied Entomology at Virginia Tech, and I can’t wait to share my passion for ‘creepy’ crawlies with my students.”

**Daniel Letz** is teaching sixth grade English at William Byrd Middle. He is from Roanoke and a graduate of William Byrd. He earned his Bachelor’s in English Literature and Writing from Liberty University. This is his second year in education and his first year in teaching.

“I chose middle school English because I loved WBMS growing up; English and helping others has always been a passion of mine, so I wanted to combine the two interests. I went to WBMS as a student, and worked here as an instructional assistant, as well.

“I am a published author of short stories and poems, and my mom taught in the county for nearly 30 years.”

He will be involved with the reading club at WBMS.

**Carsyn Kotz** will be teaching sixth grade math at William Byrd Middle. She is originally from Roanoke and a graduate of WBHS. She earned her degree in Elementary Education PK-6 from Virginia Tech. This is her first year of teaching.

As for why she chose to teach math, “Math isn’t always everyone’s favorite subject, but it has always been a passion of mine. I believe every student can succeed in math when they feel supported and engaged, and my goal is to create a classroom where learning is interactive, enjoyable, and builds confidence along the way.

“I have always wanted to teach middle school because I enjoy helping students build confidence during such an important stage of their education. I also wanted to teach in the Vinton area because of its strong sense of community. I am excited for the opportunity to make a positive impact on students while being part of a community that values education.

“I graduated from William Byrd High School, where I played volleyball and had the honor of being named Dogwood Queen during my senior year. It is incredibly meaningful to now be coaching volleyball and teaching in the same community where I learned, grew, and developed as both a student and an athlete. Being able to give back to the school and community that helped shape who I am is truly special to me.

“My mom (Shawna Kotz) is also a sixth grade teacher at WBMS!”

**Ashley Grubb** is an eighth grade math/ Special Education teacher at Byrd. She is originally from Lynchburg and a graduate of Brookville High School. She received her Bachelor’s in English and her Master’s in Special Education from the University of Mary Washington, and her Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Lynchburg. She has been working in the field of education for 17 years.

“Math is my favorite subject to teach and I love getting the opportunity to support students in any way that helps them to learn the best.

“I worked at WBHS a few years ago, but continued to coach after I left. I really missed the community feel that Vinton has, and really wanted to get back to working in the county and especially in Vinton. When a position opened up here at WBMS, I jumped at the chance to return.

“I live here, as do my brother-in-law and sister-in-law with their families, so we all have children who are either WBHS grads or current elementary school students. Most of my extra time is spent coaching and spending time with my husband, daughter, and our extended family.”

She is currently the head coach of the WBMS girls soccer team.

**Sarah Skeen** is working at William Byrd Middle, Glenvar Middle, Glenvar High, Burlington Elementary, and Mount Pleasant Elementary Schools as the 504 Facilitator and provides testing support across multiple schools.

“My family is originally from Southwest Virginia, but as an Army brat, I moved frequently, growing up and spending much of my childhood in Texas before eventually returning to Virginia.”

She earned her Bachelor’s in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin, her Master’s in Literacy Education from Radford University, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Tech.

“This will be my 13th year in education. I spent five years as an elementary classroom teacher in Austin, Texas, and Roanoke City, followed by four years as a reading specialist. For the past three years, while earning my doctorate at Virginia Tech, I worked as a university supervisor, mentoring student teachers in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, and Montgomery County. I also taught an undergraduate literacy course and served as a teaching assistant for graduate seminars.

“I’ve always been passionate about helping students succeed by removing barriers to learning. Throughout my career, I’ve enjoyed collaborating with teachers, families, and school teams to support students’ individual needs. The 504 Facilitator role allows me to continue advocating for students while working across multiple schools and grade levels.

“After completing my Ph.D. at Virginia Tech, I was looking for an opportunity that would allow me to combine my classroom experience and knowledge of student supports. Roanoke County Public Schools felt like a great fit and I was excited for the opportunity to work in my community.”

Outside of work, Skeen enjoys running, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family.

**Jessica Rhodes** is the counseling administrative assistant this year for grades 6-8 at WBMS. She is originally from Catawba but graduated from William Byrd High School and has family from the area. Her mother, Molly Rhodes, was the school nurse at WBMS.

She received her bachelor’s degree in Health Science from Ferrum College. This is her fifth year working in education. She chose her field “to build relationships and connections with my co-workers and community.”

As for her other interests, “I am very interested in the ethical treatment of animals and the environment. I have enormous respect for and cherish all living things.”

**Samantha Wallace** is the school counseling coordinator at WBMS this year, overseeing the counseling office while working with students who have last names A-F.

“I am so excited to help support our kids in my new role.”

She is originally from Roanoke and attended WBMS and WBHS, graduating in 2009.

“I earned a bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology from Liberty University in 2014. I became a TDT counselor through a local counseling agency for nine years where I worked with both Roanoke City and Roanoke County schools (including WBMS). I earned my master’s in school counseling from Liberty University in December 2022.

“I love building relationships with my students, seeing their progress/growth, and helping them through life’s toughest moments.

“In my free time, I enjoy trying new restaurants, working out, going for walks, reading, cleaning, cuddling with my cat, watching new shows, and spending time with my husband/friends/family.”

**Julia Ormandy** is the school counselor at WBMS for students with names ending in G-O. She is originally from Vinton and a graduate of WBHS. She earned her Bachelor’s in Psychology from Concord University and her Master’s in Education in School Counseling from Liberty University. This is her 11th year working in the field of education.

“I chose school counseling because I enjoy helping others. I’ve worked at every level of education and middle school is my favorite age group to work with. I completed my internship at WBMS in 2016. Life took me different places, but I’m excited to be back in Terrier Nation.”

**Hillary Jones** is the library circulation specialist at WBMS this year. She is originally from Spokane, Wash. She earned her Bachelor’s from Boise State University and is finishing up her Master’s in Library and Information Science at Old Dominion University, set to graduate in December.

“I taught at a private school right out of college for one year; then I taught English in France for a year before staying home with my children. I have been substituting for RCPS for the last three years, including in the library at WBMS.”

She chose her position because, “I love the library! The library is a unique third space in school that allows students to make decisions, explore new points of view, and learn in ways that aren’t feasible in a traditional classroom. With its huge makerspace, green room, and extensive collection, WBMS library is a great example of how libraries serve school communities.”

**Mary Jo Niday** is serving as a front office instructional assistant at WBMS, supporting students, families, teachers, and administrators while helping keep the front office running smoothly.

She is originally from the Roanoke Valley and graduated from WBHS in the Class of 2001. She played soccer throughout her years at Byrd. She is currently working toward her Bachelor’s in Psychology at Liberty University.

“I have worked as a substitute teacher with Roanoke County Public Schools since 2023. After my subarachnoid brain bleed in 2021, I spent several years away from the workforce while focusing on my recovery. One of my best friends, Lindsay Hastings, who worked for Roanoke County Public Schools for more than 10 years, encouraged me to try substitute teaching when she felt I was ready to return to work. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I’ve ever made, and I owe it all to her!”

“I quickly fell in love with the students, the staff, and the sense of community within Roanoke County Schools. The kindness, encouragement, and acceptance I experienced—especially within the William Byrd community—made me realize I wanted to build a permanent career here. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a supportive school family and look forward to making a positive difference every day.

“My family has deep roots in the Roanoke/Vinton area. It feels like coming home to be able to serve the same community that helped shape me.”

In her spare time, “I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and decorating and organizing spaces. I also love supporting students and building relationships with the people around me. I have five wonderful children and a Golden Retriever service dog named Honey, who has become an important part of my daily life since my brain bleed. I am excited to become part of the William Byrd Middle School family and look forward to getting to know everyone.

“In addition to my front office responsibilities, I will be helping coach the William Byrd High School varsity boys soccer team.”

**Amy Canoles** will be an instructional assistant at WBMS this year.

**Elizabeth Lyons** will be working as a one-on-one instructional assistant in subjects such as science and social studies.

She is originally from the Roanoke area and a graduate of William Fleming High School, but is moving back home from Portland, Ore. Most of her immediate family lives in the Vinton area.

“I was lucky enough to find this opening in a school where I will know a lot of students coming from an elementary school I worked at previously.”

She has a degree in Science from Tidewater Community College and has been in the field of education for three years.

“I have worked in many grades and subjects over the years, and I feel like this year I’m getting to really utilize my degree in Science, which is so exciting for me!”

As for her outside interests, “I love to spend time with my family, travel, and I love to crochet!”



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# Scotland

from page 1



The group in front of Doune Castle

tour director with EF Tours. His patience, knowledge, and laid-back demeanor quickly helped the entire group of travelers feel like a family. April Holmes, one of the travelers, said that Vallance “was fantastic—extremely knowledgeable about a wide variety of things, which was wonderful.”

The trip went quite smoothly considering they left just as a storm was moving into the Roanoke area. They flew from Roanoke to Atlanta, from Atlanta to Amsterdam, and from Amsterdam to Edinburgh. From there, they drove about an hour to Glasgow to meet up with the other two schools.

Vallance, a native Glaswegian, had stories and history to share about nearly every corner of the city, it seemed!

While in Glasgow, the group visited the Riverside Museum as well as the National Bagpipe Center, where they learned the first steps to how to play bagpipes. The travelers also visited the Glasgow Cathedral and Glasgow University as well as many other shops, restaurants, and historic sites, including the Duke of Wellington and his orange cone.

From Glasgow, the group traveled to Stirling on their way to the Highlands. Their first stop was the iconic Kelpies— huge

horse head statues! They traveled next to Doune Castle, an historic castle built in the 1300s and used much more recently as a filming location for Monty Python, Game of Thrones, and Outlander. Later, they spent the afternoon at Bannockburn Historic Site – the place where the Scots won their freedom from England.

From the hotel in the Highlands, the group left the next morning to travel to Glencoe. Glencoe is, by far, one of the more bittersweet locations. Its beauty is matched by the historic betrayal that took place here. This particular day was filled with excitement and beauty. The group saw Glencoe, watched a yacht travel up Neptune’s Stairway, rode a train over the Glenfinnan Viaduct (Harry Potter bridge!), and walked through Fort William. It was a fulfilling, yet tiring, day.

The whirlwind didn’t stop there. The travelers next traveled to Loch Ness where they took a boat ride to Urquhart Castle ruins, another fortress that was built in the 1300s. The castle is situated on the shores of Loch Ness.

The group then moved on to see Culloiden. Culloiden is another battle ground, except this is a memorial to the mass numbers of Scots who died in battle against the English during the Jacobite

Uprising. After Culloiden, the group continued their Highland travels towards Edinburgh, stopping at Pitlochry for ice cream on their way to Stirling University, where they slept the next few nights.

The next two days were spent in Edinburgh. Day 7 began with a visit to the National Museum of Scotland and a chunk of free time where the travelers broke into smaller groups and chose their own activities. A lot of shopping and trying new foods occurred then. Most of the travelers found their way to the iconic Greyfriar’s Bobby statue and graveyard as well as the wide range of shops on the Royal Mile. Nathan Hiemstra said that if he ever returns to Edinburgh, he would “love to hike up Arthur’s Seat as a group and see the view of Edinburgh [from the top].” In fact, Edinburgh was at the top of everyone’s list for a return visit.

Day 8 started with a traffic jam on the interstate. When the bus driver attempted a country route instead, the group got caught in construction traffic. The result was a 45-minutes late arrival to the group’s first activity of the day, the Storytelling Centre of Scotland. While most would look at this and shrug it off (traffic happens!) they were still treated to their last 15 minutes. They were enthralled

by the storyteller. Her inflection, choice of words, and ability to draw everyone in had them listening to every word. This centre is certainly one place many wish to return to.

Afterwards, the group met a tour guide from Edinburgh who took them on a bus tour of the city and Edinburgh Castle.

One of the most exciting parts of the trip was the sheer mix of history— spanning from medieval to present day. The travelers visited castles and fortresses, but also churches and historic sites. They tried a variety of new foods and even were greeted with haggis and black sausage several times at breakfast buffets.

In asking the travelers which location was their favorite, the answers are so varied, it is safe to say this trip was truly enjoyed by all and held something for everyone. History, religion, food, and beautiful views—from the heights as well as from the water—the tour was a resounding success!

When asked what is next for the Vinton WorldTrekks, Damasco-Farrington says the line-up is:

- Discover South Korea in 2027
- Portugal, Spain, & Gibraltar in 2028
- Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam also in 2028
- and she will be revealing her 2029 tour destination next

month; stay tuned to the Vinton WorldTrekker social media pages to find out where

While all group leaders are educators, their goal is multifaceted. They wish to broaden the perspectives of their students, but they also wish to give families an opportunity to share adventures together and make memories that will last a lifetime. This is one key reason they encourage the community members to join the tours.

Would you like to learn about their future tours? An interest meeting for the upcoming tours will be held on September 9 at 7 p.m virtually. View the sign-up link on their Linktr.ee or social media sites to join.

When asked if they would encourage others to join the trips, several travelers enthusiastically responded. George Schmidt said, “It is a lot of fun, but also a lot of responsibility. There wasn’t any hand-holding, and I appreciated that.” He appreciated the confidence gained through traveling with VWT. Amanda Hornady seconds that, stating she “[feels] confident to travel with family.” April Holmes states emphatically to just “Do it! Sign your teens up! You won’t regret it.”

- Submitted by Dionne Nichols



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VWT

The entire bus (Virginia, Georgia, and Maryland) in front of Glencoe

# Council

from page 1

past 30 years quietly transforming the town through numerous physical improvement projects and building public trust through collaborative leadership, regional engagement, and mentorship. By turning long-range community goals into tangible results, she has demonstrated the value of planning while inspiring future professionals and fostering a culture of inclusion within the planning field,” McClung said.

“When she began her tenure, the Town of Vinton was a post-industrial community grappling with aging infrastructure, recurring flooding, limited economic growth, and the lingering impacts of segregation, particularly in historically Black neighborhoods such as Glade Town and Midway. McMillan approached these challenges with a steadfast equity-first mindset and spent the next 30 years quietly

transforming the town’s trajectory.

“Her work has delivered targeted stormwater solutions that reduced long-standing flooding, expanded greenways and public spaces that reconnected neighborhoods, and supported downtown revitalization efforts that strengthened economic opportunity,” he continued. “Projects including Walnut Avenue Bike/Pedestrian Improvements, Wolf Creek and Glade Creek Greenway expansions, and multiple crosswalk and intersection enhancements reflect her consistent commitment to mobility equity, particularly for residents who rely on walking or bicycling. Her leadership also advanced environmental justice through the Midway Flood Mitigation Project, Woodland Place Stream Restoration, and brownfields assessments

that made reinvestment possible in historically underserved areas. McMillan’s work demonstrates how equity can be advanced in small communities through the strategic use of grant funding.”

Mayor Brad Grose thanked her for all the great things she has done for the town during her tenure. She is most well-known for the countless grants she has written to improve the town, especially the greenways. McClung expressed his appreciation for her mentorship as they have worked together in planning and zoning. Councilman Keith Liles thanked her for her guidance as he served on the Planning Commission. Councilman Mike Stovall described the legacy she has left and all the years she has devoted to public service.

Council next adopted a resolution to ratify a contract with Taxing Authority Consulting

Services, PC (TACS), presented by Director of Finance Tiffany Stewart. This contract will take effect almost immediately to collect delinquent taxes. This would be a good time to pay up if you are behind in your taxes, before a 20% administrative fee is added in addition to penalties and interest. Citizens will be given notice before the collection begins.

Town Council conducted a public hearing on the issuance of a general obligation bond not to exceed \$2.5 million for the purpose of renovations to the iconic Vinton War Memorial and then approved the measure.

Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton noted that the town is authorized to borrow money to finance capital improvements. The town issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and received a proposal from Bank of Botetourt. This bond has a 20-year term at a 5.99% fixed rate with no early payoff penalty. The yearly payout will be \$215,000. Sexton said that the town does have the opportunity to refinance later at a lower interest rate or pay off the bond.

The total estimated cost of the War Memorial project is \$4.5 million.

McClung reported on issues discussed at the latest Community Development Committee meeting. Topics included public design charrettes for the undeveloped McGimsey property that runs between River Park Shopping Center and downtown, continuing discussions on options

for the fire-damaged properties in downtown Vinton which have now sat vacant since 2022, various properties throughout the town which could become residential in nature, new Wing Stop and WaWa businesses, and the nearly-complete hotel.

Town Manager Pete Peters updated council on the continued closure of Pollard Street near the hotel in order to combine three projects with one road closure. This involved the hotel’s sidewalks and curbs, the AEP connection for the hotel, and the WVWA water lines. The road is expected to reopen this week.

He reported that contractors will be back on-site at Gish Mill in the coming days with an April 2027 opening planned.

The mayor congratulated Police Chief Fabricio Drumond for recently completing the Senior Executive Institute Program at UVA.

Prior to the regular Town Council meeting, council met in a work session with town attorney Jeremy Carroll to review proposed updates to the Town Charter. The purpose was to review and discuss proposed revisions to the Town Charter. Council previously examined the current charter, considered potential amendments, and provided direction regarding recommended edits.

Carroll and Peters, at the direction of council, had reviewed the Town Charter and proposed changes that would remove and/or resolve inconsistent, outdated, and/or unnecessary language, clarify language regarding the town manager’s authority, and incorporate language requested by council.

The overwhelming goal is to conform the Town Charter to State Code. The Town Charter then goes to the General Assembly for approval.

Some needed changes include: May election dates are still included in the charter, while now the elections are held in November. The mayor is referred to only as “he.” With the sale of the utility system to the WVWA, there is no longer a need for a section on water and sewer charges. There is a section about council not interfering with appointments or removals of personnel by the town manager or his subordinates— that’s an administrative duty.

Under the revised charter, the town manager, town treasurer, town clerk, and town attorney are appointed by Town Council. The police chief would be appointed by the town manager, not Town Council, and the police department would be under the town manager.

A lengthy list of responsibilities is included for the town manager or the department heads he designates. Peters says he has already been performing those duties; they have just been restated in the proposed charter update.

The town is set up as a council/manager form of government, and those additions listed simply clarify his duties.

“The council/manager form of government separates political leadership from administrative execution. An elected city or town council sets policies and passes ordinances, while a professional, appointed manager oversees the day-to-day operations, drafts the budget, and directs municipal staff.”

A public hearing will be held on the draft resolution on September 1.

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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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended to date, notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Salem will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., September 14, 2026, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia, to receive views of citizens within the Salem School District regarding the appointment to fill the expiring term ending 12/31/2026 of one member on the City of Salem School Board. All candidates seeking appointment must submit a letter of interest and résumé to the Deputy Clerk of Council. Submissions are requested by noon on Friday, September 11, 2026, however in all cases must be submitted prior to the closing of this public hearing. Candidates may be interviewed individually by City Council. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA H. Robert Light Clerk of Salem City Council

VDOT 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,

Legals - City of Salem

dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubbertire 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

VDOT 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. 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

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless)

proposes to install a public lighting structure and associated wireless communications antennas at an overall height of 41.5 feet at the approx. vicinity of 1322 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, VA 24060. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic

Legals - Montgomery County

Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Maggie Vincent, m.vincent@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 410-853-7128.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Code Amendment request by Town of Christiansburg, Applicant, to amend the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 42, Sec. 42-397 – Permitted uses. Data centers are currently allowed by right in the General Industrial (I-2) Zoning District, and the request is to require a conditional use permit for data centers in the General Industrial (I-2) Zoning District. A copy of the applications, 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 2676 DRY VALLEY ROAD, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$60,900.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No.

Legals - Montgomery County

2003010550. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 16, 2026, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT UN-NUMBERED PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 0.731 ACRE DESIGNATED AS RETAINED BY OLLIE BAIN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "PLAT FOR KYLE E. DAVIS AND SHARON B. DAVIS OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.0005 AC. LOT NEAR BAINS CHAPEL IN RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 5, 1997, DESIGNATED PLAT NO. 97-505, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 991, PAGE 410, AND TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCED IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the 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 Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-378698-2.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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 Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-384975-1.

Trustee's Sale

1990 Reesdale Road, Elliston, Virginia 24087 (Parcel ID: 022175; Tax Map No.: 057- 2 6) Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 29, 2015, in the original principal amount of \$106,837.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia in Instrument No. 150009429, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction on September 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM in front of the building housing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, the property designated as Lot number six (6), as shown on plat entitled "Survey for [...] Kaulback" showing Subdivision of 45.86 acre tract, Mt. Tabor District, Montgomery County, Virginia, which plat is dated June 18, 1979, prepared by T.P. Parker and Son, C.L.S., designated no. 6256, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court in Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 9, page 197. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$11,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's

Legals - Montgomery County

Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or M. Brennan Hutt d/b/a H&H Abstracting, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 233457-02, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

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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SERVICES

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# SPORTS

Send story ideas & announcements to [bhoffman@ourvalley.org](mailto:bhoffman@ourvalley.org), or PO Box 1125, Salem, Va, 24153 • [ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

The William Byrd football team scrimmaged Jefferson Forest and Glenvar at Glenvar High School last Friday.



## Terriers have home scrimmage with Alleghany Friday

The high school football season is just a week and a day away as William Byrd prepares to host Alleghany for the Terriers second scrimmage this Friday night. The scrimmage is scheduled for 6 pm at Patterson Stadium and it is not a benefit game, free of charge to the public.

“It is not a benefit game format,” said Byrd coach Brad Lutz. “We will have a scrimmage format that includes some game situations, but not a full game format.”

The Byrdmen were on the other side of Roanoke County for a scrimmage at Glenvar’s Highlander Stadium last Friday. After a little over an hour’s delay due to a thunderstorm the Terriers scrimmaged Jefferson Forest and host Glenvar. It was a good workout for the team as they blocked and tackled folks in different color uniforms for the first time this summer.

“Our staff was pleased with the progress our guys are making,” said Lutz. “We still have

a lot to work on and clean up, but we got some really good reps on film against two teams that played in the state playoffs last season.”

Byrd will open the season for real on August 28 against Cave Spring at Bogle Stadium behind Cave Spring Middle School. Look for a preview of the Byrd football team in next week’s Vinton Messenger sports section.

## RidgeYaks have Allen Lawrence bobble-head giveaway Saturday night

The Salem RidgeYaks are back home this week hoping to move back into first place in the second half standings of the Carolina League’s North Division. Salem will play the Wilson Warbirds, a Milwaukee Brewers farm team, for six games beginning Tuesday at Salem Memorial Ballpark.

The Sox were in first place prior to last week’s series in Salisbury, MD against the Delmarva Shorebirds. Salem dropped four of six games to the Shorebirds including the last two of the series, 7-3 on Saturday and 8-5 on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Fayetteville Woodpeckers took five of six from Fredricksburg in North Carolina to move past the Yaks into first place. Coming into Tuesday’s games the Woodpeckers led the division with a 26-20 second half record, Wilson is now in second place at 24-21 and Salem has dropped to third, two and half games behind Fayetteville at 24-23.

This week’s promotions include hockey night tonight and Racing Night on Friday with a diecast car giveaway to the first 1,000 fans. It’s also fireworks night on Friday.

Saturday is Military Appreciation Night and it’s another giveaway. The first 750 fans will receive a special commemorative bobblehead honoring Yaks’ General Manager Allen Lawrence. The limited-edition bobblehead celebrates Lawrence’s recent induction into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame on February 1, 2026, recognizing his longtime impact on professional baseball in the Roanoke Valley and Southwest Virginia.

“We are incredibly proud to celebrate Allen and all he has meant to baseball in Salem and the Roanoke Valley,” said Assistant General Manager Blair Hoke. “This bobblehead is a fun and meaningful way for our fans and community to recognize his lasting contributions to our organization and the game of baseball.”



## ALS

from page 1

away with a nap; and it is the least-treated symptom.

The extreme fatigue generally makes daily activities challenging or impossible to do independently; it often limits your ability to engage in activities that require high levels of energy, stamina, or focus; and may leave you feeling lonely or frustrated because you can’t do what you enjoy.

ALS fatigue is unpredictable. You may feel rested one day just

to wake up entirely drained the next, which makes planning for work and social activities challenging.

Signs of this fatigue include slower body movement, slower speech responses, short answers, lower voice volume, dull tone of voice, shortness of breath, increased sighing, anorexia, irritability, anxiety, decreased smiling, lack of enjoyment of previously enjoyed activities, trouble focusing or

remembering things, muscles shaking or tiring very fast, feeling drained early in the day, decreased caring about things that were previously important, deterioration in appearance and grooming, increased preference for being alone, and disinterest in making daily plans.

There are ways to manage ALS fatigue:

- Pace yourself; rest before you feel totally tired; break big jobs into small steps

- Plan ahead; do hard tasks at the time of day when you have the most power
- Use assistive devices, tools, walkers, braces, or motorized chairs to save muscle power. Get a handicapped parking sticker.
- Talk to your doctor to see if nighttime breathing support helps you sleep better.
- Maintain adequate nutritional intake and hydration to support energy

levels. Consuming nutrient-dense foods and staying well-hydrated helps the body sustain its limited strength.

- Ask for help. If you are too tired to go shopping, clean, or cook, reach out to family and friends. Social support makes a big difference.

In ALS you can’t take away fatigue, but, to some extent, you can learn to overcome fatigue and not let it overcome you.

## Dog Days

from page 1

Spar/Roll Day (strike or grapple)—a lower intensity activity than last year’s grappling competition. (There are no referees.) It will also be a time to socialize and network without the worry of competition. Dogs available for adoption will be visiting the event, as well.

The minimum entry fee is \$5, and the max is “whatever you feel like donating” or you can bring unopened dog or cat food. All proceeds will go to the local animal shelters on-site at Dog Days. Last year, Curtis was able to deliver checks for about \$300 to shelters including Angels of Assisi, RCACP, and the Franklin County Humane Society.

Modern Gladiator Fight Training Academy is a martial arts school located at The Lot. It is a non-profit athletic organization specializing in Sambo— a Russian, judo-derived discipline with three tracks: Sport Sambo (grappling), Combat Sambo (striking + grappling with protective gear), and Combatives/ Self-Defense (practical skills for real-world safety). They exist to make high-quality training accessible to youth,

women, and adults regardless of experience or background.

Modern Gladiators teaches a progressive, safety-first curriculum that builds strength, confidence, and character, not just medals. Students can train for fitness and personal protection, join the sport pathway for competition, or focus on combatives for everyday self-defense. Their culture is simple: work hard, respect everyone, serve the community.

Curtis says Modern Gladiator started out years ago in the back of a church on Peters Creek Road near Northside High School with some mats. They kept moving from church to church and ended up at the Lancerlot about 15 years ago.

He is one of the head coaches. He will be bringing along his own dogs— a German Shepherd, two Boston Terriers, and a Chihuahua/Jack Russell mix.

To register for “Rounds for Hounds” visit the Modern Gladiators Facebook page. There is parking for Rounds for Hounds participants at the Rosie’s parking garage.

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

Facebook page.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



Dog Days at the Lancerlot

FILE PHOTO

# SPORTS

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## Byrd volleyball team opens at home Monday with Bruins

The William Byrd volleyball team will open the fall season at home Monday when Blacksburg visits Vinton. The Terriers will have their final preseason scrimmage tonight in Lynchburg when they take on E.C . Glass.

Byrd has a new coach this year as alum Kris McCoy takes over the reins. Kris brings a wealth of coaching experience to the position, having previously served as a varsity head coach and as a coach within nationally recognized club volleyball programs. Throughout his coaching career he has been known for developing competitive teams, fostering growth and emphasizing accountability and teamwork.

McCoy replaces Jordan Persinger, who left the program after one season as head coach. The Terriers finished 7-15 last year and lost to top seeded Christiansburg in the Region 3D tournament. The Blue Demons were undefeated region champs and state runners-up, losing to Abingdon in the state Class 3 final.

Ironically Christiansburg is coached by McCoy's wife, Amanda, who is also a William Byrd graduate and former Terrier coach and player. Amanda began her head coaching career at William Byrd, leading the Terrier program from 2007 to 2012. Amanda has deep ties to the program as a player on William Byrd's 2000 State Championship team.

The Terriers graduated All-Blue Ridge District performer Isabella Dudley from last year's team but they return three second team selections, senior Maggie Zimmerman, junior Haleigh White and sophomore Catalina Patterson.

"We will be fielding a varsity team with eight returning players and will lean into these veteran players to set and maintain our new standards both on and off the floor," said McCoy. "We will have seven players that will be new to varsity but are bringing talent and energy. We're excited to see how these players accentuate our team when added to our already talented veteran players."

In addition to the three all-district players returnees include seniors Heidi



The 2026 William Byrd volleyball team. Front row, left to right; **Carlie Zimmerman, Leah Montgomery, Katelyn Mills, Ellie Ruble and Josephine Mullen.** Back row, left to right: **Catalina Patterson, Haleigh White, Lauren Toney, Kayleigh Barber, Emma Olivit, Caroline Johnson, Heidi Dixon, Memphis Simmons, Maggie Zimmerman and Kenleigh Hetherington.**

PHOTO COURTESY WB

Dixon and Lauren Toney and juniors Ellie Ruble, Josephine Mullen and Emma Olivit. Newcomers to the varsity are juniors Kayleigh Barber, Leah Montgomery, Kenleigh Hetherington and Katelyn Mills, sophomores Carlie Zimmerman and Carolina Johnson and freshman Memphis Simmons.

McCoy's varsity assistants include Terry Smith and Harrison Lionberger. Holland Ragland is also a varsity assistant and head jayvee coach. Jayvee assistants are Carsyn Kotz and Julie Simmons. Stephanie Brady will coach the middle school team with assistants Jennifer Cain, Katie Hetherington and Mitzi Thornton.

After opening with Blacksburg Monday the Terriers will travel to Glenvar a week from tonight. The Highlanders are perennial Class 2 state contenders. In fact, Byrd might have one of the toughest

Class 3 schedules in the state with a challenging Blue Ridge District schedule and non-district matches with Hidden Valley, Cave Spring, Blacksburg, Glenvar and Alleghany, all very good teams.

"Southwest Virginia has some outstanding volleyball programs, and that's one of the things that makes coaching here so exciting," said McCoy. "There are a lot of well-coached teams with talented student-athletes, and every night presents a different challenge."

McCoy will take them one at a time and welcomes the challenge.

"For us the approach is simple, we prepare the same way regardless of who's on the other side of the net," he said. "We know we're going to face quality competition throughout the season, and we're excited about those opportunities."

"Our players are working hard every day, and our expectation is to compete

with confidence, composure, and consistency every time we step on the floor. We want to be a team that earns respect through how we prepare, how we compete and how we show up both on and off the floor. Our goals are rooted in growth, consistency, and the daily habits that build great teams. If we stay committed to the process and take care of the little things, then the big things such as results will follow."



William Byrd's David Foster shot even par over the last 13 holes at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club Tuesday.

PHOTO BY SCOTT GARDNER

## Golfers lower scores at BG&SC

The William Byrd golfers were back at the Botetourt Golf & Swim Club this week for a Blue Ridge District match, two weeks after the Metro Tournament was held on the same course. The Terriers shot nine strokes better this time around with a team total of 331.

"We continue to improve with valuable match experience," said Byrd coach Scott Whitehead.

Northside won the round in Troutville with a team score of 313. Host Lord Botetourt was second at 323 and Franklin County was third, just one stroke better than Byrd with a 330. Staunton River had 374 and William Fleming had just two golfers.

Medalist at the par

71 BG&SC course was Botetourt's Alisa Davidova, who scorched her home course on a hot day with a six under par 65. Northside had the next two best with Camden Spangler at 74 and Ryland Stump at 75.

Byrd's best score was a 78 by David Foster. Reid Divers shot 83 and Ethan Sink and Andrew Carter rounded out the scoring with 85 each.

"Foster continues to play well after having a rough start to the day, finishing the last 13 holes in even par," said Whitehead. "Reid Divers had his best round of the year."

Last Thursday the Blue Ridge District golfers played a round at the Mariners Landing County Club on the shores of Smith Mountain

Lake. Northside had the low score with a nine hole 158 and Lord Botetourt was second at 161. Franklin County was one shot behind LB at 162 and Byrd shot a four-man 173 for nine. Northside's Stump took medalist honors with a 35.

Byrd was led by Sink, who carded a 40. Carter had 42, Foster shot 45 and Divers came in at 46. Keelan Webster was not in the top four but just a stroke behind Divers at 47 and Talon Gibson finished the nine at 50.

The Terriers are back on the links at the Ashley Plantation course in Daleville next Tuesday, August 25.

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