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William Byrd marks 9/11 anniversary with tribute and flag retirement ceremony

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Cadets in the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps, based at William Byrd High School, paid tribute to those who perished 25 years ago on 9/11 with an American flag retirement ceremony.

Command Senior Chief Shawn M. Wingle, U.S. Navy (Ret.), the Naval Science Instructor at WBHS, remembered the 2,977 victims of the attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pa. Another 9,000 people have died from 9/11-related illnesses in the years since.

Company Commander Alexis Short noted that the flags being retired were donated by the local community, had been ceremonially cut into pieces, and then were committed to the fire.

“It is fitting to honor them and properly retire them as they represent blood shed for our country,” Wingle said. “9/11 is a day that changed the course of our history, and it is important to honor that every single year.”

Cadet Beasley delivered the invocation, “Heavenly Father, we pause to remember those whose lives were lost on September 11th, those who ran toward danger, and those who have served our nation in the years since. Grant comfort to the families who still carry that loss, strength to those who serve, and wisdom to each of us to live with courage, honor, and gratitude. May we never forget the sacrifice of those we honor today.”

Master of Ceremonies Cadet Jaxon Fowler welcomed guests to the solemn event, saying, “We are honored to be joined by our school and community leaders, first responders, service members, veterans, students, and families. Twenty-five years ago today, our nation experienced one of the darkest days in American history. Nineteen terrorists hijacked four aircraft. Two struck the World Trade Center buildings; one struck the Pentagon; and one never reached its intended target because ordinary Americans chose to fight back. Today, we remember those lost, those who served, and the lives forever changed.”

He then retraced the timeline of the events of that morning, with the Navy bell struck once after each event.

- At 7:59 a.m. American Airlines Flight 11 departed Boston’s Logan International Airport bound for Los Angeles with five hijackers aboard.
- At 8:14 a.m. United Airlines Flight 175 departed Boston, bound for Los Angeles with five



Cadets prepare an American flag for retirement



Cadet Aiden Beasley rings the bell to mark each event on 9/11.

hijackers aboard.

- At 8:14 a.m. Flight 11 was hijacked over Massachusetts.
- At 8:20 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 departed Washington Dulles International Airport, bound for Los Angeles. Five hijackers were aboard.
- At 8:42 a.m. United Airlines Flight 93 departed Newark, bound for San Francisco with four hijackers aboard.
- At 8:46 a.m. Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.
- At 9:03 a.m. Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower.
- At 9:37 a.m. Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.
- At 9:57 a.m. passengers aboard Flight 93



Cadets marching in review



Vinton Police Lt. Michael Caldwell salutes the flag being retired.

learned what had happened. They decided to fight back. They knew the danger. They knew they may not survive. But they choose to act.

- At 9:59 a.m. the South Tower collapsed.
- At 10:03 a.m. Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville, Pa. The passengers and crew fought to take back their aircraft, preventing it from reaching its intended target in Washington, D.C. Their courage saved countless lives.
- At 10:28 a.m. the North Tower collapsed.

“In less than three hours, our world had changed forever. By the end of that day, 2,977 innocent people had been killed. They were mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. They were

See **Ceremony**, page 8



The Navy National Defense Cadet Corps based at WBHS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS

Remembering Jim Cunningham, devoted family man and Vinton community volunteer

James (Jim) Lee “Pug” Cunningham passed away on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at the age of 79, after a courageous battle with ALS.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Judy Harris Cunningham; his children, “Zeph”aniah (Kelly) Cunningham, Heather (Matt) McGlennon, Sarah (Joe) Mullins; his grandchildren, Lillian Cunningham, Riley McGlennon, Katie (Cody) Smith, Amber Mullins; great-grandchildren, Charlie Smith and Harper Smith (Jan. 2027); sister, Gaye (Dan) Walke; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was predeceased by his parents, Jack and Ruth Moore Anderson; father, Claude Cunningham Sr.; in-laws, William and Alice Harris; sister, Faye Sheffield; and brother, Claude “Shorty” Cunningham Jr.

Jim was born October 27, 1946, in Roanoke. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1966 and then started a long 41-year career at Hub Pattern Corporation. He was a member of Waverly Place Baptist Church.

When he wasn’t spending time with family, Jim loved working on his farm, McGee Run, in Rockbridge County. He was also an avid car collector and a member of Star City Hot Rods. He volunteered with the Vinton Jaycees for over 20 years



FILE PHOTO

and in the Jefferson High School Memorabilia Room to help continue the legacy of the school. He loved going to his children’s and grandchildren’s sports and activities and working a good crossword or Sudoku puzzle. There was nothing he could not make, or fix, and always coming up with the next project and usually finding a way to make it happen.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Lydia Sharp with Carilion ALS Clinic and Good Samaritan

See **Cunningham**, page 8



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Regent Susan Doyle and Past Regent Cindy Higgins accept a proclamation from the town declaring Sept. 17-23 as National Constitution Week. Pictured left to right are Council member Mike Stovall, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, Mayor Brad Grose, DAR Regent Susan Doyle, Council member Sabrina McCarty, Past DAR Regent Cindy Higgins and Council member Keith Liles.

Vinton Town Council acts to update town charter

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

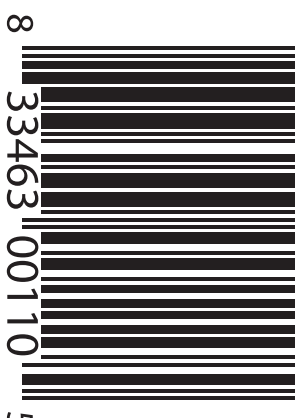
Vinton Town Council met briefly on September 15. Two public hearings had been scheduled but were postponed because of a change in state code requiring certain public notices to be advertised for two successive weeks in a local newspaper rather than once. That led to public hearings on proposed budget amendments being postponed to a later

date.

Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Council members Sabrina McCarty, Keith Liles, and Mike Stovall were able to adopt a resolution discussed several times previously requesting that the General Assembly amend the Town of Vinton Charter to remove and/or resolve inconsistent, outdated, and/or unnecessary language, to clarify language regarding the

town manager’s authority, and to incorporate other

See **Council**, page 8





PAINTING BY HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY

Roanoke Valley DAR celebrates Constitution Week

Vinton Messenger staff report

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

FILE GRAPHIC



What Makes Loz The

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Town of Vinton remembers 9/11 morning to night

The Town of Vinton is well known for its veneration of veterans and first responders. On Patriot Day, September 11, 2026, different organizations and groups honored those heroes from morning to evening.

The Vinton First Aid Crew, Boy Scout Troop 235, and Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church coordinated a time for remembering 9/11/2001. Thrasher’s historic chapel was open from 8 a.m. until noon for the public to stop by at their convenience to pray, meditate, and remember those who were lost on 9/11. The Thrasher Chapel Bell rang at the times of two plane crashes, and when the two towers fell in New York.

William Byrd High School honored first responders and veterans that evening at the football game. The Roanoke County Cadet Corps walked the flag to the end zone and then asked first responders to stand for recognition.

Earlier that day, WBHS held a flag retirement ceremony in remembrance of 9/11.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

New unique roofing is being installed at the Vinton War Memorial.

Vinton War Memorial renovations update: new roofing installed

The Vinton War Memorial is often referred to as “Vinton’s Crown Jewel.” In the past two years, the venue has been renovated both inside and out, top to bottom.

Recently, motorists have been able to watch the installation of a stunning new roof— a standing seam galvanized steel panel that has a high performance baked-on Fluorocarbon coating. The roof is being installed by Lee Kesler

Roofing of Roanoke, a subcontractor for general contractor R.L. Price.

The materials were provided by Garland Industries (founded in 1895), with a 30-year weather-tight warranty. According to Vinton’s Capital Projects Director Jamie Hurt, the roof work should wrap up this week. The War Memorial first opened in 1948.

- Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTO BY STEVE THRASHER

The Vinton First Aid Crew at Thrasher

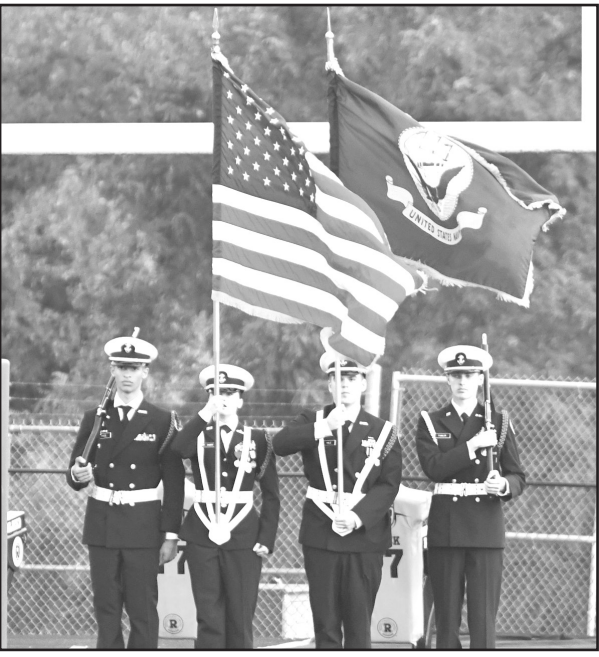
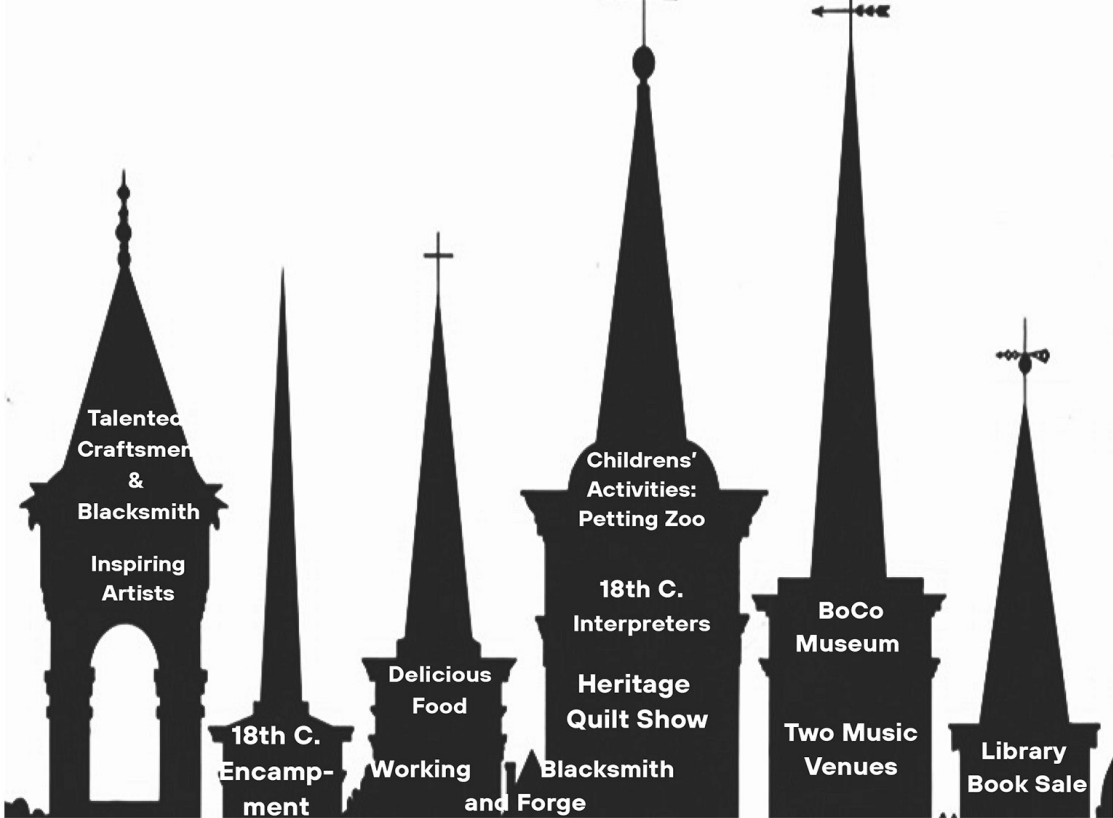


PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

The Roanoke County Cadet Corps presented the flag at the Friday night football game.

Saturday, September 26, 2026
10 am – 4 pm

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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

Obeying God

Read 1 Kings 4:1 through 6:38

King Solomon was so wise that kings all over the world heard about Him and sent their people to listen to him. Solomon wrote many songs and proverbs. He knew a lot about animals and plants. He also wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes, which teaches us that knowing and pleasing God are more important than being wise.

Solomon decided it was time to build a temple for God. So, four hundred eighty years after the Israelites left Egypt, Solomon began construction on the temple. He finished it just seven years later. It was beautiful—made of stone, carved wood, and a lot of

gold. God made a promise to Solomon:

“If you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel!” (1 Kings 6:12–13).

God values obedience above all other virtues. That is how we show God we love Him. In return for our obedience, God blesses us and will not forsake us.

Thought for Today: Blessing will come from God when you obey His rules.

Quicklook: 1 Kings 6:11–14

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

Roanoke County General Election coming up on November 3

Roanoke County's next General Election will be held on November 3. The following offices and races will appear on some or all of the county's ballots:

- U.S. Senate— Mark R. Warner (D) vs. Bert Mizusawa (R) vote for one)
- U.S. House of Representatives - 6th Congressional District— Beth A. Macy (D) vs. Ben L. Cline (R) (vote for one)
- 9th Congressional District— Joy A. Powers (D) vs. H. Morgan Griffith (R) (vote for one)
- Vinton Town Council— Sabrina M. McCarty (I) and Michael W. “Mike” Stovall (I) (vote for two)

Three proposed Constitutional Amendments will also be on all full



ballots: Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) protect the freedom to make personal decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage management, and fertility care; (ii) protect doctors, nurses, and patients from being punished for these decisions; and (iii) allow for restrictions on access to abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy except when the patient's health is at risk or the pregnancy cannot survive?

Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to (i) remove the ban on same-sex marriage; (ii) affirm that two adults may marry regardless of sex, gender, or race; and (iii) require all legally valid marriages to be treated equally under the law?

Question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to provide for the fundamental right to vote in the Commonwealth, (ii) to

See Elections, page 8

The Vinton Messenger

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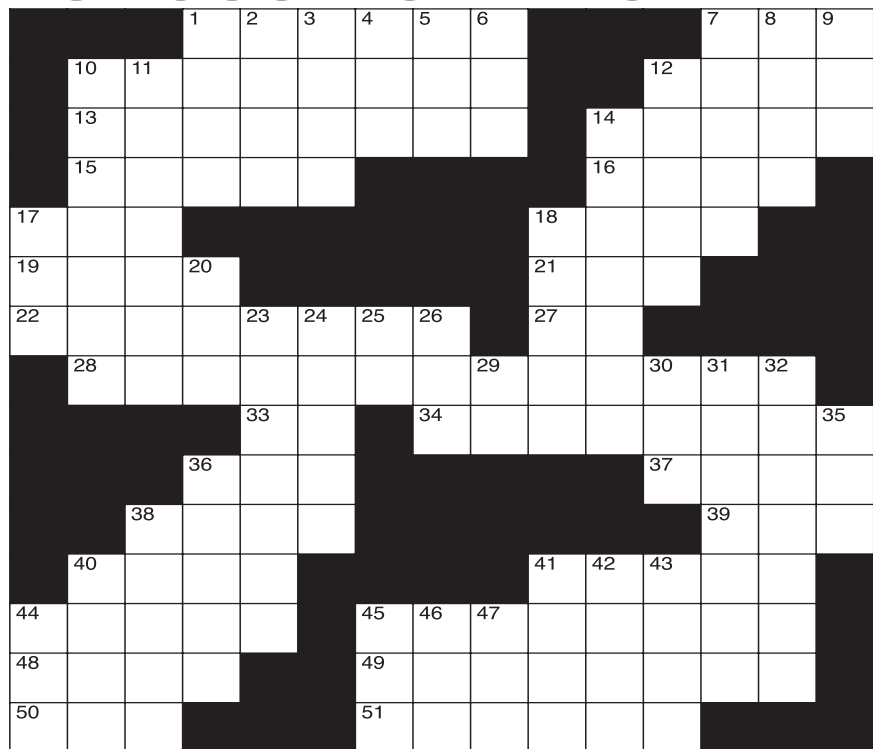
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The Vinton Messenger encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication.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



- CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into

7. ___ Rogers, cowboy

10. Unruly locale

12. Edible mushroom

13. Influential noblemen

14. Rattling breaths

15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.

16. Musician Clapton

17. Small Eurasian deer

18. Invests in little enterprises

19. Perimeter

21. Chicago ballplayer

22. Animal body part

27. It's everywhere these days

28. Fictional ad exec

33. Mr. T character
- Baracus

34. Against the current

36. Subway rodent

37. Armor plate

38. Hair on the head

39. Strong insect

40. Swollen lymph node

41. A way to lessen poison

44. Walter White

45. Sleeveless garment

48. Long accompanied song

49. Without features

50. Yankee great

Mattingly

51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant

2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one

4. A way to sing

5. Midway between east and southeast

6. Animal dwelling

7. An object that as survived from the past

8. Oil cartel

9. Affirmative

10. Foul smell

11. Brisk tempo

12. S. American indigenous person

14. Restored

17. Official

18. Skin lesions

20. Electroencephalograph

23. Middle Eastern country

24. Extremely angry

25. Title used before a woman's name

26. British thermal unit

29. By the way (abbr.)

30. Anger

31. Nullifies

32. Ones who acquire

35. Time zone

36. Arabic name

38. Protein in mucus

40. Ballpoint pen

41. Mimics

42. Humans have a lot of it

43. Expressions of good wishes

44. Cool!

45. One point east of due south

46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)

47. A way to save for retirement

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

Many thanks to everyone who came out Saturday night for Mingle at the Market. I know a lot of folks saw the threat of bad weather, but the night turned out to be perfect. At least until it was over, then the bottom fell out of the sky! But the night was great. Thank you to all our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, musicians and, of course, all the folks that came out. Our last Mingle of the season is Saturday, September 26. Our very own Vintonite

Chris Keaton and the Millenials, and also Solacoustix, will be the music for the evening.

We'll have delicious bites from Star City Graveyard Grille— a new vendor for us; Soda Street will be there and, of course, Blue Ridge Beverage to serve you all the cold beverages.

Come out and let's make the last the best!

Our Vinton Fall Festival is October 10, from 10-4. Our vendor spots are sold out, which means it will be a packed-full-of-great-items kinda day.



FILE PHOTO

OBITUARY

Bowling, Coy Tillman, Sr.

Coy Tillman “Tim” Bowling Sr., 73, of Roanoke, passed peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, September 5, 2026.

Tim was born in Roanoke on December 19, 1952, son of the late Coy Bowling and Elva Boothe Bowling. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Rennis Bowling; brother-in-law, John Royer Jr.; nephew, Aaron Royer; sister-in-law, Mary Beth Dempsey; and he is celebrating in Heaven with his beloved daughter, Melissa Ann Bowling.

Tim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Deborah Royer Bowling; son, Tillman Bowling (Lauren); and granddaughter, Allison Bowling. Other surviving family members include aunts, Eunice Ingram and Hazel Bowling; sister-in-law, Diane Norris; brother-in-law, Robert Royer (Diane); life-long friend, Lonnie “Huck” Turner; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; and many special friends.

Tim graduated from William Byrd

High School where he was a basketball star. He received his bachelor's degree

in political science from Concord College and was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Following college, he worked at Basham Oil and later was named President of Roanoke Oil where he worked until his passing. He liked to hunt, fish, ride motorcycles, horses,

sports, music, trivia, going to car races, taking boat rides, and visiting family at the farm.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Bonsack Baptist Church on Cloverdale Road in Roanoke, followed by a 2 p.m. Celebration of Life service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the United for Impact Fund at Bonsack Baptist Church. Condolences may be shared with his family by visiting www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements entrusted to Oakey's East Chapel, 540-977-3909.



Congratulations to Daniel Finn of Good Samaritan Hospice,

Oakey's June 2026, Hospice Caregivers Award winner. Thank you, Daniel, for all you do. To nominate a hospice caregiver, visit oakeys.com/hospice-caregiver-award.



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WBHS graduate places in Sister Cities International art competition

Meisha Robinson, a 2026 graduate of William Byrd High School and the Center for Visual Arts, was recently announced as the second place winner in the Sister Cities International Young Artists and Authors (YAAS) Showcase for her digital art work, “Potential.”

The theme of the 2026 competition was “Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow,” which encourages young artists and authors to raise their voices during an historic moment as the

United States celebrates 250 years since its founding and Sister Cities International honors 70 years of “building global friendships and cultural understanding. It reflects the ongoing journey from the country’s founding ideals toward a more interconnected, peaceful world.”

Robinson placed second internationally in digital arts, after having placed locally in the Roanoke Valley Sister Cities competition.

YAAS is an annual art

contest that encourages youth worldwide to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, poetry, photography, and music. Their aim is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community, at a time.

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

this case, Roanoke Valley Sister Cities.

According to Mary Jo Fassié, RVSCI president, the Roanoke Valley Sister Cities Young Artists Showcase is an annual event. The top five student entries this year were sent to Sister Cities International for further competition. At the international level, digital art is in a separate category.

Robinson, one of the valedictorians of the Class of 2026, plans to attend the prestigious Savannah



“Potential” by Meisha Robinson

PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

College of Art and Design. She is a well-known name in the local art world and was also recognized recently at the national level in the Scholastic Art Awards competition.

Robinson’s artwork

and other international winners may be viewed at this link: <https://sistercities.org/what-we-do/programs/yaas/2026-yaas/>.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

VINTON HISTORY: Post cards



Some of the postcards on display at the museum

PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

A postcard is intended for writing and mailing without an envelope and for a lower postage fee. Postcards can be blank for sending a message or purchased with a photograph or illustration on one side. Production of postcards blossomed in the late 19th century. As an easy and quick way for individuals to communicate, they became extremely popular.

While the United States government allowed privately printed

cards as early as February 1861, they saw little use until 1870, when experiments were done on their commercial viability.

Some folks are postcard collectors, especially of vacation areas. The Vinton History Museum has a small but interesting postcard collection and would love to add more to the collection if you have any to share.

For more information, email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or call 540-342-

8634.

In addition, visit the Vinton History Museum Facebook Page and the Vinton Memories and History Facebook Page for frequent updates and interesting historical information.

The Vinton History Museum is located at 210 East Jackson Avenue in downtown Vinton, “Preserving the Past for the Future.”

Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Executive Director

Roanoke County Schools report enrollment numbers

Roanoke County Public Schools recently released approximate student enrollments. Enrollment numbers can change frequently.

Enrollment at Vinton-area schools approximately:

- Bonsack Elementary—331 students
 - Herman L. Horn Elementary—376 students
 - Mount Pleasant Elementary—232 students
 - W.E. Cundiff Elementary—456 students (second largest elementary school in the county)
 - William Byrd Middle School—762 students
 - William Byrd High School—1,120 students (largest high school in the county)
- Average student-teacher ratios:
- Bonsack Elementary—19:1 classroom teachers only, 13:1 including resource teachers
 - Herman L. Horn Elementary: 18:1 classroom teachers, 13:1 including resource teachers

See RCPS, page 8

DMV visiting Vinton next week

DMV Connect will be at the Vinton Library on Wednesday, September 23, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch).

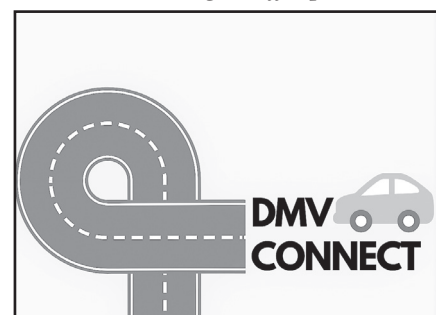
DMV Connect provides nearly every DMV service including:

- Driver’s licenses and ID cards
- Titles and registrations (title is mailed)

- License plates
- Driver transcripts
- Disabled parking placards or

plates

- Address changes
- Passenger vehicle and CDL knowledge testing (not available at all visits)
- Virginia vital records (birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates are mailed)



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DMV

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR A GENERAL INCREASE IN RATES CASE NO. PUR-2026-00095

On July 13, 2026, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or “Company”) completed the filing of an application (“Application”) with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) for a general increase in rates pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia and the Commission’s Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Gas Utilities, 20 VAC 5-205-5 *et seq.* In its Application, the Company requests authority to increase its rates and charges as part of a multi-year rate plan, with the first increase taking effect on an interim basis, subject to refund, for service rendered on and after December 1, 2026 (“Rate Year 1”). The Company further states that the second increase would be effective for service rendered on and after December 1, 2027 (“Rate Year 2”), and the third increase would be effective for service rendered on and after December 1, 2028 (“Rate Year 3”).

The Company indicates that the Commission last granted Atmos an adjustment to its rates on May 13, 2024, when the Commission approved a stipulation between Atmos and Commission Staff that provided for a total incremental non-gas revenue requirement of approximately \$2.75 million, and also included changes to rate design, changes to the General Rules and Regulations of Atmos’s tariff, and revisions to miscellaneous fees and residential customer charges, among other things. The Company states that, with this Application, it seeks to revise its rates to reflect capital investments and other changes in the cost of service that have occurred since the Company’s last rate case.

In its Application, the Company requests a rate increase for Rate Year 1 of the multi-year rate plan that it asserts would produce additional jurisdictional revenues of \$3,880,229 and is based on a proposed return on equity of 11.15%. Among other things, Atmos is proposing increases of the monthly customer charge for Schedule 610 residential customers from the current rate of \$13.24 to \$17.00 for Rate Year 1, from \$17.00 to \$17.70 in Rate Year 2, and from \$17.70 to \$19.50 in Rate Year 3, with similar changes in the monthly customer charges for other rate classes. According to the Company, Atmos’s proposed rates would increase the Company’s annual revenues by approximately \$710,755 in Year 2 and increase the same by approximately \$1,763,974 in Year 3.

Additionally, Atmos requests approval to include costs associated with cloud computing as utility plant for ratemaking purposes. Atmos asserts that the costs associated with these products are reasonable and prudent and help ensure that Atmos can continue providing safe and reliable service to its Virginia customers. Further, Atmos states that the Company is not proposing to roll into base rates the rates and investments associated with the Company’s Steps to Advance Virginia’s Energy (SAVE) Plan.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application and supporting documents for additional details.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/ or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on Atmos’s Application. On March 23, 2027, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before March 16, 2027, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide required contact information to the Commission. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on March 23, 2027, or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Timothy E. Biller, Esquire, or James G. Ritter, Esquire, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or tbiller@hunton.com or ritterj@hunton.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before March 16, 2027, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00095.

On or before November 16, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding must do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such person or entity and their counsel. The respondent shall serve electronically a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, Commission Staff, and all other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10, *et seq.* (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any notice of participation filed by a person not represented by counsel shall also set forth why the filer’s positions in this matter are not adequately represented by another party to this proceeding and cannot be expressed through written or oral public comments as provided for in this proceeding. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00095.

On or before January 19, 2027, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Commission’s Staff, the Company, and all other respondents. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission’s Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00095.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company’s Application and other documents filed in this case, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

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Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Michael Showell PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Matthew DeGimone PO Box 1125 Salem, VA 24153-1125			
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Full Name Michael Showell		Complete Mailing Address PO Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429	
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c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		700 575	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		1 1	
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Michael Showell		Publisher 09/09/2026 13:49:05 PM	
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Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317,20-104
Case No. CL26-485
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT
In re: Surplus Funds
Derived from the Foreclosure Sale of Property Located at 4427 Lee Highway, Troutville, Virginia 24175
PETER M. PEARL, BRYSON J. HUNTER and TIMOTHY J. LOVETT, Trustees *Petitioners*, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JIMMY W. HUFFMAN and JIMMY WAYNE HUFFMAN, JR.
Respondents.

The object of this suit is to Interplead surplus funds remaining following the foreclosure sale of certain real property commonly known as 4427 Lee Highway, Troutville, Virginia 24175. It appearing the Respondents' identity and present whereabouts are unknown, and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Petitioners without effect to ascertain the identity and location of any unknown heirs, it is ORDERED that any potential heirs appear on or before October 5, 2026, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the Botetourt County, Virginia and do what my be necessary to protect their interest in this suit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the Courthouse, on the Court Website, AND a copy mailed to each party at their addresses below.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order be published once per week for four successive weeks in the Fincastle Herald.
The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the Courthouse and Shall mail a copy of this Order to the parties at their last known and provided addresses, if any, herein.
Entered 8/27/26
Joel R. Branscom, Circuit Court Judge
I ask for this:
Timothy J. Lovett (VSB No. 97438)
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC
P.O. Box 90
Roanoke, VA 24002-0090
540-512-1800
540-342-4480 (facsimile)
tlovett@spilmanlaw.com

Last Known addresses for Respondents
Unknown Heirs of Jimmy W. Huffman
4427 Lee Highway, Troutville Va 24175

Jimmy Wayne Huffman, Jr.
172 Trading Ford Way
Lexington, NC 27292

NRV HOME Consortium and Town of Blacksburg Notice of Public Comment Period
HOME AND CDBG CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) PROGRAM YEAR 2025 In accordance with guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the New River Valley HOME Consortium and the Town of Blacksburg seek public comment on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2025 program year. The report includes an assessment of projects supported by Blacksburg's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the New River Valley HOME Consortium's HOME Investment Partnerships Grant (HOME.) The report details expenditures to community objectives, progress on HUD financed activities, and an analysis of program beneficiaries. The report is available online at <http://www.blacksburg.gov/HUDreport> and by request from the Office of Housing and Community Connections. Public comment will be received from September 11 to September 26, 5:00 PM. Submit comments in writing to housing@blacksburg.gov or Housing and Community Connections, P.O. Box 90003, Blacksburg, VA 24062. Accommodations for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking residents will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (540) 443-1615.

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, September 28, 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 Kevin T. Carter and Anne M. Carter, Property Owners, and Tow 360 LLC, Applicant, to allow a towing service on approximately 4.396 acres located at 492 Kiwanis Lane SE and further identified as Tax Parcel 528 - ((A)) - 73 (Parcel ID 014664), in the General Industrial (I-2) zoning district. The property is designated as Business/Commercial 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.

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No. CL26-1624
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIASNBURG, VA 24073
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
ALISON JUSTUS, Plaintiff, v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MELVIN E. SCOTT, INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999,

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NAOMI W. SCOTT, INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999,

UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS IN TRUST UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999, and

UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCOTT LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 16, 1999, Defendant(s).

The object of this suit is to reform the Deed dated August 21, 2003, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, as Instrument No. 2003014538, and confirm title in Alison Justus. An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile with ion the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendant(s) by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that he named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before October 14, 2026, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.
Entered 8/17/26
Honorable Robert M.D. Turk Judge
I Ask For This:
N. Reid Broughton (VSB No. 38899)
Katie M. Decoster (VSB No. 82696)
Sands Anderson PC
P.O. Box 2009
Christiansburg, VA 24068-2009
(540)260-9011
(540) 260-0022 fax

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104
Case No. CL26001226-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIASNBURG, VA 24073

LUZ MARIA LOPEZ v. ILIAK LOPEZ
The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE
It is ORDERED that ILIAK LOPEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before October 23, 2026 @ 9:00 AM.
Entered August 24, 2026
Honorable Circuit Court Clerk, Tiffany M. Couch (

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, October 6, 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. An ordinance of the Town of Christiansburg amending the 2013 Comprehensive Plan by adopting a revised Comprehensive Plan consisting of the following elements:
Government, Environment, Economic Development, Recreation and Destination, Infrastructure, Transportation, Public Safety, Housing, and Future Land Use, including the Future Land Use Map.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the proposed revised Comprehensive Plan 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 PARTICULARLYDESCRIBED 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 CIRCUITCOURT 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 Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-372477-1.

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 OF 1449 LAKERIDGE CIRCLE, TROUTVILLE, VA 24175.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 4, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$175,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 060000421. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on November 2, 2026, at 2:45 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, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING LYING AND BEING THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: BEING LOT 17, BLOCK 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF RAINBOW FOREST, PROPERTY OF, BOTETOURT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, MADE BY C.B. MALCOLM AND SON, S.C.E.'S, DATED AUGUST 15, 1960 OF RECORD IN TILE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 102. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.aldridgepите.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepите.com. VA-372477-1.

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From the Pulpit

God is our source of strength

By Pastor Bryan Crouch

There are times in life when we simply grow weary. The weight of responsibilities, unexpected setbacks, and daily pressures can leave us feeling exhausted and discouraged. Even the strongest people have moments when their strength runs low.

The good news is that God never expects us to rely on our own power alone. He invites us to place our hope in Him, knowing that He provides the strength we cannot find within ourselves. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) offers this wonderful promise: “But those who hope in

the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Like an eagle rising above the storm on powerful wings, God enables His children to rise above life’s challenges through His sustaining grace.

Waiting on the Lord does not mean sitting still without purpose. It means trusting His timing, relying on His wisdom, and believing He is working even when we cannot see the outcome. As we learn to

depend on Him, He replaces fear with peace, weakness with strength, and uncertainty with hope. We may not avoid every storm, but we can face each one with confidence because God is our source of strength. When we keep our eyes fixed on Him, He lifts us above discouragement and equips us for the journey ahead.

No matter what lies before us, we can move forward with renewed courage, knowing the God who strengthens us today will faithfully carry us tomorrow.

RCPS

from page 5

- Mount Pleasant Elementary: 19:1 classroom teachers only, 12:1 including resource teachers
- W.E. Cundiff Elementary: 19:1 classroom teachers, 13:1 including resource teachers

- William Byrd Middle School: 17:1 classroom teachers only, 14:1 including resource teachers
- William Byrd High School: 20:1 classroom

teachers only, 16:1 including resource teachers

~ Submitted by RCPS

Elections

from page 4

revise the qualifications of voters so that a person convicted of a felony is not entitled to vote during his period of incarceration

but is automatically invested with the right to vote upon release from incarceration, and (iii) to update the existing prohibition

on voting by persons found to be mentally incompetent to instead apply to persons who have been found to lack the capacity to

understand the act of voting?

Early voting is scheduled to begin in Vinton and at the Brambleton Center

Satellite on September 18 at 8 a.m.

If you are unsure of the location of your voting precinct visit: <https://voterview.roanokecountyva.gov/>.

roanokecountyva.gov/.

~Submitted by Roanoke County Elections

Open house

from page 2

card to help the town update the zoning ordinances

Why does your attendance matter? Zoning regulations help determine what can be built, where businesses can locate, what types of housing are allowed, and how development occurs

throughout Vinton. Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, renter, property owner, or simply care about Vinton’s future, your input matters.

Even if September 24 is a busy evening for you, a 15-minute visit is plenty of time to look at the displays

and talk with staff.

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided at this casual family-friendly event.

If you can’t make it to the meeting, the proposed zoning changes and opportunities to provide comments will

also be available online through the Town of Vinton Planning & Zoning Department webpage at: <https://www.vintonva.gov/19/Planning-Zoning>.

~Submitted by Town of Vinton

Cunningham

from page 1

for their care provided.

Jim loved his family and lived his life fully. He will be deeply missed by his family, many friends, and everyone who was fortunate enough to have known him.

Visitation will be held Sunday, September 20 from

2-6 p.m. at Oakey’s Vinton Chapel. Funeral service will be held Monday, September 21, 2026, at Vinton Baptist Church at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Chris Monroe officiating. Prior to the service a second visitation will take place at the church from 1-2 p.m. Following the service, Jim will

be laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Vinton History Museum, Bedford Fire Department, or Vinton Baptist Church Maintenance Fund.

Council

from page 1

language requested by Town Council. The next step is to work with Virginia Senator David Suetterlein and Delegate Will Davis to get the changes through the General Assembly.

Council issued a proclamation declaring September 17-23 as National

Constitution Week. Regent Susan Doyle and Past Regent Cindy Higgins of the Roanoke Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution accepted the proclamation.

September 17, 2026, marks the 239th anniversary of the signing of the U.S.

Constitution. The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Vinton Risk Management/HR Coordinator Brandon Alterio introduced Grace Eakin who will be interning with the town during her fall semester

at Liberty University. She is pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and will be assisting the town in social media postings, advertising, and more.

Interim Director of Public Works Jill Acker updated Town Council on completed,

ongoing, and new projects, mainly involving stormwater repairs.

Deputy Town Manager Cody Sexton announced that the Dos Más Mexican restaurant has opened on Pollard Street. The building has been closed since the fire of July 2022.

Ceremony

from page 1

firefighters, police officers, paramedics, service members, coworkers, friends, and ordinary Americans who simply expected to come home that night. They never did.

“But September 11th is remembered for more than tragedy. It is remembered for courage. First responders ran toward danger. Ordinary citizens risked their lives for strangers. And aboard Flight 93, passengers made an extraordinary choice– they fought back.

“Twenty-five years later, we remember those we lost, the families forever changed, the first responders who answered the call, and the service members who carried our nation forward.

“For most of us students here in attendance, September 11th is history. For others, it is a memory. For all of us, it is a responsibility: to remember, to honor, and to never forget.”

After the playing of “TAPS” by Cadet Bandy, the flag retirement ceremony followed.

Cadet Fowler said, “In the days following September 11th, Americans raised the flag everywhere– over homes, schools, businesses, fire stations, police stations, and communities across

our nation. It became more than a symbol; it became a message that America was grieving but still standing.

“The United States Flag Code states that when a flag is ‘no longer a fitting emblem for display,’ it ‘should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.’ Today, these flags have completed their watch. As part of this ceremony, our cadets will respectfully cut and separate each flag before it is committed to the fire. This is done deliberately, with dignity and reverence, as part of its final retirement. These flags are not being discarded. They are being retired– with honor, dignity, and the respect they have earned.

“Before this flag is retired, look upon it one final time. Its 13 stripes represent the original colonies; its 50 stars represent 50 states united as one nation. Red reminds us of valor and sacrifice. White represents purity and our pursuit of peace. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice. This flag has flown proudly and faithfully represented our nation. Its watch is now complete.”

The Flag Detail next separated the colors and the stripes while keeping

the blue union intact.

Fowler continued, “As our cadets separate this flag, understand that this is done deliberately and with reverence as part of its retirement. The cloth may pass away, but what it represents– freedom, sacrifice, duty, and service– remains.”

Six special guests were asked to assist in retiring “American flags that have served our nation.”

Commander Scott Fannin represented the Veterans of Foreign Wars “who carried our nation’s colors beyond our shores in defense of the freedoms they represent.”

On September 11th, firefighters and first responders demonstrated courage the world will never forget. Roanoke County Schools CTE Supervisor Mark Jones represented firefighters and EMS professionals who stand ready day and night to answer the call.

Vinton Police Chief and veteran Fabricio Drummond represented local law enforcement officers, who accept the responsibility of running toward danger when others need help most.

Roanoke County Sheriff Eric Orange represented those whose oath represents courage, duty, and service to the citizens they protect.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCPS

Roanoke County School Superintendent Dr. Jamie Soltis retires the colors.

Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, a United States Army veteran who served the nation in uniform continues to serve the community today.

Dr. Jamie Soltis, Superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools, whose leadership helps shape the next generation of citizens and leaders was invited to retire the nation’s colors.

Each honored guest was presented with a grommet from a retired American flag.

“Sailors have long viewed a flag’s grommet as a symbol of good fortune– having endured wind, weather, and time while holding our colors

secure. May it serve as a reminder of strength through adversity, service through sacrifice, and a nation that endures.”

Active-duty service members, veterans, and first responders were next invited to place sections of an American flag into the retirement fire. “Thank you for your service to our nation and our community.

“The flags retired today are gone, but everything they represented remains. Twenty-five years after September 11th, 2001, we remember the 2,977 lives lost, the first responders who ran toward danger, the service members who answered our nation’s

call, and the families who still carry that loss. September 11th reminds us that courage, service, and patriotism are more than words– they are choices. Even after 25 years have passed. Today, we remember. We honor. And we will never forget.”



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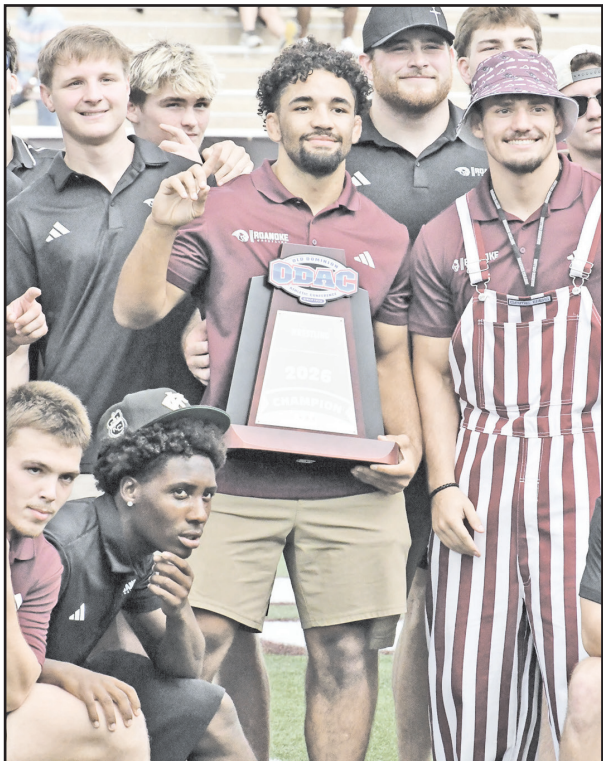
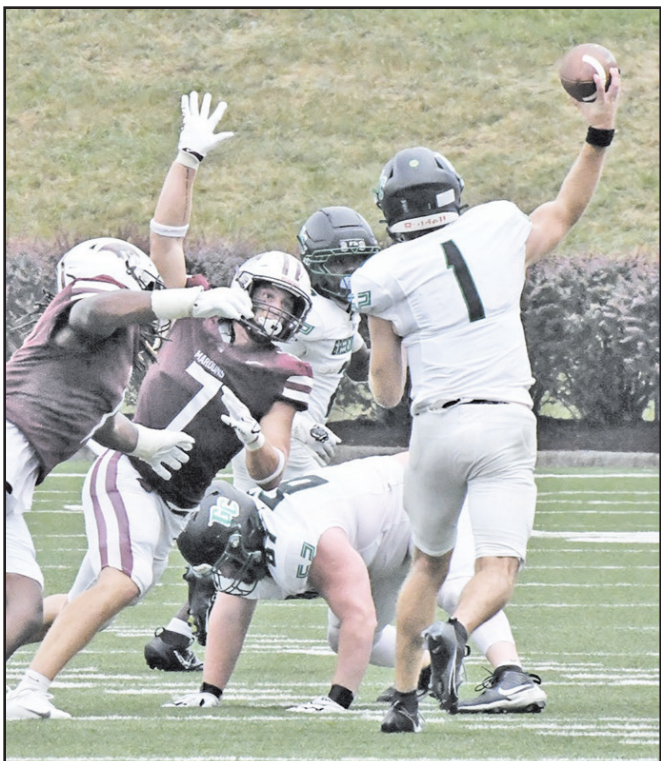
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Byrd grads help Maroons to big win

It was a good day for the Roanoke College football team Saturday at Salem Stadium and some William Byrd High graduates were right in the middle of things. Above left, Byrd grad Jerrett Shepherd finds some running room as he gained 54 yards rushing in the 28-14 win over Greensboro College. The Maroon defense didn't allow a score, as both Pride touchdowns came on a pick-six and scoop and score, and Byrd alum Brayden Andrews(#7 middle) was right in the thick of things. Above right, former Terrier wrestler Xavier Preston holds the 2026 ODAC championship trophy as the RC wrestling team was recognized at halftime.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER



Byrd's Reid Divers had his best round of the season at Blue Hills Tuesday.

PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

Byrd golf have best round at Blue Hills

The William Byrd golfers had their best round of the season with the post-season just around the corner. The Blue Ridge District tournament is scheduled for the Hanging Rock course in Roanoke County next Monday.

Byrd was the host school Tuesday at Blue Hills and shot a season's best 317. Lord Botetourt shot 309 to win the round while Byrd finished eight strokes ahead of third place Northside, who carded a four-man 325. Franklin County was next at 329 and Staunton River came home at 361.

Botetourt standout Alisa Davidova, who doesn't play in all the district matches, was in town for this one and scorched the course with a six under par 65. That was 11 strokes better than the next round of the day, Byrd's David Foster who shot 76. Also scoring for the Terriers were Andrew Carter at 78, Reid Divers at 81 and Ethan Sink at 82. Carter and Divers had their best scores of the season.

"It was awesome to see the team play well and feel good about it," said coach Scott Whitehead. "I was really proud of how we played and have worked this season to get better. With such a young team it's exciting to see that there are kids to step up and replace the leadership that David and Andrew have provided this season."

The Terriers will head to Willow Creek today for an exhibition match, honing their game for Monday's district meet.

WB Middle School hammers Bruins

The William Byrd Middle School football team improved their record to 3-1 with a win over Blacksburg Middle School last week. The Terriers rolled up a big score with a 44-7 win over the Bruins in Blacksburg. Right, Byrd quarterback Riggins Hill looks to pass in a recent game. Today the middle Terriers will host Covington on Highfill Field in Vinton beginning at 5:30 pm. Byrd will play three of their last four games at home with Cave Spring coming on September 24 and a season ending clash with border rival Staunton River on Thursday, October 8.

PHOTO COURTESY JAMIE HILL



Volleyball girls are in Blacksburg tonite

The William Byrd volleyball team will be in Blacksburg tonight looking to pick up a non-district win against a strong Bruins team. The Terriers are also looking to snap a two game losing streak after dropping games to Hidden Valley and Glenvar.

Last Thursday at Hidden Valley the girls drew the wrath of a good Titans team after Byrd won the first meeting in Vinton. This time Hidden Valley won in three sets, 25-21, 25-19 and 25-21 to even the season series.

"Hidden Valley was the better team tonight, and credit to them for how they competed and executed," said Byrd coach Kris McCoy. "For us, this was a reminder that success is never guaranteed; you have to earn it every time you step on the court. I take responsibility for making sure our team is prepared, focused, and ready to compete at the level we expect, and tonight I fell short of that standard. But one match does

not define this team or change what I believe we are capable of becoming.

On Monday the Terriers hosted Glenvar and lost a five set marathon. Glenvar won the first two sets, 25-23 and 25-22, but the Byrd girls came storming back to tie the match by winning

the next two sets, 25-14 and 25-23. The Terriers led 13-11 in the fifth set to 15 but Glenvar scored the last four points to pull it out. Freshman Kherington Jewell had 19 kills for the visiting Highlanders as they improved to 7-1 on the season.

Byrd is now 3-5 heading to Blacksburg tonight. Next week will be a busy one for the Terriers with back-to-back road matches Monday at Alleghany and Tuesday at Northside. A week from today they're back home to host William Fleming.



Byrd's Emma Olivit(#11) and Lauren Toney(#12) go up for a block in last week's game at Hidden Valley

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY



SANDLOT

Patterson Stadium in Vinton was buzzing with recreation football action last Saturday as the local teams hosted a tripleheader on Highfill Field. One of the games pitted the 8-U Terriers against Salem. Left, Colton Kinkead looks to pass. Middle, Wrigley Bernard looks for room to run, and right Terriers converge to stop a Salem ballcarrier behind the line of scrimmage.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

SPORTS

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



Above left, Byrd's Stephen Byars heads for paydirt after catching a pass from Carter Gray. Above right, Briggs Kotz tackles a Christiansburg player and, below, Jayden Omiyo (#33) and Mason Hershel(#17) combine to stop a Demon in his tracks.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Terriers beat Demons to go 3-0, Bengals are in town this Friday

It's always intense when dogs and cats get together and that promises to be the case when the William Byrd Terriers host the Bassett Bengals in football this Friday. Game time is 7 pm on Highfill Field in Vinton.

Byrd will be trying to remain undefeated after opening the season with three wins, including a 41-10 victory over Christiansburg in Vinton last week. Bassett opened the season with close wins over Franklin County, 25-21, and Gretna, 21-20, before losing at home to Dan River last Friday, 41-20.

Last year Byrd came into this game at 3-0 but the Bengals beat them, 44-35. Byrd then got revenge when the Terriers turned the tables for a 38-10 win in the first round of the playoffs. Byrd coach Brad Lutz doesn't expect that to be a factor tomorrow night.

"Our team does a good job on focusing on one day at a time and one opponent at a time," he said. "Last year's games aren't a part of our thought process and prep for Friday's game."

However, Lutz expects the Bengals to come to Vinton with claws out.

"They are a very good football team," he said. "They have a new head coach who has brought new schemes on offense and defense. They are very athletic at the skilled positions and the biggest team that we have faced up to

this point. They started the season with a big win over Franklin County, and their roster is packed full of seniors."

Byrd graduated a bunch of key players from last year's team but this year the young ones are performing admirably. They've improved every week.

"We have improved in all three phases of the game, but our team has worked hard to improve our special teams," said Lutz. "We still have a lot of work to do in all phases of the game, but our special teams made a huge impact on the game against Christiansburg."

The Blue Demons took an early lead with a 31 yard field goal last Friday but Byrd's Gray Matthews ran the ensuing kickoff back 93 yards for a touchdown. Thomas Purcell and Austin Kroner had key blocks to set up the big return.

Christiansburg counted with a scoring drive to go back up 10-7, but again Byrd answered with a 70 yard TD run by Matthews to lead 14-10 after one quarter.

Christiansburg would not score again, and Byrd increased the lead to 21-10 at the half when quarterback Carter Gray found Stephen Byars for a 24 yard touchdown reception.

The second half was all Byrd, as the Terrier defense shut out the Demons and Christiansburg couldn't stop the Byrd attack. Matthews scored three



more times on runs of 20 and 49 yards around a 38 yard TD reception from Gray. On the night Matthews ran 18 times for 220 yards and three rushing scores along with a touchdown reception and a kickoff return that went the distance.

Gray was six for nine passing for 102 yards, with three going to Matthews for 61 stripes. Purcell, Zane Taylor and Byars had one reception each and Lukas Riddle kicked five extra points.

On defense Mason Hershel led the Terriers with seven tackles. Zach Taylor, Davion Wade and Briggs Kotz had six each while Jayden Omiyo had five tackles, including three for losses, and he was in on a sack. Braedyn Henritze and Lukas Johnson had one sack each.

Christiansburg defeated the Byrd jayvee team last week. The jayvees will be back in action tonight with a 6 pm game in Bassett.

Harriers run at Smith River Complex, Green Hill Park

The William Byrd harriers were busy last week with two big meets. They ran in the Bengal Clash in Axton on September 8 and the Knights Crossing at Green Hill Park last Saturday.

The Byrd boys took third place in the Clash, hosted by Bassett High at the Smith River Complex. Colton Sotherden and Carston Dibenedetto earned medals by finished 13th and 15th in the meet.

On Saturday Cave Spring hosted the Knights Crossing, one of the biggest meets of the entire season. Over 100 schools attended for a variety of races beginning at 8 am and lasting well into the afternoon.

The Byrd team ran in the "Red" races, for Virginia public schools and out of state teams. Cardinal Gibbons was the boys' team winner, outrunning 49 other schools. There were 409 boys who finished the race.

Byrd finished 28th as a team. Dibenedetto was the first Terrier across the line in 130th place. Also scoring were Sotherden at 159, Maxwell Reeves at 188, Vincent Liu at 195 and Giovanni Pandolfini at 235.

Blacksburg won the girls' "Red" race with 38 teams and 340 girls on the Green Hill Park course. Byrd only had four girls running so the Terriers did not have a team score. Jadyn St. Clair was 218th followed by Emma Thierry at 273, Keeli Emery at 305 and Bindi Whitenack at 314.

Byrd had seven new all-time personal records in the race.

"The team looked great and almost all returners ran about a minute faster than in last years' Knights Crossing race," said coach Kayland Bond. "I'm looking forward to their continued growth and watching the season progress."

In the Middle School Division Byrd's Carter Russell finished 57th in the boys' race and Olivia Summers led the girls with an 11th place finish.



Terriers on the run

Left, the Vinton boys pose with the third place trophy from last week's Bengal Clash cross country meet. Left to right are Vincent Liu, Camden Ward, Colton Sotherden, Jack Petersen and Carston Dibenedetto. Below left, Byrd's Bindi Whitenack finishes up her race at the Knights Crossing on Saturday morning. Below, Sotherden races in the first mile of the Knights Crossing Invitational Red race. With a time of 18:00.3, Sotherden placed 159th in the race with more than 400 runners, and the Terriers would place 28th out of 49 teams on a drizzly Saturday morning.

ACTION PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

