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Messenger

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Battle at Byrd Cheer Competition fills the house to benefit Special Olympics



Battle at Byrd, first place winners, unrestricted class, William Byrd Middle School

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

There are just a few events at William Byrd High School which totally fill the parking lot and the grassy area beyond. One of them is the annual Battle at Byrd Cheerleading Competition each fall. The school traditionally partners with a local charity to help raise awareness of and funds for a particular cause. This year the partnership was with Special Olympics Area 8 athletes.

Area 8 is one of 32

Special Olympics Area programs across Virginia, made up of athletes and volunteers from Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke counties, as well as the cities of Roanoke and Salem.

With over 100 athletes, Area 8 offers year-round sports training and athletic competitions in basketball, bowling, soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, volleyball, and cheerleading for people with intellectual disabilities. A portion of the proceeds from Battle at Byrd will be donated

to support the Special Olympics athletes and their continued participation in cheerleading and other sports around the region.

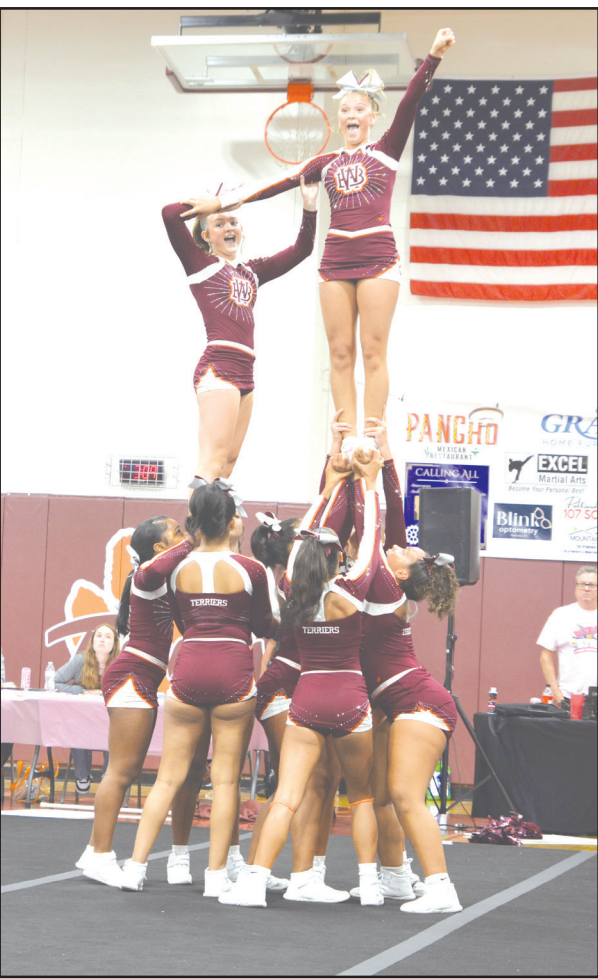
“We are incredibly excited to use our event to support such an amazing group and help promote the spirit of inclusion and opportunity that Special Olympics represents,” said WBHS Head Cheerleading Coach and Co-Director Morgan Edberg.

The Area 8 Allstars team performed alongside the William Byrd High School cheer team at the

Battle at Byrd, which has become one of the premier high school cheerleading competitions in Virginia.

The school was packed with about 30 middle school, JV, and high school teams from across the region. Competition began around 9:30 a.m. and continued through the afternoon, followed by the awards ceremony at 4 p.m.

Teams were from Patrick Henry, Staunton River, William Fleming, Andrew Lewis, Ben Franklin, Cave Spring, Graham, Hidden Valley,



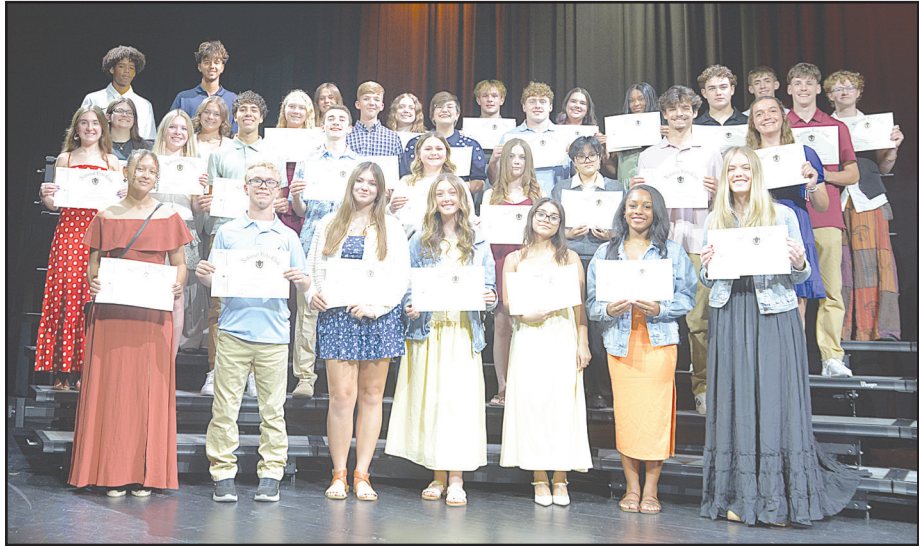
PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Battle at Byrd, third place Class 3A winner, William Byrd High School

Lee, Pulaski County, Southern Gap, and William Byrd Middle Schools; Franklin County, Patrick Henry, William Fleming, Jefferson

Forest, Salem, Graham, Tazewell, Cave Spring, Christiansburg, Lord Botetourt, Pulaski County,

See **Benefit**, page 9



William Byrd High School seniors inducted into the Beta Club on Sept. 28

William Byrd Beta Club inductees pledge to “lead by serving others”

William Byrd High School held its annual Beta Club induction ceremony on September 28, introducing 69 new members. The club was chartered at Byrd in 1960 and has a long history at the school, this year celebrating its 66th anniversary.

According to Assistant Principal Hannah Prater, “To be invited to become a part of this prestigious organization, rising seniors must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. In addition,

they must be willing to serve their communities by completing at least 10 hours of community service throughout their senior year.”

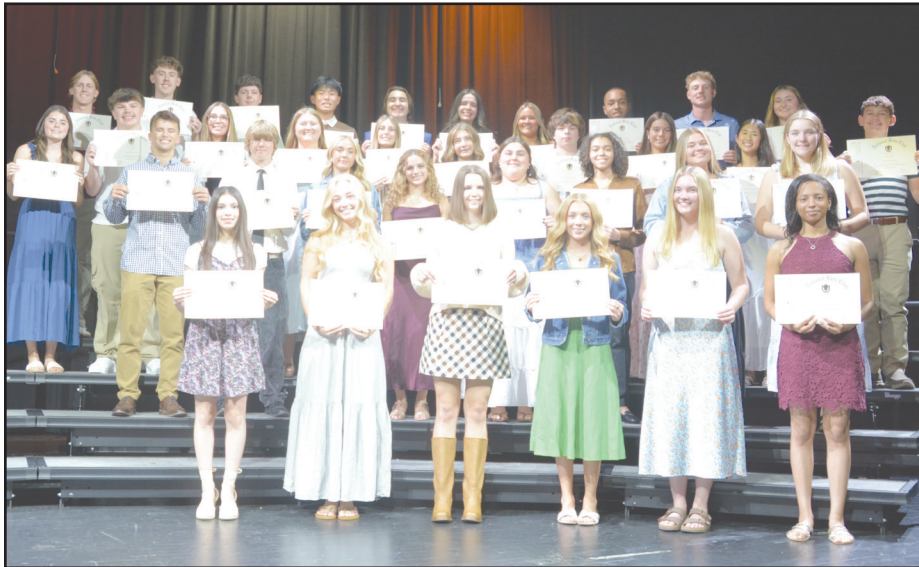
The main objectives of Beta Club are to set an example for the entire student body and to promote the four pillars of achievement, character, leadership, and service.

Four new members volunteered to review those four pillars and share the importance of each.

Senior Carly Norton

talked about achievement, the first pillar of Beta. “Achievement, clearly defined, is a result gained by effort. By being invited to become a Beta member, we’ve already accomplished a great achievement, but it shouldn’t stop now. Maintaining one’s membership requires dedication and a focus on daily accomplishments. Betas are encouraged to stay motivated in order to maintain success

See **Beta Club**, page 8



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

More WBHS seniors inducted into the Beta Club in its 66th year

Mingle at the Market closes out concert season



A young street dancer joined Chris Keaton (left) on stage at the final Mingle.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce wrapped up another phenomenally successful Mingle at the Market concert series on September 26 with performances by Chris Keaton and the Millenials, and headliner Solacoustix.

Keaton is a Vinton native; his first performance was at the Dogwood Festival on the lawn of the Vinton War Memorial when he was just 11 years old. He learned his saxophone skills in the band at William Byrd High School. He then spent about 30 years working in Nashville as an award-winning

See **Mingle**, page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

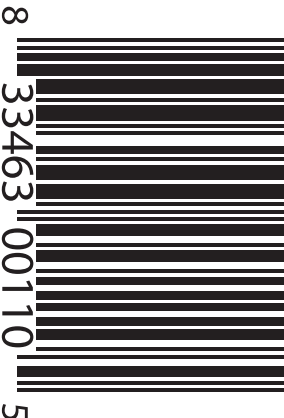
Town and county officials at the Vinton Magisterial District Community Meeting included (from left) County Administrator Richard Caywood, Board of Supervisors Chair Tammy Shepherd, Mayor Brad Grose, and Town Manager Pete Peters.

Supervisor Tammy Shepherd hosts Community Meeting in Vinton

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chair Tammy Shepherd, who also represents Vinton on the board, hosted a Vinton Magisterial District Community Meeting on September 29 at the Charles R. Hill Community Center in Vinton. She was joined by County Administrator Richard Caywood and other county officials in a presentation on economic development projects in Vinton and the county, ongoing, upcoming, and completed planning,

See **Meeting**, page 8



William Byrd Choir performs with Foreigner

William Byrd Choir members had the opportunity to perform on stage with Foreigner on September 23 at the Salem Civic Center

At each stop on their tour, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band invites a local choir to join them on stage for their hit song, "I Want to Know What Love Is."

The WBHS Choir earned this opportunity through a voting competition hosted by Q99 in May. About a month ago, 50 WBHS students auditioned for the 25 spots available for the performance.

The choir members arrived an hour before the concert for a brief walk-through before enjoying the show from the audience. They then

joined Foreigner on stage for the penultimate song of the evening, performing alongside the band in front of an energetic crowd.

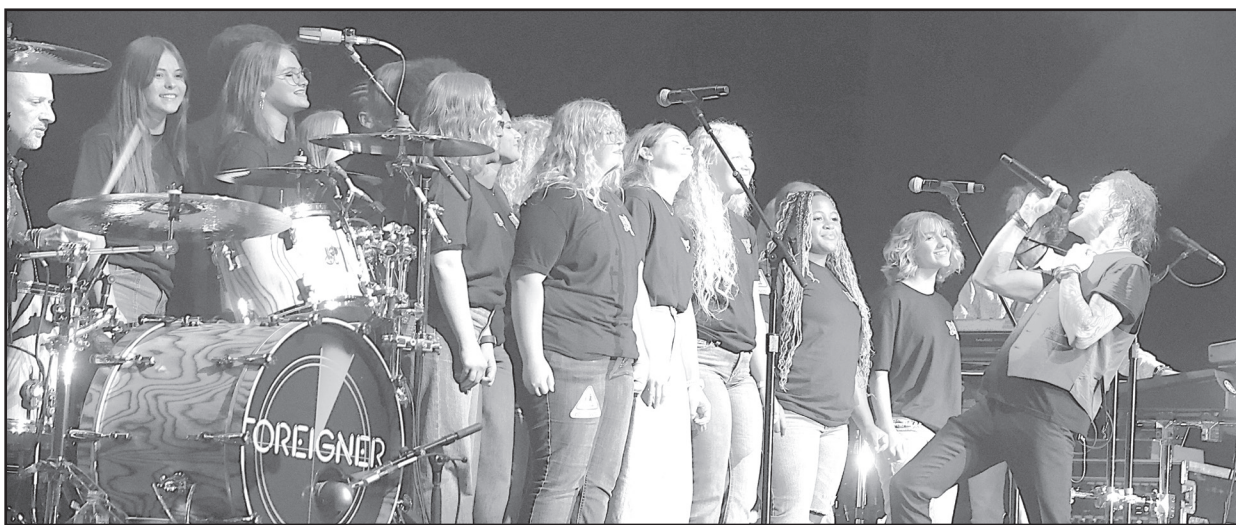
"Foreigner has demonstrated a genuine commitment to supporting music education in schools, and the WBHS Choir is grateful for their efforts to recognize and celebrate student musicians at each stop along their tour," said Choir Director Matt Bartley.

As a special gesture, Foreigner gifted the choir a set list featuring guitar picks attached to it, along with a financial donation to support the program.

-Submitted by William Byrd Choir Director Matt Bartley



William Byrd Choir members at the Salem Civic Center



William Byrd Choir performs with Foreigner.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCPS



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Town officials, staff, and consultants discuss proposals for zoning ordinance changes with citizens.

Town hosts open house to gain citizen input on zoning ordinances

Vinton Town Council and staff, along with planning consultants Mike Callahan from 3TP and Vlad Gavrilovic from Paradigm, hosted a community open house at the Vinton Library on September 24 to elicit public opinion on updates to the Vinton Zoning Ordinance.

Callahan and Gavrilovic were instrumental in the recent development of the town's 25-year Comprehensive Plan and five-year Strategic Plan which indicated that some changes in zoning were needed for the town to advance.

The changes will help shape how Vinton's neighborhoods, business districts, housing, and development grow

and change in the coming years.

Information presented indicated that 80% of Vinton's housing stock is over 40 years old. New housing permits plummeted after 2008, and the vacancy rate of housing is now nearly zero in Vinton. Household size has declined not just in Vinton, but across the Commonwealth, while rent has increased 40% in Vinton between 2020 and 2024.

Attendees were able to visit interactive information stations throughout the meeting room, talk with officials, and share their opinions on needed changes

See **Input**, page 8

Scouts sponsoring Bike Rodeo

Scouting America Troops and Cub Pack 235 presents
RIDE INTO FUN
October 4th 2026, 2PM-5PM

Also Supporting:
Wee Wheel Roanoke
Cardinal Bicycle
Roanoke Star Cycling
Virginia Association of First Responders
Vinton First Aid Crew
Evangel Four Square

A playful cycling day filled with riding challenges, riding safely and family-friendly outdoor activities. For ages 5-13 boys and girls

**Come out and have some fun
Don't forget your helmet !!**

Kids cycling course
Learn to cycle safely
Mini obstacle challenge

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CUB PACK 235

"Ride Into Fun" this weekend, on Sunday, Oct. 4, with Scouting America Troops and Cub Pack 235 at Evangel Four Square Church on Hardy Road in Vinton.

This is a rain-or-shine event, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the parking lot or the gym, for boys and girls ages 5-13. It is a community event filled with riding challenges,

riding safety, and family-friendly outdoor activities.

There will be a kids' cycling course, a mini-obstacle challenge, and tips on how to learn to cycle safely.

"Ride into Fun" is also supported by Wee Wheel Roanoke, Cardinal Bicycle, Roanoke Star Cycling, the Virginia Association of First Responders, the Vinton

First Aid Crew, and Evangel Four Square.

Stop by anytime during the event. Feel free to come and go.

For more information, contact gleslie76@comcastnet or call 540-467-2870.

-Submitted by Scoutmaster Steve Thrasher

AARP Virginia Scam Alerts: Digital invites and deepfakes

The Invite You Don't Want: Party Invite Scams



FILE GRAPHIC

Fake party invitations are a newer tactic perpetrators use to capture personal details. They send digital invitations, commonly through email, inviting you to a fake gathering. Typically, the email comes from someone you know whose account has been hacked.

The message asks you to click a link to RSVP, confirm your guest information, or buy tickets. Clicking the link can download harmful software onto your device or send you to a fake website designed to steal your financial and personal information.

If you receive an unexpected invitation, contact the host directly to confirm they sent it.

endorsement scams. Criminals will use images, edited videos, and stolen likenesses of famous celebrities to build credibility. They place these deceptive ads on social media to build quick trust with viewers. Today's technology allows video and audio to be easily altered, making public figures appear to say things they never actually said.

Be cautious of offers or giveaways backed by famous personalities. Don't buy a product based solely on celebrity endorsement. If you're unsure, look up news coverage or check official links to ensure the celebrity's endorsement is real. Know it's a scam if you're being encouraged to send money in some form to claim a "free" prize or special deal.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call the free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to a fraud specialist about what to do next.

- AARP

Deepfakes and AI Scams: Famous Faces, Fake Deals

The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline has seen a spike in fake

October is
Pastor Appreciation Month

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The Vinton Messenger

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Guilliams serves GFWC Va. Woman’s Club for 50 years



Vinton Woman’s Club members taking the pledge to support survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

The GFWC Va. Woman’s Club of Vinton presented Carol Guilliams with her 50-year member pin at the club’s meeting on September 22. She began her journey with the Brambleton Junior Woman’s Club. Before joining the Vinton club, she was a member of the Rokeva and Roanoke Woman’s Clubs – and president of all three.

Guilliams has served GFWC Blue Ridge District as director of Juniors and district president (twice). She has also served GFWC Virginia and is currently Arts & Crafts co-chairman. She has held numerous offices and chairmanships in local clubs, district and GFWC Virginia and is currently serving GFWC Woman’s Club of Vinton as president.

One of the Woman’s Club goals each year is to promote awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence. At the meeting, members made a pledge to stand with survivors as part of their GFWC Signature Program.

The pledge reads, “ My name is _____. I pledge to be a voice for



Carol Guilliams

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHRYN SOWERS

change and a light for hope, when a survivor confides they have experienced domestic or sexual violence. I will Stand Up, Speak Up, and Show Up for the silenced, for the brave, and for those still on their journey to healing. Together, we raise awareness, offer support, and move closer to a world without violence.”

One of the current members is a survivor and was proud to participate in the pledge. The club hopes Vinton

Messenger readers will also join them in this pledge.

As part of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, the GFWC Success For Survivors Scholarship was created in 2011 to lend a helping hand to those impacted by domestic and sexual violence who are pursuing higher education. The scholarship aims to

See Guilliams, page 8



Breakfast for the Class of 1961 at Vinton Café

PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

WBHS Class of 1961 celebrates 65-year class reunion

The William Byrd High School Class of 1961 graduates celebrated their 65-year class reunion the entire last weekend of September.

“This is an amazing group who has had a reunion every five years since they graduated,” said organizer Carolyn Hodges Campbell. “The Class of 1961 was one of the best.”

Thirty guests met on Sept. 25 at the Dogwood Restaurant patio for an icebreaker. On Saturday, 55 attended a reunion/picnic at the Charles R. Hill Community Center. Then on Sept. 27,

14 members of the Class of ’61 got up early to meet at the Vinton Café for breakfast.

Campbell said class members came from Florida and North and South Carolina this year.

The Class of 1961 is the only WBHS class known to have a reunion every five years – something to be proud of.

The class thanked the staff members at each venue for “doing a wonderful job.”

-Submitted by Carolyn Hodges Campbell

McKittrick gives new meaning to the term ‘Community Services Officer’



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON POLICE DEPT.

Vinton Police Officer Sean McKittrick spruces up the greenway underpass.

Vinton Police Officer Sean McKittrick is giving a whole new meaning to the term “Community Services Officer.” He took it upon himself to paint this greenway underpass to cover up the graffiti and help keep this shared space clean and welcoming for everyone.

Vinton Inventory and Facilities Manager Tobbie Russeau helped supply the paint and Officer McKittrick used a lot of elbow grease to get the underpass looking its best.

-Submitted by Vinton Police Dept.

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM
ECKANKAR
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. “Building People to Change Our World”

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon.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

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh’s cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation’s highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1–14

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

Grace Period Food Pantry open this Saturday in Vinton



Grace Period Food Pantry is on Hardy Road in Vinton

FILE PHOTO

The Grace Period Free Food Pantry will be open this Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the former St. Timothy's Lutheran Church on Hardy Road in Vinton.

The food pantry is a new collaborative ministry shaped and nurtured by some of the Lutheran congregations of the Roanoke Valley and the Virginia Synod (statewide Lutheran body).

What started with a request from the St. Philip Endowment to provide seed money for some sort of collaborative ministry, moved to a conversation of four pastors dreaming about "what might we do together." That and subsequent conversations gravitated to an understanding that whatever might happen together had to be centered around grace – and Grace.Period was born.

With the bold and faithful decision of St. Timothy Lutheran in Vinton to conclude its ministry as a worshipping

community, the Virginia Synod engaged Pastor Chuck Miller, recently retired from Wheatland Lutheran in Buchanan, to help organize, and wonder, and dream about what new ministry opportunity might happen at the St. Timothy property in Vinton.

His expertise in the feeding ministry led to what has to be called a "match made in heaven." Grace.Period, an idea centered in sharing grace, just seemed destined to connect with a feeding ministry in Vinton.

Items available will include staples like mac and cheese, snacks, produce, grape jelly, peanut butter, cereals, potatoes, Ramen noodles, canned vegetables and fruit, crackers, pet food, school supplies, personal care items, paper products, and more.

~Submitted by Grace Period Food Pantry

The Vinton
Messenger

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Vinton Fall Festival on October 10 includes Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Vinton Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout downtown Vinton.

There is no charge to attend the full-day festival of live entertainment, over 120 vendors (business, retail, organizations, and food), food trucks, a Kids Zone, petting zoo, shopping, and more. Entertainment includes the Fame All-Stars at the Vinton Farmers' Market from 10 to 10:30 a.m., followed by Floyd Ward from 11 to noon, and the traditional Doggie Contest from noon to 1 p.m. Virginia Legacy will be performing on the Municipal Building stage as well.

Vinton Breakfast Lions Club
Take out or eat in!
Pancake Breakfast!
October 10th 2026
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
ADULT TICKET \$8.00

ALL YOU CAN EAT!
♦ Pancakes
♦ Sausage
♦ Coffee
♦ Orange Juice
Gym Building - Vinton Baptist Church
219 E. Washington Ave., Vinton, Virginia

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON LIONS

The Breakfast Lions Club Pancake Breakfast runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Vinton Baptist Church. Take-out orders are available on South Poplar Street. Dine-in will be in the gym building of Vinton Baptist Church.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, coffee, and orange juice. Ages 3 and under eat free. Sugar-free syrup will be available.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

FALL FESTIVAL
VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OFFICIAL KID ZONE SPONSOR

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic
5. Protection
8. Cloth worn over a shoulder
12. Ceramic jars
14. Midway between northeast and east
15. South American hummingbird
16. Platforms
18. Taxi
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
20. A citizen of Yemen
21. Military mailbox
22. Nuclear near reach weapon
23. Clears
26. Broken
30. Actress Lathan

31. Avid fan
32. One and only
33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain
39. Doctor of Education
42. Defeat handily
44. Less complicated
46. Handyman tools
47. Written works
49. Castle dweller's safety net
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Greatest
56. Can do
57. A place to sleep on the road
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. 24-hour units of time
60. Actor Horsley
61. In a way, sounds off

62. Formerly (archaic)
63. Eye infection
64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN

1. William __, Buffalo Bill
2. Wings
3. Candle or lantern
4. Freedom from difficulty
5. A type of pie
6. Metrical foot
7. __ Kerr, actress
8. Nap
9. Popular singer Bocelli
10. Immune responses
11. "Mad Men" leading man
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Philly basketball player
24. Not even
25. Measures wind speed
26. Insecticide
27. Jordan glided through it
28. Bird-like dinosaur genus
29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue
36. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Of she
38. Oral rehydration solution
40. Knocks off course
41. Popular cop show of yesteryear
42. Zhou dynasty state
43. Genus of gulls
44. Onion flatbreads
45. Declare as true
47. Of a lobe
48. Missouri county
49. Produced
52. Volcanic crater
53. Off-Broadway theater award
54. KU hoops coach Bill
55. Check for

Vinton History Museum holding holiday/collectibles benefit sale



FILE GRAPHIC

The Vinton History Museum will hold holiday and collectibles benefit sale for the museum during the Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 am. to 3 p.m. The sale will include Christmas and other holiday decorations and a variety of collectibles. All proceeds will benefit the

operation of the museum.

The Vinton History Museum is located at 210 E. Jackson Avenue. For more information email info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or call 540-342-8634.

~ Vinton History Museum

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Roanoke County Parks announces fall, holiday events

Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism has a full slate of community events planned for the coming months, including fall festivals, outdoor activities, Halloween celebrations and holiday events at locations throughout the county.

The fall schedule begins Saturday, Oct. 3, with the Bent Mountain Fall Festival at Bent Mountain Center, 10148 Tinsley Lane. The free event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature activities for all ages.

The festival will include an artisan fair with about 40 local vendors, food and drinks, live music, inflatables, a petting zoo, hayrides and children’s activities. Live music will be provided by Root 2 Music at 11:30 a.m. and Tim Martin at 1:30 p.m.

Other activities will include large lawn games, an inflatable obstacle course, axe throwing and a giant slide. Southwest Virginia wildlife will be featured from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., along with representatives from the Radford University Biology Department.

Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for the music. Dogs will not be permitted at the festival.

On Oct. 17-18, Explore Park will host the GO Fest Adventure Outpost as part of the annual Carilion GO Outside Festival. The event returns to Explore Park for the third year and will feature outdoor recreation and adventure activities.

Festival camping is available at Explore Park for \$50 for the weekend. Tent camping sites can accommodate up to two tents and include portable toilets, with parking located about 100 feet from the campsites. Pets are permitted as long as they remain on a leash and are not disruptive.

Camping check-in begins at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, with checkout at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 18. A free hourly shuttle will run between the festival basecamp at Elmwood Park and Explore Park.

Explore Park will host another family-oriented event Oct. 24 with Spooktacular Saturday, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Halloween-themed event will include pumpkin carving, spooky mini-golf, a Frankenstein bounce house and slide, a costume parade, marshmallow roasting and Halloween crafts and activities.

Pumpkin carving sessions will be offered throughout the afternoon, beginning at 11:15 a.m., with additional sessions at 12:15, 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15 p.m. Registration is required for the pumpkin-carving sessions.

The costume parade will begin at 2 p.m. Participants should meet in front of the Taubman building next to the Visitor Center.

Treetop Quest also will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with scheduled time slots; fees apply. Chick-fil-A Bonsack will be on-site serving food during the event.

The county’s events calendar continues into November with the Brambleton Craft Show on Nov. 7 at Brambleton Recreation Center. The craft show will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beginning Nov. 21, Explore Park will again be transformed for Illuminights, the county’s holiday light experience. The event will be held on select nights through Jan. 3.

The holiday season will also include

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ROANOKE CO.

The Bent Mountain Fall Festival takes place this Saturday at Bent Mountain Center.

the Roanoke County Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 7 at South County Library. The event is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism offers events throughout the year at county parks, recreation centers, athletic fields and other facilities.

For more information

about upcoming events, visit roanokecountyparks.com or contact Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism at prtonline@roanokecountyva.gov or 540-387-6078, ext. 0.

~ Vinton Messenger staff report

RVARC adopts Legislative Agenda on transportation, workforce, recreation

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission has adopted its FY27 Legislative Agenda, outlining state and federal priorities intended to strengthen transportation infrastructure, expand workforce opportunities, support outdoor recreation, and reinforce the region’s capacity for coordinated planning and economic development.

The agenda reflects priorities shared by the Commission’s member local governments and regional partners. It calls for strategic investments that help the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region compete for jobs, talent, visitors, and public and private capital.

“This agenda reflects the issues our

legislative priorities include:

- Investments in terminal improvements and a runway study at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Airport
- Increases in rural and secondary road funding.
- Greater investment in career and technical education (CTE), especially at the eighth- and ninth-grade levels.
- Investments in outdoor recreation infrastructure.
- Increase the base funding for planning commission districts (PDCs) statewide.

“Regional priorities are most effective when they are developed collaboratively and advance practical solutions across jurisdictional boundaries,” said Jeremy Holmes, Executive Director of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission. “This agenda is focused on investments that will improve mobility, prepare residents for in-demand careers, enhance quality of life, and give our local governments the capacity to pursue opportunities together.”

See RVARC, page 9

Mingle from page 1

music publisher, artist management consultant, and entertainment industry executive before returning home to Vinton.

Keaton is the lead vocalist and saxophone artist for the band, which also includes Travis Schmitt on drums, Ronald Robinson II on bass, and Rob Stevens on guitar. They played their newest hit at Saturday night’s concert, “Lucky for Me,” which so far has 450,000 likes on You Tube. Keaton also performed the song he wrote for his wife for their wedding, “For as Long as We Both Shall Live.”

Headliner Solacoustix performed everything from Blues to R&B, country to rock. JoJo Stockton is band leader with Stuart Brown, Chris Eural, and Adam Hill.

Sponsors for Mingle included Stage Sponsors HomeTrust Bank and Pok-e-Joe’s, the Shepherd Realty Group, Blue Ridge Beverage, PFG, the Salem RidgeYaks, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, McDonald’s, Davis H. Elliott, Oakley’s, Pollard



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Mingle at the Market is sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce with Angie Chewning (left). She is shown with her mother, Bootie Chewning.

107 South, Crooked Shoreline, Upward Financial Planning, the Vinton Moose Lodge 1121, ServPro, the Virginia Credit Union, the Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Star Valley Container, 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.

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Garage Sale

Living Estate of Opal Caldwell Craig County, New Castle, VA.

COME VISIT US IN BEAUTIFUL CRAIG COUNTY

This estate is in the heart of the beautiful town of New Castle, 61 Caldwell Street , New Castle, Va From Newport on route 42 the drive is one of the most scenic byways in Virginia.

Oct 2, Friday 9am to 2pm
Oct. 3rd Sat. 9am to 2pm
Oct 4th Sun. 12 pm to 4pm

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Case Knife Store Display, knife collection, large a collection of Pink Depression glass, Fenton glassware including cranberry, antique carnival glass, Pyrex crazy daisy, cobalt glass, Craig County collectibles including wall plates of historical sites including churches, old hotel, and courthouse, and wooden town New Castle village, Willow Tree collection, Easter bunny blow mold, vintage bread box with mushrooms, praying grandmother picture, duck collectibles including clock and large chum, vintage country spice rack, orange Tupperware canisters, cast iron skillet, pots, flat irons and tea kettle, many crocks #6, #4 gallons, pitchers, gone with the wind lamps, floor lamps, linens, curio, antique oak washstand, antique oak buffet, 1970s china cabinet, kitchen table drop leaf with two chairs, newish Gray sofa and recliner, three piece floral living room set, occasional tables, three piece bedroom set, three piece bedroom set with chest and dresser, wrought iron day bed, desk, clocks, pictures, coffee tables, wrought iron Mid Century round table with chairs, vintage croquet set, lay off plow, hand tools. Wheel barrel, weed eaters, bouncy chair, concrete yard decor, wrought iron table, two matching white rocking chairs, 2 piece wicker set with cushions, exterior blue rug, tables of glassware including cobalt, depression and clear. Pots and pans, tables of Christmas decor, Christmas village, Santas, Quantum power washer, double galvanized sink on rollers, 3 piece white wicker set, Work and Troy bilt blowers, fishing poles, chainsaw, hedge trimmer, primitive blacksmith box, concrete yard décor, wrought iron tea cart, pitchfork, saws, rake, flower pots, small Coleman generator, and so much more!



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2 nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Division 5, Section 2-107 of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia Entitled Tax Exemption and Deferrals for Elderly and Disabled by Increasing the Net Combined Financial Worth and the Income Limits to be Eligible for Tax Relief". A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

ABC NOTICE

BUCKOS TRIPSTOP INC., trading as TRIPSTOP BUCKOS, 802 Roanoke Street Christiansburg, Montgomery County, VA 24073-3160

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Tejendrakumar Patadia, President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC NOTICE

BUCKOS TRIPSTOP INC., trading as TRIPSTOP BUCKOS, 1700 West Main Street, Radford Va 24141.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Convenience Grocery Store Wine and Beer Off Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Tejendrakumar Patadia, President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the proposed modification of a permit that allows the land application of potable water treatment plant residuals in Pulaski County. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 23, 2026 – October 23, 2026. PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: Virginia Pollution Abatement VPA02069 – Radford City Water Treatment Plant issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to applicable water laws and regulations. APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Radford; 20 Forest Avenue; Radford, VA 24141. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Radford has applied for the modification of a permit that would authorize land application of water treatment plant residuals as a fertilizer on a total of 220.61 acres of agricultural land in Pulaski County. Additional land

totaling 129.02 acres are proposed to be added to the permit, with some minor modification to existing fields. The permit will limit the application of nutrients and metals contained in these materials to amounts that protect water quality and human health. For site-specific information about these applications and additional information about the DEQ permitting program for industrial residuals visit the following website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/VPANotices> TENTATIVE AND FINAL PERMIT DECISION PROCEDURES: DEQ's tentative decision is to issue the permit. Based on comments received on the draft permit, DEQ may make a final decision on the permit, or hold a public hearing on the draft permit before making a final permit decision.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, e-mail, or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the permit number, and name, postal mailing or email address of the commenter/requester. A request for a public hearing must also include 1) Name and permit number for which the hearing is requested. 2) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 3) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 4) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial disputed issues relevant to the permit. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Brad Morrison, DEQ Central Office, 1111 E Main St, Richmond, VA 23219, Phone: (804) 659-1545; E-mail: bradley.s.morrison@deq.virginia.gov. The public may review the draft permit and associated documents at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

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.alldridgepite.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.alldridgepite.com. VA-372477-1.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104 Case No.CL26001794-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIASNBURG, VA 24073 CARMEL JACINTA CULLOP v. AARON CHANCE LYALL

The object of this suit is to: ANNULMENT It is ORDERED that AARON CHANCE LYALL appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before NOVEMBER 20, 2026 @ 9:00 AM. Entered September 17, 2026 Honorable K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission.

At its regular meeting on October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: Consider the request of Salem Body Shop, LLC, to amend Chapter 66, Signs, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, by adding Section 66-106, Comprehensive Sign Plan, pertaining to the establishment of a permit process for comprehensive signage plans for eligible properties. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: Christopher J. Dorsey Executive Secretary

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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



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Meeting

from page 1

transportation, and capital projects, and general county budget information.

Invited guests in attendance included Vinton Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Town Council members Sabrina McCarty, Mike Stovall, and Keith Liles, Vinton Town Manager Pete Peters, and Vinton Police Chief Fabricio Drummond.

Caywood reminisced about the first two projects he supervised upon coming to work for Roanoke County; one of those was the construction of the Vinton Library.

He went on to highlight the FY27 Roanoke County budget of \$285 million, mostly allocated for county schools (\$113 million, approximately 40% of the budget) and public safety (\$83 million, 29% of the budget). He emphasized that the Board of Supervisors has been able to hold the real estate tax steady at \$1.03 per \$100 assessed value as part of the board’s priority to lower taxes for residents.

Caywood noted that the foundation of Roanoke County is its excellent school system and introduced School Superintendent Dr. Jamie Soltis as the next speaker. Soltis pointed out that Roanoke County has placed eighth in the state in math and 11th in reading, out of 132 school systems across the Commonwealth. Soltis taught at William

\$187,600 in scholarship funds.

If anyone would like to apply for the 2027 scholarship, contact one of the local members

Byrd for several years. He said his goal, as the new superintendent, is not being stagnant – “My goal is to be in the top five systems.”

He talked about three huge projects the county has undertaken in the past two years – renovations and expansions at W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove Elementary Schools, and the construction of the new career and technology center to replace the aging Burton Center for Arts and Technology.

Soltis thanked the Board of Supervisors and the Roanoke County School Board for working collaboratively to bring those projects to fruition. He especially believes the Roanoke County Career and Technical Education Center will be an “economic game-changer” for the Roanoke Valley, bringing schools, businesses, and the community together with a common goal. The plan includes using the new CTE Center 24 hours a day, working collaboratively with local colleges.

Soltis discussed his theme for the year, “One Division, One Family,” AI issues and how to use that technology effectively within the bounds of good citizenship, how to deal with declining enrollment and aging school facilities, and the county creating its own day school (possibly by repurposing the Burton Center) for students with special

for information or go to the GFWC website at <https://www.gfwc.org/scholarship/>.

The group is planning a program for the

needs as private day schools are sparse in the area.

Deputy Fire Chief Don Altice of Vinton spoke of the costs of the Fire and Rescue Department – buildings, facilities, maintenance costs, fire vehicles and apparatus are enormously expensive. He named Vinton Station 2 as the second busiest in the county; the opening of Station 12 in Bonsack took some of the load off of the Vinton station, as does Station 6 in Mount Pleasant. He also noted that the hiring pool for the county Fire & Rescue is shared by the entire valley, as is the police department.

Caywood introduced Police Chief Mike Poindexter who he described as an “outstanding police chief” who the county is “blessed to have.” He also emphasized the need to enlarge the county police force.

Economic Development Director Megan Baker outlined the responsibilities of her department in helping local businesses grow and attracting new investments, along with creating and retaining jobs. They work on site development with corporations and businesses considering coming to Roanoke County and help move viable projects through infrastructure challenges. She went into some detail in discussing two new projects–Tanglewood Crossing near Tanglewood Mall, which

giving the funds to the GFWC Success for Survivor Scholarship Fund.

-Submitted by Kathryn

will include retail, restaurants, and residences, and the 175 townhouse units proposed for the Vinton Business Center off Hardy Road near Cardinal Glass.

Assistant Director of Planning-Transportation Megan Cronise shared information on several transportation projects, mainly involving the greenways and the roadwork project on Routes 460 (Challenger Avenue) and Alt. 220 (Cloverdale Road) near Walmart and Chick-fil-A, which will include a variety of traffic patterns. The project is designed to improve safety and traffic flow and includes improvements to at least six intersections along Challenger.

During the question-and-answer session afterwards, Caywood responded to questions on AI and on a potential data center at the Wood Haven Center for Technology. Roanoke County now has a link on its website to the Wood Haven Technology Park project which is in its early stages.

Caywood said that there are questions yet to be answered about use of electricity, water, and impacts on the neighborhood.

Mayor Grose thanked Shepherd for hosting the meeting and Roanoke County for its partnership with the town over the years. “Lots of good things have happened in Vinton which we couldn’t have done without the county,” he said.

Sowers, GFWC VA Woman’s Club First Vice President and GFWC International Liaison Chair for 2026-2028

Guilliams

from page 3

Input

from page 2

to support local businesses, expand housing opportunities, and encourage redevelopment and future growth.

Modernizing standards will support goals of the Comprehensive Plan such as adaptive use of older buildings, commercial corridor revitalization, and compatible infill development; support development of missing middle housing types; and place an emphasis on commercial districts and medium density residential districts with minimal or no changes anticipated for lower density residential districts.

Reasons presented for developing a thriving downtown included providing viable development opportunities on undeveloped or underutilized parcels, increasing housing units downtown to support existing and future businesses, creating more opportunities for people to live close to work and recreation, and supporting greater walkability.

Initial recommendations include allowing residential-only building within the downtown area, but not in the core business area of Lee and Pollard and allowing greater flexibility in density, parcel size, setback, and parking requirements for residential development

Guests were asked to share their input on proposed goals for zoning updates by placing

dots next to the goals they felt were most important.

For the group who attended on Sept. 24, modernizing development standards, facilitating a more active downtown through infill mixed-use development, promoting revitalized commercial corridors, and promoting walkability were of the highest priority.

One display focused on “missing middle” housing— a range of multi-unit or clustered housing compatible with single-family detached homes, but between single-family and high-rise apartments in terms of density. Types of “missing middle housing” are typically more walkable, good for starter

homes, compatible with single-family areas in scale, height, and architecture, and modern and flexible for work-force housing and the elderly who want to age in place.

Some examples of “missing middle” housing on display included duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes, cottage courts, townhouses and rowhouses, courtyard apartments, along with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) such as carriage houses, basement apartments, or backyard cottages on single-family lots.

Some specifics suggestions offered by visitors included more pedestrian crossings on Washington Avenue, multi-

level and open parking options, one-story homes with garages, and permitting ADU’s in R-1 Districts where lot size allows.

Some concerns expressed were the fact that housing improvement grants are not available in Vinton for existing older residences; traffic concerns for W. Virginia Avenue and Washington Avenue, which are already congested; and the fear that newer types of housing will turn into poorly maintained rental properties. Other points of discussion involved the potential for a negative impact on fire, rescue, and police resources; and existing neighborhood streets already in poor repair.

Beta Club

from page 1

within this pillar. Challenge yourself, Betas; set goals, overcome obstacles, continually improve, and do your best both academically and beyond.”

New Beta member Camden Ward talked about the second pillar of Beta – character. “When Beta’s founder, Dr. John W. Harris, founded National Beta in 1934, he set out to create an organization that helped students learn to make a life for themselves. He knew that an individual of moral character, who understood charity, cooperation, honesty, responsibility, and humility, would be able to move forward in life with the skills needed to work with others and give back to their community. By emphasizing character as one of the four pillars, we are being prepared for life and empowered to be successful.”

Student Aubrey Sink defined the third pillar of Beta – leadership. “Our generation will one day become the leaders of tomorrow. We’ll need to learn how to properly translate vision into reality and to guide our fellow peers in the right direction through effective planning, decision making, communication, and teamwork. But above all, we’ll need patience and a willingness to lead by example. By becoming a Beta, we’re already embarking on a path to learn these skills. Once gained, we’ll be in a unique position to make a difference

in our school, community, state, and beyond.”

Senior Ramsay Stephens talked about service, the fourth pillar of Beta. “Service and leadership are closely tied for Beta members through the demonstration of our motto ‘Let Us Lead by Serving Others.’ The Beta organization’s founder believed that it was not only our duty, but a privilege to serve our community. Through service, may we begin to think of others before ourselves. Betas, I encourage you to make a habit of recognizing needs, big or small, in our school and community, and then to make your fellow members aware of those needs. Together, we will work to address these issues and make an impact on those around us.

“On behalf of all the new members, I acknowledge these four fundamental pillars of Beta. We will do our best to demonstrate them as we work to become humble, servant leaders.”

Prater then introduced the inductees who received their certificates from Beta Club sponsor Carla Hatfield.

New members are: Eleanor Ball, Lauren Baringer, Erica Barton, Aubrey Blewett, Alanah Bonnell, Christopher Boyd, Madelyn Brown, Sage Brown, Lane Brunk, Nate Buck, Hudson Cain, Victoria Chang Leon, Addison Collins, Alexis Davis, Fallon Davis, Carina

Dibenedetto, Heidi Dixon, Emmalee Dodson, Brennan Firebaugh, David Foster, Clarissa Gill, Lanaiya Hardy, Jeremiah Harper, Brihanna Harris, Emmalee Harris, Aaron Hemming, Sophie Hoagland, My Dung Hoang, Lilly Jarels, Lukas Johnson, Cole Johnston, Evelyn Jones, Stella Jones, Cameron King, Arianna Krista, Vincent Liu, Olivia Long, Olivia Lorek, Emma Milliron, Tyler Minnix, Elena Mullen, Sarah Nguyen, Sydney Nichols, Carly Norton, Kendall Norton, Giovanni Pandolfini, Brody Parrish, Sebastian Perdomo, Thomas Purcell, Luke Richardson, Kiara Rodriguez Del-Valle, Jamya Rosborough, Willow Seth, Aubrey Sink, Riley Slusher, Ramsay Stephens, Bailey Tabor, Zane Telsch, Teagan Thompson, Gavin Thornton,

McKayla Tingler, Lauren Toney, Izabella Trumble, Sydney Tuck, Camden Ward, Owen Webb, Connor Whitehead, Heidi Wienke, and Maggie Zimmerman.

In conclusion, Prater asked the students to repeat the Beta Pledge, making them official Beta Club members: “As a proud member of National Beta, I pledge to be honest and truthful, maintain academic excellence, and conduct myself in an ethical manner. I am dedicated to serving others and contributing to the collective success of my peers.”

She encouraged members to “always be a leader, demonstrate good character, work hard in your academic endeavors, and serve others before yourself.”

- Vinton Messenger staff report



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

New Beta members who reviewed Pillars of Beta were (from left) Ramsay Stephens, Aubrey Sink, Carly Norton, and Camden Ward

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PHOTO BY JOHN WACHER

Senior David Foster tees off for the Terriers.

Byrd Middle ties Squires in football

The William Byrd and Cave Spring Middle School football teams battled to a 42-42 tie last Thursday at Highfill Field in Vinton. Byrd had a chance to go ahead with a two point conversion but couldn't convert and the Terriers are now 4-1-1 with another tough opponent this week. Byrd will play at Read Mountain Middle School today at 5:30 pm. "I'm proud of the fight our kids showed, just like they have all season, but we need better execution in key moments this week against Read Mountain," said Byrd coach Cody Underwood. "Should be a physical game this week, they got a good football team over there and are well coached." Right, Gabe Griego picks up yards for Byrd. Below, the Terriers combine on a tackle.

PHOTOS BY JAMIE HILL



Sandlot Alex Shepherd of the Vinton 12U football team blocks for Lucas Wendell(#2) in a game at Patterson Stadium. Sandlot playoffs begin on October 10. PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

RVARC

from page 5

The Commission will share the FY27 Legislative Agenda with the region's state and federal legislative delegation, state agencies, local governments, and partner organizations during the upcoming legislative and budget cycles.

About the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission:
RVARC serves as a forum for regional

collaboration among local governments and partners in the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Highlands. The Commission supports coordinated planning, economic and community development, transportation, grant development, and intergovernmental cooperation. Visit rvarc.org to learn more.

~ RVARC

Terriers finish golf season at Region tourney, Hidden Valley and Cave Spring qualify for state

It was a windy day Monday as 13 Region 3D golf teams competed at the Draper Golf Course, hosted by Abingdon High School, with just two qualifying for the Class 3 state tournament. William Byrd was among the bakers' dozen and finished eight with a four player score of 332.

Hidden Valley was the team champion with a 298 and Cave Spring was second at 306 as both south Roanoke County team advance to the state tournament on October 13 at the Cutalong Golf Course, located at the Tributer Resort in Mineral, VA. Host Abingdon finished third with a 314, just one stroke ahead of Lord Botetourt's 315.

Harris Camp of Hidden Valley was the individual region champion, scorching the course with a five under par 67. That was seven strokes better than individual runnerup Alisa Davidova of Lord Botetourt.

Byrd's low score was 79 by Jayden Beasley. David Foster and Ethan Sink both shot 83 and Andrew Carter was Byrd's fourth score at 89.

"Monday was a windy, tough day for the Terriers," said Byrd coach Scott Whitehead. "I felt the pins were hard, and we put too much pressure on ourselves. Our region has multiple teams in the River Ridge who's scores have been amazing this year."

Beasley was awarded second team all-Region with his 79. First team Blue Ridge District honors went to Foster and Sink, who finished third and fifth in the BRD. Carter, who was 12th, was a second team selection.

"We came a long way as a team this season," said Whitehead. "Our first match was a 357 and our last match was 25 strokes better on what I thought was a harder course."

"Our seniors were incredible this year with David and Andrew leading the way all season and Connor playing the sixth spot to end the season. They will be missed greatly moving forward. However, Ethan(Sink), Reid(Divers), and Jayden(Beasley) all played well and improved over the season, and I look forward to having them help set the pace. We return 13 players with 10 of them having match experience, a very different scenario from the beginning of this year. They are a great group of kids that will compete for all the spots moving forward. I am very excited about it."

Byrd boys are 13th among 40 at Alleghany Invitational meet

The William Byrd cross country team competed in the 12th Annual Alleghany Invitational at the Jackson River Sports Complex in Covington last Saturday. The flat, fast course provided the Terriers an opportunity to test their fitness and chase personal bests.

"I was really pleased with the progress we saw at Alleghany," said Byrd coach Kayland Bond. "We had nine runners set new all-time PRs, and several others made significant improvements on their previous times at this course. What makes me most proud is seeing that progress throughout the team. The consistency and commitment our athletes are showing in practice is starting to translate into stronger performances on race day."

Christiansburg won the girls team title among 28 schools. William Byrd did not have a full team but ran four individuals, led by Jadyn St. Clair with a 5,000 meter time of 23:17. Jadyn was 93rd out of 216 runners. Emma Thierry ran a time of 25:10, Keeli Emery came home in 25:37 and Bindi Whitenack finished in 26:44.

The Byrd boys finished 13th among 40 schools, with Broadway racing to the team championship. Carston DiBenedetto led the Terriers with a time of 17:03, good for 41st among 288 competitors. Other scorers for Byrd included Colton Sotherden in 44th at 17:07, Grant Bartley at 18:07, Maxwell Reeves at



Jadyn St. Clair had Byrd's best time at the Alleghany Invitational meet.

18:11 and Vincent Liu

in 19:10. Camden Ward finished in 19:17 and Jack Petersen ran 19:44.

In the boys open race, Kyler Martin ran 20:56, Cohen Gill ran 22:22 and Bryden Lish finished in

27:55.

Nine Terriers recorded all-time personal records including DiBenedetto, Sotherden, Bartley, Reeves, Gill, Martin, Lish, Emery and Whitenack.

Benefit

from page 1



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Lord Botetourt Cheer Team competed at the Battle at Byrd.

Rockbridge County, and William Byrd High Schools; and JV squads from Cave Spring, Franklin County, Jefferson Forest, and William Fleming.

William Byrd Middle School took first place in the Middle School Unrestricted Class. William Byrd High School won third place in Class 3A – right behind last year's 2025 state champions and state runners-up.

The first Battle at Byrd cheerleading competition at William Byrd was held in 2008. The purpose of the original event

was to honor breast cancer victims.

Battle at Byrd is a VHSL-sanctioned event. Divisions are determined by school enrollments. Cheer teams are judged on tumbling, motions, jumps, stunts, and dance by VHSL-certified cheer officials.

Sponsors for the 2026 competition included Pok-E-Joe's, Elmwood Wealth Partners of Janney Montgomery Scott, Dooley LLC, Alcova Mortgage, Ripple FX, Dr. Zachary Law, DMD, Balleyhack, New Life Christian Fellowship, and Bellacino's.

SPORTS

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Two unbeaten teams clash for “Thursday Night Football”

It’s Thursday and that means it’s time for Thursday Night Football. This week the big game isn’t the Browns and Steelers on Prime Video, at least not in the Vinton area.

William Byrd will be at Radford High’s Norm Lineburg Stadium tonight for a rare Thursday high school football game. The reason is Virginia Tech,



PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

Gray Matthews has accounted for 1,068 yards of offense and 13 touchdowns in Byrd’s first four games.

as the Hokies are hosting Pitt on Friday in Blacksburg and Radford didn’t want to go up against a big ACC game. So, the game was moved to tonight with a 7 pm kickoff.

It should be a good one. Both teams come in with undefeated 4-0 records. The Bobcats have certainly had the easier schedule with wins over George Wythe(40-0), Giles(48-0) and Galax(49-7), and last week they had to come from behind for a 31-21 win over James River. Giles and Galax are winless and George Wythe is 2-3.

With that said, Byrd coach Brad Lutz and his staff will not be taking the Bobcats lightly. Radford has a strong tradition in football and holds a 21-18-4 edge over the Terriers in a series dating back to 1928. They also share a heritage inspired by Norm Lineburg, who coached football at Byrd before going on to a long and successful career at Radford High.

“They are one of the better teams that we have played up to this point,” said Lutz. “They are very explosive in all three phases of the game, and they can score a lot of points. Their defense has only given up three touchdowns this season, and they are really good on special teams. Coach (Michael) Crist has built a strong program at Radford.”

Byrd is coming off a bye week, giving the Terrier staff extra time to prepare for a game that will be played a night early.

“We are very fortunate to have the open week, so we were able to compensate for the missed day of prep this week,” said Lutz. “I thought we had a very

productive open week. We emphasized the things we need to improve and started to prepare for Radford.”

The Terriers are looking to go 5-0 for just the second time since 1999. Lutz feels the team has improved every week of the regular season, which hits the midway point tonight.

“We have improved in every phase of the game, and the players have proved that each week,” he said. “We have a lot of work to do, but the improvements we have seen is a direct reflection of the work the players have put in. While we have a lot of returners from last year, we have numerous players who are playing their first year of varsity. This team is finding their identity and that is important for our development and reaching our goals. Our coaches are proud of the improvements we have seen since our first game, but we are equally excited that there is plenty of room for growth.”

Radford will have to contend with Byrd running-back Gray Matthews. The junior Terrier is off to a great start. In the first four games Gray has run for 921 yards on 58 carries and has also caught seven passes for 147 yards. He’s run for 11 touchdowns and has two TD receptions. Overall Gray has accounted for 1,068 yards of offense and 13 touchdowns, averaging 16.4 yards for every time he’s touched the ball.

Friday will be Byrd’s last non-district game before starting their Blue Ridge schedule next week at home with Northside. Since Byrd is playing on Thursday night Lutz and his staff will be able to scout the Vikings in person on Friday at Rustburg.

Volleyball team will host “Cancer Awareness Night” tonight

Girls were at LB Tuesday for their Cancer Benefit

The William Byrd volleyball team will be home tonight to host Franklin County in a Blue Ridge District match, and it will be “Cancer Awareness Night.” The Terriers are 2-1 in the district after splitting two BRD matches in the past week.

Last Thursday in Vinton the girls took care of William Fleming in three sets, 25-11, 25-8 and 25-16. Emma Olivit led the way with seven kills and five aces. Caroline Johnson recorded a team-high eight kills and added an ace, while Haleigh White contributed six kills and two aces. Ellie Ruble finished with four kills and an ace.

“This match was important for our team,” said Byrd coach Kris McCoy. “One of the things we continue to emphasize is learning how to move forward and continue to improve and get better. We want to learn from every opportunity, make the necessary adjustments and continue becoming a more consistent volleyball team.”

On Tuesday of this week the Terriers were in Daleville to not only take on host Lord



Byrd volleyball girls pose for a group shot prior to the “Spike Out Kids Cancer” Night Tuesday at Lord Botetourt.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

Botetourt but to, “Spike Out Kids Cancer.” It was a special fundraiser and it touched both schools who lost students to cancer in the past year, Dalton Close at LB and Cam Thepsimuong at William Byrd.

“As a coach, I am constantly reminding our players that volleyball is something we get to do. Nights like this put those words into perspective,” said McCoy. “We walked into Lord Botetourt wanting to compete and win a volleyball match, but we

walked away reminded that there are victories far greater than anything reflected on a scoreboard. To see two school communities come together in remembrance of Dalton and Cam, while supporting children and families who continue to face pediatric cancer, was incredibly powerful.”

The match seemed almost anticlimactic as host LB won in four sets, 25-20, 12-25, 25-16 and 25-17. White finished with nine kills, an ace and seven digs, while Heidi

Dixon recorded 10 digs, an ace and a block. Catalina Patterson directed the offense with 30 assists while adding two kills, an ace and seven digs. Olivit contributed seven kills, three aces and three blocks, Ruble added four kills and an ace and Josephine Mullen finished with nine digs.

“It was a blessing and an honor for William Byrd Volleyball to be a small part of that evening,” said McCoy. “We

are incredibly grateful to Lord Botetourt for allowing our program to participate, and to the LifeRing Foundation and everyone involved in creating such a meaningful evening.”

Now 5-8 overall, the Terriers have their own “Cancer Awareness Night” tonight against Franklin County in Vinton.

“Thursday will again provide an opportunity

to recognize that our responsibility as a program extends beyond the volleyball court,” said McCoy. “We invite the William Byrd community to join us as we compete, raise awareness and recognize those whose lives have been impacted by cancer.”

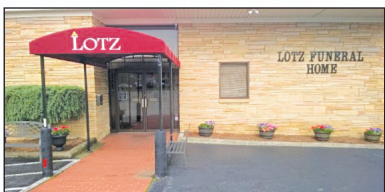
Byrd has a pair of road games next week, Tuesday at Staunton River and a week from tonight at Northside.

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Byrd’s Catalina Patterson(#5) and Heidi Dixon(#4) contest a spike in Tuesday’s game at Lord Botetourt.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY