

the residence. "Dolan contacted the Twin County Drug Task Force," Gardner said in a press release. "Officers with the task force arrived and identified items inside the residence to be consistent with a clandestine methamphetamine lab. Several items were taken from the home as evidence and samples of substances have been sent the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Lab for analysis. Task force officers found more than 227 grams of substance from the clandestine lab, in three cook bottles and two generator bottles."

Gardner said Alvino Conley Bautista, age 33, was arrested at the scene for Manufacture of a Schedule II Drug (Methamphetamine) and was transported to the Carroll County Magistrate's Office where he was held without bond pending arraignment in Carroll County General District Court. Sheriff Gardner stated that more charges are pending in this case as the investigation continues.

Gardening Club has a 'flipping' good time

By David Broyles
dbroyles@thecarrollnews.com

It was "challenge accepted" as the "Grateful Dirt Diggers" Gardening Club members at Hillsville Elementary took to a raised bed on October 19 to turn over their peanut plants for drying.

"We called this a flipping good time with the

peanuts or flipping peanuts. It is the only way when you harvest peanuts to get them to dry. When you harvest them you turn them (over) in the field. We don't have a field of them to turn here so we just pulled them up and flipped them over. That way the peanuts can be exposed

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Diane Banoff (center) expresses her appreciation for the testimony shared by Michael Dolinger on Oct. 21. John Banoff is pictured at far left.

From drug dealer to father

Dolinger finds new life after prison, gives first sermon in Hillsville

By Annette Spence
Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church

Michael Dolinger was 24 years old and the father of a young son when he was charged with five felonies for selling marijuana. Before the sentencing, he asked permission to take his family to Disney World because he thought he was going to prison.

"I never did anything like that with my dad, so I wanted a memory to go with me," said Dolinger, whose own father was incarcerated when he was four years old.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, the 28-year-old former drug dealer preached for the first time at the United Methodist church where he has found sobriety and a new community. His seven-year-old son watched with big brown eyes. His wife held their two-month-old baby daughter.

"God wastes nothing," Dolinger told worshippers at Out of the Box United Methodist Church. "Tell everybody. Tell your friends. It's that simple."

Several in the crowd were not regular church-attenders. They came to the storefront church to hear what "Mikie" had to say. Hundreds of people watched the Facebook live video of his testimony, re-sharing the message "God wastes nothing" on their own pages.

"You didn't come here because you're perfect," Dolinger said. "You came here because you're broken. But God is the creator. He's the source. He's the manufacturer. You can go and look somewhere else,



Shortly after sharing his testimony (and standing with his son, Jace, outside Out of the Box)

and most of us have, but every time it will lead you back to him."

Dolinger is the seventh person from Out of the Box to take official steps that could lead to becoming a pastor (through the United Methodist "candidacy ministry process"). Three of the seven came out the church's recovery ministry. Four of the seven are already serving churches in the Holston Conference.

"Michael lifted Jesus up, and no doubt people will be drawn to Him," said the Rev. Ronnie Collins, lead pastor at Out of the Box.

The story of how Michael Dolinger came to this place is loaded with grace as well as his sadness for other children who grow up in broken families.

Trying to fit in

"It was a viscous cycle I was raised in," Dolinger says, in an interview on the day before he preached at Out of the Box.

When Dolinger was a young

Club

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and they can start drying out before we pull them off the plant," said Youth Development Associate Extension Agent Jonette Mungo.

She said this is the very first time they have been grown in the teaching garden. According to Mungo, the club attended the Virginia State Fair last year and saw peanut plants for the first time.

"There were several exhibitors out there. We went through the exhibits and learned about the different uses of peanuts and all about soils for peanuts. One of the vendors, after he found out we were from Southwest Virginia, said oh...you can't grow peanuts out there," Mungo recalled.

Gardening Club member Kayleigh Nester and her father were particularly interested in this and asked why not. The vendor explained the soil and the climate wouldn't favor peanut growing.

"Kayleigh (Nester)'s dad knew we have raised bed gardens so we can make the soil what peanuts like so we can grow them. They talked about it and mulled it over until our next meeting and they asked if they could set up one of the beds to grow peanuts," Mungo said. "I said absolutely we can. Our officers went in and

worked the State Convention so when we went back out there for that, I grabbed some seed peanuts. Peanuts are the seed of the plant. You just have to have the hull on it so it will grow. It is taken out of the shell. Keep them in the refrigerator and plant them next year. They like calcium in the soil."

There are no specific plans for the peanuts from this first crop with the gardening club members getting first pick, as it were.

"We'll do some lessons with them at school and discuss the different uses of peanuts and at some time I feel we will make some peanut butter. For everyone else who wants peanuts we are going to sell peanuts," said Mungo.

She explained the group will again be selling Wakefield Plantation Peanuts as a fundraiser as their Fall 4-H fundraiser with the proceeds going to support all the in-school programming they do. People interested in purchasing peanuts may contact the Service at 276-730-3110.

Mungo said the Club is also looking to experiment with some other crops in the upcoming growing season, even ones which can't be grown there.

"We are looking for some unique gardening things people are interested in growing here," Mungo said. "If you can build a raised bed garden you can grow pretty much anything as long as it's



Youth Development Associate Extension Agent Jonette Mungo and members of the "Grateful Dirt Diggers" gardening club at Hillsville Elementary School get down to the business of "flipping" some peanuts grown in the School garden. Club members from left are Kayleigh Nester, Aiden Puckett and Alena Smith.

conducive to the temperature here. That's the main thing with peanuts - the weather - getting them in early enough which is why Central Virginia can. They get more days with heat and humidity than we do which peanuts like. We are looking for some suggestions for some experimental things we can grow."

The HES garden is one of five other such learning gardens in Carroll. She said plans are underway to construct one at Oakland Elementary and at Laurel Elementary. Gladeville Elementary's garden, for instance, featured Japanese eggplant this year and has a volunteer who has made chickens available for the students to study. She plans on using this to start a poultry program at that school where students would raise chickens to be showed at the County Agricultural Fair. Gladesboro Elemen-

tary has a learning garden and Fancy Gap also has one through a project spearheaded by Jennifer Bunn. St. Paul Elementary created its garden during Intercession this Fall, which provides plenty of opportunity for Mungo to integrate Junior Master Gardeners programs and Learn, Grow, Eat and Go curriculum.

"All these things correlate and line up and integrate with their Standards Of Learning all the way from kindergarten to fifth grade," said Mungo. "Hopefully we can tap our Master Gardeners to come out help with some of the educational program to help manage all of these things because it is work. Teachers have a lot already to cover and do. Sometimes they need some assistance."

David Broyles may be reached at 276-779-4013 or on Twitter@CarrollNewsDave



Photos by David Broyles | The Carroll News
Grateful Dirt Digger Club member Alena Smith gets some "hands on" experience as she picks up a peanut plant and exposes the roots so the peanuts will dry. The Club was inspired by State Fair exhibitors who doubted they could grow peanuts in Southwest Virginia.



Hillsville Elementary second grade students in Bobbietta Martin's class gather round a raised bed in the teaching garden as Grateful Dirt Diggers turn peanut plants over for drying. The class also got to loosen up the soil afterwards in preparation for next Spring. The garden is one of six such gardens in Carroll.

Dolinger

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less children, they're always looking for

ate pastor at First United Methodist Church in Maryville, Tennessee, where he leads the recovery ministry. Hall also served as the 2017 Appalachian Trail chaplain.)

At Out of the Box, Dolinger quickly

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A PETITION BY
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, FOR REVISION OF RATE
ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, THE EE-RAC,
PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 5 c OF THE CODE
OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2018-00118

*Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") requests a total of \$5,836,933 for its 2019 EE-RAC. Ac-
cording to APCo, this amount would increase the bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt