

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • 75 cents

Governor calls on school divisions to safely return students to classrooms by March 15 statewide

RICHMOND— Virginia Governor Ralph Northam Friday called on all K-12 school divisions in the commonwealth to make in-person learning options available by March 15, 2021, in accordance with the health guidance the administration put forward in January and new research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Recognizing significant learning losses over the past year, the governor also encouraged school divisions to offer classroom instruction during the summer months for those who choose.

Gov. Northam joined Secretary of Education Atif Qarni, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane, and State Health Commissioner Dr. Norm Oliver in

applauding educators for their dedication to navigating a challenging and uncertain year and in highlighting data that show in-person learning is safe with proper mitigation measures in place.

“The health and safety of students, educators, school personnel and communities continues to be our top priority,” said the governor. “We know that children learn better in classrooms and that going to school is vital for their social-emotional needs and for receiving critical services like meals.

“It is also important for our youngest learners, students with disabilities, and those with limited access to technology who have struggled most with remote learning,” Gov. Northam said. “By focusing

on mitigation measures, we can provide our kids with safe and equitable learning environments.”

On Jan. 14, 2021, Dr. Lane and Dr. Oliver released interim guidance for safely re-opening PreK-12 schools in a letter to school superintendents and local health directors. This incorporated and replaced the phased guidance for Virginia schools and interim guidance for mitigation measures in K-12 settings previously issued by the commonwealth and prioritizes the safe return to in-person learning. On Jan. 21, 2021, the Biden administration also issued an executive order to support the safe reopening of schools.

“In-person learning is critical

See **Students return**, page 2

Bruce Arians leads Buccaneers to Super Bowl LV win



Bruce Arians and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers concluded a storied season Sunday with a 31-9 win over the Kansas City Chiefs to claim Tampa Bay's second Super Bowl title. The Buccaneers became the first team in NFL history to register a Super Bowl win on their home field, Tampa's Raymond James Stadium.

Arians' staff includes fellow Tech alums Cody Grimm (defensive/special teams assistant) and Nick Rapone (safeties). After suffering a 27-24 home loss to the Chiefs on November 29, the Buccaneers never lost again. Tampa Bay won its final four regular season games and then registered postseason victories at Washington, at New Orleans and at Green Bay before Sunday's convincing win over the Chiefs.

The Bucs' previous Super Bowl win was a defeat of the Oakland Raiders after the 2002 season in Super Bowl XXXVII. The victory Sunday marked the seventh Super Bowl win for quarterback Tom Brady, his first in a Buccaneers uniform.

Arians, who lettered as a quarterback for Tech from 1972-74, is no stranger to professional football's biggest game. He previously earned a ring as offensive coordinator of the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII. Interestingly, that 27-23 win over

the Arizona Cardinals took place at Raymond James Stadium. At 68 years, three months and 21 days, he became the second-oldest Super Bowl head coach in NFL history, trailing only Buffalo's Marv Levy (68 years, five months, 28 days). Arians is the oldest coach to ever lead his team to a Super Bowl title.

Rapone played collegiately at Tech from 1974-78 before embarking on a coaching career. He previously coached with Arians at Temple and with the Arizona Cardinals. The New Castle, Penn., native spent over 30 years in the collegiate ranks before joining the Cardinals in 2012. He enjoyed stints at Delaware, Pitt, East Tennessee State and Connecticut, in addition to his time at Temple.

Grimm joined the Buccaneers coaching staff after serving in various capacities on the Tech coaching staff for four seasons. He lettered four years (2006-09) as a linebacker for the Hokies after originally joining the team as a walk-on. As a senior, he led the nation with seven forced fumbles and amassed 106 tackles, 12.5 tackles for loss and four sacks, earning first-team All-ACC and third-team AP All-America honors. He was selected by the Buccaneers in the seventh round of the 2010 NFL Draft as a safety.

Honoring Black History Month in Radford



Wesley and Flora Etta Snell



Carroll Purcell

RADFORD - Radford Mayor David Horton is continuing his daily spotlights honoring Radford Black History Month on his personal Facebook page, highlighting a different notable citizen each day of February.

Friday, Feb. 5:

“Today to recognize #radford-blackhistory we are going to go back to the turn of the 20th Century when the Norfolk and Western railroad was dominant in Radford and young Wesley Snell, an employee of the railroad, and his wife Flora Etta Snell decided to make this city their home.

“At the time, I don't think that anyone knew that the 70s, 80s, 90s and beyond would be dominated by their family on the court and on the ball

field.

“The Snells raised 11 kids in their house on Russell Avenue and began a journey that produced dominant athletes in the NRV, the Commonwealth, and the Nation. India and Sonya Adams. Donald Wayne Snell. Sidney Snell. Later their cousin Doug Day was a dominant force on the Radford University Basketball court and still later Sonya's son Steph Curry was an NBA champion with the Golden State Warriors.

“Many other families in and around Radford are connected to this couple.

“But those are all stories for later this month as we continue to celebrate. Today, I would like to focus

on Wesley and Flora Etta.

“They were part of the very early foundation of Radford in this historic black neighborhood, teaching their eleven kids to work hard, play hard, and praise hard. They were among the three charter members of the Radford Church of God in Christ also on Russell Avenue. They helped to build this neighborhood into a vibrant area in the early to middle 20th century.

“Their legacy runs deep in Radford and across our region, not just in athletics but in every facet of the community.

“As I said, I don't think anyone would have thought that their legacy

See **Black History**, page 3

Local project looking for love in Radford

RADFORD - MountainTrotter Arts is presenting a new “Love Radford Photo Project,” which will display portraits of the people of Radford throughout the city.

The portraits will be displayed in the windows of local businesses throughout the months of February and March, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, a free meals program serving the communities of Radford and Fairlawn.

The “Love Radford Photo Proj-

ect” was created by MountainTrotter Arts to “showcase the unity we feel as a community and to encourage patronage to our local businesses and recreational areas. The project is modeled after similar activities in other cities and communities to continue the sense of togetherness during the ongoing pandemic.”

Karen Gerlach, a member of the MountainTrotter board, says, the project is a great way to showcase the city and its people.

“As a proud member of Mountain-

Trotter Arts, I'm thrilled to be a part of this project. It promotes not only our new LOVE sign, but the city, and the people in it,” said Gerlach. “What a great way to show love during Valentine's month. Partnering with the City and with Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread makes it a win all around!”

Radford's LOVE sign has been installed at the former Radford Farmers Market lot and is courtesy of the Radford Info & Welcome Center.

Participants are encouraged to submit a portrait style photograph or attend one of MountainTrotter Arts' photo sessions in February for an additional \$5 photographer's fee. There will be a \$25 participation fee, with a large portion benefiting Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread. Photos will be professionally printed as an 8x10 window cling, and then displayed in the front windows of participating businesses until the end of March. Participants will also get to keep their photograph after the event has concluded.

The project is open to everyone: individuals, families, friends, and business families. Everyone is encouraged to maintain social distancing and safe practices while taking their photograph. For more information or to apply for a waived fee, please visit www.mountaintrotterarts.com/love or mountaintrotterarts@gmail.com.



The Woodard family poses at the new LOVE letters sign in downtown Radford as part of the Love Radford Photo Contest, presented by MountainTrotter Arts.

NRV Public Health Task Force updates local vaccination effort

The New River Valley Public Health Task Force Monday provided an update on the vaccination effort in Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery counties and the city of Radford.

First dose scheduling

The task force is currently vaccinating people in Phase 1a and 1b, which includes frontline essential workers, people age 65 or over and people age 16-64 with underlying medical conditions.

The task force has finished scheduling the people it knows of age 75 and over and is currently scheduling people ages 65-74 with appointments filling through early March. Persons age 75 or over who have not yet had a vaccine appointment scheduled, may call the task force hotline at (540) 838-8222 for an appointment.

Second dose scheduling

As more people become eligible for their second dose, the NRV Public Health Task Force is streamlining its process. Those who received their first-dose appointment through their employer, a pharmacist or a medical provider should

go through them for their second-dose appointment.

Those who received their first dose as an individual through one of the New River Health District's clinics at the Blue Ridge Church in Christiansburg who are eligible for their second dose before February 24 (according to the date on your vaccination card), come to Blue Ridge Church in Christiansburg 28 days after your first dose, which is the date on the back of your card, between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., as close to the time of your first appointment as possible.

Take the card with you to receive the second dose. The task force is working to contact everyone in this group, but anyone who becomes eligible for their second dose before being contacted may come on to receive their second dose.

Those who got their appointment as an individual through the New River Health District's vaccination clinics at the Blue Ridge Church in Christiansburg who become eligible for the

See **Vaccination**, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 10:

Radford University's WWII Series - Radford University's WWII History series resumes on February 10 at 4 p.m. with a presentation by Tom Snediker on "Life during Wartime: Jazz Music in Occupied Paris." Attend via Zoom or in person following COVID restrictions (In-person attendance remains available only to individuals affiliated with Radford University). Find out more on RU's web page.

Registration due for 4-H Mars Base Camp Program - This year's 4-H national STEM initiative, 4-H Mars Base Camp, is a series of challenge activities designed to explore the topic of a mission to Mars. Activities help youth develop critical thinking skills while learning more about space exploration and the red planet. The initiative consists of four activities related to agriculture, STEM, healthy living and civic engagement.

The activities and Zoom sessions are designed for ages 8 to 12 years old. They will take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 16 through May 4, 2021.

Zoom will be used for the meeting platform to demonstrate activities, discuss the project results, and have some social time with others participating in the project. The project requires Mars Base Camp Kits. Families order their own kits (family or educator depending on needs of the family) from National 4-H Supply, to

be delivered to their home, from the following website: National 4-H Mall, Mars Base Camp Kits.

Cost for a family kit is \$17.95. The cost of an educator's kit is \$27.95.

Allow three to four weeks for delivery to be ready for the first Zoom meeting. Limited financial assistance may be available for those who need it. Contact your agent (adickerson@vt.edu) for more information.

Register at this site: 4-H Mars Base Camp. Registration by today, Feb. 10. Please do not order kits until you hear that enough persons have registered for the program to proceed. Program details with Zoom links will be sent after the registration deadline.

A Beginner's Approach to Garden Photography - This is a Zoom presentation at noon by Robert E. Lyons, Professor Emeritus at the University of Delaware, former Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden and a faculty member of the VT Horticulture Department.

This talk is all about using your eyes, your mind, and your camera to capture moments in your personal landscapes. They may be your gardens, vignettes from your travels, seasonal records of your favorite plants, and/or features of landscape designs. Presentation content is example-driven, and provides understandable and uncomplicated information to create aesthetically pleasing images in a relatively short period of time. While equipment details

and camera mechanics will be mentioned, they will not dominate the presentation. Instead, the impact and exploitation of prevailing light, elements of photographic composition, the power of mastering depth of field, and developing a personal style will be emphasized. This presentation is particularly relevant for and geared towards early stage photographers who use a variety of devices, including DSLR's, mobile/cell phones, or both. Register at https://virginiat-ech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ymy3HGvrxExkxf.

Virtual Book Talk - From 11 a.m. to noon at the Christiansburg Library. To be discussed virtually this month is "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

Chair Yoga for everybody: Virtual - From 2 to 2:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Join Rachel for 20 minutes of chair yoga. Optional props are a pillow (any size) and a strap such as a bathrobe tie. Call 540-552-8246 for details.

Talking About Books - 11 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library. To be discussed is *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Call to reserve a copy. For more information, call Janet Wren at 540-268-1964.

Thursday, Feb. 11:
Preparing Your Estate Plan - Estate planning is a topic people tend to put off or ignore, but it's also one of the most important

things they'll ever do. Properly planning an estate helps prepare a secure future for generations to come. The program will include what to consider when creating a will, the benefits of trusts in estate planning, how to reduce estate taxes and how insurance can help protect an estate's heirs and family. Local estate-planning attorney Bettye Ackerman will present the program and will be available to answer questions. The program will begin at 4 pm. To attend, go to www.zoom.com and enter the meeting ID 965 2535 6165 and the password 130483.

Friday, Feb. 12:
Backyard Bird Count - From Friday, Feb. 12 - Monday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Supplies will be provided at the library to make a bird feeder. Then count and identify the birds that visit your backyard. Supplies are limited.

Saturday, Feb. 13:
Dialogue on Race 2021 Winter Summit - This event is being held online on Zoom from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All Dialogue on Race events in the future will be held online or virtually.

The keynote speakers will be Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III, DO/PhD, and Dr. Pete Guerra, MDA. Subjects include the Year in Masks, the COVID Pandemic, Race and Racism and Vaccination and Vaccines: What

Monday, Feb. 15:
RPL closed for President's Day - The Radford Public Library will be closed in observance of President's Day. It will open for browsing, computer and Grab & Go appointments again on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 9 a.m. Many options for digital ebooks, audiobooks, movies, television shows and more are available through a variety of free platforms from the Radford Public Library website with a library card.

Thursday, Feb. 18:
Discord Comic Book Club - Join the Radford Public Library for an all-ages voice chat discussion of Comic Books via Discord. To be read and discussed this month is Jason Latour's "Spider-Gwen Vol. 1:

Greater Power." Check it out at this link: Spider-Gwen <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12020853>. Send the library a Facebook message or email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to sign up. You will then receive an invitation at the RPL Discord server.

Ongoing:
StoryWalk - All Month of February, at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is *The Big Red Barn*.

Through Friday, Mar. 5:
Glencoe Mansion "2020 in Review" Art Show - The show features the works of artists Cheryl Mackian, the Radford Photo Club and Teresa Regil, whose works all appeared in the Gallery during 2020. The exhibit opened on Tuesday, Jan. 26. It is free to the public.

Through Saturday, April 24:
'Unbearable Beauty' Exhibit at Moss Arts Center - The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Thursday, Feb. 18:
Discord Comic Book Club - Join the Radford Public Library for an all-ages voice chat discussion of Comic Books via Discord. To be read and discussed this month is Jason Latour's "Spider-Gwen Vol. 1:

national level and develop a network of resources with a focus on rural areas." Duvall said the Vilsack and Bronaugh nominations are welcome news. "Together, we must prepare to tackle a new farm bill and build on efforts to create a fair marketplace for U.S. agriculture to compete globally," he said. "It is essential we ensure climate policies respect farmers and remain market-based and voluntary. And we must end the digital divide that puts rural America at a disadvantage."

Virginia's Dr. Jewel Bronaugh tapped as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

President Joe Biden has recently named Virginia's Dr. Jewel Bronaugh as the administration's deputy secretary of agriculture. She will serve with former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, whom the president picked as his secretary of agriculture.

Vilsack previously led the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Obama administration.

Bronaugh is a lifelong Virginian, born in Petersburg and educated at James Madison University and Virginia Tech.

Virginia Farm Bureau Fed-

eration President Wayne F. Pryor said Virginia has been fortunate in benefitting from Bronaugh's leadership as commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (VDACS), state Farm Service Agency executive director and dean of the Virginia State University College of Agriculture.

"She has done much to promote agriculture and address the many issues facing farm families and rural Virginia, and we support her swift confirmation," Pryor said.

Bronaugh said she did not

actively seek the USDA appointment. "However, I am absolutely honored with this opportunity to serve our nation's farmers and agribusinesses," she said. "I am looking forward to promoting U.S. agricultural products, improving economic opportunities, helping to end hunger, ensuring fairness and equity in the agricultural industry and preserving our nation's natural resources."

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said Bronaugh's nomination shows that Biden is carefully considering the challenges facing

U.S. farmers. Bronaugh's track record of experience "has established her as someone who understands the needs of America's farmers," Duvall said. "We also appreciate the work she has done to address mental health issues in rural communities."

Rural mental health is a priority Bronaugh plans to continue to address at the federal level.

"Farmers have a strong sense of pride, and often they do not like to talk about their problems," she said. "I would like to help raise awareness of farmer stress and mental health on a

national level and develop a network of resources with a focus on rural areas."

Duvall said the Vilsack and Bronaugh nominations are welcome news.

"Together, we must prepare to tackle a new farm bill and build on efforts to create a fair marketplace for U.S. agriculture to compete globally," he said. "It is essential we ensure climate policies respect farmers and remain market-based and voluntary. And we must end the digital divide that puts rural America at a disadvantage."

Students return from page 1

to the current and future well-being of our children," said Oliver. "The Virginia Department of Health remains committed to supporting school districts in getting kids back into classrooms as we work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and get Virginians vaccinated."

The governor also announced that his administration will be working to support local decisions around expanding summer learning opportunities. While the commonwealth is not mandating extended learning time during the summer, the Northam administration is in the process of

determining additional resources to support this as an option for school divisions to offer.

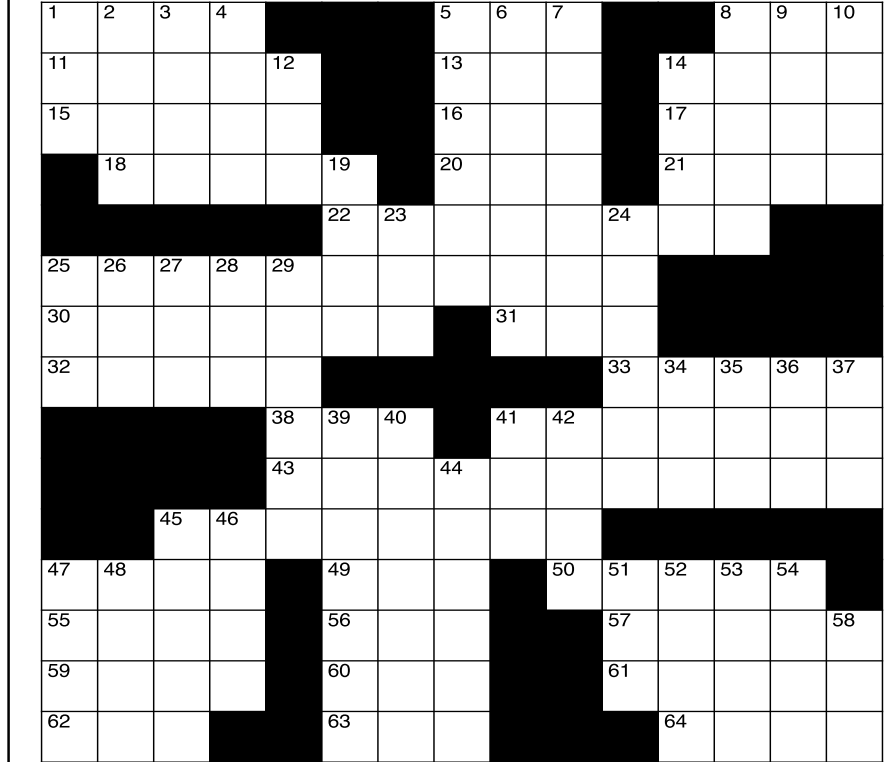
"For those who choose to return to in-person instruction, we know that school will not look the same as students remember it from past years," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. "However, implement-

ing evidence-based public health strategies will provide students who need it most the opportunity to have an in-person environment to learn and develop academically, socially, and emotionally."

Growing evidence, including a new CDC study recently published in the *Journal of the*

American Medical Association, shows that with proper health and safety protocols, the risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 is low in school settings. Additional data confirm that most children infected with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or have no symptoms at all.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | | | |
| 1. Gather a harvest | 41. Lack of success | 3. Aboriginal people of Japan | 36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: ___magnon |
| 5. Federal Republic of Germany | 43. Thing that causes disgust | 4. Popular accessory | 37. Adult female bird |
| 8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! | 45. Deep, continuing sound | 5. Wedding accessory | 39. Do away with |
| 11. "The Little Mermaid" | 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea | 6. Deep, narrow gorges | 40. Lens |
| 13. The common gibbon | 49. You might put it in a fire | 7. Dry cereal | 41. Flattened appendage |
| 14. Volcanic island in Fiji | 50. Partner to "oohed" | 8. Competitions that require speed | 42. Post or pillar in Greek temple |
| 15. Mother of Perseus | 55. Actor Idris | 9. Cain and ___ | 44. A medieval citizen of Hungary |
| 16. Egg cells | 56. Slippery | 10. Snake sound | 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation |
| 17. Teams' best pitchers | 57. Plant of the bean family | 12. Type of amino acid (abbr.) | 46. Abba __, Israeli politician |
| 18. Credit associations | 59. One point north of northeast | 14. Pattern of notes in Indian music | 47. Sew |
| 20. Advance | 60. Patti Hearst's captors | 19. Satisfy | 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits |
| 21. Hair styling products | 61. Places to hang clothes | 23. Misfire | 51. Swiss river |
| 22. Benign tumors | 62. Midwife | 24. Nearsightedness | 52. Grayish-white |
| 25. Arriving early | 63. Of she | 25. Indicates before | 53. A way to illustrate |
| 30. Called it a career | 64. S. Korean statesman | 26. Increase motor speed | 54. College basketball superpower |
| 31. ___ Paulo, city | CLUES DOWN | | 58. Midway between south and southeast |
| 32. Avoid with trickery | 1. Cool! | 29. Where rockers perform | |
| 33. Easter egg | 2. Amounts of time | 34. Substitute | |
| 38. Veterans battleground | | 35. ___juris: of one's own right | |

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each week the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac. At this time, visits to the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



Beauty certainly lives up to her name; just look at that face. Her future home would need to be able to work on her manners, which are typical for a younger dog, while handling her strength. She's a bigger gal, weighing in at 80 lbs. Beauty also would do best in a home where she is the only pet.



Striker is a younger cat ready for his forever home. He's the loner/shy guy of his pack, hanging out in one of the community cat rooms. He prefers to sit back and observe the world around him. Staff say he sleeps with one eye open, but it's unknown if he grips his pillow tight. Set up an appointment to meet Striker. He could be your purrfect match.

OPINION

Who knew hot tubs could kill?

I've found that as I've gotten older, long-buried memories have a tendency to leap unbidden into my mind like snapshots, piecemeal snatches if you will. The most recent of these involved a pair of tragedies.

The greatest Southern humorist of all time, Lewis Grizzard from the hamlet of Moreland, Ga., in rural Coweta County, once said there is a difference between "naked" and "nekkid," the latter a Deep South pronunciation. As Lewis put it, "Naked is when you take your clothes off. Nekkid is when you take your clothes off and you're up to something."

Unfortunately for the part of the world that did truly enjoy Southern humor -- which includes me -- Lewis was born with a congenital heart defect: a defective heart valve. That basically meant that his whole life was lived on borrowed time. He underwent four heart surgeries, one of which involved replacing

that defective valve with a pig valve. Lewis said that the only aftereffect from the surgery was that he broke into a cold sweat every time he rode past a barbecue joint. He died much too soon at 47. In accordance with his wishes, his body was cremated, and some of his ashes were scattered at the 50-yard line of Sanford Stadium at the University of Georgia. Did I mention he was a UGA grad?

But I digress. Mightily. Peripatetic couple that we are, my wife and I sojourned twice in Athens, Ga., the closest place to Heaven I've ever found, and not coincidentally, the home of the University of Georgia and the Georgia Bulldogs. During my second trip, I worked as the news editor of the Classic City's daily morning newspaper. With a steady stream of news flowing across my desk every day, I was privy to all sorts of stories from the sublime to the ridiculous. And the tragic. Thus did I learn of

the two tragedies that have suddenly returned to my consciousness, one of which had a direct connection to "naked" and "nekkid."

For reasons that will forevermore be known only to himself, what until then had been a reasonably respectable and responsible Athens man decided after breakfast one morning in October he wanted to cavort about in the neighborhood in the altogether.

His family -- not the neighbors, interestingly enough -- called the police, who promptly shot him to death after mace and night sticks failed to subdue him, even though he obviously wasn't carrying any concealed weapons. An inquiry exonerated the officers.

The second tragedy I would prefer to forget again involved the story of a New Jersey teen drowning in a hot tub because she was trapped by tons of suction. I'm sure since then this has happened to others, but this was the first time I

ever heard of such a horrible thing.

My first brush with the delights (and not the horrors) of the hot tub came during a period when I did some work with an advertising agency. One of our clients was a hot tub manufacturer.

Upon my shoulders fell the nasty, thankless task of putting together a hot tub photo shoot at a Hilton Head condo. For two days, I had to suffer the ignominy of working up close and personal with a gaggle of nubile Carolina beauties clad in two-piece bathing suits.

Advertising, of course, is basically the creation of needs through illusion, so we were about the business of creating the illusion of exactly what was under all those bubbles the hot tub blowers were stirring up.

Turns out the cretin of a company owner didn't want any photos of girls in his tubs because they hid the bubbles. So we wound up with a campaign full of ba-

bles tubs. Lots of bubbles, though.

I received some small measure of satisfaction when the company went out of business a short time later. Anyone who couldn't appreciate exactly what he was selling didn't deserve to be in business anyhow. And he darned sure wasn't selling bubbles or cleanliness, no matter how close to godliness it may be.

But back to the horrible, senseless fate of that 16-year-old New Jersey girl. It seems, the news reports went, that she was trapped in three feet of water by 12 tons of suction pressure. I'm not an engineer and I took geology in college to avoid physics, but it seems to me that 12 tons of suction would make for the mother of all vacuum cleaners.

It was all innocence, too. An alcohol-free, supervised post-junior-prom party. Only someone flipped a switch to turn on the whirlpool pump just as she stepped from a nearby pool into the hot tub and ducked herself to douse her hair.

She never came up. The manufacturer

blamed a broken grate, but I'm sure glad I wasn't on the receiving end of his lawsuit.

Frequently when I recall something like these two stories -- both senseless tragedies -- I pause for a moment to reflect on just how much of a determinist I am: the philosophy that says what happens in our lives is largely determined by outside forces and circumstances we have no control over. The truth is I am a determinist. I do believe something outside my own actions has guided me through what Frank Capra would describe as "a wonderful life." What is quite clear to me is that this force has only good in mind for me, and it's not chance, coincidence or luck. It's God.

The author is a man of a certain age who confesses that no matter how hard he has tried, he has never been able to figure life out. The best he has been able to come up with is that life is a mystery, which is answer only in the sense that it is an admission that God, not he, is the one in control and that's exactly the way it should be.

Evans King: Remembering baseball legend and American icon Henry 'Hank' Aaron

I cannot let the recent passing of Henry "Hank" Aaron go by without putting a few memories down on paper. He was a true American icon and a man whose lifetime of accomplishments hopefully will never be forgotten. He is

also a link to my childhood, and thinking of him in the batter's box or on the face of a bubble-gum card brings a flood of warm feelings to my heart.

Hank played during the wheelhouse of my sports fandom. Like many kids

who grew up from the late 1950's through the early 1970's, I was consumed by sports, particularly baseball. I loved every sport in season, but times were simpler, summers were long and uncluttered, and baseball was the focus of our lives.

Daily neighborhood games interrupted a few times a week by organized leagues (Minor, Little League and Pony), collecting cards with pictures of our heroes on them and memorizing statistics occupied those long summers. To this day I can tell you the starting line ups of most major league teams from that time. I can't tell you what I did at work yesterday, but I can tell you the batting order of the 1963 San Francisco Giants.

This was still the era when baseball was the king of American sports. The NFL was just beginning its move to take over the nation's hearts and pocketbooks. The "league" had only 12 teams when the '60's began, and most teams played their games in major league ballparks on the skinned dirt of baseball infields in a show of deference to the "real" sport that belonged there. You dare not "sod over" what God had rendered. So the NFL borrowed the

great baseball cathedrals of the time like Wrigley Field and Yankee Stadium and the long-gone Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. It was a league of second class citizens.

The NBA was even less significant in the sports psyche of America at that time. It was not a big-time or big-money sport. Teams were just beginning to relocate to major markets like the Pistons from Fort Wayne to Detroit and the Lakers from Minneapolis to LA. Many games were played in high school gyms or public arenas in small cities. The night when Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points to establish an untouchable record the game was played not in Philadelphia, where his Warriors were then based, but in Hershey -- Hershey, Pennsylvania! No film of the game.

So you get the idea. Baseball, which had become the first professional team sport to catch America's imagination in the 1920's with Babe Ruth leading the way, continued to reign into the mid-1960's. Many call the period from the early '50's through the mid-60's the Golden Age of Baseball. It was for me. No divisions, no playoffs, just the World Series played in broad

daylight in early October. The worst three days of the summer were the three days of the All-Star break: only one game in three days. No box scores, no games on the radio.

Probably the most exciting aspect of that period when Major League Baseball was a large part of my world was the burgeoning presence of so many African-American stars in the game. This was still the era when many of America's best athletes were baseball players. As I noted above, the NFL was still in its infancy relatively and the NBA was only a cut or two above semi-pro status. The great black athletes, many from the deep south, flocked to professional baseball, following in the footsteps of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby (the first African-American to play in the American League, for the Cleveland Indians, only three months after Jackie broke the color barrier in Brooklyn in April 1947). The game was populated by generational talents like Willie Mays, Frank Robinson, Ernie Banks, Willie McCovey, Curt Flood, Billy Williams, Maury Wills, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock. I could go on and on.

And at the forefront was Hammerin' Hank

Aaron. Hank was not as flashy on the field as some of his contemporaries, like Willie Mays with his trademark basket catch and running out from underneath his cap, or Roberto Clemente with the greatest arm baseball had ever seen and his "submarine" throws back to the infield after catching fly balls. Hammerin' Hank did not hit the prodigious home runs that Mickey Mantle did and he didn't steal 100 bases a season like my hero, Maury Wills.

But he was the epitome of consistency and grace on the diamond, a true "five-tool" player. He could hit for average, hit for power, field, throw and run the bases.

Hank played 23 seasons in the major leagues -- from 1954 to 1976 -- 21 of those years with the Braves in Milwaukee and Atlanta and his last two years back in Milwaukee with the American League Brewers, a farewell tour of sorts. I shouldn't even need to mention that Hank retired from baseball as the all-time home run leader, with a total of 755. One of the great baseball trivia questions is "What pair of brothers hit the most total home runs in their ca-

See King, page 5

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*..... editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*..... communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager* lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant* advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view: communitynews@ourvalley.org

To subscribe: (540) 389-9355

Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage 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 for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$41 a year in the City of Radford, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY



To advertise in this space, call Randy Thompson at 540-230-1129 advertising@mainstreetnewspapers.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING REALLY WORKS!
CALL (540) 382-6171

Want to keep up with local news, sports and events?
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Call (540) 382-6171

Find us on: **facebook**



King

from page 4

reers?” The wonderful answer is the Aaron brothers: Hank and Tommie 768. Hank with 755 and Tommie with 13. In my heart of hearts, and more recent events notwithstanding, Hank remains the all-time MLB home run leader. No PED’s in his day.

A demonstration of Hank’s consistency was that he established the home run record without ever hitting 50 homers in a season. On a personal note, he hit his first major league homer the year after I was born and his last the year after I finished college. He broke Babe Ruth’s record of 714 in April of my senior year hitting 715 on a Monday night in Atlanta. I remember watching it from my apartment with a couple of

my housemates, Al Downing on the mound for the Dodgers, Tom House catching the ball in the Dodgers bullpen.

There was controversy and considerable stress on Hank during his pursuit of the record. There were some who did not want to see a black man break the Babe’s record. He endured death threats and much hate mail. I have to admit that I only recall the positives of the time, people my age not having much connection to the Babe, and I do not remember Hank’s pursuit and breaking of the record as anything but exciting and historic.

Also on a personal note, I was lucky enough to see Hank play in Atlanta in 1966, the

first year his team was there, having moved from Milwaukee after the previous season. I was a huge Dodgers fan at the time. My favorite players were Maury Wills and Sandy Koufax and Willie Davis and Don Drysdale. Growing up in Christiansburg, we were not exactly in any particular major league team’s market. Cincinnati and Pittsburgh and Washington/Baltimore were all about equidistant. But when the Braves arrived in Atlanta (about an 8-hour drive like the others) and my love of the Dodgers was at its zenith, my folks decided to indulge my hero worship by taking me to a four-game series between the Dodgers and Braves in the ATL in late June.

One of the great memories of my childhood, four of the 10 major-league games I witnessed in person until I was an adult and my career choice led me to live close to Pittsburgh.

The denouement of that weekend was the Sunday afternoon game. Sandy Koufax (the greatest pitcher of his era) pitching in 95-degree heat in Fulton County Stadium, pitching in what ended up being the last season of his career. Hank batting against Sandy. This was the equivalent of seeing Pavlov and Sinatra or Elvis and the Beatles on stage together. Historic. Sandy pitched a complete game (They used to do that in the day.), winning 2-1, but Hank went 3 for 4 and

knocked in his team’s only run. (I looked it up.)

Following my hobby of trying to come up with a single word or phrase to describe another, I have to use several for Henry Aaron: “elegant” and “dignified” and “graceful.” He played the game and lived his life embodying all of these.

I am not one who is particularly fond of changing the names and mascots of sports teams. I have never have understood why it is an insult rather than a compliment to use certain nicknames. But I could get behind a thought I heard on sports-talk radio the other day. The Braves should consider becoming The Atlanta Hammer. A name for posterity.

Legislation abolishing the death penalty passes the Virginia House

RICHMOND -- The Virginia House of Delegates has passed a measure to abolish the death penalty. HB 2263 would eliminate capital punishment sentencing in the commonwealth and convert existing death sentences to life in prison without parole.

If signed into law by Governor Ralph Northam, who is committed to ending this sentencing practice, Virginia would become the 23rd state in the United States and the first Southern state to abolish the death penalty. The Commonwealth has executed 1,389 people since 1608. One hundred thirteen of these death sentences have been carried out since 1976, making Vir-

ginia second only to Texas in executions since the death penalty was reinstated.

The Senate companion bill, SB 1165, passed the Senate 21-17 on Wednesday, Feb. 3, and that legislation has been referred to the House Courts of Justice Committee.

“The death penalty is an antiquated, expensive, inhuman punishment that does not aid in crime deterrence or advance public safety, but it does disproportionately impact people of color in our country,” said House Majority Leader Charniele Herring. “Eliminating the death penalty is yet another step House Democrats have taken to reform our justice system in the commonwealth. I’m proud

to be a Chief Co-Patron on this bill to finally put an end to the death penalty in Virginia.”

Since 1989, of the 53 people exonerated after being wrongly convicted of crimes in Virginia, more than half were Black. Over the past 48 years, more than 170 people (92 of them Black) who have been sentenced to death in the U.S. have later had their convictions reversed after being found innocent.

Studies have shown that the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to crime as states with the death penalty have a significantly higher murder rate.

“There are many arguments for why we should abolish the

death penalty,” said Delegate Mike Mullin, the patron of HB 2263. “These arguments touch on everything from the moral implications of the death penalty, to its ineffectiveness, to its cost. The argument that speaks to me, and the one that keeps me up at night, is that as long as the death penalty remains in place we run the risk of executing an innocent person.”

This legislation falls within the new House Democratic majority’s mission to build a better Virginia, which includes reforming the commonwealth’s criminal justice system. During the 2021 Regular Session, House Democrats have passed measures to establish automatic expungement, restore the

political rights of felons who have completed their sentences and legalize marijuana.

“The Virginia House Democrats are focused on bringing the commonwealth into the 21st century,” said House Democratic Caucus Chair Rip Sullivan. “This includes updating our code with more enlightened and informed approaches to our criminal justice system that reflect some unfortunate realities, including the reality that sometimes innocent people are convicted. The passage of this bill is a credit to the dedication of caucus members who have been persistent champions seeking to create a more just and equitable commonwealth.”

OBITUARIES

Beyer, Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold Beyer, beloved uncle and brother, died suddenly Feb. 5, 2021. The exact cause of death is undetermined, but many friends and family believe it was too soon.

Born in Ames, Iowa, on April 26, 1954, Richard was a graduate of Blacksburg High School, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Florida State University, where he mastered in engineering.

He espoused golf in all forms, was a supporter of various golf courses and tournaments and was considered adept at the sport. He was an active member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church of Blacksburg.

Richard treated individuals with respect, regardless of personal belief, education level or other factors. His ability to interact with people without being



showy about it was a rare gift. Those whose lives he touched will carry the seeds he planted with them to others on their journey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Gerhard Harold Beyer and Ruth Anne Beyer, and his sister, Elizabeth A. Beyer.

He is survived by his brother, Gerhard A. Beyer (Teresa); his sister, Jenni B. Oliphant (Richard); nephews Jeffrey A. Beyer and David G. Beyer (Sarah); and nieces Stephanie J. Beyer (Philip) and Tracy M. Beyer.

Services will be determined at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Blacksburg, Virginia. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Kirby, Richard Carol

Richard Carol Kirby went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Feb. 3, 2021.

He was born in Rainelle, W.Va., July 29, 1939, to Clarence and Rosa Kirby.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, his parents and several siblings.

He is survived by three sisters: Glenna Fitzwater, Sylvia McGuire and Patricia Miller; his son, Clifton Kirby (Erin); his daughter Angela Conner (Wayne); and grandchild-



dren Troy Kirby (Summer), Kyle Kirby (Leah), Eric Kirby, Jonathan Conner (Lauren), Brooke Conner-Tsang (Aaron); and great-grandchildren Ryelynn, Arie, Lily, Marcus, Elysian, Saige, Ivory and Emberlyn.

Funeral services were held Saturday Feb. 6, 2021, at Little River Baptist Church at 11 a.m. with Pastor Billy Johnson

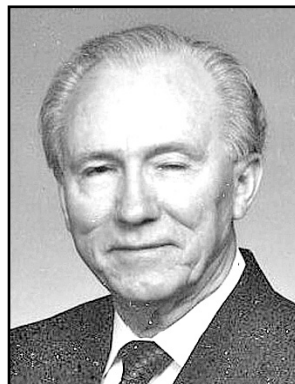
and Pastor Bradley Turner officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to service time.

McDaniel, Sr., William Desmond

William Desmond “Dez” McDaniel, Sr., 93, of Fairlawn, passed away Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021, at LewisGale Hospital. He was a retired security guard at New River Valley Mall.

Dez was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mary Sue McDaniel, and six brothers and two sisters. He was the last surviving member of his generation.

Dez was known for his singing. Survivors include his wife, Frances Phillips McDaniel; a son, William D. “Willie” McDaniel, Jr., of Radford; a



daughter, Carol Sue Smith of Texas; a grandson, Shane McDaniel of Radford; a granddaughter, Karen Benfield of Texas; several great-grandchildren, stepchildren, and step-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Per his request, graveside services were held on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, at 1 p.m. in West View Cemetery in Radford with Justin Phillips officiating.

The McDaniel family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Minnick, Drema Turpin

Drema Turpin Minnick, 71, of Radford, passed away Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alvin and Irene Turpin.

Survivors include her husband of 51 years, John Woodrow Minnick; sons Steve and Scott Minnick; a daughter, Kim Minnick; a proud Nana of Emberlyn Noel McIlwraith; a sister Debbie Turpin; a brother Mike Turpin; special cousins Dickie and Patty Lyons and Terry and Sabrina Ratcliffe; sisters



and brother-in-law Pansy Robinson and Carolyn and William Minnick; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 6 p.m. with Pastor Justin Lucas officiating.

The Minnick family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Parks, Larry Maiden

Larry Maiden Parks, 70, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021.

He was retired from Highland Memory Gardens where he was in charge of maintenance. He attended Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Nancy Parks.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Shirley M. Parks; sons David Parks and Steven Parks; grandsons Austin and Westin Parks; a brother, Dennis Lee Cales; a sister,

Laura Denise Cales; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 in the Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with the Rev. Greg Harrell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the American Cancer Society.

The Parks family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.



Radford News Journal

Serving Radford Since 1884

- DIGITAL ONLY: One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00
- DIGITAL & PRINT: Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$59.00
- PRINT ONLY: Yearly Print Only Subscription \$41.00 Radford \$50.00 Virginia \$54.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at radfordnewsjournal.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

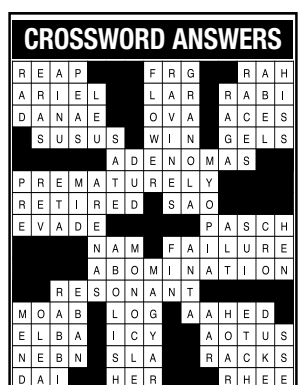
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



Legals-Montgomery Co.
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

1. A Rezoning request by Gay and Neel, Inc. (applicant), for an approximately 1.38 acre property owned by Depot Street Development LLC, located at the intersection of Depot Street, N.E. and Harless Street, N.E. (tax map nos. 497-A-288, 497-A-288A, 497-A-288C, 497-A-285, 497-A-286, 497-13-3, 497-13-1E). The request is to rezone the property from B-3, General Business to R-3, Multi-Family Residential with proffers. The property is designated as residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

2. Two Conditional Use Permit requests by Balzer & Associates, Inc., on behalf of SHAH Development, LLC (applicant/owner), for an approximately 3.2 acre property located at 1145 West Main Street (tax map no. 556-A-39) in the B-3, General Business District:

1. A conditional use permit request for residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. Residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District include single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, townhouses, and multiple-family dwellings at

Legals-Montgomery Co.
 a density of development of up to 20 units per acre. 2. A conditional use permit request for a proposed planned housing development to consist of single-family, two-family, and multiple-family dwellings at a density of development not to exceed 10 units per acre. The property is partially designated as Business/Commercial and partially designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/youtube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburg.org/publichearings.

Copies of the applications are available for review at the following link: www.christiansburg.org/publichearings. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals-Roanoke County
LEGAL NOTICE ROANOKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 The Roanoke County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, in the Board Meeting Room of the Roanoke County Administration Center, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, Virginia on the adoption of a resolution establishing certain policies and procedures to guide the redistricting process of Roanoke County, Virginia Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all are encouraged to view and participate in meetings through electronic means. Meetings may be viewed live on RVTV, Channel 3, or on the County's website <https://roanokecountyva.gov> and click on the "Watch Board Meetings Online" box/button. Prior to and during meetings, citizens may email comments to djacks@roanokecountyva.gov. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations. Additionally, if you would like to call in your comments, please call 540-776-7278 and provide your comments, which will be read during the meeting. For those individuals who desire to attend the meetings in person, please be advised that seating modifications and limits have been established in order to facilitate social distancing; attendees who are not of the same household must sit six feet apart, and attendance at meetings will be limited to 25 individuals.

Dated: February 4, 2021
 Deborah C. Jacks, Chief Deputy Clerk

STATEWIDE ADS
AUCTIONS
 ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS
500 VACATION HOMES
Selling fast for summer 2021 due to need to escape covid

Book now for best selection!
www.brindleybeach.com **877-642-3224**

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479
FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!
Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021
 Special Financing Available *To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
1 (833) 688-1378
*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

STATEWIDE ADS
 Starting at \$235* Installed w/ Free Trim Wrap Call 804-739-8207 Siding, Roofing, Gutters and More!
 GENERAC Standby Generators. The weather is increasingly unpredictable. Be prepared for power outages. FREE 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!) Schedule your FREE in-home assessment today. Call 1-877-636-0738 Special financing for qualified customers.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION
BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!
15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY!
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY! **WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!**
FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: 285
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**
 Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

STATEWIDE ADS
 ices 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net
REAL ESTATE
 ATTN. REALTORS: Advertise your listings regionally or statewide. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions that get results! Call Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, HYPERLINK "mailto:landonc@vpa.net" landonc@vpa.net

SERVICES
DIVORCE - Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. WILL \$195.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. HYPERLINK "https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com" https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DR FAME
ALLERGY
ASTHMA
540-404-9598
 1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE
Cell: 540-293-4271

ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
If you are or will be serving as the Personal Representative of an estate, we have the experience and knowledge to help you in this process.
TALK TO WALT
 WALTER S. KEARNS, JR., CFP® • (540) 389-0300
JUST FINANCIAL PLANNING, INC.
 1630 ROANOKE BLVD., SALEM, WWW.JUSTFINANCIALPLANNING.COM

embrace
 homeloans
 Robin Jewell
 Senior Loan Officer / NMLS# 235597
 540.309.5013
rjewell@embracehomeloans.com
www.embracehomeloans.com/robin-jewell
 5044 Keagy Road, Suite H100
 Roanoke, VA 24018
Embrace Home Loans, Inc. (NMLS ID#2184) is licensed in VA. (www.nmlsconsumeraffairs.com)

EVANS ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SERVICE
 Fincastle
Residential • Commercial Industrial • Remodeling New Construction
473-2481 • 276-228-5863 cell
Class A License • Insured Master Tradesman

ROOF LEAKS?
CIRCLE R ROOFING OF VIRGINIA
Call for a FREE Estimate
Rob Gendreau • 540.784.0500

MHC
 Monroe Health Center
Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
 Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356
 *Physical Exams * X-ray Services
 * Laboratory Services * Acute Care
 *Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS
Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
 Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
 Serving the industry for 30+ years
 Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains
Premier, REALTORS
 (540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
 1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
 Daleville, VA 24083
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

Roof Replacement & Repair
Southern Trace Roofing
 All 1st Responders and Health Care Workers receive a 5% discount
540-966-0688 • PO Box 630, Daleville, VA 24083
www.southerntracellc.com

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
 Where the Deals Are!
The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY OF VIRGINIA
WHERE PATIENTS COME FIRST
ALL evaluations & treatments by a licensed physical therapist
 LOCATED **INSIDE** BOTETOURT FAMILY YMCA
 115 Shenandoah Avenue, Daleville
540-591-5360 • FAX 540-591-5362

Absolutely Best Real Estate Experience Ever!!
 -J&M T.
540.342.9600
Dayna@PatrickTeamHomes.com
Patrick Team HOMES Farms & Unique Properties
 RE/MAX All Stars • Daleville, VA

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Opportunity is knocking loud and clear.

Sunflooring Inc. STEVE SMITH
With over 40 years of experience
 Specializing in Hardwood Floors, Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring, Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile, Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank
540-556-3100

Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®
 540.353.7173 cell
 540.989.4555 office
tbenson@mkbrealtors.com

SITUATIONS WANTED
Find a job in your special field, or find the help you need.

AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
Get rid of the old rattletrap while it still runs

HANDY MAN SERVICES
 • Interior / Exterior Painting
 • Carpentry, Window / Door Replacement and More
 • Deck Repair and Restorations
Serving New Castle & Surrounding Areas
Call or Text Gary Benefield 386.527.8434

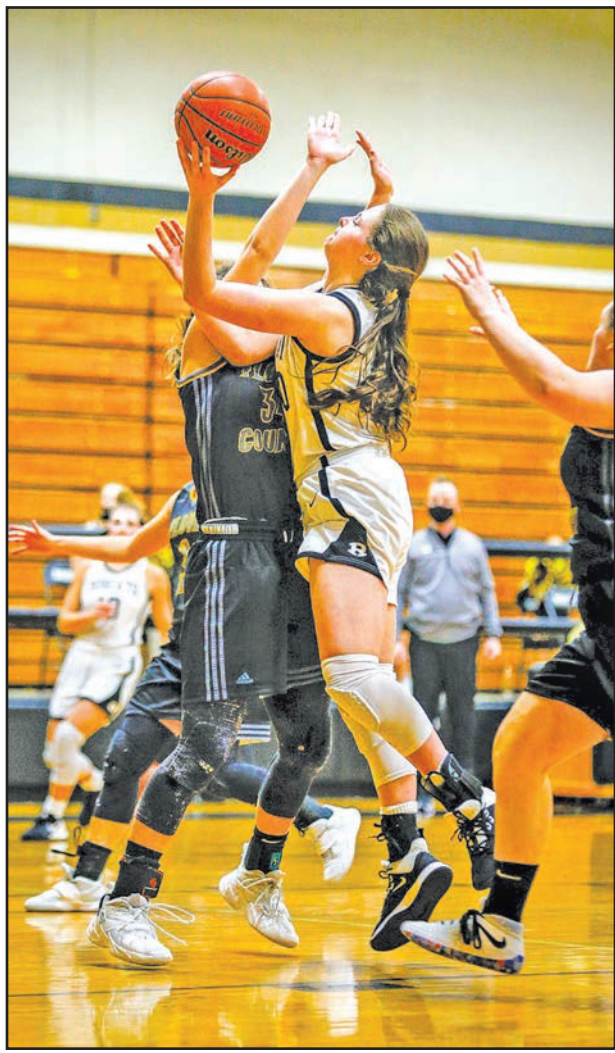
RADFORD SPORTS

Radford girls defeat Floyd 53-47



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Jada Dean breaks the Floyd press in the first quarter in the team's 53-47 defeat of Floyd that upped the Bobcats' record to 6-2. Dean finished the game with 10 points.



Radford's Laney Cline scores two of her 11 points in traffic in the defeat of the Buffaloes.

Bobcat boys win 1C swimming, girls second

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The winter wrestling and swim seasons might be a little different because of COVID-19, but the results were not at least in region competition this past weekend as Christiansburg High School claimed the Region 3D wrestling title while the Radford boys repeated as 1C swimming champions.

In the 1C swimming competition at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, Radford High finished first with 164 points ahead of James River's 76 points in the boys' division. The Radford girls were second with 92 points behind Glenvar, which claimed the championship with 144 points.

The Radford boys are the defending state champion and will get a chance to swim for another title this week at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. Graham Minarik (200 medley and 100 breaststroke) and Stone Fisher (50 freestyle and 100 freestyle) each won two events for the Highlanders. While the pandemic re-

strictions have limited the number of national tournaments the Blue Demons have been able to attend, they still dominated the regional competition Saturday at Christiansburg High School. Eight first-place wrestlers powered the Blue Demons to 223 points. William Byrd finished second with 189.5 and Northside third at 165 points.

For Christiansburg, the winners were Junior Policarpo at 113, Ethan Slaughter at 132, Luke Robie at 138, Dawson Gragg 145, Jake Baier 170, Parker Ferrell 182 and Aiden Lacombe at 285.

The team will get a chance at another state title this week at the Salem Civic Center.

Meanwhile the Auburn boys' basketball team won the Mt. Empire District Tournament title with a 53-41 win over Galax. Ethan Millirons had a game-high 31 points as the only Eagle in double-figures.

Because of early deadlines, more regional and state results will appear in Saturday's edition.

Radford University releases baseball schedule

Radford University head baseball coach Karl Kuhn has announced the Highlanders' 2021 baseball schedule.

It features 29 home games at Williams Field at Sherman Carter Memorial Stadium.

"In this time of uncertainty with the pandemic, we are excited to begin our season at home on our new field while putting together a competitive non-conference and conference schedule," Kuhn said. "We're also looking forward to having our players' families and friends out at the ballpark this season as permitted."

The Highlanders will play 40 Big South games this season, rather than the traditional 27. Radford has six games against USC Upstate, High Point and Presbyterian (home-and-home series), five games against Gardner-Webb and Longwood (home-and-home midweek, one three-game series (both away)), and three games against UNC Asheville, Winthrop, Campbell and Charleston Southern (AVL away; WU, CAM and CSU home).

The Highlanders will play at home on opening weekend for just the third time in program history, and the first time since 1993, when they welcome Ohio for a three-game series beginning February 19. That series marks the earliest home game in program history.

Radford then heads to nearby Virginia Tech for its first road game of the season, a February 23 midweek game before welcoming Bucknell for a three-game series at home to close out the month of February.

After the games of March and April, Radford closes the season with seven of its last 11 games at home.

The Big South Championship will once again return to SEGRA Stadium in Fayette-

ville, N.C., with the top four teams competing from May 27-29 for the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Attendance at all home games will be restricted due to COVID-19. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia, local health officials and university guidelines regarding in-person gatherings, only family members of Radford student-athletes and coaches will be permitted to attend, and they will be required to be on a pass list submitted in advance of each game.

RADFORD UNIVERSITY 2021 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Feb. 19 -- Ohio at home; Feb. 20 -- Ohio at home; Feb. 21 Ohio at home; Feb. 23 -- at Virginia Tech; Feb. 26 -- Bucknell at home; Feb. 27 -- Bucknell at home; Feb. 28 -- Bucknell at home; March 2 -- at Liberty; March 5 -- at USC Upstate; March 6 -- at USC Upstate (2); March 9 -- at East Tennessee State University; March 12 -- at High Point; March 13 -- at High Point (2); March 16 -- Gardner-Webb at home; March 19 -- Presbyterian at home; March 20 -- Presbyterian at home (2); March 23 -- Longwood at home; March 26 -- at UNC Asheville; March 27 -- at UNC Asheville (2); April 1 -- USC Upstate at home; April 2 -- USC Upstate at home (2); April 6 -- VMI at home; April 9 -- at Presbyterian; April 10 -- at Presbyterian (2); April 13 -- East Tennessee State University at home; April 16 -- Winthrop at home; April 17 -- Winthrop at home (2); April 20 -- at Longwood; April 23 -- High Point at home; April 24 -- High Point at home (2) April 30 -- at Longwood; May 1 -- at Longwood (2); May 7 -- Campbell at home; May 8 -- Campbell at home (2).

Legendary VT strength coach Mike Gentry to head E&H's strength, conditioning

Legendary strength and conditioning coach Dr. Mike Gentry, who retired in 2015 after serving as a key member of Frank Beamer's football staff at Virginia Tech for 29 seasons, has been hired at Emory and Henry College.

Anne Crutchfield, E&H's Director of Athletics, made the announcement. "This is a game-changer for all our student-athletes," Crutchfield said. "Mike is one of the best in the business, and his expertise and background are unmatched at any level of play."

While at VT, Gentry oversaw the strength and conditioning of all 22 varsity sports programs in addition to supervising Tech's sports nutrition and sport psychology programs.

Emory & Henry is in the process of stepping up from Division III athletics to Division II.

"I see this an opportunity in a lot of different ways, including the move from Division III to Division II and the dedication that I have seen from the staff at the college," Gentry said. "I wasn't looking for a job, but when I got a call from Anne Crutchfield, it felt like it was meant to be."

Gentry was inducted into the USA Strength and Conditioning Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010. American Football Monthly also named him its Samson Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year in March 2005.

Emory & Henry head football coach Curt Newsome worked with Gentry while serving as an offensive line coach at Virginia Tech in the 2000's.

"Mike Gentry is as good a strength coach as there is in the country," said Newsome. "As we move forward towards the transition to Division II, we just took a huge step forward in building a successful future."

"Curt Newsome coached my son at Virginia Tech," Gentry said, "and I know what kind of man he is. When I visited the college, I could just feel the love and passion that so many have for this place, and I'm excited to join this family."

In May 2003, Gentry was honored by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches as one of 36 coaches in the country to receive the association's highest honor when he was named a Master Strength and Conditioning Coach.

Before he arrived at Virginia Tech, Gentry served as a strength and conditioning coach at the University of North Carolina and East Carolina University. He earned his undergraduate degree from Western Carolina University in 1979 before receiving his master's degree from UNC in 1981. In 1999, he earned his doctorate from Virginia Tech.

-- E&H Athletics

RU softball releases spring schedule

Radford University athletics has released the Highlanders' softball schedule for the 2021 season, which will feature 20 home games and 21 Big South contests.

The season opens on Feb. 12 with a five-game tournament at Georgia Tech. Georgia State and Boise State will join Radford and Georgia Tech in the tournament

field. After traveling to Rock Hill, S.C., for a doubleheader with Bowling Green and Stony Brook on Feb. 20, the Highlanders will host three straight home games: Feb.

24 against Virginia Tech and a doubleheader Feb. 26 against George Mason. The Highlanders and the Patriots will meet in Fairfax later that week for a doubleheader.

March opens with a renewed rivalry in Lynchburg as Radford travels to Liberty for a single game on March 3. Six of the next eight games will be played inside Radford Softball Stadium. The first is a doubleheader with Western Carolina on March 5 with a four-game series against Norfolk State on March 10-11.

Radford travels to future Big South opponent North Carolina A&T on March 7 for a doubleheader. Thirteen of the next 15 games will be on the road. They include trips to ETSU (March 16), Virginia Tech (March 17) and a three-game series at Charleston Southern (March 19-20). The Highlanders return home for a doubleheader with UNCG on March 24 before hitting the road once again to face Big South preseason favorite Gardner-Webb (March 26-27) and the second-place team in USC Upstate on April 9-10. The squad opens

April with a doubleheader at Appalachian State (April 2) followed by a single game at James Madison on April 7.

The Highlanders will host reigning Big South Tournament champion, Longwood (April 13-14), Presbyterian (April 23-24) and Winthrop (May 7-8) with a road series at Campbell in between April 30-May 1.

The Big South Conference Tournament will be held in Boiling Springs, N.C., at Gardner-Webb May 13-15. The top four teams make the tournament and will play a regional style double-elimination format.

All regular season and conference tournament schedules, times, dates and opponents are subject to change. Radford Athletics is currently evaluating multiple spectator attendance models per state, university and health guidelines for the 2021 season. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

RADFORD UNIVERSITY 2021 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Feb. 12 -- Georgia State (Atlanta); Feb. 13 -- Georgia Tech (Atlanta); Feb. 14 -- Boise State, Georgia State

(Atlanta); Feb. 20 -- Stony Brook, Bowling Green (Rock Hill); Feb. 24 -- Virginia Tech (home); Feb. 26 -- George Mason (2) home; Feb. 28 -- at George Mason (2); March 3 -- at Liberty; March 5 -- Western Carolina (2) home; March 7 -- at North Carolina A&T (2); March 10 -- Norfolk State (2) home; March 11 -- Norfolk State (2) home; March 16 -- at East Tennessee State Univ. (2); March 17 -- at Virginia Tech; March 19 -- at Charleston Southern; March 20 -- at Charleston Southern (2); March 24 -- UNC Greensboro (2) home; March 26 -- at Gardner Webb; March 27 -- at Gardner Webb (2); March 30 -- at Appalachian State (2); April 7 -- at James Madison University; April 9 -- at USC Upstate; April 10 -- at USC Upstate (2); April 13 -- Longwood at home; April 14 -- Longwood (2) home; April 23 -- Presbyterian (2) home; April 24 -- Presbyterian at home; April 20 -- at Campbell; May 1 -- at Campbell (2); May 7 -- Winthrop at home; May 8 -- Winthrop (2) home.

--RU Athletics

THE EXPLORER RETURNS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15



Currently running fare free!

Route and schedule information available at ridebt.org/christiansburg

