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Health District continues vaccine push as COVID-19 cases dwindle

Right now, fewer than five people a day test positive for COVID-19 in the New River Health District.

The low number is a result of a slowly growing group of people who are receiving the coronavirus vaccine, said Noelle Bissell, health director for the district. About 40 percent of the district's population now is fully vaccinated, she said during this week's meeting with the news media.

The majority of people who are hospitalized or are seriously ill with COVID-19 are those who are unvaccinated, she said.

"The vaccines are all very safe and very effective, and it shows in our numbers right now," she said. "We would always encourage people to get vaccinated over taking the chance of natural infection."

The vaccines, so far, appear to be effective against the Delta variant, and for that reason, people who are vaccinated do not have to wear face coverings in public,

Bissell said.

Those who are not vaccinated, however, should wear masks.

"That's mainly to protect themselves," Bissell said. "It's also to protect those around them."

She addressed several questions about new mask guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stating that teachers and students who are not vaccinated should wear masks when in school. The decision to enforce this guidance is up to individual school districts, Bissell said.

Even so, "given how protective the vaccines are, I think it's very reasonable that we follow that guidance," she said.

This guidance may encourage more people to be vaccinated, she said.

So far, anyone 12 and older may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Bissell said she doesn't expect that the vaccines will be approved for

See **Vaccine Push**, page 3

'Next generation of leaders' participates in Boys State on Radford University campus

Radford University recently welcomed hundreds of young men to campus for the 78th session of the American Legion Boys State of Virginia.

The weeklong leadership

program is offered to rising high school seniors who are sponsored by various American Legion posts and are selected based on academic achievement, leadership ability, civic

engagement, and citizenship.

This is the eighth year Radford University has hosted Boys State on campus. The longstanding partnership acquaints participants with the university's modern facilities, services and amenities, its in-demand academic programs, and its engaging faculty, staff and students.

Boys State began on campus with an opening ceremony that included a welcome from Radford University interim President Carolyn Ringer Lepre and Radford Mayor David Horton.

"Many of Virginia's — and our country's — leaders have participated in Boys State, a program that teaches the value of civic duty and public service," Lepre said. "You will have opportunities to focus on your individual interests, build new friendships, and meet with Virginia government business leaders."

See **Boys State**, page 6



Each morning throughout the week, Boys State participants gathered outside Heth Hall to raise the American flag at precisely 8:45 a.m.

Emergency services asks public to make house numbers visible

RADFORD — The Radford Fire and EMS Department recently issued a request to the public to check house numbers for visibility.

"From an emergency services standpoint, our job is to provide rapid, efficient, and effective service," the announcement reads. "As part of that service, we may on some occasions be asked to respond to your home or business. During emergencies, very valuable time can be lost if we cannot find the proper address. Placing your address so that it can be seen from the roadway is extremely helpful not

only to the fire department and EMS but to law enforcement as well."

The department offered the following helpful tips:

House numbers should be a minimum of three-inch numbers on both sides of the mailbox. If the house does not have a mailbox, a minimum of three-inch numbers should be affixed to the side of the house facing the roadway if within 75 feet of the roadway.

If the house sits back farther than 75 feet from the roadway, a minimum of three-inch numbers should be affixed to a post at the roadway.



Virginia Tech launches observance of its sesquicentennial anniversary

In 1872, Addison Caldwell trekked 30 miles from Craig County to Blacksburg, inspired by the opportunity for an education. Today, nearly 150 years later, students looking to find the answers to big questions, to solve complex problems, and to serve the world still seek those opportunities at Virginia Tech.

As the university community emerges from an unprecedented year, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends will find numerous opportunities for celebration connected to Virginia Tech's 150th year, or sesquicentennial, a milestone moment for Hokies everywhere.

"Virginia Tech's sesquicentennial will foster a renewed engagement with the university at a historic moment, bringing our community together after a long season of being apart," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "It is an opportunity to reflect on where we began, celebrate how far we've come, and look to our future as we continue advancing Beyond Boundaries."

From July 2021 through December 2022, Virginia Tech will observe the 150th anniversary of its founding. The first official sesquicentennial event, which is slated for October in tandem with Homecoming 2021, will be followed by ongoing celebrations that will extend across the commonwealth, the nation, and even internationally.

This summer, feather flags and post banners designed to commemorate 150 years are being installed in public areas, and Burruss Hall will be illuminated in orange and maroon as the campus dresses for the celebrations ahead.



PHOTO BY RYAN YOUNG FOR VIRGINIA TECH

A banner on Burruss Hall was placed to announce the start of the university's 150th celebration.

"The sesquicentennial is everyone's celebration," said Angela Hayes, associate vice president for advancement and the sesquicentennial director. "Everyone who is or has been connected to the university over the years will have this opportunity to reflect on their Virginia Tech experiences."

Celebratory plans to mark the 150th year include special events, reunion festivities, programs offered by numerous university units and groups, and a challenge to Hokie Nation to strive toward a goal of 150,000 combined hours of service.

Over the course of the celebratory period, the university will highlight several key milestones that coincide with the sesquicentennial timeline. These include 100 years of women, 30 years at the international campus at Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, and the 50th anniversary of the transfer of the Reynolds Homestead property to the university.

The celebrations also coincide

with Virginia Tech's most historic and ambitious philanthropic campaign, whose current goal of \$1.5 billion was established to align with the 150th year celebration.

"Virginia Tech has made an indelible impact on Blacksburg, the commonwealth, the nation, and the world in its first 150 years," Hayes said. "And even as we take the time to reflect on the university's historic contributions, we are actively establishing goals and setting a transformative pace for the next 150."

The comprehensive celebration will offer programming and events that span all Virginia Tech locations and will highlight special opportunities that feature each of the university's nine colleges, the Graduate School, as well as various units, such as Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets.

A significant part of the university since its establishment in 1872, the corps has evolved

See **Observance**, page 3

Devastating back problems led local man on path to degree at Radford University

RADFORD - When five herniated disks confined him to a couch, Wes Spence had a lot of time to think about the future.

"I couldn't walk for about six months," Spence said, remembering the injury that sidelined him and kept him from his work as a pastor in Atlanta.

He attended seminary and lived in the heart of the city through most of his 20s, working to help people in his community thrive. But in an instant, every-

thing changed.

One day, hours after moving into a new apartment, severe back pain left Spence unable to move. In the weeks that followed, he made several difficult decisions; one was to relocate back home to Dublin, Va., where he had support from his family and friends.

"Doctors say I have degenerative disk disease that had been building, and moving that day was the straw that broke the camel's back," Spence said with a smile

on his face, half joking.

He can laugh about it now — a little — but the "back injury really messed up my life," he said. The pain and subsequent back surgery a few months ago, however, gave Spence time to reflect and think about a new career path that would allow him to follow his passions.

"I was just realizing where I have been the past 10 years of my life, what I have

See **Degree Path**, page 2



A back injury sidelined Wes Spence from his work as a pastor and eventually led him to Radford University's online business program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 17:

Grown-up Dungeons & Dragons lvl 3

Hosted by Radford Public Library on Discord. Join for a Discord D&D One-Shot for level 3 adventurers. First-time gamers and veteran adventurers are all welcome. The hosts will provide all the resources needed to participate. Email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov or message the library on Facebook for details and a Discord invite. This event is for patrons ages 18+.

American Legion Yard Sale

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will hold a yard sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Legion building at 27 W. Main St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Caturday

All day at the Christiansburg Library. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Pilot Community Center auction

At its most recent meeting, members of the Pilot Community Center decided to hold auctions to raffle off three gift cards of \$25 each at Linkous Auctions. These will be the community center's only fund-raisers until the fall to have money for other renovations. Community members will be set up from 9 a.m. until noon and then will take the tickets to Larry Link-

ous, who will draw the winning tickets and announce the winners. The auction schedule and set-up locations are July 17, Old Sourwood Road; and Aug. 7, Chloe Bishop, 5950 Riner Road.

Monday, July 19 - Thursday, July 22:

CHS Volleyball Camp

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. Register your 9-12-year-old by calling 540-382-2349 or visit www.christiansburg.org/register. The registration fee is \$30.

Tuesday, July 20:

100+ Women Who Care NRV Summer 2021 Quarterly Meeting

The meeting will be Zoom only from 7 to 8 p.m. Meetings are always one hour or less. Every quarter, each member contributes \$100 directly to a charity selected by majority vote with at least \$10,000 being donated in total to the elected organization. No membership dues or additional commitments of time or money are required, and members can enter the quarterly drawing to represent a favorite not-for-profit to the group for consideration of that meeting's entire donation amount. All funds remain in the NRV area. Contact nrv100wvc@gmail.com, www.100womenwhocarenrv.com, or Sarah Black at (937) 205-3722.

Tween Book Club

From the Montgomery Floyd

Regional Library online at 3 p.m. This is the place for anyone between the ages of 9 and 12 who is looking for a place to chat about some cool books. Whether you are new to book clubs, or a book club pro, you are welcome to join the discussion. To be read and discussed this month is "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH." To join, email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

Popsicle Stick Canvas Art

At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 5 to 6 p.m. All supplies will be provided for a fun painting session for teens and adults. Paint a beautiful silhouette scene on 5.5 x 6-inch wooden canvas. Pre-registration by phone or in person is required and only 15 spots are available. The program will be held in the picnic shelter if it rains.

Pressure Canner Testing: Virginia Cooperative Extension

In the Meadowbrook Court Yard from 3 to 6 p.m. Bring your dial gauge canner to have it tested for accuracy in preparation for the canning season. Gauges that can be tested are National (those made by the National Pressure Cooker Company, Eau Claire, Wisconsin), Magic Seal (sold at Montgomery Ward), Maid of Honor (sold at Sears, Roebuck, and Company), and Presto Pressure Canners. Call 540-745-9307 to sign up for a time slot.

Wednesday, July 21:

Art Club: Virtual Meeting

From the Christiansburg Library at 3 p.m. Who was Amrita Sher-Gil? Learn about her life and be inspired by her oil paintings to create a portrait. Catch the library's tutorial on Facebook or YouTube. Stop by the library for curated crafts.

Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30:

Smithfield Summer Camp

At Smithfield Plantation from 9 a.m. until noon. Campers at Smithfield's summer camp will experience life on the early Virginia frontier in a unique and historic environment through interactive activities geared towards children ages 8, 9, and 10. Register through Blacksburg Parks and Recreation, keyword search: "Smithfield."

Ongoing:

Through July 31:

Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program

The library is running its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win raffle baskets. The summer reading program is a fun way to promote literacy, encourage reading as a healthy habit, and help readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Now at Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is its newest art exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Blue-moonistic Images. The exhibit dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum and there is no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 will continue each Wednesday through September from 7 to 9 p.m. at Market Square Park. This season marks the jam's 10th anniversary.

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market is each Saturday through October 30, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Held every Thursday through October at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Blacksburg woman crowned Virginia TOPS Queen for 2020

Blacksburg's Mary Reed was recently crowned as the Virginia TOPS Queen for 2020, recognition that she lost more weight in 2020 than any other TOPS member in the commonwealth.

TOPS is the short name

for TOPS Club, Inc., and TOPS itself is an acronym for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the original nonprofit, noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups and wellness education organization. TOPS has hundreds of chapters in the

United States and Canada.

To help Reed and the local chapter celebrate this special event, TOPS Advocate Kathy Eanes came from Martinsville, Va., and State Coordinator June Byers came from Evington, Va. Also in attendance were

several chapter members.

Reed was introduced to TOPS while living in Ft. Myers, Fla., where she was a member for four years. Then she and her new husband moved to Virginia, and when routine and lifestyle changes, it's easy to regain weight lost.

Reed was working at Mountain Lake Hotel when she met Suzie Jones and joined the Blacksburg-TOPS Chapter.

TOPS is a physician oriented international weight loss support group. A member's physician sets his/her weight goal. In Reed's case, that meant 71 pounds, more than any other Virginia female member of TOPS in 2020, and thus she became the Virginia Queen for 2020.

"I am very proud and grateful of my accomplishment," said Reed. "If it weren't for my TOPS VA 0464 Blacksburg family's

support, this would not have been possible. I've had many ups and downs during this journey. My struggles with food mostly include my love for pasta and potatoes, but occasionally sweets.

"As a result of being retired, I have struggled with a change in my routine, having to adjust my meals, and the times of day that I eat because of my husband's schedule," Reed said.

Reed says she gets around so much better since losing weight.

"I'm not always looking for a chair to sit down in everywhere I go or a door frame to lean against," she said. "I am so much more mobile, and this has increased my quality of life. And I feel my health is much better."

Reed said one way she stays motivated is by attending her weekly TOPS Chapter meetings.

"Knowing that I have to face the scale each week keeps me motivated," she said. "Also, I feel so much better since losing weight, and I do not want to regain the weight I've lost. It's also so encouraging when I receive compliments that people give me. I try to stay active with activities including hikes, bowling, and taking trips with the recreation center. There are so many things I can do now that I couldn't do before."

Through her years in TOPS, Reed has held several offices, including leader, co-leader, secretary, and weight recorder.

"Now I'm trying to encourage my chapter with contests and awards," she said. "I feel it's important to get involved with my chapter, rather than just simply attending. When I see my reflection in the mirror, I can hardly believe it's me, and I like what I see."



Mary Reed, a member of Blacksburg's TOPS VA 0464, has been crowned Virginia's Queen as the commonwealth's TOPS member with the most weight loss in 2020. Reed lost 71 pounds to achieve her goal. Pictured (left to right) are TOPS advocate Kathy Eanes, Reed, and TOPS State Coordinator June Byers.

Degree Path

from page 1

done and what I want to do," Spence said. "I want to build a legacy of caring and compassion for my community."

Spence has always had the heart and soul of

an entrepreneur, wanting to own and run his own businesses, to "help people in dynamic ways," he said. "I want to feed them, help give them homes, and I want to give

them jobs."

He has plans for owning rental properties and providing people with affordable housing, just like his grandparents do. And, it's his dream to

own and operate a food truck — "with good ole southern home cooking," he said — which he was in the process of doing in Atlanta before his back gave out.

It's been two years ago now since Spence found himself on his couch contemplating his future. He thought then of going back to school but wondered, at age 30, if it were feasible to do so and work full time once he landed back on his feet.

"I realized that in four years, I'm going to be 34 years old," Spence said. "I can either be 34 with a bachelor's degree or 34 without a degree." Working with that philosophy, he decided to give himself a chance and go back to school.

He first enrolled at New River Community College, and as he moved closer to earning his associate degree there, he began looking into business programs and found, through the help of counselors at New River, Radford University's new online Bachelor of Business Administration degree offered through the Davis College of Business and

Economics.

The B.B.A. online degree completion track is 100% online and is designed for adult learners with work, family, and other commitments. Students enrolling in the program must have either completed a transferable associate degree or are within six credit hours of completing all general education requirements.

Spence enrolled in January 2021 and recently finished his first semester at Radford. "It seemed to go really fast," he said. "That's probably because I'm going to school and working full time."

Spence lives in Dublin and works in Blacksburg. That's a 40-minute commute, one way, combined with his 6:30 a.m.-to-3:30 p.m. work schedule. "Plus, I have chickens and dogs to take care of at home," he said.

"The program's flexibility, and the fact that it is entirely online, are ideal for students during this time when many people are taking courses and working from home," said Davis College Dean Joy Bhadury.

Davis College's stel-

lar reputation among business schools around the United States was a major selling point for Spence as he researched colleges and universities in Virginia before choosing Radford. Boosting that reputation is Davis College's accreditation by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Less than 5% of business schools in the world are AACSB accredited. "I was very intrigued," Spence said, "when I read about the AACSB accreditation during my search for business schools."

For Spence, "the Radford B.B.A. is great," he said. "The professors are very helpful, and I love the program because it gives me the ability and convenience to manage my time and do things my way. I don't have to fit a set class schedule into my day. That's not feasible for an adult learner."

There's one more thing that drew him to Radford, he said. "Growing up nearby, in Dublin, I always wanted to be a Highlander."

CHANGES TO EXPLORER GOLD BEGIN 7/12




Route and schedule information available at ridebt.org/christiansburg



Warm Hearth Village employees receive scholarships



Larissa Gilbert



Amy Greer



Alaina Lafon



Stephanie Mendoza



Tiffany Peteritis



Tiffany Sherman



Abbey Stone



Izabelle Thompson

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Warm Hearth Foundation's Employee Growth and Development fund, eight Warm Hearth Village employees have received a total of \$10,500 in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 each this spring.

Scholarship funds will help some recipients pay for job-related certifications to become certified nursing assistants

and registered medical assistants. Others are undergraduate students at local colleges and universities who will use their scholarships toward their tuition and textbooks.

The scholarship recipients are Abbey Stone, \$1500 toward undergraduate studies in dietetics at Virginia Tech; Alaina Lafon, \$1500 toward undergraduate studies in nursing at Radford University; Izabelle Thomp-

son, \$1500 toward Physician Assistant graduate studies at Wingate University; Larissa Gilbert, \$1500 toward undergrad studies in nursing at New River Community College; Stephanie Mendoza, \$1500 toward undergrad studies in nursing at New River Community College; Amy Greer, \$1000 for certification to become a registered medical assistant; Tiffany Peteritis

\$1000 for certification to become a certified nursing assistant; and Tiffany Sherman, \$1000 for certification to become a registered medical assistant.

Warm Hearth Vice President and CEO Brad Dalton said about the scholarships, "We are so proud of our hard-working employees who continually strive to learn and grow to better serve Warm Hearth residents."



In largely rural Southwest Virginia, farm livestock running free is a threat to show up on a highway without warning just about anywhere and anytime.

A threat to motorists in Southwest Virginia: Livestock loose on the highway

Southwest Virginia is largely rural, which means farms, which means livestock, which means cows and the like suddenly showing up on the highway without giving motorists any warning.

Karen Henderson remembers being in the middle of the busy intersection of U.S. Routes 11 and 220, still dressed in her formal office attire, as she chased a cow that escaped the family's livestock truck on the way to the stockyard.

Many farmers know the chaos that can ensue when livestock escape enclosures and cause a hazard on roadways. But vigilant motorists can be of assistance when livestock is at-large by calling for backup.

"We were very careful going down the road with a cow in the back," recalled Henderson, who had recently married a Botetourt County dairy farmer. She agreed to accompany her husband, Jeff, on the stockyard errand.

The cow was becoming

restless. Before they could pull over to calm the animal, she stomped through the wooden slats on the truck.

"As we pulled into the gas station and put on the brakes, that cow jumped out of that truck bed, smashed into the roof, and slid across the parking lot," Henderson said. "Before we could even get out, she was on her legs and running."

Henderson quickly called the sheriff's office from the gas station, letting them know the location of their fugitive cow.

"Then the cow went through the intersection, and I followed her into traffic, right at noon rush," Henderson said.

With help from an animal control officer, they finally cornered the cow and arranged for new transport.

"She was a little skinned up," Henderson said. "But she was fine."

Some stories of errant livestock don't have as happy an ending. While Virginia law and local ordinances outline re-

strictions on unsecured animals in the right-of-way, hooved or feathered escape artists still manage to break free. This often results in property damage, bodily injury, or loss of the animal.

To prevent animals from wandering onto roadways, farmers should periodically check livestock enclosures and gates for weak spots, said Dana Fisher, chair of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Farm Safety Advisory Committee.

"And motorists who encounter livestock should contact the landowner, if you know them, or take note of the location and call local animal control or law enforcement," he said. "It may be instinctual to shoo livestock from the road, but it's safest to remain in the vehicle. Farmers know their animals, and how to best corral them back home."

Fisher said if motorists want to be helpful, they should park in a safe place and turn the car's hazard lights on, which can slow approaching drivers.

Observance

from page 1

into a world-class leader development program. Today's cadets actively represent the university's core values as displayed on the War Memorial Pylons: Duty, Honor, Leadership, Loyalty, Brotherhood, Service, Sacrifice, and Ut Prosim.

During September, the sesquicentennial celebration will spotlight the corps' past and present and will feature opportunities to engage with and learn more about plans for the future.

"The sesquicentennial provides us an opportunity to see how far we have come, the amazing opportunities that

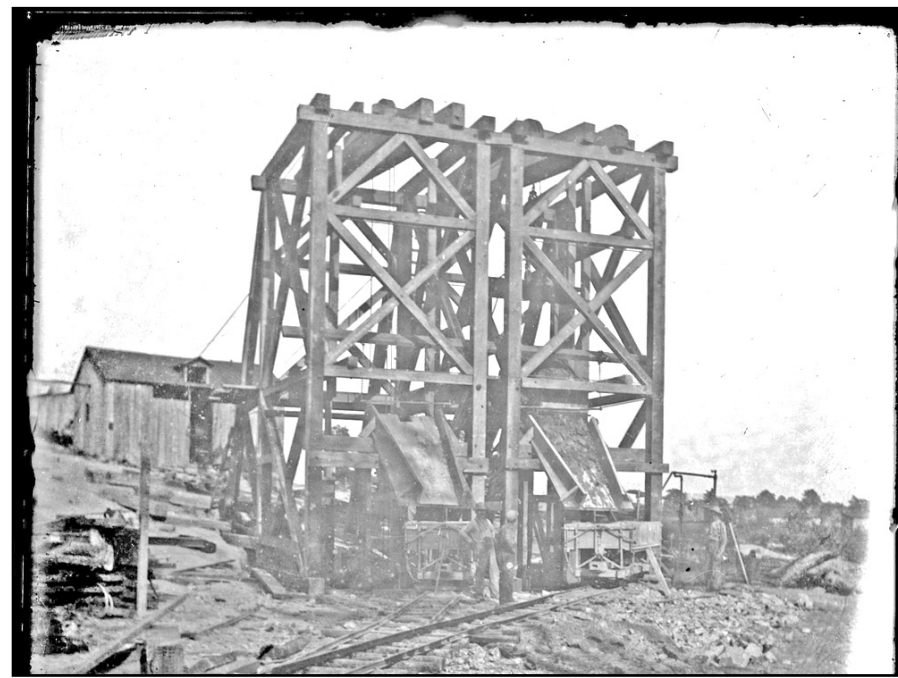
lay ahead, and how the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' mission has been the constant of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) throughout," said Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, commandant of cadets.

Details about planned events for the fall and special stories connected to the sesquicentennial will be available online, through the university's social media platforms, and featured in various Virginia Tech publications.

"As our community comes back together, I know the excitement about our 150th year will begin to echo through

all Virginia Tech campuses and locations from the Drillfield and Lane Stadium to Roanoke and the greater Washington, D.C., area, and far beyond," said Hayes. "Our alumni and friends around the globe are integral to this celebration, and we've tried to plan something for everyone. We're even taking some of our celebrations on the road. So, share your Virginia Tech memories. Get involved with an initiative on campus. Look for ways to live out Ut Prosim in your community or your workplace. Find your way to join the sesquicentennial fun."

Historic Montgomery



We believe this photograph of a tippel was taken at one of the coal mines in Montgomery County. It probably dates to 1900-1910. Can anyone identify the mine? (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

Vaccine Push

from page 1

those younger than 12 until at least the fall. When they are approved, the health district will work with schools to offer vaccines to these age groups.

The district also plans to offer vaccines to international students returning to area universities, including Virginia Tech, along with any other college students who need vaccines. The district will continue to be involved in case investigations and contract tracing for university students.

According to a newly launched dashboard on Virginia Tech's website, 36 percent of students have been vaccinated. The university requires all stu-

dents to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and upload their verification information by Aug. 6 to be eligible for enrollment.

Bissell said it is too early to worry about the low percentages of Virginia Tech students vaccinated as of now. Some may be waiting to receive a second dose, while others may be procrastinating in submitting their vaccine verification information, she said.

"I think it's a little bit premature to assume that less than 50 percent are vaccinated," she said. "We will know in the coming weeks."

— Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone



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OPINION

Steve Huppert: Yard sales for everyone

Everyone has been to a yard sale or had one. I know that our family has had more than its fair share.

Every time I am involved in one I say this is it, never again. Then six months later, we start filling the basement with yard-sale junk. Remember: What is one person's junk is another person's treasure. I guess "treasure" is the right word. Treasure or not you keep thinking someone will like it.

Everyone wants to make money doing a yard sale, but when you break it down, in most cases you are lucky to make two dollars an hour, which you spend at McDonald's when the thing is finally over.

Now if you have a neighborhood yard sale, you really lose money, as you buy your neighbors' junk. Of course, it's such a deal. So, you end up with more junk and less money than you started with.

The worst part of a yard sale is your sign says it will start at 8 a.m. and will go to 1 p.m. But people are there at 6. That means you have to get up at 5.

They don't care; everyone wants the special deal. Why fight over the

best stuff, just get there early. They want to be first, just like grand openings, when the first 50 people get a free pencil box. Now that is something you really need. But a deal's a deal.

The thing I hate the most is that some people come to yard sales and act like they are a little better than you. They look over everything like it is beneath them.

They look down their noses, like you are lucky that they have even stopped by and lowered themselves to look at your stuff. They give you the look that says do you really expect me to buy this crap.

The worst part is you are selling something that is worth 20 dollars for five and they offer you 3.50.

They are the same people who just have a fifty and want change for the three-dollar item they just brought.

Something else I don't like is professional yard-sale people. They go house-to-house trying to find the lowest prices and then have their yard sale and charge twice as much.

One thing that is always on your

mind when you're having a yard sale is what am I going to do with all the stuff that doesn't sell. The first thing is the 12:30 bargain basement special. Fill a plastic bag for 5 dollars, no questions asked.

After that it's the Goodwill express. But everyone is tired and more than ready to go home.

Of course, there is always rain. You spend the night before getting all the junk out of the basement, and then when it rains it all goes back to the basement and you wait until next weekend. Yard selling one Saturday is bad enough, but two in a row is doubly hard.

Now occasionally there are good things that happen in yard sales. The most important is that some people who really need clothes or materials get them. And they get them for better than a good price.

Another thing is that you see people you haven't seen in a couple of years. Of course, you might feel that was not all that bad, and if a couple more years go without seeing them, you could live with it.

The nice part is seeing how old they look while you have not

changed one bit. Of course, you both comment about how good each of you looks.

If you don't want to make any sales, start talking politics, an easy way to ruin a good yard sale. Be an Independent for four hours; it will pay off.

One thing I have noticed about yard sales is that a woman is always in charge. Now that I think about it, that is the way life is today. Women run the world. It will not be much longer until this county has a woman president. With her election, a national yard-sale day will not be far behind.

When the word "yard sale" comes up, men are not that involved. The husband moves a few items and is gone, like the gray ghost. If the lady of the house is lucky, she will catch him around 12:30. Then the begging begins. It's "let's make a deal" time family style.

I go to yard sales occasionally. It amazes me that anyone would buy some of this stuff to start with. Even those guys on "Pickers" wouldn't consider buying some of the things you see on tables.

The other day I noticed a young woman in her yard getting ready for the big event the following day. It was obvious she had several small kids as the tables were full of anything and everything for kids under eight.

Back 100 years ago, women of ten had eight to 12 kids. This lady was saying she had two and was finished. Dad puts in ten minutes of his life into the event while mom spends the next twenty years being on call.

This mom had one of each and that is all she needed to be happy, so let the yard sales begin.

No matter how you look at yard sales, there is always the hope that while you are exploring someone else's stuff, you might find something that will make you rich and happy. It doesn't hurt to dream, and going to a yard sale is a great way to dream.

Think I will check out a yard sale.

Note: The attached comments are mine and do not represent those of the Town of Christiansburg or the Christiansburg Town Council.

Passenger vehicle driver skills testing expanded across commonwealth

Beginning Monday, July 19, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will offer passenger vehicle

road skills testing at 72 customer service centers across the commonwealth. The 38 added locations will create

more than 39,000 additional road skills testing appointment opportunities for the coming 90 days of appointment availability.

Christiansburg and Roanoke are among the locations offering closed course (parking lot) road skills testing.

The easing of social distancing requirements and the end of the state of emergency in the commonwealth enabled DMV to expand road skills testing locations by resuming the traditional testing process in which an applicant operates a vehicle on the road with an examiner sitting beside them in the vehicle. Customers who

would like to use an inter-preter during their road skills test will need to schedule an appointment on a closed course.

An appointment is required for a road skills test and, depending on the location of the appointment, customers will complete their test on a closed course or on the road. Both tests ensure new drivers demonstrate safe driving skills.

"We are thrilled to continue expanding appointment opportunities by adding road skills testing locations," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb. "DMV is conducting more

transactions now than before the pandemic, and much of that work is being done outside of our offices. But some services simply must be conducted in person. With the easing of social distancing requirements, we can resume road skills testing at all of our offices equipped to offer it and create tens of thousands of new appointment opportunities for Virginians who need this vital service."

Road skills testing at DMV is available to Virginia residents age 18 and older. For those under age 18, the road skills test will be given as part of the Virginia driver education course taken at a

public, private, or commercial driving school.

Appointment opportunities at a DMV customer service center are available at dmvNOW.com/appt. Road skills tests can be conducted at any full-service DMV customer service center except Arlington Metro, Fair Oaks Mall, and Pentagon.

In addition to the expanded road skills testing, with the easing of social distancing requirements, DMV has been able to open more windows at customer service centers across the state, creating over 150,000 appointment opportunities since late spring.

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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.

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Virginia finishes fiscal year with record-breaking surplus

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam reported Wednesday that Virginia reached the end of fiscal year 2021 with a historic \$2.6 billion surplus, the largest in the commonwealth's history. Total revenue collections soared 14.5 percent over fiscal year 2020, ahead of the forecast of 2.7 percent growth.

"We have effectively managed Virginia's finances through the pandemic, and now we are seeing the results: record-breaking revenue gains, a recovery

that has outpaced the nation, and recognition as the best place to do business," said the governor.

"Fueled by a surging economy, federal American Rescue Plan funds, and the largest surplus in Virginia history, we have significant resources available to make transformational investments in this commonwealth," Gov. Northam said. "I look forward to working with the General Assembly in the fall to seize this opportunity so we can build a brighter future for all Virginians."

All major general fund

revenue sources exceeded their forecasts for the fiscal year. Individual non-withholding taxes, one of the commonwealth's most volatile revenue sources, accounted for about half of the surplus, although collections in payroll withholding, sales, and corporate income taxes were also well above their respective forecasts.

Total revenue collections reached \$8.6 billion in the final quarter of fiscal year 2021. In June, revenues decreased by \$180.8 million, or 5.8 percent, compared to the previous year, which can be attrib-

uted to the extension of the individual income tax filing deadline to May 17.

"We expected a strong revenue performance, and this surplus is even larger than initially anticipated," said Secretary of Finance Joe Flores. "We are encouraged that for the fiscal year, payroll withholding and retail sales taxes increased by 6.4 percent, signifying that Virginia's underlying economic foundation is strong."

The commonwealth will release the final figures for fiscal year 2021 on August 18 at the Joint Money Committee meeting.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Light colored cigar
 - 6. A scrap of cloth
 - 9. Fluid used to cool a system
 - 11. Abel's brother (Bible)
 - 12. Prohibitions
 - 13. River in NE Scotland
 - 14. Beige
 - 15. Strongly opposed
 - 17. Shoelace end
 - 19. French caps
 - 20. Sings jazz improvisations
 - 21. Daisylike fall flower
 - 22. Wild Asian goat
 - 23. Beginning to end (abbr.)
 - 24. Tell on
 - 25. Location of White House
 - 27. 1/60 minute (abbr.)
 - 28. Tailless primate
 - 29. Rt. angle building wing
 - 31. Drunks' disease
 - 32. Gallivant about
 - 33. To be necessary
 - 35. Frosts
 - 37. Newman's "Winning" character
 - 39. Dwarf buffaloes
 - 41. Tenant or lessee
 - 42. A citizen of Iran
 - 43. Inner sole of a shoe
 - 44. Tabloid papers
 - 45. Sandhurst abbreviation
 - 48. Egyptian Sun god
 - 49. Give out radiation
 - 50. Gives or contributes
 - 52. Where wine ferments (abbr.)
 - 53. Beaumont, Texas University
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. The work of building
 - 2. Misplaces
 - 3. Atomic #13
 - 4. Radioactivity unit
 - 5. Smallest whole number
 - 6. Subspecies (pl.)
 - 7. Redirect
 - 8. Wildebeest
 - 9. Moved headlong at high speed
 - 10. Impart knowledge
 - 11. Early people of Britain
 - 12. Moorings
 - 15. Goat and camel hair fabric
 - 16. Part of a three-piece suit
 - 18. Store for lawn & plants (abbr.)
 - 20. Dulled by surfeit
 - 22. Spanish appetizers
 - 24. Acts with violent anger
 - 26. Frees from dirt
 - 30. Taoun
 - 34. Affaire d'honneur
 - 36. Traveling tinker (Scot.)
 - 38. They ____
 - 39. Potters white clay
 - 40. Father of the Am. cartoon, Thomas
 - 41. Lariat or lasso
 - 42. Metric foot of two syllables
 - 44. Confederate soldier
 - 46. Mole's unit symbol
 - 47. Nursing organization
 - 51. Morning time

WalletHub: Virginia is state with 8th least at-risk youth

With about one in nine young Americans today neither working nor in school, exposing them to greater risk of poverty and violence, the personal-finance website WalletHub Wednesday released its report on 2021's States with the Most At-Risk Youth and determined that Virginia is the state with the eighth least at-risk youth.

As the website pointed out, many young people also suffer from poor health conditions that hinder their ability to develop physically or socially. Such issues not only affect young people later in life, but they also prove harmful to society as a whole. For instance, more than 70 percent of young adults today are ineligible to join the U.S. military because they fail academic, moral or health qualifications.

Research shows that when youth grow up in environments with economic problems and a lack of role models, they're more at risk for poverty, early pregnancy, and violence, especially in adulthood. The environment is even more difficult for these young Americans in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the job market, caused schooling to be held online in many cases, and kept people more isolated than usual, though conditions are improving as the country reopens. The pandemic is also a big source of stress, and some youth may not have anyone to turn to for support.

To determine where young Americans are not faring as well as others in their age group, especially in a year made extremely stressful by the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 15 key indicators of youth

risk.

Those 15 key indicators were in turn divided into two key metrics: 1) education and employment and 2) health.

The indicators used to make up the education and employment metric were 1) the share of disconnected youth (which refers to the population aged 18 to 24 that is not attending school, is not working, and has no degree beyond a high school diploma) 2) the share of youth with no high school diploma 3) the share of National Assessment of Educational Progress-proficient students (those who have performed at or above eight-grade math and with-grade reading proficiency levels) 4) the labor force participation rate among youth (population aged 16 to 24) 5) the youth poverty rate 6) the rate of teen pregnancy 7) the share of homeless youth 8) the presence of state tuition waiver programs for youth in foster care 9) and the rate of youth detained, incarcerated or placed in residential facilities per 100,000.

The indicators employed to make up the health metric were the share of the population aged 12 and older fully vaccinated 2) the share of overweight and obese youth 3) the share of youth using illicit drugs in the past month 4) the share of youth reporting heavy drinking 5) the share of youth with depression and 6) the share of physically, mentally, and emotionally inhibited youth.

The seven states determined to have young people less at-risk than Virginia were 1) Maryland 2) Utah 3) Minnesota 4) Connecticut 5) New Hampshire 6) New Jersey and 7) Massachusetts.

Virginia homeowners urged to stop feeding backyard birds in wake of mysterious illness



Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources has received more than 1,400 reports of sick or dying birds, and the DWR is encouraging homeowners to stop feeding birds until more is known about the mysterious illness.

HENRICO—The early morning chorus of chirps and tweets has taken on a morose note as a mysterious illness is harming Virginia songbirds.

Since late May, people

have been reporting sick and dying birds afflicted with swollen, crusty eyes and neurological symptoms such as balancing issues and tremors. What began in a handful of states has now expanded

to include Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

According to a statement released by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, cases in Virginia so far have been confined to the state's northern and northwestern regions. Diseases can spread where birds congregate, such as bird feeders and birdbaths, and wildlife experts are asking residents in this area to remove their feeders and keep birdbaths clean as a precaution.

"Experts are still trying to determine what's causing the bird deaths," said Stefanie Taillon, assistant director of governmental relations for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

"As with any unusual hu-

man-wildlife encounter, it's important to report sightings to the appropriate officials."

The DWR says between May 23 and June 30, it received more than 1,400 reports of sick or dying birds in the northern and northwest areas, 450 of which involved birds with eye issues and/or neurological signs. Many species of birds have been affected, but most instances are among fledgling common grackles, blue jays, European starlings, and American robins.

Officials say there are no reports of the mysterious illness causing health issues in poultry, livestock, or humans.

The specific illness is still unknown, and "multiple bacterial, viral and parasitic agents have not been detected in the bird samples tested," said Ser-

gio Harding, bird conservation biologist for the DWR. "We continue to work with diagnostic laboratories to investigate the cause of this event."

Among the potential causes that have been ruled out are salmonella, chlamydia, and viruses including avian influenza, West Nile, other flaviviruses, Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, herpesviruses and poxviruses; and Trichomonas parasites.

Homeowners and property owners in the affected geographic areas are encouraged to take the following steps for mitigation:

Stop feeding birds until the deaths have subsided.

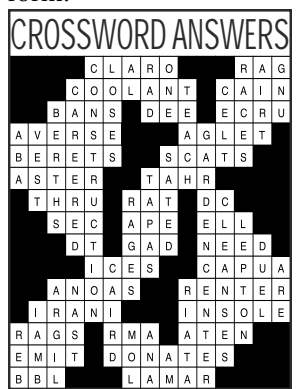
Clean bird feeders and baths with a 10% bleach solution, rinse with water, and allow to air-dry.

Avoid handling birds. If handling birds is necessary, wear disposable gloves.

If picking up a dead bird, avoid direct contact, and place it in a sealed plastic bag to dispose with household trash.

Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a precaution.

Report sick or dying birds using the DWR's bird mortality reporting form.



ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilips-blacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: www.fbradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam.

CHURCH OF GOD

Childress Church of God, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Been There; Done That

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1 through 4:16

The familiar phrase "been there; done that" is often said by those who feel they've seen it all and done it all, and they're bored by it. This appears to be the outlook of the author of Ecclesiastes.

He concluded that everything he had experienced was meaningless, including the pursuit of wisdom and pleasure—things many in our modern culture seek. Even the hedonistic lifestyle of "wine, women, and song" proved to not be satisfying. These indulgences created only fleeting enjoyment.

Much of happiness depends on attitude.

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13).

Once we determine to find satisfaction in life's simple things, including what God has given us to do, we will no longer base our worth or our hope in the accumulation of more things.

Thought for Today: "People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be." —Abraham Lincoln

Quicklook: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Radford Church of God in Christ, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

LUTHERAN

Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: clcradford.org. 540-639-2671.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Radford Worship Center, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7

p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 Fourth Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets. Worship at 10am in the sanctuary, masked and distanced. Phone 639-2585. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and on our Website: www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond. Kelsey and Peter Hawisher-Faul, Co-Pastors.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc.

OBITUARIES

Ruben, Judy Marie Linkous

Judy Marie Linkous Ruben, 76, of Fairlawn, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, July 9, 2021.

She was the daughter of Robert "Doug" D. and Augusta "Tate" O. (Tatum) Linkous. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, William "Bill" D. Linkous.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Happy and Selena Ruben of Christiansburg; her grandsons, Dylan Britt of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Kendall Britt of Christiansburg; one great-granddaughter, Ryleigh Britt; a niece, Wendy Linkous Bertoli (Brett) of Lancaster, Penn.; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Judy was a graduate of Dublin High School and Radford University. She retired from the United States Army after 37 years of service. Judy was a member of the Hokie Club and a Virginia Tech football season ticket holder for 33 years.

She was a lifelong member of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church, a member of the Presbyterian Church Women, and the Pulaski County Women's Republican Party. She volunteered with numerous organiza-



tions, including the Radford Food Bank and the Radford Clothing Bank. She also supported the NRV Women's Resources Center and To Our House homeless services.

The family would like to thank English Meadows of Blacksburg and Kindred Hospice for their care. A special thank-you goes to Melinda Collins, Gary Graves, Bobby Bonds, and countless others at English Meadows-Blacksburg who oversaw her care throughout her residency.

The family will receive friends from noon until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m., with Pastor Allison Unroe officiating. Interment will follow at the West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Fairlawn Presbyterian Church at 6900 Pulaski Avenue, Fairlawn, VA 24141, or Pulaski County Virginia Animal Control at 80 Dublin Park Road, Dublin, VA 24084.

The Ruben family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory of Radford.

Taylor, Judy Ann Hagee

Judy Ann Hagee Taylor, 68, passed away Sunday, July 11, 2021, at her home in Pulaski surrounded by her family. She was a member of the Heritage Assembly of God.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Mary Hagee; a son, Scott Taylor; and a daughter, Annette Taylor.

Survivors include her husband, Donald Taylor; a son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Lori Taylor; grandchildren Elijah, Alison, and Annie; a brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Denise Hagee; sisters and



brothers-in-law, Barbara and Bill O'Neal and Drema and Jeff Phillips; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to give special thanks to Medi-Home Hospice for their tender care of Judy.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. today, Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Heritage Church in Dublin. Memorial services will begin at 2

p.m. The Taylor family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Tolley, Elmer Wade

Elmer Wade Tolley (Pete), of Radford, and a native of Bartley, W.Va., died peacefully on July 3, 2021, at Highland Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Dublin after a long battle with dementia. He was 81 years old.

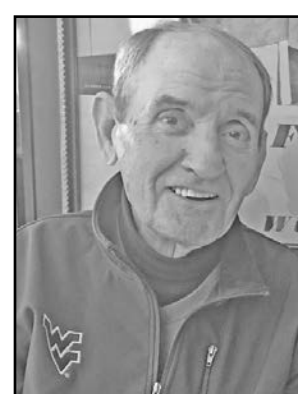
Pete had an abiding love for the mountains. He was especially fond of fishing, birdwatching, and gardening with his wife, Mitzie, at their home on Clayton Lake, and playing golf at The Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg.

Pete was an outstanding athlete at Big Creek High School, in War, W.Va., where he excelled in football and baseball. He received a football scholarship to West Virginia University where he was a starting lineman and linebacker for the Mountaineers in 1958, 1959, and 1960.

He earned a BS in physical education from WVU in 1961 and an MS in education from WVU in 1971. For his many athletic accomplishments, Pete was inducted into the McDowell County Hall of Fame by the Lions Club in Welch, W.Va., in 2015.

He was truly a patriot and devoted most of his life to military service as an officer in the U.S. Army. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a Green Beret with the U.S. Army Special Forces and the 101st Airborne Division. Major E.W. Tolley retired from the Armed Forces in 1985.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Dallas Roosevelt Tolley and Frances Marie



Hammitt Tolley; sisters Hazel T. Murensky and Margaret Ann Whitaker; brothers Fred N. Tolley, Robert "Bob" P. Tolley, and David R. Tolley.

Pete is survived, and greatly missed, by his wife, Mitzie Marie Tolley of Radford; daughter Caroline Tolley Noffsinger and her husband, Martin Wesley Noffsinger, Jr., of Williamsburg, Va.; a grandson, Martin Wesley Noffsinger, III of Williamsburg; a granddaughter, Ouida Noffsinger Laumer, and her husband, Daniel Arthur Laumer of Richmond; a brother, Samuel M. Tolley and his wife, Patricia L. Tolley of Albuquerque, N.M.; sisters-in-law Jessie A. Tolley of Charleston, W.Va. and Peggy M. Tolley of Las Vegas, Nev.; a brother-in-law, Earl A. Whitaker of Denton, N.C., and many nieces and nephews.

Condolences should be sent in care of The Tolley Family, to 7011 Owens Rd., Radford, VA 24141.

Pete's family welcomes remembrances as they receive family and friends on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home, 120 W. Main St., Radford, VA 24141.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to your favorite charity or church.

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

Duncan, Terry Wayne

Terry Wayne Duncan, 59, of Fairlawn, passed away Monday, July 12, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his father, Marvin Lee Duncan; his mother and stepfather, Kathryn Duncan and Lowell Gene Martin; and his custodial grandparents, Joseph and Essie Franklin.

Survivors include his son, Kenny Duncan; a daughter, Monica Tolley and her fiancé, Jameel Hendricks; grandchildren Homer James IV, Damarria James and Jonathan Alls; fiancée Tammy Shelton; a brother and sister-in-law, Darrell and Pam Duncan; sisters and brother-in-law, Linda Whittaker and Sherry and Louis Miles; nieces Casey Whittaker and Britney Hodge; a nephew

Christopher Blankenship; great-nieces and great-nephew, Micha, Emma, Addison, Abigail, Gizelle, and Jaxson; aunts and uncles, Susie and Cecil Lytton, Francis and Roger Wade, and Johnny and Linda Franklin; and many other relatives and friends.

A big thank-you goes to the Blue Ridge Cancer Center and Good Samaritan Hospice.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Ronald McDonald House.

The Duncan family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Smith, Thelma Mae

Thelma Mae Smith, 76, of Radford, died Monday, July 5, 2021.

She was born in Virginia on Feb. 16, 1945, to the late Howard and Virginia Hunt Campbell. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Douglas Smith, and her brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her sons and daugh-

ters-in-law, Doug and Teresa Smith, Lonnie and Tracy Smith, Michael Smith and Renae Godbey, and Ronnie Smith, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Turman, Donnie Wayne

Donnie Wayne Turman passed away Sunday, July 11, 2021. There will be no ser-

vices at this time. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Boys State

from page 1

The interim president also touted the benefits of attending Boys State on the Radford University campus.

"You will experience Radford University this week. You will get to see our beautiful modern campus with its many amenities, services, and academic offerings," Lepre said. "Cyberdefense, healthcare, criminal justice, political science, history, finance and accounting, and the physical sciences are just a few of Radford's high-demand, valuable programs of study you can explore."

Horton reminded the young men that they are

"the leaders of tomorrow" and encouraged them to think about how they will endeavor to help others accomplish their goals, how they will build a future that is not politically divided, and how they will help their neighbors and friends live a better life.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam spoke virtually to the Boys State gathering during the week about the challenges of the past year and offered sincere wishes for them going forward into their senior years of high school and beyond.

"There are so many ways

you can make a difference in your community, from volunteering to running for office," Northam said. "And if there's one thing that this past year has demonstrated, it is the importance of acting responsibly, working together, and focusing on unity, not devices."

The governor encouraged the young men, who represent "our next generation of leaders," he said, "to work together and listen to the valuable perspective of others. It's vital," he reminded them, "to have people working in good faith for the greater good."

Each morning throughout the week, the young men, all dressed in blue shorts and white T-shirts emblazoned with the Boys State seal, gathered for breakfast at 7 a.m. at Dalton Hall, stood on the Heth Hall lawn, and raised the American flag at precisely 8:45 a.m. They attended religious services at 9 a.m. and then split across campus for instructional sessions starting at 9:40.

In those sessions, participants learned from leaders from across the commonwealth about the political process through a simula-

tion of Virginia government. They participated in mock legislative sessions and held elections, court proceedings, and other hands-on activities based on their respective interests, such as band, chorus, athletics, and journalism.

The young men attended lectures with top leaders in local and state government, including judges, elected representatives, and law enforcement officials.

The week wrapped up with a College Day in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Representatives from numerous high-

er education institutions, including Radford University, were there to provide information to the young men as they prepare to continue academic pursuits beyond high school.

Later in the day, some of the talented musicians among the Boys State group staged a parade through campus.

The week's closing date was highlighted by a graduation ceremony that included awards for various areas such as parliamentary procedures, athletics, moot court, best reporter, best citizens, and best city.



Marketplace



ourvalley.org

For Rent - Apartments

2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120

 **For Sale - Misc**

FOR SALE
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General Information

Skanska USA Building Inc. invites you to take part in our Subcontractor outreach and information session for our upcoming Virginia Tech Undergraduate Science Laboratory Building (208-18332 USL).

Information sessions for the project will be held in both Roanoke, VA and Blacksburg, VA. The Roanoke session will be held on July 20, 2021 at the Roanoke Higher Education Center (108 North Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24016) – Room 408; 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Blacksburg sessions will be held on July 22, 2021 at The Inn at Virginia Tech (901 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA) – Cascades Room C309;

General Information

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

We anticipate bidding of this project to occur starting in August 2021. Further information will be sent out as part of the Invitation to Bid process. To RSVP for either of these sessions please contact Sheila Bowles at 434.568.8177, Sheila.bowles@skanska.com.

For information/ pre-qualification/ bid list information questions please contact: Mark Ferguson, mark.ferguson@skanska.com; CP Staley, charles.staley@skanska.com; or Todd Elfont, todd.elfont@skanska.com. We also welcome and invite all certified SWaM firms to pre-qualify and participate.

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 2, 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:

A. Conditional Use Permit for a Commercial Auto Garage at 1250 Roanoke Street for Tax Parcel Nos. 498 - ((7)) - 16A, 498 - ((7)) - 17A, and 498 - ((A)) - 113C by Glenwood Martin on behalf of Twin Oaks Properties LLC. The property is designated Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg

Legals - Montgomery County

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.

A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew

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Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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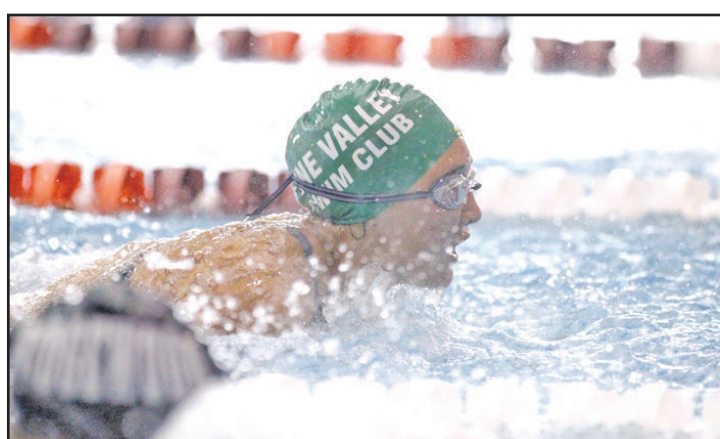
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RADFORD SPORTS

Southwest Virginia Swim League championships



Pine Valley's Raelin Adams swims in the girls 11-12 50-yard butterfly at the Southwest Virginia Swim League Championships Tuesday at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. The Shawnee Swim Club took the team title with 2,736 points followed by Ridgewood, the Blacksburg Aquatic Center and the Blacksburg Country Club.



Lydia Pratt races in the 13-14 50-yard butterfly for Pine Valley at the Southwest Virginia Swim League championships.



Greg Vinson placed third for Pine Valley in the boys 13-14 50-yard butterfly at the Southwest Virginia Swim League (SVSL) championships Tuesday night.



Pine Valley's JT Keister adjusts her goggles prior to the start of the girls 7-8 25-yard breaststroke at the SVSL championship meet. Keister won the event with a time of 29.27.



Pine Valley's Isa Hartig placed seventh in the girls 9-10 50-yard breaststroke at the SVSL championships.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Registration for Rush development soccer in Radford now open

RADFORD -- Registration for the upcoming 2021-22 season for SWVA Rush Futures soccer is now open for Radford. Players may register at www.swvarush.org.

Rush soccer is an open registration, developmental soccer program geared towards players who are ready to take their footballing commitment to the next level. It is designed for players of all interest, experience, and ability levels seeking a higher level of instruction between the ages of 8 and 14 (2008-2013 birth years). It offers an exceptional transitional opportunity for recreational players preparing to join a competitive club or scholastic-based pathway.

Featuring an established curriculum and guided by a licensed coaching staff, Rush soccer offers extraordinary player development. The environment is fun, structured, and safe, a place where players can express themselves and learn what soccer has to offer the Rush way.

Rush soccer helps young players born between 2008 and 2013 reach their next level, stay active, and keep involved in high quality youth soccer.

There is no cost to register and attend the placement days; however, players and parents/guardians must commit to a high standard for

weekly training session attendance, take-home challenges, and weekend competitions.

For each age group, one training session each week focuses on 1v1, 2v1, and 2v2 themes using street soccer games within US Soccer's Play-Practice-Play model. The second session offers small group tactical play in groups of three or more using rondo and positional play training games. Rush hosts separate boys and girls player pools at each location.

Eric Bucey, Director of Developmental Soccer, said, "At a time when local town and county leagues have failed to invest in coaching education and proven player development standards, parents and guardians are also wary of demanding time, travel, and cost associated with club sports. Rush soccer is the smart, balanced way to transition into a performance pathway."

Upcoming key dates for the 2021-22 season include academy soccer placement day for kids born 2012-2013: July 17; advanced team training two days per week beginning Aug. 9; academy training two days per week beginning Aug. 17; the academy fall season concluding Oct. 13; and the advanced fall season concluding Nov. 15.

Region 3D honors spring CHS athletes

The Region 3D spring all-star teams were announced on Wednesday with several Christiansburg High School student-athletes being recognized.

Jamie Adams, Haley Farmer and Julia Johnson

were named to the all-region girls' soccer first team and teammate Anna Blaine was named to the second team.

Softball player Baylee Reasor was named first-team all-region, and catcher Casey Kietrys was second-team.

Junior Micah Meyer was first-team all-region soccer, and Evan Cline was named to the second team.

In baseball, seniors Connor Brizendine and Reagan Harris were added to the second-team all-region 3D.

Blacksburg, Elliston golfers win on Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour

Blacksburg golfers Major Ewing, Jack Skinner, and Marco Beato and Elliston's Liam Smith won their respective age groups Tuesday as Auburn Hills Golf Club in Riner welcomed the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour.

15-16 Age Group Par 72 6026 Yards

Ewing posted a score of one over par 73 to win the age group. He played consistently throughout the round, mixing three birdies with 12 pars to secure the victory. Walker Gillespie of Pearisburg shot 76 and finished second. Samantha Skinner of Blacksburg was a stroke back in third with a score of 77. Ryne Bond of Floyd finished in fourth place with a 78.

13-14 Age Group Par 72 5335 Yards

Skinner made a birdie on the first hole of a playoff to defeat Isaiah Cantrell of Floyd and win his age group. Skinner and Cantrell had finished with identical scores of 77. Ryne Highfield of Blacksburg shot 78 and finished third.

10-12 Age Group Par 36 2492 Yards

Elliston's Smith posted a 42 to win the age group. Jack Herbert of Blacksburg finished second with a score of 44. Rylan McGinnis, also of Blacksburg, shot 45 and finished in third place.

9 and Under Age Group Par 36 1957 Yards

Beato shot 41 and won the age group. JJ Robertson, also of Blacksburg, was a shot back at 42. Anderson Lilly of Oak Hill, W.Va. finished third with a score of 47.

17-18 Age Group Par 72 6352 Yards

Logan Douthat of Pearisburg won the age group with a score of 5-over par 77. Douthat got off to a roaring start with three birdies in the first four holes and finished with an eagle 3 on the par-5 18th. Alex Brannock of Galax finished second with a score of 86. Jack Davis of Radford was third with a score of 88.

The summer tour continues Monday with a stop at the Blacksburg Country Club.

Trio of Hokies to join Coach Fuente at 2021 ACC Football Media Day July 21

The Atlantic Coast Conference has announced that Virginia Tech football student-athletes Braxton Burmeister, Chamarri Conner, and James Mitchell will accompany head coach Justin Fuente to the 2021 ACC Football Kickoff held at the Westin in downtown Charlotte on Wednesday, July 21.

The Hokies embark on their sixth season under Fuente, who has compiled a 38-26 record in Blacksburg. Tech returns 21 players on offense and defense in 2021 who started four or more games a year ago. The Hokies concluded the 2020 season with a convincing 33-15 victory over Virginia, marking Fuente's fourth win in five games against the Cavaliers.

Braxton Burmeister (6-1, 205) – The La Jolla, Calif., native owns a 3-1 record as Virginia Tech's starting quarterback after throwing for 687 yards with two touchdowns while rushing for 182 rushing yards with two touchdowns. The Oregon transfer ran for a pair of scores and threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Mitchell in a 38-31 win at Duke. He completed 15 of 22 passes for a career-high 212 yards with a 60-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Tayvion Robinson vs. Virginia. Prior to Tech, Burmeister played in 11 games (five starts) for the Ducks during the 2017-18 seasons.

Chamarri Conner (6-0, 211) – A defensive back, the Jacksonville, Fla., native started all 11 games for Tech in 2020 and led the Hokies with 81 total tackles (60 solo). An All-ACC

honorable mention pick a year ago, he had 3.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, four breakups, four quarterback hurries and also forced a fumble. Conner was recognized twice as the ACC Defensive Back of the Week last season. He has played in 37 career games with 24 starts for the Hokies, totaling 162 tackles (113 solo), 13.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, and three interceptions.

James Mitchell (6-3, 242) – The Big Stone Gap, Va., tight end enters his fourth season with the Hokies after leading the team with four receiving touchdowns in 2020. He hauled in 26 catches for 435 yards in 10 games (nine starts) a year ago. In his 36 career games (18 starts) for Tech, Mitchell has accumulated 796 receiving yards on 47 receptions

with six touchdowns and has also scored five touchdowns rushing.

Virginia Tech opens the 2021 season on Friday, Sept. 3, vs. North Carolina in an ACC contest that will be broadcast to a national audience on ESPN. It will mark the first time Tech has faced North Carolina in the season's initial game since 1946. The two teams also opened the 1898 and 1945 seasons against one another.

In a series that dates back to 1895, the Hokies own a 24-13-6 all-time advantage against the Tar Heels. Tech has won its last two home meetings against North Carolina, including the longest game in ACC history, a six-OT, 43-41 victory in 2019. The Hokies are 4-1 against the Tar Heels under Fuente.



Quarterback Braxton Burmeister, defensive back Chamarri Conner, and tight end James Mitchell will accompany head coach Justin Fuente to the 2021 ACC Football Kickoff held at the Westin in downtown Charlotte on Wednesday, July 21.

Montgomery 12U All-Stars are state champions



The Montgomery County 12U all-stars, pictured above, won their fourth state championship this past week. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Athletic Supervisor Ashley Hadidian, Faith Wilson, Sammie Brein, Makaylee Hughes, Katie Salyer, Reagan Smith, Isabella Perkins, Macie Akers, Hope Wilson, and Johnnie Gaynor; (back row, left to right) Coach Chris Ramrattan, Manager Brian Wilson, Coach Rob Brein, Coach Mark Akers, and Athletic Supervisor Chris Slusher. This was Montgomery's first state championship since the team made the move to Babe Ruth League competition. The team also claimed the tournament sportsmanship award, and Montgomery's Faith Wilson was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.



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