



Wednesday, October 6, 2021

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Three Radford City police officers recognized with state lifesaving award



Radford City Police Department Officers Clayton R. Benson and Sgt. Travis P. Coffey

RADFORD – Three members of the Radford City Police Department, Officer Clayton R. Benson, Sgt. Travis P. Coffey and Sgt. Emily Hite, have been recognized with the Lifesaving Award by the Virginia Police Chiefs Association.

The Award for Lifesaving recognizes an officer's actions that put the officer in harm's way in the attempt to save the life of another individual. This year's 53 honorees from across the commonwealth risked their own lives to save others from burning buildings and vehicles, drownings, stabbings, shootings, attempted suicides, and other dangerous situations.

On Aug. 2, 2020, citizens reported to the Radford Communications Center that there was an individual tubing in the New River and that he appeared to be in some distress. Officers Benson and Coffey were first on the scene, observed the distressed citizen in the water,

See Lifesaving, page 5

Radford homecoming queen and king crowned



Tyrel Dobson and Anna Turk were named the 2021 Radford High School homecoming king and queen during halftime ceremonies Friday night.

Bobcat homecoming parade marches down Main Street



The Bobcat Marching Band kick off the parade Friday afternoon with a spirited marching tune.



The Bobcat mascot is on hand for the parade to show the crowd lining Main Street some home-team pride.



Some of Radford's possible future varsity football players take part in Friday's homecoming parade.

Radford University named 2021-22 College of Distinction



Radford University has been recognized for its "honorable commitment to engaged, hands-on education" by Colleges of Distinction, a guide for college-bound students. In addition, Radford's academic programs in business, education, nursing and engineering were singled out for individual recognition, along with student support services for career development and military support.

"We are so pleased to be recognized by Colleges of Distinction overall and in the specific areas of academic programs and student support," said interim President Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Ph.D., of Radford University. "Our faculty and staff are innovative and passionate about providing a holistic experience for our students, and to have that acknowledged at a national level is rewarding. This speaks highly of their efforts and our students' willingness to embrace this journey with us."

Colleges of Distinction's longstanding support for student-centered schools highlight those that traditional rankings often overlook. Founder Wes Creel created Colleges of Distinction to draw more attention to schools like Radford University, where student success and satisfaction are primary goals and student-centered education prevails while fostering a dynamic learning community.

Colleges of Distinction's selection process comprises a sequence of in-depth research and detailed interviews with the schools about each institution's freshman experience and

retention efforts alongside its general education programs, career development, strategic plan, student satisfaction and more — and accepting only those that adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. These principles are all informed by High-Impact Practices to prioritize the ways that institutions enable students to have a fulfilling, individualized college experience.

"Every student has their own unique set of abilities, their own goals and their own ideal settings in which they would thrive," Creel said. "That's why we don't rank our schools. It's about finding the best opportunities for each individual's needs and desires." Radford University's inclusion is informed by the unique ways it commits to achieving success.

Colleges of Distinction advocates for schools where the undergraduate experience is grounded in a philosophy of well-rounded, individualized engagement. Radford University excels at having students graduate and enter the workforce with solid, well-developed critical thinking skills and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing society.

In addition to its overall honor as a College of Distinction, Radford University received specialized recognition in business, education, nursing and engineering. These additional accolades were borne out of a need for college curricula that are comprehensive not

Radford woman named Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow



Brooke Love of Radford has been chosen as a member of the 2021-2022 class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute.

RADFORD – The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently named Brooke Love, Founder and CXO of Inscape Creative Company as a participant in the 2021-2022 class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute.

As an Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow, Love, of Radford, will participate in an extensive, nine-month series of skill-building seminars featuring regional experts, peer-to-peer learning, and case study analysis. The program begins virtually in October and culminates with the Class of 2021-2022's graduation in July 2022.

"I am honored to con-

gratulate the 2021-2022 class of Appalachian Leadership Institute fellows. These phenomenal Appalachians are the driving force of change in their communities," said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. "The work of this new class of fellows—and the ones who came before — gives me hope for the future of our region and is a testament to all that can be accomplished when Appalachians work together."

Love will work directly with public policy, community development, education, investment, and with other professionals who live

See Love, page 3

See RU, page 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 6:

Draper Road Streetscape Meeting
The Town of Blacksburg will hold an in-person meeting and Open House at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will review previous feedback and explore concepts for the Draper Road Streetscape project. RSVP to save a seat: Reimagine Draper Road | Public Meeting #2 Tickets, Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 6 p.m. | Eventbrite. A summary of the first public workshop is available at www.draperstreetscape.com/draper-road-vision.

nia Eley and Grace Toney Edwards will discuss their new book, "Writers by the River: Reflections on over forty years of the Highland Summer Conference." The book will be available for purchase at the event, and the authors will be available to sign copies after their talk.

Saturday, Oct. 9:

Radford Highlanders Festival 2021
The festival will feature the famed heavyweight games, sheepherding, live entertainment, food, vendors, and festivities for all ages. The festival is a partnership between Radford University and the City of Radford. It will be held on the Radford University campus and is open to the general public with free admission.

Tuesday, Oct. 12:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to the meeting. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Friday, Oct. 15:

Cannon Firing for Homecoming Parade
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon will be fired twice the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 15, as cadets march a pass in review on the Drillfield

in honor of Virginia Tech's homecoming. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. Skipper will be fired at the first note of the National Anthem and the first note of "Tech Triumph" with two shots total.

Noise Alert: Fireworks

A fireworks event at 8:45 p.m. on the west side Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus will be part of homecoming celebration.

Wednesday, Oct. 20:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting
The RFAAP community meeting will be held on Wed., Oct. 20, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. The rescheduling of this meeting will allow RFAAP to provide the most current updates on environmental and modernization projects. Broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP Modernization and Environmental Projects. The public can reach out with questions or can conduct research on their own through several resources, including
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>
Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>
Email: usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil

affairs@mail.mil.

In-Person Learn at Lunch at Hahn Horticulture Garden
"Crafting a Garden Vision" with Steve Hale.
This presentation is designed to give participants new perspectives on their own gardens no matter how large or small. Join for an hour of "Crafting a Garden Vision" at the Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion from noon to 1 p.m. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Friday, Oct. 22:

VT Corp of Cadets Formal Retreat
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will hold a formal retreat ceremony at 4:15 p.m. on Upper Quad. The Color Guard will lower the flag, and the regimental band, the Highty-Tighties, will play. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire once.

Sunday, Oct. 31:

Grove UMC Trunk or Treat
This is an afternoon of safe fun trunk or treating. The trunks will be filled with treats provided by Grove UMC members and students from the Wesley Student Center at Radford University. There is no cost for this event. For more information 540-639-2807.

Through Oct. 19:

Crafts-to-Go
At the Meadowbrook Library. Drop by the library for Halloween and autumn take and make

craft kits. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited.

Diaper Drive benefiting Montgomery County Christmas Store
At the Blacksburg Library. The Blacksburg Junior's Club and the Blacksburg Library are hosting a diaper drive benefiting the Montgomery County Christmas Store. All sizes of diapers are needed and are welcomed.

Through Oct. 20:

Halloween Costume Drive
At the Meadowbrook Library. The library is looking for gently used costumes in all sizes. Drop off Halloween costumes during library hours through Oct. 20. Come to the Halloween Costume Mania and select a costume for children or adults while costumes last.

All month of October

Halloween-Sidewalk Obstacle Course
A Halloween-themed obstacle course at the Meadowbrook Library courtyard. Don't forget to count the candy corn throughout the course to win a prize. The event is perfect for all ages and abilities. Those who complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing which will be held Oct. 25.

Passionate Painters

At the Blacksburg Library. Come check out the beautiful works by

the students and friends of VT Lifelong Learning Institute.

Grab-and-Go Meals

All the month of October at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Offering free grab-and-go meals and snacks. Children 18 years and younger can come and get a week's worth of meals and snacks. Each box will contain a five-day supply. This is free to all children/teens during library hours. Sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia, an equal opportunity provider.

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market continues each Saturday through Oct. 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

The Christiansburg Farmers Market continues every Thursday through Oct. 28 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

Ongoing:

Get your passport at the Radford Public Library

The Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Those planning overseas travel are advised to get their passport as early as possible as the current wait period is up to 18 weeks.

Award-winning filmmaker and alumnus to speak at event this evening

Virginia Tech will host a conversation with BK Fulton, an award-winning filmmaker, businessman, author, and alumnus, today, Wednesday, Oct. 6. The conversation will follow a debut screening of Fulton's film "Love Dot Com" at the Lyric Theatre beginning at 7 p.m.

The event marks the successful launch of Sankofa, a new initiative introduced by Student Opportunities and Achievement Resources and the Black Cultural Center in conjunction with the Office for Inclusion and Diversity. Sankofa was developed to create a tight con-

nection between Black students and alumni and began this past summer at the Black College Institute with a series of alumni-to-student mentoring discussions. The event's theme is "Reaching Back to the Next Generation: The Inclusive VT Difference."

"Each generation has an obligation to the ones coming after them and the ones who paved the way before them," said Fulton, a 1989 Virginia Tech graduate. "It's like a relay race and at some point, you will be handed the baton and we have to run our legs of the race. The question is are you advancing the good cause or standing in place?"

Fulton is the founder of Soulidifly Produc-



Award-winning filmmaker, VT alumnus BK Fulton will speak this evening, Oct. 6, at the Lyric Theatre at 7 p.m. following a debut screening of his film, "Love Dot Com."

tions, one of the largest independent film production companies on the East Coast and is the 2021 inaugural par-

ticipant of the Sankofa Business Alumnus in Residence program.

Soulidifly is a full-feature film, stage, and

television investment and production company designed to promote a more inclusive narrative in major media.

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NRV Community Foundation calls for 2022 scholarship applications

CHRISTIANSBURG -- The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) has issued its annual call for scholarship applications, which opened Oct. 1, 2021.

High school students, college students, trade students, and adults returning to college in the New River Valley (NRV) can review more than 45 available scholarship opportunities and apply at [https://](https://cfnrv.org/scholarships/)

cfnrv.org/scholarships/ applicants-information/. Applications are due by January 31, 2022, and recipients will be announced in April of 2022.

The program aims to support the educational aspirations of students so that they can achieve their full potential, to nurture a skilled workforce in the region, and to cultivate future community leaders. It has grown steadily over the past 19 years, award-

ing over \$850,000 to 750 students from over 45 endowed scholarship funds.

Individuals, families, and NRV businesses establish the funds, which the CFNRV invests for long-term growth. The CFNRV also manages the application process. Each scholarship fund has its own unique criteria, meeting the interests of the donor and ensuring that there is an opportunity for students of all kinds to earn a

scholarship.

Last year, the foundation celebrated the largest year of the program to date, awarding over \$117,000 in scholarships to 78 students from across the NRV. The 2021 group of scholarship winners were a diverse group. 21.7% were first-generation college students, and 29.4% qualified for a full Pell grant. Many recipients are staying in Virginia to attend Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College, while others are attending schools across the country.

This year, the traditional scholarship awards dinner was changed to a scholarship picnic to allow social distancing and to be outdoors due to the ongo-



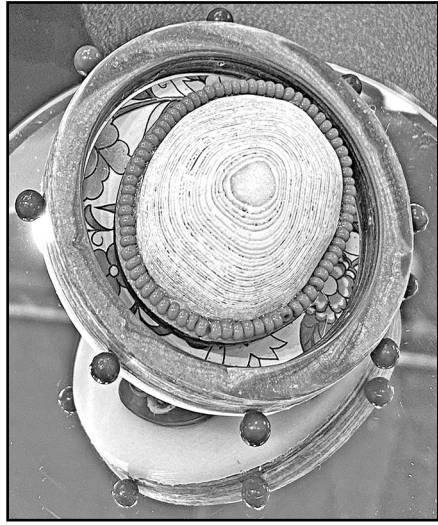
The **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** of the New River Valley

“Paper Alchemy” on display in RU’s Covington Center

“Paper Alchemy,” an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, is now on display at Radford University’s Art Museum at the Covington Center.

Thurman is an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. His invention, Thurmanite, is a unique composite material made of layers of recycled paper bonded together with an environmentally friendly plant-based resin. “Paper Alchemy” is a dynamic demonstration of the artist’s range of inventive problem-solving and creativity.

A reception for “Paper Alchemy” will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m.



Passion for sailing gives master’s student Hugh Dougherty a competitive edge

“So, what did you do over the summer?” Typical fodder for small talk. Most answers to this conversation starter involve tales of travel, summer internships, or periods of rest and relaxation. Not too many students return to campus for a new academic year with Virginia Tech graduate student Hugh Dougherty’s answer: He participated in one of Europe’s most famous and revered events in offshore yachting.

Dougherty, who is working toward a master’s degree in ocean engineering, recently arrived on campus after participating in the 49th edition of Rolex Fastnet Race, a yacht race that takes place every two years and is considered to be one of the greatest challenges in sports. First held in 1925, the demanding offshore classic is organized by the Royal Ocean Racing Club and requires the very best in skill, determination, and teamwork to succeed.

A native of Cambridge, Mass., Dougherty has been sailing for over 20 years. Gradually, he progressed to racing more competitive boats and fleets and transitioned to team racing through weekly competitive fleets out of the MIT Sailing Pavilion.

Through a friend — a competitive MIT female sailor — Dougherty was introduced to the world of Oakcliff Sailing in Oyster Bay, N.Y., leading to new opportunities in match racing and offshore sailing. While a trainee at Oakcliff Sailing, he competed in the 2018 Newport Bermuda race and then captained Temptation, a 50-foot race boat, back to Newport, R.I., with a skeleton crew in heavy seas and stormy weather.

This past summer, as Dougherty was working as the boat captain of Temptation, he happened to meet the skipper of the Volvo Open 70 Hypr Ocean Racing. Hypr, formerly known as Camper, was designed for and finished second in the 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race, and the crew had a short stay in Newport as they prepped the boat for a transatlantic delivery. Dougherty got to know the crew and asked the skipper to keep him in mind should they ever need more crew members.

“On August 1st, I got a call asking if I could hop on a plane and be in the U.K. in a few days to do the Fastnet Race with Hypr,” said Dougherty. “I booked my flight and flew out Wednesday, landed in the U.K. on Thursday, and the race started on Sunday, Aug. 8. One of the key things that allowed me to do this was that the U.K. lifted their mandatory quarantine period for vaccinated

people coming in from the U.S.”

The 2021 race was composed of around 450 yachts ranging from 30 feet to 125 feet and featured more than 2,000 sailors from 31 countries. Divided into seven starting groups, the competitors were a mix of professional and amateur, experienced and newcomers, young and old. The Hypr crew was made up of 12 international professional and semi-pro sailors.

The race started in The Solent, a strait just off of Cowes in the U.K. Yachts raced out through the English Channel past the Needles, across the Celtic Sea to round Fastnet Rock, just off the southwest coast of Ireland. The crews faced a new twist in the near 100-year-old challenge this year and headed to a new finish line at the breakwater in Cherbourg, France, which extended the race to 695 nautical miles.

Over the course of the race, the 12-person Hypr crew was split up into three watches with three to four people on each watch. This system allowed them all to get a bit of sleep and be semi-rested for their next watch. According to Dougherty, the crew turned out to be a very competitive and cohesive team because of each member’s high level of skilled proficiency, despite never having previously sailed together.

“The race from the start to Fastnet Rock saw very rough sea conditions, as is classic,” said Dougherty. “We saw the current going with us to the west and the wind blowing the opposite direction to the east making for tall, steep waves in a short period. The wind on average was mid 20 knots with gusts seen up to low to mid 40 knots.”

Hypr finished 14th in the IRC Z class, out of a total of 24 vessels. “We would have been far more competitive if it wasn’t for the starboard daggerboard breaking on our practice day prior to the start,” said Dougherty. “We were training out in the Solent just outside of Portsmouth Harbor when we hit an unidentified object. It was suspected to be an old chain, a remnant from World War II, when chains were set in place to prevent the movement of submarines and other vessels. For boats to hit objects like this is supposedly a common occurrence.”

After graduate school, Dougherty hopes to get involved with an Ocean Race team as a sailor and/or support for the 2022-23 Ocean Race, and will later possibly try to sail at a high level while working on a design team for an America’s Cup syndicate.

—By Jama Green

Two new grants will address major threats of pests and weeds to Virginia’s thriving agriculture industry

A pair of grants awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension will help tackle two of agriculture’s greatest threats: pests and weeds.

A one-year, \$210,000 grant will support the Virginia Extension Implementation Program, a project that will explore the use of integrated pest management, better known as IPM.

Daniel Frank, director of Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs, is the grant’s principal investigator.

“Major commodity sectors addressed in this project include both field and greenhouse/nursery crops, which when combined comprise nearly one-third of Virginia’s farm cash receipts,” Frank said. “Despite the value and growth of these and other commodity sectors, significant pest management challenges threaten the profitability and sustainability of Virginia agriculture. Problems with a diverse and ever-changing array of invasive and native pests pose a continuing challenge, and educational programs are needed to shift growers away from prophylactic use of pesticides and toward adoption of IPM.”

Activities planned for this fall surrounding the project include:

Creating a digital media library to support Extension programming.

Expanding current pest management guides into digital formats.

Showcasing IPM for the red imported fire ant.

Conducting on-farm demonstrations of IPM and pest management tools in agronomic and specialty crops.

Promoting pollinator health through the creation of Virginia Bee Cooperators.

Providing support for pest diagnostic facilities.

The second grant, at a total of almost \$325,000, will support a farmer

cooperative and on-farm research and Extension project called “Turning the Combine from a Weed Seed Spreader into a Weed Seed Predator.”

Michael Flessner, associate professor and Extension weed science specialist, is the grant’s principal investigator.

“In response to farmers’ needs and growing issues of herbicide resistance, my lab has been looking into managing weed seeds at harvest in Virginia for over five years,” Flessner said. “Our preliminary research into weed seed retention at crop harvest, modeling the weed seedbank, and preliminary on-farm research indicate that so-called harvest weed seed control holds tremendous potential for management of some of our most troublesome weeds in soybean and wheat. I’m excited to continue this research by examining state-of-the-art harvest weed seed control technology called seed impact mills.”

Over the next three years, Virginia Tech will be teaming up with researchers from Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Texas A&M University, North Carolina State University, the University of Delaware, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and the University of Arizona to examine how effective seed impact mills are at killing weed seeds during harvest, how many weed seeds make it to the mill in commercial combines, and what the operating costs are to farmers.

“I greatly appreciate the support of this research effort to date from the Virginia Soybean and Small Grains Boards, an integrated, collaborative grant from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech and NC State University, and USDA ARS Areawide Project Funds,” Flessner said.

—Written by Mary Hardbarger



Combined, the grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture total more than \$535,000 and support the important research of weed and pest management.

Love

from page 1

and/or work in the region to identify and implement best practices and strategies to inspire positive change in their communities; build a robust network of leaders across the region; integrate community assets into long-lasting economic development strategies; and appreciate the diversity and commonalities of the 13 states in the Appalachian Region.

Upon completion of the program, Love will automatically become part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute Network, a peer-to-peer working group committed to Appalachia’s future. She was selected via a competitive application process. ARC received 115 applications for the 2021-2022 Appalachian Leadership Institute class.

“I am excited to begin the program and work alongside other Appalachian leaders across our region,” said Love. “I expect the next nine months to be filled with many opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with others in our effort to strengthen Appalachia in our hometowns and beyond.”

The Appalachian Leadership

Institute is a comprehensive regional leadership training program developed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; The Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy; Tuskegee University; and Collective Impact.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (www.arc.gov) is an

economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the region achieve socio-economic parity with the nation.

NRV call

from page 2

ing COVID-19 pandemic. Many were happy to have an in-person celebration this year, as the 2020 celebration was canceled.

The Blacksburg High School National Honor Society Legacy Scholarship was established in 2015, and members of the National Honor Society at Blacksburg High School have raised money to endow and grow the fund over time. The scholarship benefits a student with strong academic achievement, a strong track record of leadership and service to the school and/or community, and a strong desire to continue that level of service during college.

Katherine Lynde, an English teacher at BHS and the National Honor Society Sponsor, sees the relationship with the CF-NRV as an important way to support graduating

BHS students. “When the Blacksburg High School National Honor Society officers and sponsors decided to create and build an endowed scholarship fund almost a decade ago, we immediately sought the assistance of the CF-NRV,” she said. “We have been so happy that we did. After successfully raising the required balance through various fundraising events, our organization is now proud to say we provide ongoing annual scholarships to graduating Blacksburg High School students, and CF-NRV manages the fund for us, solicits scholarship applications, and selects recipients based on our specific criteria. It’s been an absolutely fantastic partnership.”

Laura Pynn, the administration and programs manager at the community foundation,

said, “Overseeing the scholarships program is my favorite part of my role at the foundation. I’m proud of the diversity that our scholarships offer to students in the New River Valley. Not only do we provide scholarships for students attending a college or university,

but many of our scholarships are focused on trade schools as well.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic,” Pynn said, “the value of trades and trade schools has really come to the forefront, and we want to be sure that those who choose that route also have the oppor-

tunity to apply for scholarships to get their education as well.”

More information about the scholarship program and how to apply is available at <https://cfnr.v>.

[org/scholarships/applicants-information/](https://cfnr.v). Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship fund can contact the foundation at 540-381-8999 or email cfnr.v@cfnr.v.

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OPINION

Buddy King: Significant places from my childhood

Last week I was walking up to my back door on my return from work. I spotted a huge praying mantis clinging to the screen and tried to recall the last time I had seen one of these prehistoric bugs. It caused an immediate flashback to a memorable experience and where I was when I had seen a whole colony of these creepy creatures.

The memory took me back to my second-grade year, Mrs. Page's class, in the basement of what was then called Christiansburg Primary School. Our class was "observing" these weird bugs, I guess, and Mrs. Page had brought in a glass aquarium and put a couple of examples in it for our viewing pleasure. Apparently it was a male and a female because when our class of 7-year-olds returned on Monday morning the next week there seemed to be hundreds of the darn things everywhere. On desks, on the blackboard, on the windows. Jumping, spitting, starting. It's a lasting memory, Mrs. Page apparently not really being a "bug person" when they were in her hair instead of in the nice aquarium she had bought for them.

Mainly this episode

brought back memories of the school building we were in, the one where I attended first- and second-grade (no public kindergarten in those days). It is the dilapidated and wasting away building on Junkin Street, directly across from the house my grandmother and mother and aunt built after my grandfather had died working for the railroad and they were forced to sell their little dairy farm in Riner. It was not in great shape 60 years ago and being abandoned does not appear to have improved its condition. But it made me think about my personal version of the National Historic Register, or perhaps I should call it the "Buddy King Register of Significant Places from my Childhood."

This old schoolhouse certainly holds a cherished spot on my register. Before it became the place kids my age started their school experience, it had been the home of Christiansburg High School. My father and his twin brothers and at least one of his sisters graduated from this building. It was only a few blocks from their home on Craig Street and close to downtown,

perfect for a family of eight kids without a car, all of whom had after-school jobs. Later, while my dad was superintendent of schools, his offices were in this building. Lots of memories.

My recollection (perhaps inexact) of the primary school is of eight classrooms, four on the first floor and four more in the basement (first graders on the first floor, second graders in the basement), oil-treated wooden plank floors (I guess to hold down the dust.), and hideous restrooms (at least for the boys) where you did your business in an open trough in the concrete floor. There was a stage on the first floor and an office for the principal (Willie Sue Stone in my time, a nice lady probably, but one who met the description of the nuns who had taught many of my Catholic friends I met in later life. She "struck fear in the heart," in other words.) There was a little playground on the right-hand side of the building with swings and something called a merry-go-round where we took turns playing marbles and tag and breaking our arms during recess.

Next on my register, chronologically speaking, was the "Christiansburg Annex," a few blocks away on East Main Street, where my contemporaries and I went for the third and fourth grades. I am fairly certain this building was the original high school before the one on Junkin Street. In recent years it was sold and converted

into an apartment building where a few of my friends have lived at different times.

The "annex" had the same charm as the primary with oil soaked floors and concrete urinals in the floor. It had the extra benefit of a cafeteria in the basement with seriously entertaining ladies who fixed our lunches and chattered at us. I also remember that we were not allowed to respond or to talk to each other, strict silence being the order of the day and eating being serious business.

The crown jewel of places on my personal "Register of Significant Places" is, of course, the old high school off College Street. My family history runs deep in that building, my dad having taught and been principal there for 20 years, my Aunt Maggie having taught English and government there for 40, having spent my own high school years there and having numerous cousins and aunts and uncles who walked those halls and graduated from there, not to mention the many dear friends I made during my years. I was practically raised by the faculty of CHS when my dad was principal.

I believe this building served as the high school from 1934 until 1974 and housed grades eight through 12 for many of those years, built for 800 students but having 1100 at times. It was on property next to a more "modern" school next door, built in the 1950's, where my group went for grades five through

seven, Christiansburg Elementary. I happily grew up about a half-mile walk from these schools, so I never rode buses after fourth grade and made the short walk out West Main Street hundreds if not thousands of times.

The old CHS was as charming a school building as any you could find. It is perched on a knoll with a small, shaded campus in front and is just a short walk to old downtown Christiansburg. It is a beautiful brick building with large windows and a circular drive in front. (My dad once forgot to set the parking brake on his car while he was principal, and his Chevy rolled down the beautiful lawn, crossed College Street without accident (thank goodness) and crashed into the storefront of his great friend Icky Pharis's dry cleaners. It made for a great story for years.)

The old schoolhouse had many charms: classic hallways lined with old-style lockers, an auditorium with a stage where the original gym had been, a perfect setting for our "Friday Night Lights" directly on the site behind the school, the legend of the Black Sisters (who had run a boarding school called Montgomery Hall for rich girls from New England, several of whom allegedly were murdered by the sisters and were buried around the grounds, leading generations of CHS students to believe the school was haunted), thousands of interesting kids and hundreds of

memorable teachers and coaches.

I'll end the tour of my Register of Significant Places on a sad note. One of my great friends from CHS days who still lives in the area sent me a photograph of the recent renovation (desecration?) of the gymnasium at our old school. Apparently the gym, which I am guessing was an early 1950's addition, is being converted into a bus garage for the county. This beautiful old gymnasium where so many Christiansburgers took physical education classes and played basketball and volleyball games and danced at sock hops, presumably will henceforth house yellow buses sitting on grease-stained concrete floors. Only the walls will remain I guess. If only they could talk.

I am sure there are lots of old CHS coaches and gym teachers tossing in their graves. In my day, perhaps the worst offense a student could commit was stepping on the highly polished, wooden gym floor in "street shoes." You walked around. Rest assured, ladies and gentlemen, all you former teachers and coaches at CHS, if my register had been created in time, that floor would still be there.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

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Virginia gas prices jump by a nickel, up almost a dollar in past year

Virginia gas prices rose five cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.05/g as of Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Gas prices in Virginia are 5.7 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 95.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports,

the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.77/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.49/g, a difference of 72.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.18/g. The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands \$1.01/g higher than a year ago.

"We've seen very little overall movement in gas prices over the last week with prices remaining near their 2021 highs as

crude oil prices remain well above \$70 on supply concerns and strong global demand," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"With energy in high demand ahead of the winter heating season and a surge in global demand due to COVID-induced imbalances, we're not likely to see a meaningful decline at the pump any time soon, but unfortunately, could see prices holding near these levels for the next

few weeks," according to De Haan.

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Leg shank
5. A way to recognize
11. "VeggieTales" character
12. Getting out of by cunning
16. Mythological mountain
17. Atomic #18
18. Viscous liquid
19. 2010 Denzel film
24. 12th star in a constellation
25. Made better
26. Pouches
27. Nervous twitch
28. This (Spanish)
29. Tennis legend Bjorn
30. Hand (Spanish)
31. Afrikaans
33. Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.)
34. Treated with kid gloves
38. Leaseholder
39. Frogs, toads, tree toads
40. Popular dance
43. Sailing maneuver: tack & _
44. Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)
45. Mark
49. Health insurance
50. Custom clothing brand
51. One who makes suits
53. Execute or perform
54. Degree of pleasantness when tasting
56. Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels
58. Blood group
59. Imaginary line
60. Hopeless
63. Darken
64. Spoke
65. Work units
CLUES DOWN
1. A way to fit out
2. Football carries
3. Force out
4. Maintaining equilibrium
5. Sealed with a kiss
6. Type of container
7. Hollywood
8. We
9. Small freshwater ducks
10. Norse personification of old age
13. Says who you are
14. Candidate
15. Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits
20. Defunct language (abbr.)
21. Take too much
22. Iranian province
23. Records electric currents
27. _ and feathers
29. Beloved Mr. T character
30. More (Spanish)
31. Beverage
32. Promotional material
33. Green vegetable
34. National capital
35. To any further extent
36. Swollen, inflamed lymph node
37. Anger
38. Pound
40. Popular Yugo
41. Salt of acetic acid
42. Millihenny
44. Israeli city _ Aviv
45. Make wider
46. Drink containing medicine
47. Acknowledging
48. Private, romantic rendezvous
50. Calvary sword
51. Disease of the lungs
52. 2001 Spielberg film
54. Fleshy, watery fruit
55. In one's chambers
57. Set of information (abbr.)
61. Dorm employee
62. Indicates position

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. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome.



Meg is a senior cat looking for a purrfect home to spend her golden years. She does well with other cats but not with dogs. Meg is housetrained. Her adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Dobber is a very good boy. He's sweet and loves belly rubs. He is friendly, likes to meet new people, and gets along with other animals. He knows a few commands, including "sit" and "stay." He's treat-motivated and will gladly shake hands for something yummy to eat. Dobber is also housetrained.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

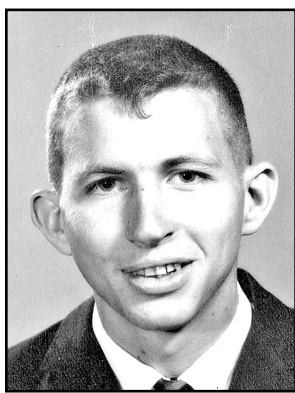
OBITUARIES

Cole, Bobby Gene

Bobby Gene Cole, 75, passed away Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, at his home in Dublin

He was retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, William Arthur and Evelyn Smith Cole, and two brothers.

Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Angela and Steve Kittinger of Blacksburg, and Trina Pennington and Edward Woodlief of Dublin; grandchildren Steven Kittinger, April Smith, Shirley Reed, Brintley Pennington, and



Jaylyn Pennington; great-grandchildren, Paislynn, Braylin, Kashden, Addilyn, and Taylor; five brothers; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services with the Rev. Dr. Paul Lane officiating and entombment followed in Highland Memorial Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

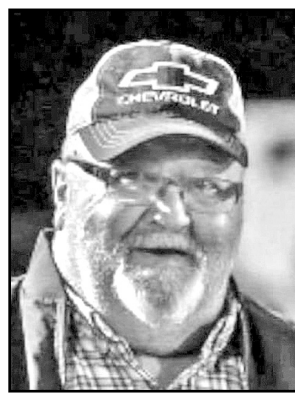
The Cole family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Sheppard, Barry

Barry Sheppard, 66, of Pilot, went to be with the Lord on Sept. 24, 2021, after a long battle with numerous health issues.

He was born and raised in Alleghany Springs, in which he was very proud. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gary Reed Sheppard and Violet Rena Sheppard; a sister, Karen Crawford; and a brother-in-law, Marvin Orange.

He is survived in death by his wife of 47 years, Brenda Sheppard; a son, Curtis Sheppard; daughters Angela Arnold and her husband, Bobby, Cassandra Sheppard and her partner, Shannon Dalton, Melanie Sheppard, Autumn Sheppard and boyfriend, Darius Wayne; grandchildren Brady and Dylan Arnold, Alaina Womack, and Coy Sheppard; siblings Linda Orange, Brenda Lilly and her husband, Stephen, and twin brother Larry Sheppard and his wife, Barbara. He is also survived by special nieces and nephews, Michelle Bender and her husband, Andy, Gary Sheppard and his wife, Jocelyn, Dakota Link and wife, Kayla, Timmy Link and wife, Kristal, T.W Link, Sierra Link, Jennifer Lilly



and partner, Nichole, and Jon Link; two aunts, Priscilla Atkinson and Ava Cox; a brother-in-law, Jerry Crawford; and a very dear special friend, Robbie Saunders; as well as many special cousins.

Dad was a very hard worker and worked very hard for his family. Whenever you visited him or saw him out and about, he would always have you laughing about something. He enjoyed NASCAR, anything and everything Chevrolet, fishing, hunting, working on cars and lawnmowers, and telling you stories about his crazy experience as a wild teenager and his drag racing days. We would like to thank everyone who prayed, sent food, and cards. Even though we are sad and this will be a rough few months ahead, we are thankful Dad is now pain free and is reunited with his loved ones who are in Heaven.

The family received friends on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Horne Funeral Home. A memorial service was held on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel. There was no interment.

Griffith, Diane Trout

Diane Trout Griffith, 65, went to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Terry Lynn Griffith.

She leaves behind four children and 10 grandchildren, including sons Rob Trout and daughter Theia, Adam Trout and wife Melissa, and their children Samuel, Lillian, Marilyn, Saxon, and Paulina, and John Griffith and his wife, Tracy, and children Braxton, Madison, Brianna, and Braeden;



and daughter Victoria Lynn Wiley and her boyfriend, Matthew Marshall.

At her request she will be cremated.

Visitation will be held at Mullins Funeral Home, 120 West Main St., Radford, on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. and a memorial will immediately follow at 3:30 p.m. with Pastor Beaver Terry officiating. The Griffith family is

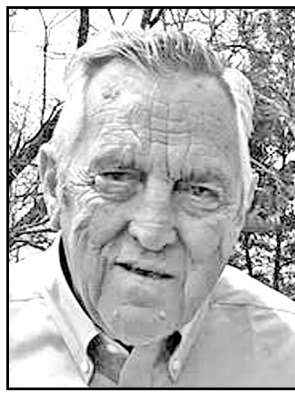
in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Linkous, Basil Lee

Basil Lee Linkous, 90, of Blacksburg, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at LewisGale Hospital, Montgomery.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Isabell K. Linkous; his parents, Evans and Ella Linkous; and his sisters, Betty Jo Dowdy and Shirley Linkous. He was a devoted, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, having served in the U.S. Army.

He leaves to cherish his memory daughters and sons-in-law, Dana L. Sutphin (Sheryl), Kay L. Allen (Tim), Joy L. Palmer (Mark), and Michelle L. Wooddell (Larry); grandchildren and spouses, April S. Clark (Brad), Holly S. Gray (John), Samuel J. Bostwick, Jr. (Lori), Amanda K. McFalls (Luke), Marcus H. Moore, Jr. (Stacy), Rusty M. Moore, Trenton J. W. Wooddell, and



Taylor L. Wooddell; great-grandchildren Morgan and Aniston Clark, Addison and Cruz Gray, Cooper and Carson Bostwick, Trinity M. Thomas (Jesse), Dustin and Caleigh (Jesse) Sheppard, Paisley and Maverick Moore, and Ashton Moore; a great-great grandchild, Kaiden Thomas; a sister, Marie L. Woolwine; a brother-in-law, Curtis Linkous; a special nephew and his wife, Chester and Debbie Linkous; as well as numerous other nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. The family is requesting that masks be worn during services.

Owens, Sherry Bell

Sherry Bell Owens, 56 of Dublin, passed away Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

Born on April 1, 1965, she was a daughter of the late Gerald and Edna Haynes Bell. In addition to her parents, Sherry was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Wallace Owens.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 36 years Mark Owens; a son, Joshua Owens, and his wife Brittany; a daughter, Haley Owens; a grandson, Nolan; a sister Stacy DeBella and her husband Chris and their children Arianna and Hayden; and her mother-in-law, Hilda



Owens. She is also survived by many friends and her several fur children.

The family will celebrate and remember Sherry's life privately.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make memorial contributions in Sherry's memory to the Pulaski County Animal Shelter, 80 Dublin Park Rd, Dublin, VA 24084.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.mullinsfuneralhome.com. Mullins Funeral Home in Radford is caring for the Owens family.

Patrick, Mark S.

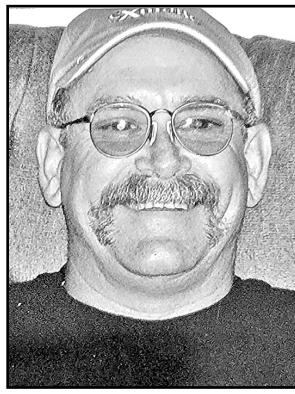
Mark S. Patrick, 64, of Christiansburg, went to meet his Heavenly Father on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, at Carilion NRV.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Evelyn Patrick; and his two four-legged best friends, Bud and Lucky.

Mark is survived by the love of his life for 36 years, Teresa H. Patrick; a daughter, Ashley Patrick, and her fiancé, Aaron Johnston; a son, Stephen Patrick, and his girlfriend, Lindsey Graybill, all of Christiansburg; and his fur baby, Bingo.

Also surviving are siblings Connie P. Simmons of Christiansburg, Donald Patrick, Jr., (Brenda) of Mechanicsville, Va.; nephew and niece Josh Patrick (Ashley) of Ashland, Va. and Erin Stacy (Luke) of Ashland, Va.; three great-nieces and three great-nephews; a special father and mother-in-law, Raymond and Joyce Harris of Christiansburg; a brother-in-law, Randy Harris (Roberta) who was like a brother; a step-nephew, Toby Early of Salem, and a step-grandmother, Joyce Light, of Christiansburg.

Mark was a 1975 graduate of Christiansburg High School and a longtime employee of Radford Arsenal/BAE. He was a longtime member of Open Door Baptist Church. He loved the Lord and loved telling oth-



ers about how the Lord had blessed him and his family. He loved the week of Vacation Bible School so he could help participate in the penny parade.

Mark really enjoyed family time with his wife and kids. He was a very loving and attentive husband and was a very active and very giving dad in the lives of his children. He was a hard worker and was always willing to help others no matter what their need.

Mark enjoyed going to the races with his special friends, Steve Akers and Tommy Harris, but his most favorite was the Father's Day Weekend Race in Bristol Va., that he and his son attended together. Mark was a big football and race fan. He loved watching the Virginia Tech Hokies, the Washington Redskins, and the Pittsburgh Steelers on game day. He was loved by all who knew him, and will be deeply missed by his family.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, at Open Door Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the church, with Pastor Michael Johnston officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg.

Lifesaving

from page 1

and coordinated the arrival of Radford Fire and EMS personnel. They immediately shed their police gear, waded into the water, and swam out to the citizen.

They were able to calm the panicked tuber and lead him to the riverbank where care was transferred to EMS personnel. The citizen stated that he had been overcome by abdominal cramps, fallen off his inner tube, and panicked because he was not able to swim, and had ingested some water. He was not injured and was able to return home.

The direct, swift, and decisive actions of Officers Benson and Coffey saved the citizen. After the incident, he said he was not sure he would have lived without their immediate involvement.

On Feb. 25, 2020, a call came in about a tree accident. Off-duty Sgt. Emily Hite was a block away and heard yells for help from a male subject. Without hesitation Sgt. Hite located the male subject and found that a large tree trunk had fallen on him. While fire and EMS arrived on the scene Sgt. Hite placed herself underneath the male subject to stabilize him while plans were implemented on how to remove this large tree trunk. Dur-

ing the time that Sergeant Hite was stabilizing and supporting the man she was reassuring him that everything would be okay. The victim suffered multiple serious injuries.

"All three officers acted admirably and as heroes, putting another's life before their own," said RCPD Chief Jeff Dod-

son. "These officers live out their oath to serve and protect daily, and this is just another example of Radford City Police officers acting as humble heroes on the job. We are proud of these officers and are very fortunate to have them on our team here at the Radford City Police Department."



Radford City Police Department Sgt. Emily Hite

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RU from page 1

only in course material but also in practical- and soft-skills development. Radford University meets these needs with a blend of liberal arts education, program-specific training and abundant opportunities for real-world application.

"We complete a thorough review of the programs in question before giving the awards," said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer for Colleges of Distinction. "We're looking for such qualities as accreditation, breadth of programs, advising and mentoring, integration of career services and successful outcomes for students. It's wonderful to

see how Radford really exemplifies these qualities." Colleges of Distinction's philosophy has evolved over the last few years to create individual recognitions that focus on institutions' specialized services for students. To that end, Radford University received recognition in the areas of career development and military support.

Career Development: Few questions are going to be on students' minds more often than some version of "What am I going to do after graduation?" Conveniently, schools awarded the Career Development badge have shown that they

are well equipped to help their students graduate with confidence. The badge recognizes schools with comprehensive four-year plans, advising, and more.

Radford University offers such resources as career coaches, career fairs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, JumpStart Career Development Conference and the First Destination survey, providing unparalleled support throughout every stage of career exploration, development and application.

"These opportunities are critical in connecting all the dots that prepare our students to enter the workforce," Lepre said. "The corporate environment

and expectations are ever-changing, and we want our graduates to leave here able to adapt and present themselves as the trained professionals they have become."

Military Support: As the number of veterans pursuing higher education increases, so too does the demand for their personal and academic support. Veterans can be some of the most dedicated, hard-working and capable students on a college campus, but the unique challenges they face can impede their success. That is why Radford University was selected as a standout institution dedicated to helping veterans overcome their obstacles and achieve success.

"We recognize and appreciate the high level of dedication our veterans and active-duty military have demonstrated through their service to our country," Lepre said. "We want to make their experience as students at Radford University as seamless as possible."

Recipients of Colleges of Distinction's Military Support designation care primarily about individual students rather than the size of their GI Bill packages. Schools like Radford University ensure that military students are supported through comprehensive education benefits, a committed military and veterans' affairs team, flexible options, trained faculty,

dedicated campus activities and community support.

"Institutions with the Military Support recognition are aware of the unique challenges military students face on college campuses," said Schritter. "Radford is proud to support and cultivate the skills that military students bring to the classroom, all while helping them achieve their personal and professional goals."

To view Radford University's profile or to find more information about the innovative learning experiences it offers, go to https://collegesofdistinction.com/school/radford-university/.

-Becky Brackin Radford University

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Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: From Sunday, October 10 through Friday, October 16, alternating lane closures may be in place on I-81

northbound between mile markers 104-106 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating lane closures may be in place for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime

hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning.

RAMP CLOSURES: Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during nighttime hours for milling and paving from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Message boards will update drivers. Only one ramp will be closed at a time.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

DMV Notice: The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT - Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place

between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT - Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

TRAFFIC SWITCH: A new traffic pattern is in place detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound between the intersections above, limiting each direction to a single lane.

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure with a detour is in

See VDOT, page 10

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RADFORD SPORTS

High school football: Topsy-turvy season continues

Marty Gordon
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The COVID pandemic continues to turn the area's high school football season upside down with changes on a weekly basis.

Schedules and games change weekly, and teams are hoping theirs is not the one to receive that phone call on Wednesday.

Auburn is still facing the lack of numbers game, having to cancel another game this past week, but Athletic Director Paul Dominy remains optimistic for the future.

"We are taking the numbers week-to-week. When we have enough players to field a team and play a game we will do so. When the numbers fall too low, we are unable to play," Dominy said.

"We believe that we have a bright future in football. We have had decreasing numbers for several years now, but we think that the new offense will energize the student body to come out for the team," the AD said. "We got a late start with a July coaching change, which has affected this year, but with a full year to work on the roster we do not expect to be in this situation again."

That lack of numbers has also affected the wrestling program at Auburn, which the school has decided to cancel for this year. Dominy said there had been a lack of interest on the part of the students. "Part of this has been due to the nature of wrestling and the potentially increased likelihood of catching COVID," he said.

The school would like to restart it somewhere down the road if and only if the interest picks back up.

But Auburn is adding another sport to its list. This past week, the school advertised for a swimming coach. There has been considerable interest, according to Dominy, on the part of the student body as 15 athletes have signed up for the sport. "Everyone is quite positive about starting the program and there is a level of excitement as we prepare for the season," he said.

This week in football, we will see the "Battle of the Burgs" between Blacksburg and Christiansburg. Blacksburg leads the series, which dates to 1914, 56-37-6, but Christiansburg has taken the last two, 57-0 in the spring and 21-14 in 2019.

Over the history of the rivalry, Blacksburg has outscored their cross-county rivals 1,684 to 1,126.

In the early years, six games between the two schools were played at Miles Stadium on the campus of Virginia Tech.

On a side note, a former Radford football player is getting his kicks in at Boston University. Connor Lytton began training camp back as the third option for the Boston Terriers, but he has been elevated to the top of the depth chart since the Temple game. Incumbent Aaron Boumerhi suffered a season-ending hip injury in camp and was replaced by Danny Longman, who started against Colgate and UMass.

Lytton had four PAT kicks against Temple and solidified his claim to the top spot with field goals of 49 and 31 yards against Missouri. He was also 5-for-5 on PATs.

Area Top Five: 1) Salem, 2) Christiansburg, 3) Hidden Valley, 4) Glenvar, 5) Giles.

Football game previews this week: Eastern Montgomery (2-2) at Craig (2-2)

Last week: Craig rolled over a winless Roanoke Catholic squad 34-18. Pudge Peters scored three touchdowns as Craig racked up 279 yards rushing.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 27, Craig 20.

Carroll County (0-4) at Radford (4-2)

Last week: Carroll took a game against Floyd to overtime but fell short 20-18. Elijah Cox did toss for 204 yards for Carroll while Bryce Smoot had seven catches for 106 yards.

Radford rebounded from its loss to Christiansburg by downing Alleghany 42-6. Marcell Baylor threw two touchdown passes while Darius Wesley-Brubeck scored on a 49-yard run. Baylor also added 100 yards rushing on four carries. Tyrel Dobson added 102 yards with three touchdowns.

Prediction: Radford 34, Carroll County 20.

Grayson County (3-2) at Auburn (0-3)

Last week: Grayson slid by Ft. Chiswell 18-7. Canaan Jones finished 11 of 18 passing for 200 yards. Auburn spent another week watching from the sidelines.

By the time this game is scheduled to play, the numbers game or the lack of numbers could force a cancellation.

Prediction: Grayson 40, Auburn 7.

Blacksburg (0-4) at Christiansburg (4-1)

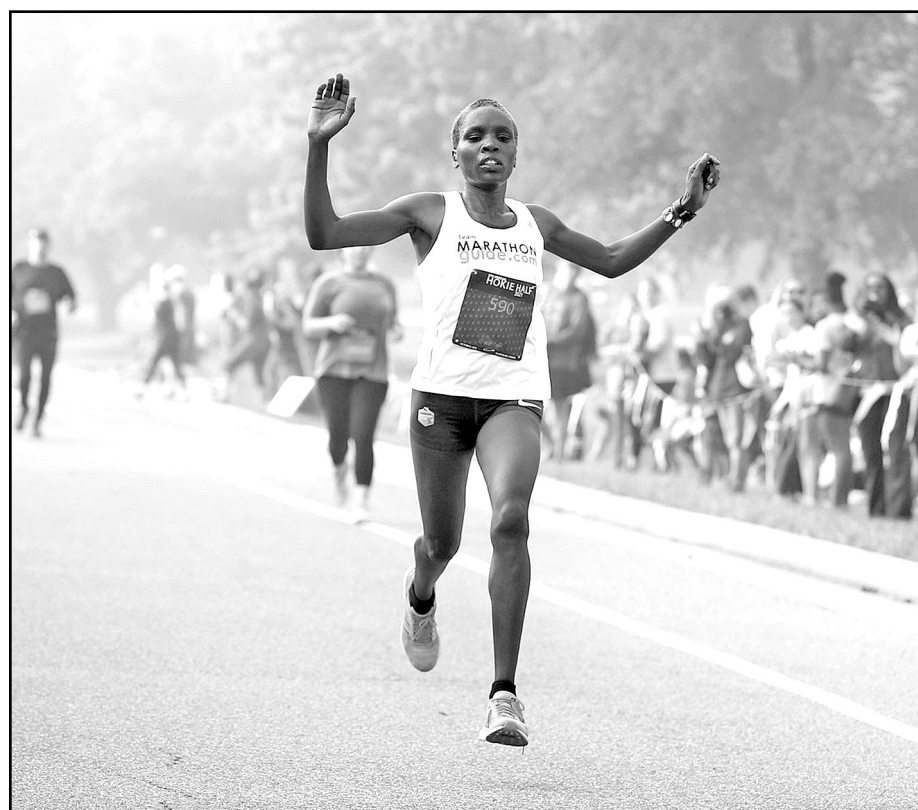
Last week: Christiansburg fell to Salem 24-7, while Patrick Henry routed Blacksburg 42-0 in a game that saw the Bruins produce only three first downs and 32 yards in total offense.

Prediction: Christiansburg 33, Blacksburg 21.

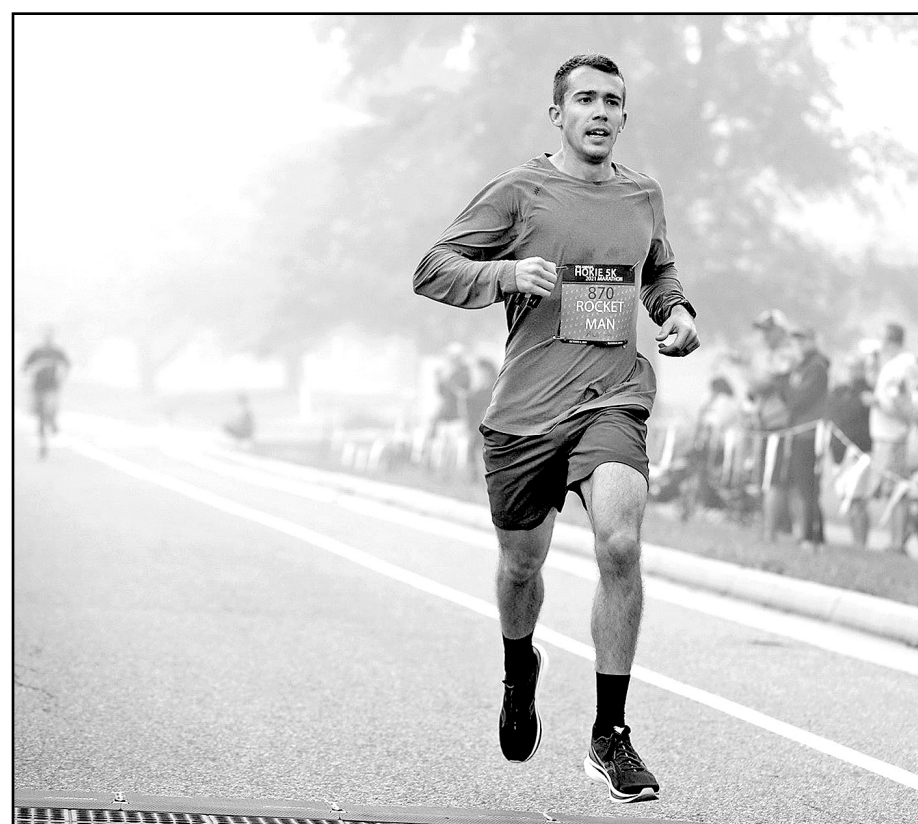
Hokie 5K, Half-Marathon held Sunday



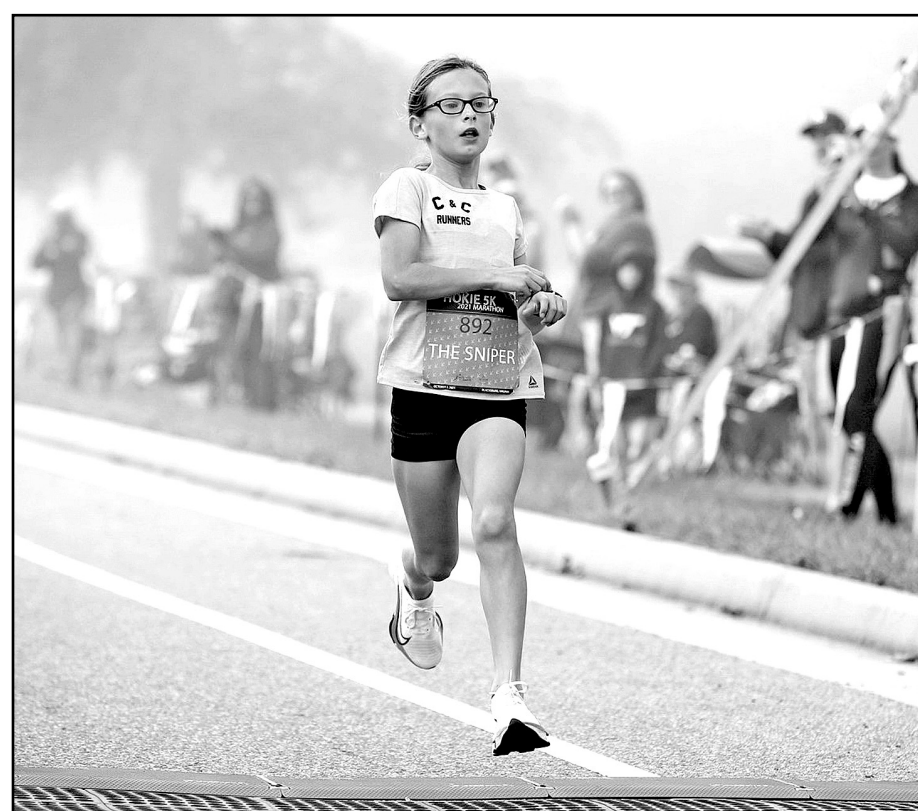
The Hokie Half-Marathon field leaves the starting line Sunday morning at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The top men's finishers were first place, Sila Kiptoo (right), second place, Shadrack Keter (center left), third place Jason Putnam (left), fourth place, Ethan Edwards (center), and fifth place, Tyler Krickovic (center right). Kiptoo set a new record of 1:03:47.11 for the 13.1-mile course.



Sarah Naibei was the Hokie Half-Marathon women's winner with a time of 1:14:30.99.



Andrew Lightner was the men's 5k winner Sunday with a time of 19:22.93.



Only 11 years old, Mariah Reed was the women's overall winner in the Hokie 5k race with a time of 20:32.04.

Hokie 5K, Half-Marathon Top 50 finishers

The top 50 finishers in the Hokie 5K run Sunday were 1) Andrew Lightner, 19: 22.93, 2) Ryan Hamrick, 3) Ryan Bagchi, 4) Mariah Reed, 5) Joshua Wolfe, 6) Connor Szwetkowski, 7) Gavin Diggs, 8) Bill Collins, 9) Rob Semtner, 10) Kendall Schlueter, 11) John Fiorini, 12) Patrick Dickens, 13) Colin Googan, 14) Christian Walkup, 15) Justin Grady, 16) Stephanie Vaccaro, 17) Keely Semtner, 18) Grant Talbott, 19) Jason Lancaster, 20) Todd Ramboldt, 21) Felix Lopez, 22) Matthew Enzinnia, 23) Leah Santos, 24) Lynne Still, 25) Serena Miller, 26) Braxton Lee, 27) Ian Stanley, 28) Brian Shelor, 29) Harrison Lancaster, 30) Ryan Lancaster, 31) Eddie Harmon, 32) William Poland, 33) Ben Norris, 34) Ashley Harris, 35) Erik Lewis, 36) Ellen Hamrick, 37) William Starkey, 38) Melissa Vaden, 39) Luke Weiler, 40) Samantha Brooks, 41) Sarah Soto, 42) Nick Buchbinder, 43) Robert Kendall, 44) Patrick Miller, 45) Elly Haden, 46) Emma Larkin, 47) Brad McCumsey, 48) Jonathan Crewe, 49) Kevin McGhee, 50) Morgan Velez.

Half-Marathon run Sunday were 1) Sila Kiptoo, 1:03:47.11, 2) Shadrack Keter, 3) Jason Putman, 4) Ethan Edwards, 5) Sarah Naibei, 6) Tyler Krickovic, 7) David Walls, 8) Matthew Wisnioski, 9) Spencer Conti, 10) Garrett Pitt, 11) Jack Bosley, 12) Anderson Norton, 13) Pamela Cherotich, 14) Todd Musher, 15) English Jackson, 16) Ignacio Moore, 17) Liam Davis-Wallace, 18) Joy Miller, 19) Nathan Vollbrecht, 20) Sam Forsyth, 21) Scott Huxtable, 22) Kevin Byrd, 23) Kyler Stanley, 24) Brandon Herndon, 25) Paul Rhodes, 26) Robert Sherfy, 27) Max Stallkamp, 28) Will Christman, 29) Drew Ayers, 30) Nicholas Conte, 31) Luke Vest, 32) Kyle Weatherholtz, 33) David Woodson, 34) Arindam Faidkar, 35) Thomas Davis, 36) Connor Rafferty, 37) Ken Mallory, 38) Erik Bowman, 39) Adam McNeeley, 40)

Mitchell Parvin, 41) Sean O'Mara, 42) Brad Soucy, 43) Andrew Murley, 44) Marc Edwards, 45)

Jacob Brummond, 46) Hunter Varner, 47) Hannah Varnell, 48) Jimmy Moore, 49) Jack Stipe, 50) Gary Buss.

Email sports news and photos to NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford downs Allegheny 42-6



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Tyrel Dobson rushes past a defender in the Bobcats' 42-6 defeat of the Allegheny Trojans Friday. Dobson finished with 102 yards rushing and three touchdowns and took time off to be named the school's homecoming king during halftime festivities.



Radford quarterback Marcell Baylor tiptoes along the sideline on his way to a touchdown in the defeat of Allegheny. Baylor threw for two scores and ran for 100 yards on just four carries.



Brandon Thompson puts pressure on the Allegheny quarterback. With the win, Radford is now 4-2 on the season.



Darius Wesley-Brubeck hauls in a long pass for a 49-yard Radford touchdown Friday against the Allegheny Trojans.



Nathan Wesley finds some open space around the right side of the line for some rushing yards in the Bobcats' 42-6 homecoming night defeat of Allegheny.

VDOT from page 8

place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in Fall 2021.

UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for week-

end work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last until Fall 2021.

INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 - A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

Drivers should expect delays. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Message boards will alert drivers.

Daytime lane closures with flagging operations may be in place on Green Ridge Road due to installation of shoulder stone.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch

and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 141 and 143, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-81 POT HOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to

6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD - Work is underway to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete at the end of 2021.

LANE CLOSURES: A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.

A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY - Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left

lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-77 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-77 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN CARROLL COUNTY - Weather permitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-77 BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK - Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

ROANOKE COUNTY ROUTE 220 SLOPE

REPAIRS TO BEGIN IN ROANOKE COUNTY NEAR CROSSBOW CIRCLE INTERSECTION - Work to repair a slope along southbound Route 220 just south of its intersection with Route 1290 (Crossbow Circle) in Roanoke County has begun. Heavy rains in recent years have caused debris and soil along this slope to move. Drivers can expect short-term lane closures with flaggers directing traffic on Crossbow Circle when construction equipment is being moved into the site. A shoulder closure along southbound Route 220 will be installed in the months ahead as work progresses. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed Fall 2021.

ROUTE 11 & ROUTE 117 INTERSECTION: PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS - Construction has begun on a pedestrian improvement project on Route 11 (Williamson Road). Work will take place .45 miles south of the intersection with Route 117 (Peters Creek Road) and will end at the intersection. The majority of the construction, phase one and two, will take place during daytime hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The southbound lane of Williamson Road will be closed and traffic will be shifted into the center turn lane. The northbound lane will remain open. In addition, left turns will not be permitted into entrances from both southbound and northbound lanes within the work zone on Williamson Road. This pattern will remain in place through the first two phases of the project. During the third phase of the project, work will be performed with lane closures in place during night hours only, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Shoulder closures will be in place throughout the project with message boards to alert drivers. Expected to be completed in December 2021.

BT

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