

Saturday, October 16, 2021 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00



Radford City Police Chief Jeff Dodson (left) accepts personalized tumblers and thank-you notes from students and school personnel at Dalton Intermediate School.

Cups for cops: Teachers give Radford police personalized tumblers



PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELL

Chief Dodson holds his cup, which is decorated with an American flag and cross design on one side, and the last name of the recipient on the other.

RADFORD – Dalton Intermediate School teachers Brian and Tammy Dye recently launched a new business venture creating personalized tumblers, and the first large order they completed was a gift tumbler to each officer and staff member of the Radford City Police Department.

The Dyes, who are married, recently launched Pono Styles and created a tumbler with a flag and cross motif for the department. Each tumbler is personalized with the last name of the officer.

“It’s a way to say thank-you for what you do for us, keeping us safe, not just our schools but our whole community,” said Brian Dye in presenting the tumblers to Radford City Police Department Chief Brian Dodson recently at the school.

“Strong partnerships are formed on common values, a willingness to collaborate, mutual respect, and communication,” said Dodson about the gift and accompanying thank-you cards handcrafted by students. “All the characteristics mentioned is what describes our partnership with the Radford City Public Schools. We are very appreciative of the gifts and support of all the students, teachers, and staff.”

– Heather Bell

City receives more than \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds

Heather Bell
hbell@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - The Radford City Council approved an appropriation ordinance Monday to accept \$4,114,196 in American Rescue Plan Act funds, which are federal funds dispersed to localities across the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city has not yet decided how to allocate the funds, but Radford Mayor David Horton said Monday council members and city staff would discuss it at the council’s retreat on Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m. Since the funds were not included in the city’s original budget, a public hearing was held to accept comments about the appropriation ordinance. No comments were made.

Also at Monday’s meeting, the council recognized October as National Arts and Humanities Month with a proclamation declaring the arts and humanities “the embodiment of all things beautiful and entertaining in the world.”

“The arts enhance every aspect of life in the City of Radford, improving our economy, enriching our civic life, driving tourism and exerting a profound positive influence on the education of our children,” said Horton in the reading of the ordinance. “Arts education research shows the arts foster discovery, creativity, imagination, self-expression, and problem-solving skills, while also helping to develop a heightened appreciation of beauty and

cross-cultural understanding.”

Scott Gardner, Radford Heritage Foundation Executive Director and Director of Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery, provided his annual report to the city council, saying although Glencoe operations were “turned upside down” during the past year, the organization emerged on the other side of the pandemic stronger with a much increased social media presence, significant new donations of Wharton family furniture to the museum, a renovated gift shop and ground floor, and plans to increase the American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to the building. The foundation also produced two educational videos in conjunction with Radford City Public Schools on local Native American history and the Trigg architectural dig at what is now Bisset Park.

Gardner reported that the New River Train Observatory garnered national and international notice in the past year in architectural publications and that the gallery hosted five exhibits. The latest membership drive produced 117 Heritage Foundation members, bringing \$13,000 to the budget, and the Radford Heritage Foundation received a \$2,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and a \$600 grant from the Community Foundation of the NRV.

“Our operation is truly a community effort,” he said.

The next meeting of the Radford City Council is set for Monday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m.

Sheriff’s Life Skills Camp to become annual event

Radford City Sheriff Mark Armentrout says he can’t wait for next summer and the return of the Life Skills Camp he and his department hosted for more than 100 kids in August.

Armentrout addressed the Radford City Council Monday evening to announce the camp will make an annual return to the city and said the first outing was a great example of the community coming together for a fun and educational event for kids.

“We couldn’t have done this without the businesses and our volunteers,” said Armentrout. “We had over 100 campers, 40 volunteers, and \$7,000 in prizes donated. It was great to see the kids excited about what we were doing.”

The camp included learning everything from archery to car repair, law enforcement scenarios, fishing skills, camping and hiking; hand tool use, and general automobile care and knowledge, safe fire practices, camp-

fire building and extinguishing, traffic stop simulation, 911 and dispatch and law enforcement scenarios, and running a course similar to the one law enforcement agencies use.

The camp was free and open to all children in Radford.

“Our goal is to expose our youth to real-life situations and help develop skills that will prove invaluable as they grow,” the sheriff’s office said in a written statement about the camp. “Giving Radford’s youth access

to life situations and activities they typically may not run into in day-to-day life is our focus.”

Armentrout publicly thanked all sponsors of the camp: Mullins Funeral Home, Sal’s, First NRV Credit Union, Dean’s Body Shop, Knock and Hook, Snap-on Tools, Tangent Outfitters, Harvey’s Chevrolet, Sams Brothers Builders, Kollmorgen, Aaron’s, Anthony Blackburn’s Taxidermy and Archery, Walmart, Advance Auto, Keller Williams NRV, Rural King,

State Farm Insurance, Lowe’s Food City, Food Lion, Southwest Outdoor Power Equipment, Patrick and Angela Moore, Sherwin-Williams, JES Towing, Radford Welding, the Radford City Police Department, Radford Fire and EMS, Hunters Helping Kids, the Department of Wildlife Resources, Radventures on the New, the Radford Recreation Department, Eleven West, Radford Drug, and Audiotronics ND Sign Systems.

Tips for protecting pumpkins from rotting before Halloween

Virginia Cooperative Extension horticulture expert Ashley Edwards says that before families head out to a pumpkin patch to pick their perfect pumpkin, it’s important to wait until pumpkins are fully mature before harvesting and to carve them as close to Halloween as possible to avoid early rotting.

Before harvesting

pumpkins, Edwards offers the following tips:

Prevent rotting by waiting until maturity to harvest and avoiding freezing temperatures.

Mature pumpkins have hard, shiny shells that can’t be easily punctured by a fingernail.

Cure the pumpkin (allow the skin to harden) by allowing it to remain in

the garden during dry, sunny weather, ideally 80-85 degrees F, for about 7-14 days.

Prior to carving, store pumpkins in well-ventilated areas to extend their lifespan before they rot.

Place pumpkins in a well-ventilated storage area, preferably protected from rain.

According to Edwards, pumpkins will retain good quality for approximately two to three months if they are stored at the appropriate relative humidity (50-70 percent) and temperature (50-55°F).

Once the pumpkin is carved, Edwards says to use petroleum jelly on the inside and outside of the pumpkin to keep it hydrated. “Try using battery-operated lights instead of real candles to prevent wilting,” Edwards says. She also suggests spraying the outside of the pumpkin with clear acrylic spray to help keep pests and bacteria away.

Edwards says that after Halloween, pumpkins can be disposed of by adding them to the compost pile as a good use of the leftover organic matter for

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The REAL Experience, formerly the Majors and Minors Fair and pictured here, is an event in which representatives from more than 45 academic programs talk with students about exploring academic programs and student-engagement opportunities.

Event lets students experience REAL possibilities

RADFORD - For Taylor Gary, being a nurse is the best way to help people in her community live and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

That belief and a brief internet search are what led her to Radford University.

When Gary began looking for colleges before graduating high school, she Googled the top nursing programs in Virginia and, she said, “Radford popped up.” Now, the freshman from Martinsville, Va., is on campus, beginning her Radford University journey aimed toward a career and life of helping others.

However, resting among the physical, intellectual, and emotional tools Gary has begun acquiring for a nursing career is a pair of dancing shoes.

“I’ve always danced,” she said. “I started when I was two years old, and I fell in love with it.”

That love is one reason she visited the REAL Experience in Young Hall.

“I came here to declare a minor,” Gary said, walking with her friend and fellow freshman Joleigh Helton, who was also exploring the many

See REAL, page 4



Extension horticulture expert Ashley Edwards suggests that to prevent rotting before Halloween, pumpkins should be fully mature before they are harvested and they should be carved as close to Halloween as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 16:

Craft and Draft Festival

On the grounds of the Glencoe Mansion and Museum from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Live music, handmade arts, food trucks and craft beer. Thirty-five vendors from Southwest Virginia and North Carolina will be on hand selling original art, jewelry, letterpress cards and decorations, soy wax candles, goat milk soaps, and accessories. Live music from JoJo Stockton & Soulacoustix, Gate 10, and Flannel Jukebox.

Creative Writing Meeting

Meadowbrook Public Library; 11 a.m. In person or for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email mupthegrove@mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information.

Caturday

Christiansburg Library; noon to 1 p.m. 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 socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more info.

Sunday, Oct. 17:

Blacksburg Chocolate Festival

Located at College Ave. and Draper Rd. from noon to 4 p.m., hosted by The Rotary Club of Blacksburg. The festival will offer artisan chocolates, kids' activities, a beer and wine garden, and vendor booths. Tickets are available at blacksburgchocolatefestival.com and at the gate.

Monday, Oct. 18:

Radford schools special ed advisory committee meeting

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board Office, 1612 Wadsworth St., in Radford. The public is invited to attend. Due to CDC and VDH requirements regarding building occupancy numbers and social distancing measures during the pandemic, the meeting will be limited to 30 citizens in person.

The meeting will also be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Josh Brown, Chairperson, at 267-3083, or Daniel Hill, Director of Special Education, at 267-3223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

Pokémon Club

Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. To be discussed is "My Favorite Thing is Monsters" by Emil Ferris. Call ahead to reserve a copy.

Tuesday, Oct. 19:

SRS Paranormal at the RPL

SRS Paranormal, spooky local paranormal investigators, will be at the Radford Public Library at 4 p.m. to talk about their work, show off their special equipment, and present a live demonstration. The program is not recommended for children younger than 13.

Wednesday, Oct. 20:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting

The RFAAP Community Meeting has been rescheduled to 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 to 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

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. 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 High-Tighties, will play. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire once.

Friday, Oct. 29:

Radford Trick or Treat Trail and Harvest Festival

4 to 6 p.m. in downtown Radford. Downtown businesses will have treats. Sponsored by Oasis Church and held in the Virginia Street and East Main parking lot, the Harvest Festival offers some family fun.

Sunday, Oct. 31:

Grove United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat

An afternoon of safe fun trunk or treating. Trunks filled with treats are being 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 call 540-639-2807.

First Annual Hacksburg Pumpkin Chunkin'

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1331 Research Center Drive. This year on Halloween, Hacksburg will be running its own pumpkin chunkin' competition. Gather up a team to build a trebuchet capable of throwing pumpkins at targets. Trebuchets are judged by accuracy. Official rules were sent out on October 4. Email rsvp@hacksburg.org for a copy of those rules. Teams will have a registration fee, but anyone can come to watch for free. Tours of Hacksburg will also be available. Email board@hacksburg.org with any questions or come to one of the open Tuesday meetings each week at 7:30 p.m.

Through Oct. 19:

Crafts to Go

Meadowbrook Library. Drop by the library for Halloween and autumn take & make craft kits. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

Diaper Drive benefiting Montgomery County Christmas Store

Blacksburg Library. 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

Meadowbrook Library. The library is looking for gently used costumes in all sizes. Halloween costumes can be dropped off during library hours through Oct. 20. Halloween Costume Mania offers the chance to select a costume for children or adults while they last.

All month of October:

Halloween-Sidewalk Obstacle Course

In the Meadowbrook Library Courtyard. Can you make it through our Halloween-themed obstacle course? Don't forget to count the candy corn throughout the course to win a prize. For all ages and abilities. Those that complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing to take place on Oct. 25.

Passionate Painters

Blacksburg Library. Check out the beautiful works by the students and friends of the VT Lifelong Learning Institute.

Through October:

Grab-and-Go Meals

All month of October at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Free grab-and-go meals and snacks. Children 18 years and younger can come and get a weeks' 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 very Thursday through Oct. 28 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

Ongoing:

Passports at the Radford Public Library

Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. The current waiting time for a passport is up to 18 weeks, so those planning overseas travel should start the process as soon as possible.

"Paper Alchemy" exhibit

Currently on display in the gallery in the Covington Center. This is an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. 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.

NRCC nurse aide program registration open

Registration is now open for New River Community College's nurse aide program that begins on Nov. 2, 2021.

The 13-week program runs from Nov. 2, 2021, through Feb. 8, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and

Thursdays in Dublin. The course also includes five clinical day sessions from 6:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021; Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021; Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021; Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, and Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021.

Upon successful course completion, students will be eligible to take the Virginia Nurse Aide State Board Exam to become a Certified Nurse Aide.

Nurse aides help patients or clients with health-care needs under the supervision of a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. They

provide hands-on care to patients, helping with bathing, dressing, and the basic activities of life. Daily activities a nurse aide might encounter include taking patients' temperature, blood pressure, and other vital signs.

The nurse aide program is eligible for tuition assistance through the G3 pro-

gram. This program provides Virginia residents who qualify for in-state tuition and whose family income falls below an identified threshold with tuition assistance. Additional financial assistance may also be available.

To register, email Ryan Adams at radams@nr.edu or call (540) 674-3600

ext. 4435.

Nurse aide is one of several NRCC FastForward programs that provide affordable, short-term training through the Office of Workforce Development. For more information about FastForward program offerings, visit <https://www.nr.edu/fastforward/>.

MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON AMENDMENT # 1 TO THE 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) seeks public comment on an Amendment to its Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan. The purpose of the Amendment is to update and expand the constrained project list because of an increase in revenue estimates. Copies of the Plan are available for review at: Planning Offices in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford, the Counties of Montgomery and Pulaski, and on the MPO website at: www.newrivervalleympo.org.

Deadline for Written Comments: October 19, 2021

The public can also speak at the MPO Policy Board Meeting November 4, 2021, 2 P.M., at the Montgomery County Government Center.

This plan is being developed in compliance with the FAST Act and its amendments (Public Law 114-94, December 4, 2015).

Questions? Contact MPO Director Dan Brugh
Phone: 540-394-2145

Email: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov

The New River Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMPPO) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Discrimination Complaint Form, email: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov or call (540) 394-2145.

Celebration of local role in American revolution set for Sunday

A public program and celebration of the role of citizen soldiers from the Virginia frontier region during the American Rev-

olution will be held Sunday, Oct. 17, at 2 p.m., one of the first in a series of events during the five-year period leading up to

the nation's 250th birthday.

The program will take place at the Crockett home farm at 847 Alleghany Spring Road in Shawsville, one mile south of Rt. 11 and 460. Turn at the Meadowbrook Community Center in Shawsville.

Volleyes will be fired by period re-enactors in honor of the 15 signers of the Fincastle Resolutions adopted Jan. 20, 1775, 18 months before the Declaration of Independence, and as a salute to the frontier soldiers who helped turn the tide of the revolution towards victory. Among these were the three sons of Joseph and Jeanne Crockett, all of who rose to the rank of colonel in the Continental Army or the Virginia Militia, and who fought in battles and skirmishes in Virginia and other states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Virginia Tech history professor Dan Thorp will speak on the 240th anniversary of the surrender of the British Army under Lord Cornwallis to

Gen. George Washington in Yorktown on Oct. 19, 1781. He will also address the significance of the Fincastle Resolutions and the perspective of the 15 local leaders who signed them in 1775.

Program participants will include Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, Fincastle Company and Fincastle Rifles re-enactors in period dress, local scout troops and the Meadowbrook Museum of History. A Virginia historic marker, titled American Revolution on the Frontier, will be unveiled. Rivermont Farm, dating from the early 1760's, will also be recognized as a Virginia Century Farm.

All who attend are asked to bring their own lawn chairs as the program will be conducted on the farm house lawn. Eastmont Community Foundation will provide refreshments following the program. Anyone wanting more information may call Mac Sammons at 336-401-2615 or George at 540-392-6280. An event flier may be obtained via email at maryhawley@aol.com.



Send community
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communitynews
@ourvalley.org

Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet transform ancestral stories into music

Two leading contemporary chamber ensembles join forces for an absorbing program highlighting the experience of migration. Transforming ancestral stories into music, the Catalyst Quartet and Imani Winds will perform “(im)migration: music of change” at the Moss Arts Center on Thursday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

“(im)migration: music of change” features music written or inspired by migrants and immigrants from the African and Latin diaspora. The evening includes Imani Winds performing an arrangement of Cuban composer Mongo Santamaria’s popular Jazz standard “Afro

Blue,” while the Catalyst Quartet performs “Negro Folksongs in Counterpoint” by Florence B. Price, the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer as well as the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

The ensembles join for “Concierto de Cámara” by American composer Roberto Sierra and “Sergeant McCauley,” a new work by composer and former Catalyst violinist Jessie Montgomery that tracks the journey of her great-grandfather during the Great Migration.

Montgomery’s “Sergeant McCauley” is inspired by personal family stories of the African-American migration during the early 1900s, around the time of World War I, from the lens of her great-grandfather. It

strings together spirituals and work songs that reflect Sergeant McCauley’s route from Mississippi to the west, then up north, and eventually back to Georgia.

The special timbral effects of this mix of strings and winds transform the stories and their reflections into music. Montgomery carries on the storytelling tradition passed on by her mother, playwright, actor, and teacher Robbie McCauley.

Members of Catalyst Quartet and Imani Winds will perform excerpts from “(im)migration: music of change” in a free school-day performance for area public, private, and homeschool students in grades 4-8 on Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 10-11 a.m.

In addition, Imani Winds will instruct Virginia Tech music students



in winds technique during a class visit while student musicians in strings and winds will have the opportunity to perform and receive coaching from members of Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet in two concurrent master

classes. Members from both ensembles will also meet with students in Virginia Tech’s two residential colleges.

Tickets for the performances are \$20-45 for the general public and \$10 for Virginia Tech

students. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center’s box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

New assistance program to help Virginia dairy farmers



Virginia’s dairy industry produces one of the commonwealth’s top commodities with recent cash receipts totaling \$290.1 million annually. Recent problems, though, have cost the state an estimated 20 percent of its dairy farms.

RICHMOND — Dairy farmers have faced a multitude of challenges in recent years, but a new reimbursement program through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is intended to help farmers in the state.

VDACS established a new reimbursement program to assist dairy producers who participate in the federal Dairy Margin Coverage Program. The new Virginia Dairy Producers Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program reimburses dairies for the premium payments they have made for the federal program at the tier 1 level.

Virginia’s dairy industry produces one of the commonwealth’s top commodities. According to 2019 U.S. Department of Agriculture data, the state’s dairy industry produced nearly 1.5 bil-

lion pounds of milk annually and had cash receipts of \$290.1 million.

However, ongoing changes in domestic demand, sharp declines in exports and the pandemic-fueled disruption of market channels and product demand during the past 16 months have exacerbated Virginia dairy farmers’ challenges, noted Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. “During that time, we’ve lost probably 20% of the state’s dairy farms.”

Banks said the new VDACS program will allow some dairy farmers, who otherwise couldn’t, to participate in DMC, the federal risk management program. “All participating dairy farmers will benefit from the financial support offered

by the commonwealth.”

Applications for the new dairy program are available now. Eligible dairy producers will receive notification of the application’s availability directly and should submit program applications to VDACS by Feb. 1, 2022. Eligible dairy farmers include those with a certified resource or nutrient management plan and those who participate in the federal DMC program at the tier 1 level.

The Virginia Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program was approved during the Virginia General Assembly 2021 special session and signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam. Program funding for the current fiscal year is set at \$1 million and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet, call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



Spruce is a younger dog at the Animal Care and Adoption Center ready to find her forever home. She can be a little shy and nervous when meeting new people and other canines. She will need a home that can provide some training and encouragement as she develops into an adult dog. Spruce is treat-motivated.



Daily tends to be more of an independent spirit. While he has lived with other cats in the past and has done fine with them, he may not be used to interaction with adult humans. Once comfortable, he doesn’t mind being petted. Daily is litter box trained.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday October 28th at 4 PM
Sweet Country Home for Sale in Floyd VA!
197 Silverleaf Lane, Floyd VA 24091

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



Property features a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch home with 1,730 sq. ft. of space on 2.03 +/- acres. The home is equipped with a heat pump, hardwood flooring, a shingle roof, brick exterior, private well and septic. The home was built in 1952 and has a full basement, detached garage, storage building, garden space, wood shed and much more! Kick back and relax on the patio space out back and enjoy the peaceful sounds of the countryside.

This property would be a wonderful family home with a few updates or great for an investment property! Purchase this sweet homestead to live your dream life, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Property is just a short 15 minute drive to the Town of Floyd VA and within 45 minutes of Roanoke VA.

Preview Date – Thursday October 21st @ 4 PM

Terms – 10% Buyer’s Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on October 28th 2021. Download Bidder Information Pack at VaAuctionPro.com

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street,
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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

OPINION

Buddy King: I am now a member of the I-Have-COVID Club

I am writing this column during quarantine because of COVID. Yes, I became a member of the way-too-large club of those who have caught the virus. Like some long ago comedian said, Groucho Marx, I think, I would never want to join any club that would have me as a member. Well, I confirmed that statement. Just as soon not be a member.

So far so good though. I'm a superstitious guy, so I don't want to jinx myself, but my symptoms seem mild. For this I am grateful to be fully vaccinated. More on that later.

The worst part of the experience to this point has been the comments from many well-intentioned but non-comforting friends and colleagues. I consider myself blessed to have many wonderful and supportive friends, and I truly appreciate their concern as well as the challenge of trying to say something that is both helpful and honest. But, but, but, I have had a few too many emails, texts, and calls where these well-intentioned folks have said things like "be careful, be smart, it's deadly, it's a killer, it changes overnight, it will sneak up on you."

Yeah, I get the seriousness, I know the tragedy of this disease. But I have lived my life as an optimist, a believer that things will go the right way. That things will work out for the best. Even when I've been wrong, my optimism has remained intact. Hey, I knew the

Sox would win a World Series in my lifetime. Now we've won four.

My comments to those who have COVID have been more along the lines of "no worries, you'll be fine, can I help with anything, let's have a beer after you can get out." Cite all the good stats, not the negative ones.

So I am in quarantine, "self-isolating." When this horrible plague first started taking charge of our lives, I heard that term a lot: "self-isolate." If you got the COVID, you would need to "self-isolate." She is "self-isolating." When I thought about it, I wondered what other kinds of isolation are there? The dictionary defines "isolate" as the act of being alone. "Self-isolate" thus seems a bit redundant. I would much prefer being able "to isolate" with my pals at our local watering hole or with my friends and colleagues at work, but it doesn't work that way. I don't think "group isolation" is what they have in mind. So it's my cat Scarlett and me, hanging out.

A cat, particularly one like Scarlett who is an extrovert, is not a bad companion to go through quarantine with. Scarlett is a tortoiseshell that I found outside my office with four very young kittens a few years ago. She was a child bride herself according to the vet, and she seems to recognize now that she has a pretty good life and seems grateful, at least as much as a cat can.

Scarlett's appearance in my life corresponded with the heartbreak

of my wife having to move into a care facility with early onset dementia. It was as if she was meant to help with the void in my life. She is still performing that function during this ordeal.

Not being familiar with torties when I rescued her (or vice versa), I did what I always do: I bought a book about them, Ingrid King's "Tortitude -- The Big Book of Cats with Big Attitudes." It is full of great quotes that seem fitting to consider when you are "self-isolating" with your cat. Here are a few that seem apropos.

"You can't look at a sleeping cat and be tense." (Jane Pauley)

"Time spent with cats is never wasted." (Colette)

"Cats are magical. The more you pet them, the longer you both live." (anonymous)

"What greater gift than the love of a cat?" (Charles Dickens)

"I meant," said Ipslore bitterly, "what is there in this world that truly makes life worthwhile?" Death thought about it. "Cats. Cats are nice." (Terry Pritchett, Sourcery)

"There are two means of refuge from the misery of life: music and cats." (Albert Schweitzer)

"There is something about the presence of a cat that seems to take the bite out of being alone." (Louis J. Camuti)

So Scarlett has been a "purrfect" companion during isolation; music, the baseball playoffs, and Scarlett on my lap have made it tolerable.

Another thing that has made this dreaded illness tolerable, and hopefully survivable, in my unsophisticated opinion, is the vaccine. I do not and will not look at vaccination as a political issue. I also don't want to insult people's religious beliefs, but it seems to be simply cold, hard science to me. Certainly there are breakthrough cases like mine; no one promised 100% effectiveness.

But the statistics overwhelmingly demonstrate that for those fully vaccinated, the chances of catching COVID are drastically reduced and those who do come down with it have significantly milder symptoms. Tellingly, the cold, hard statistics also show that the vast majority of current deaths and hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated. As my friend Tony the Bookie likes to say, "Take the dog and the points at home if getting five or more and the favorite has had a big game the week before." Go with the percentages in other words.

My father was the oldest of nine children who grew up in a hollow on the Floyd/Montgomery County line. He had a brother, John, who died at age two from the Spanish flu. My dad often talked about his brother and would say how lucky we were to live in a world that has made the medical advances we have seen. I feel fortunate, even more now that I'm in the grip of the disease, that we have vaccines available

to pull us through, to lessen the impact and the spread. Take advantage.

I am reminded of the old joke about the man who was trapped in his house during a terrible flood. A police car came by as the waters were rising in the man's yard and offered to take him to safety. The man yelled back, "God will save me, I'm staying." Later, as the flood waters encircled his house, first responders came by in a boat and asked him to jump in. Again, the man yelled, "God will save me, I'm staying." Finally, when his house was almost completely submerged, the man climbed on his roof. A helicopter came by and lowered a rope ladder to take him on board. Again, the man yells at his rescuers, "God will save me, I'm staying."

The story ends with the man drowning and standing in front of the pearly gates. He is greeted by St. Peter. The man asks, "Why didn't God save me?" St. Peter responds, "We sent a police car, we sent a boat, we sent a helicopter, what more did you want?" Help yourself, help others.

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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 Ed McMinn, *Editor*.....editor@ourvalley.org
 Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*.....communitynews@ourvalley.org
 Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*lhurst@ourvalley.org
 Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*advertise@ourvalley.org

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Virginia students outscore nation on ACT

According to information released Wednesday by the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia students outperformed their peers nationwide by significant margins this year on the American College Test (ACT) college-admissions test.

The number of high school seniors who took the ACT in the commonwealth was down by more than half compared with participation among 2020 graduates.

Nine percent of Virginia's 2021 graduates took the ACT, compared to 19% of 2020 graduates. ACT attributed the decline in participation in the state and nation to factors related to the pandemic.

The percentage of Virginia's 2021 graduating seniors who met the ACT's college-readiness benchmark

in each content area was 30 or more points higher than the percentages for graduates nationwide, with students performing as follows:

86 percent of Virginia seniors met the benchmark in English, compared with 56 percent nationwide.

75 percent met the benchmark in reading, compared with 44 percent nationwide.

68 percent met the benchmark in mathematics, compared with 36 percent nationwide.

67 percent met the benchmark in science, compared with 35 percent nationwide.

56 percent met the benchmarks in all four subjects, compared with 25 percent nationwide.

"Given the impact of the pandemic on participation, the latest

ACT results represent a snapshot of achievement during a challenging year," Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane said. "But even so, the ACT -- like the more widely taken SAT -- shows that Virginia students continue to demonstrate a much higher level of college readiness than their peers nationwide."

The college-readiness benchmarks identify students whose ACT scores indicate that they are prepared for first-year college English composition, reading, algebra, and biology. ACT results are reported on a scale of 1 to 36, with 36 being the highest score. Virginia students achieved an average composite score of 25.5, compared with 20.3 for graduates nationwide.

Norfolk, Chesapeake show up among cities with highest increase in homicide rates during COVID

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, the homicide rate is increasing rapidly in the United States, an average

of 34 percent in 50 of the most populated cities in the county between the third quarter of 2019 and the third quarter of 2021, and they are still rising.

To determine which of those 50 cities have the highest increase, WalletHub calculated the number of homicides per capita in the third quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarters of 2020 and 2019. Two cit-

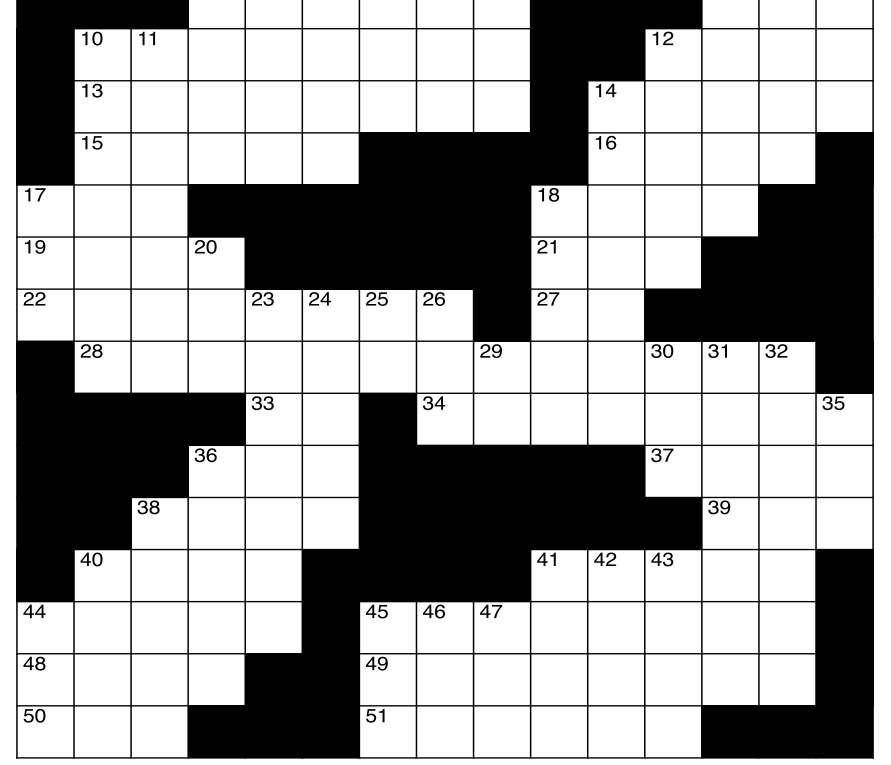
ies in Virginia -- Norfolk and Chesapeake -- wound up among the cities with the highest rate increase. Norfolk was ranked 16th, and Chesapeake was ranked 20th in the website's survey.

According to WalletHub, Atlanta had the highest increase in homicide rates in the country since COVID hit. Then came 2) Memphis 3) Chicago 4) New Orleans 5)

Baltimore 6) Indianapolis 7) Washington, D.C. 8) Detroit 9) Louisville and 10) Columbus, Ohio.

The cities with the lowest increase in homicide rates during COVID were 41) Charlotte 42) Sacramento, Calif. 43) Fort Worth 44) Omaha, Neb. 45) Seattle 46) El Paso 47) Virginia Beach 48) Anchorage 49) Chandler, Ariz. 50) Lincoln, Neb.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS
 1. Holds candles
 7. In possession of
 10. Rodents
 12. Type of cofactor (Brit. sp.)
 13. Hard candy on a stick
 14. Animal of the weasel family
 15. Things that should not be overlooked
 16. "Silence" author
 17. Dried, split lentils
 18. People native to Ghana
 19. Barros and Gasteyer are two
 21. British thermal unit
 22. Large oblong hall
 27. Ethnic group in Asia
 28. Holiday decoration</p> | <p>33. Milliliter
 34. Open
 36. Health physics concept (abbr.)
 37. Tantric meditation
 38. Where golf games begin
 39. Birth swine
 40. Rip
 41. Remove
 44. Puts together in time
 45. Rotary engines
 48. Skeletal structure
 49. Member of a labor organization
 50. Japanese classical theater
 51. Undergarments</p> <p>CLUES DOWN
 1. "Snake Tales" cartoonist</p> | <p>2. Religious group
 3. Singer Redding
 4. ___ and tuck
 5. Head honcho
 6. Second sight
 7. Composer
 8. About aviation
 9. Senior officer
 10. Forecasts weather
 11. Seasoned Hungarian soup
 12. Town in Hesse, Germany
 14. Thought to derive from meteorites
 17. Hit lightly
 18. Seemingly bottomless chasm
 20. Title of respect
 23. Warm up</p> | <p>24. Man and Wight are two
 25. Type of scan
 26. Atomic mass unit
 29. Article
 30. Incriminate
 31. Passes by
 32. Most nerve-inducing
 35. David Alan Grier sitcom
 36. Achieve
 38. Freshwater fish
 40. Beginner
 41. Dark brown or black
 42. A newlywed wears one
 43. DiFranco and Vardanyan are two
 44. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
 45. Ancient Egyptian King
 46. Old name (abbr.)
 47. Brazilian city (slang)</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

Pumpkins

from page 1

future gardening.

Ashley Edwards is the Horticulture Extension Agent for the Virginia Cooperative Extension. She serves the needs of producers including the production, harvesting, marketing, and distribution of vegetables, small

fruits, tree fruits, alternative specialty crops, and greenhouse crops. She also works with growers to assist them in attaining food safety certification such as USDA GAP and Harmonized GAP, as well as to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule.

REAL

from page 1

minors Radford University has to offer. "I've decided to minor in dance and take classes and do the things I used to do and enjoy when I was younger," Gary said with a smile.

Radford's Academic Success Center, the Center for Career and Talent Development, and many of the university's faculty took over all four floors of Young Hall Oct. 4 to give students the REAL Experience, formerly the Majors and Minors Fair. It was an event in which representatives from more than 45 academic programs were present to talk with students about exploring academic programs and student-engagement opportunities as well as majors and minors within Radford's new REAL Curriculum, which launched with the 2021 fall semester.

"Faculty from almost every major, minor, and academic program shared their passion, enthusiasm, and expertise directly with hun-

dreds of students who took the opportunity to participate in the REAL Experience," said Corey Cassidy, the executive director of the Academic Success Center and a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, who coordinated the event.

In the new REAL Curriculum, students fulfill requirements by completing majors and minors to address four knowledge areas: scientific and quantitative reasoning, humanistic or artistic expression, cultural or behavioral analysis, and applied learning. This ensures a broad and focused education that helps students succeed far into the future while also allowing students to go deeper than a traditional menu-based general education.

Instead of taking one or two classes from a set of menus, Radford students can now

NRV Master Gardener Association accepting grant applications for gardening projects

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is now accepting grant applications for Spring 2022 gardening projects.

Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, care-giving, or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery (and towns

within) are encouraged to apply.

In the past, grants have been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, other educational groups, and community gardens and nursing homes. Funding has been provided for, but not limited to, creating public gardens (vegetable and flower), raising plants for sale (4-H), composting, and purchasing plant labels and gardening tools.

The project applications will be evaluated on the following (in this order): 1. Educational value

2. Plan clarity, viability, and efficient use of funds 3. Positive environmental impact 4. Active involvement of the participants 5. Long-term maintenance, if an ongoing project.

To be awarded, the grant requirements are an itemized list of what is being requested with the associated cost, the project must be completed as submitted usually by the end of the growing season, the applicant must communicate with his or her Master Gardener liaison until the project complete, the ap-

plicant must submit receipts for the expenditures funded by the grant, the applicant must submit a project completion report with photographs at the close of the project, the applicant must be willing to give a tour or program on the project at a meeting of NRVMGA or the board.

Grants will not be awarded for labor, services or salaries. Grant recipients will be announced and the money awarded by Jan. 31, 2022.

The project must be started within three months and com-

pleted within one year of the grant receipt or the grant money shall be returned to the NRVMGA.

Grant amounts will vary depending on the number and quality of the applications received.

For more information and to submit project applications, contact Carol Truitt at 540-239-9591 or caroltruitt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but regular mail may be addressed to Carol Truitt at 95 N Surry Cir. Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Researchers identify key brain circuit regulating cocaine addiction, relapse

Relapse is a common feature of addiction recovery. Two in three patients treated for substance use disorder in the United States relapse within 12 months, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Substances of misuse hijack the brain's pleasure and reward systems, reinforcing drug-seeking behaviors by flooding the system with "feel good" chemicals, while also producing long-lasting functional changes in brain regions that regulate decisions and motivation.

Combined, these hard-wired biological changes make drug cravings harder to ignore for some, but researchers are developing new ways to prevent relapse by chemically tweaking individual components of neuronal networks, leaving the rest of the brain intact.

In new findings published in Neuron, neuroscientists at the University of California San Diego and the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC singled out the specific

brain circuit that triggers cocaine relapse in mice. When they applied a molecular brake to block activity in this circuit, the mice completely lost their previously avid interest in the drug, resuming normal behavior.

"They went back to baseline as though they never had been exposed to the drug before," said Byungkook Lim, associate professor of biological sciences at UC San Diego, and the study's lead author. "We've uncovered a hidden molecular regulator that may play a key role in understanding the tendency to relapse."

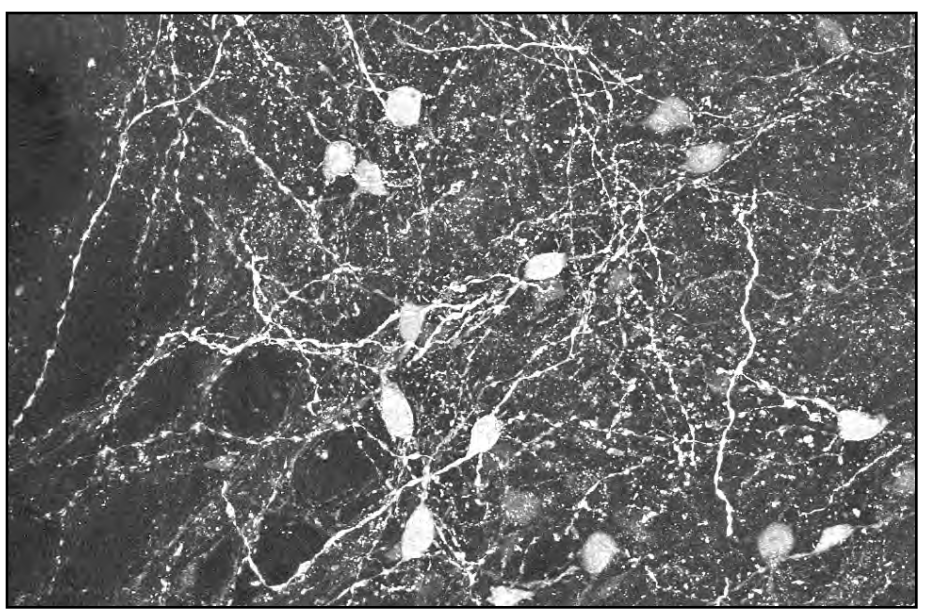
Lim said the finding expands on previous research about how substances of misuse — cocaine, alcohol, tobacco, and other illicit drugs — alter dopamine signaling pathways in the brain, contributing to addiction, a chronic condition that affects 10 percent of American adults, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The research team,

which included co-author Sora Shin, who is now an assistant professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and in the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, began the five-year study by examining changes in brain chemical levels after a prolonged period of withdrawal from cocaine.

The scientists focused on the ventral pallidum, a tiny "stepping stone" brain region that connects cortical, amygdalar, and striatal circuits, making it an anatomical hub for encoding rewards, Shin said. The researchers discovered that cells in this brain area expressed extremely high levels of a certain protein, dopamine receptor D3 (DRD3), two weeks after withdrawal from cocaine.

"This change in brain chemistry wasn't immediate," Shin said. "DRD3 production ramped up only after prolonged abstinence, which was a compelling find. This led us to ask: What cells are



When neuroscientists used a molecular brake to stop dopamine signaling in a specific brain circuit, mice previously addicted to cocaine no longer sought the drug. (Image Source: Shin Lab/Virginia Tech)

expressing this protein, and where do they connect in the brain?"

When the researchers blocked DRD3-expressing neurons connecting the ventral pallidum and lateral habenula, the mice lost complete interest in the cocaine.

Cocaine is a dopamine reuptake inhibitor, which means it floods the brain

with dopamine by inhibiting cells from reabsorbing excess dopamine. Previous studies have shown that psychostimulant drugs — such as cocaine and amphetamine — elevate DRD3 expression in several brain regions, in both humans and animals. But this study identifies a specific DRD3 circuit that appears to di-

rectly regulate relapse and drug-seeking behavior after a period of abstinence.

"More research is needed, but modulating activity in this specific brain circuit could be effective in preventing drug relapse," Lim said.

- By Whitney Slightman

Hit Broadway musical 'Waitress' on its way to Moss Arts Center

The diner is open for business with a full cast for the return of the national tour of "Waitress." The hit Broadway musical from Grammy Award-winner Sara Bareilles based on Adrienne Shelly's 2007 motion picture comes to the Moss Arts Center on Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center's

Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Meet Jenna, a waitress and expert pie-maker who dreams of a way out of her small town and rocky marriage. Pouring her heart into her pies, she crafts desserts that mirror her topsyturvy life such as "The Key (Lime) to Happiness

Pie" and "Betrayed by My Eggs Pie."

When a baking contest in a nearby county and a satisfying encounter with someone new show Jenna a chance at a fresh start, she must find the courage to seize it. Change is on the menu, as long as Jenna can write her own perfectly personal recipe for happiness.

Brought to life by a

groundbreaking all-female creative team, this hilarious hit Broadway musical features original music and lyrics by Bareilles ("Brave" and "Love Song"); a book by acclaimed screenwriter Jessie Nelson ("I Am Sam"); original choreography by Lorin Latarro ("Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and "Waiting for Godot"), recreated by tour choreographer Abbey O'Brien; and origi-

nal direction by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus ("Hair" and "Pippin"), recreated by tour director Susanna Wolk.

This performance is recommended for ages 13 and up.

Tickets for the performance are \$45 to \$90 for the general public and \$25 to \$70 for youth 18 and under. A limited number of \$10 tickets available for Virginia Tech students have

sold out. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Please note that this performance is not eligible for sale in subscription packages, and subscriber discounts do not apply to the Broadway series.



PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL.

Gabriella Marzetta as Dawn and Brian Lundy as Ogie in the national tour of "Waitress."

REAL from page 4

use their general education to acquire a depth of learning and credentials that can serve them for a lifetime.

REAL also showcases the diversity of academic experiences available to Radford students. The curriculum features majors in 43 areas of study and more than 90 minors. All Radford students can find courses of study that will ignite their passion for learning.

Many did just that through the REAL Experience.

"Radford University is an institution where faculty work directly with and connect with our students to help support their lifelong success," Hendrix said. "The REAL Experience event put that on public display as faculty and students discussed

academic program opportunities. It was so wonderful to see our students get excited about all of the learning opportunities available on our campus."

Walking on the first floor midway through the REAL Experience, sophomore Ashton Kincer looked down at the provided color-coded map displaying all the offices and academic programs represented in the building.

"There definitely are a lot of choices here," said Kincer, an allied health sciences major from Roanoke, who was in search of a minor that complemented her major but would also be enjoyable. She had narrowed her choices to women's and gender studies, communication, and psychology.

"It's great to have all of

these programs here in one place and to be able to talk to so many people at the same time," Ashton said. "I can just talk to them all in one convenient spot."

Helton agreed. "I love everything about this," she said while mulling over a decision to minor in psychology to accompany her elementary education major. Both liked the idea, too, of the new REAL Curriculum.

"I think REAL will make us into more well-rounded students," Taylor said. "I'm going to be taking nursing classes, but I get to take some fun classes, too, like dance classes. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Chad Osborne
Radford University

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Large doses of intensive therapy better for children with cerebral palsy, Virginia Tech scientists, partners find



Virginia Tech therapist and researcher Dory Wallace helps a young subject using intensive therapy that looks a lot like playtime. With games and toys, children learn to use their bodies and gain motor skills and coordination while completing fun tasks. The techniques are built on the groundbreaking research and discoveries at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute's Neuromotor Research Clinic.

Children with cerebral palsy can gain greater use of an impaired arm and hand with larger doses of Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT) without increasing stress for parents, according to a new study by researchers at Virginia Tech's Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, UVA Children's, The Ohio State University, and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The findings could have far-reaching impacts on treatment of children's movement disorders.

Scientific findings have supported the benefits of pediatric CIMT, in which a child's more functional arm and hand are constrained by a lightweight cast, a splint, or a mitt, while a trained therapist uses operant conditioning techniques individualized for each child. But little was known about whether the outcome of therapy was directly linked to the dosage of therapy or method of constraint.

Now, a study, funded by the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and published Oct. 14 in *Pediatrics*, shows that higher doses of CIMT therapy — 20 three-hour sessions over four weeks — yield significant and lasting improvement in use of their arms and hands, es-

pecially in everyday functional activities. The Children with Hemiparesis Arm-and-hand Movement Project (CHAMP) study is the first to compare different dosage levels of the same type of CIMT intervention for similar children.

The study focused on children with hemiparetic cerebral palsy (HCP), the most common childhood neuromotor disorder. Cerebral palsy affects one to four children per 1,000 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and about 40 percent of these children will develop hemiparesis — impaired voluntary control on one side of the body.

The study group included 118 children with HCP, 2- to 8-years-old, at three sites — Roanoke and Charlottesville in Virginia, and Columbus, Ohio. CHAMP randomized and assigned children to different CIMT treatment groups that varied in their dosage level (30 versus 60 hours in four weeks) and the type of constraint used (cast versus splint). These treatment groups were compared with a usual and customary treatment group, which was later offered a form of CIMT as an ethical option for study participation.

The CHAMP study found that the higher intensity therapy sessions — three

hours a day, five days a week for four weeks — significantly improved upper arm and hand abilities while a lower dosage of 30 hours per month (2.5-hour sessions, three days a week for four weeks) produced fewer gains. The children's early improvements continued for at least six months after higher-intensity CIMT.

The therapy can be life-changing for children. Kim Hindery, whose daughter, Abigail, 6, was part of the study in Ohio, witnessed a dramatic difference during and after the therapy.

"I could literally see her brain changing," Hindery said. "I'll never forgive when she looked up at her hand and goes, 'Oh!' — just mesmerized, like, 'It exists!' Being able to see a light bulb go off in your child's head that you never thought you would see go off is priceless."

The study shows parents who worried about the intensity of the therapy and use of the cast that they should have little concern. The study also unexpectedly showed that that usual and customary treatment benefited children more than it has in the past, which Landesman Ramey said should be reassuring to parents whose children receive other forms of therapy.

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.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 midweek 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, unmoveable, 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.fbcradford.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, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

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

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.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-

Radford

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

1 John 3:1-3

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10:19-23

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

oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

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.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. 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., 7p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. Sunday school at 10am; worship at 11am in the sanctuary, masked & distanced. Phone 639-2585. Watch the service live on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford. www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community & beyond. Kelsey & 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

Asselin, Antoine Tony Joseph

Antoine Tony Joseph Asselin passed away at home in Seneca, S.C., on Aug. 30, 2021, after a March 2020 heart attack. He was surrounded by his family and a warmth of love and prayers from friends along his journey.

Tony is survived by his wife of 49 years, Susan "Susie" Bastian Asselin, and daughter Katelyn Elizabeth Asselin Rieling and her husband Brett Rieling of Ball Ground, Ga.

Tony was born in Southbridge, Mass., the son of Elzear Zacharie Asselin and Lillian Josephine Gemme Asselin. He had six siblings: Andre Aslen (Jane), Lucille Hembel (Robert), Arthur Asselin (Lisa), Louise Carpenter (Steve), Lillian Cucuzza (Dave) and Lorraine Snipper (Stephen) and many nieces and nephews.

Special friends who were part of his family include Susie Wheelis and her daughters Erin Greene and Callie Davis.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Louise Carpenter, and a sister-in-law, Ming Aslen.

Tony was a CPA in Florida and Nebraska before he established a successful CPA practice in Blacksburg. He was dedicated to helping his clients while maintaining a sense of humor and loved talking and joking around. Tony enjoyed serving as an officer or board member of practically every community organization to which he belonged. He was especially proud of his service to the Habitat for Humanity of the



New River Valley and the Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club.

He described serving others as the "best work of life" and hoped he not only touched others but left things better than when he arrived.

He was an avid cyclist and recorded thousands of miles on roads and trails. Boating, fishing, hiking, photography and kayaking were his favorite ways to enjoy Lake Keowee, S.C., where he lived after his retirement. If anyone needed anything, Tony had it in his garage. He believed that it is better to have something and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

Tony would find a connection with everyone he met. His family and friends will miss his smile, his sense of humor, quick wit, ever-present whistling, hugs, and his unique giggle.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, Oct. 18, at 11 a.m. at Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley, 2551 North Main St., Blacksburg. The Rev. Jennifer Fletcher of Blacksburg United Methodist Church will officiate. Attendees may visit with the family from 10 to 11 a.m. if fully vaccinated. Otherwise, the family will visit each car at the conclusion of the service.

For the safety of the attendees, the service will be broadcast on the radio.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his memory to Habitat for Humanity of the NRV.

Barnes, Dr. Michael A.

Dr. Michael A. Barnes of Blacksburg, longtime professor and dairy cattle judging team coach in the Department of Dairy Science Department at Virginia Tech, passed away Sunday, Oct. 10, at the age of 79.

He is survived by his wife, Katharine Knowlton, his brother Peter (Linda), his son Mike (Dianna), and his grandchildren Michael and Madison. He was predeceased by his parents, his first wife Carole, his younger brother Douglas, and his son Doug.

One of Virginia Tech's most effective and well-respected professors, advisors and coaches, Dr. Barnes taught classes in dairy cattle selection, reproductive and lactation physiology, and reproductive management. His ability to teach both the "practical" and the "theory" earned him numerous teaching awards. In 2016, after 35 years of distinguished service, Dr. Barnes was named Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Barnes's impact on the dairy industry, especially in the fields of lactation and reproductive physiology, was immense, but he didn't grow up on a farm. Instead, his interest in dairy cattle was sparked as a teenager when he went to work on a nearby dairy farm. The farm wife was a great cook, and her cooking may be as responsible as anything for his career in the industry.

Mike later enrolled in the two-year agriculture program at the University of Connecticut and was nearly kicked out after setting his dorm room on fire (accidentally). Despite this, he ultimately graduated with a degree in dairy science in 1965. Barnes then enlisted in the Marine Corps and served his country in Vietnam. Upon returning home, he started a family and completed his Master's/Ph.D. degrees in reproductive



physiology at UConn.

Moving his family to Lakeville, Conn., he helped run a dairy farm with a friend for a couple of years. In 1978, Dr. Barnes was recruited by Clemson University as an Assistant Professor for their Dairy Science Department and then, in 1981, he moved to Virginia Tech.

During his career at Virginia Tech, Dr. Barnes taught, advised, or coached more than 2,000 students. His unparalleled commitment to excellence, unrelenting honesty, candor, humility, and great sense of humor made him popular among them. In four decades of dairy cattle judging team coaching, Dr. Barnes coached teams at UConn, Clemson, and Virginia Tech where he instilled in his teams not only the ability to evaluate animals, but also to develop strong decision-making and communication skills.

Mike loved his sons, his dog(s), and students who worked hard and showed up early. He rooted for the Boston Red Sox, for UConn basketball, and for any team, really, whose coach was strong, student-oriented, and inclusive. Mike also loved good food, exercising, sailing, and flying.

Above all else, Mike made you feel good when you were with him. He was tough, self-disciplined, and up-by-the-bootstraps, but also encouraging. At every turn Mike told us to "Do good." We will because he showed us what that meant. Mike Barnes will be sorely missed by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Donations in Mike's memory can be made to the Virginia Tech Foundation in support of the dairy judging team, to the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, or to the University of Connecticut 4-H Foundation.

Harkrader, Joseph Calvin

Joseph Calvin Harkrader, 46, of Radford, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021. He worked in construction as a roofer.

Survivors include his parents, Calvin Lee and Sylvia Ann Wade Harkrader of Parrott; and



his sister, Jolene Johnson of Radford.

Per his wishes, services will be private.

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

Simpson, Robert (Robbie)

Robert (Robbie) Simpson, 71, of Christiansburg, crossed over to Heaven's shores at his home on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021 surrounded by his loving and faithful caregiver/wife, Diane Huff Simpson and his family.

He was born and raised in Fries, Va., to the late Jess and Vernelle Simpson. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Lee Simpson, and his father and mother-in-law, Carlyn (Fuzzy) and Ruth Huff.

He is survived by his special son, Matt (Connie) Linkous, who helped with his care. He was the proud PawPaw to Josh (Concetta) Hancock and Brianna Hancock; and great-PawPaw (Money Man) to the joy and light of his life, Pippah and Abel Hancock. He is also survived by his brother, John Simpson; a sister-in-law, Linda Agan; special cousin, Jimmy Littreal and Barry Lyons of Galax, and Robert, David, and Larry Littreal from Tennessee.

Robbie was a special dad to his daughter and caretaker, Amy (Tim) Hedrick and his sons. Robbie was affectionately known as "Robbie Gobbler" to his golfing buddies and friends for his love of Virginia Tech football.

He was a certified welder who worked in New York; Albuquerque, N.M., and most currently, for Volvo Trucking for 30 years. He attended the Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness



Church and sang in the choir and special songs upon occasion.

Robbie will be remembered fondly by very special friends, Coach Bob and Barbara Stutzer; and friends Bobby and Vanessa Medley, Curtis Linkous, Malcolm Woolwine, Steve and Sharon Spradlin, Jesse and Pam Cantrell, Caleb Mills, Connie Flora, Sandy Belcher, Tommy and Ann Light, Charlie and Evelyn Noonkester, Don Bowman; and his special neighbor buddies, Hunter and Brody Blount.

The family would like to give special thanks to his "ice cream" girl, Clarissa Mills, Jason and Brian Mills and Kindred Hospice for all their help to Diane and Robbie during his illness.

Visitation was held on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, from 5 to 7 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at McCoy Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment followed at Belmont Cemetery.

Another celebration of his life will be held in his hometown of Fries at a later date.

In life we loved you dearly
In death we love you still.
In our hearts you hold a place
No one else can ever fill.

Hay, Kerry Lafonne

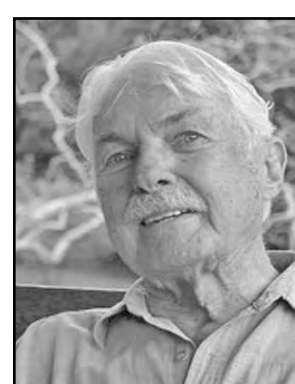
Kerry Lafonne Hay (Fonne), 89, passed away at home on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

He was born Feb. 3, 1932, on Backbone Ridge in Dickenson County, Va. He was the son of Willard and Willie Hay with siblings Theta Artrip, Janice Patton, Mack Hay and Terry Gortney. Kerry is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sula Fields Hay; daughters and sons-in-law Melissa and Chris Kile, Susan and Lyn Jordan, and Rebecca and Robert Pittard; son John Hay; granddaughters Elizabeth Metz (Scott), Anna Will (Tanner), Caroline Pittard, Rachel Robbins (Carter), and grandson Brice Reid; great-grandchildren Kile and Andrew Metz, Norah Will, and Mac Robbins, and "adopted" son, Paul Trianosky.

After graduating from Haysi High School, Kerry went into the Air Force (1949-1953) serving mostly in Japan. He enrolled in Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and completed his degree in electrical engineering in 1957. He worked at Poly-Scientific and Electro-Tec (both now part of Moog) in Blacksburg.

After retiring early, Kerry earned his auctioneer's license and formed Hay Holler Auction Sales. He ran auctions in the Blacksburg area with the help of family and friends. Kerry and Sula created a record label, Hay Holler Records, specializing in bluegrass and old-time music.

Many, many summer weekends were



spent at fiddlers' conventions in Southwest Virginia and Northwest North Carolina camping with family and friends. Kerry was a great host at Hay Holler, the home he and Sula built in the late 70s.

For almost 40 summers, friends and family gathered for a weekend of minestrone soup, sourdough bread, breakfast casseroles, roasted pig, slaw, baked potatoes, baked beans, desserts galore, biscuits and gravy, eggs and sausage, and best of all, a lot of picking way up into the early morning hours. He could often be found on the porch flat-footing with his children and grandchildren. During the past several years, he and Sula hosted a monthly porch (or kitchen) jam for the Blacksburg area old-time musicians group.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to the Good Samaritan Hospice nurses and caregivers who gave extraordinary care to Kerry and the family during this time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to Good Samaritan Hospice (1160 Moose Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073) or Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Rd, Christiansburg, VA 24073).


Please join us to celebrate Kerry's life on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Hay Holler, Blacksburg. Come and visit with family and friends. Bring your instrument and pick one more for Kerry.



Marketplace

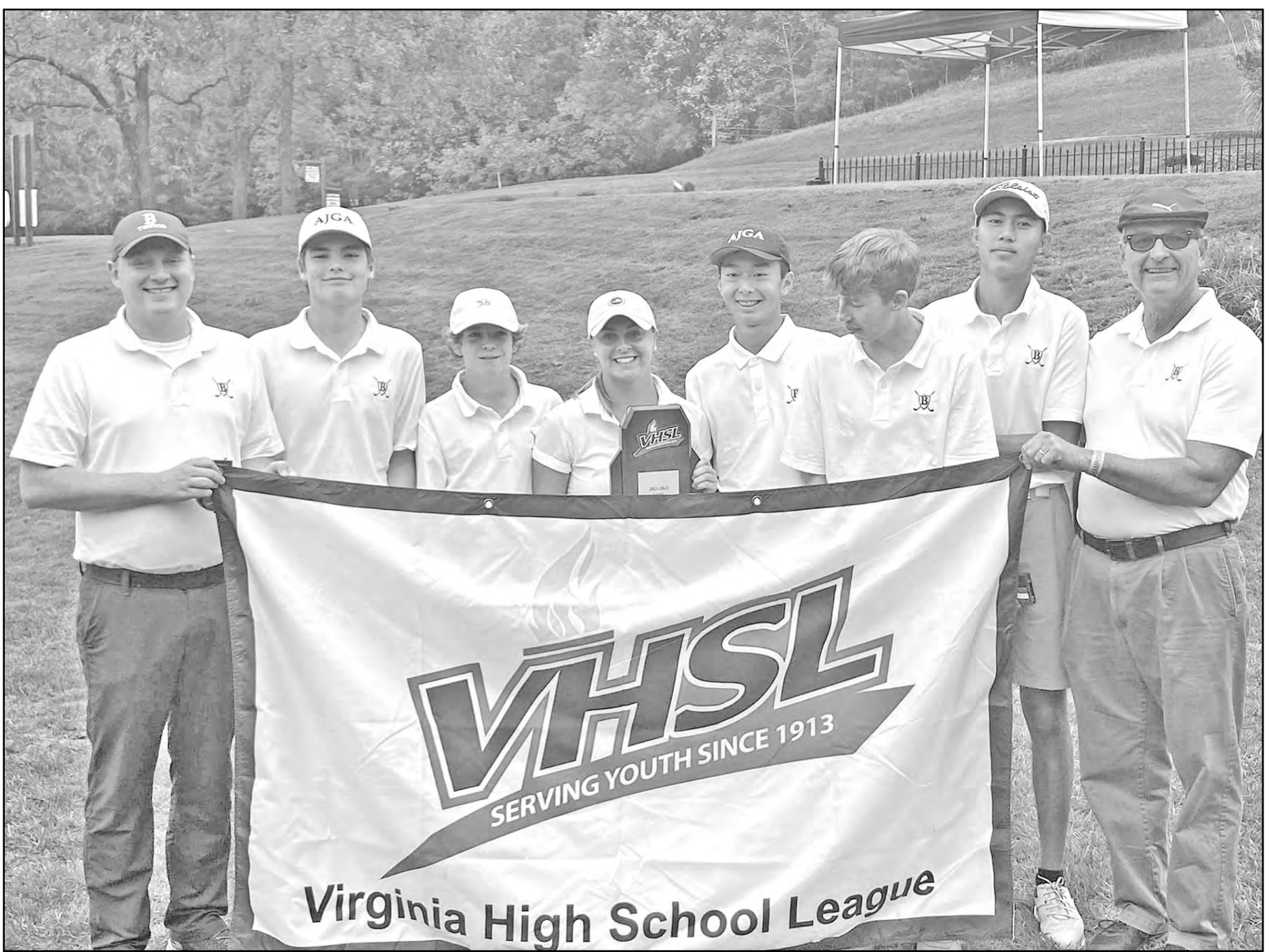


THE FINCASTLE HERALD THE Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

For Sale - Misc	Help Wanted - General	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County	Legals - Montgomery County
<p>Misc.</p> <p>Slot machine, 3 sewing machines, candy making marble slab, Store clothing racks, Boonton dinner ware, lots of golf. Workshop items: Power painter kit, Garage door openers, Ceiling fan, Bench drill 540-382-6733</p>	<p>Part Time Newspaper Production Help</p> <p>The Salem Times Register 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</p>	<p>The Montgomery Museum of Art and History</p> <p>has received notice of the award of a planning grant administered by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Montgomery Museum is seeking proposals from qualified planning and architectural firms to furnish conceptual planning and design services for a Master Plan for the rehabilitation of the building located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg, VA. 24073. For more information and to view a complete request for proposal, please visit https://montgomerymuseum.org/museum-building-rehabilitation-request-for-proposals/</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 1, 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:</p> <p>Conditional Use Permit request by MFF Holdings, LLC to allow Multifamily Dwelling District (R-3) uses in the General Business District (B-3) for conversion of a former daycare center to a multifamily use with seven (7) apartments on</p>	<p>property located at 95 Patricia Lane, Tax Map No. 501-((1))-26B, Parcel ID 180188, 0.928 Acre. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. 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 Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at</p>	<p>(540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.</p>
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.</p>	<p>ADVERTISE!</p>	<p>BAG</p>  <p>A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!</p> <p>To place your ad, call 389-9355</p>			
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RADFORD SPORTS

Blacksburg wins state Class 4 golf championship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blacksburg High School's golf team shot a 285 Tuesday in Abingdon to win the Class 4 state championship. Pictured left to right are Coach Scott Whyte, Jake Albert, Pierce Campbell, Samantha Skinner, Sean Ruan, Eli Haile, David Zhang, and Coach Rick Mattox. Freshman Albert took medalist honors with a 5-under par 67. Zhang finished with a 74 while Ruan had a 74 and Skinner a 77. Jamestown finished second in the team competition at 298, and Great Bridge third with a 309.

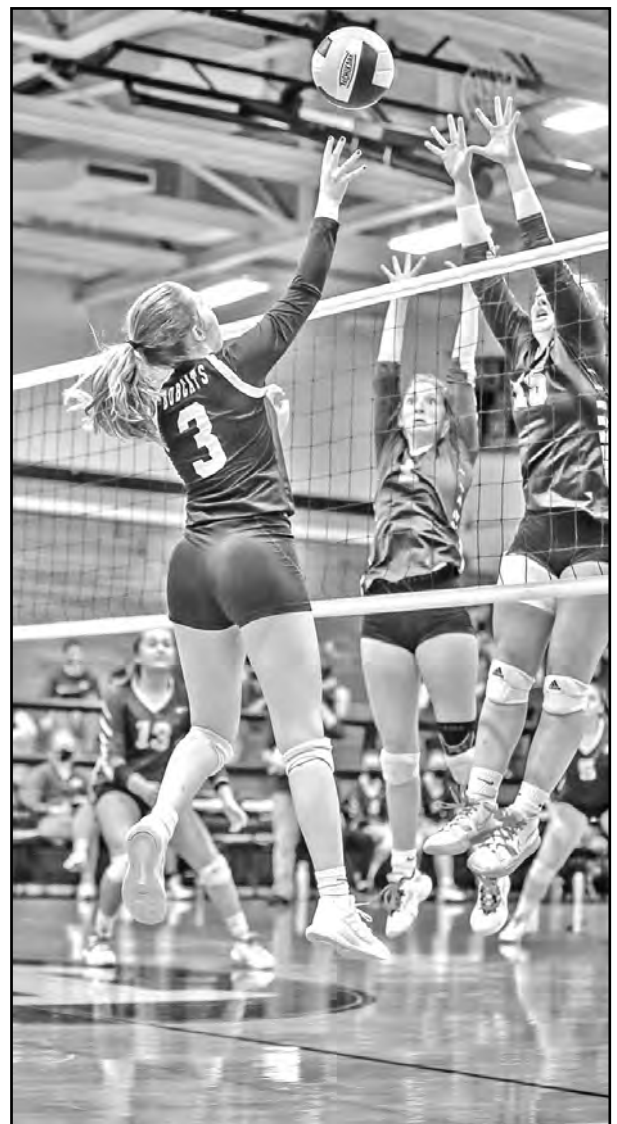
Glenvar downs Radford in volleyball



Radford's Autumn Howard passes the ball to a teammate. She had 11 digs in the contest.



Laney Cline goes up for a kill shot against Glenvar. The Highlanders defeated the Bobcats 25-15, 25-14, 25-17 Tuesday night. Cline finished with 11 kills and eight digs.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford's Karlee Hill uses finesse to tip the ball over two defenders. The Bobcats are now 7-6 on the season.

Narrows volleyball beats Eastern Montgomery



Senior Skyann Holloway spikes the ball for Eastern Montgomery against Narrows. On Senior Night for the Mustangs, Eastern Montgomery lost in three close games to the visiting Greenwave 26-24, 25-23, 25-22.



Mustangs Lilly Underwood (left) and Laken Smith team up to block a Narrows hit during Wednesday night's match.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Eastern Montgomery's Morgan Bahnken receives a Narrows serve during Wednesday's three-set loss to the visitors.

Tech quarterback room to honor Arians

Former Virginia Tech quarterback and current Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Bruce Arians and his wife, Christine – both of whom are Virginia Tech graduates – have made a substantial and impactful commitment to the Virginia Tech Football Enhancement Fund.

This gift represents another notable investment in the Reach for Excellence capital fundraising campaign that aims to raise \$400 million to fund major initiatives within Virginia Tech Football and Virginia Tech Athletics.

“Virginia Tech football is a special brotherhood, and creates a bond for all Hokies,” Arians said. “I’m not able to get back to campus very often, but I have and will continue to wear the VT proudly supporting our program. Blacksburg is such a special town and an amazing place to develop as a college football player. It’s my hope that this gift provides the opportunity for our program to continue to strive for excellence, developing these student-athletes both on and off the field.”

To honor the Arians’ generous contribution to Virginia Tech Football, the quarterback meet-

ing room will now be known as the Bruce Arians Room. The room, which is used daily by Tech student-athletes and coaches, is located in the Meryman Athletic Center within Michael Vick Hall.

Arians played quarterback for Tech from 1971-74 and started his coaching career in Blacksburg as a graduate assistant (1975-76) and running backs coach (1977) for the Hokies. As a player, Arians rushed for 11 touchdowns during the 1974 season, a Tech quarterback record that stood for over 40 years until Jerod Evans surpassed it with 12 rushing touchdowns in 2016.

“Over the years I’ve tried to stay as connected as possible both with the program and Coach Fuente,” he continued. “I’m encouraged by the trajectory of the program and trust that under his leadership we can get back to competing for championships. I also hope that many more of my fellow Hokie football alums find a way to reconnect and give back to the program that means so much to us.”

A two-time Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year with Indianapolis (2012) and Arizona (2014), Arians guided Tampa

Bay to a 31-9 win over Kansas City in Super Bowl LV. A three-time World Champion, Arians also earned a Super Bowl XLIII ring as offensive coordinator for Pittsburgh and served as the Steelers wide receivers coach en route to their Super Bowl XL victory.

“As we continue with our Reach for Excellence comprehensive campaign, it is encouraging to see such a former Hokie student-athlete give back to ensure the best experience for our current and future football student-athletes,” said Tech Director of Athletics Whit Babcock.

“Virginia Tech made a tremendous impact on his life and career. He is a Hokie to his core. We are proud of him and incredibly grateful for his generosity,” Babcock said. “Coach Arians is such a renowned figure in the National Football League, the best of the best, and we are so happy to have him supporting our vision to continue the march forward from a challenger to a champion brand.”

Among the many notable stops in Arians’ coaching career, he served as running backs coach for Paul “Bear” Bryant at Alabama (1981-82) before serv-



Former Virginia Tech quarterback and current NFL coach Bruce Arians and his wife, Christine, have made a generous contribution to his alma mater.

ing as head coach at Temple (1983-88). He then accepted his first NFL assignment as running backs coach for Marty Schottenheimer and the Kansas City Chiefs (1989-92).

“It’s definitely appropriate that our quarterbacks will meet in the Bruce Arians Room going forward,” VT head coach Justin Fuente said. “First and foremost, thanks to Bruce and Chris for their continued support of Virginia Tech and Tech Football. They share a great passion for their alma mater, and

it was wonderful to host their family at our Middle Tennessee State game earlier this year. Bruce’s accomplishments as a football coach are well documented, and I’ve enjoyed developing a relationship with him during my time in Blacksburg.”

Throughout his NFL coaching career, Arians has developed a well-deserved reputation for elevating the performance of his quarterbacks. That illustrious list includes Peyton Manning, Ben Roethlisberger, Carson Palmer, and Tom Brady.

Outdoor report: The rut is on

The rut, or breeding season, is the most hectic time of year for elk. Passing on genes to the next generation is the most important aspect of a wild animal’s life, and elk are no exception.

At this point in the season, the mature bulls (adult males) have already assembled their family groups, called harems, which include multiple cows (adult females) and their young. Watching these groups on the elk cam reveals some key breeding behaviors in action.

Bugling
The most prominent behavior is bugling by bulls, a mating call that is so loud that it can be heard from a mile away. Bugles serve several purposes: It advertises the bull’s fitness and availability to attract cows for mating, it warns other bulls to stay away, and it announces a bull’s readiness to fight another bull.

Fighting
If a bull’s bugle elicits another bull to bugle back and accept the challenge, the two elk will move toward one another. Locking antlers, the bulls push against each other until one submits and retreats.

Intimation Tactics
Defending the right to breed can be a costly endeavor, so bulls typically try providing multiple subtle clues or hints (referred to as intimation tactics) before resorting to fighting. Intimation tactics could include rubbing/shredding trees, thrashing the ground and surrounding vegetation, and bluff charging.

Bulls will intentionally tangle vegetation or branches in their antlers to make themselves appear larger than they really are.

Wallowing
Another behavior that bulls will engage in during the rut is wallowing. A wallow is a pond, wetland, spring, seep, or mud hole where bulls choose to take a bath in mud and urine. The mud and urine mixture in combination with

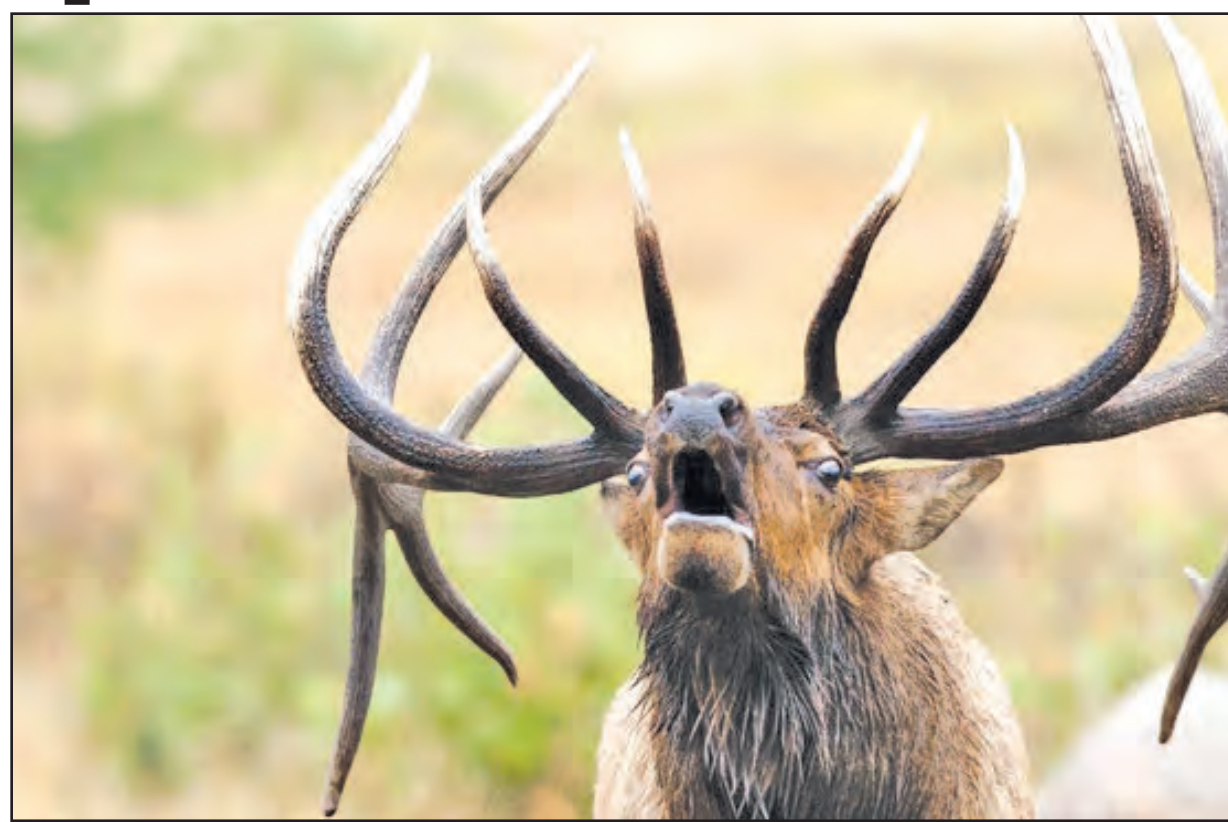
bugling is very attractive to cows. If a bull on camera has dark mud stains on its legs and underside, it was probably just wallowing.

Only the largest, most mature bulls (usually between six and 10 years old) will successfully establish a harem and fight to defend it. All of this action can be seen on the state’s elk cam throughout the rut, which will continue through the end of October.

Between 2012 and 2014, a total of 71 adult elk and four calves (born during the restoration) were relocated into Buchanan County, Va., from Southeast Kentucky. By September 2020, Virginia’s restored elk herd was estimated at more than 250 individuals.

For those who cannot travel to the far reaches of Virginia, the Department of Wildlife Resources has worked with sponsors to establish a live broadcast of some hot spots within the elk range.

Nestled among the mountains of the Cumberland Plateau in Bu-



A bull elk bugling during one of its appearances in Southwest Virginia.

PHOTO BY MATT KAMINSKI

chanan County, an elk viewing area with three wildlife viewing stations overlooks nearly 400 yards of restored grassland habitat surrounded by woodland edges.

- - By Jackie Rosenberger and Jessica Ruthenberg

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TIP AMENDMENT

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The amendment is to modify funding for Blacksburg Transit and New River Valley Community Services. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org



Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 19, 2021.

The public can also speak at the November 4, 2021 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTY 711.

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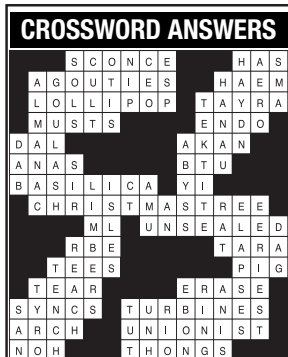
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