



Saturday, January 8, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00



The red-spotted newt, seen here in its Red Eft stage, is one of the many subjects of Frank Taylor's Nature at your Door YouTube channel.



Frank Taylor, right, and his nature assistant Zane explain characteristics of Queen Snakes during a Nature at Your Door video.

'Nature at Your Door' YouTube channel approaches one million views

Heather Bell
communitynews@ourvalley.org

When schools closed for the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, retired Radford High School biology teacher Frank Taylor started producing Facebook Live videos featuring different subjects from the local natural world. After six months on the Facebook platform, Taylor launched Nature at Your Door, a YouTube channel that con-

tinued his mission of "engaging children and families in learning about Nature/Biology/Life science that is just outside your door," Taylor says on his channel. Taylor, who has been an educator for 40 years, says his videos are designed to be fun and engaging but also to teach some serious science. Subjects include everything from the origin of the use of Frasier Firs as Christmas trees to red-backed salamanders, black snakes versus rattlesnakes, assassin beetles, lady bugs,

fungi, and more. "My videos are created to inspire and stimulate curiosity and discussion between children, families, and teachers," he said. Recently, Taylor received his official congratulations from YouTube for reaching 10,000 subscribers, and now he has surpassed 12,000 subscribers and is close to reaching one million views on his 160-plus videos. He said the experience has been life-changing and enrich-

ing. "I have made new friends and message with people from around the world every day," he said earlier this week. "I respond personally to every single comment I get and answer every question to the best of my ability." "I like thinking this is my new classroom, beyond the confines of public school cinder block walls," he said. "It

See **Nature**, page 4

New book on first-generation professionals in higher education features Radford U VP and former president

A new book about first-generation professionals in higher education features the writing of Patricia "Tricia" Smith, Radford University associate vice president for student life, and former Radford University president Brian O. Hemphill. The two co-wrote the final chapter, "Pathways to Senior Leadership" of "First-generation Professionals in Higher Education: Strategies for the World of Work," a book recently released by The Center for First-generation Student Success. The book investigates the complexities related to the transition from college or professional school to the work world of higher education, as well as the advancement from mid- to senior-level leadership, and how first-generation professionals navigate these transitions. "The narrative of first-generation



Patricia "Tricia" Smith
students is just beginning to emerge as a story of resilience and persistence

See **New book**, page 4



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Long Way Brewing supports Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread

Radford Fairlawn Daily Bread (RFDB) Director Gretchen Dee (left) receives a check from Long Way Brewing Taproom Manager Nicole Barnett (right) recently outside the brewery. Long Way Brewing, which is located in the same historically renovated building as RFDB, regularly donates to the food outreach program by asking customers to "round up" their bill. RFDB has been providing a hot lunch-time meal Monday through Friday to hungry people for 30 years and to Meals on Wheels recipients since 2006.

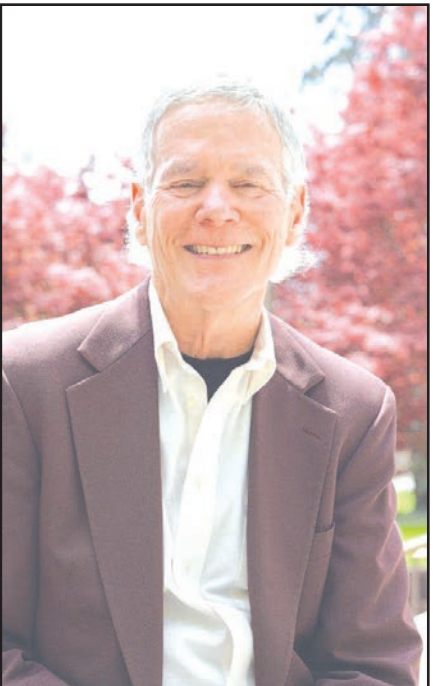
Food City recognizes Radford associate Angel Grubbs for outstanding volunteerism

In keeping with its annual recognition of outstanding volunteerism among its associates through its Claude P. Varney Volunteer Recognition Program, Food City has recognized associate Angel Grubbs as the outstanding volunteer from the Radford store for her months of outstanding volunteerism with the Three Strand Wesleyan Church. "As a company, we strive to maintain a high level of dedication to service, quality, value and community involvement while providing a work environment that enables our associates to grow both personally and professionally as successful members of the team," said Steven C. Smith, Food City's president and chief executive officer. Following his attendance at a June 2002 White House meeting geared toward boosting national volunteerism through corporate support, Smith administered the creation of Food City's Claude P. Varney Volunteer Recognition Program in memory of their former president and board vice-chairman. Throughout his 47-year career, Varney brought a great deal of foresight and knowledge to Food City and the grocery industry as a whole but was most noted for his tremendous compassion and humanitarian services. "Many of our associates volunteer their time and talents to numerous service organizations throughout the areas in which we operate, and we feel it's needful to recognize the valuable

services and support they provide," said Smith. Each year, special committees are established to review associate volunteer activities and select individual award recipients based on outstanding achievement in the areas of health, education, environment, cultural arts, recreational, heritage/history, and public service. Store winners then move on to compete at district level. Twelve district winners are recognized with an award and a \$250 contribution to their choice charity. Two divisional winners are then chosen and honored with a plaque and a \$750 charity contribution. And finally, one overall winner is selected to receive the prestigious Claude P. Varney Humanitarian Award and be publicly recognized for their outstanding achievements in addition to a \$1,250 charity contribution made on their behalf. "We're extremely proud of the difference our associates make through their many humanitarian contributions. Our company is wholly committed to providing exceptional service to the citizens and communities in which we operate and ensuring our associates have the support they need to become the best corporate citizens possible," said Smith. Headquartered in Abingdon, Va., K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City's parent company) operates 138 retail outlets throughout Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, North Georgia, and Alabama.

Virginia Tech psychologist offers three questions to keep anger in check as COVID-19 drags on

Virginia Tech psychologist offers three questions to keep anger in check as COVID-19 drags on. It is likely an unanswerable question. Likewise, it is probably also impossible to gauge whether people are collectively angrier today than in the past, but E. Scott Geller, a longtime professor of psychology, says our shared circumstances, especially related to the COVID-19 pandemic, play a major role in the current prevalence of the feeling. "We've been very frustrated," said Geller. "When we get into routines, we can predict what is happening. It's the perception of control. When you change the context in which we live, that can get frustrating, and frustration leads to aggression." An Alumni Distinguished Professor since 2005, Geller is in his 52nd year as a teacher and researcher in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech. He also serves as director of the Center for Applied Behavior Systems. He has authored, coauthored, or edited 51 books, 88 book chapters, 39 training manuals, 272 magazine articles, and over 300 research articles addressing the development and evaluation of behavior-focused interventions to improve human welfare



E. Scott Geller has been a VT Alumni Distinguished Professor since 2005. "A face mask certainly decreases a sense of social or interpersonal connection, and social support is key to subjective well-being," he says in discussing ways to keep COVID-19-related anger in check.

See **Questions**, page 4

Now through Jan. 21:

Now through Feb. 1:

Now through Feb. 28:

Monday, Jan. 10:

Tuesday, Jan. 11:

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 attend. The guest speaker will be Scott Gardner of the Glencoe Museum, who will give a talk on Gen. Gabriel Wharton. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wednesday, Jan. 12:

Thursday, Jan. 13:

Saturday Jan. 15:

Caturday
At the Christiansburg Library;
noon to 1 p.m. Sign up at the front

Monday, Jan. 17:

Tuesday, Jan. 18:

Wednesday, Jan. 19:

at 10:30 p.m. This course will cover accessing and utilizing library databases from computers, smartphones, and tablets. Databases include the library digital collections, genealogy and research, career resources, and resources for kids.

ment at www.redcrossblood.org. The

Thursday, Jan. 20:

Saturday Jan. 22:

Sunday, Jan. 23:

years and up are welcome to sharpen their chess skills. Supplies are provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Tuesday, Jan. 25:

All supplies are provided, and this is a free event. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Spaces are limited so pre-registration is required.

Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is "Trail of Lightning" by Rebecca Roanhorse.

Wednesday, Jan. 26:

able Blacksburg is making a January listening session an annual tradition to keep building on its progress and to incorporate new ideas for the new year. In person or via Zoom by registering at <https://go.mfurl.org/BB012622>.

Learn how to shut off water valves in
See **Tips**, page 4

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Alumnus and engineer collaborate on 3D printing to advance microfluidic systems at Virginia Tech

A collaborative project to 3D-print medical devices that was made possible by Virginia Tech's strong network of trailblazers could open doors to bioinnovation now that it has received federal funding.

Virginia Tech researchers, students, and an alumnus will be exploring microfluidics with the help of grant money from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which operates under the National Institutes of Health.

Microfluidic devices are like the test tubes of the digital age, facilitating the development of next-generation therapeutics and diagnostic breakthroughs, according to Phase Inc., a 3D-printing company based in Charlotte and a collaborator on this project. Virginia Tech alumnus Jeff Schultz, who earned his Ph.D. in materials engineering in 2003, is CEO and co-founder of the company. Microfluidics provide the backbone for organ-on-a-chip and human-on-a-chip platforms, which simulate a true biological environment where scientists can study and identify treatments for medical issues. The market for microfluidic devices is currently valued at \$17 billion worldwide and is projected to grow exponentially as their use in point-of-care medicine and diagnostics increases, according to market research and Phase Inc.'s analysis.

In this project, Schultz and his company will create the microfluidic devices. Rafael Davalos, the L. Preston Wade Professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics, will design and test the devices in his laboratory, the Bioelectromechanical Systems Laboratory.

Davalos and his students will design

the microfluidic devices for a number of applications, ranging from rare cell isolation to modeling of the blood-brain barrier.

Josie Duncan, a doctoral student in Davalos's laboratory who is originally from Charlotte, will be involved in the research to test device properties that enable particles to be manipulated using electrical frequencies. Microfluidics allows researchers to test things on the cell-scale, which increases the accuracy and miniaturizes the process, resulting in a smaller footprint and cheaper cost, Duncan said.

"I'm excited to be a part of pioneering a new method of 3D printing designed specifically for microfluidics," said Duncan, who received her master's in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech. "I'm hopeful for the innovative designs we can create now that 3D structures are feasible."

Edward Jacobs, of Virginia Beach, also a doctoral student in Davalos' lab, will test the blood-brain barrier. This semipermeable border of endothelial cells presents a significant hurdle in developing drugs to treat brain cancer. Together, Jacobs and Davalos aim to demonstrate the ability to incorporate a human brain's endothelial cells – single-layer cells that line blood vessels and regulate exchanges between the vessels and surrounding tissue – into a microfluidic device to simulate the barrier.

"Having diagnostic or electrical devices embedded into 3D-printed microfluidic devices has the potential to expand the possibilities of chip design, and in turn, open the doors to new applications not previously possible in 2D structures," Davalos said. "Changing the way these

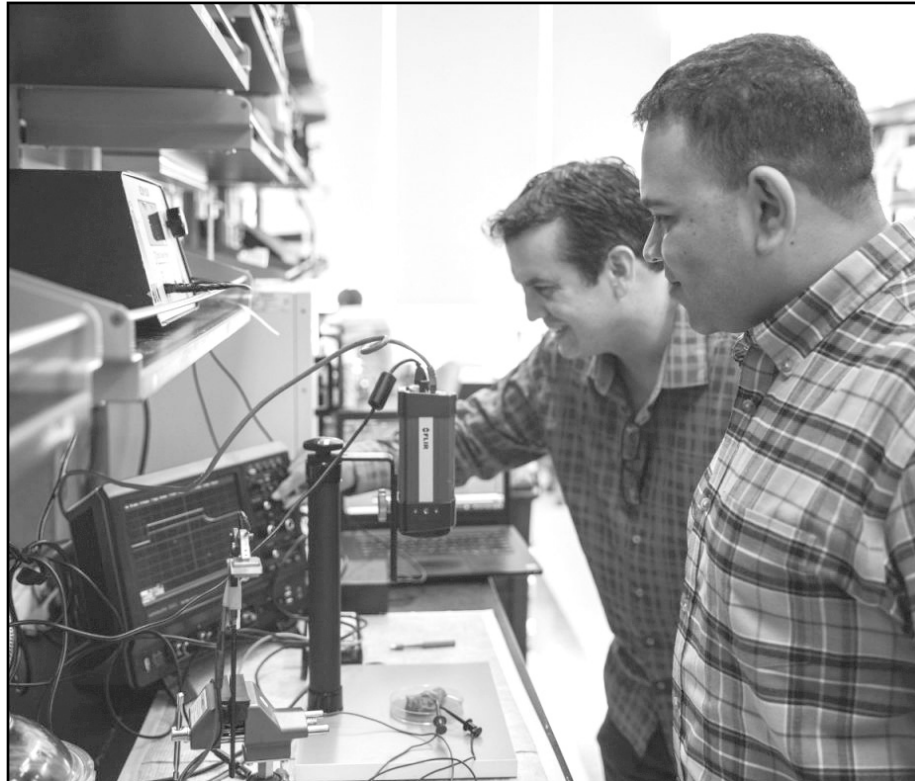


PHOTO BY SPENCER ROBERTS OF VIRGINIA TECH

Rafael Davalos conducts research in microfluidics and the development of technology for cancer treatment. He said he enjoys mentoring students throughout the research projects in his lab.

tools are created could open new avenues for research and new discoveries."

Phase's 3D-printing platform will allow researchers and potentially the industry to quickly design and create microfluidics in a matter of hours – as opposed to the days or weeks it now takes to deliver a product. Phase will incorporate small and integrated channels that allow lab-on-a-chip microfluidics to move from 2D to 3D structures, a novel process that allows for smaller and more

complex designs that were previously unobtainable.

Schultz said the company is excited to help develop a 3D-printing platform for microfluidics that can speed the process of medical research, drug discovery, and personal health diagnostics. Furthermore, this emerging field represents significant commercial opportunity, according to the NCATS scientific review panel that reviewed and processed the grant.



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U.S. farmers have until January 24 to respond to Dept. of Agriculture survey

In preparation for the 2022 Census of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service is now mailing the National Agricultural Classification Survey to American farmers.

The survey, which is expected to reach over 1 million agricultural producers, will ask recipients if they are involved in agricultural activities and for basic information about their farms. The deadline to respond to the survey is Jan. 24.

"NACS plays an integral role in

getting a complete count of U.S. agriculture," said Barbara Rater, NASS census and survey division director. "It is one of the most important early steps to determine who should receive next year's Census of Agriculture questionnaire. Every response to NACS is vital."

Since 1974, USDA has defined a farm as any place where \$1,000 or more in agricultural products are produced or sold throughout a calendar year. Rater explained the definition is not determined by size, type, or loca-

tion, and examples of modern farms can range from an urban rooftop garden to large fields of corn.

"Our mission is to give every U.S. producer the opportunity to share their voice in the ag census," she said.

A response to the NACS is required by law for all recipients even if they are not active farmers or ranchers. The questionnaire may be completed online or by mail.

Data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture will formally begin in November 2022.

New master's program in reputation management offers real-world experience

Cory Van Dyke
Staff Writer

Corporations and other organizations across the country face hard decisions and crises on a daily basis, and that's why professionals trained in the area of reputation management are always needed.

Enter the School of Communication's M.A. program and its reputation management major. Reputation management was added as a major for master's students in the fall of 2020. Since then, this two-year program has benefited students seeking training in public relations management in a variety of sectors, including corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors.

"Reputation is a business asset grounded in how people perceive organizational actions," said Cayce Myers, director of graduate studies in the School of Communication. "Our M.A. program equips graduates to advise corporate leaders on how to act in ways that are consistent with business objectives and that key constituents will accept and respect. Strategic communication about those authentic actions then influences public perceptions of the organization and enhances its business success."

For master's students Madilynne Tanner and Emma Pendleton, the

Reputation Management program was an unexpected treasure.

Tanner and Pendleton both graduated from the School of Communication in 2020 with degrees in public relations. They each intended to continue their academic careers in the communication major of the M.A. program. When they learned about the new Reputation Management program, switching was a no-brainer.

"It came at a perfect time," Tanner said. "Reputation Management appealed to me because of how applicable it was. I feel energized with the work I'm doing in the program. I love all the real-world experience I'm getting because my goal is to go into the industry."

The program supplements its coursework with a hands-on project at the end of the students' second year. Those projects vary from industry reports to fully designed and implemented public relations campaigns.

Tanner geared her courseload toward a corporate communication and crisis communication focus. Her final project is crafting a public relations campaign for The Shops of South Hill, a merchants' association in her hometown.

"It's like I'm a practitioner being able to do a campaign for a client," Tanner

said. "I'm hoping to bring The Shops of South Hill a stronger internal communication structure. They are an energized group, but after COVID, participation started to dwindle, as they weren't able to have meetings. They want to get their membership involved again, and they just need to communicate better internally."

Meanwhile, Pendleton knows she wants to work abroad in international public relations, so she tailored a cognate in this area by taking public policy and history courses.

For her project, Pendleton is producing an industry paper investigating the "Stop Asian Hate" movement. The spotlight shifted toward Asian hate in the months following the start of the pandemic.

Ajinomoto, a Japanese



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Madilynne Tanner (left) and Emma Pendleton, both master's students in the School of Communication, are set to graduate in the spring with the new reputation management major.

food and beverage company, launched a "Take Out Hate" campaign in response to this movement.

"They encouraged Americans to order takeout from local Asian restaurants in their area through the hashtag #TakeOutHate on social media," Pendleton said. "I'm going to analyze the press releases and how the news media framed the issue. From there, I'm going to talk about lessons learned. I'll create a deliverable that can be released to other PR practitioners if they want to make a pur-

poseful campaign so they can tailor it to the unique story of Asian Americans."

There's an even deeper motivation for Pendleton's project.

"I'm Asian American myself," Pendleton said. "It was the first time I saw a movement that was focused on the Asian American and Pacific Islander narrative because the perspective and our narratives are so different. It's different for Blacks, it's different for Hispanics, different for different races. It was the first time having a movement that was focused

on something I know so well. I was curious whether, through an academic lens, it was effective. Was it even worth people's time?"

The Reputation Management program continues to evolve and grow on both the Blacksburg and Falls Church campuses. Myers noted that the goal is to see an increasing number of alumni in the communication industry over the next several years.

For the time being, the program is already having a profound impact on its students.

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LewisGale Hospital Pulaski adds adult substance use outpatient program

LewisGale Hospital Pulaski has announced the addition of an adult substance use intensive outpatient program, an outpatient service for patients who are experiencing impairment in social, occupational, or family functioning due to substance use that requires intensive and structured intervention. “Our program is designed to help patients who may be experiencing behavioral or emotional difficulties related to substance use,” said program director Leigh Gathings. “The programming maintains group sessions at the core, but also includes special events and opportunities for patients to practice self-sufficiency behaviors.” Patients enrolled in the program can expect patient-centered goal-setting and treat-

ment planning; group, individual, and family interventions; life skills practice opportunities; evidence-based recovery model; and continuum of care. “Our interdisciplinary treatment team has developed a program that integrates approaches supported by the latest clinical research and practices,” said Sean Pressman, chief executive officer of LewisGale Hospital Pulaski. “These program enhancements will continue to provide the safe, therapeutic environment to our patients in Southwest Virginia.” Located at 2400 Lee Highway, Pulaski, the adult substance use program operates Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. Additional days and hours will expand as the program evolves.

Nature

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is such a privilege to me to meet and interact with people around the world. The comments have been overwhelmingly positive. I still can’t get over or comprehend people thanking me for sharing and making videos. I can’t even articulate how much that means to me.” The YouTube platform has given him worldwide reach. “I have heard from indigenous peoples inside the Arctic Circle, compared centipedes with folks in Nigeria, discussed harvesting stink bugs to eat in India, Osage Orange occurring in Australia, water conservation in Kenya, and so much more on a daily basis,” Taylor said. “It’s incredibly rewarding and fascinating and enriching for me.”

Comments from subscribers show how much the channel means to viewers. “This is my first video of yours that I’ve watched,” wrote one commentator. “I love how you really dive into what you are focusing on and help explain as much as you can where anyone can understand. You keep your audience engaged. I would have loved to have you as a teacher in high school or a professor in college.” “Thank you for this wonderful, educational video,” wrote another. “You do a great job bringing your passion and enthusiasm to all your videos. I would love to learn more about subjects like this. Maybe invasive species and what we can do about them. Thank you again for

what you do.” “I loved your intro,” said another subscriber. “Your smile can light up a room. I enjoyed learning from you.” The channel even has Nature at Your Door merchandise, or “merch” as it is called colloquially, including T-shirts, mugs, sweatshirts, hats, and tote bags. Taylor said these days, “When I find something new, I can’t wait to complete the video and tell the story. Best of all, I am doing and sharing what I love most – nature.” Taylor’s YouTube channel can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fvx_fwuQ2E or by logging into YouTube and searching: ‘Nature At Your Door Frank Taylor.’

Questions

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and life satisfaction. Not only have many people’s routines been altered by COVID-19, Geller also believes the necessity of wearing face coverings when around others indoors has also had an impact. This combined frustration can lead to aggression and then to negative actions. Social media have provided a somewhat consequence-free way for people to both negatively use that aggression, while also fueling more of it. “In the good old days, if you had something negative to say, you had to say it to others to their face. And that prevented us from saying certain things,” Geller said. “We don’t have to be held accountable for our nega-

tive comments and that promotes more negative comments. People who join us and say, ‘yeah, I felt the same thing,’ and all the sudden we feel a sense of solidarity with the negativity.” Geller also believes our circumstances are further compounded with a general lack of trust many people experience in our society. “How many phone calls do we get, ridiculous calls, about someone using your credit card or this or that? What does that do to our consciousness and our idea of interpersonal trust?” he said. “All of this helps create a lack of empathy and ultimately, has led us to becoming very self-serving

and independent,” Geller said. So, what can individuals do to curb angry feelings? Geller said a good place to start is by individuals’ reestablishing a sense of empowerment. He suggests asking yourself three questions about any upcoming, potentially stressful task: Do I believe I can do this? And if not, what training do I need to be able to do this? Do I believe this behavior will help make a difference and bring about some ultimate goal or vision? Do I believe the outcome is worth the effort? During any task, project, or goal, he suggests taking time to reflect on each bit of progress. “Don’t just celebrate the achievement, celebrate the steps to achievement. The small victories,” Geller said. When dealing with others, as well as behaviors that might be causing friction, he suggests exploring the motivations and intentions behind behaviors and developing a focus on connectivity and community. “The best you can ever be is not to be self-actualized, but self-transcendent in that you go beyond yourself for someone else,” Geller said. “If we can move from valuing independence to interdependence, if we develop the mindset that nobody can do it alone, we’re going to be nicer, kinder.”

Tips

from page 4

case a pipe bursts. Have additional heat sources on hand in case of a power outage. Keep a fire extinguisher accessible. Replace the batteries in your Carbon Monoxide detector annually. PREPARE YOUR CAR Batteries lose power as temperatures drop,

be sure to have yours tested. Check your car’s antifreeze level. Have your radiator system serviced. Replace your car’s windshield wiper fluid with a wintertime mix. Proactively replace your car’s worn tires and wiper blades. To help with visibility, clean off your car entirely

– including your trunk, roof, windows and headlights. DID YOU KNOW? Dehydration can make you more susceptible to hypothermia. If it’s too cold for you, it’s too cold for your pet! Don’t leave pets outside for prolonged periods of time and have plenty of fresh, unfrozen water on hand. Each year, snow, sleet,

slush and/or ice on the road leads to approximately: 537,000 crashes, 136,000 injuries, and 1,800 deaths. It can snow at temperatures well above freezing. Temperatures do not have to be below zero degrees to cause harm. For more information and to download an emergency kit checklist online at www.vaemergency.gov.

New book

from page 1

framed in strength and asset-based language,” said Dr. Mary Blanchard Wallace, assistant vice president for student experience at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the book’s primary author. “Professionals identifying

as first-generation college students have always known this, but the story has often been told using deficit language. Each contributor in this book shares the first-generation professional identity, and I am so proud of the narratives we were able to capture and elevate.” The fifteen contributors to the book approach topics of navigating the

field of higher education as first-generation professionals through personal experience as well as evidence-based approaches and strategies. “Our chapter focuses on our journeys as first-generation students who have risen to senior leadership positions on college campuses,” said Smith. “It includes reflections, words of wisdom, and best prac-

tices for that journey. This is exactly what we do for first-generation students at Radford University: pull back the curtain, make the path clear, and live as possibility models.” Each chapter includes activities, exercises, and questions for reflection, offering readers an opportunity to discern strategies for their own professional development.

Virginia Skyline Girl Scouts kick off 2022 cookie season

The Girl Scouts of the Virginia Skyline Council region are officially kicking off the 2022 cookie season today, Jan. 8. The season runs through March 31. The new adventurefuls cookie, a chocolate cookie with caramel-flavored creme and a hint of sea salt, joins the cookie lineup of thin mints, samoas, tagalongs, and do-si-dos. This season, the council’s Girl Scouts are again selling cookies in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many Girl Scouts will run outdoor cookie booths that follow local, state, and CDC guidelines while still getting everyone’s favorite cookies to their customers. Every Girl Scout cookie purchase fuels local Girl Scouts’ adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them,

discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Through the Girl Scout cookie program, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life. Fans of Girl Scout cookies can support girl Scouting by purchasing cookies for \$5.00 a box in a few different ways: reach out to a registered girl scout to find out how she’s selling cookies this year; visit www.gsvsc.org/cookies to use the official Girl Scout cookie finder to find cookie booths in the area; beginning Feb. 18 (National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend), enter your zip code into the Girl Scout cookie finder at www.girlscoutcookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to first responders and local causes.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Winter capital of Kashmir
6. So. African Music Awards
11. The Bay State
14. A disorderly crowd
15. Actress Greta
16. Expression of surprise
18. Storybook elephant
21. John Jacob __, capitalist
23. Mulled wine
25. Membrane around the lungs
26. Shows how something works
28. Canonized
29. Layers bonded together
31. A vessel or duct
34. The fire had been __
35. Female sibling
36. Israeli capital
39. Blocked in fencing

40. 98942 WA
44. Gasoline hydrocarbon rating
45. Light snacks with drinks
47. Supplementing with difficulty
48. Am. composer & diarist Ned
50. A waterproof raincoat
51. Accumulate a large quantity
56 Am. Newspaper Assoc.
57. Butterfly collector
62. __ and Venzetti
63. Female servants

CLUES DOWN

1. Poked at
2. Equally
3. Manuscript (abbr.)
4. Periodical (slang)
5. Fiddler crabs
6. Hero sandwich
7. Volcanic mountain in Japan

8. Of I
9. Indicates position
10. Legislative acts
11. Low sustained cry
12. 60 minutes (abbr.)
13. Supported by a prop
14. Megabyte
17. 9/11 Memorial designer Michael
19. The years someone has existed
20. Distilled from fermented molasses
21. a.k.a.
22. Estonian kroon = 100
24. The sun
25. Wide metal cooking vessel
27. Caesar or cobb
28. Building lots
30. 1/1000 inch
31. Apexes
32. Firth of Clyde's largest island
33. Bringing suit

36. Forsyth novel "The Day of the __"
37. Perceive with the eyes
38. Was introduced to
39. Lines of verse
41. Household god (Roman)
42. Military mailbox
43. Challenge aggressively
46. Posted
49. One thousandth of an ampere
51. General's assistant, abbr.
52. Bovine sound
53. Associated press
54. Opposite of LTM
55. A very large body of water
58. Ma's partner
59. Integrated circuit
60. Rhode Island
61. Potato state

OBITUARIES

Crane, Linda Virginia Lafon

Linda Virginia Lafon Crane, 74, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022.

She grew up in Big Stony Creek in Giles County where she was lovingly referred to as Ginny. She was retired from Kollmorgen and was a member of Dublin Christian Church. She was preceded in death by her mother, Letha Ann Lafon Peck, and her husband, Jerry Leon Crane.

Survivors include her son, Leon Crane, Jr.; a daughter and son-in-law, Farrah Crane Platt and Adam; a grandson, Ethan Crane; beloved cousins Barbara Lafon Lambert, Betty Lou Lafon, and Judy Sue Hager; sisters

and brother-in-law Linda Duncan and Billy and Patricia Woodyard; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, Jan. 8, at Dublin Christian Church with Pastors Terry Hodge and Richie Goad officiating. Interment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Dublin Christian Church 5605 Dunlap Road, Dublin, Virginia 24084.

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



Gerberich, Roy Donald

Roy Donald Gerberich, 77, of Christiansburg, passed away on Dec. 31, 2021.

He was born on Dec. 22, 1944, to the late George and Violet Gerberich.

Roy was a carpenter for most of his life and to us he was one of the best. He worked for Poff Construction and Snyder Hunt. After age dictated a change, he and two of his best friends operated a gas station in Pulaski. He ended his working career by retiring from Sisson and Ryan Quarries.

One of his favorite pastimes the last few years was working puzzles with his wife and giving them to friends and family. We will always

cherish those. His sense of humor will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Gerberich; daughters Janet Norville (Jeff) and Sandy Light (Bud); a sister, Linda Richards; grandchildren Ashley Cupp (Matt), Angela Nichols (Clinton), Danielle Helm (Jermaine), Cassandra Smith (Jeremy), and Jeison Alvarado; great-grandchildren, Ariel, Landon, Jayla, and Audrey; and lifelong friend Larry Duncan.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the Musselman Family Cemetery in Shawsville.



Graham, Peggy Duncan

Peggy Duncan Graham, 85, of Blacksburg, was born in Goodwin's Ferry, Va. on April 10, 1936.

She passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022.

Peggy was preceded in death by her son, Marvin Graham; her parents, Dorsie and Annie Louise Duncan; sisters Anna Jean Duncan Sexton, and Emily Duncan Graham; and her brothers, Allen Duncan and Woody Duncan.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Fred Graham; a daughter, Lori Okes (Kraig); a son, James Graham (Sharon); a sister, Melva Hughes (Donnie); grandchildren Danielle Okes, Tiffany Roberts (Billy), Derrick Graham (Cheyanne), Bobby "BJ" Graham (Michelle), Ashley Meyer (Daniel), and Adrienne Mullins (Ted); 15 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Peggy was a very talented musician, playing guitar and bass guitar in church. In her teenage years, she and her sisters, known as the Duncan sisters, played and sang on the local radio. She was also an amazingly talented seamstress and retired with over 20 years of service from the V.P.I. tailor shop.

Heartfelt thanks go to caregivers Danielle Okes, granddaughter Michelle Duncan Hairfield, and Phyllis Price, niece. Also, special thanks to Good Samaritan Hospice staff for their compassion and attention.

A private service will be held for the family with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Good Samaritan Hospice, 1160 Moose Drive, NW, Christiansburg, VA 24073. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.



Harvey, Juanita Kirk

Juanita Kirk Harvey, 87, left this world peaceably from her home on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Juanita was born to Clyde and Lucy Kirk on Jan. 15, 1934. She pursued her dream of becoming a cosmetologist and became the owner of the Corner Beauty Shop in Christiansburg.

Juanita was married to the love of her life, George M. Harvey, for over 60 years. Together, they had five children: George, Pamela, Tracy, Brad, and Ken.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George M. Harvey; parents Clyde and Lucy Kirk; a grandson, Cole Harvey; and brothers Joseph Kirk, Clyde Kirk, Jr., Charles Kirk, and Gerald Kirk.

Juanita's passion in life was her family. She loved spending time in her kitchen preparing meals, gardening and caring for her home. She consistently exhibited a strong work ethic and was successful in several business adventures. She had a great sense of humor and embraced each day with joy.

During the last few years, she faced her illness with great strength and determination and a new love for old Western shows. She always had a smile and a

mischievous twinkle in her eyes. She lived her life by example, and all who knew her are a better person simply by knowing her.

Juanita's memory will be cherished by her family. She is survived by her children and spouses, George Harvey, Jr., and wife, Lisa, of Radford; Pamela Harvey of Christiansburg; Tracy Harvey and wife, Susan, of Meggett, S.C.; Brad Harvey and wife, Stephanie, of Dublin; and Ken Harvey and wife, Kelli, of Radford; 15 grandchildren; and her sisters, Mary Sutphin of Christiansburg, Barbara Shelburne of Boones Mill, and Sally Cox and husband, Elwood, of Christiansburg.

The family would like to especially thank Barbara Wilson, Shirley Blevins, Shirley Vicars, and Cindy Collins Horton Companion Care and her staff.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Clyde F. and Lucy Kirk Nursing Scholarship Fund, Radford University Foundation, Inc., PO Box 6915, Radford, VA 24142.

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



Pratt, Helen Jacqueline Porter

Helen Jacqueline "Jackie" Porter Pratt, 73, of Draper, passed away Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

Jackie was born March 19, 1948, in Radford to the late Richard and Margaret Porter.

She was a graduate of Radford University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education in 1972 and her Masters of Science Degree in Learning Disorders in 1977. She taught special education her entire career and retired from Pulaski County Schools in 2002.

She was a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Lewis Pratt; a son and daughter-in-law, Andy and Allison Pratt; grandchildren Nathan and Anna Pratt; sisters and brother-in-

law Patsy and Tom Sandidge and Susan Cordell; loving caregiver Lynn Ruggeri and her husband, Bert; special friends Susan and Jeff Bain and Sandra and Jim Palmer; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at Commonwealth Assisted Living and Highland Ridge Rehab Center for all of the care and support that was provided in recent months.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in memory of Jackie to Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski.

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



Rader, Dodrell Mitchell

Dodrell Mitchell Rader, 60, of Blacksburg, died on Dec. 24, 2021, at his home in Blacksburg.

He was born in Frederick, Md. on Jan. 25, 1961, to the late Dodrell Rader.

Mitchell is survived by his mother, Eline Melita Rader, of Blacksburg; sisters Dianne Melita Rader (Lynn) and Dawn Rader Graham (Will); brothers Darren Michael Rader and Derrick Matthew Rader (Rintha); nieces Destiny, Amber, and Nikki; nephews Timmy "T.W.", Dustin, Dalton, and Scotty; as well as several great-nieces

and great-nephews; and special friend Chris Hughes and family.

Mitchell was a friend to many. He never met a stranger and was always ready to lend a helping hand. He loved children. While he never had any of his own, he loved his nieces and nephews and his great-nieces and great-nephews very much.

A memorial service was conducted on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating.



Waldron, Betty Ruth Robinson

Betty Ruth Robinson Waldron, 86, died on Jan. 4, 2022.

She was born in Blacksburg, on March 10, 1935, to the late Grover Cleveland Robinson and America Compton Robinson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Junior Waldron, and siblings Floyd Robinson, Ray Robinson, Nora Simons, Versal Dittmar,



Ferguson, and Fay Miller.

She is survived by numerous nephews and nieces and a dear friend, Alvin Schmitt.

There will be a private graveside service. The family would like to express special thanks to the caregivers at Heritage Hall, Blacksburg.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday January 20th @ 4 PM

**Storage Units for Sale at Auction in Floyd VA
Sunny Ridge Rd Floyd VA 24091**

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase this great investment property! This property features 12 10x10 storage units for sale in Floyd County VA. The units were built in 2004 and are in great condition. The lot consists of .21 acres and is easily accessible. They are located right next to a set of green boxes (dumpsters) which is very convenient for cleaning out units! Storage units are in high demand in Floyd County. These units are rented on a month - to - month lease for \$45 / mo., but similar units in the area are getting around \$100 / mo. 9 out of 12 of the units are currently rented – seller using the other 3 for personal use.

Directions – From Town of Floyd - 221 north towards Roanoke - Left on Bethlehem Church rd. - right on Sunny Ridge rd. - property on immediate right past green boxes. See signs

Terms – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close in 30 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. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract, and maps at VaAuctionPro.com

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email Gallimore.matt@gmail.com; in cooperation with Terry McCraw with McCraw Real Estate & Auction at 540-320-5200 or email mccrawrealestate@gmail.com

**102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
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**Blue Ridge Land
& Auction Co., Inc**

Geoscience expert to study why continents break apart where magma is missing

The Earth’s surface is ever incrementally moving and changing shape, breaking apart and forming new land masses and oceans. In the billions of years of history of planet Earth there have been 10 supercontinents, the most famous and recent being Pangaea breaking apart about 175 million years ago.

Africa itself is slowly separating into several large and small tectonic blocks along the diverging East African Rift System, which includes Madagascar – the long island just off the coast of Southeast Africa – that itself will also break apart into smaller islands. The culprit is the region’s rich and deep intrusions of magma. Yet, Africa is also seeing continental rifts, the separations, in areas where there is no evidence of magma intrusions. These types of continent rifts are known as magma-poor or “dry” rifts. In short, if this were a mystery the culprit’s identity is unknown.

D. Sarah Stamps, an associate professor in the Department of Geosciences, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science wants to put her expertise in continental rifting to find the villain. Stamps recently was awarded a \$3 million National Science Foundation grant for the DRIAR project (that’s short for Dry Rifting In the Albertine-Rhino Graben, Uganda) to help spur her efforts.

“You can think of the breakup of eastern Africa as the continuation of the breakup of Pangaea,” said Stamps, leader of the Geodesy and Tectonophysics Laboratory. “Eastern Africa is actively breaking up, and if it continues, we’ll see new oceans forming. In the northern parts of East Africa, like in Ethiopia and the Afar region, it’s already extended to the point of forming baby oceanic areas. The spreading has already created new oceanic crust. The land

is subsiding, and the first stages of new ocean basin formation is underway.”

Further south in the central East African Rift System, the breakup of the continent is less intense. This is where Stamps has spent much of her research career. For this effort, Stamps is leading a large team of experts. From the U.S., her collaborators come from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the University of Kansas, Northwestern University, the University of California, Davis, and Midwestern State University in Texas. In Uganda, the team is working directly with the government’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and with Makerere University in Uganda.

“This team and I are very interested in understanding the physics of how a continent can break apart when there’s no surface expression of magma as volcanoes,” Stamps said. The team will focus

on the Northern Western Branch of the East African Rift System located in Uganda, East Africa where magma-poor rifting is taking place. A wide range of geophysical, geological, and geochemical observations will be collected, and numerical modeling of the region will be performed to understand how the magma-poor rifts form and evolve.

Among the answers Stamps and her collaborators seek to answer: In magma-rich rifts, is strain accommodated through lithospheric weakening from melt?; In magma-poor rifts, is melt present below the surface weakening the lithosphere such that strain is accommodated during upper crustal extension?; And in magma-poor rifts, what if there is no melt at depth and strain is accommodated along fluid-filled faults or pre-existing structures such as inherited compositional, structural, and rheological lithospheric

heterogeneities?

“I hope there will definitely be impacts on our understanding of the physics of continental rifting,” Stamps said. “But we also have a lot of broader impacts with respect to capacity building in Uganda. So, we’re going to conduct field schools in Uganda to teach people how to use the equipment and analyze the data.”

Working with Stamps are three scientists, a Ph.D. student in geosciences and a native of Uganda, Asenath Kwagalakwe, and two undergraduate students from the Academy of Data Sciences’ computational modeling and data analytics program, Esha Islam, a third-year student, and third-year student Crystal Lee. The Academy of Data Science is also part of the College of Science.

“I am working on the Albertine-Rhino Graben, which is the northernmost rift in the Western branch of the East African Rift System. My research



SUBMITTED PHOTO

interests are in investigating the physics of strain accommodation in the magma-poor Albertine-Rhino Graben of the East African Rift System using geodynamic modeling and GNSS [Global Navigation Satellite System] geodesy,” said Kwagalakwe.

Islam, for her part, took an elective geosciences course, and greatly enjoyed Stamps’ presence as a professor in the classroom. Islam asked Stamps

See **Geoscience**, page 8

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.fbradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.
Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C’burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children’s Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org.

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

ALMIGHTY GOD

Read Genesis 40:1 thru 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh’s cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation’s highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1–14

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.

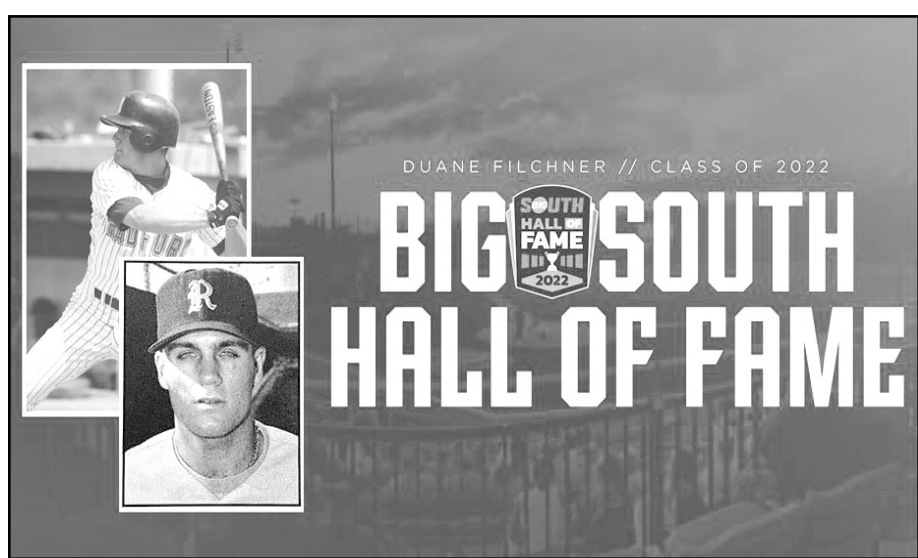
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS
Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. l.christopher695@comcast.net. Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music 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.

RADFORD SPORTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

RU's Duane Filchner elected to Big South Hall of Fame

One of the best players to ever step onto the diamond for the Radford baseball program, Duane Filchner, has been elected for enshrinement in the Big South Conference Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2022.

Filchner (1992-95) was the 1994 Big South Player of the Year and was named First-Team All-Conference all four years as an outfielder, the first player in Big South history to earn All-Conference four times (now one of three players).

Voted to the Big South Baseball 1990-99 All-Decade Team, Filchner is eighth all-time in league history with a .389 career batting average. He graduated as the Big South's all-time leader with 198 runs scored (now seventh), 269 hits (now 18th), 181 runs batted in (now 12th) and 442 total bases (now eighth). He started 192 of 198 career games played for the Highlanders and finished with 57 doubles, 34 home runs, a .639 slugging percentage, and 44 stolen bases.

A 23rd-round draft pick by the Oakland Athletics in the 1995 MLB Draft, Filchner also ranks 12th in Big South history in doubles and 19th in home runs and is the Highlanders' all-time leader in runs scored and batting average while ranking fourth in home runs.

He owns the Radford single-season record for runs scored with a league-leading 60 in 1995 and still ranks in the school's top-10 single-season in all offensive categories. Filchner was the first player in Big South history to lead the conference in batting average two consecutive seasons (.399 in 1994, .389 in 1995), was the first player in Big South history to lead the conference in RBI's in back-to-back seasons (57 in 1993, 53 in 1994), and is the only player in Big South history to lead the conference in hitting and RBI's twice.

He helped Radford make its first Big South Championship game appearance in 1993 and earn the first 30-win season in program history in 1995.

Filchner was inducted into Radford's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 and will become the 12th Highlander to be enshrined in the Big South Conference Hall of Fame.

Radford Highlanders in the Big South Hall of Fame:

Dante Washington (Men's Soccer, 1988-92) - Class of 2003

Stephanie Howard (Women's Basketball, 1986-89) - Class of 2003

Doug Day (Men's Basketball, 1989-93) - Class of 2005

Shannon Wilkey (Women's Basketball, 1990-94) - Class of 2005

Chuck Taylor (Director of Athletics, 1974-96) - Class of 2006

Charlene Curtis (Women's Basketball Coach, 1984-90) - Class of 2006

Dr. Donald Newton Dedmon (Radford/BSC President) - Class of 2007

Dr. Ron Bradley (Men's Basketball Coach, 1991-2002) - Class of 2010

Ian Spooner (Men's Soccer, 1991-95) - Class of 2013

Sue Williams (Women's Soccer, 1990-93) - Class of 2015

Anne Fontaine (Volleyball and Women's Basketball, 1990-95) - Class of 2017

Created in 2003 as part of the league's 20th anniversary celebration, the Big South Hall of Fame now totals 77 former Big South Conference student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors with the addition of this year's class.

Joining Filchner in the Class of 2022 are former Winthrop tennis coach Cid Carvalho, former Winthrop volleyball player Mary Hock, and former Campbell men's soccer player John Payne.

Big South updates COVID return-to-play plan

The Big South Conference announced Wednesday updates to its COVID Return to Play guidance for the remainder of the 2021-22 athletic season as approved by the league's Council of Chief Executive Officers.

The Big South Conference's head athletics trainers and team physicians reviewed the latest guidance of the Centers for Disease Control on shortening the COVID isolation and quarantine periods, and in the interest of student-athlete health and safety have implemented the ability for individuals to "test out" of the requirement to wear a mask during practice and competition once out of isolation or quarantine.

This new guideline is effective immediately, but local public health guidelines will continue

to take precedence during the ever-changing environment caused by the pandemic. The Big South Conference will continue to evaluate its COVID Return to Play guidance and will make future ad-

See **Big South**, page 8

SUBMITTED PHOTO

FROM THE SIDELINES

Another successful year for Micah's Backpack

Another year has come and gone. As 2022 begins, Micah's Backpack program looks back on another successful year in 2021.

Special thanks go to Pastor Michelle and the MCI Advisory Board for allowing Micah's Backpack to dream big, make changes, and move forward.

To recap, the program served more than 275 students each week during the school year and 170 students during the summer program. Micah's packed 9,539 backpacks, 57,234 meals, and 134,335 items of food. This was all accomplished

through more than 1,200 hours of volunteer work.

The program exceeded the Cummings/Ivers Challenge of \$5,000, totaling more than \$10,000 for Micah's Backpack infrastructure.

The program was joined by numerous new businesses and organizations in 2021, including four businesses now donating on a monthly basis.

With the public's continued support, Micah's Backpack looks forward to another successful year with hopes of assisting as many students as possible.

Blacksburg girls down Salem



Blacksburg's Kailyn Brawley drives toward the basket against Salem. After a close start to the game tied at 23 at halftime, Blacksburg pulled away in the second half for a 58-43 win. Brawley finished with 10 points in the contest.



Blacksburg's Madison Mann works to shoot against Salem defender Charli Wynn. With the win, Blacksburg moves to 7-4 on the season.



Blacksburg's Mila Santsaver-Jones hits a big three-point shot in the fourth quarter to help the Bruins to the 58-43 defeat of Salem.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Morgan Cheynet scores on a layup for the Bruins against Salem to extend their fourth-quarter lead.

Blacksburg boys defeat Salem, Walters goes for 20



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Junior guard DJ Garza drives to the hole for Blacksburg in his team's 58-44 win Tuesday night over Salem. Owen Walters led Blacksburg with 20 points as they moved to 7-2 for the season.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
J	A	M	M	U	S	A	M	A	S			
M	A	S	S	A	C	H	U	S	E	T	S	
M	O	B	A	R		G	A	R	B	O		A
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radfordnewsjournal.com

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 though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by late 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:

Right lane closures may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-105 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.

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 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 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.

UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 and Route 8 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.

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. Expect lane closures on Route 8 between the on and off ramps of I-81.

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.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS – Due to bridge painting, several height restrictions are in place along I-81 north

and southbound. Maximum height allowed is 14'6" at the following bridges over I-81 at the mile marker locations of 135, 109 and 108 until mid-January. Overheight vehicles will need to be rerouted. Message boards are in place.

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 been underway. One new lane in each direction of I-81 and two lanes northbound onto I-581 at exit 143 opened just before Thanksgiving between mile markers 141 and 143. All lanes will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume with the next paving season in spring 2022. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

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 147 to 162, 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.

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)

INTERSTATE 77 BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS – Due to bridge painting, several height restrictions will be in place along I-77 north and southbound beginning late January. Maximum height allowed is 14'6" at the following bridges over I-77 at the mile marker locations of 10.5 and 7. Overheight vehicles will need to be rerouted. Message boards will be in place. Painting

is scheduled to be completed by March 2022.

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 MOWING, 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.

CRAIG COUNTY

None at this time.

GILES COUNTY

None at this time.

PULASKI COUNTY

None at this time.

Big South

from page 7

justments as appropriate.

The specific changes to the Big South's Return to Play guidance include anyone testing positive for COVID-19 must be isolated regardless of vaccination status by staying home for five days and anyone displaying no symptoms or the symptoms are resolved after five days can leave the house but must continue to wear a mask around others for five additional days.

For competition and practice only, an individual may test out of the five additional-day

mask requirement if beginning on day 5, the individual shows two consecutive negative antigen tests 24 hours apart, or one negative PCR test.

Anyone with fever must stay home until the fever resolves. Anyone exposed to someone with COVID-19 who has been boosted, completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, or completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months must wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5 if possible.

For competition and practice only, an individual may test out of the last five days of the mask requirement if beginning on day 5, the individual shows two consecutive negative antigen tests 24 hours apart, or one negative PCR test.

Geoscience

from page 6

about research opportunities. "Data science is very flexible in what it can be applied to and coding is

used in most STEM-related fields, so even though I didn't have any notable geoscience background, Dr. Stamps was willing to offer me a spot," she said.

"Currently, my job is to rerun test models of other graduate students to determine that we all get the same results."

Added Lee, "I was brought into the project through my friend, Esha

Anyone who develops symptoms should get a test and stay home.

Anyone who completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than six months ago and is not boosted or completed the primary series of J&J over two months ago and is not boosted, or is unvaccinated must be isolated by staying home for five days and then continue to wear a mask around others for five additional days. Anyone who can't quarantine must wear a mask for 10 days and test on day 5 if possible.

For competition and practice only, an individual may test out of the 5-additional-day mask requirement if beginning on day 5 the individual shows two consecutive negative antigen tests 24 hours apart, or one negative PCR test.

Islam, who has been working with Dr. Stamps for some time and is also a peer in my major. I was interested in joining the project when she talked to me about it because I wanted to expand upon my experience with data processing and modeling." Lee will be analyzing GNSS data collected in Uganda.

Among the benefits

from the study, in addition to better understanding continental rifting, Stamps points to improving estimates of carbon dioxide transfer into the atmosphere that occurs during continental rifting, advancing rifting models used for exploring natural resources, and creating new insights into seismic hazards associated with active faulting.



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