



Wednesday, February 23, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

Flock of robins falls from the sky in Radford

RADFORD – A flock of American robins fell from the sky and died Thursday on the campus of Radford University, and wildlife experts say it will likely be weeks before the cause is known.

More than 50 birds died, and two survived and are being held in quarantine at the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center (SVWC) in Roanoke.

Students of wildlife biologist Dr. Karen Powers, a professor at Radford University “discovered a huge flock of birds, some already dead and some floundering on the ground, and quickly alerted Dr. Powers about the situation,” according to the SVWC.

There were only two survivors, which will be kept “in strict quarantine at the center, just in case of a pathogen.” The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources is investigating the incident and will be testing the birds to determine the cause of death.

“After an hour, the two survivors are now lively and doing well with no noticeable injuries, symptoms, or odd behavior,” the SVWC posted. “The quick recovery of survivors and the pre-death symptoms of the birds who died are not consistent with avian flu, and there is

See Robins Fall, page 2



SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER PHOTO

This American robin is one of two that survived the recent die-off of robins in Radford and is currently in quarantine at the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center.

Radford design students find inspiration in the New River Gorge

Sean Kotz
Radford University

Anyone who makes a trip to the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve this spring will have a chance to see some uniquely inspired art from Radford University’s design students.

Last fall, the gorge was the catalyst for a project in Laura Kimball’s Fundamentals class, a first-year modular course that starts design majors on their educational journey.

Normally, these projects would

find a home on campus, but as Radford builds its new multi-million-dollar Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity, display space is limited.

This year, with the gorge taking center stage in a major course assignment, the Canyon Rim Visitor’s Center makes for a perfect gallery.

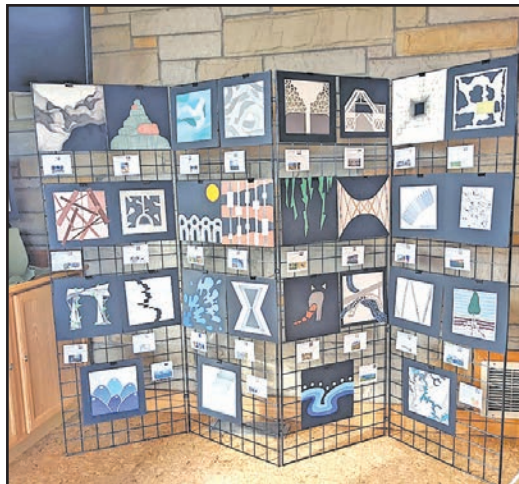
Since 2018, Kimball has used America’s National Parks to spark creativity for an assignment that marries abstract art to inspiration. This year, West Virginia’s New River Gorge, which winds for 53

miles through some of the country’s most beautiful scenery, served as the focal point.

“Students start with information-gathering research with simple prompts to guide them,” said Kimball. “What is the history of this place? What is its significance? Why do people visit? Describe the ecosystem.”

For the assignment, students must create both 2D and 3D abstract paper art projects to capture the spirit of the New River Gorge

See New River Gorge, page 7



Radford University design students currently have their work displayed at the Canyon Rim Visitor’s Center.



PHOTOS BY LAURA KIMBALL

The design projects center on the New River Gorge Bridge, seen out the window with student projects in the foreground.



Radford Chief of Police Jeff Dodson (right) is welcomed as an executive board member of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Radford police chief elected to board of Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

Radford City Chief of Police Jeff Dodson was recently elected to the executive board of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP).

Due to an unplanned vacancy on the board created by former Hopewell Chief Kamran Afzal accepting the chief of police position in Dayton, Ohio, the executive board held a special midterm election for an at-large board member.

“Chief Dodson was one of several candidates interviewed by our nominating committee for the vacant seat,” according to the association of chiefs of police. “This committee of past presidents of the VACP conferred about each of the candidates and then presented Chief Dodson as their nominee for

election by the membership present at the VACP winter conference.”

Dodson previously served the VACP’s professional image and ethics committee, the alarm management committee, and the awards committee. He is also active in the Blue Ridge Chiefs’ Association.

Prior to becoming the Chief of Police in Radford, Chief Dodson was a lieutenant with the Culpeper Police Department. He holds a master’s degree in criminal justice management from Saint Leo University and a bachelor’s degree in management and leadership from Bluefield College. He is also a graduate of the VACP’s Professional Executive Leadership School.

Dodson was elected to a four-year-term.



VT economic expert: Growing inflation tied directly to supply shortages

Virginia Tech economist David Bieri says temporary increases of some prices are normal as demand is outstripping supply in specific sectors of the economy such as fuel, labor, and some consumer goods. As we come out of the pandemic, Bieri says, growing inflation entirely depends on how quickly supply can catch up.

Reports out this week indicate that U.S. inflation has grown 7.5 percent in the last year, reaching a 40-year high. Businesses continue to struggle with labor shortages and the cost of consumer goods continue to rise.

“Economists and policy

makers worry about whether or not this spike in inflation will spill into other sectors and thus lead to more permanent increases in the price level,” says Bieri. “Officials at the Federal Reserve are worried enough about this prospect that they have signaled that with increases in interest rates for the first time since 2018.

“While these short-term labor shortages might affect consumers negatively with fewer options, as firms adjust and continue to compete of the pent-up spending power of post-pandemic households,

See Inflation, page 2

USDA confirms highly contagious avian flu in Virginia

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds in two states: a backyard flock of mixed species birds in Fauquier County, Virginia, and a flock of commercial broiler chickens in Fulton County, Kentucky.

This was the first time the disease has been found in Virginia, and poultry owners and industry members alike need

to take precautions to protect their flocks from the incurable disease, says Michael Persia, an associate professor and Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist of poultry nutrition and management in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has materi-

als about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and an available toolkit.

“The disease could be economically devastating to industry and could also cause backyard owners to lose their entire flock,” Persia says. “To help protect flocks, it’s important to take practical biosecurity measures to reduce and eliminate potential sources of infection.”

These safety measures include:

See Avian Flu, page 7



UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 28:

MFRL adult winter reading program
The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read during January and February and keep track of their reading on the library's Beanstack site. Participants earn badges with each book read and activity completed. <https://mfrl.beanstack.org/>.

Grab & Go meals
All the month of February at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Children and youth 18 and younger can come and get a weeks' worth of free 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.

Wednesday, Feb. 23:

Lunch and Learn listening session
Blacksburg Library; noon. Do you feel anxious about the state of our environment? Coming together to volunteer on sustainability-related projects helps us magnify our efforts beyond what we can accomplish in our own homes and gives us the opportunity to channel our anxiety into action. Join us for this month's Lunch and Learn program to hear from both organizers and volunteers about some of the most impactful projects that affect the environment in our

area and how to get involved.

Complete a Pokédex event
Blacksburg Library; 5 p.m. Bring a device and Pokémon games and trade with other Pokémon Trainers to complete a Pokédex! Find missing version exclusives, evolve a trade-evolution Pokémon, and enjoy meeting others in the area who love Pokémon. Email Trainer Sally at sstauffer@mfrl.org with any questions.

Radford Reads with Matthew Raidbard
Author and former basketball coach Matthew Raidbard will join the Radford Public Library on Zoom at 6 p.m. to talk about his book, "Lead Like A Pro: Effective Leadership Styles for Athletic Coaches." This event is free and is open to the public. To join on Zoom, the event ID is 897 6700 7543.

Thursday, Feb. 24:

Bad Art Night (for Adults)
Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. The staff is setting out random craft supplies for an evening of really awful art. Have a laugh and turn off the self-judgment and perfectionism that keeps participants from truly enjoying their creativity. Registration is recommended. Adults only.

Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26:

Radford Public Library Book Sale
The Radford Public Library will hold book sales on

Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Book topics during the sale include fantasy, science fiction, fishing, and cooking plus DVDs, CDs, and gun books. The sale will feature a free table. All hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children's books are half that. Funds raised assist the Lamp-lighters.

Sunday, Feb. 27:

Chess Club
Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up can come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 28:

Talking about Books: "The Book of Longing"
Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed is "The Book of Longing" by Sue Monk Kidd. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Crafternoon Delight for adults only

Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight.

Wednesday, March 2:

Business over Breakfast
The Radford Chamber of Commerce's Business over Breakfast meeting is at 8 a.m. at Sweet and Savory. Two

guest speakers on business-related topics will present. Register in advance at www.radfordchamber.com.

Thursday, March 3:

American Legion meeting
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7pm at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, March 4:

Christiansburg Aquatic Center Free Fitness Fling
Christiansburg Aquatic Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. Try a 10-to-12-minute sampling of various fitness classes offered at the CAC. Instructors will be on hand to answer questions about the classes.

Tuesday, March 8:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Mr. Will Reed will continue with Part Three of his series on "Confederate Small Arms." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week

due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, March 10:

River City Quilt Guild
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

Wednesday, March 23:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting
Christiansburg Public Library; 6 p.m. The meeting will discuss modernization and environmental project, and compliance and corrective actions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Staff members from the U.S. Army and BAE Systems will be on hand to engage with the public. Questions: usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil

Ongoing:

Blacksburg Aquatic Center closed for repairs
Repairs on the hot tub, gutters and deck surface at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center are ongoing. The aquatic center will remain closed for several more weeks. A re-opening date will be announced once it is confirmed.

Inflation

from page 1

this is likely to lead to both efficiency gains - better service with less, more automation - and more options as entrepreneurs explore new opportunities," says Bieri.

"With labor force participation reaching a 50-year low due to the pandemic, workers need to be enticed back to the labor force as these new opportunities begin to establish themselves," says Bieri. "Post-pandemic entrepreneurialism in the U.S. is thriving, but it will take some time before consumers feel the full impact of this new dynamism."

Another driving force for rising inflation is the soaring cost of housing rentals and fuel.

"Spending on housing is the largest share of consumer expenditures which is reflected in the fact that this spending category makes up almost a third of the basket of goods and services that is used to calculate the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)," says Bieri. "Since increases in the CPI are the most common ways of quantifying inflation, the steep increases

in house prices and rents will be reflected in the CPI and register as inflation.

"Fuel prices have also increased by nearly 54% since the start of the pandemic and are not showing any sign of abating," says Bieri. "Although average household expenditures on fuel account for less than 5% of all expenditures, such historically large jumps in the price of fuel will continue to push headline inflation up."

David Bieri is an associate professor in the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs and an associate professor of economics. He also holds an appointment in the Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience. His teaching interests are at the intersection of public finance, monetary theory, and history of economic thought. He has held various senior positions at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. Prior to his work in central banking, he worked as an investment banker in London and Zurich.

Robins Fall

from page 1

no reason to suspect that at this time - although the birds will be checked just in case. While we don't know for sure the cause of these sudden deaths, we do know American robins are susceptible to poisoning due to their natural history and are sometimes used as a measure of environmental health because of this trait. Another theory is that these birds died due to intoxication. Rob-

ins primarily eat fruit in the winter, and cycles of freezing and thawing like we've had this winter can cause berries to ferment. When birds eat fermented berries, they can accidentally become drunk—or worse, suffer alcohol poisoning and die."

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has informed the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center that it

may take a while to run all the tests they need to run to get a conclusive answer on the cause of death.

"It's always sad to see that many dead animals, but we're glad at least two of them will get a second chance at life," the wildlife center said. "Thank you to Dr. Powers and her students for such a quick and organized response to the dire situation."

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.

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 nearing completion. Remaining work involves lighting installations at the intersections and under the bridges. Lane closures may be possible. Work zone and reduced speed limit signs have been removed on I-81. Estimated completion is early 2022.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Beginning April 11, 2022, Route

615 (Pilot Road) will undergo a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Single lane closures will be in place and will be maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals. Lane closures on RTE 615 are expected to begin on 5/2/2022 and will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT – A project has been 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 – There will be intermittent single-lane closures with a flagging operation in place between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., throughout the remainder of the project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of February 2022.

INTERSTATE 81
INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is underway. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind.

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Little Hokie Hangout provides critical support to graduate students and their families

On a recent wintry morning, while their parents were at work across Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus, a group of 2- to 5-year-old children were at "work" themselves in a brightly lit center on Prices Fork Road.

Some were constructing towers of wooden blocks with shaving cream mortar. Others were busy at a media table, playing with measuring cups. Some were painting. Others were creating clay creatures. And a few sat in the reading corner, listening to stories.

This hub of activity is the Little Hokie Hangout, a flexible, early education center subsidized by the Graduate School to meet the child care needs of graduate students with families, but it also serves staff, faculty, and undergraduates with children ages 20 months to 5 1/2 years.

Care is provided for three sessions each day — morning, afternoon, and evening — and the center operates from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, following the university's calendar for closures and holidays.

The state-licensed center launched in January 2015 and operates on the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church campus. Since its opening, the Little Hokie Hangout has served more

than 80 families. More than 100 children have attended sessions, said center director Marin Riegger.

Virginia Tech graduate students have long expressed a need for stable, flexible child care.

On annual surveys sent to students asking what additional services they need, nearly 19 percent of students reported that they have children, and almost half of those respondents said they need child care services for their dependents.

A majority of those respondents said they need services five days a week. Results from a caregiver survey conducted by the Virginia Tech Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost in fall 2020 noted that "graduate students are the least likely group to have dedicated and consistent child care arrangements."

Riegger said that many international students with families rely on the center for child care. "We have a huge international contingent," she said. "We're teaching children English for the first time every day."

Dean Aimée Surprenant noted the importance for graduate students and other Virginia Tech community members with families to have access to quality child care. "Many graduate students juggle child care needs with studies

and work as graduate assistants, graduate teaching assistants, or graduate research assistants," Surprenant said. "This program helps ease that burden and provides a welcoming, safe, and creative environment for children to grow and thrive. The Graduate School is proud to continue to innovate in support of our students."

The center has 12 fully trained and certified staff members who work on a flexible schedule. Riegger said the Little Hokie Hangout has a staff

member-to-child ratio of 1-to-4.

"We use donor funds to keep the ratios small," she said. "That allows for a great deal of one-on-one interaction. We feel that is really important to have. We try to hire people in who are in the child care and child-development fields. We really want children and their families to have a quality experience."

Additionally, Riegger said that the staff is a team. "We have people who really want to work here every day."

Parents pay only for the sessions they use. That flexibility is an important feature, Riegger said, adding that many programs require students to attend full time. Parents also appreciate it.

"The time blocks and payment schedule were so incredibly helpful, and it took away a lot of stress on our family while providing our child with a wonderful social atmosphere that is so needed for his age," said Laurel Glenn, whose husband was a graduate student when they enrolled their

child. "The program really, really helped us when I thought all was a bit lost in keeping our family rolling."

The center also provides scholarships for families who cannot afford the reduced rates, thanks to donor support and contributions to the Little Hokie Hangout Fund. Center tuition waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis, and students who have received this assistance have said it made continuing their education possible.



Children assemble castles with wooden blocks and shaving cream at Little Hokie Hangout. Marin Riegger photo

Blacksburg's Brown Insurance Agency awarded Keystone's state agency of year

Keystone Insurers Group of Pennsylvania awarded Brown Insurance of Blacksburg as its Virginia State Agency of the Year during the group's recent annual national conference.

The award recognizes the agency within each of its states that best exemplifies Keystone's mission: "Independence works better together."

Criteria include demonstrating a commitment to growth through

leadership mentoring, engaging in technology advancements, employing best practices to improve operations, and developing new income streams to strengthen their business diversity.

Brown Insurance Agency was one of 12 state winners nominated for the honor.

Brown has served area residents as a community partner since 1927.

Keystone started in 1983 when four independent insurance agencies teamed up to pool their experience and expertise. Since that humble beginning, Keystone has grown to almost 300 independent agency partners in 17 states. In 2021, Keystone was ranked number four on Insurance Journal's 2021 list of Top 20 Property/Casualty Agency Partnerships.

Virginia Farm Bureau spokesman lauds USDA's new labeling for genetically modified foods

Consumers will soon see new symbols and QR codes identifying genetically modified and bioengineered foods as the U.S. Department of Agriculture implements new labeling rules.

Food manufacturers, importers, and certain retailers must now comply with the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard, which requires labeling foods that have been genetically modified. It also replaces the term genetically modified organism, or GMO, with bioengineered foods. These are defined as foods that contain detectable genetic material that has been modified in a lab and cannot be found in nature or created through conventional breeding.

"The rule is a victory for both farmers and consumers who want transparency in food

marketing," said Ben Rowe, national affairs coordinator for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "It provides clarity to the marketplace so consumers can make informed decisions on the issues that matter to them and protects the innovation that is critical to the sustainability and future of agriculture."

Consumers will see text, symbols, QR codes, phone numbers, and website addresses on foods that are bioengineered or contain bioengineered ingredients. They can visit the website, scan the QR code, or make a phone call to learn more about the food and its ingredients.

Additionally, the standard establishes a national disclosure model that avoids a complicated assortment of state laws for bioengineered foods

that impede movement of products, confuse consumers and increase production costs, Rowe explained.

Bioengineered crops and foods are a vital part of today's food system.

"Because of population growth, we need to use every tool in the toolbox to get higher yields," said Lynwood Broaddus, president of Caroline County Farm Bureau and a member of the VFBF Soybean & Feed Grains Advisory Committee. "Genetically modified crops are very important in that."

Broaddus said that both producers and consumers benefit significantly from bioengineered foods as they allow farmers to grow crops more efficiently and reduce the amount of inputs like insecticides and herbicides.

In addition, "When

it comes to nutrition, there's no difference" between bioengineered and non-bioengineered foods, Broaddus said.

Only 13 crops and foods are available in bioengineered form, and more than 70% of harvested bioengineered crops are fed to food-producing animals.

"Billions of animals and millions of people have consumed genetically modified food without a single, recorded food safety incident," Rowe said. "These crops are repeatedly and extensively tested for consumer and environmental safety by both industry experts and independent organizations. Those tests are reviewed by the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and similar organizations internationally."

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02345-1

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OPINION

Buddy King: Memories of school days, a really great teacher, and "the gang"

In my continuing effort to downsize, usually thwarted by better things to do or by sentiment, I came across a picture that I am pretty sure was taken in the summer of 1974. It was of "my gang" (most of them at least) from my high school years.

1970 - 1974 - scheduled for this upcoming June 10 and 11 - through the hard efforts and perseverance of a multi-member committee that has suffered through a pandemic and postponements and contractual renegotiations and Lord knows what else.)

hurt that several of us were the offspring of teachers. This is where Mrs. McKee comes into the picture. She taught upper-level math and science courses.

still appreciate), and Ruth Fisher (12th grade English, a teacher who inspired my love of writing, although she probably cringes now at my punctuation, syntax and grammar at times.

Mabel caught on. And there was the time she gave our classmate Wayne a "C" on a test. We told her Wayne was distraught, inconsolable.

ries involved the age-old stunt (then) of making animal figures (rabbits, ducks) on the overhead projector screen by holding our hands in front of the stream of light.

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE grid with 63 numbered squares.

CLUES ACROSS
1. Constrictors
5. Abounding in rocks
11. Speed
14. German city
15. Lacking sympathy
18. Visionaries
19. Wastes away
21. One precursor to the EU
23. Nursemaid
24. Unconsciousnesses
28. Baby's word for father
29. Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)
30. Senses of self-importance
32. Midway between south and southwest
33. When you hope to get there
35. Electronic data
processing
36. Passports and drivers' licences are two
39. Fishes
41. Air Force
42. Personal computers
44. Ecological community
46. Wings
47. Halfway
49. Cool, calm and collected
52. Jewelled headdress
56. Musical composition
58. ___ Falls
60. Repeating remarks
62. Periods in one's life
63. Hyphen
CLUES DOWN
1. ___ Humbug!
2. Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
3. Grocer
4. One point east of southeast
5. Subjects to hostility
6. Work unit
7. Atomic #56
8. British thermal unit
9. "Evasive Butterfly" singer
10. Fastened over animal's neck
12. Device
13. Rechargeable power source
16. Ancient sage
17. Consist of two elements
20. "Pygmalion" writer
22. "The Centennial State" (abbr.)
25. Of I
26. Get older
27. Brotherhoods
29. Buzzing insect
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior's dad
43. Horse mackerels genus
45. Morning
48. Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. Small, twisted bunch
53. Developed
54. Mars crater
55. Humanistic discipline
57. Word element meaning ear
58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
59. Wood residue
61. It cools your home

Home Country
Slim Randles
Contributing writer
" Folks and friends and neighborly people," came the loudspeaker blaring of the official car of the Gates of Heaven restaurant.

again drove around town in the loudspeaker car he borrowed from Delbert Chin's restaurant.
"Jes' think on it a minute ... you ever get a dirty plate or dirty chopstick in Delbert's Chinese joint? No you didn't.

Virginia gas prices keep going up
Virginia gas prices rose three cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.39/g Monday, Feb. 21, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

So's if you folks could see fit to campaign' a bit for me, shore would like that. Hey, all it costs is a dang stamp.
"And speakin' of stamps," rang out Windy's voice, "jes' stamp yore feet on into the Gates of Heaven Chinese joint here on Main Street.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

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

OBITUARIES

Brewster, Margaret

Alice Vest

Margaret Alice Vest Brewster was born Feb. 4, 1941, the daughter of the late Charlie William Vest and Gladys Van Dyke Vest. She passed peacefully in her home in Dublin on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022.

Alice graduated from Big Creek High School in 1960 in War, W.Va. After graduating from high school, she married the love of her life and moved to Arlington, Va. She relocated to Dublin, Va. with her family in 1974.

She graduated cosmetology school and worked for the Pulaski County School System. She was a woman of many talents and skills, especially a talented artist who loved to craft and bake. She was an active member of Highland Park Community Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Odell Brewster; sisters Bethany Laura Vest Rowe, Glenna Martin, and Dawana



Vest Martin; and a brother, Charles Harold Vest.

She is survived by her daughters, Kimberly Renee Brewster and Kelley Brewster McDaniel (Phillip); four grandchildren: Courtney Michelle Mabry, Miles Addison Mabry (Brittany), Landon Crockett McDaniel, and Peyton Ray McDaniel; a sister, Dolly Virginia Vest of White Gate; brothers William R. Vest (Joyce) of Christiansburg, Larry Dean Vest of Dublin, and Timothy J. Vest of Pearisburg.

Graveside memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin with Minister James Agnes officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Hospice Foundation.

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

Jurisson, Rosalie Gwinn

Rosalie embarked on her last adventure on Feb. 17, 2022 two months shy of her 100th birthday. She was an incredibly strong woman who grew up on a farm near Alderson, W.Va., attended nursing school in D.C., followed her husband, DB, to different ports during WWII, worked an array of jobs to help him through dental school, and attended classes herself at Baylor University.

When they moved to Christiansburg, she could often be found with a sledge hammer in her hand knocking out walls, laying tile, or building a fireplace. She won awards for her flower arrangements, her artwork, and as best friend and "adopted mom" to all who entered her door. She was the owner of Paint Brush Gallery, the first frame shop in the area.



Rosalie loved to host huge meals for her family and will be remembered for the life-size nativity she built that stopped traffic on Main Street for many years.

She was always ready for a new experience and traveled to China, Europe, the Caribbean, and anywhere her children or grandchildren lived. She will be missed by her daughters Jennie Reilly (Mike) and Linda Dalton; her grandchildren John Kelley (Margie), Alan Trout (Rachel), Elizabeth Dalton (Keith), and Zack Trout (Stephanie); and her five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church with a reception to follow. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Berard, Duffie Jean Wilson

Duffie Jean Wilson Berard, 79, of Radford, passed away Friday, Feb. 18, 2022.

She was a former daycare teacher. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wildie and Vina Wilson, and her husband, Robert Berard.

Survivors include her daughters and son-in-law, Tammie Atwell and Dale Summers, and Angie Atwell and significant other D. R. Childers; a son and daughter-in-law, Samuel and Anetta Atwell; six grandchildren;



seven great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters-in-law Elmer and Wanda Wilson and Donald and Dottie Wilson; a sister and brother-in-law, Jane and William Barton; and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

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

Alberts, Theodore "Ted" R.

Theodore "Ted" R. Alberts, NRCC Retired Professor of Welding Technology, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022.

He was born to the late Ted and Rose Alberts on May 10, 1943, in Chicago. His parents and his sister, Judith Mills, preceded him in death, along with his nephew, Tim Mills.

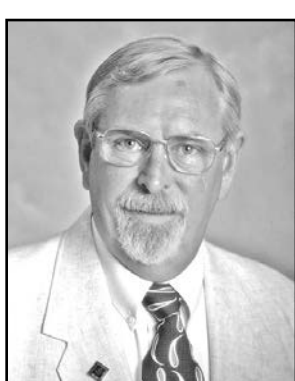
He is survived by his brother, Lawrence Alberts, and niece Meggen Mills, both of Dallas. He is also survived by his loving sons, Joshua Alberts and Matthew Alberts of Radford, along with his loving wife, Bonnie. Ted and Bonnie were married for 55 years.

Ted served in the U. S. Army from 1966-68 and was stationed in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in education, and a Masters of Science.

He taught welding technology for 36 years in Illinois, Texas, and Virginia, where he retired from teaching at New River Community College, Dublin, in 2009. He would always say, "Ted's my name and welding is my game."

He also worked for Chicago Bridge and Iron (CBI) as a Quality Assurance



Engineer from 1980-82.

Early in his career, he joined the American Welding Society and was a member for 48 years. He became a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) and a Certified Welding Educator (CWE) through the society. He served two years as a Director of District 4 which included portions of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, serving on the AWS Board of Directors, representing the voice of the members. He also served in many volunteer leadership roles in the Southwestern Virginia Section.

Ted had a love for astronomy, and for many years he assisted with visitors and gave tours at the D. C. Wysor Observatory in Dublin. He was also a lifelong fan of the Chicago Bears, the Chicago Bulls, and the Chicago Cubs.

Ted has been a member of the Dublin United Methodist Church since 1988.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dublin United Methodist Church, PO Box 577, Dublin, VA 24084, or St. Jude's 800-608-3023.

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

LaBrie, II, Lewis Richard

Lewis Richard LaBrie, II, 69, of Claytor Lake, formerly of Roanoke, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022 at his home.

He was a veteran of the U. S. Marines, a Radford University graduate in mathematics, and retired as nitro manager from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant with more than 20 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis, Sr. and Maude LaBrie.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Susan LaBrie; sons and daughter-in-law, Lewis James LaBrie and Elena Abalde



of Radford; sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Jack Quesenberry of Vinton; stepmother Phyllis LaBrie of Lynchburg; a special canine friend, Lilly; his "Shop Cat" Kitty; a grandpup, Monkey LaBrie; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 2 until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

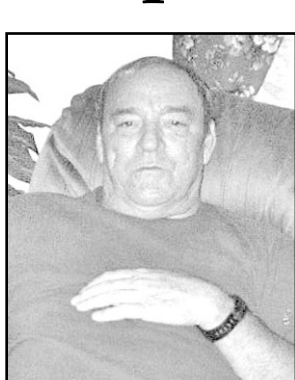
Services will be private. The LaBrie family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Neal, Joseph Daniel

Joseph Daniel Neal, 79, of Fairlawn, passed away Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, after a long bout with bad health.

He retired from Lynchburg Foundry with over 40 years of service. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Vergie Neal; and a brother, Wesley Leon Neal.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Lynda Alderman Neal; a son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Julie Neal of Roanoke; a daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Rodney



Quesenberry of Snowville; grandchildren Bridget Neal, Daniel Neal, Trevor (Abby) Quesenberry, and Stephanie Quesenberry; a great-granddaughter, Tinsely Marie Quesenberry; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank everyone who helped him through his life.

Per his wishes there will be no services.

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

Robeson, Jean Gordon

Jean Gordon Robeson (née White) of Blacksburg gently departed this life on Feb. 10, 2022.

A devoted wife, loving mother, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother, Jean was born on Feb. 3, 1925, to Floyd Henshaw White and Florence Willis White of Culpeper, Va., who predeceased her.

Jean earned a BS in biology from Westhampton College (now University of Richmond). She married Andrew Robeson on June 19, 1948 and settled in Blacksburg in 1957. Along with raising four children, she was a founder and active member of Northside Presbyterian Church. She spent many hours volunteering in the community with emphasis on enriching the lives of those with special needs.

She was especially proud of her heritage through the Gordon Clan.

From tending an extensive garden to traveling the world, from enthusiastic games of bridge with dear friends to countless parties, family gatherings and impromptu celebrations, Jean truly lived life to its fullest. We will remember her for her love of swans, her singing and dancing, her beautiful and infectious



laugh, and her eagerness for adventure, whether indulging a grandchild or navigating on antique car tours with her husband.

Left behind to celebrate Jean's life are husband Andrew Robeson; children Martha Rodgers (John) of Clemson, S.C., Catherine Cunningham (Michael) of Waynesboro, Andrew Gordon Robeson (Elaine) of Dallas, Texas, and

James Robeson of Pearisburg; as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank our amazing clan of caregivers who worked tirelessly to give Jean a comfortable, happy life over the last few years. Also, we thank Carilion Hospice for their gentle support at the end.

The family gathered for a graveside service on Sunday, February 13, led by the Rev. Dr. Linda Dickerson. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Northside Presbyterian Church, 1017 Progress Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, or The ARC of New River Valley, PO Box 11204, Blacksburg, VA 24062.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday March 17th @ 4 PM

Potential Investment Property for Sale in Blacksburg VA
1524 Lusters Gate Rd, Blacksburg VA 24060

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase this great property for sale in Blacksburg VA. The property features 26.9 acres of prime land for sale by the Blacksburg Country Club. North Fork Roanoke River runs through the middle of the property, making a very serene & peaceful setting. Old farmhouse on the property which could be fixed up or removed. Would be a wonderful development property; it is in a prime location next to the golf course and a short drive from the town of Blacksburg, Christiansburg & Virginia Tech! Currently zoned A-1 agricultural but has the potential to be rezoned for development. See bidder pack for details. The property is accessible on Lusters Gate Rd and Arrington Rd. The surrounding neighborhood is quiet and peaceful, making this an ideal location for farming, building your dream home, subdividing or building multifamily residences. Survey in progress, acreage may change.

Directions – From Christiansburg - Head northeast on W Main St toward S. Franklin St - Take Ellett Rd NE approximately 6 miles - Left onto Lusters Gate - Property on right, before clubhouse drive.

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. \$20,000 Earnest Money Deposit 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. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VaAuctionPro.com

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LAND TRANSFERS

\$190,000
Surety Trustees LLC Trust to Rosalind Properties LLC, lot 7, Blacksburg, \$317,734
Colleen B. Hall to Olen W. Gardner, 0.2389 ac., lot 4 D-1, Christiansburg, \$240,000
Mary Jane Pethtel to Tommy N. Turner, lot 2, Christiansburg, \$371,000
Andrew Lynn Hesp to Equity Trust Company, condo unit 810, Ph I, University Place, Blacksburg, \$226,500
Jeb E. B. Stewart to Rebecca O. Vance, 2 parcels: parcel 1, lot 6, Shilo Way Subdv; parcel II, lot 7, Shilo Way Subdv, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$700,000
Harley E. Ashe, Jr., to Harley Edwar Ashe, Jr., Trust, lot 15, Skycrest Subdv., Christiansburg
Harold E. Burkhardt to Qato Burkhardt, 2 parcels: 2.992 ac. and 7.9 ac. Mt. Tabor Magisterial District
William S. Swecker Jr., to

William Sterrett Swecker Jr. Trust, lot 3, Blackwood Addition, Blacksburg
ASTARVA002 LLC to Oak Street Investment Grade, metes and bounds, Christiansburg, \$2,460,000
Timothy L. Smith to David John Thompson, lot 10, Diamond Hill South, Sec IV, Christiansburg, \$400,000
Brandon C. Hughes to Timothy L. Smith, lot 68, Senneca Springs, Ph III, Subdv., Christiansburg, \$350,000
Billy D. Bailey, Jr., to Caleb P. East, 2.829 ac., lots 33A, 37, 38, 39, 49 Lafayette, \$44,000
Jaci Berg to Carol G. Lidgard, 0.15 ac., Riner Magisterial District, \$125,000
Taylor Property Management LLC to Jason B. Taylor, lot 5, Hunters Ridge, Ph III, Christiansburg
Sharon G. Cole to Jon-Luk Z. Cole, 10.549 ac., Riner Magisterial District, \$257,000

Mark A. Schmidt to Carissa Leigh Schmidt, 0.41 ac., metes and bounds, Christiansburg
Dwayne Lee Pinkney to Joseph C. Price, Lot 82, Ph VI, The Wyatt Farm, Blacksburg, \$875,000
Mountain 2 Ocean Properties LLC to Robert P. Chappell Jr., 306 S. Franklin St., Christiansburg, metes and bounds, see legal
OTB7 Rentals 2 LLC to Hill Valley Holdings LLC, 2 parcels: lot 41 Oak Tree Townhomes, Ph 7; lot 1, Oak Tree Townhomes, Ph 7, Christiansburg, \$475,250
Billy D. Massie to David Massie, 2432 Peppers Ferry Rd., Christiansburg, 1.968 ac., lot 1, Riner Magisterial District
Carolyn P. Collins to Donald D. Bailey, 0.79 ac., metes and bounds, Christiansburg, \$170,000
Larry N. Osborn to Osborn Family Joint Revocable Trust, condo unit 4, Lane Park Con-

dos, Blacksburg, \$1
Gengrui Wei to Xiaorui Liu, lot 9, Oak Tree Ph X, Christiansburg, \$232,000
Deeds Transfer Upon /Death
Linda R. Deemer to Madelyn Rosenberg Lazorchak, 2 parcels: lot 97, Sec X, Northside Park, Blacksburg; condo unit 841, Ph II, University Place, Blacksburg
Theodore Eliot Distler to Tod Distler Trust, 2 parcels, see legal
Joan B. Hirt to Kristopher D. Hirt, lot 22, Pinewood Estates, Prices Fork Magisterial District
Cathy Ann Duerbeck to Cathy A. Duerbeck Trust, lot 91, Sec X, Blacksburg
Diane E. Hoover to Diane E. Hoover Trust, Unit 23, Montgomery County
James Franklin Marchman III to Crystal Lynne March-

man Sigmon, 1825 Azalea Dr., Blacksburg; 1.3347 ac., lot 55, Sec II, Laurel Ridge Subdv., Prices Fork Magisterial District
Susan Y. Harrison to Susan Y. Harrison Trust, 5.000 ac., Parcel 3-A, Yearwood Minor Subdv., Mt. Tabor Magisterial District
Charles E. Nelston to Charles E. Nelson Trust, lots 63, 64, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 145, parts of lots 65, 66, Christiansburg
Helen A. Jimenez to Tessie Albert, lot 10, Blk 2, Stonegate of Blacksburg Subdv., Blacksburg
Harley E. Ashe, Jr., to Harley Edward Ashe, Jr., Trust, lot 15, Skycrest Subdv., Christiansburg
Harold E. Burkhardt to Qato Burkhardt, 2 parcels: 2.992 ac and 7.9 ac., Mt. Tabor Magisterial District
William S. Swecker Jr. to William Sterrett Swecker Jr. Trust, lot 3, Blackwood Addition, Blacksburg

Avian Flu from page 1

Reducing and eliminating any interaction with wild birds, especially migratory water fowl, who carry the disease.
Keeping birds indoors. If not possible, keep the birds under cover outdoors.
Using a dedicated pair of footwear for taking care of the birds to reduce the chance of bringing some-

thing into their habitat.
Not feeding or providing water outside. Feeding and hydration should be done indoors, which discourages wild birds from interacting with the habitat.
Wearing clean clothes or having a dedicated coverall when interacting with the birds.
Washing hands before

and after any bird interactions.
While poultry owners may not know if their birds have the disease, common symptoms of avian influenza are often present:
Unexplained mortality.
If this is seen, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services should be contacted

immediately.
The birds are quieter than normal.
Decrease in feed or water intake.
Diarrhea with a green hue.
Sneezing or coughing, as avian influenza is a respiratory disease.
Discolored and swollen face/head and hocks.
According to the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these avian influenza detections do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.
As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal tem-

perature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit kills bacteria and viruses.
To help reduce the spread of the avian influenza, report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the State Veterinarian's Office at 804-786-2483 or at vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov or through the USDA's toll-free number, 866-536-7593.

New River Gorge from page 1

as inspiration. They are encouraged to be creative and follow their own interests in this.
As a result, some students focused on the river itself while others gravitated toward the wildlife, the region's history, the bridge, or environmental issues.
Monica Rivera centered her project on the gorge's most famous landmark, its impressive steel arch bridge that stretches over 3,000 feet high above the world's second oldest river.
"When I started my research, I was actually trying to stay away from the bridge because I felt like everybody would pick that," she said.
But the more research she did, the more she became interested in the community interactions with the structure.
For her 3D project, she captured the parachuters who celebrate Bridge Day by launching themselves from the structure. Her 2D projects express the point of view of kayakers passing beneath the bridge and people rapelining off it.
Rivera said she struggled at first with the abstract nature of the assignment

but overcame it when she stopped thinking about it as a graded assignment.
"I felt proud that I got over that hurdle," she said. "Being able to improve on my abstract thinking was really rewarding."
Stephanie Carr found herself drawn to the Native American heritage of the area.
"Just to put it in perspective," she said, "the natives that lived in this area were there 5,000 years before the pyramids of Egypt were built."
Her project took a traditional symbol of European education and authority, a book, and weathered it with water and fire. She then placed images and symbols associated with Native American cultures on the pages.
Carr said the objective is for people to become curious and consider the way history is told. She hopes visitors to the center will be inspired to research the people who lived there first.
Kimball said that having the students' work on display, especially in such a public place, plays an important role in their education.
"Showcasing underclass-

man projects supports retention and a sense of belonging to the program and the university," said Kimball. She also notes that it instills pride and validation in the accomplishment.
Hayley Walker agrees.
"I'm so thrilled to have my work displayed at a National Park site," said Walker. "I love finding places to hike and learning about the trails that I'm walking on, so I'm glad my work has found its way to one of my happy places."
Dave Beiri, the District Supervisor at Canyon Rim Visitor Center, said he admires the creativity and engagement the artwork shows and sees the impact of the art at the center.
"Visitors have enjoyed looking at the display," Beiri said. "All of the resources in this park are not always apparent to people, especially if they are just passing through the visitor center. I think this display maybe got people to think about the park in a different way."
The exhibit runs from through April 27. The Preserve Canyon Rim Visitor Center is located at 162 Visitor Center Road in Lansing, West Virginia.

VDOT from page 2

The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:
From mid-February to mid-April, daytime right shoulder closures between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday
From mid-March until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday
From mid-May to mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday
The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion date is early 2026.
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 through early February. 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 is underway. All lanes will remain open through the 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.
INTERSTATE 581 ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD – Work is currently suspended. Rehab on the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in downtown Roanoke will resume in the spring. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete in the summer of 2022.
LANE CLOSURES:
A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.
A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.
A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.
A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.
Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.
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.

OBITUARY

Thomas, II, David Turnbull

On Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, David Turnbull Thomas, II (Dave), husband and father, passed away at age 80.
Dave was born May 9, 1941, in Washington, D.C., to David and Thelma (Via) Thomas. He was the first Commander of H Company with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Class of '63 Corps of Cadets; a member of the Gregory Guard (Pershing Rifles), Unit H.; Omicron Delta Kappa Honorary, Delta Sigma Pi, and a proud alumni. He was a Veteran of the U. S. Army.
While stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, he was a member of the Back Mountain Enduro Riders Motorcycle Club. He retired as technical director at USARDAISA after 29 years of service.
Dave was an accomplished musician and guitar player beginning in the 1950's, playing on "The Milt Grant Show" in Washington, D.C. with Terry and the Pirates. Locally he played with Exit 42, Southern Spirit, New River Express, Larry Seay and Stagecoach, The Rake & Ramblin' 4, and Wilson & Friends.
When he wasn't playing with the band, he could be found cheering for the Hokies. He also served on the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Board and the Gold Corps Committee.
Dave was preceded in death by his par-



ents, David and Thelma (Via) Thomas. He is survived by his wife JoAnn, his son David (April Whitehurst and sons, Thrasher, Koehler, and Xander) of Christiansburg, daughter Laura Thomas of Centralis, Wash., stepdaughters Hollie Spangler of Roanoke and Jennifer (Rob) Meador of Salem, and his kitty, Roomie.
A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Don Makin officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.
In lieu of flowers, gifts in Dave's memory can be made through the Virginia Tech Foundation to benefit his named scholarship in the Corps of Cadets. Please make checks payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, in the memo line list the VTCCA Dave T. Thomas II '63 and JoAnn S. Thomas Scholarship and mail to Attn: Sandi Bliss, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
Or online: www.givingto.vt.edu/corps please select "other" and in the comments section list the VTCCA Dave T. Thomas II '63 and JoAnn S. Thomas Scholarship.
The family is grateful for the love and support from family, friends, and medical professionals.

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF RENEWABLE
PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) FILING
BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. PUR-2021-00206

•Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or the “Company”) has submitted its 2021 Renewable Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) Filing.

•APCo requests approval of a revenue requirement of \$32,069,614 over the rate year August 2022 through July 2023. According to APCo, this amount would increase a typical residential customer’s bill using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by \$2.37.

•The State Corporation Commission will hold a telephonic hearing in this case on April 20, 2022 at 10 a.m., for the receipt of public witness testimony.

•An evidentiary hearing will be held on April 21, 2022, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order.

•Further information about this case is available on the SCC website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted Chapters 1193 (HB 1526) and 1194 (SB 851) of the 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly. These duplicate Acts of Assembly, known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act (“VCEA”), became effective on July 1, 2020. The VCEA, *inter alia*, establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard (“RPS”) for Appalachian Power Company (“APCo” or “Company”) in new § 56-585.5 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”). Subdivision D 4 of Code § 56-585.5 requires APCo to submit annually to the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) plans and petitions for approval of new solar and onshore wind generation capacity (“RPS Filing”). The Commission must determine whether the RPS Filing is reasonable and prudent, giving due consideration to the following factors: (i) the RPS and carbon dioxide reduction requirements in Code § 56-585.5, (ii) the promotion of new renewable generation and energy storage resources within the Commonwealth, and associated economic development, and (iii) fuel savings projected to be achieved by the plan. The Commission’s final order regarding any RPS Filing is required by Code § 56-585.5 D 4 to be entered by the Commission not more than six months after the date of such filing.

On December 30, 2021, APCo submitted its second annual RPS Filing to the Commission (“2021 RPS Filing” or “Petition”). The 2021 RPS Filing requests the Commission:

(i) Approve the Company’s annual plan for the development of new solar, wind, and energy storage resources pursuant to Code§ 56-585.5 D 4 in order to comply with the mandatory RPS Program established by the VCEA (the “2021 RPS Plan”);

(ii) Approve a revenue requirement of \$32,069,614 for the rate year of August 2022 through July 2023 (“Rate Year”);

(iii) Approve the cost recovery mechanisms to recover this and future revenue requirements related to compliance with the RPS Program;

(iv) Determine that the purchase of one solar facility and the power purchase agreements (“PPAs”) with three other solar facilities, all located in Virginia, are prudent;

(v) Approve future cost recovery related to the acquisition of two other renewable facilities, which are not located in Virginia and will not be online during the Rate Year; and

(vi) Approve treatment of renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) generated by the run of river generation component of the Smith Mountain Lake Facility.

APCo states that its 2021 RPS Plan includes a geographically varied portfolio of storage, solar and wind resources, both Company- and third-party owned, as well as market REC purchases. Further, the Company states that its 2021 RPS Plan details six portfolios that illustrate the potential costs of compliance with the VCEA under various future resource assumptions. APCo states that the basis of its 2021 RPS Plan is Portfolio 2, which assumes that the Company’s Amos and Mountaineer coal-fired units in West Virginia will operate through 2040 and that fossil-fueled resources will not be used to replace them at that time. APCo states that to meet the first RPS requirement, for the year 2021, it will procure and retire RECs from RPS eligible resources for six percent of the total electric energy sold in the year 2020.

As part of the Petition, the Company is seeking a prudency determination of the acquisition of one 150 megawatt (“MW”) solar facility and the agreements to purchase the output of three solar facilities via PPAs totaling approximately 89 MW, as well as the approval to recover the costs of 50 MW of Company-owned West Virginia solar and 204 MW of Illinois wind resources. In addition, APCo is seeking cost recovery for RECs associated with 40 MW of Virginia solar contracted through its Cogen/SPP rate schedule; 15 MW of contracted solar located in Virginia; 5 MW of Company-owned solar in Virginia; as well as market REC purchases necessary for annual compliance.

The Company also provided rate impacts of the VCEA relative to current rates through a consolidated bill analysis calculating the projected monthly bill through 2035 for residential, small general service, and large power service customers. For example, the Company projects the monthly bill of a Virginia residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (“kWh”) per month to be \$171.79 by 2035, an increase of \$54.66 over the 2021 level of \$117.13, and the Company states that the consolidated bill analysis is consistent with the Commission’s Final Order in Case No. PUR-2020-00135.

Virginia-Domiciled Solar Facilities to be Owned by APCo

The Company proposes to own two solar facilities in Virginia: the Amherst Facility and the Firefly Facility. The Amherst Facility is a 4.875 MW solar facility (fixed-tilt) that is being developed by SolAmerica. In a separate proceeding, APCo seeks a prudency determination related to the acquisition of the Amherst Facility. In this proceeding, the Company seeks to recover the costs associated with the acquisition and operation of the Amherst Facility through rate adjustment clauses (“RACs”) proposed in this Petition. The Firefly Facility is a 150 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) to be located in Pittsylvania County that is being developed by Recurrent. The Company seeks a prudency determination for this acquisition and states that if the Commission determines that it is prudent, the Company will return to the Commission for approval of the acquisition pursuant to the Utility Facilities Act before the transaction is completed. Since the Firefly Facility will not be online until July 2024, the Company states that it is not seeking approval to recover any associated costs at this time.

Non-Virginia Domiciled Solar Facilities to be Owned by APCo

APCo proposes to own two solar facilities outside of Virginia: the Bedington Facility and the Top Hat Facility. The Bedington Facility is a 50 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) to be located in Berkeley County, West Virginia. APCo plans to acquire the Bedington Facility from the developer. APCo seeks only future cost recovery through the proposed RACs because the Bedington Facility is not expected to be online until October 2023. APCo entered into an agreement to purchase the Top Hat Facility, a 204 MW wind project located in Logan County, Illinois. The Company seeks only the approval of future cost recovery through the proposed RACs for the Top Hat Facility. APCo states that both the Top Hat Facility and that Bedington Facility qualify as “RPS eligible sources” because they are both “physically located within the PJM region.”

Power Purchase Agreements with Virginia Domiciled Solar Facilities

The Company sets forth six solar PPAs with Virginia located facilities as part of its 2021 RPS Plan: (1) Depot Solar, a 15 MW solar facility (fixed tilt) located in Campbell County, (2) Dogwood, an 18.9 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Bedford County, (3) Leatherwood, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Henry County, (4) Horsepen, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Louisa County, (5) Sun Ridge Solar, a 50 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Rockingham County, and (6) Wytheville, a 20 MW solar facility (single axis tracking) located in Wythe County. APCo seeks a prudency determination for the Dogwood PPA, the Horsepen PPA, and the Sun Ridge Solar PPA. The Company states that it requests approval to recover the costs associated with the Depot Solar PPA, the Leatherwood PPA, and the Wytheville PPA through the RACs proposed in the Petition.

Legacy Voluntary Compliance Resources

APCo describes three wind PPAs that it includes as compliance resources as part of its 2021 RPS Plan. First, the Bluff Point Wind Farm PPA was executed in 2016 with an Indiana wind farm. The Camp Grove Wind Farm PPA was executed by APCo in 2007 with an Illinois wind farm. Third, the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm PPA was executed in 2007 with an Indiana wind farm. The Company asserts that the Commission approved all three of these PPAs (“Legacy Wind PPAs”) as part of APCo’s Voluntary RPS Compliance Portfolio. The Company seeks permission to recover the RECs and capacity associated with these three wind PPAs through the RACs proposed and the energy through the fuel factor. Additionally, APCo seeks permission to continue to use the RECs associated with the run of river generation of the Smith Mountain Lake Facility.

Revenue Requirement and Rate Impact

APCo seeks approval to recover the Rate Year revenue requirement of \$32,069,614, of which APCo states approximately 21 percent represents costs for new resources that are online or will go online during the Rate Year and REC purchases. The Company states that the remainder of the revenue requirement comprises the capacity and REC components of the Legacy Wind PPAs, while the energy component of the Legacy Wind PPAs will continue to be recovered through the fuel factor.

APCo estimates that the revenue requirement bill impact on a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month would increase by \$2.37, or 1.9%, compared to rates in effect on December 1, 2021.

Proposed Cost Recovery Mechanisms

APCo states that it designed the proposed cost recovery mechanisms to allow it to assign costs to customers consistent with the complex statutory requirements. It plans to quantify the value streams of each facility as applicable, including energy, capacity, shifting or avoiding certain regional transmission organization costs, reactive power revenues, and RECs.

APCo proposes three RACs:

(1) A.5 RPS RAC to recover the non-energy, non-ancillary services, non-capacity costs for all owned facilities, PPAs, and REC purchases;

(2) A.5 RPS-PCAP RAC to recover the costs for the capacity purchased through PPAs; and

(3) A.6 RPS RAC to recover the costs of capacity and energy from facilities owned by the Company.

The Company proposes that the identification and quantification of the cost component categories for each project occur only once, when the Commission approves the initial revenue requirement for each project, and the proportion of each category to the total costs of the project remain consistent thereafter for the life of the asset or the duration of the PPA.

The Company states that it screened each of the proposed projects for any environmental justice concerns and determined that each met the objectives of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act. Further, the Company states that none of the projects disproportionately impacted environmental justice communities as defined in Code § 2.2-234.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive list of all the proposals contained in the Company’s Petition. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company’s Petition and supporting documents for the details of these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Petition and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Petition and supporting documents.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5 20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk’s Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission’s Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing or subsequent Hearing Examiner’s Ruling for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on APCo’s 2021 RPS Filing. On April 20, 2022, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing, with no witness present in the Commission’s courtroom, for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before April 13, 2022, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCinfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

On April 21, 2022, at 10 a.m., either in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or by electronic means, the Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Company’s 2021 RPS Filing from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff. Further details on this hearing will be provided by subsequent Commission Order or Hearing Examiner’s Ruling.

An electronic copy of the Company’s 2021 RPS Filing may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or njcoates@aep.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before March 14, 2022, any interested person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00206. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before April 13, 2022, any interested person or entity may submit comments on the 2021 RPS Filing by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00206.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Company’s 2021 RPS Filing, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in the case may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Big South losing NC A&T to Colonial Athletic Conference

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

North Carolina A&T, which officially joined the Big South Conference this past year, has announced plans to jump to the Colonial Athletic Conference (CAA). The Greensboro school issued the following statement: "All North Carolina A&T sports teams and student athletes will begin competing in the CAA as of July 1, 2022, except for football and bowling. Football will move July 1, 2023, to avoid impact on the Big South Conference's automatic qualifier status for participation in the FCS postseason playoffs."

The North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Board of Trustees on Friday unanimously approved a recommendation that the university join the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), perhaps the most prominent athletic conference in the nation among Football Championship Series (FCS) institutions. Despite the geographic diversity of CAA conference members, the new affiliation promises to enhance student-athlete welfare and keep financial costs low through the conference's North and South divisions. A&T's competition will largely be limited to South Division campuses, all of which are

located in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia (In football, Maryland-based Towson University will also compete in the South Division). CAA opened a dialogue with A&T in November 2021 and subsequently extended an invitation to join. A&T informed the CAA and the Big South that it would evaluate the invitation "in a deliberate and data-driven manner." Over the past two months, that evaluation has taken place through a compilation of data, interviews with students, athletics staff, alumni, boosters and Hall of Fame members and additional fact-finding. Support among A&T

athletics constituents for the move was strong. In making the presentation that prompted the vote, Athletics Director Earl Hilton offered the case that the CAA represents where North Carolina A&T stands, academically and athletically, as a highly competitive doctoral research university. "We are pleased to be joining a conference of similarly focused institutions," said Board of Trustees Chairwoman Hilda Pinnix-Ragland. Big South Conference Commissioner Kyle Kallander said while losing members anytime is disappointing, the conference understands these are institutional busi-

ness decisions that aren't necessarily driven by athletics. "The Big South Conference is a strong and stable league that will continue to provide opportunities for national athletics success for its student-athletes and teams. Whenever membership changes, some one always rises to the occasion, and this time will be no different," he said. Longtime Big South member Radford University had no comment on the decision. NC A&T joined the Big South in 2021 and had been lauded as the perfect new member for the league because of its geographic distance relative to most of the conference schools.

Radford boys win third state swimming title; girls finish second

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Radford High School boys' swim team won their third straight Class 2 state swim championship over the weekend in Richmond by gathering 311 points to second-place Braxton's 204 and Virginia

High's 182. On the girls' side of the pool, Radford finished second with 199 points, slightly behind Bruton with 232 points. George Wythe was third with 197. Auburn finished 24th in the first boys' competition and 20th in the girls' competition.

Radford's Ben Shull and Aiden Minnick took 1-2 in the boys' 1-meter diving event. Senior Hampton Wohlford brought home a second in the 100-yard backstroke. Freshman Trent Hollandsworth was first in the 200-yard individual medley and second in the

100-yard breaststroke. Graham Minarik was fourth. Stone Fisher is the 50-yard freestyle state champion; he finished third in the 100-yard Freestyle. The boys' 200-yard freestyle relay team of Wohlford, Fisher, Hollandsworth and Minarik took first place while the same group took

the top spot in the 200-yard medley relay. Radford's Tommie Bloomer is the state champ in the girls' 1-meter diving event. Auburn's Kendra Scaggs, Jocelyn DeHart, and Cassidy Mann finished 4-5-6 in the same event. Grim finished second in the girls' 100-yard freestyle and was a part of the third-place girls' 200-yard medley relay team that included Maggie Dent, Hawva Gasimova, and Madison Graham. In Class 4 competition, Blacksburg High School finished second in the boys' competition and third in the girls'.



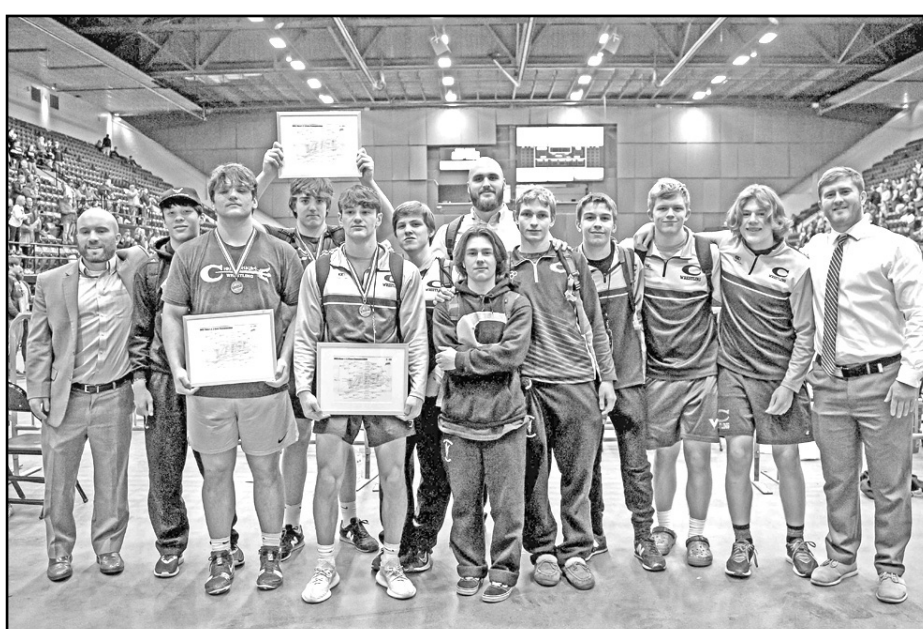
The Radford High School boys' swimming team won the state Class 2 2022 championship over the weekend. The girls' team finished as the state runners-up.

CHS finishes fourth in state wrestling

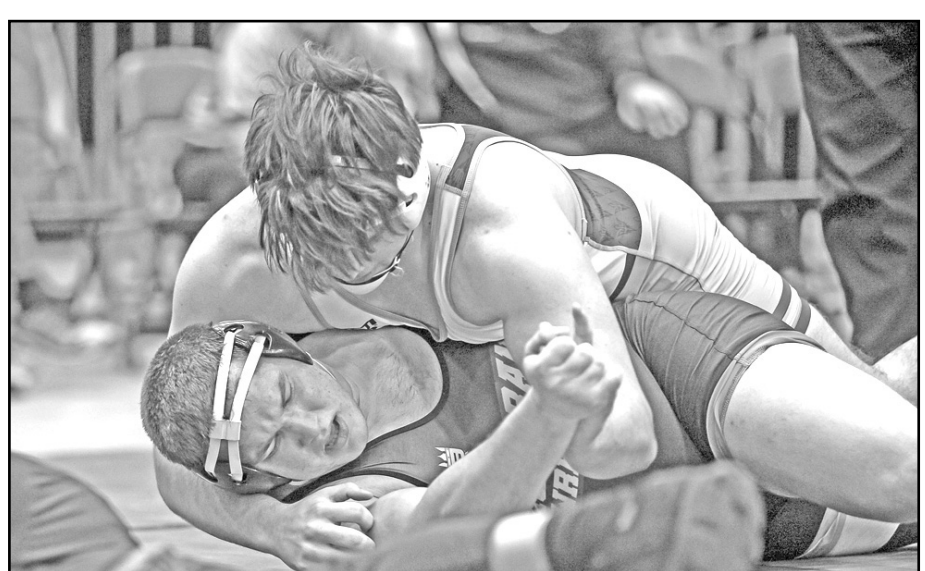
Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Just four years ago, Christiansburg High School was on the top of the mountain of the wrestling world. Now that has all changed. After winning 17 straight titles, the Blue Demons are trying to reload and climb back into the upward echelon of the top wrestling programs.

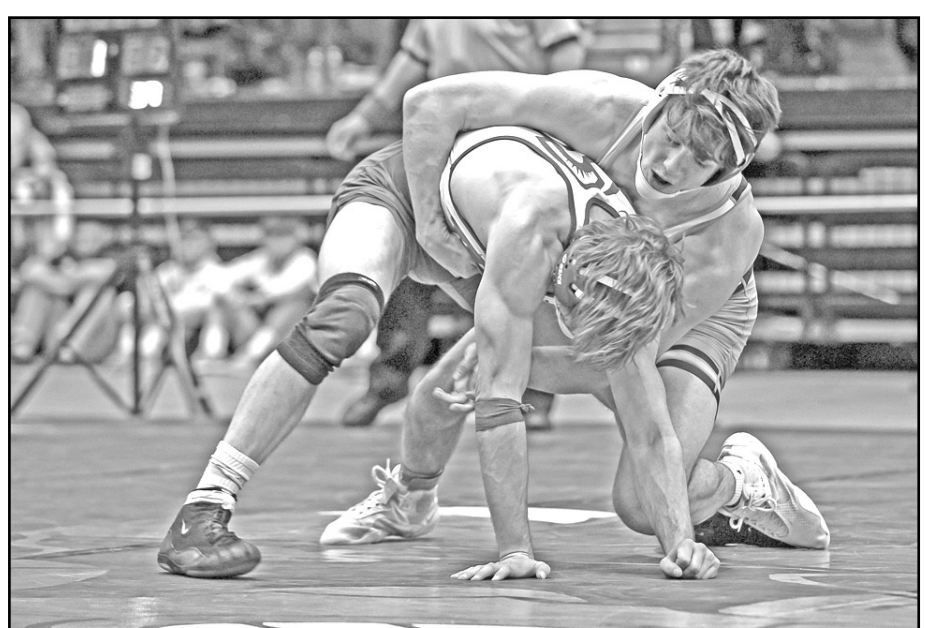
This weekend at the Class 3 state wrestling meet at the Salem Civic Center, Christiansburg had three state champions in Aiden LaComa, Parker Ferrell, and Luke Robie, but it wasn't enough as they could manage only a fourth-place finish. New Kent claimed the state title with 273 points. Skyline was second with 173 points, Staunton River was third with 158 points followed by Christiansburg with 148½ points.



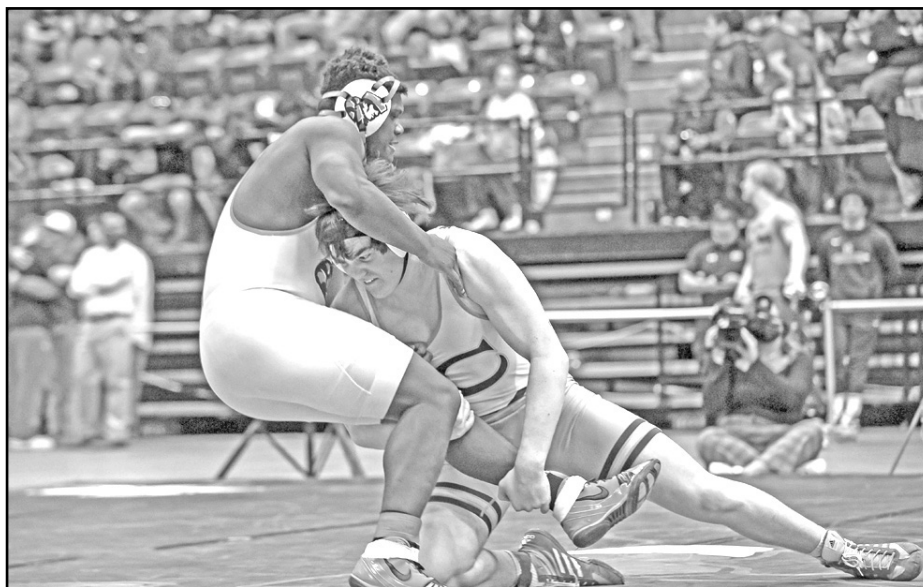
The Christiansburg High School wrestling team finished fourth in this past weekend's Class 3 state championships at the Salem Civic Center.



Christiansburg's Luke Robie beat New Kent's Travis Ragland in the finals at 152 pounds to bring home a state title.



Christiansburg's Aiden LaComa pinned Hunter Richards of William Byrd to claim state gold.



Parker Ferrell is the state champion at 220 pounds after pinning Markaz Wood of Heritage at the 2:33 mark of the final match in the Class 3 state meet in Salem.

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Hokie swimmers return to Blacksburg with 14 medals, 12 records

The Virginia Tech swimming team had one of the strongest performances in school history at the ACC Swimming Championships over the weekend in Atlanta. The Hokies brought 14 medals and 12 school records with them back to Blacksburg.

Tech finished with a combined 65 finalists over the five-day competition.

On the last day of competition, the Hokie men won three out of four individual events. Youssef Ramadan, Carles Coll Marti, and Sam Tornqvist each won a gold medal and set new schools record in the last night of finals.

Chase Travis earned silver in the 1650 free, and Emma Atkinson won bronze in the 200 back to add two more medals to the women's total.

Tech's Youssef Ramadan was named the meet's most valuable swimmer.

FINAL SCORES WOMEN

Virginia – 1418.5; 2. NC State – 1347; 3. Louisville – 1136.5; 4. North Carolina – 760; 5. Duke; 709 | 6. Notre Dame – 651; 7. Virginia Tech – 636; . Florida State – 549; 9. Miami – 411; 10. Georgia Tech – 407; 11. Pitt – 328; 12. Boston College – 178.

FINAL SCORES MEN

NC State – 1501.5; 2. Louisville – 1192.5; 3. Virginia Tech – 1054; 4. Virginia – 1041; 5. Georgia Tech – 742.5; 6. Florida State – 676; 7 – North Carolina – 529; 8. Notre Dame – 474; 9. Pitt – 431; 0. Duke – 341; 11. Boston College – 195.5; 12. Miami – 116.

HEAD COACH SERGIO LOPEZ MIRO

“We had some awesome performances. We had many finalists and podium finishes on the men's and women's side. We broke multiple school records and a few swimmers have already qualified for the NCAA's.”

“It was a very exciting meet for us. We talk a lot about sustainable success, and we are creating that. We are right there. I am very happy with everyone. Youssef won MVP, which is awesome. We have our last chance meet next week and hopefully we can take a great group to the NCAA's.”

TECH WOMEN

The No. 22 ranked women's team finished seventh overall with 636 points. Emma Atkinson was a two-time podium finisher in the 200-free and 200-back. She was also a member of each of the school-record-breaking

relays for the women. Chase Travis dropped nine seconds from her previous best time to win silver for the Hokies in the 1650 free.

NEW SCHOOL RECORDS

800 Free Relay – Atkinson, Shackelford, Pouch, and Gyorgy – 7:01.32
200 Free Relay – Landon, Shackelford, Bentz, and Atkinson – 1:27.96
Anna Landon – 50 Free – 22.21
Podium Finishes
Emma Atkinson – 200 Free; Chase Travis – 1650 Free; Emma Atkinson – 200 Back.

TECH MEN

The No.-8 ranked men's team ended the week with 1054 points, finishing third overall, tying for the program's highest finish in seven years. Youssef Ramadan, Carles Coll Marti, Antani Ivanov, Sam Tornqvist, and Filippo Dal Maso each medaled in at least one individual event that contributed greatly to the Hokies' final score.

The Hokie men returned to Blacksburg with 11 medals, nine school records, and 43 finalists after five days of competition.

Meet MVP Ramadan won bronze in the 50-free, gold in the 100-fly, and gold in the 100-free.

NEW SCHOOL RECORDS

200 IM – Carles Coll Marti – 1:40.67
50 Free – Youssef Ramadan – 18.80
200 Free Relay – Ramadan, Coll Marti, Hallock, and Dominguez – 1:16.29
200 Medley Relay – Manoff, Coll Marti, Ivanov, and Ramadan – 1:22.82

100 Fly – Youssef Ramadan – 44.08
100 Back – Sam Tornqvist – 45.54
200 Back – Sam Tornqvist – 1:39.20

100 Free – Youssef Ramadan – 41.76
200 Breast – Carles Coll Marti – 1:51.69

Podium Finishes

Carles Coll Marti – 200 IM
Youssef Ramadan – 50 Free
Manoff, Coll Marti, Ivanov, and Ramadan – 200 Medley Relay

Filippo Dal Maso – 400 IM
Youssef Ramadan – 100 Fly
Antani Ivanov – 100 Fly
Antani Ivanov – 200 Fly
Tornqvist, Pouch, Ivanov, and Ramadan – 400 Medley Relay

Sam Tornqvist – 200 Back
Youssef Ramadan – 100 Free
Carles Coll Marti – 200 Breast

Radford boys beat Appomattox, advance in Region C



Landen Clark nails a 3-pointer against Appomattox in the Bobcats' 65-35 Friday night win in the first round of the Region C tournament. Clark connected on seven 3-pointers enroute to a 28-point night.



Isiah Austin scores on a layup in Friday's defeat of Appomattox and finished with four points. Gavin Cormany added 18 in the win.



Brandon Thompson scoops around a defender to score a late basket. Radford advanced to the region semis with the win.

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Dr. Megan Thomas

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley is pleased to announce that Megan Cornwell Thomas, DO, FAAP, FACO, FACP has joined our staff. Dr. Thomas will be serving patients in Christiansburg, Dublin, and at the Student Health Center at Giles High School. Dr. Thomas will be seeing patients for a full day at the Student Health Center each week, marking an expansion in the services at that location.

A graduate of Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Thomas has extensive experience as a practitioner, teacher, speaker, and mentor. She completed an Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA. Dr. Thomas then returned to Montgomery County, serving as Core Faculty by supervising residents in the Internal Medicine Continuity Clinic at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in

Blacksburg, and serving as the Chair of Internal Medicine at VCOM. Throughout her career, she has mentored hundreds of students and interns and earned multiple teaching awards.

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GILES HIGH SCHOOL | 540.381.0820
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