



Wednesday, October 5, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

RADFORD CITY TREE FINALISTS

➔ VOTE BY OCTOBER 9TH, 2022 ➔



FACEBOOK IMAGE

Citizens can vote for Radford's official city tree from five finalists. Voting is open until Oct. 10 at www.facebook.com/groups/radfordcitytree.

Radford citizens encouraged to vote for Radford's official tree

Heather Bell
hbell@ourvalley.org

RADFORD – The Radford City Council recently received an update on the city's Beautification and Municipal Forestry Commission and its effort to plant 150 trees in 2022 in honor of the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day.

"We're pretty close to reaching that goal," said Dr. Matt Close, co-chair of the commission. "We should get there if we can get everything planted before winter."

Close said about 40 trees were planted on West Main Street, and other plantings include a centerpiece cedar tree planted in the center of the roundabout at Sundell Drive, Eastern Redbud trees along Sundell Drive, several trees at Glencoe Mansion and the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park, East Main Street, Scott Street and Dick Davis Drive, and in Bisset Park and along New River Drive.

Close said he would like to see the city enhance the health of its tree population by increasing public awareness and train-

ing for proper tree pruning and removal, the best species to plant locally, and possible changes in policies and city code regarding tree planting and removal.

Close also introduced Jesse Kelly, who operates a non-profit called Nursery Natives, the mission of which is "restoring native ecosystems, food sources and community, one tree at a time." Kelly has launched a Facebook page to allow citizens to vote on an official Radford city tree. Close said once the voting is over, the Beautification Commission will likely appear before the city council in the hopes the city will officially adopt a city tree.

Kelly said there are five tree species in the final running for the official Radford city tree. They are the Eastern Redbud, the Common Paw Paw, the Cucumber Magnolia, the Red Maple, and the Flowering Dogwood. The trees are all recommended species for the local area through the Virginia Department of Forestry. Voting is open until Oct. 10 at (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/radfordcitytree>).

City Council passes October proclamations

Heather Bell
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RADFORD – The Radford City Council passed proclamations in support of several initiatives at its recent meeting.

October is National Arts and Humanities Month, and the council's proclamation "calls upon the citizens of Radford to celebrate, explore, and participate in the arts and culture of the City of Radford."

"The arts and humanities are the embodiment of all things beautiful and entertaining in the world, the enduring record of human achievement," said council member Dr. Richard Harshberger in reading the proclamation at the council's Sept. 26 meeting. "The arts and humanities enhance every aspect of life in the City of Radford, improving our economy, enriching our civic life, driving tourism, and exerting a profound positive influence on the education of our children; and arts education research shows that the arts help to foster discipline, creativity, imagination, self-expression, and problem-solving skills while also helping to develop a heightened appreciation of beauty and cross-cultural understanding."

Fire Prevention Week is the subject of the second proclamation the city council passed. Fire Prevention Week is celebrated nationally from Oct. 9–15, and the local proclamation "urges the community to plan and practice a home fire escape for Fire Prevention Week 2022 and to

support the many public safety activities and efforts of Radford's fire and emergency services."

"The City of Radford is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city," said council member Jessie Foster in reading the proclamation. "Fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire."

"Radford residents should be sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond," she said. "Radford residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire."

"City of Radford first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education and the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape," effectively serves to remind us it is important to have a home fire escape plan," Foster said.

The final proclamation city council passed is in support of Public Power Week, celebrated through this Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. The proclamation "recognizes the Radford Electric Department for its contributions to the community and its efforts to educate customers and employees on the benefits of public power."

See Proclamations, page 6

Grace Episcopal to hold Blessing of the Animals and supply drive

RADFORD - In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, Grace Episcopal Church is holding a Blessing of the Animals and a donation drive for animal supplies.

"Join us with your animal for a celebration of pets at The Garden of Grace," the church announced. "Reverend William Yagel will be present to give each animal a special blessing individually as they arrive."

The event is scheduled for this Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon.

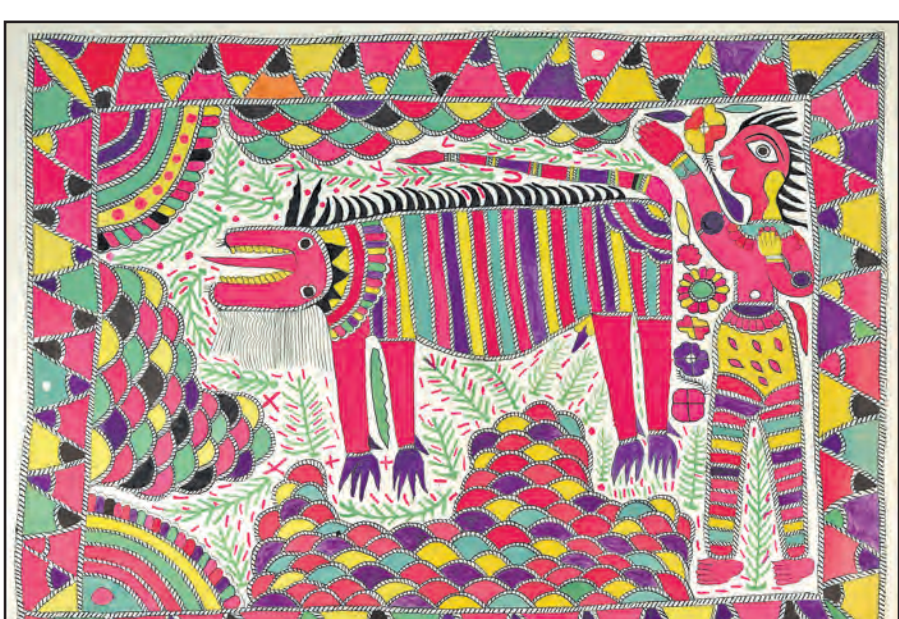
Animals must be leashed or contained in a pet carrier. Other opportunities include participation in a pet memorial, pet goody bags, a walk with the pet in the labyrinth, and information about local pet

resources. Donations will be collected for Fido's Pantry and the Radford Animal Shelter. Fido's Pantry is a program through Agency on Aging that provides pet food to senior citizens with pets.

Items being collected for Fido's Pantry include canned dog or cat food, five-pound bags of dry dog or cat food, and kitty litter. Items collected for the Animal Shelter include Purina Dog Chow Chicken (green bag), Purina Cat Chow Complete (blue bag), Purina Kitten Chow (yellow bag), O Cedar Spin Mop Bucket set, and Dawn dish soap.

Grace Episcopal Church is located at 210 Fourth St., Radford.

Radford News Journal staff report



Tiger Hunting (c.1988) by Jamuna Devi—aka Yamuna Devi (1922-2011), Radford University Art Museum Collection, donated by the Ethnic Arts Foundation.

Raja Salhesh's Garden art exhibits breaks boundaries

RADFORD - On Thursday, Oct. 13, Raja Salhesh's Garden, an art exhibit featuring works from the oppressed Dalit community of India's northern Mithila region, will open in Radford University's Art Museum at the Covington Center.

This is the first international group exhibition of Dalit art shown anywhere.

The groundbreaking exhibit is curated by John Bowles, who has worked for years to bring forward these underexposed artists. Although India's Dalits (formerly called "untouchables") number more than 200 million, their art has received little attention, even in their own country. Bowles says the uniqueness and importance of the exhibition go hand in hand, describing Dalit work as "astonishingly



Medni Tree (2019) by Rama Devi. Bihar Collection of Dr. & Mrs. Carl Pechman, Washington, D.C.

See Exhibits, page 2

Active duty Coast Guard visits Claytor Lake



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chief Campbell and LT Bannon debrief the Coast Guard Auxiliary on the dock after their support of the law enforcement mission.

CLAYTOR LAKE - The job of keeping the boating public safe, both on the high seas and on the inland waterways, falls to the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The active duty Coast Guard came to Claytor Lake last month to support that mission. Their itinerary was quite varied, from meeting with Coast Guard Auxiliary Virginia Tech, to training the Auxiliary, and actively being supported by the Auxiliary while they conducted law enforcement missions on the lake.

Their purpose for being at Claytor Lake extended even further when they met and

conferenced with a collaboration of: Pulaski Emergency Management and Pulaski Special Operations, all hosted by Flotilla 83 at their headquarters at the Search and Rescue Detachment on Claytor Lake. Flotilla 83 is actively working to encourage increased interagency cooperation for life-saving operations and environmental protection on and around the lake. At their headquarters on the far side of the lake, they have very sophisticated telecommunications and tracking systems to support these missions.

Submitted by Gary Sayre of the Coast Guard Auxiliary

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday, Oct. 10:

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., at 7 p.m. The agenda can be found at www.radfordva.gov.

Board of Supervisors meeting
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and are allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channel 190 daily.

RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

STEM club
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. Join this home-school STEM club to explore science, technology, engineering, or math. Ages 8 and up.

Healthy eating and cooking for your family using an instant pot

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come learn how to make affordable, healthy snacks and meals using an instant pot for the family. Receive free cooking utensils at each class and register for an instant pot and cookbook on completion of the 4-week series. Activities will be provided for children 3 and older. Registration is required as space is limited. This program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Tuesday, Oct. 11:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

School board meeting
The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the RCPS Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda can be found at www.rcps.org.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
The Blacksburg Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Christiansburg Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street).

Spooky movie trivia for teens
At the Radford Public Library 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A friendly Halloween-themed trivia competition for teens. Each correct answer will earn a piece of candy.

Women's Club of Radford meeting.
The Woman's Club of Radford will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Thursday, Oct. 13:

Ice cream social, wealth gap discussion
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1845 Cambria St., Christiansburg, will host an ice cream social and discussion of the wealth gap in the United States from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. Following refreshments, the church will use a Bread for the World's Racial Wealth Gap exercise to guide the conversation. This event is sponsored by the church

and LT2 ("Learning to Live Together").

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 Ave., Radford. This guild is for those willing to share their knowledge and learn from others. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Saturday, Oct. 15:

National Paint Your Own Pottery Day celebrated at local studio
Paint Your Own Pottery (PYOP) stores around the country will offer special classes and events to celebrate National PYOP Day. Paint 'n Fun Ceramics in Christiansburg will be participating with activities for everyone in the family.

Radford Reads
Mystery author Katharine Schellman will talk about two of her new books, "Death at the Manor" (Lily Adler series, Book 3), and "Last Call at the Nightingale" at the Radford Public Library at 3 p.m. Blacksburg Books will be present to sell copies of Katharine's books. This event was made possible by the Lamplighters.

Sunday, Oct. 16:

Author Talk with Jane Goette
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Jane Goette will talk about her book, "A River Road Memoir," a journey through a young girl's idyllic childhood in the rural South to her restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle becomes urgent and personal to her family. The unfolding story is told through the second daughter's eyes. This author event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Linda Spivey at 540-382-6969, ext. 221.

Thursday, Oct. 20:

Radford Photo Club meeting
The Radford Photo Club will meet at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Sharon Gilbert of Radford will talk about the different formats she uses to print her photos, such as ceramic tile, wood, slate, and metal. Meet-

ings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for October is pets. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow
Come to the Radford Public Library at 5 p.m. for a performance of the classic Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Bright Star Theatre. Follow Ichabod Crane as he becomes the schoolmaster in Sleepy Hollow and the spooky events no one will ever forget! Appropriate for ages 4+. Sponsored by the Lamplighters.

Saturday, Oct. 22:

Blacksburg UMC children's consignment sale
The Blacksburg United Methodist Church will hold its semi-annual children's consignment sale at the Whisner Building on the main church campus, 111 Church St., from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Blacksburg leaf compost pickup
Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive, for composting and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup. Register at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10139/304?backlist=%2fhome%2f-fsit-eid-1#!/>.

Sons of Norway meeting
For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), interesting programs, and activities on heritage and culture. The local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization meets on the fourth Saturday of each month (except for special events), from 1 to 3 p.m., at College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Ave., Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

Ongoing:

Stormwater utility credits available
Residents of the Town of

Blacksburg who have a stormwater facility on their site, may qualify for a credit on their monthly stormwater utility fees. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to see if you qualify. The deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 2023. For questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Halloween costume drive
Now through Oct. 15 at the Meadowbrook Public Library. The library is collecting new and like-new Halloween costumes in all sizes. Drop off a costume at the circulation desk during library hours. Costumes are for a free program on Monday, Oct. 17, at the Meadowbrook Library from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. First come first served while costumes last.

Coat Drive in memory of Cindy Collins
Underway at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL may be dropped off at the Meadowbrook Public Library in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

Applications underway for NRV Master Gardener grants
The NRV Master Gardener Association is now accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to educational, caregiving or community-based organizations seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life through a gardening-related project. Open to counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) and the City of Radford. Grants have previously been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, educational groups, community gardens, and nursing homes. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit a project application, contact Carol Trutt: 540-239-9591 caroltrutt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but applications may be mailed to Carol at the following address: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Exhibits

from page 1

underappreciated and rarely seen.

eyes of many of their Indian compatriots, the Dalits have been perceived as having no

real culture or aptitude for creating art."

The paintings on display

at the museum, however, attest to Dalit art as highly creative, intricate, and captivating for viewers. Therefore, Bowles stresses, bringing Dalit art to the public in this way challenges stereotypes and misperceptions about this centuries-long maligned community.

Less encumbered by the visual conventions and subject matter followed by most of their upper caste neighbors, Mithila's Dalit artists' paintings offer some of the region's most innovative and vigorous imagery.

"There could be few people in the world more economically, culturally, and socially marginalized than the Dalits of Mithila," says Bowles, noting this is particularly true of the Dalit women. "Yet, these paintings radiate positivity, powerfully and beautifully expressed, sometimes with remarkable rhythmic boldness, sometimes with delicate subtlety, that might be compared to jazz music."

The historic exhibition features paintings by 17 of Mithila's leading Dalit artists which range from Jamuna Dev's colorful depictions of the Dalit hero-deity Raja Salhesh to Urmila Devi's intricate imagery based on tattoo designs.

And contemporary concerns occasionally arise in Dalit art. A series of 19 drawings by Ranjit Paswan depicts COVID's impact during India's prolonged nationwide lockdown.

While Raja Salhesh's Garden is the season's main exhibition at the Radford University Art Museum, it is not a stand-alone event. The

Radford Art Museum has also helped coordinate three satellite art exhibitions.

"Mithila Medley" at the Floyd Center for the Arts shows works by both Dalit and upper caste artists in Mithila. Blacksburg's Miller-Off-Main Street Gallery presents a solo exhibition of paintings by the emerging Dalit artist Naresh Paswan, and the Mithila-inspired illustrations by the French author and Legion of Honor inductee Martine Le Coz are on display at the Art Museum's Tyler Gallery.

Other complementary events include a documentary screening, two stage plays, and an international symposium, "Mithila Musings."

The first part of "Mithila Musings" takes place at the Floyd Center for the Arts from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 13. The second runs from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Radford University's Davis Auditorium in the Covington Center.

Not surprisingly, this effort has been several years in the making.

Museum director Steve Arbury says preparing an exhibition such as Raja Salhesh's Garden is a long, time-intensive process that "requires great attention to detail, even more so in this case because we are also publishing an online catalog to accompany the exhibition." The process involves selecting art from numerous sources, photographing, framing, writing text panels, acquiring new scholarly essays, researching and writing catalog entries, and finally mounting the exhibition.

"And each of those pro-

cesses has multiple layers," says Arbury. "Catalog entries and text labels require extensive research, as well as multiple proof readings by several people. "And installation must be preceded by loan arrangements, international shipping, local framing, and careful planning of the location of each work in the gallery."

However, the results are more than worth the effort.

The team has produced an impressive collection and an exhibition of various works that John Bowles hopes will delight and impress those who come to see it.

"The transformative power of art should never be underestimated," he says with enthusiasm.

He points to the fact that most of Mithila's artists are women whose artistic talents have led them to become respected family breadwinners for the first time. In turn, the artists have been able to improve their personal economic conditions and the social and cultural standing of the Dalit community in general.

"Whatever one's material circumstances in life, the human spirit can create visions of transcendence that are deeply moving and transforming," Bowles said.

For more information on Raja Salhesh's Garden, as well as the other events, visit Radford University's Art Museum webpage.

All events and exhibits are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

Sean Kotz

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News Journal

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Buddy is a sweet younger dog with a happy attitude. He enjoys delicious treats and playing with tennis balls. He can be a little shy in new surroundings but is friendly once comfortable. Meet Buddy at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.



Dipper is ready to find his people. This pawsome little guy doesn't mind being held by his favorite humans and occasionally lets out soft purrs like a cat, when he feels content. His adoption includes his full guinea pig cage setup.

NRV Women's Resource Center Coats for Kids drive underway

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley's Coats for Kids collection is underway through October 30.

Being collected are coats for new and/or used light jackets and winter coats for both children and adults.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Christiansburg are American National Bank & Trust, 2950 Market St NE –

Dawn Bryant – 540-391-4040; First Bank & Trust Co, 150 Peppers Ferry RD NE- Marie Rorrer – 540-260-9060; Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Dr – Front Desk – 540.382.6500; Paint-N-Fun, Uptown Christiansburg – Terri Welch – 540-381-1770; Tan N Tone, 1504 N Franklin St - Sherry Chandler - 540.381-3777; and Tuck

Chiropractic Clinic, 2045 N Franklin St. - Dr. Jessica Morris 540.382.3000.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Blacksburg are Blacksburg Ballet/ Dance Tech, 1101 N Main St – Paige Godwin 540-961-6666; Courtyard by Marriott, 105 Southpark Dr- Front Desk – 540-552-5222; Smith and Associates, Ameriprise, 1901 S Main St. - Christine Smith – 540-443-9143;

Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, 620 N Main St.- Dr. Jennifer Rathmann – 540.951.4357.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Radford are Farmers Insurance, 1055 E Main Street – Belinda Blodgett Agency – 540-838-2198; Lil' Bit Corny, 111 3rd Street, – Christine Eilert – 540-250-0236; Ridpath Insurance Agency, 6107 Fulk Dr, - Suzie Anderson –

540.731.8696.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Fairlawn are Curtis Crowder- 540-731-6000; Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, 6580 Valley Center Dr, – Shannon Ainsley - 540.674.1991; New River Radio Group, 7080 Lee Hwy; Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, 7350 Peppers Ferry Blvd. Suite B, - Dr DJ McAnich - 540.731.4357.

October schedule of events: Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

Saturday, Oct. 8

Grub club at 11 a.m.

This new cooking program for kids will teach important kitchen skills and show them how to make simple and fun recipes that do not require an oven. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Children under 10 need to be accompanied by an adult. Registration

is required. The program is not recommended for those with food allergies.

Adopt a shelter dog celebration at 1:30 p.m.

Adopt a shelter dog celebration is an adoption event in cooperation with the Floyd County Humane SocietyStop by the library to meet some new furry friends that are looking for their fur-ever

home.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

At 3:00 p.m. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist meeting

A certified peer recovery specialist from the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting at Jessie Peterman Memo-

rial Library in Floyd every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to add connection and support into their lives is welcome to participate.

Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. These meetings will provide a safe,

non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness. There is no need to sign up.

Curious craft club at 4:30 p.m.

The curious craft club will be making Halloween Pumpkin Lanterns at the library on Tuesday, October 11th at 4:30 pm. It's time to make perfectly spooky papier-mâché lanterns. Participants can

have lots of fun with a messy afternoon of ripping paper, water, and glue.

Thursday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m.

Talking about books

To be discussed is the book "Memphis" by Tara Stringfellow. New members are welcome.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU

Culpeper gardener Paul Jarosh's 103-pound butternut squash set a new world record at the recent State Fair of Virginia Giant Vegetable Competition.

Virginia-grown giant vegetables break world and State Fair records

DOSWELL—Culpeper gardener Paul Jarosh's 103-pound butternut squash smashed a world record at the recent State Fair of Virginia Giant Vegetable Competition.

The squash weighs almost 40 pounds more than the current entry in the Guinness Book of World Records, and 20 pounds more than the standing record with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth.

Jarosh was inspired to grow giant vegetables in his backyard garden after witnessing previous State Fair weigh-offs. He obtained seeds from another world record holder.

"As soon as I set the fruit, I knew there was something different about it; it grew so rapidly," he said. "There's so much attention to detail and consistency when growing giant vegetables."

He conducted soil sampling and patch amendments for optimal growth.

"And I was clipping flowers off pumpkins every day to prevent the attraction of pests," Jarosh said.

He also took first place for his 174.5-pound bushel gourd and sixth place for a 230-pound pumpkin.

For now, Jarosh is reveling in the world butternut title.

"There's another gentleman in Michi-

gan who has a similar-sized fruit," he said. They met in an online giant vegetable growing community, comparing numbers, and estimating potential weights based on measurements.

"I'm waiting on him to weigh his fruit this weekend to see if he beats me," Jarosh said. "Either way, I broke the world record at the State Fair, and no one can take that away from me right now."

Setting a new State Fair record, Middlesex County gardener Luke Williams' Carolina X giant watermelon weighed in at 259.5 pounds, beating the previous 254-pound record from 2018. He also won the competition in 2021.

"I lost a bigger one than what I entered this year!" Williams lamented. "I pay attention to genetics, halfway-decent soil, nutrition and keeping it disease- and pest-free. But genetics is by far the most important."

Williams said he will save seeds to perpetuate the watermelon's strong genetics and try again next year.

"I want to grow one to 300 pounds," he said. "And I might quit after that."

Barry Shrum of Shenandoah County grew this year's winning pumpkin, which weighed 756 pounds. Southampton County's Ricky Atkins grew the runner-up, which weighed 642 pounds.

Virginia is for bug lovers with Virginia Tech's five bug-centric events across the state this fall

This fall, the College of Agriculture and Life Science's Department of Entomology and Virginia Cooperative Extension are hosting five bug-centric events in five Virginia locales: Montgomery County, Henrico County, Virginia Beach, Pulaski County, and Radford.

Virginia Tech bug festivals are free, community events that invite visitors and school children to learn about science through the fascinating and important world of entomology. Topics range from pollinators and urban pests to aquatic insects and forensic entomology. Each event features exhibits from Virginia Tech and around the region, hands-on activities, and, of course, lots of bugs.

University and community experts are on hand to answer questions and share their own excitement about bugs.

"Our goals are to inspire the next generation of scientists and showcase the importance of insects worldwide," said festival organizer and Department of Entomology faculty member Daniel Frank. "And what better vehicle to evoke curiosity than the vibrant, often alien-looking, extreme world of bugs."

Each Hokie bug festival has something special to offer, and with events



spanning the state, there's something for everyone.

Montgomery County One of Virginia Tech's largest science outreach events of the year, Hokie BugFest 2022 returns for a 12th year on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Squires Student Center in Blacksburg. (A special pre-opening from 9 to 10 a.m. is reserved for people with mobility or other special needs.)

"We are thrilled to be back in person after two

years of online programming during the pandemic," said Frank.

This year's event boasts over 30 exhibitors including Virginia Tech labs, area museums, community groups, and industry experts. Visitors will enjoy hands-on activities, working bee hives, a bug library, 3D insects, and plenty of live arthropods including scorpions, blue death feigning beetles, tarantulas, millipedes, hissing cockroaches, and more.

OPINION

Governor declares state of emergency in advance of Hurricane Ian

Due to the pending weather forecasts, Governor Glenn Youngkin Thursday declared a State of Emergency in advance of Hurricane Ian, which is expected to impact portions of Virginia starting on Friday, September 30, 2022.

This State of Emergency allows the commonwealth to mobilize resources and equipment needed for response and recovery efforts. Virginians should be prepared for the potential of severe rainfall, flooding, wind damage, tornadoes, and other storm-related impacts.

Localities throughout the commonwealth may experience different impacts from Hurricane Ian. VHSL encourages its member schools to follow local forecasts and the governor's directives when deciding whether to postpone or play scheduled athletic events on Friday and Saturday. Each school is responsible for making these decisions.

VHSL also reminds all its members to take all necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of athletes, coaches, officials, spirit groups, bands, and spectators.

The full text of the governor's declaration reads as follows:

NUMBER TWENTY-TWO (2022)

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO HURRICANE IAN

Importance of the Issue

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center has been monitoring Hurricane Ian that, as of

0500 this morning, was located 75 miles WSW of Naples, Fla., moving at 10 mph. Ian is expected to make landfall in Florida this afternoon as a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane.

Although the forecasted tracks will become more certain in the coming days, Virginia is leaning forward given the likelihood of severe rainfall, flooding, wind damage, tornadoes, and other storm-related impacts as Ian moves north into the commonwealth and neighboring jurisdictions.

The effects of this weather system are also likely to cause significant impacts to infrastructure, roadways, and utilities. Pre-positioning supplies will be necessary to assist our local partners, and the Virginia Emergency Support Team will continue to support this incident.

The anticipated effects of this situation constitute a disaster as

described in § 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia (Code). Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article V,

Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, by §§ 44-146.17 and 44-75.1 of the Code, as Governor

and Director of Emergency Management and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth's

armed forces, Virginia National Guard, I proclaim a state of emergency.

Accordingly, I direct state and local governments to render appropriate assistance to prepare for this event, to alleviate any conditions resulting from the situation, and to implement recovery and mitigation operations and activities so as to return impacted areas to pre-event conditions as much as possible.

Emergency services shall be conducted in accordance with § 44-146.13 et seq. of the Code.

2 Directive

In order to marshal all public resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and

recovery measures, I order the following actions:

1. Implementation by state

agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, as amended, along with other appropriate state plans.

2. Activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Emergency Support Team, as directed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, to coordinate the provision of assistance to state, local, and tribal governments and to facilitate emergency services assignments to other agencies.

3. Authorization for the heads of executive branch agencies, on behalf of their regulatory boards as appropriate, and with the concurrence of their cabinet secretary, to waive any state requirement or regulation, and enter into contracts without regard to normal procedures or formalities, and without regard to application or permit fees or royalties.

All waivers issued by agencies shall be posted on their websites.

4. Activation of § 59.1-525 et seq. of the Code related to price gouging.

5. Authorization of a maximum of \$2,750,000 in state sum sufficient funds for state and lo-

cal government mission assignments and state response and recovery operations authorized and coordinated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management allowable by The Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq. Included in this authorization is \$750,000.00 for the Department of Military Affairs.

6. Activation of the Virginia National Guard to State Active Duty.

Effective Date of this Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective September 28, 2022, and shall remain in full force and in effect until October 27, 2022, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order. Termination of this executive order is not intended to terminate any federal type benefits granted or to be granted due to injury or death as a result of service under this executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 28th day of September 2022.

Glenn Youngkin, Governor

Attested to by Kay Coles James, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Virginia gas prices fall another 3.3 cents per gallon

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 3.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.30/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 26.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 25.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.9 cents in the last week and stands at

\$4.86 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.81/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.48/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.81/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.48/g.

The national average price of

gasoline has risen 11.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.78/g today. The national average is up 0.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 59.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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Financial Focus: Should you stick with index-based investments?

You may have heard that you can simplify your investment strategy just by owning index-based or passive investments. But is this a good idea? You'll want to consider the different aspects of this type of investment style.

To begin with, an index-based investment is a vehicle such as a mutual fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that mimics the performance of a market benchmark, or index — the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500, and so on. (An ETF is similar to a mutual fund in that it holds a variety of invest-

ments but differs in that it is traded like a common stock.) You can also invest in index funds that track the bond market.

Index investing does offer some benefits. Most notably, it's a buy-and-hold strategy, which is typically more effective than a market-timing approach in which individuals try to buy investments when their prices are down and sell them when the prices rise. Attempts to time the market this way are usually futile because nobody can really predict when high and low points will be reached. Plus, the very act of constantly buying and selling investments can generate commissions and fees, which can lower your overall rate of return. Thus, index investing generally involves lower fees and is considered more tax efficient than a more active investing style.

Also, when the financial markets are soaring, which happened for several years until this year's downturn, index-based investments

can certainly look pretty good. After all, when the major indices go up, index funds will do the same.

Conversely, during a correction, when the market drops at least 10% from recent highs, or during a bear market, when prices fall 20% or more, index-based investments will likely follow the same downward path.

And there are also other issues to consider with index-based investments. For one thing, if you're investing with the objective of matching an index, you may be overlooking the key factors that should be driving your investment decisions — your goals and your risk tolerance. An index is a completely impersonal benchmark measuring the performance of a specific set of investments, but it can't be a measuring stick of your own progress.

Furthermore, a single index, by definition, can't be as diversified as the type of portfolio you might need to achieve your objectives. For example, the

S&P 500 may track a lot of companies, but they're predominantly large ones. And to achieve your objectives, you may need a portfolio consisting of large- and small-company stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can give you more opportunities for success and can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

Ultimately, diversifying across different types of investments that align with your risk tolerance and goals — regardless of whether they track an index — is the most important consideration for your investment portfolio. Use this idea as your guiding principle as you journey through the investment world.

Submitted by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczumski (540) 552-1421.

WalletHub: Virginia in middle of pack among safest states during COVID

With around 68% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and new cases down a lot since the start of the year, the personal finance website WalletHub has released updated rankings for the Safest States During COVID-19.

Some states are safer than others based on how well they have kept the pandemic under control and how much they are vaccinating. In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. The company's data set includes the level of COVID-19 community transmission, the rates of

positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

Virginia came in at No. 30 in the rankings, well within the middle of the pack.

The ten safest places, according to WalletHub's survey are 1. Vermont 2. North Carolina 3. Hawaii 4. District of Columbia 5. Utah 6. Colorado 7. Maine 8. Alaska 9. Florida 10. New Jersey.

On the other hand, the ten least safe states, according to WalletHub, are 42. Missouri 43. Indiana 44. Ohio 45. Georgia 46. Kentucky 47. Michigan 48. Tennessee 49. Iowa 50. Arkansas. 51. West Virginia

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbered squares and blacked-out areas.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Carey, Patricia Catherine Long

Patricia Catherine Long Carey, 86, of Christiansburg, died Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at 10:20 p.m. Her husband, Nelson George Carey, her daughter, Cheryl Nannette Carey, and her grandson, Carl Ryan Linkous were at her bedside at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in Salem.

She was born on Long Island, N.Y. on Aug. 27, 1936, to the late John Walter and Barbara Franklin Long. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Walter Long Jr.

She is survived by her husband, Nelson George Carey; her children, Glenn Christopher Carey of Green Acres, Fla. (wife Tammy Pannell) and Cheryl Nannette Carey of Christiansburg; grandsons Brian Carey of Florida and Carl Ryan Linkous of Christiansburg; nieces Sarah King and Allie Long of Long Island.; great-nieces, Lucy May and Harlee Grace; and nephew, Justin Long of Long Island.

Patricia was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was very active in her church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Blacksburg. She was a member of St. Mary's Rosary Makers where she made more than 1,000 rosaries that were shipped around the world.



She was a money counter, heading up a group that cleaned the worship area of the church every Monday, a baker for funeral receptions, and a caller to alert the bakers. She crocheted small gift blankets for the newly baptized and shawls for the sick. She organized a court of Catholic Daughters of the Americas and served as the Charter Regent.

Among the Leggett employees and the Knights of Columbus, Patricia and Nelson became known as the Arthur Murray couple. The highlight of their dance career was a Knights of Columbus Convention, where they went on a midnight cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk and danced the night away on the upper and lower deck.

Graveside services will be conducted today, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Westview Cemetery, with the Father John Asare officiating. The family received friends on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, with a rosary service at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, Va. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Toys from the Heart, 905 Collins St., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Sira, Raymond

Raymond Sira, 60, of Shawsville, died as a result of a sudden accident at his home on Sept. 25, 2022. Ray was born on Nov. 28, 1961, in Raritan, N.J.

Ray graduated from Bridgewater-Raritan High School West and Somerset County Vocational School in Bridgewater, N.J. In addition to his studies in electronics, he was a tenor in the choir, the advanced choir, and the Cavaliers. Ray's sense of adventure started very young with his crawling through the storm sewers in front of his childhood home, then later going on trips with his dad to real caves. He fell in love with caves and the caving community, leading to a lifelong dedication and passion that shaped the rest of his life.

Ray's adventures continued with his love of motorcycles. A highlight was riding his bike cross-country to a National Speleological Society (NSS) Convention. During his younger years, Ray was an active member of the Northern New Jersey Grotto (NNJG), a local caving club, where he held positions as treasurer, vice chairman, chairman, and editor of the NNJG's newsletter Speleotheses.

Ray left New Jersey and moved to the New River Valley area of Virginia in 1993 to be near the caves and cavers he grew to love. He soon took a job at Virginia Tech. Although he was a seasoned caver, he decided to attend the VPI grotto's training program and officially joined the VPI Cave Club as member 356 in October 1995. He became a life member of the grotto in spring 2011. Ray gladly helped take new students caving, graciously passing on his knowledge of caving skills and practices. He participated



in practice rescues, assisted in several cave search and rescue incidents, and often helped with cave and road cleanups.

Ray is in the yellow suit on the cover of the NSS' Caving Basics book. He was a lifelong NSS member where he was both secretary and treasurer of the NSS Vertical Section for many years. He also ran the Vertical Section climbing contest at NSS Conventions.

Ray was also the Giles County coordinator for the Virginia Speleological Survey for several years. As an accomplished caver, many stories of harrowing adventure involve him, a cave, and some combination of misfortune and excitement followed by a little luck, skill, and good company.

Ray was the son of Geraldine A. "Jerry" Sira (deceased) and Adrian "Ed" Sira, and the middle brother of Adrienne Ferenczy, Richard Sira, and the late Russell Sira.

He is survived by a brother-in-law Jeffrey Ferenczy; beloved nieces and nephews Kevin Sira, David Ferenczy, Nathan Ferenczy, Joshua Ferenczy, Olivia Ferenczy, and Hannah Ferenczy; and also beloved great-nephews Nicholas Sira, Nathaniel Sira, Victor Ferenczy, and Jeremiah Ferenczy.

Services were held, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Drive S.W. Blacksburg with a visitation before the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the VPI Cave Club scholarship fund in Ray's name. These funds will be used to sponsor young cavers who wish to attend the annual NSS Convention (VPI Cave Club, P.O. Box 558, Blacksburg, VA, 24063).

Smith, Connie S.

Connie S. Smith, 72, of Kewaskum, Wis., journeyed to heaven, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

She was born in Montgomery County on Oct. 31, 1949, to the late Isaac Webb Saul and Georgia Etta Ross Saul. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Smith, Sr.; her son, Robert Lee Smith, Jr.; her sister, Bobbie Saul Ross; and two brothers, Billy Ray Saul and Tommy Saul.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Wendell and Amy Smith; a daughter-in-law, Starlet Angel Smith; grandchildren Zachary and Hope Smith; adopted daughter Donna Christian and



her husband, Zane; adopted grandchildren Bandon and Ryan Cox; a brother, Isaac Webb Saul, Jr.; a sister, Sue Thornton; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends everywhere.

Connie worked for English Meadows and Wheatland nursing homes as a CNA Med Tech. To finish her career, she worked at Radford Hospital and retired in 2015.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Frankie Graham, Pastor Steve, and Lou Akers officiating. Burial followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery, Dublin.

Wright, Jaunita

Jaunita Wright, 91 originally of Ma-toaka, W.Va., passed away on Sept. 29, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wesley Wright; her parents, William and Fannie Baumgardner; brothers Clifton M. Baumgardner and Dewey E. Baumgardner; and sons Roger Calfee and Rondal Calfee.

Jaunita is survived by her children, Robert Wesley Wright II (Melissa), Rich-

ard Calfee, Robert Calfee, and Debra Calfee; 18 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Charles Baumgardner; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Radford Health & Rehab and the staff of Warm Hearth Village for their care of Jaunita.

Services will be private. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home & Crematory.

Price, Pearl Agee

Pearl Agee Price, 86, of Blacksburg, gained her angel wings Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022. She was born on June 29, 1936, to the late Frank and Flossie Agee. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Avener Price; a sister, Belle Underwood; and a brother, Charles Agee.

She is survived by her daughters and son-in-law, Anita and Marvin Howard, and Sherry Price Rakes; son, Roger Price; grandchildren, Uriah Seth Miller (Lindsey), Paige Johnston, Nancy Bow-



yer; great-grandchildren, Axton and Jadon Miller, Kylo Cook; sisters, Ruth Alls and Jane Duncan; brother, Roy Agee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be conducted Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Neal Tuner officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. Friday at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, Virginia.

Shultz, Kristy Dawn

Kristy Dawn Shultz, 42, passed away Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, at her home in Pulaski.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Anna Louise McPherson.

Survivors include her father, Robert Edward McPherson; her children, Harley Huffman



and Paul Huffman; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Todd Belcher; and many other relatives and friends.

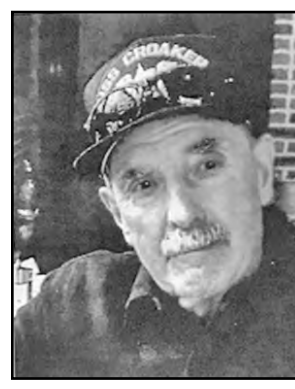
Services will be private. The McPherson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Richardson, Samuel David

Samuel David Richardson passed away on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, at the age of 80, in Colorado.

He is survived by his daughter, Laura, and son-in-law Samir; nephew Bill Wright and his wife, Becky, of Powhatan, Va.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Otha A. Richardson and Josephine (Duncan) Richardson; and two sisters, Emma Lee (Richardson) Wright and Mary Josephine



Professional Civil Engineer and worked hard his entire life.

Wilson, Donna Simpkins

Donna Simpkins Wilson, 89, of Radford, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Voyce James Wilson; parents Jake Anderson and Vera Meredith Simpkins; sisters Ruth Terry and Hazel Wade; and brothers Seibert Simpkins, Ellis Simpkins, Gene Simpkins, Orville Simpkins, Ernest Simpkins, Curtis Simpkins, and Erby Simpkins.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Katrina Wilson; grandsons Cole and Zeke Wilson; a sister-in-law, Juanita Simpkins; a special niece, JoAnn Little; and many other relatives and friends.



The family received friends on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services followed with Pastor Neil Wood officiating. Burial followed in Wilson Grove Cemetery in Snowville.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Snowville Volunteer Fire Department, 4551 Lead Mine Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347, the Snowville Ruritan Club, 4867 Lead Mine Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347, or the Wilson Grove Cemetery Fund, 7820 Wilson Grove Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347.

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

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday October 19th @ 4 PM

100 Wooded Acres for Sale

TBD Parkway Ln S., Floyd, VA 24091

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



100 +/- acres of land which showcases nice mature timber. This would be a great purchase to clear off for income. It would also make an excellent recreational property for hunting, ATV riding, hiking, camping and more! The property has 3500' of Dodd's Creek frontage as well. Only 1 mile South of town of Floyd and 3 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway at Tuggles Gap. The deed description from an old unrecorded survey indicates 100 acres. Access is a 50' easement over an existing driveway extending from VA Route 8 and across Dodd's Creek to the subject property. It is all wooded with mostly mature white pine and some mixed hardwood. The terrain ranges from level to heavy slope and has several cabin or permanent home sites. The southern boundary has long range views.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 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 Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at
540-239-2585 or gallimore.matt@gmail.com;
or Mauyer Gallimore at 540-250-5051

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Blue Ridge Land
& Auction Co., Inc

Schedule annual chimney sweep and inspection ahead of heating season

RICHMOND – Annual chimney inspections can help homeowners secure peace of mind.

As fall sets in and temperatures begin to drop, now is the time to assess the safety of chimneys, fireplaces and heating units.

“Your chimney should be cleaned and inspected by a licensed, reputable service each year, which can help prevent fires,” said Dana Fisher, chairman of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Safety Advisory Committee. “Cleaning should include removal of accumulated soot, debris or animal nests.”

The Chimney Safety Institute of America asserts that even rarely used chimneys should be inspected annually. Besides the buildup of combustible soot or animal nests, other types of

structural deterioration can make a chimney unsafe to use.

The association noted that having a professional examine a chimney will help a homeowner be aware of any problems that can be addressed before lighting a fire.

“A thorough inspection of the chimney can locate cracks, which can cause fire to spread from the chimney to your home,” Fisher said.

The CSIA reminds homeowners that although gas is generally a clean-burning fuel, those using gas logs in a fireplace still need to take precautions. A chimney can still become non-functional when the flue is blocked, forcing carbon monoxide, fumes and soot into living spaces.

Regular maintenance on heating units also can save

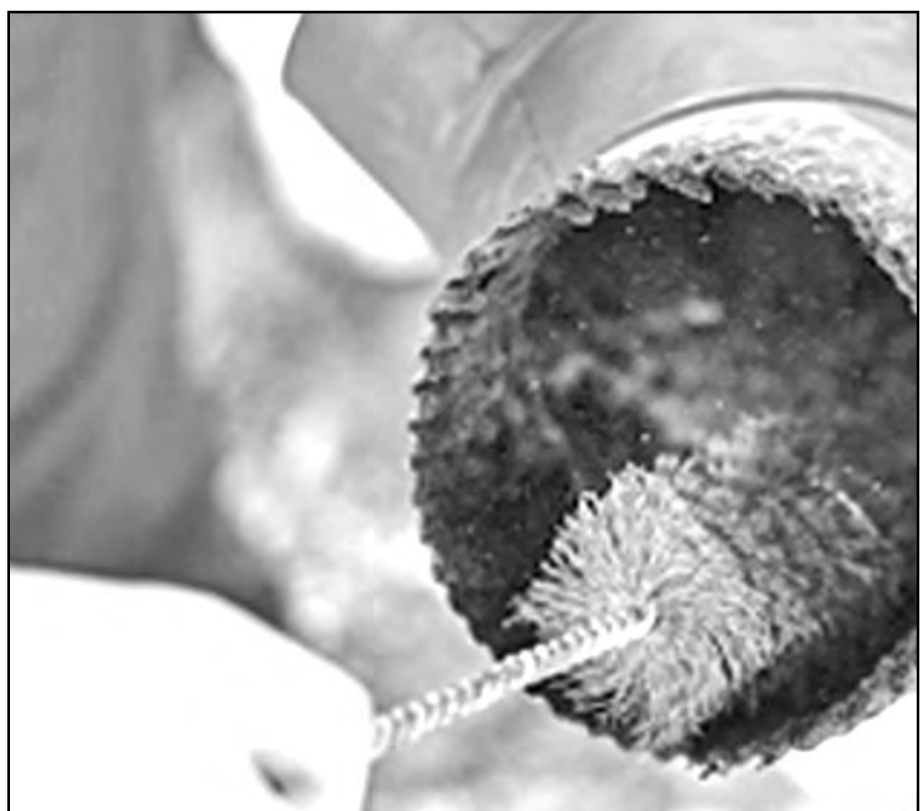
money on energy bills.

While a licensed chimney sweep can address clogs, buildup and structural problems, homeowners are encouraged to take extra precautions during the heating season.

Keep fireplace hearths free of debris, decorations and flammable materials. Remove any branches or leaves from the roof or anywhere that could block the chimney. Burn only seasoned, dry wood in fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, and always keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

Additionally, check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning. Replace the batteries once a year, and test each detector monthly.

To locate your nearest CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep, visit csia.org/search.



VDOT ROADWATCH

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 – Traffic on northbound I-81 has

been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. 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 98 to 109. 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 summer 2023.

ROUTE 605: Inter-mittent flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 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 PAVING OPERATIONS Montgomery County: Right lane closures in

place for paving of I-81 southbound between mile marker 130 to 128.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – 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. Road is now open. Flagging operations may continue to be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is the end of 2022.

ROUTE 11/460 MAINTENANCE WORK – Beginning on October 11, the right lane will be closed on Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road) towards Christiansburg Mountain from Route 641 (Den Hill) to just east of Route 639 (Mt. Pleasant) for

shoulder and ditching. This lane closure will be in place throughout the week and is scheduled to reopen on October 14, weather permitting.

ROUTE 622 BRIDGE WORK CLOSURE - Route 622 (Bradshaw Road) will be closed for a bridge maintenance project over Bradshaw Creek beginning on October 17. The location of the bridge is 0.10 mile from the Roanoke County line and 2.0 miles from Route 623. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes and residents on the road will have access to their homes during the closure. The road is expected to be open on October 20.

ROUTE 8 EVENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION - Route 8 may experience heavy traffic on

fall weekends due to congestion related to tourist events at local farms in the area. If possible, motorists should utilize detours to avoid traveling on Route 8 between Christiansburg and Riner during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT 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 set to begin. Work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and

See VDOT, page 10

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday October 20th @ 4 PM
Whitebarrel Winery for Sale
4025 Childress Rd & 3850 Poppy Ln,
Christiansburg VA 24073

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase a great property near Christiansburg VA. There are 2 offerings available. Offering 1 features a 1.5 story retail building, storage building and 9.514 acres. Offering 2 features .510 acres located on Poppy Lane. Offering 1 was intended and used as a winery but could be repurposed and used for other commercial uses or agricultural uses. There are grape vines on Offering 1 currently which were used by the winery operation. Offering 2 would be great for building a home and is in a great location.

Offering # 1 - This offering consists of a 1.5 story retail building, a storage building and 9.514 acres. Retail Building is 3,032 sq ft, built in 2011. Very good quality construction. Metal roof, insulated panel siding, and stacked stone fireplace chimney. Interior flooring is commercial grade carpet in second floor offices, stained and sealed concrete in tasting and retail area, kitchen, 2 restrooms and hallway. Sealed concrete in the storage and mechanical room. Interior walls and ceilings are painted drywall. 12' to 15' vaulted ceilings in retail and tasting areas, and 8' in remainder. Heat Pump and electric wall heaters in restrooms. Kitchen has a triple stainless-steel sink and wash sink. Two 200-amp distribution panels, fire and security alarm system, built in speakers and large black walnut tasting bar. Stone paver patio, porch and walk with 16' x 16' canopy over patio. The improvements for this property were intended to be used as a winery. Improvements could be repurposed for other commercial uses or possibly as a residence.

Offering # 2 - This offering consists of .510 acres of land located at 3850 Poppy Lane in Christiansburg VA. This building lot is mostly open and located across Poppy Lane from Offering 1. Property has been perked but perk has expired. Build your dream home on this lot. Great location near Christiansburg and Radford VA!

Preview Dates – Friday September 30th
and October 7th at 4 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract 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 Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

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

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Proclamations

from page 1

“The Radford Electric Department provides our homes, businesses, social service agencies, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible services,” said council member Charley Cosma-

tion. “The Radford Electric Department is a valuable community asset that contributes to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service reliability, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness, and is a dependable and trustworthy institution whose local operation

provides many consumer protections and continues to make our community a better place to live and work by providing reliable power services.”

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United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Radford News Journal
 2. Issue Frequency: Twice Weekly
 3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/10/2022

4. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1050	1000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3841 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	42	40
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3841 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	336	329
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	481	480
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 1b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		859	849
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3841	4	4
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3841	5	5
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	100	100
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 1d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		112	112
f. Total Copies (Sum of 1c and 1e)		971	961
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page 43))		79	39
h. Total (Sum of 1f and 1g)		1050	1000
i. Percent Paid (1c divided by 1h times 100)		86.74	88.35

10. Distribution Outside the United States

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Subscriptions		75	85
b. Total Paid Copies (Sum of 10i and 10j)		937	934
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 10i and 10j)		1049	1046
d. Percent Paid (10i divided by 10c times 100)		89.72	89.29

11. Publication of Statement of Ownership

12. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Michael Stinson
 09/14/2022

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RADFORD SPORTS

Week 6 high school preview: Battle of Burgs, Radford QB Clark sets new school record

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Battle of the Burgs will take place this week when Christiansburg travels to Blacksburg. Typically, each team's record can be thrown out as the cross-county rivals have exchanged swing after swing for over 20 years.

The winner of this contest will receive the Huckleberry Coal Mining Helmet.

Meanwhile Radford will attempt to move to 7-0 on the season with a trip to Carroll County. Landon Clark broke a school record this past week previously owned by former Ole Miss QB Kenny Alderman.

Clark now has 1,526 yards passing with 24 touchdowns with no interceptions. In addition, Clark has added 66 runs for 210 yards with four more touchdowns.

Clark, who is only a junior, barring an injury should own every school record before his graduation.

Clark is this past week's play-

er of the week after leading the Bobcats over Alleghany.

The Virginia High School League is expected to release later this week its first point standings for this season. For now, Radford is second behind an unbeaten Graham while Christiansburg is tied with Abingdon, a team they beat earlier in the

year, for second behind Lord Botetourt.

This week's predictions: Christiansburg 39, Blacksburg 14; Radford 52, Carroll County 7; Grayson 40, Auburn 7; Eastern Montgomery 24, Craig 18.

Area Top 5: 1) Salem, 2) Radford, 3) Narrows, 4) Christiansburg, 5) Glenvar.

Ashley's secret identity leads to RU Hall of Fame

The latest Radford University Sports Hall of Fame class includes someone close to me. Mike Ashley is a mentor and was a roommate and a groomsman in my wedding. He is most of all, a friend.

While we have lost touch over the past few years, we have stayed in contact with an occasional phone call or a meeting at a Salem coffee shop.

This past week, he was inducted into the Radford University Hall of Fame a list he helped to start. I scratch my head and wonder why it took so long. A lot has to do with Ashley's own humility. He never tooted his own horn.

So, I will do it for him.

Some of us got lucky and learned the real side of the new inductee. I started work in the sports information office as a student at Radford University, and Ashley was kind of scary when he told me to fold programs for an upcoming soccer game, mentioning I would have to attend the game to hand

them out.

After a while, I heard his loud laughter that made the job much easier. There were the typical jokes in and around the media courtside seats. I also learned about his desire to play college basketball.

The latter was something he gave up, finding a typical lunch-time game at the Dedmon Center more to his liking. I will give him this. The man had a jump shot outside the three-point line that former hotshot Doug Day envied.

I would learn more about that jump shot on a neighborhood court on weekends after I moved in with him in a quiet Radford neighborhood. That's where I found another secret identity of this man.

He loves everything Batman and his friendly cookouts after hours would have a Bat theme. He even dressed as Batman for Halloween and other events.

Then there was the night he said he wanted to be a comedian. Nothing out of the ordi-



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

nary for a guy who was full of jokes. But he invited friends to a Roanoke Comedy Club where he took to the stage. A local television station did a story on the new chapter in Mike's life. I described it in a local newspaper column as being "better than sliced bread."

He would tell the comedy club audience and the television crew that he was welcoming his dating service to the night for filming.

He also hosted many summer parties at his house where the slip and slide was brought out. I also remember trying to kick a field goal with a floor fan instead of a football. Failure.

Ashely would always keep us laughing.

He was and still is one of the biggest fans of Salem baseball. I don't think there is an opening day he has missed. I learned to follow the lead and sit with him and some friends behind the home-team dugout in the old Kiwanis Field.

Radford University wouldn't have had a baseball team without him. I remember a largest-steak-eating contest at a Texas steakhouse during a tournament trip by the Radford University women's basketball team.

In the announcement of his induction, the RU Hall of Fame committee described him as "the walking embodiment of Radford Highlanders knowledge and pride, Mike Ashley is a true connection between the past and present." This is true. He has always been and continues to this day to be a true supporter of the university.

Let's look at the serious side of the man who came to Radford University as a student in 1980 and immediately began writing for The Tartan (the

school's newspaper), eventually becoming its sports editor.

A column he wrote launched the first RU baseball club in 1982, for which he served as the initial president. Two years later, the club became a varsity team.

Ashley graduated in 1983 and returned to his alma mater as a Sports Information Director across multiple stints that spanned more than a decade. He was a member of the staff that ushered the Highlanders into the Division I era. He mounted a national campaign that helped the women's basketball program earn a spot in the 1989 Women's NIT, and he was a founding member of the Radford University Sports Hall of Fame Committee in 1995.

Ashley just remember: You're better than "sliced bread," and I still don't know if you're really not Batman since I never saw the two of you in the same room at the same time.

Congrats, Mike. Thanks for everything. A well-deserved honor.

Patrick Henry defeats Blacksburg 42-3



Blacksburg's Gordan Grisham-Vaden returns a kickoff against Patrick Henry during a rainy first half Friday night. Blacksburg fell to 0-5 after the 42-3 loss.



Blacksburg quarterback Spencer Campbell attempts to avoid a tackle by Patrick Henry's Jahzae Kimbrough.




Blacksburg's Luke Poff celebrates a second-quarter interception with his Bruin teammates.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

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Acreage Disclosure: This property is being sold by the deed description and acreage referenced there. Buyer is aware that acreage may not be exact, and that auction is being conducted by the acre as referenced in the aforementioned deed.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required on 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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Salem edges Christiansburg 6-0



Robert McCrea (right) quickly contains a Salem running back early in Friday's game, which was played in rain and heavy winds. Salem would take the 6-0 win.



JT Thompson (left) and Jayron Thompson (right) dually tackle a Salem wide receiver stopping his progress mid-field.



The Christiansburg offensive line creates a hole for RB Tanner Evans, who would rush 25 times for 95 yards in the loss.

Staneck takes over Blacksburg softball program

Blacksburg High School has a new varsity softball coach. Wednesday afternoon, the school announced the promotion of Alec Staneck from his role as junior varsity coach to the varsity post. He was hired this past spring to handle the junior varsity and has a background in coaching after playing college baseball at Methodist University (NC.). When an injury brought an end to his playing career, he changed his focus to coaching. Staneck has more than 10 years of coaching experience between travel and school ball. "I had the opportunity to work alongside some of the best coaches in the country during my tenure in

North Carolina. Coaching with them, I learned what it means to be an all-around coach on and off the field," he said. Staneck is originally from Islip, N.Y. After his playing career ended, he graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University. "I am looking to continue the success this program has had over the years," he said. "As well as implementing new ideas that will bring us together to accomplish the goals we have set not just for the team but for the entire program. We will be a team that plays the game the right way and we will not be out-worked."

VDOT

from page 6

southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls 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:

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures at exit 137 are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

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 in early 2026.

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will remain closed until before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. The opening scheduled for the end of September has been rescheduled due to the contractor encountering challenges with a slope on the project.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

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.

Botetourt County: Left lane closures on I-81 northbound between mile marker 147 and 149.

Pulaski County: Right lane closures in place for paving of I-81 northbound between mile marker 102 to 104.

Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Periodically, exit 132 northbound may be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

Roanoke County: The exit 141 on-ramp on southbound I-81 may periodically be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

INTERSTATE 581

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD - 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 completed in December 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 BRIDGE 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. Scheduled traffic impacts include:

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

I-77 BRIDGE DECK AND MAINTENANCE 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 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Right and left lane closures in place on I-77

southbound, mile marker 13.5 to 12.5 over Route 702 and I-77 northbound, mile marker 11.5 to 12.7 over Route 702. Height restrictions are in place at 14' 6".

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.

ROANOKE CITY

13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR - A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

ROANOKE COUNTY

ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING ROCK - A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is set to begin. The new roundabout is currently open to traffic. During the remaining construction, lane closures may be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

Through November: Drivers should still expect nighttime lane closures with flaggers between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday around the roundabout for final paving, pavement marking and sign installation.

ROUTE 628 CULVERT REPLACEMENT - Route 628 (Greenridge Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located .25 miles east of the road's entrance from Route 780 (Cove Road). Both lanes are open to traffic with flagging operations in place through the end of the project.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE - The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile stretch of the Parkway, mile marker 121.4 to 136, will be closed to all uses including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place until 2023.

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