

News Journal



Wednesday, November 9, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00



Radford University presents English opera for Baroque Music Festival

A choral concert of Baroque works is also part of the festival, today, Wednesday, Nov. 9

RADFORD - Opera is alive and well at Radford University with the Music Department's production of Venus and Adonis, the oldest known English language opera. It presents the story of the Goddess of Love who is accidentally struck by Cupid's arrow just before coming upon Adonis, a hunter. The opera is directed by Dr. Denise Bernardini, who has staged operas for more than 15 years. She said that Venus and Adonis made a good choice this year because it was neither too long nor too difficult and fit in well with other music programming this semester.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Grace Pflieger and Grant McDonel rehearse their roles as Venus and Adonis.

The composition was composed by John Blow in 1683 in the middle of the Baroque period in European
See English Opera, page 4

NRV Regional Commission presents annual awards



PHOTO BY RILEY SCHMITT
Janaka Casper of Community Housing Partners received the Citizen of the Valley Award from the NRV Regional Commission.



Penny Franklin of the Montgomery County School Board received the Champion of the Valley Award.

RADFORD - The New River Valley Regional Commission board of directors recently hosted a dinner event at Brick House Pizza in Radford to honor its annual award recipients. Approximately 100 local government elected officials, state and federal representatives, and local government planning commission chairs were in attendance.



PHOTOS BY KRISTIE LEE PHOTOGRAPHY
Executive Director Elizabeth Woodward received the Friend of the Valley award on behalf of the New River Conservancy.

Janaka Casper of Community Housing Partners (CHP) was the recipient of the Citizen of the Valley award. This award is given to a citizen within the New River Valley who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. CHP was founded in 1975 by two concerned citizens who organized volunteers to perform minor home repairs for low-to-moderate income families living in unsafe or unhealthy conditions. Under Casper's leadership, CHP has grown to more than 350 employees who have delivered weatherization services to more than 50,000 homes in Virginia. CHP also provides safe and affordable housing to more than 5,800 households across 90 rental properties in multiple states, 14 of which are in the New River Valley.

Penny Franklin of the Montgomery County School Board was the recipient of the Champion of the Valley award. This award is given to an appointed or elected official within, or representing, the New River Valley who has greatly assisted communities and residents during their service to the public. Franklin co-founded the Community Group of Montgomery County, an inclusive,

See Annual Awards, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELF SHELF
Frank Herzog (left) and Jessee Ring, Elf Shelf volunteers, prepare to place the Elf Shelf gift donation boxes at Radford businesses.

Elf Shelf donation boxes ready to receive gifts

Heather Bell
hbell@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - It's that time of year again, and Elf Shelf is preparing to give out gifts and more to make the holidays bright for many families this holiday season.

Donation boxes are popping up around Radford, ready for donations of new, unwrapped toys and gifts to help the effort. The boxes will be at the locations until November 30. "People can donate unwrapped, new gifts at any of the locations on the list and at many of the local churches," said Elf Shelf Coordinator Ann Walker. "Any toys or gifts for children up to age 18 years old are appreciated."

can be directed to 540-835-4734.

Boxes can be found at National Bank, 2001 East Main St.; First Community Bank, 1400 Tyler Ave.; Brad's Barber Shop, 115 Third Ave.; First New River Valley Credit Union, 900 West Main St.; Atlantic Union Bank, 50 West Main St.; Dalton Intermediate School, Dalton Dr.; Radford High School, Dalton Dr.; Brick House Pizza, 311 West Main St.; Sharkey's, 1202 E Main St.; Dr. Stephen McQuin, 116 Third Ave. and Carter Bank and Trust, 1900 East Main St.

Walker said the past few years have seen declining numbers for Elf Shelf, but they are anticipating an increase due to the return of the on-site "shopping" system where parents who qualify can visit Grove United Methodist Church to pick out gifts for their children.

"During COVID our numbers were down," she said. "Last year we provided food vouchers to 152 families and gifts to 242 children. This year we are back to in-person shopping instead of the wish lists we used during COVID."

In addition to donating gifts, the public may also send checks or money orders to Radford Elf Shelf, Box 2804, Radford, VA 24143.



Influenced by Bill Monroe and the Stanley Brothers, the Java Brothers will offer bluegrass music that is a mix of standard bluegrass and newgrass at the free NRCC concert on Saturday Nov. 17.

Java Brothers featured in NRCC free concert

The music of the Java Brothers and New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters will be featured during New River Community College's Concert Series event on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022.

The music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. The Java Brothers' bluegrass band members met during a Monday Night Radford Fiddle and Banjo jam. Their musical influences include Bill Monroe, Stanley Brothers, Jimmy Martin, Old and In the Way, The Seldom Scene, Sam Bush, Tony Rice, JD Crowe and Doyle Lawson.

The band includes Joe Abercrombie on banjo, Ralph Berrier on fiddle, Chris Burgoyne on mandolin, Doug Capobianco on string bass, and Wayne Frye on guitar. The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides, as well as in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s.

The Java Brothers mix standard bluegrass and newgrass with fiery original tunes in their live

shows. The band includes Joe Abercrombie on banjo, Ralph Berrier on fiddle, Chris Burgoyne on mandolin, Doug Capobianco on string bass, and Wayne Frye on guitar. The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. Dennis Hall is the founder of the band and continues to serve as band leader. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where Hall grew up and still resides, as well as in honor of Uncle Eck Dunford, a member of the original Bogtrotters band from the 1920s.

Several of the band members have played internationally in Scotland, England, Ireland, and Australia. Since 1986, the band has placed first at the Galax Old Fiddlers Convention 10 times. The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however,

See Free Concert, page 3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 9:

Plaque dedication

The Board of Directors of the Radford Heritage Foundation invites the public to the New River Train Observatory Plaque Dedication at 10:30 a.m. at the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park, 800 Unruh Dr., Radford. The plaque honors the roles of Professors Kay Edge and Edward Becker in leading their students from the Virginia Tech School of Architecture and Design in the design and construction of the New River Train Observatory.

Montgomery County Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase

Connect with Montgomery County businesses at the 2022 Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase and Business After Hours at the inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. The event is free and is open to the public. Prizes will be given away throughout the day. We'll have prize giveaways throughout the day, so be sure to stop by. This event is free to attend and open to the public from 3:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Open to the public during the Chamber Business After Hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Free GED classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED prep classes offered by New River Community College. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

Loops group

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Bring a project and join the Loops Group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Art club: Takashi Murakami

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Join a group in exploring the art of Takashi Murakami and create collaborative art pieces in his style of art. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

Thursday, Nov. 10:

Tech bytes: Internet basics

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Literacy Volunteers and the Library are teaming up to teach basic internet skills. Registration is required. Call (540) 552-8246 for assistance with registration.

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Radford Photo Club

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The program will be about travel photography, presented by Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg. The November photo challenge will be Still Life. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook or on your browser.

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library, 10 a.m. Participants can bring their supplies and tools and join in with this quilting and sewing group for conversa-

tion and quilting.

Page to screen movies: Rebecca

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. This is a movie screening of the 1940 Hitchcock classic Rebecca on the library's big projector. The movie is rated PG and has a 130-minute run time.. Popcorn from the Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last.

Friday, Nov. 11:

Veterans Day closures

Christiansburg Town Hall and the Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be closed in honor of Veterans Day. The Recreation Center will be open, but administrative offices will be closed. Solid waste and recycling normally collected on Fridays will be collected on Monday, Nov. 14, with Monday's regular collection.

Saturday, Nov. 12:

Bingo! Bingo!

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1:30 p.m. This is an afternoon of fun Bingo. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Winter wreath workshop

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Welcome the winter season with a holiday-themed wreath workshop. This hands-on event has all materials provided to make a grapevine wreath decorated with natural materials. Staff will even teach participants how to make a ribbon bow. This workshop is recommended for adults, but families can work together if they wish. Limited to one wreath per family please. Registration is required, but families working together need have only one person register. Spots are limited.

Family movie fun

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Superman's dog Krypto, the Super-Dog, must rescue his owner in the DC League of Superpets. Rated PG for action, mild violence, language and rude humor. (2022)

Sunday, Nov. 13:

Women's only swim night

At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate an evening of girl power. All participants, including the staff, will be women. The cost is \$6. To register, call 540-381-POOL.

Knit and chat

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their bring newest work in progress to knit, crochet, spin, or weave.

Monday, Nov. 14:

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at 6 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. The 6 p.m. meeting is a closed session, followed by an open session at 7:15. Citizens are invited to attend the closed session and will be allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel

Channels 190 daily.

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.

English conversation for adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. This class, English Conversation for Adults, will be led by Carole and Bob Dellinger. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for more information. No childcare is provided for this class.

Crafting for the holiday: Scrabble ornament

At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Use scrabble tiles, a hot gun, and a few other items to assemble an ornament. Supplies will be provided while they last.

Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18:

Teen Glow Paint Gloves

At the Radford Public Library; 3 to 5 p.m. Teens can spend an afternoon chilling by decorating gloves with glow paint.

Tuesday, Nov. 15:

Legislative update

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will present a legislative update to discuss the chamber's 2023 legislative agenda at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Several of the representatives from the Virginia House and Senate will be on hand.

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.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet beginning at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.).

Suicide Prevention Training with New River Valley Community Services

At the Radford Public Library; noon. Join NRVCs for a training on suicide prevention class. Dee Frith and Caroline Mullins will teach attendees about the QPR methodology: Question, Persuade, and Refer. Those who attend will receive certification as 'gatekeepers' for learning this information. Suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in the United States. The class will discuss how to get help, get trained, and save lives. This training is free and is provided in cooperation with QPR Institute. No registration is required.

NaNoWriMo Event: Story Prompt Challenge

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. From a list of over 60 one-line openings, participants are challenged to write mini-stories from as many prompts as they can. All ages are welcome. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday, Nov. 16:

American Business Women's Association luncheon meeting

The American Business Women's Association will hold its November luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Dr. in Christiansburg. The cost is \$14.25. During the meeting, the association will present coats collected from their annual coat drive to the Women's Resource Center. The association also requests that those attending bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Susan Brickhouse is the speaker sponsor for this event. Those planning to attend should RSVP by Nov. 14 by contacting Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com or Paige Godwin at godwinpaige@gmail.com.

Thursday, Nov. 17:

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library, 10 a.m. Participants can bring their supplies and tools and enjoy some conversation and quilting.

Saturday, Nov. 19:

Darin Handy reptiles

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1 p.m. Darin Handy, a certified wildlife rehabilitator who works with injured and orphaned wildlife, will bring live exotic animals and talk about them, particularly why they should not be kept as pets.

Ongoing:

Blacksburg holiday parade registration

Registration is now open for Blacksburg's Annual Holiday Parade to be held on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. This year's theme will be "Hometown Holidays." The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact David Goodman at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540-443-1106.

Hand-in-Hand playground design concepts

The Town of Blacksburg has received design concepts from playground designer Leathers, Inc., for the new Hand-in-Hand playground. Check the concepts out at <https://letstalkblacksburg.org/hand-in-hand>.

Radford holiday parade registration

Radford's Holiday Parade, themed "Jingle All the Way," will take place on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at 7 p.m. Lineup begins at 6 p.m. on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and will proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. Go to www.radfordva.gov to register. The deadline to register is Nov. 30.

Help veterans with donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Persons are encouraged to bring their donations of the following items to the library during November: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL), and new baseball caps. The donations drive is co-sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd regional libraries.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the November 23 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to communitynews@ourvalley.org. Send ads by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to advertise@ourvalley.org. The paper will be printed on Tuesday, Nov. 22 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

PETS OF THE WEEK



Arlo is quite the catch. Staff at the Animal Care and Adoption Center describe him as tender. He's a very sweet boy that can be shy around strangers but loves affection from everyone. He's good with other animals. Arlo is also house- and crate-trained.



Meet shy cat Haiku. Sweet and gentle. Purrfection. Looking for a home.

Town of Christiansburg inviting bids for naming rights to Huckleberry Park

Pursuant to the requirements of §15.2-2100, §15.2-2101, § 15.2-2102, et seq., Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Town of Christiansburg is inviting bids from qualified bidders to enter into a naming, advertising, and sponsorship agreement with the town to obtain the right to have their name on the facilities at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park complex located at Booker T. Washington Parkway, N.W., adjoining Peppers Ferry Road, N.W., Christiansburg (a portion of Montgomery County Tax Map No. 435 – ((A)) – 3A; Parcel ID 270079).

The term of the naming rights agreement shall be ten years, starting on April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2033.

The naming rights agreement will also allow the successful bidder to have

certain exclusive advertising rights at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park facility within the successful bidder's product category, as that term is defined in the Bid Form and Naming Rights Agreement. Any such agreement, use, and advertising is subject to approval by the Town of Christiansburg.

If the town elects to award a naming rights agreement, the Christiansburg Town Council will be requested to adopt an ordinance granting such an award. A copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance and a draft of the naming rights agreement are on file and may be reviewed in the office of the town manager, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main St. Christiansburg.

Any interested entity is invited to submit a written bid, including a completed bid form.

Annual Awards from page 1

African American civil society organization. The Community Group in turn established two key programs: First, the Dialogue on Race, which fosters a network of relationships across many sectors leading to a more just community for greater equity of opportunity and achievement, and, second, the New Mountain Climbers, a fund of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley that became the first giving circle and the first African American philanthropy in south-

west Virginia. Finally, executive director Elizabeth Underwood received the Friend of the Valley award on behalf of the New River Conservancy. This award is given to an individual or organization outside of the New River Valley that has made significant contributions to the betterment of the region. The New River Conservancy has long been a partner assisting communities and nonprofits with water quality initiatives in the New River watershed.

They bring a high-level of technical capacity to projects including their Water Watchers water quality monitoring program and stream restoration efforts such as those in partnership with Friends of Peak Creek in Pulaski. Their technical expertise and passion for water quality are truly making a difference in the watershed.

Each award recipient was provided a framed print by local artist Matt Gentry featuring landscapes from the New River Valley.

Free Concert from page 1

donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The music

events are typically held the second Saturday of each month at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated

venue. *Submitted by New River Community College*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters have been playing old-time mountain music in the Galax area since 1986. The band was named for the small stream in Galax where band leader Dennis Hall grew up and still lives.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club makes apple butter for annual fundraiser

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club's major fundraiser each year is its apple butter sales.

Each year club members buy local apples, wash and cut them, and take them to the cannery in Wytheville where the apples are cooked, spices are added, and jars are filled and labeled. Club members then sell the apple butter. The price is \$9 for a quart and \$7 for a pint.

This year club members made more

than 350 gallons of apple butter. The sales net thousands of dollars each year. The club then turns those funds into support for their local charitable projects.

The apple butter is available at the Blacksburg True Value Hardware Store at First and Main until Nov. 15 and at a site new to this year, Heavens Hardware Store.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MT. TABOR RURITAN CLUB DIRECTOR WENDY BALDWIN

The Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club makes more than 350 gallons of apple butter annually as a fundraiser supporting the Interfaith Pantry, college scholarships for teens, the Christmas Store, Hunters for the Hungry, and the Salvation Army.

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OPINION

Home Country by Slim Randles: Haunted by a missed opportunity. Or was it?

Every now and then, thought Doc, that opportunity comes back to haunt me. Like it is right now on this crisp morning walk. It came early in his medical life, an invitation to join with a famous big hospital Back East. He'd make more money, he knew, and there was the seductive challenge of being on the cutting edge of what the world of medicine had to offer to the world of people.

He stopped for a minute and looked up through the stark tangle of bare limbs on a cottonwood tree. The filigree patterns of early winter never grew old to Doc. Sometimes they reminded him of capillaries or the branching out of small spring creeks heading for a trout river. And sometimes, they were just pretty to look at and deserved a pause in Doc's morning walk. He and his wife, known to

everyone as Mrs. Doc, had come here to the valley many years ago. Each had become a local institution the way these things go in a small, rural area. They both regretted not having any children of their own, but the devotion each felt for the other tended to at least partially fill that emotional cavity. Jeffrey Martin came trotting along the sidewalk on his way to school. Had his book

backpack and lunch too. "Mornin' Doc!" he said. "Hey Jeff. How's school?" "Just fine. Gotta run. I'm late." Doc smiled after him.. Third grade this year? Close to that anyway. Jeffrey had been a difficult birth. So had Jeffrey's mother. And Doc had been there for both of them. There's more than one way to have a family, Doc thought, smiling.

Give a kid's life a boost. <https://secure.nokidhungry.org/>
This is how to corner us ... if you want to, of course. Call any time, email us, or just saddle up and ride over here. Coffee's always on.
Slim Randles
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Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL
Serving Radford since 1884
(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153
USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org

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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.

Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$45 a year in the City of Radford, \$54 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$58 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Virginia gas prices fall once again

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.48/g Monday, Nov. 7, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 4.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 17.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel rose 3.4 cents last week and stands at \$5.32 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.97/g Monday while the most expensive was \$4.69/g, a difference of \$1.72/g. The national average price of gasoline rose 6.2 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.78/g Monday. The national average is down 11.5 cents per gallon from a month ago but stands 37.8 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. "Just over half of the nation's 50 states saw gasoline prices rise last week, pulling the national average back up for the time being due to big jumps in the Great Lakes and continued increases in New England and mid-Atlantic states," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For now, the rise in the Great Lakes, brought on by tight supply, has already started to ease, and declines should start again. In the northeastern U.S., prices are likely to inch up a bit more," said De Haan. According to De Haan, "National diesel supply remains tight, but supplies of diesel did see a slight

rise last week. The majority of stations, especially away from the East Coast and Northeast, should have very few issues with diesel supply, though some stations in those regions could see diesel delivery times slip. Brief outages at a limited number of stations are possible, but with refineries continuing to churn out product and maintenance wrapping up, I'm optimistic the situation will improve."
GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. 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>.

English Opera from page 1

art, literature, and music. Its art and architecture were highly ornate and focused frequently on classical mythology. "Composers, painters, ballets, and storytellers during this time used Greek mythology to enlighten people and give them moral tales to think about," Bernardini said. Capturing this time and its spirit requires attention to detail. For example, modern gestures like pointing fingers or putting hands on hips must be transformed into 17th century norms. "Women especially were to keep their hands down and close to their body," said Bernardini, who watches carefully to keep the performers focused as they rehearse to ensure authenticity.

Simultaneously, musical director Amanda Raymond guides the singers in their understanding of the music, the lyrics, and the character in a style that's different from what most people think of as opera. "In this opera you'll hear segments of music where characters sing by themselves accompanied by harpsichord and cello and also chorus parts joined by the string quartet," Raymond said. "The more one embraces the uniqueness of the style the more enjoyable it is." The production is choreographed by Lezle Renee Pflieger, who is getting to work with her daughter, Grace Pflieger, a graduate student in Music Therapy. Pflieger, who plays Venus, said that the production is part of a semester-long preparation in the university's Opera Workshop class. This is her third year in the workshop which she says helped prepare for the rigors of this performance.

Her stage partner, Grant McDonel, is a senior who is pursuing a minor in music while studying cybersecurity. "Learning to sing and act in the Baroque style has been a unique challenge," McDonel said, "but one that I have enjoyed very much." In addition to the title roles, Ryan Bennett and Cierra Bird play a shepherd and a shepherdess. Patrick Hart and Dylan Jones play huntsmen. Mary Wright plays Cupid with Jena Nelson and Sarah Lindsay Merriman playing Cupid's rambunctious and somewhat errant children. It's Merriman's arrow that strikes Venus and sets the plot in motion. A sophomore in both Theater and Music, Merriman said the part is energetic and she's having fun playing a su-

pernatural child. Merriman played a rather flamboyant former showgirl in last year's comedic musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and says that while the characters were written approximately 400 years apart, an important similarity still exists. "The vocal styles of the operas are completely opposite," she said, "but the presentational acting is quite similar. Baroque acting faces almost entirely towards the audience, 'presenting' the show to them." Venus and Adonis is just one of several events to explore and celebrate Baroque music during the coming week, and all are free and open to the public. Dr. Meredith Bowen will direct a choral concert of Baroque works today, Wednesday, Nov. 9, and Amanda Raymond will present a Baroque music recital with guest artists from Virginia Tech on Nov. 12. Both are at 7:30 p.m. in the Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center on Radford's main campus. The first performance of the opera will take place between these two events, on Nov. 11, at the same time and location. There will be a matinee Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Sean Kotz
Radford University



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
Mary Wright plays Cupid, whose children shoot their bows wildly and accidentally strike the Goddess of Love.

CROSSWORD

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 - 19. "1836 siege" of U.S.
 - 20. Inquiries
 - 22. Bottled gas
 - 23. Dutch painter Gerrit
 - 25. An invasion or hostile attack
 - 28. Misbeliever
 - 31. South American Indiana
 - 32. Bone cavities
 - 33. Hound sounds
 - 34. Turtle carapace
 - 39. Wash or flow against
 - 40. Cross a threshold
 - 41. Pitch symbol
 - 42. About lizards
 - 45. Treat with contempt
 - 48. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
 - 49. Place to sleep
 - 51. Harsh criticism or disapproval
 - 54. Wipe out recorded information
 - 56. Pesetas
 - 58. Pitcher Hershiser
 - 59. Pronouncements
 - 60. Dodge truck model
 - 61. A coniferous tree
 - 62. Ludicrously false statment
 - 63. Lyric poem
 - 64. Determine the sum
 - 65. Fixed in one's purpose
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Mexican wattle & daub hut
 - 2. ___ Green: playwright
 - 3. Building for autos
 - 4. Rum and lime or lemon juice
 - 5. Two spiral-horned African antelopes
 - 6. Jubilant delight
 - 7. Cyclic
 - 8. Fiddler crabs
 - 9. Vehicle carrying many passengers
 - 11. Dream sleep
 - 13. Afghan Persian language
 - 16. Gnawing small mammal
 - 18. B1 deficiency disease
 - 21. Not out
 - 24. Chancellor Von Bismarck
 - 26. RCO group of atoms
 - 27. Cony
 - 29. Makes a gas less dense
 - 30. Instances of disease
 - 34. A story
 - 35. Surmounted
 - 36. Cloisnonned
 - 37. Counterfoil
 - 38. Kept cattle together
 - 39. Computer screen material
 - 43. Ancient calculator
 - 44. Cuddle
 - 46. District nurse
 - 47. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 50. Distributed game cards
 - 52. Murrens genus
 - 53. Tear apart violently
 - 55. Umbrella support
 - 56. Athlete who plays for pay
 - 57. Small amount

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Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to meet Nov. 13-14

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Monday, Nov. 14, at 1:15 p.m. in Room 2100 in Torgersen Hall (620 Drillfield Drive) on the Blacksburg campus.

All other committee meetings held during the two-day session will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech (901 Prices Fork Road) in Blacksburg unless otherwise noted.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m., all board members will meet in open session and attend an information session in Latham Ballroom A/B.

In addition, on Sunday, Nov. 13, and Monday, Nov. 14, the following committee meetings will be held:

On Monday, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will meet over breakfast at 7 a.m. in the 1872 Salon. At 8:30 a.m., its members will meet in closed session, followed by open session, in Latham Ballroom A/B.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with the Finance and Resource Management Committee on Sunday at 9 a.m. in open session in Latham Ballroom A/B. On Monday, the committee will assemble in the lobby of The Inn at Virginia Tech at 8:30 a.m. for a tour of two capital construction projects — the Corps Leadership and Military Science

Building and the Upper Quad Residence Hall. Following the tour, the committee will meet in open session at approximately 10 a.m. in the Smithfield Room.

On Monday, the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee will meet in closed session at 9 a.m., followed by open session, in the Duck Pond Room.

The Finance and Resource Management Committee will meet Monday beginning at 8:30 a.m. in closed session, followed by open session, in the Solitude Room.

The Governance and Administration Committee will meet Sunday at 10 a.m. in open session in Latham Ballroom A/B.

On Monday, committee chairs will meet at 7:45 a.m. in open session in the Cascades Room.

During the two-day meeting, board members will receive a design preview of Mitchell Hall.

The full meeting of the board Monday at 1:15 p.m. and the information session held Sunday afternoon will be livestreamed. To view either meeting, go to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.

Public comment will not be received at the meeting. More information may be found at the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

Jessie Peterman Memorial Library schedule of November events

Nov. 10: Talking about Books at 2 p.m. To be discussed is “The Sentence” by Louise Erdrich.

Nov. 10: Teen Writing from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Teens can bring their imagination to life with short stories. Choose a prompt out of a hat.

Nov. 13: from 1 to 3 p.m. Join Floyd artist Kim Woddall using charcoal, pencil, and other media to create drawings. All supplies will be provided. Pumpkin models will have different shapes and appendages. All ages are welcome, and par-

ents of little ones may participate with them.

Nov. 14: from 10 a.m. to noon. Stop by the library, pick up a book, and get a flu shot. The Floyd County Health Department will be on hand to give the flu shot.

11/15: “We Can All Use a Little Help” at 3 p.m. A Certified Peer Recovery Specialist from the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with

substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. This meeting will provide a safe, non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness. Sign-up is not required.

11/16: Bingo at 2 pm. Fun and prizes.

Student Tailgate at Hokie Village offers new game-day experience

At home football games this season, fans taking a stroll down Beamer Way will see a familiar sight: a long line of students in Hokie apparel stretching to Washington Street. These students, however, are not waiting to enter Lane Stadium (at least not yet). They're looking forward to joining the newest tradition at Hokie Village, the Student Tailgate.

A joint effort between Student Affairs and Virginia Tech Athletics, the Student Tailgate offers a traditional game day experience in a safe and welcoming environment. While Hokie Village, the field of vendors and activities that pops up at each home game across from Lane Stadium, is open to the public, the Student Tailgate provides a more exclusive and intimate experience especially for Virginia Tech students.

Once inside, attendees will find many elements common to football tailgates. They have access to lawn games such as cornhole, kan jam, and spike ball; free treats such as snow cones or hot chocolate; and coupons for vendors offering game day foods.

Maya Mahdi, a senior majoring in philosophy, politics, and economics, said the free treat was her favorite part of the tailgate before the Wofford game. “It was starting to get cooler, so it was nice to warm up with a delicious hot chocolate.”

For checking into the tailgate, students receive Virginia Tech-branded merchandise such as clear drawstring bags suitable for sports events and T-shirts.

“There are so many perks you can access from the moment you swipe your Hokie Passport,” said Anahi Sanchez-Moya, a sophomore studying international

relations.

There's even a chance to earn one of 100 wristbands that allow access to the North End Zone student section, normally available on a first-come, first-served basis when entering the game.

“The Student Tailgate allows students to be a part of our game day experience that is really so unique,” said senior Miles Guth, the student project coordinator for the Student Tailgate. He touts the tailgate as not only a new fun option to pass time before the game, but also a way to acclimate to Virginia Tech and find new ways to socialize with fellow Hokies.

“We're providing first-year and other newer students space to experience the same thing everyone else does,” he said. “You see two students who show up alone. Then they start talking and walking around with each other. And then we see them going into the game together.”

James Bridgeforth, assistant vice president for student affairs and ExperienceVT, is part of the team responsible for planning and overseeing the tailgate. Among his priorities: getting student organizations involved to help students socialize and adjust to Virginia Tech.

“You'll find that a big part of the tailgate experience is really social networking. It's hard to make friends, and it can feel like the university is so big and intimidating,” Bridgeforth said. “Groups such as the Latino Association of Student Organizations,

a recent sponsor, greet students when they enter the tailgate. In addition, their presence alone demonstrates to the attendees that there are groups that represent students like them at Virginia Tech that they can join and interact with.

Why choose the Student Tailgate over other game day activities around Blacksburg? Guth said there are plenty of reasons, the first being convenience.

“The location is huge. We're directly across from the west entrance to Lane Stadium, so it couldn't be simpler.”

In addition to the many giveaways, free food, and drinks at the tailgate, Mahdi cites the nearby live music as a benefit. “I love the music at the tailgate. It creates such a loud and fun atmosphere.”

When faced with the sheer volume of activities available on game days, deciding where to spend time before kickoff can be overwhelming. The Student Tailgate aims to solve this by offering a special pre-game experience in a low-pressure, dedicated space.

“In life, you get to decide what is a party,” said Sanchez-Moya. “And thankfully, this is a space by students and for students.”

The Student Tailgate, located at the rear of Hokie Village, opens 3 1/2 hours before each home game and ends 45 minutes prior to kickoff. Students need to present a Hokie Passport for admission and to receive the week's freebies.

By Joshua Sweeney



PHOTO BY JAMES BRIDGEFORTH FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

Students play spike ball in front of the live music stage at the Student Tailgate.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Radford, Christiansburg begin playoffs at home Friday

Marty Gordon
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Radford High School will open as the top seed in Region 2C when the playoffs open this Friday, hosting eighth-seeded (5-5) Dan River. Glenvar is #3 and Floyd #6 in the regional points, looking up at the Bobcats.

At 9-1, Radford is rolling into the playoffs after a Thursday night win over James River.

Junior QB Landon Clark has had a sensational year with 130 for 192 passing with 2,396 yards and 36 touchdowns. He has also rushed 97 times for 404 yards with another six touchdowns.

His favorite receivers have been Parker Prioleau (48 catches

es for 811 yards with 11 touchdowns), Marcell Baylor (36 receptions for 778 yards with 15 touchdowns), and Max Kanipe (24 catches for 483 yards with five touchdowns).

For the season, David Woodward added 76 rushes for 360 yards with seven touchdowns.

On defense, Baylor leads the team with 44 tackles, and Prioleau is second on the team with 33 stops.

As long as they keep winning, Radford will continue to host the regionals.

Christiansburg will also open the Class 3 playoffs with a region D matchup with a familiar foe in Abingdon.

Last week, Tanner Evans and Curtis Altizer combined for 302 yards on the ground as the Blue Demons held off

a late comeback by Pulaski for a 34-31 win. Altizer finished the night with 172 yards on 11 carries with touchdown runs of 79 and 65 yards. Evans added 130 yards on 12 carries that included a 66-yard score in the first quarter. Evans also threw for two touchdowns to Jayron Thompson and Dishon Garrison.

The key for Christiansburg will be how the defense responds after giving up 31 points in the season finale against Pulaski including two scores in the last three minutes.

Abingdon will enter the contest with a 5-5 record, including a 22-13 loss to Christiansburg in Week #2. Last week, they pulled out a 21-20 thriller over Lee County.

Alex Hawkins piled up 153 rushing yards on 20 carries and scored two touchdowns for Abingdon while Luke Honaker gained 81 yards on the ground and scored the other touchdown for the Falcons.

In the earlier game this season, Thaxton Henley picked off two passes as the Blue Demon defense produced three Abingdon turnovers and two sacks. Cam Cooper led the Blue Demons with 85 yards rushing on nine carries with a 68-yard touchdown. He was also two-of-three through the air for 36 yards with a 28-yard completion to Evans, who added 79 yards on the ground on 15 carries.

Since then, Cooper has been benched and the Blue Demons have used three other play-

ers at quarterback. Evans has the most starts with six and is expected to start this Friday night.

Abingdon, which stopped a Lee County two-point conversion in the final regular season contest, slipped in at number six. Their losses have come 24-7 to Gate City, 34-14 to Tennessee High, 20-13 to River View and 37-0 to Union.

In the region points, a win by Christiansburg might not mean another home game. Magna Vista is second and would have to lose for that to happen. The winner of the Christiansburg-Abingdon game will play the winner of Magna Vista-Staunton River.

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

Christiansburg slips by Pulaski 34-31



Curtis Altizer breaks away for a big touchdown run in Christiansburg's 34-31 win Friday night over Pulaski.



J.T. Thompson makes a flying tackle to stop a Pulaski runner in Friday's contest. With the win, Christiansburg will host a regional playoff game this Friday versus Abingdon.



Parker Prioleau had six catches for 87 yards with a touchdown as Radford downed James River 42-7 Thursday night. Prioleau broke the Radford single-season record for receptions (48). The previous record had been held since 2009 by D.J. Palmer (46). Prioleau also broke the school record for the most receiving yards (811) in a season. Donald Snell held that record (795 yards) since 1982.

Radford closes out season with win



Radford's Ricky Bailey recovers a fumble in the end zone to score a defensive touchdown against James River.



Landon Clark crosses the goal line for a defensive touchdown after an interception.

Examining COVID's impact on home-court advantages

Virginia Tech economics expert Jadrian Wooten and two colleagues recently concluded research to determine whether fan restrictions during the 2020-21 basketball season impacted traditional home-court advantages often enjoyed by teams playing in home venues.

"Fans definitely matter. I think almost any sports fan is going to tell you that fans matter, especially once they go, and so what we were really curious about was how much they matter," said Jadrian Wooten, an associate professor in the Virginia Tech's Department of Economics, about the motivation behind researching whether COVID-19 restrictions reduced home-court advantages for college basketball teams.

Several months ago, Wooten, Emily Marshall, an associate professor of economics and data analytics at Dickinson College, and Stephen Locke, an associate professor of economics at Western Kentucky University combed through two seasons of data to determine COVID's impact on college basketball.

Wooten said the group feels that three factors impacted home-court or home-field advantage: fans, familiarity with the venue (for example, playing baseball in Denver with its high elevation that allows balls to travel farther versus playing in Miami), and travel-related issues (for example, NBA teams playing on back-to-back nights in different cities).

According to Wooten, prior to the pandemic, separating the influences of those three was hard, though many studies have made attempts.

The pandemic offered this trio of researchers a rare opportunity to take an in-depth look at the fan aspect.

"We've never really had a situation where fans just completely disappear," Wooten said. "And it happened for almost everybody, and so this was slightly different. It took us a while to think about how to frame it because we normally think about the more fans, the better, and so we were looking at it as if you lose a lot of fans, what's the impact?"

We're kind of doing the

reverse of, if I have a lot of fans versus losing a lot of fans," Wooten said. "It was really the first chance to isolate the fan side of it across a wide variety of teams."

The group analyzed data from all 358 Division I teams that play college basketball. To be able to make a comparison, the group looked at game-level data from the 2019-20 season and the season right after with pandemic-induced restrictions, 2020-21. The data encompassed more than 7,300 games.

The group focused its attention on four main categories: who won or lost the game, the scoring margin, field-goal percentage, and free-throw percentage. Typically, a team wins and shoots better both from the field and the free-throw line when playing at home.

Behind Marshall, the point guard of the research team, the group found that the home team won 63.2 percent of the time in the season before the pandemic but won only 58.9 percent of the time during the pandemic season. In the season before the pandemic, the

home team won by a margin of 4.29 points per game, but that margin dropped to 3.1 points per game during the pandemic season.

From a Virginia Tech perspective, the Hokies, who opened their 2022-23 season on Nov. 7, won 16 games during the pandemic season and 15 the following season, a season in which they played fewer games. Because of that, analyzing data on individual teams was a bit tricky.

Overall, the numbers supported the group's hypothesis that fans matter.

"That effect was even stronger in games played between two what we're calling 'Power 6' teams," Marshall said, referring to teams from the ACC, the BIG EAST, the Pac-12, the Big Ten, the SEC, and the Big 12. "Those teams are used to playing in front of more fans," Marshall said. "So the impact of taking away fans is stronger for those teams."

"I think the biggest surprise to me is the free-throw percentage differential," Marshall said. "I would have expected the fans behind the baskets to be doing a little

bit more."

After Locke collected the data for analysis, Wooten and Marshall collaborated on a 33-page paper of their results. They have submitted the paper for peer review in hopes of having it published.

They admitted that they started this project because of their interests in sports and because of a fun curiosity. But their research also serves as an incentive to get students interested in economics and analytics.

--Jimmy Robertson, VT



The home court/home field advantage was affected thanks to COVID but will be back into play as action gets underway at Cassell Coliseum.

Rusty Wallace group purchases Lonesome Pine Raceway

Mark Ebert, owner of the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience, has entered into an agreement with Bobby Hill and the ownership group of Lonesome Pine Raceway to purchase the raceway.

The parties have agreed to a brief lease period with a closing date in the first quarter of 2023.

"We are really excited to get to work at Lonesome Pine Raceway," Ebert said. "This came together fast. We've only been working on this for a little over a week with Bobby and his group. I have to say that when we first came to LPR we were really impressed by the condition of the track and the work that Bobby and his team have put into the speedway."

Concessions have been redone, the restrooms and VIP area are first-rate. With a little investment and some elbow grease, the racing surface is going to be outstanding.

Ebert and the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience will now manage Lonesome Pine Raceway and Motor Mile Speedway.

"When we started at Motor Mile Speedway two years ago, we inherited an amazing facility with so much potential, and we see that same potential here at Lonesome Pine," Rusty Wallace said.

"I've learned so much at Motor Mile the last two years. There were certainly a few missteps along the way, but the experience and growth has been invaluable to me.

The staff here at MMS is top notch. I've learned to trust them to bring MMS back to where it belongs. We have fallen in love with this area and the community here. The support we've received has us really encouraged for the future."

"Although I still have plenty to improve on, we feel like we have great momentum going into 2023. Adding Lonesome Pine is going to make us better at both tracks," Wallace said. "When Mark and I first got together with the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience over ten years ago, we talked short-track racing before we ever talked business. It's a passion that runs deep for us both and through our whole team. You see that passion in

our short track Late Model program and you'll soon see it at Lonesome Pine. I'm excited for the racetrack and Rusty Wallace Racing Experience. It's going to be great watching Lonesome Pine come back to life in 2023."

Incoming Lonesome Pine Raceway track President Jeff Roark said, "First of all, I'm really happy to be coming home to 'The Pine.' There's a great foundation here, but there's a lot of work to do to be ready for spring. We plan to run a full slate of asphalt racing on the oval and continue with the dirt go-kart track. Rusty Wallace Racing Experience will be moving into the race shop, and we'll have a full schedule for the driving experiences here. We're also work-

ing on a bunch of new ideas, and we would encourage fans to watch FaceBook for some exciting announcements," Roark said.

Bobby Hill said the decision to sell Lonesome Pine was difficult for his entire family.

"We put a lot of time, effort, and money into the track. When Mark and the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience team came to us with their plans and vision, we knew this was the future for the track and the community that we were looking for. We're excited for the future of Lonesome Pine, and we'll be in the stands next year to watch the races," Hill said.

The Rusty Wallace Racing Experience runs at over 70 racetracks nationwide.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Big South and ESPN3 reach broadcast agreement

The Big South Conference has announced it has obtained exclusive regular-season basketball broadcasts on ESPN3, which will be among the nearly 415 total broadcasts featuring Big South men's and women's basketball programs during the 2022-23 campaign.

Five men's basketball league matchups and five women's basketball conference contests will make up the exclusive ESPN3 "Game of the Week" package beginning

in January. An additional six men's conference games will be televised on ESPN3, while all remaining home Big South contests will be carried on ESPN+.

Meanwhile, coverage of the preliminary rounds of the 2023 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships are slated to be carried on ESPN+. The men's and women's championship games on Sunday, March 5, will be telecast on an ESPN linear network.

Six regular-season Big South men's games will be televised on ESPNU for the tenth consecutive year, with all six being "Wild Card" selections that will be determined two weeks in advance. ESPNU will televise a Big South game on Thursday, Jan. 12 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Jan. 26 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 2 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 9 (7:00 p.m.), Thursday, Feb. 16 (7:00 p.m.) and Thursday, Feb. 23 (7:00 p.m.).

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