



Wednesday, December 7, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

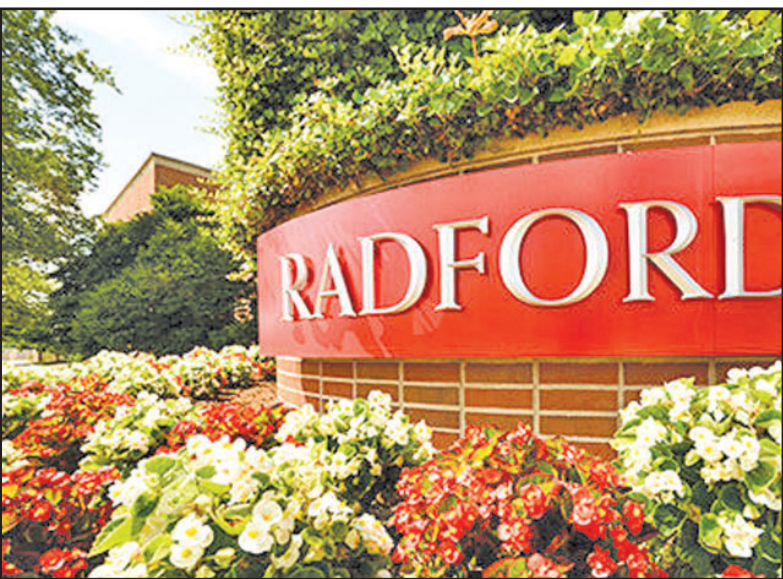
Intelligent.com rates Radford among state’s best online colleges, cites accelerated degree programs

A national higher education resource guide has included Radford University in its newly released review of Virginia’s top online colleges for the upcoming year with praise specifically targeted at the school’s accelerated degree programs.

Intelligent.com, which provides program ratings and higher education planning, ranked Radford University in the upper end of its recent list, “Best Online Colleges in Virginia 2023.”

“This recognition is an endorsement of the good work Radford’s faculty and staff have done to put many of our important courses and entire programs online, making them more available to students with work or family obligations, regardless of their geographic location,” Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Marten denBoer said.

The company’s guide identifies top schools in the state based on



RADFORD UNIVERSITY PHOTO

**Intelligent.com, which provides program ratings and higher education planning, ranked Radford University in the upper end of its recent list, “Best Online Colleges in Virginia 2023.”**

tuition costs, the number of credits required to graduate, and the online coursework delivery format.

The list itself derives from a methodology that ranks each in-

See **Radford**, page 5

Radford Child Development celebrates 10th anniversary

RADFORD - Access to high-quality, affordable childcare is an essential part of support to families for a community.

When the Community Foundation of the New River Valley, in their Livability in the NRV Report, identified a “greater demand for quality childcare than is currently available in the region,” the non-profit Radford Child Development was born.

Dr. Agida Manizade, a math education professor at Radford University, saw this challenge firsthand when trying to find childcare for her two young children over a decade ago, resulting in panic at the lack of options, frustration, and then determination to change the status quo. In speaking with community stakeholders, she found many who felt the same.

Ten years ago, Dr. Manizade brought together these stakeholders to work to help solve this problem in Radford. They formed the non-profit Radford Child Development (RCD) Inc., a 100% volunteer-led organization, with the mission to bring the highest quality childcare and early education to the Radford area. The goal of this organization is to help families to improve their lives through access to an outstanding facility, while providing opportunities to increase affordability.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, RCD supporters gathered together to cel-

brate the achievements during a 10th Anniversary Gala Celebration. The Gala was held on Radford University’s campus. Manizade gave opening remarks, followed by video congratulations from Radford University President Dr. Bret Danilowicz and Mr. Bill Flattery, CEO of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. Speakers included President of New Mexico Highlands University, Dr. Sam Minner, who provided invaluable support to the fledgling organization while Provost at Radford U; Dr. Robert Graham, the superintendent of Radford City Public Schools and RCD board member; Jessica Wirgau, the CEO of the Community Foundation of the NRV; and several other stakeholders.

The Radford Early Learning Center (RELC), is now in its sixth year of operation, with capacity for over 130 children birth – sixth grade. The center is the result of a multi-year cooperative effort by Radford Child Development, Radford University Foundation, Price-Williams Realty, and Rainbow Child Care Center (now KinderCare). Radford University Foundation supported this initiative with a non-interest start-up loan to RCD of \$300,000 and Price-Williams Realty built a state-of-the-art building for the center.

The operator of the center, KinderCare, is a leading national provider of early education: since

RELC began and seeing how quickly the center enrolled, the operator opened two other centers in the New River Valley. RELC won accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 2019. NAEYC is a non-profit organization that “works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research.”

Through RCD fundraising efforts and an award of a Mixed Delivery Preschool Grant funded through the United Way of Southwest Virginia, RCD now supports full tuition for twenty children between RELC and another Radford facility, the R.O.C.K. Club.

Radford Child Development board continues to grow its endowment fund, to ensure that the RELC remains affordable to all in the community through tuition discounts. If you would like to support RCD, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax deductible donations are accepted through their website, [www.radfordchilddevelopment.org](http://www.radfordchilddevelopment.org). You can also enroll in Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile programs. These businesses will then donate a percentage of sales to RCD.

Submitted by Radford Child Development, Inc.

Montgomery County welcomes FedEx Ground to Falling Branch Corporate Park

A 251,000-square-foot distribution center located on 41 acres in Montgomery County’s Falling Branch Corporate Park will be home to FedEx Ground.

“Our community continues to grow and having FedEx Ground chose Montgomery County as the home to build one of its most recent distribution centers serves as testament to the work we do every day to make Montgomery County a thriving and growing place for businesses and for our citizens to live and to work,” said Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Chair Sherri Blevins.

The new distribution facility is expected to be



**A 251,000-square-foot FedEx distribution center located on 41 acres in Montgomery County’s Falling Branch Corporate Park is expected to be operational in 2023.**

See **FedEx**, page 3



**Nathan Facemire, a manager at BAE Systems Ordnance Systems Inc., reads to students at Belle Heth Elementary School Monday in the cafeteria.**

Belle Heth students treated to holiday story time and free books from BAE Systems

**Heather Bell**  
[hbell@ourvalley.org](mailto:hbell@ourvalley.org)

RADFORD - Students at Belle Heth Elementary School were treated to a holiday story time and the gift of a free book Monday, thanks to a partnership between BAE Systems Ordnance Systems Inc. and United Through Reading to host a day of stories for the students and military

families at the school.

“On Monday, Dec. 5, the United Through Reading Mobile Story Station was stationed at the school to give local military families anticipating an upcoming deployment a chance to stay connected to their loved ones through story time,” according to BAE. “Service members record themselves reading their favorite story to their

See **BAE Systems**, page 4



PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELL

**The United Through Reading Mobile Story Station stands at the ready to record soon-to-be-deployed military personnel reading a favorite story for their loved ones to listen to while they are deployed.**

Radford’s ‘Jingle All the Way’ parade set for Thursday



PHOTO BY ETHAN BELL

**Radford’s holiday parade, “Jingle All the Way,” will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, and will make its way along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center.**

Santa is sure to make his yearly appearance at Radford’s “Jingle All the Way” holiday parade, set for Thursday, Dec. 8. The parade will begin at 7 p.m. The parade route will line up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Now through Dec. 17:

**Blacksburg leaf collection extended**  
Leaf collection in the Town of Blacksburg has been extended approximately two weeks from the scheduled Dec. 3 conclusion date to ensure all neighborhoods have been served. Public Works has been operating with a significantly reduced staff dedicated to leaf collection, so patience is greatly appreciated.

## Thursday, Dec. 8:

**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. The guild welcomes all skill levels of quilters. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

**Radford holiday parade**  
Radford's Holiday Parade, themed "Jingle All the Way", will take place at 7 p.m. Line-up will begin at 6 p.m. The parade route will line up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center.

**Twig ornaments**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Use natural materials to make yarn-wrapped twig ornaments. Ideal for ages 8 and up.

## Friday, Dec. 9:

**Teen time**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 4 p.m. Teens in grades 6 through 12 are invited to an after-school hangout for games, snacks, and crafts. The library will provide all materials, but participants are welcome to bring their own games to share. For more information, contact spahl@mfil.org.

**Children's yoga**  
At the Radford Public Library; 10 to 11 a.m. Join Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You" and Alex Bowman from "Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic" for a children's yoga class. The children can relax and learn mindfulness techniques at the library. If possible, the children should bring their own yoga mats. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the library at 540-731-2621 or email Morgan at morgan.esterhuizen@radford-va.gov to register.

## Saturday, Dec. 10:

**Handcrafted holiday pop-up market**  
At Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and

Gallery, hosted by MountainTrotter Arts. The market will feature local artisans, crafters, and more from 11a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The food truck from Empanada Nirvana will be on site as well. Santa will be available to take pictures on the Glencoe Mansion porch. Visitors can enjoy Glencoe Mansion's Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, Dec. 11.

**Volunteer tax preparer interest meeting**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. Learn to prepare taxes and make a difference in the community at the same time through simply volunteering to help prepare income taxes free of charge with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

**Holiday Movie**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Kick off the holiday season with a Christmas movie and hot chocolate. The film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king, who has become bored with the same annual routine of frightening people in the "real world." When Jack accidentally stumbles onto Christmastown, all bright colors and warm spirits, he gets a new lease on life; he plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. Rated PG. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

**DIY Terrariums**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Too cold to grow plants outside? Grow some in a terrarium. All supplies will be included. Registration is required. This session is intended for adults and is presented by Master Gardeners.

## Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11:

**7th annual Radford holiday open house**  
Three area artists will be showcasing their works at the 7th annual holiday open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at 408 Eighth St., Radford. The event is free and is open to the public. A percentage of all sales will be donated to local charities. Martha Olsen, a collage artist, uses recycled and found papers as her preferred medium to create her free-flowing style while painter Ruth Lefko lets each of her works speak for themselves, choosing to create a feeling rather than a realistic depiction. Fine art photographer Susan Lockwood, known

primarily for European subject matter, frames her pieces with archival acid-free materials.

## Monday, Dec. 12:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford.

**Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting**  
The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet 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 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.

**RCPS special education advisory committee meeting**  
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at Belle Heth Elementary School, 151 George St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also 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.

## Tuesday, Dec. 13:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to the meeting. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
The Blacksburg Town Council will meet in regular session 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 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The pub-

lic is welcome and is encouraged to attend with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring up any matter they desire before the entire council.

**Radford City School Board meeting**  
The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the School Board Office at 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford.

## Wednesday, Dec. 14:

**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 screen. The movie is rated PG and has a run time of 130 minutes. Popcorn from Lil'Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last.

## Thursday, Dec. 15:

**Radford Photo Club meeting**  
The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. Attendees are invited to share their three best photos of the year and talk about each one. Goodies to share will be welcome. The photo challenge is Vacation Photography to go along with an Open Theme challenge. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley.

**Gingerbread Houses**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

## Ongoing:

**Help the veterans with donations**  
The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Donors can take their donations of the following items to the library during December: 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. This project is co-Sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.

**Free GED Classes**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library, 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. New River Community College is offering free GED classes every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday, Dec. 15. For more information or to sign up, call the library at 540-268-1964.

# Radford City Police Department Blotter for Nov. 21 - 27, 2022

## Monday, Nov. 21:

10:45 a.m. Offense left blank, Dalton Dr.  
12:39 p.m. Larceny, 1500 block of Tyler Ave.  
5:09 p.m. Offense left blank, 2000 block of West Main St.  
8:07 p.m. Petit Larceny: less than \$200, not from a person, 1100 block of Second St.

## Tuesday, Nov. 22:

1:43 a.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public 900 block of PARK RD  
8 a.m. Service call, Dalton Dr.  
11:25 p.m. Monument: unlawful damage, no intent to steal, 1200 block of Grove Ave.  
1:03 p.m. Mental subject, 1300 block of Grove Ave.

## Wednesday, Nov. 23:

1 p.m. Offense left blank, 1300 block of New River Dr.  
4:34 p.m. Larceny, 500 block of Heather Glen Dr.  
8:45 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, paraphernalia: unauthorized distribution of, Sixth St.

## Friday, Nov. 25:

1:13 p.m. Mental subject, 1000 block of Carson St.

## Saturday, Nov. 26:

8:18 a.m. Well-being check, West Main St.

## Sunday, Nov. 27:

2:08 a.m. License: drive w/o, Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/ DUID) 7500 block of Lee Hwy.  
3:56 p.m. Well-being check, 300 block of Pershing Ave.

Weekly Alcohol Round-Up: DUI -2  
Drunk in Public - 4  
Underage Possession of Alcohol - 1

# ARREST LOG

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL ARREST LOG

NOVEMBER 18, 2022, THROUGH NOV. 25, 2022  
11/18/2022 - 11/25/2022  
COMBS, TAMMY COMMIT DATE 11/18/2022 17:27  
OFFENSE Narcotics possession (2 counts)  
LINKOUS, ISAAC COMMIT DATE 11/18/2022 18:51  
OFFENSE Felony probation violation  
WINEMILLER, REBECCA COMMIT DATE 11/19/2022 00:06  
OFFENSE Failure to appear to a felony/misdemeanor summons  
HOURIGAN, EDWARD COMMIT DATE 11/19/2022 02:02  
OFFENSE DWI (first conviction); influence of drugs  
SHUFFIELD, PRESTON COMMIT DATE 11/19/2022 02:30

OFFENSE Assault; simple assault  
SPRADLING, JUSTIN COMMIT DATE 11/19/2022 12:14  
OFFENSE DUI (second offense in 5 to 10 years); refusal to take breath test (second offense); traffic: driving without an operator's license  
FROST, SHANE COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 01:08  
OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language  
SAMUELS, COURTNEY COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 01:20  
OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language  
THOMAS, BENJAMIN COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 02:24  
OFFENSE Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language  
WHITLOW, JESSIE COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 19:17  
OFFENSE Felony probation violation

COLLINS, ALYSA COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 19:40  
OFFENSE Narcotics possession  
WILLIAMS, MATTHEW COMMIT DATE 11/20/2022 23:42  
OFFENSE Narcotics possession: Schedule III; possession of concealed weapon other than a firearm by a convicted felon  
HUDGINS, JOSHUA COMMIT DATE 11/21/2022 07:24  
OFFENSE Fraud; impersonating a law enforcement officer  
KIRTON, KENNETH COMMIT DATE 11/21/2022 10:27  
OFFENSE Assault; simple assault  
ASSAULT SIMPLE ASSAULT  
EAVES, CURTIS COMMIT DATE 11/21/2022 11:35  
OFFENSE Larceny less than \$200, not from person; fraud: false pretenses  
REYNOLDS, CLARENCE COMMIT DATE

11/21/2022 11:49  
OFFENSE Narcotics possession; possession of schedule I, II drugs with firearm; non-violent felony possession of a gun; weapons violation: carrying concealed weapon  
LIM, SUNG COMMIT DATE 11/21/2022 12:12  
OFFENSE Arson, explosives, bombs, vandalism, intentional damage to property or monument less than \$1,000  
CARACHURE-POLICARPO, OMAR COMMIT DATE 11/22/2022 10:47  
OFFENSE Failure to appears in court for misdemeanor offense  
COLEMAN, VIRGIL III COMMIT DATE 11/22/2022 13:26  
OFFENSE Failure to appear in court for misdemeanor offense  
BRIGHTON, HANNAH COMMIT DATE 11/22/2022 16:23  
OFFENSE Felony probation violation

POWELL, CRISTAL COMMIT DATE 11/22/2022 21:01  
OFFENSE Felony probation violation  
REYES, TRINIDAD COMMIT DATE 11/23/2022 07:42  
OFFENSE Contempt of court for disobedient resistance to court officer  
BOYD, ANGELA COMMIT DATE 11/23/2022 10:21  
OFFENSE Narcotics sale for profit  
CHAPMAN, LORETTA COMMIT DATE 11/23/2022 17:22  
OFFENSE Fraud by forgery (10 counts) fraud by uttering (10 counts)  
HATCHER, PAMELA COMMIT DATE 11/23/2022 23:40  
OFFENSE Failure to appear to a felony/misdemeanor summons  
CRAWFORD, KEVIN COMMIT DATE 11/24/2022 03:41  
OFFENSE

Traffic: driving while intoxicated; driving on suspended license after DWI conviction  
LAMBERT, RUSSELL COMMIT DATE 11/24/2022 21:19  
OFFENSE Felony probation violation (3 counts)  
ODILON, PEREZ RAMIREZ, PEDRO COMMIT DATE 11/25/2022 00:50  
OFFENSE Traffic: Driving while intoxicated (first offense); driving without a license  
MAGGARD, AMANDA COMMIT DATE 11/25/2022 04:49  
OFFENSE Narcotics possession  
NIETO, POLICARPO, FREDYS COMMIT DATE 11/25/2022 18:00  
OFFENSE Traffic: Driving with revoked operator's license (first offense)  
DUDLEY, JESSICA COMMIT DATE 11/25/2022 18:00  
OFFENSE Misdemeanor probation violation



# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Primrose's holiday wish is to be whisked away into a furever home! She recently returned to the Animal Care and Adoption Center after some time in a foster home. Her fosterers say that Primrose loves snuggles and affection and would be happy enjoying a Greenie treat.**



SUBMITTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION CENTER

**Tebow is a friendly boy who needs a home where he would be the only pet. This fluff ball would do well with children over the age of four. He knows a few commands and will gladly sit for a delicious treat.**

## Christiansburg farmer re-elected to Virginia Farm Bureau board

Montgomery County cattle and hay producer Bruce N. Stanger of Christiansburg was elected Nov. 30 to a third three-year term on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation board of directors.

Elections of officers and directors were held during the Virginia farm bureau's 2022 annual meeting of voting delegates.

As a board member, Stanger will represent Farm Bureau producer members in Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe counties.

He is a member of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Live-

stock Advisory Committee and has served on the Montgomery County Farm Bureau board for 30 years.

Stanger is a past president of the Belmont II Ruritan Club and has served as co-chairman of the Christiansburg Alumni Return, a scholarship fundraising organization.

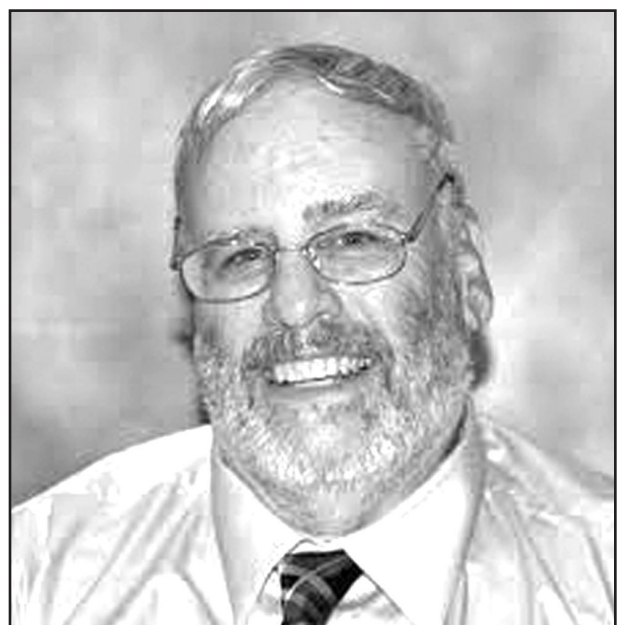
He grew up on a small family dairy farm and currently operates a cow-calf operation and farms in both Giles and Montgomery counties. He sells hay through his custom hay production business.

Stanger worked as a machinist for 30 years at several local com-

panies and retired from Virginia Tech's Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering. He attends Christiansburg First Church of God.

With 133,000 members in 88 county Farm Bureaus, VFBF is Virginia's largest farmers' advocacy group. Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, voluntary organization committed to supporting Virginia's agriculture industry.

*Submitted by Pam Wiley, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation vice president of communications*



NEWS MESSENGER STAFF

**Christiansburg farmer Bruce Stanger has been re-elected to the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's board of directors.**

## FedEx

from page 1

operational in 2023. The facility will employ a mix of full and part-time team members. The company also will contract for package pickup and delivery services with service

provider businesses that hire locally for driver, helper, manager and other positions.

The site was chosen because of its ease of access to major highways, proximity to cus-

tomers' distribution centers, and a strong local community workforce for recruiting employees.

Falling Branch Corporate Park is a 300-acre business

park located along the Interstate 81 corridor in Montgomery County-Christiansburg. The park is 10 minutes southeast of the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg and within

30 minutes southwest of Roanoke. Nearby I-81 interchanges with Interstates 77 and 64 make Falling Branch within a day's drive of two-thirds of the nation.

## VT senior wins scholarship from Community Foundation



SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

**Virginia Tech senior Sarah Rosario was one of 99 students who received a scholarship from the Community Foundation this year.**

Virginia Tech senior Sarah Rosario has received a scholarship from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

At Tech, Rosario is studying psychology with a minor in peace studies and social justice.

She attended Blacksburg High School, and both of her parents work at Virginia Tech. She chose VT because

she wanted to stay close to home. The scholarship is the third one Rosario has received from the Community Foundation with each scholarship coming from a different fund set up by donors.

Rosario plans to graduate from college a year early, in part due to the support she has received from the Community Foundation. After graduation, she plans to go to law school.

### ONLINE AUCTION

**Ends Wednesday, December 14th @ 4 PM  
2 Homes on Big Mack's Creek in Hiwassee VA  
2743 & 2745 Max Creek Road, Hiwassee, VA 24347**

**Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com**



You can purchase this great recreational retreat on Big Mack's Creek in Pulaski County Virginia. This property showcases 17.55 acres of mostly wooded land with 705 feet of frontage on Big Mack's Creek. Property includes a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 22-year-old double wide and an older single wide mobile home. The single wide has been built onto but is in need of repair. Both homes share a septic system and spring. Spring is located on adjoining property.

This would be a great potential homesite, recreational or hunting retreat, weekend getaway, etc. You could use the property for hunting, camping, ATV riding and more.

Property is located across the road from Grace Baptist Church and Camp Powhatan, which is a 1,400-acre scout camp. Property is close to the New River. Information on double wide mobile home provided in bidder pack. Double wide is currently leased on a month-to-month basis. Download Bidder Pack for information about homes, maps, terms and conditions, and property information.

**Preview - Friday, December 2nd @ 4 PM**

**Directions:** From Pulaski VA - onto VA 99 South (Count Pulaski Drive) - Left on old Route 100 - Right on Lowman's Ferry Road - Right on Julia Simpkins Road - Left on Max Creek Road - Property on Right. Access is by private drive in front of old farm house at 2717 Max Creek Road.

**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 email gallimore.matt@gmail.com**

**102 S. Locust Street,  
Floyd, VA 24091  
(540) 745-2005  
VaAuctionPro.com  
Lic# 2907004059**



**Blue Ridge Land  
& Auction Co., Inc**



# OPINION

## Buddy King: Traumatic feline adventures

Sorry I haven't written anything lately, but my boarder seems to be struggling along in his typical inept fashion. Nothing exciting, no Pulitzer coming out of that mess that "leaps" off his keyboard. But he hasn't asked for my help lately, and it keeps him occupied. Better than him spending his time trying to get me to chase that silly red light (When I was a kitten, I did kitten things; when I became a cat I gave up those things.) or chase a feather on the end of a stick (What does he think I am, a dog? ridiculous).

But events of the last couple of days require me to write again. Some slights just can't be ignored. The pen is mightier than the claw. Actually, I'd prefer to use my claws, but he is the one who feeds me, and I don't need him mad.

Now for the rest of the story. Yesterday I was lounging in the hallway of the old house I let my boarder share with me. It was early in the morning, and he was doing something he calls chores. He goes in and out of rooms and carries things up and down the stairs and jumps under running water (Ugh, my kind would never do that.) and stands and stares at himself in the mirror. Thankfully we cats don't do "chores"; they seem like something the humans might trick dogs into, though. You never hear of a cat

coming from a "working breed," do you?

Anyway, I had been awake a good 15 to 20 minutes, and it was time for a nap. So I laid down in the middle of the floor in the perfect spot to make the boarder have to step over me as he moved around the house. And then it happened.

The boarder was standing under the stream of water, singing like he usually does (double ugh). I was positioned so that when I opened my eyes I would know where he was. That's an important thing if you live with humans. You need to know where they are at all times. You don't want them to know you're watching. You must maintain your edge of indifference, but they are unpredictable and prone to erratic behavior. My boarder in particular.

So I was in my typical morning spot. In the middle of the hall, napping, positioned to swat at the boarder's ankles when he walked by. But then I noticed he had left the door in the hallway slightly cracked. As I recalled later, he says it leads to something called the "attic." Or maybe it's an "attache"? Regardless, this part of the house has been extremely "off limits" since I let the boarder move in. I know, I know, I own the place, so how can it be off limits? My kind

spirit allows him a few perks that make him feel important, I guess.

He treats this place up the stairs behind the door like it's full of money and I'm a bank robber. The few times I have gained access, he has whisked me out of there and slammed the door shut like I couldn't be trusted. So the temptation was too great yesterday when I saw an opening. I got up, stretched (you gotta stretch), checked to make sure the boarder wasn't looking, pulled the door open just enough for me to squeeze through, and darted up the stairs.

I have to admit that I had a time! There was junk everywhere. I climbed over things, into things, and around things. I knocked over things that needed to be knocked over. I checked for mice. I got so carried away that I lost track of time.

I realized I needed to go down the stairs and remind the boarder that I needed a good supply of food and treats and clean water and the right temperature in the house before he left for "work" (not sure what that is either). And then I discovered the door at the bottom of the stairs was closed tight. The boarder had lacked the basic intelligence to realize that a cracked door means there's a cat on the other side. I mewed for a while and

scratched and clawed, but finally resigned myself to the fact that the nincompoop had locked me in the attic. And had left for "work."

Suffice it to say it was a boring day. I had to stay in a single room instead of the normal seven or eight that I usually sleep in throughout the day. And there was no food or water, of course. The worst part was the denial of access to facilities. I won't even go there. Inhuman.

To make it worse, yesterday was Wednesday, something he calls "Brickside Night" where he meets his "pals": Kelly, Tweets, Spike, Duke, Tony, Ernie (sounds like a great group to hang with, right?) after work. Enough rocks in the heads of that bunch to build a patio.)

Apparently they just stand around and have a few beers and bet on sports and argue about sports and reminisce about when they used to play sports. I never said the boarder was a rocket scientist. A fascinating date he would not be, ladies.

Finally, the boarder gets home, I hear him, and I start rattling the door. He lets me out. The first thing I did after I gave him a good talking to was run and jump into my litter box. Part of me wishes I hadn't been so thoughtful.

And as if that event wasn't trau-

matic enough, today he comes home early from work, throws a beach towel over me, stuffs me in a crate, and then loads the crate in the back of his car. The next thing I know, I'm in a room on a cold metal table with a couple of ladies I don't even know who are whacking away on my nails. Then back in the crate and in the back of the car. Reversing the process. Or so I thought.

But no! To add insult to injury, the boarder stops the car when he pulls into the garage and hear him talking to somebody. I couldn't have been more than a two-minute conversation, if that. But the boarder has the attention span of a lemming, and he goes on in the house with me locked in the crate, in the car, in an unheated garage. I guess he finally remembered me because he comes out, says he's sorry, carries me into the house, let's me out of the crate, and gives me a treat.

One stinking treat. I think I deserved at least two.

*Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.*

## Home Country by Slim Randles: Snow is an act of love

Somehow the snow is a little like Christmas. We can expect it. We can listen to the television weather and expect it. But still, when it comes it's like a gift - a wonderful unwrapped gift - because it is the wrapping.

Doc found it when he turned on the porch light before dawn and the sheer whiteness of it came to him, and he smiled and let the cup of coffee warm his hands and the coffee itself warm his insides.

Snow – whether it's an inch or three feet – tucks us in, he thought. It's an act of love, covering each of us

equally, as a mother would do. There should be an ordinance, he thought, smiling, that no one should be required to get out and drive in it, shovel it, curse it, until at least the initial magic has passed. Soon enough, we realize, it will be plowed into muddy strips on our streets and slushed into the gutters and our shoes will complain and we'll have to be careful not to track it in the house. That comes later. Road closures ... they come later, too. When these heavy gray heavens pull back to reveal the moon and the sun, the

cold will come, along with the threat of ruptured pipes.

But not now. Right now, in the holiness of early morning, Doc had the best of the snow. The gentle, eternally silent blessing of winter.

It should stay that way at least through breakfast, he thought. At least through breakfast.

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*Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy Guide to Writing by Slim Randles. Now available as a Kindle book on Amazon.com.*

## BAE Systems

from page 1

families to stay connected when military duty takes them away from home, whether for deployment or drill weekend. The power of words can help to bridge the physical gap among family members, no matter the distance.”

In addition to the Mobile Story Station, United Through Reading hosted a reading event for the students of Belle Heth. Lisa Hillary-Tee, vice president of Communications at BAE Systems, led a team of personnel from BAE in reading stories to students in the cafeteria.

The students also received a book at the end of the event.

“We're thrilled to bring together the military families at Radford and the students at Belle Heth Elementary, through the power of reading,” said Hillary-Tee. “The Mobile Story Station is the perfect way for families to connect before they are separated by physical distance while serving our nation.”

BAE Systems will also donate \$40,000 to United Through Reading to further their mission of uniting military families facing

physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud.

“We're grateful to longtime partners BAE Systems for their generosity and for inviting the Mobile Story Station to Radford and Belle Heth Elementary School,” said Tim Farrell, CEO of United Through Reading. “Reading aloud together is precious family time, and the holidays are a great time to reconnect and remember our military families who can't be together this season.”

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS  
1. Chop up  
5. Ones who utilize  
10. Sings with closed lips  
14. South American hummingbird  
15. Serves as a coxswain  
16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice  
17. Spur  
18. Senile  
19. Tanzanian people  
20. Cruel  
22. Boxing's "GOAT"  
23. Yokels  
24. London soccer team  
27. Chinese chess piece  
30. Supervises flying  
31. 007's creator  
32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)  
35. A spider makes one  
37. Liquefied natural gas  
38. Opaque gem  
39. Brazilian palm  
40. Periodical (slang)

41. You might step on one  
42. Marvin and Horsley are two  
43. Partner to cheese  
44. Unpleasant smell  
45. Field force unit (abbr.)  
46. Fashion accessory  
47. Cool!  
48. Time zone  
49. Songs to one's lover  
52. German river  
55. Go bad  
56. Sword  
60. Very eager  
61. Leaf bug  
63. Italian seaport  
64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle  
65. Member of Jamaican religion  
66. Large wading bird  
67. Carries out  
68. Eternal rest  
69. It holds up your head-words

CLUES DOWN  
1. Not low  
2. Small water buffalo  
3. A mark left behind  
4. Archaic form of have  
5. Fiddler crabs  
6. Popular Hyundai sedan  
7. Deport  
8. Making over  
9. Midway between south and southeast  
10. Arabic masculine name  
11. Type of acid  
12. Popular 1980s Cher film  
13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools  
21. Chinese city  
23. "Star Wars" character Solo  
25. The bill in a restaurant  
26. Old, ugly witch  
27. Burn with a hot liquid  
28. To claim or demand  
29. "A Doll's House" playwright  
32. Involuntary muscular contraction  
33. Pea stems (British)

34. Double or multiple fold  
36. No longer is  
37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)  
38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru  
40. Cloth or fabric  
41. Flanks  
43. Disfigure  
44. Angry  
46. Baltic coast peninsula  
47. Large, flightless birds  
49. Plants of the lily family  
50. Medieval Norwegian language  
51. Polio vaccine developer  
52. Not soft  
53. Exchange rate  
54. Voice (Italian)  
57. Baseball's Ruth  
58. Famed guitarist  
59. Take a chance  
61. Wife  
62. Elaborate handshake



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# OBITUARIES

## Dickerson, Billy Lee

Billy Lee Dickerson, 80, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Betty Brewer Dickerson; and his parents, Joel Glenn and Lettie Elizabeth Dickerson.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Dwayne and Anne Dickerson, and Mike and Debra Dickerson; a daughter, Shelby Quesenberry; grandchildren Will, Peyton, and Joseph; a brother and sister-in-law, Buddy and Vivian Dickerson; a sister and



brother-in-law, Peggy and Donnie Raines; and many other relatives, and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 2 p.m. with Sebert Rotter officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the American Cancer Society.

The Dickerson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Housel, John Jessee

John Jessee Housel, of Christiansburg, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022.

Born on Sept. 25, 1974, he was preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Zell Housel, and his father, John Eldridge Housel.

Survivors include his sister and brother-in-law, Tracie Housel Laski and Steve; his daughter, Jessie Haley; his son, John Lee Housel; his uncle and aunt, Chuck Housel and Mary Jane, and sons, Eli and Joe; his second family, George Volk, Sr., and Sandra; lifelong friend and brother, George Volk, Jr; companion Cheryl Lomascolo; and beloved Belle.

JJ was a “Tree Man,” founding H & H Tree Service along with his father, John. His career choice provided the luxury of working outside and many opportunities for adventure throughout the New River Valley.

JJ was strong and fast and was an ex-

ceptional high school athlete, culminating with his playing on the 1992 Pulaski County state championship football team. He was proud of that achievement and the comaraderie built during that time.

He was also a lifelong, blue blood river rat, spending countless time fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and exploring the New River. JJ was a true outdoorsman and was happiest when fishing or starting a campsite fire. He felt blessed to have grown up in close proximity to the river.

A special thank you goes to Jim Graham, as well as everyone who visited and checked on JJ. It was always appreciated and never went unnoticed.

A memorial service/celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Professional services are being provided by Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory.

## McCarthy, Jennifer Kirby

Jennifer Kirby McCarthy, 76, of Pulaski passed away Nov. 30, 2022.

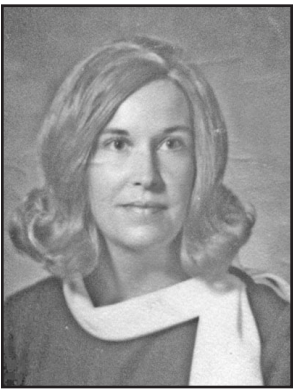
Jennifer was born on Dec. 15, 1945, and was raised in the Northwood area of Pulaski.

She was the widow of Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., and the daughter of Russell Lee and Ruth Waller Kirby. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Russell “Buddy” Kirby, and her beloved golden retriever, Jag.

She leaves behind her daughter, Susan Kirby Phillips, and her husband, Cecil C. Phillips; III, and her two granddaughters, Madison and Kennedy, all of Woodstock, Ga., and her faithful dog, Tucker. She is survived by many friends and colleagues.

Jennifer worked throughout her career in public education, as a librarian, including at Critzer Elementary School in Pulaski; an administrator; a principal at Riner Elementary School in Riner, at Macy McClaugherty Elementary School in Pearisburg; and for the Virginia Department of Education in Richmond where she was instrumental in the Adult Education and Literacy Program and the Career Switcher Program.

She also taught at Hollins College. She attended Christ Episcopal Church, and was a member of The Thursday Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution,



tion, and the Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International. She served on the Board of Directors of the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley and had served as Vice Chair of the Pulaski County Library Board.

Jennifer graduated from Pulaski High School, received her undergraduate and Master’s Degree from Radford University, and had all the study credits for her Doctorate from Virginia Tech.

PerJennifer’s request, no service will be held. Burial will be with her beloved Tom at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with a private graveside service.

The family extends special thanks to Mary Katherine Woodie, Gary C. Hancock, Brandon Thompson, Intrepid Hospice (Marsha Merritt), and the Kroontje Health Care Center at Warm Hearth.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Pulaski County Library, 60 W. Third St., Pulaski, Virginia, 24301, to New River Community College Foundation, 5251 College Drive, Dublin, Virginia, 24084, or to The Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley, P. O. Box 309, Pulaski, Virginia, 24301.

The McCarthy family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Farley, Angela Smith

Angela Smith Farley, 54, of Pembroke died, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, at her home.

She was born in Radford on July 9, 1968.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Janet Young Fletcher. She is survived by her husband, Michael “Fuzzy”



Farley; sons Jason Scott Smith, Tony Michael Farley, and Brian Clifford Farley (Katlin); grandchildren Caleb, Braylin, Leighton, and Owen; a sister, Lorrie Stevers (Chris); and a brother, Tony Smith. Per her requests there will be no services.

## Heldreth, Mary Frances Smelser

Mary Frances Smelser Heldreth, 75, passed away Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at her home on Claytor Lake.

Mary was retired from Inland Motors after 35 years of service and was a member of Central United Methodist Church.

Mary loved to be in her yard working on her flower beds or entertaining friends on her back porch.

She was preceded in death in September by her husband of 45 years, Richard “Dick” Heldreth. She was also predeceased by her parents, Wilburn and Hazel Smelser; brothers Ronnie, Floyd, Billy, and Daughtery Smelser; and her sisters, Betty, Peggy, Ruby, Nancy, and Becky.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Tony Lee Patterson of Pulaski



Ricky and Kellie Heldreth, and Todd and Amber Heldreth, all of Conway, S.C.; grandsons Caleb and Jake Heldreth; granddaughter Morgan Hamilton; a sister and brother-in-law, JoAnn and Danny Martin; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Don Shelor officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to Central United Methodist Church, PO Box 611, Radford, VA 24143.

The Heldreth family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Jones, Candace Ruth

Candace Ruth Jones, 75, of Radford, passed away Friday, December 2, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy Clark, Sr., and Lessie Gravely Jones.

Survivors include her daughters, Lisa Lucas and Candy Lucas; several grandchildren, including Kimberly Bell and her husband, Joshua; several great-grandchildren; a brother, David in Radford.



Jones; a sister, Dolly Owens; a special caregiver, Rita White; a childhood friend, Vickie Wilson; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be held Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

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

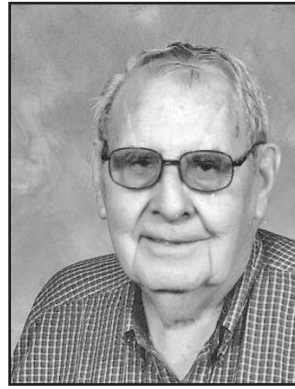
## Walker, the Rev. James E.

The Rev. James E. Walker, 94, of Radford, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

He went to meet his beloved Gaylord, who passed away in April 2018 and his daughter, Gloria Moore, who passed in Dec. 2018.

Jim was a member of the West Radford Church of God and served his country in the U. S. Army during WWII. He touched many lives with his ministry of more than 60 years.

He is survived by his daughter, Joyce Smith; grandchildren Chris and Stephanie Smith, Shelia Floyd, Randy and Matt Moore; seven great-grandchildren, two of which are Caelan Smith and Bailey Smith-Gardner; five great-great-grandchildren;



special friends Denver Gardner, Gary Sheppard, and Frankie Graham; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to give special thanks to everyone at the VA Hospital Hospice Unit in Salem for the loving care given to Jim during his stay.

Graveside services with full military honors were held on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, with Pastor Danny Newman and the Rev. Kenneth Poston officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Church of God World Missions, PO Box 8016, Cleveland, TN 37320.

The Walker family is in the care of Mullins’s Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

# Farm Bureau president: Historic funding for conservation practices is a boon for farmers

The president of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation said that the General Assembly’s passage of full funding for agricultural best management practices is a historic decision.

“Virginia Farm Bureau—on behalf of our state’s farmers—has been advocating for full funding of agricultural best management practices since 2009,” Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne F. Pryor told farmers from across the state during the organization’s 2022 Annual Meeting of Voting Delegates.

A total of \$295 million for the July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024, biennium was allocated in the state budget to help farmers implement conservation practices.

“This is an unprecedented amount of funding,” Pryor said. He advised the farmers in attendance that

if they were considering implementing conservation practices on their farms, now is the opportune time to do so.

“Farmers have always been stewards of their land, and they want to continue preserving our natural resources for the next generations, but conservation practices can be costly,” Pryor said. “Now that this funding has been allocated, I know many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to improve the state’s farmland and help keep our waterways healthy.”

Pryor also noted that Virginia Farm Bureau helped ensure that \$1.55 million was included in the state budget for retention of Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and for hiring additional agents.

“The boots on the ground that these agents provide is invaluable to our

farmers,” Pryor said.

Pryor told Farm Bureau’s volunteer leaders that 2022 was overall a successful year for the organization.

Farm Bureau not only met its membership goal for a sixth consecutive year, but then went on to surpass it by nearly 900 additional members, counting 133,163 members for 2022. “This is truly remarkable, and we couldn’t have done it without all of your help,” Pryor told county Farm Bureau leaders.

Another success in 2022 was a record-breaking amount of donations raised for Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, which provides free agriculture-themed resources to educators. A total of \$430,000 in donations was raised this past year, Pryor reported.

He said that Virginia Farm Bureau continues to focus on farmers’ mental



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU

**A historic total of \$295 million has been allocated in the Virginia state budget through June 30, 2024, to help the commonwealth’s farmers implement conservation practices.**

health and stress management.

“We partnered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which launched a new AgriStress Helpline to provide farmers with mental health support,” Pryor said. The helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven

days a week, and is staffed by crisis specialists who have access to Virginia databases of agricultural and health resources.

Additionally, Farm Bureau is collaborating with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other organizations to of-

fer workshops for people who routinely interact with farmers. Targeted toward co-op employees, farm supply businesses, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, and loan officers, the workshops will help them recognize signs of stress and mental health difficulties.



