



NEWS JOURNAL

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VDH encourages public to make an emergency plan during National Preparedness Month

RICHMOND – September is National Preparedness Month, an annual observance that serves as a reminder of the importance for families and organizations to develop response plans to prepare for unexpected emergencies or disaster situations.

Emergency situations that have widespread impact can take many forms: natural disasters such as major storms that cause flooding, wind damage, property destruction, or power outages; biological hazards such as infectious disease outbreaks that spread across a population causing serious illness and strain on the health care system; or manmade events including acts of violence or other catastrophes that cause mass injuries and casualties.

During National Preparedness Month, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Commonwealth's four Regional Healthcare Coalitions urge Virginians to develop plans for emergency situations. A family plan means preparation and discussion ahead of catastrophic events so everyone understands how they will communicate during an emergency and

how they will reconnect when danger has passed. It also involves having a family list or form with information including important phone numbers, insurance contacts and other key medical and essential information needed for emergency response, as well as on-hand emergency supplies (water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, and a portable radio to access emergency alerts and warnings, and more). Learn more about building an emergency supply kit here. Emergency plans should contemplate what supplies, information, and documents families will need during shelter-in-place events, situations warranting evacuation to a safer location, or the need to search for loved ones after an emergency. Learn more about preparing at vaemergency.gov/prepare.

"The importance of preparedness cannot be overstated," said Dr. Noelle Bissell, Health Director for New River Health District. "Outcomes are far better with these simple measures on the front end versus picking up the pieces on the back end."

See VDH, page 5



PHOTO BY MICHELE BORGARELLI

A program about photography cityscapes will be presented by Michele Borgarelli, an international award-winning photographer, on Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Professional photographer to lead presentation on cityscapes

RADFORD - The Radford Photo Club will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library for a program about Cityscapes presented by Michele Borgarelli, an international award-winning photographer and a club member.

Borgarelli's photography journey started when he received an Agfamac 100 for his 10th birthday.

"Since that time, I have been fascinated by photography and have been using Minolta, Polaroid, Rollei, Pentax and Nikon cameras," he said.

His photography interest is mainly focused on landscape, travel, street, and black and white photography. Recently, he says, he embraced the idea of Luigi Ghirri and Sebastiao Salgado: photography is a language through which stories can be told that can be understood by anybody. As such, Borgarelli's work

is now organized in projects aimed at telling different stories, sometimes with the same pictures.

"I do this by integrating the context of the photo itself in the new narrative I wish to portray with my own work," he said. "It is in this manner that new stories can emerge from the same images."

The photo challenge for the September meeting is the recent club picnic. There is also an open category and a table for photos members would like to discuss.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Anyone with questions about the club, email Lucy Gilmore at lucyg.gilmore@gmail.com or Michele Borgarelli at mborgarelli@gmail.com.

Submitted by the Radford Photo Club

Living with snakes in Virginia

Snakes occur in many different places, including yards and homes in rural and suburban areas. Most species are small and secretive and are seldom seen by homeowners, but larger snakes can create quite a commotion. If you live near a creek, woods, or fields, then snakes may occasionally show up in your yard. The best way to deal with snakes is to educate yourself, your family, and your neighbors about them. Remember that you have invaded the snake's world, not the other way around. By realizing that snakes are part of the local wildlife (just like songbirds and squirrels) and a sign on a healthy environment, you may even enjoy the prospect of a snake residing on or visiting your property.

We also realize that not everyone is excited to see a snake in their yard, so there are a few things you can do to deter snakes from living near your house. Snakes will stay in an area only if appropriate food and shelter are present. If you eliminate these, snakes will not be attracted to your yard. Try the following:

- Regularly mow your yard short.
- Eliminate hiding places for mice, rats, and other small animals that would be food for snakes.
- Remove snake shelter such as brush and mulch piles, thickets, and lumber.
- Remove bird feeders during the spring and summer. Bird seed that falls to the ground attracts rodents, which in turn attract snakes.

There is no government-approved chemical repellent that will deter all snakes from your yard. Products sold in stores primarily contain sulfur, which washes away quickly, and their effectiveness is highly questionable. The only truly effective way to keep snakes out of your yard is to fence the entire area with a solid four- to five-foot fence made of a slick material, buried a foot in the



PHOTO BY J.D. KLEOPFER/DWR

An image of a ribbon snake; this snake is black with two yellow stripes going down its body, one on each side.

ground.

A snake in your home is the most difficult situation for all concerned, including the snake. Almost all snakes that enter homes are non-venomous species and are simply in search of food such as mice. They can enter any opening that a mouse can squeeze through, so sealing all opening where pipes and electrical wires enter the dwelling will help prevent snakes from making an

unwanted appearance in your home.

If you do find a snake in your house, non-lethal options to remove it include sweeping the snake into a trash can with a broom or calling a licensed pest removal company. Search the internet for the telephone number of a reputable nuisance wildlife control company. Your local Animal Control may assist, but their involvement with snakes or other native wildlife removal varies between

cities and counties. Government agency personnel normally will not come to your house to remove a snake. Any captured snake should be released to the nearest natural area and only with landowner permission.

How you can help conserve and protect snakes

See Snakes, page 3

Research places Virginia second in list of best states for business growth

New research has revealed the best states for business growth, with Georgia taking the top spot.

Business consulting firm Venture Smarter analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to discover the business growth rate in each state based on the number of establishments in December 2021 compared to December 2022.

Top of the list is Georgia, with a business growth rate of 13.50%. In December 2022, there were 397,515 business establishments compared to 350,189 in December 2021. Corporate income tax is set at a reasonable rate of 5.75% in Georgia, with the state also offering job tax credit to reduce corporate tax liability for eligible businesses.

In second place is Virginia, which witnessed a business growth rate of 10.50%; the number of businesses increased from 305,345 in December 2021 to 337,394 one year later. The state offers many small business incentive programs, including the Virginia Enterprise Zone, which has many benefits, from tax exemption for rehabilitated structures to tax credits for creating employment.

Arizona is in third place with a business growth rate of

10.40% after seeing the number of business establishments rise from 191,756 in December 2021 to 211,683 the following year. The state has the 14th lowest corporate income tax rate in America at 4.9%.

Montana and Vermont are in joint fourth place, with both states seeing a business growth rate of 10.20%; Starting an LLC in Montana requires an initial filing fee of just \$35, which is significantly lower than in other states, such as California, with a cost of \$500. As well as this, Vermont citizens can take advantage of several business incentives, such as flexible profit distribution, which allows companies registered as LLCs to choose various ways to distribute profits.

In fifth place is Michigan, with a business growth rate of 9.80%; the state saw establishments increase from 275,636 in December 2021 to 302,624 in December 2022. Michigan experienced a small business revenue increase of 24% between January 2020 and January 2022, significantly higher than the 6.9% average rate across the nation.

South Carolina is in sixth place; the state witnessed the

number of establishments grow from 155,945 in December 2021 to 170,968 in December 2022, resulting in a business growth rate of 9.60%. South Carolina offers incentives for new businesses registered as a corporation, such as no local income tax, no state property tax, and no inventory tax.

Ranking in seventh place is North Carolina, with a business growth rate of 9.20% after seeing the number of establishments rise from 325,058 in December 2021 to 354,823 12 months later. The state has one of the country's lowest corporate income tax rates at just 2.5%.

Colorado and Hawaii are in joint eighth place. These states both experienced business growth rate of 9.10%. Businesses starting as an LLC require a low filing fee in both states at \$50, with the additional cost being \$10 every year in Colorado and \$20 in Hawaii.

Following closely behind is Idaho in ninth place – the state saw the number of establishments rise from 82,118 in December 2021 to 89,454 in December 2022, equating

See Growth, page 5

The path to recovery does not run through a morgue.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Sept. 17:

Welcoming Week at the YMCA at Virginia Tech
Welcoming Week brings New River Valley neighbors of all backgrounds together to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places. The YMCA at Virginia Tech is proud to host our 3rd annual Welcoming Week with support from the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, Blacksburg Farmers Market, The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation, local businesses, community groups and individuals. More information can be found at: <https://vtyymca.org/welcoming-week/>

Wednesday, Sept. 13:

Huckleberry Trail Section Closure
Beginning at 7:30 a.m., sections of the Huckleberry Trail will be temporarily closed for crews to conduct brush trimming along the trail route. This closure will begin on the trail section located at Linwood Lane, ending at Fire Station #2 on Prices Fork Road. The work crew will conduct a systematic closure of trail sections as they progress. All maintenance work is expected to be complete by 3:30 p.m. the same day. This closure was originally scheduled for Sept. 6. Due to equipment issues, this closure has been moved to Sept. 13.

Thursday, Sept. 14:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club Open House
At Slusser's Chapel Fellowship Hall, 1543 Mt Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Drop by between 6:30 and 8 p.m. This is an opportunity for community members to talk with Ruritan members about current club projects, suggest new ones, and to see if they would like to join us.

Saturday, Sept. 16:

Mornings with the Mayor
Join Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith on Sept. 16 and Sept. 23, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to learn how the Town of Blacksburg operates. Tour the new police station, explore the Town's history and geography and learn how to get involved at any age! Program admission is free. Open to ages 8 – 12 years. Program admission is limited to 12 participants. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 540.443.1026 or email lsaulding@blacksburg.gov.

Wilderness Trail Festival
The 50th annual Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival will take place in downtown Christiansburg, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location of vendors will extend on Main Street all the way from Town Hall to Burger King. A record number of vendors have registered this year. The event will include the usual local arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, an enhanced children's area, two stages, an emergency services location, great food all day, classic cars, raffles, a silent auction, and more.

Ladies Night Out Workshop
At First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Shred-A-Thon
Town of Blacksburg Shred-A-Thon; 9 a.m. – noon, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Remain in your vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

Thursday, Sept. 21:

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

Saturday, Sept. 23:

Radford Summer Concert
Last installment of 2023 concerts, featuring country artist Ryan Perry and opening act Sofie Lynn. Held on grounds of Glencoe Mansion, just off West Main St. (600 Unruh Dr.). Gates open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Food trucks and adult beverages.

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Monday, Sept. 25:

Special Education Advisory Committee
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th 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, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting
Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and 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.

Tuesday, Sept. 26:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month 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 televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

On-going:

Hydrant Testing
The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

Market Square Jam
Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market
Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market
Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market
Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Free GED classes
New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

Snakes

from page 1



PHOTO BY J.D. KLEOPFER/DWR

An image of a red corn snake on a rock; this snake is copper in color with dark orange spots surrounded by a black perimeter.

Support efforts to establish and protect natural areas.

Educate yourself and others about these amazing animals.

Keep portions of your property in natural conditions by not mowing, grazing, or timbering. You will be amazed by the amount of wildlife it attracts.

Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides in your lawn and garden.

Avoid using glue traps for rodents and nylon netting for landscaping. They often inadvertently kill snakes and lizards every year.

Do not remove rotting logs and standing dead trees, because they are an important component of the habitat needs of many species of snakes and lizards. They use these habitats to forage for insects, as cover from predators, and as nesting sites.

Help conserve land through land donations, donations to organizations, or conservation easements.

Submitted by the Department of Wildlife Resources

SONIC donates to McHarg Elementary School

SONIC Drive-In is dedicated to getting teachers and students the classroom supplies they need for the new school year.

In August, the SONIC Foundation donated \$1 million to help fund requests on DonorsChoose, a national nonprofit that allows individuals to donate directly to public school classroom requests submitted by teachers.

The \$1 million donation is part of the SONIC Drive-In brand's ongoing Limeades for Learning initiative.

The following exceptional teacher received support through the funding:

In Radford, first grade teacher Jenni Church at McHarg

Elementary School received a donation of \$355 for the project "Just Right Decodable Books" for Grades PreK-2.

"SONIC's dedication to supporting education through our Limeades for Learning program is a core pillar of our business and the transition into a new school year is a crucial window in setting students and teachers up for success," said Kim Lewis, Vice President of Brand Experience for SONIC. "We're grateful to all the SONIC guests who joined us this month in our commitment to brighten the lives of educators, students and families across our SONIC communities by donating to a classroom request on DonorsChoose, or simply by

enjoying their favorite SONIC drink."

Through the SONIC Limeades for Learning initiative, the brand donates a portion of proceeds from every drink, slush and shake purchase to the SONIC Foundation, which is used to support local public education. Since 2009, SONIC has donated more than \$26 million to funding local classrooms, becoming one of the largest programs in the U.S. to support public education.

Visit DonorsChoose.org and donate to one or more of the thousands of public school teacher requests seeking support to provide students with educational resources.

Submitted by SONIC

VIRGINIA IS FOR PAWPAW LOVERS

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OPINION

Financial Focus: Take steps to prepare for a long retirement

How long will you live? Of course, your longevity is somewhat unpredictable. But it may be a good idea to plan for a long life — and the financial issues that go along with it.

investments. Once you're retired, you'll probably need to rely more heavily on your investment portfolio to help pay for your cost of living. That means you will need a mix of investments that provide income — to supplement your Social Security and any pensions you might have — and growth — to help keep you ahead of inflation.

keeping an emergency fund on the side can help you with unforeseen costs that could otherwise cause you to withdraw more than you'd like. Unsurprisingly, the goal with choosing the appropriate withdrawal rate and monitoring it throughout retirement is so you don't outlive your portfolio.

care costs can be considerable. Upon first retiring, it's often a good idea to budget between \$4,500 to \$6,500 per person annually, though depending on your health, prescriptions and supplemental insurance, your costs could certainly be higher or lower than this range.

To help maintain the resources necessary to pay for these years, you may need to take several steps, such as the following:

Establish a reasonable withdrawal rate. You'll need to establish and maintain a reasonable withdrawal rate — the percentage of your portfolio you take out each year. As a general rule, many people start out in retirement by designating a 4% annual withdrawal rate, but your individual figure will depend on a variety of factors, such as your age, the size of your portfolio, other sources of income and so on. And

Consider adding some earned income. Once you've formally retired from your career, you might consider working part time or doing some consulting. The added income can improve your cash flow and take some of the pressure off your investment portfolio. Keep in mind that your income level in retirement will determine what tax rate you pay on your Social Security benefits. If you take Social Security early and are earning above a certain amount, your benefits could be temporarily reduced.

A long life can certainly be rewarding — and even more so when you're prepared for it.

This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SIPC, and submitted by Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczmariski, 540-944-1511.

Virginia gas prices decline over last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.55/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

country. Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- September 11, 2022: \$3.47/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)
September 11, 2021: \$2.99/g (U.S. Average: \$3.17/g)
September 11, 2020: \$2.11/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)
September 11, 2019: \$2.31/g (U.S. Average: \$2.57/g)
September 11, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.83/g)
September 11, 2017: \$2.55/g (U.S. Average: \$2.65/g)
September 11, 2016: \$1.99/g (U.S. Average: \$2.17/g)
September 11, 2015: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.36/g)
September 11, 2014: \$3.17/g (U.S. Average: \$3.42/g)
September 11, 2013: \$3.33/g (U.S. Average: \$3.54/g)

"The national average hit some road bumps over the last week after starting to decline early in the week. The second half saw the national average rise as gas prices in the Corn Belt started spiking, pulling the average price in the US along with it," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Submitted by GasBuddy

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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.

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AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Tech support scams trending

Some of the top scams are the ones that have been around the longest. One might think that a crime like the tech support scam, which has been around for 15 years, might fade away but it is more common than ever. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, the tech support scam was reported by nearly 18,000 victims who had a combined \$588 million stolen from them last year.

company warning of grave problems. The goal is to persuade you to allow them to remotely connect with your device where they can convince you they find something terrible. They are actually seeking to install malware to harvest personal information and logins, creating ways to get back into your device or convincing you to pay for expensive repair and protection — all of which is fake.

message, exit out of your browser, power down your device or do a hard shut down. Keeping your operating systems and security software up to date is an important way to keep real viruses and malware out. Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Submitted by AARP

DMV offers electronic title transfer for qualified vehicle sales
New website offers more online options for Virginians

RICHMOND - As part of DMV's renewed efforts to provide superior service to Virginians, the agency is expanding its already extensive menu of online options on its newly designed website. Qualified vehicle buyers and sellers now have the ability to transfer vehicle ownership electronically. The electronic titling (e-titling) program gives an individual selling a vehicle to an individual buyer the ability to transfer the title through DMV's website.

The seller, buyer, and vehicle must meet certain requirements in order to take advantage of the e-titling program. Requirements for e-title transfer include: Buyer and seller must be Virginia residents with myDMV accounts. Sale is one owner to one buyer. No liens present on the title. No holds on customers' accounts. Sale for a passenger vehicle (car, sport utility vehicle, truck; no trailers, mopeds or all-terrain vehicles)

"The next time you buy a car from someone who isn't a dealer, you may be able to transfer ownership without having to go to a DMV office," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "With the launch of our reimagined website, we continue to look for innovative ways that allow Virginians to take care of their DMV business anytime and anywhere." For a complete list of e-titling requirements, visit dm.virginia.gov/etitle.

CROSSWORD
1. Undergarments for women
2. The Sator-___ Square
3. Rt. angle cleaving tool
4. Irreducible material
5. Oldest man-made rayon fiber
6. Burial cloths
7. Surface layer of grass & roots
8. Not shaky
9. Kidney-shaped nut
10. Nursemaids in India
11. Tree trunk outgrowth
12. Trower used for storing silage
13. Br. public boys school
14. A citizen of Denmark
15. Approves food
16. Golf ball supports
17. Pearl Harbor actress Rue
18. Coarse curly-leaved greens
19. Cancer detecting smear
20. Conditions of balance
21. Light purplish-blue
22. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
23. Shelf unit for ornaments
24. Live in
25. Arthur ___, Wimbledon champion
26. A thwarting and distressing obstruction
27. Cut off from others
28. Tree trunk outgrowth
29. Trower used for storing silage
30. Br. public boys school
31. ___ Ling mountain range
32. ___ Clapton, musician
33. Frambesia
34. Reduced price event
35. Pear variety
36. The Sator-___ Square
37. Light purplish-blue
38. Plants of the genus Cassia
39. Shelf unit for ornaments
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65. Frambesia
66. Reduced price event

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OBITUARIES

Walker, Larry Edward

Larry Edward Walker, 78, of Radford, passed away Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. He was a member of the Radford Fire Department and EMS and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Walker and Blanche Walker Collier; and sister and brother-in-law, Anita and Harless Bain.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Brenda V. Walker of Radford; daughter, Renee Walker



of Mont Alto, Penn.; grandson, Dakota Young of Radford; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Barbara and Eddie

Repass; niece, Kim Repass and her daughter Khloe; and many other wonderful friends.

The family received friends 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Rev. James Sasser and Pastor Craig Reed officiating.

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

Jesberg, Barbara Ann Olinger

Barbara Ann Olinger Jesberg, 76, passed away on Thursday, September 7, 2023. She was a member of Fairlawn Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter James and Mildred Clear Olinger; and her husband, Carl Jesberg.

She is survived by her son, Eric White; grandchildren, Alexis Thacker (Rick) and Dustin White; great-grandchildren, Beck and



Ad Thacker; sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary

Haynes (Charles); and many other family members, cousins and special friends.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Fairlawn Baptist Church. Memorial services and a meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

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

Lester, Sibil Dawn

Sibil Dawn Lester, 92, of Riner, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

She came into this world a strong and determined woman and left us in the same way. Sibil was born on June 26, 1931, and lived a full 92 years working hard and constantly moving. She was employed at Hubble Lighting, retiring in 2003. Sibil has lived in Riner since 1968 and never moved nor changed her phone number. She was known for keeping her home and yard beautiful. She was the last of the last on all sides of the older generation and will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Sibil was preceded in sleep by her



husband, Perry Lincoln Lester; all of her siblings and their spouses; nephew, Tommy Sutphin; and her nieces Kathy and Carolyn Lester.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Karin K. Gravley (John, II); grandson, Jason Lincoln

Lester (Kayla Kay Tiplady); granddaughter, Karina Danielle Jones (Raleigh); great-grandchildren, Taylor Nicole East, Serenity Grace Jones, Frankie Jones-Gee (Taylor) and Dixie Lynn Jones; great-grandchildren, Carter Gee, Natalee Gee and Olivia Gee; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of life was held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Andre Lavache officiating.

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

Medley, Deborah "Debbie" Reynolds

Deborah "Debbie" Reynolds Medley, 67, of Pulaski, passed away Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem, Va. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray M. and Pearl Quesenberry Reynolds; and sister and brother-in-law Doris and Ricky Owens.

Survivors include her son, Lynn Medley of New Castle; her daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Gary Wolfe of



New Castle; sisters and brother-in-law, Glenna and Chuck Quesenberry of Christiansburg,

and Barbara Reynolds of Conover, N.C.; grandchildren, Harley, Halie and Jaycob; five great grandchildren; nephews and nieces, Robin, David, Brian, Amanda and Chris.

A celebration of Debbie's life will be held in a private family ceremony at a later date.

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

VDH from page 1

"Our experiences from recent years have demonstrated the critical importance of being ready to respond when emergencies happen," said VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton. "Emergency situations can occur at any time. Virginians across the Commonwealth have witnessed this in the form of major flooding in Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia, a snowstorm that stranded motorists on the interstate in Northern Virginia, and the COVID-19 outbreak beginning in 2020. In each case, those emergencies developed quickly and presented serious health and public safety concerns for people impacted by them. When emergencies happen, hospitals are part of the critical infrastructure engaged in response efforts. Because of this, hospitals and other health care organizations partner with state and federal government agencies to conduct ongoing emergency preparation and planning efforts. Just as these organizations plan for the worst, it is vital for families and private sector firms to also have regularly updated plans that can be activated when an emergency happens."

"I urge Virginians to take time during National Preparedness Month to assess how prepared they and their families are for coping with disasters and emergencies," said State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton, MD. "Do you have enough water and non-perishable food on hand to last for several days if everything shut down? Do you have your mobile phone set up to receive emergency alerts? If you had to evacuate, where would you go and how would you get there? Have you made plans for your pet if you had to evacuate to a shelter? These are some of the questions we all should be thinking about year-round as disasters come in all forms and can happen anytime.

VDH and its Local Health Districts provide oversight of many emergency response functions, including monitoring for disease outbreaks, insuring food and water safety, and mass casualty management."

This year, the theme of National Preparedness Month is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3." Its focus is on helping elderly individuals, including those from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events and threats, prepare for emergencies. Additional information and resources about emergency preparation and planning are available through Ready.gov and the Red Cross.

For businesses, Ready.gov recommends conducting a risk assessment to identify potential emergency scenarios as part of the development of an emergency response plan consistent with organizational objectives and focused on protecting staff, visitors, contractors and others on premises if an emergency occurs.

In Virginia, critical public and private sector organizations collaborate to conduct ongoing planning preparation activities to be ready when disaster strikes. This includes VHHA, its member hospitals and health system, and VDH. These organizations partner on the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP), an initiative supported with grant funding from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). VHHA and VDH work through VHEMP to address gaps in the health care delivery system regarding the ability to respond to disaster situations. This work is facilitated by a network of four regional healthcare coalitions (the Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Eastern

Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, and the Southwest Virginia Healthcare Coalition) that work with health care facilities and response organizations to help prepare for emergency response situations. Each regional healthcare coalition maintains a Regional Healthcare Coordination Center (RHCC) to support response activities during a disaster affecting health care facilities.

The extent of meaningful cooperation between government agencies, health systems, and regional coalitions is reflected in the effectiveness of Virginia's emergency response apparatus. The Commonwealth has been recognized several times in recent years for its high level of preparation for public health emergencies. That includes the latest report by Trust for America's Health, Ready or Not 2023: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism, which again places Virginia in the top tier of states for emergency readiness. The report measures state levels of preparedness to respond to a wide range of health emergencies including infectious outbreaks, natural disasters, and manmade events. Previous annual reports from Trust for America's Health - including those compiled during the lengthy response to the COVID-19 pandemic - also ranked Virginia in the top tier of states in 2022, 2021, and 2020. Virginia has also been ranked among the top states in the National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHPSI) report that evaluates state readiness to respond to public health emergencies.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Health

Students named to summer 2023 President's and Dean's Lists at NRCC

At New River Community College, 35 students were recently named to the President's List and Dean's List in recognition of their academic excellence during the summer 2023 session. Certificates will be mailed to the recipients in the coming weeks.

To be placed on the President's List, a student must have taken 12 college-level semester hours or more, attained a grade point average of 3.5 for any one semester, and earned a minimum of 20 semester hours at New River Community College.

A Dean's List student is one who has taken 12 college-level semester hours of credit or more and attained a grade point average of 3.2 for any one semester.

Those named to the President's List are: Sara Albert; Damont Brooks, Jr;

Caileigh Chaffin Gearhart; Mykkel Connelly; Samantha Conner; Ashley Custer; Sara Dunford; Samantha Dunn-Hite; Alexander Eiler; Joshua Faw; Jack Hartley; Dana Johnson; Jacob Keefer; Alexandre Lachance; Megan Lineberry; Mikhail Mann; Griffin McClain; Allison Peters; Gavin Richardson; Megan Saunders; Leda Stubbs; and Che Yang.

Those named to the Dean's List are: Lanette Austin; Matthew Brown; Devin Campbell; Julietta Crowder-Parera; Andrea Hagen; Shativa Hubbard; Avery McDaniel; Briannah Mills; Jessica Nwachukwu; Holden Perry; Samuel Sproat; Brittany Sutphin; and Julian Taylor.

Submitted by New River Community College

Growth from page 1

to a growth rate of 8.90%. A range of business tax credits are available to Idaho entrepreneurs, including the small employer capital investment credit, which offers a tax credit of 3.75% to small businesses on new equipment purchased in the state.

Last on the list is Utah in tenth place with a business growth rate of 8.40%; in December 2022, the state had 137,277 establishments compared to 126,644 in December 2021. Utah has a low corporate income tax rate of 4.85%, as well as an LLC filing fee of \$54 with an additional charge of \$18 every year.

On the opposite end of the scale, Washington has the worst business growth rate of -16.80%. The state had 284,440 establishments in December 2022, which decreased by 47,644 in December 2022; Washington was

the only state to witness a decrease of establishments.

A spokesperson from Venture Smarter has commented: "With the key benefits of starting a business in the states mentioned, it will be fascinating to witness the business growth rate over time and see how many more entrepreneurs thrive with the available support."

"However, regardless of your state, it's vital to research the fees you will be expected to pay as they can vary significantly across states - not to mention, there are many incentives to take advantage of if you are eligible that can make the process of starting a business smoother and cheaper."

Submitted by Venture Smarter

Send community news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

Brentano String Quartet to open Moss season



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUERGEN FRANK

Brentano String Quartet

BLACKSBURG - A classical music favorite, the incomparable Brentano String Quartet, returns to the Moss Arts Center with leading violist and Juilliard faculty member Hsin-Yun Huang to open the Moss Arts Center's 10th anniversary season on Friday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m., with a performance featuring works from Haydn and Brahms alongside the world premiere of a piece composed for the ensemble.

The program will include:

Joseph Haydn: String Quartets, op. 33, no. 3, "The Bird"

James MacMillan: Viola Quintet, "Heart Speaks to Heart" (world premiere)

Johannes Brahms: Quintet for Strings in G Major, op. 111

The beloved Brahms quintet has "a special ebullience, grace, and buoyancy of mood and texture. The scores are especially skillful and rich with subtle invention," according to musicologist Kai Christansen. Experiencing

it "is a thrill and a bountiful adventure you will not soon forget."

Formed in 1992, the Brentano Quartet has performed in the world's most prestigious venues to popular and critical acclaim. In addition to performing the entire two-century range of standard quartet repertoire, the ensemble maintains a strong interest in contemporary music and has commissioned many new works. Its latest project, a monodrama for quartet and voice called "Dido Reimagined," was composed by Pulitzer-winning composer Melinda Wagner and librettist Stephanie Fleischmann and had its premiere in spring 2022 with soprano Dawn Upshaw.

Hsin-Yun Huang has forged a career by performing on international concert stages, commissioning and recording new works and nurturing young musicians. Her next recording will be the complete unaccompanied sonatas and partitas of Bach in partnership with her husband, Brentano violist Misha Amory.

Watch as members of the ensemble coach Virginia Tech students in string technique and musicality during a master class on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Ensemble members also will visit a music history and theory course, sharing contextual knowledge and guidance in music analysis with students.

Tickets for the performance are \$20-\$55 for general public and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Intimate Voices and Deborah L. Brown.

Susan Bland for Virginia Tech

DAR invites public to plaque dedication



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE DAR

The Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is inviting the public to the dedication of an American 250 Patriot's plaque on Sept. 24, 2023 at 3 p.m. at the Wilderness Road Regional Museum, located in Newbern.

DAR Virginia State Regent Laurie P. Nesbitt will be the guest speaker. The National Society's goal is to place markers in advance of the celebration of the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

"This dedication is designed to raise appreciation amongst current and future generations of Americans of our Patriots' sacrifice for their benefit," the chapter stated. "Our hope is that this

marker will become a source of pride for this community to celebrate the brave Patriots who founded our nation and a reminder of the importance of emulating their conviction, courage and cooperation toward national unity."

Adam Hance and his family built the home which is now a museum on the Wilderness Road in Newbern, the town he established. Hance was an entrepreneur who saw the good sense in establishing a town along the main wagon road taking settlers westward into Kentucky and beyond and was a DAR Patriot.

Submitted by DAR - Roanoke Valley Chapter

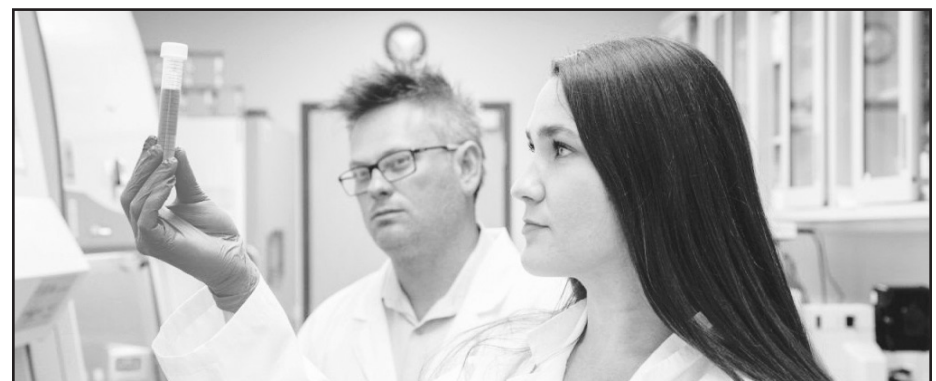


PHOTO BY TIM SKILES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Mecaila McClune (at right) looks into a test tube in Brandon Jutras' lab.

Virginia Tech awarded grant to study lingering Lyme disease symptoms

An estimated 1,200 Americans, on average, are diagnosed with Lyme disease each day. Some of those patients continue to experience negative effects, even after treatment.

Lyme disease researcher Brandon Jutras, associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and affiliated faculty of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, recently received a \$2.7 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study what causes the disease to linger long after treatment.

"Using a series of sophisticated molecular techniques, in combination with both bacterial and host genetics, we're working to understand why and how some patients respond to therapy, while others do not," said Jutras, the lead investigator in the Department of Biochemistry and an affiliate faculty member in the Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens. "Our two-pronged approach looks at this problem from both sides: What unique chemical features of the bacterium's cell wall are responsible for causing symptoms and what genetic factors from the host-response side play a role in sustained pathology."

Previously, Jutras discovered that: The disease-causing agent sheds part of its cell wall into its environment.

This molecule can be detected in patients'

months after antibiotic treatment.

The bacterium that causes Lyme disease has a highly unusual modification in its protective molecular bag that allows it to move easier.

And that the cell wall alone is capable of causing symptoms similar to those experience by patients.

This research builds upon the previous discoveries and will determine what about the cell wall makes patients sick and define new strategies, such as monoclonal antibody therapy, to improve Lyme disease patient health when previous treatments have failed.

"We recognize this is an issue and that patients have these long-term symptoms, but we don't know why," said Mecaila McClune, who is a key member of the research team and a graduate student in the Jutras lab. "This is what my research is trying to determine what's going on and how we can treat the persistent effects of the disease, which will improve quality of life going forward."

These new studies were facilitated by earlier support from the Global Lyme Alliance and Bay Area Lyme Foundation and continue an active collaboration with GlycoMIP, and both the University of Virginia and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

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RADFORD SPORTS



FILE PHOTO

Rick Cormany has retired from the head coaching position at Radford High School.

Cormany stepping down from Radford post

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - One of the area's winningest high school basketball coaches is stepping down.

Radford's Rick Cormany announced Thursday he is retiring from a very productive time at the New River Valley school.

"It's just time," he said. "I've been year to year since 2019."

After almost four decades, Cormany will finish his career with 773 wins, good for second-most in VHSL history. He previously served as assistant coach at Radford University before accepting a job as the head man at Rocky Gap. He was there for five years before accepting the post at Radford in 1993.

Cormany said he doesn't know what he was thinking in those early days at Rocky Gap. "I just knew I had to try and out work everyone and try to learn everyday if we had any chance to be successful. I was way too young to be a head coach anywhere, but I had hard working kids that would get to gym at 6 in the morning and would get better," he said.

The 773 wins puts Cormany in some elite company with the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) along with retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories).

Cormany just finished his 30th season at Radford and over 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats.

Radford won 21 of the last 22 regular season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17

tournament championships, the last four Conference 45 championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), three state runner ups, nine state Final-4's and state champions in six of the last 12 years.

Cormany finds it hard to pinpoint his favorite memories when you've been a head coach for 40 of your 42 years.

"Enjoying the locker room and coach's office with players and other coaches will be what I'll miss most," he said. "We worked hard but had fun. All six state championships were fond memories, but all the region and district championships were special as well."

There had been some speculation he would retire after two of his returning players have transferred to post-graduate programs. Rick's son, Gavin, is now at Oak Hill Academy while Elijah Kelly moved to the Miller School near Charlottesville.

His other son, Gavin, is playing at the Naval Academy.

"I want to support his team more and be at more of Navy's games," Rick Cormany said.

"I need to be around as dad more and hopefully watch both my sons play as their dad and not their coach. And I want to get out and hack at that golf ball more," he said with a smile.

He had retired from his counselor and teaching position at Radford several years ago and had just served as the basketball coach for the past two.

Radford begins the search for a new coach immediately as preseason basketball workouts were scheduled to start next week. The season will start in November.

Christiansburg slips by William Byrd



Quarterback Tanner Evans runs into the North endzone on a QB keeper scoring the Blue Demons first TD of the game. Christiansburg took the 14-10 win to move to 3-0 on the season.



Christiansburg's sturdy lineman Carter Stallard (left), Jayden Nieves (second from right), and Jaiden Edwards (right) create a hole for Izaiah Cotto (center) to pass through.



Josiah Ratley (left) and JT Thompson (right) double-team a William Byrd running back stopping the Terrier's progress.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

William Byrd's Quarterback faces a triple threat of Blue Demon defensemen Josiah Ratley (left), Donovan Richardson (center), and Noah Davis (right).

Blacksburg ends losing streak, Clark leads Radford to 3-0 mark

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The losing streak for Blacksburg High School is over. Football fans had seen the Bruins' mark stretch back three years, but Friday night, they rolled in a 40-14 win over Floyd in earning their first since October 2019.

QB Ethan Karpa completed 15 of 25 passes for 243 yards and three touchdowns, and Javier Waldron had seven receptions for 104 yards.

Eastern Montgomery also picked up their first win of the year, while Radford and Christiansburg remained unbeaten.

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

This week's games:

Cave Spring at Christiansburg

Cave is 1-2 after last week's 7-3 loss to Glenvar. Their lone win this season was 42-3 over Western Albermarle

in Week One. The other loss was 30-27 to Northside. Cave was 6-5 last season including a 24-14 loss to Christiansburg.

After the departure of Nick Leftwich to William Fleming earlier this year, Cave Spring High School introduced Hunter Shepherd as its new varsity head football coach on Friday. The 27-year-old William Byrd alum spent the last four years as the defensive coordinator at Staunton River.

Prediction: Christiansburg 38, Cave 14.

Rockbridge at Blacksburg

Rockbridge is 0-3 after a 55-8 loss to Alleghany. So far, this season, they have been outscored 152-22 with losses to Staunton and Parry McCluer.

Prediction: Blacksburg 30, Rockbridge 12.

Galax at Radford

Radford rolled to another win (42-3) on the road at Virginia High. Landon Clark finished 14 of 25 through the air for 196 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed

for 80 yards on eight carries with eight scores.

Max Kanipe was Clark's favorite target catching seven for 158 yards including a 50-yard touchdown.

The Radford defense held Virginia High to 42 yards of total offense.

Meanwhile, Galax picked up their first win of the season 21-13 over Carroll County. Tadrhuh Tucker rushed for 207 yards on 41 carries, including 119 in the first half. QB Tommy Jones was limited in the game but completed five of 10 for 70 yards.

Prediction: Radford 40, Galax 20.

Eastern Montgomery at Auburn

Eastern Montgomery picked up their first win of the season (22-16) on the road at Northwood.

This week, the school renews the "Golden Helmet" competition with cross-county rival Auburn, who was slated to continue a weather-delay contest on Monday night against Craig County.

Prediction: Auburn 20, Eastern Montgomery 18.

Lightning, rain plays havoc at Lane on Saturday

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Lightning and heavy rain delayed the completion of Saturday's Virginia Tech-Purdue for over five hours.

The biggest logistic of the suspension was convincing a sellout crowd to leave the stadium. For the first hour, most of those fans hung out under the stadium in the concession area. After that time, many found their way back to parking lot to their cars. This, in turn, led to a large majority of the fans simply leaving.

Many Hokie fans remember the 2001 nationally-broadcast game between Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech. Television announcers watched as lightning struck near one of their cars. The game would be cancelled because of the severe weather and become infamous in Hokie football history.

The Michigan State-Penn State contest in 2017 was subjected to a weather delay, which lasted for 6 hours and 58 minutes. Another 110-minute halt occurred in 2016's tie between Wyoming and Northern Illinois.

The NCAA policy is pretty straight forward and similar to the Virginia High School League.

"Once lightning enters the warning ring, you must stop competition and move student-athletes and spectators to safe areas. You may not begin any activity until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

Lightning strikes will disappear from the screen once they are 30 minutes old."

The Lightning and addition rain, which seemed to be blowing sideways, shut down the competition even longer, in the case of Saturday's game, over five hours.

According to a NCAA report, lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect intercollegiate athletics.

Within the United States, the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) estimates that 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year.

Virginia Tech has and had staff on Saturday watching the warning area and the National Weather Service radar.

Typically, the system will alert staff lightning has been recorded in the outside ring nearly 18 miles away. Once, it reaches the 10-mile range, staff receive additional alerts. In addition, every time another strike was recorded within that range, the 30-minute delay restarts.

The NCAA points out that outside locations increase the risk of being struck by lightning when thunderstorms are in the area. Typically, anything referred to as a "shelter" is not safe from lightning. Dugouts, refreshment stands, open press boxes, rain shelters, golf shelters and picnic shelters, even if they are properly grounded for structural safety, are unsafe and may actually increase the risk of lightning injury.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Heavy rain fell on Worsham Field in Lane Stadium on Saturday afternoon, causing a lengthy delay in the Purdue vs. Virginia Tech football game.

Tech officials made announcements telling those fans who were under the concourse of the stadium more "safer" locations were available. This included Cassell Coliseum and the Rector Field House. Staff and fans were quickly moved to those locations.

According to the NCAA rules, a non-conference game like the Virginia Tech-Purdue game could have been cancelled if the weather did not clear. Instead, at around 6:15 p.m., teams were back on the field.

Fans re-entered the stadium, but many had gone home. The Hokie faithful had decreased in an estimated half from the initial sellout crowd.

Drainage system at Tech's Lane works well

Marty Gordon
 NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Over four inches of rain fell in less than two hours Saturday during the Virginia Tech and Purdue football game.

Throw in heavy lightning throughout the area, and the game was delayed for over five hours.

The teams took the field around 6:30 p.m. for a 12-noon game after storms moved out of the area.

While the players were able to dry their uniforms, questions remained on what the conditions of the field would be.

Virginia Tech officials had no doubt the field would not be a slippery surface, like other games were struggling with on Saturday afternoon.

The secret weapon was the GreenTech's ITM system. GreenTech is a Georgia-based turf company that had installed the state-of-the-art collection system, which

allows up to 16 inches of drainage per hour.

Trays were installed below the field surface with pumps throughout field. Saturday, a portable pump sat on the Purdue sidelines, pulling water from underneath and then to a nearby drain.

Lane earned the distinction of becoming the first collegiate football facility in the nation to install this Integrated Turf Management (ITM) system. Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey had previously installed the system with lots of success.

After a 2001 regular season football game against Georgia Tech was rained out, Virginia Tech decided to look into a new drainage system. So, the school installed an unusual "tray catching system."

Worsham Field received top-of-the-line natural grass turf, drainage, an air vacuum and blower system, and remote monitoring and control of field conditions and maintenance procedures at a cost of \$1.3 million.

According to background from the initial

installation, the GreenTech's tray system allows for athletic field turf to be cultivated off-site because each tray contains the soil and breathability needed for grass to grow.

The system on the playing field, one of only two such modular fields in the country, is composed of 4,224 46-inch by 46-inch trays of sod positioned above asphalt. In conjunction with a portable vacuum pump, the playing surface stays dry even during heavy rain.

According to an article in Lawn and Landscape shortly after the installation, the company said each tray is composed of five inches of gravel in the base followed by eight inches of sand, and then the sand is covered by soil and a layer of Patriot bermudagrass sod.

Saturday, the system worked and there was a football game played five hours later.

Knights Crossing Invitational at Green Hill



Radford's Cora Mosby placed 41st in the girls 4k middle school race at Knights Crossing on Saturday morning at Green Hill Park.



Radford's Olivia Close races with teammates Abigail Castleberry (left) and Kora Epperly (right) during the girls "Red" race at Knights Crossing.



Radford junior Reagan Bryant placed 94th in the girls "Red" race at Knights Crossing (22:21.6). The Bobcats placed 26th out of 44 teams at Green Hill Park.



Radford's Kyle Martin placed 124th in the Knights Crossing "Red" race, in a field of 450 runners on Saturday morning.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, September 28th at 4 PM
 Brick Ranch Home for Sale in Pilot VA
 1604 Laurel Creek Rd NE, Pilot, VA 24138
 Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



This brick country home located in Pilot VA is a spacious and well-equipped property. With 2,362 sq. ft. this home features 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Enjoy the beautiful sunroom located off the master suite. This property offers comfortable living quarters but also significant potential for personal and professional pursuits. The full basement is also a plus!

It features a paved driveway providing ample parking. Situated on 6.07 acres of land, the property provides plenty of outdoor space for various activities and entertainment. The large metal garage, spanning approximately 3,000 sq. ft., is equipped with 14ft. doors. It can accommodate vehicles, and equipment, or even serve as a workspace for a small business. It's also suitable for storing large vehicles such as RVs or boats.

The home is in the Pilot VA area of Floyd County. Within a short commute of Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Roanoke and Salem VA.

PREVIEW – Friday, September 15th at 4 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before November 13th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 28th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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

You can also contact Realtor Doug Weddle at 540-239-0757 or email DougWeddleRealtor@gmail.com.

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



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.

PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Jar-Jar is a prime example of a kitty with an independent spirit. She likes to decide on her own when to sit in a human's lap or receive pets. She would do best in a home where she is the only cat and children are above 12 years old.



Sosa is a happy boy who shows off his fun personality outside of his kennel at the Animal Care and Adoption Center. He loves, loves, loves to have a ball—tennis, rubber, bouncy. You name it, he'll probably play with it! He also enjoys relaxing in a "splot" position from time to time. He would need to be the only dog in his future home. Stop by to meet Sosa!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

BRAS	ERAS	IBSEN
OOZE	TEST	SUITA
STUN	ASHY	ORLON
CARNEGIE	MELLON	
SEARCHED	IDA	
IRE	EATABLE	
EFFACE	MENTAL	
DIRT	TANK	
GROOVY	STASES	
ENEMIES	CHU	
SAT	ARRANT	
DUTCH	ESSOFYORK	
PASEO	AAHU	AMIA
ANDES	DRED	HILL
PEASE	YAWS	SALE

visit www.ourvalley.org