

News Journal

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NRCC economic impact exceeds \$100 million

New River Community College has an impact of well over \$100 million on the regional economy, a new study has determined.

According to the study, the college generated \$121.7 million in economic activity in the New River Valley in FY 2021-22.

The economic impact study, conducted by the data analytics firm Lightcast, concluded that NRCC alumni and the businesses they work for saw \$97.2 million in added income, while the college's payroll and operating expenses totaled \$22.9 million. In addition, student spending reached \$1.6 million.

"While we were aware of the influence that NRCC has both educationally and economically in the New River Valley, we were pleased to see the college makes an even more significant economic impact than might be apparent at first glance," said Dr. Pat Huber, NRCC president.

The study estimates that for every dollar invested in

NRCC, students gain \$4.50 in higher future earnings, and taxpayers see a net benefit of \$2.20 in added tax revenue stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased output by businesses and public sector savings.

When compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent, the average NRCC graduate with an associate degree will see an increase in earnings of \$8,100 annually, according to the report.

Over the long term, for every dollar invested in NRCC, the citizens of Virginia will receive a cumulative value of \$6.80 in benefits the study estimated. Altogether, the social benefits of NRCC are estimated to have a present value of \$322.1 million. These benefits include \$218.4 million in added student income over a 40-year working career, \$73.5 million in added business income, and \$21.5 million in added income from college activities, as well as \$8.8 million in social savings related to reduced government spending



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

for health, the justice system, and income assistance in Virginia.

The full report of the Lightcast study can be found at www.nr.edu/visitors/economicimpactstudy.pdf.

New River Community College

Glencoe Mansion hosts Radford City Public Schools Art Show

RADFORD - Glencoe Mansion is pleased to announce its new art show, featuring the artworks of students from Radford City Public Schools.

The show is open March 16 through April 28. There is an opening reception Saturday, Mar. 23, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The show features the artworks of students from seventh to twelfth grade, representing John Dalton Intermediate School and Radford High School. These talented young artists are showcasing work that was created in the classroom where they diligently learned about a variety of art movements, styles, and mediums. Works from Dalton Intermediate were created under the direction of Kristy Bryant; and Radford High School, under the instruction of Savannah Leeman.

The student artists of RHS have gained various honors for their artwork including exhibition at the Radford University Tyler Gallery as well as awards in the Regional Scholastic Art competition. Under Mrs. Leeman, students have worked on various projects using a variety of media where she focuses on helping students develop their artistic skills while learning important 21st century skills that will help them find success in the world outside of school. To stay updated on the Radford High School Visual Arts program, you can follow at @bobcatartdept on Instagram and Radford HS Visual and Performing Arts on Facebook.

"We are so excited to once again partner with Radford City Public Schools and to showcase the dynamic artwork of Radford's youngest citizens," said Museum Director Scott Gardner.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF GLENCOE MANSION

"As a student, to have your artwork on public display is so special, and we at Glencoe are thrilled to be able to showcase their hard work and offer this show to our community," Gallery coordinator Lauri Murphy added.

Glencoe Mansion is free to visit and is open Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell (center) meets with Radford's team and its faculty sponsor, Assistant Professor of Economics Jennifer Elias (left). Team members include Zachary Kwiatkowski, Bryan Pomerantz, Jacob Fadool, Forest Kay and Jeffrey Moore.

College Fed Challenge team attends conference in Washington, D.C.

Viewed from just about any angle, the College Fed Challenge is a daunting prospect.

Each year, more than 100 teams of three to five students take part in the competition, which is conducted by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

On Feb. 9, Radford's Fed Challenge Team attended an open house for the competition at the William McChesney Martin Jr. Building.

In taking the challenge, team members assume the roles of Federal Open Market Committee members, analyzing real-time economic conditions, then making a 15-minute video presentation in which they suggest their own strategic monetary policy, which they must support with careful research and independent analysis.

The videos are then judged by actual Fed economists from regional District Banks – in Radford's case, that was Richmond, which received 23 submissions last year – and from there, three regional finalists advance to a national round. Ultimately, only one winning team is chosen from across the entire country.

In other words, anyone taking part simply for the thrill of victory faces an extremely slim chance of getting that recognition.

But Radford's latest competitors found that the challenge offers rewards that are much more valuable.

"It has been a great learning experience for me," said Forest Kay, a senior accounting and finance major from Iron Gate, Va., who chaired this year's Highlander Fed Challenge team.

"You're going through current data and conditions and analyzing all that to come up with decisions and recommendations, and you have to back that with your data and make a good presentation out of that. And you have to do it as a team," Kay said.

"Every year has been a learning experience for us, and we've been trying to do better each and every year," he explained.

Kay just ran his final Fed Challenge race – he's graduating in May, has already obtained a job as an auditor for PBMares Wealth Management and ultimately hopes to earn his CPA license and become a public accountant – but in his remaining time here, he's helping to bolster his successors' efforts.

"We're starting in the spring now, seeing if we can get something of a team assembled and some base format figured out for the next presentation," he explained.

On Feb. 9, the group took a considerable step toward that goal when it traveled to Washington, D.C., for the Fed Challenge Open House. The event, which just marked the competition's 20th anniversary, was held at the William McChesney Martin Jr. Building, named after the former Federal Reserve Board chairman.

The daylong open house acts as an epilogue to the competition and offered question-and-answer panels with both judges and former competitors as well as a keynote address, "Finetuning Your Presentation," by economist Graham Long, formerly of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

"That was very helpful because they gave us lots of tips on how to do better," said senior economics major Jacob Fadool of South Hill, Virginia. He learned that judges aren't necessarily looking to teams to predict the future with their presentations so much as to deliver their best and most educated guesses.

"They don't really care about your recommendation as long as you've done good work to support it," Fadool noted.

See Conference, page 3

Bird feeding may give humans something to chirp about

Ashley Dayer hopes to peck away at the notion that bird feeding is simply for the birds.

An associate professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech, Dayer is the lead author of an article published in *People and Nature* that argues not only for the acknowledgment of the activity's benefit to humans, but that it should play a role in public guidance and policy.

"Wildlife agencies and others making decisions on managing bird feeding need to be considering not only what the science is behind what's going on with birds, but also the science behind what's going on with people," Dayer said.

The article also encourages additional research to better understand how human well-being is impacted by regularly feeding birds, and Dayer and a team of researchers both in and outside of Virginia Tech are leading the way. The group is conducting what is perhaps the first large-scale bird feeding research that also incorporates observing humans.

"People are not only reporting what they see at their bird feeders, but also their emotional responses to it," Dayer said. "It's pretty fun because most citizen science projects focus just on the natural or physical science, but we're now able to look at the human piece of it."

Funded recently as part of a more than \$1.5 million National Science Foundation grant led by Dayer and Dana Hawley, professor of biological sciences, the four-year project aims to engage more than 10,000 bird feeders across the United States.

Other collaborators on the article and project include:

Christy Pototsky, a graduate student studying fish and wildlife conservation at Virginia Tech

Richard Hall, associate professor at the University of Georgia

Alia Dietsch, associate professor at Ohio State University

Tina Phillips, David Bonter, Emma Greig, and Wesley Hochachka of the Cornell Lab of



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD HALL

In the United States, it's estimated that about 57 million engage in bird feeding, each year.

Ornithology

Dayer said interest in the topic began in 2021, when the researchers began to notice state agencies advising people to stop feeding birds in response to various avian disease outbreaks. After looking into it, they found that 23 states had made such recommendations without evidence it would decrease disease spread, with varying levels of pushback, and with no real method of gauging compliance, much less its impact on people.

The new project is an extension of the work Dayer and Hawley began about six years ago with the help of a joint seed grant from the Global Change Center of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute and the Institute for Society, Culture, and the Environment.

Hawley said the lack of information about humans related to bird feeding was something she'd not previously considered, and she found it a strong motivator for this project.

"In all my years of studying how bird feeding impacts wild birds, I didn't give much thought to how it can also impact the people that spend their

See Birds, page 3

Forest Service to conduct prescribed burn in Pulaski County

The Forest Service plans to conduct a prescribed burn of a 341-acre area of Tract Mountain located near the Town of Pulaski on Wednesday, Mar. 13, 2024, if weather conditions are appropriate.

The burn will be completed in one day; however, residents and forest visitors may see and smell

smoke from this prescribed burn for a few days. Smoke may be visible to area residents. According to the Forest Service the "burn will help reduce hazardous fuels and restore wildlife habitat to improve overall forest health by creating a mosaic of different aged trees and shrubs."

For more information on the prescribed burn program, please contact the Eastern Divide Ranger District at 540-552-4641, visit www.fs.usda.gov/gwj, or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service



**Christiansburg's
BEST St. Patrick's Day
Party is BACK!**

**St. Patrick's Day
Saturday, March 16th
9am until 2am**

**St. Patricks menu
available all week long**

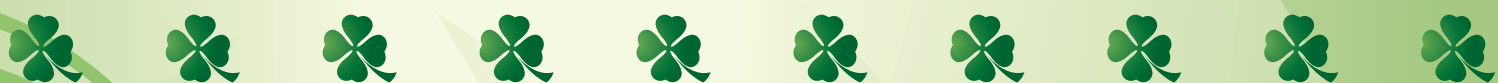
**Prizes
and
Giveaways
Balloon Drop**



**Music Road Co
Live from 7:30-10:30pm**

Christiansburg

Call for more information (540) 381-8872



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16317

**ALPHA
WHISKEY
COMPANY**

MACADO'S BLACKSBURG
Saturday, 16 March 2023 | 7.00 PM
Sunday, 17 March 2023 | 4.00 PM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MACADO'S

▶▶▶▶



Blacksburg

Call for more information (540) 953-2700

**DJ Rob playing
Saturday, March 16th
from 7-10pm in Radford**

Radford

Call for more information (540) 731-4879



MACADO'S



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Mar. 13:

Hahn Horticulture Garden talk

How mushrooms can save the world! with Benjamin Harder. The world is spinning out of control but mushrooms are prepared! They eat our waste, clean our water, grow our food and create compounds to treat our diseases. The talk is at the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, Blacksburg, at noon. You do not need to register for these talks, just show up and attend. Parking passes for these educational events will be provided by the HHG thanks to supplementary funding provided by the School of Plant and Environmental Design.

Wednesday, Mar. 13 – Tuesday, Mar. 26:

Blacksburg North Main Trail Closure

The trail along North Main Street between the intersection of Mountain Breeze Drive and Red Maple Drive will be periodically closed. A contractor will be working to remove and replace the existing curb ramps at each intersection to meet current ADA requirements. Work will begin at the Mountain Breeze Drive intersection at the southeast and southwest corners. Once completed, work would then move to Red Maple. The work is anticipated to take two- three days at each curb ramp, with a total expected duration of two weeks.

Thursday, Mar. 14:

Open House for Prices Fork Road and U.S. Route 460 Bypass Interchange Study

Town staff will host a public engagement open house, 4-6 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. Community members are invited to review and discuss conceptual designs put forth by architectural and engineering firm, Whitman, Requardt & Associates (WRA). These conceptual designs illustrate prospective enhancements to the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure at the Prices Fork Road and the U.S. Route 460 bypass interchange. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please visit Let's Talk Blacksburg for more information on this project.

Friday, Mar. 15:

Book Presentation

There will be a presentation at the Blacksburg Community Center about the book "The Ledge and The Abyss: Near Death, Rescue, & The Search for Meaning" by Dean and Rosaleen Waggenspack on Friday, March 15 at 2pm. The program is free but registration is required. To register, call Joy Herbert at 540-443-1142.

Birds from page 1

time and money feeding and watching birds," Hawley said. "I get calls every year from people who see a sick bird at their feeder and want to know how they can help prevent disease spread. All in all, this made me wonder about how policy decisions that aim to minimize disease spread can inadvertently impact the people who feed the birds."

To help find those answers, the research team will utilize Project FeederWatch's existing network of bird enthusiasts. Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, FeederWatch has tasked people with asks participants to observe and report what they see at their feeders from November to April for the past 37 years.

"FeederWatch is such a versatile data set even though, at its core, it is based on simple bird counts," said Emma Greig, co-author and project leader for FeederWatch. "When you overlay information about behavior, disease, habitat, and climate change with those bird counts, we can get amazing insights into ecology and evolution."

During this project, FeederWatch participants also will be asked to observe their own well-being. Dayer said about 8,000 submissions came in in from the first week of this season alone.

Such passion for birds is something Dayer understands very well. She said her mother always made sure they had bird feeders outside their family's home, and when she became an "empty nester," the birds became almost like children.

Conference from page 1

"There aren't many courses that teach you the things that we learned from doing the College Fed Challenge," he said. "It was a great experience."

Senior Jeff Moore, junior Addison Howard and sophomore Zachary Kwiatkowski and Bryan Pomerantz were also members of this year's team.

Assistant Professor of Economics Jennifer Elias, the team's faculty sponsor, said students also got opportunities to talk to current staff members about how the Fed works, as well as their day-to-day experiences and their career paths for getting where they are

"The highlight, at least for me, was meeting the actual chair of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell," who posed

"She'll go on vacation and cut the vacation short because she needs to go home and feed her birds," Dayer said. "So I've lived with someone who was really into bird feeding and have seen how important it can be to them."

But Dayer believes the positive impact of bird feeding isn't limited to enthusiasts and is important in proving one of the most widely accessible connection to wildlife.

"People in urban areas can feed birds. People with just a deck can feed birds. People with a wide range of physical abilities can feed birds. So it's just a great way to keep that human connection to wildlife," Dayer said.

Hawley agreed with that sentiment, and said she hopes their work helps advance policies that will foster both health and healthy relationships.

"In a world where so many of us live in cities or suburbs, having birds visit feeders in our yards or on our balconies is one of the only ways we get to connect daily with wildlife. But people want to be able to feed birds in ways that keep wild bird populations healthy and thriving," Hawley said. "Our work will ideally help us develop guidelines for bird feeding that minimize risk to wild birds and maximize the benefits to the people that feed them."

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation is in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. The Department of Biological Sciences is in the College of Science.

Krista Timney for Virginia Tech

for pictures with the Highlander team, Elias said. "It was a really fantastic experience for everyone."

She now hopes to recruit more team members for the next College Fed Challenge and said the competition is open to more than just business students.

"We've had a physics major. History, computer science, lots of different majors in the past," Elias said.

"We're open to anyone who wants to participate. You just have to be interested in economics."

Students interested in taking part this year should contact Elias at Jsobotka@radford.edu or 540-497-4647.

Neil Harvey for Radford University

Saturday, Mar. 16:

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Help Save a life by donating blood at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room at the Meadowbrook Library; 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Schedule your appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. Brunch will be provided for donors and they may select a used book to take home. Books compliments of Friends of the Library-Meadowbrook Chapter. Blood drive sponsored by Craighill Masonic Lodge and Meadowbrook Library.

Monday, Mar. 18:

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society meeting

The Board of Directors of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society will meet by conference call at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to participate in the call from the Marion Office of Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society located at 227 West

Cherry St., Marion, VA 24354. For further information, contact: Joseph R. Carico, Executive Director (276) 783-8300.

Wednesday, Mar. 20:

Hahn Horticulture Garden talk

Tim Shively - Tree of Heaven: Picking up from Scott Salom's talk from last month, Tim will talk about his research and sustainable IPM tools and strategies for use on tree of heaven. The talk is at the Hahn Horticulture Garden, 200 Garden Lane, Blacksburg, at noon. You do not need to register for these talks, just show up and attend. Parking passes for these educational events will be provided by the HHG thanks to supplementary funding provided by the School of Plant and Environmental Design.

Thursday, Mar. 21:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at American Pie Restaurant, 1041 Floyd Highway North. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Dana Jackson will speak on the "History of the Confederate Veterans Home in Richmond." If Floyd and Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be cancelled. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Monday, Mar. 25:

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, Mar. 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 St.). 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.

Saturday, Mar. 30:

Easter Egg Hunt

Come join Pilot Community Center for its first annual Easter Egg Hunt; 2 – 3 p.m.! Kids 10 years old and under are invited to search for candy and prize-filled eggs. There will be refreshments for parents and kids of all ages. So come and join in the fun! This event will be held weather permitting. If there is rain or snow, the event will be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled. For more information: Call Brenda Eanes at 540-382-0857.

On-going:

NRV Virginia Passenger Rail Survey

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority is conducting a survey seeking input on planning, designing, and constructing rail infrastructure improvements to extend passenger rail service to the New River Valley. To participate in the survey, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/240044027996054>. For more information on the New River Valley passenger rail expansion, please visit the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority's website at <https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/nrvproject/>.

Traditional bluegrass band Lonesome Heart to appear at Selah Springs with Shelton & Williams



Lonesome Heart band (left to right) Emily Handy, Scott Patrick, Eric Handy, Nikki Wright, and Ethan Handy.

Lori Graham

Contributing writer

The traditional and contemporary bluegrass band Lonesome Heart has been doing some picking and singing throughout the New River Valley and beyond, and with a new single out and another on the horizon, band members say they are thrilled with their musical journey.

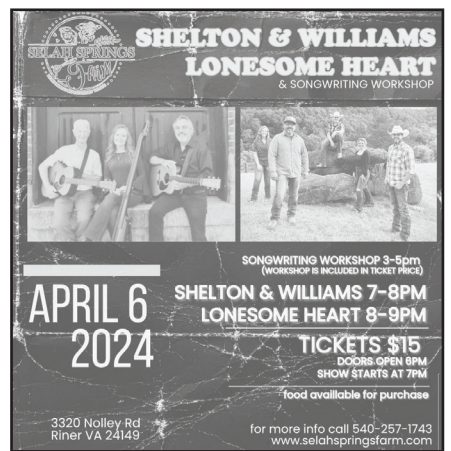
Lonesome Heart band is made up of Emily Handy on bass, Ethan Handy on banjo, dobro player Eric Handy, Scott Patrick on guitar, and lead singer Nikki Wright. They started playing their first gig one year ago in March 2023, and started touring southwest Virginia shortly thereafter. Recently, they have played in the local NRV at the Blue Hen Restaurant, Floyd Country Store and Wildwood Farms in Floyd and outside of the NRV in Jeffersonton, Virginia at Death Ridge Brewery, just to name a few of their events.

"We have some good players, some that are young and kind of up and coming but are doing great," singer, songwriter, musician, recording agent, and marketing band member Scott Patrick said. "I'm really proud of everyone in this band, I am the old guy, and wasn't sure if I was up to the task."

"I've learned a lot of lessons over the years, so I give them the freedom of choosing what to play. That artistic freedom is pretty nice to have at a young age and will help them grow and improve as musicians."

Their upcoming event at Selah Springs Performance and Event Center in Riner, Virginia, is one they are certainly looking forward to. They will be headlining with Shelton & Williams, made up of veteran singers and musicians Johnny Williams, Jeanette Williams, and Jay Shelton.

According to Shelton & Williams Band website www.sheltonandwilliams.com, "The band's material is a variety of styles including original, classic country,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTT PATRICK

Shelton & Williams and Lonesome Heart will be performing at Selah Springs in Riner on April 6, 2024.

gospel, blues, traditional and progressive bluegrass and Americana. All members are songwriters and seasoned vocalists."

The event on April 6, kicking off Lonesome Heart's 2024 season, will include a songwriting workshop from 3-5 p.m. that is included with the \$15 ticket price. Doors will open for the 7 p.m. show at 6 p.m. and there will be food available for purchase catered by Hethwood Market.

Scott Patrick records Lonesome Heart's music at his own Blue Tin Roof Studios. Their single titled "River of Tears" is set for a soon release and has a toe-tapping rhythm rich with the metallic sounds of the banjo coupled with the warm, melodic vocals of lead singer Nikki Wright.

"She's a great area musician that has played with a lot of bands. She is the one that brought the song to the band, it's a Honi Deaton song, a real good song she did years ago. We have been performing it over the past year," Patrick said. "It is a cover song; everything else we have released I have written, and this is our third release."

Plans for another single titled "Stronger", is also set to be released later this year, and was also written and mostly arranged by Scott Patrick. He said he brings the core progression to the band, and they bring it all together with their individual instruments.

Patrick said another release set to happen in the Spring of 2024 was co-written by him another songwriter and musician out of Tennessee, Jeff McClellan. "I'm Just a Man" has Carson Peters playing fiddle and Zach Alvis on mandolin.

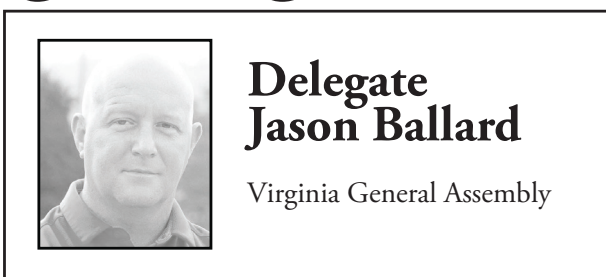
Tickets for the April 6 event can be purchased in advance online at www.selahspringsfarm.com.

OPINION

Navigating budget negotiations in Richmond

The 2024 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session is winding down, although at the time of this article's writing, the state budget continues to be debated amongst budget conferees. Six members of the House and six members of the Senate act as budget conferees during a process that seeks to reconcile differences between the House budget (HB 29/30) and the Senate budget (SB 29/30). There are differences – both large and small – between the House and Senate versions of Virginia's spending plan, the highest-profile issue being Governor Youngkin's plan to move the Washington Wizards NBA team and the Washington Capitals NHL team to Alexandria. This proposal is currently included in the House budget, but not in that of the Senate. This is one of many differences that will have to be resolved by budget conferees before the budget makes its way to Governor Youngkin for his consideration. Should the budget pass on time, we will return to Richmond in April to debate and vote on the Governor's recommendations or vetoes on the budget and any other piece of legislation passed this session.

I am hopeful that by next week there will be more to share as to the funding priorities that were included in the final budget product. As mentioned in my last column, Democrats in the House and Senate are in the driver's seat and any protracted budget standoff would be an embarrassing development since they



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

control the process and the General Assembly. At stake – and of regional significance – is my budget request of \$1 million to enhance rural maternal healthcare so expectant mothers do not have to travel to Roanoke for vital healthcare and can instead receive care closer to home.

On a slightly unrelated topic, I thoroughly enjoyed the visits I received from 42nd District constituents during this legislative session. It fills me with pride that although Richmond is four hours away from home, citizens of all political persuasions took the time to engage with me in the democratic process. It was always a highlight of my day getting to spend time with those of you who made the trip to Richmond!

To sum up the 2024 legislative session, it will likely be remembered as one where pragmatic solutions to real problems were eschewed for items on the political

left's wish list. Instead of focusing on tax breaks for Virginians, Democrats prioritized the legalization of recreational marijuana. Instead of focusing on legislation that would make our communities safer, Democrats passed legislation that would reduce penalties for those who possess dangerous controlled substances. And instead of loosening restrictive green energy policies that will make life more expensive and electricity less reliable, Democrats struck down Republican proposals to roll back unrealistic electric vehicle mandates. Fortunately for Virginia, Governor Youngkin will be a reliable backstop against many of these Democratic party overreaches and I expect his veto pen to be busy. I look forward to keeping you updated in the coming weeks as to the budget's progress and any other pertinent information from the 2024 session's closing hours.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @ JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

March is nationally known as Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month and thanks to the Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Virginia (MSAV), it is also declared as such by the State of Virginia, as well as numerous localities across the state spanning from Charlottesville to Bristol. The MSAV is a truly unique, patient, and volunteer run organization that provides unparalleled support, guidance, and assistance with navigating a life with the daunting symptoms MS presents.

The MSAV operates out of the only MS Center in Southwest Virginia, the Roanoke Valley Multiple Sclerosis Center. We serve as a gateway to hope to patients who visit the clinic and our members across the state. Our programming includes monthly support

groups, annual respite retreats, educational conferences, advocacy work, Cinderella's Closet and more. We welcome everyone and encourage our members to bring their families. Our most recent event, an MS Education and Awareness conference in Radford, March 8 -10 presented keynote MS specialists, breakout sessions, aquatic therapy, panel speakers, pajama contest, impromptu dance parties, our beloved saran wrap ball game and more.

The MSAV members find it imperative to build public awareness about the disease for many reasons. Namely, to destigmatize the debilitating diagnosis by pairing a face with the disease and saying, hey, look, I am surviving and thriving despite my limitations due to MS. In addition, if the public is more educated and aware of

symptoms and daily challenges of MS, it will naturally lead the way to more compassion towards others. Take it from me, life with MS is challenging and many of us battle with depression and anxiety. The MSAV is a lifeline and provides vital connection and a safe place with people who 'get it.' I implore you to do your homework on MS, as there is a plethora of information available via quick google search. While you're at it, why not send your loved one or that person you haven't been in touch in a while who has MS a nudge and let them know you are aware it is MS awareness month and you are thinking of them.

*In Solidarity,
Ashley Collier*

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Virginia average gas prices on the rise

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have risen 3.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.24/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 12.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 0.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.02 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.85/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.14/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.85/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.14/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 6.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.40/g today. The national average is up 23.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 4.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly

price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

- March 11, 2023: \$3.24/g (U.S. Average: \$3.44/g)
- March 11, 2022: \$4.26/g (U.S. Average: \$4.33/g)
- March 11, 2021: \$2.73/g (U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)
- March 11, 2020: \$2.14/g (U.S. Average: \$2.31/g)
- March 11, 2019: \$2.31/g (U.S. Average: \$2.49/g)
- March 11, 2018: \$2.34/g (U.S. Average: \$2.51/g)
- March 11, 2017: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.30/g)
- March 11, 2016: \$1.69/g (U.S. Average: \$1.89/g)
- March 11, 2015: \$2.29/g (U.S. Average: \$2.45/g)
- March 11, 2014: \$3.27/g (U.S. Average: \$3.49/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

- Roanoke- \$3.17/g, down 3.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.20/g.
- Richmond- \$3.23/g, down 0.3 cents per gallon from last week's

\$3.23/g.

West Virginia- \$3.26/g, down 1.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.27/g.

"The national average price of gasoline has seen a continued but measured rise compared to last week, but the pace of increases has slowed slightly in the last few days. With government data showing a rise in refinery utilization last week, there may be some good news on the horizon for drivers," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Much of the seasonal rise that happens this time of year is a culmination of refinery maintenance, the switch to summer gasoline, and rising demand. If refineries continue to boost output of products like gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, it could mean earlier-than-expected relief. However, the changeover is still in process, so while we'll likely see the continuation of upward pressure on prices, improvement in output could slow that pressure down some."

GasBuddy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Helps little firms
4. Political action committee
7. Allowed
12. Olivia Colman played one
15. Open
16. He had a notable lamp
18. Promotional material
19. Domesticated animal
20. Larry and Curly's buddy
21. The best ever
24. TV network
27. Checked for
30. Dry or withered
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Dash
34. Fifth note of a major scale

CLUES DOWN

1. Prevent from seeing
2. Czech city
3. ___ and Andy, TV show
4. A young pig
5. Removed surgically
6. Covered with
7. Chest muscle (slang)
8. Nigerian City
9. Midway between south and east
10. A way to shut
11. Stop playing
12. Marshy places
13. Takes apart
14. Ten cents
17. A gesture of assent
22. Scent
23. Teletypewriter
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Hillside
26. Taxi driver
28. Semitic Sun god

CLUES ACROSS

35. A secret clique
37. Partner to cheese
39. ___ school: where to learn healing
41. City in ancient Syria
42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
44. Established practice
47. Thanksgiving side dish
48. District in Peru
49. It's becoming more prevalent
50. State in India
52. Measure of illumination
53. Raised platform
56. Japanese warrior
61. R.L. Stevenson novel
63. Transitory
64. Advanced degree
65. Fiddler crabs

CLUES DOWN

29. Town in India
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on the ___
38. Type of dance
40. Two letters, one sound
43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
44. Golf score
45. Mayhem
46. Drenched
51. River in northeastern Asia
54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
55. Part-time employee
56. A very large body of water
57. Aboriginal people of Japan
58. Millisecond
59. Forearm bone
60. Subway dweller
62. Royal Mail

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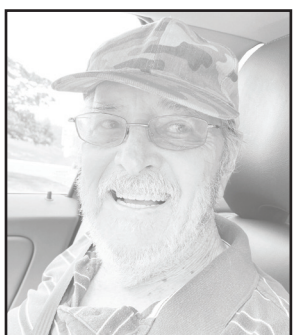
OBITUARIES

Mabry, James Otis

James Otis Mabry, 90, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Mar. 9, 2024.

He retired from Inland Motors. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Agnes Mabry; brothers, Larry Douglas Mabry and Clarence "Tommy" Mabry; sisters, Annie Mary McPeak, Louise Switzer, Virginia Epperly and Margie Cronk; and grandson, Michael Mabry, Jr.

Survivors include his children, Michael Mabry (Kathy), Barbara Gilmer (Roger), Brenda Cox (Sammy), and Deborah



Mabry; grandchildren, Michelle Fithian, Samantha Martin, Cynthia Moore, Angie Fortner, Mitchell Gilmer, Bruce Mabry, Jeanlena Pauley, Kevin Pauley, and Amanda Brooks; 23

great grandchildren; 13 great-great grandchildren; sister, Mildred Jones; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 12 – 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Pastor Adam Fithian officiating. Entombment will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens Mausoleum.

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

Bland, Marie Dillon

Marie Dillon Bland, 100, of Wake Forest, N.C. passed away peacefully Mar. 10, 2024. She was born Dec. 21, 1923, to Hampton Hobert Dillon and Margie Ruth Albert Dillon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband James Walter Bland, Jr., sister Margaret Jewel Dillon Croy and brothers Elmer Austin Dillon, William Eugene Dillon and Esley Neil Dillon. Survivors include her daughter Donna Bland Burrows (Mike) of Wake Forest, N.C., son James Dillon Bland (Barbara) of Pawleys Island, S.C., sister-in-law June Hollandsworth of



Fairlawn, Va. along with five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Marie was the best mother ever, and amazing caregiver to her husband Jim during his later years and a doting grandmother to her grandchildren and great

grandchildren. She was a devoted, active member of the Blacksburg Christian Church and Belmont Christian Church as well as a charter member of the Blacksburg Women's Club.

Visitation and services will be held at the McCoy Funeral Home Mar. 14, 2024. Visitation will be 1-2 p.m. and services will be 2-3 p.m., presided by James Terry, followed by interment at the West View Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

Terry, David Eugene

David Eugene Terry, 63, went to be with the Lord Mar. 7, 2024.

David was a proud Marine serving overseas for three years from 1979 – 1981.

He is preceded in death by his infant son David Ryan Terry; father James Terry; sister Angie Lynch; mother and father-in-law Louise and Bill Hamblin; as well as his beloved dog of 14 years, Tanner.

He is survived by his son Steve and wife Lynn;



grandchildren Brooklyn, Victoria, Liliana, Liam; a special niece Marti

Hamblin "Loulou" and her son Kamron; sisters-in-law donna and JD Duncan and Peggy Wickline; along with many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and loved friends.

Services were held Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2024, at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Brother Jerry Shepherd and Jube Burke officiating. A visitation preceded the service.

Parish, Nancy Ann Linkous

Nancy Ann Linkous Parish, 86, of Mount Airy, N.C. passed from this life Feb. 28, 2024.

Nancy was born and raised in Montgomery Co., Va. She was the daughter of the late Arnold R. Linkous and Oveda Linkous. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Arnold "Sonny" R. Linkous. She preceded her husband Robert K. Parish in death by one day. Robert K. Parish, originally from Galax, Va., passed away Feb. 29, 2024.

Family left to cherish her memories are sons

Randy Parish and his wife Amanda, and Andy Parish; granddaughter, Katie Parish Pierson and her husband Jim; sister Rita L. Callahan and her husband Eddie; sister-in-law Susan Linkous; nieces DeAnne C. Webb and husband John, and Farrah Linkous; nephews Todd Callahan and his wife Pam, Darrell Linkous, and his wife Stephanie; two step grandsons Daniel and Eli Harbaugh; and step great granddaughter Avery Pierson.

Nancy and her husband were graduates

of Kentucky Christian University and spent their 64 years together spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. They served congregations in Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and North Carolina.

They have gone home together to meet the Lord. Dual services to celebrate their lives and ministry were held Saturday, Mar. 9, 2024 with visitation preceding the service at Moody Funeral Home, Dobson, N.C. Burial followed at the Double Creek Church of Christ, Dobson, N.C.

Morris, Tamela Jean Carden

Tamela Jean Carden Morris, 63, passed away Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024, at her home in Christiansburg with her family by her side.

She was a former caregiver at Heritage Hall. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dave Carden and Esther Ruth Weiss; and granddaughter, Amya.

Survivors include her children, Michelle Taylor (Kevin) of Christiansburg, Michael Rader (Sara) of Radford, and Crystal Joyce (Michael); 22



grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren; lifetime companion, Danny; special caregivers, Jon-Michael, Kaelyn, and Lea; canine companion,

Oreo; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 11 a.m. with Elder Larry Carter officiating. Services will also be streamed on the Mullins Funeral Home Facebook page.

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

Virginia Tech researcher probes the potential for preventing and reversing age-related memory loss



PHOTO BY MAX ESTERHUIZEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Tim Jarome's work carries significance for understanding and treating not only memory loss from aging but also from degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

About 40 percent of people over age 65 suffer some form of age-related memory loss, which puts them at higher risk for developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. However, there are currently no approved methods for preventing memory loss with age.

Tim Jarome's work carries significance for understanding and treating not only memory loss from aging but also from degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. Photo by Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech. Tim Jarome, associate professor of neurobiology in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Animal Sciences is hoping to change that, aided by a \$433,000 grant from the National Institute on Aging, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.

Jarome and his research partner, Assistant Professor Sydney Trask of Purdue University's Department of Psychological Sciences, aim to manipulate a protein complex called the proteasome in the hippocampus region of the brain to determine its role in memory loss.

"We've known for quite some time that proteasome function decreases over a person's lifespan and that it's likely related to memory loss, but it's never been directly shown because no one's been able to manipulate the proteasome," Jarome said.

Using a gene-editing tool called CRISPR-Cas9, Jarome and his team have been the first researchers to successfully

stimulate the proteasome within the hippocampus. In the next phase of their research, they will manipulate the proteasome to determine whether it can be increased to prevent and restore age-related memory loss.

"We hope this project will significantly advance our understanding of how proteasome dysfunction contributes to age-related cognitive decline," Jarome said. "If successful, it has the potential to contribute to the development of novel therapeutic strategies to prevent or reverse memory loss associated with age and age-associated neurodegenerative disorders that impact the hippocampus."

Their work carries significance for understanding and treating not only memory loss from natural aging but also degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia, which affect more than 10 percent of Americans over age 65.

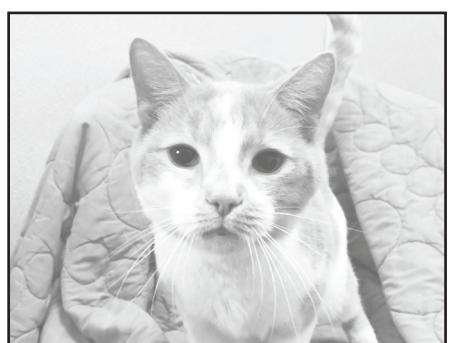
"We hope this research will yield the first connection between proteasome dysfunction with age and memory loss with age and that we'll be able to show that by controlling the proteasome we can control memory with age," Jarome said. "If we can fix this one mechanism, we might be able to fix a lot of the things that are going wrong as we age that contribute to memory loss with age. It gives us a therapeutic target we can start to develop strategies around to stimulate and, hopefully, improve memory across the lifespan."

Max Esterhuizen for Virginia Tech

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.

Simon says, "Give me rubs!" "Stop giving me rubs." Ah ha! Didn't say, "Simon says," so keep the rubs coming! Simon is a people cat and will take attention wherever he can get it. He is a playful and loving boy ready to find a furever home. If you are ready for a round of "Simon Says," come by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet him.



Simpson is a gentle, sweet puppy. He is good on a leash, knows some commands, and he is ready to learn more. He can be skittish at first, but he gets over it quickly. Simpson would do best in a home with older children with whom he can share his energy. Come meet sweet Simpson at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

2024

RADFORD presents READS Carylee Carrington

Wed, March 13
@ 11 AM

Author Storytime at Radford Public Library
**FREE books for first 20 participants*

Carrington will also speak for students in closed events at
McHarg Elementary
Radford University

Author Carylee Carrington lives in Northern Virginia with her two amazing boys, where she enjoys an active lifestyle. Originally from the island of Jamaica, she grew up in New York City, before making Northern Virginia her home. She is, to some, known as the "accidental author," because this was not where she thought her path would lead. Though she loves writing, being a children's author was the furthest thing from her mind. Ensuring that children have access to diverse literature, has become a mission that drives her as an author and advocate.

To read more about Carrington's work, visit
<https://readwithcarylee.org/>

University Libraries
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Marketplace



THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Yard Sales - Vinton

Cornerstone Antiques Going out of Business YARD SALE
Selling contents of utility building back of antique shop
Saturday, March 16 & Possibly Sunday March 17
Rain date following weekend
123 West Lee Avenue Vinton VA
Across from the Farmers Market

Employment

Intuitive Surgical Operations, Inc.
seeks a Quality Engineer (QE-SS) in Blacksburg, VA to coordinate quality initiatives in product quality, data quality & process quality.
Telecommuting permitted w/i the area of intended emp. Req's MS+2. \$78,400-\$106,000/yr.
Email resumes to Hien.Nguyen@intusurg.com. Must ref job title & code in subj line.

miscellaneous

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal health care products for horses, dogs, & cats.
H&H Outdoors 254- 2420

Legals - Botetourt County

ABC NOTICE

15 PEAKS LLC, trading as 15 PEAKS, 5053 GLADE CREEK RD. ROANOKE VA 24012.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a FARM WINERY license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

MEGAN SEIBEL, MANAGER

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.



Legals - Botetourt County

ABC NOTICE

Sunset Grille at Ashley Plantation Inc. trading as Sunset Grille and Catering, 2414 Country Club Rd., Troutville, VA. 24175-3920

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail On and Office Premise Wine, Beer, and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Donald Sutliff, Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEES SALE

PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN: West Ward of the City of Radford, Virginia Containing 0.2479 acres, more or less

Commonly Known as: 1002 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia

IN EXECUTION OF A CERTAIN DEED OF TRUST OF RECORD IN THE CLERKS OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RADFORD CITY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 201100838, DATED AUGUST 29, 2011, WHEREAS, BY DEED OF BARGAIN AND SALE AND ASSUMPTION DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, RECORDED IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE AS INSTRUMENT NO: 201600804 THE DEED OF TRUST WAS ASSUMED BY MARK BROOKNER. DEFAULT HAVING BEEN MADE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT THEREIN SECURED AND BEING REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE NOTEHOLDER, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, AFTER GIVING FOURTEEN (14) DAYS DUE NOTICE TO THE OWNERS OF THE REAL ESTATE OF THE DATE, TIME, PLACE AND TERMS OF SALE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION, IN FRONT OF THE RADFORD CITY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA, ON THE 29th DAY OF MARCH, 2024, AT 10:00

Legals - City of Radford

A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

All that certain tracts or parcels of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the City of Radford, Virginia, and described as follows:

BEING all of Lots 28 and 29, part of Lots 27, 30, 34, 35, Section 1, Plan C, Radford Land and Improvement Company Lots, containing 0.2479 acres (10,800 sq. ft.), as designated and described on a plat of survey entitled, Physical Survey Lots 28, 29 and Part of Lots 27, 30, 34, 35 Section 1, Plan C Radford Land and Improvement Co. West Ward City of Radford, Virginia for Ronald R. Sowers", dated August 23, 2011, Job No. 565811, by James Conrad Groseclose, II, Land Surveyor, Mathews and Henegar Inc., professional engineers and land surveyors, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof and reference is hereby made to said plat of survey for a more accurate description of the property herein conveyed.

Tax Map Number: 13-(5)-SEC 1-27A-28-29-30A-34A+

Account Number: 020000684.

Commonly Known As: 1002 West Main Street, Radford, Virginia

SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL

Legals - City of Radford

EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, SETTLEMENT WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF SALE. A BIDDERS DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) MAY BE REQUIRED.

PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF RADFORD CITY COURTHOUSE, AT 619 SECOND STREET, RADFORD, VIRGINIA

DATE OF SALE: MARCH 29, 2024
TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M.

Daniel D. Hamrick, PC Substitute Trustee

By: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent For Daniel D. Hamrick, PC

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C. 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given

to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public

Legals - City of Salem

hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the

CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of E3MAG LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 744 Electric Road (Tax Map # 155 - 2 - 2.2) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Pinkesh R. Patel and Sonal P. Patel, property owners, for rezoning the property located at 1200 block Thompson Memorial Drive (Tax Map # 20 - 2 - 4) from RSF Residential Single-Family District to HBD Highway Business District.

If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

Legals - City of Salem

BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on March 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

The request of Carol Grimes, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(B)(1) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 2933 Phillips Brook Lane, Tax Map # 290-1-3.9. The petitioner is requesting a 4 foot rear yard setback variance to allow the construction of a 12 x 16 sunroom addition. Section 106-202.3(B)(1) states that the rear yard setback for the principal structure in the RSF Residential Single Family zoning district is 25 feet.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem,

Legals - City of Salem

Virginia (Phone 3753032). THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Planning & Zoning Administrator

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SERVICES

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RADFORD SPORTS

Auburn falls in state championship game

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School's boys' basketball team returned to the state Class 1 championship game for the third time in the last five years.

In 2020 and 2022, the trip included bringing a title back to Riner.

This year, they led by many as 11 points in the second half before Lancaster put together a late run to pull out the 65-59 win. Lancaster also won last year's state championship.

The key was the Lancaster defense, which forced 21 turnovers. The lead changed hands six times in the final three minutes before Lancaster pulled away.

Nick Millirons led Auburn with 28 points. The team finished 22-9 overall, while putting together a 14-0 mark in the Mt. Empire District.

The Eagles dominated the Mt. Empire District basketball team announced on Friday. Nick Millirons was first-team all-district and first-team all-region C. In addition, he was named the player of the year for both the MED and Region C.

Millirons was joined on the all-district team by

teammates, Coahan Gordon and Drew Royal, who were also first-team all-region C.

Bruce Gill was named to the second team for MED, while Landon Mars and Brady Hale were named to the district honorable mention squad.

Auburn Coach Terry Millirons was named the coach of the year for the MED and region.

Also, Eastern Montgomery's Cam Sutphin was named to the second team all-Region C.

Millirons, the player, was named to the Class 1 state first team. Gordon was named to the second team.



Nick Millirons tries to drive around the defender in Friday's state championship game in Richmond. He would finish with a game high 28 points as Auburn fell to Lancaster.



Head Coach Terry Millirons led Auburn to their third time in the state championship game in the past five years. With the loss, Auburn finished 22-9 this season.



Auburn's Coahan Gordon drops a bucket during his team's appearance on Friday in the state title game.



Drew Royal drives baseline and goes up for the layup in Auburn's state championship loss against Lancaster.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

College football needs its own commissioner

College football is controlling the message for all other sports.

Yes, football does generate the money to fund all of the other programs at schools like Virginia Tech, but what is going on at the present time is not what we expected. Matter of fact, the "mega" conferences that will be setting the agenda is setting the stage to ruin the college football landscape as we know it.

But there is a solution that no one has discussed, which could solve all of the problems. Today, we will lay it out so everyone can understand. The problem is that the people in charge will not even consider it.

First, there has to be a person in charge of college football. The NCAA has no control over the gridiron and athletic directors need to admit it. Be honest here and agree to appoint or hire a person in charge of nothing but college football.



From the Sidelines
Marty Gordon

The prime example is how the National Football League is set up with a commissioner. Under such a plan, there could finally be someone who can make decisions.

Secondly, there must be an agreement for "football-only" conferences. This would allow for the increase in football money, while allowing conferences to remain "geographic" in all other sports. Virginia Tech does not

need to play Stanford in tennis and soccer. The ACC could remain intact.

Thirdly, all of the conferences must have division separation for all sports. The ACC had it right but changed it in the past few years. The Atlantic and Coastal Division simply made sense and do now again.

If something is not done, college football as we know it is done, and the environment like at Lane Stadium will no longer matter.

The price of a ticket will definitely have to increase, and the question is whether it will ever be as popular as it is now.

Save college football! College football fans matter despite the fact athletic directors around the country no longer believe it. Fans are important. Don't forget who is paying that price at the gate.

Outdoor report: Spring gobbler season almost here

Last year was a banner year for spring turkey harvest numbers. Could this year match that mark?

In 2023, Old Dominion turkey hunters tallied a record 24,447 birds, easily eclipsing the 20,580 mark set in 2015. Mike Dye, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) upland game bird biologist, offers this year's forecast.

"I'm not anticipating a stellar year like the 2023 season," he said. "But there will be patches of good action. Several areas of the state are showing positive trends including the Shenandoah Valley and much of the eastern part of the state. Areas like the Northern Neck and the Northern Neck and the Southeastern counties, such as Southampton, Surry, and Sussex counties, will probably be a bright spot."

A major reason for the outstanding harvest last year was the above average poult per hen (PPH) ratio of 2.7 in 2021. Two-year-old toms typically make up the majority of any season's harvest, and the 2021 PPH was certainly a major factor in hunters doing so well the season before. The toms from that year class will be 3 years old this spring, and Dye confirms that a larger than normal contingent of that age group will be making the woods ring then.

However, a distinct downside of the forecast is that the PPH ratios in 2022 and 2023 were 1.9 and 1.8, respectively, below

average ratios.

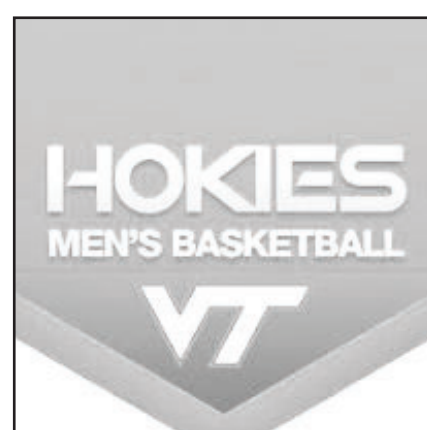
"Last spring, the Southwestern Mountain area took a bad hit because there was a lot of rain in May, which is bad for brooding," said Dye. "Early on, broods aren't able to thermoregulate, so cold and rainy conditions can be bad for recruitment. However, the drought in the Shenandoah Valley and Northern Piedmont helped boost broods in those areas, which should improve bird numbers in future years."

Additionally, continues the biologist, the Northern Mountain domains have endured "hit and miss" reproduction in recent years. Many of these counties host large expanses of national forest and DWR Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Counties with stable weather and where public lands have experienced controlled burns, timber thinning, and other timber management projects that let sunlight hit the forest floor will likely supply better action than those locales that have not enjoyed the benefits of habitat improvements.

This season will mark the third year of the last three weeks of the season offering all-day hunting. Dye relates that the extra time afield hasn't made a significant effect on the overall harvest. Only 7.2 of the total harvest occurred during those afternoon hours in 2023.

See **Spring**, page 9

Hokies, Seminoles to clash Wednesday at noon



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

The bracket for the 2024 ACC Men's Basketball Tournament was announced Saturday night by the league office upon conclusion of regular-season action. Virginia Tech will be the No. 8 seed and begin its postseason run Wednesday at noon in the second round against No. 9 seed Florida State.

The tournament began Tuesday, Mar. 12 and runs through Saturday, Mar. 16 at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C. The 71st edition of the tournament will be played for the third time in the nation's capital. Tech's second-round game vs. the Seminoles will be televised by ESPN or ESPN2.

VT and FSU split the season series

with each side winning at home. In the most recent matchup on Feb. 13 in Blacksburg, Hunter Cattoor and Sean Pedulla combined for 39 points in an 83-75 Tech victory over the Seminoles. A physical game from start to finish, the teams combined to shoot 61 free throws with the Hokies going 28 of 32 from the line.

Top-seeded North Carolina will be awaiting the winner of Tech/Florida State in Thursday's quarterfinals at noon on ESPN or ESPN2.

All 14 tournament games will be nationally televised on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU or ACC Network. In addition, all games will be available for streaming via ACCNX.

The full 2024 ACC Men's Basketball Tournament schedule:

- Wednesday, Mar. 13
- Second Round
- Noon – No. 8 Virginia Tech vs. No. 9 Florida State (ESPN/ESPN2)
- 2:30 p.m. – No. 5 Wake Forest vs. Notre Dame-Georgia Tech winner (ESPN)
- 7 p.m. – No. 7 Syracuse vs. NC State-Louisville winner (ESPN2)
- 9:30 p.m. – No. 6 Clemson vs.

See **Hokies**, page 9

Spring from page 8

“Personally, I hunt a lot of public land, and typically my best hours to hunt have been between 10 and noon, when many hunters have left the woods,” Dye said. “There has been only a slight increase in the number of hunters heading afield in the afternoon.”

Dye says that he also has noted that the number of hunters mentoring individuals during the Youth and Apprentice Spring Turkey Hunting Weekend (which this year will be April 6 and 7) has remained fairly stable.

“We are not seeing significant increases in youth and apprentice hunters,” Dye said. “We would definitely like to see more people mentoring to make sure we can stabilize our turkey-hunter numbers.”

The spring turkey season begins on April 13 and hunters can be afield from one-half hour before sunrise until noon until April 28. All-day hunting runs from April 29 to the end of the season, May 18.

Bruce Ingram, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

Hokies from page 8

Boston College-Miami winner (ESPN2/ESPNU)
 Thursday, Mar. 14
 Quarterfinals
 Noon – No. 1 North Carolina vs. Wednesday Noon winner (ESPN/ESPN2)
 2:30 p.m. – No. 4 Pitt vs. Wednesday 2:30 p.m. winner (ESPN/ESPN2)
 7 p.m. – No. 2 Duke vs. Wednesday 7 p.m. winner (ESPN/ESPN2)
 9:30 p.m. – No. 3 Virginia vs. Wednesday 9:30 p.m. winner (ESPN/

ESPN2)
 Friday, Mar. 15
 Semifinals
 7 p.m. – Thursday afternoon winners (ESPN/ESPN2)
 9:30 p.m. – Thursday evening winners (ESPN/ESPN2)
 Saturday, March 16
 Championship
 8:30 p.m. – Semifinal winners (ESPN)

Virginia Tech Athletics

Sports notes: National ranking for local athletes

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Radford University baseball team leads the country in stolen bases. So far this season, Corbin Gratham leads the Highlanders with 11 stolen bags.

In another interesting national ranking, Christiansburg native and current Kentucky gymnast Raena Worley is in the top-three of several categories: #2 in the bars, #2 in the floor and #3 all-around.

Six Hokie all-Americans

The 2024 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships concluded on Saturday at the TRACK at new balance with Virginia Tech tallying six First-Team All-American honors.

Sophomore Judson Lincoln IV finished third in the men's 400m clocking in a time of 45.57.

In the men's 800m, sophomore Nick Plant crossed the finish line fourth with a time of 1:47.75. Plant received First-Team All-American honors finishing within the top-eight of the individual event. Senior Lindsey Butler finished seventh in the women's 800m clocking in a season-best time of 2:02.39.

Victoria Gorlova earned First Team All-American accolades in

the triple jump with a personal-best mark of 44' 9.50" (13.65m) in the fifth round, finishing fourth.

Coaching hire at Tech

Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry continues to bolster his recruiting staff, announcing Gunter Brewer as Director of High School Relations. Brewer will work alongside James Johnson in his new role after serving as the wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator for the University of Maryland football program the past two seasons.

With more than three decades in coaching, Brewer has cultivated and maintained relationships across the Hokies' recruiting footprint throughout his career. His countless high school connections will help the Hokies attract the very best to play for Tech. Brewer has extensive experience in the ACC, SEC, Big 12, Big 10 and the NFL, coaching some of the best wide receivers to play the game including a pair of Biletnikoff Award winners in Randy Moss and Justin Blackmon, and Biletnikoff finalist Dez Bryant. He has coached in 19 bowl games and the 1996 FCS national championship game.

Last season under the direction of Brewer, Maryland receivers led the Big 10 in receiving yards. Prior to his time in College Park,

he was the wide receivers coach at Louisville from 2019-21 and served as the wide receivers coach for the Philadelphia Eagles in 2018.

Brewer was the Co-Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach at North Carolina from 2012-17, where he helped UNC earn the program's first-ever appearance in the ACC Championship Game in 2015.

Drones, ESPN list

Returning your starting quarterback in college is typically a coveted thing, and the Hokies are proud to claim that as they enter the 2024 season.

Last week, ESPN released its 10 most interesting quarterbacks heading into the fall and Virginia Tech's Kyron Drones was ranked No. 2.

Staff writer Bill Connelly wrote about Drones' ability of making the offense move the ball more effectively as the season went on, showcasing his versatility with his arms and legs down the stretch.

He broke down expected points added (EPA) and how that number increased significantly with Drones under center, while mentioning how the Hokies are first in returning production in FBS—a good sign for things to come.

Four teams to play at Greenbrier Tip-Off

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, is adding a November Tip-Off basketball event for several college basketball teams.

An announcement this week pinpointed three of the four teams, Wisconsin, Pitt and the University of Central Florida, who will play November 22-24. A fourth team will be announced after this year's season.

The event will be held in a unique ballroom, which used to be a banquet hall.

In 2023, Intersport and The Greenbrier entered into a long-term partnership to bring major college basketball to the mountain resort destination. Radford and Marshall met in a standalone contest at the resort on Nov. 10 in front of a sold-out crowd of more than 1,000 fans at Colonial Hall at the famed resort.

The Greenbrier was founded in 1778 and has been home over the past 10 years to a

Professional Golf Tournament and several boxing events.

“The Radford-Marshall game hosted at The Greenbrier earlier this season was a fantastic success for all involved,” said Jill Justice, D.O., President of The Greenbrier. “We can't wait to take that to a new level with The Greenbrier Tip-Off. We are excited about welcoming new teams and new fan bases to learn about what has made The Greenbrier 'America's Resort' for nearly 250 years. It will be an unforgettable experience.”

About the Teams of The Greenbrier Tip-Off:

Wisconsin Badgers

Head coach Greg Gard is concluding his ninth season at the helm for the Badgers.

Gard has led the Badgers to a pair of Big Ten regular-season titles since 2020.

This year, Wisconsin has appeared as high as No. 6 in the national polls and eyes a top-four finish in the Big Ten, guaranteeing a double-bye in the league tournament.

Winners of the 2023 Fort Myers Tip-

Off, the Badgers eye a second straight non-conference tournament title and third in four seasons.

All-time, Wisconsin has won 20 Big Ten regular-season titles, three conference tournament crowns and has made 26 NCAA Tournament appearances.

UCF Knights

Johnny Dawkins is completing his eighth season as the head coach of the Knights, who has won 60 percent of his games with the program, second-highest in UCF history.

UCF is completing its first season as one of the newest members of the Big 12 Conference, having made its mark with signature wins over ranked conference rivals Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech.

The team will be looking for its third straight early season tournament championship, having won championships in Jacksonville (2023) and the Bahamas (2022).

The Knights have made the postseason three times in Dawkins' tenure, including an appearance in the NCAA Tournament

Round of 32 in 2019.

All-time the program has made nine postseason appearances as a Division I program, including five NCAA berths.

Pitt Panthers

Pitt is wrapping up its sixth season under the direction of head coach Jeff Capel, and eyes postseason play for the second straight season, marking the first time in nearly a decade the team played in the postseason in consecutive years.

The Panthers are looking to secure consecutive 20-win seasons for the first time since 2012-13 and 2013-14.

After starting just 1-5 in ACC play this season, Pitt has won 9 of its last 12 games, peaking at the right time heading toward the postseason.

In their history, the Panthers have appeared in 27 NCAA Tournaments and a combined 15 conference championships – 11 regular-season and four tournament titles.

Ticket information will be released at a later date.

Run in Remembrance registration now open



Last year's Run in remembrance brought out hundreds of participants.

VIRGINIA TECH PHOTO

Registration is now open for Virginia Tech's annual 3.2-mile Run in Remembrance, which will take place on Saturday, April 13.

The event will begin with a moment of silence at 9 a.m. to honor and remember the vibrant lives of the 32 students and faculty who were tragically taken from us in 2007.

The event's 3.2-mile loop around the Blacksburg campus will begin in front of Patton Hall, near Burrus Hall and pass by landmarks such as the Grove, Lane Stadium, and the Virginia Tech Pylons, and

end at the April 16 Memorial.

Event T-shirts will be available for purchase at cost with shipping and in-person pickup options. Participants who wish to guarantee that their shirt arrives in time for the event should purchase by March 22.

Opportunities are available for those who wish to participate as a volunteer. Roles include check-in, balloon setup, route marshals, and finish line assistance.

Virtual participation opportunities will be

available in addition to the in-person event. Virtual participants are encouraged to move in a way that is meaningful to them and to share photos using the hashtag “#VT32Run” on Instagram and Twitter. Encouragement and communication will also be shared through the respective Facebook Event.

Registration details, T-shirt purchasing options, and event updates can be found at recsports.vt.edu/runfor32.

Virginia Tech

Board of Visitors to consider 2024-25 tuition and fees at April 9 meeting

Virtual public comment opportunity scheduled for March 26



The arch of West Eggleston Hall on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 1:15 p.m. in 2100 Torgersen Hall, 620 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, to consider tuition and mandatory fees for the 2024-25 academic year.

In advance of the April board meeting, Virginia Tech will provide a virtual public comment opportunity on Tuesday, March 26, at 11 a.m. The link to observe this event or to pre-register to speak will be posted to the Board of Visitors website. Several board members will participate virtually as university officials provide an overview of proposed tuition and fees ranges and to receive public comment consistent with guidelines posted to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.

Tuition and fees support the university's major strategic initiatives — Virginia Tech Global Distinction and Virginia Tech Advantage - and serve as the primary source of operating revenue for delivering programs to our students. Tuition and fees are set in the context of university cost drivers and available state funding. Over the last several years, the board has prioritized the affordability of a Virginia Tech degree while making targeted investments that enhance the value of a Virginia Tech education to both students and the commonwealth and continue to position the university as a leader in teaching, research, and innovation.

With a heightened focus on student affordability, the university launched Virginia Tech Advantage, which leverages state, philanthropic, and university resources to reduce unmet financial need and increase support for students' basic needs, career preparation, and transformational learning experiences. In addition to Virginia Tech Advantage, the university continues to mitigate tuition increases through the strategic alignment of incremental state funding, cost containment strategies, administrative efficiencies, and internal reallocations to maximize available resources.

As a result of these continued efforts, the board has

been able to limit the average in-state undergraduate tuition increase to just half the rate of inflation for the last five years. This was achieved while making a sustained commitment to advancing underserved and underrepresented student enrollment, increasing institutional support for student financial aid, and advancing critical initiatives that enhance Virginia Tech's mission as a leading global land-grant institution.

For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the university administration is modeling increases in tuition and Educational and General (E&G) fees from zero to three percent, which is below the 4.9 percent increase included in the university's six-year plan approved by the Board of Visitors last November. The university administration will also recommend increases between zero percent and four percent for mandatory non-E&G fees to support mandated cost increases including employee compensation and benefits, and sustaining and enhancing student services including the transit system and student health/counseling services.

Virginia Tech maintains the lowest mandatory non-E&G fees among public four-year institutions in the commonwealth.

March 26 public comment guidelines:

Following an overview of proposed tuition and fees ranges at the March 26 virtual event, there will be an opportunity for public comment. Those interested in participating in the virtual public comment event must pre-register at the Board of Visitors website on a first-come, first-served basis no later than Tuesday, March 19. Speakers will be asked to specify their affiliation with the university (current student, parent, alumnus, faculty or staff, member of the public).

The public comment period will be held for 30 minutes with the option to increase the time up to a total of 60 minutes if there is sufficient demand. If time remains during the half-hour public comment period

after the pre-registered speakers offer their comments, additional speakers may be offered the opportunity to speak during the remaining time. Those who wish to speak but did not pre-register may submit a request via email to vppg@vt.edu between 11 and 11:45 a.m. March 26.

In addition, there will be dedicated time slots for a representative from the Undergraduate Student Senate and from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate to provide a statement on behalf of their respective constituencies. This does not preclude individual students from registering to speak during the public comment period or from providing written comments.

Each speaker will be limited to three minutes and must restrict their comments to tuition and fees only. Speakers wishing to have their comments entered in the public record must submit a typed copy via email to bov@vt.edu by March 26.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please send an email to vppg@vt.edu or call 540-231-6232 during regular business hours at least 10 days prior to the event.

The March 26 virtual budget workshop and public comment session also will be livestreamed for those who wish to observe, without offering comment. The link will be provided at the Board of Visitors website. However, those wishing to make comments must register in accordance with the instructions above.

In lieu of oral comments, written comments may be entered online at the Board of Visitors website or mailed to: Kim O'Rourke, Secretary to the Board of Visitors Virginia Tech (MC 0125), 800 Drillfield Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Written comments must be received by Monday, April 1.

Virginia Tech

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Radford M.O.T. grads hit 100% on testing pass rates and employment

RADFORD - Members of the Radford University Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) Class of 2022 achieved a 100% pass rate on their National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exams.

The 42 graduates had all of 2023 to take the exam, and the report that they had all passed came in early 2024. In addition to their outstanding testing skills, 100% of the M.O.T. grads were employed within two months of graduation. Close to 50% of them are working in outpatient pediatrics, school systems, and early intervention; about 20%

work in skilled nursing facilities; about 25% work in acute care; and some work as travel therapists. "They started occupational therapy school at the height of the pandemic in August 2020 and demonstrated remarkable resilience as they navigated through unknown territories with us," said Vesna Cotić, interim chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy. "We are especially proud of this group of students because of the trust they extended to us as faculty and the support they poured into each other."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

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