

News Journal

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City Council adopts rules regarding overnight stays in parks

RADFORD – The City of Radford has adopted new guidelines for the city’s parks and public spaces “to better address the safety and utilization of those areas,” according to Mayor David Horton.

All outdoor parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in the City of Radford will now be open to the public from 5 a.m. until midnight each day, and people will not be permitted in any outdoor park, playground, or recreational facility in the city between the hours of

between midnight and 5 a.m. “We have had a problem with unauthorized camping in our parks and the inappropriate blocking of areas on trails and other spaces,” Horton said. “There has also been significant litter and other pollutants left in the park areas.”

“We are very aware that some people who are unlicensed have decided to make living areas in our parks and recreational spaces,” he continued. “That is not the function of those areas. Radford City Police

have created resource guides and work to help connect those in need to support and will continue to do so as we address this issue. We have the greatest sympathy for those experiencing tough times and want to help them find the best path for a better tomorrow. Establishing bases or homes in our parks is not that solution and we have been working to learn about best practices for

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GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RADFORD



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE RADFORD CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

City Council recognizes National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

RADFORD – Radford City Council recently passed a proclamation recognizing the week of April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Radford, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

“Emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, or emergency medical services and when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is

critical to the protection of life and preservation of property,” the proclamation reads. “The safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the City of Radford emergency communications center.”

“Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and [they] are the single vital link for our police officers and firefighters by

monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety,” it continues. “Public Safety Telecommunicators of the City of Radford have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and treatment of patients and each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year.”

Staff report

International Culture Night took its audience on a whirlwind world tour – without even leaving campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Live performances highlighted Radford University’s International Culture Night.

Nearly 200 guests got an opportunity to sample music, dance and cuisine from widely ranging parts of the globe at this year’s International Culture Night, a banquet and variety show held March 16 at Kyle Hall.

International Culture Night 2024 was hosted by Assistant Provost for Global Education and Engagement Ismael Betancourt (left) and freshman international student Garima Pokharel (right).

The event was coordinated by the McGlothlin Center for Global

Education and Engagement (MCGEE), with President Bret Danilowicz and Provost Bethany Usher among the 175 spectators.

“We’re thrilled to see so many people from different backgrounds here tonight,” Ismael Betancourt, assistant provost for Global Education and Engagement, told the audience at the top of the festival. It was the first International Culture Night to be held since before the pandemic.

“I hope we all feel a sense of belonging and unity, which is

the essence of our event,” added Betancourt, who is also Radford’s chief global officer.

Before the show began, guests enjoyed a buffet of dishes from China, India, Japan, Spain and the Middle East.

The live program that followed featured 11 acts – Brazilian standards on guitar; a demonstration of the contemplative practice of taiji from Japan; dancers and musicians presenting an array of routines and

See International, page 2

Radford City Council salutes Animal Control officers

RADFORD – the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) has designated the second week of April each year as Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week, and Radford City Council passed a proclamation in honor of the week at its recent meeting.

“Animal Control Officers dedicate their lives to the health and safety of at-risk, helpless animals, and to the protection of the citizens in the community and respond to calls for service to protect the welfare of helpless animals and pets and rescue them from injury, disease, abuse, and starvation,” the proclamation reads. “Animal Control Officers provide essential community functions including the enforcement of animal control laws, protecting the public from diseases such as rabies, and educating the public on

the proper care of the community’s pets.”

“Federal, state, and local government officials throughout the country take this time of the year to recognize, thank, and commend all Animal Control Officers for the dedicated service they

provide to the citizens of the Commonwealth and Virginia recognizes and commends animal control officers for the many dedicated and long hours of service they perform in serving Virginia, and for fulfilling the commitment to providing the highest and most efficient level of customer service.”

“The Radford City Council extends its gratitude and appreciation to Radford’s Animal Control Officers for their continued dedication and professional assistance to the citizens of the City of Radford.”

Staff report



COURTESY PHOTO

(From left) Radford Animal Shelter Technician Ashlee Burton and Animal Control Officer Adele Katrovitz receive a proclamation from City Council Member Jessie Foster in honor of Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week.

Wildfire causes temporary evacuation in Shawsville

SHAWSVILLE – A wildfire in the Fishers View Road area in Shawsville caused residents in the area to temporarily evacuate the area, but the fire has since been contained.

The fire began on Saturday and was extinguished on Sunday. The Virginia Department of Forestry worked with local firefighter crews from

Elliston, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Riner, Floyd and Pulaski on the wildfire, located in the 4300 block of Fishers View Road. The Virginia Department of Forestry also reported the fire had grown to 250 acres before it was contained. No homes or structures were lost in the fire.

Staff report

Thursday, APRIL 25
Eastern Divide Brewing Company
 3175 Commerce Street, Blacksburg

Benefiting **Blacksburg Battles Cancer** and **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER** Of The New River Valley

FREE ADMISSION
 Food available for purchase at venue

\$1 per beverage will be donated to **CHCNRV** and **BBC**

Silent Auction

Mission Jazz 2.0

4:30-5:30 P.M. **THE VIRGINIA TECH JAZZ COMBO**
 5:30-6:30 P.M. **STEVE KESSLER TRIO WITH AL BROHOLM & LOGAN VALLEROY**
 6:30-7:30 P.M. **ROOT DOWN QUINTET**
 7:30-9:00 P.M. **LENNY MARCUS TRIO**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 18:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. 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.

Public feedback session for Virginia Passenger Rail

At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Provide feedback on the Virginia Passenger Rail! Jenna Friedberg, Government Affairs Manager with Virginia Passenger Railway, is eager to share ideas on the expansion of passenger rail service to the New River Valley and receive your input. This is a public engagement event. Informational boards and handouts will be posted and available.

Radford Photo Club

At the Radford Public Library; 6-7 p.m. Visit the Photo Club's open monthly meeting for photography tips and a guest speaker.

Friday, April 19:

Skipper cannon firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once between 5 – 5:30 p.m. on the Drillfield during the opening ceremony for Relay for Life; Skipper will fire at the end of the national anthem. Relay For Life at Virginia Tech is a student-run yearlong fundraising initiative for the American Cancer Society focused on raising funds for critical research as well as lifesaving patient support programs.

Saturday, April 20:

Spring Kickoff Festival

Come join the party! The Town of Christiansburg is hosting a Spring Kickoff Festival at the Recreation Center from 6-9 p.m. All activities and games are free. PAR Mobile Golf golf simulator, trivia, Target Challenge, giant Jenga, Connect Four, cornhole and more. Live music by Jimothy. Local food, wine and beer trucks also available. Please bring your ID if you plan to purchase beer or wine. Outdoor event. Limited number of tables and chairs available. However, attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit around a bonfire and enjoy the evening. This event is recommended for ages 18 and up.

NAACP Young Adults Meet and Greet

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 – 7 p.m. Geared toward 25- 50 years olds. Learn about the NAACP, meet people and learn about professional development and social opportunities. Giveaways and appetizers. For more information crashatowndsend@gmail.com.

Arbor Day Celebration

Join Blacksburg Parks and Recreation as a volunteer, 9 a.m.- noon for an Arbor Day Celebration and plant a tree or two! Participants are encouraged to bring a shovel and gloves. This event will be held rain or shine at 615 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg.

“Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species”

At the Lyric Theater; 2- 4 p.m. Town of Blacksburg, Fralin Life Sciences Institute Global Change Center at Virginia Tech and the Invasive Species Collaborative (ISC) at Virginia Tech will host a screening of the film “Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species” at the Lyric Theater. Film introduces concept of invasive species and explains how strategies can prevent the spread of harmful species. Also, a panel of professionals will answer audience questions. Complimentary popcorn and drinks. To register, for questions or more information, contact Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Manager, Carol Davis at 540.443.1617.

Monday, April 22:

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. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. 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, April 23:

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.

Spring Shred-A-Thon

The spring Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by TRIAD and Christiansburg Recreation Department, will be held 3-6 p.m. at Christiansburg Recreation Center. Bring documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5x18x11.5 inches). Limit of three totes/boxes per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books, keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc. The Shred-A-Thon is a drive-thru event. Please stay in your cars. TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Saturday, April 27:

Children's Consignment Sale

The spring children's consignment sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St SE. (note different location). Families can get great deals on seasonal kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, baby gear, sports equipment, maternity clothing and more. Many items are like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but you will want to shop early for the best selection! Cash or checks only. No card or electronic payments. There is space for new consignors. For more information, email bumckidsale@aol.com.

On-going:

Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor

Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion prior to Memorial Day until the Fourth of July. Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. To register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

Spring Shred-A-Thon set for April 23 in Christiansburg

CHRISTIANSBURG - TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens and senior organizations, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors.

The spring Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by TRIAD and Christiansburg Recreation Department, will be held April 23, 2024 from 3-6 p.m. at Christiansburg Recreation Center. Please bring your documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5x18x11.5 inches) and respect the limit of three totes/boxes per

vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include: metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books, keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc. Please note that the Shred-A-Thon is a drive-thru event. Please stay in your cars.

TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

TRIAD/S.A.L.T.

Fatal multi-vehicle crash in Montgomery County

MONTGOMERY Co. - A Christiansburg man has died as the result of a three-vehicle crash Thursday, April 11.

The crash occurred at 10:25 p.m. on the northbound side of Interstate 81, one tenth of a mile south of Route 177 in Montgomery County.

A 2002 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling north on Interstate 81 and struck a 2021 Kenworth tractor trailer in the rear. The Chevrolet came to rest against the guardrail on the left side of the roadway. The

driver of the Chevrolet exited the vehicle and was struck by a 2012 Mercedes Benz which was also traveling north.

The driver of the Chevrolet was identified as Brandon Lee Williston, 30, of Christiansburg. Williston died at the scene.

The Virginia State Police Crash Reconstruction Team assisted with the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

Virginia State Police

Council

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helping the unhoused find appropriate accommodations.”

Violation of the rules will be considered trespassing.

The city manager can give written permission for specific overnight events. Also, a person may “access a boat landing or ramp located in any outdoor park, playground, or recreational facility at any time for the purposes of launching or retrieving a boat or other watercraft.”

The remainder of the rules include the following:

In the event that any personal property is left unattended for more than 24 hours at any outdoor park, playground,

or recreational facility in the city, such property shall be deemed abandoned and may be disposed of in the discretion of the City or as otherwise required by law.

Nothing in the rules should “be interpreted as limiting the authority of the City Manager or the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department from temporarily closing or restricting the use of any outdoor park, playground, or recreational facility, or any portion thereof, for maintenance, improvement, safety reasons, facility rentals, or other city purposes.”

Staff report

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.

Happy girl Scarlett is ready to meet you and head home! She's a younger pup with a lot of energy. She will gladly sit for a treat and would benefit from additional training. Scarlett has lived with other pets in a previous home. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet Scarlett.



Raja is a lovable older cat. He enjoys affection and scratches under his chin. He's very sweet and has gotten along with other animals in the past. Raja has also been known to do well with younger children. Raja could be your purrfect match!

International

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songs from China; an exhibition of Korean K-pop; the Radford Percussion Ensemble's rendition of “Watercolor Sun” by Mexican-American composer Ivan Trevino, and a sampling of North American music, including bluegrass.

It also presented a traditional Nepalese dance number performed by freshman international student Garima Pokharel, who co-hosted the event alongside Betancourt.

“It's important for people to see such diversity, and important for people to feel other cultures and embrace them,” Betancourt said. “I think it fosters understanding and respect.”

Pokharel, who is studying computer science, closed out the evening by bidding the audience a multilingual farewell – in English, Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, Nepali and Hindi.

“Thank you once again to everyone, and we look forward to seeing you again next year,” Pokharel said to the crowd, adding: “Adios! Au revoir! Zai jian! Pheri Bhetaula! Alavida!”

MCGEE offers services and support to incoming international students as well as those interested in studying abroad, engaging in international

initiatives. It also handles passport services and coordinates English as a second or foreign language instruction.

Radford currently has about 65 international students, but Betancourt hopes to ultimately raise that number.

“It takes a while, but hopefully it will grow,” he said. “My goal is to actually have about 250 international students at the university.”

He also hopes to broaden the spectrum of countries represented at future International Culture Nights.

“We would like to see even more diversity next year – possibly from Africa or France – but people who attended this year loved it; they had a lot of fun,” he said.

For their various efforts, Betancourt also thanked the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Department of Dance, the Department of Music and the Citizen Leader program, as well as Radford's international students, student volunteers and Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Neil Harvey for Radford University

Send community news and photos to:
communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Basham, Wanda Jones

Wanda Jones Basham, 73, of Christiansburg, passed away peacefully April 12, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born in Christiansburg Sept. 3, 1950, to the late Calvin Ronnie Jones and Elizabeth Mae Creasy. Wanda graduated from Christiansburg High School and spent 36 years in banking, retiring as a branch manager in 2005.



She is survived by her husband, Richard E. Basham; daughter, Amy B. Kyle (Jay); son, Jason R. Basham (Pam); sister, Brenda Jones; grandchildren, Marshall Basham, Hayden Kyle, Kayleigh Kyle, Logan Bosley (Emma) and

Lindsey Bosley, great-grandchildren, Audrey and Elena Bosley, special brother-in-law Gerald Basham, and special nephew Eddie Burlingame (Tracy).

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 1 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, with the Pastor Mike Neuse officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunset Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 - 1 p.m before the service.

McCoy, Irene

Irene McCoy was born Feb. 26, 1941, to the late Atlas Burnette "Kack" and Ollie Comer Scott of Spruce Run, Va. She passed peacefully and entered the kingdom of glory on April 8, 2024.



Irene wore many hats in her lifetime but most will remember her as Miss Irene, the proprietor of Long Shop Grocery. Three were blessed to know her as Mom.

grandchildren George (Shannon) Shumate, Zachary Shumate, Chelsie Richards, McKinley Noonkester, Stevin (Kahealani) Wilburn, Hope (Brian) Bradbury, Ricky Sowers, Tori Lynn Sowers and Amarynn Sowers; great grandchildren Isaac Shumate, Lucas Shumate, Lena Shumate, Jessie Shumate, Grayson Bradbury, Jackson Bradbury, Libby Rose Bradbury and Brantley Elliott; sister Marie S. Hubbard; and brothers Denny Scott, Bobby Scott and Roy Scott. Mom, Mawmaw, Miss Irene, you made broken look beautiful and strong look invincible.

this world will forever be felt. We will carry your love, wisdom, and fierce dedication for righteousness within us always. You will be missed immensely! We find comfort in knowing your days are pain-free and filled with sunshine now. Take care of our Angel Doll Baby. We Love You Always! A huge thank you to all who cared for our sweet Mama, especially The Good Samaritan Hospice whose comfort was a Godsend.

Visitation will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024, 6 - 8 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Friday, April 19, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Community Christian Church, 6030 Centennial Rd. McCoy, Va. Interment will follow at Centennial Christian Church, 6260 Centennial Road, McCoy, Va. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to McCoy Fire and Rescue or the Good Samaritan Hospice.

Price, Carolyn

Carolyn Price, 84, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 7, 2024 at home with her family.



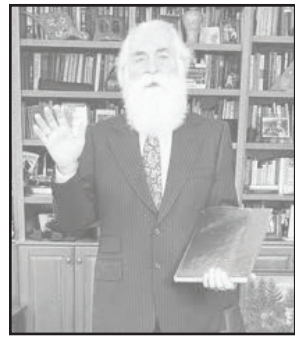
Carolyn was born Nov. 8, 1939 to Jackson Odell and Esther Grubb. She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Frank 'Gene' Price; her daughters, Marie Greene, and husband, Joe, and Sharon Davis and husband, Steven, son Guy Price; and sister, Lorraine Baker, and husband, Kyle.

Price, Mary Price, Patrick Price and Ean Greene (Summer); three great grandchildren, Levi Davis, Rylan Bond and Aubrey Davis; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

We would like to thank Good Samaritan Hospice for the care and support they provided during her final days. She will be cremated at McCoy Funeral Home and a Memorial Service will be planned in the near future.

Myklebust, Arvid

Arvid Myklebust, father, husband, brother, friend, farmer and scholar, of Blacksburg and Craig County, Va., originally from Uskedal, Norway, entered God's eternal glory on the afternoon of April 10, 2024.



Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and inductee in the first class of Virginia Tech's Faculty Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, Arvid was also the 2018 Outstanding Alumnus in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Florida.

and Ph.D. students, and was a frequent speaker on computer-aided design. Arvid, a Son of Norway, a lover of life, and a student of the arts was also a long-time practitioner of Raja Yoga and read Eastern and Western Philosophy and Theology.

Most importantly, Arvid was the husband of Joan Ferrari Myklebust, nee Ferrari.

Together they shared five children including Torolf Myklebust, June Myklebust, Michael Lee Johnson, Amy Marie (Bradley) Brittain, and Sandra Claire (Adam) Sowder. Surviving grandchildren are Solve, Brian, Noah, Jack, Cody, Ean, Samantha, Teddy, and Henry. He is also survived by his sister, Gunn Loyd, and brother, Roy Myklebust.

Family and friends are invited to gather at McCoy Funeral Home on April 14, 2024, at 1 p.m. for visitation and 2 p.m. for a celebration of life officiated by the Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder and Minister Dwayne Wente. Interment will follow at Chestnut Grove Church Cemetery in New Castle, Va.

Poff, Phyllis Jean Caldwell

Phyllis Jean Caldwell Poff, 68, of Radford, went to be with the Lord April 12, 2024.



Jean was preceded in death by her father, Charles Emmett Caldwell, Sr., her mother, Patsy Ann Caldwell, and sister, Carolyn Graves.

She is survived by her daughter, Monica Noble (Tom); son, Brent Sears; sister, Linda Hinkley; brother, Charles Caldwell, Jr.; grandchildren, Alicia, James, Billie, and Timothy; and many nieces and nephews. Jean was born Nov. 5,

in Christiansburg. Later, she worked in telecommunications at Radford University. She worked at numerous places before retiring from Wilco in Radford. After retiring, she became an avid online gamer. She had a large following who honored her with several posts from the online gaming community.

A memorial service will be held today, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 4 p.m. with a visitation from 3- 4 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home.

Arvid co-founded a NASA Institute and three successful technology companies. He published over 70 technical papers, directed over 50 master's

The YMCA at Virginia Tech sets kids up for a healthy start to the summer at Healthy Kids Day

Free and open to the public, this annual event features a day of fun-filled activities to celebrate kids being kids

BLACKSBURG - The YMCA at Virginia Tech is hosting the Y's annual Healthy Kids Day Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at 403 Washington St., Blacksburg.

This free, annual event features a variety of family friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families and a healthy start to the summer season.

Sponsored nationally by Peanuts, Healthy Kids Day's mission is to turn fun and play into lifelong memories. Some featured activities include a visit from the VT Therapy Dogs and the 501st Legion (www.501st.com/), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, MRFL Mobile Library, VT Bio Chemistry Club, VT

Jump Rope Club, a one-mile Fun Run and so much more. Full details can be found on the YMCA website at vtymca.org/healthy-kids-day/.

"It is so important for kids to stay active over the summer, both physically and mentally," said Lauren Blakemore, Director of Community Engagement. "At the Y, we believe in providing resources for families to create healthy habits, no matter the time of year. Healthy Kids Day is a fun, free communitywide event that encourages families to take advantage of all the great summer activities the NRV community has to offer."

Locally, Healthy Kids Day is sponsored by The Moss

Advertisement for Healthy Kids Day. Features a group of diverse children smiling. Text includes: 'HEALTHY KIDS DAY', 'April 20 | Free to the Public', 'At The Lancaster House, 403 Washington St., SW, Blacksburg', 'FIND YOUR JOY. FIND YOUR Y. www.vtymca.org', and 'National Sponsor PEANUTS'.

Arts Center, Virginia Tech student clubs and organizations and local businesses and nonprofit partners. For more information, contact Lauren Blakemore at engagement@vtymca.org or visit vtymca.org/healthy-kids-day/.

YMCAs at Virginia Tech

STATEWIDE ADS

AUCTIONS
Marina Auction. 5.29 AC - Deepwater Access - Income Producing. Online Auction April 25th @ 2:00 PM. 107 Docksides Dr, Deltaville, VA 23043. DudleyResources.com for info

STATEWIDE ADS

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SERVICES

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook), 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonolliverattorneyva.com.

LeafFilter gutter protection advertisement. Features a man working on a roof. Text includes: 'LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!', '20% OFF + 10% OFF', 'Your Entire Purchase*', 'Seniors + Military', '++ We offer financing that fits your budget!', 'CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-877-614-6667'.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel advertisement. Features a bathroom with a jacuzzi. Text includes: 'BATH REMODEL', 'SPECIAL OFFER', 'Waiving All Installation Costs', 'CALL NOW 877.460.5348'.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

HOME IMPROVEMENT

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-

* See Representative for full warranty details. ** One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. † Subject to credit approval. Call for details. #FINC000012 CA #FINC001791 CT #FINC000095 FL #FINC000066 IL #FINC000068 IN #FINC000069 IA #FINC000064 MI #FINC000067 MN #FINC000063 MO #FINC000062 NC #FINC000061 ND #FINC000060 NE #FINC000064 NY #FINC000065 OH #FINC000066 OK #FINC000067 OR #FINC000068 PA #FINC000069 RI #FINC000064 SC #FINC000065 TN #FINC000066 VA #FINC000067 VT #FINC000068 WY #FINC000069



OPINION

Compromise budget meets core goals while not raising taxes



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

When the General Assembly returns to Richmond on April 17 to consider Governor Glenn Youngkin's amendments and vetoes of legislation from the 2024 legislative session, we will have the opportunity to pass a compromise budget that was recently

unveiled by the Governor. Those who have been following along during the budget process are already aware that the Democrat-controlled General Assembly sent the Governor an expensive spending plan that would make life costlier for Virginians. The compromise revealed

by Governor Youngkin – dubbed the “Common Ground” budget – is a good-faith effort to fully fund the necessary components of our state government, while not increasing or implementing

See **Compromise**, page 8

New to investing? Here's what you need to know



Josh Smith, CRPC

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Understanding the basics of investing is an essential first step toward building a strong financial foundation, but many people don't know where to get started. Here are five concepts that can be helpful for new investors to grasp:

- **If you are young, time is on your side**
Building wealth through investing is not about getting rich quickly. Rather, it's about taking advantage of what works best for your circumstances. If you have recently entered the workforce, your biggest advantage is time. Earnings generated in your portfolio, even if modest in the beginning, can compound over time. The more time you give your money to grow, the greater the potential for growth over the long haul.
- **Be prepared for market swings**
Any variable investment you choose

– such as stocks, bonds or real estate – is subject to fluctuation. History shows that markets move up and down over time. Be prepared to see your portfolio suffer losses at various points throughout your investing life. Historically, markets have recovered from negative periods (although in some circumstances, individual investments such as a specific stock can suffer losses and never recover). Try to maintain a long-term view with your investments by not reacting to day-to-day events.

- **Find your comfort level in the markets**

Markets are unpredictable, so it's important that you're intentional about the level of risk you're willing to accept. If you have a lower risk tolerance, you can choose investments that are less susceptible to fluctuations but be sure to consider the effects of inflation eating into your rate of return. On the other hand, if you have a higher risk tolerance and you can stomach watching your portfolio fluctuate more widely in value, you may want to pursue investments that offer potentially higher returns.

But remember, there are no guarantees. The key is to find a level of risk you can live with over the long-term and invest accordingly.

- **Spread your wealth through asset allocation**

Asset allocation is the process of spreading your investment dollars across several categories of investments. The mix of categories, or asset classes, you own is an important factor in your overall portfolio performance. In other words, how you divide your money between stocks, bonds, cash, cash alternatives, mutual funds, and other asset classes will determine the outcome, and hopefully return, you realize.

As you select your investments, consider dividing your money among asset classes that respond differently to market forces. This investment concept, called diversification, can help you minimize the effect of market swings. If your investments in one class are performing poorly, investments in another class may be performing better. Ideally, gains in one class can help offset losses in another, which can help

minimize the overall impact of volatility on your portfolio.

- **Make your long-term financial security a priority**

It can be challenging to focus on the long-term when you have other pressing financial obligations, such as paying off student loans or building an emergency fund. However, if you can allocate a small portion of your budget to your future goals, you may ease your financial burden down the road. Consider investing a percentage of each paycheck into a workplace retirement plan or an individual retirement account (IRA). You'll become accustomed to living within the rest of your paycheck while the amount you have earmarked for retirement is given time to grow. If your company offers a match on those savings, be sure to take advantage of it.

A successful investor maximizes gain and minimizes loss. Though there can be no guarantee that any investment strategy will be effective, and all investing involves risk, these basic principles can help you strategically build your nest egg over time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to take a moment to call attention to a group that sometimes goes unnoticed. The Radford City school community is so fortunate to have a

dedicated team of healthcare professionals who work relentlessly to ensure the well-being of our students and staff.

Recently, several of our amazing school nurses, Tammy Weston, Kelly Minnick and Jordan Lawson, achieved national board certification in school nursing. Achieving national board certification requires significant investment of time, effort and expertise. By attaining this certification, our school nurses have demonstrated their proficiency in the field of school nursing and their dedication to upholding the highest standards of practice. It is a great accomplishment and certainly highlights their commitment to excellence as well as their dedication to providing the highest quality care and support to our school community.

School nurses play a vital role in promoting the health and wellness of our students. They are often the first responders in medical emergencies, providing critical care, and assistance when needed. Additionally, they collaborate with teachers, administrators and families to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. I believe that they deserve recognition for their day-to-day work as well as for their recent certification.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to our exceptional school nurses.

Sincerely,
Mary Smith
Radford

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

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Dear Editor,

Each spring, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and other state DOTs recognize Work Zone Awareness Week to remind drivers of the importance of avoiding distractions and driving safely through work zones. Join us at VDOT as we promote National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, with our theme this year, “Work zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.”

Whether you work on our roads or drive them every day, work zone safety is everyone's responsibility. Our employees and contractors put their lives on the line in work zones every day while working to improve travel for motorists in Virginia. This is true in mobile operations like mowing, paving and plowing snow, short-term work zones set up to replace bridges and culverts, as well as in our established work zones for long-term construction

projects. Although signs, cones and safety vests can be effective in warning motorists of a work zone, these tools are no protection against a fast-moving vehicle or an inattentive driver. In fact, most work zone deaths are motorists, not workers, so slowing down, eliminating distractions and paying close attention in work zones can help all of us.

All motorists — whether a seasoned driver or someone new behind the wheel — should follow these instructions when driving through a work zone:

Work zones are a sign to slow down.

If you see the orange work zone warning signs, be alert for changing conditions ahead.

Eliminate distractions and stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

Follow Virginia's phone down and move over laws.

In addition, to show support for National Work Zone Awareness

Week, VDOT encourages you to participate in these activities during the week:

Show us your Orange! Wednesday, April 17 is national “Go Orange Day.” Everyone is encouraged to wear orange in support of work zone safety across the country. Share your pictures with us on Twitter and Facebook! #GoOrangeVa

Attend the vigil at the VDOT Worker's Memorial on Afton Mountain on Wednesday, April 17 at 4 p.m.

Follow us all week long and share our Facebook VDOT Salem District group page at www.facebook.com/groups/VDOTSalem and ReTweet with us @VaDOTSalem.

Join our team to keep our roads and work zones safe for everyone. Let's work together so we can all arrive at home safely each and every day.

Ken King, P.E.
District Engineer
VDOT Salem District

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Product or ___ (abbr.)
 - Zodiac sign
 - S. China seaport
 - Former OSS
 - Early English printer
 - Aphid genus
 - General's assistant (abbr.)
 - Aussies
 - Dissuades
 - Make law
 - Drench
 - Soak in a liquid
 - Male child
 - It cools your home
 - Small constellation
 - To call (archaic)
 - Explores beneath the Earth
 - Commercial
 - W. hemisphere organization
 - You can find it in a can
 - "Land of the free"
 - 42 3/6 inches
 - Footwear
 - Challenges
 - They hold things together
 - Of 1
 - Partner to flow
 - Not connected by kinship
 - Worries
 - Garlic mayonnaise
 - A way to take by force
 - Legendary English rockers
 - Your consciousness of your own identity
 - Fencing swords
 - Silly
 - Actor DiCaprio
 - Encircles with a belt
 - Mails a message
 - Longing
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Horse mackerels
 - It can be viral
 - Prickly plants
 - Consciousness
 - Type of sarcoma
 - Tax collector
 - Sun up in New York
 - One who scorches
 - Influential psychotherapist
 - Situated at an apex
 - Communicative
 - Forearm nerve
 - Former CIA
 - Folk singer DiFranco
 - Employee stock ownership plan
 - Large-scale
 - School environment
 - Remove
 - Male parents
 - Large rodent
 - Weighed down
 - Held tightly
 - ___ route: going there
 - Explains again
 - Exclamation of surprise
 - Courteously
 - Lying down
 - Judge
 - Forcefully took
 - Loosely compacted sediment
 - High mountain
 - Portable conical tents
 - Cereal grass
 - Dining utensil
 - Thoughtful
 - Helps you walk
 - Indicates near
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - Local area network

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THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 BUSINESS CORRIDOR BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN, AND TRANSIT STUDY

Find out about the study progress and potential safety improvements along Route 460 Business in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The meeting will be held at the New River Community College, Christiansburg Site located at 782 New River Road NW Suite 400, Room 149 on Thursday, April 25, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. In addition to the in-person meeting, public meeting materials will be posted by

Legals - Montgomery County

April 22nd on the New River Valley MPO's website at www.newrivervalleympo.org

They will also be available for review at the offices of the New River Valley MPO. Please give your written comments at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St. Ste. 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to 460study@rkk.com. Please reference "460 Study" PH Comments in the subject line. Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, May 9th, 2024.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the Route 460 Study meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). The NRV MPO ensures

Legals - Montgomery County

nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyvva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

Order of Publication
Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104
Case No. **CL24000530-00**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* ERIC

Legals - Montgomery County

RANDALE BRYANT v. CHRISTINA MARIE BRYANT

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that CHRISTINA MARIE BRYANT appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JUNE 5, 2024. APRIL 2, 2024

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ROBERT M.D. TURK, JUDGE
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RADFORD SPORTS

Bobcat uses Spring Game to shine at running back



The Maroon squad's P.J. Prioleau scores one of his two touchdowns during Saturday's Spring game.



Former Radford Bobcat P.J. Prioleau (right) scored on the ground and through the air in Saturday's Virginia Tech Spring game.



Coach Brent Pry led the Hokies on the field Saturday in front of a large crowd at Lane Stadium.



Virginia Tech coaches and players shook a lot of hands Saturday during the pre-game walk into the stadium.



Players took time out of their busy day to greet runners as they entered the stadium Saturday during the Run of Remembrance.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Defense was on display Saturday at Virginia Tech's Spring Game.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Hokies fans were treated to an interesting Spring football game this past Saturday with several players taking advantage of the moment.

One of those was former Radford High School running back P.J. Prioleau, who led the Maroon team in rushing with 62 yards.

His longest of 31-yards, which was a touchdown, gave us glimpses of what all Bobcat fans had learned to expect during his time in the black and gold.

Prioleau also scored a second touchdown on a 22-yard receiving touchdown connection from Kyron Drones.

The Maroon squad clinched a victory in a closely contested matchup, 21-14 over the Orange unit in front of a large Spring audience.

At halftime, Coach Brent Pry honored the 5-11, 180 Prioleau with the "Frank Beamer Ultimate Teammate Award" for his actions over the spring.

Prioleau played multiple positions at Radford High School, where he was named to the 2018 Three Rivers District First Team and was the 2018 Region 2C Offensive Player of the Year ... the same season he was also named to the Class 2 First Team All-State team as running back.

He tore his ACL his junior year of high school and missed the entire season.

One of his most prominent years at Radford was as a sophomore when he rushed for 1,725 yards on 231 carries with 20 touchdowns.

Prioleau has some familiarity in the Hokie coaching staff as his father Pierson is an assistant in Blacksburg. The elder Prioleau had coached his son for several years as an assistant at Radford and has plenty of experience for him to learn from. Pierson was a three-year starter at Tech before being drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the 1999 NFL Draft.

For the past two years, the former Bobcat has seen his time only on special teams but that could all be

changing. Two years ago, he blocked a punt 15 yards into Tech's end zone of his collegiate debut. Thus, he became the first Tech player to block a punt since 2018.

Last year, he played in 12 games on special teams.

Prioleau's performance could push him up the depth chart with the possibility we might see him more in the spring on the offensive ball.

Pry has called the spring session Phase Two of the much bigger plan in getting his team prepared. After Saturday's game, he was optimistic but a little guarded in his own evaluation.

"Every time I get excited, there's been caution, kind of creeping in. You realize we've got all summer and a ton of things we have to get done. We've had all camp, a lot of the things that we need to get done. I love that we know more about our team, more about more guys, what we're gonna get. That proved true this spring. The guys that finished strong, they had good springs. It's just getting this next group to be ready to play. We're making strides there," he said.

On the Maroon side of the ball, Tight end Ja'Ricous Hairston also got his name up on the board, giving the Maroon team their third touchdown to dominate the Orange team. Drones finished the game with a total of 122 yards, claiming two touchdowns with an impressive 66-yard connection with running back Malachi Thomas. Quarterback Dylan Wittke also made an appearance, with a significant performance completing five of eight passes for 44 yards.

On the Orange team, Quarterbacks William 'Pop' Watson III and Ben Locklear split the time with Watson completing 13 of 21 passes for a substantial 130 total yards, including a three-yard rushing touchdown while Locklear went seven of 11 for 90 yards, including a 38-yard connection with wide receiver Chance Fitzgerald.

Running back Jeremiah Coney displayed his athletic prowess, leading the team with 81 rushing yards which included a 33-yard sprint to keep the Orange squad in the game. Fellow running back Tralon Mitchell put up a second touchdown with a two-yard rush.

On the defensive front, the Maroon team was

anchored by defensive lineman James Jennette, tallying four solo tackles, three tackles for loss totaling eight yards, and securing a sack for a five-yard loss. Meanwhile, cornerback Joshua Clarke contributed with four solo tackles and an interception, returning it for 15 yards. He was joined by teammate defensive lineman Kemari Copeland, who also grabbed an interception, returning it for 13 yards. Veteran defensive lineman Keyshawn Burgos rounded out the defensive effort with an impressive three sacks against Watson for a total loss of 24 yards, in addition to four solo tackles and a pass breakup.

Pry was appreciative of what he saw out of Burgos on Saturday.

"He played like he was mad today. I have to get him mad at me all the time, I guess. He's one of the more improved guys on the team," Pry said. "We only gave out two awards, one offense and one defense in that department today. But he was in that conversation. He's got a great motor, and I think he's been more focused this spring. He's complained less, he just works, he just puts his nose down. He's coachable more so than he's ever been, it's paying off."

As for the Orange Team defense, star Stephon Hicks recorded two sacks, resulting in a loss of nine yards, along with three solo tackles. Linebacker Darius Taylor added another sack for a five-yard loss, while Deric Dandy secured a sack as well, resulting in an eight-yard loss. Cornerback Josh Gholston and receiver Ali Jennings contributed with fumble recoveries.

One of the early surprises was the play of freshman Quentin Reddish. Defensive Coordinator Chris Marve is pleased in what he sees is Reddish's growth.

"I think he'll be a contributor, man, he doesn't panic. Long, can run, has good length, is not afraid of contact. He's not afraid of being challenged by an older receiver, tight end or running back and he's not afraid to throw it around. He's got a lot of development to do, between the ears, but also with his body. But he's got some gifts. He is hungry, and we are excited he's a Hokie," Marve said.

Observation from VT Spring Game: Key word is depth



From the Sidelines
Marty Gordon

If there was one thing fans and coaches alike could write down on paper after Saturday's Spring football game, the Hokies have plenty of depth.

Areas like running back and wide receiver have plenty of players to choose from. Now, several of those individuals might take this idea of "depth" as a reason to jump into the transfer portal in the next week, but the Hokie still will have plenty to choose from.

To be honest, this was a problem last season as the numbers game played a role in several close games. This year, it will not.

In areas like the secondary and the defensive front, this team is loaded. There is also some depth in both the receiving and running back room.

Coach Brent Fry feels in his third year, the team will have plenty of bodies to work with.

The depth has been helped thanks to the Transfer Portal where Tech was able to grab former Duke defensive lineman Aeneas Peebles, who was named the defensive Most Valuable Player for the Spring.

But he told the media on Saturday, he feels that he can do

so much more.

"I feel like I always feel I can do more and I feel there's still a ceiling I need to reach, you know, I don't feel in any way that I'm tapped out as a player, I still feel that there is more development I could do," said Peebles. "So, it's really an honor to receive that from my teammates and my coaching staff."

If there is a question, it still might be who will be backing up second-year starting QB Kyrone Drones.

In Saturday's Spring Game, Dylan Wittke completed five of eight passes for 44 yards as Drones backup on the Maroon team, while on the Orange side of the field, William 'Pop' Watson III and Ben Locklear split the time. Watson completed 13 of 21 passes for 130 total yards, including a three-yard rushing touchdown while Locklear finished seven of 11 for 90 yards.

For now, it looks like Watson might be leading oh so slightly.

Drones finished the game with a total of 122 yards, claiming two touchdowns with an impressive 66-yard connection to Malachi Thomas. He finished six of 10 before taking the rest of the afternoon off.

The opening game is just around the corner, and there sure is a lot of excitement around what this year's team could produce. Just keep watching.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURTON

Radford Bobcats' Kat Price

Weekly roundups: Lady Cats fall in softball

Marty Gordon

NRV@sports@ourvalley.org

The Radford High School softball team took it on the chin in a 10-5 loss to Galax.

On Wednesday night the Radford Bobcats traveled to Galax to face the Maroon Tide. Radford took the early lead in the first inning when Kat Price doubled, scoring two runs. The Maroon Tide scored seven runs over the first two innings to take the lead. In the loss, the Bobcats collected 14 hits to include a solo homerun from Kira Rollins. Olivia Radford went three for four from the plate and Rollins, Ella Cox, and Addie Saunders both collected multiple hits on the day. Plant pitched all seven innings in the win for Galax giving up 14 hits and 5 runs.

Blacksburg boys slip by HV

This past week, the Blacksburg High School boys' soccer team kept its record unblemished in a 2-1 contest over Hidden Valley. The Bruins got goals from Tommy Monaghan and Sean DeLorenzo. Nathan Pratt had four saves in goal.

Blacksburg is now 7-0, while Hidden Valley fell to 2-5-1.

Blacksburg girls remain unbeaten
The Blacksburg HS Girls Soccer team defeated Hidden Valley 2-0 on Friday night at Bill Brown Stadium. Scoring for Blacksburg was senior Amali Moore and sophomore Addison McSorley.

Blacksburg improves to 7-0-2, 3-0-2 and Hidden Valley dropped to 5-4, 1-4.

CHS alums shine at Concord
The Concord University baseball team finished off a four-game sweep of West Virginia Wesleyan as it picked up 8-1 and 11-6 wins Sunday afternoon in Mountain East Conference action at Anderson Field.

The Mountain Lions run their win streak to 11 games as they improve to 21-12 overall and 12-6 in the MEC. WVWC falls to 10-22 overall and 5-13 in the league.

Former Christiansburg High School player Dawson Graff continued his hot streak with two hits in the 11-6 win.

His former teammate at CHS, MJ Hunter, has had three hits and picked up his fifth save of the season by tossing the final 2.2 innings, striking out three and giving up a late run.

Compromise

from page 4

any new taxes. In total, the Governor proposed more than 230 amendments to the budget, and it includes many items that should resonate across the partisan divide.

By way of background, Virginia's revenues continue to rise steadily. Yearly tax collections in the Commonwealth have risen by 45% over

the past five years, which is due mostly to job and economic growth. In fact, our job growth over the past two years bests that of 42 other states. When you combine this news with the \$4.2 billion already in Virginia's reserve fund and future revenues projected to be above forecasts, it's plain to see that no new taxes need to be raised in

order to fund the Commonwealth's priorities.

The Governor proposed over \$1 billion in tax relief in the initial budget he presented to the General Assembly this past legislative session, while the budget passed by House and Senate Democrats included tax increases that would cost Virginians \$2.6 billion in total.

The compromise sent back to the General Assembly is a good faith effort to pass a budget that does not burden Virginians with tax increases, while recognizing that the Democratic-led body is unlikely to go along with tax cuts.

Even with no tax increases, Virginia is well-positioned to invest in several areas of public importance. I'm pleased to report that the Common Ground budget includes a 3% pay raise for teachers and other state employees each year for the next two years. After next year's raise, Virginia's teachers' annual pay will be raised – on average – nearly \$3,500 higher than the national average for teacher pay. This is a worthy investment in those who do so much to prepare our

children for gainful employment, as well as all others who perform important public functions. Other investments in education include \$1 billion in additional higher education funding, and \$196 million in funding for at-risk students.

Additionally, important investments in the Common Ground budget include \$70 million to expedite projects in the I-81 corridor, making travel safer and more efficient. \$72.5 million will be allotted to community violence intervention, to include proven programs like Operation Ceasefire, Safer Communities, and the Community Violence Intervention Program. \$20 million will go toward additional support for local police departments, and \$3 million toward law enforcement officer wellness programs. The compromise budget also includes \$114 million in investments toward biotechnology and life science commercialization, and \$30 million to

help with broadband expansion.

These are but a few examples of Governor Youngkin's desire to negotiate in good faith with General Assembly Democrats on a responsible spending plan. While it does not include everything that either side of the debate wants, it meets the core goal of funding public necessities while not raising taxes on hard working Virginians. We'll soon learn whether these are also priorities of Virginia Democrats.

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 DelJBallard@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.

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