

RADFORD

News Journal

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Mary Draper Ingles Festival brings visitors to Radford and surrounding area

The life and times of Mary Draper Ingles was celebrated in fine fashion over the weekend, with three days of events held in Radford and Pulaski County.

Ingles was born in Philadelphia and she and her family traveled down the great Valley of Virginia, settling in Draper's Meadow, now known as Blacksburg. In 1755 Native Americans attacked Ingles's settlement, and she and other family members were taken to Ohio. She later escaped and walked hundreds of miles back to her home on the New River, later moving to what is now west Radford,

on the banks of the New River.

The July 26- 28 festival had events at Glencoe Mansion, Long Way Brewing, Ingles Tavern, La Riviere, also known as Ingles Castle, and at Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin. There was also a meet and greet with Mary Draper Ingles descendants and reenactment actors at the Highlander Hotel. The festival's three days featured more than 75 activities, including old-time crafts and skills, art exhibits, vendors and a petting zoo. Long Way Brewing showcased live music,

historical dancers, food trucks, a children's play zone, and a short reenactment of the Ingles play, "Long Walk to Freedom," featuring Radford University and local actors.

Ingles Tavern and La Riviere, which was built by Mary's great-grandson, were open for tours. Wilderness Road Regional Museum sponsored 18th century living history interpretations by the Fincastle Company and music.

Staff report

See **Festival**, page 2



PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON

Kathleen Harshberger, a local playwright and actress, presents a living history interpretation of Mary Draper Ingles during the festival at Glencoe Mansion. Harshberger has played the role of the colonial heroine in some form for the last several decades.

Jimmy Fortune coming to NRCC

Country artist Jimmy Fortune will perform Sunday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin.

The event is part of the NRCC 2024-2025 Concert Series.

Tickets for the show are on sale now. Reserved seating tickets are \$30 in advance and available for purchase online only at www.nr.edu/concerts. General seating tickets are \$20 in advance and available online or in-person at the NRCC Business Office, 23 Godbey Hall, Dublin (cash and checks only for in-person sales). General seating tickets will be \$25, and reserved seating tickets will be \$35 when purchased at the door.

Jimmy Fortune toured, sang and performed with the Statler Brothers for 21 years. Fortune was responsible for writing several of the group's number one hits including "Elizabeth," "My Only Love," and "Too Much On My Heart." Fortune also wrote the top-10 hit "Forever" and co-wrote the top-10 hit "More Than a Name on a Wall."

Fortune's career included The Nashville

Network's "The Statler Brothers Show" which aired for seven seasons and debuted in 1991 as the highest rated show for the network.

Fortune and The Statler Brothers were inducted into the GMA (Gospel Music Association) Hall of Fame on October 29, 2007, and inducted into the CMA (Country Music Association) Hall of Fame on June 29, 2008. As a solo artist, he was inducted into the Virginia Musical Hall of Fame in 2018.

After The Statler Brothers retired in 2002, Fortune seized the opportunity to launch a solo career to share new music with his fans.

In 2015, Fortune teamed up with the Gaither Music Group and recorded "Hits and Hymns" CD and DVD which debuted at #10 Billboard Country Album, #1 Southern Gospel, and #6 Billboard Contemporary Christian. The DVD debuted at #1 on Billboard Music Video charts. In 2017, he recorded a compilation of his favorite songs called "Jimmy Fortune Sings the Classics" on the Gaither Music label and in May 2019 they also released his latest solo

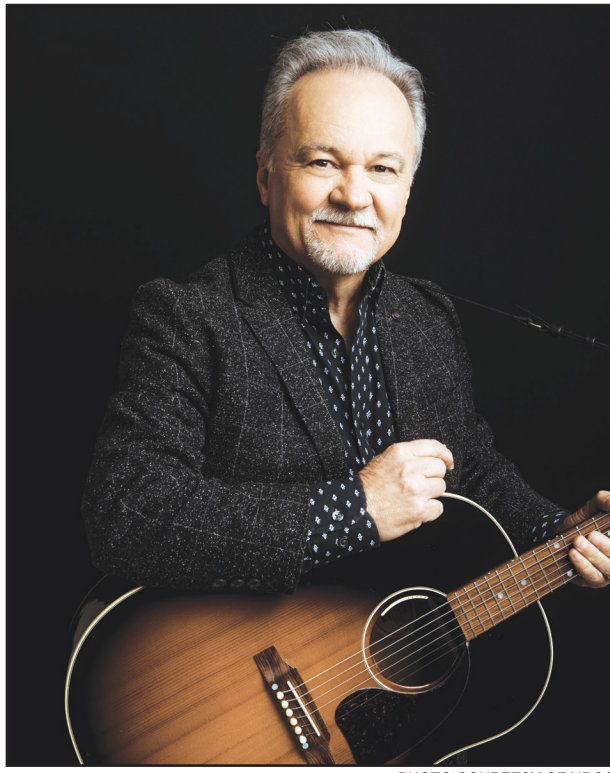


PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Country artist Jimmy Fortune will perform Sunday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin. Tickets for the show are on sale now.

project called "God and Country" which included a CD and DVD which won a Dove Award in 2020 for Country/Gospel/Roots Album of the Year.

He currently lives in Tennessee, writing, touring, and recording music.

NRCC is a Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage

Music Trail, affiliated venue. Doors will open for the show at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.nr.edu/concerts. Questions may be directed to Tim Jones at 540-674-3625.

New River Community College

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE RCPD

Radford Police Department invites community to National Night Out

RADFORD – The Radford City Police Department is participating in National Night Out, an effort to bring the communities and police departments together.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is "an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live," according to NATW. "National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."

Radford's event is set for Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6 – 8 p.m. at Bisset Park. According to RCPD, this year's event has a special component to help a Radford child recovering from a significant injury earlier this summer.

"This year, we're excited to introduce a brand-new event – a fire truck pull to benefit Harper's Fund, supporting the Owens family, and the department announced. "Our very own Lieutenant Coffey has bravely pledged to pull one of the Radford City ladder trucks, which weighs over 50,000 pounds, over a distance of 40 feet! Let's come together and cheer him on as he pulls for Harper."

"Members of the Radford City Sheriff's Office, where Harper's dad (Sgt. Dwayne Owens) serves as a sergeant, will be on hand to accept donations at the event. It's a great opportunity to support a wonderful cause!"

In addition to the fire truck pull, the department will have crime and fire prevention materials, neighborhood watch opportunities, and fun obstacle courses for kids.

"It's a night of community, safety, and support that you won't want to miss!"

Staff report

Radford's orientation program for new students welcomes increased numbers



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

At the start of each Quest session, the program's 40 student ambassadors welcome incoming freshmen, transfers and family members with a flash mob performance.

For new college students everywhere and their families, "move-in day" can be lots of things – exciting and stressful, triumphant and frustrating, heartwarming and heart-rending all at the same time.

Over the past three decades, however, Radford has offered

incoming Highlanders and their relatives an easy, early way to relieve the pressures of such an important and auspicious occasion.

That would be Quest – Radford's summertime orientation program, during which students meet academic advisors and establish

course schedules, get their IDs, learn about the various services and available options and interact with student leaders, faculty and other new Highlanders.

Family members, meanwhile,

See **Quest**, page 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 31:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The Jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Thursday, Aug. 1:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey Howe Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3:

Lamplighters BIG Book Sale

At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Get great deals on books while supporting the Radford Public Library at the Lamplighters BIG Book Sale! Hardcover and DVDs are only \$1, and Paperbacks are only 50 cents. Many, many children's books and a lot of home school teaching books are available and some DVD's and CD's that are spoken in a language in India. Come and support the Lamplighters, who support the Radford Public Library.

Saturday, Aug. 3:

Radford Summer Concert- rescheduled

Chairmen of the Board will be performing. Bring a chair or blanket and come out to the fields of Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery at 600 Unruh Dr., Radford. Gates open at 6 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased through Radford Chamber of Commerce. Food trucks and non-alcoholic beverages are also available. Admission is \$5 per person. Children 12 and under and free.

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr. Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, Aug. 4:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Monday, Aug. 5:

August Kids eligibility screening

The Radford Clothing Bank annual August Kids program provides a \$75 voucher for each income qualifying student in grades K - 12 attending Radford City Schools. Vouchers redeemed at the Fairlawn Walmart to purchase new school clothing and tennis shoes. Screening for eligibility is August 5, 10 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m. at Central Church, 803 Wadsworth St., Radford. You MUST provide all of the following verifications: Photo ID of applicant, proof of address (June or July bill), social security card or birth certificate for each child in the home, and SNAP, Medicaid, TANF or four weeks of current pay stub for each employed family member. Questions? Call the Radford Clothing Bank at (540)633-5050 (10 a.m. -noon) Monday-Saturday. Monetary donations can be sent to: Radford Clothing Bank, PO Box 994, Radford, VA 24143.

Saturday, Aug. 10:

Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry 5 - 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Serving fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Adults- \$12, children under 12- \$6, under age three -free, carry-outs -\$12. This month, Ronnie Toney and Friends will be

playing some Bluegrass for the diners. Held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

Monday, Aug. 12:

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 normally held 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, Aug. 13:

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.

Sunday, Aug. 18:

Faith and Democracy presentation

The local group Defending Democracies will host a special presentation and discussion featuring Chris Crawford, Policy Strategist for Protect Democracy. We'll hear why democracy is important to faith communities and consider actions we can take, both as individuals and as faith communities, to support the defense of our democracy. Join us, 2:30-4 p.m., at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Whisner Building, 111 Church St. SE, Blacksburg (parking in lots off of Lee St.).

Festival from page 1



PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON

West Virginian Doug Wood interprets the life of Ostenaco, a Cherokee military leader during the French and Indian War during the Mary Draper Ingles Festival.

Now enrolling middle school students at Blue Mountain School

Down a short gravel driveway in Floyd, through a grove of forsythias, and into a small clearing surrounded by a dense deciduous forest, sits Blue Mountain School, a 43-year-old alternative school which has recently expanded its offerings to include a program focused on children the ages of 10-14, traditionally known as the middle school years.

According to Blue Mountain School Director Tammie Sarver, the need for alternative education is increasingly recognized as essential to meeting the diverse needs of all learners. Tailored educational opportunities are key to helping every child reach their full potential. Blue Mountain School (BMS) offers a holistic educational approach that nurtures the mind, heart, creativity, physicality, and spirituality of every student.

Building on the success of their contemplative progressive early childhood curriculum, Blue Mountain School launched their middle school program in 2023 and the children have thrived under the guidance of teacher Susan Cordell, who brings 25 years of middle school teaching experience to the school.

Enrollment is currently open and Blue Mountain School is accepting applications for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

At BMS, alternative education goes beyond traditional learning models, providing robust support tailored to each student's unique needs. With smaller class sizes, personalized learning plans, and a nurturing environment that celebrates diversity, promotes empathy, and fosters collaboration, Blue Mountain School works to ensure every learner thrives.

BMS students also benefit from the integral component of family involvement in school activities. Both family and student involvement help foster a strong sense of community, partnership, and togetherness throughout campus.

With classes named after precious gemstones, all Blue Mountain grade levels benefit from age-appropriate curricula that nurtures real-world needs and experiences to enable student success in the dynamic, interconnected world we live in. For instance, Middle School students enjoy learning activities that feature a weekly language course along with Geography/History and Natural Science lessons. They actively engage in community service at local non-profit organizations like Plenty! The class also takes regular learning based

field trips, including learning ventures with NRV Land Trust, Floyd Center for the Arts, Plenty!, Red Rooster Coffee, and Sound to Sea in coastal North

Carolina. Guest speakers are also hosted to encourage the exploration of diverse occupations. This year speakers will include a herpetologist, a veterinarian, the artistic director of the SWVA Ballet, and many more.

Designed for students approximately aged 10-14, the Blue Mountain Middle School Program offers a unique educational approach that fosters individualized learning and holistic development. With multi-age classrooms supporting collaborative learning, looping teachers for increased continuity, and a focus on intrinsic motivation, BMS ensures each student can progress confidently at their own pace. BMS supports individual growth without comparisons between students and emphasizing deeper learning experiences, with the intention that BMS students benefit from stronger self-esteem.

Reflecting on the inception of the BMS Middle School Program, Tammie Sarver, Director at Blue Mountain School, commented, "As a leader at a nonprofit school that has served the Floyd community for 43 years, I apply a service-oriented lens in all my decision-making. Recognizing the community's needs, we identified an unmet need for an alternative middle school education option. We addressed this gap by welcoming Susan Cordell, Middle School

Program Lead, to our team in 2022. Originally from Texas, Susan is a talented educator with decades of experience and a Master's degree in Inquiry-Based Math and Science Learning. Her community immersion and educational partnerships significantly contribute to the success of our middle school program's success."

Meg Alton, a parent of a recent middle school graduate, noted that her son's "social emotional wellness was supported in ways that only Blue Mountain School can do while still providing a thoughtful education. His middle school experience has prepared him academically for the next chapter... and more importantly, his spirit has remained intact as he continues to grow into a kind, aware, and curious individual. The stresses of middle school that we were concerned about when he was younger weren't present at Blue Mountain School and watching him grow into himself has been even better than I could have wished for."

Blue Mountain School celebrated its largest class of graduates this June at their annual Bridging Ceremony, marking the successful completion of the pilot year of its Middle School program. This achievement underscores the dedication of its educators and the effectiveness of its innovative approach.

Blue Mountain School

Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure rides through Christiansburg and Blacksburg

Angelica Ramos
Contributing writer

MONTGOMERY CO. - The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure, on its way to Washington D.C., rode through and stopped in Montgomery County.

The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure is a 10ten-week over 4,000-

mile bike ride for charity that, this year, rode from Seattle and will arrive in Washington D.C. on Aug. 3, 2024. This year's ride will cover 12 of the 50 states in the U.S. with the riders seeing historic and natural landmarks along the way. The Fuller Bicycle Adventure entered Montgomery County

on Thursday, July 25, 2024 entering through Christiansburg and going into Blacksburg after an almost 80-mile ride from Tazewell.

When they stopped to rest, they stopped in Blacksburg at a resident's house who had previously been a part of the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure for a warm meal and to rest their bodies for a bit. Together, with the new Sequoia Partnership Fuller Center located in Blacksburg, the cyclists also did work in the community on Friday, July 26, 2024 for community members in need of a helping hand.

The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure is not a race, but rather a way for people to get together and help others in need. The cyclists average somewhere between 45-75 miles per day of the 10-week adventure cross-country. Cyclists can join in at any point in the cross-country route. This summer's ride has had 18 riders who have gone cross country and about 55 who have come in and out along the scheduled route. This is possible because, according to Ride Leader Neil Mullikin, in the planning process of the routes they ensure the weekends are in transportation hubs so that people can join in throughout the ride. They ride alongside a

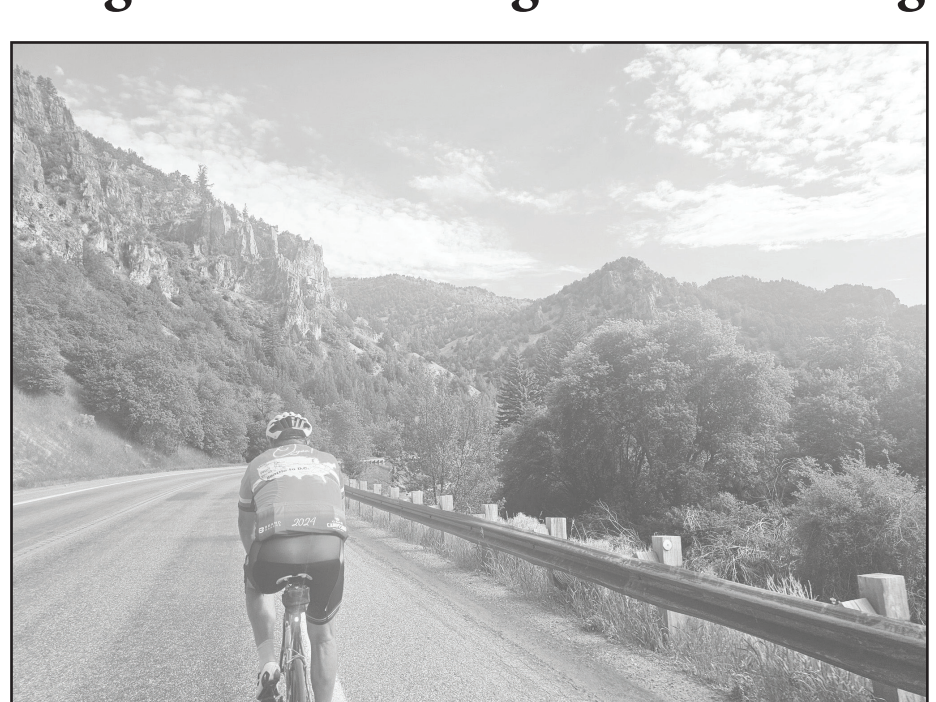


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FULLER CENTER

A cyclist travels along this year's route.

support vehicle and have churches and volunteers who support them along the way. They also pair with Fuller Centers throughout the country, like the one in Blacksburg, The Sequoia Partnership Fuller Center, and have the other cyclists riding alongside them for support and encouragement. Many of the cyclists say that this ride changes their lives, changes their perspectives and challenges them in ways they haven't been before.

"My experience in the past," Mullikin said, "I've worked on houses. I've done some landlord work.

I've been all kinds of things where I've worked with those things. I've also dealt with a lot of charitable organizations dealing with poverty and things on those lines like assisting with their finances. In addition, I've had a lot of cycling experience in the past, so everything came together, it just felt like a really nice fit. It felt like my whole life I've been planning and training for this particular role."

The Bicycle Adventure raises thousands of dollars that help go toward the builds that Fuller Centers do across the country to help those

in need of comfortable and safe housing. Fuller Centers around the nation have helped rebuild communities after natural disasters. They help community members who need wheelchair ramps, safety bars put into their showers and so much more to ensure that others have pride of place, dignity and accessibility.

The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure left Montgomery County on Saturday, July 27, 2024 toward Roanoke where they would stay for two nights and then finish the last leg of their ride to Washington D.C.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Disco light
- London radio station
- Aerospace Co. Morton
- Capital of Puglia, Italy
- A phantom or apparition
- Packed wine
- The ocean below 6000 meters
- 1st dynasty: AKA Xia
- Every
- Six (Spanish)
- His ark
- Segment or a circle
- Pres. Johnson or Obama
- 12th Greek letter
- The First Lady
- A blood group
- Takes to task
- Prints money (abbr.)
- Airbus manufacturer
- An instance of selling
- 12th month (abbr.)
- Baseball's Ruth
- 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo
- Weights deducted to obtain net
- To lie scattered over
- 6th Jewish month
- Physical mal-treators
- Founder Franklin
- Published

CLUES DOWN

- Fish of the genus Alosa
- Rock singer Turner
- Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds
- Turkish unit of weight
- Bovine genus
- Popular shade tree
- The principal foundation of
- La ___ Tar Pits
- Spanish hero soldier
- Brains egg-shaped grey matter
- Fundamental
- Bast
- Small angels
- Not or
- S Pacific island group
- Ad ___: impromptu
- Gen. ___ DeGaulle
- Hasidic spiritual leader
- Aluminum
- Considerate and solicitous care
- Popular Canadian phrase
- Consumed food
- Hayfields
- About Andes
- Secondary School Certificate
- Pen maker Castell
- Brand of clear wrap
- Past tense of bid
- Resort city on Lake Biwa
- Big Bear was chief
- A group of cattle
- The bill in a restaurant
- People of the Dali region of Yunnan
- One point S of due E
- Pig genus

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OBITUARIES

Goode, William Davis

William Davis Goode, of Radford, passed away at the age of 100, on Saturday, July 27, 2024. He was born on June 5, 1924.

Following his WWII service in the Army Air Corps as a navigator, he graduated with a degree in engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1947. He then worked as a mechanical engineer at Lynchburg Foundry in Radford for over 35 years. Following his retirement, he served as a consultant for the company. Bill was a longtime, faithful member of Central United Methodist Church and the Gideons. His life was a testimony to his Lord and Savior, church, family and community. He touched many lives through his love, generosity, compassion, service and faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents,



Ira Clay and Hinda Austin Goode; brothers, Joe, Benny and Austin Goode; and his sister, Marie Hobbs.

Survivors include his loving wife of almost 75 years, Polly Dunwoody Goode; daughters and son-in-law, Janet Goode Stahr (Richard), and Diane Rebecca Goode; granddaughters and their spouses, Chelsea Stahr MacMeekin (Scott), and Christine Ellen Stahr (Paul McSwain); great-grandchildren, William, Elle and Lola MacMeekin, and Dash and Hazel McSwain;

and many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Charles Judy, Donna Mooney and Michael Mullins for their loving and excellent care over many years.

A celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, at Central Church Radford with Pastor Doug Levy officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Central Church, P.O. Box 611, Radford, VA, 24143, or to Gideons International, P.O. Box 923, Radford, VA, 24143.

The Goode family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com

Szerokman, Annalee Inez Wilson

Annalee Inez Wilson Szerokman, 91, of Radford, passed away Friday, July 26, 2024. She was born on December 28, 1932. She was a member of Fairlawn Baptist Church. Annalee was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence William and Edith Hollingsworth Wilson; and her loving husband of 53 years, Andrew "Zeke" Szerokman.

Survivors include her sons and daughter-in-law, Drew Szerokman (Regina), and John Michael Szerokman (Vickie McCoy); grandchildren, Jaelyn Szerokman (Brandon



Groseclose), Brevin Szerokman, Mackenzie Talbert (Cody), Laiken Landreth (Jeremiah Hedge), Addison Hylton and Aidden Hylton; great-grandson, Kolton Hedge; lifelong friend, Janie Trobaugh; and

several other relatives and special friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 - 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services will begin at 2 p.m. with Rev. Greg Harrell officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Fairlawn Baptist Church.

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

Quest from page 1

attend informational sessions with officials from public safety, university services, and the financial aid and bursar's offices – covering everything from how the meal plans work to campus security and the various parking zones – and can find the answers to any questions they have.

During the visit, everyone also tours campus and becomes familiar, firsthand, with the dormitories and classrooms, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, the post office and library, the dining hall and food courts and other key locations.

Across this summer's dozen Quest sessions, which ran June 10 to July 16, Radford welcomed 2,101 incoming students and 2,727 family members.

The bulk of those were freshmen or transfers who came to the main campus, while some 116 students toured the Radford University Carilion site, and another 256 attended virtual sessions.

"That's the biggest incoming class we've had since COVID," said Jason Lucas, interim director of Student Connection Programs. "It's actually above and beyond all the goals and what everybody had planned."

Lucas has coordinated Quest since 2015, and despite the increased head count this year, he remains undaunted.

"It's very exciting that we have such a huge freshman class coming in," he said, adding that his daughter is attending Radford this year as a freshman, and she, too, attended Quest this summer.

Quest, Lucas said, "is really to get everybody ready for school to start in August, and to not overwhelm them and to let families know that, hey, we've got your student. They're part of our family now, and we'll treat them like that."

Another function is to help new Highlanders make a successful transition to higher education and connect with each other and the campus, faculty and staff.

"The number one student concerns are: 'Will I have friends? And where do I live? Where do I eat? How do I find my classes? And how will I not look like I don't know what I'm doing.' This

takes care of all that," Lucas explained.

Tours are specifically designed to allow students to bond with other students, with groups of only about 15 to 20, which he believes creates an optimal communal experience.

"If the group is like ... 50 students, that can be too big, and if you're in a group with five students, it can be awkward," Lucas said. "So, 15 to 20, that's the perfect amount."

While Quest is primarily a daylong event, there's also "pre-Quest," which gives students and families the option to arrive the day before and spend a night in the dorms – residing in private rooms with separate baths – now at no extra cost.

"We want families to come to Quest, so there's no charge," Lucas said.

Quest is very complex in its structure, often with multiple groups of visitors following separate schedules simultaneously, and between the officials, faculty members and facilities personnel, scores of Radford employees are involved in it.

Its core staff, however, are the program's 40 student leaders: They take part in activities like the flash mob that opens the day, and they act as university representatives and show students and families around campus.

"I had 200 apply for those 40 positions," Lucas said. "Quest has a great reputation for creating student leaders, and it's a great retention effort as well. Ninety-nine percent of students who work Quest, they become connected to the university and the faculty. They get involved in SGA [Student Government Association] and other leadership opportunities."

In the process of helping others, he said, they benefit, too.

"It's really rewarding to see the students go through Quest from the beginning of the summer to the end of the summer and to see where they are. That's probably the best part of the job because it's just so rewarding to see those students grow. It's the best job in the world."

Radford University

Historic Smithfield commemorates 250th birthday

Angelica Ramos

Contributing writer

BLACKSBURG- Historic Smithfield observed its 250th anniversary this past weekend with an event packed celebration.

The 250th Commemoration of Blacksburg's Historic Smithfield was themed "From Deep Roots, Forging an Inclusive Future." The theme centered on telling the full story of Smithfield's legacy. Completed in 1774, Smithfield predates the Declaration of Independence and thus the formation of the United States as we know it. Smithfield was the homestead of the Preston family who were influential in the history of the state of Virginia for decades, including establishing multiple universities across the nation that include University of Virginia and our very own, Virginia Tech. As Historic Smithfield was a colonial American plantation, its history, to this day, has a lasting impact.

The celebration debuted new informative placards around the grounds that explain the history of the place and are paired with videos that further tell the stories that Smithfield contains. For example, one of the placards tells the story of the Merry Oak, a tree in which the enslaved people of Smithfield held weddings, church, funerals and communed together on the property. Each placard has a QR code that links to a video further educating visitors.

The weekend started off with a Reunion Mixer at Smithfield Pavilion for descendants of the Preston family and community members. This was followed by a specially commissioned film by Chloe Shelton Films called "Showing the Roots of a Nation: The Smithfield Story." Tours were held showing the grounds, gardens, the Smithfield House and the family cemetery where visitors can see generations of Prestons, including Susannah Preston, in their resting place as well as the resting place of Virginia and two other formerly enslaved people.

The Museum Store was open all weekend for visitors to shop, buy gifts and buy books written by descendants, like Dr. Kerri Mosley-Hobbs, and historians. Panels were held on the second day of the Commemoration with descendants of the indigenous people, the enslaved people and the Preston family discussing and recognizing their entwined histories at Smithfield. The eventful weekend also hosted a dedication of a project by the Daughters of the American Revolution and living history with re-enactors, blacksmithing forge demonstrators and a historic canon.

The commemoration weekend ended with a remembrance event at Solitude where they remembered all of the people and the histories of the past, including the indigenous and enslaved.



The celebration debuted new informative placards around the grounds that explain the history. Each placard has a QR code that links to a video further educating visitors.



A reenactor educates visitors about what a soldier would wear and carry 250 years ago during the Historic Smithfield 250th anniversary celebration.

PHOTOS BY ANGELICA RAMOS

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RADFORD SPORTS

Camper wins all-county/ all-city player-of-year



Kadyn Camper was 20-2 on the mound this past season with 277 strikeouts, a school record at Christiansburg High School.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Punt, Pass, and Kick (PP&K) is a youth skills competition that tests participants' punting, passing, and placekicking abilities, and in 2014, Christiansburg's Kadyn Camper was a national champion in her age group.

The competition even gave Camper her own football card, which is selling for \$3 on the Internet.

"I really like football and would practice in the driveway," she said.

She never thought about playing football in high school, she said with a laugh.

But it was something else Camper claimed a state championship this past spring. She led Christiansburg High School to its first Class 3 softball title.

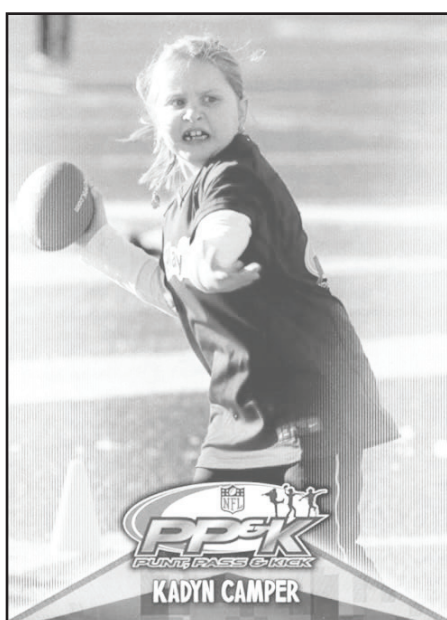
"It was our goal to win the state going into the season," she said, "and we did it."

Camper admits she made drastic improvement from her sophomore year to now.

"I put in a lot effort to get it right."

As a sophomore, she had 13 wins with 103 innings pitched with 173 strikeouts and only allowed .130 opponent's batting average and finished the season with an Earned Run Average of 1.43 and threw a one-hitter.

She finished 20-2 this season on the mound with 277 strikeouts and a .853 earned run average, while hitting .542 with 11 homeruns at the plate. She was



FILE PHOTOS

Kadyn Camper of Christiansburg was featured on a football card after appearing in the 2014 national Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

named first-team pitcher for the River Ridge District, Region D and state, and player of the year at all three levels.

All of this was accomplished with a torn labrum for the entire season.

Thanks to her effort, Camper has been named the all-county/all-city softball player of year and co-pitcher of the year.

For now, she is trying to work through the injury, preparing for the next chapter in her softball career at Purdue University.



Blacksburg's Lorelei Spradlin pitches in the rain during a contest with Christiansburg this past spring. Blacksburg would hand the cross-county rival one of its only three losses during the season.

Christiansburg's Gaynor all-county/all-city coach of year

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Sean Gaynor took over a Christiansburg program this past spring that had been experiencing a playoff drought.

Not only did that make the playoffs, the Blue Demons rolled to the school's first state title in softball and a 24-3 mark.

For his accomplishment, Gaynor has been named the 2024 all-county/all-city softball coach of the year. He was also named the all-district, all-region and all-state coach of the year.

His pitcher, Kadyn Camper, was named the all-county/all-city player of the year, and co-pitcher of the year.

Blacksburg's Lorelei Spradlin was the other co-pitcher of the year after completing a 7-0 record with 109 strikeouts.

Spradlin and Camper led a mound group that was outstanding this season. Joining the two on the all-county/all-city team were Machenzie Booth from Auburn and Mary Miller of Eastern Montgomery.

Miller finished with 433 strikeouts with only 34 walks. Booth was 9-3 with 120 k's, not giving up a single run in the district tournament and three rounds of regional tournament.

This year's unit included Blacksburg's Lindsay Polan at the first-base position. She was a major headache for opposing team's pitchers, hitting 11 homeruns and 32 RBIs. She finished with a .459 average.

Auburn's Kaylee Ramrattan was this year's second baseman. As a freshman, she was named first team all-district, first team all-region and second all-state. She would



FILE PHOTOS

Coach Sean Gaynor receives a Gatorade bath after taking Christiansburg to the state softball title game.

finish the year with a .431 average, 31 hits, five doubles, 21 RBIs, 26 runs scored and 10 stolen bases.

UVA-commit Addison Reazor of Christiansburg was named the all-county/all-city third baseman. Kathryn Price of Radford was the unit's shortstop.

Eastern Montgomery's Alexis Artrip led the outfield group with .382 batting average. She was joined by Auburn's Ariel Mullins and Blacksburg's Maddie Williams and Clara McMahon.

Blacksburg's Katey Mathena was the all-county/all-city catcher as she collected eight doubles, 38 hits, 32 RBIs while still stealing 16 bases.

Christiansburg's Kirsten Lowe was named to the all-county/all-city team as a utility player, and Radford's Addie Saunders was the team's designated hitter. Saunders finished with a .485 batting average from her leadoff position.

Auburn's Hensel all-county/all-city player of year

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School's dream of another state baseball title came to a halt in the playoffs this season in a 3-0 loss to eventual champion Rappahannock.

Brody Hensel was dominant for Auburn, pitching 50.1 innings to finish with a 9-1 record allowing only six runs and having 95 strikeouts and a 0.70 earned run average. At the plate, he hit for a .441 average with 27 RBIs. He also stole 18 passes.

For his effort, he was named both the Mountain Empire District and Region C player of the year. This week, the honors continued as Hensel was named the 2014 all-county/all-city player of the year.

His coach, Eric Altizer was named co-coach of the year along with Blacksburg's Dave Dunstan.

Auburn pitcher Josh Givens was named the all-county/all-city co-pitcher of the year after posting a 7-0 record and only allowing six runs all season. He finished with 93 K's and an unbelievable 0.30 ERA.

The other co-pitcher of the year was given to Radford player. Mason Murphy was outstanding on the mound this season with 110 strikeouts and two no-hitters. Both of those marks were school records.

Blacksburg also rolled in the state playoffs this spring with the help of first baseman Brice Abbott, who was named all-county/all-city at that position.

Eastern Montgomery's Cam Sutphin was the squad's second baseman. He had 15 RBIs and was 20 runs scored.

He was joined by Freshman teammate Marshall Tate at third base who hit for .365 average with 17 RBIs and



Brody Hensel got it done both at the plate and on the mound for Auburn. His coach Eric Altizer (left) give him a fist pump after hitting a triple this past spring.

a homerun. Christiansburg's Gavin Dow was this year's shortstop after stroking a .367 batting average.

The outfield was manned by Reese Tyson of Blacksburg, Jeremiah Thompson of Christiansburg and Jared Lavergne of Auburn. The latter, Lavergne posted team highs with a .517 batting average and 22 stolen bases. He also had a stretch of reaching base in 20 consecutive plate appearances.

Mathew Altizer of Auburn was this year's all-county/all-city catcher. He led the team in extra bases hits, 12 doubles, two triples, a homerun and 25 RBIs enroute earning the title of "most consistent."

The pitching rotation included Hensel and Murphy along with Eastern Montgomery's Austin Tate and



FILE PHOTOS

Coach Dave Dunstan led Blacksburg baseball to a 19-4 mark this season and an appearance in the state quarter-finals.

Christiansburg's Mason Cullop.

Tate finished with a 7-2 mark with 77 K's. He was named to the Pioneer District's first team, and the Region C second-team.

Cullop, who was both an all-district and al-region selection, with 32 K's in 37 innings pitched.

Colton Conner of Eastern Montgomery was named the utility player after hitting .340 with 10 stolen bases.

Lineburg, Crist honored by state association

Marty Gordon

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The Commonwealth Football Coaches Association (CFCA) has recognized a former coach and the current head coach from Radford High School.

Former coach Norm Lineburg, who has coached in six different decades, was given the CFCA Achievement Award. He has coached in more football games (454) than any other coach in the state and is the third winningest coach with over 300 victories.

Michael Crist led Radford to this past year's Class 1 state title and

was named the Region 5 Southwest Virginia coach of the year.

Academic honors for Christiansburg baseball

The American Baseball Coaches Association is proud to recognize the over 800-member college and high school programs from across the country that have been awarded the 2023-24 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award, which is presented by Sports Attack. Teams from every level of college and high school baseball were honored with this year's award, which highlights programs coached by ABCA members that posted a GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for the cumulative 2023-24 academic year.

Nearly 350 high school programs and more than 470 collegiate programs were recognized with this year's award including Christiansburg High School's baseball team.

Coaches were able to nominate their teams for the ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award following the conclusion of their spring semesters prior to the nomination deadline of July 11. To be honored, teams had to meet the following criteria:

Must be a high school or college team

Head coach must be a current ABCA member

Team must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale

for the 2023-24 academic year

The American Baseball Coaches Association has a long tradition of recognizing the achievements of baseball coaches and student-athletes.

Fan Day at Tech

As kickoff for football season draws closer, the Virginia Tech athletics department has announced a date for the 2024 edition of Fan Day. Fan Day presents Hokie Nation with the opportunity to interact with head coach Brent Pry and the rest of Tech's staff and players on Sunday, Aug. 11, inside the Beamer-Lawson practice facility. The event is free and open to

See Honor, page 10

Honor

from page 9

the public. Triumph NIL will host an exclusive session at 1 p.m. ET for its subscribers to meet with select Virginia Tech student-athletes and Pry. The entry policy entails those who are a paying subscriber of Triumph NIL and all children 18-and-under (up to two children per adult) who are accompanied by an adult who is a paying subscriber of Triumph NIL.

Hokie Kids' Club maroon level members and Maroon & Orange Memories Early Access purchasers will also receive exclusive early access, starting at 1 p.m. The general public will enter 15 minutes later at 1:15 p.m. The Fan Day festivities will conclude at 2:45 p.m.

Hanson, Valociek on scholar list
Two members of the Virginia Tech men's golf team were named 2023-24 Cobalt Golf All-America Scholars Thursday. Charlie Hanson and Kobe Valociek made the list comprising 531 NCAA Division I men's golfers from 180 schools.

To be eligible for Cobalt Golf All-America Scholar nomination, an individual must be a sophomore, junior or senior both academically and athletically in NCAA Division I,

II, III, and NAIA, or receiving their Associate's Degree and in their last year of athletic eligibility in the NJCAA. In addition, they must participate in 50% of their team's competitive rounds, have a stroke average under 76.0 in NCAA Division I, under 78.0 in NCAA Division II, under 79.0 in NCAA Division III, under 78.0 in NAIA, and under 77.0 in NJCAA, and maintain a minimum cumulative career grade-point average of 3.2. A recipient must also be of high moral character and be in good standing at their college or university.

Highlander festival at Sinkland
Radford University Athletics is excited to host Highlander Fan Fest on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 6-8 p.m. at Sinkland Farms.

2024 will mark the second straight year of Highlander Fan Fest, an evolution of the "Meet the Coaches Night" hosted in previous years. The evening will include food trucks, kids' activities, inflatables, and more to kick off the 2023-24 athletics season. Guests will still have the opportunity to meet and greet coaches from each of Radford's 16 teams, as well as learn more about each program.

The event is free for all to attend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD BOBCATS FOOTBALL

Radford Bobcats Head Football Coach Michael Crist (left), along with RHS Athletics Director Greg Wade (right), presents former Bobcats Coach Norm Lineburg and his wife, Joann Lineburg with the Commonwealth Football Coaches Association's CFCA Achievement Award.

Blacksburg swimmer qualifies for the Olympics

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Ian Ho grew up in Blacksburg and started swimming at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center spending many of his formative years competitively for the Blacksburg's club team, the H20kies.

He also spent time in the summers at Tech's Maroon and Orange Camp, where college swimmers counsel and coach high schoolers, participating as both a swimmer and a coach.

From there, he started swimming at Virginia Tech in what is called the sprint freestyle in the 50- and 100- yard events.

Ho was named to the All-ACC Academic Team and ACC Academic Honor Roll as a mechanical engineering major and took his training to the pool at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center.

This past week he took his career a step further, qualifying for the Paris Olympics as a representative on the Hong Kong National Team. He competed in the men's 100-meters on Tuesday.

Racing by himself Monday at the Hong Kong LC Swimming Time Trial IV, he became the first man from his nation to ever get under the 22-second threshold in the 50-meter freestyle. In the final heat, he set a 21.97 mark, making him just the sixth Asian man to break the 22-second mark.

Ho was a member of the Virginia Tech swim and dive team from 2015-2019. While at Tech, Ho qualified for ACC's all four years and competed in high level collegiate meets including NCAA's and the Toyota U.S. Open. As a Hokie he was a member of several team relays along with competing in his own sprint events at the top collegiate level.

In the summer after his freshman year, Ho competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials and finished 36th overall in the 50-meter freestyle. After graduation, Ho continued his training within the states and internationally in pursuit of his Olympic dream, which has now come to be a reality.



FILE PHOTO

Ian Ho hits the pool this past year at the Christiansburg Aquatics Center.

Gas prices dip from last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 3.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.38/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 5.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 20.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.78 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.91/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.08/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.91/g while the highest was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.08/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.47/g today. The national average is down 0.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 25.2 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:

- July 29, 2023: \$3.58/g (U.S. Average: \$3.73/g)
- July 29, 2022: \$4.00/g (U.S. Average: \$4.21/g)
- July 29, 2021: \$2.98/g (U.S. Average: \$3.16/g)
- July 29, 2020: \$2.00/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)
- July 29, 2019: \$2.50/g (U.S. Average: \$2.72/g)
- July 29, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)

- July 29, 2017: \$2.10/g (U.S. Average: \$2.31/g)
- July 29, 2016: \$1.93/g (U.S. Average: \$2.13/g)
- July 29, 2015: \$2.48/g (U.S. Average: \$2.68/g)
- July 29, 2014: \$3.34/g (U.S. Average: \$3.51/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

- Roanoke- \$3.33/g, up 2.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.31/g.
- Richmond- \$3.40/g, down 2.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.42/g.
- West Virginia- \$3.40/g, down 1.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.41/g.

"We continue to see a mixed bag when it comes to gas prices across the country: states in the Great Lakes region are still being jolted by the Joliet, IL refinery outage, which has also impacted gas prices in some areas of Canada, while areas like the West Coast continue to see notable declines," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With the summer winding down and GasBuddy data showing disappointing gasoline demand and struggling oil prices, we could eventually see the national average falling a bit more, especially once the refinery in Illinois restarts operations. While hurricane season hasn't been a factor yet, it's also just starting to get into its prime, and that does remain a quiet wildcard for now."

GasBuddy

CHCNRV introduces PromptCare to add Saturday hours for walk-ins in Christiansburg

CHRISTIANSBURG - The Community Health Center of the New River Valley (CHCNRV) is adding Saturday hours for walk-in medical appointments under the name CHCNRV PromptCare.

Starting Aug. 3, the Christiansburg Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Saturday to provide fast and affordable same-day medical services to the community. The expanded hours enhance accessibility and convenience for patients who may find it challenging to visit during the week and offer options for people with illnesses.

"Our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to individuals of all ages, regardless of their ability to

pay," said Michelle Brauns, Chief Executive Officer of CHCNRV. "CHCNRV PromptCare underscores the center's commitment to this mission and its dedication to the well-being of people in the New River Valley."

"We think this service will be very valuable for families," said Rebecca King-Mallory, MD, CMO - Chief Medical Officer. "Many of us are time stressed, but through CHCNRV PromptCare, it is easier to see a trusted local provider. If the expanded hours are positively received, we hope to expand it to other facilities and services in the near future."

Community Health Center of the New River Valley

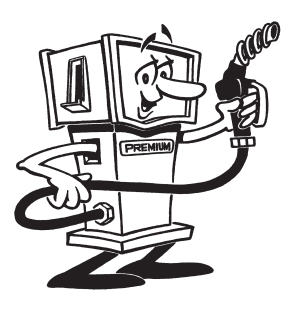
PETS OF THE WEEK

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.

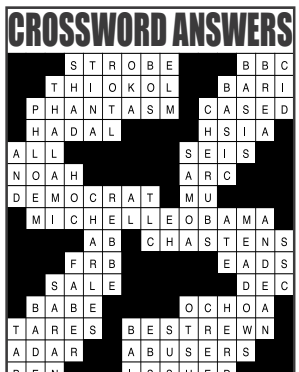
Friendly Maggie loves meeting new humans--big and small. She knows commands, including sit, speak, down, and roll over. Maggie could stand to shed a few pounds, but in the meantime, there's more of her to love!



Gummy Bear is a younger mama cat whose little ones have found homes. Now it's her turn! Gummy Bear is sweet and enjoys a good nuzzle, and she can't wait to meet you. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to find your purrfect match.



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