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Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority awards \$9.1 million, including to RU

On Friday, August 2, 2024, a committee of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) voted to award \$9,079,332 in funding to 16 different agencies of the Commonwealth for opioid abatement and remediation efforts.

Radford University was among those agencies, receiving \$210,698 for the second year of funding for the "Healing, Outreach, Prevention, and Empowerment (HOPE)" project run by the Radford Collegiate Recovery Program. Radford University will also carry forward \$90,908 from

the first year, thus the total expenditure will be \$301,606.

Under a statute that was passed into law in 2021, a minimum of 15 percent of opioid settlement funds paid to the Commonwealth is to be spent on abatement efforts managed by state agencies.

Senator Todd Pillion, Chairman of the OAA, said the awards will be used to expand and accelerate the fight against the opioid crisis in Virginia.

The OAA's financial support of these state agencies will allow Virginia to continue to lead the nation in fighting

the scourge of opioid and substance use, by investing in efforts that include prevention and education, research, treatment, and support for people in recovery," he said.

Funding for these projects is scheduled to be transferred from the OAA to the recipient organizations as early as October 1.

Dr. Sarah Thomason, a clinical pharmacist who chairs the OAA's Grants Committee, noted that with this latest round of awards, the OAA will have allocated nearly \$64 million in awards to cities, counties, and state agencies since the OAA began offering grants last year.

The approved projects were selected through a competitive process and included a review of proposals submitted by the agencies. The resulting awards will be the second allocation of OAA funds for state agencies. Funding for the OAA grants and awards is a result of Virginia's participation in numerous national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids. The payments from the various settling companies are expected to continue for at least 15 more years and will likely exceed \$1.1 billion in total funding.

The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55% of Virginia's total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30% is distributed directly to cities and counties and 15% to the Commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions aiming for the funds to be used for opioid abatement efforts.

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority



Members of the Collins family gather recently at the Radford Info and Welcome Center, which was the former site of Colonial Gulf Station, run by the Collins family for many years. Pictured Dana Collins, Dean Collins, Mike Collins, Sandra Caldwell, Stella Sarver, Gale Collins, Debbie Maxwell, Albert Collins and Donna Collins.

Radford's visitor center breathes life into longtime commercial building

Heather Bell

in the city, servicing the vehicles of

A half-century of hope:Karen Rodden's legacy at New River Valley **Community Services**

Destiny Haddock Contributing writer

For nearly half century, Karen a century, Rodden has been a beacon of hope at New River Valley Community Services, dedicating her career to supporting those in crisis.

Rodden's office at New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) was at one time covered with 1,000 flamingos - a cheerful reflection of her personality. She carries crystals and wears Turkish evil eye jewelry - bracelets, rings, and necklaces – as talismans of positivity. But it's her voice, filled with empathy and patience, that has become a lifeline for countless initial contact when the client is at their lowest and worst; with her kindness and patience and genuine care for others, she's able to connect with the client and create a smooth start to working with our company." Karen's daughter, Sarah Rodden, elementary school teacher, provides insight into her mother's impact. Sarah paused, collecting herself. "She's saved so many lives in this community. She's made people at rock bottom feel like there's hope." Her voice softened with admiration as she spoke about her mother's contributions. The Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration reports that in 2020, 41.4

Editor

RADFORD Whenever members of the Collins family visit Radford, they gather with family members who still live in the city and conversations often center on the Colonial Gulf Station, which Sherman Collins and his brother David and Bill Collins ran for decades in Radford.

Colonial Gulf was a mainstay

countless residents, and the Collins brood spent a lot of time there, from working side-by-side with their dads to just hanging out.

'I grew up at this station from the time I was 13 years old," recalls Mike Collins, Sherman's son.

"It was a great place to work," added Dean Collins, also Sherman's

"We had a good time as kids," said Mike.

"I used to love hanging out here as a kid and riding around in the wrecker truck," said Sandra Caldwell, Bill's granddaughter.

Gale Collins, former Radford vice mayor and city council member, said one of her greatest memories as a teenager was being allowed to drive the tow truck into the service

bay. "That was a big deal to be allowed

Internship gives students opportunities to work hard in recreation, local tourism



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Paige McNair, who just earned her degree in recreation, parks and tourism, is currently undertaking an internship with Beliveau Winery Farm in Blacksburg, Virginia. The job was arranged through a 400-level Professional Advancement in Tourism class.

One day last spring, when more than 300 guests attending a sorority formal stepped off buses at the Beliveau Winery Farm in Blacksburg, Virginia, a particularly capable individual was ready and waiting to answer their questions and to direct lots and lots of foot traffic.

It was Paige McNair '24, who just earned her degree in recreation, parks and tourism with a concentration in special events.

McNair, a Chesapeake, Virginia, native, is currently an intern with the winery – courtesy of her 400-level Professional Advancement in Tourism

class - and she's getting comprehensive, experiential education in event planning.

"That was the biggest

See Internship, page 2 individuals during her 49-year career.

Karen has witnessed the evolution of mental health services and the growing awareness of its importance. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, onein-five U.S. adults experience mental each illness vear, showing the critical nature of Karen's work. Karen's coworker, Amy Caldwell, who has worked with her for two and a half years, Karen's highlights crucial role within their organization: "Karen is one of the first people that a client will speak to when they contact NRVCS. She's the

million adults received mental health services. For many in the New River Valley, Karen has been an integral part of accessing those crucial services. Karen Rodden has been the voice on the other end of the line for thousands of individuals in their darkest moments. Her journey began with a curiosity about psychology and a desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Rodden's initial exploration into mental health was sparked by coursework in psychology at Radford University,

See **Rodden**, page 3



PHOTO BY DESTINY HADDOCK

Karen Rodden showcases one of her flamingo pouches, containing her favorite crystals. Rodden is retiring from New River Valley Community Services after nearly 50 years of service.

See Visitor Center, page 2

PCOMING EVENTS Wednesday, Aug. 7:

Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Jennifer Levasseur Step inside one of the greatest international achievements with a virtual behind-the-scenes guide to space exploration with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur at 2 p.m.

via digital live-stream in partnership with Radford Public Library! #smithsonian #NationalAirandSpaceMuseum #History #InternationalSpaceStation Register and view more Author Talks here: https://libraryc.org/ radfordlibrary/52345

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.

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.

11th Annual Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise

At Warm Hearth Village Center, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg; 6 -10 p.m. Get ready to dance up an appetite with The Breakfast Club Band and The Panjammers then indulge in refreshing tropical drinks, gourmet cheeseburgers, and delicious Caribbean fare. Don't miss the silent auction featuring one-of-akind items and experiences - all to benefit the Warm Hearth Foundation and seniors who call Warm Hearth Village home. In celebration of Warm Hearth's Golden Anniversary, we will have a limited number of special golden tickets with a VIP mix and mingle from 5-6p.m. Tickets on sale now. Visit retire.org and click on Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise in the upper right part of the home page.

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

Grownup Board Game Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2- 4 p.m. Bring a game, bring a friend, or just bring yourself to the library for some quality grownup board gaming time! Pick a game from our collection or bring something from home and teach us how to play.

Rockin' Main Street Concert

On East Main St., Christiansburg, 5-9 p.m. The Town of Christiansburg is hosting Rockin' Main Street, a fun-for-all event with live music from two exciting artists. The evening will start with Solacoustix taking the stage at 5 p.m., performing a wide range of styles including blues, R&B, country and rock. Then at 7 p.m., local singer and songwriter, Travis Reigh will perform, bringing a captivating blend of country and rock, filling a musical void you didn't know you had. Beer, wine, and food trucks will be available at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to sit watch the live music. Be sure to bring your IDs if you plan to purchase beer or wine.

Sunday, Aug.11:

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. 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.

Monday, Aug. 12-Friday, Aug. 23:

CAC Annual Maintenance

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be closed for annual maintenance to complete work that cannot be completed while the center is open.

Tuesday, Aug. 13:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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.

Thursday, Aug. 15:

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 on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. Member Seth Gravely will present Part two of his talk on the "History of the 29th Virginia Infantry". For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

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.).

Tuesday, Aug. 20:

August TRIAD-Artificial Intelligence (AI)

TRIAD/S.A.L.T. is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies (police/sheriffs), senior citizens, and senior organization, focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors. Presentation on AI will cover the history and what is AI. What is AI being used for in general. What areas you may see it in and how you will be affect by AI. What is coming soon and what is in the future. Followed by Q&A. TRIAD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1:30 p.m. You are invited to attend.

Saturday, Aug. 24:

Heritage Day

Join us for a journey back in time at Heritage Day 2024, sponsored by the Montgomery Museum of Art & History. Immerse yourself in the rich history of Christiansburg, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., in downtown Christiansburg, 4 E Main St. and 300 South Pepper St. Step into the past with over 40 vendors showcasing crafts, artifacts, and more. Indulge your taste buds with a variety of delectable treats from food trucks while enjoying the delightful tunes of live music and dance throughout the day. Keep the little ones entertained with a hayride and specially curated activities just for

Visitor Center from page 1

to do, because it took a lot of precision - it was a pretty tight fit," she said.

The Collins family was well known for helping folks out when it came to getting their vehicles towed or serviced. Fair prices, personal customer service and highquality work kept customers coming back. These days, the building is once again a focal point in the city as the Radford Info and Welcome Center. Radford Economic

Internship from page 1

event I've handled so far," said McNair, whose internship continues across the summer and who hopes to become a wedding planner. "I was looking for something that would help me learn about how to coordinate events, as well as give me hands-on experience.'

Indeed, through the floor-to-ceiling scope of her work, she's getting her share of entry-level tasks, like greeting crowds and serving beverages, but she's also learning how to schedule, plan and budget the types of gatherings she hopes to one day oversee herself.

Her mentor in that process, Joyce Beliveau, opened the winery in 2012 on 165 acres of land, with a brewery added five years ago, and she's now sharing her experience with McNair.

"I want her to take, from start to finish, the whole process of what it means to be in charge. That's the goal for the summer," Beliveau explained. "If she goes to a company that needs an event planner, I want her to be able to put on her resume, 'I created an event and planned all the details."

Part of that involves brainstorming event accessories like live music and complimentary refreshments, but it also means careful budgeting so that the money coming in well eclipses the costs.

"We've got to make sure that at the end of it, we've got a profit. We're trying to get her very much involved with setting up the projected income and then the actual income," Beliveau said.

McNair is one of about a dozen students using Radford's Professional Advancement in Tourism course as a springboard. Others secured internships Development Director Kim Repass said the re-use of the building is a great way to keep history alive.

"This piece of property will always hold long lasting memories to our community as Sherman's Gulf Station," she said. "Anyone that has lived in Radford during those years has a story of how that gas station and its employees have impacted their life. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the city to now house our Info and Welcome Center on the grounds of so much history."

The Radford Info and Welcome Center has literature for visitors and residents about Radford and also sells an array of Radford and Radford Bobcat-themed items, like clothing and travel mugs. It is located at 701A W. Main St. and is open Tuesday- Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

around the New River Valley with the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau, the Mountain 2 Island water adventure company, the Draper Mercantile and elsewhere.

The class was created two years ago by Joshua Carroll, a professor in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. His course gives student job candidates on-the-job training in their fields of interest and fits neatly into President Bret Danilowicz's goal of forming greater bonds between the university and local businesses.

The Professional Advancement in Tourism class was created two years ago by Joshua Carroll, a professor in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. His course gives student job candidates on-the-job training in their fields of interest: "We built quite a following. I have businesses now that email me, asking, 'Hey, are you teaching that course again?'" Carroll said.

"I literally just started reaching out to a bunch of my contacts, people I know in tourism in the region," and offering them the services of senior-level students seeking mentorships," Carroll said.

We built quite a following. I have businesses now that email me, asking, 'Hey, are you teaching that course again?"

Carroll's class is separate from the department's required senior-level internship: "It's a way for students to dive deeply into their own goals and aspirations and gain experience that gives them a head start in finding their desired personal path."

Their process actually begins well

before their first day at work.

"I start the whole class off with a soul-search activity. I ask them, 'Where do you envision yourself five years from now? What's your job? What's your lifestyle? What's your calling?" he said. "And what do you want to get out of this semester, realistically?"

They examine their core strengths, develop professional goals and build a timeline of success, then find a business that matches their ambitions, connect with it and establish an internship with a supervisor.

"I have them create a contract with them. I do that, really, to protect everybody," Carroll said. "'This is what you as a professional expect from me, and this is what I expect from you."

Jennings Felt, a senior from Purcellville, Virginia, wants to become a community event planner; she landed an internship with Lightning H Ranch, a new venue currently under construction in Pulaski.

Felt has been working with the owners on their marketing, social media and web presence.

"It's been really beneficial to see behind the scenes," she said. "I'm going to be helping with planning their grand opening event.

"It's cool to be able to have that 'from the ground up' experience with a venue."

When it came to brainstorming a dream job, Megan Reed has long focused on theme parks. Reed, who double majors in theater and parks and recreation, will graduate next spring and hopes to get a job as an actor or performer at Walt Disney World or

Universal Studios Florida.

Megan Reed, who double majors in theater and parks and recreation, will graduate next spring. From January through March, she interned at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, altering and repairing costumes for the show "Escape to Margaritaville" while also appearing in "Bat Boy: The Musical" on campus.

"They've always been places to have fun, and I really like giving that experience to other people," she said. To prepare her for that, from January through March, she interned at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, altering and repairing costumes for the show "Escape to Margaritaville" while also appearing in "Bat Boy: The Musical" on campus.

"I was very, very busy, but it was a great experience just to see how a professional theatre works. At Mill Mountain, they have a makeup and wig designer," Reed said. "Having professional theatre experience on my portfolio really helps."

During the semester, students also presented a summary debriefing of their experiences. That gave all the interns a chance to discuss their individual experiences and share information about their progress.

"I think it genuinely has made me very excited for my end goal and my career path," McNair said of the class. "It's just kind of confirmed that this is something that I am excited about and ready to do for 50-plus years."

Neil Harvey for Radford University

BITUARIES

Redd, Brian Keith

Brian Keith Redd, 47, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away Tuesday, July 30, 2024. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, James Sr. and Lucy Redd; and his maternal grandparents, William Sr. and Louise Brooks.

Survivors include his father and stepmother, James, Jr. and Dreama Redd; mother, Shirley Ann Brooks Redd; and



a host of aunts, uncles,

cousins and close friends. The family will receive friends from 12 until 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Eric Ramey

officiating. The family of Brian Redd is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Clayton is also preceded in

death by a granddaughter.

of service, he served on

several ships, and he received the National

Defense Medal, Navy

and the Vietnam Service

Medal. When he got out

of the Navy, he worked for the Department of

Corrections in Virginia

then retired to Blacksburg

he'd give you the shirt

off his back. His favorite

thing to do was watch the

news and read his Bible.

Expeditionary

to

Medal,

Clayton was a veteran of the United States Navy. In his 21 years Terri Lynn Wade Reese, 66, of Dublin, Terri Wade passed away Monday, July 29, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents, Romma Harvey, Sr. and Shirley Ramsdell Wade.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Jessica Hoover (Paul); son and daughter-in-law, Matt Ratcliffe (Ginger); grandchildren, Allyson Äkers, Camden Bain (Maggie), Cole Bain, Austin, Sadie and Zariah Ratcliffe, and Jessie and



Reese, Terri Lynn Wade

Damien Moore; brother and sister-in-law, Kurt Wade (Erin); special Sandra Nelson; friend,

other numerous and family members and special friends.

The family received friends Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Burial followed in Highland Gardens in Memory Dublin.

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

Steve Ripoll (Nanita);

nieces, Rebecca Folchi

(Brandon), and Angie Turner; nephew, Steven

Ripoll (Nicole); and

numerous other family

members and special

Bob had a very special bond with his grandson, Brody. He will live on

through Brody not only in looks but the

personality similarities

are uncanny. Bob had

a bright smile, and his

humor was unmatched.

He was always making everyone laugh. The Ripoll family is

in the care of Mullins

Crematory in Radford.

Funeral Home

not

friends.

Holmes, Clayton J.

Clayton J. Holmes, 87, of Blacksburg, passed away at 10:07 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024. A viewing will be held

on Monday, August 5 2024, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, at the Holmes Family Cemetery in Blacksburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the Blacksburg Rescue Squad or Charity of your choice.

Clayton was born Dec. 11, 1936, in Madison, Wisconsin to the late Clayton E and Alyce Hahn Holmes. He married Josephine Halstead on July 11, 1960, in Shady, West Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years



along with six children, Velecia Roth of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Anna Aquino of San Francisco, Clayton California, of (Chris) Fluvanna (Chris) of Fluvanna County, Virginia, Leroy (Kim) of Blacksburg, Harry (Margaret) of Blacksburg, James Blacksburg, James (Rhonda) of Blacksburg; 14 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents,

Rodden from page 1

where she quickly transitioned from administrative tasks to frontline crisis intervention. "I moved to a clinic as a front desk secretary in 1975, and found my passion for helping others," she recalls. Since Rodden's early days at NRVCS, the organization has grown exponentially. "When I started, we had about 15 employees," she notes, leaning back in her seat, marveled at NRVCS's growth since her early days. Today, NRVCS employs between 600 and 800 staff members, and providing comprehensive mental health and addiction treatment services throughout the New River Valley.

The depth of Karen's commitment is evident in how she goes above and beyond her job requirements. Amy recounts, "One instance, I recall, an established client got to the screen room and was in need of their medication and was having such a hard time getting to speak with someone. Karen verified their needs and that they were safe and then contacted med service to speak to the nurse for the client to help resolve the issue, so the client only had to talk to her to have the issue resolved." Sarah adds a personal anecdote that illustrates her mother's compassion: "I remember someone was really struggling to feed their pet while they were struggling with their mental health, and they were in a grave living situation. And so, Mom literally spent the majority of her day trying to find this dog food because she heard it in the background of the phone call," she said. Karen Rodden later quietly delivered dog food to the client's clinic for four months, her daughter added. Karen's ability to truly listen is one of her most valuable assets. Amy notes, "She listens to learn not to respond. Because of that she catches things that others would bypass, and she digs into that, getting more information and offering more help because she's getting all the information at once." Over her long career, Karen has witnessed and adapted to numerous changes in the mental health field. Amy humorously quotes from the movie "Mean Girls" to describe Karen's adaptability: "The limit does not exist. The only constant with NRVCS is change and Karen takes it like a champ and excels with the changes." The evolution of technology has been particularly significant. She recalled the days of typewriters and carbon paper, where a single error meant retyping entire pages. Rodden chuckled, her eyes twinkling with mischief as she recalled the days of typewriters and carbon paper. "If there was an error in the report, I'd have to type the whole page over," she said, mimicking the clacking of typewriter keys with her fingers. She leaned in, as if sharing a secret. "Now you can just edit it, but I got so crafty at fixing mistakes without retyping. The impact of Karen's work extends beyond her professional life. Sarah reflects, "Growing up, I was engulfed in mom's job because I went there as an infant. I was in a playpen growing up there." She laughed softly, recalling her mother's coworkers. "Many of them became like aunts to me, especially in the '80s and '90s when Mom

worked with her best friends." Sarah's expression grew thoughtful. "I learned very quickly how to be empathetic and the importance of empathy. Now that I'm a teacher, I think I'm open to understanding more about the issues that each individual has and how to problem-solve in a more positive way for them." Karen's dedication to her work has shaped her family life in profound ways. Sarah explains, "She's definitely shown me work ethic and what it means to stick with something both good and bad, but the work ethic has really taught me that I need to be patient, and I need to work hard towards my goals and if I don't have them right now, I need to just keep holding on."

Despite the emotional toll of her work, Karen finds balance through her love of music, gardening, and shopping. "Music has been a part of me since my teens," Rodden said. "I grew up in the era of '60's and '70's music, the real music, the Rolling Stones, and all those. I always have

Ripoll, Robert Gregory

Robert Gregory Ripoll, 60, of Fairlawn, passed away Friday, Aug. 2024.

Born to William and Marlene Ripoll, he was raised in Milford, Ohio although most of his extended family lived in West Virginia. A place that he also called home. Bob was an outdoorsman. He loved to fish, camp, and took pride in his work. He lived in many states but eventually settled in Virginia.

Bob leaves behind his loving daughters, Jessica

ETS 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.

(Donna)

and

Luna is an older gal looking for a home with a comfy place to relax. She's sweet, happy, and docile, and she gets along with other dogs. She's also pretty smart, too! Luna knows commands: sit, down, shake/ paw. Stop by to meet this pawsome doggo!





Lady Bugis a shy kitty who enjoys a good head scratch, once she gets comfortable. Lady Bug is currently living in a community cat room at the Animal Care and Adoption Center and shows that she likes the company of other cats.

Lucius; his beautiful grandchildren, Ronnie, RaeLynn, Haylee, Wyatt, Brody, Melora, Benny and Levi; his parents, William and Marlene Ripoll; brothers and William sisters-in-law,

Ripoll

the family farm. Clayton was a man of the and take in the scenery. Ripoll and Ashley Ripoll Bob loved to watch the Cincinnati Bengals! He Lord and a family man. His love for his wife and family was second to was a vibration analyst none. If he knew you, you were not a stranger, and

music on regardless of where I'm at." She recently attended a Rolling Stones concert with her daughter, her fourth time seeing the band, and one of many shared experiences that highlight the joy she brings to both her personal and professional life. Perhaps most poignantly, Amy summarizes the lifesaving nature of Karen's work: "Her being the first person a suicidal person speaks to, someone who is ready to end it all now, speaks to her and she helps them find a reason to try and gives them the tools they need to try as well. She follows up on clients, she makes them feel heard, seen, and valued. Her presence has saved many people, and it will continue as long as she's here."

As Karen approaches her final months at NRVCS before retiring this fall, her legacy of compassion, and resilience, unwavering commitment to mental health support continues to inspire both her colleagues and the community she serves. Her story stands as a testament to the profound impact one voice can have on countless lives. Her departure marks the end of an era for the agency, but her legacy of resilience and advocacy will continue to influence mental health services in the region. "I still find the field fascinating." she admits with a smile, contemplating her future beyond NRVCS. Her impact spans generations of clients and colleagues, leaving behind a ripple effect on our community of legacy bound in compassion and hope.

New River Valley Community Services has expanded significantly since Karen Rodden joined nearly five decades ago, now offering a comprehensive range of mental health and substance abuse services. These include crisis intervention, featuring a 23-hour Crisis Center in Radford, forensic evaluations, community outreach programs collaborating with schools and law enforcement, and medication management services. While specific program details would require verification with NRVCS, it's clear the agency has evolved significantly to meet the diverse mental health needs of the New River Valley community.

AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Disaster Scams

In 2023, post-disaster fraud cost Americans over \$9.3 billion, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). With hurricane and wildfire season in full swing, it's important to remind ourselves that when the clouds roll out and the smoke clears, criminal scammers tend to move in.

Following extreme weather events, criminals impersonate government, utility, and insurance workers. They may show up at your door or call with promises of federal grants, priority repairs, or faster claim processing in exchange for a fee or up-front deposit.

While actual Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agents may visit your home to assist, they will

never ask for payment and will carry a government-issued laminated photo badge. A FEMA shirt or jacket is NOT proof of identity.

Be cautious of door-to-door insurance and utility solicitations promising special or expedited assistance. Even if the offer appears genuine, ask for more information, and never give money on the spot. You should also contact your insurance or utility company through pre-established channels to confirm that an offer is legitimate.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

AARP Virginia

One vehicle wreck claims a life

A Franklin County man died as the result of a single vehicle crash Saturday, Aug. 3 in Riner.

According to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, "deputies from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, along with Riner Fire Department, and Montgomery County Fire and EMS responded to the 5600 block of Riner Rd/Route 8, near the intersection of Broad Shoals Road" at approximately 8:42 p.m.

On arrival, deputies located a single vehicle crash, a Ford pickup

truck that had been "traveling north toward Christiansburg when the vehicle ran off the left side of the roadway and struck a tree."

"Montgomery County first responders rapidly extricated the driver and attempted life saving measures. The driver of the Ford, 22-year-old Nathan Cole Jefcoat of Franklin County, Virginia was not wearing a seatbelt

and was pronounced dead at the scene."

Staff report



OPINION **Reliable internet can help shape communities**

Last week, the administration of Governor Glenn Youngkin released a huge announcement as it relates to the local expansion of broadband internet infrastructure. A \$4.2 million Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant will be awarded to Giles County in the ongoing effort to ensure that all citizens will be able to access this vitally important technology. I have been very vocal in my support for this funding on the state level as I've seen firsthand how reliable internet access can shape communities. I could not be more pleased that the administration listened and acted on this need.

The VATI grant, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is designed to improve internet access in underserved areas. The grant will be utilized to construct new broadband infrastructure, including the installation of fiber-optic cables and the upgrading of existing networks. These improvements are expected to provide faster, more reliable internet services to hundreds of residents and businesses, ultimately fostering greater opportunities for remote work, online education, and e-commerce.

In addition to improving connectivity, the grant is anticipated to stimulate local economic growth. Enhanced broadband infrastructure can attract new businesses, support the expansion of



existing ones, and create job opportunities in the technology sector. For local students, the upgrade will mean improved access to online learning resources, bridging gaps that have hindered educational advancement in the past. Our region has long faced challenges related to limited broadband coverage, and this was made painfully clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students endured widespread challenges in accessing online coursework, and home businesses without reliable internet access suffered greatly. This investment will help ensure that Giles County does not bear an inordinate burden moving forward in this new economy.

The grant also reflects broader state and local efforts to address the digital divide that has long plagued rural America. As part of Virginia's broader strategy to expand high-speed internet access statewide, the VATI grant for Giles County highlights a commitment to ensuring that even more remote areas in the Commonwealth are not left behind in the digital age.

The importance of this development cannot be overstated. Reliable internet access is increasingly critical in today's age, affecting everything from education and healthcare to economic development and social interaction. Much like before rural electrification, urbanized zones have often benefitted earliest – and the most – from access to new technologies that enhance economic activity. As broadband infrastructure continues to expand in our region, expect there to be more opportunities for economic growth, positive educational outcomes, and more. I could not be more pleased to play a part in this exciting news, and I wholeheartedly thank all local, state, and federal partners for the hard work it took to create this success story for the region.

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.

This back-to-school season, talk to your graduate about money

The start of the school year is quickly approaching. If you have a child entering college or the workforce this fall, now is a great time to talk about money. Consider the tips below to guide the conversation:

Help your child establish a budget for the next phase of life. A new phase of life often brings a new set of expenses. Begin by exploring the new costs your child may incur and offer to sit down and help them create a budget. For high school graduates, new expenses can include tuition for college, textbooks, housing, food and



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discretionary spending. Online estimators can be useful tools to discern how to allocate funds by category. If you typically covered your child's expenses throughout high school, educate them on what a typical grocery bill or trip to the movies can cost. This will help them gain perspective on their expenses going forward.

Set financial expectations. As your child grows toward financial independence, it is beneficial to have a conversation with them about what help they can expect from you, if any, and what costs they are responsible for.

If your child is headed to college or trade school, discuss how tuition will be paid for and whether you'll cover any associated room and board expenses, technology fees, travel to return home, etc. Can your child rely on scholarships or help from a 529 plan? Will they need to pick up a job? To help answer these questions, encourage your child to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All students can apply regardless of their family's financial status. The FAFSA process will let your child know what federal financial aid may be available to them. If loans need to be taken out by you, your child

While it's natural to want to support your child as much as you can, it's important to think about how to thoughtfully transition the financial responsibility to their shoulders over time. As a starting point, consider the difference between funding a key milestone – such as college tuition or a car that's necessary for their employment and funding ongoing daily lifestyle expenses or wishes, like concert tickets or meals out. Some parents desire to cover all expenses while a child is in college so they can focus on their education. If you share this viewpoint, set any boundaries and decide an end date of when they will be fully responsible for their own expenses – perhaps at graduation or when they land a full-time job. Additionally, when a large expense arises like a new car or graduate school, consider co-signing a loan instead of writing a check. This approach can help them lock in a lower-interest rate or more favorable repayment terms, while encouraging some financial independence.

Set boundaries for future milestones. Once expectations are established for the financial responsibilities in your child's next phase of life, have a conversation with your spouse or partner about how you'll handle future milestones, such as a wedding or home purchase. Giving money to adult children can be a sensitive subject, and it's an important one to be on the same page about. If you and your partner have work to do to align your viewpoints you're not alone: recent research from my firm, Ameriprise Financial, found that 72% of couples support adult family members financially – yet 14% of couples disagree on how much financial support to give. Have open

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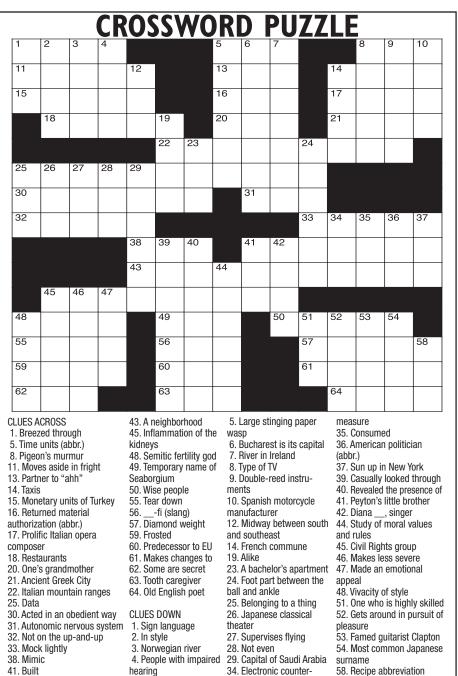
or both for school, review the terms, including interest rates and payback schedule.

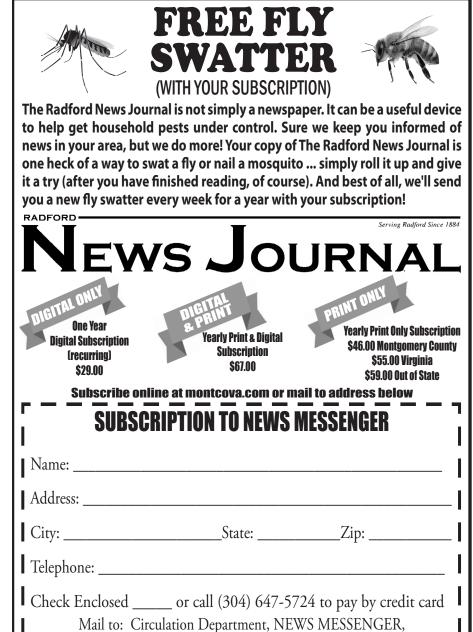
If your child is headed directly into the workforce, discuss how to approach paying for rent, commuting to work, and other common expenses. Determine if your child can look to you for help in their first few months of expenses as they get on their feet. Discuss what bringing home a post-tax paycheck looks like and advise on saving and spending income.

Consider alternate ways to help your kids.

dialogue about how much monetary support is important to you to provide and consider putting a financial plan in place to guide future decisions.

The back-to-school season is a great time to consider what financial preparedness looks like in the next phase of your child's life. Know that your financial advisor is there to help you establish your financial strategy and comfort level with helping your children financially while staying on track to meet your biggest goals.





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WITHROW MARTIN LEE, ET AL. V. N.E. CALDWELL, ET AL STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER V. MAGGIE S. RENOLDS, ET AL.: HARRY W. KESSLER, JR. V. CLYDE M. ROACH HENRY ROACH, JR., RONNIE NEWMAN, SHERRY PLASTERS DEBBIE STUTLER DANIEL NEWMAN, MERLE WOODS, NANCY CECIL, CHARLOTTE WOOD GORDON, ROBERT MURRAY, RUSSELL SMITH. IDA LEE SMITH AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT J. REYNOLDS GROVER T. HUFFMAN ADMINISTRATOR FOR **B.W. CARPER** DECEASED V. VIOLET CLAPSADDLE, ET AL.; MARY B. LITTLE, ET AL V. WILBUR STAKES, ET AL.; JAMES L. PAITSEL, SR. AND SARAH B. GRAHAM CO-EXECUTORS OF ELOISE G. CRAFT ESTATE V. D.F. HOUSTON; IN RE ESTATE OF W.E. MILLS; EDITH HALL V. JOHN DEMPSEY ROACH, ET AL.: LESLIE ALBERT: CLARA ALFORD: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GEORGE BRITT M BROWN, ET AL.; J.E. BRYAN; FLORA BUGG; GEORGE BUGG; **UNKNOWN HEIRS** OF LAW G. CARPER: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; VIOLET CROWDER; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J. DUDDING; EPPERLY V. LOONEY: EVELYN GOODWIN; ETHEL JENNINGS: ALBERTA JOHNSON; ERNEST JOHNSON: MARY MAE PEYTON; ESTATE OF MINERVA REYNOLDS ROBERT SARVER: SUE STRINGFELLOW: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ADAM TAYLOR; D.B. TROUTT; VIRGINIA HIGHWAY V. SIXEAS; PAMALA YOUNG, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendants ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this suit is to disburse funds held by the

JULY 22, 2024 TIFFANY COUCH, CLERK

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No.CL24001203-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court. 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1 CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AMBER LEE, KANE GALLIMORE v COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR. It is ORDERED that KALEB WARREN GALLIMORE appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 11,2024. JULY 30,2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,20-104 Case No.CL24-1097 VIRGINIA: IN THE **CIRCUIT COURT OF THE** COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, a Municipal locality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. HAZEL TERRY JUSTICE. ET AL., Respondent(s).

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before August 31, 2024 in the Clerk's Office of the

All persons affected by or interested in the proposed items above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

Blacksburg Motor Company

Building, 400 South Main

Street, Blacksburg, Virginia

capital, capitalized interest, costs of issuance and other financing expenses related to the issuance of the Bonds (collectively (1) through (2), the "Plan of Finance").

and it also appearing that the whereabouts and identity if any alternative birth father are otherwise

unknown It is ORDERED that ANTARIO MADDOX and/or UNKNOWN the above-named child, a child whose birth mother is Karina Maldonado, appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before SEPT. 10,

Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944

TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/FOF/Drug Free Workplace Bilingual ability is a plus

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, county of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 526-2404 Account No. 010023 All that certain lot or parcel

of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto General Receiver of the belonging situate, lying and Circuit Court, which funds being in the Town of have been held by the Christiansburg, Riner General Receiver for more Magisterial District of than one year and remain Montgomery County, unclaimed. An Affidavit Virginia, designated as Tax having been filed stating Map Number 526-24 4 that due diligence has been Parcel ID Number 010023,

Circuit Court of The County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 22day of July, 2024 K. Mike Fleenor, Jr. Judge

I Ask For This: John A. rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805 Jeffrey A Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No.86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Seth R. Konopasek, Essq (VSB No. 97065) Garrett W. Patton, Esq (VSB No. 98345) Taxing Authority Consulting Services PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 545-2500 Facsimile (804) 545-2378 TACS No. 495984

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No.CL24001203-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1 CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AMBER LEE KANE GALLIMORE v COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR. It is ORDERED that KALEB WARREN GALLIMORE appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 11,2024 JULY 30,2024 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG -NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday,

Legals -**Botetourt County**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX-EXEMPT BOND FINANCING OF THE VIRGINIA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority (the "Authority") will hold a public hearing on the application of Virginia Baptist Homes, Inc. (d/b/a LifeSpire of Virginia), a Virginia nonstock corporation (the

"Borrower"), whose address is 3961 Stillman Parkway Glen Allen, Virginia 23060. requesting the Authority to issue, pursuant to the Virginia Small Business Financing Act, Article 7, Chapter 22, Title 2.2, Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Act"), up to \$38,000,000 of the Authority's tax-exempt bonds (the "Bonds"), in one or more series from time to time. The Bonds are expected to be issued as qualified 501(c)(3) bonds as

The public hearing, which may be continued or

adjourned, will be held at 12:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, before the Authority or its designee, at 101 N. 14th Street. 11th Floor

Richmond, Virginia 23219.

As required by the Act, the Bonds will not pledge the faith and credit or the taxing power of the Commonwealth of Virginia or any political subdivision thereof, including the Authority, and will be payable solely from revenues derived from the Borrower and pledged therefor. Any person interested in the Plan of Finance, the issuance of the Bonds or the location or purpose of the projects to be financed or refinanced may appear and be heard A copy of the Borrower's application materials may be inspected by contacting Angela Reese, during regular business hours VIRGINIA SMALL **BUSINESS FINANCING**

AUTHORITY Legals -

City of Radford **ABC NOTICE**

CASA FAMILIA LLC. trading as LA CATRINA 103 THIRD AVE, RADFORD, MONTGOMERY CO., VA 24141

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a BEER, WINE AND MIXED **BEVERAGES** license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages

AMANDA BRINKLEY, OWNER.

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

2024 at 8.30 am

August 5, 2024 RUBY STUMP, CI FRK

Legals -Roanoke County

SEALED BID SALE SALE OF REAL ESTATE **BENT MOUNTAIN** ROAD (ROUTE 221) ROANOKE, VIRGINIA PMI 1001183 Sealed bids will be

accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Salem District Right of Way and Utilities Division located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, Virginia 24153, until, but no later than 12:00 PM (noon), on September 10, 2024, for the following property

A lot that consists of 3.18 acres, more or less, land, zoned Low Density Residential, and identified as Tax Map # 086.19-02-01.01-0000. This parcel is rectangular in shape with a topography that is sloping to steep with vegetation of trees and grass over most of the parcel and bordered by residentially zoned parcels on three sides and Bent Mountain Road (Rote 221) to the East. The value placed on this parcel is \$ 47,700.00

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold

"as is" with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Amanda Newhouse at 540-387-5572 or email amanda.newhouse @vdot.virginia.gov.

PAGE 6 · WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 · RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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Notice is hereby given and published by Big Blue Press, LLC of its intent to file petitions with the Circuit Court of Roanoke County and Circuit Court of Salem, Virginia pursuant to the Code of Virginia §8.01-324 (as reenacted in 2024) for entries of Orders allowing the publication of ordinances, resolutions, notices or advertisements as required by law by publication of same in The Roanoke Rambler, an "online only" news publication in lieu of

publication in a newspaper BIG BLUE PRESS LLC BY: HENRI GENDREAU, PUBLISHER P.O. Box 323 Vinton, Virginia 24179 (540) 307-1475

Legals -Town of Vinton

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL **Redevelopment of** the Downtown Vinton Property

The Town of Vinton, Virginia is soliciting a REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) for the redevelopment of a Downtown Vinton Property The .5 acres of property is comprised of 5 contiguous parcels located on the corner of Walnut Avenue

and West Jackson Avenue

Legals -Town of Vinton

in Vinton, VA. The Town of Vinton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals without cause.

The full details of the RFP #072924 are available at www.vintonva.gov or by calling Richard "Pete"

Peters. Town Manager 540-983-0607 or by email at rpeters@vintonva.gov.

Proposals must be returned to the Town of Vinton, c/o Richard "Pete" Peters, 311 South Pollard St., Vinton, VA 24179 by no later than 3:00 p.m. EST on

September 27, 2024 STATEWIDE ADS AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landonc@ vpa.net

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RADFORD SPORTS

RU unveils Tartan Town Collective

The Radford University Athletics Department has announced the launch of the Tartan Town Collective, powered by Student Athlete NIL (SANIL), the official NIL Collective for Highlanders Student-Athletes to leverage their Name, Image and Likeness.

"We are excited to launch the Tartan Town Collective that will help support our student-athletes in reaching their full NIL potential," said Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics. "The Tartan Town Collective will help build our student-athletes personal brand, help increase community engagement, and strengthen our position with the ever-changing landscape of college athletics. With your support, the Tartan Town Collective will help us attract the best student-athletes to the New River Valley and Radford University."

The Tartan Town Collective will provide unique opportunities, collaborations and partnerships with fans and businesses that contribute to the winning traditions of Radford's Athletic programs. As the most experienced operator of NIL programs, SANIL leads the fans and brands in support of student-athletes and athletics programs.

"We are excited to announce the Tartan Town Collective to the outstanding fans and supporters of Radford and its athletics teams," said Rick Kanemasu, President of SANIL. "Our vision is to empower Radford's student-athletes through engagement with fans and collaboration with businesses. It's our hope that we can harness that passion of Highlanders fans and alumni to provide unprecedented opportunities for the student-athletes who proudly represent Radford Athletics."

SANIL and the Tartan Town Collective will work in unison with various Radford supporters to create marketing activations that maximize student-athlete earnings while ensuring that the University's best interests remain protected throughout.

"The Tartan Town Collective allows our studentathletes to reach their full potential," said Darris Nichols, Head Men's Basketball Coach. "The support that you give financially will help us continue to attract great talent to this university. I encourage everyone to help be a part of the team!"

[®]The Tartan Town Collective is an exciting yet imperative step for our athletic department as the landscape of college athletics continues to change rapidly," said Mike McGuire, Head Women's Basketball Coach. "Being able to attract outstanding student-athletes and compete for Big South Championships are important goals for our athletic program. Your participation and financial support is greatly appreciated as we build the immediate future of Radford Athletics. Let's make the Tartan Town Collective a huge difference maker!"

Tartan Town Collective is the official NIL Collective for Radford Athletics, serving as a fan engagement and brand partnerships agency working on behalf of Radford Athletics and its student-athletes. The Tartan Town Collective's membership program is for all Radford athletics fans to directly support Highlanders student-athletes. The collective also offers comprehensive business partnership opportunities at the local, regional, and national level. Tartan Town Collective is a subsidiary of Student Athlete NIL, the NIL agency solution for over 50 Universities. As with all NIL entities, the Tartan Town Collective is independent from Radford University and the University does not receive any financial benefit from the organization. More information is available at www.tartantownnil.com.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

marketing, media and technology agency of record supporting the needs of student-athletes, brands and the ever-evolving era of Name, Image, and Likeness. SANIL operates the collectives of more than fifty while marketing and monetizing the rights of thousands of student-athletes through fan experiences, brand partnerships and premium media content. Our national reach and skilled team of experienced professionals offer personalized attention to our student-athletes, fans and university partners while delivering a fully scalable deployment platform for brand campaigns.

Radford University Athletics

Draper Mile brings runners to downtown Blacksburg

Student Athlete NIL (SANIL) is the leading



Steppin' Out attendees cheer on Draper Mile fun run racers on Friday evening in Blacksburg.



Blacksburg's Konnor Rafferty (988) placed second in the Draper Mile behind Pieter Heasters of Baltimore, with Christiansburg's Lawson Masom (1995) in third in the



Virginia Tech president Tim Sands competes in the Draper Mile open race on Friday at Steppin' Out.

meesters of Baltimore, with Christiansburg's Lawson Mecom (1095) in third in the men's race on Friday at Steppin' Out.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

BLACKSBURG - The annual Draper Mile race was Andrew Tickle; 10

In the Draper Mile women's race, Christiansburg's Jenna Pittman was the winner with Blacksburg's Annika Griggs and Leah Johnson in second and third.

BLACKSBURG - The annual Draper Mile race was And held in Blacksburg on Friday, Aug. 4, 2024. And

The Top 35 finishers included:

First, Pieter Heesters, 4:11; 2) Konnor Rafferty; 3) Lawson Mecom; 4) Braden Ward; 5) Ethan Board; 6) Alex Watty; 7) Ryan Bagchi; 8) Quinn Thomas; 9)

Andrew Tickle; 10) Cody Orton; 11) Henry Hunter; 12) Andrew Parkins; 13) Daniel Duarte; 14) Jeremiah Peters; 15) Bennett Hunter; 16) Zach Swartzwelder; 17) Ace Holst; 18) Ben Bailey; 19) Samuel Hayes; 20) Michael Foley; 21) Jesse Tuck; 22) Ray Richardson; 23) Isaiah Peters; 24) Anderson Norton; 25) Connor Cormack; 26) Rivers Matthews; 27) Aaron Paynter; 28) Aden Clark; 29) Bryan Plunkett; 30) Harrison Whitfield; 31) Donovan Forbes; 32) Nate Lehman; 33) Nate Michener; 34) Isaak Wisnioski; and 35) Brian Ulrich.

Staff Report

Position preview: Depth in Hokies quarterback room

Fall camp is officially underway, and one position to watch closely heading into the 2024 season is quarterback. Under the direction of quarterback coaches Tyler Bowen and Brian Crist, the quarterback room has been making significant strides, with new additions adding valuable depth to the roster. With seasoned quarterback Kyron Drones leading the charge, let's take a closer look at all the pieces and what they bring to the table.

Drones made a strong impact in his first season with the Hokies, appearing in all 13 games and making his debut as the starting quarterback in week three against Rutgers. The signal-caller has firmly established himself as the starter, showcasing his dual-threat capabilities by amassing 2,085 passing yards and 17 touchdowns. Standing at 6-foot-2 and weighing 234 pounds, the redshirt junior's size and athleticism make him a formidable force in the run game. He finished the season with 818 rushing yards and five rushing touchdowns, setting a Military Bowl record with 176 rushing yards, which earned him MVP accolades.

The Pearland, Texas native has cemented his reputation as one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks across the conference. According to 247Sports, Drones is ranked as the fifth-best quarterback in the ACC and the fourth-

See Hokies, page 8

Outdoor report: Building your own turkey call

Want to do a fun project to get ready for hunting season? How satisfying would it be to make your own turkey call and then harvest a turkey with it? It is much easier than you think and a lot of fun!

So how easy is it to make your own call? That is up to the individual. There are a number of companies that offer box call kits that need only to be sanded, and a screw put in and some chalk added for a working call. Of course, that call can be painted, wood-burned, and stained to make it look great and be one of a kind. Making your own call can also be as involved as finding a log and roughing out a box call. My first attempt at going from a log to a working call is still a work in progress, although it is an active part of my turkey hunting arsenal of tools each spring and fall.

of tools each spring and fall. You can find a slew of options of kits for those wanting to try their hand at making their own call available for ordering online. As stated above, box calls are the easiest kits to finish off and customize.

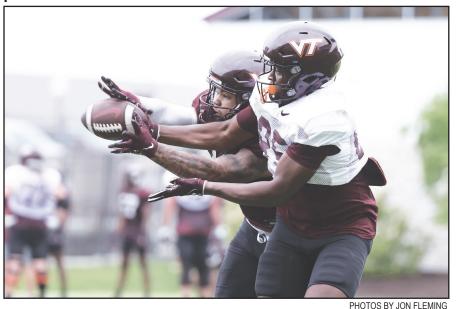
Box Call Kits

Box call kits come with four parts. The box, the paddle or handle, the screw, and a spring to put tension on the pivot point of the lid. Box calls are often made of walnut, cedar, poplar, or cherry,

Hokies from page 7



Former Radford Bobcat P.J. Prioleau goes through a drill under the watchful eye of running backs coach Elijah Brooks during Friday's Virginia Tech preseason practice.



Hokie newcomer linebacker Kaleb Spencer takes the ball away from tight end Ja'Ricous Hairston during Friday's preseason practice.

most dynamic quarterback overall heading into the 2024 season. His full season of production has positioned him as an influential player to watch as the Hokies prepare for the upcoming campaign.

under-the-radar An battle for the Hokies this fall camp is determining who will be slotted into the QB2 spot. The quarterback room features returners William "Pop" Watson III, Jackson Sigler and Ben Locklear, alongside new additions, UCLA transfer Collin



and Schlee true freshman Davi Belfort, ranked as the nation's No. 7 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals.

Heading into his second season as a redshirt freshman, Watson showed flashes in the spring game after appearing in two games last season. The Springfield, Massachusetts native's potential is evident from his high school accolades, including being named the 40th best quarterback in his class by the 247Sports Composite and the Gatorade Massachusetts Player of the Year in 2022. With his impressive athleticism and development under the QB staff, Watson is a strong contender for more appearances this season.

Schlee, the recent transfer from UCLA, brings veteran experience and a reputation as a running quarterback. The

redshirt senior appeared in seven games for the Bruins last season, rushing for 425 yards and passing for 217. Schlee's standout performance came in the Starco Brands LA Bowl, where he completed 11 passes, including two touchdowns and rushed for a season-best 127 yards on seven carries in a 35-22 victory over Boise State. The former Bruin's dynamic rushing abilities are similar to the playing styles of both Drones and Watson, making him a notable player in the Hokies' quarterback competition.

Belfort, Sigler and Locklear are expected to benefit significantly from the competition and mentorship within the quarterback room, adding depth and versatility to the roster.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Turkey from page 7



Tracing the design and then transferring the pattern to the paddle is a good way to customize.

but other wood can be used as well. The size of the call can be chosen as well as the paddle type. Some prefer a compact call, while others prefer a long paddle.

Paddles have a flat top, and this is where a lot of customization can occur. Wood burning turkey tracks, initials, or designs on this flat surface make the call a one of a kind. Walnut is a dark wood and very hard, so wood burning takes patience. Poplar or cedar is softer and easier to burn and a bit more visible. The bottom of the box or even the sides of the box can also be decorated with a woodburned design if so desired. Sanding or cutting contours in the paddle or box can make it interesting, and cutting a slot around the call to use a rubber band to minimize inadvertent yelps when carrying the call in a vest is an idea too.

One way to perfect your woodburning design is to use tracing paper to get the design on the wood to create a visible pattern to burn. My daughter used paper and drew her design lightly on one side. Then she shaded the opposite side of the paper a dark pencil. Next, she flipped the paper, taped it to the paddle and traced firmly on her design as she "redrew" the design. The shaded portion on the back of the paper got transferred onto the wood, allowing her to see where to burn the wood.

Another way is to simply draw the design right on the wood with a pencil. Before wood burning, test your burning skills on a scrap piece of wood, preferably the same type of wood you are using. Try different tips to get a good feel for how to create the different effects of your design with a flair. Take your time and have patience. Be careful of the hot tip while burning the wood! Wood burning kits can be readily purchased at a craft store or online. Get one with a variety of tips for the most options when making your call.

When choosing types of wood for your call, consider what kind of design you will want and consider how much you want it to show. Lighter wood like poplar will offer more contrast. However, the rich and dark tones of walnut—plus its rot resistance and density—will allow it to last and work well for years to come. Another consideration is mixing wood types. Some boxes can be ordered with the box being one type of wood and the paddle being another. I also saw boxes with one side of the box as one type of wood and the other side a different type of wood. The idea there is to create a unique pitch or sound with one side of the call and then have a different tone or pitch on the other side. Basically, you can have two calls—or "hens" —in your hand at once!



A student wood burning his turkey call.

also available in wood or plastic pots with slate or glass for a scratching surface. Strikers are variable as well. I prefer wood for the most customization as possible. Kids in our outdoor club have wood burned all kinds of designs on their pots and some have even "washed" their wood pots with paint and others outright painted designs on their pots. The pots are a bit more involved to assemble, but not at all difficult.

The first thing I would do is to sand my pot completely. I also would sand down my striker. Consider using a belt sander to sand out grooves in the pot for finger holds, but take care not to sand so far as to cut through the pot!

Next, wood burn or stain the pot and striker before using a good glue (I use a clear Gorilla Glue for my kits) to assemble the sounding board to the pot. Use a hand clamp to hold the glass sounding board in place after putting a bead of glue on the raised wood in the center. After that dries, very carefully put a small bead of glue around the inside of the pot, taking care not to get it where it will be seen, and gently lower the slate or glass playing surface into the top of the pot. Hand clamp and let it dry for 24 hours.

When customizing your pot call and striker, consider a nice design on the striker itself to include the top of the handle and down the sides as well. You could dye or stain the point of the striker one color and the handle a different color. Many like to put their initials on the top of the striker handle.

Years ago, I found an old walnut tree that had fallen over long before I purchased our property. Walnut is very slow to rot. I used my chainsaw and cut a section of the trunk out and found much of it still in reasonable shape. Next, I put the fence on my little table saw and squared up a chunk of the log, roughed out a box, and kept the rounded piece of the log to fashion into a paddle for the box call.

Using a paddle bit, I set the box on the drill press platform and carefully drilled out the interior of the box and started sanding it. The grain started to show, and the box took shape. It has been a slow process, due to keeping busy with other projects, so I have not completed the call quite yet. However, I've got it sounding pretty good and have called in a few gobblers with it already. I just need to customize it to my liking. This was all done with the use of a chainsaw, table saw, drill press and some time with sandpaper. I plan on sanding it a bit more, and perhaps wood burning it and putting some custom touches on it, before sealing the wood with oil.

When you are looking for a small project to do this summer and dreaming about the upcoming hunting season, consider making your own turkey call.

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Friction/Pot Call Kits

If box calls are not your preferred call, friction call, known as pot call kits, are

Mark Fike, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

ONLINE AUCTION

Investment Property for Sale in Radford VA Ends Thursday, August 22nd at 4 PM 1205 Downey St., Radford, VA 24141 Bid Now at VAAuctionPro.com



PREVIEW DATE: Friday, August 16th at 4 PM

Charming historical home with investment potential located just two blocks from Radford University and minutes from I-81. This corner property has +/-0.6267 acres and features a home built in 1949 with historical charm and investment potential. The residence has 5,572 square feet on 3 levels and a full basement, providing ample living space with 8 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Each level includes its own kitchen, making it ideal for multi-person living and potential rental opportunities. Home is heated by a gas hot water radiator system.

The ground level features a laundry room, den area, kitchen, and bathroom. 10 foot ceilings, oak hardwood floors, and a wood fireplace. The second level has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, a kitchen and sitting area. The second level also includes a convenient exterior balcony entrance in addition to interior stairs. The third level offers 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, and bathroom. The property's basement provides additional living space with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and a kitchen. Outside, the home features a large front covered porch, a metal roof, and vinyl siding with

cinderblock/rock foundation. Public water and sewer.

The property also offers two independent, separate cottages with a total of 730 sq ft of living space that adds to potential rental income.

The subject property consists of 2 adjoining parcels, 1205 Downey St. and 1201 Downey St. The house tract (1205) extends approximately 180' back to a 14' public alley. 1201 Downey St. is a vacant lot at the corner of Downey St. and 2nd Ave. The 2 combined parcels have approximately 178' of frontage on Downey St. and approximately 102' along 2nd Ave. The total area of the 2 lots combined is approximately +/- 0.6267 AC

Street parking is allowed on Downey St. plus ample space beside the house and on the adjacent vacant tract. With its proximity to Radford University and potential for renovation, this property offers a unique blend of historical character and practicality, making it a compelling investment opportunity in a prime location.

Terms: 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$20,000 is required on the day of sale. Close on or before October 7th, 2024. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence before placing a bid. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on August 22nd, 2024. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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