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Rotary Club presents Citizen of Year Award to Ray Plaut

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg presented its 2020 Citizen of the Year Award to Raymond "Ray" Plaut via Zoom ceremony at a recent meeting.

The award honors "an individual whose voluntary acts and services have made the Christiansburg-Blacksburg area a better place in which to live," according to Dr. Doug McAlister,

chairperson of the club's award committee.

Plaut, known as "Mr. Ray" to the kindergartners of Gilbert Linkous Elementary School in Blacksburg, has volunteered with the students for the last nine years for approximately seven hours each day, 180 days per year, which amounts to more than 11,000 unpaid volunteer hours. With approximately 60 kindergarten students each year, he has impacted the lives of at least 540 students during this time.

Kindergarten teacher Tess Brooke said of Plaut's service, "Mr. Ray's day involves things you'd assume an elementary school volunteer would do, such as leading learning stations, reading to children and playing with students at recess. But our Mr. Ray does so much more."

According to Brooke, he remembers all the student's birthdays, dresses up on the 100th day of school, uses his engineering background to give STEM encouragement, assists with traffic flow to and from school and attends all school events.

"Many of our students think of him as the fifth kindergarten teacher," Brooke said.

Plaut retired from Virginia Tech's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in 2008 after 33 years of service. He was the university's youngest professor when he was hired in 1975 and taught courses in the analysis, stability and dynamics of structures. He was the Dan H. Pletta Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering when he retired.

Plaut began volunteering at Gilbert Linkous because his grandchildren live on the West Coast. Brooke said, "He feels like when he is reading to our kindergartners, it is as though he is reading to [his grandchildren]. He truly is a kindergarten volunteer extraordinaire."



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL REYNOLDS

Raymond "Ray" Plaut, recipient of the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg 2020 Citizen of the Year Award, poses with the bench dedicated to him in recognition of his service as a kindergarten volunteer at Blacksburg's Gilbert Linkous Elementary School.

Virginia Tech to honor legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with events for 2021



Virginia Tech will hold a series of events to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Virginia Tech will honor and remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events beginning Monday, Jan. 18, with a live keynote address by Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, at 5 p.m. This year's theme is "We Cannot Stand Alone."

Shabazz's event will be followed by another live keynote address featuring Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, on Jan. 25 at noon. Nikki Giovanni will open that event with some poetry. Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity Menah Pratt-Clarke will moderate the conversation on Jan. 25. Both events will broadcast live through the InclusiveVT YouTube Channel.

King maintained a vision for a more diverse nation where all people experienced the benefits of equality. He understood

the importance of unifying the masses in the push for one common goal. His legacy provides an ideal model for how the fight for inequality continues even today.

Virginia Tech's theme for this year's observances, "We Cannot Stand Alone," recognizes that the community must present a united front and must stand tall to condemn social injustice and seek common, peaceful ground, not hostility or conflict. Virginia Tech recognizes that the legacy of King embodied influential decisions, monumental actions and unfaltering progressions of humanitarian rights.

The Virginia Tech community remains committed to its motto of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity and excellence in furtherance of Dr. King's legacy.

Kimberly Lowe qualifies as Republican candidate for 38th District Senate seat



Kimberly Lowe is a farmer and a sixth-generation Southwest Virginian.

Kimberly Lowe, a farmer, policy advisor and homeschooling mom of three, has qualified to run for the seat from Virginia's 38th Senate District vacated by the death of Sen. Ben Chafin.

A sixth-generation Southwest Virginian, Lowe has been active locally both helping in the community and working on policy and legislation. She has said she believes most issues at the local level are non-partisan and knows that it takes everyone working together to improve the quality of life in the area.

In the last 12 months, Lowe has been able to secure funding for special needs education and has worked on funding for local schools, fire and EMS, and sheriff's offices. To improve healthcare accessibility and area health outcomes, she started a mobile COVID-19 test clinic when testing wasn't

available and has worked on securing funding for mobile health clinics.

Lowe has worked to solve flood issues; has worked as an intermediary between families, the state and prisons during COVID outbreaks; and has worked hand-in-hand with mayors and state offices. She has been active in finding creative solutions to the need for more broadband in rural areas and helps navigate families through family court and issues with the Department of Social Services/CPS.

Further, she helped start a domestic violence transitional shelter that will help individuals be self-sufficient by partnering with businesses for job training, economic guidance, professional counseling, childcare, housing, education and employment assistance.

See Lowe, page 3

Radford police arrest three in home invasion robbery



Jamari Melton

RADFORD -- After responding on Tuesday, Jan. 12, to a report of a home invasion robbery in the 600 block of Calhoun Street and conducting an investigation, the Radford City Police Department executed a search warrant in rela-



Tyeshawn Goodnight

tion to a robbery in the 400 block of Sanford Street and arrested three individuals.

Arrested were Jamari Melton, 19, of Radford; Tyeshawn Goodnight, 22, also of Radford; and Desean Anderson, 20, of Richmond.



Desean Anderson

All three individuals were charged with robbery, breaking and entering, larceny of a firearm and wearing a mask to hide their identity.

They are being held without bail at the New River Valley Regional Jail.

News Brief: Radford police arrest man wanted out of Richlands

After responding Wednesday night, Jan. 13, about 8:30 p.m. to the Rock Road area to a tip about a wanted individual out of Richlands, Va., and conducting a search of the area, Radford City Police arrested Jason Edward

Matney, 45.

Wanted on six warrants, Matney was taken into custody in the early morning hours of Jan. 14.

The Radford City Police Department was aided in the search by members of the Radford Uni-

versity Police Department, the Virginia Tech Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Matney is being held in the New River Valley Regional Jail without bond.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 17:

NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP will hold its annual celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 3:30 p.m. virtually. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Jefferson Jones, pastor of Surge Ministries and Race & Grace. All are welcome. The celebration will be via Zoom and Facebook Live. To register and receive additional information, visit <http://bit.ly/2021MLKCelebration>.

Monday Jan. 18:

Town Hall, Rec Center closed

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Christiansburg Town Hall will be closed on Jan. 18.

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be open from 8

a.m.-5 p.m. on Jan. 18, but the administrative offices will be closed.

The Christiansburg Recreation Center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, for an athletic event.

Tuesday, Jan. 19:

100+ Women Who Care NRV Winter 2021 Quarterly Meeting

Every quarterly meeting, each member contributes \$100 directly to a charity selected by majority vote with approximately \$10,000 being donated to the elected organization. No membership dues or additional commitments of time or money are required, and members can enter the quarterly drawing to represent a favorite not-for-profit to the group for consideration of that meeting's entire donation amount. All funds remain in the NRV area. 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. Contact nrv100wvc@gmail.com,

www.100womenwhocarenrv.com or Sarah Black at (937) 205-3722.

Thursday, Jan. 21:

Discord Comic Book Club

Join the Radford Public Library for an all-ages voice chat discussion of Comic Books via Discord. To be read and discussed this month is Neil Gaiman's "Eternals." It can be checked out on Hoopla at [Eternalhttps://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12003687](https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/12003687). Send the library a Facebook message or email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to sign up. The library will then send an invitation to the RPL Discord server.

Thursday, Jan. 28:

Writing Flash Fiction Workshop

Blue Ridge Writers, an affiliated chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, is offering a workshop "Writing Flash Fic-

tion" (less than 1500 words) for writers, both high school students and adults at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Blue Ridge Writers is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit member organization that supports beginning writers through critique programs, quarterly literary journal publication and monthly workshops. Contact Dr. John Nicolay nicolay0211@gmail.com or visit <https://blueridge-writers.com> for additional information. Class size is limited.

Ongoing Throughout January:

Keep Your Lights Up for Healthcare Heroes

Every citizen and business of the county's communities is being called upon to keep holiday lights up through January 31 to recognize those working in healthcare.

StoryWalk

All month at the Christians-

burg Library. Brains and bodies get exercise by reading and walking the trail. The walk begins at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is *The Emperor's Egg*.

Through Thursday, Jan. 21:

Girl Scout Cookie Sales

The Girl Scouts of the Virginia Skyline Council are taking orders for cookies that will be delivered in mid-January. Girl Scout cookies are \$5 a box. To locate a Girl Scout to take an order, contact the girl scout at info@gsvsc.org or 540-777-5100. When the cookies arrive in the region in mid-January, Girl Scouts will be delivering them in different ways: masked drop-offs to the customer's door; cookie booth drive-thrus; online ordering with shipping via Digital Cookie; a cookie delivery service; and voice-activated sales via Echo home systems.

Virginia Tech COVID-19 lab ready to ramp up testing for thousands of student samples

Starting next week, as students begin returning to campus for the spring semester, Virginia Tech's COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory will begin processing samples from approximately 7,400 students who are anticipated to move into on-campus housing. These student tests will be processed over a nine-day period.

The lab is also prepared to process hundreds of samples from students that are anticipated to come through the Schiffert Health Center over the next few weeks, plus the more than 500 weekly samples collected from Virginia Tech employees working in high-contact roles.

The lab is also responsible for processing several thousand samples per week for the university's rigorous surveillance testing program and voluntary testing program available for students and employees.

"We are building on what we learned in the fall as we ramp up our testing for the spring, with emphasis on mandatory random prevalence testing of students and surveillance testing of high-contact employees," Virginia Tech President Tim Sands said Wednesday in his state of the university address.

In addition to processing samples for Virginia Tech's community, the lab will continue to analyze tests collected by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). In November, Virginia Tech was selected as one of the state's three exclusive OneLab Network Tier 2 laboratories to help expand COVID-19 testing capacity across Virginia.

Under the OneLab agreement, the university's laboratory provides capacity to process up to 5,000 test samples per week. These samples are collected via VDH and come from community testing events,

businesses, school, and assisted living facilities across Virginia.

Since its launch in April, the lab has processed more than 70,000 samples. Since the fall semester, the lab has increased its maximum daily COVID-19 testing capacity from 1,200 to 1,600 total samples. This increased capacity is due to gained workflow efficiencies, investments in new equipment and the ability to occasionally pool surveillance testing samples collected through Virginia Tech's Schiffert Health Center.

Students are asked to quarantine for 10 days prior to returning to campus. Mandatory surveillance testing for high-contact employees resumed on Jan. 5, and voluntary testing for students and employees began last week.

Test results are typically reported back to the VDH or Virginia Tech's Schiffert Health Center within 24 to 48 hours.



Nghi Phung, a research technician at the Virginia Tech Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, is one of 25 skilled staff members who keep Virginia Tech's COVID-19 testing lab running seven days a week.

With new agreement, RU offers nursing and business programs online



RADFORD - Radford University has entered into an agreement with Academic Partnerships (AP) to provide its nursing and business degree programs online throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

To be offered through the partnership are the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN), the Master of Science in Nursing Administration and the Master of Business Administration degrees.

Through this partnership, Radford University will also expand its outreach of the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab by offering cybersecurity and geospatial intelligence certificates to help individuals accelerate their careers in technology. Additional certificate programs are planned for the future to meet the expanding workforce demands of Virginia and beyond.

The expanded programs will help combat the impact of COVID-19 on the economy by providing working adults with affordable and easily accessible degree programs in critical,

high-growth fields.

Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill said of the innovative partnership, "Radford University is honored to enter into this important collaboration with Academic Partnerships, a well-known and highly-regarded company that has assisted institutions in reaching new student markets by implementing and supporting fully online programs that are both in-demand and top-quality."

"The important work associated with this new partnership will be driven by our world-class faculty with strong support from various administrative areas. The Radford family looks forward to welcoming new Highlanders to both engage in and learn in fully online environments now and well into the future."

Academic Partnerships is a leading online facilitator in the United States. Based in Dallas, AP is a partner to more than 50 universities across the country, primarily regional public universities, helping those institutions expand access to top-

quality, affordable and workforce relevant education.

"We at Academic Partnerships are proud to help Radford University expand access to its top-quality degree programs," said Rob Ganji, AP's CEO.

"At AP, we're passionate about the positive impact of affordable education on students and their families, and we look forward to helping offer more opportunities to students in Virginia and across the surrounding states," Ganji said. "We've deliberately designed our business model to ensure that our university partners, such as Radford University, and Academic Partnerships serve distinct roles and utilize each of our core competencies to deliver a high-quality student experience and to enable student success."

"Under the terms of our working relationship, Radford and its faculty will continue to drive academic quality by controlling all aspects of the online programs such as teaching, curriculum and course content, admissions, student grading, financial aid and credentialing," said RU's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lyn Lepre.

"It was very important to us that the programs be driven by Radford faculty, while AP works in partnership with our faculty to convert their courses to an online format and recruit and help retain students through program completion," Lepre said. "In this way, we are aligned to help ensure that student success is paramount across the duration of the program."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| CLUES ACROSS | 38. Frocks | CLUES DOWN | 32. Single unit |
| 1. Plays | 40. Nostrils | 1. Pressed against lightly | 35. Parasitic insect's egg |
| 7. Hymn | 41. Spoke | 2. Rural delivery | 37. House pet |
| 13. Larval frog | 43. Information | 3. Semicircular recesses | 38. African nation |
| 14. A member of the British order | 44. Where wrestlers work | 4. Groan | 39. Saddle horses |
| 16. Stomach muscle | 45. Dash | 5. Donation | 42. Press lightly |
| 17. Helper | 47. Cool! | 6. Mariner | 43. One of 12 sons of Jacob |
| 19. East of NYC | 48. Tiny child | 7. One who accepts | 46. Cause to suffer |
| 20. Influential Norwegian playwright | 51. People of northern Assam | 8. ___ King Cole, musician | 47. Hang 'em up |
| 22. School for healing | 53. Austrian spa town | 9. Streetcar | 49. Breakfast dish |
| 23. Of the cheekbone | 55. Written reminder | 10. Silk fabric | 50. Wrongful acts |
| 25. Disco rockers The Bee ___ | 56. Italian monetary units | 11. ___ route | 52. NASCAR driver |
| 26. Gorged | 58. Tell on | 12. Used to make plastics | 54. Indian dish |
| 28. Khoikhoi people | 59. More abject | 13. Swampy coniferous forest | 55. Type of giraffe |
| 29. Payroll firm | 60. Farm state | 15. Angry speeches | 57. Selling at specially reduced prices |
| 30. A hiding place | 61. Cleveland's hoopsters | 18. A way to soak | 59. Czech city |
| 31. Georgia rockers | 64. Famed NY Giant's nickname | 21. One who divides | 62. "Orange is the New Black" character |
| 33. Spanish soldier El ___ | 65. Los ___ big city | 24. Deeply cuts | 63. Records electric currents |
| 34. Deerlike water buffalo | 67. Rechristens | 26. A very large body of water | 66. Country doctor |
| 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period | 69. Shopping trips | 27. "Raisin in the Sun" actress Ruby | 68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.) |
| | 70. Values self-interest | 30. Medicated | |

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Virginia Tech Transportation Services establishes electronic payment option for parking on Blacksburg campus

Virginia Tech Transportation Services has partnered with ParkMobile to provide a convenient, contactless electronic payment option for parking on the Blacksburg campus.

Parking is now available with ParkMobile in any campus parking space or lot that has standard F/S, C/G or R parking. This does not apply to 24-hour restricted lots designated for specific groups such as service vehicles and carpools.

While using ParkMobile, faculty and staff should park in F/S spaces, and undergraduate and graduate students should park in C/G and R spaces. Visitors may park in F/S, C/G or R spaces.

The goal of the new system is ultimately to make paying for campus parking easy and convenient and thus avoid parking citations. Parking sessions can be extended remotely to

avoid a ticket. Use of the app is not limited to the Blacksburg campus; it can be used nationwide at thousands of parking locations. Multiple time increments are available, including hourly and daily parking.

The first step in participating in ParkMobile is to create a free account, easily done by visiting the ParkMobile site or downloading the ParkMobile app in the App Store or Google Play.

The following information will be needed to create a profile for the ParkMobile account: 1) the vehicle's license plate number. Up to five license plates may be added to the profile. 2) payment information. Most major credit cards, PayPal and Apple Pay are accepted.

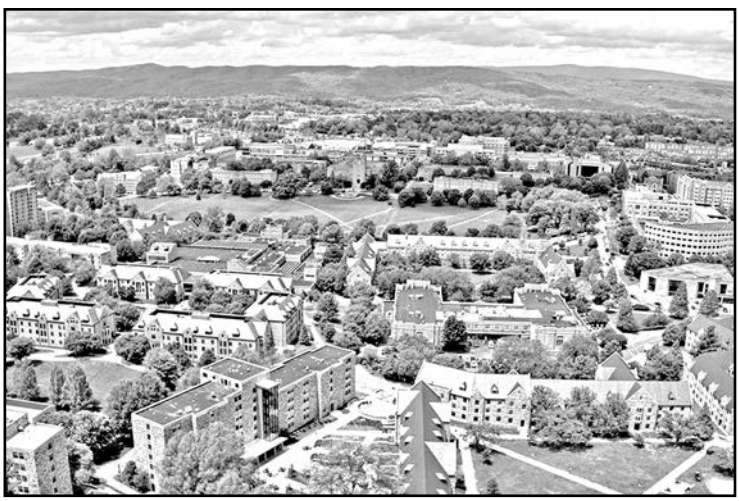
Once the profile is created, then you can park in any space or meter marked with a ParkMobile sign or sticker. Parking is enforced on the Blacksburg

campus Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Once you start parking, 1) enter the meter parking zone number in which the vehicle is parked. This information is available on nearby signage, the sticker on the meter or by using the map within the ParkMobile app or website.

2) select the duration of your parking. To prevent the possibility of having your time expire, time may be extended remotely. If you opt into notifications, text messages or emails, you will receive a notification to extend your parking duration. You can also set customizable parking expiration alerts.

The meter parking zones with their numbers and location are the Bookstore Lot, 85102; the Coliseum Lot, 85103; the Perry Street Lot, 85104; the Drillfield Lot, 85105; Wright



House, 85106; Alumni Mall, 85107; the Squires Lot, 85108; Steger Hall, 85109; Oak Lane, 85110, Parking Services, 85111; and Laundry Tailor (the old security building), 85112. You can also save "favorite" and recently used parking zones. Traditional parking options

remain in place: purchasing a daily parking permit at Parking Services at 505 Beamer Way and using coins at parking meters on campus.

Questions about the new system may be addressed to parking@vt.edu or by calling 540-231-3200.

Agriculture workers prioritized for COVID-19 vaccinations

After agriculture groups requested that frontline food and farm workers be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccines after essential healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory committee on immunization practices agreed.

The committee has recommended that food and agricultural laborers and grocery store employees be included among the next 49 million or so workers to be prioritized for the vaccinations.

Vaccine distribution is orchestrated on the state level.

Gov. Ralph Northam announced last Wednesday, Jan. 6, that the Virginia Department of Health is expected to begin vaccinating Phase 1b frontline workers, which includes food and farm workers, by the end of January.

"We commend the CDC for recognizing America's food and agricultural workers as essential workers who are critical to preserving a functioning society," said Ben Rowe, national affairs coordinator for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "We encourage VDH to put these workers at the top of the prioritization queue under Phase 1b and work

to ensure they are given ample, fair and easy access to vaccinations.

"Rural Virginians have long struggled with access to health care and health equity," Rowe said. "Now is a crucial moment for the commonwealth to ensure the vaccine is distributed to all areas of the state, so when you get the vaccine depends on whether you are identified as high-risk, rather than where you live and work."

A letter to President-elect Biden's transition team, signed by the American Farm Bureau Federation and other organizations in an agriculture coalition

group, requested vaccine prioritization. The letter was submitted by the Ag CEO Council of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a nonpartisan, nonprofit association representing elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries and directors of agricultural organizations in all 50 states.

"We fully appreciate and support that our nation's heroic first responders, medical professionals, elderly and caretakers, along with other vulnerable individuals, clearly have the highest priority for vaccination," the letter said. "However, as you move

beyond these highest priority groups, the undersigned organizations ask that frontline food and agriculture employees be included in the next-highest priority for the vaccine within any federal COVID-19 Vaccination Plans."

The letter said the agricultural labor force continues to fluctuate as employees face restrictions, risk exposure and are affected by quarantines. With unfilled positions, limited existing employees and processing facility closures, "this situation could very easily create disruptions and shortages in the food supply chain."

NRCC spring semester to begin Feb. 1 with 500+ classes

Registration is now open for the spring semester at New River Community College, which begins Monday, Feb. 1, and offers more than 500 classes.

Class options include art, automotive, creative writing, early childhood development, history, human services, medical coding, paralegal administrative support, personal finance, and police and forensic science.

The semester will be offered online with the exception of some career/technical and workforce development programs that require hands-on or clinical experiences.

Some specific courses of interest in the spring semester include:

"ART 243: Watercolor I," an online course that presents

abstract and representational painting in watercolor with a focus on design, color, composition, technique and value.

"AUT 136: Automotive Vehicle Inspection," an evening course that helps students prepare for the Virginia Safety Inspector's License test.

"ENG 211: Creative Writing I," a course that introduces students to the fundamentals of writing imaginatively with students writing in forms such as poetry, fiction, drama and essays.

Several childhood development courses will be offered as online classes this semester and are part of the early childhood development programs. Those include: Introduction to Early Childhood Education, Guid-

ing the Behavior of Children and Introduction to Exceptional Children.

"HIS 266: Military History of the Civil War" is an online course that analyzes military campaigns of the Civil War, including factors contributing to the defeat of the Confederacy and problems created by the war.

Human services courses will be offered online this semester and are part of the human services programs.

The medical coding program prepares students to take the certified coding associate exam offered by the American Health Information Management Association. The courses needed for the program will all be offered online this spring.

Several courses that are part

of the Paralegal Administrative Support Specialization Program will be offered online this spring.

"FIN 107: Personal Finance" is an online course that presents a framework of personal money management concepts, including establishing values and goals, determining sources of income, managing income, preparing a budget, developing consumer buying ability, using credit, understanding savings and insurance, providing for adequate retirement and estate planning.

Several administration of justice courses will be offered this spring with mostly online options.

These administration of justice courses can be taken as part of the police science or forensic science programs.

Re-Employing Virginians funding is available for individuals who lost a job due to COVID-19. Recipients of REV funds must be pursuing classes in a high-demand area such as early childhood education, health care, information technology, manufacturing, public safety or skilled trades.

The spring class schedule is available at www.nr.edu/schedule/. Current NRCC students may register for classes online by visiting their student accounts. Prospective NRCC students may visit www.nr.edu/register for enrollment information.

NRCC staff members are available online at www.nr.edu and by telephone at 540-674-3600 to assist with registration or other matters.

NRCC to offer online pharmacy technician program

Registration is now open for the next session of New River Community College's pharmacy technician program, which will be offered completely online beginning Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The course teaches students information, techniques and procedures needed to assist the pharmacist in the delivery of pharmaceutical products and services. The main objective is to provide students with a working knowledge of most

aspects of pharmacy in community and institutional practice settings.

Upon completion, graduates will be eligible to apply for registration as a Pharmacy Technician in Virginia and be prepared to take the national Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of pharmacy technicians is projected to grow seven percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than

the average for all occupations. Increased demand for prescription medications will lead to more demand for pharmaceutical services.

The regular cost for the program is \$1,950; however, Virginia residents can qualify for a discounted price of \$650. Additional financial assistance may also be available.

This course is one of several NRCC FastForward programs that provide affordable and short-

term training through the NRCC Office of Work-

force Development.

To register, email

WFDtraining@nr.edu or

call (540) 674-3613.

Lowe

If elected, Lowe plans to introduce a bill to help veterans, a comprehensive bill to reform family court and child welfare, a bill to allow farmers to produce and sell locally without burdensome regulations, bills that will help consumers and survivors of domestic violence and bills to ensure election integrity.

Lowe has worked with Virginia State University to find profitable crop solutions for farmers and is negotiating with investors to bring farm-related manufacturing and new jobs to the area. Aware not every problem requires a legislative solution, she has hired a grant writer to bring money into the area to close the gaps and improve the quality of every-

one's life. When she is not entrenched in the community and grassroots on the ground, she enjoys her endangered breed of sheep and spending time with

her family and her horses. More information about her candidacy and her qualifications is available at www.kimberlylowe.com.

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OPINION

A dream deferred

“Harlem
What happens to a
dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten
meat?
Or crust and sugar
over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?”
-- Langston Hughes

Martin Luther King, Jr., whom we will honor Monday, had one. So did Robert Kennedy, who famously said, “Some men see things as they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not.” The thing is we who came of age during that tumultuous time believed in the dreams. I know I did. Peace. Love. Racial harmony. They all seemed so possible. As Bobby Kennedy said, “Why not?” We could almost reach out and touch them. In retrospect, though, we were probably just naive. Or young and stupid. Which all amounts to about the same thing. They gunned down John, Martin and Bobby,

and an old pop singer named Dion recorded a tearjerking song about seeing Bobby walking off over the hill with Abraham, Martin and John. Almost overnight, as Langston Hughes described it, the dream exploded. Our reach had exceeded our grasp. The purity of the dreams was gone, and in its place came a new, sobering reality that included a dose of cynicism as a permanent ingredient. Maybe surrendering those dreams was simply the price we paid for admission into adulthood. I’m still trying to decide whether the cost was worth it. But it really doesn’t matter because we have no choice in the matter.

Life insists that we grow up in spite of all we may do to prevent it. The saddest part of all is that for the children of the Age of Aquarius like me, the dream has never been recaptured. I have drifted into old age shouldering a heavy burden of skepticism and mistrust, struggling to hold onto my hope and optimism for the future, and I’m afraid I am not alone among my contemporaries. Just as Ernest Hemingway had his Lost Generation, perhaps my compadres are the Disillusioned Generation. So far I have managed to avoid having the fact of the lost dreams blast my sense of hope to smithereens. I still have some vestiges of the dreams of my youth still hanging around. But that’s because I

am a man of faith, so my hope is not of this lamentable world. It is in the divine. I hang grimly and perhaps only by my trembling fingernails to the hope that love, peace, and racial harmony are still possible. I just no longer believe that humans can effect it. My hope lies elsewhere. Langston Hughes asked and answered what may well be the saddest existentialist question of all: What happens to a dream when it doesn’t come true? He then gave us a choice: 1) It dries up like a raisin. 2) It festers and runs like a sore. 3) It stinks like rotten meat. 4) It crusts and sugars over like sickly sweet syrup. 5) It sags like a heavy load. 6) It explodes. That’s some selection to choose from, isn’t it? Not a positive outcome

in the bunch. Hughes offered us those depressing choices in his poem “Harlem,” published in 1951. Seventy years ago. Look at those choices he gave us when dreams are deferred and thus don’t come true. Then consider for a moment the shape our country’s in right now. I would be bold enough to offer Langston Hughes one more alternative from which to choose when a dream doesn’t come true. 7) It breaks your heart. *The author is a man of a certain age who at the rather advanced stage of his life isn’t young and naive anymore, but he hasn’t given up either. He still clings stubbornly to the notion that there is some hope for this beautiful little planet we call home.*

Governor sets March 23 as special election date to fill Sen. Chafin’s seat

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam Tuesday issued a writ of election declaring a special election in the 38th Senate District for March 23, 2021. The seat was previously held by Sen. A. Benton Chafin, Jr., who passed away on Jan. 1. District 38 is based in Southwest Virginia and includes all of Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Pulaski, Russell and Tazewell Counties and

the cities of Norton and Radford, as well as parts of Montgomery, Smyth and Wise counties. Under § 24.2-216 of the Code of Virginia, the Governor is charged with setting the special election date when a vacancy occurs in the general assembly when it is not in session. With a filing deadline of Jan. 22, Kimberly Lowe, a farmer, policy advisor, homeschooling

mom of three and sixth-generation Southwest Virginian is the only candidate to have qualified for the vacant seat. She is running as a Republican. The governor’s full writ of election reads as follows: To the secretaries of the electoral boards and general registrars of the cities of Norton and Radford and the counties of Bland, Buchanan,

Dickenson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell and Wise: WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred in the Senate of Virginia from the Thirty-Eighth District, composed of the cities of Norton and Radford, the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Pulaski, Russell, and Tazewell, and parts of the counties of Montgomery, Smyth, and

Wise occasioned by the death of The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr. NOW THEREFORE, in the name of the commonwealth, and pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia and §§ 24.2-216 and 24.2-510 of the Code of Virginia, you are hereby required to cause an election to be held in this district on March 23, 2021, for a

member of the Senate of Virginia to fill the vacancy. The last day for filing as a candidate for such office in said election shall be Jan. 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Given under my hand and under the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond, this 12th day of January in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One and in the 245th year of the commonwealth.

News Messenger

Established 1869
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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WalletHub: Virginia’s increase in unemployment claims in 2021 among nation’s highest

Continuing its regular surveys of the nation’s unemployment claims, the personal finance website WalletHub revealed that the week of Jan. 4, 2021, showed unemployment claims nationwide to be up by 23 percent from the previous week with Virginia showing the sixth biggest increase among the 50 states and

the District of Columbia. According to WalletHub, 10.7 million Americans are currently unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As usual, WalletHub used three metrics to determine the states’ rankings: 1) the percent change in unemployment claims in the latest week vs. the same week in 2019; 2) the percent change in unemployment claims in the latest week vs. the same week in 2020; 3) and the percent change in unemployment claims since the start of the pandemic vs. the pre-

vious year (between the week of March 16, 2020, and Jan. 4, 2021, and the week of March 18, 2019, and the week of Jan. 6, 2020). The first metric uncovered a 550.52 percent increase in Virginia (31,095 the week of Jan. 4, 2021, vs. 4,780 the week of Jan. 7, 2019), the sixth biggest increase in the United States. The percent increase in Virginia for the second metric was 875.38 (31,095 the week of Jan. 4, 2021, vs. 3,188, the week of Jan. 1, 2020), the fifth biggest increase

in the country. The final metric revealed a 1,239.87 percent increase (1,371,207 between the week of March 16, 2020, and the week of Jan. 4, 2021 vs. 110,593 between the week of March 18, 2019, and the week of Jan. 6, 2020), the sixth biggest increase in the country. The five states suffering a larger increase in unemployment claims than Virginia in the latest survey were (from biggest increase to smaller) 1. Kansas 2. New Mexico 3. Florida 4. Louisiana 5. Illinois.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

D	R	A	M	A	S		A	N	T	H	E	M		
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OBITUARIES

Marshall, Ronnie Ray

Ronnie Ray Marshall, 53, of Hiwassee, passed away Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021.

He was a fireman for more than 21 years with the Snowville Fire Department. Ronnie was preceded in death by his father, Rufus William Marshall.

Survivors include his mother, Vivian F. Marshall; a brother, Timothy W. Marshall; a sister,



Rhonda Ann Marshall; a niece, Tonya Flinchum; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

In light of the current COVID-19 crisis, memorial services will be planned for a later date.

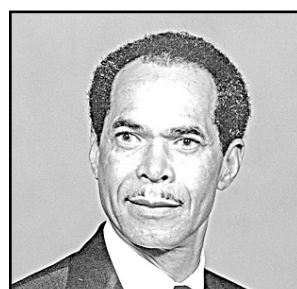
The Marshall family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Jones, Sr., Robert Albert

Robert "Bob" Albert Jones, Sr., of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021.

He was well known as the Radford City Schools' "Mr. Bob," who was the bus driver to most of the athletic and academic competitions. He worked at Central United Methodist Church for 42 years, was a deacon at Zion Hill Baptist Church and was a former supervisor at both Hercules and Lynchburg Foundry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry C. and Julia Lewis Jones; his wife, Betty B. Jones; sisters Cathleen, Dorthelia and Sybil; and brothers Joshua, Edward and James.



Survivors include his sons, Robert Jones, Jr. (Paula) and William Jones; grandchildren Robert Jones III and Roshonda Jones; a great-grandson on the way; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. today, Jan. 16, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Romie Horton officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford. The Jones family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Romie Horton officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

See more **Obituaries** on page 6

Orange, Gloria Kay

Gloria Kay Orange, 88, died Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, at Highland Ridge Rehab Center.

She was born in Roanoke on Feb. 20, 1932. She was a lifelong member of Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church, and she loved to embroider, sketch, listen to old music, watch classic TV shows and play the piano.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Orange; a daughter, Sharon Lee Arrowood; her parents, Courtney and Rosa Caldwell; and a great-granddaughter, Everly Margaret Rose Orange.

She is survived by her two daughters, Pa-



tricia Dianne Sheppard and Cynthia Orange Harris and her husband, Kenneth; two sons, Barry James Orange and his wife, Virginia, and Winfred Michael Ball and his wife, Linda; a sister, Elizabeth Hale; grandchildren Amy, Carrie, Eric, Tony, Aaron, Dara and Michael Henry; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. John Hopkins officiating. Interment followed in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar. Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Sunday Morning Prayer 9:45 AM, Sunday Morning Eucharist 10:30 AM, Traditional Anglican Worship using the King James Bible, 1928 Book of Common Prayer, And the 1940 Hymnal.

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Campus Minister, Deonté Watkins.

Faith Christian Church of Christ, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Generations to Come

Read Exodus 10:1 through 12:51

Floyd looked forward to the times his grandchildren visited. They reminded him of his youth with their energy and vitality. Floyd loved telling them the stories of his childhood, especially when he told them of how he came to Christ.

God also gave Israel an important story to pass on.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance" (Exodus 12:14).

Several times in today's reading God told the nation of Israel to share the events of the Passover with the generations that followed. Even today, people cele-

brate the Passover every year, and this reminds Israel's descendants that God delivered His people from bondage.

We too should learn from their example and pass on our experience of God's goodness to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and any others in our spheres of influence. God wants everyone we know to come to the saving knowledge of Christ and will gladly use our testimony to point them to that relationship with Him.

Thought for Today: God wants us to testify of our experiences as Christians to those who come after us.

Quicklook: Exodus 12:11-16

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Radford Worship Center, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating

month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, C'burg. Facebook LIVE service Sundays at 9:00 AM., Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

OBITUARIES Continued from page 5

Bowling, Jr., Carroll Alton

Carroll Alton Bowling, Jr., 77, passed away Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at his home in Dublin.

He was a graduate of Pearisburg High School where he enjoyed being in the Drum Corps. He was a retired computer analyst with the Department of Defense. He was a longtime member of Dublin Baptist church where he served as a deacon, a church clerk, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir.

He was a past member of the Pulaski Jaycees, a former president of the Golden Cougar Marching Band, and he coached basketball in both the recreational and AAU leagues.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carroll Alton, Sr., and Dora Boyer Bowling, and a son, Christopher Aaron-Adair Bowling.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years,

Judith Ann Surface Bowling; a son, Curry Bowling; daughters Natalie Quesenberry (Randal) and Cheryl Hall (Mike); grandchildren Chandler, Hunter, Kerrigan, Sawyer, Maylee, Cathryn and Savannah; a sister, Connie Strasser (Steve); a K-9 companion, Trixie; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Dennis Jones officiating and special remarks from Phil Taylor. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Dublin Baptist Church Children's Ministry, PO Box 669, Dublin, VA 24084.

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

Green, Betsy Weaver



Betsy Weaver Green, 84, of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Jan. 9, 2021.

Betsy was born on Sept. 28, 1936, in Radford to Irene B. and G. Roy Weaver.

She had a typical small-town childhood in Radford where her father was President of the Clover Creamery Company. She took ballet lessons for many years and enjoyed playing sports, including basketball on the Radford High School team, and graduated in 1954.

She went on to major in elementary and physical education at Baylor University, graduating in 1957. She taught fifth and sixth grade at First Baptist Academy in Dallas and Spring Creek Elementary School in Garland for almost 30 years. She treasured the relationships she had with her fellow teachers, many of whom were lifelong friends. Former students would frequently comment that Mrs. Green was a teacher who had significant influence on them.

Betsy was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Dallas where she served in a number of ministries such as Stephen Ministry and Apartment Life. Her relationship with God was the defining thing about her life. She loved others with the same compassion that

Jesus loved her. She enjoyed supporting Christian missionaries around the world as they shared the gospel message.

While at FBC, Betsy met her husband of 44 years, Jim Green, marrying him in June of 1958.

Betsy enjoyed many hobbies over the years, including sewing, crafts like calligraphy and macramé and reading by the fire or out on the patio on a warm Sunday afternoon. She also loved to travel, going all over the U.S. including Hawaii and Alaska. She visited Mexico, the UK and Israel and many of the continental European countries.

Betsy is survived by her sister, Barbara Lee, of Allen, Texas; her three sons: Robert and his wife, Linda, of Dallas; David and his wife, Carol, also of Dallas; and Michael and his wife, Amy, of Mansfield, Texas; and eight grandchildren: Jake, Matt, Cliff, Kyle, Katelyn, Carson, Taylor and Ava.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Gordon Green, and her parents, Irene and Roy Weaver.

In lieu of flowers, her family requests that donations be made to two organizations Betsy supported that sponsor missionaries around the world: cru.org and sim.org.

Elliott, Mary Elizabeth

Mary Elizabeth Elliott, 73, of Radford, died Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, at her home.

She was born in Giles County on Feb. 25, 1947, to the late Joseph and Annie Perkins Honaker. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Shelly Rae Scaggs; a sister, Joanne Honaker Zell; and two brothers, James Honaker and Frank Honaker.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Scot and Sonya Elliott; a grandchild, Jes-



salyn Babcock; a sister, Joyce Honaker Hedge; two nieces, one nephew, seven great-nieces and great-nephews and many special friends.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Hutchinson officiating. The

family received friends from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Joyce, Charlotte Sue

It is with deep sorrow and much love that our family announces the passing of Charlotte Sue Joyce, 85, of Blacksburg. She died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at her home surrounded by the love of her family.

She was born in Murray, Kent., on Oct. 11, 1935. She will be remembered by everyone and all of those who grew to know her over the years. She will always remain in our hearts as the "queen of sass."

She was a mother to some and a safe place to others, but she was always someone you knew you could come to and chat with about anything on your mind. She was and always will be a Virginia Tech fan who loved nothing more than celebrating and entertaining with those around her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Beuton Vance and Buell Donelson; her husband, Michael B. Joyce; and her daughter, Carol Anne Mehmood.

She is survived by her daughters Don-

na Hall (Dan) of Virginia Beach; Brenda Holdaway of Blacksburg and Susan Tafese of Christiansburg; her sisters Carlotta Clark (Gerry) of Pearisburg and Patty Campbell (Larry) of Somerset, Kent.; her brother Sam Underwood (Susan) of Murray, Kent.; as well as her eight grandchildren, Isha, Heem, Nicole, Kelly, Victoria, Elias, Michael and Maleah.

The family would like to thank Good Samaritan for the compassionate and loving care they provided Charlotte and for the love and support shown to the family.

A graveside ceremony was held at the Westview Cemetery on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Good Samaritan Hospice or the Parkinson's Foundation. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Houston, Barbara Ruth Dunn



Barbara Ruth Dunn Houston passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 11, surrounded by her children in her home in Radford.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin Walter Dunn and Ruth Vlcek Dunn; her sister, Janie Dunn Hughes; and her loving partner Bob Young.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Jones; her former husband, Crosby Houston; and her three children, Emily, Amanda and Ben; and seven grandchildren.

Barbara was a member of Grace Episcopal Church and a longtime member of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

She was born into an Air Force family on May 30, 1939, in Fort Sill, Okla. She grew up in Puerto Rico, Georgia, Germany and Texas and graduated high school at Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas.

Barbara earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and master's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and Virginia Tech. She spent her professional years as a full-time mother,

teacher and finally as a high school guidance counselor in Christiansburg.

She lived all over the world, including Texas, Colorado, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Florida and New York. Her favorite place by far was her family lake cabin located in the north woods of Minnesota where her ashes will be scattered.

The family would like to express their love and appreciation for the Young family for all their caring, support and friendship over the years, and for the many friends and acquaintances Barbara made over the 25 years she lived in Southwest Virginia.

In light of the current COVID-19 crisis, memorial services will be planned for a later date in coordination with Mullins Funeral Home and the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church at 701 Church St SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

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

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Help Wanted - General

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Carilion Clinic is a drug-free workplace.

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Council of the City of Radford will hold a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting of Council on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the City Council Chambers located in the City Administration Building, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia to receive citizen comment and input regarding the Radford Transit application for FTA F.Y.21 Operating Funds, in the amount not to exceed \$1,778,500 and Capital not to exceed \$855,000.
Due to the threats to exceed the public by COVID-19, the public hearing will be conducted virtually. The members of City Council will participate in the public hearing by electronic means, and the public will be able to participate and make comments as set out below.

The City has established the following ways for you to share your public comments with City Council. The deadline to share your comments for the public hearing is Noon on January 22, 2021. Any comments received by that time will be shared with City Council and will be added to the meeting minutes,

Legals - City of Radford

making them a matter of public record.

When providing your public comments, please be sure to provide:
1. First Name;
2. Last Name;
3. Residential Address; and,
4. Your Comment.

Legals - Montgomery County

1. A Rezoning request by Gay and Neel, Inc. (applicant), for an approximately 1.38 acre property owned by Depot Street Development LLC, located at the intersection of Depot Street, N.E. and Harless Street, N.E. (tax map nos. 497-A-288, 497-A-288A, 497-A-288C, 497-A-285, 497-A-286, 497-13-3, 497-13-1E). The request is to rezone the property from B-3, General Business to R-3, Multi-Family Residential with proffers. The property is designated as residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

2. Two Conditional Use Permit requests by Balzer & Associates, Inc., on behalf of SHAH Development, LLC (applicant/owner), for property located at 1145 West Main Street (tax map no. 556-A-39) in the B-3, General Business District:

1. A conditional use permit request for residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. Residential uses as permitted in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District include single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, townhouses, and multiple-family dwellings at a density of development of up to 20 units per acre.
2. A conditional use permit request for a proposed planned housing development to consist of single-family, two-family, and multiple-family dwellings at a density of development not to exceed 7.8 units per acre.

The property is partially designated as Business/Commercial and partially designated as Residential on the Future

Legals - Montgomery County

Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/you tube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburg.org/publichearings.

Legals - Montgomery County

Copies of the applications are available for review at the following link: www.christiansburg.org/publichearings. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

COVID takes down RU men's basketball

Marty Gordon
NRV@sports@ourvalley.org

The Gardner-Webb at Radford University men's basketball series that had been scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, and Friday, Jan. 15, was postponed due to a COVID-related pause in the Highlanders program. This comes on the heels of the Radford women's program's being temporarily shut down twice over the past two months.

The series, which had been slated for a national ESPN audience, will be re-scheduled for later this season.

While the university as a whole had not commented on the status of individual players, staff and/or coaches, women's head coach Mike McGuire admitted he had a COVID incident during their shutdown.

The men's program showed some transparency in stating that Radford-native Quinton Morten-Robertson had been sitting out for the past two weeks as part of COVID protocol.

The percentage per population of positive COVID cases has been on a downward trend, but no one is predicting whether that will continue.

As of Wednesday, the Montgomery County public school system had hoped to finally begin winter sports this coming Monday, Jan. 18.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are following the "Return to Play Criteria" approved late last year. In addition, they are using the Virginia High School Phase III Guidelines as they continue to see high numbers of positive cases that have not been trend-

ing down for the past two weeks.

"We continue to look at those numbers and monitor them as we move forward," said Danny Knott, the school system's Human Resource Director.

The "MCPS Return to Play Criteria" was approved by Region VI superintendents from Allegheny, Covington, Craig, Botetourt, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem, Montgomery, Floyd, Franklin, Patrick, Henry, Martinsville, Pittsylvania and Danville.

A "Let Them Play" effort has gained momentum as a Facebook page has advocated for measures to change. Currently, Montgomery County athletes are allowed to practice, but none have seen competition as of yet.

The timetable comes at a critical point for winter sports as fall sports are scheduled to begin practice in early February.

Under the county plan, the school system looks at the numbers and determines on a weekly basis whether they are playing.

If and when Montgomery County sports do start up, basketball players will be required to wear masks during competition, making Montgomery one of only two localities to do so.

Under the current plan, the school system is requiring all competition participants to be screened including temperature checks before entering the school facility. Also, county schools will not allow spectators to attend athletic or academic competition.

In between any indoor jayvee and varsity competitions and middle school games, the gym will be cleared and sanitized.

Radford girls celebrate senior night with defeat of Giles



Senior Maggie Turk drives in for a layup in Monday night's 58-51 win over Giles. Radford High School held senior night that included recognition of Turk and her parents before the game.



Senior Makenzie Page dribbles past a defender in the Bobcats' 58-51 win. Page finished with four points and eight rebounds. Laney Cline led the Bobcats with 21 points and 12 rebounds.



Senior Bobcat cheerleader Aubrey Nolan was among those recognized at halftime of senior night Monday.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

ACC announces schedule changes for women's basketball

GREENSBORO, N.C. (theACC.com) - The Atlantic Coast Conference recently announced changes to its women's basketball schedule, including postponements, rescheduled games and adjustments to tip-off times.

The Pitt at Notre Dame game scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, has been postponed with Pitt remaining in the COVID protocol. Each program is adhering to the outlined protocols within the ACC

Medical Advisory Group report, which is available on theACC.com.

The league also announced four rescheduled games following postponements earlier in the season. Miami will travel to Louisville on Jan. 26, Virginia and Virginia Tech will meet on Feb. 2, Miami will visit Georgia Tech on Feb. 16 and Florida State will travel to Louisville on Feb. 23.

The full 2020-21 ACC women's basketball schedule can be found on

theACC.com. The adjusted league schedule now sets up as follows: Thursday, Jan. 14: Pitt at Notre Dame (Postponed); Tuesday, Jan. 26: Miami at Louisville, 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 2: Virginia at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 7: Wake Forest at Georgia Tech, noon (new tip time), Syracuse at Pitt, 2 p.m. (new tip time); Tuesday, Feb. 16: Miami at Georgia Tech, noon; Tuesday, Feb. 23: Florida State at Louisville, 2 p.m.

Former Hokie pops the question on NFL field

Brian Hoffman
bhoffman@ourvalley.org

While 2020 was a terrible year for many, Craig County native Carly Whiting and former Virginia Tech football standout Wyatt Teller will have at least two very good memories: On Dec. 21, they got engaged on the Cleveland Browns' NFL field, and Teller, an offensive lineman, helped clear a path for the team's best season in 26 years.

"We're so excited, he proposed to me in the coolest way," said Whiting, a 2009 graduate of Craig County High School. Whiting's mom, Melissa, is the principal at Craig County High, and her dad, Bud, is a well-known figure in the county as well.

The video of the proposal was shown on ESPN as Teller proposed on the 50-yard line of FirstEnergy Stadium. Whiting had suspected something was up when Teller had asked for her ring size not long before the proposal.

"We had talked about our future, but I thought something might happen after the season," Whiting said. "I was getting ready to come back to Virginia for Christmas, and he had a half day of practice on that Monday. We were on our way to a Christmas party, and I almost wore a 'Santa Baby' sweater. I'm glad I didn't."

The Browns' practice facility is about a 20-minute drive from the stadium. Teller told Whiting he left something at the stadium and had to drive there to pick it up.

"It was super believable," she said. "He's somewhat hyper and he's done that before. He told me the security guard at the stadium only had a certain window when he could let him in and we had to be there at that time. That's happened before."

The security guard let them in, and Teller then es-

corted Whiting to the field. They walked to midfield, arm in arm, as the fan vision played a video that Whiting's older sister, Rachel, had made for the occasion. Rachel is also a Craig County graduate who is now a lawyer in Roanoke. When they got to midfield, Teller got down on one knee and proposed. An obviously emotional Whiting quickly accepted.

"Honestly, my reaction was so genuine," said Whiting, who could be seen hopping up and down with joy on the video.

And that was another win for the Browns, who have now added Whiting to the official family. She's been attending all the home games and some of the road games when the coronavirus pandemic guidelines allow. At the games, Whiting sits with some team family members near the tunnel where the Browns take the field. She's gained some new friends in the past two years, and Emily, the wife of 2017-Heisman-Trophy-winning quarterback Baker Mayfield, was one of the first to congratulate her when she broke the news on her Instagram account the following night.

"I'm a social butterfly so I've made some really good friends," she said.

Teller and Whiting both went to Virginia Tech, but that's not where they met. Whiting attended football games but had no idea her future husband was wearing the maroon and orange in Lane Stadium.

"I went all the time but I never even noticed him," she said.

Teller is from Manassas, Va. He was a standout player for Liberty High School of Bealton and the now-6-4, 315-pound lineman chose the Hokies over 15 other FBS programs who offered him scholarships. He was in Frank Beamer's last recruit-

ing class, recruited as a defensive end.

"He's very proud of being in Coach Beamer's last class," said Whiting. "He told me the story of Bud Foster coming to his house, and that was very exciting for him."

Teller didn't disappoint in Blacksburg. After moving to the offensive line, he was named to the All-ACC first team, and his senior year he was the runner-up for the Jacobs Blocking Trophy, given to the top lineman in the ACC. He was invited to the 2018 Senior Bowl.

Teller was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the fifth round of the 2018 draft. It was about that time that he first met his future fiancée.

"We met through a friend in Blacksburg," she said. "He had just gotten drafted by the Bills and was training for football."

Teller opened the 2018 NFL season as a backup guard but earned a starting spot by Week 10, starting the final seven games for the Bills. The following year he went to camp in Buffalo, but on Aug. 29, 2019, just before the season, he was traded to Cleveland for two draft picks. He became a starter in Cleveland by mid-season, and for the past year and a half he has been a key member of the Browns' heralded running game, one of the best in the NFL.

Whiting moved to Cleveland in 2019 to be with Teller, and the two have gone to enjoy the city by Lake Erie. It's a little colder than Virginia, but "Wyatt doesn't mind the cold," she said. "We love it here. The city loves the Browns, and they're really excited about the team. It's a cool city."

In the past two years, the Browns have turned things around. They had the longest streak of not making the NFL playoffs prior to their win over Pittsburgh on

January 3 in Cleveland. That clinched a wild-card berth and gave them an 11-5 regular season record, their best since they were also 11-5 in 1994. They've won more than 11 games in the regular season only four times, and three of them were in the old All-American Football Conference from 1946 to 1948 with Otto Graham at quarterback. The Browns didn't join the National Football League until 1950.

While the Browns struggled with a dozen straight losing seasons prior to this year, the Cleveland fans never lost faith. "Believeland" has always been a football town, and when Pittsburgh failed to make a two point conversion in the waning minutes of a 24-22 win on the last Sunday of the regular season, the Browns punched their ticket to the playoffs.

"It was very exciting," Whiting said. She was joined at the game by Northside High graduate Samantha Bailey. Both Whiting and Bailey were outstanding volleyball players in high school and played on the same travel team. Bailey now works in the marketing department for the Detroit Lions, so it wasn't a long trip to join Whiting in Cleveland for the game. Bailey had previously worked for the Salem Red Sox baseball team and for NASCAR in Miami.

Sunday night, the Browns won their first playoff game since 1994, defeating the hated Steelers 48-37. Cleveland scored 28 first-quarter points, an NFL-playoff record. The win broke a string of 17 straight losses by the team in Pittsburgh.

Since the Browns won that 1994 playoff game, the franchise has moved to Baltimore to become the Ravens, and Cleveland then returned to the NFL as an expansion team in 1999.

"I never realized how big a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Virginia Tech and current Cleveland Brown Wyatt Teller popped the question to his longtime girlfriend, Carly Whiting, on the field of the NFL team in December.

rivalry this is," Whiting said. "They hate the Steelers in Cleveland."

This Sunday the Brown, one of only eight teams still alive in the playoffs, will play the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs at 3:05 p.m. in Kansas City.

Teller has been named to the Associated Press All-NFL second team at right guard. During Sunday's telecast, analyst Cris Collinsworth called Teller the best guard in football, and with a fiancé who plays in the NFL, Carly has picked up some knowledge about the game. She really can't avoid it.

"I cared about football when I was at Tech, and now all Wyatt's meetings are on Zoom and I can hear them," she said. "It's hard not to hear football talk around here."

Because of the pandemic, Teller couldn't train at the Browns' facility during the summer. Instead, he came to Roanoke and trained with Ryan Shuman, a former offensive guard for the Hokies who is now a member of their strength and conditioning staff.

"He trained with Ryan in his garage with just the basic resources," Whiting said. "Ryan's amazing, and he's one of the reasons Wyatt was one of the top guards in the league this year."

COVID-19 struck Whiting during the fall, but Teller was able to dodge that bullet. In fact, Browns' coach Kevin Stefanski and several

players and coaches missed the playoff game because of COVID.

"After the Nashville (in December) game, I bit into a cheeseburger and I couldn't taste it, so I knew something was wrong," Whiting said. "I spent 14 days in the house and lost my taste and smell, then I got a fever and was fatigued. I was wiped out."

Having missed the virus, Teller was taken off the watch list in time to play in the big games against the Steelers. He had missed two previous games with an ankle injury.

Teller has one more year on his rookie contract and then figures to cash in big as one of the top guards in the NFL. Teller and Whiting say they would love to remain in Cleveland. She's working for a salon there, they have a puppy, and they are happy in the city by the lake.

Meanwhile back in Craig County, the Whitings are excited to be adding Teller to the family. It's been a tough time for them as Melissa has been coping with the pandemic and Bud has been battling a case of Rocky Mountain spotted fever that has affected his health. Their daughter's good news was very welcome.

"We're excited," said Melissa. "Wyatt is a really good guy and very humble. He's a Virginia boy and he fits right in. We love him."

And, with good reason, so do the Browns.



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