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Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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Montgomery Museum exhibit reviews county history with 45 objects



A new exhibit at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History uses 45 objects to tell the stories of the county's 245 years of history.

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History at 300 Pepper St. in Christiansburg has a new exhibit with 45 objects in it that review all 245 years of Montgomery County history.

Titled "Montgomery County in 45 Objects: 1776-2021: 245 Years

of History" and inspired by similar exhibits in Richmond, Va., and the United Kingdom, this exhibition allows objects, both beautiful and mundane, to tell the Montgomery County story.

The 45 objects have been gathered from the museum's extensive

collection, through the courtesy of the Christiansburg Institute and through the generosity of private collectors who have loaned objects for this exhibit.

What were the interactions of English and German settlers with native people? On display is a 1790s ironstone platter once owned by the Harman family, who were among the county's earliest settlers. A Confederate sword made in Christiansburg, juxtaposed with slave shackles, helps bring the reality of slavery and the Civil War to life.

Commemorative pins from the opening of Route 11 and a horse doubletree (wagon harness) help to illustrate changes brought by new technology and how the methods of transportation have changed the county.

With a tangible link to the county's past, the objects elicit stories for discussion and thought. Central to the role of museums, objects such as the 45 on display in this exhibit celebrate, commemorate, and speak for those who came before.

The exhibit will be on display through December.

NRCC to offer online music course

New River Community College will offer an online music class, Music in Society (MUS 121), as a 10- and a 7-week course spring semester.

The 10-week course begins online March 1; the 7-week course begins online March 22.

The music course will be taught by Dr. Louise Billaud, NRCC professor of music and concert pianist in residence who has trained in the United States and France. In 2014, she received the Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, earned a doctorate of musical arts in music education from Boston University, and was honored by the National Association for Music Education with the award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation.

Billaud is a National Certified Teacher of Music of the Music Teachers National Association and was most recently recognized with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award and the Marquis Who's Who Top Educator and Top Artist award.

The course is transferable to four-year colleges and universities and explores the language of music through an introduction to basic elements, forms and styles across time. Students will become acquainted with composers' lives and influential creative individualities while discovering representative works and mile-

stones in western society.

Music in Society will also be offered online during the summer session as will Fundamentals of Music.

The class schedule is available at www.nr.edu/schedule. Current NRCC students may register for classes online by visiting their student accounts. New students or those who may need additional support can reach out to an advisor by

emailing advising@nr.edu or call (540) 674-3609.

For students who are new to online learning and for those in need of enhanced support services, NRCC has additional support services for remote and online learning available at www.nr.edu/remotesources.

Prospective NRCC students may visit www.nr.edu/register for enrollment information.



Dr. Louise Billaud, NRCC professor of music and concert pianist in residence, will teach a spring semester online music class, Music in Society, beginning March 1.

Virginia Tech celebrates 50 years of computer science

In 1970, the Department of Computer Science was established under its founding department head, the late George Gorsline. Two years later, it would move from a single trailer near the Duck Pond to McBryde Hall, which would become its long-term home.

Fifty years later, in 2020, the department graduated its largest computer science class to date with 311 undergraduate degrees, 49 master's

degrees, and 28 doctorates awarded, quadrupling its total graduation rate from 1974.

In January 2021, the computer science department launched a semester-long set of virtual programs to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The 50th anniversary site will continue to be refreshed with new content each month, inviting alumni and friends to participate in a variety of virtual activities. Programs include

faculty and alumni panels, 50 for 50 alumni spotlights, a virtual student research showcase, and a special virtual 5K event for alumni from around the world to come together March 20-21.

Computer science students Jonah Bishop and Alyssa Farrell have designed a commemorative T-shirt and decal that will be sent to all participants who register for the 5K. A portion of the race registration fee will be directed to the Computer Science Department Annual Fund in support of student groups and activities such as experiential learning and departmental growth.

The 50 for 50 spotlights are an ongoing effort to highlight 50 of the department's alumni from across all decades in a question-and-answer format with questions tailored for the individual's background and professional experiences.

The anniversary site is also a source of nostalgia with alumni encouraged to submit their photos and favorite memories of the department. A commemorative video will feature alumni and department leadership sharing their experiences and looking ahead to what the future holds.



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE PHOTO FILE

Circa 1974, students line the hallways of McBryde Hall waiting to get into the punch card room.

News Brief: Vehicle crashes into business on N. Franklin Street

Saturday, Feb. 20, at approximately 9:10 a.m., a 2006 Chevrolet pickup traveling northbound in the 1500 block of N. Franklin Street in Christiansburg crossed over the divider, crossed the southbound lanes, left the roadway and traveled through a parking lot before crashing into a parked car and an occupied business.

The crash resulted in significant damage to both the business -- Cricket Wireless, located at 1580 N. Franklin St. -- and a 2010 Honda Civic parked outside. Initial estimates put the damage to the building at \$60,000. Christiansburg building inspectors condemned the

building as a result of the damage.

At the scene, the driver of the vehicle, William Tyler Griffith, 27, of Dublin, had no visible injuries and was conscious and alert but had no recollection of the crash or what caused him to cross the center line. He was transported to LewisGale Hospital Montgomery for further evaluation.

The crash caused an estimated \$4,000 damage to the parked Honda Civic, and Griffith's pickup truck was a total loss.

No one inside the building was seriously injured, but an employee did receive a minor cut from flying debris.

Students work with Blacksburg to address food insecurity related to climate change



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIA KELINSKY-JONES

Members of Virginia Tech's Science Policy Education and Advocacy Club (SPEAC) discuss their work during a recent Zoom meeting. The club is working with the Town of Blacksburg on a project to seek solutions to the problem of local food insecurity and its relation to climate change.

Nine members of Virginia Tech's Science Policy Education and Advocacy Club (SPEAC, pronounced "speak") are working with the Town of Blacksburg as they explore how to use their science and engineering knowledge and skills to advocate for and influence science-based public policy.

The project the group is working on involves the problem of food security in the New River Valley and what role climate change plays in that insecurity.

The club was formed at Tech two years ago when Kathryn Lopez, a Ph.D. student studying Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, wanted to explore how to use her science and engineering knowledge and skills to advocate for and influence science-based public policy.

"I was looking for ways to connect to the Capital Region in a policy role. Universities across the country have similar programs, but Virginia Tech didn't," she said.

Her timing was fortuitous. The club's advisor suggested Lopez talk to Carol Davis, Blacksburg's sustainability manager, to see if there was something they could help with. Blacksburg had signed onto the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and had conducted a climate vulnerability assessment that noted several threats to the region, one of which was food insecurity.

The club members "decided to tackle food systems and food insecurity and the concerns related to climate

vulnerability in a multi-disciplinary way," said Davis. "They have outlined some rough policy steps," Davis said of SPEAC's work thus far. "We want to develop a food resiliency group."

Lia Kelinsky-Jones, one of Lopez' colleagues involved with the project, said the group's work thus far has been to examine the literature on food insecurity and climate change and to survey other communities that also signed the Mayors Agreement to ask what they are doing and if they are willing to share their documentation.

"We're doing a deep dive into the responses," she said.

Davis said Blacksburg already is talking with Winston-Salem, N.C., based on that community's work and the policies developed to address food security.

They also plan to survey local organizations for their recommendations. Then Kelinsky-Jones and SPEAC member Sarah Derrick will write the policy memo advising the town to adopt food insecurity as an action issue.

"This is local science policy work," Derrick said. "We can't influence the national agenda, but we can work at the local level. I'm excited because we are putting a lot on the docket for the general public."

Davis said the group's work has been invaluable and she looks forward to continuing efforts together. "I think what I like about them is that this is a durable

See Students, page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 24:

Introduction to Cross Stitch: Virtual - From 2 to 3 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. This class is perfect for everyone who always wanted to learn to cross stitch but didn't know where to start. This class will teach such basics as creating the basic stitches and how to follow patterns to create beautiful designs. There will even be some history. Email Sally at ststuffer@mfrl.org for information about attending this virtual meeting.

Friday, Feb. 26:

Teen Creative: Jewelry Making - 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. This month's teen creative video will cover jewelry making, providing tips, tricks, and more.

Saturday, Feb. 27:

Outdoor Book Sale - From 10

a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library weather permitting. Prices are \$5 for a bag of books or \$1 for hardbacks and \$.50 for paperbacks. Gift books will be available for \$2 each. Call the library for more details and to confirm that the sale will be held.

Sunday, Feb. 28:

Blacksburg Disc Golf Fundraiser - This is a two-division trophy-only event. The course has been modified into a temporary 16-hole tournament layout. Registration is \$30 and will include a two-disc player pack. The money raised will be used to reimburse the cost of the installation of the new tee pads at Blacksburg Municipal Park.

This is a tee-time event. Final tee times will be posted on the event page after registration closes on the evening of Friday, Feb. 26. Arrive at least 15 minutes before your designated tee

time to check in. To register, visit www.discgolfscene.com/tournaments/Blacksburg_Municipal_Disc_Golf_Fundraiser_2021.

Through Friday, March 5:

Blacksburg free curbside brush collection - The Town of Blacksburg is offering free curbside brush collection for snow and ice storm related vegetative debris through March 5. Residents are required to call public works at 540-443-1200 to request a special pickup, and collections will be done in the order they are received.

Requests will be taken until Friday March 5, and will be limited to one pickup per household. Pickups will be limited to one dump truck load (10'x7'x3') per location per pickup date. To be picked up, the brush should be cut into lengths no greater than seven feet and no greater than six inches in diameter and

should be stacked outside and away from any fencing, mailboxes, shrubbery, lampposts, or any other structure or obstacles that may be damaged by town equipment.

Tuesday, March 16:

Radford Reads with Monica Rodden - Join the Radford Public Library at 6:30 p.m. for a Zoom conversation with Monica Rodden, author of "Monsters Among Us." Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov for details. The library has a limited number of free copies of this book to give away, so call ahead to reserve a copy while supplies last.

Ongoing:

StoryWalk - All month of February at the Christiansburg Library.

Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail.

The walk begins at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "The Big Red Barn."

Through Friday, March 5:

Glencoe Mansion "2020 in Review" Art Show - The show features the works of artists Cheryl Mackian, the Radford Photo Club, and Teresa Regil, whose works all appeared in the Gallery during 2020. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Through Saturday, April 24:

'Unbearable Beauty' Exhibit at Moss Arts Center - The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Virginia 4-H partners with Google and Bill Nye 'The Science Guy' to take a mission to Mars

As Emma Lloyd, a 13-year-old member of the Soaring Arrows 4-H Club in Frederick County, Virginia, watches NASA's Perseverance Mars Rover barrel toward the red planet, she feels a special connection to the historic moment.

"Working on the 4-H Mars missions at the same time as NASA is inspiring," Lloyd said. "I feel like I'm working alongside NASA to get to Mars. It makes me want to learn more about the red planet and NASA."

Seizing the moment of NASA's Mars rover launch last year, 4-Hers across the country took part in the Mars Base Camp Challenge, four unique hands-on activities to get kids and teens to explore computer science, space agriculture, and more. The rover was to touch down on the red dust of Mars on Feb. 18.

With support from Google, the National 4-H Council, and Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia 4-H designed the challenge to ensure that young

people everywhere, regardless of Internet connectivity or family resources, have access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Challenge kits, which include online and offline activities.

The kit contained the parts for the construction of a complex miniature Mars rover. 4-Hers built a motorized rover that could navigate obstacles ranging from blocks found around the house or even cardboard boxes to simulate the topography of Mars.

The 4-H STEM Challenge will encourage young people to take an interest in STEM through fundamental concepts in space exploration and beyond, all while finding new and creative ways to stay engaged virtually.

"The Mars Base Camp theme is the perfect topic to engage young people and encourage them to explore a wide range of exciting subject areas related to STEM, in addition to the theme of outer space," said Erika Bonnett, a Virginia Coop-

erative Extension specialist.

"Extension and the nation's land-grant universities are perfectly positioned to develop research-backed curriculum and activities that help young people learn in creative ways," Bonnett said. "These activities inspire kids to get hands-on and think about some big problems that today's top scientists and engineers are working on."

Virginia 4-H distributed the base camp kits to every corner of the commonwealth to ensure that youth had access to the space materials. Nearly 350 educator kits and 400 family kits were issued, along with training on how to use them.

The Mars Base Camp Challenges kicked off last fall with Bill Nye "The Science Guy," CEO at The Planetary Society. He served as this year's 4-H STEM Challenge Ambassador, encouraging millions of young people across the U.S. by telling them that no matter the circumstances they are facing as a result of COVID-19,

they can still explore STEM and participate in hands-on learning opportunities just like what the Soaring Arrows 4-H Club has done.

"My mission is to change the world by getting people excited about science and its infinite possibilities," Nye said. "This year's STEM Challenge will expose young people to fundamental ideas in science and

encourage a lifetime of exploration. I'm thrilled to partner with 4-H and inspire the next generation of STEM leaders and decision-makers who will ultimately shape our future."

In addition to Google, the 2020 4-H STEM Challenge was developed with support from national partners Bayer, Toyota, and the United States Air Force.



Emma Lloyd works with her Soaring Arrows 4-H Club to construct her Mars rover as part of the 2020 4-H STEM Challenge.

Local college students receive honors, degrees

Blacksburg's Allen Briggs named to RIT dean's list

Allen Briggs of Blacksburg was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 fall semester. Briggs is in the game design and development program.

Undergraduate students are eligible for the dean's list if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credits of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," "NE," "D," or "F;" and they have registered for, and completed, at

least 12 credit hours.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 18,600 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among

the largest private universities in the U.S.

Riner's Jessica Musselman named to president's list at Freed-Hardeman

Jessica Musselman, a junior biochemistry major from Riner, was named to the president's

list for the fall semester at Freed-Hardeman University.

To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average.

The mission of Freed-Hardeman University is to help students develop their God-given talents

for His glory by empowering them with an education that integrates Christian faith, scholarship and service. With locations in Henderson, Memphis and Dickson, Tenn., FHU offers bachelors, masters, specialists

See Honors, page 3

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Ancient Persian city
 - Spindles
 - Stake
 - Retrain
 - Close by
 - Commercial
 - One who publicly announces
 - American ballplayer
 - Junior's father
 - Go up or climb
 - Concern
 - When you hope to get there
 - Iacocca and Oswald are
 - Plant of the lily family
 - Male college organization
 - National capital
 - Raccoonlike animal
 - Symbols of fertility
 - Astronomy unit
 - Series of ridges in anatomy
 - Hebrew leader
 - A portent of good or evil
 - Supreme goddess
 - Gelatinous substance
 - Engage in a contest
 - Famed ballplayer Ruth
 - Pledge
 - ___ denotes past
 - Workplace
 - Large quantity of something
 - Engraved
 - Discount
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Shoe
 - Disquiet
 - Posture
 - Large nests
 - Soviet "Second Symphony" composer
 - Joins 2 pipes of different diameter
 - Exist
 - Overdose
 - Pleat of fabric
 - Predict the future
 - Burgeoning technology
 - Having made a valid will
 - Having no fixed course
 - ___ route
 - Lethal dose
 - Indian musical pattern of notes
 - Athlete
 - Geological times
 - Atomic #21
 - In support of
 - Brew
 - Certificate of insurance
 - Taxi
 - Type of saying
 - For cigars
 - Phil ___, former CIA
 - Local area network
 - Gym class
 - Philippine Island
 - Not great or bad
 - Eastern part of NY state
 - Gov't lawyers
 - Constructions
 - Former British gold coin
 - Unkeyed
 - Rechristen
 - Threaten persistently
 - Southeast
 - Cools your home
 - Removes the leaves
 - Regretted
 - Thus
 - Relief organization (abbr.)
 - Exclamation of surprise

Students

from page 1

relationship," she said. "I'm always blown away by the professors and students at Virginia Tech."

Lopez said she is delighted with SPEAC's growth over the past two years. "The most exciting thing is that it started as an idea.

I struggled to get five people, and now we have closer to 50," she said.

The club now boasts members from at least four colleges across the university. Most are graduate students, but a few undergraduate students also have joined.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

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Historic Montgomery



The 1909 Montgomery County Courthouse is shown in this 1952 photograph after the front portico was removed in 1933 to widen Main Street. (This image is from the D. D. Lester Collection, and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

Honors

from page 2

and doctoral degrees.

Two from county earn Sewanee dean's list honors

Christian Shushok of Blacksburg, son of Kelly and Frank X. Shushok, and Lexi Rader of Radford, daughter of Sara and Michael E. Rader, have been named to the dean's list at the University of the South, familiarly known as Sewanee, for the Fall 2020 term.

To earn a place on Sewanee's dean's list, a student must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.625 on a 4.0 scale.

The University of the South is an independent liberal arts college located on 13,000 acres atop Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau between Nashville and Chattanooga. It has been consistently ranked among the top tier of national liberal arts colleges.

Two locals achieve dean's list at Ohio University

Brandon DeLorenzo from Blacksburg in the College of Business and Chris Marks from Christiansburg in the College of Business have been named to the dean's list for the 2020 fall semester at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

To earn dean's list distinction, students at Ohio University must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester with a schedule of classes totaling at least 15 hours, 12 of which were taken for letter grades.

Blacksburg's Renee Stewart earns master's degree

Renee Stewart from Blacksburg graduated with a Master of Arts (Organizational Communication) from Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication in the fall of 2020.

More than 2,300 students graduated with bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees from Ohio University for the fall semester.

The graduates represented many areas of the United States and an abundance of countries, including China, India, Saudi Arabia, Peru and Canada.

Blacksburg's Cameron Earle earns dean's list honors at WPI

Cameron Earle of Blacksburg, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in robotics engineering, was named to the dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for the fall 2020 semester.

The global leader in project-based learning, WPI is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems.

Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world.

Blacksburg's Michael Joyce named to UA president's list

Michael Joseph Joyce of Blacksburg was named to The University of Alabama president's list for fall 2020.

The Alabama dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education.

Local students earn dean's list honors at JMU

Twenty-six local students earned dean's list recognition for the 2020 fall semester at James Madison University.

Achieving dean's list honors from Blacksburg were Allison Brauns, who is majoring in intelligence analysis; Emily Clark, who is majoring

in dance; Annie Combs, who is majoring in media arts and design; Rachel Day, who is majoring in nursing; Alexander Dunn, who is majoring in nursing; Molly Helton, who is majoring in nursing; Jackson Packard, who is majoring in finance; Hettie Roberson, who is majoring in health sciences; Ryan Santa Maria, who is majoring in media arts and design; and Mariah Thompson, who is majoring in hospitality management.

Achieving dean's list honors from Christiansburg were Abby Caudle, who is majoring in dietetics; Shellie Cook, who is majoring in kinesiology; Destiny Gravely, who is majoring in communication studies; Elizabeth Humphreys, who is majoring in theatre; Jasmine Kitts, who is majoring in political science; Rachel Lloyd, who is majoring in communication sciences and disorders; Austin Mathews, who is majoring in marketing; and Jennifer Shaffer, who is majoring in health services administration.

Earning dean's list honors from JMU from Elliston was Naomi Hemphill, who is majoring in kinesiology.

Receiving dean's list recognition from Radford were Cailie Abate, who is majoring in interdisciplinary liberal studies; Ragan Hale, who is majoring in nursing; and Luke Henderson, who is majoring in integrated science and technology.

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



At a year old, Ivar is an energetic, young pup ready to find his forever home. He will need some training to improve his doggie manners. Ivar is treat-motivated, which may help as he learns. He enjoys attention and affection, especially once he feels comfortable.



Neko is a love bug. He prefers people to toys and he loves being petted. He's very sweet and is not shy to express himself, letting out purrs of joy when he feels happy and receives affection.

Floyd Arts Center exhibit includes Christiansburg, Radford, Blacksburg artists

Currently on display at the Floyd Center for the Arts is its ninth annual New Voice: Emerging Artists Exhibit, which welcomes the work of 11 new voices to the regional artists' community, including artists from Christiansburg, Radford and Blacksburg.

The center is located at 220 Parkway Lane South, Floyd, one-half mile south of the stoplight on Route 8.

The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, April 3.

Each year the center invites regional university art instructors to recommend current and former students who are either just starting along their artistic paths or who are somehow changing their artistic journey in a significant way.

This year's referrals came from Radford University, Virginia Tech, New River Community College, and Floyd-based ceramic artist Silvie Granatelli.

The 2021 list of invited artists in the New Voice: Emerging Artists Exhibit is as follows: Zach Blevins-Goad

of Christiansburg. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Kevin Meredith of Christiansburg. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Isabella Linkous of Radford. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Jack Miles of Radford. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Alejandra Moral of Blacksburg. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Charlotte Middleton of Floyd. Referred by Silvie Granatelli.

Noah Bower of Floyd. Referred by Tammy Parks of New River Community College.

Bobbie Rhea Daniels of Bedford. Referred by Jennifer Hand of Virginia Tech.

Alexandra Leonetti of Dublin. Referred by Stuart Robinson of Radford University.

Brittiany Rorrer of Baren Spring. Referred by Tammy Parks of New River

er Community College.

Mikayla Spivey of Virginia Beach. Referred by Jennifer Hand of Virginia Tech.

Also on display through April 13 at the center in the Falcon Gallery is "Portraits and Backgrounds: Pencil Drawings" by Steve Lash. These fine-detailed portraits have elements of contemporary life, paralleled with different aspects of the cultural past, such as Celtic Art and Western Art.

Both exhibits are free and open to the public during regular business hours, which are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The center has COVID-19 prevention safety measures in place.

Private viewings in the galleries are available for individuals and/or small groups by advance reservation. More information is available via www.floydartcenter.org, or by calling the center at 540-745-4782 or by visiting the center.

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News Messenger

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02345-1

AFFORDABLEDENTURES.COM

OPINION

Evans King: On living with a truly mundane and truly amazing device

Well, it's Sunday morning and I'm sitting in front of the fireplace in my little study, trying to formulate my thoughts for a column, which sometimes is like the proverbial herding of cats.

Speaking of cats, my resident one, Scarlett, is stretched out on the ottoman in front of me, staring past me with that look of total indifference. Loving, but casually indifferent, as only a cat can do.

She asked me to play some zydeco music this morning. She just can't get enough of the virtual Mardi Gras that I put on for her this year. I told her it's Lent now, but she wanted to hear more music. She meowed "more washboard, more washboard." Says she's giving up having her nails trimmed for Lent but still wants to continue the celebration. I told her we'd talk about the nail thing later. A painful subject for me.

I looked at her, and she sensed that I was hoping she would come up with an idea and write this week's column. Scarlett occasionally fills in for

me and does a nice piece for the Messenger and the Journal. She calls her column "A Cat of a Certain Age." No idea where she came up with that one.

But she sighs and says, "I got nothing for you, you're on your own." About that time, however, blessed serendipity arrived, as it has frequently in my life. My watch buzzed or hummed or something. I looked down and it said "breathe." I was startled because I thought I had been. But who am I to argue with my watch so I took some deep breaths. If I hadn't been breathing I'm darned glad my watch took note.

Then, a few moments later, my watch contacts me again. I look down and it says "stand." Again, not wanting to argue with my watch or the ghost of Steve Jobs, I stand. I think the conditioning of many years of married life has prepared me for this level of obedience.

Next, the watch does that little tingling thing on my wrist again, somewhat urgently this time, and I look down and it says "Your Weekly Activity Report Available." This

seems to happen every Sunday morning about the same time. I ignore this one. A little afraid what my watch might be reporting on or what it might have observed. Like, how many stupid things did I say at work this past week or how lazy was I when I should have been working out. Perhaps the report is how many times the previous week did I get up in the middle of the night to microwave shredded pepper jack cheese on nachos. I fear that my "Weekly Activity Report" may be more about my failures than my successes, so I pass on reviewing it.

This made me think about other things my watch tells me. When I get in my car every morning for my "commute," it says, "13 minutes to near White Oaks Office Park, traffic is light." Every day the same. Some might find this pointless or boringly repetitive. I see it as a daily affirmation of why I'm happy that I have lived and made my life where I have. I envision college and law school classmates whose watches tell them something

like "1 hour and 45 minutes to work, traffic a dangerous, snarling nightmare." So in this instance Steve Jobs designed a life-affirming gadget for my wrist. A daily celebration.

I never cease to be amazed at everything my watch knows about me (I may be the only person left in America who is still amazed by this). On Wednesdays, when I leave work to head home, instead of telling me "13-minute drive to near Wood Street, traffic light" as it does every other day of the week, my watch says "8-minute drive to near Best Western, traffic light. Just so happens that on Wednesdays after work, I meet (or did until the pandemic) some of my old pals at a local watering hole - Brickside - near the Best Western in town. So, again, who am I to disobey my watch when it clearly wants me to go to the "Brick" to see my friends?"

Many in our world seem very threatened by the level of knowledge that technology garners about us. I am probably less bothered than most.

I have always worn my heart on my sleeve as they used to say, my life more or less an open book. So I'm not worried much about the things computers have learned about me, but maybe a little bit about how it's used. If it helps me find my favorite cat treats more easily, Scarlett and I are okay with it, however.

These people at Apple did many other wondrous things for us with their watch. I get the weather, I send texts and emails, I listen to music when I jog, I pay for things in stores. I truly wish my Dad, who loved innovation and new gadgets, could have lived to have had one of these things on his wrist. He would have been thrilled and amazed by it all. Particularly the fact that you can get the scores.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

I promise to love, honor, obey and change your oil

"Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Detwiler of Frog Lick, Tenn., request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their son, Billy Bob, Jr., to his Ford Mustang GT. The bride-elect, 3, is a native of Detroit and the great-grandchild of Henry Ford. Her blood type is 10-W-40. She has dual exhaust, turbo, and a passenger side airbag. The groomsmen are a Ram 3500 and a Dodge Chal-

lenger. The bridesmaids are a Mini Cooper and a Kia Soul. The ceremony will take place in the left bay of the Detwiler garage. A reception will be held at the Frog Lick O'Reilly Auto Parts Store."

With decades of experience in various news rooms of both weeklies, dailies, and bi-weeklies, I have access to a wealth of material I have collected

over the years that provides me a virtually endless source for these columns I manage to come up with. Often that material is funny. Often it is downright weird. Often it is both.

One of the weirdest pieces of material I have managed to pull out of my grab bag of tricks deals with America's love affair with the automobile, which continues unabated despite the fluctuating prices of gasoline. It renders the wedding invitation quoted above a little less weird than you might expect.

Seems a Knoxville, Tenn., man named Buster was jilted by his girlfriend and decided he had had enough of females. So he decided he wanted to marry his new love: his Mustang GT.

"I've been broken hearted and hung out to dry, so I am going to the courthouse and try to marry my car," Buster said. Gotta be a country song or two in there somewhere.

The courthouse clerk -- a woman who apparently was not one to be trifled with -- dashed ole Buster's dreams. The state of the law in the state of Tennessee at that time was that only men and women could marry. Or so she told the swain.

Actually, Buster might have been on to something here. For one thing, the bride would never complain about

being left alone at home, even when Buster went fishing or hunting. Wherever Buster went, she would go. They would be inseparable.

No prenuptial agreement would have been necessary. Instead of "honor and obey" in the vows, Buster could have promised "oil changes and premium gasoline."

Buster didn't go down easy. He pointed out to the clerk that in California they allowed same-sex marriages, so why was marrying a truck much different? There does seem to be a pickup-truck-sized hole somewhere in that logic, though. Not surprisingly, the clerk told Buster to hit the road with or without his Mustang.

Then Buster resolved to try his luck at a couple of wedding chapels in the Great Smoky Mountains. Buster got busted there, too.

You know, marriage in the United States has been a pretty precarious institution over the past few decades. But one of the biggest lies perpetrated on the American public is that 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. After hours of exhaustive research (yeah, right), I have uncovered the sordid truth. It seems a lower-level employee at one of the country's leading pollsters looked at the marriage stats one year that showed there had been half as

many divorces as there had been marriages. So he lazily came up with the statistic that half of all marriages end in divorce. The problem, of course, is that his gross lie didn't take into account all the people that year who neither married nor divorced, which was most of the folks in the country.

The truth is nobody really knows the exact divorce-to-marriage ratio in the U.S. because so many recalcitrants insist on staying married year after year.

But I seem to have wandered off the beaten path here.

What if Buster had indeed been given a license to tie the knot with his beloved GT? Given the prevalence of divorce in this nation, there's always a chance the marriage wouldn't have worked out. Lovers have certainly been known to be fickle, and men have been known to go for a younger, flashier model. Say a Lamborghini Aventador. Cherry red, of course.

What then?

Well, I have rifled through my wealth of material for the answer and found it in Tennessee. Yep, Buster's home state. Spring Hill, Tenn., to be exact where some Volunteer State residents once were treated to a very loud and dramatic illustration of what could happen when the

bond between Man and Auto/Truck is irreparably broken.

Witness Boyd Kelly and his Oldsmobile, which General Motors discontinued in 2004 after selling some 35 million of them over the decades, I'm sorry to say. I had a Cutlass once. She was a fine automobile though maybe she didn't do ole Boyd Boy any favors. Anyway, Boyd Kelly's Oldsmobile quit on him in the dark of a stifling Southern Saturday night.

So ole Boyd just whipped out his handy military assault rifle and shot the ole girl. Ninety times.

Needless to say, passing motorists must have been intrigued, startled, and shocked at the sight of an irate man firing an AK-47 into a helpless, innocent, unresisting, passengerless car.

Hey, it was certainly faster, less painful, and heap less expensive than a divorce obtained through the courts. And besides, ole Boyd was now free to marry the real true love of his life: his assault rifle.

The author is a man of a certain age who is one of those recalcitrants he mentioned earlier who steadfastly insist on rendering the nation's exact divorce-to-marriage ratio difficult if not impossible to determine. Thirty-seven years and counting.

News Messenger

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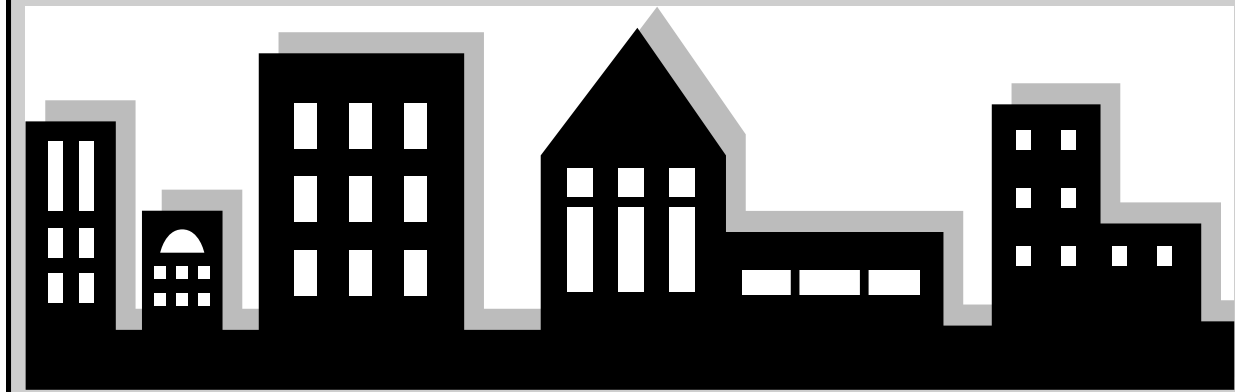
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone 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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OBITUARIES

Alderman, Deborah Gale

Deborah Gale Alderman was born on July 31, 1959, in Christiansburg. She followed her twin sister, Dinah, into this world three minutes later. We may never know but we were always told, Dinah was born on 7/31 a minute before midnight and Deborah followed two minutes after midnight on 8/1/59 but the records were manipulated so they would share their birthday.



With the exception of a few years in Shawsville, she lived her life in the Town of Christiansburg, a place she loved. She always said the birth of her son, Kyle, was one of her greatest accomplishments. They shared a special bond and love for each other that many of us will never experience.

She worked many years as a weaver at New River Industries until the plant closed in 2007. She moved on to find rewarding work in the cafeteria at Christiansburg High School as well as at Food Lion in the deli, making and decorating cakes and assisting customers at the counter. She enjoyed making and decorating cakes for special occasions, especially for friends and their family members. How fortunate were we to have shared a bite of something she made with love.

She was rewarded by her work doing crafts and teaching in children's church. She loved traveling with family and friends and found many memories in her trips to Hawaii, Arizona, California, Florida, Canada, Midwest locations and several trips to New York City where she took in Broadway plays, Yankee baseball games, various museum visits and the

best pizza by the slice in Penn Station. She also made memorable trips, to name a few, to Pigeon Forge, Dollywood and Disney World with Kyle.

Deborah nurtured many long-term friendships. She felt their sincere love over the years and kindness till the end. Due to COVID, she could only have visits at the window, but that never fazed her many friends who were there over and over. Deborah was a good-hearted woman and was dearly loved and will be missed.

She is survived by her son, Kyle G. Maynard, and his girlfriend, Alexis; her sister, Dinah Alderman Rengel, and brother-in-law David Rengel of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Deborah was preceded in death by her loving parents, Dale and Maisie (Lynch) Alderman, and a sister, Linda Cox.

Special thanks go to Carilion Hospice, who gave Deborah the precious love and respect she deserved. She also appreciated the special Santa visit by the Christiansburg Fire and Police departments during the Christmas holiday. Thanks also to Sowder's Chapel, a congregation of family who were very close to her.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Christiansburg Fire Department or the Elliston Fire Department. For virtual service, please go to the Sowder's Chapel Facebook page on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, at 2 p.m. for a live stream service. Services will be available to view later.

Arrangements are with Horne Funeral Home & Crematory 540-382-2612.

Flanagan, Elizabeth Anne "Betsy"

Elizabeth Anne "Betsy" Flanagan, 68, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at her home in the Catawba Valley.

She was born in Belle Vernon, Penn. to the late Thomas and Julia D. Flanagan.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, H. Michael Mitchell, and their beloved Great Danes, Hunter, Scarlett, Beaugard, and Rufus.

Betsy was an avid learner throughout her lifetime and was a proud member of the Monongahela Valley Catholic High School class of 1970. She continued her education at Bethany College, earning her bachelor's degree with magna cum laude distinction in Spanish. She also earned her master's degree in social work/gerontology from the University of West Virginia and her Ph.D. in higher education with minors in law and graduate business from the University of Virginia.

An educator, she always made time to mentor young professionals at all stages of her career.

Betsy served as Vice President in Personal Trust at SunTrust Bank in Richmond, Assistant Vice President for Development and Director of Individual and Major Planned Gifts for the University of Virginia, and retired as the Vice President for Development and University Relations at Virginia Tech, standing at the helm of the university's first successful one billion dollar fundraising campaign.

Accomplished, compassionate, altruistic, undaunted and fun, Betsy would help anyone and worked to leave things better than



she found them. She ran marathons and loved travel, good wine, dancing, music, art, and dogs and had the most profound understanding of the power of relationships.

She leaves to celebrate her amazing legacy her village: Angela Hayes, Lee Rundquist, Andre and Ernan Smith, Luca and Patty Paschina, Beth Geraghty, Karen Wells, Julie Farmer, Kelly Mulrone, Theresa Norton, and Norman Blanchard; her mother-in-law, Mrs. Mildred G. Mitchell; a devoted niece, Nyasi Kelley, special cousins Tommy Flanagan, Rosie Fiorill, and Katie Flanagan; mentor Dr. Annette Gibbs; neighborhood mother Mrs. Genevieve Ward; and a host of cousins, colleagues, friends, mentees, and members of the Hokie Nation who enriched her life.

The family offers our thanks to Dr. Benjamin Purow and his team at UVA for nearly 14 years of support and for the nurturing care she received in Blacksburg, allowing her to remain safe and happy at home.

Services are entrusted to McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg and will be held privately. Betsy will be laid to rest in Belle Vernon, Penn.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., for the Betsy Flanagan Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Endowed Lecture Fund, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060 or to the Purow Laboratory/UVA Neuro-Oncology Fund c/o Erica Cook and Norman Tillman, UVA Division of Neuro-Oncology West Complex, 1215 Lee Street, Charlottesville, VA 22908.

Alderman, Freda Dixon

Freda Dixon Alderman went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Feb. 18, 2021, at 7:30 a.m.

Freda had struggled for several years with health issues. Her husband of 58 years, Albert (Sammy) Alderman, was with her for her passing.

Freda was preceded in death by her parents, Glen Dixon and Dolly Woods Dixon, as well as several sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews.

Freda is survived by her lifelong husband, Albert (Sammy) Alderman; daughters Vicki L. Boothe/John Precht and Tina A. Whetzel; grandsons Steven L. Minnick/Amanda Min-



nick and Zane W. Whetzel/Emily Story; granddaughter Samantha J. Whetzel/Tyler Bailey; great-grandsons Bryant Minnick, Zander Whetzel and Dawson Henry; great-granddaughter Hadleigh Sutherland; special grandsons Jacob Minnick and Jacob Barker; special granddaughter Sarah Rakes; her sister and her husband, Irene and Harry Neece; as well as many other nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Funeral services were at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg on Saturday, Feb. 20. Interment followed in Huffville Cemetery in Floyd.

Churchwell, Vatina Saunders

Vatina Saunders Churchwell, 50, of Radford, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

She is survived by her husband, Leon Jose Churchwell; her children, Nikita Grant Furrow and Kareem Grant; her mother, Jennifer Saunders; her father, Leonard (Kat) Saunders; her sisters, Alveria M. Saunders, Juanita (Eric) Saunders Penn, and Marchelle (Tommy) Saunders; a brother, Leonard Earl Saunders, Jr.; grandchildren (her bunny rabbits); a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends; and her dog, Oreo.



our profound appreciation for the many kind expressions extended to us in our hour of sorrow by so many friends. It is with sincere gratitude that we accept your kind words, your prayers, your visits, messages, gifts, food, cards of condolence, flowers and all other acts of kindness. You will always be remembered and cherished in our hearts. May God bless each of you.

Services will be held at a later date. The Churchwell family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Gunter, Sharon Diane

Sharon Diane Gunter, 73, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

Per her request, no services will be held at this time.

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

Hypes, Mary Frances

Mary Frances Hypes, 99, of Newport, went to her heavenly home on Feb. 19, 2021.

She was born on June 8, 1921 in Abney, W.Va. She was the first of seven children of the late Henry Clarence and Nannie Mae Heavener Hypes.

She made her home on the family farm in the Spruce Run community and graduated from Newport High School in 1939 as valedictorian of her class, and from Virginia Tech with honors and was employed by the Giles County Public School System for 40 years.

Frances was an excellent school teacher and taught at Eggleston and Newport high schools before becoming librarian at Giles High School. A faithful follower of Christ, she was a member of the Newport Lutheran Church and attended Oak View Christian Church where she taught a Sunday school class for many years. She loved to grow beautiful flowers and also had a love for music, playing the piano and singing with her sisters.

Five loving girls, great great-nieces Marin and Lydia Hypes and next door neigh-

bors Molly, Anna and Lacey Morris brought her much joy with their many visits. Frances was a loving aunt to all her nephews and nieces, who all called her "Mamie."

She was preceded in death by three brothers, William Henry, Alva Virgil and Kelly Edward Hypes; a sister, Hilda Hypes Decker; a brother-in-law, Charles D. Decker; and sisters-in-law, Lorraine Rasnake Hypes and Charlsie Hypes Smith.

She leaves to cherish her memory two sisters, Dorothy Jean and Ruth Inez Hypes; nephews and nieces Allen and Tammy Hypes, Eddie and Robin Hypes, Kathy and John Pennington, Lisa and Gordy Sachs and Tammy and J.D. Olinger; great-nephews and nieces Nathan Hypes, David and Kristen Hypes, Brady Hypes and Anne, Stephen and Tanya Hypes, Eric and Jessica Pennington, Michael and Erica Pennington, Adam and Kersten Sachs, Brandon Harvey, Brandy Sachs, Kelley Olinger, and Casey Olinger; three great-great nephews, eight great-great nieces, and numerous other friends and neighbors whom we sincerely thank for their love, kindness,

prayers and help.

To Hadassah Simmons, Dawn Norris, and Chelsey DiRico, we will forever be grateful. We also thank the Newport Volunteer Rescue Squad for their help and kindness.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary McCoy officiating. Interment followed in Westview Cemetery. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

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Contact - Broker & Auctioneer, Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com or Levi Cox, Realtor at 540-230-7162 or email LeviCox87@gmail.com.

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Legals - City of Radford

Notice to Our Family Medicine Patients

Effective Monday, March 1, 2021, Scott Kincaid, M.D., will retire and no longer practice from Carilion Clinic Family Medicine in Radford. Your confidential medical records will remain with Carilion Clinic. If you choose to continue your medical care with us, you do not need to take any action. If you choose to transfer to another provider and need a copy of your Carilion Clinic Family Medicine record, please contact our office for a medical record request/transfer form. After you return the form and the request is processed, your medical record will be sent to another provider of your choice within a reasonable time. If you need help finding a physician in a different office, please call the physician referral line on Carilion Direct at 800-422-8482.



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Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC VEHICLES, TAXICABS, AND FOR HIRE CARS FOR WHICH CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY SHALL BE ISSUED DURING THE NEXT YEAR AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING TO WHICH PERSON OR PERSONS SUCH CERTIFICATES SHALL BE ISSUED.

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 98-94 of The Code of the City of Salem, Virginia, the Council of the City of Salem hereby gives notice that at the regular meeting of said Council to be held on March 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd., Salem, Virginia, a public hearing will be held for the purpose of determining the number of public vehicles, taxicabs, and for hire cars for which certificates of public convenience and necessity shall be issued during the next year and for the purpose of determining to which person or persons such certificates shall be issued.
At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such certificates should or should not be granted.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BY
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Council

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Salem School Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the FY 2021-2022 budget on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The hearing will begin at 5:30 PM at South Salem Elementary School, 1600 Carolyn Road, Salem, VA 24153. Any citizen of Salem who wishes to address the Board should contact Kathy A. Jordan, Clerk of the Board, at 389-0130 by Monday, March 8, in order to be placed on the agenda. Individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to bring a copy of their remarks for the record. In accordance with Board Policy KD, Public Participation in Board Meetings, individuals who plan to address the Board are requested to:
• provide their name and address,
• address their remarks to the Board,
• be brief,
• provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and
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Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

TO: CITY OF SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS

The Board of Equalization for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Monday, April 12th-13th 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center located at 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, Virginia.

The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places, as may be designed and deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish and complete its task of equalization of real estate assessments and to discharge the duties imposed by law upon the Board.

Said meeting will finally be adjourned on April 13th, 2021, unless the powers of the Board are extended by order of the circuit court for the City of Salem. The purpose of the Board meeting is to equalize property assessments in the City and to hear and give consideration to all complaints of any inequalities in such assessment so that the burden of real estate taxation shall rest equally upon all owners.

At its meeting, the Board will hear and decide all inequality protest complaints, whether made by property owners, the City, or any taxpayer, on appeal to this Board by property owners. The Board may equalize any assessment by raising, or lowering assessments fixed by the Assessor, in proper cases, in order to make assessments uniform in the City as far as practicable.

If you wish to discuss the assessment with the Board, call 375-3058 for an appointment by March 12th, 2021. The Assessor is required by law to prepare necessary papers for the Board and for the property owner who wants to appeal to the Board of Equalization.

Information pertaining to the Assessor's valuations, along with forms for appeal to the Board of Equalization may be obtained from the Assessor's office by calling (540) 375-3058, or online at www.salemva.gov.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

Norman J. Beamer
Nancy Duffy
Kathy Fitzgerald
Wendel Ingram Jr.
David Prosser

ABC NOTICE

Duck In Market LLC, trading as Duck In Market 3, 3630 Franklin Rd, Roanoke, Roanoke City, Virginia 24014-2204.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Pinkesh Patel, Member

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

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316,-317
Case No. CL21000021-00
Pulaski County Circuit Court
Hope Marie Moles LONG v Robert William LONG, Jr.

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce from the bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the grounds of living separate and apart for a period exceeding one year. It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address of residence was 1670 Spruce Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; that the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown; and that diligence has been used by or on behalf of the Plaintiff to ascertain Defendant's whereabouts without effect; that the Plaintiff previously sought service of process on the Defendant at his last known address stated above; and the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Virginia has filed a return of service stating that the process has been in his hands for 21 days and that he has been unable to make service of process; it is ORDERED that the Defendant appear before this Court on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and protect his interest herein.

It is ORDERED that Robert William Long Jr. appear at the above-named court and protect his interests on or before April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

2-16-2021
Trish L. Albert
Deputy Clerk

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Schedules change, stadium capacity, turtle power



From the Sidelines
Marty Gordon

High school schedule changes

We knew it was going to happen. High school football schedules for this spring are a-changing. Initially, Christiansburg and Blacksburg had Hidden Valley and Cave Spring on their schedule. Well that changed when Roanoke County schools decided it was too dangerous to play outside their county. In came Floyd, Giles and Franklin County as replacements on the schedule.

Then when they were faced with the fact that they would not play enough required games to make the region football playoffs, the Roanoke County schools changed their minds again. So back in are Cave Spring and Hidden Valley, along with Glenvar on the Radford schedule. Also, Monday night's Radford game with Giles has been moved to April 9 as several of the Bobcat players are still playing basketball.

So here are the updated 2021 football schedules, subject, of course, to change:

Blacksburg Bruins
Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Salem; Sunday, Feb. 28, Patrick Henry; Friday, March 5, at Cave Spring; Friday, March 12 at Pulaski; Friday, March 19, Hidden Valley; Friday, April 2, Christiansburg.

Radford Bobcats
Friday, March 5, at James River; Friday, March 12, at Alleghany; Friday, March 19, Glenvar; Friday, March 26, Floyd; Friday, April 2, at Carroll County; Friday, April 9, Giles.

Christiansburg Blue Demons

Saturday, Feb. 27, Salem; Friday, March 5, Pulaski; Friday, March 12, at Hidden Valley; Friday, March 19, at Patrick Henry; Friday, March 26, Cave Spring; Friday, April 2, at Blacksburg.

Eastern Montgomery Mustangs

Monday, Feb. 22, Covington; Saturday, Feb. 27, Auburn; Saturday, March 6, at Bath County; Friday, March 13, Narrows; Saturday, March 20, at Bland; Friday, March 27, at Parry McCluer.

Auburn Eagles

Saturday, Feb. 27, at Eastern Montgomery; Saturday, March 6, Ft. Chiswell; Saturday, March 13, Grayson County; Saturday, March 20, George Wythe; Saturday, March 27, Galax; Saturday, April 3, Bland.

Fans in Lane Stadium

The Virginia Tech Athletic Department is already fielding questions about a return of the fans to Lane Stadium in the fall. In a statement issued late last week, the department said, "Virginia Tech Athletics recognizes that our fans and stakeholders have many questions regarding what federal, state, and local guidelines will look like in terms of seating capacity at Lane Stadium for the 2021 football season, especially in light of the March 1 season ticket renewal deadline. While the situation remains fluid, the department did want to share what we currently know.

"Tech Athletics remains hopeful that Hokie Nation can return to Lane Stadium in 2021 while keeping the health and safety of our student-athletes and fans in mind. In the meantime, the

athletics department staff is hard at work as sanitization enhancements in Lane Stadium are ongoing and include the installation of over 200 hand sanitizing stations, contactless concession options, preparation for socially distanced seating and lines and more."

The university said that if Lane Stadium's capacity continues to be limited, it will offer season ticket holders the same options were offered last fall: donate their ticket order purchase and/or per seat gift, credit their ticket purchase toward a prepaid account, or receive a refund on their ticket purchase and/or per-seat gift future football game tickets.

If fans are permitted to attend football games this fall, 2021 Hokie Club members and season ticket holders will have priority access to tickets compared to the general public. More information on those priority groupings will be announced once the athletics department has some clarity on expectations for the fall.

Pulaski Turtle Power

The new Appalachian League continues to be reshaped with teams selecting new mascots in preparation for the upcoming season.

The league will have 10 teams sponsored by USA Baseball and powered by Major League Baseball. The players in the league will be the top 320 non-draft-eligible college freshmen and sophomores.

The new mascot for Pulaski's baseball franchise is Slider, the turtle. He will not replace the Motor Mile Park's Calfee mascot, Calfee the cow. Instead they will join forces for "turtle power."

The Bluefield Baseball Club of Bluefield, W.Va., has announced its new name, the Bluefield Ridge Runners. The 97-year history of baseball in Bluefield continues with the rebranding effort. More than 125 suggestions were submitted by fans and sponsors to rename the team for the future. That exhaustive list was pared down to five contenders, and the final decision was made after all legal hurdles had been cleared and artwork for the logo had been approved.

The new Ridge Runners name is reflective of the rich railroad history of the Bluefield area.

Bowen Field at Peters Park straddles the state line of Virginia and West Virginia as did the original namesake of the team.

The original Ridge Runner in 1964 circumnavigated a one-mile loop atop East River Mountain, half in Virginia and half in West Virginia. The little train now resides just outside the right field wall of Bowen Field. On warm summer days, spectators can see and hear excited passengers as the train makes its loop throughout Lottio Park.

Christiansburg wrestlers finish third in state



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Bryan Taylor (left) grinds his Wilson Memorial opponent Coby Sporse into the mat as they wrestled in Sunday's Class 3 state finals in the 220-pound class. Taylor would claim one of two state titles for the Blue Demons at the Salem Civic Center. As a team, Christiansburg finished third.



Aidan LaGoma is Christiansburg's second state champion, winning in the 285-pound weight class. Luke Robie placed second in the state in the 138-lb. weight class.

VT's Mike Young named to College Coach of Year watch list

Virginia Tech men's basketball head coach Mike Young is one of 15 coaches who has been named to the Naismith Men's College Coach of the Year Late Season Watch List as announced by the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

A Radford native, Young is in his second season in Blacksburg and is one of only two coaches out of the ACC named to the prestigious list. FSU's Leonard Hamilton is the other.

Entering into the game on Tuesday night, Feb. 23, against Georgia Tech, the 18th-ranked Hokies were 14-4 overall, 8-3 in ACC play, and third in the conference standings with two weeks remaining in the regular season.

Tech has wins over four ranked wins this season, the most of any league team against ranked opponents: No. 3 Villanova, No. 24 Clemson, No. 19 Duke and No. 8 Virginia.

Young was named the 2019 Sporting News Coach of the Year after his Wofford Terriers went 30-5 and made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament his final season in Spartanburg.

In addition to Young and Hamilton,

the coaches on the watch list are Casey Alexander (Belmont), Darian DeVries (Drake), Scott Drew (Baylor), Andy Enfield (USC), Mark Few (Gonzaga), Chris Holtmann (Ohio State), Juwan Howard (Michigan), Bob Huggins (West Virginia), Lon Kruger (Oklahoma), Porter Moser (Loyola-Chicago), Nate Oats (Alabama), Kelvin Sampson (Houston), and Shaka Smart (Texas).

--VT Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

RU softball player Sydney Fisher chosen as candidate for CLASS Award

Radford University senior softball player Sydney Fisher was named Thursday morning as one of 30 candidates from across the country for the 2021 Senior CLASS Award.

To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and must have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

Fisher has 106 hits and 52 runs scored through her first two seasons in a Radford uniform. She is on pace to have the highest career batting average in Radford history (currently .402). Her name is in the single-season record book for batting average (.396 - 2019 - T7) and (.421 - 2020 - 4th). She had 82 hits in

2019, ranking third in a single-season at Radford and was just 11 shy of topping the record book.

The Appling, Ga., native has an overall 4.0 GPA with a double major in biology and chemistry and an emphasis in biochemistry and animal studies. She was selected to be a part of the next collegiate organic chemistry textbook (ninth edition, coming out in 2023). She has been on the dean's list every semester at Radford.

Fisher was recently accepted to LSU's veterinary school. She does research in soil sample analysis and aquatic insect identification and presented some of her research at Radford University's Winter Creative Activities and Research Days (CARD). She will present her newest research later in the year.

Fisher gives softball lessons at home to high school students and works camps at Radford. She did a dog supply drive back home, donating dog food during the winter times when people were in need after spending money on gifts rather than on dog food. She worked for nearly four years as a vet technician in Appling.

Fisher is involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) having started Radford University's softball chapter. She is a Huddle Leader for the Southeast FCA and leads a high school softball team in Bible study three to four days a week.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

The 30 candidates will be narrowed to 10 finalists in March, and those 10 names will be placed on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed through a nationwide voting system to media, coaches and fans, who will select the one candidate who best exemplifies excellence in the four Cs of community, classroom, character and competition.

The Senior CLASS Award winner will be announced during the 2021 Women's College World Series in June.

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Dr. Bunn received his DDS from Georgetown University Dental School in Washington, DC, and has practiced in both Northern Virginia and the New River Valley.

Mission-driven, he volunteers in the community at schools, health fairs and for the Remote Area Medical/Dental events.

An avid hiker, biker, and skier, Dr. Bunn's focus on overall health is what he shares with his patients to help them develop good habits. He enjoys working with patients of all ages with an emphasis on prevention, effective communication, and positive dental outcomes.

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