

# News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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## FDA approves new one-shot COVID-19 vaccine



PIXABAY

The Food and Drug Administration has granted emergency use authorization to Johnson & Johnson for a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine, a move that drew praise from Virginia Tech public health expert Lisa M. Lee and Virginia hospitals and health systems as very good news for helping to slow the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness and deaths nationwide.

The availability of this new vac-

cine, combined with increased production by vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna, should result in a significant increase in federal distributions to the commonwealth. As many as 69,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are expected to arrive in Virginia this week.

In recent weeks, Virginia's supply of COVID-19 vaccines has continued to increase as Pfizer and Moderna have ramped up manufactur-

ing efforts and as federal regulators continue to evaluate administration and storage recommendations based on new data. Due to these factors, Virginia's vaccine allocation from the federal government is estimated to have increased to as many as 250,000 doses per week.

With the FDA granting emergency authorization to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the expectation is that vaccine dose distribution to Virginia will continue to grow each week for the foreseeable future. Based on Johnson & Johnson's pledge to deliver 20 million doses by the end of March, Virginia could receive as many as 500,000 additional doses in the coming weeks if the vaccine allocation formula continues to be based on population.

Because hospital and health systems across Virginia have already established community vaccination clinics and are supporting other vaccine efforts, they currently have

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## Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford receive federal grants for affordable housing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced that Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford will receive federal funding to help local residents access safe and affordable housing.

HUD awarded the funding through four grant programs: the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant program.

Blacksburg is sched-

uled to receive a total of \$1,150,576 from two grants, one from the CDBG program, the other from the HOME investment program.

Christiansburg is slated for a grant of \$104,407 from the CDBG program. Radford is in line for a grant totaling \$182,495 from the CDBG program.

The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities.

## YMCA at Virginia Tech introduces online homework help program with VT student volunteers

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the YMCA at Virginia Tech has created the Online Homework Help and Tutoring Program to offer local students the opportunity to receive homework/school work assistance.

The program is staffed by volunteers from Virginia Tech who will be available to assist students in all curriculum areas. In addition to homework help and tutoring, this service also acts as a tool for kids to practice their skill sets.

Young people can find out for themselves if they are smarter than a Virginia Tech student by jumping into a session with tough educational problems and see who comes up with the answers first.

Erica Martin is a sophomore at Virginia Tech majoring in national security and foreign affairs, criminology, and Russian and is involved in campus organizations such as Help Save the Next Girl at Virginia Tech and the VT Chapter of Soma International. She was a program leader for the Princes Fork Elementary YMCA After-School Connections program.

"We have been working on the Y Online Tutoring/Homework Help program for the past semester and we are so excited to finally get it up and running," Martin said. "We created this program to help supplement student learning

and to also give volunteer opportunities to Virginia Tech students during the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to expanding our program and watching it grow throughout the year."

Jarrett Holmes is in his second year at Tech and is pursuing a BA degree in political science with a minor in business. Apart from the YMCA, he works with the Campus Scouts and VT's academic competition organization and enjoys some light karaoke on the weekends with his mates in East Ambler Johnston Hall. Holmes said, "Before COVID, I was a program leader for the Y's after-school care and enrichment at Blacksburg Middle School, and I'm looking forward to resuming this fall should conditions allow."

The program is free and open to all youth and young people ages five through 18. To participate, students can log in to <https://vrymca.org/online-tutoring/> and receive assistance from volunteer tutors. The program is meant to be a "use as you need," so anyone can stop by to receive help. Access to the program and homework help from Virginia Tech students is available Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m..

All VT volunteers undergo an extensive background check through a third-party organization before participating.

## Storyteller Louis Lovett to explore love, resilience, and courage in solo play for all ages Saturday at Moss Arts Center

The Moss Arts Center presents its next "HomeStage" event, a magical, untamed adventure with Irish performer Louis Lovett in a solo theatre show, "The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly," Saturday, March 6, at 4 p.m.

Complete with a jack-in-the-box set, "The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly" details Peggy's trek across snowy lands and wild seas. As she tries to save the day, in the process she teaches about love, loss, the reassurance of goats, and the courage to sing gloriously on- or off-key.

This multicamera streamed recording was filmed in front of a live audience, and the performance is recommended for the entire family, especially children in second through sixth grades. It includes a live post-performance question-and-answer session with Lovett, who will tune in from Dublin, Ireland. Ticketholders have access to this "HomeStage" series event as it happens and for seven days following the event.

Peggy O'Hegarty and her parents are packers. They squeeze fruit into tins, foxes into boxes, even bikes into brown paper bags, while Peggy sings with the voice of an angel — a grossly unfortunate angel, who can't sing at all. But one day work stops working, and the jobs stop coming, and Peggy steps outside to find that winter has arrived and everyone in her city is gone.

Lovett consistently delivers the unexpected in this hilariously cheeky performance. With his engaging presence, he transitions seamlessly between a multitude of characters, leading the audience through perilous situations.

Based in Dublin, Ireland, Theatre Lovett produces theatre for all ages, especially theatre that can amuse and involve. Founded in 2007 by Joint Artistic Directors Muireann Ahern and Lovett, the company takes risks, is playfully dangerous, and loves music, physical theatre, clowning, absurd com-

edy, and poignant tragedy. Theatre Lovett believes that children and young audiences respond to and recognize the best when it is shared with them without stereotyping or belittling an audience's experience and innocence.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and free for Virginia Tech students. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.



PHOTO BY PATRICK REDMOND

Louis Lovett performs in the solo theatre work, "The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly."

## Professor uses math to address problem of disease that threatens half the world's population

Everyone knows  $2 + 2 = 4$ , but what about mosquitoes plus malaria?

Lauren Childs, an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at Virginia Tech, says there's an equation for that too.

Childs recently co-authored a report with a team from Harvard University on the role of natural mosquito

behavior on transmission of a disease that threatens half the world's population.

"Worldwide there are about 400,000 deaths and 200 million cases each year from malaria," said Childs, a faculty member with the Virginia Tech College of Science who last year was named the Cliff and Agnes Lilly Faculty

Fellow by the Board of Visitors. "About 50 percent of the world's population lives in an area that has consistent malaria transmission, so while it's not heard much about here in the U.S., it's certainly a huge problem."

One of the oldest and most varied parasites in the world — more than 200 species exist today — Plasmodium, the parasite that causes malaria, is transmitted through the millennia-old interaction between mosquitoes and humans. Plasmodium falciparum is considered the most virulent species.

Efforts to study this interplay solely in nature can be problematic due to constantly changing conditions known as "feedbacks": population of males vs. females, water tables for larval development, food sources, weather, and so forth.

"All these complicated pieces, mathematically we can put them all into a system and see how that feedback affects the next level and the next level so we can think about it quantitatively and make predictions," said Childs, who's also an affiliated faculty member of the systems biology program within

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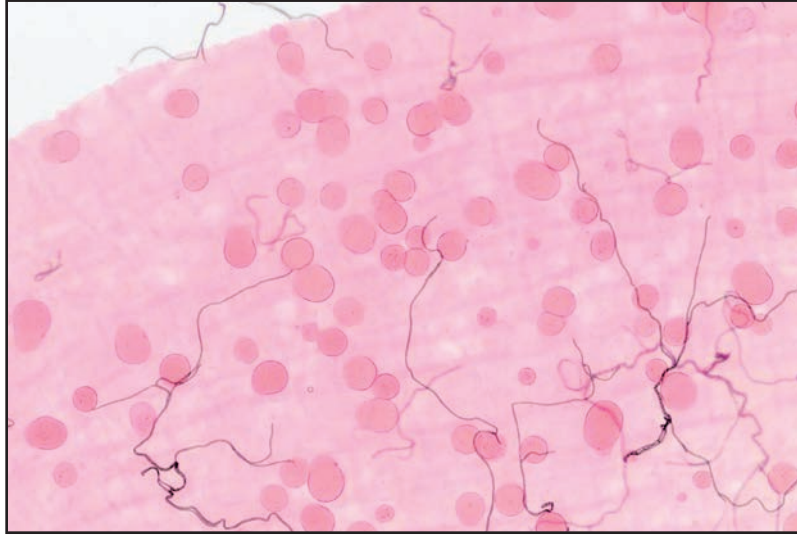


IMAGE COURTESY W. ROBERT SHAW OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
The oocyst stage of Plasmodium falciparum parasites developing on the midgut of an Anopheles gambiae mosquito.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, March 4:

**Noise alert: Corps of Cadets Rifle Practice** - The Corps of Cadets' precision drill team, the Gregory Guard, will practice firing a rifle salute at 6 p.m. behind Lane Hall, 280 Alumni Mall. Expect three volleys of shots.

**American Legion meeting** - The American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. In case of heavy snow or ice that day, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

**Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Mountain Biking Basics Class** - This class will teach participants the skills needed to tame the mountain on your bike and get them hooked on this great outdoor activity. Participants should bring their bike, their helmet, and their "let's do this" attitude to the Pandapas Pond upper parking lot and let the instructors take care of the rest. Register at <https://recreation.blacksburg.gov/>

## Tuesday, March 9:

**Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting** - The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road in Montgomery County. William Reed will present the "History of the 51st Virginia Regiment." Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. In case of heavy snow or ice that day, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Wednesday, March 10:

**Radford Chamber Business over Breakfast** - From 8-9 a.m. at the Radford Coffee Company, 333 W. Main St. The guest speaker is Kim Repass with the Radford Economic Development department. Pre-registration is requested at [www.radfordchamber.com](http://www.radfordchamber.com). Please bring a face mask to abide by current COVID-19 state regulations.

## Saturday, March 13:

**New River Valley Cares 21st Annual Gala and**

**Auction** - The auction will be held virtually. Proceeds will be used locally to protect children from abuse/neglect and to strengthen families through education, advocacy, and community partnerships. More information on NRVCares can be found at: [www.nrvcares.org](http://www.nrvcares.org).

The auction has unique and interesting items that may be previewed at [www.nrvcares.givesmart.com](http://www.nrvcares.givesmart.com). This is also the site to register for the auction. There is no charge to register, and bidding starts at noon, March 11, with the on-line program starting at 7:30 p.m., March 13.

## 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." Rodden will read from her book and talk about the publishing process. Email Elizabeth at [elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov](mailto:elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov) for details. The library has a limited number of free copies of this book to give away while supplies last, so those interested in ob-

taining a copy should let the staff know if you'd like a copy.

## Ongoing:

**Head Start Enrolling** - New River Community Action is now accepting applications for three- and four-year-olds for Head Start for the 2021-22 school year. Head Start offers a no-charge pre-school for income eligible families. Families may apply by calling the local Head Start center, applying online at [newrivercommunityaction.org](http://newrivercommunityaction.org) or by picking up an application form in person at the local center. Applications are accepted year-round. The respective phone numbers for the three local Head Start centers are Christiansburg 540-381-7559, Radford 540-731-4107, and Blacksburg 540-552-0490. Anyone applying in person should bring proof of the child's birth and proof of the family's income such as a 1040, a W-2, pay stubs, child support income, money received from grants, and unemployment income.

## Through Friday, Mar. 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.

**Blacksburg free curbside brush collection** - The Town of Blacksburg continues to offer 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 made 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, lamp posts, or any other structure or obstacles that may be damaged by town equip-

ment.

## Through March 31:

**Virginia Tech Parking Survey** - Virginia Tech has released a 2021 Parking Survey. All those who utilize parking and transportation in and around the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus are invited to participate, including visitors and Blacksburg residents. The survey will close March 31, 2021, at 5 p.m.

All responses will remain anonymous and will be analyzed at the aggregate level. The survey should take fewer than 15 minutes to complete. To take the survey, visit

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-evergreens/Transpo-parkingsurvey.html>.

## 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.

# NRV-wide nominations sought for Leading Lights Volunteer Awards

CHRISTIANSBURG -- NRV Leading Lights is seeking Volunteer Award nominations from across the New River Valley for its 2021 volunteer awards.

The deadline for nominations for the 13th annual awards is midnight, March 31. The nominations form is available only online at [www.leadinglightsnrv.org](http://www.leadinglightsnrv.org).

Awards are given in three categories: community (seven awards), high school (two awards), and college (two awards).

In the community award category, an award is reserved for a volunteer in each county/city of the New River Valley (Floyd County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Rad-

ford City), and two in Montgomery County (due to population), and one across the whole NRV to recognize Lifetime Volunteer Achievement.

Nominees in the high school and college categories must be currently enrolled in a school/college in the New River Valley.

Distinguished Recipients in each category will be selected on the following criteria: (1) Strong community involvement with a demonstrated lifestyle of dedicated, continuous, long-term involvement to the community; and (2) Proven leadership with demonstrated creativity in initiating and implementing projects that lead to a better quality of life

NRV Leading Lights recognizes volunteers in the New River Valley each year who are making community-changing impacts that culminates in an annual celebratory event. Due to the challenges of COVID19, the event will be virtual for 2021, and the chosen charities of each Distinguished Recipient will be highlighted in a video. NRV Leading Lights also honors Distinguished Recipients by making a monetary donation to the non-profits of their choice and honoring all nominees in the virtual event, presenting each nominee with a plaque.

Persons who have been nominated before but not selected as a Distinguished Recipient may be nominated again. In-

dividuals and organizations are encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding New River Valley volunteers they know or volunteer with. Administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, club sponsors, and youth mentors are asked to nominate young people for the high school and college awards. Groups and organizations cannot be nominated for awards.

Leading Lights are engaged in diverse volunteer activities across the New River Valley. Collectively they spend thousands of hours over their lifetimes volunteering with clothing banks, rescue and disaster relief teams; mentoring youth, managing holiday programs, overseeing weekend 'food backpack' programs,

helping at local food kitchens, serving with civic groups, building the community, and volunteering with more than a hundred other noble local charitable activities and programs. Leading Lights is focused on the impact of a volunteer's work and leadership.

For more information or assistance, call (540) 230-0815 or email [leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com](mailto:leadinglightsnrv@gmail.com).

Area non-profit organizations collaborate with the Virginia Tech German Club Alumni Foundation (GCAF) for the Annual "Leading Lights: Shining a Light on Neighbors Helping Neighbors" recognition awards for volunteers in the local community.

# Community Action offering free tax preparation

New River Community Action (NRCA) is offering a free tax preparation service to qualifying families (households with incomes of \$57,000 or less) in a Virtual VITA

format for 2021. NRCA is also offering access to three free, online tax software programs through special arrangements with the IRS.

Virtual VITA, a term developed by the IRS, refers to tax services that involve no personal interaction between clients and tax preparers, offering a safe alterna-

tive to traditional tax preparation models. VITA programs are given flexibility by the IRS to develop virtual models that are compatible with local community needs. NRCA's proposed Virtual VITA program will require tax filers to contact the program to request intake forms either by calling 540-382-6187 or by e-mailing [vita@nrcaa.org](mailto:vita@nrcaa.org) and to complete and return in-

take forms and copies of required tax documentation via e-mail, US Postal Service, or drop box.

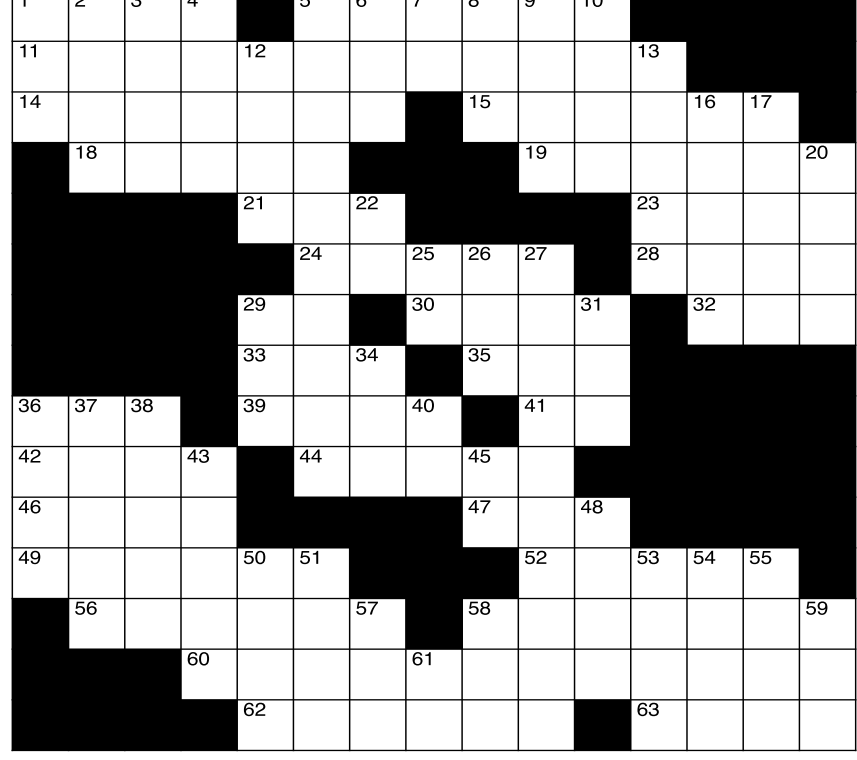
Step-by-step checklists and detailed instructions will be included as part of the intake paperwork filers receive.

Unlike previous years, taxpayers will not have the option of making appointments for assistance, nor will they be interacting with VITA program staff for

scheduled tax drop-off services. Additionally, drop-off tax services will not be available with the Commissioners of Revenue in Pulaski and Montgomery counties, and the City of Radford as they will not be participating this year.

Filers are encouraged to contact those offices directly for information on the state tax services they are offering constituents.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |  |                                    |   |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| CLUES ACROSS                               | 39. Digits                         | 6. Affirmative                            | 38. Slang for military leader                   |
| 1. One of Noah's sons                      | 41. Expression of sympathy         | 7. Not caps                               | 40. Football's big game                         |
| 5. Openings                                | 42. Bleats                         | 8. Type of medication                     | 43. Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres |
| 11. Rising from the dead                   | 44. Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner | 9. Monetary unit                          | 45. Equally                                     |
| 14. Expressions for humor-effect           | 46. Vegetable                      | 10. Private school in New York            | 48. Forest animal                               |
| 15. North American country                 | 47. Turf                           | 12. Small stream                          | 50. Heavy stoves                                |
| 18. Flowed over                            | 49. Disorganized in character      | 13. A person of wealth                    | 51. Releasing hormone (abbr.)                   |
| 19. Tags                                   | 52. Takes                          | 16. Exclude                               | 53. Song  |
| 21. Long-lasting light bulb                | 56. Rules over                     | 17. Someone who vouches for you           | 54. Type of pickle                              |
| 23. Off-Broadway theater award             | 58. More fervid                    | 20. Vegetable part                        | 55. Offer in return for money                   |
| 24. Khoikhoi peoples                       | 60. Sweet drink                    | 22. Gov't lawyer                          | 57. Soviet Socialist Republic                   |
| 28. Beloved movie pig                      | 62. Cry loudly                     | 25. Term to address a woman               | 58. Burns wood (abbr.)                          |
| 29. South Dakota                           | 63. A friendly nation              | 26. Swiss river                           | 59. Beloved singer                              |
| 30. Tai language                           | CLUES DOWN                         | 27. About senator                         | 61. Three-toed sloth                            |
| 32. Get free of                            | 1. A title of respect in India     | 29. Paulo, city                           |   |
| 33. Afflict                                | 2. His and ___                     | 31. Native American tribe                 |   |
| 35. Transmits genetic information from DNA | 3. Employee stock ownership plan   | 34. "Titanic" actor                       |   |
| 36. Commercials                            | 4. A type of bond (abbr.)          | 36. Campaign for students' rights (abbr.) |   |
|  | 5. Acting as if you are            | 37. Capital of Senegal                    |   |

# 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](mailto:animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov).

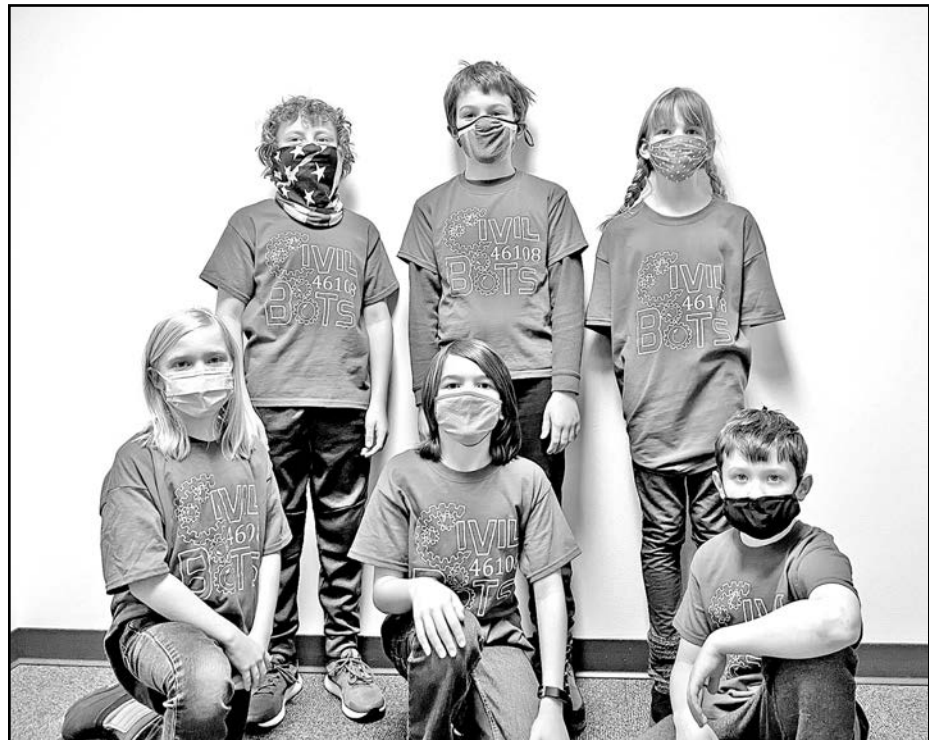


**Meet brothers Sammy and Parker.** These two younger cats are a bonded pair that will need to go to the same home. Parker is a little outgoing and social. Sammy is a bit more shy. To tell them apart, just look at their whiskers and overall size. Parker has a couple of white whiskers and Sammy is noticeably larger.



**Ringo is ready to find a home to spend his senior years.** He'd love a comfy spot just to hang out and relax. He's a go-with-the-flow kind of dog, and he would do best as the only pet. This sweet dog is house trained and does well with children. Ringo's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.

# New River Valley robotics teams win awards, advance in competition



The Civil Bots robotics team is (back row left to right) Kellen Mitchell, Charlie Wyatt and Avalyn Anderson; (front row left to right) Aviva Krum, Joshua Stoddard and Matthew Thorsett.



The Red Beard Pandas robotics team is (back row left to right) Ethan Weeks, Brendan Clark, Gabriel Adams, Gavin Adams, Jonas Whitman and Arnit Garg; (front row left to right) Serena Savla, Hannah Stoddard, Sepehr Agah and Maya Nester.



The Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies robotics team is (front row left to right) Charlotte Ohanian, Elizabeth Whittington, (back row left to right) Garrett Adams, Gavin Adams, Gabriel Adams, Caleb Ohanian.



The Panda Cubs robotics team is (back row left to right) Lillian Clark and Shiven Thakkar; (front row left to right) Norik Pula and Audrey Smith.

Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics teams from the New River Valley recently won awards in FIRST Lego League competition that enabled them to move to another round of championship competition last weekend.

The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is a nationwide robotics program for students in grades 7 through 12 who develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and practice engineering principles, while working as a team. This season's theme was Ultimate Goal.

The Civil Bots, a team of six students, won the Robot Design award for

building and programming a robot that consistently completed missions to earn sixth place in Division One and eleventh place overall. That award allowed the Civil Bots to advance to the remote VA-DC FIRST Lego league (FLL) championship level this past weekend.

The Civil Bots used Legos to create a model of a healthy gym with hovering platforms to allow a small space to be used in different ways and be accessible to all ages and abilities.

Also advancing were the Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies, a team of six students coached by Jeremy Adams who competed in the upper FLL Division Two.

Their robot scored 330 points on the mission table, earning a second-place performance award. Their Innovation Project was developing a virtual reality game for kids to play tag or capture the flag inside and be active when outside or group playtime is not permitted.

A third team, the Red Beard Pandas, advanced to the FLL Chesapeake District championship held this past weekend. They won the highest award in FTC competition: the Inspire Award, presented to a team that inspires other teams with their professionalism.

Engaging in the hybrid competition, the Pandas built an 18x18-square-inch robot with metal screws

3D printed parts, rubber wheels, wires, servos, gears, motors and more. The Pandas met with another FTC team in a warehouse in Fairlawn on a large twelve-foot square competition field. To maintain the 10-person COVID mandate, referees were virtually observing and scoring the matches by video cameras. The Pandas designed science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) Treasure Chests with science, math, art and engineering activities for kids ages 4 to 14 to check out and have fun with at home.

After the first hybrid competition with teams from Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland, the Red Beard Pandas won

a first-place design award and a third-place motivate award.

A fourth team in the competition, four Panda Cubs, won the Core Values award. Their robot scored 260 points which garnered them a third-place in Division One and fifth place overall.

Because COVID caused a shortage of equipment, the Panda Cubs designed an exercise toy that could be made by anyone using recycled materials around the house and could even be adjusted to change levels to make the exercise more stimulating.

FIRST Lego League Challenge teams are for students ages 9-16. They were asked to create a Lego EV3 robot to activate sixteen different replay missions in two and one-half minutes on a table-top field.

The VA-DC regional FIRST Lego League organization offered remote competitions. FLL teams videotaped their robot completing five matches and uploaded the video for virtual judges to score.

A time was provided to FLL teams to gather in front of a camera to present their project and teamwork to online judges who asked questions of the students.

Panda Cubs Robotics Team Coach Debbie Clark said of the season and the

competition, "This year, robotics was the only extracurricular activity where kids could meet safely together. They lost so much to COVID. Winning the Core Values confirmed [the Panda Cubs'] extraordinary enthusiasm for STEM and their spirit for learning and showed respect for the rules requiring them to be safe and healthy. The kids had so much fun."

Civil Bots team coach Shelly Stoddard said, "Our second-year team took on the challenges of COVID with grace and a positive attitude. They worked very hard and learned some great new skills in coding, how to be a presenter, and the engineering process. Our team members had fun, gained confidence, and saw problem solving in action as we navigated in person meetings with COVID safety requirements."

Coach Ethan Bass, the coach of the Red Beard Pandas, said about the season and the competition, "We continued to meet during a global pandemic. We built an awesome robot. The FTC students performed really well, and you can tell that through their actions that they really care about robotics and teamwork. It feels good to be an ambassador for Southwest Virginia at the championships this weekend."

## Vaccine

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the capacity to administer approximately 225,000 vaccine doses each week. Adding the Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses to the existing supply chain will enable Virginia hospitals and health systems to maximize their capacity by working with the commonwealth to ensure additional vaccine doses are administered to Virginians as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Lee is a public health expert specializing in infectious disease epidemiology and public health ethics. She also serves as the associate vice president for research and innovation at Virginia Tech, where she leads the division of Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance. Lee has worked in public health and ethics at the local, state, and federal levels, including 14 years at the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

"The addition of a third COVID-19 vaccine substantially reduces the time it takes the U.S. to reach herd immunity, when a high enough proportion of the population is immunized and we can disrupt the spread of this disease," said Lee about the approval of the third vaccine.

Unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will help ease the logistical challenges of shipping and storing by requiring only a simple one-dose shot.

"Getting 75-85% of the population vaccinated will be easier with this additional vaccine option, especially because it, unlike the first two, does not require a complex frozen or ultra-frozen transport and storage system and requires only one shot, instead of the two required

by the others," said Lee.

Lee said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has shown to be 85% efficacious in preventing serious disease, including death, and has efficacy against new variants.

"This is very good news," Lee said. "Preliminary analyses indicate an additional benefit of its reducing the likelihood of viral transmission meaning that people who received the vaccine are protected both from getting sick and from getting infected with the virus. Given that so much spread happens from people who are infected but do not know it, this is a very promising finding."

"Stopping the spread of the virus is more important than ever," the VT health expert said. "Not only because it will prevent severe illness and deaths, but because the more the virus is

transmitted, the more likely it is to develop mutations that can make it more contagious and more lethal.

"We have already seen

this in the new, more infectious variants that are now widespread in the U.S.," Lee said. "New variants are likely to eventually

evade the vaccines, so if we don't stop this now, we will be dealing with COVID-19 restrictions on our lives for a very long time."

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Wednesday, March 17th at 4 PM

Claytor Lake Home for Sale with Lake View!

4822 Lakeland Rd Dublin VA 24084



Bid Online Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

Stunning lake home for sale in Dublin VA!

4 BR, 2.5 BA & 0.48 Acres. Beautiful view of Claytor Lake and just a short drive to Claytor Lake State Park. The home has a newer metal roof, and the exterior was painted in recent years. Has a gorgeous brick feature wall with a wood fireplace. There is an addition to the home which could be used as a huge family room, game room or even a master bedroom. 4 Nice sized bedrooms upstairs. Nicely landscaped lawn with awesome lake front view and in-ground pool with decorative perimeter fence! Don't miss out on this incredible property! Would make a great year-round home, vacation home or potential income producing air b & b rental! It is convenient to Dublin, Christiansburg & Blacksburg VA. It is also just a short drive to Wytheville VA.

Preview Dates- Saturday March 6th @ 1 PM & Saturday March 13th @ 10 AM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. \$5,000 Earnest Money Deposit on day of sale. Close on or before May 3rd, 2021. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is, with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on March 17th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Auction ends once bidding ends. Download Bidder Pack at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com); Realtor Levi Cox at 540-230-7162 or email [LeviCox87@gmail.com](mailto:LeviCox87@gmail.com)

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# OPINION

## A death in the family

Once upon a time long ago in a state and county far, far away from the commonwealth, while I was dutifully covering a city council meeting for the local newspaper, my wife and I suffered a sudden and violent death in the family.

Our car, a Toyota Corolla, was murdered.

I guess that since there was no actual intent, manslaughter would be the correct legal term.

She was parked on the curb, patiently waiting for me to conclude my cover-

age of the meeting, minding her own business, and not hurting anyone. She was the victim of senseless, random violence, a drive-by collision. She was just in the wrong place in the wrong time, a common story in our society.

It was a gang killing; a pair of pickup trucks that apparently bumped into each other, got knocked off course, and then slammed into her. You know how those pickups are when they get together and egg each other on.

A professional to the end, she was killed in the line of duty, helping me do the job I was being paid for. A contributing member of society to the last.

I paid my respects, stopping by the junkyard where she was towed. It wasn't a pretty sight. The injuries were multiple, and, fortunately, death came swiftly and painlessly, though violently. One quick broadside from a pickup and it was all over. The second truck's additional damage was just insult to injury. We should

all be so lucky.

My wife took it hard. "I loved that car," she said. I rather tactlessly pointed out she didn't even drive it anymore, that she had deserted the Corolla for a Jeep, bigger, flashier, with more of an attitude.

In her younger days, that little Corolla had an attitude herself. She was born sporty, made for the fast lane. She boasted a sun roof and retractable headlights, two toys the boy in me liked.

She was a good girl from

the start, somewhat anorexic since she refused to consume much gasoline. She held up well, too, though the miles and the years took a toll. Her trim got a little raggedy, but, shoot, whose doesn't? Mine's pretty ragged right now.

Inside, under the hood where it counted, she had a heart and a soul of gold. She was always ready to go the extra mile.

She left behind years of fond memories. She was the first car the wife and I bought together. She was especially missed by Muriel Pritchett, our family mutt who found her to be just the right size for sticking a canine head out of the win-

dow to blow in the wind. Peter, Paul, and Muriel.

Perhaps the true measure of that Corolla's worth was that she kept on running even after she was paid for. That says a lot about her character.

We said good-bye with no regrets, just memories, as I said. We treated her well; she served us well.

I have just always been glad she didn't take me with her.

*The author is a man of a certain age who has owned a number of vehicles, new and used, over his many decades of kicking around on this planet. The Corolla still ranks among his favorites.*

## Virginia's recovery from unemployment claims remains among slowest in nation

The personal finance website WalletHub has released its updated rankings for the states whose weekly unemployment claims are recovering the quickest and the slowest, and the rankings show that Virginia has the fifth slowest recovery rate among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic still has a strong grip on the U.S., with 10.1 million Ameri-

cans still unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, new unemployment claims have steadily decreased in recent weeks, according to WalletHub's findings, and are now some 89% below the peak during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To identify which states' workforces are experiencing the quickest recovery from COVID-19, WalletHub compared the 50

states and the District of Columbia across three metrics based on changes in unemployment claims.

Those three metrics are the change in the number of unemployment claims for the latest week vs. the same week in 2019, the change in the number of unemployment claims for the latest week vs. the start of 2020, and the change in the number of employment claims since the

start of the COVID-19 crisis vs. the previous year.

The first metric revealed Virginia with a 583.35 percent increase in unemployment claims (15,307 vs. 2,240), the fifth slowest recovery in the U.S. The second metric uncovered a 380.14 percent increase in unemployment claims (15,307 vs. 3,188), also the fifth slowest recovery in the country. The third metric

turned up a 1,158.39 percent increase in unemployment claims (1,470,312 vs. 126,927), the sixth slowest recovery in the nation.

The four states with a slower recovery rate than the commonwealth, according to WalletHub's latest figures, are Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio. Recovering the quickest are Arkansas, New Jersey, Vermont, Arizona, and South Carolina.

Submit letters  
to the editor to  
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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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$41 a year in Montgomery County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

## Virginia's gas prices on the rise

Virginia's gas prices rose 8.3 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.62 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Gas prices in Virginia are 30.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 38.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia is priced at \$2.23 per gallon today while the most expensive is \$3.29 per gallon, a difference of \$1.06.

The national average price of gasoline rose 7.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.72 per gallon today. The national average is up 30.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 30.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

### Math

from page 1

the Academy of Integrated Science, also part of the College of Science.

According to Childs' team's study, while a mosquito ingests the parasite in a "blood meal" by biting an infected person, it typically takes about 10 to 14 days — known as the "extrinsic incubation period" or EIP — until the parasites appear in the mosquito's salivary glands where it can then be transmitted to another human.

Current common mitigation efforts include: a) killing of mosquitoes with insecticides, b) encouraging mosquitoes to feed on nearby animals rather than people and; c) genetically engineered drives to reduce mosquito egg production.

But these strategies may be counter-

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

March 1, 2020: \$2.23/g (U.S. Average: \$2.41/g); March 1, 2019: \$2.22/g (U.S. Average: \$2.42/g); March 1, 2018: \$2.36/g (U.S. Average: \$2.54/g); March 1, 2017: \$2.11/g (U.S. Average: \$2.32/g); March 1, 2016: \$1.57/g (U.S. Average: \$1.76/g); March 1, 2015: \$2.25/g (U.S. Average: \$2.42/g); March 1, 2014: \$3.25/g (U.S. Average: \$3.45/g); March 1, 2013: \$3.67/g (U.S. Average: \$3.77/g); March 1, 2012: \$3.63/g (U.S. Average: \$3.74/g); March 1, 2011: \$3.27/g (U.S. Average: \$3.37/g).

According to GasBuddy's daily survey, gasoline stands at \$2.55 per gallon in Roanoke today, up 7.1 cents

per gallon from last week; \$2.64 per gallon in Richmond, up 7.8 cents per gallon from last week; and \$2.71 per gallon in West Virginia, up 8.2 cents per gallon from last week.

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. Unlike AAA's once-daily survey covering credit card transactions at 100,000 stations and the Lundberg Survey, updated once every two weeks based on 7,000 gas stations, GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://FuelInsights.com>.

productive.

According to Childs' research, "providing a second blood meal to female mosquitoes three days after they became infected dramatically increased the size of developing parasites and accelerated the appearance of transmissible forms in the salivary glands, shortening the EIP by 2.3 days (21 percent) and making these mosquitoes infectious sooner."

Furthermore, Childs said, reducing the number of eggs a female produces likely gives parasites more nutritional resources to grow and thus shortens the EIP.

Childs' work in applied mathematics began as an undergraduate when she took an interdisciplinary class that

used quantitative ideas like oscillation and dynamics to answer questions in nature, such as how a population of fireflies achieves synchronized flashing.

A professed fan of puzzles and games, Childs wields her math skills on the frontlines of other infectious disease fights. Some of her work in 2020 focused on the probability of asymptomatic spread by someone infected by COVID-19.

"Many people can see the next move in a game of chess," she said, "but the one that is 20, 30, or 50 moves ahead is much harder to see. You can use mathematics to calculate what possibilities there are."

—Written by Michael Hemphill

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# OBITUARIES

## Harvey, George Millard, Sr.

George Millard Harvey, Sr., 92, passed away in his home in Radford on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nathaniel Burwell Harvey, Sr. and Alice Woody Harvey; his brother, Nathaniel Burwell "Nat" Harvey, Jr.; and a grandson, Cole Harvey.

He was born on May 31, 1928, in Mann, W.Va., moving to a farm in Montgomery County in 1932.

When he was 6, George had the opportunity to attend three schools, one in Childress, one in Dry Valley, and one in Bethel, all 2 miles from the family home and all one-room school houses. Since there was no bus transportation with very poor dirt roads, he had to walk. He attended the Dry Valley school his first year, which was two miles across the fields each way. He learned to fight early as his mother sent him to school dressed in knickers while all the other kids were dressed in bib overalls.

George attended Auburn High School in Riner, still having to walk two miles to catch the school bus. His brother and he had the job of milking 30 cows by hand each morning and each night.

When his brother was 16, he joined the Navy leaving George with the total responsibility for milking the 30 cows and taking the milk to the road in 10-gallon cans on a horse-drawn sled before walking two miles to catch the school bus. He missed the bus often and would then have to walk an additional five miles to school.

In 1945, George graduated from Auburn High School with 12 other students, and that same year he entered the service and was sent to Fairbanks, Alaska, with the Air Corps. While he was there, he passed a test that allowed him to apply for admission to West Point, but he decided to pass on the opportunity to return home to Virginia. He then enrolled at the National Business College in Roanoke where he majored in business and accounting.

After college, George operated a service station, managed a Texaco oil distributing business, and owned and operated a used car dealership. In 1957, he became a General Motors Chevrolet dealer along with a partner, Ward Teel, in Christiansburg. In 1958, he purchased the local Oldsmobile dealership and merged it with his Chevrolet franchise. In December 1959, he purchased the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-Cadillac franchise in Radford.

In 1972, George built a new 50,000-square-foot facility, which is the current location of the dealership. In 1989, he purchased the local Pontiac-Buick dealership and merged it with his other three franchises.

He was very proud of how the dealership has grown and how he was able to give back to all his wonderful employees through retirement and profit-sharing plans. He always said, "For me, business is fun and easy; just treat people the way you want to be treated yourself and the business will take care of itself. Recognize when people are doing a good job and counsel them when they aren't."

The dealership celebrated 60 years of business in December of 2019.

George also was a real estate developer,



developing subdivisions, apartment complexes, and mini storage warehouses.

He was always involved in the community, both personally and business related. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of First & Merchants National Bank in Radford (now Suntrust). He served as the chairman of the Business and Economics Department for Radford University with the intent of installing a certified school of business, which was accomplished. He also served as the Chairman of the Board at Radford Community Hospital and won a National Time Dealer award in 1989.

George was a past president of the New River Dealers Association, the Kiwanis Club and the Retail Merchants Association; a past chairman of the United Fund and the Michelle "Petie" Lineberry Heart Recipient Fund Drive; a past vice president of the Southwest Virginia Health Services; a board member of the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, the Commonwealth Dealers Life Insurance Association, and Saint Albans Psychiatric Hospital; and a member and elder of The Presbyterian Church of Radford.

George received the 1989 Time Magazine Top 10 USA Quality Dealer Award, and a wing of the Radford University Waldron College of Health and Human Sciences Building was named The George M. Harvey, Sr. Center of Health Resources.

When George wasn't working, he enjoyed hunting grouse, pheasant, quail and turkey. He loved the almost yearly (over 45 years) hunting trips to Platt, S.D., where his sons and he and several friends would be welcomed by the Wiens Family. There they enjoyed great hunting, good food and wonderful hospitality. He also enjoyed playing golf and tennis.

George is survived by his bride of 61 years, Juanita Kirk Harvey; and their children and grandchildren: George M., Jr. and Lisa Harvey and their children and grandchildren; Brian and Melody Harvey and their children, Joslynn, Nolan and Annalise; George "Trey" Harvey III; Lance Harvey and Kayla Beard and their daughter, Emma Grace; Jake Harvey and fiancée Christa Moon; Logan Harvey and Holly Symosky; Michael and Leann Phillips and their children, Trevor and Annabella; and Lauren Phillips and Zach Talbert.

He is also survived by his daughter, Pamela Harvey and her daughter, Alexandra and Billy Siple; a son, Tracy and Susan Harvey and their daughter, Taylor Harvey; a son, Brad and Stephanie Harvey, and their children, Bryn Harvey and fiancé Brad Stubbs, Morgan Harvey, Riley Harvey, and Nicholas Harvey; son Ken and Kelli Harvey and their children, Tyler, Cameron, and Bryce.

George is also survived by his faithful canine companion, Little Georgie, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial service and celebration of George's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the American Cancer Society.

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

## Gunter, Sylvia Pratt

Sylvia Pratt Gunter, of Christiansburg, passed from this Earth and joined the Lord on Feb. 24, 2021.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 59 years, Paul Linwood Gunter, and their daughter, Rhonda Lynn Gunter.

After retirement, Sylvia and Paul enjoyed travelling to experience all 50 of the states. She was passionate about planting and tending her flowers and dancing. She always had a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone. Her faith and love were pure. She will forever be in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her. She was as beautiful on the inside as on the outside.

Other surviving family members are her sisters, Pauline Poff and Mary Buckner; a brother, Lawton Pratt (Helen); brothers-in-law Sonny Gunter (Lora) and Jimmy Gunter (Carol); sisters-in-law, Jeanette Reynolds (Frank) and Olie Sue Morris; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, Mullins and Alma Pratt;



her sisters and brothers, Wilma Hubbard, Melvin Pratt, Ivan Pratt, Aldon Pratt, Freeman Pratt, Christine Bower, Hubert Pratt, Lenford Pratt, and Clinton Pratt.

Visitation was Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, at Faith Christian Church, followed by funeral services with Pastor David Rhudy officiating. Interment was in Sunset Cemetery.

Thanks go to special neighbors Sharon and Denny Naglett, Randy and Joan Conner, Wayne Atkins, John and Kim Duncan, and Dustin and Amber Williams, and special friends Scottie Smith, Randy Flinchum, Wanda Garrison, David Rhudy, Sharon Johnson, Charlie's Angels and the church family for their never-ending prayers, support, and kindness.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Good Samaritan Hospice, Angie Sutphin and staff, Comfort Care Senior Home, Mary Harris and her staff, and the doctors and nurses at LewisGale Montgomery who cared for and showed compassion and kindness to us all.

## Parker, Carol Ann Mitchell

Carol Ann Mitchell Parker, 73, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, at her home in Radford.

She was retired from Carilion NRVMC.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Randy Parker, Sr.; a daughter, Angela Parker Akers (Terry) of Snowville; a son Randy Parker, Jr., (Afton) of Radford; grandchildren Kelsey N. Akers, T. J. Akers (Kaitlyn Dunford) and Emma J. Parker; a sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Eugene Castle of Dublin; a brother and sister-

in-law, Robert and Barbara Mitchell of Tazewell; and many other relatives and friends.

There will be no services at this time.

The family would like to thank Carilion Hospice for all their loving care of Carol.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

## Smith, Sr., John David

John David Smith, Sr., 76, of Radford, passed away on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Zula Smith.

Survivors include his wife of 17 years, Lydia S. Smith; children



and grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

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

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Contact - Broker & Auctioneer, **Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585**  
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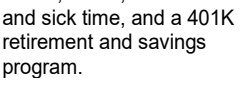
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### Legals - City of Radford

2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Eligible applicants include: (1) Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, (2) Governmental entities, including public agencies, commissions or authorities that are independent of the City of Radford, (3) Churches that meet the requirements of IRC section 501(c)(3), regardless of their application and recognition from the IRS (4) Institutes of higher education. Program beneficiaries must be low or moderate income.

Public service programs include, but are not limited to: health care, job training, recreation programs, education programs, anti-violence programs, services for senior citizens, youth services, services for homeless persons, substance abuse counseling and treatment, domestic violence services, mental health services, immigrant services, disability services, and fair housing/tenant landlord counseling.

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### Legals - City of Salem

Interested applicants should submit a brief (3-page maximum) narrative that describes the proposed project, needs addressed, target population and the type of service. You may mail or deliver your proposal to: Melissa Skelton, 10 Robertson St, Radford, VA 24141. You may also submit proposals electronically to **melissa.skelton@radfordva.gov**. Proposals must be received by March 22, 2021 to be considered for funding during this Annual Action Plan cycle. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Skelton at the email above or by phone at 540-731-3603.

### City of Radford Community Development Block Grant 2021 Action Plan

**Public Input Meetings**  
The City of Radford invites you to public input sessions that give citizens an opportunity to offer suggestions for projects that they see a need for in the community that are related to decent housing, suitable living environment and economic opportunity. The Action Plan serves as the City's grant application for Community Development Block Grant Funds and sets the goals and budgets for the use of funds from the program. The public input meetings have been scheduled as follows:  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - City Council Chamber, 12:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - City Council Chambers, 5:00 pm  
Questions should be directed to Ms. Melissa Skelton, at **Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov** or at (540) 731-3603.

### Legals - City of Salem

**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:  
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• provide a copy of their remarks for the record, and  
• be prepared to answer questions from the Board.  
• In unusual cases or cases of emergency, the Board, by consensus, may allow an individual or organization to speak if not on the agenda.

### Legals - City of Radford

**Radford Seeks Proposals for CDBG Action Plan 2021-2022**  
The City of Radford is seeking proposals for its anticipated Public Service Funds for the upcoming

### Legals - City of Salem

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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### Legals - Town of Vinton

participation in this public hearing by Council members, staff, and the public will be available through electronic or other alternative means. The public may comment on the proposed tax rates by emailing **sjohnson@vintonva.gov**, leaving a message at 540-983-0607 or writing to the Town Clerk, Vinton Municipal Building, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia 24179. Voice mails, emails and other messages containing comments on the Ordinance will be provided to Council members. The public also may be able to comment during the electronic public hearing. Citizens interested in this option must register in advance by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 540-983-0607 or sending an email to **sjohnson@vintonva.gov** by 12 Noon on Monday, April 5, 2021. The public can observe this meeting through a livestream on the Town's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Vintonva](http://www.facebook.com/Vintonva). Additional information concerning the meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date.

### Legals - Town of Vinton

meeting and the public hearing will be made available on the Town's website at least three days before the meeting date. Persons requiring special assistance to attend and participate at this public hearing should contact the Town Manager's office at (540) 983-0607.

### Legals - Town of Vinton

Susan N. Johnson  
Town Clerk

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### 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.

### Legals - Town of Vinton

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

### Legals - Town of Vinton

**LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
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In light of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency,

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Legacy of football pioneer John Dobbins is still remembered today

Dora Dobbins' husband, John, is one of the most important figures in the history of Virginia Tech football.

He was a groundbreaking pioneer, the first African-American scholarship football player at the school. The Radford native dominated at Radford High and then decided to play for Jerry Claiborne in the early 1970s just two years after Jerry Gaines broke the school's athletic color bar-

rier by becoming the first African-American scholarship athlete (track and field) at Tech.

John Dobbins arrived at Tech in the fall of 1969. In fact, he and his high school teammate, Tommy Edwards, a white running back and defensive back, signed to play for the school live on Claiborne's coaches TV show.

Dobbins had grown up a Virginia Tech fan even

though the team had no African-American players and few African-Americans attended the school. He knew all about the Gobblers, as they were called then, having attended games in the late 1960s with his coaches.

According to his family, Dobbins enjoyed his experiences at Virginia Tech. Occasionally, he heard racist comments from the fans of opposing teams during the Gobblers' road games,

but in Blacksburg, he liked the fans, and he loved his teammates. He and former quarterback Don Strock roomed together until John and Dora married during John's junior season. A group of them became closely knit, woven together by a love for the team and the school that transcended skin color.

"I would cook because we had an apartment," Dora Dobbins said. "They would come over and eat, and we would have parties. We were a pretty close group: Don, Dave [Strock], Bobby Dabbs, just a bunch of different football players. They would come over. He had a good experience with those guys. We had fun with those guys."

"Being in sports and being on the field – and I do remember him saying that – that was like their space where everything was equal," said Deitra Dobbins, John's daughter. "Now, outside of it, it was different, but I think that's why he enjoyed playing sports and did it so much because everyone was on an equal playing field then. You had to prove yourself to be on the field, and that's why I think it was a good experience for him because he did what he loved to do – play football."

Dobbins lettered all

three seasons of his career – the NCAA prohibited freshmen from playing on the varsity team in those days – and he finished with 705 yards rushing and three touchdowns. He accumulated 1,261 all-purpose yards in those three seasons.

In late September, Virginia Tech Athletics launched a #LOVE initiative as a way to do its part in helping to eliminate racism and discrimination that came to the nation's collective forefront this summer and early fall. The initiative focuses on love as the conqueror of all other emotions and as the choice for all those who represent Virginia Tech Athletics.

According to his family, John Dobbins would approve. "I think he would be for the peaceful protests, but all this other stuff going on, I don't think he would have wanted any part of it," Dora Dobbins said.

Her daughter agreed. "I think he would be all for the protesting, but not the violence of it," she said. "You're trying to make a change, and you're passionate about this is the right thing to do. He was all about doing something that he loved, so I think he would be for the protests right now. I think he would be all for the young people doing what they need to do to get their

voices heard, but not the violence and all that."

Dobbins passed away from a heart attack in 2003 at the Volvo plant in Dublin where he worked as a supervisor. He was a pioneer there, too, as the first African-American supervisor.

His death had such an impact through the New River Valley that the family stood in line for more than three hours at the funeral home, greeting people from Radford, Virginia Tech and Volvo who all came to pay their respects and share in the family's mourning. Workers drove Volvo trucks to the funeral the next day and led the procession.

His impact still lives. Radford High School inducted him into its Hall of Fame, and city officials there named a downtown park after him. In 2014, Virginia Tech Athletics recognized him and his family during a football halftime ceremony.

Dora Dobbins still remains a fixture in the community, especially as a volunteer at her local church. She plans on retiring in July after spending 50 years with Federal Mogul, a local company. Her son works locally, too, and Deitra fittingly works for Volvo Trucks in Greensboro, N.C.

--VT Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Radford native John Dobbins was a pioneer as the first African-American scholarship football player at Virginia Tech.

## Weekly preview: COVID still changing everything about high school football

The current situation concerning COVID-19 is affecting high school football in different ways. This past week, teams took the field with little or no fans in the stands. Band members were spread for almost 40 yards on home bleachers because of social distancing, and staff conducted temperature checks as players, coaches and parents entered stadiums.

At Christiansburg High School where Eastern Montgomery faced off with Auburn, some players were seen carrying white buckets as they entered the stadium. Each Eastern Montgomery player had a bucket with his number on it with his own water bottle, towel, gloves and backup masks to wear on the sidelines when he wasn't in the game.

Athletic Director Kirk Lytton saw the bucket idea during a television broadcast of a recent E.C. Glass contest. "Just another way to deal with COVID," he said.

Just up the road, administrators at Rural Retreat and George Wythe made the decision to postpone Saturday's football game between the two county rivals because of COVID-19 contact tracing within the RR program.

Another issue arose at Pulaski where staff balked at the idea of limiting the maximum number of fans at 250. The school system felt band members and cheerleaders should be included as "essential" personnel. Under Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's executive order, cheer and band are not listed as essential, and thus they count against the 250 max.

Instead, Pulaski officials took an unexpected legal turn in the matter. In a statement, School Superintendent Dr. Kevin Siers said, "Pulaski

County Public Schools has consulted with legal counsel, our insurance carrier, and the Virginia High School League in order to develop a plan that conforms to Governor Northam's Executive Order #72 while at the same time doesn't diminish the role of our band members and cheerleaders by defining them as spectators at events designed to showcase their talents.

"It has been determined that the best resolution would be to have a simultaneous cheerleading performance, football game, and band concert scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 at Kenneth J. Dobson Stadium with a maximum attendance capped at 250 for each event.

"All player/participants on the cheer squad, football team, and marching band will be issued the same number of tickets for family members to attend their respective event," Dr. Siers said. "The stadium will be sectioned off using a color-coding system to ensure that the families of player/participants are seated in an area that will give them the best possible view to watch their student perform. All mitigation strategies required in EO72 will be followed to include proper physical distancing and the wearing of masks.

"Pulaski County Public Schools has taken the additional step of covering the costs for these events by providing tickets free of charge to the families of our player/participants in order to reduce the interaction between spectators and school personnel that would be required to sell tickets," the school superintendent said. "The event will be closed to the general public but still available for livestream viewing. We've advised that this plan is le-

gal under the guidelines of executive order #72, qualifies for insurance coverage, and is not in violation of any VHSL rules or guidelines. We are confident that these events can occur safely and simultaneously and look forward to providing this opportunity to our students and their families."

Game previews for this week:

Pulaski (2-0) at Christiansburg (0-1)

Last week: Salem beat Christiansburg 36-13 as the Blue Demons were able to tally only 235 yards of total offense, 61

through the air.

Pulaski rolled to a 48-7 win over Hidden Valley as Drew Dalton passed for two scores and ran for another. Kytone Kennedy also added 80 yards and two scores on 19 carries.

Radio broadcast: 100.7 FM, 107.3 FM.

Blacksburg (0-2) at Cave Spring (0-1)

Last week: Patrick Henry downed Blacksburg 56-0.

Cave Spring was open last week but fell two weeks ago 42-0 to Pulaski County.

Radio broadcast: 93.1 FM.

Ft. Chiswell (0-1) at Auburn (1-0)

Last week: Auburn downed Eastern Montgomery 36-12. Auburn's Payson Kelley passed for two touchdowns and ran for another. Trevor Young also rushed for 103 yards and a touchdown.

The Fort had an open week but lost 12-6 to Rural Retreat in the opener two weeks ago.

No radio broadcast.

Eastern Montgomery (1-1) at Bath County (0-1)

Last week: Auburn downed Eastern Montgomery 36-12. EM's Adam Bahnken scored

a touchdown on the ground and threw for another.

Bath fell 52-0 two weeks ago to Narrows.

No radio broadcast.

Radford (0-0) at James River (1-0)

Last week: Radford was idle, and this week will be its first game of the 2021 spring season.

James River shut out Alleghany 26-0 as freshman quarterback Zeal Hammon ran for two touchdowns and threw for a third. He finished with 79 yards rushing on 13 carries.

Radio broadcast: 101.7 FM.

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# Auburn beats East Mont 36-12 for golden helmet



PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS

Elijah St. Clair reels in a touchdown pass for Auburn in the battle with cross-county rival Eastern Montgomery. Auburn won 36-12. St. Clair caught two scores in a game played at Christiansburg High School Saturday.



Eastern Montgomery quarterback Adam Bahnken breaks through the Auburn line on his way to the end zone for the Mustangs. The Eagles earned bragging rights and the golden helmet with the convincing win.

# Patrick Henry blanks Blacksburg 56-0



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Blacksburg's Mare Hairston pulls down a Patrick Henry running back Sunday afternoon. PH rolled to a 56-0 win.



Traye Roberts (left) trips up a Patrick Henry back as fellow Bruins Jon Jarrells (center) and Ryan Hale (right) move in for extra coverage during Sunday's game.

# Christiansburg loses to Salem 36-13



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

(L to R) Curtis Altizer, Casey Graham, Jayron Thompson, and MJ Hunter stop Salem running back Jordan McDonald in the Blue Demons' loss Saturday.



Salem defender Jordan McDonald closes in on Christiansburg's Drew Lloyd in Saturday's game, a 36-13 Blue Demon loss.

# Salem Red Sox release schedule for 2021 season

After the cancellation of the 2020 baseball season, the Salem Red Sox

announce the return of baseball to Salem with the release of their 2021

schedule. Opening Day is Tuesday, May 4, as the Red Sox begin the season on the road against the Delmarva Shoreboards. The road trip will start a 120-game slate that will conclude on Sept. 19 and will feature 20 six-game series.

The home opener is Tuesday, May 11, against the Lynchburg Hillcats.

The 2021 home schedule boasts 10 weekend series, including Memorial Day Weekend, with a league-wide off-day every Monday. All series are six games, running Tuesday through Sunday.

The slightly reduced schedule is the result of the delayed start to spring training to allow for enforcement of so-

cial distancing and COVID-19 safety measures for players, staff and fans.

"After the cancellation of last season, it is great to be able to announce a 2021 season schedule," said Red Sox General Manager Allen Lawrence. "While there is still plenty to be done, our staff looks forward to continuing to do what we do best: create a best-in-class fan experience, develop big-league players, grow our business and support our community."

The Red Sox 120-game schedule is evenly split with 60 home games set for Salem Memorial Ballpark.

Following the restructuring initiative from Major League Baseball, the Red Sox are now

part of the Northern Division of the Low-A East league, which has 12 teams. Joining the Sox in the Northern Division and the major-league teams they are affiliated with are the Delmarva Shorebirds (Baltimore), the Fredericksburg Nationals (Washington), and the Lynchburg Hillcats (Cleveland).

In the league's Central Division are the Carolina Mudcats (Milwaukee), the Down East Wood Ducks (Texas), the Fayetteville Woodpeckers (Houston) and the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (Chicago White Sox).

The league's Southern Division includes the Augusta GreenJackets (Atlanta), the Charleston RiverDogs (Tampa Bay), the Columbia

Fireflies (Kansas City), and the Myrtle Beach Pelicans (Chicago). Due to an abbreviated schedule and travel restrictions, the Red Sox will play only six of the 11 opponents during the 2021 season.

The 2021 promotional schedule, along with game times, will be announced soon.

While single-game tickets are not yet available for purchase, fans are encouraged to visit SalemSox.com or call (540) 389-3333 for more information on current ticket packages.

The Salem club is the Low-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. The team was founded in 1968 and was purchased by Fenway Sports Management in December of 2007.

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