News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

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Rec Department takes kids on a Hoppin' down the Bunny Trail Easter egg hunt





(Left) The Easter bunny was at the Christiansburg **Recreation Department Saturday morning to welcome** children as they hopped down the bunny trail on a drive-by egg hunt. (Above) Michelle Trussell hands Easter treats to the Gunion children: Tommy, Abigail, and Rebecca. Recreation department personnel said they had enough bags and treats for 2,000 children.

RU's Theatre, Cinema Department presents 'The Liar'



Junior theatre major Logan Burnley plays the lead role of Dorante in "The Liar."



Senior theatre major Madison Lawson plays twin characters Isabelle and Sabine in "The Liar."

Christiansburg spring cleanup **begins Saturday**

The Town of Christianburg's annual spring cleanup will begin Saturday, April 10, and continue through Friday, April 23.

USPS 016-490

For the convenience of the collection crews and to make the collection go faster, the town asks that residents place cleanup items within 10 feet of the street pavement and separate them from regular trash.

Town officials also ask residents not to block drainage ditches, gutters, sidewalks, water meters or sewer cleanouts. The town is not responsible for any items left at or near the street that residents did not intend to have collected. Piles that do not comply with cleanup rules will not be collected.

Residents are asked also to separate materials by type (i.e. pile bagged leaves, tree limbs and trimmings separately). Loose materials must be placed in bags or containers not exceeding 32 gallons. Leaves must be bagged.

There is no charge for items picked up during spring cleanup. Though special collection trucks follow regular garbage routes, cleanup may run behind the usual trash collection schedules. Crews will collect all items that are placed out prior to April 23, but there may be delays. If residents' items have not been collected by May 1, they are asked to reach out to Public Works directly by calling (540) 382-1151.

Town crews will pick

up the following items: furniture; appliances including sinks and tubs (limit two per household); passenger car and truck tires (limit four per household; no larger than 20-inches); tire rims (no limit); tree limbs, trimmings, and brush; leaves (bagged only); landscape timbers; paint cans and sealer cans (only if open and dry); barrels/drums (only if dry, ends are removed and do not contain hazardous material); and railroad ties/timbers (limit five per household).

Town crews will NOT pick up the following items: construction and demolition materials (including, but not limited to, wood, metal, concrete, stone, etc.); heavy machinery; automobile parts; kerosene heaters; fuel oil tanks of any size; commercial truck, tractor/trailer tires; hazardous household wastes (such as paint, pesticides and cleaning chemicals); tree/brush materials associated with land/lot clearing for construction; tree stumps; electronic components such as televisions and computers.

Public works can provide assistance in ensuring all items are acceptable for pickup. For help, call 540-382-1151.

The Town will not pick up household hazardous waste, which is waste that is considered to be toxic, poisonous, corrosive, reactive, flammable or combustible. Read the label on the products to determine if it is a hazardous prod-



Christiansburg

\$1.00

Radford University's Department of Theatre and Cinema presents "The Liar," streaming online to audiences today, April 7, through Sunday, April 11.

Presented on the stage of Pridemore Playhouse in Porterfield Hall, the production will stream live to audiences on April 7, 8, 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. with a final showing on April 11 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at https://rutheatretickets. universitytickets.com/.

Directed by Assistant Professor Molly Hood, 'The Liar" is a comedy that takes place in 1643. The play does contain some mild sexual themes and adult language.

A young law school student named Dorante arrives in Paris for a visit. His biggest flaw is that he is prone to lying about, well, most everything, actually. When Dorante falls in love with a woman he meets shortly after arriving in the city, a case of mistaken identity becomes a central thread that entangles the

characters in a web of lies and comedic trouble.

Hood said her cast and crew have really made the production experience enjoyable. "The students are incredibly energetic and funny," she said. "Rehearsals have been a blast. We'll look at one moment of the play and they'll have five different suggestions for how to approach it. It's been absolutely wonderful to have such an energetic team who isn't afraid to play with ideas."

The production cast and crew continue to work in ways that differ from putting together traditional theatre presentations. Streaming to online audiences requires introducing technical elements much earlier than with standard production schedules. Cameras and microphones were added as rehearsal elements early in the production timeline, and students had to memorize their lines much earlier than usual to prepare for the additional technical challenges that accompa-

ny a live streamed production. "The students have done a great job handling the extra requirements. They've really delivered," said Hood.

Junior theatre major Logan Burnley portrays the lead role of Dorante. He says that his first leading role has been a challenging yet rewarding experience.

"The role is very athletic," Burnley said. "Dorante loves to tell fantastic stories and he often acts them out to other characters in the scene at a frenetic pace. You have to be able to talk and jump around for minutes on end without becoming fatigued."

When the casting call went out for a classical comedy production at Radford University, he knew that he wanted to be involved as much as possible. In addition to playing the lead character, Burnley also worked in the scene shop helping

See The Liar, page 5

NASA engineer visits McHarg first graders virtually



First graders at McHarg Elementary School recently had a virtual visit by NASA Engineer Dr. Tracie Prater (on video screen in background) from the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. The visit ended the first graders' two-week study of space with this virtual field trip. First-grader Abe Waff said he learned from the visit, "Animals have been sent to space. Even the moon. Tardigrades are the only animals that can live in space." The first-grade teachers and students look forward to more such virtual field trips in the future.

See **Spring**, page 5

Town police plant pinwheels for Child Abuse **Prevention Month**



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and members of the Christiansburg Police Department recently planted a pinwheel garden in front of Christiansburg's town hall as part of the 2021 Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the notion of Pinwheels for Prevention after the organization's research showed and what its experiences since then have reinforced is that people respond positively to pinwheels. They represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness. The vision of Prevent Child Abuse America is of a world in which all children grow up happy and healthy and prepared to succeed amid supportive families and communities.

DMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 8:

Virtual Author Talk with Ron Peterson, Jr. - Join in virtually with the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library as bestselling author Ron Peterson, Jr., discusses his new novel, "Chasing the Squirrel: The Pursuit of Notorious Drug Smuggler Wally Thrasher" at 7 p.m. Joining him will be his son, Montana Thrasher. "Chasing the Squirrel" is the true story of Wally Thrasher, whose investigation led in 1986 to the biggest drug bust in mid-Atlantic United States history.

Monday, April 12

Radford Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting -The Google meet virtual meeting of this committee will be held at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. To be invited to the meeting with a virtual meeting link, contact Josh Brown, chairperson, at 267-3083 or Daniel Hill, director of special education at 267-3323.

Tuesday, April 13

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting - The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart-Horse-Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Ally's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Jonathan McPeak will talk on the History of Virginia's 45th Infantry Regiment. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wednesday, April 14

Radford Chamber of Commerce Business over Breakfast - The chamber presents 'Business over Breakfast' from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at Sweet & Savory Donuts and Bagels, 1026A Clement St., Radford. The guest speaker is Elijah Sharp with the NRV Regional Commission. He will present information about the new East Main Downtown Plan and how everyone can get involved.

Please wear a face mask to this event.

Wednesday, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26:

Horticulture Hahn Garden Virtual Road Trip - The second stop of the five-stop Zoom tour of gardens and arboretums at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflowers Center with Tanya Zastrow will take place April 14 at 2 p.m. Register online for these talks and a zoom link will be provided: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/ jfc/form/SV_cumxRA-4Mec96guy.

The third stop will be on April 28 at 3:30 p.m. and will feature the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with VT alumnus Brian Trader. Then comes a visit on May 12 at 2 p.m. to the Wisconsin Arboretum with VT alumnus David Stevens. The tour ends on May 26 at 2 p.m. at Lotusland with Paul Mills and Rebecca Anderson.

Through Thursday, April 15:

ARTGAWK Exhibition "ARTGAWK: Selections from the Radford University Collection" is an exhibition of 111 works that range widely in media, artistic styles, and historical periods. The hours of the exhibition are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. at the Art Museum at the Covington Center.

Through Friday, April 16:

Young Chef Ingredient Challenge - Through Friday, April 16, all day at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Young chefs have the chance to challenge their creativity by making a meal with carrots, lemon, honey, and potatoes. The chefs can add more ingredients to their recipe(s), but the meal must include all the ingredients listed.

Submit a photo and recipes by April 16. Email shodges@mfrl.org for further questions and for submission.

Saturday, April 17:

Teen Dungeons and Dragons - Online from the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Thursday through Saturday, April 22, 23, 24:

2021 Spring Plant Sale pickup days - The 2021 spring plant sale, a joint fundraising event be-tween the Hahn Horticulture Garden and the VT Horticulture Club, is online this year due to COVID limitations on gatherings. The sale site link is https://springplantsaleatvt.company. site

Quantities are limited, so early ordering is suggested.

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 is open

to the public.

Tuesday, April 27:

Book discussion and Meet the Author at Radford Public Library - The RPL hosts Ron Peterson, Jr., for a Meet the Author/book discussion session via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The author will be discussing another person of local interest in his new book "Chasing the Squirrel: The Pursuit of Notorious Drug Smuggler Wally Thrasher."

Throughout April:

Grab-and-Go Crafts - At the Meadowbrook Public Library. Call the library to request Take and Make craft kits. Available for grab-and-go with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

Story Walk - All the month of April at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain 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 "Move!"

VT Mohawk student shares her love for lacrosse and her heritage

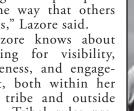
Once, during a high school lacrosse game, a group of fans from an opposing high school called Jacelyn Lazore and her teammates many of whom were Native Americans - derogatory names associated with indigenous peoples.

That incident, which Lazore vividly recalls, happened more than five years ago, and stereotypes unfortunately still exist in today's world. But the young woman, who now plays attack on the Virginia Tech lacrosse team and is a member of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation on the Canadian border, refuses to shun her heritage and culture. On the contrary, she embraces her background, choosing to educate and encourage when the situations allow for it. "It's definitely defeating, but it makes room for the opportunity to

change the perception in the way that others see us," Lazore said.

Lazore knows about fighting for visibility, awareness, and engagement, both within her own tribe and outside of it. Tribal rules prevented girls from playing lacrosse, but several years ago, Lazore and her teammates won over the clan mother of the tribe, who got other tribal leaders to change their bylaws and later helped with fundraising efforts to keep the girls' program afloat when budget cuts originally forced her high school to eliminate the team.

In Blacksburg, Lazore, a sophomore, became involved with Native at VT where she found a group of people with like interests and backgrounds and with whom she could relate outside the sport of lacrosse. "I started to feel more of a sense of home when I met the Native at VT





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02345-1

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Though a starter on the Virginia Tech lacrosse team, as a member of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation on the Canadian border, Jacelyn Lazore finds time to participate in Native at VT events on campus and enjoys learning about other indigenous cultures.

Lazore group," said. They're a very small group, but they're very big in the sense of family. Even though I've had a limited amount of time to be with them — because the majority of time, I'm with my team lifting, I'm traveling, or I'm practicing – but the time I've had with them, it's been

very, very, comforting. "I found that sense of community just through this small group of individuals. We come from different backgrounds, but we do share the same intentions to have indigenous excellence represented everywhere.'

Currently, Native Americans comprise less

than 1 percent of the student population at Virginia Tech, but according to Melissa Faircloth, a graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in sociology with a focus on the experiences of Native students on college campuses who is the full-time director of the AIICC, the number

of applications rose in the past year and efforts to let Native American high school students know that Virginia Tech welcomes diversity are taking effect.

'We've had in recent years a more concerted effort from admissions to reach out to this population," Faircloth said.

VT's virtual black alumni reunion will be April 12-18

For the first time, Virginia Tech's Black Alumni Reunion will be hosted virtually.

The event is set for April 12-18. Registration is now open. The reunion will have opportunities to network, connect with students, and celebrate with fellow Hokies.

Virginia Tech's Black Alumni Reunion is held biennially for alumni to come together to celebrate milestones, connect with one another, and have fun. The event was scheduled for spring 2020 and was rescheduled to 2021 as a virtual event because of public health guidelines.

The week will feature online activities with collaborative events supported by campus partners, including the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and Career and Professional Development.

Registration is \$25, and a portion (\$5) is a gift to the Inclusive VT Excellence Scholarship Fund. Participants get access to online events, plus a gift set that includes a T-shirt, glassware, and a tote bag. Students can register for free.

The theme of this year's event is "Reflecting. Reconnecting. Rising."

Even though Hokies cannot gather in person, the reunion's hallmark events will still happen online, including the Influential Black Alumni Awards ceremony, student and alumni networking, and a Friday night celebration.

Here is this year's schedule:

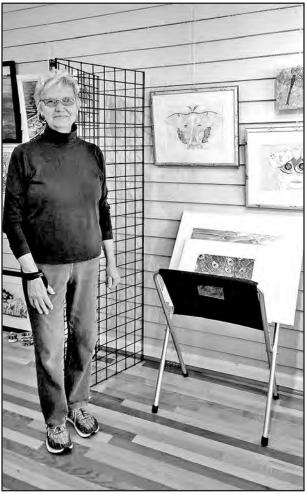
Monday, April 12: Welcome from the Office for Inclusion and Diversity; Tuesday, April 13: Gathering of women and men lunches; Wednesday, April 14: Online networking with Career and Professional Development; Thursday, April 15: Influential Black Alumni Awards ceremony; Friday, April 16: NOIR Decade{nce} Musical Battle of the Decades; Saturday, April 17: 3.2 Virtual Run in Remembrance.

Alumni are also asked to share their photos of past BAR celebrations and meaningful milestones for possible inclusion in the reunion.

To learn more and to register, visit: alumni.vt.edu/bar.



Blacksburg art association to open co-op shop



Sue Hossack (right) and Diamond Gabriel, both

members of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association

(BRAA), pause from loading The Art Place@The Artful

Lawyer in preparation for the April 10 opening of the

new weekends-only shop, the first of its kind for the

organization. All artists to be featured in the shop

The Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA) is opening a co-op art shop this Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11, from noon to 4 p.m. Co-manager Mary Ratliff shows a few 🛛 are local and are members of the 71-year-old local of the artworks that will be available for sale.

On Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, from noon to 4 p.m., the Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA) will open The Art Space@The Artful Lawyer at 318 N. Main St. in downtown Blacksburg.

BRAA has been affiliated with The Artful Lawyer for a number of years and, like many businesses and associations, has experienced challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The art receptions formerly held in this space by the owner, James Creekmore, have been cancelled for months and the building has been closed to the public.

But now a portion of this stately old house will offer a new weekend attraction. Six spaces in the house will be rented by BRAA member artists on a quarterly basis beginning in April and continuing through June.

Sue Hossack and Mary Ratliff are co-managers of this new BRAA venture. Hossack describes the purpose of the shop as a way for BRAA artists to get their work seen by the public and for residents of Montgomery County and beyond to have a chance to buy directly from artists.

art association.

"It will be a gallery of artists run by artists," said Hossack.

Located in the left wing of The Artful Place, the BRAA shop will offer patrons the chance not only to buy local art, but to meet and talk with the artists as well with several artists present each weekend. Artists will be in residence in the space for a period of three months at a time, weekends only. Each quarter, new artists will be featured.

For this first quarter, the artists will be Mary Ratliff, Sue Hossack, Diamond Gabriel, and Trenia Bell. They will offer a variety of works from original paintings in various media to notecards, photography and jewelry. Visitors may have the chance to watch art demonstrations.

The second quarter, July through September, will feature Ruth Lefko, Aileen Fletcher, Joy Rosenthal, Susan Lockwood, Lois Stephens, and Joe Scarpaci with paintings, photography and handmade oak coffee tables.

Customers will be able to purchase with credit card, cash, or check.

The organizing committee for this new venture includes artists Sue Hossack, Linda Correll, Ava Howard and Charlotte Chan.

Normal hours will be Saturdays and Sundays noon to 4 p.m.

"If things go well," said BRAA President Charlotte Chan, "we will consider opening more hours. Look for the sandwich board in front of the building as a reminder that we are open and are ready to welcome art lovers and, hopefully, buyers. We invite the residents of this area to put our shop on their list of places to bring their out-of-town visitors in to see more of what Blacksburg is all about."

All social distancing requirements will be met, so please wear masks, the "artsy-er the better." A maximum of 10 visitors at a time will be allowed in the space.

Go to www.blacksburgart.org for more information.

Christiansburg Rescue is first in Virginia to implement education program for cardiac arrests

Christiansburg Rescue has become the first agency in Virginia to implement the Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) prehospital healthcare provider program, enrolling 75 providers.

RQI is an innovative resuscitation quality improvement program to advance the prehospital response to cardiac arrest events.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the U.S. annually. About 90% of people who suffer outof-hospital cardiac arrest die.

Cardiac arrest victims must receive the highest quality CPR possible, which is known to be the cornerstone for survival. Christiansburg Rescue is taking a significant step to improve outcomes with its implementa-tion of an innovative resuscitation quality improvement program to advance the prehospital response to cardiac arrest events.

RQI is a proven approach for achieving and sustaining verified competence in high-quality CPR. The program is codeveloped by the Ameri-can Heart Association, Laerdal Medical and the Resuscitation Academy Foundation and delivered by RQI Partners.

Christiansburg Rescue is a third-service municipal EMS agency serving the Town of Christiansburg and Montgomery County since 1947 that is comprised of volun-teers and full- and parttime staff.

"Christiansburg Rescue prides itself on providing efficient, high-quality healthcare by following evidencebased science and on the progressive stance we take in early adoption of novel medical techniques and resuscitation education and technology," said Deputy Chief Dustin Williams. "The path to RQI was simple. Our providers were not retaining their CPR skills and knowledge through the traditional every-two-years-model, and then COVID-19 struck. We needed a solution that would deliver instruction, ongoing maintain compliance and keep our staff members safe. RQI is a game changer, affording benefits to our providers, partner agencies and the greater community."

To deliver RQI Prehospital Healthcare Provider courses, Christiansburg Rescue is leveraging a new addition to the Association's digital resuscitation portfolio: the RQI-P GO solution. Launched last October, RQI-P GO is a compact, modular and mobile system designed for healthcare facilities and prehospital and public safety organizations that may not have access to a traditional RQI simulation station or operate locations distributed across a city or county, respectively. RQI-P GO affords the same course instruction and real-time feedback as a traditional RQI simulation station without sacrificing qual-

"We are excited about the far-reaching poten-tial of the RQI-P GO solution," Deputy Chief Williams said. "The mobile attribute will be beneficial in expanding the RQI footprint and providing CPR instruction to our partner agencies, including our police department and the community at-large. Christiansburg Rescue is committed to investing in our staff and the community in which we live and serving to collectively help improve cardiac arrest survival."

COVID-19 cases trending down campus

Positive COVID-19 cases on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus are declining rapidly, a welcome sign for the university community as it aims for a strong spring semester finish in the midst of the pandemic.

Coronavirus case numbers have plateaued in recent days, reflecting a similar pattern at the same point during the fall 2020 semester when case counts dwindled, said Mike Mulhare, assistant vice president for emergency management at Virginia Tech.

Wide adherence to public health guidelines across the university community has been key to the declining trends, he said.

Still, health officials encourage people to balance freedom with vigilance when it comes to protection against the coronavirus for themselves and others.

"Virginia Tech students on the whole have stayed the course with sacrifice, humility, patience, and hope," said Frank Shushok, vice president for student affairs. "The results show in case numbers, and more importantly, in our collective positive spirit. I couldn't be more grateful."

With May commencement approaching, Virginia Tech is planning for some in-person ceremonies. The university announced this week that it will hold 15 in-person commencement ceremonies outdoors at Lane Stadium from May 10-16, while adhering to public health guidelines.

There is other good news among the Hokie nation. Increasingly, members of the university community are receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The New River Health District administered about

1,500 vaccine doses this past week to Virginia Tech employees, and more will be offered as supply allows.

Virginia Tech students are encouraged to register to receive a vaccine through the Virginia Department of Health.

Even so, despite positive strides, the campus community should continue to practice caution. People should continue to follow public health guidelines, such as wearing a mask in public, avoiding crowded spaces, and washing hands, said Noelle

Bissell, health director of the New River Health District, while speaking with the media this week. COVID-19 still is spreading in parts of the district.

Our vaccines are the light at the end of the tunnel, but we're still in the tunnel," Bissell said. "We encourage people not to let their guard down until we get closer to herd immunity [when a majority of a population is vaccinated]."

> -Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

Virginia high school students may apply for forestry department's natural resources academy

Virginia high school students currently in grades 9-12 who are interested in natural resources may apply to attend the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources, a new virtual camp sponsored by Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Students have until April 30 to apply for the academy, which will take place July 12-16, 2021. Each morning will feature live virtual presentations from natural resource professionals with daily themes of aquatics, forestry, soils, or wildlife. Each afternoon, participants will complete field explorations on their own

as well as further exploring topics through videos and reading material.

"Since both Camp Woods & Wildlife and Youth Conservation Camp were cancelled due to COVID-19, we wanted to offer an alternative way for teens to explore natural resource topics and careers," said Bonnie Mahl of the soil and water conservation districts.

"This camp has several unique twists you won't find in most virtual camps," said Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry. The daily self-directed field studies complete with instructions and materials for campers to use and keep will connect campers

backyards, local parks, or woods. In addition, small groups of campers will work together to showcase the natural resources of their region of the state, culminating in group presentations on Friday.

The week will culminate with a natural resources competition modeled after the Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon program.

Students may apply for the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources at https://forms. gle/9mRUtyoaPRvFQY 2N9. Once students are notified of their acceptance, campers will receive a schedule, Zoom link, and materials for

with nature in their own completing their daily field studies.

The cost for the weeklong academy is \$25 to cover materials, and financial aid is available as academy coordinators want all students to experience the

academy. Students may contact Ellen Powell at ellen.powell@dof.virginia. gov to discuss options.



Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OPINION Evans King: The Cobblestone Defense League

A couple of weeks ago I encountered one of those moments that every homeowner has at some point unless maybe your house sits on a 6-acre lot in a cloistered community. I stepped out on my back deck to go to my garage to head to work. And what did I see?

Approximately 20 folks in neon green vests wearing white hard hats milling around in the street beside my house. They were surrounded by at least 10 white trucks lined up and down the street plus a black and orange piece of machinery that to me resembled a rocket launcher.

I thought that perhaps we had declared war on Bridgeport, as this thing seemed like it might have the range to drop missiles into that town about five miles away. In fact, I thought maybe we were engaging Fairmont, about 20 miles away.

Being both curious and convivial, I wandered over to inquire, and then I saw the signs of the devil that had been painted on my neighborhood's sidewalks and in the street. Those telltale spraypainted markers that mean destruction is imminent. Or at least being contemplated.

Being the clever fellow that I am, I walked up to this group, all 20 or so of whom were staring at a manhole cover in the intersection of my alleyway and the street that I use for ingress and egress (as those lawyers say) and asked, "Gonna do some work?" As if they were possibly there for a social gathering.

I was politely told (as I had feared) that they were with the "gas company" and they were replacing "lines that had been laid in the 20's." I knew they didn't mean the 2020's since my house is 100 years old, so this was probably a necessary and inevitable step.

This work and the accompanying dust and destruction and noise would be inconvenient at best. But in my neighborhood it could also be tragic in a sense. You see, I live in one of only two sections of our fine city that still have brick streets, beautiful, nostalgic, yellow brick streets.

My thoughts immediately turned to my late neighbor, Capt. Mike Kozakewich, USMC (Ret.).

Mike was my neighbor, friend, and law partner for about 25 years. He lived half a block down the street from the house that Joyce and I bought in the late 90's. Mike was a "Marine's Marine." He began in the Corps as an enlisted man and left as a captain. His father had been a Marine in the South Pacific in World War II, and Mike had followed in his dad's footsteps. He enlisted out of high school and then volunteered for Vietnam in 1968 where he served as a sergeant in the First Recon Company, First Marine Division.

While I was not in the military and am not a Vietnam War historian, I know this duty was not exactly the same as sitting in a college classroom in the states during that period. It was dangerous to the tenth power.

Mike became a career guy and earned his undergraduate and master's degrees while in the Corps. Among his various "billets" (he liked the term) after returning from Southeast Asia, he served as a drill sergeant at Parris Island where he met his future wife, Cindy, also a Marine. (Fittingly, they were married on Parris Island).

Perhaps the high point of Mike's post-Vietnam service was his assignment as a counterintelligence officer in the Presidential Helicopter Squadron at Quantico during the Reagan administration.

After retiring from the Corps in 1986, Mike entered law school at the University of Virginia on what he referred to in his obituary as "an ill-considered lark." Upon graduation, Mike joined our firm and became an outstanding lawyer and superb community citizen, following the small-town lifestyle he had hoped for.

Capt. K passed away in 2012, way too young, another victim of Agent Orange, like so many of his fellow Vietnam vets (including my cousin Joe).

So, what is the connection between the recent onslaught of the gas company and Mike you say? Well, over the years when the city or any of the utilities that serviced our neighborhood appeared to be involved in hostile activities that might result in replacing our brick streets, Mike would slip into fatigues and casually come out of his house and walk over and "suggest" that we liked our brick streets.

Sometimes I would accompany him, and in a friendly way let them know that Mike was a decorated Marine who had seen real combat. Real bad combat. We called ourselves the CDL: the Cobblestone Defense League. Suffice it to say that our street is still brick, at least for now.

When Mike died, a few of us at our office sat down and wrote the "Kozakewich Charge." It sums him up perfectly: a tough Marine but a caring husband and father, community leader and Re-

naissance man.

"Go forth...

"Love God, your country, and your family.

"Challenge your mind and body to the fullest,

"Always do your best but never take yourself too seriously...no one else does.

"Work hard, play hard, laugh even harder.

"Enjoy your friends, be loyal to them.

"Enjoy your toys.

"Enjoy your guns but they are NOT toys.

"Enjoy the drive with the top down.

"Appreciate the meal before you, even the MRE's and C rations.

"Give of yourself generously and unconditionally. Duty calls.

"Be a leader, if not by choice by example.

"Don't let the fear of failure keep you from reaching your goals.

"Enjoy your life and leave the world better than you found it."

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.

News Messenger

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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.

Auburn Middle School taking part in 2021 campaign to reduce crashes by teen drivers

Auburn Middle School is among the 26 high schools and four middle schools statewide to register for the 2021 Arrive Alive Campaign, which focuses on the increased risks teen drivers face during the spring and summer months.

Statistics show that more of Virginia's teen drivers will be involved in traffic crashes from May through August than at any other time of the year. To help save lives and prevent crashes during the high-risk warm weather months, Virginia schools and youth groups are this of the teens (ages 15-20) week kicking off a statewide teen safety campaign, Arrive Alive, to establish safe driving and passenger

Middle about Traffic Safety the 26 (YOVASO) and focuses on the increased risk of atewide teen-driver crashes during the spring and summer months. Throughout the campaign, high school students will lead spring peer-to-peer programs on speed prevention and seat belt use while mida's teen die school students will nvolved focus their messaging on being a safe passenger August and always buckling up.

According to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, 63% of young driver-related fatal crashes in 2020 were speed-related and 63% killed in crashes in 2020 were unrestrained. "Although young driver-related crashes were down in 2020 in Virginia, we had an alarming 12% increase fatalities among in young drivers with risky behaviors such as speeding and not wearing a seat belt" said Mary King, YOVASO pro-gram manager. "If we are going to save lives, we need our youth to use their positive influence to change these high-risk behaviors and attitudes.'

involved in Arrive Alive by asking friends and peers to buckle up and by leading efforts in schools and communities to make speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors unacceptable.

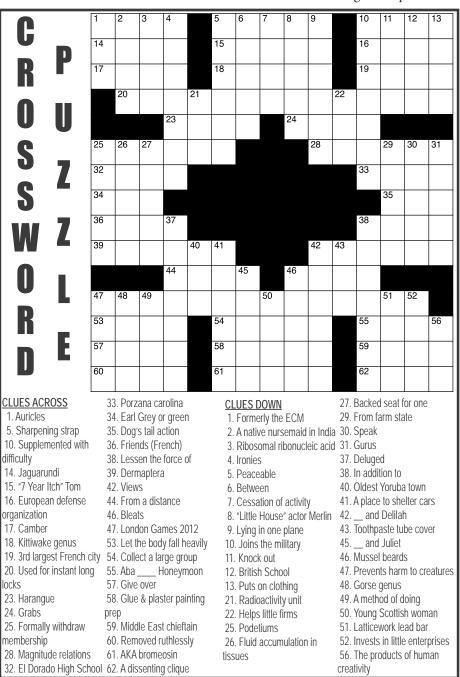
To address the seriousness of speeding among teens and buckling up among young drivers and passengers, YOVASO's Arrive Alive Campaign offers several opportunities for students, schools, and youth groups to take action.

The Creative Entry Competition is the

by State Farm Insurance being awarded as follows: first place \$300, second place \$200 and third place \$100. Entries are due May 12, 2021, by 5:00 p.m., and the winners will be announced on May 24, 2021. For guidelines and the entry form, visit YOVASO's website.

Youth ages 11-20 may also participate in the campaign by registering for the free #ArriveAlive21 Kit that includes driver and passenger safety resources, activity ideas, summer recipes, and other fun items like sunglasses and stickers. Students who register for a kit will be entered to win a \$10 Amazon Gift Card. Winners will be randomly selected every two weeks starting April 16, 2021, and continuthroughout ing the month of August. In partnership with State Farm, YOVASO will also be giving away \$50 to three schools or youth groups that continue activities and/or promotion throughout the summer months. These winners will be randomly selected at the ends of June, July, and August.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$57 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.



The campaign is sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out

> King said all teens are encouraged to get

highlight of this year's campaign, providing an option for student groups to participate once again in a behavior changing project for a chance to win cash prizes. High- and middleschool student groups will compete separately.

All creative entry messaging must be related to the Arrive Alive Campaign theme by addressing speed prevention at the high school level and seat belt use at the middle school level. All entries will be judged on content, creativity, and student involvement with prizes funded

Survey: Virginia's economy is eighth hardest hit by COVID-19

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, coronavirus isn't just a danger to Americans' health. It's also a menace to our wallets. To determine which states' economies were hardest hit by the pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 13 metrics. The results showed that Virginia's economy has been the eighth hardest hit by the pandemic.

WalletHub says that the U.S. is still struggling to recover from the unemployment caused by business closures. While the federal government has helped mitigate some of this damage through multiple rounds of business loans, direct stimulus payments to individuals and increased unemployment benefits, it will take a long time for state economies to fully recover.

The 13 metrics WalletHub used that landed the commonwealth in the No.-8 position among hardest hit economies

were 1) GDP generated by highly affected industries as a share of the total state GDP 2) the share of employment from highly affected industries (Virginia was ranked 26th in the country in this category.) 3) WalletHub's "States Whose Unemployment Claims Are Recovering the Quickest" score (Virginia was ranked #1 in this as the state with the slowest recovery rate in the country.) the share of employment from small businesses 5) the percent change in number of small businesses open $\vec{6}$) the percent change in all consumer spending 7) percent change in GDP (2020 vs 2019) 8) the states prepared for digital economy ranking 9) the share of workers working from home 10) the work from home infrastructure 11) the share of workers with access to paid sick leave (Virginia ranked first in this category with the lower rankings being the least desirable.) 12) the state's rainy day funds as a share of state expenditures.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

BITUARIES

Barta, Michael Joseph

Michael Joseph Barta, 58, died unexpectedly at his home in Franklin, N.C. on March 31, 2021.

He was born March 27, 1963, in Morgantown, W.Va., and was a 1981 graduate of Radford High School where he played football and basketball and ran track.

He was a 1985 graduate of Princeton University where he graduated summa cum laude and was inducted

into Phi Beta Kappa and a 1988 graduate of Harvard Law School where he graduated cum laude. He clerked for The Honorable Jerome Farris of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

He began his legal career at Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin, a renowned litigation boutique firm in Washington, D.C., and was the youngest attorney ever to be elected as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

During his career, he served as Chair of the White Collar Crime and Corporate Investigations Groups at Baker Botts LLP before moving his practice to Dechert LLP. He served as the lead counsel in high profile litigation involving an array of clients, including the Estate of Richard Nixon, the Republic of Venezuela, Samsung Electronics, NASCAR, Tomas Berdych, and Halliburton. He also taught trial advocacy at the Georgetown University Law Center.

Perhaps his proudest professional accomplishment was one of the first cases on which he worked out of law school. He



represented an Oklahoma man on death row for the Geronimo Bank murders and won a new trial and an overturned death sentence for his client. He combined his brilliance with an unparalleled work ethic for over 30 years.

Michael was witty, generous, tenacious and determined and was a great storyteller. He was an avid basketball fan, played in

a lawyers' league in D.C., and loved rooting for Duke basketball. He also loved the Shenandoah Valley and spent happy times as a young man with friends and family at his farm in Edinburg, Va. He was a proud father and recently retired to the mountains of North Carolina to spend more time with his teenage children, Jack and Katie, whom he adored.

He is survived by his children, John Joseph Barta (Jack) and Katherine Elizabeth Barta (Katie), both of Franklin, N.C.; his parents, Dr. Joseph A. and Sue Blair Barta of Radford; his siblings, Mark Barta (Amy) of Galena, Ohio; Amy Wall (Jimmy) of Winston-Salem, N.C. and Laura Barta of Arlington, Va.; thirteen nieces and nephews, and a great-niece and great-nephew.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Interment followed in the West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Dowdy, Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell Dowdy, 86, of Merrimac died, Sunday, April 4, 2021, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Montgomery County on Oct. 10, 1934, to the late Cecil and Minnie Cooper Dowdy. He was also preceded in death by his son, Robert Dowdy; a granddaughter-in-law, Bonnie Dowdy; and a brother, Billy Dowdy.

He was a member of Merrimac Pentecostal Church. Mitchell loved

farming and worked with horses and cattle. He also loved puttering around in his gardens.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ruth Dowdy; a daughter and son-in-law, Fay and Maynard Quesenberry; grand-

children Mitch Dowdy, and Angela Griffith (Eric), great-grandchildren Lauren Hughes, Austin Dowdy, and Briana Griffith; and greatgreat-grandchildren Addilyn Rose and Owen. conducted today, Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pas-

tombment will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

> The family will receive friends from 1-2:30 p.m. this afternoon prior to the service. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

> > daughter-in-law,

Brandy

and

Price, Lynn Carol Parsons

Lynn Carol Parsons of Blacksburg, Price, passed away hand-inhand with her son, Tad, at her side at 6:26 p.m. on Friday April 2, 2021, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

All who met Lynn truly knew her; she was honestly genuine; she was Lynn - PERIOD. To describe her in one word would be "classy."

More importantly, she was an adored mother, a dutiful dog momma, the sincerest of friends, an amazing aunt, an attentive sister, a super secret-keeper, and a best friend to anyone she met.

She is survived by her beloved son, Tad (James Gideon Price Jr), her longtime companion, Earl Brown, and her



sisters, Joan Pempcil, Lois Birdwell, and Geraldine Wilson; as well as family Camie Warren and Amy Lynn Lively ("The Girls"), and many other friends and family who will miss her dearly. She will forever be in our hearts, and the memories she made will exceed our lifetime.

⁵⁴⁰⁻⁹⁵¹⁻⁴⁴¹⁰ will never be the same again.

The cute little giggle when she heard your voice and discovered who was calling because heaven forbid she get caller ID will be missed by all, Until we meet again, give Uncle Jimmy (James Gideon Price) and Granny (Anna Catherine Parsons) a big hug for all of us.

Snider, Robert Leonard

Robert was born in Asheboro, N.C., on Oct. 17, 1946, to Howard William Snider and Josephine Plagg Snider.

He was raised in Denton, N.C., where his father's family had lived for generations. Robert passed away at Roanoke Memorial Hospital on March 22, 2021.

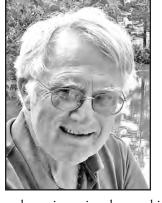
Robert graduated from Denton High School in 1965 and from Virginia

Tech in 1968 with honors in mathematics. He earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Miami in 1971. His area of research was algebraic ring theory.

He was awarded a post-doctoral position from 1971 through 1974 at Northwestern University where he worked with colleagues from Northwestern as well as the University of Chicago.

In 1974, Robert took a permanent position with the mathematics department at Virginia Tech where he was hired as an associate professor with tenure. Within a few years, he was promoted to the rank of full professor.

In 1977 he was invited to take a yearlong sabbatical at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he worked with world class mathematicians and proved an important theorem in his area. In 1981, he was invited to take another year-long sabbatical,



this time at Cambridge University in England. He really enjoyed the opportunities provided by both of these sabbaticals. Robert retired from Virginia Tech in 2010 and was awarded emeritus status by the university.

Robert had many interests throughout his life. He enjoyed bird watching from an early age as well as fishing, hunting, gardening, and horticulture. He en-

joyed researching grafting on fruit trees and cross-pollination of plants. He was always interested in finding old varieties of apple trees throughout the area.

Robert is survived by his wife, Suzanne E. Verdu. They enjoyed many trips in both the United States and around the world. He is also survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Anna and David Lord, Laura Snider and John Steinbauer, and Tracy and Bret Wallace, as well as six grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister and brotherin-law, Mary and Charles Sawyer, and his niece Amanda Sawyer Holliday and her family.

To remember Robert, please consider a donation to NPR, PBS, or the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Snider family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Stone, Tyler William

Tyler William Stone, Mike 29, was born July 8, Palmer; 1991, and passed away grandchildren Kurry and on March 26, 2021.

He was preceded in

several aunts, uncles, cousins and great-cousins.

We will forever miss you.

Palmer, Lula Belle Thornton

Lula Belle Thornton Palmer, 71, of Christiansburg, died Friday, April 2, 2021, at Carrington



tor Richard Hall and Pastor Reggie Britts officiating. En-

Place, Wytheville.

She was born in Lindside, W.Va., on April 16, 1949 to the late Carlvin and Archie Clark Thornton.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Roger Dale Palmer, Jr., and Gregory Justin Palmer.

She is survived by her son and

Spring from page 1

uct. Words like "poison," 'danger," "warning" or "caution" will alert you of the potential hazard. These products should not be disposed of in the landfill. Please do NOT place these items in your regular household garbage or recycling. Instead, please dispose of these items at one of the New River Resource Authority's Household Hazardous Waste

Collection events. Learn more at www.newriverresourceauthority.org.

The town will collect paint cans only if they are open and dry. For information on how to dispose of old paint, contact the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority by calling 540-381-2820 or by visiting their website: http://www.mrswa.com/. For electronic waste Linda Thornton, Charles and Cindy Thornton, Richard and Betty Thornton, and John Thornton; a sister and brother-inlaw, Sandra and Tony

Sage Palmer; brothers and

Funeral services will be

A private service will be held by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

sisters-in-law Scotty and death by his beloved papaw, Norman Simmons; ĥis granny, Macel Stone; and an aunt, Sharon Shomaker.

He leaves behind his son, Tipton Stone; his father, Willy Stone; his mother, Dreama Sim-

mons; his papaw, Marshall Stone; his grandmother, Darlene Simmons; and



Memorial services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the New Life Recovery Center, 7193 Warden Court, Radford, VA 24141. The Stone family is in the

care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

(i.e. televisions, computers), contact the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority by calling 540-381-2820 or by visiting their website: http://

Martin.

www.mrswa.com/. For a full list of accepted items, visit www.christiansburg.org/cleanup-FAQ.

Throughout the year, residents may also choose to set out their brush for

to build sets for the show.

The Liar

Madison Lawson is a senior theatre major playing two characters, Sabine and Isabelle, twin sisters with polar opposite personalities. The sisters are maids who grow wise to Dorante's fabrications and begin feeding him their own lies to toy with him.

from page 1

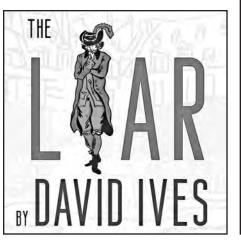
The opportunity to portray the two characters was appealing to the graduating senior, and she enjoyed embracing the challenges it presented.

"I typically play girl-next-door characters, so to play someone like Sabine is exciting because she's strong and strict and kind of mean," Lawson said. "Isabelle, on the other hand, is flirty and sensual. So I'll be playing a scene where I am being bossy and mean and slapping people in the face, then I walk off camera for a moment and return as the sister with a completely opposite personality. It's a lot of fun.'

Students in the production were also excited about the costume designs. Since the story takes place during the Baroque

period of France, intricately designed corsets, doublets, and accessories are part of what makes the production a visually engaging experience.

"I am in love with my costume," Burnley said. "The cape, the sword, all of it. When I'm in costume, I feel like I am the character. As soon as I was finished with my fitting, I wanted to get back into it."



monthly brush collection. Please visit www. christiansburg.org/brush

to learn about the town's complimentary monthly brush collection service.

Brush collection will not run in April due to the spring cleanup.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 TAX LEVIES AND BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing be scheduled for 6:00 P.M. April 8, 2021 on the proposed intention to address the below listed local tax levies for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 upon which matter citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

FURTHER, notice is given of the Board's intention to propose no increases in the following tax levies for Fiscal Year 2021-2022:

Real Property tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Personal Property tax levy remains at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value.

Machinery & Tools tax levy remains at \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed value.

Merchant's Capital tax levy remains at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mobile Homes tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Notice is also given that the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County scheduled a public hearing for 6:15 P.M. or as soon thereafter, April 8, 2021 on the Advertised Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget in the amount of \$210,986,555. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS F. CRAIG MEADOWS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and are weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

(UPDATED 3-5-21) ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located 4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to

a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

SWITCH: TRAFFIC A new traffic pattern has been implemented, detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound between the intersections above, limiting each direction to a single lane.

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. A detour will be in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/ exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in late June 2021.

ROUTE 685 TURN CONSTRUC-LANE TION - Contractors are constructing several turn lane and road improvements on Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) between Route 1145 (Stratford View Drive) and Route 654 (Brooksfield Road). Motorists should ex-

pect daily shoulder closures with intermittent lanes closures controlled by flagging forces. Current work hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but are subject to change as construction progresses. Work is expected to last through summer 2021.

ROADS VARIOUS FOR UTILITY WORK - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/ Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is

scheduled to last until fall 2021.

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIV-ER BRIDGE REPLACE-MENT IN MONTGOM-ERY COUNTY - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

UPCOMING LANE **CLOSURES**

On Sunday, April 18, I-81 southbound will have a left lane closure between mile marker 105-104 from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morn-

ing. On Monday, April 19, and Tuesday, April 20, I-81 southbound will have a left lane closure between mile marker 105-104 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

On Wednesday, April 21, and Thursday, April 22, I-81 southbound will have a right lane closure between mile to 5 a.m. the following morn-

may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting

BRIDGE RE-I-81 PLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The bridge re-placement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have southbound shoulder and



lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is summer 2021.

The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 GEO-TECHNICAL TESTING - As part of preliminary engineering efforts associated with a future I-81 widening project from exit 143 to exit 150, geotechnical engineers will be performing testing on the roadway pavement in Botetourt County from Monday, April 12, to Thursday, April 15, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night on I-81 northbound and southbound between mile marker 147 and 151. Drivers should expect mobile lane closures to be in place.

INTERSTATE 81 SAFE-**IMPROVEMENTS** AT S-CURVES IN BO-TETOURT COUNTY A project to improve the S-curves along southbound I-81 in Botetourt County between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5 is underway. This tion. Work includes repavpavement drains. Nighttime lane closures will be in place reduced to 60 mph in the includes permanently closbound off ramp] at exit 167 (Buchanan) to reduce speed July 2021.

INTERSTATE 81 WIDENING sure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

POTHOLE I-81 PATCHING OPERA-TIONS - Weather permitting, crews will begin April 11 to patch potholes along southbound Interstate 81 in Pulaski and Botetourt Counties. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 97 and 162, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 581

I-581 BRIDGE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE -Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581 between exit 6 and exit 4W and exit 3C to exit 6, northbound and southbound. Right, center and left lane closures may be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Single lane closures may be in place during daytime hours, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Estimated completion date July

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTE-NANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUN-TY– Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 581. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect



www.ourvalley.org

1120

and bundling newspapers

Hours may vary. Will train.

experience necessary.

\$7.50 per hour. Contact

Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355

Lynn Hurst, General

lhurst@ourvalley.org

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drawing class, male and

female, \$60 for 3 hour

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Service Lead

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Valley Medical Center

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patients.

trays,

areas.

individuals who will

customer service to

patients with meal selections, deliver meal

Basic stocking and

cleaning for assigned

You will receive education

on diet needs and alleray

Duties include: assisting

session. Call David

540-473-3713

for delivery. No

or email



LEGALNOTICE County of Montgomery, Virginia Synopsis of Advertised Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

This budget synopsis is prepared and published pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of Code of Virginia, for information and fiscal planning purposes only.

A hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on April 8, 2021 at 6:15 P.M. at the County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at which time any citizen of the County shall have the opportunity to attend and state his or her views on the advertised budget.

A copy of the Advertised Budget is available for inspection at the County Government Center, in the County Administrator's Office, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Library, 125 Sheltman St., Christiansburg; the Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Springs Road, Shawsville; the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Municipal Building, in the Town Manager's Office, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg; and the Christiansburg Town Hall, in the Town Manager's Office, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg.

EXPENDITURES:	FY 2022					
	FY 2021 Advertised					Increase
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:		Budget		Budget		(Decrease)
Board of Supervisors	\$	270,632	\$	282,425	\$	11,793
County Administration	\$	1,956,788	\$	2,104,749	\$	147,961
County Attorney	\$	382,368	\$	383,225	\$	857
inancial & Management Services	\$	1,225,460	\$	1,018,450	\$	(207,010
isurance	\$	208,195	\$	210,695	\$	2,500
formation Technology	\$	2,015,760	\$	2,135,796	\$	120,030
ommissioner of the Revenue-State	\$	561,856	\$	588,651	\$	26,79
ssessment-100% County	\$	479,677	\$	490,370	\$	10,693
reasurer-State	\$	482,702	\$	492,165	\$	9,463
ollections-100% County	\$	531,481	\$	506,505	\$	(24,97
lectoral Board/Director of Elections	\$	485,484	\$	473,570	\$	(11,91
ommonwealth Attorney	\$	1,249,358	\$	1,282,063	\$	32,70
ourts	\$	262,008	\$	267,247	\$	5,23
lerk of the Circuit Court	\$	715,542	\$	779,147	\$	63,60
heriff-State	\$	8,066,081	\$	8,213,115	\$	147,03
heriff-100% County	\$	7,178,602	\$	7,323,178	\$	144,57
ire Departments and Rescue Squads	\$	1,487,781	\$	1,494,981	\$	7,20
nimal Care and Adoption Center	\$	631,681	\$	652,869	\$	21,18
eneral Services	\$	6,348,344	\$	6,685,685	\$	337,34
hildren's Services Act	\$	1,651,969	\$	1,651,969	\$	
uman Services	\$	378,338	\$	392,725	\$	14,38
ublic Health Department	\$	604,488	\$	604,488	\$	
ocial Services	\$	6,228,024	\$	6,364,979	\$	136,95
arks & Recreation	\$	1,257,701	\$	1,296,123	\$	38,42
egional Library	\$	2,246,303	\$	2,347,680	\$	101,37
lanning & GIS	\$	948,750	\$	948,167	\$	(58
conomic Development	\$	434,156	\$	460,975	\$	26,81
ther Agencies	\$	2,708,739	\$	2,762,426	\$	53,68
contingencies-General	\$	526,307	\$	536,307	\$	10,00
ontingencies-Special	\$	7,836,404	\$	526,000	\$	(7,310,404
evenue Refunds	\$	195,000	\$	195,000	\$	(1,010,10
Subtotal:	\$	59,555,979	\$	53,471,725	\$	(6,084,254
Custotal	<u> </u>	00,000,010	<u> </u>	00,411,120	<u> </u>	(0,004,20
aw Library	\$	17,600	\$	17,600	\$	
CHOOLS:						
chool Operating	\$	113,745,153	\$	121 094 741	\$	8,239,58
School Capital	Ψ \$	2,146,173	\$	121,984,741 2,195,645	\$	49,472
chool Nutrition	φ \$	5,228,004	Ψ \$		\$	
Subtotal:	\$	121,119,330	\$	4,633,474 128,813,860	\$	(594,53) 7,694,53
oubiotali	Ψ	121,113,550	Ψ	120,010,000	Ψ	1,004,00
County Capital	\$	3,531,173	\$	3,580,645	\$	49,472
ebt Service	\$	24,722,725	\$	24,722,725	\$	
conomic Development	\$	380,000	\$	380,000	\$	
OUNTY TOTAL	\$	209,326,807	\$	210,986,555	\$	1,659,74
ESOURCES:		FY 2021		FY 2022		Increase
		Budget	Ad	vertised Budget		(Decrease)
EVENUE:						
eneral Undesignated Revenue:						
urrent Property Taxes (1)	\$	101,562,376	\$	103,807,971	\$	2,245,59
elinquent/Other Property Tax Revenue	\$	2,996,000	\$	2,996,000	\$	
ales and Use Tax	\$	10,301,540	\$	10,081,222	\$	(220,31
ndesignated Consumer Utility Tax	\$	1,659,000	\$	1,628,000	\$	(31,00
lotor Vehicle Licenses	\$	800,000	\$	800,000	\$	()
Il Other Local Taxes	\$	1,370,000	\$	1,325,000	\$	(45,00
terest on Investments	\$	895,999	\$	113,268	\$	(782,73
I Other Undesignated Revenue	\$	546,384	\$	620,384	\$	74,00
Total Undesignated Revenue	\$	120,131,299	\$	121,371,845	\$	1,240,54
eneral Designated Revenue	\$	20,009,464	\$	14,833,608	\$	(5,175,85
•						(3,175,85
aw Library Designated Revenue	\$	15,000	\$ ¢	15,000	\$	0 400 50
chool Operating Designated Revenue	\$	62,326,540	\$	68,516,128	\$	6,189,58
ther School Designated Resources	\$	5,228,004	\$	4,633,474	\$	(594,53
ebt Service Designated	\$	1,613,900	\$	1,613,900	\$	
	\$	89,192,908	\$	89,612,110	\$	419,20
Total Designated Revenue			\$	2,600	\$	
Total Designated Revenue aw Library Fund Balance	\$	2,600				
Total Designated Revenue	\$ \$ \$	2,600 2,600 209,326,807	\$ \$	2,600 210,986,555	\$ \$	1,659,74

NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on April 22, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

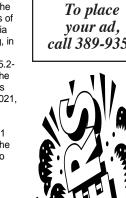
The request of Aquarius Pools, Inc., contractor, and James and Kathryn Long, property owners, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(B)(2) pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 825 Pendleton Drive, Tax Map # 67-6-1. The petitioners are requesting to construct an in-ground pool encroaching into the side yard.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375 3032).

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THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Zoning Administrator

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on April 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room at the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1) Hold public hearing to consider amending Chapter 66, Article I In General, Section 66-9, Article III Construction Location. Division 1 Generally, Section 66-73, Article IV Permitted Signs by Use and District, Section 66-107, and Article V Definitions, Section 66-151, of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA pertaining to signs.

2) Hold public hearing to consider amending Chapter 106, Zoning, Article II District Regulations Sections 106-204.3(B)1 106-208.3(B)1, 106-213.3(B)1 pertaining to single-family dwellings; Article III Use & Design Standards, Section 106-304.5(B)(D) pertaining to home occupations, Article IV Development Standards, Section 106-404.11(A)(E) pertaining to parking, Article V Administration, Sections 106-504(A), 106-514, 106-518 pertaining to zoning permits, enforcement, and civil penalties of the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA



By Order of the Board of Supervisors: F. Craig Meadows, County Administrator

County of Montgomery, Virginia



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford, Christiansburg advance to state football playoffs

Marty Gordon NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Radford High Bobcats and the Christiansburg Blue Demons used the last weekend of the regular season to claim wins that advanced them into fourth place in their respective districts, which also let them advance to the football state playoffs.

Radford blew out Richlands 42-0 in an add-on game after Carroll County opted out of the final regular season game while Christiansburg used a 57-0 win over Blacksburg to jump past Northside into the final 3D region spot. Bassett lost its final game of the year to finish .22 points behind the Blue Demons.

Radford gained the final 2C regional spot when Ft. Chiswell fell to Galax.

But both teams will have to go through the top team in their respective regions to advance to the second round. Radford travels to 6-0 Appomattox, and Christiansburg will face Lord Botetourt (6-0) Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Region 3D title will go through Botetourt, which has dominated opponents with a 52-15 record since 2013. This year, Botetourt had wins of 70-6 over G.W. Danville, 49-6 over William Fleming, 55-13 over William Byrd, 49-6 over Staunton River and 57-7 over Franklin County.

Christiansburg scrimmaged Franklin County early in the season and won by three touchdowns, the only opponent the Blue Demons share with Botetourt.

The top-ranked regional team ranks third overall in the latest state poll of all classifications and has won 19 of its last 20 games with its lone loss coming in the state championship game two years ago against Hopewell. They finished 14-1.

The team received a week off last week when Northside forfeited its contest.

Botetourt has 18 players over 200 pounds and 10 over 250 lbs. including highly recruited Gunner Givens (6-6, 275, #26 overall recruit in state of Virginia), Colston Powers (6-4, 285, first-team all-state Class 3 last year) and Troy Everett (6-3, 280, the #51 recruit nationally).

Running back Hunter is the workhorse for the team, having rushed 14 times for 173 yards and five touchdowns in the team's last contest against Franklin County.

Botetourt returned nine starters on both sides of the ball and has dominated the line of scrimmage.

Rice had 1,751 yards rushing with 18 touchdowns last season.

In the Franklin County game, Botetourt quarterback Sam Peery was 6-for-7 passing for 221 yards. Receiver Kyle Arnholt had four catches for 117 yards.

Christiansburg is coming off a 57-0 win over Blacksburg in which Kenyon John-son-Buchannon rushed 11 times for 97 yards with three touchdowns. Quarterback Casey Graham was 4-of-6 passing for 104 yards with a touchdown. MJ Hunter re-turned the second-half kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown.

The Blue Demon defense limited their cross-county rivals to 95 yards on the ground

and six yards through the air. Meanwhile Radford will face an opponent similar to Botetourt. Appomattox has dominated the Class 2 ranks for a long time. They finished the shortened spring season

with a 6-0 mark. Wins included 53-0 over William Campbell, 83-6 over Nelson and 42-6 over Altavista.

The only other time Radford and Appomattox have faced each other was in 2018 when Radford pulled off a 28-25 win.

Radford's season had been left in limbo after a CO-VID-19 contact tracing incident. The Bobcats had a no-contest with Floyd during that time and looked to have its final game against Carroll County also eliminated. But another game was added when Carroll said it would not play last week.

So, enter Richlands which also had an open spot after an opponent bowed out because of a COVID-19 issue. Radford rolled to the 42-0 win and with a Ft. Chiswell loss to Galax, moved into the final playoff spot in Region 2C.

Christiansburg takes Battle of the Burgs, claims final playoff spot



Christiansburg's Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon scores one of his three touchdowns Blacksburg running back Miles Ritenhour evades Christiansburg lineman Aidan Friday against Blacksburg in the Blue Demons' 52-0 romp.

LaComa in Friday's game on the turf at Bill Brown Stadium.

In a true Battle of the Burgs moment with Michael Bowen (bottom) hanging onto his shirt, Christiansburg quarterback Casey Graham faces off against the Bruins' Alex Lafon at midfield.



Keyon Johnson-Buchannon stretches for extra yardage in Friday's contest against Blacksburg. He finished with 97 yards rushing as Christiansburg moved to 3-3 on the season and grabbed the final playoff spot in Region 3D.

Football season draws to a close

It's hard to imagine it has been 497 days since high school football teams played a postseason game. But it begins this week with Radford and Christiansburg taking center stage in their respective regions and classifications.

I have to admit this season has seen its ups and downs thanks to COVID-19. We didn't even know if we would play this season after the Virginia High School League killed everything in the fall and moved football to this spring for six games.

Radford had to shut down its program for two weeks after a positive case, but that was the only situation that affected area teams.

congratulate players, coaches, schools, family and fans for enduring it all, making it to this weekend.

Yes, we were limited to a maximum of 250 fans, mainly the families of the players. Radford and Montgomery County schools stepped up to the plate and added the National Federation of High School sports' in-game cameras, thus allowing many fans to watch games from the comfort of their homes.

I know I enjoyed watching games from outside the area and even an occasional junior



varsity contest.

The same was true earlier for basketball, and almost no fans were allowed into the building.

Nothing has been normal, but at least the student-athletes were given an opportunity to get back on the court or field.

We never realized how im-

portant high school sports were until they were taken away from us.

Everyone should let that set in. Sports are a backbone of the school experience for every youngster from kindergarten to high school.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on all of us, but in so many ways, I worry about our young people. They had their world turned upside down from no in-person school to no sports.

I guess the video world has gained a new large "cult" following. There were probably some strained thumbs and an occasional sore butt from

sitting so long. That's what youngsters turned to.

It's so nice to finally get outside and run, jump and play.

Kids need interaction with other kids. They need exercise, and sports provides both.

We should savor what we lost temporarily and get back on a whole different way.

I have been telling youngsters to hang in there, that changes are coming. For now, we have a temporary norm we must deal with.

The state championships for football will be held in three weeks, and we should remember this year for what it's worth.

State football playoff region semifinal games set

for the first round of the state football playoffs.

Region C's first-round games will all be played Friday, April 9, at 7 p.m. Region D's first-round

games will be played on both Friday and Saturday nights,

The pairings have been set April 9 and 10, at either 7 p.m. or 1 p.m.

Radford and Christiansburg both pulled out wins to end the season and jump into the final playoff spot in their respective regions.

As the #4 seed in Region 2C, Radford (4-1) will play at #1 Appomattox (6-0) at 7 p.m. Friday. In the other 2C semifinal game, #2 Dan River (4-0) will host #3 Glenvar (4-2), also at 7 p.m. on Friday. As the #4 seed in Region 3D, Christiansburg (3-3) will play at #1 Lord Botetourt (6-0) at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 10. The other

Region 3D semifinal game will pit #2 Abingdon (5-0) against #3 Carroll Co. (4-1) at a time and date to be determined.

In other contests of local interest, in Region 1C, top-seed Galax (6-0) will host #4 George Wythe (3-2), and #2 Narrows (6-0) will host

#3 Parry McCluer (4-2) with both games played Friday, April 9, at 7 p.m. In Region 4D, #1 Salem (6-0) will host #4 Amherst Co. (3-3) at 7 p.m. Friday, and #2 George Washington (5-1) will host #3 Pulaski Co. (4-2), also at 7 p.m. Friday.

Outdoor Report: Spring turkey season officially gets underway this week

For the Old Dominion's spring gobbler hunters, the turkey season officially gets underway this weekend on Saturday, April 10. The season runs through Saturday, May 15.

Katie Martin, the deer, bear, and turkey biologist for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), offers some insights for this year's season,

First, one of the most

important indicators of how good a spring season will be is the poults per hen (PPH) figure. Every July and August, DWR staff record their observations of young bird flocks. Since in any given season, 2-year-old toms are typically the ones that make up the majority of the harvest, the 2019 PPH is the one most relevant to this spring. The news here is not good. Martin reports that

statewide the number of turkeys seen per 1,000 miles driven in 2019 turkeys/1,000 (nine miles) was below the 2018 ratio (12 turkeys/1,000 miles) and continued a decline that began in 2014. In 2019, statewide the PPH ratio was 2.5, which is close to the long-term survey average (2.6). Although the 2019 ratio was much better than the 2018 one of 1.6, this bit of good

news is tempered by the water (2.9), South Piedfact that the 2018 figure mont (2.6), and Southwas the lowest ever recorded for the survey.

North Mountain region, average (2.5). where several counties turkey densities in the of only 1.6 PPH. Alstate, offers encouraging news. That region had the highest PPH ratio (3.6) in Virginia in 2019. Martin says that good reproduction was also seen in the Tide-



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DWR

west Mountain (2.5) regions where P/H ratios Martin says that the met or exceeded the state

The North Piedmont, have some of the lowest though, recorded a ratio though this was a slight uptick from 2018, this continues a declining trend of both turkeys seen and PPH in this region. This spring, North Piedmont hunters may find 2- and 3-year-old toms in short supply.

Martin says that although statewide the annual growth rate has been 1.6 percent over the past decade, turkey populations in the Old Dominion have basically stabilized. As would be expected given its rich soil and farm country habitat, the Tidewater Region boasts the highest turkey density in the state. Hunters with access to private land here have a good reason to be optimistic.

Public land turkey hunting is always a challenge, says Martin, but hunters utilizing the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in the North Mountain region may have a particularly tough year due to

low population densities and long-term habitat decline in this area. Hunters should hone in on areas with recent management activities such as timber harvests or prescribed burns that provide better habitat diversity for turkeys and many other wildlife species.

Finally, all-day hunting is permitted only during the last two weeks of the spring season. The season bag limit is three birds; no more than two birds can be taken in the fall season. If two birds were taken in the fall, only one bearded bird can be taken in the spring. If one bird was harvested in the fall, two may be taken in the spring.

Do remember the following:

Bag Limit

One per day, bearded turkeys only. Hunters may take one, two, or three bearded turkeys depending on how many turkeys were taken in the fall season.

Season Dates

April 10 through May statewide. One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon each day.

May 3 through May 15, statewide. One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

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