

News Messenger

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Christiansburg

Saturday, July 10, 2021

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Christiansburg names new engineering director

The Town of Christiansburg has promoted Mike Kelley to director of engineering.

Kelley, who has more than 20 years' experience in the industry, began his new position on Thursday, July 1.

Kelley was hired by the town in September 2019 as assistant director. Prior to that, Kelley was the public works director for four years for Santa Fe County, N.M., and served 11 years at the City of Winter Garden, Fla., as assistant operations director, assistant city engineer,

and stormwater engineer. Before joining the public sector, Kelley worked for private consulting engineers Lochrane Engineering, Inc., and Hawthorn, Meyer & Boleyn, Inc.

Originally from West Virginia, Kelley received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from West Virginia University Institute of Technology. He has remained committed to continuing his professional education throughout his career, receiving professional

engineer licenses in Virginia, Florida, New Mexico, and West Virginia.

"I am excited to continue my career with the Town of Christiansburg and take on this new role," Kelley said. "I enjoy working in this community every day, and I look forward to using the experiences that I have obtained through the years to better serve our residents."

Town Manager Randy Wingfield said about the new engineering director, "Mike has impressed me on a regu-

lar basis. He has a very diverse skill set, and I believe his team will prosper under his leadership. Our residents will be well served."

Kelley is taking over for Wayne Nelson, who retired in June after nearly 25 years of service.

"Mike comes to us with experience and compassion that will serve our community well. He is supported by a dedicated and professional staff that will help him take this department to new levels," Nelson said.



Mike Kelley has been named the town's engineering director after almost two years as assistant director.

VT operations teams work overtime to support storm recovery effort

The morning after the July 1 storm dumped more than 3 inches of rain on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus in under an hour, university operations teams, many of whom had worked through the night, continued to support recovery efforts.

Since the storm's onslaught, operations crews from across Virginia Tech have been clearing debris, unclogging drainage areas, documenting and resolving water damage in and around campus buildings, and evaluating and restoring impacted electrical and

HVAC services.

The Friday morning following the storm, through a blanket of heavy mist, the white trucks of Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities were seen caravanning by Lane Stadium, all filled to the brim with branches and limbs.

Adorned in bright yellow vests, team members armed with leaf blowers walked by the Hokie Shop, only shutting off their blowers to allow a visiting family with awed expressions to walk by.

See Storm, page 3



Amanda Bocchi (left) hosts "Appalachian Vibes" on Saturdays at 8 p.m. on Radio IQ. Bob Boilen, creator of NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts and "All Songs Considered," will join Bocchi on the show's debut episode this evening, July 10.

RADIO IQ to unveil 'Appalachian Vibes' on Saturday evenings

Radio IQ will begin airing "Appalachian Vibes," a new locally produced hour dedicated to the stories behind local and regional musicians. The show will air Saturdays at 8 p.m. beginning this evening, July 10. It replaces "Your Weekly Constitutional," which has ceased distribution.

Producer and host Amanda Bocchi notes that "Appalachian Vibes" was born by asking the simple question, "What is Appalachian music?" To answer that, she highlights the diversity of music created across the region and challenges listener expectations about those who are performing the diverse music of

this area.

Each episode features three artists from Appalachia or nearby. They share stories from their lives that influenced their music. Listeners will hear coming-out stories, recollections of race, of tobacco fields, of protests, hotel affairs, loves lost, self-care, violence, and healing. These deeper narratives create a special bond between listener and artist.

The first episode of "Appalachian Vibes" on Radio IQ will feature Bob Boilen, the creator of "All Songs Considered" and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, as well as Ted Zook from the experimental improv ensemble

Fanoplane.

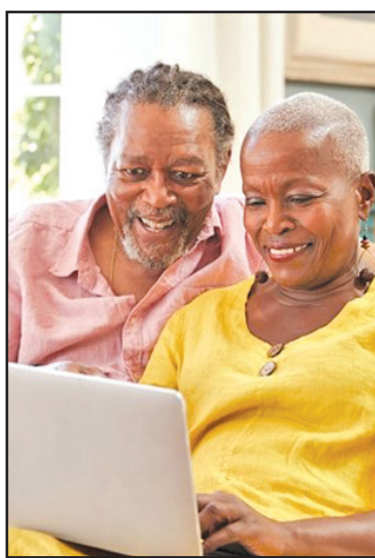
Artists appearing on "Appalachian Vibes" are chosen with input from listeners. Listeners can nominate artists who inspire them to appear on future episodes of the program, online at appalachianvibes.net.

Show host Bocchi is familiar to many as a Radio IQ announcer and regionally as a noted singer/songwriter. A Hollins University alumna with a degree in classical guitar, Bocchi has performed extensively across the region since releasing her first album in 2006. She currently tours with her trio, Amanda Bocchi and the Soul Flood.



A member of Student Affairs operations mops excess flood water out of the Graduate Life Center. Photo by Meghan Marsh for Virginia Tech.

Farm Bureau to offer free virtual Medicare seminars



Virginia Farm Bureau is offering a series of free Medicare seminars at 10 a.m. on Aug. 3 and Sept. 7 and at 6 p.m. on July 29, Aug. 26, and Sept. 23.

Virtual Medicare 101 seminars were so popular in 2020 that Virginia Farm Bureau is once again offering a series of free informational classes for its members.

Seminars will be held at 10 a.m. on Aug. 3 and Sept. 7 and at 6 p.m.

on July 29, Aug. 26, and Sept. 23.

"Medicare can be confusing, and it's important that you have a good understanding of how Medicare works," said Tracy Cornatzer, sales manager for Virginia Farm Bureau's Health Insurance division. "We had a great turnout in 2020, and since the pandemic is continuing, we've decided to hold this year's seminars virtually to minimize risk to our members, customers and staff."

The virtual sessions are accessible from the living room couch or kitchen table, on a computer, phone, or tablet.

Sessions typically last an hour, and a health insurance representative of Farm Bureau's Health Insurance division will present the material. Cornatzer said it covers the nuts and bolts of how Medicare and related plans work. Enrollment periods and plan timelines will also be explained.

Virginia Farm Bureau has facilitated Medicare seminars since 2016, but last year was the first time the sessions were held online. "We will miss seeing everyone in person but are happy that with the aid of technology we can offer these classes

See Medicare, page 2

Moss Arts Center to present conversation with Earl White, who has spent his life keeping American string band traditions alive

The Moss Arts Center will present an online conversation with Floyd-based fiddler Earl White at noon on Friday, July 16.

A prominent figure rooted in the practice, teaching, and

sustaining of American string band traditions, White will share his music and reflections on a lifetime of deep commitment to keep traditions alive in the free lunchtime talk.

The talk is free, but registra-

tion is required. Find registration information on the Moss Arts Center website.

Moderated by Margaret Lawrence, Moss Arts Center director of programming, the 45-minute Zoom discussion with White is the latest installment of the center's online series, "In the Moment: Artists and Their Work."

Known as "Fiddlin' Earl White," the musician is the leader of the Earl White Stringband and co-founder of Big Indian Farm Artisan Bakery in Floyd. He is often seen at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

A prominent figure in the Old Time music and dance community for more than 40 years, White is one of the few African Americans playing and perpetuating the music that was once an essential part of Black culture and Black communities across the U.S.

An original and founding member of the famed Green-

See Earl White, page 2



Known as "Fiddlin' Earl White," the musician is the leader of the Earl White Stringband. He is one of the few African Americans playing and perpetuating the music that was once an essential part of Black culture and Black communities across the U.S.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 10:

New River Valley Garden Tour
The cost is \$15 with the tour conducted from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., rain or shine. Advance tickets, maps, and brochures are now available at each branch of the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Fish Fry
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Road, Blacksburg. To be offered are single servings of fish, fries, slaw, homemade desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Children under three eat free. Carry-outs will also be \$8. DJ Gene Broadus will be spinning some music, and the fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information.

Pilot Community Center auctions
At its most recent meeting, members of the Pilot Community Center decided to hold a series of auctions to raffle off three gift cards of \$25 each at Linkous Auctions. These will be the community center's only fundraisers until the fall to have money for other renovations. Community members will be set up from 9 a.m. until noon and then will take the tickets to Larry Linkous, who will draw the winning tickets and announce the winners. The auction schedule and set-up locations are July 17, Old Sourwood Road, and Aug. 7, Chloe Bishop, 5950 Riner Road.

Monday, July 12:

Break-in Bags
Beginning at 10 a.m. at the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman Memorial, and Meadowbrook Public Library branches. Solve three puzzles to find the numeric code that will open the lock and free your loot. Recommended for ages 10 years and up. Supplies are limited.

STEM Club
At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. Watch the library's virtual STEM club. Email shodges@mfrl.org for any questions.

Monday, July 12 - Wednesday, July 14:

Basketball Clinic
Christiansburg's Parks and Recreation Department will host a basketball clinic from July 12 through July 14 for ages 5-14 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The registration fee is \$30.

Tuesday, July 13:

MCPS public hearing on health, safety plan
Montgomery County Public Schools will hold a public hearing on the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan on July 13. Online comments will also be accepted. More information is available at <https://buff.ly/3zC1Jl2>.

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. The evening will include a discussion on the 50th Virginia Infantry Regiment. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Woman's Club of Radford meeting
The Woman's Club of Radford will have a luncheon meeting at Al's on First in Pulaski at 11:30 a.m. Reservations may be made by calling Nancy Kolb at 639-5652. Persons interested in carpooling should meet at the Radford Library at 11 a.m.

All Ages Crafternoon
At the Blacksburg Library from 2- 3:30 p.m. Celebrate National Anti-Boredom Month by joining in for an exciting afternoon of summer crafts, coloring, and puzzles. All ages are welcome. Supplies will be provided.

Wednesday, July 14:

Radford Library Brown Bag Book Club
The Brown Bag Book Club is getting together again. Read "Follow the River" by James Alexander Thom and join the club to discuss the book at noon. No formal commitment is needed; just drop in when the book appeals to you.

Evening Book Talk: "The Island of Sea Women"
At the Christiansburg Library from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To be discussed this month is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See, in person and virtually.

Wednesday, July 14 - Saturday, July 17:

Freedom Fellowship Vacation Bible School
From Wednesday, July 14, through Friday, July 16 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, July 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1730 West St., Radford (near Bisset Park). The fun will include songs, skits, Bible lessons, crafts, games and food each day.

Saturday, July 17:

American Legion Yard Sale
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will hold a yard sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Legion building at 27 W. Main St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Caturday
All day at the Christiansburg Library. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Monday, July 19 - Thursday, July 22:

CHS Volleyball Camp
From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. For ages 9-12. Parents may register their children by calling 540-382-2349 or visiting www.christiansburg.org/register. The registration deadline is Friday, July 16. The registration fee is \$30.

Tuesday, July 20:

100+ Women Who Care NRV Summer 2021 Quarterly Meeting
At the Blacksburg Country Club banquet hall and on Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. Meetings are always one hour or less. Every quarter, each member contributes \$100 directly to a charity selected by majority vote with at least \$10,000 being donated in total to the elected organization.

No membership dues or additional commitments of time or money are required, and members can enter the quarterly drawing to represent a favorite not-for-profit to the group for consideration of that meeting's entire donation amount. All funds remain in the NRV area. Contact nrv100wwc@gmail.com, www.100womenwhocarenrv.com, or Sarah Black at (937) 205-3722.

Tween Book Club
At the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online at 3 p.m. For anyone between the ages of 9 and 12 who is looking for a place to chat about some cool books, this is it. Whether you are new to book clubs, or a book club pro, you can join the discussion. This month the club will be reading "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH." To join, email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

Popsicle Stick Canvas Art
At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 5 to 6 p.m. All supplies will be provided. Come join a fun painting session for teens and adults. Paint a beautiful silhouette scene on 5.5 x 6 inch wooden canvas. Pre-registration by phone or in person is required, and only 15 spots are available. The program will be in the picnic shelter if it rains.

Pressure Canner Testing -Virginia Cooperative Extension
At the Meadowbrook Court Yard from 3 to 6 p.m. Bring a dial gauge canner to have it tested for accuracy in preparation for the canning season. The extension service can test dial gauges for National (those made by the National Pressure Cooker Company, Eau Claire, Wisconsin), Magic Seal (sold at Montgomery Ward), Maid of Honor (sold at Sears, Roebuck, and Company), and Presto Pressure Canners. Call 540-745-9307 to reserve a time slot.

Ongoing:

Through July 12:

Registration for 4-H Summer Day

Earl White from page 1

grass Cloggers, White's energetic, rhythmic, driving playing style is attributed to many years of dancing with the group. He has played with many of the finest Old Time musicians in the country and under the guise of the Too Wet to Plow Stringband, Early Night and the Daytimers, the Dukes of Earl, Sweet Bama, the Earl White Band, the Earl White Stringband,

as well as the dynamic duo known as Adrienne Davis and Earl White.

As much a convener, connector, and teacher as an entertainer, White joins the online session live from Big Indian's annual four-day Fiddle Jam.

"In the Moment: Artists and Their Work" provides an opportunity to meet notable creators of Southwest Virginia — from visual

artists to theater-makers to choreographers to musicians — and learn more about their creative processes in this unusual time. This series of 45-minute chats gives an exclusive look inside the homes and studios of the artists, providing a chance to experience their work, ask questions, and discuss how creative luminaries are approaching art in this moment.

Medicare from page 1

through a computer, tablet or phone," Cortatzer said.

To RSVP, persons may email their name, county, email address, and the date of their chosen seminar to MedicareSeminar@vafb.com or contact their local Farm Bureau office at 1095 Peppers Ferry Rd. in Christiansburg. Participants can RSVP to the session of their choice and will be sent a Webex

link to join that meeting virtually.

Persons who are unable to attend and have questions about Medicare or need assistance signing up for a Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage, or Part D plan may contact the Montgomery County Farm Bureau office at 540-382-8161 or call 800-229-7779. Persons on Medicare can also request a quote at vafb.com/health.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



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Historic Montgomery



This unknown family posed for their patriotic photograph at their Auburn (Riner) home around 1905. Can anyone identify them? (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

PETS OF THE WEEK



Young Sneakers had a rough start and could use a little TLC. This little guy was brought to the Animal Care and Adoption Center after being found injured. His eye needed to be removed, but he does not let it slow him down. He loves to play and cuddle with everyone he meets. He gets along with other animals and would enjoy a home with lots of people to pet him. Stop by the Center to see if you are Sneakers's purrfect match.



Older puppy Kyara is friendly and full of energy. She will need a future home with humans who will keep up with her activity level and teach her doggie manners. She likes to play with stuffed toys, chase after balls, and chew on bones. Kyara gets along with children, but she is unsure of other canines and tends to feel a bit scared around them.

Women Who Care donate to emergency assistance program, resume in-person meetings

CHRISTIANSBURG — The local chapter of the 100+ Women Who Care (100+ WWC NRV) has recently donated \$11,000 to the member-selected organization, The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP).

MCEAP strives to meet the immediate emergency and temporary needs of low-income, unemployed, elderly and disabled

individuals and families of Montgomery County and receives funding entirely from private sources. MCEAP provides assistance in the areas of food, clothing, furniture, and financial assistance, filling needs other agencies are unable to meet.

Susan Miller, MCEAP representative and sponsor, expressed gratitude for the contribution. "Many thanks to the 100+ WWC

for selecting MCEAP as a recipient of the quarter," Miller said. "Without your kind consideration, we at MCEAP would not be able to assist and support the needs in Montgomery County."

While the 100+ Women Who Care's NRV chapter has continued to meet virtually during the pandemic, the time has come for once again gathering in person. On Tuesday, July 20, the group

will hold a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting conducted live at its new location of the Blacksburg Country Club banquet hall with synchronous Zoom option for those members who are not able to attend the meeting in person.

At each 100+ WWC quarterly meeting, three local not-for-profits are drawn from a bucket. Each organization must have a 100+ Women Who Care NRV mem-

ber sponsor willing to present on its behalf. The group's membership area includes the counties of Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, and Floyd and the City of Radford.

The 100+ WWC NRV meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Committed members donate \$100 every quarter, and each meeting lasts no more than one hour.

Simulation confirms vaccination key to safe and social return for VT campus

Navid Ghaffarzadegan's complex COVID-19 simulation model shows how human behavior will likely impact the spread of the virus.

But the model's fall 2021 forecast can be summed up in a simple formula: more vaccinated Hokies = a more fulfilling semester.

"During the pandemic, we got used to this idea that there is a trade-off between having an enjoyable social life and staying safe from COVID-19," Ghaffarzadegan said. "Now, with the vaccine, the story has changed; there is no trade-off. You can have a reasonable social life and stay safe and healthy while enjoying your educational experience. You can have the cake and eat it too, if we all get vaccinated."

Previously, major factors have included the adoption of face coverings, testing, and frequency of public health messaging, but the widespread availability of vaccinations has proven a much more influential factor.

"In terms of effectiveness, nothing is comparable to vaccines in the model," he said. "If we start the semester with a very large majority of students and employees vaccinated, you see a big change. There are almost no COVID cases."

The most recent modeling confirms the importance of the university's approach to vaccinations — required for students and strongly encouraged for employees — as Virginia Tech prepares for a fully in-person fall semester.

"Dr. Ghaffarzadegan's model demonstrates that vaccines are the most ef-



Navid Ghaffarzadegan, an associate professor in the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, has used a combination of mathematical modeling, complex systems methods, and simulation techniques to gauge how proactive measures impact the spread of COVID-19 on and around the Blacksburg campus for more than a year. Photo by Lee Friesland for Virginia Tech.

fective tool we have to prevent the spread of COVID-19," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "The closer we get to our goal of a 100 percent vaccination rate, the closer we are to returning to the full Virginia Tech experience."

Ghaffarzadegan's work has been a part of the university's decision-making process throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. His models for both the fall and spring semesters of the 2020-21 academic year can now be compared to actual data available from those periods.

"Navid has created a state-of-the-art model that is tailored to Virginia Tech," said Ron Fricker, interim dean of the College of Science. "Over the past year, previous versions were used to help inform decision making and contributed to the safe operation of

our campus. His model now shows that achieving high vaccination rates is key for Virginia Tech to be able to return to something approximating pre-pandemic normality in the fall."

"More than 150 million Americans, and millions more around the world, have taken one of the vaccines. The science and the data show that they are overwhelmingly safe and effective," said Laura Hungerford, professor and head of the Virginia Tech Public Health Program in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. "For the good of the campus and our communities, Navid's model makes it very clear that we all need to follow the public health guidance and get vaccinated."

Both students and employees are required to submit proof of their vaccination, via either

the Online Student Health Portal or COVID-19 Vaccination Status Self-Reporting form for employees.

While the university's efforts are helpful, Ghaffarzadegan's model shows reaching the full potential for the fall semester really hinges on individuals deciding to take care of themselves and others.

"The more students and staff that are vaccinated, the better the university experience will be as [public health] measures get more and more relaxed," Ghaffarzadegan said. "At Virginia Tech, serving our community is one of our main missions. One major way of serving our community is just trying to contain the virus, by getting vaccinated and by keeping our friends and community members safer."

— Written by Travis Williams

Storm from page 1

Crawling under the Graduate Life Center, Virginia Tech Electric Service and Facilities Operations crews inspected and pumped water away from critical electrical units shut down because of flooding. Outfitted with flashlights and equipped with box fans and wet-vacs, crews worked through the night.

The Graduate Life Center experienced especially significant flooding. The building's position on top of the Stroubles Creek watershed and at the base of a hill contributed to the deluge.

Virginia Tech Police and Parking Services were seen setting up bright orange cones along Duck Pond Drive. Facilities Operations crews towed larger-than-life leaf-blowers from its grounds fleet to clear the roads of debris. Virginia Tech Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center buzzed with activity.

Student Affairs operations crews also worked nonstop, assisting with recovery efforts in Owen Hall, Squires Hall, and the Graduate Life Center. In Owens Hall, Mail Services employees were deciding

if the next stream of packages should be transferred to War Memorial Hall for processing.

"The last similar response effort of this magnitude for flooding was probably in the early 1990s. All of these university teams from across the university are connected by an instinctual Ut Prosim spirit. I have deep appreciation for their hard work, collaboration, and commitment to safety as they worked around the clock to restore campus operations," said Chris Kiwus, vice president for campus planning, infrastructure, and facilities.

"I've been doing electrical work for around 37 years and have seen a lot. The storm response actions have been nothing short of inspiring. Even in the midst of Thursday's storm, there was an unwavering professionalism exhibited by everyone to accomplish the task at hand," said Chris Cooper, electric service supervisor.

With the Blacksburg campus situated in a floodplain, engineering teams will continue to assess where structural improvements can be implemented in the future.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Virtual hearing to solicit public comment on the drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in West Central Virginia.
Register to speak online in advance no later than 24 hours prior to hearing start time.
 Comments limited to three minutes.
 Hearing will be livestreamed and archived online.

More information and registration available at:
<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>

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OPINION

WalletHub: Four Virginia cities among ten best in country for first-time home buyers

In its survey released Tuesday of the best cities in the country for first-time home buyers, the personal finance website WalletHub ranked four Virginia cities in the top 10, including Chesapeake, which it ranked as the best city in the entire country for new homeowners.

To determine the most favorable housing markets for first-time buyers, WalletHub took the pulse of real estate in 300 cities of varying sizes using 22 key metrics. The data set ranges from housing affordability to real-estate tax rate to property-crime rate.

In addition to Chesapeake's coming in at the top of the heap, WalletHub ranked Hampton, Va., as the sixth-best market for first-time home buyers, Virginia Beach as No. eight, and Norfolk, Va., as No. nine.

In a telling statistic, the website's bottom nine (293-300) as the worst locations in the country for first-time home buyers to be looking for a home are all in California.

In another telling statistic, WalletHub reported that in 2020, 40% of all U.S. single-family home purchases were made by first-time buyers, and 14% more people became

first-time buyers than the previous year. This growth, the website said, is due in part to the fact that interest rates dropped dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The website noted that where a home is located is just as important as what features it has. An unpleasant neighborhood can sour the experience of a great home. Potential buyers may want to narrow their search down to an area with a good reputation before getting into housing details.

So WalletHub stepped in to simplify the process, comparing 300 cities across 22 key indicators

and three dimensions of market attractiveness, affordability, and quality of life.

The indicators used in the affordability dimension were housing affordability, the average cost of homeowners insurance, the cost of living, the cost per square foot, and the real-estate tax rate.

In the real-estate market attractiveness dimension, WalletHub used the rent-to-price ratio, the median days on the market, the median home-price appreciation, the foreclosure rate, the share of housing units built between 2010 and 2019, the extent of the build-

ing-permit activity (the number of unit permits per 1,000 residents), the number of mortgage lenders per capita, the number of real estate agents per capita, and the homeownership rate for millennials.

In the third dimension, that of the city's quality of life, WalletHub drew its conclusions by using its list of states that are recovering the quickest from COVID-19, the quality of the weather, the quality of the school system, driver friendliness, the state of the job market, total home-energy cost, the violent-crime rate, and the property-crime rate.

Governor announces extension of Virginia expanded child care subsidy program

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam Wednesday announced that Virginia families with young children will have improved access to quality, affordable child care through an extension of the expanded Child Care Subsidy Program through Dec. 31, 2021.

Earlier this year, Governor Northam signed House Bill 2206, sponsored by Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, which established a new

short-term eligibility category for parents seeking financial assistance for child care while looking for employment that also temporarily increased the income eligibility criteria through July 31, 2021. The governor has directed the Virginia Department of Education to use existing federal funding to continue covering co-payments for families through the end of the year. "Access to high-quality

child care is not only critical to the health and safety of Virginia's children, but it is also important for advancing a strong, equitable recovery," said the governor. "Extending these resources through the end of 2021 will help close the affordability gap for parents and providers, allowing thousands of Virginians to return to work, support their families, and grow our economy."

The expanded Child Care Subsidy Program makes financial assistance for child care available to families with at least one child under age five who is not yet in kindergarten with a household income up to 85 percent of the state median income. This expansion nearly doubles the previous income threshold in many regions of the commonwealth and is the highest eligibility level in Virginia history.

Families approved for

the subsidy will remain eligible to receive benefits for 12 months, or until their income exceeds 85 percent of the state median income. More than 1,000 additional Virginia families were receiving child care assistance through the expanded Child Care Subsidy Program as of July 1, 2021.

"Our team has visited programs in every region of the commonwealth this year, and the benefits of in-person instruction for our littlest learners are clear," said First Lady Pamela Northam. "Virginia's early educators are truly superheroes, and we want to ensure all families have access to these vital programs."

As of June 2021, over 90 percent of licensed early childhood programs in Virginia were open, yet enrollment in the Child Care Subsidy Program was only 78 percent of what it was prior to the pandemic. The effort to continue assistance

coincides with projected increases in demand for child care as parents and caregivers seek new employment or return to in-person work settings.

"Every child in Virginia is capable of success in school and beyond if they have access to the right resources," said Speaker Filler-Corn. "I know as a mom myself that parents want what is best for their children. By reducing barriers to quality child care, this extension will be of great help to working families."

The General Assembly allocated \$62.1 million to the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education across state fiscal years 2021 and 2022 to expand access to the Child Care Subsidy Program. On July 1, 2021, the Department of Education became the lead agency for oversight of early childhood care and education programs in Virginia, a change that will help

build a more unified and equitable system.

"Co-payments can be an insurmountable barrier for families who are already struggling economically as a result of the pandemic," said Sen. Louise Lucas. "We want every parent and family in Virginia with a little learner to know that there are new resources available for quality care and education."

On Wednesday, First Lady Northam kicked off a Child Care Access Month of Action with visits to early childhood care and education programs to raise awareness about these new resources.

"School readiness begins years before the first day of kindergarten," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane. "We are dedicated to improving the subsidy program experience for parents and providers alike as we simultaneously increase access."

News Messenger

Established 1869

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 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 rise again

Virginia gas prices have risen 0.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.94/g, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 94.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.67/g Thursday while the most expensive was \$3.49/g, a difference of 82.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline was unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.12/g as of Thursday. The national average is up 7.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 94.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Gasoline demand over the holiday weekend certainly did not disappoint as millions of Americans flooded the roads for the long weekend, guzzling down gasoline at a clip not seen in years," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for Gas-

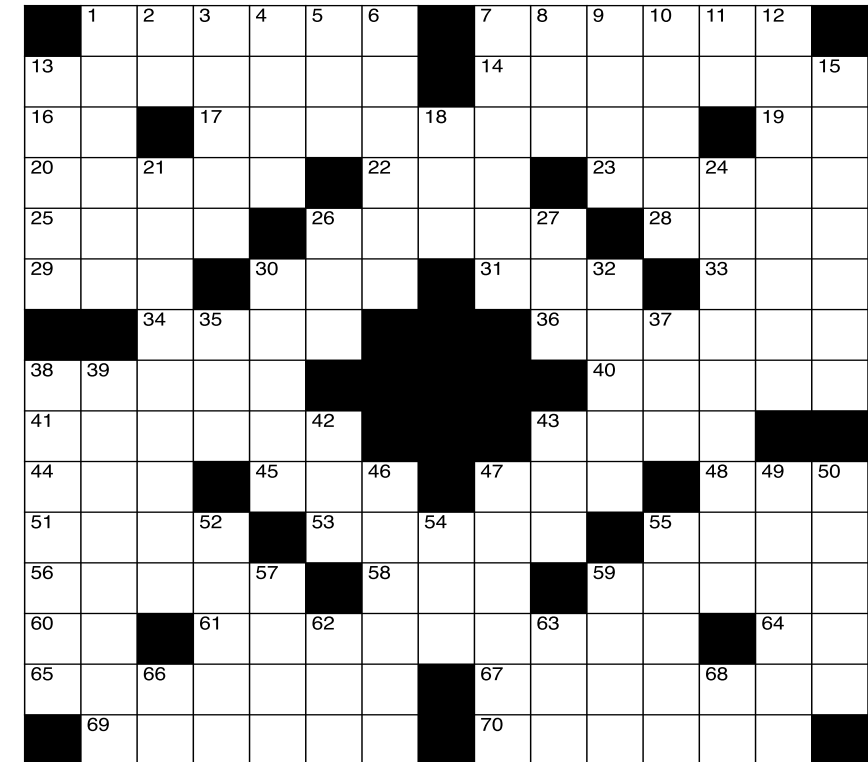
Buddy. "In the process, we could have set new all-time records for consumption."

"As OPEC+ met over the weekend and saw a heated disagreement about raising oil production, West Texas Intermediate crude oil surged in Monday evening electronic trading to nearly \$77 per barrel on higher demand and a lack of additional supply from OPEC amidst a mountain of disagreement on how to respond to the market. For now, with imbalances in supply and demand continuing, motorists will continue digging deeper to pay

for gasoline as prices are likely headed nowhere but up until global supply starts to catch up with the continued surge in demand."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. 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 is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Slopes
 - Attacks
 - One who has left prison
 - Goes against
 - Atomic #37
 - Home of The Beatles
 - Mac alternative
 - A common boundary with
 - Fluid in a plant
 - Genus that includes scads
 - Longer of the forearm bones
 - Gradually disappears
 - AI risk assessor
 - Type of whale
 - Jaws of a voracious animal
 - Patriotic women (abbr.)
 - Ancient Egyptian God
 - Obsessed with one's appearance
 - Erase
- CLUES DOWN**
- Speak rapidly
 - Trauma center
 - River in W. Africa
 - Ancient Greek district
 - Bulgaria's monetary unit
 - Children's ride
 - Absorbed liquid
 - Markets term
 - Retail term recording sales
 - Automaton
 - Spanish form of "be"
 - Divide
 - Malaysian sailing boat
 - Writers
 - Cool!
 - Popular tourist attraction studio
 - Sets free
 - An enthusiastic devotee of sports
 - Unhappy
 - Alternate term for Holy
- Scripture**
- Influential French scholar
 - What thespians do
 - Local area network
 - Free from contamination
 - Coastal region of Canada
 - Sun up in New York
 - High schoolers' exam
 - Fathers
 - Call it a career
 - Suitable for growing crops
 - Rose-red variety of spinel
 - Orange-brown in color
 - Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
 - Late TNT sportscaster
 - A way to wedge
 - Cold, dry Swiss wind
 - Hockey players need it
 - Something highly prized
 - Atomic #45
 - Top lawyer

Roanoke marine accounted for from Korean War

WASHINGTON—The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced Wednesday that Marine Pfc. Henry E. Ellis, 22, of Roanoke, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Sept. 29, 2020.

The family only just now received the full briefing on his identification, which accounts for the delay in the release.

In late 1950, Ellis was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Service Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 30, 1950, while defending the convoy of which he was a member near Koto-ri, North Korea. His body was not immediately recovered, though many deceased Marines were later recovered and buried in the United Nations Cemetery at Koto-ri as UN forces withdrew from the area.

During Operation GLORY in 1954, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea returned the remains of just over 4,200 individuals, of which nearly 3,000 were determined to be Americans. During the subsequent processing and identification of these remains, none were associated with Ellis, and he was declared non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956. At the end of the identification process, 848 unidentified remains, including one designated X-13631 Operation GLORY, were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the

Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In March 2012, historians, anthropologists, and odontologists at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, a predecessor to DPAA, conducted in-depth research to support the exhumation of X-13631, narrowing down the possibility of who that unknown might be to two Marines, one of whom was Ellis. On Nov. 5, 2018, DPAA disinterred X-13631 and seven other unknowns as part of the Korean War Identification Project. These remains were transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for analysis.

To identify Ellis's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Ellis's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Ellis will be buried on Aug. 23, 2021, in Salisbury, N.C.

For family and funeral information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

Trucker shortage persists as economy speeds ahead

Though U.S. farmers are producing an abundance of agricultural products ready for interstate shipping, it's hard to find truck drivers to move them.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service recently reported that most shipping routes to major U.S. cities are operating with trucking shortages.

Economists say pandemic-related fears cut into the workforce last year, and fewer trucks and parts are available because of an interrupted global supply chain. Tightening federal regulations, driver restrictions and spiking fuel prices have created additional strain. And truckers, on average, are aging, and fewer young people are seeking those jobs.

An April report by the California Farm Bureau Federation said the seasonal nature of agricul-

tural trucking also was a disadvantage in a fast-recovering U.S. economy competing for full-time drivers.

Independent grain and fertilizer hauler Robert Patton of Walnut Hills Farms in King and Queen County finally sold one of his four trucks when a driver resigned in February.

"There just wasn't anybody available to take his place," Patton said. "So I wound up selling his piece of equipment. It costs too much to have a truck just sitting around. The numbers aren't good."

Fortunately, Patton's current fleet is booked.

"I'll take anybody that's got a truck right now," he said. "It's hard to keep up; especially with grain piling up from the wheat harvest. Everybody's trying to get that to market."

While companies are starting to pay higher trucker wages, years of

experience is required, and the career is not generally appealing to young people entering the workforce.

Patton said he can understand that. "Trucking is kind of a hard job, and the hours are goofy," he said. "There are a lot easier ways to make a living now."

In March, Congress reintroduced a bipartisan bill called the Developing Responsible Individuals for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE-Safe) Act to address the driver shortage and enhance job opportunities for young truckers by directing the U.S. Department of Transportation to implement an apprenticeship program for commercial drivers under 21.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Grain Division manager Robert Harper said he's observed a steady need for more truckers in recent years, but now the issue is af-



According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, most shipping routes to U.S. cities are short on trucks and truckers.

fecting industries beyond agriculture. He said of all the factors driving the trucking shortage, federal emissions regulations and driver restrictions hurt the most.

"In many cases, it can be unrealistic—the restrictions and regulations put on truckers," Harper said. He explained that the expectation of just-

in-time delivery has fueled demand for even more drivers because current haulers are limited by restrictions on drive time.

"And manufacturers have had to overcome some monumental hurdles with emissions," Harper said. "Even if the air quality regulations are well-meaning."

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
B	E	V	E	L	S	S	I	E	G	E	S			
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ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Honor in Work

Read Proverbs 5:1 through 8:36

In past generations, parents taught their children the value of hard work and faithfulness to their families. People had at least one job. When a person lost a job, he worked very hard to get a new one as soon as possible. He knew hard work honored his family and God.

Maybe times and values have changed, but today it seems like more and more young adults would rather not work at all. An entire generation of young people have been lured away by different types of leisure activities. Scripture warns against neglecting one's work:

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man (Proverbs 6:10–11).

God created people to work hard with the giftedness and talents He gave us. Like no other generation in the world, we have access to education and job training to prepare us for our work. It is good for parents to provide for the needs of their family through the work God has provided.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for your talents and abilities and for the work He has placed before you.

Quicklook: Proverbs 6:6–11

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

& Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

LUTHERAN

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

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all

the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship,

11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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

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

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

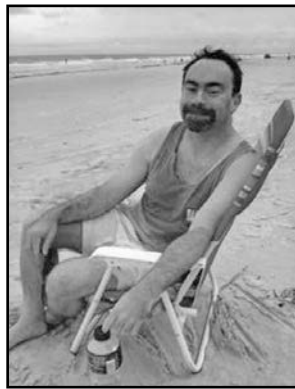
OBITUARIES

Board, Jason Dale

Jason Dale Board joined the angels in Heaven to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, July 2, 2021, at Memorial Medical Health Center in Savannah, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry C. and Julia Croft Board, and his stepmother, Pauline James Board.

Jason was born in Christiansburg on Oct. 3, 1971. He was a graduate of Christiansburg High School and Radford University. He then moved to Charlotte, N. C., before moving back to Christiansburg to be with and help take care of family. He later moved south to Savannah. Jason is survived by his family: a sis-



ter, Vicki B. Kitts (Gary); brothers Russell (Sandra) and Bruce (Susan); nieces and nephews who will miss him: Kelly Stulce, Lesley Wert, Andy Wert (Erin), Karyn White (Jason), Eryn Bamba (Hiro), Laura Onosato (Tomio), Casey Olson (Ben), and Lucas Board.

Jason was blessed with many gifts: a friendly personality, helping hands, and a caring heart. He made many friends wherever he went and brightened everyone's day with a smile.

Funeral services will be private. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

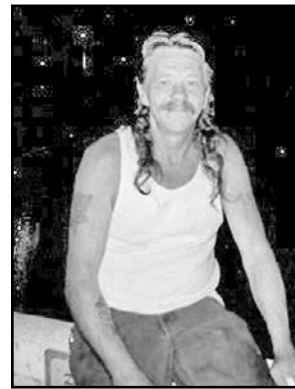
Tatum, III, Paul Robert

Paul Robert Tatum, III, 66, of Meadows of Dan, died Saturday, July 3, 2021.

He was born in Wytheville on June 30, 1955.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Leona Wheeler and his father, Paul Robert Tatum II. He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Amanda, and a son, Jeff. He was a veteran of the US Marine Corps. Bob was a log home builder for many years.

He is survived by the love of his life, Connie Shopshear-Tatum; sons Robert, Christopher, and Dennis Clayton; a daughter, Aleacia; a special grandchild,



Layton, whom Bob called Littleman; numerous grandchildren he loved dearly; his mother-in-law, Momma Joyce Taylor; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Cindy and Richard; daughters Oriann Tatum and Tara Kent; a sister, Sharon Hinkley; numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives; and several special friends.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, July 8, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Highland Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Mitchell, Apostle David Junior

The heart of a man plans his ways, but the Lord orders his steps (Proverbs 16:9), and the Lord called his son, Apostle David Junior Mitchell, 59, of Christiansburg, home on July 1, 2021.

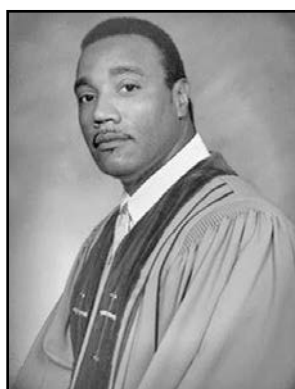
He was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., on April 20, 1962, to the late Raymond Julius Mitchell and Mary Alice Covington Mitchell.

He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Darlene Beasley W. Mitchell; a stepson, Irvin White II; a stepdaughter, Nakecia English; a brother, Raymond Sutherland Mitchell Jr.; a sister, Mary Horton (Christopher); sisters Linda Peay and Lucy Mitchell; three grandchildren, Shaelyn, Kiara and Kaiden; and a host of nieces and nephews. The list of special people in his life would be too many to name.

David answered the call to minister at the age of 12 and was a God-fearing man and a devoted husband who loved both his home and his church families. He was a 10-year veteran of the United States Army where he served as a military chaplain and a drill sergeant and carried the tradition of service into the church.

David was ordained an apostle on April 25, 2014, by New Covenant Ministries, United Holy Church. He had previously been ordained a church elder in 1984 and a bishop in 2003. He served as a church builder for three different churches for 30 years with a total of 42 years in the ministry. His favorite quote was it is always nice to be nice.

Apostle Mitchell was a man of vision who founded two food banks in Winston Salem including Fountain of Life



Ministries and who led a street ministry. He used his skills as a drill sergeant in working with the youth, founding step teams in Christiansburg and in West Virginia. David was a man who allowed his life to speak for him.

In addition to being a visionary, preacher, and teacher, David was a literal builder. He built bridges for Haymes Construction, Inc., under the supervision of a man whom he admired, Mr. Ranny Odell, but the most important bridges he built were the ones that connected people to Christ.

David is described by his wife as "amazing, dedicated, God-fearing, anointed, and full of fire." He was hard working but commented that the part of his workday he looked forward to the most was coming home to his wife. Knowing Darlene and David is knowing what love looks like. He was forgiving, unstoppable, and a believer who handed his troubles over to God. He was prepared to meet his maker, saying he was ready whenever God called him home.

The family received friends and loved ones for visitation on Friday, July 9, at McCoy Funeral Home Chapel (150 Country Club Dr. SW Blacksburg, VA 24060). Reflections from guests were shared. A private funeral for the family will be held today, Saturday, July 10, at 2 p.m. The family respectfully requests that all in attendance please wear masks. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made in Elder Mitchell's honor to New Beginnings Church, 613 Carterville Heights Road, Wytheville, VA, 24382.

Turner, Jr., Dr. Robert (Bob) Griffith

On June 29, 2021 the Renaissance man who was Dr. Robert (Bob) Griffith Turner, Jr., Ph.D., departed this world, ending a fascinating journey through life. Bob passed away peacefully in his Blacksburg home surrounded by family.

The son of Robert Griffith Turner, Sr., and Jans Deahl Turner, Bob was born at Schofield Barracks in Oahu, Hawaii, on Feb. 12, 1938. Later in life, he laughed when he told his children that the sign on the hospital ward where he was born said "No Children Allowed."

Bob grew up in an Army family and moved many times during his childhood. Along the way, he was able to earn numerous Boy Scout badges, compete in track, swimming, fencing, and gymnastics, and develop a love for mineralogy, art, and reading.

He was a citizen of the world, exposed to many cultures and places including spending his formative high school years in Colombia, South America, and attending a German high school. He attended Randolph Macon College where he competed in cross county and swimming and was a member of Theta Chi. Thereafter, he earned a masters degree in science and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Virginia Tech. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi. He was also a veteran, having served honorably in the United States Army.



His working life was extremely varied that included working in Colombian oil fields as a teenager, teaching seventh-grade science, owning and publishing a magazine, writing a newspaper column; writing plays, academic texts and novels as well as teaching at both Radford University and Virginia Tech. His diverse experiences and extensive study of anthropology, sociology, and psychology led him to be deeply passionate about humankind as well as the environment.

His published works include "The Fire and the Rose" (HarperCollins 1996), "Blackberry Summer," and "Nearvanna." His play, "Elves," was produced and performed at the Christiansburg Community Theatre.

Bob is survived by the six children whom he loved and was very proud of: Adrienne Turner (Linda Hunt), Erin Turner (Randy Yoho), Robin King, Alyn Turner, Devin Turner (Sherrie), and Brenden Turner; grandchildren Jessica King, Thomas King, Isaac McKinnon, and Eva Toor; nephews Matthew Castro, Sebastian Castro, Jim Turner, Jr., Robert Turner, Andy White; Nieces Matilde Castro Fidler, Chris Crabtree; and four great-grandchildren. His ex-wife, Patricia Dawson Turner was his steady support and beloved confidant.

Services and interment are private. Arrangements are by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

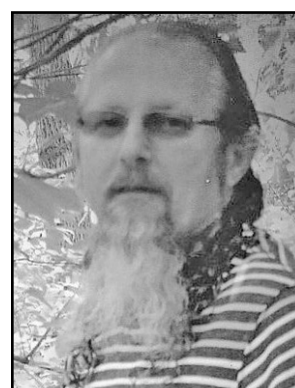
Wallace, Charles David "Dave"

Charles David "Dave" Wallace, 56, of Dublin, passed away on Sunday, July 4, 2021.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend and a hard worker. He loved drag racing, hunting and fishing, and most of all his family.

Dave was preceded in death by his father, Charles Steeley Wallace; an uncle, Marion Wallace; his father-in-law Mert Presgraves; and a sister-in-law, Gina Kilby.

Survivors include his wife, Theresa P. Wallace; sons Charles Marion Wallace and Jessica, and Trey and Dakota Morehead; grandchildren Jonathan, JoyRenee,



Darion, Ashton, Levi, and Silas; his mother, Ruth Emily Wallace; a sister, Irene Wallace; brothers Walter Wallace and Ann, James Wallace and Angel and Donald Wallace and Lisa; mother-in-law Jeanette Presgraves; brother-in-law Mert Presgraves; sister-in-law Julie Presgraves; and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed at 3 p.m.

The Wallace family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneral-home.com.

James, Judy Carol Thompson

Judy Carol Thompson James, 74, of Blacksburg, passed away on Monday, July 5, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Mable Austin, and her husband, Charles Thompson.

Survivors include her beloved children, Rebecca Carter, James Thompson, and Charles Thompson; grandchildren Jessica, Veronica, Anjellica, Jessica



Tickle, and Christopher; a brother, Joseph "Joey" Austin; and numerous great-grandchildren and other family members and friends.

Per Judy's wishes there will be no services. She asks that you spread love in her memory instead.

Judy's family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneral-home.com.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Marketplace

ourvalley.org

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SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
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RADFORD News Journal

For Rent - Apartments

2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120

For Sale - Misc

FOR SALE Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

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To place your ad, call 389-9355

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

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AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE

MONTGOMERY SPORTS



River turtle logo

Appy League honors River Turtles

After a 5-1 week that saw the Pulaski River Turtles soar into second place in the East Division, right-handed pitcher Paco Hernandez and catcher/infielder Ryan Johnson were honored as the Appalachian League Pitcher and Player of the Week respectively.

Hernandez tossed a seven-inning, complete-game shut-out in Sunday's 4-0 win over Princeton. The right-hander scattered three hits and struck out seven, lowering his season ERA to a league-best 2.53.

Hernandez has appeared in seven games this season and is 2-1 with 22 strikeouts in 21.1 innings pitched. The Oklahoma State pitcher has allowed a

league-low 17 hits this season. Johnson batted .500 (9-for-18) on the week, hitting three home runs and driving in 10 runs. The catcher started the week with a two-hit game Wednesday against Danville, driving in a pair of runs in the 9-2 win.

Johnson, who plays collegiately at Pepperdine, followed that performance with two consecutive three-hit games. He homered and drove in three runs Friday against Kingsport before homering twice and driving in five runs Saturday against Princeton. Johnson's four homers rank third in the league.

Hole-in-one



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Zach Rutledge made a hole-in-one on hole number 3 at Auburn Hills this past weekend.

Pair of Blacksburg golfers win on Blue Ridge Golf Tour

Jack Skinner and Rylan McGinnis from Blacksburg finished as winners Tuesday in the most recent stop of the Blue Ridge Golf Tour, the Glade Springs Resort.

13-14 Age Group Par 72 5431 Yards

Skinner won the 13-14 age group by shooting the low round of the day, a 2-under par 70. He made five birdies including a stretch of four in a row on the back nine. He easily won the age group as Carson Iroler of Galax shot 81 to finish second. Grayden Laird, also of Galax, and Cameron Sharp of Blacksburg tied for third with scores of 82.

10-12 Age Group Par 36 2483 Yards

McGinnis also won his age group with a score of 39. He made three birdies along the

way. Liam Smith of Elliston shot 41 to finish second. Jack Herbert of Blacksburg shot 48 and finished third.

Here is a rundown of the age group results:

17-18 Age Group Par 72 6629 Yards

Logan Douthat of Pearisburg made three birdies along the way to a score of 5-over par 77 and won the 17-18 age group.

15-16 Age Group Par 72 6134 Yards

Caroline Gilreath of Roanoke won the 15-16 age group with a stellar round of one over par 73. Gilreath made two birdies and an eagle on the par-5 12th hole to edge Connor Catterson of Blacksburg by a single stroke.

Playing together, the pair seemed to bring out the best in each other and came down

to the final hole where Gilreath put together a scrambling par while Catterson had to settle for a bogey. Ryne Bond of Floyd and Major Ewing of Blacksburg tied for third with scores of 76. Chase Coley of Chilhowie finished fifth with a score of 77. Walker Gillespie of Pearisburg was a shot back in sixth.

9-and-Under Age Group Par 36 1662 Yards

Anderson Lilly of Oak Hill, West Virginia shot 45 to win the age group. John Cline of Raven finished second with a score of 52. Christopher Rizo of Tazewell was third with a score of 58. Daniel DeJesus of Blacksburg was fourth with a score of 60.

The tour returns to the links July 13 at Auburn Hills Golf Club in Riner.

Hokie Football Fan Day returns on August 15

After a shift to digital programming in 2020, Tech Football Fan Day presented by Virginia529 will return to an in-person event this year in the Beamer-Lawson practice facility on Sunday, August 15.

The event is free and is open to the public.

This year's event will coincide with the first-ever Hokie Club Fan Day 5K, a hybrid of last year's virtual race.

Current Hokie Kids' Club members will receive exclusive early access to Fan Day at 2:30 p.m. before the general public enters 15 minutes later. The fan-day festivities will conclude at 4 p.m.

Memberships for the Hokie Kids' Club are on sale now for the upcoming year and include an exclusive T-shirt, a medallion and a lanyard, complimentary tickets to football and men's basketball, and a birthday card from the HokieBird. Members also receive free admission to all home regular season women's basketball and baseball games and access to the virtual Jump Into Learning program.

As part of the fan day experience,

Tech fans are invited to participate in the Hokie Club Fan Day 5K. The race can be completed at the participant's convenience, either in Blacksburg or from a distance. Registration for the event is \$45 with \$15 of each registration supporting Virginia Tech student-athletes.

Each registration will include an official race packet mailed to the address provided at check-out. The registration deadline to receive the packet in time for race day is July 23 at 5 p.m. Packets will include an official Fan Day 5k sweat-wicking T-shirt, a race bib, a medal, and a Hokie Club decal. Race participants will also have access to a digital race packet with a Spotify playlist, the participant leaderboard, and a photo gallery.

All Fan-Day-5K participants will have the opportunity to win one of five Hokie prize packs. Prizes will be awarded for best photos and best race time.

As one of just two public universities with a full-time Corps of Cadets, Virginia Tech has a rich military tradition.

Recognizing that, the Virginia Tech athletics department announced Wednesday the continuation of its Tickets for Troops initiative to honor the men and women who bravely serve this country.

With the goal of creating memorable experiences for this special group, the department will continue its partnership with the Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix). Virginia Tech fans wishing to show their support for "Tickets for Troops" may send a military member to an upcoming home football game.

Donations may be made in \$25 increments, and all donations will be matched by Virginia Tech Athletics to cover the full cost of each ticket provided.

All donated tickets will be used for home football games, including the Hokies' Military Appreciation Day matchup against Middle Tennessee on Sept. 11. Tickets will be distributed to veterans and active duty service members and their families via VetTix.org.

Shawsville July 4th 5K results (top 50)

Shawsville Fourth 5k results (Top 50): 1) Jason Weitzel, 14:57.01; 2) Zane Moran, 2) Austin Graham, 4) Evan Spaulding, 5) Glen McGuire, 6) Ignacio Moore, 7) Garrett Weaver, 8) Brandon Bear, 9) Mitchell Parvin, 10) Hannah Altizer, 11) Jeremy Weaver, 12) Tyler Harris, 13) Adam Markwood, 14) Scot Harrison, 15) Rocky Radish, 16) James

Penven, 17) Quinlan Beegle, 18) Harry Hudson, 19) M. Reed, 20) Justin Gilbarte, 21) Randy Burrier, 22) John Doe, 23) Ron Rogers, 24) McKenna Spaulding, 25) Cameron Patterson, 26) Koden Wines, 27) Sarah Weatherspoon, 28) Barry Light, 29) Javor Robinson, 30) David Loving, 31) Robert Smith, 32) John Gregory, 33)

Lowe Iq, 34) Elayna Harris, 35) Kayla Waters, 36) Sam Cerva, 37) Ezra Richards, 38) John Bode, 39) Rick Bradley, 40) Danielle Dodson, 41) Graham Weaver, 42) Kenna Knowles, 43) Brian Waters, 44) Danny Dodson, 45) Elli Underwood, 46) K Stewart, 47) Tom Gardner, 48) J. Rodriguez, 49) Terri Self, 50) G. Stewart.

Beer sales, cashless concessions, full capacity coming to Lane Stadium this fall

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Virginia Tech officials say beer sales and cashless concession stands are coming to all areas of Lane Stadium this fall.

Previously, beer was available for purchase only in select premium seating areas. The availability will include Hardywood's new Fighting Hokies Lager, which will be available in both Lane Stadium and Cassell

Coliseum this fall.

"This is about continuing to improve the game-day experience in Lane Stadium and doing so in a responsible way," Senior Associate AD for External Operations Brad Wurthman said. "We view Saturdays in Lane as a one-day vacation for Hokies, and after having been without Hokie Nation for this past season, our team is working around the clock to ensure that we elevate the experience

that we all know and love. Improving our concessions offerings at an affordable price is a huge part of that."

The fall football season will feature new affordable pricing for items like bottled water, Coca-Cola and hot dogs.

These enhancements also include a switch to cashless transactions, which will reduce touch points and increase the speed of service. When data from previous years were re-

viewed, only about five percent of all transactions in concession stands utilized cash. This switch will let fans through the lines more efficiently. The current plan for those who do not have credit cards or debit cards will be to sell prepaid gift cards in the bookstore location on the west side of Lane Stadium. The athletic department plans to release more details closer to September.

As announced earlier this

month, Lane Stadium is preparing to host full-capacity events this fall. A variety of ticket packages are available for purchase offering both flexibility and value when compared to the secondary market. Due to strong demand, especially for high-profile games such as North Carolina and Notre Dame, the athletic department is encouraging fans to lock in their spot in Lane as soon as possible.

VT Athletics announces weekly youth program

The Virginia Tech athletics department has announced the creation of the Hokies Youth Sport Spotlight program presented by Virginia529.

The program is de-

signed to promote participation and good sportsmanship throughout youth sports while helping to grow the next generation of Hokies.

During the upcoming 2021-22 athletic sea-

son, Tech will recognize a youth team player or coach who has shown a propensity to be active in their community and a steward of VT's motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve).

Due to NCAA rules, youth must be in the sixth grade or younger during the 2021-22 academic year. Selections will be made by Virginia Tech Athletics representatives.

Individuals who are selected for recognition will receive the following: an announcement on HokieSports.com and the @hokiesports social media platforms, a certificate to send to

each person recognizing him or her, an autographed item from a Virginia Tech coaching staff member, and the opportunity to be recognized at various athletic events throughout the year.



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