



Warm Hearth Foundation and Molina Complete Care hold Cheeseburger-in-Parrot-dise fundraiser

Warm Hearth Foundation and Molina Complete Care joined forces Friday, Aug. 13, to throw a fundraising party Jimmy Buffett would have loved: a cheeseburger throwdown competition.

The event, a laid-back beach party with live music and a cheeseburger competition among area restaurants, is an

annual fundraiser to help seniors in need of housing and healthcare at Warm Hearth Village.

Friday's party at the Warm Hearth Village Center in Blacksburg was the eighth annual event, raising some \$20,000 to help seniors in the Warm Hearth community. It included live beach music from

the ToneZ.

The highlight of the event was the Signature Cheeseburger Throwdown in which local restaurants competed for the title of 2021 Cheeseburger Throwdown Champion. Attendees were treated to sliders from Hawthood Market, Red Robin, and

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Jimmy Buffett would say he likes his cheeseburger in paradise with "lettuce and tomato, Heinz 57 and French fried potatoes, a big kosher pickle and a cold draft beer."



Cadet William Edinger, at right, watches as members of the Corps of Cadets' upper-class training cadre work on the lesson plan for "about-face," a 180-degree turn in military marching drill. Photo by Shay Barnhart for Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets prepares for the arrival of 475 new cadets

The 140 upper-class cadets who make up the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets training cadre have been hard at work practicing what they're about to preach.

Today, Aug. 14, about 475 first-year cadets arrived on campus to begin their week-long introduction to the corps' military lifestyle. During New Cadet Week training, the new cadets will learn the basics, such as how to wear a uniform and how to march in formation, as well as larger life skills of teamwork and grit.

This week, the trainers have been getting ready for them, putting in long days of military drill themselves and learning how to teach it, one small piece

at a time, said cadet William Edinger, a senior in Air Force ROTC majoring in human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Edinger is the executive officer for Alpha Company, one of 14 units within the corps. His primary job this week has been to plan and oversee the training for his company's first-year cadets. That plan starts with the upper-class cadets, who practice their lesson plans on each other.

"Everyone knows the basics, but it's a whole different game when it comes to teaching in a clear and concise format," Edinger said. "The biggest part of that is the feedback we give to each other. Everyone has

their own style of teaching, but we ensure that everyone hears, sees, and gets a chance to physically practice everything that we teach."

As much as they have been preparing to train others, the upper-class cadets have been learning a lot about themselves.

"During New Cadet Week, I am hoping to better understand my leadership style and its effect on others," said cadet Julian Montes Martinez, a junior in Air Force ROTC majoring in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering. "I am looking forward to learning about how to be a leader that cares about their people,

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Christiansburg native participates in large scale exercise aboard U.S. Navy warship

NORFOLK, Va. - Cmdr. Matthew Phillips, a 1999 Christiansburg High School and U.S. Naval Academy graduate, is participating in a large-scale exercise (LSE 2021) aboard the USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41), a U.S. Navy warship that transports and launches Marines from sea to shore as part of amphibious assault operations.

Cmdr. Phillips joined the Navy 18 years ago. "I joined for the opportunity to serve my country and to lead sailors," he

said.

According to Phillips, the values required to succeed in the military are similar to those found in Christiansburg. "I learned humility and service to others, as well as a blue-collar work ethic in striving for success," he said.

LSE 2021 demonstrates the Navy's ability to employ precise, lethal, and overwhelming force globally across three naval component commands, five numbered fleets, and 17 time zones. LSE 2021 merges live and synthetic training capabilities to create an intense, robust training environment. It connects high-fidelity training and real-world operations to build knowledge and skills needed in today's complex, multi-domain, and contested environment.

"During Large Scale Exercise 21, USS Whidbey Island demonstrated enhanced medical capabilities while seamlessly integrating our fleet surgical team," said the warship's commanding officer, Cmdr. Kristel Anne O'Canas. "This critical mission set will allow a dynamic force employment in the surface fleet by expanding medical care capacity across various surface combatants."

Whidbey Island is designed to deliver Marines and their equipment in support of amphibious operations including landings

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PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS VANESSA C. BEHREND

Christiansburg native and U.S. Naval Academy graduate Cmdr. Matthew Phillips is taking part in LSE 2021, a large-scale exercise aboard the U.S. Navy warship Whidbey Island, that transports and launches Marines from sea to shore as part of operations involving amphibious assault.

News Brief: Blacksburg police launch larceny, intimidation investigation

On Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, the Blacksburg Police Department opened a larceny/intimidation investigation in which an LGBTQ Pride Flag was taken and replaced with a Confederate Flag at the Wesley United Methodist Campus Ministry.

This case has been assigned to the department's Criminal Investigations Unit and is an ongoing investigation. The Blacksburg Police

Department takes all matters involving intimidation seriously and will investigate this matter diligently and expeditiously.

Anyone with any information about this crime is asked to contact the Blacksburg Police Department at (540) 443-1400. Tipsters can remain anonymous by calling the Blacksburg Police Tip Line at (540) 961-1819 or by emailing ciu@blacksburg.gov.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN WATERS

Villas at Peppers Ferry holds annual hello-goodbye brunch

The Villas at Peppers Ferry held its fourth annual hello and goodbye brunch Saturday, Aug. 7, at their community clubhouse with residents who have moved into the community and those who have moved away within the last year invited as honored guests.

The annual brunch provides an opportunity for residents to

meet new neighbors and reconnect with old friends who moved away during the year. This year's brunch was particularly special as COVID restrictions delayed the event for several months.

The Villas at Peppers Ferry is a condominium community located off Peppers Ferry Road and Quinn W. Stewart Boulevard

in Christiansburg. The complex is composed of 148 residential units, a clubhouse, a pool, and a memory garden whose residents have a long history of participation in local projects such as the Montgomery County Social Services Back-to-School Backpack Program and Thanksgiving food box drives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Aug. 14:

Fourth Annual Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament
At the Pete Dye River Course. The tournament benefits the "Carilion Cares for Children" program providing tuition discounts at the Radford Early Learning Center for families with financial need at Radford Child Development, Inc. A shotgun start is at 2 p.m. with a Captain's Choice four-some format. A hole-in-one contest offers a \$100,000 prize for 10 participants chosen by purchased raffle ticket. Other prizes include a 2021 vehicle from Harvey's in Radford for a hole-in-one, and awards for first-through-fourth-place teams and closest to the pin. Features of the day include an awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes, and mulligans. To register go to www.radfordchilddevelopment.org/golf.

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club Fish Fry Cancelled
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club Fish Fry has been cancelled.

Saturday, Aug. 14 - Saturday, Aug. 21:

Noise Alert I: Marching Virginians Band Camp
The Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech band camp is scheduled for the week. Dur-

ing the week, band rehearsal will take place outdoors at The Marching Virginians Center, 821 Southgate Drive (atop Chicken Hill) from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Once classes begin on Aug. 23, the regular rehearsal time will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 16:

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Golf Tournament
"Swing Fore Persons with Intellectual Disabilities," the 24th Annual Golf Classic at Blacksburg Country Club, will tee off at 1 p.m. following lunch. For more information and to sign up, contact the Intellectual Disabilities Agency at 381-0310 or email sheila@idanrv.org.

Friday, Aug. 20:

Family Game Night
At the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library virtual at 5:30 p.m. Join other families for a live, interactive game night online. They will play Jackbox Party Night games on family friendly settings. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Saturday, Aug. 21:

Eastmont Tomato Festival
The free outdoor festival features contests for tomato art and tomato recipes as well as compe-

titions for biggest, ugliest, and best-tasting tomato. Participants can also don their best tomato-themed outfits to compete in the ever-popular Tomato Pageant and belly up to become the tomato-eating champion. Enjoy great food (including fried green tomatoes, BLTs, pizzas, tomato sandwiches, and tomato biscuits), live music, games, music, arts and crafts, and much more.

The festival will be held in the Meadowbrook Community Center courtyard, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. More information: eastmontcf.com, facebook or eastmonttomatofestival@gmail.com.

Noise Alert II: Skipper to be Fired

Skipper, the Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired three times as part of the New Cadet Parade on Virginia Tech's Drillfield. The first shot will be fired around 9:50 a.m., and the final shot will take place around 10:45 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 23:

Blood Drive
The New River Health District and the American Red Cross are teaming to host a blood drive from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Blue Ridge Church, 1655 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg.

Saturday, Aug. 28:

Dialogue on Race 2021 Summer Summit

From 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Moose Lodge No. 1470, 115 Fairview Rd. NE, Christiansburg. The theme is Student Voices: Reflections on Race and Racism in our Schools. Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eib8sml7c5bacc8a&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

Triwizard Tri-Mile Trail Race

At Bisset Park, at 9:30 a.m., a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley. Register for the race at www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark. For more information, call (540) 382-7262 or send an "owl" to info@lvnr.org. Follow <https://www.facebook.com/LVNRV/> for race updates.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery continues to show its latest art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemontic Images.

The exhibit dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe.

Everyone is welcome to visit the museum with no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 continues each Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park.

Simply Elemental Art Exhibit

The Simply Elemental art exhibit in the Hahn Horticultural Garden (on the Virginia Tech campus) will be on display through Sept. 30.

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market continues Saturday through October 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market continues every Thursday through Oct. 28, at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

First Steps honors Leslie Blevins Graham as 2021 Early Childhood Champion of the Year

First Steps, the New River Valley's Early Childhood Education and Development Network, presented its first-ever Early Childhood Champion Awards at a virtual celebration recently, honoring five individuals who work tirelessly to meet the needs of the New River Valley's young children and their families.

Leslie Blevins Graham, the lead preschool teacher at Imagination Station in Pearisburg, was chosen as the 2021 Early Childhood Champion of the Year.

Graham has been an educator for fifteen years, working with all age groups at the Imagination Station, most recently focused on helping prepare preschool kids to enter kindergarten healthy, happy, and ready to learn. Twenty-two individuals sent in nominations

for Graham, praising her commitment to her students and her constant desire to learn about and implement the very best practices in early childhood education.

Created in 2016, First Steps is an initiative of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV), composed of more than 100 social service agencies, healthcare providers, childcare centers, local government officials, and business leaders. The network's working groups focus on increasing knowledge about and access to available services for children and families, developing shared values and messaging about the critical importance of early childhood, and supporting and strengthening the early childhood education and development workforce.

The Early Childhood



First Steps' Early Childhood Champion of the Year Winner Leslie Blevins Graham was presented with a check by Kim Thomason, First Steps Leadership Team Member.

Champion Awards recognize the extraordinary educators, administrators, human service providers, healthcare workers, and advocates who put their passion and expertise to work every day for families and children in the region. The definition of the awards was broad to encompass anyone

who makes an impact on young children regardless of their title or affiliation.

First Steps solicited nominations from throughout the community, receiving a total of 52 nominations for 19 individuals. At the awards event, First Steps leaders recognized each of the nominees and announced

five award winners: three honorees, a runner-up, and a champion of the year. The winners each received a cash prize provided by the CFNRV.

In addition to Graham, the four award winners were champion runner-up Elizabeth Foster, founder and past president of Valley In-

terfaith Child Care Center; and three honorees Karen Gallagher from the Virginia Tech Child Development Center for Learning and Research; Sarah Nucci, executive director of Wonder Universe; A Children's Museum; and Kim Wasil, director of North Blacksburg KinderCare.

MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-22 Unified Planning Work Program. The Amendment adds a study of the Huckleberry Trail and a corridor study for the extension of Southgate Drive from Route 460 to Merrimac Road this fiscal year. A draft plan is available for review at the Offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, Pulaski County, as well as the Montgomery County Government Center. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org



Deadline for written comments: 5:00pm August 18, 2021

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 pm on September 2, 2021 at the Montgomery County Government Center or remotely.

The New River Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMPO) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, questions, or to obtain a Discrimination Complaint Form,

Contact MPO Director Dan Brugh
Phone 540-394-2145
Email brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov

Navy Warship

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via landing craft, air cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft, and helicopters onto hostile shores.

Homeported in Little Creek, Va., Whidbey Island is longer than two football fields at 610 feet. The ship is 84 feet wide and weighs more than 16,000 tons. It

has four diesel engines that can push the ship through the water in excess of 25 mph.

Serving in the Navy means Phillips is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances, and reform-

ing business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy provides maritime security and defends our national interests at home and abroad," said Phillips.

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea and 95 percent of the world's international phone and Internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Phillips, as well as other sailors, knows they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts

will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

"It's the ability to lead our nation's most valuable assets, the talented men and women from across this country who volunteer to serve on board warships at sea," said Phillips. "Leading them is both an honor and a privilege."

By Rick Burke, Navy Office of Community Outreach



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Sixteen NRCC students graduate from practical nursing program

New River Community College held a graduation ceremony for the practical nursing program on Aug. 3, with 16 students receiving certificates and nursing pins.

Dr. Peter Anderson, NRCC Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, addressed the graduates at the ceremony. Graduating students Nathan Jenkins and Stephanie Smith were

chosen by their peers to give the student address.

NRCC's certificate program prepares students to qualify as contributing members of a health care team, rendering patient care in a variety of health service facilities. These students are now eligible to take the Virginia Board of Nursing examination leading to licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).



Graduating from New River Community College's practical nursing program on Aug. 3 were (first row, left to right) Brooklyn Elizabeth Weikle, Victoria Sloan Cassell, Jordan D. McGrady, Judith Faith Tuttle, and Bridgett Kay Frame; (second row, left to right) Chelsey B. Richardson, Britny D. Cromer, Kyanna Nashelle Holmes, Sydney Burton Songer, and Thomas Edward Semones; (third row, left to right) Stephanie Lynn Smith, Jenna Marie Rhodes, and Kasey Nichole Millirons; (back row, left to right) Bailey Wynter Nott, Faelyn Grace Henley, and Nathan Isaiah Jenkins.

Pastor Libby Pfaff named pastor of Radford Lutheran Church and The Well Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech



Newly ordained, Libby Pfaff has been appointed pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Radford and pastor to The Well at Virginia Tech, a campus ministry of Blacksburg's Luther Memorial Church.

Pastor Libby Pfaff was ordained to the ministry of Word & Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, and effective Aug. 15, 2021, she will serve as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Radford and as pastor to The Well at Virginia Tech, a campus ministry of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg.

Pfaff grew up in the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) but attended many other churches as she searched for the Holy Spirit. During that time, she studied theater at the University of South Carolina, served in the Navy as a sonar technician, and worked for an electrical equipment distribution company in Seattle.

In Seattle, Pfaff discovered the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous after an accidental encounter with the testimony of an ELCA pastor. She began attending Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Seattle and fell

in love with the community. Within the first year at that church, she felt "pulled" to ministry. She attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., completing her Master of Divinity in December of 2020 after serving as pastoral intern at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Phoenix.

Upon her appointments, Pastor Pfaff said, "Life has been a spectacular journey thus far and with joy and gratitude, I eagerly await the miracles of the Spirit every day. I am excited to get to know my parishioners at Christ Lutheran, and look forward to fellowship and taking part in mission and faith opportunities with the Well students at Virginia Tech."

The Reverend Monica Weber, lead pastor of Luther Memorial, said about Pfaff's appointment to The Well, "We are so thankful that Libby will join us to shepherd our Well students. The Well community recently achieved an affiliation with Reconciling in Christ, to include, welcome, and affirm all people, re-

gardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, past history, or political opinions. The Well gathers regularly as a community of faith to discuss and celebrate the love and grace of God, and we know Libby will help foster this spirit of inclusion for all."

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Founded in 1886, the church serves the Blacksburg community and residents of Southwest Virginia's New River Valley.

The Well Campus Ministry, hosted by Luther Memorial, offers weekly opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship in Christ for students at Virginia Tech. Luther Memorial offers worship services, faith formation, and Christian education studies throughout the week and enjoys a long-standing tradition of mission and community service in the New River Valley. For more information, visit <https://lmlc.org/campus-ministry>.

Cadets

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but also is able to hold others accountable."

Montes Martinez is the first sergeant for Mike Company, and his job this week was to manage the cadet trainers in his company and to coordi-

nate with the company's leadership to ensure that training is being done correctly.

That experience will be important for Montes Martinez after graduation when he commissions as an Air Force

officer charged with managing people in his unit. His goal is to work with a special tactics or combat rescue team.

New Cadet Week training will begin at 6:45 a.m. daily and will continue into the

evening throughout campus, particularly on the Drillfield and Upper Quad areas.

The week will culminate with a parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 21, on the Drillfield where the first-year

cadets will demonstrate the military drill they learned in training. During the parade, the Highty-Tighties, the regimental band, will play and Skipper, the Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired.

NRCC offering music courses this fall

New River Community College is offering several music classes with online and in-person options for the fall semester that begins Monday, Aug. 23.

Music in Society (MUS 121) is being offered as a 14-week course beginning Aug. 23 in Dublin, Christiansburg, and online, and as a 10-week course that begins online Sept. 22. The course is transferrable to four-year colleges/universities and explores the language of music through an introduction to basic elements, forms, and styles across time. Students will become acquainted with composers' lives and influential creative individualities while discovering representative works and milestones in western society. Students will also develop techniques for listening analytically and critically and will review the historical development and significance of art music within the context of evolving soci-

etal structures.

History of Western Music Prior to 1750 (MUS 221) and History of Jazz (MUS 225) will also be offered as 14-week courses that begin online Aug. 23.

The music courses will be taught by Dr. Louise Billaud, NRCC professor of music and concert pianist in residence, who trained in the United States and France. In 2014, she received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), earned a doctorate of musical arts in music education from Boston University, and was honored by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) with the award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation. Billaud has presented research findings at NAfME, the Suncoast Music Education Research Symposium, and at music and lifelong learning national and in-

ternational conferences.

She was the keynote speaker for the Virginia Community College System's New Faculty Forum and Education Symposia.

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

The class schedule is available at www.nr.edu/schedule. Current NRCC students may register for classes online by visiting their student accounts. New students or those who may need additional support can reach out to an advisor by emailing advising@nr.edu or call (540) 674-3609.

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

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Property is located in the Riner VA area but has a Christiansburg address. Located in the Auburn School District.

Preview - Saturday August 14th @ 1 PM

General Terms and Conditions - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. \$5,000 Earnest Money Deposit due day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on August 31st 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

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OPINION

Virginia investing \$500 million to improve air quality in its schools

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam recently announced that Virginia plans to invest \$500 million to improve ventilation and air quality in its public schools, securing the completion of nearly all currently planned HVAC projects.

The commonwealth will allocate \$250 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for necessary ventilation upgrades, which will be matched 1:1 by local ARP or other relief funding. Ventilation systems clean and disperse air, decreasing the risk of various airborne illnesses, including COVID-19.

“Air quality is a key part of maintaining safe and healthy

learning environments for our students across the commonwealth,” said the governor. “This investment will help families, educators, and students feel more confident about the quality of the air they breathe as we return to in-person learning five days a week this fall.”

In a recent report to the Commission on School Construction and Modernization, the Virginia Department of Education analyzed 117 Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) from school divisions detailing the projects they plan to complete in the next decade. Following plans for new buildings and renovations, school divisions most frequently

planned for HVAC repair and replacement projects with a total of 463 HVAC projects amounting to \$623 million. Governor Northam’s investment will secure the completion of nearly all currently planned projects.

“Ensuring there is clean air in our classrooms helps assure staff and students that schools are safe places so they can focus on learning,” said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. “We know high quality ventilation systems reduce the number of virus particles in the air, and this investment means that Virginia schools will have updated HVAC systems for years to come.”

Funding will be allocated

to school divisions based on their average daily membership with a minimum allocation of \$200,000 per school division. The funds will be granted as reimbursements to divisions completing HVAC projects.

Every school in Virginia is required to make in-person instruction available to all students in the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to Senate Bill 1303 which was passed during Virginia’s 2021 special session.

In 2020, Governor Northam directed \$492 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to public schools and PreK-12 state-level education

initiatives. This year, Virginia received approximately \$939 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021.

Ninety percent of the funding was distributed to school divisions in January, with the other 10 percent set aside for targeted state-level initiatives to address the impact of the pandemic on students and schools. Additionally, the American Rescue Plan Act ESSER III funds directly allocate \$1.9 billion to school divisions with an additional state set-aside of \$211 million.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

Virginia’s recovery rate from unemployment claims is slowest in nation

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, Virginia is struggling to recover from new unemployment claims with last week’s claims higher than at the start of 2020. In fact, in the website’s updated rankings for the states (and the District of Columbia) whose unemployment claims are recovering the quickest, the commonwealth sat dead last in the No. 51 spot.

Contributing to that ranking, according to WalletHub, was the fact that weekly unemployment claims in Virginia increased by 354.32% compared to the same week in 2019, the biggest increase in the U.S.; weekly unemployment claims in Virginia increased by 239.46% compared to the start of 2020, also the biggest increase in the U.S.; and weekly unem-

ployment claims in Virginia decreased by 18.42% compared to the same week last year, the fourth smallest decrease in the U.S.

The website noted that the U.S. is making significant progress in the fight against COVID-19 with the distribution of the vaccine, and this has been reflected in the job market as new unemployment claims decreased week-over-week on Aug 2. There are currently 8.7 million Americans unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in total, though, and it’s important to look at some key stats for the latest week to get the full picture:

There were 375,000 new unemployment claims nationwide, which is a lot fewer than the 6.1 million during the peak of the pandemic (a 94% reduction).

Seven states had unemployment claims last week that were lower than before the pandemic: Florida, South Carolina, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Iowa, and Louisiana.

The ten states recovering the quickest from their unemployment claims, according to WalletHub’s rankings were (1) South Carolina (2) Florida (3) Kansas (4) Pennsylvania (5) Arizona (6) Washington (7) South Dakota (8) New Hampshire (9) New York (10) Vermont.

The ten places recovering the slowest from their unemployment claims, according to the website, were (42) Texas (43) Utah (44) Michigan (45) New Mexico (46) Illinois (47) Colorado (48) Indiana (49) District of Columbia (50) Rhode Island (51) Virginia.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 shots

Everyone is tired of hearing about the pandemic. It seems like it has been a part of our lives for years. But unfortunately it is still here, and it seems to be stronger than ever.

What bothers me is the number of people who have not been vaccinated. In Montgomery County the number of vaccinated individuals is around 51 percent. The question is why the figure is so low. The shot is available, and it’s free. If you get the shot, the chances of your getting the

virus are very low.

The question remains if it is time for the leaders of the community to take a more active/positive stance concerning the virus. To talk about it, to encourage people to step forward and to get the vaccination.

Several days ago, I spoke to Chief Mark Sisson (Police Chief Town of Christiansburg) about the virus. He told me he had recently talked to members of his department and encouraged them to get the vaccine. He

said that shortly afterward five additional members of his department were vaccinated.

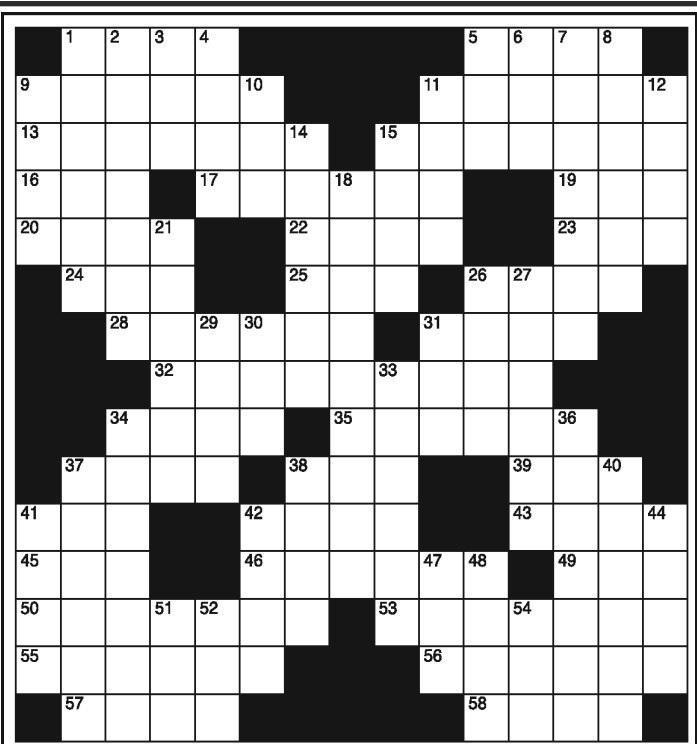
That is what needs to be done. That is the type of leadership that makes Christiansburg and Montgomery County a better place to live. You don’t have to yell or shout, just show people that you care.

Steve Huppert

Christiansburg Town Council

Note: The enclosed comments are mine and do not represent the opinions of the staff of the Town of Christiansburg or the Christiansburg Town Council.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Essential floral oil
 - Boast
 - A way to travel on skis
 - Austrian capital
 - Sensationalist journalism
 - Taxidrivers
 - Atomic mass unit
 - A rock-boring tool
 - Actress Farrow
 - The trunk of a tree
 - Satisfy to excess
 - Cleopatra’s snake
 - Single-reed instrument
 - Volcanic mountain in Japan
 - Bon ____: witty remarks
 - Competitors
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Late Show host
 - Parrot nostril membrane

- Moves into action
- Back talk
- A pointed end
- British Air Aces
- 1st weekday
- Sound in mind
- Hypothetical original matter
- Head covering
- Classical musical dramas
- God of war & sky (Germanic)
- Beginnings
- Coarse fabric used for bags
- High legislative assembly
- What a ghost does
- Pats gently
- Ceases to live

- CLUES DOWN
- N.M. National Lab. Los ____
 - In columns
 - Inclusive
 - Underground plant part
 - Top part of an apron
 - Confederate soldier
 - Make lively
 - Metamorphic rock type
 - Thrust with a weapon
 - Russian space station
 - Rotates showing wind direction
 - As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - Desalinate
 - Marcus Porcius
 - Perching bird order
 - Citizen rejects
 - Missing soldiers

- Cantankerous
- German river
- Fed
- Large Australian flightless bird
- Lasso users
- Spanish saloon
- Common cracker
- Glided high
- Draws from
- Deceptive tactics
- Conductance units
- Unit of loudness
- Steins
- Express pleasure
- A large amount
- Talk
- Belonging to a thing
- Language spoken by the Khonds

Warm Hearth

from page 1



What’s a Jimmy-Buffett-style cheeseburger party without a giant parrot?

Holiday Inn NRV Mall. They then cast their vote for the fan favorite, and the traveling trophy was awarded at the conclusion of the event.

Scott Sink and Hethwood Market have taken

the title four years running and were looking to extend their streak with their signature Southern Market Burger: a perfectly cooked beef patty, fried pickles, and pi-

slider bun with a sweet and spicy aioli.

The party also featured an online/in-person silent auction with one-of-a-kind items and experiences.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Grants available for K-12 teachers who incorporate agriculture into their classroom

Teachers interested in starting a school garden or helping students learn about a chicken's life cycle could benefit from educator grants from Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC).

To help educate youth on the source of their food and fibers and the importance of agriculture in daily life, AITC is offering grants for K-12 educators who incorporate agricultural concepts and experiences in their classrooms.

Virginia AITC has over \$30,000 available for the 2021-22 school year to support classroom agricultural experiences. Teachers and other organizations like 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that work with schools and parent-teacher associations can apply for up to \$500 for agriculture-related initiatives.

"The grants paid for the majority of our raised-bed projects," said Deborra

Horowitz, a Southampton Middle School agriculture teacher.

Horowitz previously received two AITC grants for projects at her school. The first grant funded the materials for raised-bed gardens, which the students built and filled with topsoil and compost mix and then planted. The second grant funded installation parts for an irrigation system, which students assembled. Cold frames were purchased, assembled and installed by students, allowing them to grow off-season produce.

Horowitz used the projects to teach students how to grow a variety of herbs and vegetables. In addition, the nearby high school's culinary arts students were able to use some of the freshly-grown produce for their classes, and excess produce was donated to a local food bank.

"Students learned about

square-foot gardening and were amazed to see what could be produced," Horowitz said. "This year, they learned how to grow garlic, which none of the students had ever done. Students loved braiding the garlic and hanging it in the chicken coop to cure."

The deadline for grant applications is Oct. 15; however, applications received by Aug. 20 will be eligible for AITC's new "early bird notification." This early notification allows educators to begin their projects in time for schools' openings.

"As a number of schools return to in-person learning beginning in early August, educators are eager to start the year with a hands-on project," said Tammy Maxey, Virginia AITC programs director. "Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom is encouraging educators to start the year with agriculture and is provid-



Through Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, more than \$30,000 is available to support classroom agricultural experiences during the 2021-22 school year.

ing the funding to increase school and program opportunities."

Projects may occur at school or virtually, address-

ing topics like gardening and horticulture, nutrition, embryology, and STEM themes that provide unique agriculture experiences.

To learn more about educational activities available through Virginia AITC, or to apply for a grant, visit va.agclassroom.org.

NRCC offers paralegal program

New River Community College is offering a paralegal administrative support degree program with classes beginning this fall.

Paralegal Administrative Support Specialization prepares students for a high-salary career in an in-demand field.

The program leads to employment in the legal field.

Paralegal Administrative Support Specialization provides a specialized administrative support technology education in the legal field and offers basic skills training and advanced training complementary to the information systems demands of the electronic office, including skills in word processing, microcomputer usage and human relations.

Upon completion of the degree, students are employable as legal clerks, office clerks, office and administrative support workers, paralegal and legal assistants, and receptionist and information clerks.

As a two-year program, the paralegal degree can be completed fully online.

Students who enroll in this program may be eligible for

free tuition through the Virginia Community College's new G3 assistance program. The G3 Program is a tuition assistance program for any Virginia resident who qualifies for in-state tuition and whose family income falls below an identified threshold. Eligible students may enroll in designated programs leading to jobs in high-demand

fields. For more information on G3 eligibility, visit www.nr.edu/g3.

Classes begin Monday, August 23. Prospective NRCC students may visit www.nr.edu/register for enrollment information. Advisors are available at advising@nr.edu or (540) 674-3609 or in person to assist with registration.

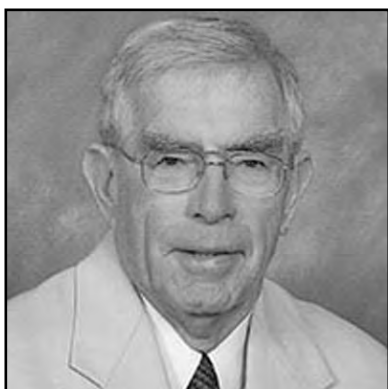
For more information about the paralegal program, visit www.nr.edu/ast/para_degree.php or email Instructor Sharon Edwards at sedwards@nr.edu.

OBITUARIES

Young, Robert Raymond

Robert Raymond Young, 83, of Radford, passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Memorial services with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.



The family requests that everyone wear a mask.

Interment will be at a later date in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Cochran, Rufus Cordell "Micky"

Rufus C. "Micky" Cochran died peacefully in his home Aug. 5, 2021.

He was born Oct. 10, 1940, in Radford, the son of William E. and Alice V. (Fisher) Cochran. Rufus graduated from Radford High School and then entered the Army. Later in life he obtained his bachelor's degree from Oakland College.

Rufus married the love of his life, Janice B. (Surface) Cochran, on Nov. 11, 1961. They would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year. They traveled to many different states during his military career but settled in Indiana when Rufus started working for Indiana Bell. After his retirement in 1996, Rufus and Janice returned to Virginia and built a home in Pearisburg.

In addition to his parents, Rufus was preceded in death by a sister, Sarah Elizabeth Cochran, and a brother, Lewis Kent Cochran. Surviving in addition to

his wife are sons Rufus C. Cochran, Jr., and his wife Marci of Anderson Ind., and Matthew A. Cochran and his partner Ernestine of Kentucky, daughter Marquise L Francis and her husband Dale of Pearisburg; five grandchildren, Rufus C. Cochran III, Lewis K. Cochran, Griffin E. Spears, Taylor Mitchell, and Alekzandr Cochran; brothers William E. Cochran of Maryland and Philip Colin Cochran and his wife Dorothy of Radford; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. Those who wish to remember Rufus may send gifts, cards, or flowers to Janice B. Cochran c/o Commonwealth Senior Living 7486 Lee Hwy. Radford, VA 24141.

Arrangements made by McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Drive SW, Blacksburg, Va.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION Beautiful Riverfront Property for Sale in Draper VA! 4543 Clarks Ferry Road, Draper, VA 24324



Ends Friday September 3rd at 4 PM
Go to VaAuctionPro.com

Home with frontage on the New River, running into Claytor Lake! This property is the ultimate recreational weekend retreat or year-round home! One level living featuring 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and +/- 1,737 sq. ft. Hangout on the patio while overlooking the river flowing by. Very peaceful, country setting with no restrictions! The property has +/- 1.95 acres with a nice yard and frontage on the river. Located on the back side of Claytor Lake, accessed by the New River. You have around 100 ft. of water frontage where you can put in boats, kayaks, jet skis and more! This is a wonderful spot for fishing, camping and hosting family gatherings! Within half an hour to Hillsville VA, Pulaski VA & 45 minutes from Christiansburg VA.

Preview Dates – Saturday August 14th @ 10 AM & Friday August 20th @ 5 PM

Terms – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 3rd 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VaAuctionPro.com

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

102 S. Locust Street,
Floyd, VA 24091
(540) 745-2005
VaAuctionPro.com
Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

Houston, Barbara Ruth Dunn

Barbara Ruth Dunn Houston, 81, of Radford, passed away Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. today Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. The family requests that everyone wear a mask.

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



Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech names new dean of graduate school



Currently at Newfoundland's Memorial University, Aimée Surprenant will assume her duties as dean of VT's graduate school on Sept. 1.

Following an international search, Aimée Surprenant, the associate vice president (academic) and dean of the School of Graduate Studies for Memorial University of Newfoundland, has been appointed as the new dean of Virginia Tech's graduate school, effective Sept. 1.

Surprenant will succeed Karen DePauw, who announced her retirement in January 2020 after an 18-year career at VT. Surprenant will lead the graduate school's budgetary, admissions, and program development operations and will serve as a member of the executive vice president

and provost's leadership team as well as an advisor to graduate student organizations.

"I'm excited to join the team in the graduate school to continue and advance the great work that is already underway at Virginia Tech," said Surprenant. "I'm looking forward to working with students, faculty, and staff to support an equitable and just graduate community that nurtures practitioners, scholars, and researchers, and prepares them to be future leaders on the national and global stage."

"The recent upheavals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing social injustices, and climate change have created daunting challenges, but I am confident that in working together, we can find innovative solutions to create transformative change," Surprenant said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to take on this position and offer my deepest thanks to outgoing Dean

Karen DePauw."

Surprenant brings a wealth of leadership experience and a distinguished record of accomplishment as an academician, researcher, and administrator to Virginia Tech.

As associate vice president and dean at Memorial University, she successfully led a program portfolio of more than 120 graduate diploma, master's, and doctoral degree programs for over 4,000 graduate students, and guided the university's strategic graduate enrollment management planning and recruitment processes.

She also was responsible for the leadership and growth of graduate student funding and partnered with Memorial's graduate council to advance policies and curricula to promote continuing improvement of and innovation in graduate programs.

"Aimée's strength of leadership and scholarship, and her commitment to collaboration with faculty

and students comes at a critical time for our Graduate School and university," said Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke, who appointed Surprenant. "I look forward to working closely with her to develop and implement strategies for growth of graduate education in support of our commitment to impactful scholarship."

Surprenant is a respected expert in the field of psychology and research in the intersection of auditory perception and memory. She has co-authored two books, "Human Memory: An Introduction to Research, Data, and Theory" and "Principles of Memory," and authored, edited, and contributed to numerous book chapters, papers, publications, and other scholarly articles. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies and the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools. She has

also served as chair of the Scientific Affairs Committee for the Canadian Psychological Association and is active in Science Atlantic and the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science.

During her tenure at Memorial University, Surprenant was honored with The Glenn Roy Blundon Award Leadership in Institutional Change for contributions to the ongoing development of equitable and accessible learning and living environments for students at Memorial. She also earned the Richard C. Tees Distinguished Leadership Award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, and the Dean of Science Distinguished Scholar Medal.

Surprenant holds a Ph.D. and Master of Philosophy and Master of Science degrees in psychology from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from New York University.

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

False Prophets

Read Ezekiel 12:1 through 17:24

Ezekiel faced opposition in the form of false prophets. These other prophets gave claims that all was well, lulling the people of Israel into a false sense of security. The people chose to believe the reassuring words of the false prophets rather than listening to the real promises spoken by Ezekiel. It ended up costing them dearly.

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! (Ezekiel 13:3).

The distinction between true and false prophets would have been difficult to make at the time. Just like Ezekiel, the other prophets claimed to speak for God. The people had to rely solely on

discernment and good judgment.

Today, we have the New Testament to help us identify false teachers. God promises to give us the discernment to recognize His Word (John 7:17). If we truly know God, we will know His Word when we hear it. We must weigh carefully the teachings and prophecies of others or we risk harsh discipline just like Israel.

Prayer for Today: Ask God to help you know His Word so well that you can identify false teaching when you hear it.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 13:1-12

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. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, 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

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 weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY 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.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The bridge replacement 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

alternating northbound and 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.

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

ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT - Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

ROUTE 669 CLOSURE - Route 669 (Fairview Church Road) will be closed for a low water slab replacement between Route 606 (Sidney Church Road) and Route 670 (Dairy Road) through Wednesday, Aug. 11. Detours will be in place and signs will be posted to assist drivers in the area.

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.

TRAFFIC SWITCH: A new traffic pattern is in place 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 fall 2021.

ROUTE 685 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION – Contractors are constructing several turn lane and road improvements on Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) between Route 1145 (Stratford View Drive) and Route 654 (Brookfield Road). Motorists should expect daily shoulder closures with intermittent lane 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.

UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment follow-

ing 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.

INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

Drivers should expect delays. A left lane closure 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. Message boards will alert drivers.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Botetourt County: Milling and paving will take place on I-81 northbound between mile marker 171.5 in Botetourt County to the Rockbridge County Line between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday night through Friday morning.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 141 and 143, 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.

Pulaski County: Bridge deck and paving will take place on I-81 north and southbound between mile marker 87 to 98 between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Monday night through Thursday morning.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. 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.

INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD – Work is un-

derway to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete at the end of 2021.

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

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.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY – Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.



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Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Amendments to the Planned Commercial Development in the B-3, General Business zoning district at 2705 Market Street NE by NRV Marketplace LLC to allow multi-family residential uses, increased building height, reduced onsite greenspace, and reduced residential parking requirement on Tax

Legals - Montgomery County

Parcel 436 - ((5)) - 1. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Major Home Occupation Conditional Use Permit for a single-chair salon in the Agricultural zoning district at 725 Stafford Drive on Tax Parcel 405-((A))-8. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

C. Rezoning from R-3, Multi-Family Residential and B-3, General Business to B-3, General Business by the Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center (Montgomery Museum of Art and History) at 300 Pepper Street SE on Tax Parcel 527 - ((A)) - 235. The property is designated as Business/Commercial and Parks/Open Space.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

Public Notice
The Christiansburg Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to receive comments on the following:

An Appeal of the Zoning Administrator Determination by Kevin D. Conner, L.A. on behalf of SHAH Development LLC for Thomas Circle Mobile Home Park located adjacent to Thomas Circle, N.W. and Badger Street, N.W., 875-897 Thomas Circle, N.W., and undeveloped property east of the intersection of Badger Street, N.W., and Elk Drive, N.W. (south of the existing mobile home park) in the B-3, General Business zoning district [the "Property"].

The determination stated that the Town Code does not permit the Subdivision of the mobile home areas in the Thomas Circle mobile home park based on the number of mobile homes permitted per the latest Conditional Use Permit approval on August 13, 2021 in order to for each mobile home unit to be located on a fee simple subdivided lot separate from other mobile homes or areas such as common areas, private drives, or stormwater facilities. A copy of the letter of

Legals - Montgomery County

appeal, the Town's Zoning Map, and Zoning Ordinance may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations. Written comments may be sent to the preceding address; please allow adequate mailing time.

Ad dates:
Saturday, August 14, 2021
Saturday, August 21, 2021

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
The Town of Christiansburg Virginia as a recipient of block grant funding is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare and adopt a multiyear Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans to solicit citizen views on proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities contained in these documents. The proposed plan is for the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan to provide information on the

Legals - Montgomery County

program and the goals for the upcoming year.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
Draft copies of the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan are available for review. Copies can be obtained from the Christiansburg Town Manager's Office, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street or on the Town's website at www.christiansburg.org.

PUBLIC HEARING
The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia for the adoption of the FY2021 Annual Action Plan.

Provide any questions, comments, or suggestions by mailing the Town Manager's Office, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029, by e-mailing awarren@christiansburg.org or by phone at (540) 382-6120 x 1130.

Post Saturday, August 14, 2021

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

COVID continues to affect local sports

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Administrators like Dr. Robert Graham, superintendent of schools for the city of Radford, are starting to wonder what “normal” really is.

Earlier this week, the Radford school system put almost all of its athletics on a “pause” after several positive tests of COVID-19.

Graham said golf is back up and running as almost all student-athletes and coaches tested negative on Tuesday. The football team was scheduled to be tested Thursday afternoon. The football coaches have already tested, and they are all negative. Volleyball tested on Friday. If all coaches are negative, they were hopeful they could start back on Friday.

“Our plan when COVID-19 hits in our schools or athletics program is to keep our routines as normal as possible without jeopardizing the integrity of our safety protocol regarding COVID-19,” Graham said.

For now, Radford High School is moving ahead with letting fans at full-capacity into all its sporting events.

But the need to test if a positive case pops up does loom on the horizon. Graham said his school is lucky to have a great partnership with a local clinic.

“We are very lucky to have a partnership with New River Valley Pediatrics. Any child who shows symptoms in the schools or in extracurricular activities will be scheduled to test with NRV Peds, and we generally receive the results from them that

same day,” he said.

To say COVID-19 in education is difficult and challenging would be a great understatement, according to Graham. “I am concerned for our students, staff, and school community members. Our school community has done so well with this situation during the last 18 to 20 months, but they deserve some sense of normalcy so they have the greatest opportunity to enjoy and succeed during the 2021-2022 school year.”

A similar rash of positive COVID tests at Carroll County High School forced the cancellation of a scrimmage with Christiansburg that had been scheduled for Wednesday night.

The Virginia High School League, the governing body for sports in the commonwealth,

said Wednesday the indoor mask mandate for schools does not currently apply to extracurricular outdoor activities (sports). Thus, the VHSL says it would be up to the local school system to lay down any ruling.

In Montgomery County, Facilities Director Danny Knott says masks will be required for indoor sports under the following situation: “Indoors, masks are required for spectators and student-athletes who are not participating in the match. When on the bench, in the locker room and not actively participating in the match, student-athletes must mask. Each student-athlete will have their own individual water bottle. We will follow VHSL guidelines when traveling and follow the home school’s protocols as long as they are not less

than our protocols. If this is the case, we will follow our protocols.”

Knott said Montgomery County’s school system is moving forward with athletics as close to “normal” as it can.

Like Graham, Knott said the increasing number of cases in the area is troubling.

“We hope this will be a short-term situation and not linger very long,” Knott said. “We encourage our student-athletes to do everything they can when they are away from school to mitigate their chances of becoming infected because of the potential negative effects to the team if they were to become infected. We will certainly do what is best for students if we do have positive cases on any of our athletic teams.”

CHS second baseman Ty Dunkleman to play college ball at Concord

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School graduate Ty Dunkleman has announced plans to continue his baseball career at Concord University this fall. The three-year starter at second base is the seventh senior from the 2021 CHS class who has signed to play baseball in college.

According to Dunkleman, several factors came into play in his decision to play baseball at Concord University.

“Some of the most important reasons why I decided to commit to Concord were the great environment, the competitive nature, and the coaching staff,” Dunkleman said Wednesday.

Dunkleman was a part of two regular season River Ridge District championships. He joins Ian Perkins, Tripp Compton, Connor Brizendine, Reagan Harris, Clay Clatterbaugh, and MJ Hunter in playing at the next level. Hunter will also be in a Concord uniform.

Hunter and Dunkleman have graced the diamond together since recreation ball.

“We have always had a special connection on the field, which was made even stronger from our being in the middle infield together since we were playing 11U travel baseball,” Dunkleman said. “We have both always had the dream of playing college baseball, and the fact that we will be playing at the same university is surreal. We have always pushed each other to be the best we can be, which makes me excited to see what MJ and I can accomplish at the next level together.”

The Concord University baseball team was 18-23 during the regular season, but the Mountain Lions played for the Mountain East Conference Championship in 2021. The team includes former Auburn High School standout Keith Reed, who is a sophomore.

Dunkleman plans to major in business finance.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Former Christiansburg High School second-baseman Ty Dunkleman places a tag on an opponent during a game this season. In the background is teammate MJ Hunter. The two former Blue Demons will play together at Concord University this year.

High School senior baseball games to feature Christiansburg, Blacksburg players

Brian Hoffman
bhoffman@ourvalley.org

At least one good thing has come out of the pandemic: the baseball event today, Aug. 14, at Haley Toyota Field in Salem featuring area high school seniors.

With the high school spring sports seasons cancelled last year, the Salem Red Sox and members of the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame board decided to

have games for players who missed their senior seasons. Seniors were split into four teams for two games played at Haley Toyota Field, the home field for the Salem Red Sox. It proved to be such a popular event that the decision was made to turn it into an annual affair, even when the regular baseball season returned.

Today, the Red Sox and the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame will again put on a double-

header for high school seniors, and it’s free of charge for spectators. Two seven-inning games will be played with a special presentation in between.

The second game of the day will feature seniors wearing green and gray jerseys. The green team will consist of players from Patrick Henry, Staunton River, Liberty and Christiansburg while the

See Games, page 9



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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc



RU hires new softball coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University has a new softball coach. On Monday, Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg announced former Concord Coach Alisa Tasler would lead the program.

Tasler had spent the past 10 years at Concord, compiling an overall record of 247-228.

"We are thrilled that Alisa Tasler is our new softball coach," said Lineburg. "She has done an excellent job as the head coach at Concord University leading that program to new heights. She has tremendous experience as a head coach and she has great passion for the game of softball. We are very excited about the future of Highlander softball."

Tasler brought success to Athens, W.Va. quickly, turning the team around from bottom of the division finishes to a perennial contender for NCAA Tournament bids. After a season that saw just one win before her joining of the staff, Tasler worked through two losing seasons in 2012 and 2013 before the team went on to post 30-win seasons in five of the last six full seasons.

In 2019, she led the team to its most successful season in program history. The

Mountain Lions made their first NCAA tournament appearance and finished second in the MEC South with a program-record 38 wins. The program also made the NCAA Tournament in 2015 where they would record their first-ever win in the national tournament with a 3-0 victory over West Chester.

Tasler previously spent time as the head coach at Neosho Community College in Chautauque, Kansas for six seasons before joining Concord. The Panthers won 54 percent of their games in the demanding Jayhawk Conference in her final two seasons, including a 2011 squad loaded with 14 freshmen. Tasler's program also experienced excellence in the classroom, earning several Academic All-American honors.

Tasler also spent time as an assistant at Pittsburg State for three seasons, increasing the team's win total every year from 18, to 28, then 44. Pittsburg State ranked second in the nation in team GPA over that span as well.

A native of Newcastle, Okla., Tasler played softball and basketball at Northern Oklahoma College, where she set several school pitching records while helping the Northern Oklahoma College basketball team win back-to-back conference championships.

Games from page 8

gray team will have seniors from Blacksburg, Cave Spring, Franklin County and Northside. Reagan Harris will represent Christiansburg and Blue Demons coach Dale Nelson is on the coaching staff. Blacksburg will be represented by graduated seniors Ben Miller, Colin Wilson, Brady Semtner and Carter Hill.

Saturday's first game will begin at 4 p.m. between teams wearing navy and red shirts. The navy team will consist of players from Glenvar, Lord Botetourt and William Byrd, and they'll take on the Red team with players from Hidden Valley, James River, North Cross and Eastern Montgomery.

After the first game the Salem-Roanoke Valley Hall of Fame will have a special presentation of the annual Ray Bellamy Award for the Player of the Year in the area served by the Hall of Fame. That area includes the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties.

The five finalists this year as voted on by high school coaches in the eight-county area of the Hall of Fame along with Hall of Fame Board members are Tyler Dean of William Byrd High School, Isaac Fix of William Byrd, Cory Sigmon of Northside, Holden Wilkerson of Cave Spring and Michael Williams of Franklin County.

A presentation will also be made to an area player as the winner of the Posey Oyler Scholarship, sponsored by the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. The award will be presented to a player who will go on to play in college and has shown a dedication to the game.

Concessions will be available during the games this Saturday, and the Hall of Fame building will be open for players and fans to tour, free of charge. The Salem-Roanoke Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third-base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark.

VT Football Fan Day returns Sunday

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech's annual Football Fan Day, presented by Virginia529, makes its return in 2021 at the Beamer-Lawson Indoor Practice Facility on Sunday, Aug. 15, with festivities starting at 1:30 p.m. and concluding at 4 p.m.

Hokie fans of all ages are invited to this in-person event for a chance to meet Tech football players and coaches.

The HokieBird and members of the Virginia Tech Spirit Squads will be present beginning at approximately 1:30 p.m. outside the practice facility. Once the gates open, the HokieBird and members of the Spirit Squads will enter the practice facility.

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 day's festivities will conclude at 4 p.m. ET.

Fans will be able to get autographs from their favorite players and coaches during the event. Autograph lines



Due to current COVID-19 policies on campus, all unvaccinated guests at Fan Day will need to wear a mask.

will close at approximately 3:30 p.m. Posters and autograph cards will be provided, and attendees will also be allowed to have one outside item autographed.

No posed photographs will be permitted.

Admission and parking are both free with parking available in Lot 1 closer to the soccer fields, Lot 3 (on

Sterrett Drive across from the VT Police Station), and Lot 5 (Chicken Hill). Please be advised it is also Move-In Weekend on campus, which will result in extra congestion.

Tickets will not be available to purchase on site; however Virginia Tech representatives will be on site to answer ticket-related questions.

Two Pulaski River Turtles named Appy League all-stars

The Appalachian League Wednesday announced its 2021 all-star team prior to the completion of its inaugural season as a collegiate summer league as part of the MLB and USA Baseball Prospect Development Pipeline (PDP) and included two Pulaski River Turtles -- utility infielder Mark Trotta and catcher Ryan Johnson -- on the team.

The honorees were nominated and voted on by the league's managers and are highlighted by Elizabethton's Marcus Brown, who was named Player of the Year, and Greenville's Bryce Mayer, who earned Pitcher of the Year honors. Additionally, Greenville manager Alan Regier was named the Appalachian League Manager of the Year.

Brown earns league Player of the Year honors after a stellar summer at the plate for the River Riders. As of Aug. 3, his .407/.602/.535 slash line led the league, and he had recorded a team-best 48 hits and 13 doubles. Brown, who plays collegiately at Oklahoma State, had slugged two triples and two home runs in 2021 and led Elizabethton in runs scored (35), RBIs (30), and walks (27). The Springdale, Ark., native was also tied for the team lead in stolen bases with 12.

Regier was named the 2021 Appalachian League Manager of the Year after leading Greenville to the West Division title this summer. As of Aug. 3, the Flyboys were a league-best 30-14-1 and had the league's third-highest team batting average at .263 and the lowest ERA (3.61) in the league.

The league all-star team is composed of five infielders, four outfielders, three pitchers, one catcher, and a designated hitter. The infielders are Brown at shortstop, Brady Day of the Princeton WhistlePigs at second base, Oscar Serratos of the Burlington Sock Puppets as a utility infielder, Mark Trotta of the Pulaski River Turtles at third base, and Johnson City's Joe Vetrano at first base.

Named to the team's

outfield were Greenville's Homer Bush, Jr., and Princeton's Nathan Holt and Dylan Rogers. Kendal Ewell of the Bluefield Ridge Runners was picked as a utility outfielder.

In addition to Mayer, who earned all-league honors as a right-handed pitcher, left-handed pitcher Cole Kirschier and relief pitcher Zane Probst were named to the squad. Kirschier competed for the Kingsport Axmen before joining the USA Baseball Collegiate National

Team in its series against the U.S. Olympic Team in July.

Rounding out the all-star lineup are Pulaski's catcher Johnson and designated hitter Sam Thompson of the Elizabethton River Riders.

Eight of the 10 Appy League teams are represented on the 2021 all-star team with Princeton's four selections leading the way. Greenville and Elizabethton each had three players chosen while Pulaski had a pair of athletes selected, and Bluefield,

Burlington, Johnson City, and Kingsport had one each. Eight of the 14 honored athletes play in the league's East Division and six compete in the West Division.

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Terms – Bidding opens on August 26th. 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Buyers are expected to complete due diligence prior to bidding. Earnest Money Deposit of \$150,000 required on day of sale. Close in 60 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 9th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes.

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

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