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VT Class of 2023 ring design to be unveiled at Burruss Auditorium



The Ring Premiere starting at 8 p.m. this evening will feature fireworks.

The ring design of Virginia Tech's Class of 2023 will be unveiled this evening, Oct. 6, at the Ring Premiere in Burruss Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m.

The Virginia Tech class ring embodies the memories and traditions that link generations of Hokies. Each year, one side of the ring is redesigned to reflect the special moments shared by an individual class.

A photo montage submitted by students will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Corps Gregory Guard will be on the steps of Burruss.

Here are six things to know about this year's event:

1. Virginia Tech is one of the few colleges and universities that redesigns its ring collection every year. The Class of 2023's design will be unveiled at the premiere.

2. The tradition is more than 100 years old. The first set of rings was created during the 1911-12 school year when the classes of 1911 through 1914 designed four unique rings.

3. After the premiere, the celebration will continue with a fireworks show over the Drillfield. The Skipper Cannon will be part of the celebration.

4. Each class selects a ring namesake and class sponsor. The Class of 2023 honorees are Irving L. Peddrew, the first Black student admitted to Virginia Tech, and Bevlee Watford, associate dean for equity and engagement.

5. The Highty-Tighty band will play "Tech Triumph," a Ring Premiere tradition since 2006.

6. The Ring Premiere gives the Class of 2023 the chance to check off some bucket list items. No. 36 is attending the Ring Premiere. No. 5 is ordering a class ring. No. 40 is attending the Ring Dance.

The new collection will be on display at the Squires Student Center.

Radford homecoming queen and king crowned



Tyrel Dobson and Anna Turk were named the 2021 Radford High School homecoming king and queen during halftime ceremonies Friday night.

Touchdown in New England: VT School of Communication alumna lands job with Patriots

After trekking all over the country as she sought the next big step in her sports journalism career, VT School of Communications alumna Tamara Brown has scored a touchdown, landing a job as the team reporter and producer for the New England Patriots.

"Through patience and persistence and networking, I've been able to secure this job," Brown said. 'You just have to be willing to take those risks to move. I've been moving all over the country since I graduated from Virginia Tech."

Working in the National Football League isn't new for Brown. Upon graduation in 2015, Brown spent two years working as a talent/ personality for Fighting Irish Media at the University of Notre Dame. From there, she decided to take a postgraduate internship with the New York Giants as a production assistant.

See **Brown**, page 5



Tamara Brown began her career in the sports industry as a student at Virginia Tech. After many stops along the way, she's now the team reporter and producer for the New England Patriots. Photo courtesy of Tamara Brown.

From hatchlings to loggerheads: A Hokie spends the summer aiding and rehabilitating sea turtles

The day starts early for interns at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.

"We have a number of chores we do every morning," explained Ben Cotter, a senior majoring in wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. "From preparing food for our more injured turtles that are in private tanks, to preparing water and scooping the tanks, there's a lot that has to happen."

That's all before the guests arrive. To help raise funds to protect endangered sea turtles, the center, located in Surf City, North Carolina, offers tours to visitors and collaborates with an area summer camp to foster education about conservation

and rehabilitation efforts.

Kathy Zagzebski, executive director of the Sea Turtle Center, said that the 11 summer interns are responsible for all aspects of the center's mission.

"We have a three-fold mission when it comes to the conservation of sea turtles," she said. "The primary aspect is the rescue and rehabilitation of injured sea turtles. Another is the close monitoring and protection of nest sites from human and predator interference. And the third is education and outreach, where we encourage people to learn more about sea turtles and hopefully get involved in conservation efforts.'

Three species of sea turtles are common along the mid-Atlantic

coast: the green sea turtle, the loggerhead, and the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, the most endangered species of sea turtle in the world.

"The injuries we see are seasonally dependent," Cotter said. "In the summer, the majority are sea turtles that have swallowed fishing hooks because they like hanging out under the fishing piers, waiting for free food. The other challenge is boat strikes.'

For Cotter, having the chance to interact with wild animals has been

"The public is generally who we'll hear from about injured turtles," explained Cotter, who serves as the social media chair for the Virginia Tech student chapter of The Wildlife Society. "They'll call us, and we'll drive out to pick up the turtles. Bringing them in is fun because we are trained to help handle them and can assist in the vet side of caring for the animals." Cotter has also monitored nest

sites, helping to ensure that sea turtle hatchlings make it from the nest into the water. He even participated in the challenging task of moving turtle nests from a threatened location to one that is more secure for

"It's a pretty careful process," he said. "If you jostle an egg or accidentally flip it over, you'll kill the embryo. And it's really important to place the eggs exactly as they were in the first nest. I describe it as a puzzle with high stakes."

New Montgomery choral group organized



Director Thomas DeBusk leads the Blue Ridge Vocal Connection singers in a voice warm-up exercise Thursday evening. The group is spread out in a church sanctuary to observe social distancing. The group has already given a concert on Labor Day weekend and plans another at Warm Hearth Village on Oct. 24. Plans for several Christmas concerts are in the works.

tion, a skill that carries over

everywhere," he said, even

with children. He said he

could foresee adding family

groups to the chorus. "There

encourages people to social

distance during rehearsals

and offers them plenty of

space in area church sanc-

tuaries where rehearsals

take place. Often the group

splits into smaller rooms for "sectionals," rehearsals for

small groups with empha-

sis on their own voice parts.

DeBusk acknowledged the

small rooms were a less sat-

isfactory setting for social

actually the most exposed

participant. The singers, he pointed out, are "all fac-

ing forward for a couple of

hours." He said he some-

nection (BRVC) has gener-

Blue Ridge Vocal Con-

times opens windows.

Perhaps the director is

distancing.

The choir director said he

is no lower age limit."

Pat Brown Contributing writer

A new choral group in the area, the Blue Ridge Vocal Connection, was organized over the summer despite the pandemic, draws mostly from Montgomery County communities, and has a lawyer for a director.

The group is some 20

people strong
Director Thomas DeBusk, who lives in Blacksburg and practices law in Christiansburg, is the force behind-and in front of-the group. He called his summer organizational rehearsals "Sing for Your Summer." After a summer of practicing and rehearsing, the group made its first public appearance Labor Day weekend at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

"I really like to teach people to sing," DeBusk said.

ated "a steady stream of introl. Sight-reading music

terest," DeBusk said. The group will present a reprise of their September show at Warm Hearth Village on Oct. 24 and has already begun to work on Christmas

Ben Cotter (second from left) and other volunteers move a previously injured loggerhead turtle named Spock. (Photo courtesy of Ben Cotter)

"Singing is not something we do enough of." He said he staged the Sept. 5 concert outside to "generate some publicity." DeBusk pointed out that vocal music teaches people discipline and con-

"promotes paying atten-

See **DeBusk**, page 3

Wednesday, Oct. 6:

Draper Road Streetscape

The Town of Blacksburg will hold an in-person meeting and Open House at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will review previous feedback and explore concepts for the Draper Road Streetscape project. RSVP to save a seat: Reimagine Draper Road | Public Meeting #2 Tickets, Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 6 p.m. Eventbrite. A summary of the first public workshop is available at www.draperstreetscape.com/draperroad-vision.

Noise Alert: Fireworks

The VT Class of 2023 Ring Premiere event that begins at 8 p.m. will feature fireworks on the west side of the Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus.

All the appropriate cautions will be in place. VT Rescue will provide EMT standby. VT Health and Safety has requested standby coverage to begin 30 minutes prior to the schedule shoot time.

Thursday, Oct. 7:

American Legion meet-

American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Author Talk: Writers by

At the Christiansburg Library at 6:30 p.m. Do-

nia Eley and Grace Toney Edwards will discuss their new book, "Writers by the River: Reflections on over forty years of the Highland Summer Conference." The book will be available for purchase at the event, and the authors will be available to sign copies after their talk.

Saturday, Oct. 9:

Radford Highlanders Festival 2021

The festival will feature the famed heavyweight games, sheepherding, live entertainment, food, vendors, and festivities for all ages. The festival is a partnership between Radford University and the City of Radford. It will be held on the Radford University campus and is open to the general public with free admission.

Tuesday, Oct. 12:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to the meeting. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Friday, Oct. 15:

Cannon Firing Homecoming Parade

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon will be fired twice the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 15, as cadets march a pass in review on the Drillfield in honor of Virginia Tech's homecoming. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. Skipper will be fired at the first note of the National Anthem and the first note of "Tech Triumph" with two shots total.

Noise Alert: Fireworks

A fireworks event at 8:45 p.m. on the west side Drillfield of the Virginia Tech campus will be part of homecoming celebra-

Wednesday, Oct. 20:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting

The RFAAP community meeting will be held on Wed., Oct. 20, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. The rescheduling of this meeting will allow RFAAP to provide the most current updates on environmental and modernization projects. Broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP Modernization and Environmental Projects. The public can reach out with questions or can conduct research on their own through several resources, including

Facebook: https:// www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunition-Plant/.

Homepage: http:// www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.

Email: usarmy.radford. peo-eis.list.rfaap-publicaffairs@mail.mil.

In-Person Learn Lunch at Hahn Horticulture Garden 'Crafting a Garden Vi-

sion" with Steve Hale. This presentation is de-

signed to give participants new perspectives on their own gardens no matter how large or small. Join for an hour of "Crafting a Garden Vision" at the Hahn Horticulture Garden Pavilion from noon to 1 p.m. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Friday, Oct. 22:

VT Corp of Cadets Formal Retreat

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will hold a formal retreat ceremony at 4:15 p.m. on Upper Quad. The Color Guard will lower the flag, and the regimental band, the Highty-Tighties, will play. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire once.

Sunday, Oct. 31:

Grove UMC Trunk or Treat

This is an afternoon of safe fun trunk or treating. The trunks will be filled with treats provided by Grove UMC members and students from the Wesley Student Center at Radford University. There is no cost for this event. For more information 540-639-2807.

Through Oct. 19:

Crafts-to-Go

At the Meadowbrook Library. Drop by the library for Halloween and autumn take and make craft kits. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are lim-

Diaper Drive benefiting Montgomery County Christmas Store

At the Blacksburg Library. The Blacksburg Junior's Club and the Blacksburg Library are hosting a diaper drive benefiting the Montgomery County Christmas Store. All sizes of diapers are needed and are welcomed.

Through Oct. 20:

Halloween Costume Drive

At the Meadowbrook Library. The library is looking for gently used costumes in all sizes. Drop off Halloween costumes during library hours through Oct. 20. Come to the Halloween Costume Mania and select a costume for children or adults while costumes last.

All month of October

Halloween-Sidewalk Obstacle Course

A Halloween-themed obstacle course at the Meadowbrook courtyard. Don't forget to count the candy corn throughout the course to win a prize. The event is perfect for all ages and abilities. Those who complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing which will be held Oct. 25.

Passionate Painters

At the Blacksburg Library. Come check out the beautiful works by

the students and friends of VT Lifelong Learning

Grab-and-Go Meals All the month of October at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Offering free grab-andgo meals and snacks. Children 18 years and younger can come and get a week's worth of meals and snacks. Each box will contain a fiveday supply. This is free to all children/teens during library hours. Sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia, an equal opportunity provider.

Radford Farmers Market The Radford Farmers Market continues each Saturday through Oct. 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

Christiansburg Farmers Market

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

Ongoing:

Get your passport at the Radford Public Library

The Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Those planning overseas travel are advised to get their passport as early as possible as the current wait period is up to 18 weeks.

Award-winning filmmaker and alumnus to speak at event this evening

Virginia Tech will host a conversation with BK Fulton, an award-winning filmmaker, businessman, author, and alumnus, today, Wednesday, Oct. 6. The conversation will follow a debut screening of Fulton's film "Love Dot Com" at the Lyric Theatre beginning

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and the Black Cultural toring discussions. Center in conjunction Sankofa was developed Inclusive to create a tight con- ence."

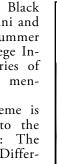
AFFORDABLE DENTURES & IMPLANTS

The event marks the nection between Black successful launch of students and alumni and Sankofa, a new initia- began this past summer tive introduced by Stu- at the Black College Indent Opportunities and stitute with a series of Achievement Resources alumni-to-student men-

The event's theme is with the Office for In- "Reaching Back to the clusion and Diversity. Next Generation: The

"Each generation has an obligation to the ones coming after them and the ones who paved the way before them," said Fulton, a 1989 Virginia Tech graduate. "It's like a relay race and at some point, you will be handed the baton and we have to run our legs of the race. The question is are you advancing the good cause or standing in place?"

Fulton is the founder Soulidifly Produc-



Award-winning filmmaker, VT alumnus BK Fulton will speak this evening, Oct. 6, at the Lyric Theatre at 7 p.m. following a debut screening of his film, "Love Dot Com." tions, one of the largest ticipant of the Sankofa

independent film production companies on the East Coast and is the 2021 inaugural par-

Business Alumnus in Residence program.

Soulidifly is a fullfeature film, stage, and television investment and production company designed to promote a more inclusive narrative in major media.

NRV Community Foundation calls for 2022 scholarship applications

CHRISTIANSBURG -- The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) has issued its annual call for scholarship applications, which opened Oct. 1, 2021.

High school students, college students, trade students, and adults returning to college in the New River Valley (NRV) can review more than 45 available scholarship opportunities and apply at https:// cfnrv.org/scholarships/ applicants-information/. Applications are due by January 31, 2022, and recipients will be announced in April of 2022.

The program aims to support the educational aspirations of students so that they can achieve their full potential, to nurture a skilled workforce in the region, and to cultivate future community leaders. It has grown steadily over the past 19 years, awarding over \$850,000 to 750 scholarship. students from over 45 en-

dowed scholarship funds. Individuals, families, and NRV businesses establish the funds, which the CFNRV invests for longterm growth. The CFNRV also manages the application process. Each scholarship fund has its own unique criteria, meeting the interests of the donor and ensuring that there is an opportunity for students of all kinds to earn a

Last year, the foundation celebrated the largest year of the program to date, awarding over \$117,000 in scholarships to 78 students from across the NRV. The 2021 group of scholarship winners were a diverse group. 21.7% were first-generation college students, and 29.4% qualified for a full Pell grant. Many recipients are staying in Virginia to attend Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College, while others are attending schools across the country.

This year, the traditional scholarship awards dinner was changed to a scholarship picnic to allow social distancing and to be outdoors due to the ongo-See NRV call, page 3

The COMMUNITY **FOUNDATION** of the New River Valley

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"Paper Alchemy" on display in RU's Covington Center

"Paper Alchemy," an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, is now on display at Radford University's Art Museum at the Covington Center.

Thurman is an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. His invention, Thurmanite, is a unique composite material made of layers of recycled paper bonded together with an environmentally friendly plant-based resin. "Paper Alchemy" is a dynamic demonstration of the artist's range of inventive problem-solving and creativity.

A reception for "Paper Alchemy" will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m.



Passion for sailing gives master's student **Hugh Dougherty a competitive edge**

"So, what did you do over the summer?" Typical fodder for small talk. Most answers to this conversation starter involve tales of travel, summer internships, or periods of rest and relaxation. Not too many students return to campus for a new academic year with Virginia Tech graduate student Hugh Dougherty's answer: He participated in one of Europe's most famous and revered events in offshore yachting.

Dougherty, who is working toward a master's degree in ocean engineering, recently arrived on campus after participating in the 49th edition of Rolex Fastnet Race, a yacht race that takes place every two years and is considered to be one of the greatest challenges in sports. First held in 1925, the demanding offshore classic is organized by the Royal Ocean Racing Club and requires the very best in skill, determination, and teamwork to succeed.

A native of Cambridge, Mass., Dougherty has been sailing for over 20 years. Gradually, he progressed to racing more competitive boats and fleets and transitioned to team racing through weekly competitive fleets out of the MIT Sailing Pavilion.

Through a friend — a competitive MIT female sailor — Dougherty was introduced to the world of Oakcliff Sailing in Oyster Bay, N.Y., leading to new opportunities in match racing and offshore sailing. While a trainee at Oakcliff Sailing, he competed in the 2018 Newport Bermuda race and then captained Temptation, a 50-foot race boat, back to Newport, R.I., with a skeleton crew in heavy seas and stormy weather.

This past summer, as Dougherty was working as the boat captain of Temptation, he happened to meet the skipper of the Volvo Öpen 70 Hypr Ocean Racing. Hypr, formerly known as Camper, was designed for and finished second in the 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race, and the crew had a short stay in Newport as they prepped the boat for a transatlantic delivery. Dougherty got to know the crew and asked the skipper to keep him in mind should they ever need more crew members.

"On August 1st, I got a call asking if I could hop on a plane and be in the U.K. in a few days to do the Fastnet Race with Hypr," said Dougherty. "I booked my flight and flew out Wednesday, landed in the U.K. on Thursday, and the race started on Sunday, Aug. 8. One of the key things that allowed me to do this was that the U.K. lifted their mandatory quarantine period for vaccinated

people coming in from the U.S."

The 2021 race was composed of around 450 yachts ranging from 30 feet to 125 feet and featured more than 2,000 sailors from 31 countries. Divided into seven starting groups, the competitors were a mix of professional and amateur, experienced and newcomers, young and old. The Hypr crew was made up of 12 international professional and semi-pro sailors.

The race started in The Solent, a strait just off of Cowes in the U.K. Yachts raced out through the English Channel past the Needles, across the Celtic Sea to round Fastnet Rock, just off the southwest coast of Ireland. The crews faced a new twist in the near 100-year-old challenge this year and headed to a new finish line at the breakwater in Cherbourg, France, which extended the race

Over the course of the race, the 12-person Hypr crew was split up into three watches with three to four people on each watch. This system allowed them all to get a bit of sleep and be semi-rested for their next watch. According to Dougherty, the crew turned out to be a very competitive and cohesive team because of each member's high level of skilled proficiency, despite never having previously

"The race from the start to Fastnet Rock saw very rough sea conditions, as is classic," said Dougherty. "We saw the current going with us to the west and the wind blowing the opposite direction to the east making for tall, steep waves in a short period. The wind on average was mid 20 knots with gusts seen up to low to mid 40 knots."

Hypr finished 14th in the IRC Z class, out of a total of 24 vessels. "We would have been far more competitive if it wasn't for the starboard daggerboard breaking on our practice day prior to the start," said Dougherty. "We were training out in the Solent just outside of Portsmouth Harbor when we hit an unidentified object. It was suspected to be an old chain, a remnant from World War II, when chains were set in place to prevent the movement of submarines and other vessels. For boats to hit objects like this is supposedly a common occurrence."

After graduate school, Dougherty hopes to get involved with an Ocean Race team as a sailor and/or support for the 2022-23 Ocean Race, and will later possibly try to sail at a high level while working on a design team for an America's Cup syndicate.

–By Jama Green

Two new grants will address major threats of pests and weeds to Virginia's thriving agriculture industry

A pair of grants awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension will help tackle two of agriculture's greatest threats:

A one-year, \$210,000 grant will support the Virginia Extension Implementation Program, a project that will explore the use of integrated pest management, better known as IPM.

Daniel Frank, director of Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs, is the grant's principal investigator.

"Major commodity sectors addressed in this project include both field and greenhouse/nursery crops, which when combined comprise nearly one-third of Virginia's farm cash receipts," Frank said. "Despite the value and growth of these and other commodity sectors, significant pest management challenges threaten the profitability and sustainability of Virginia agriculture. Problems with a diverse and ever-changing array of invasive and native pests pose a continuing challenge, and educational programs are needed to shift growers away from prophylactic use of pesticides and toward adoption of IPM."

Activities planned for this fall surrounding the project include:

Creating a digital media library to support Extension programming.

Expanding current pest management guides into digital formats.

Showcasing IPM for the red imported fire ant.

Conducting on-farm demonstrations of IPM and pest management tools in agronomic and specialty

Promoting pollinator through the creation of Virginia Bee

Providing support for pest diagnostic facilities.

The second grant, at a total of almost \$325,000, will support a farmer

cooperative and on-farm research and Extension project called "Turning the Combine from a Weed Seed Spreader into a Weed Seed Predator.'

Michael Flessner, associate professor and Extension weed science specialist, is the grant's principal inves-

'In response to farmers' needs and growing issues of herbicide resistance, my lab has been looking into managing weed seeds at harvest in Virginia for over five years," Flessner said. "Our preliminary research into weed seed retention at crop harvest, modeling the weed seedbank, and preliminary on-farm research indicate that so-called harvest weed seed control holds tremendous potential for management of some of our most troublesome weeds in soybean and wheat. I'm excited to continue this research by examining state-of-the-art harvest weed seed control technology called seed impact mills."

Over the next three years, Virginia Tech will be teaming up with researchers from Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Texas A&M University, North Carolina State University, the University of Delaware, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and the University of Arizona to examine how effective seed impact mills are at killing weeds seeds during harvest, how many weed seeds make it to the mill in commercial combines, and what the operating costs are to farmers.

'I greatly appreciate the support of this research effort to date from the Virginia Soybean and Small Grains Boards, an integrated, collaborative grant from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech and NC State University, and USDA ARS Areawide Project Funds," Flessner said.

–Written by Mary Hardbarger



Combined, the grants from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture total more than \$535,000 and support the important research of weed and pest management.

DeBusk from page 1

music. DeBusk is anticipating several Christmas performances in and around the county, plus a possible visit to perform at a nearby

The director said he looks forward to the day his group can "surpass the rule of two or three." That is a crowd estimate performers used to determine the size of their anticipated audiences.

when the audience comes to see the person they know on the platform," DeBusk said.

He plans to keep offering "uplifting, good music that can inspire people," he said. The September concert included "Eye of the Tiger" and "Morning After" both of which DeBusk categorized as "about overcoming adversity." "Pure entertainment"

was the label he gave "Ghostbusters," another song on the program. And there was "Impossible Dream," which he called "uplifting."

DeBusk comes to his avocation as choral director by a surprising

"I was a functional monotone as a teenager," he said. He took piano and organ lessons during

those years and studied music at Appalachian Bible College in Bradley, W.Va.

But he said it wasn't until he was an adult student of Nancy McDuffie (formerly of Virginia Tech) that he found his vocal stretch. All along, "I had a notion that I could get better," he said of his early vocal struggles.

His first stint at conducting was

with a bell choir at Cambria Baptist Church for a decade and more recently with the Giles Community Choir for five years.

BRVC rehearses on Thursday evenings at St. Thomas Episcopal Church at the corner of Main and Roanoke streets in Christiansburg.

"I would love to see this develop into a community group that has impact," DeBusk said.

ing COVID-19 pandemic. Many were happy to have an in-person celebration this year, as the 2020

celebration was canceled. The Blacksburg High School National Honor Society Legacy Scholarship was established in 2015, and members of the National Honor Society at Blacksburg High School have raised money to endow and grow the fund over time. The scholarship benefits a student with strong academic achievement, a strong track record of leadership and service to the school and/or community, and a strong desire to continue that level of service during col-

Katherine Lynde, an English teacher at BHS and the National Honor Society Sponsor, sees the relationship with the CF-NRV as an important way to support graduating

BHS students. "When the said, Blacksburg High School scholarships program is National Honor Society my favorite part of my officers and sponsors de- role at the foundation. cided to create and build I'm proud of the diversity an endowed scholarship that our scholarships offund almost a decade ago, fer to students in the New we immediately sought River Valley. Not only do the assistance of the CF-NRV," she said. "We have for students attending been so happy that we a college or university, did. After successfully raising the required balance through various fundraising events, our organization is now proud to say we provide ongoing annual scholarships to graduating Blacksburg High School students, and CF-NRV manages the fund for us, solicits scholarship applications, and selects recipients based on our specific criteria. It's been an absolutely fantastic partnership." Laura Pynn, the ad-

ministration and programs manager at the community foundation,

"Overseeing we provide scholarships

but many of our scholarships are focused on trade schools as well.

"During the COV-ID-19 pandemic," Pynn said, "the value of trades and trade schools has really come to the forefront, and we want to be sure that those who choose that



www.nrvsuperbowl.biz

tunity to apply for scholarships to get their education as well.'

More information about the scholarship program and how to apply is available at https://cfnrv.

org/scholarships/applicants-information/. Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship fund can contact the foundation at 540-381-8999 or email cfnrv@cfnrv.org.



- Stream & Pond Services
- Light Excavating/Grading
- Pipe & Culvert Cleaning
- Rock & Stump Removal
- Crane Services
- Bucket Truck Services (Underground Utilities
- Storm Water Management



Buddy King: Significant places from my childhood

ing up to my back door on my return from work. I spotted a huge praying mantis clinging to the screen and tried to recall the last time I had seen one of these prehistoric bugs. It caused an immediate flashback to a memorable experience and where I was when I had seen a whole colony of these creepy creatures.

The memory took me back to my secondgrade year, Mrs. Page's class, in the basement of what was then called Christiansburg Primary School. Our class was "observing" these weird bugs, I guess, and Mrs. Page had brought in a glass aquarium and put a couple of examples in it for our viewing pleasure. Apparently it was a male and a female because when our class of 7-year-olds returned on Monday morning the next week there seemed to be hundreds of the darn things everywhere. On desks, on the blackboard, on the windows. Jumping, spitting, staring. It's a lasting memory, Mrs. Page apparently not really being a "bug person" when they were in her hair instead of in the nice aquarium she had bought for them.

Mainly this episode

lapidated and wasting ing. Lots of memories. away building on Junkin my Childhood."

building. It was only a marbles and tag and few blocks from their breaking our arms durhome on Craig Street ing recess. and close to downtown,

brought back memo- perfect for a family of ries of the school build- eight kids without a car, ing we were in, the one all of whom had afterwhere I attended first- school jobs. Later, while and second-grade (no my dad was superintenpublic kindergarten in dent of schools, his ofthose days). It is the di-fices were in this build-

My recollection (per-Street, directly across haps inexact) of the prifrom the house my mary school is of eight grandmother and moth- classrooms, four on the er and aunt built after first floor and four more my grandfather had died in the basement (first working for the railroad graders on the first floor, and they were forced to second graders in the sell their little dairy farm basement), oil-treated in Riner. It was not in wooden plank floors (I great shape 60 years ago guess to hold down the and being abandoned dust.), and hideous redoes not appear to have strooms (at least for the improved its condition. boys) where you did But it made me think your business in an open about my personal ver- trough in the concrete sion of the National floor. There was a stage Historic Register, or per- on the first floor and an haps I should call it the office for the principal "Buddy King Register of (Willie Sue Stone in my Significant Places from time, a nice lady probably, but one who met the This old schoolhouse description of the nuns certainly holds a cher- who had taught many ished spot on my regis- of my Catholic friends ter. Before it became the I met in later life. She place kids my age started "struck fear in the heart," their school experience, in other words.) There it had been the home was a little playground of Christiansburg High on the right-hand side of School. My father and the building with swings his twin brothers and and something called a at least one of his sis- merry-go-round where ters graduated from this we took turns playing

> Next on my register, chronologically speaking, was the "Christiansburg Annex," a few blocks away on East Main Street, where my contemporaries and I went for the third and fourth grades. I am fairly certain this building was the original high school before the one on Junkin Street. In recent years it was sold and converted

into an apartment building where a few of my friends have lived at different times.

The "annex" had the same charm as the primary with oil soaked floors and concrete urinals in the floor. It had the extra benefit of a cafeteria in the basement with seriously entertaining ladies who fixed our lunches and chattered at us. I also remember that we were not allowed to respond or to talk to each other, strict silence being the order of the day and eating being serious business.

The crown jewel of places on my personal "Register of Significant Places" is, of course, the old high school off College Street. My family history runs deep in that building, my dad having taught and been principal there for 20 years, my Aunt Maggie having taught English and government there for 40, having spent my own high school years there and having numerous cousins and aunts and uncles who walked those halls and graduated from there, not to mention the many dear friends I made during my years. I was practically raised by the faculty of CHS when

my dad was principal. I believe this building served as the high school from 1934 until 1974 and housed grades eight through 12 for many of those years, built for 800 students but having 1100 at times. It was on property next to a more "modern" school next door, built in the 1950's, where my group went for grades five through

Elementary. I happily grew up about a halfmile walk from these schools, so I never rode buses after fourth grade and made the short walk out West Main Street hundreds if not thousands of times.

The old CHS was as charming a school building as any you could find. It is perched on a knoll with a small, shaded campus in front and is just a short walk to old downtown Christiansburg. It is a beautiful brick building with large windows and a circular drive in front. (My dad once forgot to set the parking brake on his car while he was principal, and his Chevy rolled down the beautiful lawn, crossed College Street without accident (thank goodness) and crashed into the storefront of his great friend Icky Pharis's dry cleaners. It made for a great story for years.)

The old schoolhouse had many charms: classic hallways lined with old-style lockers, an auditorium with a stage where the original gym had been, a perfect setting for our "Friday Night Lights" directly on the site behind the school, the legend of the Black Sisters (who had run a boarding school called Montgomery Hall for rich girls from New England, several of whom allegedly were murdered by the sisters and were buried around the grounds, leading generations of CHS students to believe the school was haunted), thousands of interesting

kids and hundreds of

memorable teachers and

I'll end the tour of my Register of Significant Places on a sad note. One of my great friends from CHS days who still lives in the area sent me a photograph of the recent renovation (desecration?) of the gymnasium at our old school. Apparently the gym, which I am guessing was an early 1950's addition, is being converted into a bus garage for the county. This beautiful old gymnasium where so many Christiansburgers took physical education classes and played basketball and volleyball games and danced at sock hops, presumably will henceforth house yellow buses sitting on grease-stained concrete floors. Only the walls will remain I guess.

If only they could talk. I am sure there are lots of old CHS coaches and gym teachers tossing in their graves. In my day, perhaps the worst offense a student could commit was stepping on the highly polished, wooden gym floor in "street shoes." You walked around. Rest assured, ladies and gentlemen, all you former teachers and coaches at CHS, if my register had been created in time, that floor would still be there.

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

News Messenger

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Virginia gas prices jump by a nickel, up almost a dollar in past year Virginia gas prices rose the cheapest station in crude oil prices remain few weeks," according to

daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

are 5.7 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 95.2 cents per gallon higher than a year

According to Gasprice reports,

\$3.05/g as of Monday, the most expensive was according to GasBuddy's \$3.49/g, a difference of 72.0 cents per gallon. The national average

Gas prices in Virginia price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.18/g. The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands \$1.01/g higher than a year ago.

'We've seen very little overall movement in gas prices over the last week with prices remaining near their 2021 highs as

five cents per gallon in Virginia was priced at well above \$70 on sup- De Haan. the past week, averaging \$2.77/g Monday while ply concerns and strong global demand, Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "With energy in high

demand ahead of the winter heating season and a surge in global demand due to COV-ID-induced imbalances, we're not likely to see a meaningful decline at the pump any time soon, but unfortunately, could see prices holding near these levels for the next

GasBuddy is the auvoice 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. GasBud-

dy data are accessible at

http://FuelInsights.Gas-

Buddy.com.

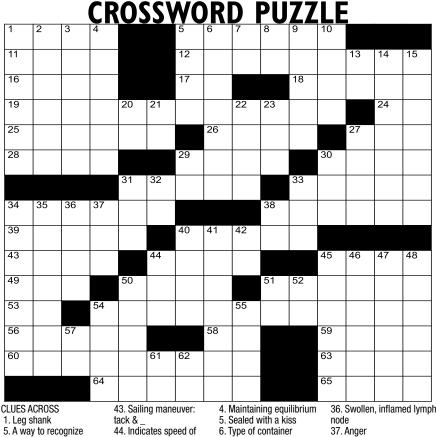
Each week the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome.



Meg is a senior cat looking for a purrfect home to spend her golden years. She does well with other cats but not with dogs. Meg is housetrained. Her adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal **Care and Control.**



Dobber is a very good boy. He's sweet and loves belly rubs. He is friendly, likes to meet new people, and gets along with other animals. He knows a few commands, including "sit" and "stay." He's treat-motivated and will gladly shake hands for something yummy to eat. Dobber is also housetrained.



5. A way to recognize 11. "VeggieTales" character rotation (abbr.)
12. Getting out of by cunning 45. Mark

16. Mythological mountain 18. Viscous liquid 19. 2010 Denzel film

24. 12th star in a constellation 25. Made better 26. Pouches

27. Nervous twitch 28. This (Spanish) 29. Tennis legend Bjorn 30. Hand (Spanish)

33. Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.) 34. Treated with kid gloves

39. Frogs, toads, tree toads 40. Popular dance

38. Leaseholder

49. Health insurance 50. Custom clothing

63. Darken

65. Work units

3. Force out

1. A way to fit out

Football carries

64. Spoke

9. Small freshwater ducks 10. Norse personification of brand old age 51. One who makes suits 53. Execute or perform 54. Degree of pleasant-

13. Says who you are 14. Candidate 15. Sugar found in honey ness when tasting and sweet fruits 56. Equal to roughly 5.6 21. Take too much 58. Blood group 59. Imaginary line 60. Hopeless

22. Iranian province 23. Records electric currents and feathers 29. Beloved Mr. T character 30. More (Spanish) 31. Beverage

32. Promotional material

33. Green vegetable

National capital 35. To any further extent

6. Type of container

7. Hollywood 8. We

46. Drink containing medicine 47. Acknowledging 20. Defunct language (abbr.) 48. Private, romantic ren-

dezvous 50. Calvary sword 51. Disease of the lungs 52. 2001 Spielberg film 54. Fleshy, watery fruit 55. In one's chambers 57. Set of information (abbr.)

61. Dorm employee

62. Indicates position

38. Pound 40. Popular Yugo 41. Salt of acetic acid

42. Millihenry

44. Israeli city _ 45. Make wider

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

BITUARIES

Cole, Bobby Gene

Bobby Gene Cole, 75, ssed away Thursday, passed away Sept. 30, 2021, at his home in Dublin

He was retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, William Arthur and Evelyn Smith Cole, and two brothers.

Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Angela and Steve Kittinger of Blacksburg, and Trina Pennington

and Edward Woodlief of Dublin; grandchildren Steven Kittinger, April Smith, Shirley Reed, Brintley Pennington, and



ry Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

The Cole family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Rad-

Griffith, Diane Trout

Diane Trout Griffith, 65, went to be with Jesus on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Terry Lynn Griffith.

She leaves behind four children and 10 grandchildren, including sons Rob Trout and daughter Theia, Adam Trout and wife Melissa, and their children Samuel, Lillian, Marilyn, Saxon, and Paulina, and John Griffith and his wife, Tracy, and children



Braxton, Madison, Brianna, and Braeden;

and daughter Victoria Lynn Wiley and her boyfriend, Matthew Marshall.

Jaylyn Pennington; great-

tives and friends.

At her request she will be

Visitation will be held at Mullins Funeral Home, 120 West Main St., Radford, on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. and a memorial will immediately follow at 3:30 p.m. with Pastor Beaver Terry officiating. The Griffith family is

in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

Linkous, Basil Lee

Basil Lee Linkous, 90, of Blacksburg, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, at LewisGale Hospital,

Montgomery. He was preceded in death by his wife, Isabell K. Linkous; his parents, Evans and Ella Linkous; and his sisters, Betty Jo Dowdy and Shirley Linkous. He was a devoted, loving husband,

father, grandfather, great-

grandfather and great-greatgrandfather. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, having served in the U.S. Army.

He leaves to cherish his memory daughters and sons-in-law, Dana L. Sutphin (Sheryl), Kay L. Allen (Tim), Joy L. Palmer (Mark), and Michelle L. Wooddell (Larry); grandchildren and spouses, April S. Clark (Brad), Holly S. Gray (John), Samuel J. Bostwick, Jr. (Lori), Amanda K. McFalls (Luke), Marcus H. Moore, Jr. (Stacy), Rusty M. Moore, Trenton J. W. Wooddell, and

Taylor L. Wooddell; greatgrandchildren Morgan and Aniston Clark, Addison and Cruz Gray, Cooper and Carson Bostwick, Trinity M. Thomas (Jesse), Dustin and Caleigh Sheppard, Paisley and Maverick Moore, and Ashton Moore; a great-great grandchild, Kaiden Thomas; a sister, Marie L. Woolwine; a brother-in-law, Curtis Linkous; a special nephew and his wife, Chester and

Debbie Linkous; as well as numerous other nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. The family is requesting that masks be worn during services.

Owens, Sherry Bell

Sherry Bell Owens, 56 of Dublin, passed away Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

Born on April 1, 1965, she was a daughter of the late Gerald and Edna Haynes Bell. In addition to her parents, Sherry was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Wallace Owens.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 36 years Mark Owens; a son, Joshua Owens, and his wife

Brittany; a daughter, Haley Owens; a grandson, Nolan; a sister Stacy DeBella and her husband Chris and their children Arianna and Hayden; and her mother-in-law, Hilda



Owens. She is also survived by many friends and her several fur children.

The family will celebrate and remember Sherry's life privately.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make memorial contributions in Sherry's memory to the Pulaski County Animal Shelter, 80 Dublin Park Rd, Dublin, VA 24084.

Condolences and memo-

ries may be shared with the family at www. mullinsfuneralhome.com. Mullins Funeral Home in Radford is caring for the Owens

Patrick, Mark S.

Mark S. Patrick, 64, of Christiansburg, went to meet his Heavenly Father on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, at Carilion NRV.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Evelyn Patrick; and his two four-legged best friends,

Bud and Lucky. Mark is survived by the love of his life for 36 years, Teresa H. Patrick; a daughter, Ashley Patrick, and her

fiancé, Aaron Johnston; a son, Stephen Patrick, and his girlfriend, Lindsey Graybill, all of Christiansburg; and his fur baby, Bingo.

Also surviving are siblings Connie P. Simmons of Christiansburg, Donald Patrick, Jr., (Brenda) of Mechanicsville, Va.; nephew and niece Josh Patrick (Ashley) of Mosley, Va. and Erin Stacy (Luke) of Ashland, Va.; three great-nieces and three great-nephews; a special father and mother-in-law, Raymond and Joyce Harris of Christiansburg; a brother-in-law, Randy Harris (Roberta) who was like a brother; a step-nephew, Toby Early of Salem, and a step-grandmother, Joyce Light, of Christiansburg.

Mark was a 1975 graduate of Christiansburg High School and a longtime employee of Radford Arsenal/BAE. He was a longtime member of Open Door Baptist Church. He loved the Lord and loved telling oth-



ers about how the Lord had blessed him and his family. He loved the week of Vacation Bible School so he could help participate in the penny parade.

Mark really enjoyed family time with his wife and kids. He was a very loving and attentive husband and was a very active and very giving dad in the lives of his children. He was a hard worker and was always will-

ing to help others no matter what their need.

Mark enjoyed going to the races with his special friends, Steve Akers and Tommy Harris, but his most favorite was the Father's Day Weekend Race in Bristol Va., that he and his son attended together. Mark was a big football and race fan. He loved watching the Virginia Tech Hokies, the Washington Redskins, and the Pittsburgh Steelers on game day. He was loved by all who knew him, and will be deeply missed by his family.

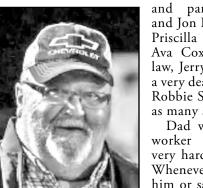
The family received friends on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, at Open Door Baptist Church. Funeral services will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the church, with Pastor Michael Johnston officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg.

Sheppard, Barry

Barry Sheppard, 66, of grandchildren, Paislynn, Pilot, went to be with the Braylin, Kashden, Addi- Lord on Sept. 24, 2021, lyn, and Taylor; five broth- after a long battle with ers; and many other rela- numerous health issues. He was born and raised

The family received in Alleghany Springs, in friends on Sunday, Oct. 3, which he was very proud. 2021, at the Mullins Fu- He was preceded in death neral Home in Radford. by his parents, Gary Funeral services with the Reed Sheppard and Vio-Rev. Dr. Paul Lane officiat- let Rena Sheppard; a sising and entombment fol- ter, Karen Crawford; and lowed in Highland Memo- a brother-in-law, Marvin Orange.

> He is survived in death by his wife of 47 years, Brenda Sheppard; a son, Curtis Sheppard; daughters Angela Arnold and her husband, Bobby, Cassandra Sheppard and her partner, Shannon Dalton, Melanie Sheppard, Autumn Sheppard and boyfriend, Darius Wayne; grandchildren Brady and Dylan Arnold, Alaina Womack, and Coy Sheppard; siblings Linda Orange, Brenda Lilly and her husband, Stephen, and twin brother Larry Sheppard and his wife, Barbara. He is also survived by special nieces and nephews, Michelle Bender and her husband, Andy, Gary Sheppard and his wife, Jocelyn, Dakota Link and wife, Kayla, Timmy Link and wife, Kristal, T.W Link, Sierra Link, Jennifer Lilly



and partner, Nichole, and Jon Link; two aunts, Priscilla Atkinson and Ava Cox; a brother-inlaw, Jerry Crawford; and a very dear special friend, Robbie Saunders; as well as many special cousins.

Dad was a very hard and worked very hard for his family. Whenever you visited him or saw him out and about, he would always

have you laughing about something. He enjoyed NASCAR, anything and everything Chevrolet, fishing, hunting, working on cars and lawnmowers, and telling you stories about his crazy experience as a wild teenager and his drag racing days. We would like to thank everyone who prayed, sent food, and cards. Even though we are sad and this will be a rough few months ahead, we are thankful Dad is now pain free and is reunited with his loved ones who are in Heaven.

The family received friends on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Horne Funeral Home. A memorial service was held on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel. There was no interment.

Brown from page 1

After two more stops in Colorado Springs as the on-air host for the Mountain West Conference and in Miami as a social media correspondent for the University of Miami Athletics, Brown's New York connection paid off.

A friend from Brown's time with the Giants notified her that the job with the Patriots had opened and asked whether she would be interested. It was a no-brainer for Brown. She passed her résumé along and three rounds of interviews later found her next landing spot in New England.

"Through my journey I've been able to build a network," Brown said. "It's so important when you're networking not just try to meet as many people as possible, but to keep up with those people and build relationships with them. Frankly, that's how I got to where I am now."

It was Brown's four years at Virginia Tech studying multimedia journalism that shaped and molded her into the professional she is today. Her role as manager of Virginia Tech's women's basketball team, for example, enabled her to network with the strategic communications staff and HokieVision, the production unit of Virginia Tech Athletics.

"It was such a blessing to go to a school like Virginia Tech and have resources readily available to me. I tell people all the time when they reach out to me that lech has a great athletics department, Brown said.

"I had access to people like April Goode, who traveled with the team, and Andrew Allegretta, who was our radio play-by-play guy for Learfield IMG. Having those people and being able to build those relationships as you're traveling was awesome. That started early at Virginia Tech. Then, I was able to start working men's basketball games and I was able to get involved with HokieVision."

Telephone: _____

Not only has Brown made Virginia Tech proud, but she's opening the door and carving out the path for other women to land jobs in sports careers. Her passion for female empowerment in the sports industry is hard to go unnoticed.

"Having women in this field is so important," Brown said. "If there's one thing I learned through my five-year journey working in sports, it's that we have to pull up chairs for each other at the table. Often when you look around the table, when you look around the room, there's only one or two of us there."

It's why Brown makes herself available on a daily basis to connect with aspiring female sports journalists. She'll have honest conversations with these women to guide them on their journey as they chart their own path. It can even be as simple as Brown passing along job opportunities and looking over a résumé or reel.

"For me, we're a sisterhood," Brown said. "We're not competing against each other. There are opportunities for everyone. It's my job to make more seats at the table for women in sports because I feel like the sky is the limit for us. We bring such unique viewpoints and perspectives to this industry, and there needs to be

"Right now, as I'm sitting in this position, I'm so grateful I took all those proauction internships, social media jobs, and sponsorship jobs because they all ultimately helped me get to where I am today," Brown said. "I look back and I'm like, 'Wow, if I had gotten this job three years ago I wouldn't have been ready.' Appreciate the process because you are gaining the skills and the knowledge and the resources you need to ultimately land your dream job."

-Written by Cory Van Dyke

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Yard Sales -**Botetourt County**

Garage/Moving Sale

Sat October 9 RAIN DATE 16th 7:00-3:00 3092 Blacksburg Rd., Troutville

Furniture, home goods, like new gaming chair, desks, new Bball goal

Yard Sales -Montgomery County

Garage Sale

170 Kays Drive Christiansburg Friday and Saturday October 8th & 9th 7:30am-5:30pm

Yard Sales -**Radford City**

Yard Sale

Saturday, October 30th 10am-4pm Number 84 Fairlawn Storage Next to Cemetery Next to Sheetz Free Stuff Furniture, chairs, electronics, old computers, old printers, Knick knacks, and surprises

Yard Sales - Salem

Salem Moving Sale 202 Taylor Ave Fri Oct 8 10-2 Sat Oct 9 11-2 Sun Oct 10 1-3 Many family pieces do not

fit in new home. Pie Safe, Ice Box, Kitchen Cabinet, Wicker Sofa and Chairs, 2 King Beds Dressers, Sofa, Large Craftsman Tool Box, Tools, Wrought Iron Furniture. Much More. See Pictures & Info @ estatesales.net Pamela C Graham

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Misc.

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For Sale - Misc

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Legals - Botetourt County

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION Secure Store-

70 Market Ridge Ln, Daleville, VA 24083, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 560 and unit 515. The auction will end on 10/20/2021 at 12 Noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until October 20, 2021. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storageauctions/us/

Legals - City of Radford

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ003213-14-00 Radford City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Radford City DSS

Alyssa Parris The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Alyssa Parris, legal parent of Zyan Parris a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time. failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to, the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support.

The termination of your

residual parental rights will

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permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition

It is ORDERED that Alyssa Parris appear at the abovenamed Court and protect his or her interests on or before December 6, 2021

9/14/21 Melinda D. Bishop Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 Case No. JJ003213-15-00 Radford City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Radford City DSS

Dante Larnell Hayes The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Dante L. Hayes, legal parent of Zyan Parris a minor, in that said parent has, without good cause, failed to correct the conditions which resulted in the child entering foster care and it is not reasonably likely that they will be able to do so in a reasonable amount of time, failed to maintain continuing contact with the child and substantially plan for the child's future. Residual parental rights include, but are not limited to, the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. It is ORDERED that Dante

Larnell Hayes appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before December 6,

9/15/21 Melinda D. Bishop Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

City of Radford Appropriation Ordinance for F.Y. 2021 Radford City Budget

Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on October 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street for the purpose of receiving public comments on the C ity's proposed appropriation ordinance of \$4,114,196 to the F.Y. 2021 City Budget for the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

BY ORDER OF THE RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on October 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of .Com Properties 8, LLC property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1796 Apperson Drive (a portion of Tax Map # 257-2-1.1) from HBD Highway Business District to LM Light Manufacturing District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or

Legals - City of Salem

amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests. THE PLANNING

COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA James E. Taliaferro, II

Executive Secretary

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that Storage King USA 201 Berkley Rd.NE Roanoke VA 24012 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents . (Virginia Statute 55). The sell will take place at the website Storage Treasures.com on 10/12/2021 at 9:00 am. The sale will be conducted on Storage Treasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (2907004316) on the behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on Storage Treasures.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 15% buver's premium will be charged as well as a \$100 cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. 308-Robert Newman Household goods: 068-Enchante Crusehousehold goods: 253-Ashley Wrighthousehold goods: 223-Christen Tuckwillerhousehold good: 303-Alexa Brooph-

Notice is hereby

household goods:

household goods:

household goods:

103-Ray Ortega-

household goods.

121-Sherrie Robey-

152-Randall Mcdaniel-

given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem. at its regular meeting on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the

OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: 1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of .Com Properties 8, LLC. property owner, for rezoning the property located at 1796 Apperson Drive (a portion of Tax Map # 257-2-1.1) from **HBD Highway Business** District to LM Light Manufacturing District.

following requests relative

to the CODE OF THE CITY

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia,

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE

JOB VACANCY

Seeking a Full-time Dental Assistant for the Craig County Dental Center located in New Castle, Virginia. Experience preferred, but not required. Must have the ability to establish a good rapport with staff and patients, excellent communication and computer skills, Positive attitude, energetic and motivated. Hours of operation are Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. NO WEEKENDS. Criminal background check and drug screen required. Great benefits package included. Please send completed application and resume to Monroe Health Center, P.O. Box 590 Union, WV 24983, Attn: Stephanie Aliff, HR Director. Applications are available at all MHC locations, or can be downloaded at www.monroehealthcenters.com . Monroe Health Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Legals -Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE CBG790, LLC, trading as

Earth Fare, 2705 Market Street, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-0001.

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

Dennis Hulsing, Owner

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 14, 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(known as the Marketplace shopping center) to allow multi-family residential uses as part of the overall site masterplan. increased building heights and reduced onsite greenspace from the B-3, General Business standards, and a reduced residential parking requirement for the independent living multifamily use on Tax Parcel 436 - ((5)) - 1. The Planned Commercial District also includes Tax Parcels 436—((5))—B, F, I, L, and M and Tax Parcels 406—((7))—E and K. The overall site is approximately 28.9 acres. This Planned Commercial Development was originally approved by Town Council on September 24, 2019. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and public comment can be made in-person. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/yout ube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburg.org/publ ichearings.

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

TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG, **VIRGINIA** THE CONSOLIDATED **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE** AND EVALUATION **REPORT** (CAPER) The Town of Christiansburg,

as a recipient of Community **Development Block Grant** (CDBG) funding, is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prepare the 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and **Evaluation Report** (CAPER). The CAPER is an evaluation and performance report detailing accomplishments toward meeting the goals outlined in the 5-year Consolidated Plan. The CAPER compares the actual

Legals -Montgomery County

performance measures with those measures listed in the 2020 Annual Action Plan. Public Comments will be received through October 28, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street to receive comments on Council's intention to adopt the 2020 CDBG CAPER. A draft copy of the 2020 CDBG CAPER is available for review ending October 28, 2021 and may be viewed in the Office of the Town Manager, Town of Christiansburg, 100 E. Main Street during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, a draft electronic copy is available on the Town's Web Site at https://www.christiansburg.o rg/729/Community-Development-Block-Grant. Any interested party whose participation in this meeting would require reasonable accommodation of a handicap or language services should contact Andrew Warren at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by e-mail at awarren@christiansburg.

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE Walnut Avenue Bicvcle and Pedestrian Accommodations Project From: W. Lee Avenue To: 1st Street Willingness to Hold a

Public Hearing Find out about a proposal to provide bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along Walnut Avenue from W. Lee Avenue to 1st Street as identified in the 2010 Vinton Area Corridors Plan and approved by the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) in March 2018 and May 2021. The Project will improve bicycle and pedestrian access and safety along Walnut Avenue and provide connections to and from Tinker Creek and Glade Creek Greenways.

You may view the Project information on the web at www.vintonva.gov/walnut2 or by visiting to the Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Please call 540-983-0605 in advance of your visit to assure that staff is available to meet with you and answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied through informal discussion, the Town of Vinton is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a request in writing to Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director, Town of Vinton Municipal Building, Planning and Zoning Department, 311 S. Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179. Your request must be received on or prior to October 28, 2021. If a request for a public hearing is received, a notice of date, time, and place of the hearing will be publicly posted

Town of Vinton ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this Project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact Anita McMillan at the phone number listed above

State Project: RSTP-U000-149-253, UPC: 113565

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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 RIV-ER BRIDGE REPLACE-

ER BI	R	IDGE REPLACE-	LANE CLOSURES:				
	f (Ownership, Management and Circulation By Publications Except Requester Publica					
1. Publication Title	Ne	ws Messenger	Publication Number 0 1 6 4 9 0	3. Fili	ng Date 09/29/2021		
4. Issue Frequency		s	Number of Issues Published Annually	6. An	ual Subscription Price		
		ce Weekly	104		\$44.00 ct Person		
7. Complete Mailing A Addr 1: Addr 2:	PO I	ss of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and Box 1125		Conta	Lynn Hurst		
	Sale	m, VA 24153		Telep	540-389-9355		
Circ, State 219: Salem, VA 20153 540.389-9355 Circ Complete Multing Address or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer) Addr 1: Po Box 429 Addr 2: 4							
City, State ZIP:	City, State ZIP: Lewisburg, WV 24901						
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor (do not here blank) Fullsher (Name and complete mailing address) Name: Machael Showel Machael Showel							
Addr 1: Addr 2:	ddr 1: PO Box 429 ddr 2:						
Editor (Name and com	or (Name and complete mailing address)						
Addr 1:	Ed McMinn PO Box 1125						
Managing Editor (Nan Name: Addr 1:	Editor (Name and complete mailing address) NA						
Addr 2:							
City, State ZIP: 10. Owner (Do not leave ble names and addresses of	nk 1	f the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediaboliders owning or holding I Porcent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a	Sizedy followed by the contrarion, eine the				
names and addresses of each individual owner.	all the	individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give it's name and publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give it's name and address.)	address as well as those of				
Full Name Virginia Media, Inc.			Complete Mailing Address PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901				
Michael Showell			PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901				
11. Known Bondholde	rs, M	ortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or					
Other Securities. 1 Full Name	or mo f non	ore of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or e, check box	Complete Mailing Address				
Pun Name			Complete Maining Address				
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:							
		Has Not changed During Preceding 12 Months					
ļ.	ال	Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation	n of change with this statement below)				
PS Form 3526, July 2	2014						
13. Publication Title							
News Messen	ger		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	9/22	/2021		
15.		Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date		
a. Total Number of Co	pies	(Net press run)	During Preceding 12 Months 3,	400	3,1		
	(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal					
b. Paid and/or	-	nate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal		65			
Requested Circulation	(2)	Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales		921	8		
Caculation	(3)	Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Ouside USPS		755	7		
	(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0			
c. Total Paid Distrib [Sum of 15b. (1), (2	ution	L	1	741	1,7		
d	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		14	1,7		
Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	(2)	Free or Nominal In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0			
(By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other		0			
	(4)	Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail) Fire or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail ((Carriers' or other means)) Rate Distribution (Sum of 154 (1) (2) (3) and (4))	1.	500	1,3		
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		(See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		255 145	3,0		
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			skip to line 17 on page 3.				
16. Electronic copy Ci If present, check b	ox			_	X		
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		Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided bt 16c x 100) all my distribution copies (electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal pric	55.0		58.20		
17. Publication of Stat	emer	a of Ownership	_				
		1. Will be printed in the 10/06/2021	issue of this publication.		Publication not required		
	of E	iditor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Title		Date		
Michael Showell	nagio-	furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who fu	Publisher mishes false or misheading information on this f	ome	09/22/2021		
or who omits material (including civil penalt	or in	trumistical on this torm is true and comporte. I understand that anyone who tu- formation requested on the form may be subject to criminal sunctions (including	ng fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanction	s .			

MENT IN MONTGOM-From Sunday, October ERY COUNTY – Lane and 10 through Friday, October shoulder closures may be in 16, alternating lane closures place near exit 105. Lane may be in place on I-81 closure may be in effect dur- northbound between mile ing the week from 8 p.m. markers 104-106 during to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to may be in effect at any time 5 a.m. the following mornduring the week. Slow rolls ing. SLOW ROLLS: Slow may be performed on I-81 in the north and south- rolls may be utilized peribound lanes from mile odically on both the northmarker 104 to 106 from 9 bound and southbound p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is lanes from mile marker 98reduced to 60 miles per hour 109 for structural steel dein the work zone. Shoulder liveries and setting beams. closures will remain in place

is estimated by June 2022.

I-81 BRIDGE RE though the duration of the PLACEMENT AT EXIT project. Project completion 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 fall

LANE CLOSURES:

Alternating lane closures may be in place for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning.

RAMP **CLOSURES:** Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during nighttime hours for milling and paving from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Message boards will update drivers. Only one ramp will be closed at a time.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

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

CLOSURES: LANE Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle

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. REPLACEMENT

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE SENECA HOLLOW -Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure with a detour is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. 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. 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 following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/ Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last until Fall 2021.

INTERSTATE 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 under-

INTERSTATE 81

project is summer 2022. Drivers should expect delays. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81

way. Weekday and weekend

lane and shoulder closures

may be in place. Estimat-

ed completion date of the

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.

Daytime lane closures with flagging operations may be in place on Green Ridge Road due to installation of shoulder stone.

I-81 PAVING OPERA-TIONS - 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.

I-81 BRİDGE 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.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERA-TIONS - 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 EXPRESS-WAY PAVING OPERA-TIONS - 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 WIL-LIAMSON ROAD - Work is underway to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson

See **VDOT**, page 10

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Montgomery Sports

High school football: Topsy- | Hokie 5K, Halfturvy season continues

Marty Gordon

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The COVID pandemic continues to turn the area's high school football season upside down with changes on a weekly

Schedules and games change weekly, and teams are hoping theirs is not the one to receive that phone call on Wednesday.

Auburn is still facing the lack of numbers game, having to cancel another game this past week, but Athletic Director Paul Dominy remains optimistic for the future.

"We are taking the numbers week-toweek. When we have enough players to field a team and play a game we will do so. When the numbers fall too low, we are unable to play," Dominy said.

"We believe that we have a bright future in football. We have had decreasing numbers for several years now, but we think that the new offense will energize the student body to come out for the team," the AD said. "We got a late start with a July coaching change, which has affected this year, but with a full year to work on the roster we do not expect to be in this situation again."

That lack of numbers has also affected the wrestling program at Auburn, which the school has decided to cancel for this year. Dominy said there had been a lack of interest on the part of the students. "Part of this has been due to the nature of wrestling and the potentially increased likelihood of catching COVID," he said.

The school would like to restart it

somewhere down the road if and only if the interest picks back up.

But Auburn is adding another sport to its list. This past week, the school advertised for a swimming coach. There has been considerable interest, according to Dominy, on the part of the student body as 15 athletes have signed up for the sport. "Everyone is quite positive about starting the program and there is a level of excitement as we prepare for the season," he

This week in football, we will see the "Battle of the Burgs" between Blacksburg and Christiansburg. Blacksburg leads the series, which dates to 1914, 56-37-6, but Christiansburg has taken the last two, 57-0 in the spring and 21-14 in 2019.

Over the history of the rivalry, Blacksburg has outscored their cross-county rivals 1,684 to 1,126.

In the early years, six games between the two schools were played at Miles Stadium on the campus of Virginia Tech.

On a side note, a former Radford football player is getting his kicks in at Boston University. Connor Lytton began training camp back as the third option for the Boston Terriers, but he has been elevated to the top of the depth chart since the Temple game. Incumbent Aaron Boumerhi suffered a season-ending hip injury in camp and was replaced by Danny Longman, who started against Colgate and

Lytton had four PAT kicks against Temple and solidified his claim to the top spot with field goals of 49 and 31 yards against Missouri. He was also 5-for-5 on

Area Top Five: 1) Salem, 2) Christiansburg, 3) Hidden Valley, 4) Glenvar, 5)

Football game previews this week: Eastern Montgomery (2-2) at Craig

Last week: Craig rolled over a winless Roanoke Catholic squad 34-18. Pudge Peters scored three touchdowns as Craig racked up 279 yards rushing.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 27,

Carroll County (0-4) at Radford (4-2) Last week: Carroll took a game against Floyd to overtime but fell short 20-18. Elijah Cox did toss for 204 yards for Carroll while Bryce Smoot had seven catches for 106 yards.

Radford rebounded from its loss to Christiansburg by downing Alleghany 42-6. Marcell Baylor threw two touchdown passes while Darius Wesley-Brubeck scored on a 49-yard run. Baylor also added 100 yards rushing on four carries. Tyrel Dobson added 102 yards with three touchdowns.

Prediction: Radford 34, Carroll County 20.

Grayson County (3-2) at Auburn (0-3) Last week: Grayson slid by Ft. Chiswell 18-7. Canaan Jones finished 11 of 18 passing for 200 yards. Auburn spent another week watching from the sidelines.

By the time this game is scheduled to play, the numbers game or the lack of numbers could force a cancellation.

Prediction: Grayson 40, Auburn 7. Blacksburg (0-4) at Christiansburg

Last week: Christiansburg fell to Salem

24-7, while Patrick Henry routed Blacksburg 42-0 in a game that saw the Bruins produce only three first downs and 32 yards in total offense.

Prediction: Christiansburg 33, Blacksburg 21.

Marathon held Sunday



The Hokie Half-Marathon field leaves the starting line Sunday morning at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The top men's finishers were first place, Sila Kiptoo (right), second place, Shadrack Keter (center left), third place Jason Putnam (left), fourth place, Ethan Edwards (center), and fifth place, Tyler Krickovic (center right). Kiptoo set a new record of 1:03:47.11 for the 13.1-mile course.



Sarah Naibei was the Hokie Half-Marathon women's winner with a time of 1:14:30.99.

Blue Demon Dawson Gragg commits to Concord for baseball

Marty Gordon

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Another member of the Christiansburg High School baseball team has committed to play at the college level. Outfielder, first-baseman Dawson Gragg announced Sunday he would join MJ Hunter and Ty Dunkleman at Concord University in Athens, W.Va.

"I chose Concord because they made me feel like I could come in and start early in my career, and I loved the campus," Gragg said.

He finished his junior year with a .326 batting average at CHS with a .531 on-base percentage. Playing in a summer league this year with the NRV Tigers, he hit .349.

Gragg is eager to join his former

teammates at Concord. "We were super close when we played high school ball together, and we know how each other plays. I think we will have that same chemistry at Concord," he said.

Gragg also wrestles at CHS where he has been a two-time state placer. He loves to hunt and fish and enjoys working on the family farm.

Concord University is an NCAA Division II school and is a member of the Mountain East Conference.

2021-22 marks Kevin Garrett's 22nd season as the Mountain Lions' baseball head coach. He has 486 career wins. Concord is a public university with 1,644 students.

Gragg hopes to major in either criminal justice or biological science with the long-term goal of becoming a police officer or biologist.



Andrew Lightner was the men's 5k winner Sunday with a time of 19:22.93.



Christiansburg's Dawson Gragg will continue his baseball playing career in the fall at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia.

Only 11 years old, Mariah Reed was the women's overall winner in the Hokie 5k race with a time of 20:32.04.

Lady Hokies hit the floor running

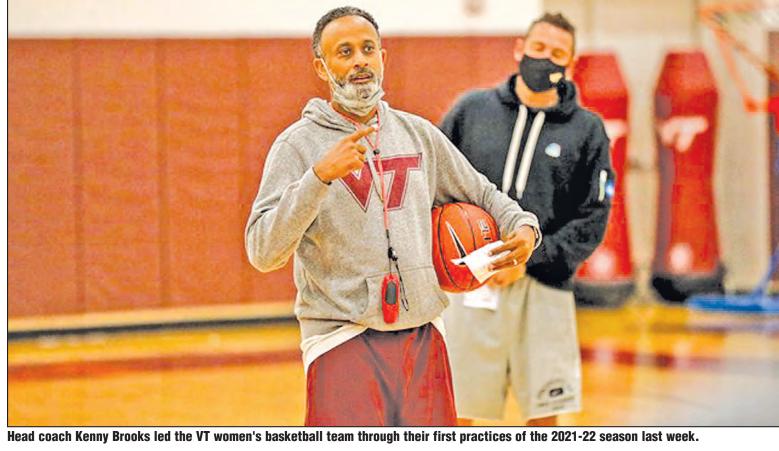
women's basketball team held its first official practices of the 2021-22 season last week at the Hahn Hurst Practice Facility.

The Hokies are looking to build on a strong campaign last season that included a program record six straight ACC wins, the highest ever win over a ranked team (over No. 2 NC State) and a secondround appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Kenny Brooks enters his sixth season at Virginia Tech with a 101-59 record during his tenure and a career record of 438-181.

Brooks will have plenty of experience at his disposal with nine upperclassmen on the roster. Two of those, Aisha Sheppard and Elizabeth Kitley each earned First Team All-ACC honors a season ago, the first VT duo to do so in the same season.

as one of the best to ever record 87 3-pointers. play for the maroon and game and finishing fifth in college basketball.



Sheppard will go down nationally with a school

The 6-foot-6 Kitley orange. The Alexandria, was the only Power Five Va., native ranks first in sophomore to average 18 Virginia Tech history for points and 10 rebounds threes made (306) and is last season. She recorded seventh in points scored 13 double-doubles and with 1,445. She was topped 30 points twice. named an honorable men- Kitley was a finalist for tion AP All-American after the Lisa Leslie Award, recaveraging 17.7 points per ognizing the best center

That dynamic duo combined to score 30 or more points in 80% of Tech's games last season and was the highest scoring tandem in the ACC.

During the off-season, the Hokies added a 1,000-point scorer in grad student Emily Lytle, who starred at Liberty for the past three seasons, scoring 1,153 points and

shooting better than 42% from the field. Adept at the long ball, Lytle nailed 171 threes during her time with the Flames. A 5-foot-11 guard/forward from Memphis, Lytle led the Flames to a 19-8 record in 2020-21, earning First Team All-Conference honors after averaging 14.7 points and five rebounds per game, both

career highs.

Tech also bolstered its roster by adding Kayana Traylor, a 5-foot-9 point guard from Martinsville, Ind., who spent the last three seasons at Purdue. Traylor led the Boilermakers in scoring last season, averaging 15.0 points while shooting 38.7% from the field. She made 26 3-pointers and

averaged 3.9 assists and 2.8 rebounds per game. Her career-high in scoring came on Feb. 21 at Michigan State when she scored 31 points on 10 of 20 shooting from the field. She was named to the Big Ten Coaches Second Team in 2021 and was the 18th player in Purdue history to dish out 300 career assists.

Hokie 5K, Half-Marathon Top 50 finishers

The top 50 finishers in the Hokie 5K run Sunday were 1) Andrew Lightner, 19: 22.93, 2) Ryan Hamrick, 3) Ryan Bagchi, 4) Mariah Reed, 5) Joshua Wolfe, 6) Connor Szwetkowski, 7) Gavin Diggs, 8) Bill Collins, 9) Rob Semntner, 10) Kendall Schlueter, 11) John Fiorini, 12) Patrick Dickens, 13) Colin Googan, 14) Christian Walkup, 15) Justin Grady, 16) Stephanie Vaccaro, 17) Keely Semtner, 18) Grant Talbott, 19) Jason Lancaster,

20) Todd Ramboldt, 21) Felix Lopez, 22) Matthew Enzinnia, 23) Leah Santos, 24) Lynne Still, 25) Serena Miller, 26) Braxton Lee, 27) Ian Stanley, 28) Brian Shelor, 29) Harrison Lancaster, 30) Ryan Lancaster, 31) Eddie Harmon, 32) William Poland, 33) Ben Norris, 34) Ashley Harris, 35) Erik Lewis, 36) Ellen Hamrick, 37) William Starkey, 38) Melissa Vaden, 39) Luke Weiler, 40) Samantha Brooks, 41) Sarah Soto, 42) Nick Buchbinder,

43) Robert Kendall, 44) Patrick Miller, 45) Elly Haden, 46) Emma Larkin, 47) Brad McCumsey, 48) Jonathan Crewe, 49) Kevin McGhee, 50) Morgan Velez.

The top 50 finishers in the Hokie Half-Marathon run Sunday were 1) Sila Kiptoo, 1:03:47.11, 2) Shadrack Keter, 3) Jason Putman, 4) Ethan Edwards, 5) Sarah Naibei, 6) Tyler Krickovic, 7) David Walls, 8) Matthew Wisnioski, 9) Spencer Conti,

10) Garrett Pitt, 11) Jack Bosley, 12) Anderson Norton, 13) Pamela Cherotich, 14) Todd Musher, 15) English Jackson, 16) Ignacio Moore, 17) Liam Davis-Wallace, 18) Joy Miller, 19) Nathan Vollbrecht, 20) Sam Forsyth, 21) Scott Huxtable, 22) Kevin Byrd, 23) Kyler Stanley, 24) Brandon Herndon, 25) Paul Rhodes, 26) Robert Sherfy, 27) Max Stallkamp, 28) Will Christman, 29) Drew Ayers, 30) Nicholas Conte, 31) Luke

Vest, 32) Kyle Weatherholtz, 33) David Woodson, 34) Arindam Faidkar, 35) Thomas Davis, 36) Konnor Rafferty, 37) Ken Mallory, 38) Erik Bowman, 39) Adam McNeeley, 40) Mitchell Parvin, 41) Sean

O'Mara, 42) Brad Soucy, 43) Andrew Murley, 44) Marc Edwards, 45) Jacob Brummond, 46)

Hunter Varner, 47) Hannah Varnell, 48) Jimmy Moore, 49) Jack Stipe, 50) Gary Buss.

VT athletics launches Hokie Network

announced the launch of the Hokie Network, the new official home for Virginia Tech alumni athletes, managers, video teams, and trainers.

Former student-athletes

alumni services provided by the Monogram Club in one centralized location.

Virginia Tech is committed to providing a first-class experience for our student-

Virginia Tech athletics has now have access to all of the athletes throughout their time portunities to improve com- tance to us and our goal is to in Blacksburg and beyond, Director of athletics Whit Babcock said. "We are thrilled to announce this new partnership with Athlete Network, as it will provide endless op-

munication, increase engagement, and provide a lifelong networking hub.

"Both the current and former student-athlete experience is of the utmost impor-

ensure the latter always feel connected to the place they once called home," Babcock said. "This partnership allows us to reach for excellence in our engagement efforts.'

from page 8

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

LANE CLOSURES:

A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.

A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5

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

RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTE-NANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUN-TY- Weather permitting, crews will be milling and

p.m. through Sunday at 2 paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should ex-

pect possible delays. I-581 BRIDGE DECK I-581/220 LANE & 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.

> **INTERSTATE** (CARROLL COUNTY)

I-77 PAVING OPERA-TIONS - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and

possible delays.

I-77 BRİDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-77 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR MAIN-TENANCE OPERA-TIONS IN CARROLL Weather COUNTYpermitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-77 BRUSH MOVAL & SHOULDER WORK - Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes I-77 northbound

and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will

be in place.

ROANOKE COUNTY ROUTE 220 SLOPE REPAIRS TO BEGIN IN ROANOKE COUNTY **NEAR CROSSBOW CIR-**CLE INTERSECTION -Work to repair a slope along southbound Route 220 just south of its intersection with Route 1290 (Crossbow Circle) in Roanoke County has begun. Heavy rains in recent years have caused debris and soil along this slope to move. Drivers can expect short-term lane closures with flaggers directing traffic on Crossbow Circle when construction equipment is being moved into the site. A shoulder closure along southbound Route 220 will be installed in the months ahead as work progresses. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed Fall 2021. **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

