



This homecoming tradition involves a lucky game ball, 100 miles, and spirited Ranger Company cadets

“Game ball! Touch the homecoming game ball!”

Last week, three Army ROTC students from the Ranger Company ran up the sidewalk on Kent Street, holding out a football. Some who passed them looked perplexed.

Others, like Andrew Adams who was walking to class, reached out to touch the leather-skinned ball as it went by him.

“If someone runs by me and says ‘touch the ball,’ I’m going to do it,” said Adams, a first-year student at Virginia Tech.

But this wasn’t just any football, and it wasn’t just any run through campus.

It was one of the footballs used during the Hokies’ homecoming game against the University of Pittsburgh. This annual running-the-game-ball ritual is a Ranger Company tradition that has continued, in various forms, for more than 40 years.

It began in the 1970s with a yearly Virginia Tech football game against Virginia Military Institute, then played at Victory Stadium in

Roanoke. Students with the Ranger Company would run the game ball from Blacksburg to Roanoke ahead of the rivalry matchup, said Jeffrey Jensen, who is first sergeant for the Ranger Company and a Virginia Tech junior.

With a van that followed the route, the runners rotated as they covered the approximately 42-mile distance.

In 1982, the group took the tradition farther. For the Oyster Bowl that year in Norfolk, the cadets ran 290 miles along U.S. 460, relay style. They ran through the night while taking turns to rest in a van.

Once the Hokies stopped playing the annual VMI football game in Roanoke, the Ranger Company’s Game-Ball Run transitioned to a 100-mile run around campus during the week leading before the homecoming game.

This past week, 18 Ranger Company cadets logged 20 miles a day in two- and three-mile routes that covered campus in all directions. Three cadets also delivered the ball to the referees in Lane Stadium before the 3:30 p.m. home-

coming game.

“We’re very happy that we’re still able to do it and keep the tradition,” said Jensen, who took on several legs a day throughout the week. “You don’t want to lose a tradition like this. Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever.”

The purpose of the Game-Ball Run ritual is to bring good luck to the Hokies for homecoming. But the run is also a unifier of sorts.

“It builds camaraderie between the Army, with the student population, and the football team,” Jensen said. “Normally, we wouldn’t interact with the football team or as many students on campus. It kind of ties everyone in.”

All Ranger Company cadets are not required to participate, but Jensen said finding runners isn’t a problem.

“Everybody wants to do it,” said Tim Waters, a Ranger Company cadet and a Virginia Tech junior as he waited for the ball handoff at the route change spot near the Pylons earlier this week.

Reactions to touching the game ball varied. Some people actu-



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE

From left, Ryan Kros, William Crandall, and Jeffrey Jensen, all cadets in the Army ROTC Ranger Company, ran one of the homecoming game balls around campus last week, encouraging people to touch it for good luck for the Hokies.

ally smacked the ball out of Jensen’s hands. Some wanted to grab it.

Because the run was canceled last fall because of COVID-19, at least two generations of Hokies haven’t yet experienced this annual good luck rite.

Many asked why they should touch the ball when it went by them this week. Jensen offered a brief explainer while still running.

“It’s a game ball for Saturday, and it’s good luck if you touch it,”

Jensen shouted.

Alyson Casey, a junior, was pleased to see the game-ball tradition back in action. She touched the ball when the runners passed her on Kent Street last Monday morning.

“I get excited for every game day,” she said. “This just adds to the excitement.”

*-Written by
Jenny Kincaid Boone*

Warm Hearth Village welcomes new Director of Nursing

Blacksburg – Warm Hearth Village recently hired Jennifer Akers as the new Director of Nursing for the Kroontje Health Care Center.

Akers earned her Associate of Science Degree in Nursing in 2015 from ITT Technical School in Salem while working as a certified nursing assistant. She became a Registered Nurse (RN) in 2016.

Akers came to Warm Hearth from Medical Facilities of America (MFA) Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center where she was the Director of Nursing. Previously she was the Assistant Director of Nursing at the MFA Salem Health and Rehabilitation Center.

As Director of Nursing, she serves residents’ needs on all levels

and is committed to continuously learning new nursing processes she can share with the staff. “Warm Hearth is unlike any senior community I have ever experienced. I was in love at first sight,” Akers said. “The residents are so happy and it is evident the staff cares for them as they would their own family.”

Akers lives in Pulaski with her husband, four children, two Chihuahuas, and an English bulldog. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and cooking.

Warm Hearth Village is a non-profit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.



Jennifer Akers

Eastern Montgomery homecoming king, queen crowned



PHOTO BY LAUREN TATE

Allison Ramos-Mendoza was crowned the 2021 Eastern Montgomery High School homecoming queen during halftime of Friday night’s game. Seth Burleson was crowned homecoming king.

Radford City Sheriff’s Office seeking help in deer kill

During the early morning hours of Oct. 13, 2021, unknown subjects shot two large whitetail deer with what appears to be a crossbow. Both deer had their heads, antlers, and tails cut from their body.

The carcasses were left lying in the field visible to anyone passing by. A third deer was found a few days later and appears to have been killed around the same time as the first two deer. The third deer was found a few miles away in Riverview Park near the boat ramp along the New River. This deer had met the same fate as the other two with missing head, antlers, and tail.

A part of a crossbow arrow and a hacksaw blade were left behind by the perpetrators. One of the deer was positioned in a way that hunters normally use to pose for a picture. No other information is available.

The Radford City Sheriff’s Office has been contacted by concerned citizens, and a reward has been posted for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these crimes.

A private GoFundMe account has been set up to attempt to raise funds towards this reward. At the time of this post, the reward sat at \$3,825 and is expected to grow as the news of this crime spreads.

Radford City Sheriff Mark Armentrout issued the following statement:

“This is the type of act that was not done by one person. Whether it was two people or more, there are others that have knowledge of this crime. People like to talk and brag about trophy deer; these criminals will talk. With a significant and growing reward being offered for information leading to a conviction, it is just a matter of time before someone comes forward.

“We encourage anyone with credible information to contact the Radford Sheriff’s Office at 540-731-5501 or reach us at radfordva.gov/355/Sheriff-office or Radford City Sheriff’s Office page on Facebook.”

Employee survey reveals overall positive campus climate at VT

Results from the 2021 Virginia Tech campus climate survey reveal that employees agree that the overall campus climate is positive and that they received the support they needed during the pandemic.

Employees say they are satisfied with their job (79 percent) and that people in their department or unit work well together (80 percent).

Employees agree that their department/unit leadership provided the support needed to work during the pandemic (85 percent) and that they feel safe in their workplace environment (91 percent).

The survey reveals opportunities for improvement as well, such as providing effective processes to help employees if they receive unfair or inequitable treatment.

Overall, 41.7 percent believe

their compensation is equivalent to the value they provide the university.

All employees, with the exception of student employees, were invited to take the survey between April 13 and May 3, 2021. The survey consisted of 55 questions. 3,267 employees responded to the confidential survey.

The university uses climate surveys to gauge employee perceptions about climate, diversity, inclusion, leadership, work environment, and job satisfaction.

Sponsored by the Division of Human Resources, the survey was designed by a cross-functional committee of survey and assessment experts across campus. This year’s survey questions were simplified, streamlined, and standardized, using a consistent measurement scale

across questions. Because of this, there is no direct comparison with past employee climate surveys.

“We will be able to use the redesigned employee climate survey and its results to continue our focus on excellence in the employee experience at Virginia Tech,” said Christine Luketic, director of human resources analytics and reporting.

Data will be released to colleges and units throughout the fall.

“The climate survey results will guide us as we develop strategies and make informed decisions that will help Virginia Tech become a better place to work, study, and serve,” said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. “We want to create an inclusive environment that nurtures learning and growth for everyone.”



A VT campus climate survey taken by some 3,267 employees revealed that 79 percent of employees are satisfied with their job, contributing to an overall positive campus climate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 20:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting

The RFAAP community meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. The rescheduling of this meeting allows RFAAP to provide the most current updates on environmental and modernization projects. The meeting will be 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 to conduct research on their own through several resources, including:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>.
Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>.
Email: usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil.

In-Person Learn at Lunch at Hahn Horticulture Garden

“Crafting a Garden Vision” with Steve Hale. This presentation is designed 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.

Art Club

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Paint a pumpkin in the style of Yayoi Kusama. Registration is required. For ages six years and up.

Teen Book Club: The Inheritance Games

Virtual/Online; 4 p.m. Each month the club reads a different book and meets on the last Wednesday of every month to chat about it. This month the club is reading “The Inheritance Games” by Jennifer Barnes. The club continues to meet virtually. Email mroach@mfrl.org for more information. Connect at <https://www.gotomeet.me/MFRL/programs>.

ID Thefts & Scams

Virtual/Online. 6 p.m. Prevention, Detection, and Recovery: At this meeting, the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia will discuss the most common scams, target demographics, and scam tactics. BBB will also educate participants on the prevention, detection, and recovery process of scams. Join online at <https://www.gotomeet.me/MFRL/programs>.

Thursday, Oct. 21:

Talking About Books Nonfiction:

The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. This month being discussed is “The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist” by Radley Balko, in person and virtually.

Halloween Jam and Costume Contest

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Meet at the library for a Halloween celebration and costume contest. Make creepy crafts while wearing a costume. Contact shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Halloween Costume Mania

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 5:30 p.m. Pick out a free costume for children or adults while costumes last. First come first served.

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.

Saturday, Oct. 23:

Cupcake Wars

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Come to the library for an epic and edible competition. Supplies will be provided but they are limited. Ages nine years and up. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

Trunk or Treat

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3 p.m. Dress the kids up in their Halloween costumes and bring them to the Meadowbrook Center. This event is for children 12 and under. The Trunk or Treat will be held in the parking lot near the playground behind the library. Sponsors with decorated vehicles will provide trunks filled with treats for the children. Sponsors include the Meadowbrook Public Library, Friends of the Library-Meadowbrook Chapter, and other community groups. No pets allowed except service animals. For more information contact the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Sunday, Oct. 24:

Fall Plant Swap

At the Blacksburg Library; 2:30 p.m. Bring a plant, take a plant. Packets of seeds and bulbs are welcome, too. Anyone with extra garden, landscape, or house plants can pot them up and trade them for something new. Come early to look around. This event is free and open

to everyone. Those with items to swap can participate in the first round; everyone can participate in the second round of choosing. For more information, call 552-8246 or 552-6331.

Friday, Oct. 29:

Radford Trick or Treat Trail and Harvest Festival

4 to 6 p.m., downtown Radford. Stop at downtown businesses for treats and have fun at the Harvest Festival, sponsored by Oasis Church, held in the Virginia Street and East Main Street parking lot.

Sunday, Oct. 31:

Grove United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat

This is an afternoon of safe, fun trunk or treating. Trunks filled with treats will be provided by Grove UMC members and students from the Wesley Student Center at Radford University. The event is free. For more information call 540-639-2807.

First Annual Hacksburg Pumpkin Chunkin’ Competition

From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1331 Research Center Dr. This year on Halloween, Hacksburg will be running its own pumpkin chunkin’ competition. Gather up a team to build a trebuchet capable of throwing pumpkins at targets. Official rules were sent out on Oct. 4. Email rsvp@hacksburg.org for a copy of the rules. Teams will have a registration fee, but anyone can come to watch for free. Tours of Hacksburg will also be available. With questions, email board@hacksburg.org or come to one of the open Tuesday meetings, each week at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 3:

Artist Talk with Matt Gentry

At the Hahn Horticulture Garden; noon to 1 p.m. On display will be Gentry’s watercolor paintings of Virginia Rivers. This is a free event outside on the patio behind the pavilion. It will move inside if the weather doesn’t cooperate. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Friday, Nov. 5 and Sat. Nov. 6:

Radford Library Book Sale

The Radford Public Library will hold a book sale on Friday, Nov. 5, and Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hardback books will sell for \$1.00 and paperbacks for \$.50. Children’s books are half the price of adult books. Please wear a mask and come support the Radford Public Library.

Wednesday, Nov. 17:

Hahn Horticulture Garden In-Person Learn at Lunch

“Ramps” with Pabitra Aryal; from noon to 1 p.m. A Ph.D. candidate in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Aryal is researching the onion’s cousin by growing ramps from seeds and bulbs to study the germination time of the plant. Come learn more about ramps and her research. This is a free event, no registration is needed. VT requires face masks in public spaces, so everyone will need to wear a mask at this event. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Through October:

Grab-and-Go Meals

At the Meadowbrook Public Library, free grab-and-go 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 five-day supply. This is free to all children and 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 Street

Christiansburg Farmers Market

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

Ongoing:

Passports available at the Radford Public Library

Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Those planning overseas travel should secure their passports as early as possible because the current waiting period is up to 18 weeks.

“Paper Alchemy” exhibit

Currently on display in the gallery in Radford University’s Covington Center. This is an exhibition of jewelry and other objects made from Thurmanite®, a material invented by James Thurman, an artist who teaches at the University of North Texas. 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.

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry to hold fall food drive Oct. 30

BLACKSBURG -- The Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, a joint min-

istry of churches in the Blacksburg/McCoy area of Montgomery County,

is holding a fall food drive on Saturday Oct. 30, from noon to 3 p.m. at the pan-

try, located at 706 Harding Ave. in Blacksburg.

Members of the community can drive by and drop off donations. The items most needed at this time are canned fruits and vegetables, canned tuna and chicken, canned soups, cereal, coffee, tea, and packaged goods including instant potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and hamburger, chicken, and tuna helpers.

Fireball the miniature donkey will be on hand

for pictures for anyone who makes a monetary donation to the pantry.

Sandy Hagman, chair of the food pantry’s advisory board for the food pantry, said, “We are so thankful to everyone in the New River Valley for their generous support of the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry over the years. This year, with individuals in our community suffering from job losses and other financial hardships due in part to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, more people than ever need our help, and we hope to have record donations on Oct. 30.”

Serving qualified residents of Blacksburg and McCoy, the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is a joint ministry of over 25 churches in Blacksburg of varying denominations. The pantry is also supported by individuals, organizations, and clubs that are members of the community.

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, Bote-

tourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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

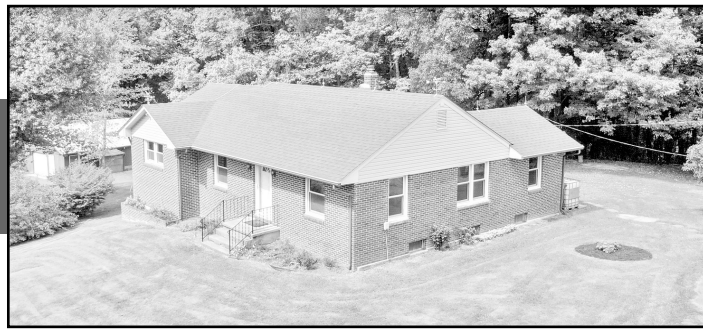
ERY COUNTY – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and south-bound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106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

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday October 28th at 4 PM
Sweet Country Home for Sale in Floyd VA!
197 Silverleaf Lane, Floyd VA 24091

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Property features a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch home with 1,730 sq. ft. of space on 2.03 +/- acres. The home is equipped with a heat pump, hardwood flooring, a shingle roof, brick exterior, private well and septic. The home was built in 1952 and has a full basement, detached garage, storage building, garden space, wood shed and much more! Kick back and relax on the patio space out back and enjoy the peaceful sounds of the countryside.

This property would be a wonderful family home with a few updates or great for an investment property! Purchase this sweet homestead to live your dream life, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Property is just a short 15 minute drive to the Town of Floyd VA and within 45 minutes of Roanoke VA.

Preview Date – Thursday October 21st @ 4 PM

Terms – 10% Buyer’s Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on October 28th 2021. Download Bidder Information Pack at VaAuctionPro.com

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

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



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Kid's Costume

game time AT THE SUPERBOWL

Christiansburg Aquatic Center November aquatic fitness schedule

Morning Fit (Monday/Wednesday); 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Nov. 1-17 and 29; \$37 for residents, \$47 for non-residents.

This shallow water workout combines calisthenics style movements with variations of upper and lower body resistance exercises. Participants will jog, kick, march, and jump through the water to improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and flexibility. The instructor is Danielle Bland at the slide side of the leisure pool in the deep beach area. The maximum enrollment is 16.

Warm Water Workout (Monday/Wednesday); 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Nov. 1-17 and 29; \$44 for residents, \$54 for non-residents.

This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations. This class is for those whose goals include increasing strength, flexibility, and range of motion in a relaxing and low impact atmosphere. The instructor is Danielle Bland in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting participation to one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

Rolling in the Deep (Tuesday/Thursday); 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Nov. 4, 9, 16, 18, 30; \$25 for residents, \$35 for non-residents.

Participants will strap on an aqua belt and take part in a deep water class in the competition pool. They may expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging and skiing to develop core strength. Jillianne Kowalcik is the instructor with a maximum enrollment of 25.

This class allows drop-in participation.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday); 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Nov. 4, 9, 16, 18, 30; \$32 for residents, \$42 for non-residents.

Danielle Bland is the instructor with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting participation to one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday) 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Nov. 4, 9, 16, 18, 30; \$32 for residents, \$42 for non-residents.

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10.

Location: Therapy Pool.

Hydro Power (Tuesday/Thursday); 5:45-6:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, 9, 16, 18, 30; \$27 for residents, \$37 for non-residents.

This aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool with instructor Jillianne Kowalcik. Maximum enrollment is 25.

This program allows drop-in participation.

Swim and Trim (Wednesday) 7-7:45 a.m.; Nov. 3, 10, 17; \$17 for residents, \$27 for non-residents.

A great way to start the day with a new routine consisting of half dryland workout and half water workout. It is guaranteed to hit all the right muscles and have participants ready to conquer the rest of their day. Participants should bring their own mats or extra towels for the deck exercise portions.

Jilliann Kowalcik is the instructor in the leisure pool with two participants per lane and a maximum enrollment of eight.

This program allows drop-in participation.

Rise N' Shine Water Aerobics (Wednesday); 7-7:45 a.m.; Nov. 3, 10, 17; \$17 for residents, \$27 for non-residents.

Gear up for this morning class that will get participants ready for the day. This is an aerobics class for the early risers so they can kick off their day energized.

The instructor is Edward Tickle on the slide side of the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

Fluid Movement (Friday); 8-9 a.m.; Oct. 22- Nov. 19 (no class 11/05); \$27 for residents, \$37 for non-residents.

This class provides exercises that assist with balance, stability, and range of motion with a gentle, movement filled workout in warm water. Warm water helps relieve discomfort of exercise or stretching while relieving stress and increasing flexibility and balance control.

Ana McRoberts is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of six.

Fit and Fabulous (Friday) 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Oct. 22- Nov. 19 (no class 11/05); \$22 for residents, \$32 for non-residents.

This workout will increase functional movement, range of motion, muscle strength, and flexibility by using inspiration from workouts such as HIIT, Tabata, Kickboxing, Aqua Zumba, and Pilates. The workout intensity will vary to keep participants moving and on their toes. Upbeat music combined with a little bit of something for everyone creates a workout for all fitness levels.

Ana McRoberts is the instructor in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of 12.

This program allows drop-in participation.

Aqua Yoga (Saturday); 9-10 a.m.; Oct. 23- Nov. 20 (no class 11/06); \$28 for residents, \$38 for non-residents.

Aqua Yoga utilizes the principles and movements of hatha yoga and adapts them to the water. The yoga poses practiced in this class will help participants develop strength and static balance and will increase their range of motion. Beginners are welcome. The instructor is Thea Vincenti with a maximum enrollment of 10.

This program allows drop-in participation.

Biomedical engineering researchers to study knee re-injury risk using wearable sensors

Each year, the number of people wearing smart watches increases, according to recent surveys. These wearable sensors are commonplace and provide useful feedback to individuals about their health. Wearable sensors can also be used in labs and clinics to gain real-time data and inform health decisions.

Supported by a \$2.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and led by Robin Queen, the Kevin P. Granata Faculty Fellow and professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics, a team of researchers from Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia will assess second anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries — a tear of the same ACL or of the ACL in the other knee — using wearable sensors.

Aided by this technology, the multidisciplinary, multi-institutional team aims to develop a model that will allow for the identification of those who are at risk for a second ACL injury when they are released to return to sports.

“The assessment of most of these measures has been completed in research facilities for years, with no way of translating this work into the clinical setting,” said Queen, who is also a faculty member of orthopedic surgery at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of

Medicine and an adjunct faculty member at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“With the advancement of wearable technologies, we are finally in a position to complete this work in the clinical setting,” Queen said. “We will be able to provide clinicians with actionable insights on which patients are ready to return to sports and which patients may need additional rehabilitation to decrease the risk of suffering a second ACL injury.”

In a recent study published by Queen, 90 percent of athletes with an ACL injury will undergo ACL reconstruction, at an estimated cost of \$3 billion annually. Additionally, athletes who have suffered an ACL injury have a 15-fold increased risk of a re-injury upon returning to the sport.

Queen and her colleagues aim to advance post-ACL reconstruction clinical care by combining traditional clinical and novel clinic-based measures to identify patients at risk for second ACL injuries as they return to sport. They hope to apply the risk model they develop from their data in clinical settings, to help decrease the number of second ACL injuries.

In the first phase of the project, Queen and her colleagues will evaluate

load asymmetry — unequal force or weight being absorbed by one limb, with a greater force being applied to the non-surgical side — using insole sensors. They will collect the data from recruited patients who have undergone only one ACL reconstruction and have been cleared for return to sport. The information collected will be used in their prognostic model for predicting risk of re-injury.

“Second ACL injuries are common in athletes returning to the sport or unrestricted physical activity,” Queen said. “Athletes have residual muscle weakness and asymmetrical loading and movement patterns after an ACL injury. Including load asymmetry in prognostic models would be an important measure in predicting risk of re-injury.”

Injury risk factors are incredibly complex and in a lot of ways individualized to the patient,” said Queen. “Using a combination of important factors, this team will be able to develop a model with the ability to identify patients at risk for an injury and determine who might need to remain in physical therapy versus those who can safely return to sport. These results will also provide clarification on the role of both physical and psychological readiness to return to unrestricted activity.”



PHOTO BY SPENCER ROBERTS OF VIRGINIA TECH

Robin Queen collects data for her extensive research on ACL injury risk assessment.

Timely rain yields ample apple harvests for Virginia farmers



Despite below-average rainfall in western Virginia through the summer, some timely rain has growers reporting harvests among the best in recent years.

Apple-picking season in Virginia is in full gear, and despite near-drought conditions that persisted throughout summer, Virginia growers are reporting their harvests are among the best they’ve seen in recent years.

“We’ve actually had one of the best crops we’ve had in a while,” said Lucky Graves, who runs a U-pick operation at Graves Mountain Farm & Lodges in Madison County. “The apples might’ve been smaller because some of the trees were a little more loaded than they usually are, but overall it’s been a great season.”

Graves, who produces 10 or more varieties of apples each year, noted his crop benefited greatly from late-summer rain that arrived after an extended dry spell. According to weather

statistics recorded by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, northern and western areas of Virginia have seen below-average rainfall totals this year.

“We got really dry in summer, and we worried about that a little,” Graves added. “But we got those late rains to help our apples along, and everything’s seemed to work out pretty good in the end.”

With the season winding down, Graves noted his operation’s farm stand still had Cameo, Fuji, Golden and Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Rome, Stayman, Winesap and York apples available.

Joe Snapp, who grows 16 varieties of apples at West Oaks Farm and Market in Winchester, also attributed the quality of his crop to well-timed rain.

“The rain in the latter

part of the summer going into fall really helped size the fruit,” said Snapp, chairman of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Apple Advisory Committee. “We’re also glad to see these warmer temperatures in the fall, which will help us with our harvests.”

Snapp said his Granny Smith, Fuji, Pink Lady, and York varieties were still being harvested, and he expected the season to conclude by the first week of November.

Frederick County grower Dudley Rinker also shared that he had an exceptional year, having closed his U-pick operation for the year in early October.

Rinker, who also serves on the VFBF Apple Advisory Committee, noted farm-fresh apples still can be easily found across Virginia. And, to the delight of baking aficionados, Rinker reported the state’s fall varieties should be “in good shape” for the remainder of the season.

“Those fall varieties are going to be the best for baking, cooking, and storing,” he said. “Summer varieties are going to get softer when you cook them and lose their shape, whereas those crisp fall apples are going to stay in nice slices for baking, and they’re going to keep better.”

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OPINION

Things that go bump in the night

From Ghoulies and Ghosties,
And long-leggity Beasties,
And all Things that go bump in
the Night,
Good Lord deliver us.
-- Anonymous poem

I have written before on this page of my fascination growing up with monsters and “ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggity beasties, and things that go bump in the night.”

I’m sure I’ve mentioned before that while the little red-haired girl down the street (Yes, Charlie Brown, I really did have a little red-haired girl with me growing up.) collaged her bedroom with photos of hunks torn out of the latest movie magazines, I had a lifesized full-color poster of Frankenstein’s monster on my bedroom door. Maybe that explains a lot of things.

Despite my advancing years, I’ve never really outgrown that interest in horror movies. In fact, my wife recently bought me a book called “Horror Cinema.” It basically reviews every horror movie ever produced and makes for some very interesting -- if not chilling --

reading.

The book was produced by an outfit called Taschen, an art book publisher founded in Germany in 1980 by a man named Benedikt Taschen. The book divides horror movies into ten different categories, which should give you some idea of the kind of book it is: Slashers and serial killers; Cannibals, freaks, and hillbillies; Revenge of nature and environmental horror; Science-fiction horror; The living dead; Ghosts and haunted houses; Possessions, demons, and tricksters; Voodooos, cults, and Satanists; Vampires and werewolves; and finally, the monstrous feminine.

The book wimps out, though, with its final section, which it grandiosely labels Taschen’s Top 50 Horror Movies. You would expect a ranking. No such thing. Instead, it takes the rather cowardly approach of merely listing the movies from one through 50 in chronological order. I felt cheated.

So, to wreak my revenge, so to speak, on that tackily arranged list, I offer to you, my erudite readers, my picks of the 10 best horror movies of all time. Please under-

stand this is totally subjective, and I can say in all honesty, I’m not exactly the world’s greatest movie critic.

Nevertheless, let’s take a plunge into the world of horror movies where things go bump in the night and we get to enjoy vicarious terror because we’re always safe sitting in our seats whether in the shelter of the dark at the movies or in the cocoon of our homes in front of the TV set.

1. The 1956 Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Neither of the two remakes measures up to the 1956 original, especially the spine-chilling scene toward the end when a frazzled, terrified Kevin McCarthy screams into the camera, “They’re here already! You’re next. You’re next.” This movie still gives me the creeps.
2. Psycho. The scariest thing about this movie? Hitchcock managed to craft a terrifying flick without any blood and also pulled off the trick of killing his heroine before the movie really

gets underway. You watch that shower scene alone in the dark and tell me how you feel afterwards. By the way, Hitchcock was such a craftsman, he took a week to film that scene. I can’t vouch for its veracity, but I’ve always heard Janet Leigh didn’t much care for showers after she made that movie. Baths maybe, but not showers.

3. The Silence of the Lambs. I’m still not old enough to watch this movie.
4. Alien. Is there a better pitch line than “In space, no one can hear you scream?”
5. The Sixth Sense. One movie, for sure, in which you absolutely cannot give away the ending without gaining an enemy for life.
6. Jaws. “You’re gonna need a bigger boat” pretty much says it all.
7. The Others. Another movie in which you can never reveal the ending.
8. Creature from the Black Lagoon. I know this sounds

like a strange choice. But after years of figuring it had disappeared from circulation, I found it recently and watched it again. It held up well, much to my surprise, as an environmentalist movie made long before environmentalism became a thing. I also gained a renewed appreciation for the creature’s fascination with Julia Adams swimming around in that white bathing suit.

9. The Blair Witch Project. No word for it but downright terrifying, except that’s two words.

10. Misery. To this day, even thinking about Kathy Bates wielding that sledgehammer makes me shiver.

So there they are. My personal favorites for what they’re worth.

The author is a man of a certain age who, despite his fascination with the warped, the demented, and the obsessed, managed to somehow grow up at least slightly normal. He’s blaming that on his parents.

WalletHub ranks top 10 Virginia colleges and universities: UVa main campus rated best, VT sixth

With the first “early decision” college-application deadline looming

on Nov. 1, and tuition and room and board at a four-year college costing

anywhere from \$27,000 to \$55,000 per year, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its 2022’s Best College & University Rankings report.

Included in its report was a ranking of the top 10 colleges and universities in Virginia: 1) University of Virginia-Main Campus 2) Washington and Lee 3) University of Richmond 4) William & Mary 5) Virginia Military Institute 6) Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University 7) Hampden-Sydney College 8) Randolph-Macon College 9) Eastern Mennonite University 10) James Madison University.

To help college-bound seniors make the most informed school choices, WalletHub compared the nation’s colleges and universities based on 30 key metrics grouped into seven categories.

Those seven categories

were 1) Student selectivity 2) Cost and financing 3) Faculty resources 4) Campus safety 5) Campus experience 6) Educational outcomes and 7) Career outcomes.

Among those 30 metrics the website used were admission rate, the share of freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, the net cost, the student-faculty ratio, the average class size, the share of full-time professors

among the total full-time instructional staff, the total number of on-campus arrests, the total number of on-campus crimes, the share of students living on campus, the average earnings from on-campus employment, the graduation rate, the share of graduates offered full-time employment within six months, the share of former students outperforming high school graduates, and the student loan default rate.

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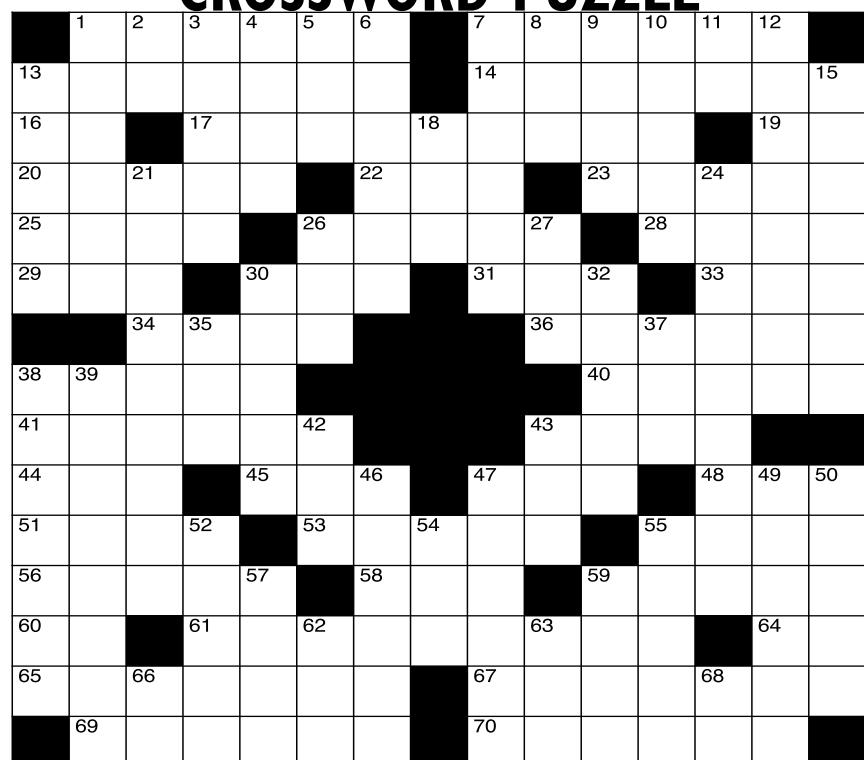
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Break
7. Ruled Russia
13. Having several lobes
14. Walked around proudly
16. Atomic #77
17. Largest living land animals
19. The Great Lakes State
20. A type of toast
22. Partner to feather
23. Bristlelike
25. Bowfin
26. Distributes
28. Hairlike structure
29. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
30. Where wrestlers work
31. Blood relation
33. A great deal
34. Round Dutch cheese
36. Move further away from
38. Type of wrap
40. Furies
41. Removes from the record

CLUES DOWN

1. Wives of a polygamous man
43. Young salmon
44. Feline
45. Skin decor
47. Disfigure
48. They ____
51. Formal term for “on”
53. Weight of precious stones
55. Traveled rapidly
56. Long-winged aquatic bird
58. Prickly husk
59. Expressed pleasure
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Most irritable
64. Virginia
65. Optimistic
67. Humorous works
69. Arranged systematically

CLUES DOWN

2. Where hurt ballplayers land
3. Single-celled animal
4. Rhythmic pattern
5. One from Utah
6. A group of seven
7. Refrains from inflicting
8. Light brown
9. Humanistic discipline
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. It says who you are
12. Roundworm
13. Group of Native Americans
15. Makes wider
18. Headgear
21. One who sets others free
24. Form of communication
26. A Brit’s mother
27. Title of respect
30. Famed modernist painter
32. One-time province of British India

35. Prosecutors
37. Motor vehicle
38. Non-religious
39. Native Americans of Colorado and Wyoming
42. Pouch
43. Touch gently
46. Chose
47. Actress Tomei
49. Former Broncos coach
50. Icelandic poems
52. More decent
54. Grillmasters use it
55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
57. Expression of annoyance
59. ____ Spumante (Italian wine)
62. Consumed
63. Body part
66. Thus
68. Rupee



Virginia wheat farmers are already at work planting next year’s wheat crop, which sprouts and then goes dormant over the winter.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

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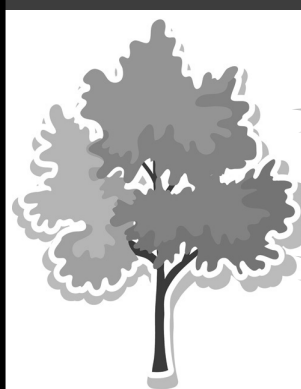
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- Understands industrial safety and environmental stewardship and has practiced these disciplines in a previous industrial or commercial setting.
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- Must be able to climb ladders, stairs and lift minimum of 50 lbs. unassisted.
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Help Wanted - General

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Legals - Botetourt County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT

COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-548** Complainant, v. MARY RUTH BURRELL ET AL,

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Botetourt, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Botetourt, Virginia, described as follows:

Legals - Botetourt County

Tax Map No. 61-83
Account No. 21433

All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Fincastle District of Botetourt County, Virginia, and being further described as follows:

Beginning at the South-East corner of the lot of land now or formerly belonging to the heirs of the late Benjamin Pettis; thence running with the base of the hill, South 45 yards to a stone; thence running 54 yards West to the middle of the old Covington Pike road; thence with the middle of the road 82 yards North to the South-West corner of the said Pettis lot; thence 58 yards parallel with the South B. line of the said Pettis Lot to the corner of said lot.

And being the remaining 3.28 acre, more or less, portion of the same property conveyed to Mary Ruth Burrell from Sallie Pettis Ross, Ottie Pettis, Frances Pettis Wilson, Bernard G. Wilson, Thomas Pettis, Rosa Pettis, Ella Pettis Childress, Julia Pettis Williams, and John J. William, by Deed dated November 25, 1949 and recorded December 17, 1949 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 102, at Page 27.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.

Tax Map No. 73A (1)74B
Account No. 24247

All that certain lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Fincastle, Virginia, being known as Lot No. 74, formerly the "Grant Lot", and being known on the Tax Rolls of Botetourt County as Tax Map 73A(1)74B, Account Number 24247.

And being the remaining portion of the property conveyed to Mary Ruth Burrell from Tom Fore, Otho Fore, Ossie Fore, James Julius Kyle, and Georgina Kyle by Deed dated August 30, 1951 and recorded October 20, 1951 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 105, Page 94.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Mary Ruth Burrell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 90 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia 24090; George Alexander Burrell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 1011 Church Street, Fincastle, Virginia 24422; James Antonio Burrell, whose last known address is 1560 Dundee Road, Ruckersville, Virginia 22968; Anthony Burrell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 90 Poor Farm Road, Fincastle, Virginia 24090; Dollie Mae Muse aka Dollie Mae Knight, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3758 Troutland Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24017; George Alexander Burrell Jr, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; DeRhonda Sue Taylor, whose last known address is unknown; Dennis Coleman Burrell, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 887 Botetourt Road, Fincastle, Virginia 24090; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby

ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before November 12, 2021

Legals - Botetourt County

in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 5th day of October, 2021.

Joel R Branscom
Judge

I Ask For This:
John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805)
Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591)
Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409)
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ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-06-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli Commonwealth *l/v.*
Unknown Father
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-04-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli Commonwealth *l/v.*
Fowler, Jerry
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014314-05-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Eli Commonwealth *l/v.*
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Eli Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-06-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth *l/v.*
Unknown Father
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that Unknown Father appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-05-00
Botetourt JDR District Court

Legals - Botetourt County

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth *l/v.*

Fowler, Jerry
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler.

It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-04-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth *l/v.*
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Nicholi Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014313-03-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Lula O Commonwealth *l/v.*
Fowler, Jerry
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler. It is ORDERED that Fowler, Jerry appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014313-04-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Lula O Commonwealth *l/v.*
Linkenhoker, Olivia Sink
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Lula Fowler. It is ORDERED that Linkenhoker, Olivia appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/18/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

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 v.

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

Legals - City of Radford

It is ORDERED that Alyssa Parris appear at the above-named 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 v.

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, 2021.

9/15/21
Melinda D. Bishop
Deputy Clerk

Legals - City of Salem

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on October 28, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

The request of Richard E. and Betty W. Bryson, property owners, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(B)(1) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 1507 Millwood Drive, Tax Map # 205-1-2.4. The petitioners are requesting a variance of 9 feet of side-yard setback to allow a carport addition. Section 106-202.3(B)(1) states that a side-yard setback of ten percent (9.0 feet) is required.

The request of Richard H. and Elizabeth K. Macher, property owners, for a variance from Section 106-204.3(B)(2) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 1900 South Clearing Road and 1900 block South Clearing Road, Tax Map #s 277-1-4 and 285-13-1, respectively. The petitioners are requesting a variance to allow the construction of a 28' x 22' pool house and 16' x 32' pool in the side yard. Section 106-204.3(B)(2) states that accessory structures must be built behind the rear building line of the principal structure (or in the rear yard).

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

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM
BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM
Zoning Administrator

Pulaski County keeps Blacksburg winless



Blacksburg defenders Traye Robersts (left) and Johnathan Surface tackle a Pulaski County ball carrier in the backfield.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Parker Epperley fires a touchdown pass to Eric Metrey against Pulaski County

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A white, rectangular Generac home standby generator is shown in the foreground. It has a control panel on top and ventilation slats on the side. The Generac logo is visible on the front. In the background, a two-story house with a gabled roof and multiple windows is shown. The house appears to be a modern, well-maintained residence. The overall scene is set against a dark, possibly overcast sky, suggesting a residential setting where power outages might be a concern.

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Run Forrest run, but not in Blacksburg



From the Sidelines
Marty Gordon

Running was an important part of Tom Hanks's movie, Forrest Gump, but someone in Blacksburg might have missed the last late-night showing of the flick on Netflix. This season and definitely this past Saturday, running has not been in the vocabulary for the Virginia Tech football team.

As a team, the Hokies rushed for 90 yards Saturday in the loss to Pitt, but if you take away quarterback Braxton Brumeister's 19 yards, the team's running backs produced only 71 yards. The problem can be seen even more in the breakdown of Raheem Blackshear and Jalen Holston's 18 yards each. The most productive back, Malachi Thomas, came off the bench late in the fourth quarter. He rushed six times for 33 yards to lead the threesome.

Head coach Justin Fuente was disappointed also in the team's lack of production on the passing side of the game, which produced only 134 yards of offense.

"I don't know if it was one issue," the head Hokie said in his post-game interview. "I think the wind on a couple occasions was a

little bit of an issue and ball placement was an issue. We had to fight through tight coverage a couple of times that was an issue, and we catch the ball but don't secure it all the way to the ground on what would be a big play. It wasn't one thing or one position. I think it was just a combination of everything."

Against [Pitt's] defense, big plays were few and far between, according to Fuente. "There are so many hats in there it forces you into the approach we had today. I felt like going into the game if we could find a way to get four to five yards running the ball to force them to continue to play that way, then we had chances for big plays in the passing game," the head coach said.

The Hokies averaged 3.2 yards per rush Saturday afternoon.

For the season, the Hokies have tallied 772 yards rushing for an average of 128.7 yards per game. In comparison, Air Force leads the nation with 336.4 yards per game. Army is second with 295, and Coastal Carolina is third at 263.5 yards per game. Virginia Tech ranks 93rd in the country when it comes to yards per game.

Maybe Gump could come out of retirement, but the bottom line is that the Hokies must find some offense, and a good rushing attack is a big part of that.

Week number eight: Christiansburg tops Region 3D points standings

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg's win over Hidden Valley on Friday increased the margin between the two in the Region 3D points standings.

Christiansburg remains in first with 26.57143 points while Hidden Valley is second at 24.25. Abingdon and Bassett are tied for third with 22.85714 points. The rest of the pack has Staunton River in fifth, Magna Vista sixth, and Lord Botetourt and Northside tied for seventh.

In 4D, Blacksburg fell to 10th place in points behind Pulaski, whom they lost to this past week. Western Albemarle leads the standings with 28.71429 points with George Washington second with 27.3333 points. Salem remains third with 26.8 points. E.C. Glass is fourth and Louisa is fifth. Halifax, Amherst, and Orange round out the top eight.

In 2C, Glenvar continues to hold down the top spot with 22.57143 points. Appomattox is second with 21.28571, and James River is third with 19.3333. Radford is fourth with 18.71429, and Floyd is a close fifth with 17.71429 points, slightly ahead of Martinsville, Gretna, and Chatham.

In 1C, Eastern Montgomery has

moved into the fifth spot, tied with Grayson with 14.14286 points. Galax remains in first at 19.42857, and Giles is second with 18.5000. Parry McCluer is third and Covington fourth. George Wythe is seventh and Narrows eighth.

Area Top Five: 1) Salem 2) Christiansburg 3) Glenvar 4) Giles 5) Pulaski.

Games this week:
Patrick Henry (6-1) at Christiansburg (6-1)

Last week: Patrick Henry shut out Cave Spring 35-0 as their defense held Cave to 93 total yards. Quarterback Joey Beasley was 15 for 21 with 264 yards and three touchdowns. Receiver Jahzae Kimbrough had three catches for 103 yards. Beasley threw the ball around as eight different receivers had catches.

Christiansburg rolled in a 61-20 win over Hidden Valley.

Prediction: Christiansburg 33, Patrick Henry 30.

Auburn at Galax (5-2)

Last week: Auburn was idle. Galax shut out George Wythe 35-0 as Tedruhn Tucker scored twice and the team rushed for 340 yards.

Prediction: Galax 40, Auburn 6. Hidden Valley (5-2) at Blacksburg (0-6)

Last week: Blacksburg was routed

49-7 by Pulaski. The Bruins' lone score came on a 13-yard pass from Parker Epperley to Eric Metry.

Hidden Valley ran into a buzz saw of its own in a loss to Christiansburg.

Prediction: Hidden Valley 34, Blacksburg 14.

Eastern Montgomery (4-2) at Narrows (2-5)

Last week: Eastern Montgomery moved to 4-2 with a 28-6 win over Bath County as Seth Burleson continued to have a great season with 16 carries for 124 yards with a touch down. Gage Akers also ran for a score and threw another. Eli Brown added another touchdown.

Narrows fell to 0-2 in the Pioneer District in a 33-26 loss to Covington and got touchdowns from Aiden McGlothlin to Koller Pruitt, who scored on a 60-yard run. Pruitt finished with five catches for 139 yards.

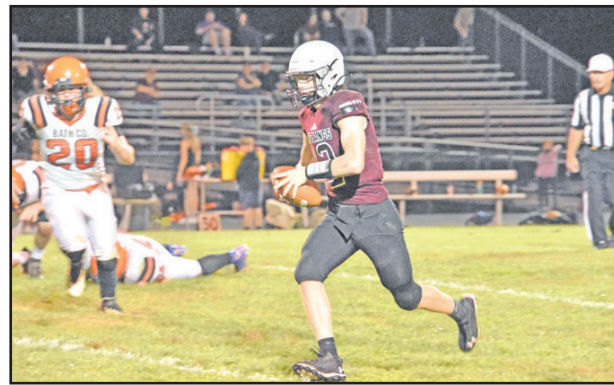
Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 27, Narrows 24.

Floyd (4-3) at Radford (5-2)

Last week: Floyd fell 34-19 to James River. Kaleb Fenton threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Matt Slusher and a 67-yarder to Kaiden Swortzel. Floyd has been outscored 177 to 112 this season.

Two weeks ago, Radford picked up a 36-7 win over Carroll County. Prediction: Radford 24, Floyd 21.

Eastern Montgomery defeats Bath, moves to 4-2



Gage Akers ran for a touchdown and threw a pass for another in the Mustangs' 28-6 win Friday night over Bath County. The win upped East Mont's record to 4-2.



Eli Brown ran through the Bath County defense for a touchdown in the win.

PHOTOS BY LAURA TATE

Radford University basketball fan fest set for Oct. 28

The 2021 Radford University basketball fan fest will be held on Thursday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Dedmon Center.

Men's basketball head coach Darris Nichols and women's basketball head coach Mike McGuire will provide an early look at this year's teams during open scrimmages and will par-

ticipate in meet and greets with players and coaches from both squads.

The men's basketball program enters its first season under head coach Nichols, a Radford native and Radford High School graduate.

The team went 15-12 overall with a 12-6 record in the Big

South a year ago and returns key players such as Chyree Walker, Dravon Mangum, Xavier Lipscomb, and Lewis Djonkam. With his older brother Shane as his top assistant and a young, energetic coaching staff by his side, Nichols will look to build upon the success the Highlanders have enjoyed over the years

and lead them to even greater heights.

Head Coach Mike McGuire returns to lead the women's basketball program for a ninth season.

The Highlanders have produced seven winning seasons seven times during McGuire's tenure, making him the third-

winningest coach in Radford history.

Bryonna McClean, Ashley Tudor, Rachel LaLonde, and Kyanna Morgan all return from last year's squad with an infusion of young talent joining them for what should be an exciting season in the Dedmon Center.



Gabby Brooks defends the net against Pulaski County for the Bruins.



Blacksburg's Sophia Johnston gets a kill from the left wing in the three-game sweep of Pulaski County.



Blacksburg's Madison Price goes up for a spike against Pulaski County.

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Blacksburg volleyball honored seniors Madison Price, Peyton Seeley, and Alexis Snyder Thursday night as the Bruins defeated the Pulaski County Maroon 25-14, 25-7, 25-17 in their last regular season home match.



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