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Wednesday, November 3, 2021

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Virginia elections are in the spotlight. What it all means.

What it means if Democrat candidates won statewide in Virginia Tuesday "A Democrat win statewide -- taking all three statewide positions and maintaining control of the House of Delegates -- could signal that the hue of purple Virginia remains blue-tinted," said Hult. "It also would provide evidence of the possible impact of ongoing worries about former President Trump's continuing influence over the Republican Party, including over public education, reproductive rights, access to the ballot, and climate change. Nationally, Democrats likely would breathe enormous sighs of relief while Republicans return to the campaign drawing board."

What it means if Republican candidates won statewide in Virginia Tuesday

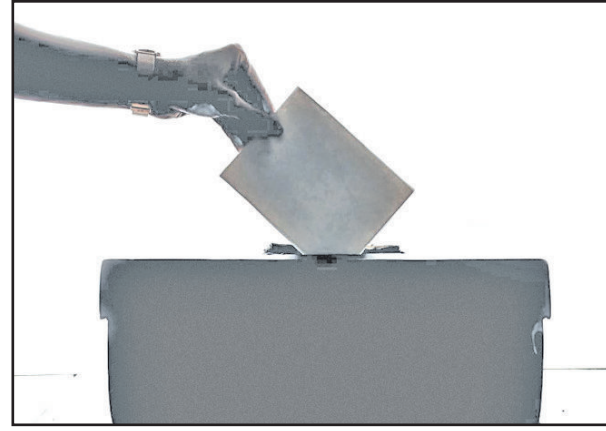
"A Republican win statewide would reflect in part Virginia's continuing its pattern of voting against the party of the newly elected president, which has happened every election since 1997 except 2013. It also might suggest the effects of President Biden's declining approval and relatedly of a drop in enthusiasm and energy among Democrat voters," according to Hult. "Nationally, Republicans will draw lessons of both candidate positioning and strategy going into the 2022 midterms. Democrats would receive more sobering news about the clear constraints on their influence and messaging."

Impact on the Virginia General Assembly

"For Virginians, if Republicans

win the governorship -- and either the lieutenant governorship or control of the House of Delegates, some of the legislation passed over the last two legislative sessions could be reversed. With state legislative and U.S. House redistricting now in the hands of the Virginia Supreme Court, Republican advantages in the 2022 U.S. House races and in 2023 for the general assembly could be reinforced," said Hult.

Karen Hult teaches political science at Virginia Tech and its Center for Public Administration and Policy, with expertise in the U.S. presidency, Virginia state politics and organizational and institutional theory.



All eyes are on Virginia, as both Republicans and Democrats hope to make a statement about the future political landscape, according to Virginia Tech political expert Karen Hult.

Food City to kick off annual Friends and Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive today

Food City, which has a local presence at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford, begins its fourth annual Friends and Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive today, Nov. 3.

"Hunger is a serious problem throughout our region, especially during the holidays and colder winter months," said Steven C. Smith, Food City's president and chief executive officer. "Food City is proud to host a number of hunger relief programs throughout the year, including our Friends and Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive. The drive will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout our area at a critical time."

Beginning Nov. 3 and continuing through Dec. 31, specially marked bags containing non-perishable food items and bags containing pet food products will be available for purchase for only \$10 (plus tax) at the Radford Food City location.



Food City's local presence is the supermarket at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford.

Customers wishing to purchase the bags may deposit them in the collection bins located at the front of the store. One hundred percent of the proceeds collected will benefit local hunger relief organizations and animal shelters throughout the region.

"Millions of Americans and animals need food assistance each year," said Kevin Stafford, Food City's

vice president of marketing. "The Food City Friends and Pets in Need Holiday Food Drive is another way we can help those in need right here in our own area."

"Food City's ongoing hunger relief initiatives have been a tremendous success, and we are hoping to set a new record with this year's drive to help our neighbors and furry friends in need," said Smith.

NAACP holds 45th Freedom Fund Banquet online



Deborah H. Travis serves the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP as its president.

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP held its 45th Freedom Fund Banquet Oct. 16 online.

Some 50 members and supporters attended.

The theme, "Are You with Us?" was introduced by Branch President Deborah H. Travis. Custom Vibe, composed of Denise Smith and Alan Johnson on vocals and Glen Holmes on keyboards, led the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and later performed the Curtis Mayfield classic "People Get Ready."

New Life-Members were recognized: At the Gold level, Mary North; and at the Silver level: Robert Beckman, Lynn Brammer, Andrew Crane, Mary Lee Hendricks, Myrl Jones, Gunin Kiran, Simuel O. Lewis III, and the Rev. Mi-

chael Sanborn.

Executive committee member-at-large Marlin Reeves thanked and announced the names of the sponsors of the banquet. Benefactors at the level of \$1000 were Asbury United Methodist Church, Carilion Clinic, Duncan Honda/Hyundai, Food Lion-Delhaize, Inc., Freedom First Credit Union, Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity, and Virginia Tech Office of the President.

Sustainers at the \$500 or \$600 level were First Baptist Church of Blacksburg (Clay Street), the League of Women Voters, LewisGale Regional Health System, the Montgomery County Democratic Committee, New River Community College Office of the President; and the Town of Blacksburg.

Supporters at the \$300 level were Mr. Larry Bechtel and Ms. Ann Shawhan, Dr. and Mrs. Nathaniel L. Bishop, Dr. and Mrs. William Hendricks, Dr. and Mrs. John Hess, Dr. and Mrs. Ergodan Kiran, Dr. James Klagge and the Rev. Katherine Carpenter, Ms. Molly McClintock and Ms. Irene Peterson, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

The Nannie B. Hairston Community Service Award for long-time service to the NAACP and the community went to Dr. Wornie Reed. The award was presented by Karen Jones, Chair of the branch's Political Action Committee and winner of the award in 2019.

The honoree's civil rights and racial equity work can be seen from Alabama to Tennessee to Boston and throughout the country. The mark he has made on

See NAACP, page 5

Travelers should pack a lot of patience this holiday season, says VT expert

Just in time for holiday travel, COVID-19 restrictions and public health guidelines for international travelers to the U.S. who are fully vaccinated will ease in early November. While easing these restrictions will help connect family and friends abroad, travelers need to pack patience and prepare for the new travel norm this holiday season, says Virginia Tech travel and tourism professor Mahmood Khan.

"The pandemic has changed how people view travel, whether for business, leisure, or religious reasons. Crowded airports, health screenings, and quarantine requirements will impact travel long-term," says Khan. "Psychologically, the fear created by the pandemic will exist for a long time, if not permanently. People will think twice before booking airline reservations and will question whether it's worth the risk or expense."

For those who choose to make the trip, Khan says be forewarned as restrictions have made some people impatient, less empathetic, and impolite. "This is evident by stories about difficult customers in airlines, restaurants, and other pub-



PHOTO CREDIT: TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Virginia Tech travel and tourism professor Mahmood Khan warns that "the pandemic has changed how people view travel, whether for business, leisure, or religious reasons. Crowded airports, health screenings, and quarantine requirements will impact travel long-term." He suggests travelers will need to be patient this holiday season.

lic places," he says.

"Hand sanitation and wearing masks have already become a part of daily rituals. Maintaining distance in buses, trains, and planes will be a consideration in planning. A cough and a sneeze will never be taken lightly.

"Visiting shorter distances, using a personal car, restricting visits to close family members, avoiding exotic destinations, carefully selecting bed and breakfast lodging, advance bookings, contactless operations, and using food delivery services are among the possible trends previ-

ously expected to be short-lived," the professor says.

Mahmood Khan is a professor and director of the Pamplin College of Business Master of Science in Business Administration/Hospitality and Tourism Management program at Virginia Tech in the Washington, D.C., metro region. Major areas of his research include hospitality franchising, services management, customer relationships, food service and operational management, and consumer preferences in hotels, restaurants, and institutions.

VTTI's automated vehicle technology research helps eliminate first responder fatalities

Every two weeks a roadside worker or first responder suffers fatal injuries and hundreds more are injured, according to a recent AAA report. The increased use of automated vehicle technology presents new opportunities to prevent crashes and eliminate fatalities, but the technology also poses risks to the first responder.

A report produced by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), titled "Law Enforcement, First Responder and Crash Investigation Preparation for Automated Vehicle Technology," for the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA)

examines how law enforcement officials, other first responders, and crash scene investigators can better prepare for



Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's automated driving system vehicle research examines their impact on first responder's operations and communication protocols and has resulted in a curriculum designed to decrease roadside fatalities. Stock photography.

automated vehicle technology by highlighting curriculum recommen-

See VTTI, page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 3:

Artist Talk with Matt Gentry
Hahn Horticulture Garden; noon – 1 p.m. We are excited to be displaying a collection of Matt's watercolor paintings of Virginia Rivers. Come hear about his process and check out his plein-air painting setup. This is a free event and will be held outside on the patio behind the Pavilion (Will move inside if the weather doesn't cooperate). Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Thursday, Nov. 4:

Noise Alert: Cadet 21-gun salute drill
The Corps of Cadets' precision drill team, the Gregory Guard, will practice firing a 21-gun salute at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, November 4, behind Lane Hall. There will be three volleys of shots, using blank charges.

Blacksburg Community Input Meeting on Progress Street Streetscape

A Progress Street Streetscape meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. The Town of Blacksburg is looking for input on the future design and layout of Progress Street, specifically the section between Jackson Street and North Main Street. Those who can't attend in person can give their input at <http://LetsTalk-Blacksburg.org>.

American Legion meeting
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. The Boy's and Girl's State Representatives from Radford High School will be recognized at this meeting. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

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.

Saturday, Nov. 6:

Pilot Community Center Pancake Supper
Pancake Supper at Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Rd, Pilot, Va., from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person. Everyone is welcome.

DIY a Room from Gabby's Dollhouse
At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Make a cat-tastic room of miniatures inspired by the show Gabby's Dollhouse. All materials will be provided. The program is offered at two times with a maximum of 10 participants per time slot. Registration is required.

PAWS to Read - Dog Edition
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Come read to Derek the therapy dog. Registration is required.

Teen Dungeons and Dragons
At the Blacksburg Library, at 2 p.m. Teens. Dungeons. Dragons.

Dyslexia Awareness
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. This presentation will discuss the characteristics of dyslexia, the common myths, and various interventions. An extensive resource list will also be provided.

Monday, Nov. 8:

STEM Club
At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. Join the homeschool STEM club to explore science, technology, engineering, or math. Ages 8 years and up.

Tuesday, Nov. 9:

The Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confed-

eracy (UDC) are invited. Member William Reed will give a talk on "Confederate Small Arms." For further information call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, Nov. 11:

Noise alert: Cadet Rifle Salute
The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' Gregory Guard will fire a rifle salute at about 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Pylons as part of the university's Veterans Day remembrance ceremony.

Monday, Nov. 15:

Crafternoon at the Radford Public Library
The library staff presents an afternoon of crafting from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The library will offer a variety of collections -- books and databases -- to help with the crafts. Some supplies will be available for take-home. Adult coloring supplies and coloring books will also be available. Come make a new friend or just enjoy a little peace and quiet. Needle projects and other indoor crafts are encouraged. Adults only.

Wednesday, Nov. 17:

Hahn Horticulture Garden In-Person Learn at Lunch
"Ramps" with Pabitra Aryal from noon to 1 p.m. Aryal is a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Plant and Environmental Sciences who is researching the onion's cousin by growing ramps from seeds and bulbs to study the germination time of the plant. 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.

Throughout November:

Donate your old sneakers
The RADical Change Commission and GotSneakers have partnered up to promote healthy communities with creative recycling. This sneaker drive fundraiser keeps sneakers out of landfills and reduces toxic chemicals from being re-

leased into the air and soil. All sneakers from the drive are recirculated to people who want quality, reusable footwear at affordable prices or repurposed into new surfaces such as playgrounds and tracks. Donors are asked to please wash their old shoes before dropping them off at the following locations: Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Ave. (corner of Tyler and Clement), Radford, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The bin is located at the office door facing Moe's Southwest Grill and The Shelter, 1205 Downey St., Radford. The bin is located on the front porch; drop-off hours here are any time day or night. Sneakers will be collected through Nov. 30. They can be in any size or condition.

Help Veterans with Your Donations
All the month of November, at the Meadowbrook Public Library, a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. The following items are needed: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL), and new baseball caps.

Ongoing:

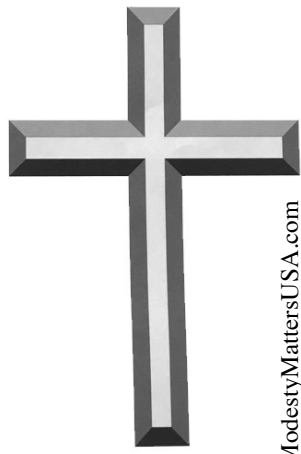
Get your passport at the Radford Public Library
Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. If you are planning overseas travel, it's important to get your passport as early as possible because it can currently take up to 18 weeks to receive your passport.

"Paper Alchemy" exhibit
Currently on display in the gallery in the Covington Center at Radford University. 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 artists' range of inventive problem-solving and creativity.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

International Days of Prayer for the Persecuted Church - First two Sundays in November

"If we have faith worth living for, it is a faith worth dying for. Don't YOU compromise the faith that we are living and dying for."



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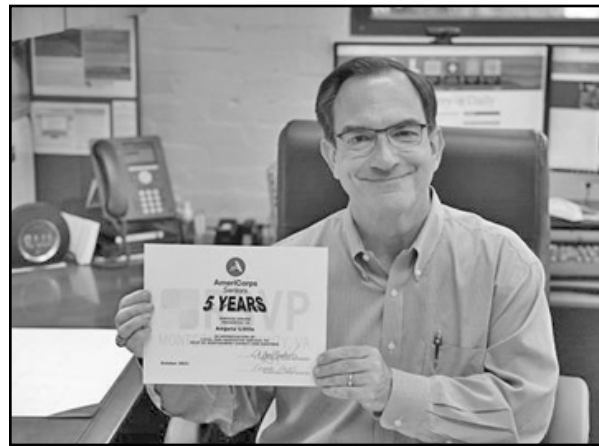
Montgomery RSVP holds volunteer recognition

Approximately 40 volunteers participated in the recent Montgomery County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's (RSVP) second drive-thru recognition event.

Montgomery County Administrator Craig Meadows joined the organization in recognizing 41 volunteers who have reached milestone years of service. A statement from RSVP said, "We had hoped to be able to give the years of service certificates to you in person at our annual recognition banquet. If your name is listed, you can request to pick up your certificate from the RSVP office by Nov. 19 or you will receive your certificate by mail."

The RSVP offices are located at 10 Pepper St. SE # D in Christiansburg.

Recognized with certificates at the drive-thru event were Ethel Young, 20 years; Bev. Bridges and Phyllis Lutz, 15 years; Barbara Kyle, Brenda Lyons, Emily Bender, Fran Hart, Jan Marks, Kathy Young, Marilyn Hill, Mary Adkins, Meg Peterson, Mendel Hess, Mick Gregory, Myra Lux, Pat Somerville, Raymond Lyons, Regina Howard, Sally Anna Stapleton, Sharon Schutt, and Shirley McPherson, 10 years; and Alan Miller, Angela Little, Betty Garard, Betty Greene, Elizabeth Trutt, Hugh VanLandingham, James Stilwell, Jan Jackson, Joanne Jackson, John Zeckoski, Joyce Kelley, Judith Rowe, Marilyn Zeckoski, Martha Carpenter, Mary Ford, Mary Skutt, Nola Elliott, Patricia VanLandingham, Thea Ann Reid, and Victoria McLaughlin, five years.



Montgomery County Administrator Craig Meadows participated in Montgomery's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer recognition by signing the Years of Service Awards.



RSVP Coordinator Mandy Hayes and RSVP Volunteer Joan Grayson were on hand for the organization's recent Years of Service Awards recognition.



RSVP Program Assistant Ava Stilwell poses with RSVP Volunteer Carol Cornish. Years of Service awards were presented to volunteers for 20, 15, 10, and five years of service.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION
Ends Wednesday November 10th @ 4 PM
37.79 Acres of Land for Sale in Floyd County VA!
Beaver Creek Rd, Floyd VA 24091
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You have the opportunity to purchase a gorgeous property for sale in Floyd VA. This property features 37.79 +/- acres of land on Beaver Creek Rd. Looking for land with great building spots, long range views and creek frontage? This is it! Build your dream home in the large open field which showcases gorgeous mountain views. This property would be great for use as a recreational retreat, hobby farm or private homestead. The property is in an excellent location near Route 8 between Floyd VA and Christiansburg VA. Property is accessed by right of way at 779 Beaver Creek Rd.

Terms – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 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 November 10th 2021. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps.

Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com; Darrell Hylton Realtor at 540-250-0850 or email dwh@swva.net

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VTTI from page 1

dations to improve training on rapidly changing safety protocols.

The project, led by VTTI researcher Tammy Trimble, examines emergency response scenarios that resulted in a curriculum for first responders regarding automated driving systems and advanced driver assistance systems vehicles.

Trimble has personal motivation for ensuring the safety of first responders. Her dad was a volunteer firefighter when she was younger, and her family friend is a full-time paramedic.

“By conducting this research, it’s great to know that I am helping first responders stay safe on the job,” said Trimble, senior research associate for the institute’s division of data and analytics. “Being able to discuss training needs and the uncertainty around these technologies with first responders and work to develop curriculum that can keep them safe and informed on advanced technology vehicles has been a great opportunity.”

In addition to this project, Trimble also co-lead a project to collaborate with first responders to identify key operational scenarios that could

be affected by the implementation of automated driving systems and advanced driver assistance systems in vehicles.

“The rise of automated vehicle technology creates new opportunities to prevent crashes and accelerate efforts to reach our goal of zero roadway deaths, but this technology also poses new problems for public safety officials,” said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins.

The VTTI report includes recommended curriculum topics: understanding the differences between and capabilities of vehicles with different technologies, identifying vehicles with automation technologies on the road today, understanding governmental responsibilities regarding vehicle oversight, anticipating future technology deployment, interacting with such vehicles, and understanding and accessing data.

Through the development of curriculum and training programs for these automated technology advancements, Trimble hopes to reduce and eliminate roadside fatalities and injuries as new transportation related technologies are implemented into vehicles.

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

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.montgomerycountytva.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.



Lillith is a purrecious gal looking for a cozy home to spend her senior years. She loves affection and a warm lap to sit on. Care may need to be taken when carrying her as she has occasional aches and pains. Lillith is litter trained and gets along with other cats. Her adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Wittle is a younger dog in search of her furever home. She has a sweet personality and is friendly and curious with humans. She prefers to interact with them far more than with other dogs. Wittle is treat-motivated and will do her best to sit still when a yummy snack is at stake.

United Nations touts Virginia Tech mining engineering class as model of sustainability education

A Virginia Tech professor and a handful of international collaborators have gone global with their work to educate a new generation of mining engineers, and they’ve garnered United Nations recognition for it.

Emily Sarver, an associate professor of mining and minerals engineering in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, has been developing the transdisciplinary course, Sustainable Development of Mineral and Energy Resources, since 2013.

With help from instructors in Colombia, Chile, and Colorado, Sarver teaches students from four institutions the importance of developing socially responsible, environmentally sound mining operations that benefit companies, host communities, and the world.

Recently, the global development community took notice. The U.N.-affiliated Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) recognized the course for its promotion of 17 Sustainable Development Goals that have been adopted by the U.N.’s 193 member nations. In

June, the SDSN designated the class as an official case study in education that incorporates the goals — including climate action, clean energy, and economic growth — making it a model for sustainability-focused education around the world.

“For me, it feels like a little validation that we’re doing something different, something right,” Sarver said. “And recognition from outside the field of mining, in this case, is particularly important. That’s a key element of sustainable development work: It needs to be broadly meaningful.”

Few things are as globally important as mining.

Much of the technology powering sustainable development depends on extracting critical minerals such as copper and cobalt. Everything from solar panels and wind turbines that generate renewable energy to lithium ion batteries that power electric cars rely on mining these materials.

But done irresponsibly, mining can be destructive. For Sarver, “the driving question is, if we’re going to do something that we can never

undo, how can we make sure that everyone that should benefit, does and certainly that no one is harmed by our activities?”

And for the next generation of mining engineers and researchers, such as Virginia Tech doctoral student Festus Animah, ensuring those resources are extracted in ways that protect the local environment and uplift smaller economies is paramount. Animah specializes in mine ventilation research, an area of study particularly important in his native Ghana.

“I want to be helpful to my country because my country has a lot of gold mines where they have a lot of dust issues,” Animah said.

To be a skilled professor, researcher, and mining consultant, Animah said it was important for him to take a mining development course that not only crosses continents, but transcends disciplines. “This is the way forward for future teaching and learning,” he said.

To date, the course has enrolled about 150 students of at least 10 nationalities.



PHOTO BY TONIA MOXLEY FOR VIRGINIA TECH.
Emily Sarver (left) and Festus Animah in the mock mine pits currently under construction in Holden Hall

As the weather cools, Virginians urged to keep firewood local

Crisp fall temperatures give Virginians a timely excuse to build and burn real wood fires for relaxing or heating, and quality firewood is essential.

Fortunately, Virginia has more than 16 million acres of forestland and is home to over 350 species of trees, most of which can be used for firewood in some capacity.

With a bountiful natural supply and a plentiful stockpile made available by local timber producers, forestry officials are reminding Virginians to purchase local firewood this fall and winter.

“We prefer to see people buy firewood from their local area,” said J. Miller Adams, a forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry and a member of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Advisory Committee. “Or they can purchase from a producer who can heat-treat and package wood to make sure it’s safe to be transported to other areas.”

He explained that it’s usually fine to move firewood within a local area. “The problems tend to arise when people take

firewood and go a long distance with it, for instance, when they camp,” he said.

Among the possible issues caused by hauling timber is the increased risk of transporting invasive pests and harmful tree diseases. In Virginia, there are established quarantine areas for emerald ash borers, European gypsy moths, pine shoot beetles, and spotted lanternflies, as well as the thousand cankers disease, which harms black walnut trees.

To mitigate the potential spread of these pests and diseases, firewood generally should remain within 10 miles of its source and not be moved farther than 50 miles away.

Sabina Dhungana, VDOF forest utilization and marketing program manager, noted buying local firewood promotes healthy forest management and directly supports Virginia tree farmers.

Timber producers and other merchants often sell firewood by specific species or as mixed wood, and the firewood typically is sold pre-seasoned, which means it’s ready to burn.

For the best heating

experience, Dhungana recommended Virginians purchase hardwoods, which burn cleanly and slowly, and provide plenty of warmth for the colder months ahead.

“Oak, hickory and maple are species that grow in

Virginia and are great for firewood,” she said. “Most firewood sold in Virginia is either red oak or white oak because of their density, which is a quality that makes the species desirable. For indoor applications, hardwood is the way

to go.”

Virginians who don’t have access to private forestland can visit a Virginia state forest to cut their own timber in designated

areas with a firewood permit. Permits are issued by VDOF, and more information can be found by emailing stateforest@dof.virginia.gov.

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Virginia is home to more than 350 species of trees, most of which can be used for firewood.

Anthem

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- Discuss your specific health needs
- Review your plan options
- Walk through the enrollment process

As a local Anthem Medicare representative, I can help you choose a plan with the benefits you deserve for the coming year.

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OPINION

WalletHub ranks Virginia Beach among best cities for veterans

According to the Veterans Association and reported by the personal finance website WalletHub, there are over 19 million veterans currently living in the U.S. These veterans often face a host of challenges when re-entering civilian life. Despite Uncle Sam's promises to provide health care as well as housing, employment and educational assistance upon their return from service, some cannot secure health-care, jobs, or shelter.

To help military veterans find the best places in which to settle down, WalletHub compared the 100 largest U.S. cities across four key dimensions and 20 key indicators

of livability, affordability, and veteran-friendliness.

Virginia Beach emerged as one of the best cities for veterans, coming in at No. 8 in WalletHub's rankings.

The website goes on to say that although unemployment and homelessness declined nationally for veterans in recent years, the unemployment rate did rise during the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the unemployment rate for veterans has now fallen to 3.9%, compared to 4.8% for the overall population. On the other hand, veteran homelessness is still a big problem, and there were already over 37,000 homeless veterans even before

the pandemic. Some states offer better conditions for those who have served our country, though.

The four dimensions WalletHub used to determine its rankings were 1) employment, 2) economy, 3) quality of life and 4) health. The website then evaluated those dimensions using 20 relevant metrics.

Within the employment dimension, the metrics used were the share of military skill-related jobs, the veteran unemployment rate, job growth, and the veteran-owned businesses per veteran population.

Within the economy di-

mension, WalletHub used the following metrics to determine its rankings of the best cities for veterans: housing affordability, veteran income growth, the share of veterans living in poverty, educational opportunities, the median veteran income, and the homeless veterans per 1,000 veterans.

Within its quality of life dimension, WalletHub employed the following metrics for its survey: veteran population, projected veteran population growth, family-friendliness, retiree-friendliness, restaurants that offer military discounts per veteran population, and arts and entertain-

ment establishments that offer military discounts per veteran population.

WalletHub used the following metrics in the health dimension: the percentage of residents who are fully vaccinated, VA Benefits Administration facilities per veteran population, VA health facilities per veteran population, and the quality of the VA health facilities.

The cities across the country that ranked higher than Virginia Beach for places veterans would do well to settle in were 1) Tampa, Fla. 2) Austin 3) Scottsdale, Ariz. 4) Raleigh 5) Gilbert, Ariz. 6) Lincoln, Neb. and 7) Madison, Wis.

Gleaners pick farm-fresh produce for food banks for those in need

Virginia farmers are helping food banks offer clients fresh, regionally grown food by allowing groups to glean after they harvest.

At Parker Farms in Westmoreland County, 30 volunteers from Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church in Prince William County recently gleaned dozens of bushels of sweet corn after the biggest ears had been harvested by Parker Farms employees. They combed the fields for smaller, but equally nutritious, ears left behind by the harvesting

equipment.

The church's pastor, Father Brian Bashista, said the charitable hands-on experience goes beyond writing a check. "We've had it on our heart to farm-glean for a couple years and finally connected with the wonderful folks here," he said. "There are very generous farm owners who allow this to happen."

With such abundance in this country, Bashista said, it's amazing how much goes to waste.

It's a simple concept. There is enough fresh produce for food-insecure Vir-

ginia families, but complex logistical challenges can prevent perishable items from getting from farms to plates.

Food banks historically have stocked products that are shelf-stable. Yet more than 1 million Virginians who are most likely to experience food insecurity are at higher risk of diet-related illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease, according to the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

"Increasingly, we're seeing the connection between health outcomes and diet," said Katie Mandes, director of marketing and strategic initiatives for the federation, an organization serving food banks statewide. "We are pushing hard to create a more nutritious diet for those who visit food banks. However, the turnaround time has to fall into place with fresh food that requires refrigeration, so there are a lot of logistical components."

The federation's seven food banks work with 1,500 partner agencies like community and church pantries that pick up the food for local distribution. Behind the scenes, food-sourcing specialists, growers, and



Through a statewide partnership that includes the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, gleaners each year save 450,000 to 650,000 pounds of fresh produce from being plowed under.

gleaners coordinate with a flurry of phone calls and countless volunteer hours to make it happen.

Mandes said the food bank world previously relied on grocery store donations of excess fresh product, but pandemic-related supply chain problems cut into that source. "One of the lessons we learned because of the pandemic is that if you can have fresh food that is local there is less opportunity for that supply to be interrupted," Mandes said.

Ramping up efforts to

work with the farming community to source fresh food has become a priority for the federation. Its leaders work with legislators to develop policy tools that help farmers offset the costs of gleaned produce, like the Virginia Ag Food Assistance Program bill signed by Gov. Ralph Northam in June. The legislation works in tandem with Virginia's food crop donation tax credit by making funds available to farmers for harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting surplus product.

"Farmers are often willing to donate their excess product, but it's not free," Mandes said. "We'd love to see the farming community plant extra crops in advance, where a percentage goes to food banks."

An extended distribution partnership that includes Feed More, the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore each year saves 450,000 to 650,000 pounds of fresh produce from being plowed under.

News Messenger

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

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Plentiful harvests expected for Virginia cotton, peanuts

Following a year plagued with wet weather and numerous setbacks, Virginia cotton

and peanut farmers are anticipating a successful fall harvest.

In its crop production forecast released recently, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported Virginia farmers expected to harvest 133 million pounds of peanuts this year, up 19% from last year. Cotton production also is projected to increase drastically at 160,000 bales, a 26% upturn from 2020.

Dell Cotton, executive director of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association, said it could be a banner year for peanut farmers.

"I don't see why our farmers can't match what USDA has us projected at, which is to produce 4,600 pounds to the acre," he said. "This year has been very similar to 2019, which was when we set the current record at 4,650 pounds produced per acre. Give us one more week, and I expect we'll be close to that number again."

"It's been a good season for peanuts, nice and dry for easy harvesting," Cotton said. "There've been a few challenges with some cotton growing again due to the hotter weather, but other than that, we're just waiting on the bolls to open up and the lint to fluff out. Farmers should be out picking in the next week or so."

According to the latest NASS crop progress report, Virginia's entire peanut crop is in fair or better condition with 85% rated good or excellent.

Fifty-five percent of the state's peanuts have been harvested this fall, a 31% increase from this time last year and a 3% increase over the five-year average.

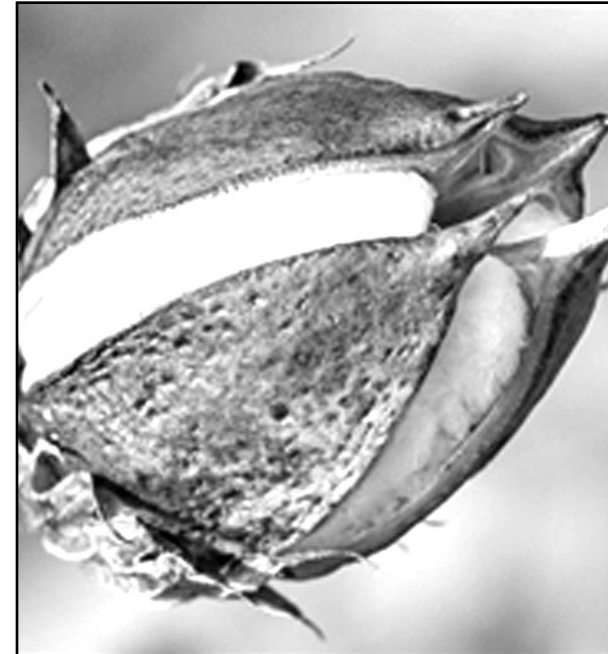
Virginia's cotton harvest is only 18% complete, but 97% of the crop is in fair to excellent condition, and 69% is in good or excellent condition.

Joseph Barlow, who serves on the Virginia

Farm Bureau Federation Cotton Advisory Committee, explained it's too early to predict how the state's cotton crop will pan out.

However, he mentioned an above-average crop year is within reach if dry and mild weather continues, which would be a boon for growers who took a loss last year.

"That would be phenomenal," Barlow said. "There were many people, ourselves included, who were hurt bad last year. And with prices where they're at right now, there's money to be made with a decent crop."



The latest National Agricultural Statistics Service crop reports rated 97% of Virginia's cotton crop good or excellent and 85% of the commonwealth's peanut crop to be in good or excellent condition.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Nuclear undersea weapon
 - Partner to flows
 - "Snow" in Welsh
 - Famed Mexican painter
 - Song
 - ticks outward from the crown
 - Doddering
 - Resist authority (slang)
 - Antsy
 - Wrath
 - Spills the beans
 - Past
 - The woman
 - One has 24 hours
 - Talk
 - It can sting
 - Astronomy unit
 - Halfway
 - Chinese dynasty
 - Australian river
 - Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
 - Fabric
 - Crucifix
 - Defunct European economic group
 - "Hotel California" rockers
 - Michael Knight's car
 - Actress Ryan
 - A digital tape recording of sound
 - Insecticide
 - Scientific instrument
 - Golden-__ corn
 - Israeli city __ Aviv
 - Sword
 - Ottoman military title
 - Aromatic plants
 - Cold wind
 - Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
 - Political unit
 - Indiscreetly reveal secrets
 - Comfort food dish
 - Actress Zellweger
 - Romanian city
 - CLUES DOWN
 - One point east of southeast
 - Italian monetary unit
 - Warship prison
 - Tropical American tree
 - Alias
 - Normal or sound powers of mind
 - English county
 - Not compatible with
 - Female deer
 - Not late
 - La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
 - "Jupiter's Legacy" actress
 - Impudence
 - Advices
 - Founder of Babism
 - A baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - Male parent
 - A type of plug
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - Fungal disease
 - Shelter
 - Finished
 - Excrete
 - Unhappy
 - Partner to cheese
 - Coffee receptacle
 - Spend time dully
 - Makes full
 - Snakelike fish
 - Take in solid food
 - __ student, learns healing
 - A way to take away
 - Impart a lesson to
 - "Transformers" actress Fox
 - Spiritual leader
 - Every one of two or more things
 - Indian city
 - 17th stars
 - Weapon
 - Amounts of time
 - Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Witness

NAACP from page 1

the New River Valley is immeasurable. As a founding member of the Dialogue on Race leading the Law Enforcement Issue Group, Dr. Reed has been instrumental in the working relationship between our law enforcement and the community. He has been called upon to serve on multiple forums as the leading expert on policing issues. As a contributor to the Roanoke Tribune, weekly articles on issues regarding race, equity, inclusion, and politics help illuminate issues and provide clarity and understanding.

Dr. Reed is Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at Virginia Tech and is the Director of the Race and Social Policy Research Center. His scholarly work includes books on employment discrimination, racial profiling, and health disparities among African Americans.

The father of two sons and the husband of Mildred, Reed is a Silver Life subscribing member of the local NAACP branch, has served as an Executive Committee Member-at-Large, and as advisor for the VT college chapter of NAACP. He is currently a member of the board of the ACLU-VA.

Reliford Sanders introduced the program's keynote speaker, Dr. N.L. Bishop. In 1975, Dr. Bishop became the first African-American member of the Christiansburg Police Department and served as a police officer and criminal investigator until leaving to pursue a career in healthcare administration.

In 2010, he broke another barrier by being appointed the third president and first Black President of the Jefferson College of Health Sciences. Dr. Bishop's most recent trailblazing role is as the inaugural Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer of Carilion Clinic.

Speaking on the theme "Are You With Us?", Dr. Bishop described the insurrection at the nation's capitol last January, and recent attempts to recast this criminal event as somehow honorable or heroic. He compared this with long-standing attempts to re-imagine the corrupt ideologies that fueled slavery and the South's role in the Civil War as somehow ones that were virtuous and even righteous and resulted in the Civil War taking on the term, "Lost Cause."

He talked about his de-

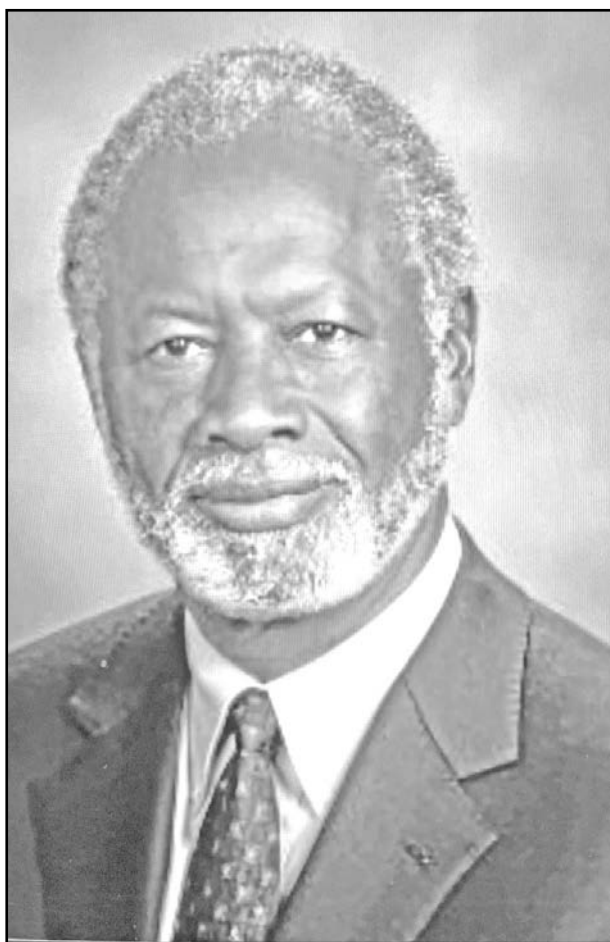
cadecades of trying to understand that term engraved in the Confederate monument on Christiansburg's town square. From that corner as a child watching parades, later directing traffic in his role as a Christiansburg police officer, and then in daily runs by this same monument, he always questioned the term. This was while also questioning what he was taught in history classes during Jim Crow segregation and the way the inhumanity of the slavery era was minimized.

He was pleased when the request to add storyboards adjacent to the Confederate monument was so well supported and unanimously passed by the town council, and with the hopeful message it sends. Bishop asked his listeners to join him in celebrating the plan to add storyboards that will recount the local history of Black enslavement and subsequent liberation, cultural life, and the contributions that Blacks have made to local history, often through the work of the Christiansburg Institute. Dr. Bishop emphasized the importance of teaching honest and accurate history, even when it is painful to hear. The full story needs to be told.

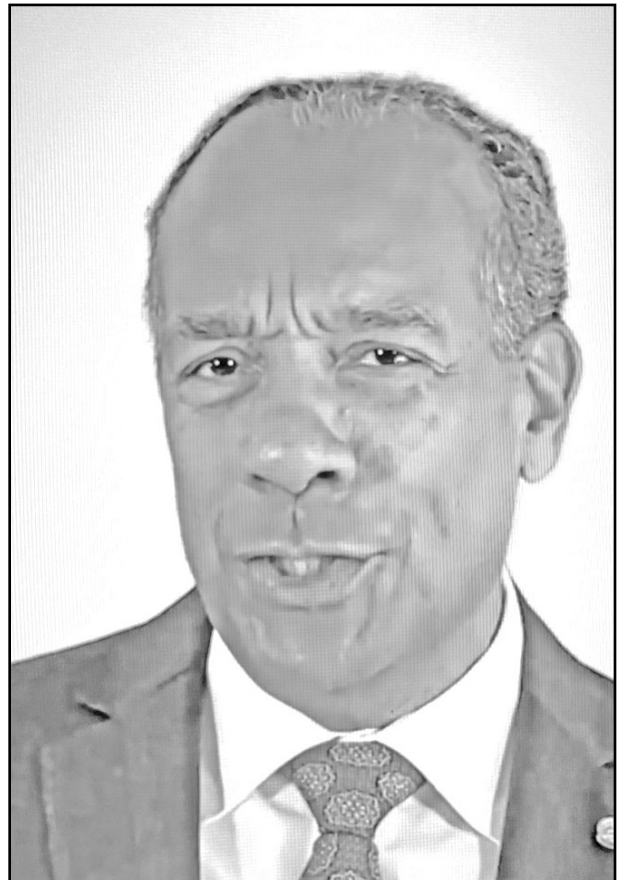
In his role with Carilion Clinic, Dr. Bishop was instrumental in helping to roll out the COVID vaccine in Roanoke and the NRV. He was especially concerned to ensure that people without easy access to computers, people who were suspicious of the vaccine, and people from a variety of backgrounds had equal access and would show up to be vaccinated. In his official role as an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, he noted its importance not only in health care, but in business and in education as well.

In concluding, he challenged his audience to stay in the struggle and take a stand for values that create a world that is more inclusive and equitable. He closed with a favorite quote of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s: "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for human rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in."

The program concluded with words from President Travis, who thanked the sponsors, attendees, and



Dr. Wornie Reed was presented the Nannie R. Hairston Community Service Award for service to the NAACP.



The banquet's keynote speaker was Dr. N.L. Bishop. Among his many accomplishments is his role as the first Black officer of the Christiansburg Police Department.

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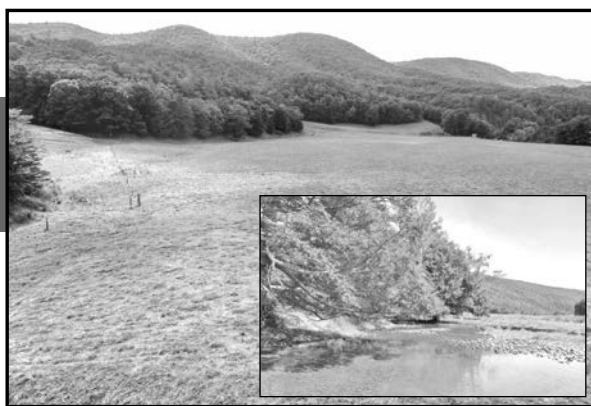
The branch's new life-members were recognized at the banquet.

organizers of the banquet, and asked once again "Are you with us?" to inspire our commitment to continuing work for civil rights and the betterment of all people in the New River Valley.

The branch usually holds its general body meetings on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. For information on joining the meetings or joining the branch as a member, contact dhtravis@yahoo.com.

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Legals - Botetourt County

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 *iv.* 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 *iv.* 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
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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 *iv.* 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 *iv.* 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.

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Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014315-05-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Fowler, Nicholi Commonwealth *iv.* 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.

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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 *iv.* 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.

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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 *iv.* 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
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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 *iv.* 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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014302-04-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Wright, Cooper Solstice Commonwealth of Virginia *iv.* Martin, Holly Isabella
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright. It is ORDERED that Martin, Holly Isabella appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

Legals - Botetourt County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ014302-05-00
Botetourt JDR District Court Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, *in re* Wright, Cooper Solstice Commonwealth *iv.* Wright Jr, Gary Robert
The object of this suit is to: To terminate residual parental rights to Cooper Wright. It is ORDERED that Wright Jr, Gary Robert appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2021 01:00PM.

10/19/2021
Jessica Hall
Deputy Clerk

Legals - City of Salem

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21-404
Salem Circuit Court 2 E. Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153
Isaias Rosa da Silva *v.* Victoria Nichole Davis
The object of this suit is to: Obtain a divorce
It is ORDERED that Victoria Nichole Davis appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before November 24, 2021.

October 4, 2021
Stacy L. Owen
Deputy Clerk

Legals - City of Salem

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 11/09/2021 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% buyer'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:
335-Billy Smithers
-Household goods:
253-Ashley Wright
-Household goods:
223-Christen Tuckwiller
-Household goods:
133-Charles Gibson
-Household goods:

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ004795-06-00
Floyd County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Floyd County DSS *v.* Christian Knode
The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights of Christian Knode, legal parent of Gabriel Knode 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 Christian Knode appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before December 6, 2021.

10/13/21
Bradley Dalton
Judge

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OBITUARIES

Bingham, Jo Ann Morehead Sutherland, Harold Gray "Mousie"

Jo Ann Morehead Bingham, 85, of Radford, completed her earthly journey to join Our Lord in her heavenly home on Friday, Oct. 29, 2021.

Jo was born July 29, 1936, one of six children to the late Peter Harrison and Mary Zeldia Morehead. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 60 years, John Charles "Jay" Bingham; sisters Evelyn Hope Cooke and Adeline Dallas Merrix; brothers Jennings Donnell Morehead and Harry Maxwell Morehead; a niece, Nancy Caroline Scott; and nephews Danny Lee Cooke and Harry Donald Morehead.

Left to cherish her memory are a brother, Charles Douglas Morehead Sr. (Robin); nieces and nephews Stanley Morehead, Mark Morehead, Eddie Morehead, Harry Morehead Jr., Mary Colley, Mike Merrix, Sandy Merrix, Charles Morehead Jr., Robert Morehead, John Harrison Morehead, Mary Walsh, Andrew Morehead, and Evan Morehead, and a special cousin, Mary Phyllis Strook.

Jo worked with C & P Telephone be-



fore launching a successful career in real estate. A pioneering young woman, she started Mountain View Realty, serving Radford and surrounding areas. With real estate as the platform, she was able to do what she loved the most: help people. Remembering her humble beginnings growing up on a farm in Bland County, she always gave back by sponsoring

many scholarships at Radford University and New River Community College. Although Jo was recognized with many awards for her work in real estate and her charitable contributions, her family was always her greatest achievement.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, at 1 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, where funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Entombment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens.

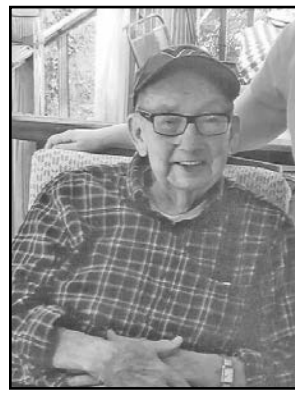
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Morehead Family Cemetery Fund, c/o Patricia Morehead, 192 Mill Bank Lane, Austinville, VA 24312.

Harold Gray "Mousie" Sutherland, 90, passed away Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021.

A member of Central United Methodist Church and retired from Inland Motors/Kollmorgen, he was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years who passed away in May of 2021, Lois Sutherland; his parents, Harry H. and Callie Frances Nichols Sutherland; brothers Boyd, Roy, and Frank Sutherland; and sisters Blanche Sutherland, Mary Bell Sutherland, and Helen Hines.

Harold "Mousie" Sutherland was born in Radford and lived in Radford his entire life. He worked at Inland Motors/Kollmorgen as a tester and technician for over 45 years where he tested specialized motors that were used in a variety of applications, including military and NASA space programs.

Harold was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed following Radford High School and Virginia Tech college sports, as well as New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves baseball. He also enjoyed caring for the many cats and dogs that he and his wife



had as pets over the years. He enjoyed going around town to local businesses and talking to people almost every day.

Harold was blessed with good health his entire life and was able to do the things that he enjoyed until the week he passed away.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Matt Newbill of Roanoke; two granddaughters, Bethany and Callie Newbill; a sister-in-law, Audrey Jennelle of Radford; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, at Central United Methodist Church of Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Don Smith officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Central United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 611, Radford, VA 24143.

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

Cox, Elsie Mae Fain

Elsie Mae Fain Cox, 84, passed away at her home in Christiansburg surrounded by her family on Friday, Oct. 29, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Elsie Fain; her husband, Kelly Calvin Cox; and 19 brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Calvin Lee Cox, Marlon and Tammie Cox, and Joel and Terrie Cox; daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Robert Minnick, Shari DeCosta, and Marlene and Chris Smith; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; three



great-great-grandchildren; a sister, Libby Thompson; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Good Samaritan Hospice for all their love and care.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by funeral services with Pastor Jerry Collins officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Hvozdovic, Joan Louise Fulmer

After a gallant fight, Joan Louise Fulmer Hvozdovic slipped peacefully away in Blacksburg on Oct. 23, 2021, surrounded by her loving family and devoted fur companion, Hokie.

Born in 1944 as the daughter of an Army officer, Joan was raised around the world. She attended Radford College where she met the love of her life, Michael Hvozdovic. She graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education, lifelong friends, and an engagement.

As a devoted mother of three and a military wife, she embraced the challenges of many Air Force moves with Mike. Her passion for shopping took her into English antique shops, Native American finds in Arizona, Disney collectibles in California, and shell décor in Florida. Her bulging bags of treasures were matched only by her generosity to share her purchases with



family and friends.

Returning to where it all began, Joan lovingly opened the "Hokies Hotel," reuniting Mike's teammates in their home for ball-game weekends. She thrived on tailgates and decking everyone in orange and maroon, infecting all with the Hokie spirit.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Mike, and her parents, John and Helen Fulmer. She is survived by her three daughters, Michelle (husband Jeff), Kristine (husband Andrew), and Jennifer, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her brother, Robert and his wife Eleanor, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Carilion Hospice Foundation (<https://carilionfoundation.org/hospice>).

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For eligibility, visit: HOMEofVA.org/RRPinfo

Housing Opportunities Made Equal conducts the outreach and engagement initiative for the Virginia Rent Relief Program to provide one-on-one application assistance.

The Virginia Rent Relief Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Residents in Fairfax and Chesterfield counties should reach out to their counties' programs.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Week 10 in high school football: Postseason time

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The playoff picture became a lot clearer this past week as three of the county's and city's teams are headed to the postseason.

With Christiansburg's win over Cave Spring, the Blue Demons locked down home field advantage through the Region D playoffs. Meanwhile, Radford's loss to Glenvar will still give the Bobcats one game at home, but the road could still go through Glenvar.

Eastern Montgomery could be headed to the Class 1 region C playoffs for the first time since 2011.

Blacksburg and Auburn will be left sitting at home watching the area's other schools making a run.

Those latter two open the door for several questions. Auburn faces some major obstacles with the lack of num-

bers and whether that will continue next year. Similar schools like Bland and Craig have taken several years off before being able to field a football team.

This comes with a "why" as Auburn has had back-to-back state champions in volleyball for the girls and both baseball and basketball for the boys. The school recently announced a decision not to field a wrestling program this winter.

In Blacksburg, Coach Eddie Sloss has had consecutive winless seasons. He is 19-12 in four seasons and took over a program that had won a State Class 4 title and had a second deep run the year after. Earlier this week, Blacksburg forfeited a game to Salem. This week, Sloss will try to pick up a win against Cave Spring in a situation that could dictate his future at the school.

Area Top Five: 1) Salem, 2) Christiansburg, 3) Glenvar,

4) Giles, 5) Radford.

Games this week:

Cave Spring (2-5) at Blacksburg (0-8)

Last week: Both of these teams are finding it tough to pick up wins as last week Cave fell to Christiansburg 37-14, and Blacksburg took its eighth loss of the year at the hands of Hidden Valley 35-0. Christiansburg held Cave to 21 yards rushing in the loss.

Prediction: Blacksburg 21, Cave Spring 20.

Christiansburg (8-1) at Pulaski (4-5)

Last week: Christiansburg took out Cave Spring as Stephen Myrthril (15 for 175) and Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon (10-132) led a school record 342 yards rushing in a game. Myrthril scored three times. Tanner Evans also added 73 yards on five carries. The defense held

Cave to 154 yards of total offense with four sacks.

Patrick Henry took out Pulaski in a 42-13 contest as the Cougars were limited to 37 yards passing but managed 201 on the ground with John Lyman putting up 154 yards.

Prediction: Christiansburg 38, Pulaski 30.

Parry McCluer (6-3) at Eastern Montgomery (5-4)

Last week: Eastern Montgomery set themselves up for a chance at a Pioneer District title (3-1 in district play) and an appearance in the postseason with a 25-22 win over Covington. Seth Burleson continued his campaign for offensive player of the year with 28 carries for 219 yards and three touchdowns. Eli Brown added 107 yards on 11 carries in the win.

Parry McCluer rolled to a 49-0 win over Bath County as seven different players scored in the romp. The last

time Eastern Montgomery was able to pull off a win over Parry McCluer was in 2008, 35-28 in the spring.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 27, Parry McCluer 24.

Radford (7-2) at James River (5-4)

Last week: James River pulled out a 16-13 win over Carroll County and, like Radford, has only one loss in Three Rivers District play. James River quarterback James Hammons passed for 264 yards in the win. Jake Bailey caught seven passes for 135 with a touchdown.

Radford lost on a game-ending touchdown by Glenvar. Quarterback Marcell Baylor rushed nine times for 183 yards that included a 52-yard score with less than two minutes to go in the ball game for a temporary lead.

Prediction: Radford 30, James River 29.

Christiansburg rolls to win over Cave Spring



Travis Altizer (left) and Kenyon Johnson-Buchannon (right) double team to tackle a Cave Spring running back in the Blue Demons' 37-14 win Friday night.



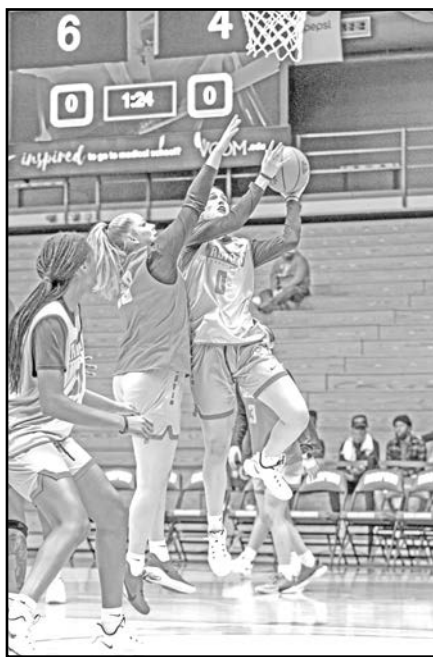
Christiansburg's Stephan Myrthril stretches across the goal line with two Cave Spring defenders in tow. Myrthril scored two touchdowns Friday night.



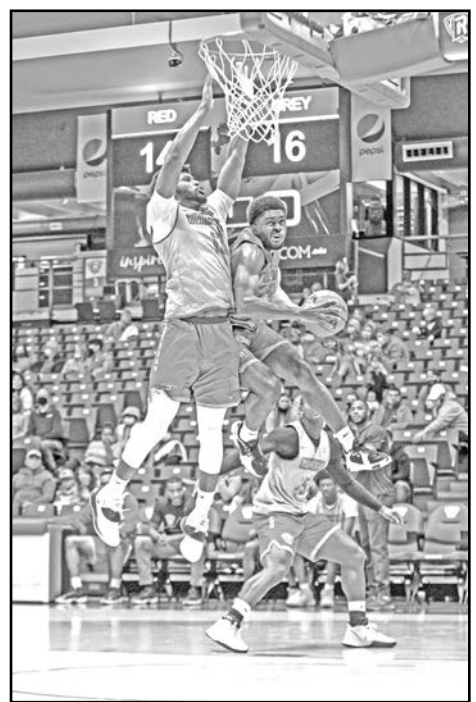
Eli Brubaker (left) blocks for running back Tanner Evans who had 73 yards on five carries with a touchdown in the Blue Demons' win that upped their record for the season to 8-1.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

RU holds basketball fan fest



Jackie Christ (left) defends the goal against Rachel LaLonda in the women's scrimmage at Radford University's Fan Fest Thursday. RU fans received an early look at this year's teams during open scrimmages and other fan activities.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY
In the men's scrimmage at RU's Fan Fest, Seminole Florida Community College transfer Roshawn Black attempts a dunk against the pressure of Shaquan Jules's defense.

Local gymnasts move on to college stage

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Two local athletes who trained at Virginia Techniques in Christiansburg have announced commitments to continue their careers in college. Kaiya Wynn will attend Converse College while Adrianna Hoffman is headed to Towson State.

Gymnastics was not offered at either girls' high school, Hoffman at Christiansburg and Wynn at James River.

Hoffman said Virginia Techniques has played a very important part in her life and has been a second home. "I have met so many amazing people and have had many amazing coaches that have each played such an important role in my life," she said.

Wynn agreed the gym has had an extremely positive impact on her life. "I first started out at another gym and I went there for seven years. I then switched to VA Techniques, and it has definitely changed my life for the better. They are so kind and respectful and will drop anything to help you. They care so much about not only your gymnastics but your personal life, too, and overall, they are the best gym," she said.

Hoffman, who started the sport when she was three years old, was a 2019 na-

tional qualifier.

Wynn is no longer doing what most people know as "true" gymnastics, and in college is switching to acro and tumbling, a subcategory of gymnastics that combines gymnastics tumbling, acrobatic lifts, pyramid lifts, aerial tosses, and choreographed skills team routines.

The focus in both acro and gymnastics is strength, balance, and flexibility, but the difference in execution lies in the transition of movement. For many, the difference is described as "Gymnastics is a sport and Acrobatics is an art."

Currently, 30 colleges sponsored by the NCAA have acro and tumbling programs, four of them at the Division I level.

Converse is coming off the first tournament and league championship since being introduced at the school in 2017.

Acrobatics and tumbling is the evolution of different forms of gymnastics. Teams compete in six events: compulsories, acro, pyramid, toss, tumbling, and a team event. The skill sets of tumbling and acrobatics are the athletic aspects of cheerleading. Lifts and tosses seen in cheerleading are acrobatics' gymnastics skills. Competitors in this sport demonstrate significant strength, power, flexibility, and balance in their performances.

Converse is a part of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA).

"My goals for that at the moment are to get used to the sport and succeed the best I can, to take corrections respectfully, to try to fix them as soon as possible, and to be the best I can be with the help of my coaches and teammates," Wynn said.

Both athletes are following in the footsteps of another outstanding gymnast from Virginia Techniques. Rayna Worley, who is now at the University of Kentucky, was recognized as one of the most outstanding freshmen in the Southeastern Conference. UK's team was ranked ninth nationally.

Wynn, who has a partial scholarship for academics and athletics at Converse, plans to major in biology/chemistry as a gateway into forensic science. Hoffman is leaning toward biology at Towson State.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Auburn wins MED volleyball championship to remain unbeaten



The Auburn High School Eagles are the undefeated 2021 Mt. Empire District regular season and tournament champions. Team members pictured with their trophy are (front row, left to right) Anna McGuire, Sara Albert, Stacy Lewis, Charity Spencer, and Madison Ketterer; (back row, left to right) are Bri Underwood, Avery Zuckerwar, Emma Vance, Kelsey Groseclose, Allyson Martin, Kenzie Swicegood, Haley Hollins, Kaitlyn Lytton, and Madeline Lavergne.



Auburn's Allyson Martin had 15 kills and 11 digs in Thursday's MED championship game won by the Eagles against Giles 25-17, 25-20, 25-18.



Anna McGuire had 22 assists and 11 digs as the Eagles claimed the district championship with the straight-set win.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS



Luke and Jayna Williams receive some help during the fish day at the Izaak Walton Pond from Star City Bassmaster Representative Hayden Hart. Jayna took second place in the 7 to 9 age group while Luke finished third.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTIANSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION

Rylan Hubble was one of the 97 participants in the 2021 Tony Huddleston Trout rodeo, sponsored by the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department.

Ninety-seven anglers take part in Tony Huddleston Trout Rodeo

The recent 2021 Tony Huddleston Trout Rodeo at the Izaak Walton Park in Christiansburg drew 97 participants. The top finishers in the 4-6 age group were Kandin Mullins, first, with 2.579 lbs.; Brody Witmer, second, with 2.579 lbs.; and Jordan Austin, third, with 2.142 lbs.

the 7-9 age group were Emersyn Davis, first, 2.644 lbs.; Jayna Williams, second, 2.428 lbs.; and Luke Williams, third, 2.33 lbs.

In the 10-12 age group, the top finishers were Bradley Brumfield, first, 2.810 lbs.; Colton Williams, second, 2.422 lbs.; and Reid Scott, third, 2.404 lbs.

In the 13-15 age group, the top anglers were Landon Marrs, 2.36 lbs.; Callie Gallimore, 2.27 lbs.; and Teaghan Wilson, 2.18 lbs.

The "Big Fish" award was won by Landon Marrs who reeled one in at 2.36 pounds. The smallest fish award was hooked by Porter Lyon with a new event record of .306 pounds.


Ronnie Worrell nails hole in one at Auburn Hills



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Ronnie Worrell made a hole in one recently at Auburn Hills Golf Club.

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We are happy to welcome Lindsey Berndt, DMD, to the Community Health Center of the New River Valley.

Dr. Berndt received her DMD from the University of New England after attaining her undergraduate in Biology from Ferris State University. Prior to joining us, she was Resident Dentist for Carilion Dental Care in Roanoke.

She has also volunteered for the Rescue Mission's Dental Clinic, The Autism Society of Maine, and Special Olympics. Dr. Berndt enjoys working with patients of all ages and looks forward to serving your family.

Lindsey Berndt, DMD

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR COVID VACCINE?


If you haven't gotten your Covid vaccine, we encourage you to get one now. Your Covid vaccine provides good protection against all known strains of the variant. Even if you get sick, you are far less likely to end up with a serious illness or in the hospital. Help protect yourself, your family, and our community by getting a vaccine.

Register online at chcnrv.org.

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219 South Buchanan Street | Pearisburg, VA 24134

MONTGOMERY CENTER | 540.381.0820
215 Roanoke Street | Christiansburg, VA 24073

RADFORD/PULASKI CENTER
540.585.1310
5826 Ruebush Road | Dublin, VA 24084



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
of the New River Valley

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Community Health Center accepts patients with or without insurance.

Remember:

- ★ December 7: Pearl Harbor Day
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