



Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament at VT Pete Dye Course Monday, June 6

The sixth annual Wayne Zellers Virginia Wounded Warrior Project Region III Golf Tournament will be held at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech on Monday, June 6, 2022.

This event offers support to veterans and their families in need as a result of their service to the country. This annual event has raised more than \$50,000 since its inception. Its founder, Wayne Zellers, was an avid golf-

er with a true passion for helping fellow veterans and their families in the New River Valley.

Local businesses and individuals are being contacted to support this special event. Red, white and blue sponsorships are available. Sponsors at these levels will receive recognition on sponsor signs, invitations to the silent auction, the dinner, and the awards function, and a golf certificate for four players on the course at a discount.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. on the third round. Gifts-in-kind are accepted and will be entered in a raffle to be conducted while the players are on the course.

One-hundred percent of sponsors' gifts will go to support veterans and their families in the New River Valley. Through these efforts, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Project has been able to deliver more than 5,600 services to local veterans and their families.

App Power issues warnings about water levels downstream of Claytor and Leesville dams

Appalachian Power wants boaters, kayakers, tubers, and other recreational users downstream of Claytor and Leesville dams to know water levels on the New and Roanoke rivers are rising rapidly as of Tuesday, May 31, and could continue to fluctuate throughout the week.

The National Weather Service is calling for temperatures this week in the mid-80's to 90s, and PJM, the independent regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid in 13 states, has notified Appalachian Power it may need to increase power generation at its hydroelectric plants to maintain the reliability of the regional electric grid.

"If the company is notified to increase power generation, we have little time to alert the public," said George Porter, who oversees communications for Appalachian Power's

hydro-operations. "Because of the short notice, we want to make the public aware now of the possibility water levels could increase suddenly and continue to fluctuate throughout the week."

Below Claytor Dam, water levels could increase up to two feet in a matter of minutes. Water levels below Leesville Dam could increase as much as eight feet over a seven-hour period. Those considering recreating on the rivers should monitor American Electric Power's (AEP) website for additional information.

Located on the New River in Pulaski County, the Claytor Dam is operated by Appalachian Power. The total installed electric generating capacity of the plant is 76 megawatts. Leesville Dam, with a generating capacity of 50 megawatts, is part

See **Water Levels**, page 3



The Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club recently honored Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson with its 2022 Professional Leadership Award.

Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club awards pro leadership award to Blacksburg Chief Anthony Wilson

The Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg awarded its 2022 Professional Leadership Award to Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson on May 23.

The Professional Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have gone beyond the boundaries of conventional professional success by demonstrating exceptional leadership in the development and implementation of programs beneficial to the community. The award has been made annually since 2000 to individuals in diverse professions such as technology,

education, medicine, finance, and public safety.

Chief Wilson will leave a strong legacy of community engagement and interaction that demonstrates his love for his hometown of Blacksburg and the New River Valley and his commitment to keep residents safe and the police force accessible as he retires this summer after a 25-year career with the Blacksburg Police Department.

Chief Wilson has been involved with and implemented many programs including: engaging children and Virginia Tech students, the New River Health

District's COVID-19 response, and officer training. This year's Rotary Professional Leadership Award focuses on his volunteer work with New River Community College.

Chief Wilson had an idea to create a program to recruit local youth to law enforcement careers through 2-year scholarships at New River Community College (NRCC). While NRCC was supportive, they asked him to raise the scholarship money. Twenty thousand dollars was raised the first year to cover nine students'

See **Rotary Club**, page 6

Blacksburg planning, building receives rezoning request for 402 Clay St.

The Blacksburg Planning and Building Department has received a request to rezone a 1.59 acre parcel at 402 Clay St. SE from R-5 Transitional Residential to PR Planned Residential.

The vacant parcel was formerly the site of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house, which was demolished in 2013. The development proposal is for 17 two-story townhomes that are a mix of 2- and 3-bedroom units.

The proposed maximum residential density will be 11 units per acre (17 units) or 28 beds per acre (44 beds) maximum. The parking ratio proposed for the development is one space per bedroom (44 spaces).

The future land use designation for the property is Medium Density Residential, which allows for up to 20 bedrooms per acre. This

proposed project represents an increase over the residential density envisioned in the future land use designation.

The following meetings have been scheduled to consider this application:

Neighborhood Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, on the second floor of the municipal building, 300 South Main St.; Planning Commission Public Hearing: Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers on the second floor of the municipal building 300 South Main St.; and a town council public hearing, date and time to be determined.

The application and all relevant documents can be found on the Town of Blacksburg website at www.blacksburg.gov/publichearings.

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to meet June 6-7

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, June 7, at 1:15 p.m. in Room 2100 in Torgersen Hall, 620 Drillfield Drive, on the Blacksburg campus.

All other committee meetings held during the two-day session will be held at the Classroom Building, 1455 Perry St., in Blacksburg unless otherwise noted.

On Monday, June 6, at 1:15 p.m., all board members will meet in open session and attend an information session in Room 260 of the Classroom Building.

During the board's two-day session, the following committee meetings will be held:

On June 7, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will meet in open session beginning at 7 a.m. in the Old Guard Salon at the Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Road in Blacksburg. At 8 a.m., the committee will meet in closed session, followed by an open session in Room 230.

Also on June 7, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will assemble in the lobby of The Inn at Virginia Tech at 7:50 a.m. for a tour of campus grounds. Following the tour,

the committee will meet with the Finance and Resource Management Committee in open session at 10 a.m. in Room 260. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will then meet in open session at 10:30 a.m. in Room 260.

On June 6, the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee will meet in closed session at 9:30 a.m., followed by an open session in Room 260.

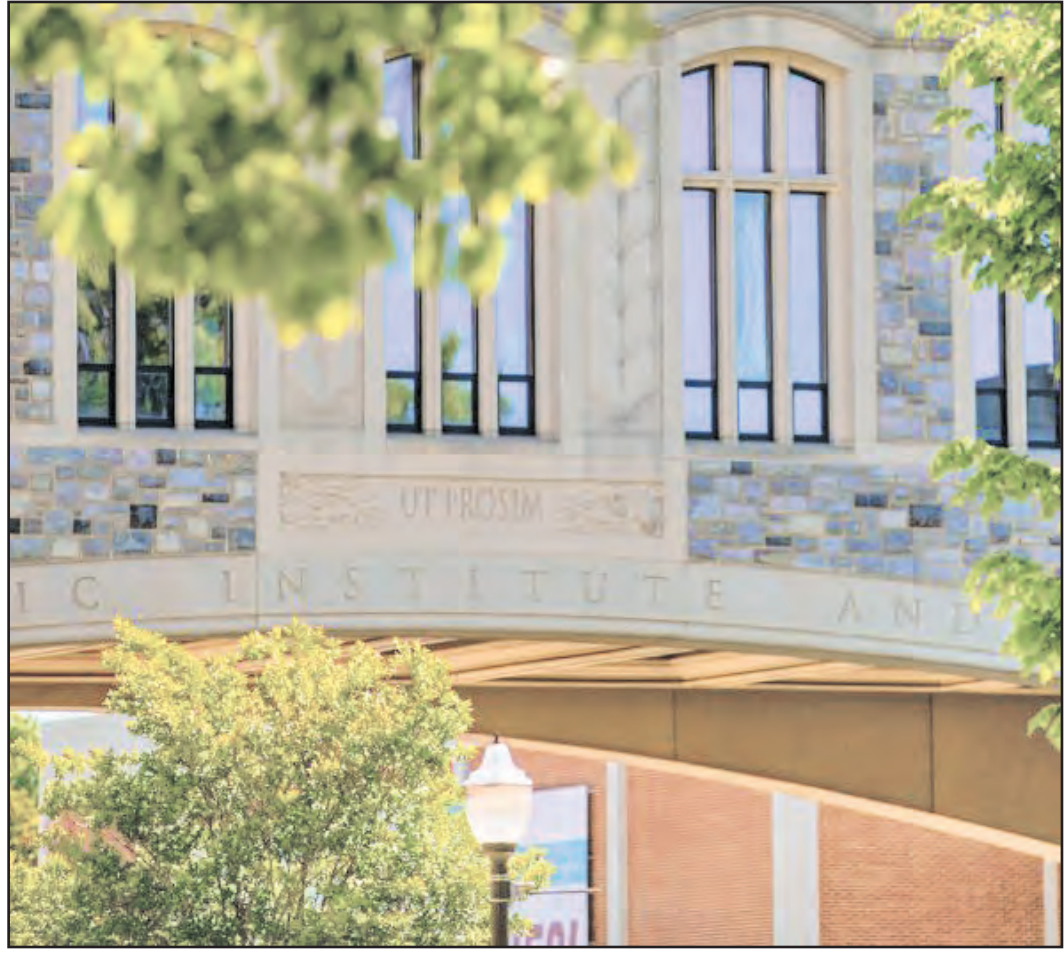
The Finance and Resource Management Committee will meet June 7 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in closed session, followed by open session, in Room 230.

The Governance and Administration Committee will meet in open session on June 6 beginning at 3:45 p.m. in Room 260.

On June 6, the Executive Committee will meet in closed session at noon in Room 230.

During the two-day meeting, board members will discuss 2022-23 tuition and fees and the 2022-23 university budget. The board will also consider a resolution to establish a Department of Real Estate in the Pamplin College of Business.

Public comment will not be received at the meeting.



Torgersen Bridge at midday.

PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES FOR VIRGINIA TECH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 1:

Talking About Books: "Harlem Shuffle"
At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed this month is "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead, in-person and virtually.

Talking about Books: "The Righteous Mind"
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 6 p.m. To be discussed is "The Righteous Mind" by Jonathan Haidt. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Thursday, June 2:

American Legion meeting
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Chamber Foundation annual bocce ball tournament & Business after Hours
At the Montgomery County Moose Lodge 1470 115 Farmview Road NW, Christiansburg from 2 to 7 p.m. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Foundation presents its annual Bocce Ball Tournament for great food, fun, and networking. <https://bit.ly/mc-bocce2022>.

Also, join the Chamber for Business After Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. Featured will be chances to win prizes at the raffle, including an Old Town brand kayak. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Email programs@montgomerycc.org for more details.

Crafternoon
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 2 p.m. Participants will make a variety of ocean-inspired crafts. All ages are welcome but supplies are limited.

Cupcake Wars: Under the Sea
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Help the library kick off its summer reading program by decorating cupcakes with an ocean theme.

Thursday, June 2- Thursday, June 23:

Set sail to healthy eating and cooking for the family
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to make affordable, healthy snacks and meals for the family. They will receive free cooking utensils at each class and a slow cooker on completion of the four-week series. Activities will be provided for children ages 3 and older. The program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Friday, June 3:

Nailed It! Summer edition
At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Inspired by the hit Netflix TV show, participants will use their wacky, artistic side to create a work of art using the provided supplies. Ages 8 and up. Registra-

tion is required.

Saturday, June 4:

BMCF Annual Gospel Sing
The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's annual gospel sing will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on the Alexander Black House lawn, 204 Draper Road SW. Admission is free, donations are encouraged. Area choirs, soloists, and praise dancers will sing current and old-time gospel favorites. Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument and join in the group sing.

The schedule for the music is as follows: Noon to 1 p.m.: Bob and Claudia Goldstein; 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.: the Gorylanders; 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Joann's This and That Singers; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Simple Gifts; 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.: the Indian Run Gospel Trio; 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Alexis Johnson. Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

American Red Cross blood drive
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 9 a.m. Schedule an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org. The blood drive will be held at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room. A patron of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library who has fines and donates blood will be forgiven up to \$10, redeemable only at Meadowbrook Public Library.

Caturday
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at noon. Sign up at the library for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. For all ages.

Father's Day gift program
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Participants will make a special Father's Day gift. Fill a mug with treats and then gift-wrap it. Supplies are limited.

Teen DND
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

PanJammers Steel Drum Orchestra
At the Blacksburg Library at 5 p.m. PanJammers is an award-winning steel drum orchestra based in Blacksburg.

Woman's Club of Radford yard sale
The Woman's Club of Radford will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. until noon at 207 10th St. in Radford. Proceeds will benefit children's literacy projects in the New River Valley. The Woman's Club's Babies into Books program gives a book to every baby born at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. The group's Reading Is Fundamental program serves three elementary schools: Riverlawn and Snowville in Pulaski County and McHarg in Radford. Each child gets the chance twice a year to select a book of his or her own.

Monday, June 6:

Blacksburg real estate taxes due
The Town of Blacksburg real estate tax invoices have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 6. Anyone who has not

yet received a tax statement should call the Department of Financial Services at 540-961-1105. Payment may be mailed, made in person, placed in the drop box at 300 South Main St., Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card, or paid online at www.blacksburg.gov/payments. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 6, 2022. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2022.

Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke program
At the Christiansburg Library at 10 a.m. and at the Meadowbrook Public Library at 2 p.m. This one-hour program will feature non-releasable animal education ambassadors, fun stories, and history. Learn how to help local wild animals.

June 6, 13, 20, 27:

Nature Walk/Library Talk
Each Monday in June at 10 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Public Library Courtyard. Walk with babies or children in strollers, slings, or carriers. Participants will get together and walk, make new friends, talk about nutrition and feeding babies and toddlers, and learn more information about the library. Sponsored by the Family Nutrition Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension of Montgomery County.

Tuesday, June 7:

Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke program
At the Blacksburg Library at 10 a.m. This one-hour program will feature non-releasable animal education ambassadors, fun stories, and history. Learn how to help local wild animals.

Wednesday, June 8:

Brown Bag Book Club
At the Radford Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. To be discussed this month is "84 Charing Cross Road" by Helene Hanff. Participants may bring a lunch or enjoy Aaron's latest delicious culinary creation (tea & scones!). To be discussed next month is "Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Thursday, June 9:

River City Quilt Guild
The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

June 2022 Eggs & Issues: COVID After-Action Report
At Warm Hearth Village 2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce presents its Eggs & Issues breakfast and a COVID after-action report on how the community has adapted. Invited speakers are Dr. Noelle Bissell, Director of the New River Health District; Bill Flattery, Vice President of Carilion Clinic, Western Region; Devin Tobin, COO of LewisGale Hospital Montgomery and Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the New River Valley Regional Commission. Admission is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited. Reservations are required by Tuesday, June 7 at noon. Register and pay online or contact programs@montgomerycc.org.

Meet the author event
At the Radford Public Library at 7 p.m. Award-winning garden writer Barbara Pleasant, author of "Homegrown Pantry," will share dozens of tips for enjoying a garden's bounty in every season. A copy of Barbara's book will be given out during the event.

Saturday, June 11:

Fish Fry
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its June Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will serve up helpings of fish, fries, and slaw with homemade desserts and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Children under 3 will eat free. Carry-outs are also \$12. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan

Second Annual Radford PRIDE March
Organized by the RADical Change Commission. March begins with brief remarks at the Radford Public Library, fol-

lowed by a march starting at 7 p.m. from the library to the City of Radford administration/ police building. Any questions can be asked to the RADICAL Change Commission on Facebook.

Tuesday, June 14:

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 Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Tuesday, June 4 and Wednesday, June 5:

Dynamic Plein Air Painting with Arlene Daniel
Sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. Oil painter Arlene Daniel will be in Christiansburg, June 4-5, at the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 W Main St. to demonstrate in oil but will take artists using any medium into the class. Class hours will divide between indoors and outdoors. To register go to Blacksburgart.org. To learn more about Arlene Daniel, go to arleneedaniel.com. Cost is \$125/\$155 (member/non-member).

Saturday, June 18:

NAACP Juneteenth Commemoration
The local NAACP will celebrate Juneteenth, the traditional African American commemoration of freedom from slavery from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Rosa Peters Playground, 300 Depot St. NE, Christiansburg. Music will be played and food will be available to purchase. The NAACP Youth Council will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and other snacks. An ice cream truck courtesy of Freedom First Credit Union will provide free ice cream. Proceeds from the event will benefit local youth educational activities and programs. The program will begin at noon and will be followed by swimming, children's games, a silent auction, and raffle with door prizes. Various talents will be shared by youth and community members. Information booths from the NAACP and other community organizations will be on site. If an organization wants to have a booth, contact the NAACP at info@mrfnaacp or call the branch at 540-382-6751. Entry is free.

Wednesday, June 22:

Red Cross blood drive
The New River Health District in partnership with Blue Ridge Church, 1655 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg, is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on June 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, June 24:

BMCF Sunset Rhythms 2022
The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Center kicks off its summer concert series on the lawn of the Alexander Black House from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with singer/songwriter Grace Campbell. Spoons' shaved ice truck will have treats for sale. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic or other snacks as well. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Children ages 13 and under are free. All proceeds support the work of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Center. Visit www.blacksburgmuseum.org for more information.

Throughout June and July:

"Turtle-y Awesome" - sidewalk obstacle course
Visit the Meadowbrook Library during the months of June and July and go through the tropical theme sidewalk obstacle course located in the courtyard. Those who complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing.

Ongoing:

Free GED classes with NRCC
At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED prep classes offered by New River Community College in the library's community room. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

Grab-and-go meals
At the Meadowbrook Public Library. The library offers free grab-and-go lunch and snack meals. Children and youth 18 and younger can come and get a week's worth of lunches and snacks every week. The event is sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia,



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Tropical storm expert encourages people to be ‘weather aware’ as hurricane season starts

A Virginia Tech meteorologist with expertise in hurricanes and tropical storms encourages people to prepare for the Atlantic hurricane season that began today June 1, in part by finding a trusted area weather source and paying attention to local weather alerts.

“During hurricane season, context is important,” said Stephanie Zick, an assistant professor in the College of Natural Resources and Environment’s Department of Geography. “For example, a weather app can tell you there is a 100 percent chance of rain, but it won’t tell you about the flooding threat or what to do when there is a simultaneous threat of tornadoes and flooding.”

“Trusted sources can provide valuable information that you will need to keep your family and property safe,” Zick said. “No matter where you live, I recommend that you have a trusted local

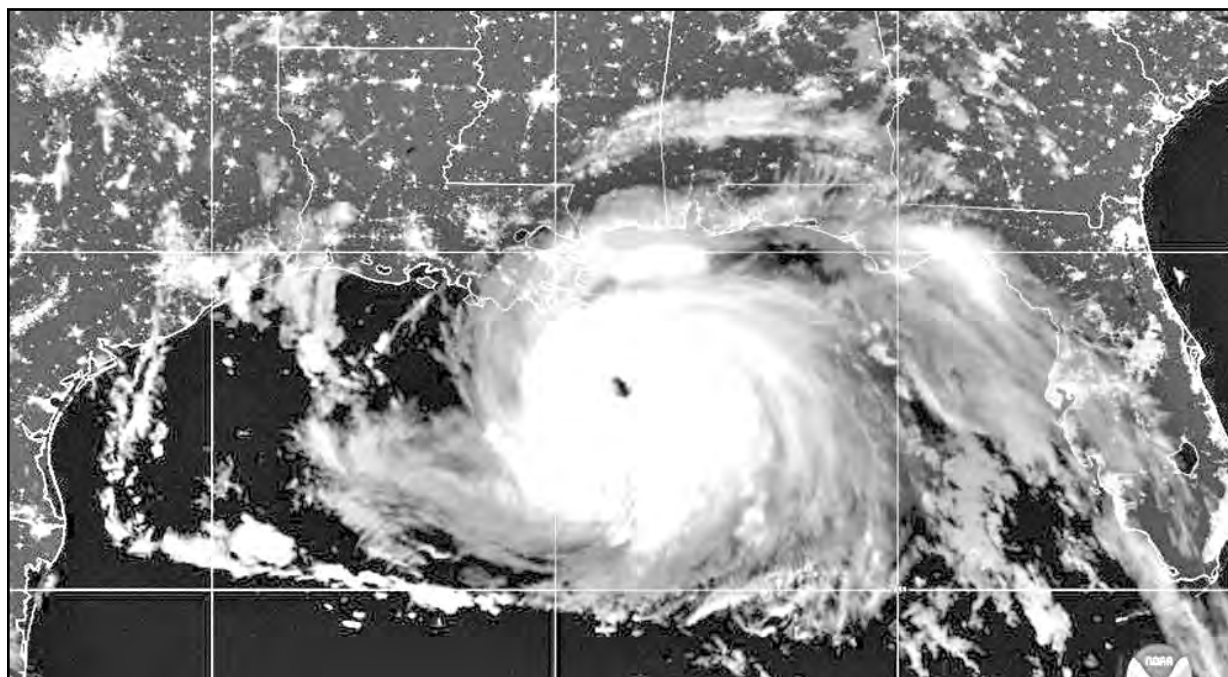
weather source, such as a local broadcast meteorologist who you watch on TV or follow on Twitter.”

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday released their prediction for an above-normal 2022 Atlantic hurricane season.

Zick said it’s important to remember that hurricanes have the potential to threaten both coastal and inland areas, as seen with Hurricane Ida in 2021.

“Many people think of wind when they hear the word ‘hurricane,’ but rainfall induced flooding is another significant hazard,” she said, citing National Hurricane Center statistics that show rainfall was responsible for 65 percent of hurricane-related deaths in the United States over the last five years, many of which occurred during Hurricane Ida and Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The U.S. has recently



A visible satellite image of Hurricane Ida approaching land in the Gulf of Mexico taken by NOAA’s GOES-16 (GOES East) satellite on August 29, 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA

seen multiple hurricanes undergo rapid intensification close to land, Zick noted.

“Hurricane forecasting models can predict these rapid intensification periods and give forecasters

greater confidence when predicting these events that can be so impactful to coastal residents,” she said.

“As with every hurricane season, it only takes one storm, and we should

always be prepared and stay weather aware.”

About Zick

Stephanie Zick is an assistant professor of geography and meteorologist in the College of Natural Resources and

Environment. Her research areas include tropical meteorology, tropical cyclones, precipitation, numerical weather prediction, and model forecast verification.

By Jordan Fifer

PETS OF THE WEEK



Meet Clawdia. She’s a sweet gal who came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center with her three kittens. They all found homes and now it’s her turn. Clawdia is friendly and outgoing. She is also curious and likes to explore. Stop by to get to know her. She may be your purrfect match.



Hill is a happy hound who is ready to sniff out a new home. He’s a friendly boy and enjoys affection from his favorite humans. He also gets along with other dogs. As a lot of hounds like to do, Hill occasionally belts out a few tunes, so it would be best he live in a place that does not share walls with others.

Mt. Tabor Ruritans to sponsor Blacksburg Fourth of July parade

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club is sponsoring the thirty-fourth annual Blacksburg Fourth of July Parade. Entries are sought for floats, bicycles, wagons, marchers, walkers, antique/classic cars, race cars, horses, fire engines, scouts, bands, and sports teams.

The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. in midtown Blacksburg at Eheart St. NE. It will end at Alumni Mall near Virginia Tech’s Drill-field.

Check-in and lineup will begin

at 1:30 p.m. Lineup positions will be emailed to parade participants a few days before the parade. Ruritan Club members will be on hand to assist with organizing the lineup.

The theme of the parade is “Thanking medical personnel and first responders.”

The floats may not be more than 13 feet high. Candy may be passed out but must not be thrown from vehicles so children don’t run into the street near vehicle wheels to

pick candy up.

Blue Ribbon Awards will be handed out at the judges’ discretion. For further information, text or call Gavin Faulkner, 540-449-6178, gavin@rowanmountain.com. Facebook: MtTaborRuritan.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the Blacksburg Parks & Recreation Department will have music, food, and entertainment near the Blacksburg Recreation Center. The day’s celebration will end at 9:30 p.m. with fireworks.

Water Levels

from page 1

of the Smith Mountain Project, a 636-megawatt pumped storage hydroelectric facility on the Roanoke River.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee.

It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP’s approximately 16,700 employ-

ees operate and maintain the nation’s largest electricity transmission system and more than 224,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers

in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation’s largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 7,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

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OPINION

Buddy King: Reading the “comics” in the local newspaper

It’s early Sunday morning and I have retrieved the newspaper from my front yard. The begonias are now on my porch for the summer, so the newspaper guy is avoiding my ire by tossing the paper haphazardly in the general direction of my house as he rounds the corner on two wheels at high speed. He and I have had spirited discussions in prior summers regarding how little I like having my beautiful scarlet blooms scattered by his control problems. I guess I have truly become a “get off my lawn guy,” or at least the “don’t hit my \$300 flowers with the Clarksburg Exponent or I’ll call Circulation guy.”

As I have mentioned in the past, I still faithfully subscribe to the local daily paper. This act is motivated as much by community commitment and nostalgia as by curiosity as to what is going on around me in my little town. It has been at least a generation since most of us got our major news from newspapers, having it thrust upon us in recent years, like it or not, by the Internet, television, radio, etc. I can’t even check my watch for the time without a “push” from Apple News popping up. But nonetheless I remain a faithful subscriber to my local paper. Which brings

me to the subject of this column. The comics, what we used to call the “comic strips” or the “funny papers.”

As a child, I read the newspaper at the breakfast table, getting sections only after my father was finished. He was a “front to back guy.” My mother waited till he had gone to work and I had had my turn before she caught up on the world events as reported by the Roanoke Times.

I had no interest in the front section. It was about “world, state and local news,” which held no interest for a 9-year-old. I wanted the back section: sports and the comics. I might have struggled with graphs and diagramming sentences in school, but I damn sure knew how to read a baseball box score.

In the spring and summer, I started my days by reading the baseball scores and checking the standings. In the fall and winter, it was reading about “VPI” football and basketball, either accounts of the games or the work of a couple of columnists who alternated serving as cheerleader or critic for the Gobblers.

After my fill of sports, influenced by my Dad of course, I moved to the back pages of the Times. To the

“funny pages.” My mom was the main “influencer” here. She read several serial strips, the newspaper versions of television soap operas. I remember a couple in particular which I read for years, originally just because my mom did.

First, there was “Mary Worth,” a strip featuring a white-haired lady (now in her eighth decade of remaining the same age). Mary was and continues to be a cross between Martha Stewart and Oprah and Ellen. A “sage” adviser and friend to many, she was known for her common sense (look it up, it used to exist).

Mary was never the main character in her stories, rather lurking in the background to come out and dispense pearls of wisdom and direction when all seemed lost. I was rarely enthralled with the storylines, but my mom, who did not watch television soaps, liked to discuss them with me, and I guess I was accommodating. Today I might be called an “enabler.”

Another serial comic in the back pages of my childhood newspaper was “Steve Roper.” An investigative journalist. In those pre-Watergate days, before every news reporter in the world thought he or she had unearthed the next Pulitzer-Prize-

winning story, Steve would have been known as a “beat writer” I think. I know his forte was “racket-busting” and his venue was New York City, a good place for it. My research indicates that this strip, which ran under several names over the years, including “Steve Roper and Mike Nomad” during the time of my readership, ended a 68-year run in 2004. Presumably, Steve foresaw the coming of the fake news era and wanted no part of it.

And I can’t do this column without discussing what put the “funny” in the funny papers. The funnies of course. I religiously read “Dennis the Menace” (I didn’t get it, just seemed like everyday life to a 9-year-old kid then. What was so funny?), “Beetle Bailey” (an inept Army private surrounded by equally inept officers and a sergeant too fat for the service - made me glad the country wasn’t under attack in those days), “Peanuts” (over my head at the time but I was told by my dad that it was clever), “Blondie” (but it was really about Dagwood, who never seemed to be good enough for Blondie, an early crush of mine), “Archie and Veronica” (the adventures at Riverdale High, tales of soda fountains

and letter sweaters and jalopies. I GOT this one).

To end this stroll down memory lane, I have to give a shout out to “Gil Thorp”. This is where the twain of sports and comics met: a comic strip published in the sports section. It was read by all my gang in high school, sometimes becoming a satire (it was the 60’s; Gil and his guys and girls were too good to be true). Gil was the athletic director and head coach of football, basketball, and baseball at Milford High School and was a sport world version of Mary Worth. At the same time that I was reading Gil Thorp in the paper, I was also reading the Chip Hilton book series, which featured Chip’s accomplishments at Valley Falls High under the tutelage of his iconic coach, Hank Rockwell.

To this day, my law partner Walter and I discuss who we would have rooted for if Milford High had ever played Valley Falls.

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

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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Home Country: The right way for squash bug stomping time

Dud was heading home in his pickup truck when he saw the strange goings-on at the Bahdziewicz place. Abraham Lincoln Bahdziewicz was out in the family’s large garden with a full complement of kids who were happily hopping around. Some of the kids came from the neighborhood, but most of them were homegrown Bahdziewicz kids.

The Bahdziewicz family had a great garden, and went at the whole thing scientifically and in great fun because this is one family that runs short on cash but long on kids.

Dud pulled over and watched for a minute as Abe laughingly directed the family dancers doing the vegetable boogie through the various rows

of the huge garden.

“What’s going on, Abe?” yelled Dud.

“Squash bug stomping time,” Abe said, turning over another board lying next to the vegetables. As soon as the board was flipped over, a plethora of Bahdziewicz kids stomped the bugs flat. “It’s the kids’ favorite time in the garden.”

The third-grader, John Kennedy Bahdziewicz, said, “Flip another board, Dad.”

“Hold it!” Dud yelled. “Not another move until I get back, okay? I’ll be back here in five minutes. Five minutes!”

Abraham Lincoln Bahdziewicz looked at his oldest son, Woodrow

Wilson Bahdziewicz and they both shrugged. The rest of the family stopped, too. Dud peeled out in the pickup and was back in less than two minutes.

“Okay,” Dud yelled. “Let’s do the squash bug stomp the right way!”

And he strapped on his accordion and fired up a grand polka as boards were flipped over and the exposed squash bugs were dispatched in record polka time.

Sometimes just living here can be an awful lot of fun

By Slim Randles

Pick up “Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland” www.lpdpress.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Applauding the people of Ukraine

I am happy to announce that this letter is now being circulated throughout the entire country of Ukraine and Russia. Every government, church, bank, university, and many other institutions have been emailed. The feedback is overwhelming. The Ukrainians are ready to defend themselves and the Russians want no part of this war.

This letter is in response

to the articles covering the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

As a citizen of and believer in democracy, I applaud the efforts of the Ukrainian people. Their efforts are similar to what is happening in many other parts of the world. Believe it or not, one thing that overrides capitalism and political correctness in the United States is the right to have one’s voice heard. This is the foundation on which our democracy is built.

The Ukrainian people should continue to defy Vladimir Putin’s powerful armed forces so that Ukrainian democracy can continue to thrive. It is unfortunate that the United States compromised on one of its most fundamental values in order to protect its economic interests in Eastern Europe, something that happens all too often domestically as well.

It is not the Ukrainian people that are attempting

to expand NATO power, but rather it is Vladimir Putin who has engaged in intimidation to prevent the will of the people (both Ukrainian and Russian) from being heard. Why else would he stoop to such underhanded tactics to block various means of communication among the citizens of Ukraine and Russia? Why is Putin forcing Russia to return to the Cold War utilizing political strong-arm tactics such as violence? Vladimir Putin, you have had over twenty years to acknowledge Ukraine and have failed them by your own choosing. The days of your despotic regime are finally coming to an end as it appears the desire for freedom will continue to sweep among the Eastern European nations as well as Russia.

Accordingly, let the call go forth among all citizens of Ukraine that your brothers and sisters of democracy from all over the

world are with you during every trial and tribulation you may encounter during this crisis. To the people of Ukraine, the trumpet of freedom beckons you to rise in protest and louden your voice to preserve your sacred heritage, promote your children’s future, and obtain the blessings of liberty we all cherish. Ukraine, the hour of your redemption is at hand. As you the rightful citizens move forward to reclaim your own country, rise and strike! In the name of those who were murdered fighting for everyone’s rights, rise and strike! To push back this evil regime, rise and strike! Let no one continue to fear this man. Every Ukrainian must be strong and fight on for their freedom. Rise and strike!

Vladimir Putin, you little weasel...let Ukraine go!

*JOE BIALEK
Cleveland, Ohio*

Financial Focus: New opportunities for 529 plan owners

If you want to provide educational opportunities for your children or grandchildren, you may want to consider investing in a 529 plan.

In recent years, this plan has gotten more flexible, and potentially more powerful, than ever. A key benefit of a 529 plan is that earnings are generally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. As the owner of the plan, you can essentially name any beneficiary you want, and you’re free to change the beneficiary as needed. Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put away considerable sums in a 529 plan — and you may want to, because college costs have risen steadily over the years. In fact, for the 2021-22 academic year, the College Board reports that the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) of a

public, four-year college or university is more than \$27,000 for in-state students and nearly \$56,000 for students at private schools.

But 529 plans are no longer just for higher education. Over the past few years, the rules governing 529 plans have changed, so they can now be used for K-12 tuition expenses (up to \$10,000 per student, per year), apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and student loans (\$10,000 lifetime limit for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary’s siblings).

And soon, a major change will affect the relationship between grandparent-owned

See Financial Focus, page 5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Orator’s podium
 - 5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
 - 8. Partner to “oohs”
 - 12. African antelope
 - 14. Indigenous Thai person
 - 15. Monetary unit of Angola
 - 16. Becomes less intense
 - 18. Insurance mascot
 - 19. Tech hub __ Alto
 - 20. Actress Tomei
 - 21. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 22. Type of smart watch
 - 23. Natives
 - 26. Incompetent person
 - 30. Rare Hawaiian geese
 - 31. Unspoken relationships
 - 32. Passports and licenses are two
 - 33. Claw
 - 34. Status quo
 - 39. Mimic
 - 42. Fur-lined cloak
 - 44. Ancient foreigner
 - 46. In an angry way
 - 47. Ill-intentioned
 - 49. Monetary unit of Serbia
 - 50. S. American plant
 - 51. One or the other
 - 56. An alias for Thor
 - 57. Gratuity
 - 58. In a painful way
 - 59. French commune
 - 60. Promotional materials
 - 61. Greek city
 - 62. Assistant
 - 63. Confederate general
 - 64. Former NJ governor
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used by gymnasts
 - 2. “Luther” actor Idris
 - 3. Broad volcanic crater
 - 4. Not for
 - 5. Blur
 - 6. Tots
 - 7. Acted leisurely
 - 8. About the Alps
 - 9. Gets out of bed
 - 10. Town in “The Iliad”
 - 11. Welsh given name
 - 13. Remove salt
 - 17. Calvary sword
 - 24. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
 - 25. Keeps a house cozy
 - 26. Ballplayer’s accessory
 - 27. Southwestern Russian city
 - 28. Pro sports league
 - 29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
 - 35. Stop standing
 - 36. Utilize
 - 37. Sign language
 - 38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
 - 40. Being of central importance
 - 41. Ruin environment
 - 42. Dessert dish
 - 43. Sea eagles
 - 44. Fertilized
 - 45. Jerry’s friend Benes
 - 47. Indian river
 - 48. Pass into a specified state or condition
 - 49. Nocturnal rodent
 - 52. A way to travel
 - 53. Iron-containing compound
 - 54. Ancient Greek City
 - 55. NFL signal caller Matt

OBITUARIES

Anderson, Roger Lee

Roger Lee Anderson, 81, of Pulaski, passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

He worked for H.T. Bowling Construction Company as a maintenance man for 43 years. Roger loved the outdoors, spending time with his family, and eating out for meals.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Lee Anderson; his mother, Lucy Mae Walls Anderson; his stepmother, Vergie Anderson; his brothers, Bobby and Draper Anderson; a daughter, Sherri Anderson; and a grandson, Shane Arnold.



Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Janice "Jan" Anderson; a daughter, Renee Anderson; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a sister, Alene Gray; a brother, Arnold Anderson; several stepsisters; and many other family members and special friends.

The family received funeral services on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by memorial services with Pastor Billy Akers and Charlie Henderson officiating.

The Anderson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in

Bane, Ronald

Ronald Bane, 56, departed this life on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Those left to cherish Ronald's memory include his parents, Lewis and Elizabeth Bane of Parrott; his brothers Doug (Lisa) of Pulaski, and Dennis (Cissy) of Dublin; a daughter Anna; and a multitude of nieces, nephews, special friends and loved ones.

Ronald also had special children in his life that he adored, including Nathan and Cierra.

He grew up as a native son of Parrott and enjoyed fishing the river and hunting the mountains.



Ronald was a skilled carpenter by trade and worked in the concrete industry for many years. He had an eye for genuine quality in his work, and many homes bear his workmanship detail in their build.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at the Parrott Church of God. The family received friends prior to the service. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Faulconer, Leigh Anne

Leigh Anne Faulconer, 52, of Radford, passed away Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

Leigh was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, James William and Hazel W. Faulconer; her maternal grandparents, Jesse F. and Cloetta M. Robinson; an uncle, David John Robinson with whom she shared a birthday; and also her beloved Corgi, Gracie.

Leigh was a 1987 graduate of Spotsylvania High School. Following her graduation from Virginia Tech in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology, Leigh went on to earn a Master of Science, Family and Child Development at Virginia Tech in 1994 and in 1998 a Master's in Social Work from Radford University. She dedicated over 25 years of service to her adopted home in the New River Valley Region as a medical social worker at Carilion Roanoke



Memorial Hospital.

She served as an assessment specialist, CONNECT, at Carillon St. Albans Behavioral Health, and over 10 years as a hospice social worker with Carilion Clinic Hospice, New Century Hospice in Wytheville, and lastly at Blue Ridge Cancer Care in Blacksburg. Leigh was a member of Lifeline Church, Christiansburg.

She was born on June 9, 1969, in Fredericksburg, Va., to James A. and Mary R. Faulconer. Including her parents, Leigh is survived by a brother, James V. Faulconer (Kelly), a niece, Alexandria L. Faulconer (Tate) and a sister Jamie L. Faulconer. Her Spotsylvania County family includes many aunts, uncles, and cousins. A memorial service for Leigh will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at Lifeline Christiansburg, 100 W. Main Street, Christiansburg.

Weaver, Howard W.

Howard W. Weaver unexpectedly left this earth to join his Lord and Savior on May 25, 2022.

Born in Dublin on Aug. 23, 1934, Howard was a lifelong resident of the town. He met his beloved wife, Margaret, in 1954. The two were married for 62 years, prior to her preceding him in death in December 2018.

Howard was the proud father to two daughters, Beth Weaver Weber (Charlie) and Molly Weaver Nevitt and an "adopted" daughter, Stephanie Bird Henthorn. He additionally welcomed the many friends of his girls into his home offering a boat ride to all and grilling hamburgers for them. He attended many band and other school functions. He was a devoted family man and was in attendance at Dublin United Methodist Church in the same spot every week, surrounded by those who loved him.

Professionally, Howard worked as a CPA for all his adult life after graduating from National Business College. He had his own practice for over 50 years and worked side by side with his wife for most of those. He was a lifelong member of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants and was honored at a ceremony in Richmond for this lifetime achievement in 2012. He was also a life member of the American Institute of



Certified Public Accountants.

In the community, Howard was a lifelong member of the Lions Club in Dublin, Va.

Howard was semi-retired and continued to work with a few special clients. He enjoyed spending time with his family and living at Claytor Lake. He enjoyed time at Myrtle Beach and always

wanted a good seafood dinner. He was preceded in death by his parents, J. Emmet and Ruth Weaver; his wife of 62 years, Margaret Weaver; and an infant Weaver.

Survivors include his daughter, Beth Weber (Charlie), and Molly Jo Nevitt; a cousin, Jeanette Poole; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at the Dublin United Methodist Church. Funeral services will be held today, June 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Dublin United Methodist Church with Pastor Don Shelor officiating. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dublin United Methodist Church, 424 E Main St, Dublin, VA 24084.

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

Whitley, Nancy Saraske

It is with heavy hearts that the family announces the passing of Nancy Saraske Whitley on May 24, 2022, at the age of 66 at her home in Pilot.

Nancy was born in Anderson, S.C., to John Oscar Saraske and Kathleen Rogers Saraske on Nov. 26, 1955. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, James Saraske of Anderson, S.C.

Nancy's faith was a bedrock upon which she built and lived her life including time spent as a member and pianist/organist at Riverside Baptist Church in Anderson, Red Cross Baptist Church in Red Cross, N.C.; and most recently at Floyd Baptist Church. She was often found at her piano bench practicing or playing her favorite hymns.

Her light and impact will live on through



the lives of her family and friends including her husband of 41 years, Rodney Whitley of Pilot, and her children and their families: Michael (Madison) Whitley, Melinda (Cameron) Lephew, and Daniel Whitley. Her love also endures in each of her cherished grandchildren: Lily, Nolan, and Isabelle.

A visitation was held at Gardner Funeral Home in Floyd on Saturday, May 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. A funeral service was held at Floyd Baptist Church on Sunday, May 29 at 2 p.m. A burial service will be held in Red Cross, N.C. at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Online Condolences may be made at Gardnerfuneralhomefloyd.com. Arrangements by Gardner Funeral Home.

Financial Focus

from page 4

529 plans and the financial aid packages awarded to their grandchildren. Families applying for aid have not been required to report grandparent-owned 529 account assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, under previous rules, you had to report withdrawals from the grandparent-owned plans as untaxed student income, which could reduce aid eligibility by up to 50% of the amount of cash received.

But that's changing for the 2024-25 FAFSA, which won't require students to report cash support, including money taken from a grandparent-owned 529 plan. Instead, a student's total income amount will be reported directly from federal in-

come tax returns. This means that a grandparent-owned 529 plan won't have any effect on need-based financial aid eligibility. This benefit to families is already here because 2022 will be used as the base year for the 2024-25 FAFSA, so any withdrawals taken in 2022, and also going forward, won't need to be reported as student income.

With this change, families will now have more options on using 529 plans without jeopardizing financial aid. You can generally withdraw any amount from the aggregate of all 529 plans for higher education costs, but only the qualified withdrawals – the ones used for typical education-related expenses – will be tax-free. The earnings portion of

non-qualified withdrawals are taxable and could also incur a 10% penalty.

Given the new rules affecting a grandparent-owned 529 plan, you should consult with a financial professional to determine how this plan can work with other strategies to help meet educational expenses while, at the same time, not detracting from the progress you'd like to make on other important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

In any case, consider looking into a 529 plan. It was already a great tool for education funding, and it can now offer your family even more options.

Submitted by Marquise Francis, Edward Jones Financial Advisor

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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Preview - Friday June 3rd @ 4 PM

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JUNE 02 7:05
PRICE NIGHT, BARK IN THE PARK & THIRSTY THURSDAY - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM
JUNE 03 7:05
FAIRYTALE NIGHT & FIREWORKS - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM
JUNE 04 6:05
TRANSPORTATION NIGHT - GATES OPEN 5:00 PM
JUNE 05 5:05
KIDS RUN THE BASES - GATES OPEN 4:00 PM

Scientists detect deadly arrhythmia trifecta: Salt, swelling, and leaky sodium channels

Less than 1 percent of the population has been diagnosed with Long QT syndrome – a rare heart condition that can cause chaotic, sometimes fatal, heart rhythms.

Now, Virginia Tech researchers at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC have identified two core factors that may put patients with Long QT syndrome Type 3 at significantly higher risk of sudden cardiac death. Their findings were recently published in the American Journal of Physiology – Heart and Circulatory Physiology.

The researchers found that heart inflammation and elevated blood sodium levels together elevate the risk of dangerous arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death in guinea pigs with faulty intercellular sodium channels, a condition modeling a form of the Long QT syndrome.

“Monitoring salt intake is a simple, inexpensive intervention, but our new findings demonstrate that controlling blood sodium could help Long QT patients prevent dangerous arrhythmias,” said Steven Poelzing, the study’s lead author and associate professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research

Institute.

Some Long QT syndrome patients are born with the disease while others develop it as a result of natural aging, certain medications, tissue swelling, or heart disease.

The syndrome remodels the heart’s sodium channels to become hyperactive and leaky, which disrupts the heart’s normal electrical pathways. Long QT is diagnosed when the length of time it takes for a heart-beat to drop from its peak to baseline, the QT interval, is extended on an electrocardiogram reading.

Some patients with Long QT live long, healthy, and event-free lives, while others suddenly die. We’ve examined cellular activity to better understand which factors exacerbate the disease,” Poelzing said.

Poelzing’s laboratory was the first to examine the impacts of heart tissue swelling and blood chemistry in relation to the syndrome. The research team injected wild type guinea pigs with a toxin derived from sea anemones that makes the heart’s sodium channels leaky.

“Combined, leaky sodium channels and elevated blood sodium levels slightly altered the heart rhythms,

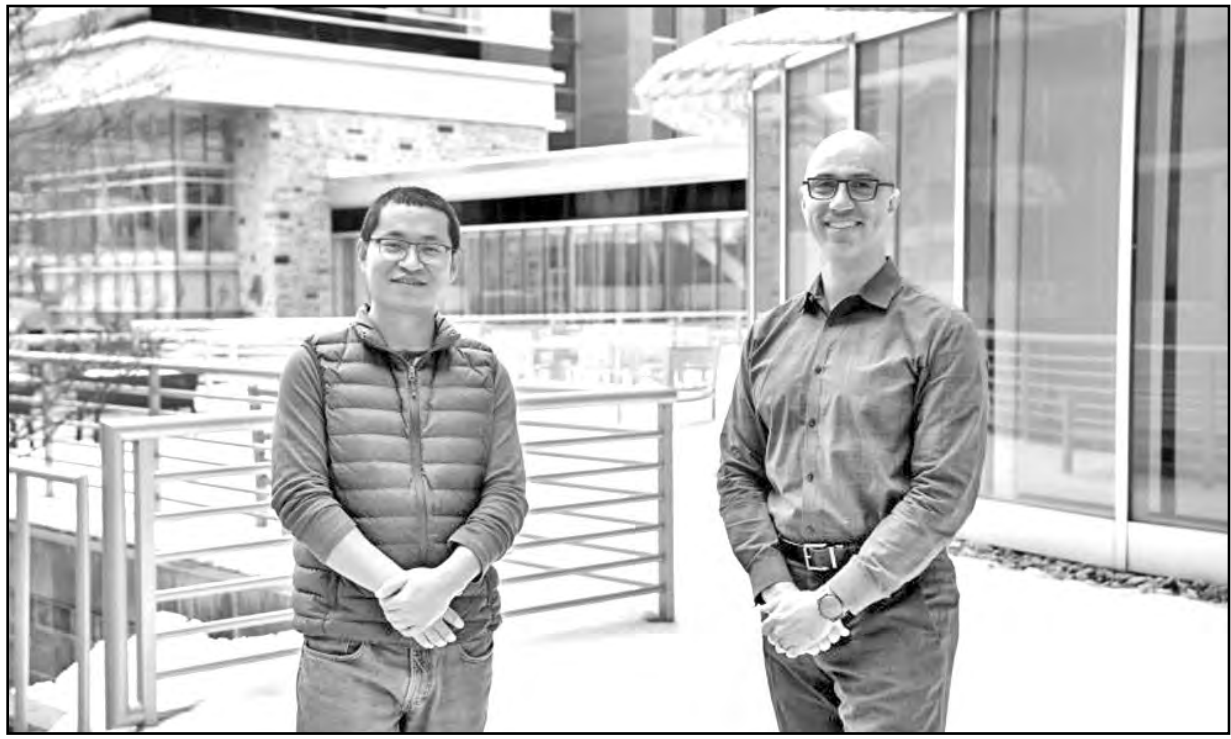


PHOTO BY CLAYTON METZ FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech scientists recently found evidence that high salt intake, heart inflammation, and overactive sodium channels together elevate the risk of sudden cardiac death. Xiaobo Wu, the study’s first author and a graduate student in Virginia Tech’s Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health Program, was mentored by Steven Poelzing, the study’s principal investigator and an associate professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute.

but it didn’t cause sudden cardiac death,” said Poelzing.

Finally, Poelzing’s research team added mannitol, a drug that causes swelling by drawing water into the spaces called the perinexus between heart cells. This ‘trifecta’ was

enough to prompt sudden cardiac death.

“Our data suggest that the combination of tissue edema, elevated blood sodium, and faulty sodium channels trigger deadly heart arrhythmias,” Poelzing said.

Poelzing believes these

findings could help Long QT patients, as well as the general population. As humans naturally age, heart muscle cells grow and require more calcium to contract. To sustain elevated calcium levels, heart muscle cells also need more sodium. As a result, the ag-

ing human heart naturally adapts ‘leaky’ sodium channels, allowing more sodium to enter the cell.

“While Long QT is a rare disorder, anyone could acquire similar sodium channel dysfunction with age, ischemia, or other heart disease,” Poelzing said.

RADIO IQ wins six Edward R. Murrow Awards for outstanding news

WVTF’s Radio IQ news team has won six 2022 regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for outstanding achievement in broadcast journalism, more than any other station in its three-state region.

In addition to accolades for feature and news reporting, Radio IQ was recognized for “Overall Excellence” as the top small market radio news

team in the region for the second year in a row.

The Region 12 awards, given by the Radio Television Digital News Association, includes broadcasters in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. All WVTF/Radio IQ regional award winners will now advance to the national competition in the fall.

“Every Radio IQ news team member had a hand in these awards—producers, reporters, hosts,” said news director David Seidel. “The awards really demonstrate the versatility and skill of our staff in telling important and engaging stories.”

Radio IQ and WVTF Music provide public radio programming to 200,000 listen-

ers weekly through 25 signals reaching over half of the commonwealth. A community service of Virginia Tech, the station is licensed to the Virginia Tech Foundation and helps fulfill the university’s motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve).

The awards include: Overall Excellence. Breaking News Coverage

for “Charlottesville Monuments Removed” by Sandy Hausman, reporter.

Continuing Coverage for “Virginia’s Redistricting Journey” by Jahd Khalil, reporter.

Feature Reporting for “Joe Thompson’s Legacy” by Luke Church, reporter.

News Series “COVID 19 in Virginia Prisons” by Sandy Hausman, reporter.

Rotary Club

from page 1

tuition and the Books to Badges program was born.

The success of the Books to Badges program encouraged Chief Wilson to expand the program to all graduating Montgomery County students. With lots of determination and persuasion of Montgomery County supervisors, town councils, and other funders, Chief Wilson was able to help raise the \$500,000 needed to bring the Access to Community

College Education (ACCE) program to local students.

Each student who participates in the ACCE program must provide 80 hours of service to their local community. When the program began, a volunteer was needed to match students to service opportunities and be sure the service requirement was met. Chief Wilson stepped forward to become the Volunteer Service Coordinator from the beginning. According to NRCC

ACCE Support Specialist Micah Price, since 2018, ACCE has helped 570 students and generated over 45,000 hours of community service, all coordinated by Chief Wilson. “I can see the love and passion he has for the community. Even when he retires, he’ll be laying his footprint everywhere. That’s just who he is,” said Price.

Upon receiving the award, Chief Wilson said, “This award means more than you’ll ever

know. The thing I’m proudest of in my career is working with these young people learning the true meaning of service.” He said that when 2022 high school graduates were in the fifth grade, he promised them all a free college education during the Fifth Grade Field Day that he had helped to launch to introduce all of the Blacksburg fifth-grade students to each other prior to beginning middle school. With the ACCE

program, that promise has become a reality.

Founded in 1923, the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg has as its motto, “Service Above Self.” The Professional Leadership, Citizen of the Year, and Youth Awards; youth development programs, and community service projects as well as participation in Rotary International programs like PolioPlus and Rotary Youth Exchange exemplify this motto.

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically

on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

WILDERNESS RIDE INCREASES CYCLISTS ON ROADWAYS - The 31st Annual Wilderness Road Ride will be held on Saturday, May 28. This bike ride takes place across various routes in both Pulaski and Montgomery Counties. Cyclists will follow all “rules of the road”, but motorists should be aware that there may be several groups of cyclists throughout the day.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Lane closures on Route 615 maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals are in effect and will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Starting June 6, road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) will begin for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging forces. Work is expected to last until August 2022.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at

times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Route 765, both east and west lanes, will have a flagging operation in place for paving from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

TRAFFIC SHIFT: A traffic shift towards the shoulder of the roadway for southbound traffic is underway.

Until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures will be in effect between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.

To mid-June, alternating left

and right lane and shoulder closures will be in effect during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142.

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is closed until Sept. 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

REST AREA OPTIONS:

While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 is underway. All lanes are now open and will remain open through the winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound traffic will resume this summer. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

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

Paving operations on I-81 northbound and southbound in Botetourt County from mile marker 155 to 167. On and exit ramps at exit 168 may be narrowed at times.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting,



Yard Sale - Radford

YARD SALE
 Radford Woman's Club
 Saturday, June 4
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Lost & Found

Missing Dog's Found
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Wanted - To Buy

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

Help Wanted - Drivers

Part Time Newspaper Driver
 Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening driving shift for newspaper delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Christine, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355

Help Wsnted

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
 Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org



Help Wanted

Delivery Driver/Food Service Helper

Assists Food Production Supervisor in taking inventory and maintaining stock, as scheduled.

Assists in preparation of meats, vegetables, fruits, and other foods, daily.

Cleans floor and packaging area daily.

Cleans storage (dry), freezers and refrigerators, weekly.

Carries food to/from stockroom, freezer and refrigerators, daily.

Cleans kitchen and food service equipment daily.

Opens food cartons and crates upon receiving.

Packs food cartons and crates upon receiving.

Prepares food for delivery daily.

Prepares food transport containers for packaging/delivery daily.

Drives van or truck to deliver food to centers as requested.

Must have a valid Virginia Operator's license with a good driving record and reliable transportation.

TAP is a mandatory COVID vaccine employer.

Yard Sale - Radford

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Salary: \$12.00 per hour. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code DDFSH-HS/EHS PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St SW Roanoke VA 24011 or fax to 540-345-1944

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Legals - Botetourt County

Trustee's Sale
 1104 Bobletts Gap Road, Buchanan, VA 24066 (Parcel ID: 78-41)
 Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 28, 2017, in the original principal amount of \$123,717.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia on June 29, 2017, as Instrument Number 170002499, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on July 6, 2022 at 2:00 PM, in front of the building housing the County of Botetourt Circuit Court, 1 W. Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090. The property designated as BEGINNING at a point in the centerline of State Route 643, corner to Johnnie B. Eubank (DB 373, PG 785); thence with the said centerline of State Route 643, S. 08° 18' 06" W. 26.22 feet to a point; thence continuing with said centerline, S. 11° 30' 53" W. 163.15 feet to a point; thence following the curvature of said centerline an arc distance of 42.16 feet (said arc having a chord bearing of S. 05° 42' 56" W. and a chord distance of 42.09 feet) to a point; thence leaving said centerline and with the line of Parcel 2 on the below referenced plat, S. 83° 12' 30" W. 389.48 feet to an iron pin set, corner to E.C. and Rebecca Montgomery property; thence N. 87° 54' 35" W. 129.75 feet to an iron pin found; thence N. 01° 50' 24" W. 337.19 feet to an iron pin set; thence S. 83° 10' 18" E. 571.84 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 3.60 acres, more or less, and designated as Parcel 1 on plat of survey for Pat H. Eubank, dated June 14, 1990, prepared by Charles R. McMurry, C.L.S., and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 35, page 266. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises.

TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$12,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a

Legals - Botetourt County

communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 22-000435, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Public Notice - Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of treated wastewater into a water body in Botetourt County, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 25, 2022 to June 25, 2022. PERMIT NAME: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board. APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Town of Buchanan; PO Box 205, Buchanan, VA 24066; VA0022225. FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Buchanan Sewage Water Treatment Plant; 541 Parkway Drive, Buchanan. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Town of Buchanan has applied for reissuance of a permit for the public Buchanan STP. The applicant proposes to continue the release of treated sewage wastewaters from residential and commercial service areas at a rate of 237,500 gallons-per-day into a water body. Sludge from the treatment process will be disposed of in the Waste Management Maplewood landfill in Amelia County, VA. The facility proposes to release the treated wastewaters into the James River in Botetourt County in the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit will limit the following pollutants to amounts that protect water quality: nutrients, organic matter, solids and bacteria. HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing on the draft permit by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ must receive hand-delivery and postal mail by close of business and email and fax comments by 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Susan Edwards; Blue Ridge Regional Office, 901 Russell Drive, Salem VA 24153; Phone: 540-795-9749; E-mail: Susan.Edwards@deq.virginia.gov ; Fax: 804-698-4178. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

Legals - Botetourt County

ABC NOTICE

Pilot Travel Centers, LLC, trading as Pilot Travel Center #258, 2966 Lee Highway South, Troutville, Botetourt County, Virginia 24175.

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

Kristin Seabrook VP, Chief Counsel, Secretary

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

ABC NOTICE

Stebbins and Frate, LLC, trading as Tammie's Place 19857 Main Street Buchanan, VA 24066.

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

Tammie Frate and Frank Stebbins, Owners.

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

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING TO GRANT A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR A NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN THE CITY

OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, AND INVITING BIDS

The Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on June 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at 10 Robertson Street to receive public comment on an ordinance proposing to grant a non-exclusive franchise for a natural gas transmission and distribution system in the City of Radford, Virginia. A copy of the full text of the ordinance, including the terms of the proposed franchise agreement, may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603. In addition, bids are hereby invited for the franchise proposed to be granted under the ordinance. All bids must be in writing and submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 or at Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov. ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 13, 2022 AT 5 P.M. Bids will be opened and read aloud during public session at Council's #39;s regular meeting on June 13, 2022 at 7 PM. After the reading of the bids, Council will proceed with consideration of the proposed ordinance and franchise. Council reserves the right reject any and all bids and to defer action until a subsequent meeting.

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Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL22000727-00
 Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street Christiansburg, VA 24073

YINGQIU ZHANG v. LI JIA

The petitioner's object of this proceeding is to obtain a divorce of bond of matrimony from the Defendant on the ground of having lived separate and apart for a period exceeding one year.

It appearing by affidavit that the Defendant's last known address was 1101 Joyce Street, Apartment 2318, Arlington, Virginia 22202, the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown, and diligence has been used by the Plaintiff to ascertain in what county or city the Defendant is without effect, it is ORDERED that the defendant appear before this court on July 20, 2022 and protect her interests herein.

It is further ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the News Messenger, a newspaper published in Montgomery County, Virginia, and having general circulation in Montgomery County, Virginia, and a copy of this order is to be posted at the front door of the Montgomery County Court House of Virginia.

May 4, 2022
 Erica W. Conner
 Clerk of Court

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No. CL22000744-00
 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Montgomery County Circuit Court, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Yonce, Sandra Kay v. Yonce, Kenneth Lee, II

The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE It is ORDERED that KENNETH LEE YONCE, II appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 11, 2022.

May 10, 2022
 Erica W. Conner
 Clerk of Court

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§ 1-211 1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
 Case No. CL22000837-00
 Montgomery County Circuit Court

55 East Main Street, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073 Adkins, Shay Marie v. Commonwealth of Virginia The object of this suit is to: Name Change of a Minor It is ordered that Billy Baxter Mullins appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 29, 2022.

May 25, 2022
 Erica W. Conner, Clerk

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Region track summary Christiansburg girls win region 3D; Blacksburg girls finish second in 4D track; Auburn girls win 1C; Radford boys take second in 2C



Blacksburg teammates Reese Bradbury and Mia Jones placed fifth and sixth in the 1600m race at the Region 4D championship meet on Wednesday at Louisa County High School.



Blacksburg's Conner Rutherford takes the lead over Jefferson Forest's Brannon Adams and went on to win the Region 4D 1600m race with a time of 4:21.52.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Sophia Krouscas won the 100m, 200m, and 400m races at the Region 4D championship meet Wednesday.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Action was heavy this past week on the track for all the area high schools. The Blacksburg girls finished second in Region 4D as Jefferson Forest took the team title with 137.5 points to the Bruins' 120 points. The Blacksburg boys finished fourth, behind first-place Pulaski (128.5 points) with 83 points.

The Radford boys' team finished second in Region 2C with 102 points to Glenvar's 124 points. Floyd was third with 95 points.

Christiansburg claimed the girls' title in Region 3D with 112.33 points to second-place William Byrd's 105.33. The boys' team finished fifth.

Blacksburg's Sophia Krouscas won the girls' 200-meter dash, the 100-meter dash, and the 400-meter run. Teammate Mia Littlejohn won

the regional title in the 100-meter hurdles. Katja Kehlenbeck cleared 5-02 in the high jump to win that event.

Conner Rutherford gave the Bruins a win in the 1,600-meter run.

Auburn's Haley Hollins continued her dominance in Region 1C, winning the discus with a throw of 109' 3" and the shot put with a toss of 39' 6.25". Katelyn Lafon and Kasey Rosenbaum were 1-2 in the girls' 1,600-meter run with Eastern Montgomery's Valeria Castillo third. The trio also finished in the same places in the 800-meter run.

Eastern Montgomery's Aija McHone brought home the 400-meter title.

The Auburn girls' 4X800 relay team outran cross-county rival Eastern Montgomery for the regional title. Auburn also took the 4X400 relay title.

The Auburn boys' 4X800 relay slipped by second-place Eastern Montgomery for first place. The

two schools flipped places in the 4X400 relay.

Daniel Graham gave Auburn gold in the 110 hurdles, and Bryce Dehart finished first in the 100-meter dash.

Eastern Montgomery's Cody Roop cleared 5' 8" for the win on Thursday in Pearisburg.

In 3D, Tyrique Taylor brought the discus and shotput championships to Christiansburg.

Summer Hamlin finished second for the Blue Demons in the 400-meter dash and the 800-meter run. Teammate Kayla Waters was third in the 800 meters.

Christiansburg's Madelyn Moles was the Region 3D medalist in the 300-meter hurdles and finished third in the 100-meter hurdles. Moles took the pole vault event at 11' even and finished second in the girls' long jump. Teammate Amara Okoronkwo claimed the girl's triple jump crown.



FILE PHOTO

CHS alumnus Kevin Cox has been appointed the school's head boys' basketball coach. He replaces Mike Hunter.

Christiansburg alum returns to coach boys' basketball team

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg High School alumnus Kevin Cox has been appointed the school's head coach after the departure this past month of Mike Hunter.

Cox, who had been serving as an assistant at Floyd County High School, is also a former assistant at Christiansburg.

"Being a Christiansburg alumnus, a former player on the state qualifying team in 2011, and a previous coach here for seven years, I am overjoyed to come back home and be back in the navy and gold. This is home," Cox said last week.

Cox's first stint with the Blue Demons was in 2013 when Shawn Good brought him in. He served as a varsity assistant for seven years and was the junior varsity head coach for five seasons.

This past season, he was the head middle-school coach for a team that finished 15-1.

"My expectations for the Christiansburg boys' program as a whole are to get better each and every day, brick by brick from the local travel programs to the middle school and all the way up through junior varsity and varsity," Cox said.

"My short-term goal would be to improve from one season to the next and emphasize progress and growth in the off-seasons to keep improving. Long-term, the goal is to get this program back to where it was in 2009-2012 (when Shawn Good was at the helm) competing for district and region hardware and of course competing for the ultimate goal: a state championship. With that being said, it's going to take time, and I am ready to do whatever it takes to get the Christiansburg boys' basketball program back to that point."

Cox has also helped Good in coaching U17 at Spectrum and coaching with Xtereme and the New River Nets in numerous off-seasons.

Bobcat swimmer commits to VMI



FILE PHOTO

Radford High School's Hampton Wohlford swam to this year's state title in the 100-yard butterfly.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

One of the area's top high school swimmers will continue his career at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) as this past week Radford's Hampton Wohlford signed a letter-of-intent in Radford's gymnasium in front of family, friends, and teammates.

Wohlford is the 2022 champ in the 100-yard Butterfly and is a member of the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relay teams.

At VMI, Wohlford will be a part of the historical military program, one of the reasons he chose the Lexington, Va., school.

"I wanted to do Navy ROTC in college so that I could prepare myself for the military," he said. "I was deciding between Virginia Tech and VMI.

After I visited VMI, I felt like it had a lot more structure than another school would have. I also get the opportunity to swim there and not at Virginia Tech."

Virginia Military Institute is a public senior military college. It was founded in 1839 as America's first state military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States. The school currently has an enrollment of 1,685 students.

All of the school's sports teams compete in NCAA Division I, and all but four compete in the Southern Conference (the exceptions being men's and women's swimming and diving in the America East Conference).

Wohlford was part of three-straight state Class 2 team champions at RHS. "I hope to drop

time in all my events," he said. "I also want to try and get pool records at their new pool and maybe even team records. I also hope to contribute for the team in scoring at the meets and help out in relays."

Wohlford hopes to major in mechanical engineering.

The former state Virginia champ thinks the military aspect will keep his life on track and keep him away from distractions. After being commissioned in the Navy, he hopes to serve on board submarines.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Blacksburg boys, girls advance in region soccer



Blacksburg's Milla Santsaver-Jones scored two quick first-half goals to get the Bruins off to a fast start against Amherst County in first-round region action Thursday.



Blacksburg's Andrew Neely gets behind the Halifax County defense and scores a first-half goal in the Region 4D opening round match Thursday night. Blacksburg's boys won 8-0.



Blacksburg's Ayden Stosser pushes the ball past Halifax County's Evan Hite during first-half action in a Region 4D tournament match Thursday.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Norin Bortz takes the ball away from Amherst County's Electra McPherson during the first half of the Bruins' 8-0 win that advanced them in the region 4D tournament.

VDOT from page 6

crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 581

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD –On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:

- o A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- o A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.
- o A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

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

Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

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

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

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

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

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

Milling and paving operations on I-77 southbound lane. Right lane closure will be in place from mile marker 9 to 7.

Latex application on I-77 northbound 2 lanes near mile marker 11. Ramp closures possible. Message boards will alert drivers.

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

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

I-77 MOWING, BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK – Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

Life is short. Don't make it shorter.

Choose life. Make sure your kids get their HPV vaccine and protect them against cancer.

@vaccinatevirginia

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade, they must have the Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org