



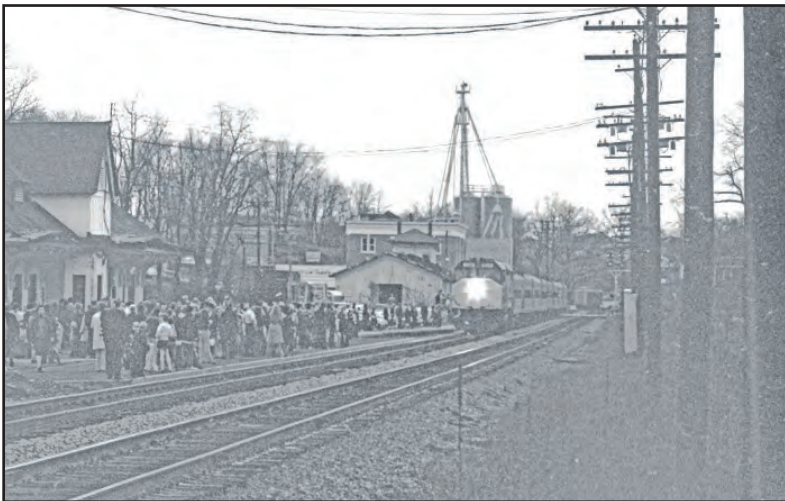
Virginia, Norfolk Southern finalize plan for NRV passenger rail

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and Norfolk Southern Corporation have announced the financial closing of the Western Rail Initiative Agreement that will expand passenger rail service from Washington, D.C., to Roanoke and the New River Valley.

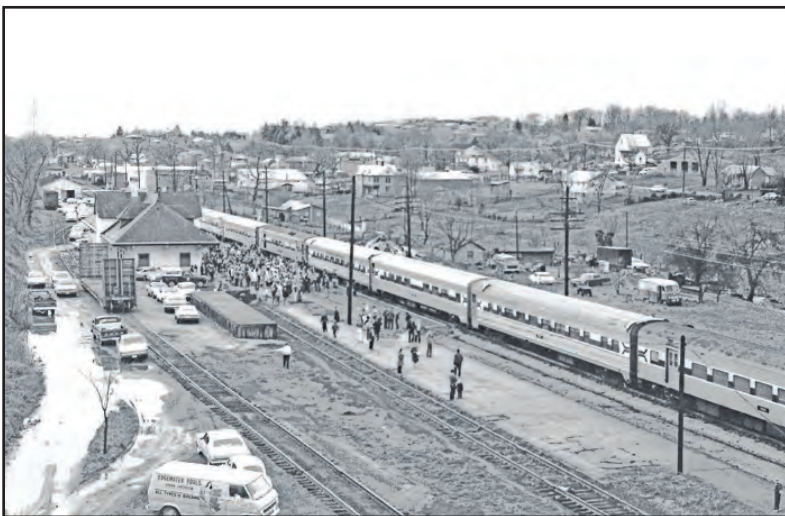
The first step in the expansion is the addition of a second Commonwealth-supported round-trip train between Roanoke and Washington, D.C., which will launch on July 11, 2022.

This round trip further connects Virginia's Blue Ridge with Northern Virginia and points along the Northeast Corridor including New York and Boston. The agreement includes the future extension of the Roanoke service to the New River Valley with the construction of a new station as well as track and signal improvements.

"The closing of the Western Rail Agreement is great news for Virginians as this is a big step forward in our mission to expand passenger rail to the New River Valley," said DJ Stadler, executive director of VPRA. "Communities along the Interstate 81 and Route 29 corridors will now have more passenger rail options when traveling to and from our nation's capital and beyond, and the improvements will also increase our economic opportunities by en-



On March 24, 1975, the Amtrak Mountaineer, led by AMTK SDP40F 630, made her inaugural run from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Norfolk, making several ceremonial stops at stations on the way. One of those stops was at Christiansburg (Cambria).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF E. LEE ROANE

Crowds gathered along the rail line in Cambria to greet the Amtrak passenger train.

See **Passenger Rail**, page 6



Danilowicz begins duties as Radford University president

Friday, July 1, Bret Danilowicz officially began his role as the eighth president of Radford University.

The Radford University Board of Visitors announced Danilowicz's selection as the president-elect in December. A strong advocate of shared governance and transparency, Danilowicz brings 22 years of higher education leadership experience to the presidency.

"I join my colleagues on the Presidential Search Committee, as well as the

Board of Visitors, in welcoming Dr. Danilowicz as our new president at Radford University. We have all been impressed with Bret's knowledge, skills and experience in higher education and believe that he is the right fit for our university as we go into the future," said Debra McMahan, Ph.D., rector of the Board of Visitors. "Bret and Kay will be wonderful assets to the Radford community; they are excited to

See **Danilowicz**, page 2

Newly formed School of Animal Sciences cements Virginia Tech's reputation as animal sciences powerhouse

Virginia Tech's newly formed School of Animal Sciences is one of the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi River and ranks fourth nationally in the number of research grants.

For more than 125 years, the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been home to leading research-

ers studying everything from animal nutrition to translational animal sciences.

As of Friday, July 1, the departments of Dairy Science and Animal and Poultry Sciences were combined into a new School of Animal Sciences.

With the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's approval – effective

See **School of Animal Sciences**, page 3

New law allows DMV to grant extended license validity to military, foreign service, and hardship cases

RICHMOND— Effective July 1, 2022, certain license holders are able to apply with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for driver's license extensions of up to six years for military and foreign service members serving outside of Virginia and government contractors working outside the United States; and up to two years for those showing good cause for extensions. Prior to July 1, those extensions were valid for up to three years and one year, respectively.

"We understand the challenges faced by our military, foreign service, and government contractor customers with deployments and assignments keeping them on the move," said Acting DMV Commissioner Linda Ford. "Similarly, we know that things like long-term medical treat-

ment or caring for a loved one in another state can create hardships for any of us. We're pleased to be able to work with customers in these situations to further extend driver's licenses, giving them one less thing to worry about."

The change stems from HB 540, introduced by Delegate Danica Roem (D-Prince William), passed by the General Assembly during the 2022 session, and signed into law by Governor Glenn Youngkin.

In all cases, customers need to complete an application process and provide supporting documentation to qualify for a driver's license extension. Currently extended customers can apply for the newly enacted extensions, up to the six- and two-year limits, via the same application process they originally followed.



Food science is just one of many scientific ventures children will learn through the Engaging Secondary Teachers in College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Research for Agricultural Literacy program. Other focus areas of the program are plant health and production and plant products; animal health and production and animal products; food safety, nutrition, and health; bioenergy; and agriculture systems and technology. Photo courtesy of Donna Westfall-Rudd.

Grant aims to help secondary teachers in predominantly minority schools

A pile of jelly beans sits on the table, beckoning with a rainbow of colors. A child looks intently at each bean, checking if there are any giveaways as to the flavor. But the beans are indistinguishable, so the child reaches down and delicately picks one up. A second later, the child makes a face of disgust. This was a normal bean. It tasted like spoiled milk.

Unbeknownst to the child, the exercise is teaching the food science behind these "every flavor" beans, such as how these flavors are created inside that sugary capsule. This child is a participant in a larger project where, in addition to jelly beans, students will learn the chemistry and physics of gummy bears, DNA extraction, embryology, sensory evaluation, and more.

With a four-year, \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and

Community Education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, created a professional development program model. It will support teachers from schools serving predominantly minority-identifying students and seeks to engage youth in pathways for STEM fields within the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences. Eight faculty members from across the college are participating in the program.

Twenty secondary teachers will take part each year from schools associated with the College Access Collaborative program for a total of 80 over the duration of the grant. Interested teacher participants will have program sessions that best align with their content areas. The college's faculty will engage teachers from five initial schools as examples of the range of areas included in the program.

The mission of the College Access Collaborative is to increase academic preparation, access, and affordability for first-generation,

low-income, underrepresented minorities, women, and students from rural and inner-city communities.

"It's important that the students learn how all of this is relevant to addressing food, energy, and water needs that we have in today's society," said Donna Westfall-Rudd, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education and Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist. "We want to help them make the connections between the technical aspects they learn in class and the overall opportunity of careers and problem solving to meet world issues."

"Our long-term goal for the program is to show the youth of the immense career possibilities in agriculture and the life sciences and for them to understand the role that these sciences play in our everyday lives," said Westfall-Rudd.

By Max Esterhuizen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, Wednesday, July 6:

Ocean-Themed sidewalk art contest

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 9 a.m. Children ages 10-14 are invited to participate in an ocean-themed sidewalk art contest. All supplies will be provided to create a masterpiece with sidewalk chalk. Tropical refreshments will be provided. All art contest participants may enter their names in a raffle. Limited space is available, so registration in advance is encouraged.

Talking about Books: Cloud Cuckoo Land

At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed this month is Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr, in-person and virtually.

Loops group

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their projects and join the Loops Group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

CAC aquatic advisory board meeting

The aquatic advisory board of the Christiansburg Aquatic Center will meet today, Wednesday, July 6, at the aquatic center, 395 N. Franklin St., from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 7:

American Legion meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet on Thursday, July 7, 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.

Pokémon swap

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Pokémon trainers can bring their consoles, Pokémon games, and their Pokémon cards to trade, battle, and play with others. Fill out their Pokedex, challenge others, and enter a raffle for a rare, shiny Pokémon. Con-

tact Pokémon Trainer Sally at sstauffer@mfrl.org with any questions.

Drum with HoloRhythm Drumming

At the Radford Public Library at 2 p.m. Kasey Jones from HoloRhythm drum school will be teaching a djembe drumming class! Participants will learn about the rhythm of the drum and about West African music.

Friday, July 8:

Teen goldfish taste test

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Teens can put their taste buds to the test and try to name and identify different goldfish flavors while blindfolded. A prize will be awarded to the winner. This program may not be suitable for those with food allergies. Registration is required.

Messy munchkins: Sensory play

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to let little ones get messy at Sensory Play with sensory bins that will include rainbow spaghetti, oobleck, and more.

Teen Nerf battle

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. Participants can take part in an epic Nerf battle at the library. They will be playing Nerf versions of Capture the Flag, Humans vs. Zombies, and more. Participants should bring their own Nerf blaster (some available). Ages 10 and up. A waiver is required to participate.

Friday, July 8 – Thursday, Aug. 18:

Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces the Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now exhibit from July 8 through August 18, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission

is free, hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. A reception open to the public will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century. It includes the present-day local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens.

The exhibit will include agricultural tools from the late-19th and early-20th century, adapted farm tools for farmers with disabilities, Future Farmers of America and Virginia historical items, maps, photos, and interviews. For more information, contact Janean Williams, Communications and Visitor Services Manager at 540-443-1602 or jlwilliams@blacksburghistory.org or visit blacksburgmuseum.org.

Saturday, July 9:

Mt. Tabor Ruritan fish fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July fish fry from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will be serving up fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12; free for children under three. Carry-outs are \$12. This month the Blacksburg Community Band will be playing. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

New River Valley garden tour

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 in advance and are available at the library or online. Tickets will also be available at the gardens on the day of the tour.

Movie and a craft

At the Christiansburg Library at 10:30 a.m. A ragtag band of explorers will search for the lost city and make a

craft.

Mermaid party

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. This fin-tastic party will celebrate mermaids and mermen and will include treats, crafts, and games. All ages are welcome. Registration is required.

Monday, July 11:

Radford City Council meeting

In the city council chambers, 10 Robertson St., Radford, at 7 p.m.

STEM club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. This home-school STEM club will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up. This month the club will model and study ocean currents.

Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 15:

Teen connections

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. each day. Teens, grades 6 through 8, will become peer health educators. This program will teach leadership development, relationship skills, navigating puberty and body changes, STI and pregnancy prevention, and healthy decision making. To register, go to <https://linktr.ee/tcswwa>.

Tuesday, July 12:

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting and an organizational meeting at 6 p.m., at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

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 Fam-

ily Restaurant at 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. The guest speaker will be Author Tom Peery. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Summer Backpack Program

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 3:30 p.m. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teen stretch their grocery budget. The bags are filled with nutritious food with one bag per child per week. This is a drop-in program with crafts for the kids each week in addition to the bags of food. The program is drive-thru only at the curb side of the library. Open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. For more information, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Thursday, July 14:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild will meet 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.

Radford Reads with Ron Peterson, Jr.

At the Radford Public Library at 7 p.m. Local author Ron Peterson, Jr., will talk about some new insights on the Gina Hall case featured in Under the Trestle, as well as new information on Wally Thrasher of Chasing the Squirrel. He will also discuss his new book Eyes of a Monster.

Ongoing:

United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone who is able to donate any pantry items may drop them off at our office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library offering freedom from fines

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will go fine-free.

As of July 1, the library is no longer charging daily overdue fines for late books, DVDs, and other materials. All old fine bal-

ances and overdue processing fees have been waived.

Library patrons must still return the items they have checked out, and they will receive notices when they have overdue materials. Three weeks

past the due date, an overdue item is declared lost, and the patron's card is blocked from checking out. Returning the item will remove the lost item replacement fee from the patron's card and restore

full checkout privileges.

A replacement fee will be charged if an item is permanently lost, never returned, or damaged. The library went fine-free for children's material in 2018. Since then, checkouts for children's material are up, and more child-

ren's material cards are being used.

"Nationwide, research shows that fines are not effective at getting material returned," said Library Director Karim Khan. "We are excited to join with other libraries in the state in recognizing the barrier

that fines present. Library fines have kept too many people from learning, building skills, and enjoying the library."

For more information contact Linda Spivey at 540 382-6969, ext. 221 or visit the Library's website at www.mfrl.org.



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Danilowicz from page 1

call Radford home."

Most recently, Danilowicz served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Atlantic University. As provost, he implemented incentive-based budgeting, coordinated a nation-leading improvement in graduation rates, established a public forum for civil discourse, and developed and implemented strategies for advancement towards R1 reclassification.

"Bret will be a wonderful president. I am extremely proud of his achievements, and so happy for Bret and his family as he transitions into this role," said John Kelly, Ph.D., president of Florida Atlantic University. "He is a creative thinker and very personable. He will serve Radford University well."

Before joining Florida Atlantic University, Danilowicz served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma State University. There, he created a shared governance strategic planning and budgeting process, diversified college and departmental leadership, established a college-wide focus on di-

versity and inclusion, and always exceeded fundraising goals. While dean, he co-authored "Organizing Academic Colleges," which uses models and case studies to describe how to successfully navigate administrative reorganizations.

In collaboration with the faculty senate at Florida Atlantic, Danilowicz launched a diversity, equity and inclusion committee charged with identifying policies and practices which should be changed to improve diversity and inclusion efforts. As a result, one of the major changes enacted was the addition of diversity and inclusion learning outcomes for all degrees.

In the last three years, Danilowicz led Florida Atlantic to achieve its highest scores ever in the Florida Board of Governors' Performance Metrics. The 89-point score in 2021 was the third highest score in Florida. In addition, Florida Atlantic's four-year graduation rates rose from 31 to 47% in the last three years.

Danilowicz earned a doctor of philosophy degree in zoology from

Duke University, a master of business administration from Georgia Southern University, master of arts in education leadership from Open University, U.K., and his bachelor of science in biology with a computer science minor from Utica College of Syracuse University. Additionally, he held two postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Windsor, Canada.

He is married to Kay Danilowicz, an experienced pediatric speech language pathologist who has worked extensively with early intervention and school-aged children. They are the proud parents of Torin, Brynn, Teagan, and Cullen, and are active in the communities where they live. They co-trained a therapy dog and served as a pet therapy team at universities and in healthcare settings. They have built sets, worked backstage, and performed onstage in local theatre, coached soccer, and served on non-profit and educational boards. When not at work or with the community, both enjoy exploring the outdoors, riding their horses, and spoiling their dogs, Baine and Koda.

VT students write, introduce bill that passes Virginia legislature

Criminology and sociology major Amanda Ljuba had never known or, let's face it, understood much about the mysterious legislative happenings inside the Virginia State Capitol.

But she and fellow student Saket Bikmal, then a senior studying computational and systems neuroscience, dropped everything to take a road trip to Richmond this spring on behalf of House Bill 105. "Hi, we're from Virginia Tech," they said as they met with delegates or their aides. "We're with Hokies for SUD Recovery. We really want you to support this bill."

For good reason. The bill they were advocating for was one that, as students in a fall 2021 Appalachian Community Research course, they helped write.

House Bill 105 proposed studying the feasibility of transforming Southwest Virginia's Catawba Hospital from a mental health facility into a state-of-the-art treatment center for substance use disorder (SUD). The need for the project was dire, they'd learned. With SUD running rampant in Appalachia, housing and

treatment facilities were available locally for only about one in 10 people who needed them.

Rasoul officially introduced HB 105 in the House of Delegates in January. By then, of course, the Appalachian Community Research class had wrapped up.

But a few students found they couldn't walk away from HB 105. Hannah O'Malley, then a senior in neuroscience, said, "I don't think there's any possibility of me not sticking with this and trying to see it through."

So O'Malley, Ljuba, Bikmal, and Neha Reddy, then a senior studying nanomedicine and neuroscience, signed up for an independent study with Satterwhite and gave their group of legislative warriors a name: Hokies for SUD Recovery.

Throughout spring semester, they promoted the Catawba Hospital bill. Monday mornings, they hatched plans, and assigned tasks in a Google doc: post on social media, email legislators, call leaders at Carilion, talk to Rasoul's legislative aide.

When they heard HB 105 was coming up for a vote in the House rules



Saket Bikmal, a spring 2022 graduate in computational and systems neuroscience, poses in the House Chamber of the Virginia State Capitol on a trip to talk to state legislators about a bill he and fellow students wrote in an Appalachian Community Research class. Photo courtesy of Saket Bikmal.

committee on a Thursday in February, Bikmal and Ljuba skipped classes to testify in Richmond. They didn't get a chance to speak — the committee chair put it to a vote too quickly — but they relished seeing each committee member vote yes. More good news came a week later, when the full House of Delegates voted 99-0 in favor of their bill.

HB 105 then headed to the Virginia Senate. Un-

fortunately, that's where it stalled out, when a motion in the Senate Rules Committee tabled it to the 2023 legislative session. To a despondent Bikmal, Ljuba, O'Malley, and Reddy, it looked like HB 105 was dead for now.

One Hail Mary remained. Rasoul had inserted a line-item request for funding for the Catawba Hospital feasibility study into the state budget. The students had no

idea if it was likely to go through. "After the bill did not pass, I was kind of like, 'Hannah, don't get your hopes up,'" said O'Malley.

In early June, a few weeks after Bikmal, O'Malley, and Reddy graduated from Virginia Tech, they heard news so good they didn't know if they should believe it. The new Virginia state budget passed with \$750,000 in funding exclusively for the

Catawba Hospital study, part of a larger effort to assess Virginia's mental health infrastructure.

It wasn't HB 105, the way the students originally envisioned the study moving forward, but the project they cared about was actually happening. "We put a lot of effort into getting this to pass, and it feels like that truly paid off," said Bikmal.

By Melody Warnick

PETS OF THE WEEK



Colonel is a happy boy ready for his fur-ever home! He will gladly go for a walk or hang out inside. Colonel would do best in a home with a consistent environment where he could receive all the attention of his person. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet him.



Fountain will sit in your lap and then melt your heart. Shy at first, she is a sucker for a good neck scratch and will happily pay for them with purrs. Now that her kittens are grown, she is ready to find her purrfect human.

School of Animal Sciences from page 1

tive July 1 — the school becomes one of the largest animal science programs east of the Mississippi. It is well-positioned to build on its outstanding legacy and move even higher in the rankings with modern facilities, cutting-edge researchers, and a curriculum that prepares students for a wide array of jobs, not only in traditional agriculture and allied industries, but also in areas of medicine, veterinary sciences, biotechnology, and many other highly rewarding professions.

"The synergies created when combining these two extremely talented groups into one academic unit is going to allow us to harness our strengths and create a formidable force in the animal sciences discipline across the globe," said David Gerrard, director of the school, which is housed in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

With nearly 700 students and over 40 faculty members, the new school is currently ranked fourth and sixth nationally in the number of grants and total grant dollars, respectively, secured for such programming.

Formation of the school also allows the college to boast one of the largest dairy-centric faculties assembled in the U.S. Programs in dairy sciences include but are not limited to production efficiency, reproductive performance, One Health, and climate change. The benefit of such programming breadth better prepares students for careers in dairy science and those industries tasked with supporting the sector.

"The scope and vastness of the research programming in this new academic unit will have wide-ranging impacts, and we are excited to see how it continues to grow," said Alan Grant, dean of the college.

With an annual economic impact of \$70 billion annually, agriculture is by far the largest private industry in Virginia, and products from the animal industry represent five of the top commodities produced. Faculty in this new school will help the animal industry in Virginia thrive and grow by creating a pipeline for new talent to lead these efforts.

Students enrolled in this school and those from across campus will have access

to a larger array of classes and hands-on learning experiences with animals that were more difficult to maintain through smaller departmental structures.

Many of the scientists studying animal productivity also use animals to model and study those factors that impact the human condition. From this vantage point alone, studying animal sciences is a popular choice for many high school students because graduates can go directly into the animal industry or veterinary medicine without eliminating the option of becoming a doctor, pharmacist, or biomedical researcher. Areas of discovery with this type of duality in purpose include anorexia nervosa, infertility, infant nutrition, learning, fitness, obesity, and more.

As the School of Animal Sciences, the unit is expanding its scope to include companion animal research and outreach programming that started in the last few years. As part of this programming effort, researchers are studying the behavior of dogs in animal shelters and the procedures necessary to adopt these individuals throughout the community.

All of these changes are coinciding with the creation of some of the most modern and up-to-date-facilities of any animal science program in the U.S.

On Plantation Road, a new equine facility is being built to support a highly visible equestrian program. A few miles down the road at Kentland Farm, a state-of-the-art cattle-feeding facility is equipped with the latest electronic feed monitoring system and a 60-sow farrow-to-finishing facility that provides pigs for several highly productive biomedical researchers.

Moreover, two new, technology-driven buildings are nearing completion on Glade Road to support the poultry industry and the annual \$1 billion in gate receipts. Additional support structures also are being built that are part of a Phase I livestock building initiative supported by Virginia through Agency 229.

"The new school builds on a strong history of excellence across both departments and creates a massive tailwind that allows us to be leaders in animal sciences for years to come," Gerrard said.

ONLINE AUCTION
Ends Thursday July 14th @ 4 PM
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426 Mt Elbert Rd, Riner VA 24149
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You have the opportunity to purchase a lucrative business in Floyd County VA! This property features a turn key dog boarding business on 2 acres for sale in Riner VA. The building was constructed in 2017 and has over 1,300 sq. ft. of space with an office, dog bathing space, handicap accessible bathroom and 10 8x8 boarding rooms. Each room has air vents and ceiling fans for comfort. The building is metal sided with metal interior walls, roof and is well insulated. It has a private well and septic. There is a large, fenced lot out back for dogs to run and play for exercise during their stay. This is a great opportunity to pick up and continue a highly successful dog boarding business in a great location. Business stays steady and has the potential to remain booked throughout the year. It could serve as a great source of income. Don't miss out on the opportunity to scoop up this great business for sale in Riner VA! Contact agent for P&L statement and other financial documents.

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OPINION

Home Country: "From the cow to the plow"

"From the cow to the plow, Dewey," Windy said, leaning on a shovel. Windy Wilson was on another of his "helper days" and today it was Dewey Decker's turn to be helped.

"What do you mean, Windy?"

"You know ... a slogan for the business. From the cow to the plow. Fertilizer. Farming."

He was helping Dewey spread some product around at Mrs. Simmons's yard, helping her anticipate a greener lawn this sum-

mer. Besides enriching the English language at every possible moment, Alphonse "Windy" Wilson devotes one day each week to helping someone, for free, here in the valley. He usually calls it his "enriching experience."

Windy went back to Dewey's pickup for the steel rake. "What you're doing here," Windy tossed back over his shoulder, "is plowing backly into our community the veriatable seedlets of hope and change for the future. Yes, if

I can coagulate some ideas for assisting your business, I'm delightful. We need ya, boy!"

"Thanks, Windy. Everyone's been so nice. You know Emily's coming up with new ways of using cow manure so we can ... well, spread out a bit more."

"Absotively. I heard that sweet little chickadee of yours was masticating some ideas that are ultra noo voe and knife bladelly sharp. She's a honey."

"She sure is. She thinks we might get a steel tank and pour

manure in it, then fill it with water. She says they call it 'fertilizer tea' or something and it's good to spray on crops."

"No foolin'? Won't you have to buy one a them sprayer thingies to drag behind a tractor?"

Dewey stopped shoveling and thought. "Now that you mention it, we'd have to have some way to get it on the field. But you know about me and machinery ..."

Dewey's being monumentally self-destructive around anything valuable, movable or sharp was

certainly no secret.

"Why son," Windy said, "you just worry about getting that tractor ignited, and I'll drive 'er for you."

"You'd do that?"

Windy put his hand on his heart. "Dewey, my word is my blonde."

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

By Slim Randles

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 though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

LANE CLOSURE July 11-16: A nighttime left lane closure will be in place on I-81 southbound between mile marker 106-104 beginning Monday night, July 11 through Saturday morning, July 16. These closures will take place nightly between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

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.

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:

ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE - As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) will be closed beginning July 11 where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time.

BARRIER WALLS: Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

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 September 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 has been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through 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.

PAVING OPERATIONS DELAYED: Paving operations northbound have been delayed until after the 4th of July holiday. In addition, the outermost right lane northbound currently has pavement that is approximately 1-1/2" higher than the inner two lanes of travel for 0.8 mile (mile marker 141.9 to 142.7). Drivers should use caution and slow their speed. Message boards are in place to notify drivers. When paving resumes, it will remain during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., for the next three weeks. Weather permitting, this paving operation will finish the project with final paving that will smooth out the rough surface.

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 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 641 CULVERT REPLACEMENT - Route 641 (Wayside Drive) will be closed for a culvert replacement over Spring Branch until July 22 at 5 p.m.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School are in progress. 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 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:

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

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

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

See VDOT, page 10

News Messenger

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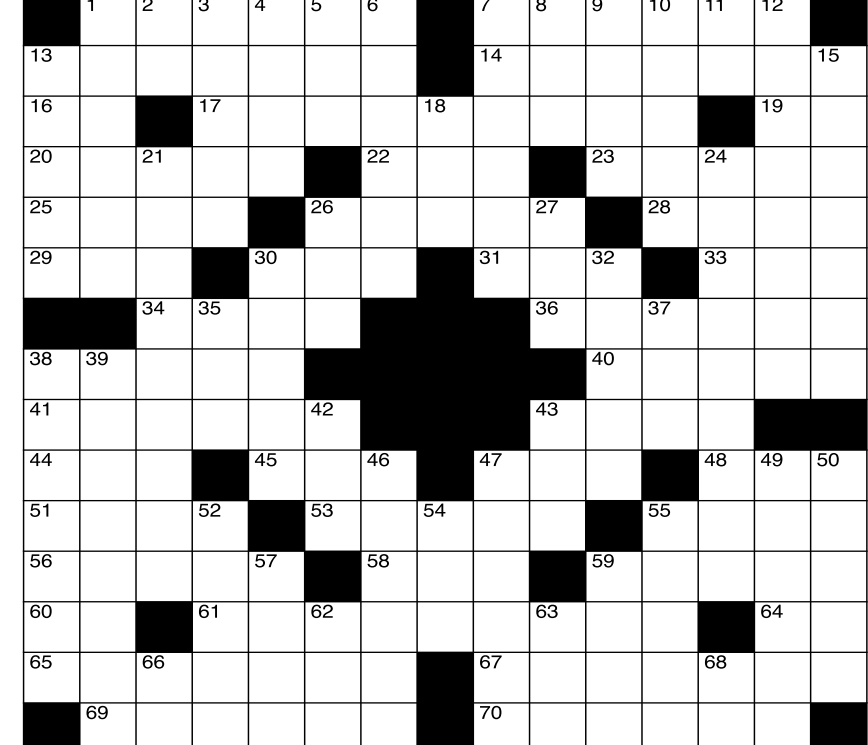
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone 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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Plant of the mint family
 - 7. Hand tool
 - 13. Made of the color of gold
 - 14. A volume of several novels
 - 16. Type of degree
 - 17. Good job!
 - 19. Seventh tone in major scale
 - 20. Fevers
 - 22. One's mother
 - 23. Fertile desert spots
 - 25. Large integers
 - 26. Plate for Eucharist
 - 28. Tennis matches have them
 - 29. Peyton's little brother
 - 30. Monetary unit of N. Korea
 - 31. Head movement
 - 33. Twelve
 - 34. Renaissance musical instrument
 - 36. Behavior showing high moral standards
 - 38. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 40. Notes to be sung
 - 41. Women's garment
 - 43. Coarsely ground corn
 - 44. One point south of due east
 - 45. A way to deplete
 - 47. Rough, prickly covering of a seed
 - 48. LA hoopster, but not a Laker
 - 51. Hindquarters
 - 53. Franz van __, German diplomat
 - 55. Liquid body substances
 - 56. Rhythmic patterns
 - 58. A beaver might build one of a seed
 - 59. Police officer's tool
 - 60. Indicates who you are
 - 61. Pinwheel
 - 64. Exist
 - 65. Ornamental molding
 - 67. Closes again
 - 69. Verses
 - 70. Come into view
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Short stick used as a weapon
 - 2. An alternative
 - 3. Laws
 - 4. Sense organs
 - 5. One from Utah
 - 6. Mariner
 - 7. People in charge of cattle
 - 8. Health insurance organization
 - 9. Ornamental box
 - 10. Forest-dwelling deer
 - 11. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
 - 12. Atomic #71
 - 13. Become less intense
 - 15. Cowards
 - 18. Body ornament (slang)
 - 21. Applicable to all cases
 - 24. Multiplied by 6
 - 26. Afghanistan monetary unit
 - 27. Calendar month
 - 30. Cena and Lennon are two
 - 32. Monetary unit of Serbia
 - 35. First time on the market
 - 37. Georgia rockers
 - 38. Free from contamination
 - 39. Coastal region of Canada
 - 42. Clothing retailer
 - 43. It rises and sets
 - 46. Fathers
 - 47. Stain with mud
 - 49. Suitable for crops
 - 50. Feels concern for
 - 52. Orange-brown
 - 54. Buddy
 - 55. Late sportscaster Craig
 - 57. Used to align parts
 - 59. Wake up
 - 62. Solid water
 - 63. Semiprecious stone
 - 66. Atomic #45
 - 68. Top lawyer

Bringing barley back

Will Payne and Will Clear didn't hesitate.

About four years ago, the pair — Payne of Coalfield Strategies and Clear of the Virginia Department of Energy — visited Virginia Tech with a complex question that has for years bounced around the agriculture industry: "Knowing the farming legacy in Southwest Virginia, how can we build on that legacy and find a way to attract young farmers to the region?"

That's when longtime College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Professor and specialty grains expert Wade Thomason joined the conversation.

Ideas danced around the sturdy metal table at which the men gathered outside The Inn at Virginia Tech one sunny summer afternoon. They discussed the state's — and the university's — rich agricultural past. And they discovered potential, and a possible solution, for its future.

They call it Thoroughbred. A barley variety developed by Virginia Tech researchers in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Originally targeted toward horse owners, Thoroughbred was later tested for its malting quality.

"Call it luck or just skilled outcome, but the genetics of this variety combined in a very beneficial way. We produced an incredible barley that had malting quality," Thoma-

son said.

Could Thoroughbred be the answer Payne and Clear were searching for? Could Southwest Virginia be a key part of the state's growing craft beer industry?

From summer's blessings of sweet iced tea to a refreshingly hazy IPA, every beverage has a backstory, a recipe full of ingredients that come together to make it tasty — to make it a success.

The same goes for every bold endeavor, and in Project Thoroughbred's case, it is a team of public and private stakeholders, along with experts at Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension, that continue the work to make it what Payne calls "a perfect example of a great American success story."

Barley. It's been around for centuries, said Thomason.

"Go back 100 years, and almost everyone in this region who had any livestock to feed — and almost everyone did — grew some barley because it was relatively cheap feed," he said. "That existed up until the 1970s and '80s. At that point, we had so much vertical integration, there was less demand for a less expensive, on-farm feed."

Despite the decline in barley acres, Virginia Tech made a conscious decision to maintain the barley breeding program. It remains one of the

few east of the Mississippi.

"Sometimes it's good to be one of the few that is working in a particular area ... to be the 'contrarian,'" Thomason said.

He was right.

In the mid-'80s, the college hired a new small grain breeder to lead the program. He decided to increase the genetic diversity of the barley being grown, and one of the outcomes was the Thoroughbred seed. Its valued malting quality is due to one of its parents, a French-developed malt grain.

Fast forward to the mid-2000s, craft breweries and distilleries started popping up nationwide, and Virginia was no stranger to the trend. Brewers and distillers knew where to turn for high-quality, Virginia-grown barley. After their initial visit to Virginia Tech and conversation with Thomason back in 2018, so did Payne and Clear.

"Project Thoroughbred is about creating a specialty grain market in Southwest Virginia that ultimately delivers higher revenues to farmers and attracts next-generation farmers to the area," Payne said. "We're trying to be bold with this project, and it begins with the belief that Southwest Virginia produces the best malting quality grain in the world."

By Mary Hardbarger



Calypso barley is harvested in Lee County, one of three counties in far Southwest Virginia that is currently growing malting-quality barley on behalf of Project Thoroughbred. Photo courtesy of Appalachian Grains.

University partnership to provide greater mental health support to students

On behalf of member institutions of the Virginia Higher Education Procurement Consortium, Virginia Tech, James Madison University, and Virginia Commonwealth University have entered into a system-wide agreement for telehealth and tele-mental health services with TimelyMD. TimelyMD is the leading virtual health and well-being resource for institutions of higher education and has been trusted to care for more than 1 million college students.

This agreement will bring additional, much-needed mental health assessment and treatment services to all students at participating colleges and universities at a time when student mental health concerns and needs are increasing across the nation.

Mental health continues to be of particular concern to students and campus leaders. In a recent article from Inside

Higher Ed, 14 percent of students say their mental health got worse at the start of the pandemic and remained unchanged, while only 10 percent said they haven't had mental health challenges. Approximately 56 percent of students responding said their mental health was fair or poor, nearly one in five students had suicidal ideation, and a staggering three-quarters struggled with anxiety or depression while at college. No matter the numbers, the mental health challenges students experience continue to increase.

"The mental and emotional health of every student, whether they are on campus, with family, or in our larger community is integral to student success at Virginia Tech," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "Learning, and social engagement occurs around the clock in today's higher education environment, and it's

important to support our students' educational experience and well-being with accessible mental health coverage."

TimelyCare serves as a 24/7 virtual extension of campus counseling center resources, with a goal of improving student well-being, engagement and retention. Through TimelyCare on their phone or other device, students can now select from a wide-ranging menu of virtual care options from licensed counselors and mental health providers— at no cost and without the need to bill costs to traditional insurance — including On-demand mental health support (TalkNow), appointment-based mental health counseling, psychiatric support, health coaching, care navigation with basic needs, and digital self-care content.

In addition, 12 scheduled counseling visits are available at no cost for each student throughout the year.



Several Mindful Campus Practice markers can be found around Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus to encourage good mental health practices. Photo by Christina Franusich for Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech hosts local leaders for NRV Childcare Summit

In creating a road to the best possible New River Valley, Virginia Tech's leadership wants to ensure a critical aspect is not overlooked.

"We don't want child care to be the pothole in the road that derails our progress," said President Tim Sands during his opening remarks at the NRV Childcare Summit, last week.

Sands said the success of both the university and employers throughout the region depends on recruiting and retaining talent, and the availability of child care is essential to that process.

In the hope of advancing a collective effort, Sands invited leaders of the New River Valley's top 50 employers, education institutions, and municipalities to come together and discuss the current child care environment and its impact on the region.

"We can take great pride, I think, in the way the New River Valley came together as a region to address the pandemic. I believe a regional, collaborative approach to child care will be much more effective than each of us working in isolation," Sands said.

For more than two hours the group heard from professionals working in a variety of efforts related to early childhood education and worked together to identify overarching problems, hurdles,

and potential solutions.

"The good news is that we really do have some good leadership here in the New River Valley and a tradition of collaboration in order to address these kinds of challenges," said Jessica Wirgau, CEO of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

The summit was an outgrowth of the university's child care working group, which was established in 2018 with the goal of improving quality, access, affordability, and flexibility of child care not just at Virginia Tech, but also within the surrounding communities. As a part of that effort, Kim Thomason joined the university as the program manager for early childhood education initiatives last spring.

Thomason shared with the group a snapshot of the current child care situation across the country and the New River Valley. She said nationally, 80 percent of child-care providers report staffing shortages, and facilities in the New River Valley were collectively operating only at a third of their capacity, resulting in a gap in potential service to almost 7,000 children. For Montgomery County alone that means estimated losses of \$38 million in family revenue, \$13 million in business revenue, and \$7 million in tax revenue, each year.

Kristi Snyder, program manager at the Blacks-

burg-based Rainbow Riders Childcare Center, said the provider currently has more than 1,200 children on a wait list to attend and is adding 10 to 15 new names each week.

"The problem is we have a huge gap because we don't have the teachers," Snyder said. "The demand is huge. The ability to provide the supply is problematic because of that staff shortage."

"We're not talking about babysitters here," Snyder said. "We're talking about early childhood professionals who not only are caring for our youngest citizens, but they're also educating them and helping them prepare for the next stage of their educational life."

The gap in available service is causing one in three women across the country to consider leaving or changing jobs, Thomason said. At Virginia Tech alone that could be as many as 1,600 people.

A host of challenges stands in the way of increasing the availability and quality of child care in the New River Valley. They include recruiting and retaining well-trained and experienced educators, balancing wages with affordability for working families, increasing easily accessible locations throughout the region, and creating options for people with non-traditional work schedules.

"The biggest takeaway for me was there is a

strong desire to collaborate across the region working toward creative solutions to address the most pressing challenge, developing a workforce pipeline for people to fill the critical jobs in this sector," said

Kevin Byrd, executive director of the New River Valley Regional Commission. "It is encouraging to see President Sands initiate the conversation because we believe future solutions will require partnerships

between employers, child care providers, and many other partners."

More conversations and events will be planned in the near future.

By Travis Williams



A student works with a child in Virginia Tech's Child Development Center for Learning and Research. Photo by Logan Wallace for Virginia Tech.



KANNAPOLIS VS. SALEM

JULY 12 7:05
SERIES OPENER - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

JULY 13 1:05
GAME TWO - GATES OPEN 12:00 PM

JULY 14 7:05
BARK IN THE PARK & THIRSTY THURSDAY - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

JULY 15 7:05
MARVEL VILLAIN NIGHT & FIREWORKS - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

JULY 16 6:05
CHRISTMAS IN JULY - GATES OPEN 5:00 PM

JULY 17 5:05
KIDS RUN THE BASES - GATES OPEN 4:00 PM

OBITUARIES

Walters, Dan Darrell

Dan Darrell Walters, 88, passed away on June 4, 2022 in San Diego, Calif.

He was born Feb. 6, 1934, in Christiansburg to Nellie and Jesse Walters.

He joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 and served on the USS Hornet Aircraft carrier and in the Korean War. During his time in the Navy, he met and fell in love with his wife, Helen Louise Simpson, and they were married in December 1954. After his service to his country, they moved to San Diego.

In San Diego, Dan worked in the aerospace industry at General Dynamics Convair until his retirement.

He was an avid sports fan. In his free time he enjoyed watching NASCAR, San Diego Chargers football games, and the



San Diego Padres baseball games.

He is survived by his daughter, Roberta Jones (James); grandchildren Natalee Jones and Amanda Staley (Jennings); and five great-grandchildren, Jaylee, Kali, Sydney Jones, and Jennings and Everly Staley in San Diego; a brother, Lonnie Walters (Joyce) in Boones Mill, Va.; and many nieces and

nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Helen Walters; sisters Kathleen Collins, Dorothy Harris, Mary Lee Hedus, Betty Woolwine, and Barbara Walters; and brothers Don Walters and Dale Walters.

Services were held Friday July 1, 2022, at Miramar National Cemetery.

Hawks, Phillip Jay

Phillip Jay Hawks, 76, of Dublin, passed away at his home on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his son, Martin Jay Hawks; his parents, Posie Rector and Mary Ruth Hawks; his sisters, Lois Hawks Burcham and Frances Carleen Hawks; a brother, Muncie Ray Hawks; and his father and mother-in-law, Albert T. and Mary B. Long.

Phillip was a member of Dublin Baptist Church and participated in many organizations, including the Masonic Lodges, American Legion, VFW, and Senior Olympics. He enjoyed classic country, bluegrass, and beach music. He had the "Gift of Gab" and never met a stranger creating many friendships throughout his life.

The family wishes to thank everyone who assisted in his care, and the many calls and meals from friends and families.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 46 years, Sandra Long Hawks; sons Richard Andrew Hawks of Lilly Dell, Va., and David Wayne Hawks of Kernersville, N.C.; daughter and son-



in-law Tammy Hawks Windle and Tim of Salisbury, N.C.; grandchildren Christopher Chase Sarver of Ohio, Zoey Elizabeth Hawks of Kernersville, N.C., DeAnna Leigh Hawks of Lilly Dell, Va., Alexander James Hawks, and Nicholas George Hawks, both of California; brother and sister-in-law Rodger Hawks and Judy of Roanoke; sisters and brothers-in-law Mary Alice Russell and Ted of Fancy Gap, Norma Allen of Fancy Gap, and Ima Johnson and Dale of Galax; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and an abundance of friends.

The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services with Masonic Rites will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Neal Turner and Ronald Smith officiating. Entombment with full military honors will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg.

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

Brooks, Ellen Louise Jackson

Ellen Louise Jackson Brooks, 86, passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at her home in Fairlawn. She was a longtime member of First Missionary Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Curtis Brooks, Sr.; her parents, Ralph Silas and Ethel May Jackson; and grandchildren Tonja and Latosha.

Survivors include her daughters, Shirley Redd, Gladys Jackson, and Margaret Hairston; sons and daughters-in-law, Ralph and Deborah Brooks, William, Jr., and Valentina Brooks, Larry Brooks, and Carl Brooks; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends; brothers-in-law and sisters-



in-law Walter (Pauline) Brooks, Douglas (Pam) Brooks, and Betty Woodward; and a special cousin, Arthur Jackson.

The family would like to especially thank Kindred Home Health and Hospice for all their love and care.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at the First Missionary Baptist Church in New River. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Daniel Parks officiating. She will be interred at a later date beside her husband, in the Brooks Family Cemetery in Pearisburg.

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

Gallaher, Phyllis Thompson

Phyllis Thompson Gallaher, 80 of Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2022. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 63 years, Jerry Douglas Gallaher; a son, Michael Douglas Gallaher; her parents, Ora Walter and Nena Mae Scaggs Thompson; sisters Glada Thompson Goodman, Elmalene Thompson Duncan, and Doris Thompson Crane; and a brother, Ronol Gene Thompson.

The sixth of nine children, Phyllis was born and raised in Radford. She graduated from Radford High School and retired from the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center's business office after some 50 years of service with Carilion and Radford Community Hospital.

Her love for children showed in how ready and willing she was to teach them the many gardening, handiwork, and cooking skills that she developed throughout her lifetime, skills that she attributed

to the instruction she first received from her beloved parents.

Phyllis is survived by several siblings and their spouses: Mary Frances Teany of Christiansburg, Nancy and James Westmoreland of Galax, Robert and Patricia Thompson of Claytor Lake, and Judy Sharpe of Summerville, S.C.; her brother-in-law and his wife, Joe and Linda Gallaher of Shawsville; her two godsons, Jason Grubb and Hayden Burch; and by many nieces, nephews, relatives and special friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Auburn UMC Building Fund, PO Box 74, Riner, VA 24149.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 7, at Sunrise Burial Park, Fairlawn.

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

LeDoux, John Carver

John Carver LeDoux, 98, of Blacksburg, died peacefully at home in the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

John (aka Jack) was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth LeDoux, and sons John N. LeDoux and Jeffrey LeDoux.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Janelle Anderson and Bob Anderson, Judy LeDoux, Jean LeDoux, and Joyce Wilson and Doug Wilson; his sons and daughter-in-law, James LeDoux, Joseph LeDoux and Debra LeDoux; his sister, Edith Myer, his brother and sister-in-law Richard LeDoux and Patti LeDoux; his grandchildren, David LeDoux, Dyana Williams, Daniel LeDoux, Matthew LeDoux, Lisa LeDoux, Shana Thompson, John LeDoux, Adam LeDoux, Jared LeDoux, Lindsey Rickards, and Ricky Carter; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Jack was born in Portland, Ore., on May 18, 1924, to the late John Francis LeDoux and Edith Lilian LeDoux. He served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1967, retiring with the rank of Commander.

Later he served with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and became Chief of the Training Division for NRC inspectors. In 1981 he accepted a professorship of engineering at Virginia Tech, retiring in 1994.



During his career he was a member of several engineering societies including serving as Session Chairman for two international symposia on the use of radioisotope generators. He made a trip to the South Pole, and he won the 1960 Toulmin Medal of the Society of American Military Engineers.

In addition, he was awarded the Achievement Medal by the Secretary of the Navy. He had many other accomplishments throughout his long life, including authoring two books: his autobiography titled "LeDoux Vie, the Sweet Life of John C. LeDoux" and "What One Man Thinks."

He married the love of his life, Betty LeDoux, on May 18, 1948, with whom he enjoyed a happy marriage for 62 years. He was dearly loved by his eight children, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted on Sunday, July 10, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg with Pastor Mitch Semones of Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship officiating. Interment will follow in the Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr, SW, Blacksburg.

Passenger Rail from page 1

hancing freight rail service through the commonwealth. We thank our partners at Norfolk Southern for helping us make this a reality."

"Today's closing marks the future of rail in the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Norfolk Southern Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Mike McClellan. "Together, we have reached an agreement that expands access for passengers and preserves an important link in the supply chain for businesses that rely on freight rail to ship base materials and finished products."

With this agreement the Commonwealth of Virginia will acquire approximately 28 miles of Norfolk Southern-owned "V-line" right-of-way including existing tracks from Christiansburg to the Salem Crossovers plus the passenger easement between Salem Crossovers and the Roanoke station platform. The Commonwealth's plans also include rail infrastructure improvements between

Manassas and the New River Valley for more frequent and reliable service.

The extension of passenger rail to Virginia's Blue Ridge began in 2009 with service to Lynchburg, which saw ridership triple what it had been predicted to be in just its first year. In 2017 the service was extended to Roanoke, and ridership continued to grow with more than 220,000 passengers traveling in Fiscal Year 2019 (pre-pandemic).

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Blacksburg's Ella Paige Warnick named to Utah's Spring 2022 dean's list

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Legals - Botetourt County

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **Case No. CL21000744-00** Botetourt County Circuit Court 1 West Main Street/ P.O. Box 219, Fincastle, VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **Jimmie Lois Williams** The object of this suit is to: Appoint guardian and conservator for Jimmie Lois Williams. It is ordered that unknown relatives of Jimmie Lois Williams and Samuel Jones appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 13,2022 Signed by: Judge Joel R. Branscom June 6, 2022

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §1-211.1;8.01-316, -317,20-104 Case No. CW21000078-00 Botetourt One West Main St, Suite 120, Fincastle, VA 24090 Commonwealth of Virginia in re **MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED.** The object of this suit is to LOCATE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MICHAEL DEWEY MYERS, DECEASED. It is ORDERED that ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before JULY 29,2022. Dated JUNE 17, 2022 Tommy L. Moore, Clerk.

Legals - Montgomery County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Case No. CL22-447 Complainant, v. ARCHIE E. CROMER, JR., ET AL., Respondent(s). ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 091-A35 Account No. 004387. All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto, lying and being in the Riner District, Montgomery County, Virginia, lying on the waters of Plum Creek, located south of (now or formerly) Lee Highway, about five miles west of the Town of Christiansburg, to-wit: BEGINNING at an iron in a line of (now or formerly)Charlton's land; thence with a line of said Charlton land and with the line of the land of Ruth C. and Archie E. Cromer, Jr. (now or formerly) S 55 degrees 45 minutes E (passing said Cromer's corner at 79 feet) 1000 feet to a chestnut snag at a corner in said Cromer's lines; thence with another line of the land of said Ruth C. and Archie E. Cromer, Jr., S 35 degrees 10 minutes W 400 feet to an iron; thence running two new lines with P.H. and Beulah Mae Wright as follows: N 55 degrees 45 W 1000 feet to an iron and thence N 35 degrees 10 minutes E 400 to the BEGINNING, containing an area of 9.1815 acres, according to a survey and plat, dated June 14, 1955, made by John W. McNair, Jr., Certified Land Surveyor, plat of which was recorded in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office on July 8, 1955 in Deed Book 194 at Page 160B, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description. And being the same property conveyed to Archie E. Cromer and Ruth Charlton Cromer, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship, from P.H. Wright and Beulah Mae Wright, husband and wife, by Deed, dated July 1, 1955 and recorded July 8, 1955 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 194 at page 160. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Deed Book 194 at Page 160B, Deed Book 566 at Page 810, Deed Book 861 at Page 269, Deed Book 458 at Page 232. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identities and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known address for the Respondents herein are as follows: Archie E. Cromer, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Ruth Charlton

Legals - Montgomery County

Cromer, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is unknown; Archie E. Cromer, III, whose last known address is 2809 Plum Creek Rd, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Charlton Cromer, whose last known address is 1725 Gate Rd #6, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before July 7, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 8th day of June, 2022. Erica W. Conner, Clerk I Ask For This: John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804)545-2500 Facsimile: (804)545-2378 TACS No.: 647066

Legals - City of Radford

ABC NOTICE

7-ELEVEN, INC./CAMPUS CONVENIENCE INC., trading as 7-ELVEN 35781 B 302 Tyler Ave. Radford, VA. 24141. 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.

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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 Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§1-211.1;8.01-316, -317,20-104 Case No. CL20000259-00 CITY OF SALEM 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem VA 24153. RICHARD HARDY V. MIA WALK-HARDY. The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN A DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that MIA WALK-HARDY appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 5,2022. Dated JUNE 7, 2022 Stacy L. Owen, D.C., Clerk

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Southwest swim league



Hethwood's Clara Swift won the girls 9-10 50-meter backstroke in a time of 1:00.55 during week 4 of Southwest Virginia Swim League competition.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Hethwood's Eli Sanderson was the winner in the boys 11-12 50-meter backstroke (47.41).

Christiansburg runner has beer named after her

This past week, Christiansburg runner Carmen Graves helped unveil a beer at hometown brewery Iron Tree named Blue Collar Beer after her and her philosophy of being a blue-collar runner who lays down fast times while holding a full-time job.

Blue-collar runners "grind on the daily to fit in both work and training," Graves said. "They are the runners who don't have a running contract, but still have big dreams."

Her dream is of qualifying for the steeplechase in the Olympics. She initially qualified in

2016 but sustained a plantar fasciitis injury that sent her to the sidelines. Her time was 9:52, barely hitting the Olympics qualifying standard of 9:53. This year the committee lowered the standard to 9:50, which worried her because she hasn't run under 9:50 in over six years.

"I ended up qualifying with a personal best time of 9:47 at the Portland Track Fest (May 27)," Graves said. "It's exciting because I know that I can run faster. I fell in the water pit and still ran a personal best in Portland, so I am excited to see how fast I can run while staying on

my feet."

A 2009 graduate of Christiansburg High School, Graves now lives in Denver. After an outstanding career at CHS and Roanoke College, she went on to run in the professional ranks.

"I identify myself as a blue collar runner," Graves said. "I work full time in education and coach track and field while also rubbing elbows with full-time professional runners."

This past week, she said, "It's probably not the best recovery strategy, but after a long day at work and a hard training session, I just want to relax on the couch

with my husband, my dog, and a cold beer. It's hard to find a good IPA that hits the spot just right after a run," Graves said.

"My taste buds seem to be sensitive after physical activity, and the typical IPA can taste too harsh and strong. The perfect post-run beer to me is light and refreshing while still holding the integrity of an IPA; hence, Blue Collar Runner," she said.

Graves said it was important to work with Iron Tree Brewing Company because they are helping to make downtown Christiansburg special.

"The Brewhouse Manager,

Seth Locklear, has been great to collaborate with, and he took all my

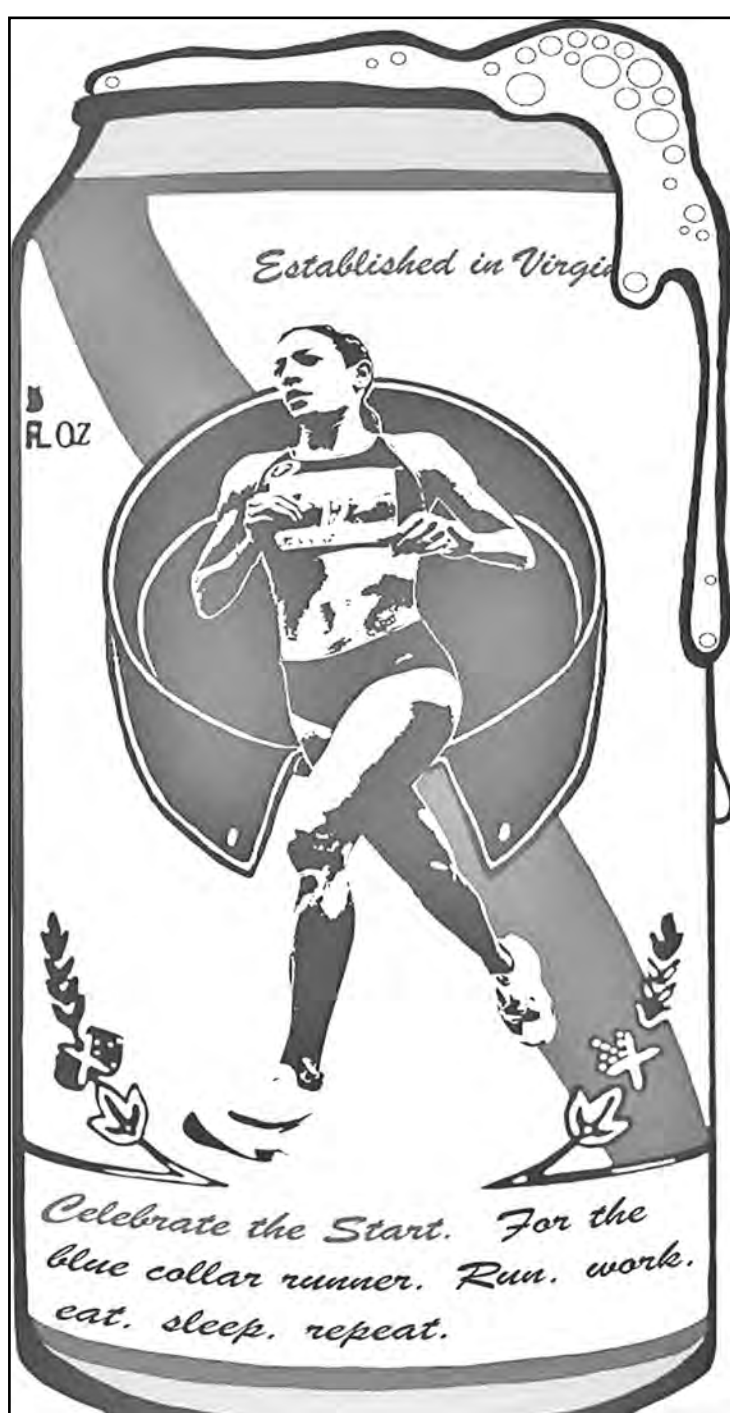
suggestions into consideration," she said.

Iron Tree Brewing Company is a new brewery that is not yet at the point where it is canning beers yet, but it's definitely a possibility in the future for Graves and her newly named beer.

"I've been healthy and happy, which has allowed me to get into consistent training for the last four years," she said. "Moving to Denver and training at high altitudes has also been a good change."



Carmen Graves (forefront, #9) is reaching for the top ring in the steeplechase event with the possibility of appearing in the Olympics.



FILE PHOTOS

Blue Collar beer is a new line at Iron Tree Brewery in Christiansburg that honors Carmen Graves and her running career.

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VT 2022 class of All-Americans is largest in program history

The Virginia Tech baseball team is celebrating its most decorated All-American class in the program's history as four Hokies have combined to garner 13 such honors for their outstanding diamond performances during the 2022 season.

Sophomore shortstop Tanner Schobel led Tech's national year-end honorees with six All-American mentions while sophomore outfielder Jack Hurley collected four All-American nods. Freshman starting pitcher Drue Hackenberg was named to two All-American teams while third-year sophomore outfielder Gavin Cross earned one All-American selection, placing onto Perfect Game's First Team.

With four national standouts, Tech's 2022 All-American class marks its largest such class all-time, doubling the size of its two-player classes in 1982, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2020. Additionally, Cross becomes the Hokies' first All-American first-team selection since 2003 (Matt Dalton) and the program's first such position player since 1986

(George Canale).

Among Schobel's six All-American titles, the All-ACC First Team shortstop was twice named to the Second Team (ABCA/Rawlings, NCBWA) while showing up on four third-team lineups (Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball Newspaper, D1Baseball, Perfect Game). The draft-eligible sophomore set Tech's ACC-era records for both RBIs (74) and home runs (19), achieving the program's highest marks in both categories since 1986 (Trey McCoy) and 1996 (Kevin Barker), respectively.

Starting each of the Hokies' 59 games, Schobel batted .362 (85 hits, 18 doubles), slugged .689, scored 68 runs, stole seven bases, and helped turn 36 double plays (.954 fielding percentage). He was also tabbed as one of six national finalists for the 2022 Brooks Wallace Award (presented annually to the nation's best collegiate shortstop), was named a national semifinalist for both the Golden Spikes Award and the Dick Howser Trophy, garnered ABCA/Raw-

lings Atlantic All-Region First Team praise and was lauded on the VaSID All-State First Team.

Scoring four All-American mentions, Hurley accompanied Schobel on the NCBWA Second Team while collecting third-team consideration from three outlets (ABCA/Rawlings, Collegiate Baseball Newspaper, Perfect Game). The All-ACC First Team outfielder led all NCAA Division I players in batting average as late as April 7 (.464), finishing with a .375 mark that yielded 87 hits, 23 doubles, a triple, and 14 home runs (.664 slugging percentage).

Arguably the toughest out in Tech's offense, Hurley posted the Hokies' best on-base percentage (.452), swiping 10 bases on his way to scoring 59 runs while accounting for 55 RBIs. An invitee to USA Baseball's 2022 Collegiate National Team training camp, he was named a national semifinalist for the Dick Howser Trophy, earned ABCA/Rawlings Atlantic All-Region First Team distinction, sported VaSID All-State First

Team honors and placed onto the All-ACC Academic Team.

A breakout rookie, Hackenberg came away with a pair of All-American third-team selections, as so named by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper and the NCBWA. Named a Freshman All-American by both outlets as well, the All-ACC First Team starting pitcher led the ACC in regular season ERA (2.44) while winning 10 games, the most by a Tech hurler since 2013 (Devin Burke).

Joining Hurley as an invitee to USA Baseball's 2022 Collegiate National Team training camp, Hackenberg notched the most strikeouts (87) in a Tech uniform since 2011 (Marc Zechino), which ranked him sixth among ACC pitchers in fewest walks allowed per nine innings (1.85). Recently named the VaSID Pitcher and Rookie of the Year, he has also earned ABCA/Rawlings Atlantic All-Region First Team, All-ACC Academic Team and VaSID All-State First Team honors.

Tech's lone 2022 All-Ameri-

can First-Team selection (as so named by Perfect Game), Cross performed at his best when facing the best, swinging 12 of his 17 home runs against Power Five opposition. The All-ACC First Team outfielder ranked among the top 25 NCAA Division I players in runs per game (70 runs, 1.23 per game), pairing his .328 batting average with 14 doubles, eight triples (tied for the second most nationally), his 12-for-12 mark in stolen bases, and his .660 slugging percentage.

Cross could well become one of the Hokies' highest MLB Draft picks all-time, seeking to join Franklin Stubbs (1982), Brad DuVall (1987, 1988), Denny Wagner (1997) and Joe Saunders (2002) in the coveted first round. Among his additional 2022 honors, he made his way onto the ABCA/Rawlings All-Region Second Team and the VaSID All-State First Team. He was also named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2022 NCAA Blacksburg Regional.

V DOT from page 4

ERATIONS - 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. Ramp restrictions possible.

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 and 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 follow-

ing morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

ROANOKE CITY

13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR - A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS

- Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations 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. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once

it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

ROANOKE COUNTY

ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING ROCK - A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is set to begin. During construction, lane closures and a road closure with a detour through August will be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

Closure & Detour: A portion of the Route 419 and Route 311 intersection is closed and a detour is in place for approximately four to six weeks. It is scheduled to reopen in August or September. Motorists should be aware of the following impacts:

Traffic will not be able to turn left from Thompson Memorial Drive (Route 311) onto Catawba Valley Drive (Route 311)

Thompson Memorial Drive traffic will not be able to drive straight through the intersection onto Route 419.

Route 419 traffic will not be able to continue straight at the intersection onto Thompson Memorial Drive.

No U-turns on Route 311 allowed.

During the partial intersection closure, drivers will need to use alternate routes and can detour using Interstate 81 exit 140 onto Thompson Memorial Drive and exit 141 onto Route 419. Using Main Street in Salem to reroute onto Route 419 or Thompson Memorial Drive around the partial intersection closure is another option.

August through November: The new roundabout is expected to be open to traffic in August or September. Drivers should still expect nighttime lane closures with flaggers between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday around the roundabout for final paving, pavement marking and sign installation.

ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE - As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) will be closed beginning July 11 where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time.

ROUTE 628 CULVERT REPLACEMENT - Route 628 (Greenridge Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located .25 miles east of the road's entrance from Route 780 (Cove Road). Lane closures on Route 628 maintained utilizing temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 760 (DIUGUIDS LANE) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT & DETOUR - A project to replace the Route 760 (Diuguids Lane) bridge over the Roanoke River is underway with preliminary work. The bridge is located at the Salem city limits near Route 760's intersection with Route 639 (West Riverside Drive). Typical work hours are expected to be Monday through Saturday during daytime hours with occasional work on Sunday. Flagging operations may be in place periodically and occasional night work is possible. Drivers can expect short-term lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic on West Riverside Drive periodically. Access to Green Hill Park, private entrances and businesses will be maintained at all times. Completion is expected in the winter of 2022.

DETOUR JULY 5: A 45-day detour will be in place July 5. For the majority of the 45-day closure, traffic can detour using West Riverside Drive and Mill Lane. However, there will be two, three-day periods when a large crane will be in use at Diuguids Lane and West Riverside Drive, so this intersection will need to be closed temporarily.

On those days when the large crane is in use, drivers will need to use Creekside Drive and Lilly Drive to detour. The crane is expected to be at the intersection on July 6, 7 and 8 and require that traffic use the alternate detour route between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day.

During these hours, flaggers will control traffic on Lilly Drive to allow drivers to alternate using one open lane. Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., flaggers will control traffic at the West Riverside Drive intersection while the crane is present.

For three days later in July to be determined, the crane is anticipated to impact the West Riverside Drive intersection again. The same traffic pattern will be implemented on those days with drivers using Creekside Drive and Lilly Drive between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and flaggers controlling traffic on Lilly Drive.

Flagging operations in place, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on southbound Diuguids lane as well as the intersection of Harborwood Road/W Riverside Drive. A right lane closure northbound may also be in place, Monday through Friday.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE - The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place through Summer 2022.

SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations 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. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

BEDFORD COUNTY

ROUTE 460 S-CURVE REALIGNMENT - Work is coming to a close to realign 1.4 miles of the eastbound lanes of Route 460 in Bedford County near Montvale, about eight miles west of Bedford and approximately 2.3 miles east of Montvale. All lanes are now open, and the speed limit has returned to 55mph. Drivers may see residual work continue and traffic impacts such as lane closures may be possible. Message boards will be posted to alert drivers. Completion is expected in Summer 2022.

ROUTE 747 PIPE REPLACEMENT CLOSURE - Effective July 11, 2022 at 8 a.m., a section of Route 747 (Joppa Mill Road) and Route 691 (Shepherds Store Road) will be closed for a pipe replacement. This closure will be located 0.10

of a mile from Route 691 (Shepherds Store Road) and 0.75 mile from Route 807 (Scenic View Road) and 1.36 miles from Route 745 (Mount Olivet Road). There will be signage for a detour that follows Route 24 (Stewartsville Road) and Route 122 (Moneta Road). The road is scheduled to be completed on August 8 at 5 p.m.

ROUTE 221 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS - A project to improve safety and operations at three signalized intersections is underway. Two intersections are on Route 221 in Bedford County in the Salem District and one is at Route 460 Business (Timberlake Road) and Route 622 (Waterlick Road) in Campbell County in the Lynchburg District. In Bedford County, this project will improve two adjacent signalized intersections in the Forest area on Route 221 at Route 1425 (Graves Mill Road) and at Route 1426 (Gristmill Drive). Most work will be performed during nighttime hours, Monday through Friday, 6 p.m. - 7 a.m. the next morning. Drivers may see shoulder and lane closures during daytime hours on the weekends. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

ROUTE 655 INTERSECTION AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - Construction to improve the intersection and shoulders began on Route 655 and various locations from 0.91 mile north of the Route 653 and 655 (Goodview Road and Route 616 (Horseshoe Bend Road) to 0.038 mile north of the Route 655 (Good View Road) and Route 616 (Horseshoe Bend Road) is in progress. Flagging operations at the intersection of Goodview Road and Horseshoe Bend will be in place during the week and work hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The expected completion date is the end of September 2022.

ROUTE 691 PIPELINE REPLACEMENT - Effective immediately, a section of Route 691 (Quarles Road) is closed due to a pipe failure. The closure is located .40 mile from Route 726 (Quarterwood Road) and 1.30 mile from Route 619 (Pendleton Road). The road will be closed until further notice.

ROUTE 623 CULVERT REPLACEMENT - A section of Route 623 (Turkey Foot Road) in Campbell County on the Bedford County line is closed to replace a culvert which carries Buffalo Creek. This structure is located .18 mile north of US 460 and 0.68 mile south of the Bedford/Campbell County line. There will be signage for a detour. The road is scheduled to be completed on July 29 at 5 p.m.

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