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Best-selling author Amy Herman to speak at Montgomery Chamber's women's conference



Amy Herman is a New York Times best-selling author and nationally recognized art historian and lawyer.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Montgomery Chamber commissioned a new logo for the 2022 Women's Leadership Conference.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce welcomes Amy Herman as she returns as the keynote speaker for the 2022 Women's Leadership Conference on Aug. 1, at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

Herman is a New York Times Bestseller and a nationally recognized speaker, art historian, and lawyer who uses art to demonstrate how to hone perceptions and visual intelligence. She has worked with an impressive list of clients including the New York Police Department, US Special Operations Forces, the US Department of Defense, the FBI, and Google.

"When we held our program virtually in 2020, Amy provided a captivating presentation," said Robyn Jones, Montgomery Chamber's vice chair. "We are thrilled to

bring her back in person to connect and engage with attendees this year."

Herman will be presenting a paradigm-shattering twist on problem-solving that will help attendees find solutions to the problems faced every day. She has a new book, *Fixed: How to Perfect the Fine Art of Problem-Solving*, that was published in December 2021. Things go wrong all the time. Herman offers an innovative and proven way to see problems differently and to craft better solutions for productivity, profit, and peace.

Since 2015, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has provided this conference focused on aspiring and accomplished professional businesswomen. Attendees have access to local women leaders, thought-provoking keynote speakers, breakout session topics,

and the opportunity to network with women in the local community.

In preparation for this year's program, the chamber worked with member and small-woman-owned business, Blouse House Creative, to create a new logo for 2022.

Chamber President and CEO Steve Baffuto said, "We are so appreciative of our local businesses and chamber members who recognize the contributions of women and the value they add to our community."

Companies sponsoring the conference are -Champion: BAE Systems; LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

See **Conference**, page 4

Radford to hold Mary Draper Ingles Festival July 29-31

RADFORD, VA.—The Mary Draper Ingles Festival commemorating the capture, escape and grueling return journey of one of Virginia's most famous colonial heroines will take place July 29-31 in the City of Radford and surrounding communities.

This year's festival features colonial period reenactors, old-time crafts and skills, an art exhibit inspired by Ingles and many children's activities, including a petting zoo, at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery.

The historic Ingles Farm, which showcases a replica of Ingles's cabin, will be open for tours and talks by interpreters. Long Way Brewing, a craft beer company whose name is a take on the frontierswoman's journey, will also feature live music, food trucks, a children's play zone, and a living history performance by West Virginia actress Karen Vuranch.

Born in 1732 to Irish immigrants in Philadelphia, Ingles became part of the great westward migration of Europeans who pressed on through Virginia in search of affordable land and a better future. She and her family joined an expedition that eventually settled on land in the New River Valley where she married Englishman William Ingles.

Parts of the frontier were in the grips of the French

See **Ingles**, page 4



COURTESY WAGGAMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The elegant 8-foot-tall bronze statue of Mary Draper Ingles was created by artist Matt Langford. The statue stands on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion in Radford.

Blacksburg to include \$1.15 million funding for First Steps among 11 community projects

A \$1.15 million project to stabilize and grow the childcare workforce led by First Steps, an initiative of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CF-NRV), is among the eleven community projects funded by the Town of Blacksburg with its allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Established in 2016, First

Steps is a network of more than sixty New River Valley (NRV) organizations working to support young children and families. Childcare providers, public school officials, and social service and healthcare organizations work together to share information about the range of services available to children and families in the NRV, to

steps with a common voice

about the critical importance of early childhood education, and to support the early education and development workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated longstanding challenges facing the early education workforce in the NRV and nationwide, and the situation has become far more dire as the region emerges from

the pandemic. According to a recent survey of providers in the region, childcare centers are operating at just thirty-three percent of their licensed capacity due to a lack of qualified teachers and support staff, leaving nearly 7,000 children ages birth to 6 years without access to care.

See **First Steps**, page 4

Jessie Peterman Library free fridge program offers fresh product to county residents

The Jessie Peterman Memorial Library's new Floyd Free Fridge offers produce and other healthy food to the public.

"Through a partnership with Plenty Farm and Food Bank and a generous donation from a library patron, this idea has become a reality for the Floyd community," said Joann Verostko, Jessie Peterman Memorial Library branch manager.

"According to the USDA, 10.5 percent of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2020," Verostko said. "With the Floyd Free Fridge, the library will

be able to help people and also inform them about other food, nutrition, and health resources available in the community."

During library hours of operation, anyone is welcome to visit the fridge and help themselves to fresh produce. Programs focusing on seasonal produce, healthy eating, and gardening are being planned with some programs already being offered.

Fin-tastic Foods, in partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, teaches kids how to make healthy meals. Nutritional informa-

tion and recipes will also be available.

In Eastern Montgomery, Meadowbrook Public Library provides another nutrition program, The Meadowbrook Backpack Program. That program helps families stretch their budget with weekly bags filled with nutritious food.

Jessie Peterman Memorial Library is among the first libraries in the state with a community fridge project. Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library hopes to expand the effort to branches in Christiansburg and Shawsville within the year.

Forbes names Virginia Tech among best employers for new grads

Forbes recently published its annual list of America's Best Employers for New Grads, a list of 300 companies identified as most liked by new workforce entrants. Virginia Tech ranked in the top 30 and was the third-highest ranked educational employer on the list.

Forbes partnered with Statista, a market research company, that surveyed 20,000 Americans with fewer than 10 years of professional experience working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees.

Respondents were asked to rate their employers on a variety of criteria, including safety of work environment, competitiveness of compensation, opportunities for advancement, effectiveness of diversity and inclusion efforts, company image, and how likely they would be to recommend their employer to others.

"We are pleased to be recognized as part of Forbes' annual list," said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. "One of our goals at Virginia Tech is to be a destination for talent. We know we are producing top talent every day in our undergraduate and graduate students. To know that these talented individuals want to both learn

and work at Virginia Tech is a great honor and goes to show that being part of the Hokie Nation is a lifelong experience."

With the support of the university, Human Resources continues to invest in making Virginia Tech a great place to work. Systems such as a web-based site for new hire paperwork and onboarding portal make getting started with Virginia Tech

See **Tech**, page 4



Torgersen Bridge

SUBMITTED PHOTO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 9:

Mt. Tabor Ruritan fish fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its July fish fry from 5 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

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Annual New River Valley Garden Tour showcases innovative, specialty, and simply beautiful private gardens in the New River Valley each July. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library with the cooperation of the New River Valley Master Gardeners' Association. Purchase tickets at public libraries in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, and Shawsville, or at any of the gardens on the day of the tour. Tickets are \$15.

Movie and a craft

At the Christiansburg Library; 10:30 a.m. Join this rag-tag band of explorers as they search for the lost city and make a craft.

Mermaid Party

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Celebrate mermaids and mermen with treats, crafts, and games. All ages are welcome. Registration is required.

Monday, July 11:

Radford City Council meeting

Held in city council chambers, 10 Robertson St., Radford, at 7 p.m.

STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. A homeschool STEM club explores science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up. Ocean currents will be studied this month.

Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 15:

Teen Connections

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. each day. Teens, grades 6 through 8, become a peer health educator. 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/tcswva>.

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 Family 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 teens 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.

Adult Craft: rock painting

At the Blacksburg Library at 5 p.m. Paint a rock, relax, and brighten up a desk or garden. All supplies will be provided. Registration is recommended due to limited supplies. Call or stop by the circulation desk to register. For adults only, please.

Thursday, July 14:



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kids can Giddy Up to VBS

Freedom Fellowship Vacation Bible School will be held Wednesday, July 13, through Friday, July 15, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 1730 West St., Radford (near Bisset Park).

www.montcova.com

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at 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 his book *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*.

Talking about Books: Banned Books

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Banned books will be discussed, particularly why they may have been banned. Everyone can read a book of his or her choice. A list will be provided to choose from, or participants may pick one that interests them. Call the Meadowbrook Library for more information.

Teen gaming

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Challenge friends to a fun afternoon of video games, board games, and other activities. Snacks and drinks will be provided while supplies last. For ages 11-17.

Edible Oceans

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Learn about the different layers of the ocean using Jello, graham crackers, and other candy and treats. Supplies are limited.

Friday, July 15:

Mill Mountain Zoo presents Fight or Flight

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. When it comes to getting away from something that wants to eat you, animals have many tricks. Some have speed, others have camouflage, some have poison and others use distraction to get away. Come out and see some of Mill Mountain Zoo's Education Animals and explore adaptations they use to defend themselves against predators.

Saturday July 16:

End of Summer Reading Ocean Bash

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10:30 p.m. Celebrate the end of another fun summer reading program with all kinds of fun stations, including crafts, a water slide, cool refreshments, games, prizes, and face painting. Free.

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon to 1 p.m. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfil.org for more information.

Teen DND

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

Ongoing:

United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

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

Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now, an exhibit through Aug. 18, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission is free; hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A reception will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.. It is open to the public. Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwest Virginia – Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century and also shares 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 & Visitor Services Manager at 540-443-1602 or jlwilliams@blacksburghistory.org or visit blacksburgmuseum.org.

Leading addiction expert: Proposed FDA nicotine rule likely to help more people quit smoking

By John Pastor

A proposed FDA rule meant to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes sold in the United States would be a boon for improved health and could result in more people giving up smoking in favor of less dangerous forms of nicotine consumption, said a highly-cited expert in the science of addiction.

"Nicotine is the driving force of addictive quality of cigarettes," said Warren Bickel, a Virginia Tech professor of psychology and director of the Addiction Recovery Research Center of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC. "Reduction of nicotine will render cigarettes less rewarding, which may help people quit smoking or cause them to use less harmful forms of nicotine."

Bickel noted that cigarette consumption produces untold harm in the U.S. with approximately a half-million deaths a year, including 30 percent of all cancer deaths.

"Burning the tobacco and consumption of all the chemicals in cigarettes are what makes smoking dangerous while other forms of nicotine such as the patch and nicotine gum are less toxic," he said.

The Biden administration announced

the proposed rule this week requiring tobacco companies to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes sold in the United States to minimally or nonaddictive levels. The effort, which is expected to be successful, could have an unprecedented effect in slashing smoking-related deaths and threaten a politically powerful industry.

About Bickel

Warren Bickel, the Virginia Tech Carilion Behavioral Health Research Professor and primary faculty member of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, studies why people continue to engage in harmful behaviors — such as smoking, substance abuse, and overeating — even when they know what's at stake.

Bickel is director of the Addiction Recovery Research Center and the Center for Health Behaviors Research at the institute, and is an investigator in an international, multi-center study to evaluate measures taken in seven countries to understand the long-term health impact of different regulatory approaches to e-cigarettes and other new nicotine products among youth and adults.

Myers-Lawson School of Construction charts future of the discipline with move into College of Engineering

By Emily Roediger

When the Virginia Tech Myers-Lawson School of Construction was founded in 2006, several industry concerns were top of mind.

Among other priorities, the school was charged with growing the talent pipeline to meet an unfilled demand for highly skilled construction professionals and with creating a collaborative ecosystem within which industry and academia could discover and implement innovative technologies, approaches, and efficiencies.

Over 15 years later, those priorities remain unchanged and, in fact, have become even more pressing. Now, Virginia Tech is planning to further facilitate progress in these areas through its recent approval of a full transfer of Myers-Lawson into the College of Engineering.

The move, recently approved by the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia, not only streamlines administrative processes, but will also better support research and instructional partnerships across construction and engineering disciplines; offer students additional opportuni-

ties to pursue transdisciplinary research experiences; and open new doors to industry internships, co-ops, and collaborative projects focused on some of construction's most challenging problems.

Previously shared between the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering, Myers-Lawson is one of only three schools of construction in the United States that offer both engineering and non-engineering construction degrees.

Its programs include undergraduate and graduate degrees in building construction, an undergraduate degree in construction engineering and management, and a doctoral degree in environmental design and planning. Additionally, the school partners closely with the College of Engineering on graduate programs in civil engineering and with the Pamplin College of Business for its undergraduate real estate program. Myers-Lawson also administers an interdisciplinary doctoral program known as BioBuild, which focuses on the planning and creation of bio-inspired buildings and communities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER OFFICE OF STEM ENGAGEMENT

The Hokienauts receive feedback on their space suit designs from NASA experts Kate Rubins, astronaut, and Chris Hansen, extravehicular project manager, while at Johnson Space Center for the NASA SUITS competition.

Hokienauts on a special mission to advance space exploration

Written by Grace Daniels, a student intern with the Department of Computer Science

Virginia Tech's Hokienauts have touched back down from their on-site test week at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, where they had the opportunity to pitch their space-suit designs to experts in the field, including Astronaut Kate Rubins and Extravehicular Project Manager Chris Hansen.

Now back in Blacksburg, team members have collected all their feedback and documentation into a final report for NASA. Using that input from experts in the field, they will continue to improve upon their designs and conduct human subject testing.

This marks the third time that a Virginia Tech student team has been invited to participate as finalists in the NASA SUITS (Spacesuit User Interface Technologies for Students) Challenge.

The Hokienauts were one of 10 university-based teams from across the country to demonstrate their augmented-reality solutions designed for use in spacesuits in a lunar analog environment. "These innovations are critical as NASA plans toward a sustained lunar presence," said Brandon Hargis, NASA SUITS activity manager.

Engineers from NASA's extravehicu-

lar activity and joint augmented-reality teams served as design evaluators, testing student designs and providing them feedback.

"You learn from the people that are actually developing real technology that goes to space — people that have been doing this for many years," said Mithil Adsul, a recent computer engineering graduate who served as leader and team hardware engineer for the Hokienauts. "So you're getting real feedback that really matters."

Projects such as the NASA SUITS design challenge require a team of diverse individuals.

"Every other team I've been working on is engineering majors, so it was really cool to step outside that bound," Adsul said. "I would encourage Virginia Tech to include undergraduate engineering projects that are interdisciplinary."

In this challenge, graphic design students Natalie Kinnamon, Devina Bawa, and Lauren Sartori were tapped to create the visual elements such as buttons and menus, while software design students Burak Topo, Kien Tran, and Jasmine Walker worked behind the scenes to make them clickable and navigable.

Electrical engineering students Sabrina Lesser and Rafiul Kabir were responsible for developing the physical hardware that facilitated the digital components.

Drone that can avoid obstacles helped win approval for aerial inspections of power facilities

Since the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership was designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an official drone test site in 2013, its research has helped shape drone integration in the U.S.

In the process, it has carved out new opportunities for companies that see powerful ways to use the technology that stretch the boundaries of current regulations. One of the latest wins is a waiver from the FAA that gives Dominion Energy, one of the region's largest energy companies, permission to use drones to inspect power-generation facilities in seven states.

Drones have become a popular tool for inspections of bridges, buildings, and other structures because high-resolution aerial imagery is a convenient alternative to an assessment that could be time-consuming or dangerous to do in person. What makes this particular waiver so valuable for Dominion is a feature that's widely coveted but still relatively rare: It doesn't require the operator to be able to see the aircraft the whole time it's being flown.

Keeping the drone within "visual line of sight" is a standard requirement written into drone regulations to reduce the risk of collision with low-flying crewed aircraft such as helicopters

and small planes. Breaking this barrier and flying beyond visual line of sight has become a central priority in the drone industry because of the efficiencies that accrue when an operator has the flexibility to cover longer distances or — more relevantly for this type of work — maneuver around corners or behind obstacles.

Dominion will conduct its inspections with an aircraft from U.S. drone manufacturer Skydio with sophisticated, autonomous obstacle avoidance capabilities. That feature allows the drone to be safely flown in close proximity to structures.

Virginia Tech helped Skydio and Dominion make the case to the FAA that flying close to structures on the facility kept the drone out of the way of other potential air traffic, making the risk of collision so low that the FAA could safely waive the requirement for the pilot to see the drone or for an additional crew member to constantly scan the airspace.

"Two major goals of our research are helping firms like Dominion develop safe, practical ways to use drones to enhance their operations and helping drone companies like Skydio find opportunities to leverage the power of their technology to enable new kinds of operations," said Tombo Jones, the test site's direc-

tor. "This waiver achieves both of those things."

The waiver request, developed by Skydio's regulatory affairs team, covers more than 40 of Dominion's facilities in Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. These facilities undergo routine inspections, and using a drone to do them avoids having to send an inspector up scaffolding, down walls, or into areas with high temperatures or other hazards.

Adding the ability to fly beyond line of sight upgrades that safety advantage with a dramatic increase in efficiency: Now, the pilot can potentially conduct an entire facility inspection from a single location, sometimes even in a single flight, rather than traveling from place to place to keep the drone in view.

Dominion Energy first deployed drones in 2014, focusing primarily on identifying electrical transmission line defects. Since then, Dominion has expanded its drone program to include approximately 50 drones and drone pilots serving multiple operational business segments. At power generation facilities, Dominion Energy drones take volumetric measurements and assess construction progress, provide surveying and mapping services, and inspect infrastructure.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOMINION ENERGY

A power station like this one includes many structures that can be safely and efficiently inspected by drone.

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Send community news and photos to communitynews @ourvalley.org

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easier. Improved recruiting practices ensure alignment with the university's inclusion and diversity efforts.

Tuition benefits and other professional development opportunities provide em-

ployees ways to keep growing in their career. In response to employees' work-life balance requests and concerns, the university offers flexible work options and wellness resources and is working to address caregiving needs.

Additional initiatives include updates to the universitywide onboarding program, the launch of a new staff performance management system, a review of nearly 2,200 administrative and profes-

sional faculty roles to develop clearer career pathing and organizational structure, and ongoing work to review the university's compensation practices to ensure competitiveness.

First Steps from page 1

Centers have had to close individual classrooms or modify hours to meet state licensing requirements for student-teacher ratios, and recruiting new workers into the field has been extraordinarily challenging. Despite raising starting salaries several times over the last two years, early educators earn far less than those in retail and office jobs. Low pay, limited benefits, and the persistent misperception that childcare providers are merely "babysitters" rather than trained educators, has made recruitment and retention difficult.

"The challenges with recruiting are many," said Judy Shelor, Center Director of Valley Interfaith Child Care Center, "A few of them are wage inequality, increasing educational opportunities and competing with retail establishments for workers. We are committed to offering our staff a living wage, supporting educational opportunities, and elevating the professional status

of early childhood education, all while providing high-quality care that is affordable to the families we serve."

The lack of qualified educators also has a profound impact on employers of all kinds, forcing parents to leave the workforce when care is unavailable or inconsistent. According to the Virginia Promise Partnership, inadequate child care leads to a loss of \$38 million in family income, \$13 million in business revenue, and \$7 million in tax revenue in Montgomery County alone.

First Steps will use the funds from the Town of Blacksburg to pilot a program over the next four years focused on retaining early educators and building the workforce pipeline. Major components of the program include stipends to educators based on their length of service and credentials, scholarships and job placement services for high school and

college students pursuing a career in early education, and outreach to area employers to create public-private partnerships that keep childcare accessible and affordable.

"It is both reassuring and inspiring for the Town of Blacksburg to invest in the early care and education workforce because they are the foundation for quality," said Karen Gallagher, Director of the Child Development Center for Learning and Research at Virginia Tech. "The town is laying the essential groundwork that will facilitate additional public and private partnerships in order to stabilize and grow quality early care and education for working families in the NRV."

First Steps hopes to secure additional private and public funding to expand the program beyond Blacksburg in the coming years.

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COURTESY WAGGAMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The reconstructed cabin is located at historic Ingles Farm in Radford. The reconstruction is based on the original Mary Draper Ingles cabin that once stood on that exact location.

and Indian War, and in July 1755 a group of Shawnees staged an attack, killing four residents and abducting Ingles, her two children, and her sister-in-law. What followed was a month-long march over hundreds of miles through the Ohio and Kentucky regions until Ingles decided to escape.

The story of Ingles's undeniable determination continues to capture interest more than 260 years later, resulting in numer-

ous books, including "Follow the River," a "New York Times" bestseller, and several outdoor dramas and movies.

Friday, July 29, kicks off with the dedication of the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park that now includes native plant species, Ingles's bronze statue, and a train observatory designed and built by Virginia Tech students and faculty.

James Alexander Thom, author of the national best-seller "Follow the River,"

is expected to sign books during the event. Long Way Brewing will kick off its celebration with the re-introduction of a craft beer named in Ingles's honor, music, and food.

The activities on Saturday, July 30, will run most of the day at Glencoe, the brewing company, and the Ingles Farm.

On Sunday, July 31, the festival will continue at Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin and will feature interpreters, live

music, and tours of the historic Ingles Tavern located on the banks of the New River in Pulaski County.

The festival is coordinated by Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery and is made possible in part by a grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. An event schedule is available at www.glencoemansion.org. Restaurant and lodging lists are available at www.visitradford.com.

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(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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Conference from page 1

-Advance: First Bank & Trust Company; Wheeler Digital; Wing. -Advocate: AEP; English Meadows; Freedom First Credit Union; Ink Works Studio; National Bank of Blacksburg; SERVPRO; The Inn at Virginia Tech; Wine & Design. -Promote: American National

Bank; Blouse House Creative; Coldwell Banker Townside Realtors; Deal Insurance Agency; Edward Jones; First & Main; Kristina Rose Photography; Member One Federal Credit Union; Paint & Fun Ceramics; The Orange Bandana. Admission to the conference is

\$120 for chamber members and \$169 for non-members. Register online at www.montgomerycc.org, or email programs@montgomerycc.org, or call (540) 382-3020 to reserve a seat. The deadline to register is Friday, July 22, 2022.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
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 - Icelandic literary works
 - Break in half
 - Japanese mushroom
 - Have offspring
 - Not feeling well
 - A very large body of water
 - Witch
 - Behemoth
 - Speak negatively of
 - Absence of difficulty
 - Pampering places
 - Drives
 - Truck that delivers beer
 - Makes
 - A team's best pitcher
 - Carvey, comedian
 - Seas
 - S. American plants
 - Time zone
 - Deviate
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 - Moving in slowly
 - Patrick and Glover are two
 - Living quarters
 - Taxi
 - Pancake made of buck-wheat flour
 - Swiss river
 - Not happy
 - Have surgery
 - Formal withdrawal
 - Give way to anxiety
 - Greek war god
 - 2K lbs.
 - Word of farewell
- CLUES DOWN**
- ex Machina
 - WWII diarist Frank
 - Concluding passage
 - Supplement with difficulty
 - Title of respect
 - Cubic measures
 - Remnant
 - Jones
 - Salts of acetic acid
 - Long, upholstered seat
 - Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
 - A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
 - Prefix denoting "in a"
 - Propels upward
 - What we are talking about
 - Prosecutor
 - Employee stock ownership plan
 - He brings kids presents
 - Burmese monetary unit
 - Hurries
 - Injury remnant
 - Tooth caregiver
 - Elvis backup singer Betty Jane
 - "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Most excellent
 - Heat units
 - Possess legally
 - Food items
 - Skeletal structures
 - Challenge to do something bold
 - Blood type
 - Sammy ____, songwriter
 - Farmer (Dutch)
 - Clare Booth ____, American writer
 - Piers Anthony's protagonist
 - Malaysian coastal city
 - Hairstyle
 - NY-based department store
 - Geosciences organization (abbr.)
 - Brazilian city
 - Niger-Congo languages
 - Gesture



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OBITUARIES

Allen, The Rev. Steve

The Rev. Steve Allen, pastor of Centennial Christian Church in McCoy, went home to be with God on July 4, 2022.

Mark Stephen (always called Steve) Allen was born on April 7, 1957, at Camp Zama, Japan, where his father was stationed in the army. His parents were James William (Jay) and Marjorie Jane Allen.

His parents divorced when he was very young, and he lived primarily with his mother in Cincinnati until he was 16 and then in Baltimore until he graduated from high school. He knew from a young age that he was destined to be a pastor and committed himself to that goal.

He graduated from Lynchburg College in 1979 and from Brite Divinity School in 1983.

In addition to churches served

during his time in seminary, Steve faithfully served churches in Illinois, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, and Kentucky.

When Steve went to the little town of Ursa, Ill., to serve as a pastor, he met and married Rita Grimes, who became his partner in marriage and in ministry on Aug. 30, 1986. Steve and Rita were blessed with three children: Brian (Moe), David, and Laura.

He was active in local activities and regional church committees in the various states in which he served churches. He encouraged Rita to attend seminary and join him in a more formal

manner in ministry with him. She graduated from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Ok. in 2009.

Steve loved music of all types: sacred, jazz, rock, classical, pop; he loved them all. He and his princess Laura would dance around the house to "Dancing Queen" by Abba. He enjoyed singing from an early age and sang with the Cincinnati Boy's Choir. He also sang in community choral groups as an adult. As his health declined, he

turned to God even more closely for his source of comfort and peace. He is no longer suffering. He has fought the good fight, and heaven is his reward.



He is survived by his wife Rita of McCoy, sons Brian of Lawrence, Kansas and David of Kansas City, Mo., and daughter Laura (Kit) Romero of Snyder, Texas; a brother, Michael (Stephanie) Allen of Albuquerque, N.M.; a sister, Kathy Wicklund of Bakersfield, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Bev (Wayne) Dedert of Quincy, Ill.; a brother-in-law Kent (Susan) Grimes of Speedway, Ind.; a sister-in-law, Judy Allen of Escondido, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Maurice and Jean Grimes; and a brother, Bill.

A memorial service was held Friday, July 8, at Centennial Christian Church in McCoy with a meal following. A burial/funeral service in Ursa, Ill., will be held at a later date.

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

Faith Christian Church of Christ, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Wits' End Corner

Read Psalms 106:1 through 109:31

Life can be like riding a ship rolling in the midst of a stormy sea: up one second reaching for the stars, the next second plummeting to the depths. The Psalmist wrote about those who "went out on the sea in ships."

They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress (Psalm 107:27-28).

A. G. Ward wrote in the Pentecostal Evangel eighty-three years ago, "We have passed through many tests in the

past twenty-four years, often we have been at 'wits' end corner' but again and again we have found ourselves singing."

Are you at the end of your rope? Cry out to the Lord. Your prayer life will be different. Your praise life will open up.

Your prayer should be like that of Jehoshaphat as he led God's people when they were under attack: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2Chronicles 20:12).

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You to still the storms in my life.

Quicklook: Psalm 107:23-32

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email lutheremorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslcburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also,

partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

WESLEYAN

Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

VDOT ROAD WATCH

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.

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 will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - 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.

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

INTERSTATE 81

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

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.

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

- Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
- Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

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

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is closed until Sept. 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed

in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

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

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes are 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 : 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.

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 581. 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.

See VDOT, page 8

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday July 21st @ 4 PM
Sweet Home for Sale
4920 Hildebrand Rd. Roanoke, VA 24012

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You have the opportunity to purchase a well-maintained home in Roanoke VA! Features 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath and 1,042 sq. ft. of space on .2472 acre. The property is in a great location convenient to Valley View Mall, Roanoke Blacksburg Regional Airport, Hollins University and more! Improvements made recently include a new roof in 2017, new hot water heater in 2020, updated bath in 2022, new vinyl flooring throughout and new outdoor carpet in 2022. Hardwood flooring under carpet. Water and sewer lines currently covered by Home Serve which can be transferred to new owner. Contents of shed convey with sale of property. This property would be a great rental investment, first time home, etc. Close to restaurants, hospitals, shopping and more!

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Obituaries from page 5

Tinley, Sr., Thomas Eugene

Thomas Eugene Tinley, Sr., 65, of Ricky Tinley; a niece, Tammy Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilmer B., Sr., and Ruby Boyd Tinley; a son, T. J.; and a brother, Jackie Tinley.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Tinley; a daughter, Angela T. Likens (Kevin); grandchildren Hannah and William; a stepdaughter, Mandy Overstreet; a stepson, Jessie Overstreet; a brother, John Tinley (Annette); a nephew,



a niece, Tammy Kirtner; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, July 8, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Funeral services followed with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

RU softball player, former Auburn softball star Tori Boyd raising money for county educators

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Tori Boyd, a former Auburn High School and a current Radford University softball player, is giving back to the teachers that encouraged her in grade school, middle school, and high school through a Gofundme account. She is trying to raise \$500, which will directly help with the extra costs in the classroom.

For every dollar raised, Boyd will do five pushups. "I will be doing (and videoing), five pushups for every dollar that you donate to local public schools. This money will be helping teachers buy new supplies for the year," she said.

"I started the pushups to help

teachers buy more supplies for the upcoming school year," Boyd said. "There is always a need for more supplies, regardless of the school. I know and love so many teachers and have several friends entering the profession. I just want to help in any way that I can."

At Auburn, she had a .945 fielding percentage while recording over 30 stolen bases. She scored more than 100 runs in her career and holds the school record for runs scored in a single season with 46. She was part of Auburn's 2019 state championship squad, the school's first softball title.

Boyd's four seasons at Auburn included the 2019 state title, a runner-up finish in 2018, and the district

championship in 2017. She was a two-time all-district and all-region player and twice was named all-state.

Through the "pushup effort," Boyd hopes to bring awareness that teachers everywhere could use some help before the school year as it is always so costly.

Boyd said the response has been overwhelming in the amount of help and support from the community. "It is a school system (Montgomery County) that I love and one that did so much for me," she said.

As of Wednesday, she has raised \$275 and done 700 pushups so far.

Those wishing to donate can find information at: <https://gofund.me/228cb8de>.



FILE PHOTO

Currently a Radford University softball player, Tori Boyd is a former outstanding softball player from Auburn High School.

Ferrell commits to wrestle at Tech

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg's Parker Ferrell is the defending state wrestling champion at 220 pounds, and this past week, he committed to continue his career at Virginia Tech.

Ferrell is the #30 overall wrestler in the Class of 2024 per the latest update from MatScouts and the #8-ranked wrestler in the Class of 2024 at 220 lbs.

A 2022 Virginia state champion in the 3A division, Ferrell recently took third place at the UWW Cadet World Team Trials in freestyle at 110 kg. Last summer, Parker placed third in freestyle wrestling and fifth in Greco-Roman in the 16U age group. In other events, Ferrell was third at the Super 32, seventh at the Walsh Ironman, and fourth at the Best of the East.

Ferrell projects as a heavyweight at the next level. "I've lived in Blacksburg my whole life," he said. "Both of my parents went to Virginia Tech, so I was raised to love the Hokies, and I've never stopped doing so. The coaching staff seems to believe in me, and that means a lot to me. I think I can accomplish a lot at Tech."

"There's zero doubt in my mind I'll be a heavyweight," he said. "Currently, I'm 230 lbs and my goal is to be 250 lbs before next season."

Ferrell is familiar with Tech Coach Luke Robie as Coach Robie's son is a teammate at Christiansburg High School. The Hokie squad also includes several former Christiansburg wrestlers.

"Being on the team with former Christiansburg wrestlers is a huge part in why I chose VT," Ferrell said. "I grew up watching Andy Smith and Hunter Bolen wrestle. Aiden Lacoma has been the best partner I could ask for in high school, and I'm excited to wrestle with him at Tech. I also grew up with Luke Robie, who is one of my best friends. His commitment to Tech made my decision a lot easier."

So far, Ferrell has not chosen a college major but his long-term goal is to be a coach.

Radford's Davis wins 17-18 age group in Blue Ridge Junior Golf; Blacksburg's Robertson wins 9 and under group

Radford's Jack Davis won the 17-18 age group in the most recent round of the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour, and Blacksburg's JJ Robertson won the 9-and-under age group. The junior golfers played on the Cobb Course at Glade Springs Resort.

Fifty-two golfers on the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour were up to a challenge that included rain, which shortened the rounds of the 15-16 and 13-14 age groups to only nine holes to determine the winner.

17-18 Age Group Par 72 6629 Yards

Davis played consistently throughout the round, posting a score of 78, and winning the age group by a single stroke over Dalton Minnick of Abingdon.

A recent Hampden-Sydney College signee, Davis secured the victory by closing with five consecutive pars. Minnick's bid to catch Davis was in full flight with a birdie

on hole 12, but was derailed with a bogey on hole 17. Ryne Bond of Floyd was only a stroke back and finished third with a score of 80.

15-16 Age Group Par 72 6134 Yards

An afternoon thunderstorm halted play, and the tournament had to be decided on scores from the first nine holes. Peyton Mason of Willis was the winner with a score of 41. Fellow Floyd County High School teammate Isaiah Cantrell of Floyd was second with a score of 42. Ethan Hahn of Boones Mill was third at 43.

13-14 Age Group

Rain also caused this age group to be limited to the opening 9-hole scores. Tyler Stover of Beckley, WV and Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WV tied with scores of 39. A playoff will take place next Monday at Blacksburg Country Club. Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg, Hunter

Crist of Radford, and Cooper Hurst of Richlands all tied for third with scores of 41.

10-12 Age Group Par 36 2483 Yards

Blaine Morgan of Bluefield, WV won the age group with a score of 42. Evan Singleton of Pulaski captured second place with a score of 46. Liam Smith of Elliston was third with a score of 48.

9 and Under Age Group Par 36 1662 Yards

JJ Robertson of Blacksburg fired a 3-over par-39 to win the age group. Colton Caudill of Wytheville shot 42 and finished second. Marco Beato of Blacksburg was third with a score of 43.

The tour returns to action next Monday at Blacksburg Country Club.

FROM THE SIDELINES By Marty Gordon

I have been sitting back and watching all the changes in college athletics wondering what will happen to Virginia Tech and the

Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Fans might need a scorecard to tell who is where when the dust clears in the next few weeks. But what does this mean for the Hokies and the conference we have come to love?

The ACC had taken the "wait-and-see" scenario, and now it is scurrying to figure out the conference's future. The idea of expansion is the savior for athletic conferences around the country, and the ACC is hiding in the weeds with the chance of losing schools to the SEC and Big10/12 conferences.

Here is the bottom line: The permitted Name, Image Likeness deal changed the way athletes are recruited. Then, you throw in the power of ESPN and Fox Sports to dictate who is on television on a regular basis. Those two changed the landscape of college athletics and created a bag of money that has been dangled in front of all Power 5 schools.

Notre Dame remains an independent player, but that should change as early as next week. This is where the ACC dropped the ball.

If the conference

had negotiated and put its foot down with the Irish, we might not be in the weird situation we face today. Notre Dame had held out too long and now could be headed to another conference other than the ACC.

The biggest shoe to fall was the move of USC and UCLA from the Pac 12 to a crowded Big 10-14 conference. When the dust clears, both "Big somethings" could have as many as 20 schools. The SEC has said woah and wait a second, "We are the dominant football conference."

The SEC has already added Texas and Oklahoma and will probably add two or for more before the dust clears. This could be the likes of Clemson and Florida State jumping ship and going to the new way.

Miami could be right behind them.

This leaves Virginia Tech on the outside looking in, again waiting in the weeds wondering what is next.

It was long ago that Tech had to beg to join the ACC, and we now wonder if that tactic will have to be pulled out of the bottom drawer of the desk once again.

It seems no one is

talking about the obvious bull in the room. The reason we see all this movement is based on the underlying issue of money, and we're talking big money. But no one has been brave enough to say this is all controlled by football.

The simple solution is to have football-only conferences. If we don't, the other sports like soccer and softball will suffer because of the long, and I mean long, travel times. Expenses would be through the roof to fly those teams to and from teams on the opposite side of the country.

Buried in this is the fact that the travel will also take a major toll on the "student-athlete." I can only imagine how schools will handle the classroom, or have administrators forgotten this fact.

The ACC has managed to keep the doors locked, but because of the money being thrown around, it will not last. Say goodbye to the conference and its makeup. There is no way schools can turn down the big bucks.

Last season's ACC championship by the Virginia Tech basketball team now means a little more.

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Title IX: RU didn't have as far to travel as did other programs

By Mike Ashley, Special Contributor

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, and it makes me think of former Lady Highlander hoopster Beth Cleavenger.

Educational amendment Title IX was enacted in 1972 and prohibited federally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students or employees based on sex.

Beth Cleavenger was a basketball player from Stuarts Draft that helped me understand how important this was when I arrived at Radford. She opened my eyes about women's athletics.

Cleavenger was among eight freshmen on coach Pat Barrett's 1990-91 team, and she was doing things I had never before seen women do on a basketball court.

Cleavenger, a 5-11 wing forward with guard skills, opened my eyes. She had a textbook jump shot, saw the whole court, fed teammate Nan Millner for an awful lot of Millner's 1,069 points, and was tough defensively and on the boards.

Back in high school, the thing I remember most about the girls in athletics was the terrible bloomers they had to wear in PE class. Interchangeable for basketball or volleyball at the time, the varsity basketball uniforms didn't seem a lot better. In fact, when the first "modern day" athletics got underway at Radford College in 1971 with women's hoops, the next year when volleyball started, the volleyball team did borrow the basketball uniforms.

There wouldn't be any men's uniforms at Radford until 1974. Heck, there weren't any men until 1972, and thanks again for that change, Dr. (Donald) Dedmon.

Back in the early days, most women's programs played in the newly-formed AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women). The only problem was that Radford had no money left in the budget. They had that one set of uniforms and dined on bag lunches from the cafeteria when they took to the road in a '63 Chevy and a big green station wagon. President Charles Martin finally told Coach Barrett the school would pay

for the trip but that was about all Radford could afford at the time. No long-distance phone calls, please.

Before the team left, though, Radford sororities handed Barrett envelopes stuffed with cash. That wasn't an NCAA violation because RU wasn't NCAA yet. When the team arrived in Richmond, Coach Barrett spread the money on a bed and divided it evenly among the players.

"That got us through the weekend," she told me years later.

Radford won two games and lost two but started a winning tradition that carried the program through AIAW to NCAA Division II (ranked 13th in the country in 1983-84, Cleavenger's senior year) and the following year into Division I where Radford was the gold standard in women's basketball in the brand new Big South Conference.

A physical education and health professor at Radford, Barrett was self-taught as a coach. She was a great player at New London Academy in Forest, Va., and later at Lynchburg College, and a determined competitor who loved building her Radford teams around homegrown Virginia athletes.

One of my favorite Barrett stories demonstrated her competitive desire. In the early 70s, to become a better coach, she attended a Bobby Knight coaching clinic in Indiana to master his man-to-man defensive principles. She was the only woman there among about 300 men's coaches. She never had a losing season at Radford and was always a teacher first on the court.

Volleyball coach Janell Dobbins, like Barrett a long-time professor at Radford who also enshrined in the school's athletics Hall of Fame, was cut from a similar cloth. She just won and won, and like Barrett, she didn't care to follow her program into Division I with more recruiting pressure and travel. She retired in 1985, and three coaches followed the next three years before Athletic Director Chuck Taylor talked her into returning. Dobbins won 90 more games over the next five years, including three championships and a trip to the 1993 NCAA Tournament.

She wrapped up her career with a school-record 369 wins, over 150 more than the next closest on the RU list, and a resume that included nine 20-plus win seasons in 19 years and two years with 30-or-more wins.

The flight to Los Angeles to meet powerhouse USC in the NCAA Tournament – Dobbins's last match -- was a far cry from the days of green station wagons and bag lunches.

When I was a student, Radford added field hockey and women's soccer in 1981, creating more athletic opportunities for women. Both teams rocketed onto the national scene, each program nationally ranked in those early years. Women's soccer would earn the school's first NCAA Division I postseason appearance in 1985, a year they also won the prestigious WAGS (Washington Area Girls Soccer) Tournament.

Those women's soccer teams of the early '80s competed on equal footing with everyone from the ACC to any soccer program nationwide. When more money entered the equation in a big way at Power Five schools, the playing field changed, but women's soccer is still a major winner to this day with four NCAA appearances the last 12 years under coach Ben Sohrabi and seven total during his tenure.

One of my classmates, Laurie Morris (Bell) was a driving force behind starting the field hockey team and an early star. Then she was a very successful coach at Radford and at Northern Illinois. My friend Jeff Woods, the Gil Thorpe of Radford (in his time on staff he coached field hockey, volleyball, softball, and baseball) took over when Bell left. An Olympic-caliber athlete, he played on and coached the U.S. men's national team.

Women's lacrosse, already a Big South Conference sport, was added in 2016. It was a bit of a turnabout at Radford where the school was far ahead of the fellow Big South members in the mid-80s in women's athletics.

I was the only full-time assistant sports information director in the league, but that's just one example of more money and more attention focused on the women at Radford.

Life as a mid-major Division I isn't easy, and the money – the staffing, facilities, resources – is often at a premium. The commitment I saw for women's athletics was exceptional and one I was proud to be part of at my alma mater because I understood Radford's history and its mission. In 1993, Women's Sports & Fitness magazine ranked RU 10th in the nation in percentage of women's athletes and percentage of the athletic budget spent on them.

Radford was forward-thinking in those regards thanks to our athletic director, Dr. Chuck Taylor, who became an absolute champion for the then-Lady Highlanders and for women in the entire Big South Conference, pushing other schools to be better and do better.

I remember showing up after another women's basketball conference championship (RU won eight of the first nine Big South crowns) at the NCAA Tournament first round at Tennessee, the Lady Vols hosting. At the pre-event staff meeting in the offices of the exclusively WOMEN'S athletic department there in Knoxville, our staff arrived – head coach Lubomyr Lichonczak, senior women's administrator Chuck Taylor, and sports info contact me. It was not an impressive display of gender equity.

As for the lack of female coaches, honestly, Radford couldn't afford top women coaches. They commanded higher salaries than Chuck Taylor could pay. H didn't care about the optics as much as he cared about hiring the best, most experienced coaches he could afford.

I still remember the hackles going up in that huge meeting room that morning at UT, and I don't think it's coincidence they laid a 41-point beating on the Highlanders a day later as Pat Head Summit made a point.

To this day, I HATE the song "Rocky Top."

I remember what Taylor told folks who asked about his being the senior women's administrator. With a daughter playing sports by this time, his answer bore a lot of sincerity, if not the whole truth: "It's too important a job for anyone else."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Radford University Athletics Director Robert Lineburg

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RU athletic director Lineburg named president of Athletic Directors Association

The Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association has selected Robert Lineburg, director of athletics at Radford University, to serve as President for the 2022-23 membership year.

"It is an honor to be named I-AAA ADA President, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide our student-athletes with the best possible environment to succeed in competition, academics, and professionally as the intercollegiate athletics landscape continues to evolve," said Lineburg.

He takes the reins from Simon Gray, director of athletics at Niagara University, who will transition to Past President. Serving alongside Lineburg will be First Vice President Janet Cone, senior administrator for university enterprises and director of

athletics at the University of North Carolina Asheville; Second Vice President Steve Watson, director of athletics at Loyola University Chicago; Third Vice President Brandon Martin, vice chancellor and director of athletics at the University of Missouri Kansas City; Secretary Shaney Fink, director of athletics at Seattle University; and Treasurer Ken Kavanaugh, director of athletics at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The 2022-23 ADA Executive Committee will consist of the following members with their respective universities and conferences: Brian Barrio, University Of Maryland, Baltimore County (America East Conference); Philip Hutcheson, Lipscomb University (Atlantic Sun Conference); Ed McLaughlin, Virginia Com-

monwealth University (A-10); Mike Cragg, St. John's University (Big East); Andy Fee, Long Beach State University (Big West); Rod-erick Perry, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (Horizon); Bill Maher, Canisius College (Metro Atlantic); Scott Corley, Belmont University (Missouri Valley); Adrian Dowell, University of Nebraska-Omaha (Summit); Mike Matoso, St. Mary's College of California (West Coast Conference); Billy Walker, American University (At-Large Rep and Patriot Conference); Tim Duncan, University of New Orleans (At-Large Rep and Southland Conference); and Commissioner Representative Rich Ensor, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

VDOT from page 6

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 in-

tersection 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.