



The Radford City Republican Committee endorsed six candidates for the Radford City Council and the Radford City School Board.

Radford Republicans endorse candidates for local office

Ed McMinn
Radford News Journal Editor

The Radford City Republican Committee hosted Delegate Jason Ballard and six candidates for local office during a meeting on July 20, 2022, and unanimously endorsed all six candidates.

Gloria Boyd, Chris Calfee, and Ed Dickenson were endorsed as candidates for the Radford City School Board.

Boyd and her husband, Dwight, are both lifelong residents of Radford. They have three adult children and nine grandchildren. She is a retired teacher with more than 30 years of service ranging from kindergarten to second grade in Pulaski County and Radford City Schools. Boyd will “provide families with a voice, protect our teachers, ensure a respectful school community, and ensure transparency.”

Calfee met his wife, Becky, both attended Radford City

schools, and they “have been together ever since.” They have two children currently in the Radford City School system. Calfee has served more than 20 years in the financial and banking industries in the New River Valley. He has always felt that “giving back is not only an opportunity, but a happy obligation” and “pledges to always listen to parents and community members and then

See **Candidates**, page 5

Mega-warehouse under construction at Falling Branch IP

SunCap Property Group has broken ground on 70 acres in the Falling Branch Industrial Park for the development of a 251,000-square-foot industrial

facility. The build-to-suit development is located in Christiansburg and will be leased by a national Fortune 50 transportation

company. More details are pending, but the concrete slab has been

See **Mega-warehouse**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MC IDA

A 251,000 sq. ft. warehouse space is currently under construction in Christiansburg's Falling Branch Industrial Park.

Sunday morning collision on 460 kills two

A head-on collision Sunday morning, July 24, on Rt. 460 East involving two vehicles killed the drivers of both vehicles.

The collision occurred shortly before 10:00 a.m. near the Roanoke Street exit. One driver, Haley Hawthorne of Christiansburg, was traveling west

on 460, crossed the median, and collided head-on with a vehicle traveling east and driven by Adam Wilson of Blacksburg. Both drivers were pronounced deceased at the scene.

LifeGuard was contacted and landed on the highway, but both patients died before they could be airlifted.

Blacksburg Art Association wins grant for downtown mural

A new mural will be showing up in downtown Blacksburg in August.

The Blacksburg Regional Art Association (BRAA) has been awarded a grant from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge program to create a public mural at the corner of Draper Road and College Avenue. The grant was pursued as a collaborative effort with the local AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613.

Work will begin in August with panels prepared in a private studio. When

finished, they will be attached to an outside brick wall of Gillie's Restaurant on the Draper Road side.

BRAA's public art chairperson Linda Correll collaborated with Leslie Pendleton, president of the local AARP Blacksburg chapter, to submit the grant. The stakeholders and those providing information and approval to bring this project to reality in the downtown location were The Lester Group (the building owner), The Public Arts Committee, and the Historic or Design Review

See **Downtown Mural**, page 3



PHOTO BY LINDA CORRELL

Radford artist Nikki Pynn designed the winning mural.

Virginia Tech's towing tank facility is primed for engineering research

Tucked away deep in the basement of Norris Hall, Virginia Tech's 60-year-old towing tank was in desperate need of a face-lift. The basin and its towing carriage, primarily used for ship resistance research, was showing its age.

In late 2018, Associate Professor Christine Gilbert and Professor Craig Woolsey of the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering secured \$620,000 from the Office of Naval Research through the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program.

The resulting instrumentation upgrade modernized the aging tow tank to provide Virginia Tech with a unique testing facility to perform innovative, nontraditional experiments that will serve the U.S. Department of Defense.

As one of a dozen or so academic towing tanks in the United States, the upgraded tank at Virginia Tech gives undergraduate and graduate engineering students valuable experience in state-of-the-art facilities, training on cutting-edge technologies, and ultimately the opportunity to work to advance military research, which plays a critical role in workforce development.

The facility is located near several U.S. Navy and commercial facilities in the mid-Atlantic region, notably in Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, that regularly hire Virginia Tech engineers to support the Department of Defense mission.

Experimental towing tank facilities are used by naval architects and engineers to conduct physical model experiments in a controlled environment. While they vary in size and length, these facilities typically consist of a meters-long basin with a towing carriage mounted on rails above the tank, which pulls a model through the water at high speed. Researchers are able to test small-scale models of ships and ocean engineering vehicles and instrumentation and capture data on hydrodynamics such as drag, lift, and

force of flow while studying the effects that waves have on the vehicle's structure.

“Students are going to be able to use the new towing tank facility to gain foundational knowledge, whether they gain this opportunity through undergraduate or graduate research projects, independent study, and curricular or competitive engineering design,” said Gilbert. “The experience working on towing tank experiments at Virginia Tech is valuable job training for experimental work being performed in the field and at naval laboratories.”

Virginia Tech began working with DLBA (a division of Gibbs & Cox) in partnership with Edinburgh Designs on trade studies for the carriage upgrade starting in 2019. The former towing carriage was removed and has been replaced with a high-speed simple frame design that no longer requires researchers and students to ride on the carriage. The carriage is now remotely operated, equipped

with cameras for monitoring, and boasts smoother carriage movement along its rails and a more precisely controlled carriage speed.

The carriage itself is capable of a constant maximum velocity of 7 meters per second (or 23 feet per second).

The carriage is propelled with a belt-driven system with one large electric motor on each rail. The brakes are electromagnetic, providing enough braking force for the high acceleration and deceleration loads.

Further additions to the

towing tank include a dedicated data acquisition system and a suite of new sensors for experiments, such as force gauges, accelerometers, potentiometers, wave probes, inclinometers, and pressure sensors.

By Jama Green

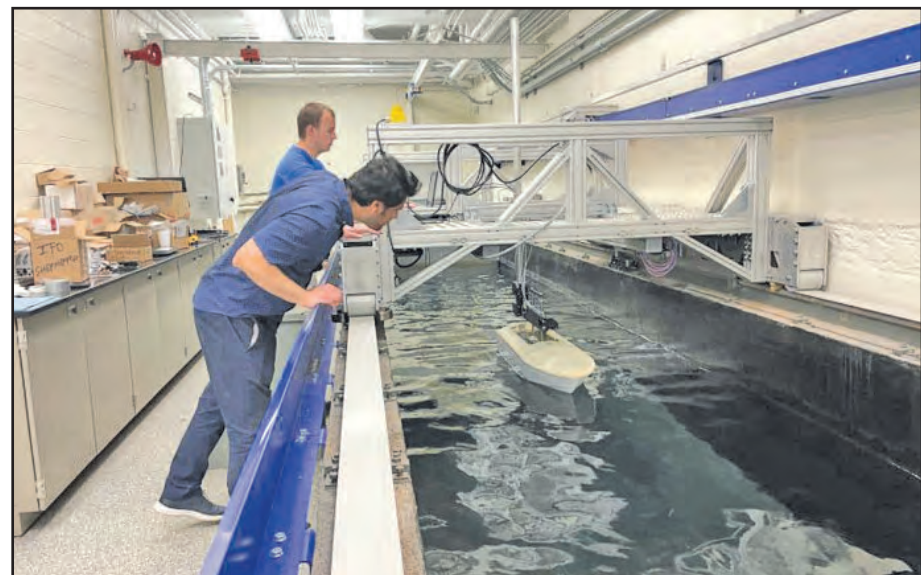


PHOTO BY JAMA GREEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Mark Shepherd and M. Javad Javaherian conduct controlled motion slamming experiments in Virginia Tech's upgraded towing tank, using a generic prismatic planing hull model.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 27:

'Wizard of Oz' puppet show with Stevens Puppets

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. to noon. Lions and tigers and puppets. This is a magical, full-stage production marionette puppet show performance of "The Wizard of Oz."

Sustainable Blacksburg lunch and learn: Low-waste kids

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Bring the family and learn about a variety of ways to reduce waste in life and at home.

Teen book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. This month the teen book club will be reading "How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe" by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland.

Central Business District meeting

The Central Business District Committee will meet at noon in the Administrative Conference Room of Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main St.

Water and waste committee meeting

The Water and Waste Committee will meet at 3 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of Town Hall, 100 East Main St., Christiansburg.

Thursday, July 28:

Lunch and learn: Adverse Childhood Experiences

At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Bring a lunch and learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences with New River Valley Community Services. ACE's are traumatic experiences in

childhood and the teenage years that may put children at risk for violence, chronic health problems, and mental health/substance use disorders. Youth-serving organizations, coaches, caregivers, and community members who gain awareness of ACE's can also help prevent them, giving children a better opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe and stable environment.

"You Can Never Tell" with Sarah Warburton

At the Radford Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. Local author Sarah Warburton will visit the library to talk about her second novel, "You Can Never Tell," a chilling thriller inspired by the Moors Murders that explores the twisted side of suburbia.

Saturday July 30:

Cooking with Dave at Bisset Park

At Bisset Park Shelter 1 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., for a festive Cooking with Dave. Learn the recipe for Sand Dollar Cookies and watch Dave show how these cookies are made. Then stick around to sample a cookie, make a craft, and play some games.

Kids' Stuff Swap

At the Blacksburg Library at 12:35 p.m. Kids can bring the old stuff that they no longer need and swap it for things they do need! Items allowed include clothes and shoes, sports gear, school and art supplies, homeschool curriculum and supplies, backpacks and lunch gear, and books. Good, quality items only please. Donations are not required to participate. Email mhall@mfrl.org for additional information.

Quilting marathon/Make a Quilt bookmark

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 8 a.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters will host a quilting marathon. The public is invited to see these skilled individuals practicing their craft. The group will be working on individual projects and will have supplies to make a quilt bookmark for all ages. Participants may bring their quilting projects or questions and the quilters will help. This program is open to all ages.

Thursday, Aug. 4:

American Legion meeting

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

Friday, Aug. 5 and Saturday, Aug. 6:

Book sale

Book sale at the Radford Public Library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of books for all ages will be sold at reasonable prices.

Tuesday, Aug. 9:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784, will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Ongoing:

Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy Registration now open

Registration for the 2022 Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy is now open with an Aug. 15 deadline for Christiansburg and Montgomery County residents to register for this free, eight-week course.. Citizens Academy provides a hands-on experience for participants, covering a wide variety of local government functions including fire and rescue, libraries, animal care, and public works. Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning Sept. 7 and ending on Oct. 26.

United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

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

Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

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 from 10 a.m. to 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, the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century and brings us to our present-day local farmers market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. For more information, visit blacksburgmuseum.org.

NRCC tuition will not rise

By a unanimous vote, the State Board for Community Colleges chose to maintain the current in-state tuition and mandatory fees for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The board's decision means tuition at New River Community College will remain at \$154 per credit hour, keeping community college tuition and mandatory education and general fees at approximately one-third of the comparable costs of attending Virginia's public four-year universities.

This marks the fifth year in a row that the board has voted to hold tuition and mandatory education and general fees steady for in-state students, who account for more than nine out of every ten students served by community colleges.

"I appreciate our community college board and presidents putting students and families first by keeping tuition flat," said Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. "Ensuring affordable access to high-quality workforce training is critical connecting Virginians to un-

filled jobs and the careers of the future."

"We're grateful to the governor and general assembly, who enacted a state budget that allowed us to hold the line on tuition and fees," said Interim VCCS Chancellor Sharon Morrissey. "We know educational quality and affordability are important to our students and their families, and we're particularly gratified we've been able to hold tuitions at their current levels for several years running."

The VCCS State Board also maintained the existing tuition rate for out-of-state students, which is \$354.10 per credit hour.

In addition, the board decided there would be no increases in the upcoming academic year to the tuition differential rates charged at eight of Virginia's 23 community colleges (Germanna, Brightpoint, Northern Virginia, Piedmont Virginia, Reynolds, Tidewater, Virginia Peninsula, and Virginia Western). Tuition differential rates exist to allow colleges to address unique and specific institutional priorities.

Blacksburg student wins one of nation's highest technical education awards

Kylene Monaghan from Blacksburg and a student at Blacksburg High School was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in technical drafting at the 2022 SkillsUSA Championships in Atlanta.

More than 5,200 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.79 million square feet, equivalent to 31 football fields or 41 acres.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills, and personal skills in 108 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance, and public speaking. Industry leaders from 650 businesses, corporations, trade associations, and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers.

Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash, and material. More than 1,100 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.

The Skill Point Certificate represents

demonstrated workplace readiness in the student's occupational specialty. Student can add the certificate to an employment portfolio.

Skill Point Certificates were awarded to all national contestants who met a threshold contest score for their event as an indicator of proficiency. All SkillsUSA Championships competitors were honored at the SkillsUSA Awards Ceremony at State Farm Arena, which was sponsored by partner Frontdoor Inc., with keynote speaker Darren Keefe of HGTV.

"This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates SkillsUSA at its finest," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Chelle Travis. "Our students, instructors, and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This program expands learning and career opportunities for our members."

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school, and college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors, and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America's skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

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. 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 CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile mark-

ers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

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.

PATTERSON DRIVE BRIDGE WORK IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO DETOUR TRAFFIC NEAR ROANOKE COUNTY LINE – From Aug. 1 through Sept. 2, Route 669 (Patterson Drive) will be closed to through traffic due to work on the bridge over Bottom Creek. The bridge is located about 0.1 mile west of the Roanoke County line near Route 669's intersection with Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Traf-

See VDOT, page 5



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New director named for Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Entomologist Arash Rashed has been named the new director of Virginia Tech's Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, effective July 1.

Rashed comes to the university from the University of Idaho, where he most recently served as an associate professor and the Idaho State integrated pest management coordinator in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Nematology.

"We are very pleased to announce Dr. Arash Rashed as the new director of the Southern Piedmont Agricultural and Research Center," said Saied Mostaghimi, associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. "Dr. Rashed has more than two decades of teaching, Extension, and research

experience, and we look forward to the leadership and wealth of knowledge he will bring to the center."

Rashed's research is focused on vector-borne plant diseases and insect-plant interactions. His findings have been published in 60 scientific journal articles and several book chapters and proceeding books. He is currently the subject editor for the Journal of Economic Entomology and an associate editor for Frontiers of Insect Science. Since 2013, he has been involved in grants and contracts totaling more than \$7.3 million, with more than \$2 million in spending authority.

Rashed said he is excited to join the faculty of Virginia Tech and at the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Center, which currently has five resident faculty, 14 full-time staff, and additional hourly



Entomologist Arash Rashed's research is focused on vector-borne plant diseases and insect-plant interactions.

workers at various times of the year.

He draws inspiration and motivation for

his new appointment at Virginia Tech from a quote by Albert Einstein: "Imagination is more im-

portant than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination

embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

By Mary Hardbarger

From west to east: Student travels 2,442 miles and finds home at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

As a Mexican American, Julia De Luca, a second-year student at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, is well aware of the struggles disenfranchised populations often face when obtaining equitable, accessible health care, and she's passionate about making a difference.

"Growing up in Southern California, I was influenced by my mother's background," De Luca said. "She grew up in a gang-ridden neighborhood of East Los Angeles. Even though

she eventually found her way out, her experiences were still a significant influence on our family culture. I could see firsthand the health disparities that minorities experience, and I felt like I could really make a difference."

De Luca also feels her journey to medical school was deep rooted in her own personal experiences as a patient cycling in and out of doctor's offices. After 10 years of debilitating pelvic pain, she was finally diagnosed with endometriosis.

"I have personal experience with being a patient, and I felt like I could apply that perspective as a doctor. I could provide my patients extra comfort and support," she said. "I could bring empathy to the bedside and help make some really negative situations slightly more comfortable."

De Luca attended Orange Coast College before transferring to the University of California, San Diego, where she majored in biochemistry and cell biology. She spent three years

working in a clinic and doing medical research when her cousin, who lives in Blacksburg, told her about the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and urged her to apply.

Even though her big city, West Coast background gave her pause before applying to a small school in the mountains of Southwest Virginia, she took the leap of faith.

"I love it here," she said. "I've totally embraced this rural community. I'm really grateful to be able to

leave my California bubble, move across the country, and try something completely new. Roanoke is a lovely town with so much to offer."

De Luca's start to medical school was not what she expected when she tested positive for COVID-19 on the first day of school and had to isolate for three weeks. The illness left her with some long-term health issues.

"It was a pretty rough start to my medical school journey," she said. "But aside from that, I have been so pleasantly surprised at what really has to offer and how much I've learned so far. I would love to just talk to myself prior to this journey and reassure myself of that."

One thing that is essential to De Luca's education has been Virginia Tech Carilion's problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum in which small groups of seven students each work in a learning format using actual patient cases. Groups are facilitated by faculty members, but in essence, students teach themselves.

"I can't imagine doing medical school without PBLs," she said. "Over time, as we rotate groups, you get to learn everyone's teaching and learning styles, and you're able to adjust accordingly. It's a fantastic way of learning the material."

Each Friday, class members come together for a conversation with the patient they have been studying that week. Known as the Friday Wrap-Up, it's an experience that few other medical schools offer their students.

"Friday Wrap-Ups remind us we're not just dealing with physiology and pathology, but also a real person with real emotions and perspectives," she said. "As we study our PBL case each week, we're encouraged to think as if we were the patient's doctor. Then to actually meet the patient each Friday and learn how it all played out in real life, it's really awesome."

Influenced by her own personal health journey, De Luca will be conducting her research into chronic pelvic pain with James Casey, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who is a minimally invasive gynecological surgeon with Carilion Clinic.

"Female reproductive health often gets forgotten," she said. "It means a lot to me that there are people here who care about these issues. I'm really hoping I can make an impact on this health issue. The ongoing research in female reproductive health at Virginia Tech Carilion made an impact on my choice to come here."

By Catherine Doss



Julia De Luca is attending medical school a long way from home at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. A scholarship and other financial assistance convinced her that replanting from west to east was worth it. Photo by Ryan Anderson for Virginia Tech.

Downtown Mural from page 1

board of the Town of Blacksburg.

AARP's Community Challenge program is in its sixth year, and AARP is announcing the largest number of the grants to date, investing more than \$3.4 million among 260 grantees across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. According to an AARP release, the project will demonstrate changes and help build momentum to improve livability for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities in Blacksburg and other awarded communities.

Correll said she believes Blacksburg's project will add to the already vibrant public spaces to be found in the downtown area adjacent to the Virginia Tech campus and Draper Road. She said the mural is in a prominent location and coincides with upcoming streetscape plans for Draper Road and College Avenue. She said she hopes it will inspire an art alley concept in conjunction with the streetscape plans.

The BRAA outdoor mural

entry was designed by BRAA member artist Nikki Pynn of Radford, well known for her public art contributions in the region. The as-yet unreleased design gives a nod to the location upon which it will be placed at the corner of Draper Road and College Avenue, the underground Strouble's Creek that runs in the area, and the greenery and wildlife of the greater location.

Correll became involved with the project on short notice. "We had to act fast once the grant project was presented to us," she said. "I conferred with several members of the executive board of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association, which liked the idea. Because of the fast-approaching deadline, we immediately reached out to our well-known local mural artist, Nikki Pynn, who said yes and came up with a design. Once The Lester Group provided us with a perfect location, we made the submission."

Notification of selection for the grant was made to BRAA and the Town of Blacksburg in mid-May.

AARP publicly announced the 260 winners to share in the \$3.4 million grant on June 29.

BRAA President Charlotte Chan said she and the association members are excited about this project. "The grant money will provide all the supplies needed and pay for the artist's labor and design," she said. "We are happy to have the art in such a public location and to support a local artist whose art already adorns an electrical box near the Blacksburg Farmers Market about two blocks away from the location of this new mural.

"The corner of Draper and College is a very busy car and pedestrian location with high visibility," Chan said. "Our goal as a 70-year-old art association is to promote and encourage creativity in all levels of our town and beyond, and we believe this project will do just that. We thank the supportive folks in town and in the local AARP Blacksburg chapter for giving us the chance to take on this project."

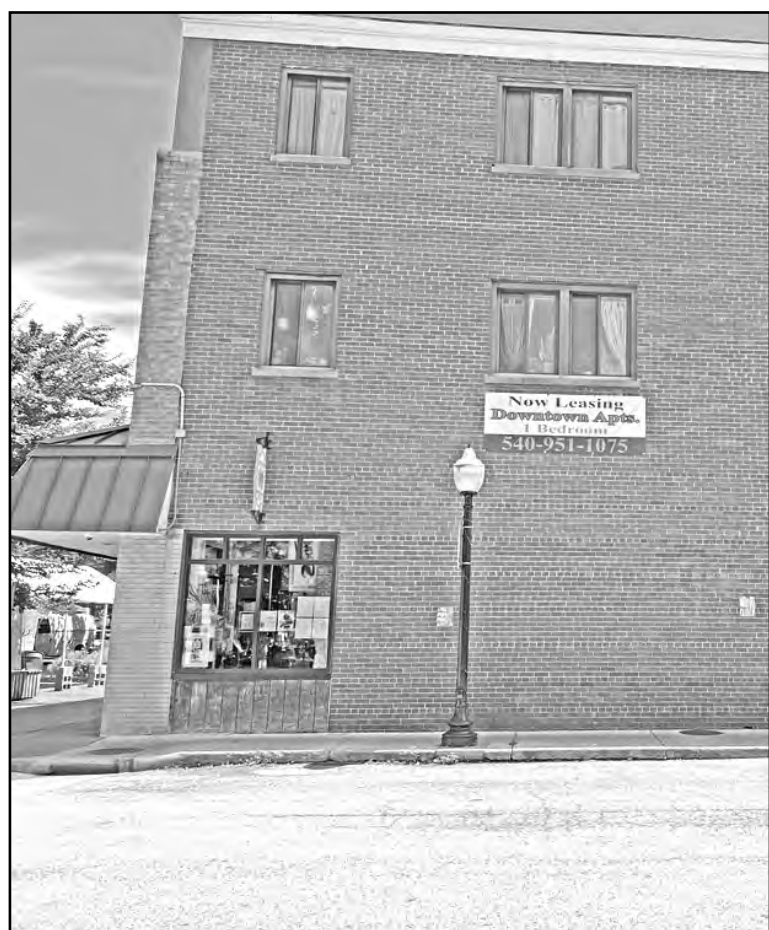


PHOTO BY LINDA CORRELL

The future location for Blacksburg's award-winning mural at the corner of Draper Road and College Avenue.

OPINION

Buddy King: Meeting famous people

One of my daughters asked me the other day what “famous” people I have met. I searched my memory and decided that I really don’t have a lot to pick from. But my one memory of meeting famous people is a great one. It is vivid and poignant to this day.

It was the summer of 1962. I was 9 years old, and like many boys of that era, I was totally consumed by baseball. I loved all sports in season, but none more than major league baseball in the summer. Those summers were full of days of neighborhood baseball games in vacant lots from sunup to sundown and evenings of listening to games on the radio with my Dad in our living room and then going off to bed with the ubiquitous transistor radio under my pillow for more baseball. I thought I was fooling the rents, but they were letting me get away with it for a while each night until they decided I needed some sleep. Or maybe it was my folks who needed the sleep. It was a pattern and a life-

style followed in those days by many American boys (and some girls, like my neighbor Lynn Hickock, one of the best ball players on the street and the owner of a real first baseman’s mitt), before the world changed and things got complicated and parents couldn’t take the safety of their kids for granted.

So, I would end my full days of playing baseball in our neighborhood game and my fun nights of listening to games with my Dad on the radio (televised games were for weekends, if you weren’t in a major league team’s market; we were not, more on that later) with nightcaps of more baseball on the radio in bed.

Harry Caray doing the Cardinal games on KMOX from St. Louis and Bob Prince doing the Pirate games on KDKA from Pittsburgh and other iconic broadcasters on stations that could manipulate their radio waves through the mountains of Appalachia. It was all AM radio and the broadcasts were what I call

Rice Krispy productions: snap, crackle, pop. If there were electrical storms between the radio towers and my transistor, forget about it! I would strain for words here and there, hoping to get scores at least. Eventually, my Dad would come into my room and tell me to turn the games off, which I reluctantly would do.

As I mentioned, we were not in any MLB television market. In fact, I am not sure to this day which team was closest to Christiansburg. Given the roads out of Southwest Virginia at the time, it might have been Washington or Baltimore or Pittsburgh or Cincinnati. Atlanta didn’t have a team until 1966. So, live baseball for me in my early years consisted of going to Salem and watching the Pirates Class D team (the lowest rung on the professional ladder) do battle with the likes of the Harlan Yankees and the Johnson City Cardinals and the Bluefield Orioles.

My Dad and our great neighbor J.C. Grimes and I (or sometimes my mother) would take the trip down the mountain a few times a summer to see these “future major leaguers” (in fact there were a few, but not a lot).

All of that changed in the summer of ‘62 when my folks decided to forego our

annual Myrtle Beach trip to go to Washington D.C. As I recall we did most of the touristy things, like the monuments and the capitol, but most importantly, we took in a three-game series between the love of my life at the time, Mickey Mantle’s New York Yankees, and the woeful Washington Senators (the saying back then was, “Washington, first in war, first in peace, last in the American League.”)

I didn’t realize until a few years later that this trip was a big concession for my Dad. He was a lifelong Red Sox fan, a Yankee hater of the first degree. He eventually infected me with the Red Sox disease, but the Yankees and particularly their star center fielder Mickey were every boy’s favorite during those years. The previous season Mickey and his teammate Roger Maris had conducted a season long attack on Babe Ruth’s single season record of 60 homers with Maris breaking the record with 61.

We stayed at the Shoreham Hotel in D.C., the same place as the Yankees those fateful days in July of 1962. I am sure my Dad went to great lengths to find out where the Yanks were staying and to get us in the same hotel. Thus began my only time “meeting” with “famous people.”

The lobby of the Shoreham, one of D.C.’s premier hotels, was packed with kids my age or thereabouts, all armed with pens and paper or baseballs, all in search of the elusive autograph of a star. And they were ALL stars to us.

If there was a shyer, more reticent kid in the whole hotel than me I didn’t see him. My Dad grabbed a handful of Shoreham postcards, stuck them in my hand, gave me a hotel pen, and then literally pushed me toward gaggles of other kids who were more aggressive than I was.

In the middle of the gaggle there would usually be a Yankee or two. As I recall, and my recall of the experience is strong, the players were very accommodating. While they usually were gently pushing their way through the hordes of kids, they would sign whatever you handed them and pat you on the head. A few might even talk to you for a brief moment.

Looking back on the experience over the years, one thing that stands out to me was how young they all were then. The Yankees of that era were the New England Patriots and Golden State Warriors of the time: the best team in the most popular sport in the world. Dressed in business suits and ties at all times in public, image conscious and proud.

Despite being terrified

in the moment, I came away with a nice haul. I got autographs, up close and personal, of the core of the Yankee teams that won the World Series in 1956, 1958, 1961 and 1962, and the A.L. pennant in 1955, 1957, 1960, 1963, and 1964: Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford and Bobby Richardson and Roger Maris and Elston Howard (the first African-American on the Yanks) and Hector Lopez and Cletis Boyer and Luis Arroyo (a diminutive left handed Cuban relief pitcher who was always puffing on a huge cigar no doubt made in his homeland). All stars, guys on the front of many a baseball card and national magazine of the time.

Alas, the “great white whale,” the holy grail of autographs, that of the Mick himself, eluded us.

He was injured, as he often was, didn’t play that week, and never showed in the lobby.

Thanks, Mom and Dad, for one of the most memorable experiences of my youth. My first major league games. I still have those postcards.

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

News Messenger

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

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Home Country by Slim Randles: No sense arguing; ghosts are real

Two kids were arguing just outside my window the other day. Now that school’s out, they have more time for the important issues of life, of course. This time, the subject was ghosts and whether or not they are real.

People my age have to plead guilty to the capital crime of having gray hair, and therefore aren’t qualified to participate in such weighty matters. But if they had asked me, they might have been surprised. Of course there are ghosts. We’re surrounded by them.

Maybe they aren’t scary or grab you from behind, but they are ghosts just the same. See that rusting tank on the edge of town? That’s all that’s left from when George Dodson started that tannery back in the 1920s. He was doing all right then, until the Great Depres-

sion came along, and George and the steel tank became ghosts ... a part of our history, but still somehow here with us, still a part of what makes this community our home.

Just up Lewis Creek a mile are the sloping concrete walls of what used to be a dairy. As kids, we’d sneak over ... quietly, so we didn’t spook the cows ... and watch the men milking. The huge Holsteins walked in from force of habit like animated milk factories, which they were. Seems like there should be something someone could do with that old milking barn. Now it’s just hard to go by and see the weeds thickening around it as it lies there in the unrelenting sun and cracks to pieces.

Down on Main Street is the old ice cream store where we used to go the

very first time we had nerve enough to ask a girl to go with us. We’d bite the ends off the drinking straw covers, dip the remaining ends in chocolate syrup, and shoot them with a puff of breath to stick on the ceiling, like stalactites of young love.

But today it holds the video rental store. Times change. Businesses change. People come and then leave us. But the ghosts remain. And the ghosts are the ones who make us what we are today.

I wish those kids would ask me about them.

Brought to you by “A Cowboy’s Guide to Growing Up Right” by Slim Randles. Buy one for that problem kid down the street. Only \$2.99 on Amazon.com.

WalletHub: Virginia has fourth best school system in America

With the gaps in test scores between low-poverty and high-poverty el-

ementary schools growing by 15% to 20% during the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its report on 2022’s States with the Best and Worst School Systems.

To determine the best school systems in America, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 32 key measures of quality and safety. The data set ranges from pupil-teacher ratio and dropout rate to median standardized-test scores.

The Commonwealth

of Virginia emerged from the rankings as having the fourth-best school system in the country.

Virginia’s rankings for some of WalletHub’s key indicators of the quality of schools with the lowest numbers indicating the best:

Math test scores: 4; reading test scores: 20; Pupil-teacher ratio: 26; Median SAT score 22; Median ACT score: 6; Dropout rate: 17; Bullying incidence rate: 15; Percentage of threatened/injured high school students: 29; Existence of digi-

tal learning plan: 1.

WalletHub ranked the ten states with the best school systems as follows:

1. Massachusetts 2. Connecticut 3. New Jersey 4. Virginia 5. Maryland 6. Delaware 7. New Hampshire 8. North Dakota 9. Nebraska 10. Vermont

WalletHub ranked the ten states with the worst school systems as follows:

42. Alabama 43. Mississippi 44. Oregon 45. Oklahoma 46. South Carolina 47. West Virginia 48. Arizona 49. Louisiana 50. Alaska 51. New Mexico

Mega-warehouse

from page 1

poured, and additional construction on the warehouse space is expected in the next month.

This is the first new project for the industrial park in the past three years after the closing of the DISH Network site. Moog Inc. moved into the former DISH facility and is looking to expand its operations there.

The Falling Branch Corporate Park is located adjacent to Interstate 81. Montgomery County purchased 125 additional acres in 2017 for Phase II, which this new construction is a part of.

The Town of Christiansburg recently reached a boundary agreement with Montgomery County to allow for a road to expand to the SunCap site. Utilities are a part of that agreement.

SunCap Property Group is a

privately held, national commercial real estate development, investment and advisory firm, based out of Charlotte, N.C. The company specializes in the development of speculative and single-tenant build-to-suit facilities, the creation of mixed-use and multifamily communities, and the acquisition of institutional-grade real estate in key markets.

SunCap recently announced that it has broken ground on 56 acres in Anderson, S.C., for the development of a 251,000-square-foot industrial facility, similar to the Christiansburg facility.

FedEx said last month it would invest \$45 million in the South Carolina project, creating speculation they could follow suit in New River Valley.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Droop
 - Rested in a chair
 - Thai (var.)
 - Draw out wool
 - Coatis genus
 - Taxis
 - Belge
 - Supplementing with difficulty
 - Capital of Norway
 - A personal written history
 - Cologne
 - Australian flightless bird
 - Lowest freeman; early Eng.
 - 18th C. mathematician
 - Cabinet Dept. for homes
 - Languages of Sulu islands
 - More scarce
 - Before
 - Swiss river
 - Actress & director Lupino
 - Edges
 - Thousand Leaves
 - Soldier hero of Spain
 - El ___
 - Gains through work
 - To the front
 - I (German)
 - Price label
 - Barack’s 1st lady
 - Drench with liquid
 - Child (scot.)
 - “Aba ___ Honeymoon”
 - Disappearing shade trees
 - Cricket frog genus
 - Union busting worker
 - A priest’s liturgical vestment
 - Previously The Common Market
 - Upper left keyboard key
 - Point midway between S and SE
 - Genus of birds
 - Personal spiritual leader
 - Japanese rice beverage
 - Eared owl genus
 - Wood oil finish
 - Hyphen
 - Competently
 - Equal, prefix
 - Broad-winged soaring hawk
 - A collection of star systems
 - Be in accord
 - Links subject & predicate (linguistics)
 - Paddles
 - Asian river between China and Russia
 - Physicists Marie or Pierre
 - Excessive fluid accumulation
 - ___ Dunlap, pageant titleholder
 - Made again
 - Norse goddess of death
 - A waterproof raincoat
 - Express pleasure
 - ___ Lanka
 - Radioactivity unit
 - Clay blocks for building
 - Linear unit
 - Conductor tools
 - Whale ship captain
 - Queen who tested Solomon
 - Good Gosh!
 - A gangster’s girlfriend
 - Unstressed-stressed
 - Draw through holes
 - Old Italian monetary units
 - Musician Clapton
 - Ceremonial staff of authority
 - Fabrics of camels or goats
 - A very large body of water
 - Basics

Ranked by drowsy drivers, Virginia is among the most dangerous states in which to drive

Sleep deprivation can have a serious impact on daily behaviors, like driving a car. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that in 2017, 91,000 police-reported car accidents involved drowsy drivers, which led to the injuries of around 50,000 people and nearly 800 deaths.

GuntherMitsubishi.com conducted an analysis of 2022 County Health Rankings data to compare and determine which states in America are the most dangerous to drive in, based on the percentage of people who suffer from insuff-

icient sleep and the percentage of motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 people.

California emerged as the most dangerous state in which to drive. Virginia unfortunately ranked as #15 in the survey, making it among the most dangerous states in which to drive when it comes to drowsy drivers. The commonwealth has an insufficient sleep rate of 39%, combined with a 5.9% rate of motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 people. The traffic volume per meter of major roadways is 573, and 30% of driving deaths involve alcohol.

Finally, the number of driving deaths in the state was 4,100 in 2019.

The top 5 most dangerously drowsy states in which to drive are 1. California 2. Texas 3. Florida 4. Ohio 5. Georgia.

The top 5 least dangerously drowsy states in which to drive are 1. Vermont 2. South Dakota 3. Minnesota 4. Montana 5. Utah.

Drowsy Driving is among the most dangerous conditions for drivers to experience. Lack of sleep can affect their attentiveness on the road and negatively impact their coordination and judgment while driving. This is referred to as cognitive impairment.

Going too long without proper sleep can affect drivers' ability in much the same way as consuming alcohol. In fact, being awake for at least 18 hours without sleep has around the same cognitive impact as a blood alcohol content of 0.05%. Stretching these limits, being awake for at least 24 hours with no sleep is the same as having a blood alcohol content of 0.10%, which is higher than the legal BAC limit of 0.08% across all states.

Drowsy driving can be a result of a driver who hasn't had enough sleep or who has an untreated sleep disorder. It can also be a result of the side effects of medication, shift work, or alcohol consumption. Even if the driver doesn't fall asleep behind the wheel, drowsiness can impair the driver's ability to drive by affecting his level of alertness, slowing down his reaction time and impacting his decision-making abilities. Not only is this a hazard to the driver himself, but also to other road users and pedestrians.

Candidates

from page 1

take that feedback to the other members of the school board."

Dickenson grew up in Roanoke. Following high school, he earned a degree from Virginia Tech and began a career in the New River Valley. He is currently a licensed home inspector and business owner and a retired Army National Guardsman. Dickenson and his wife, Jessica, have a daughter in second grade in Radford City Schools.

He will work to "open communication, ensure transparency, heighten security, and champion teacher support."

Kelly Artrip, Bob Davis, and Seth Gillespie were endorsed as candidates for the Radford City Council.

Artrip grew up in Radford and is a graduate of Roanoke College and Radford University. She is a financial specialist and currently Audit Manager for National Bank of Blacksburg. She

and her husband, Adam, are also property managers and parents of two young children. Artrip is a strong proponent of team work and pledges to "help provide transparency and promote accountability and sustainability."

Davis has lived in Radford for more than 30 years. He has built a career in the restaurant business spanning many years and a variety of roles and responsibilities. Davis has experi-

enced every aspect of business management and has demonstrated a strong commitment to "doing the right thing." He intends to bring that mentality to local service and will "roll up his sleeves to see that accountability, team play, and transparency are prioritized."

Gillespie is a lifelong resident of Radford and a graduate of Radford University. Following a decade as an enrolled agent in a Certified Pub-

lic Accounting firm, he plunged into small business ownership through the purchase of Gates Flowers and Gifts and has spent the last two years growing the business. He and his wife, Kristie Marie, are expecting their first child in November. His priorities include "fiscal responsibility and accountability, enhanced relationship development with the local business community, and responding to popu-

lation needs."

All six of the endorsed candidates will be on the ballot in the Nov. 8, 2022 election, seeking the support of Radford City voters to fill three vacant school board seats and four vacant council seats.

Delegate Ballard spoke on the most recent term of the General Assembly and ended his remarks by saying, "I am here for Radford because Radford has been here for me."



Kelly Artrip, Bob Davis, and Seth Gillespie were endorsed as candidates for the Radford City Council.



Gloria Boyd, Chris Calfee, and Ed Dickenson were endorsed as candidates for the Radford City School Board.

VDOT

from page 2

fic can detour around the closure using Route 607 (Bottom Creek Road) and Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming bridge closure.

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 underway. 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.

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) is closed 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 currently 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 is 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.

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

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair

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

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

Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:

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

See VDOT, page 10

OBITUARIES

Agee, Ila Wade

Ila Wade Agee, 97, of Christiansburg, died Friday, July 22, 2022, at her daughter's home.

She was born in Floyd County on Nov. 17, 1924, to the late Arthur Boss and Ruby Lester Wade. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Strick Agee; a son, Teddy Shepherd; and a grandson, Michael E. Poff.

She is survived by her daughter, Mavis S. Reed; a son, Barry Shepherd; a



stepson and daughter-in-law, Everette and Becky Agee and their families; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and her sisters, Edith Hunter, Alma Mannon, and Alta Conner.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg, with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating.

Christiansburg, with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating.

Strock, Donald Franklin

Donald Franklin Strock, 76, of Dublin, passed away Friday, July 22, 2022.

He was a retired maintenance mechanic from the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant and a longtime member of the Virginia May Lodge #38 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Garnett and Jamie Nell Stock; his wife, Wendy Ford Strock; and a daughter, Donna Bell.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Lia Strock; his daughter and son-in-law, Angela and Todd Harden; four grandchildren; brothers Dickie Strock

and Randy Mitchell Strock; a sister, Pattie Strock; a best friend, Roger Fillmore; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends today, Wednesday, July 27, from 10 until 11 a.m. at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Interment with Masonic Rites will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin. Masons are asked to assemble at 11:30 a.m. at the cemetery.

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

www.mullinsfuneralhome.com

Smith, Jr., Spracher Ridgeway

Spracher Ridgeway Smith, Jr., 79, of Newport, died Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

He was born in Giles County on Feb. 24, 1943, to the late Spracher Ridgeway, Sr., and Ella Sue Williams Smith. He was also preceded in death by his longtime companion, Bertha Jane Shelor; his brothers Basil McNeil (Booker) Smith, Everette M. Smith, Carmon M. Smith, Tommy M. Smith, Gilbert M. Smith, James M. Smith, and Raymond A. Smith; and a sister, Verree Marie (Rita) Donathan.



He is survived by his sisters and brother-in-law, Maldeen S. Martin, Polly S. Kanode, Ella M. Collins, Thelma Jean and Garland Bruce; a brother and sister-in-law, Bobby and Martha Smith; numerous nieces and nephews and special friends: Timmy Turman, Travis Turman, Roy Hughes, III, Mike Mullins, and Tom Long.

A memorial service was held Sunday, July 24, 2022 at 3:00 pm in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. John Hopkins officiating.

Jennings, Joan Carol Ledbetter

Joan Carol Ledbetter Jennings, 83, of Hillsville, passed away on Sat., July 23, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rene Brown and Elizabeth Lucille Ledbetter; and her husband, Rev. Walter Bernard "Barney" Jennings, Sr.

Survivors include her sons and their spouses, Walter B. Jennings, Jr., Charles Rene Jennings and Clay, Joseph Lee Jennings and Denise, and Michael Jerome Jennings and Laura;

grandchildren, Alexis Jennings and Andrew Jennings; brother, Rene B. Ledbetter, Jr.; and many other relatives and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2022, at St. Edward Catholic Church in Pulaski with Rev. Frank K. Boateng officiating. Interment will follow in the Jennings Cemetery in Hillsville.

The Jennings family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Vaughan, Gladys Akers

Gladys Akers Vaughan, 89, of Radford, passed away Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Mary Ellen Akers; her husband, Ralph Arnold Vaughan, Sr.; and two brothers and a sister.

She was a caring wife and mother, who kept a tidy home and enjoyed cooking and decorating. Her main interests were spoiling her pets, raising beautiful flowers indoors and out, and craft-making.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Debra and Douglas Kay of Montvale, and Kathy and Charles Yoho,



of Pilot; a son, Ralph Arnold "Buck" Vaughan, Jr., of Radford; a special caregiver, Peggy Waddell; nine grandsons; 26 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Funeral services followed. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg.

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

Early, Margaret Harmon

Margaret Harmon Early, 75, of Christiansburg, went home to her Heavenly Home on Sat., July 23, 2022 with her son and daughter holding her hand. She was born in Christiansburg on Aug. 5, 1946 to the late Walter and Lucille Harmon. She was faithful to her town even when she had to raise her children in Blacksburg, but she eventually returned



to spend her final years. Margaret was a God-fearing woman and she put all her faith in him. She would pray with and for anyone that asked. She was a faithful attendant at Bible Holiness Church where her best friend Sue would pick her up and take her, even on days when she felt she could not make it. You could hear her in church testifying and praising God when most days she did not have the ability to walk, sit, or even stand.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Lucille Marie Sumler, her nephew, Stephen Sumler, her son, Dusty William Early, and one grandson, Bryce Edward Early. In her final weeks, her daughter and son would speak with her about meeting the family in Heaven and what a joy that would be. She would always cry and smile at the same time and state she could not wait.

Family left to cherish her memory

are her children: Stephen Ray Harmon, John Edward Early, Jr., Michele Early Sowers (Houston), and Scott Carl Early; five grandchildren: Desiree (Clay) Richmond, Dustin (Alexa) Harmon, Caleb Early, Scott A. Early, and Christine Early. She also leaves nine great grandchildren, three brothers, one sister, numerous nieces and nephews, and great

nieces and nephews. She had three very special friends whom she considered her sisters, Sue (Mark) Conner, Judy (Don) Derflinger and Lulamae Sowers. Margaret requested a Celebration of Life when she departed as she said she did not want any to be sad but to rejoice and she is rejoicing with her God. A private Celebration of Life for her immediate family and Bible Holiness Church members will be held on Wed., July 27, 2022 at Bible Holiness Church 609 S. Franklin St. in Christiansburg at 6 p.m. Her family would like to thank the staff of Highland Ridge Rehabilitation Center, Premedica Hospice, and the Carilion Home health nurse who serviced mom when she was home. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to be made in Margaret's name to Bible Holiness Church to help spread the word of her Heavenly Father and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hodge, Dan

Dan was born and raised in North Manchester, Ind., and died on July 20, 2022 in Blacksburg at the age of 83

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lorraine Ann Sandbakken Hodge; son Mark (Washington, D.C.); son Tim (Blacksburg); Tim's wife, Julie Dryden Hodge; and two grandchildren, Laura and Robert.

Dan discovered the world of short wave radio in junior high school. This ultimately led to his career in electrical engineering. He earned amateur and commercial radio operators licenses during high school.

His first "real" job was as an announcer and transmitter engineer at WIBC in Danville, Ill. He also worked part time at radio and TV stations WFBM, WIBC, and WBAA during his undergraduate years at Purdue. While in graduate school, he worked at Collins Radio and MIT Lincoln Lab during summers.

He met and married Lorraine during graduate school. Upon completion of his PhD, He and Lorraine spent a year in Oslo, Norway, where he was a Royal Norwegian Postdoctoral Fellow at the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment. He subsequently was an electrical engineering faculty member at Purdue, Illinois, Ohio State, and Virginia Tech.

Some of his research activities related to the effect of rainfall on radio wave propagation. As a consequence, he also served as a visiting professor of meteorology at McGill University. He served as department head at the Virginia Tech Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering and department chair at the Ohio State Department of Electrical Engineering where he retired.

Dan flunked retirement twice, working 15 more years.

When Dan and Lorraine moved to McLean, Va., he served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation and as the associate executive director for accreditation at the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He was



a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and a Fellow of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. He received the IEEE Meritorious Achievement Award in Accreditation Activities, the IEEE Meritorious Service Citation, and the National Science Foundation Director's Award for Management Excellence.

Dan was a consultant to more than 25 companies and government agencies. He also served as a consultant in forensic engineering. In addition, he served as Chair of the National Electrical Engineering Department Heads Association and as a member of the IEEE Educational Activities Board.

In 2011, Dan finally retired, and he and Lorraine moved to Woods Edge, Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg where he served on the Board of Directors of the Woods Edge Condominium Association

As a boy, Dan enjoyed Boy Scout activities. He earned the Explorer Scout Silver Award while in high school. Later, both Dan and Lorraine served as volunteer leaders for Indian Guides, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts. He was an inveterate collector ranging from hats to antique tools.

He took piano lessons as a boy and studied piano at the Jordan Conservatory in Indianapolis. When he retired, he found that he could recover many of his piano playing skills after so many years of little practice.

He also enjoyed building models, particularly train and ship models. Finally, he enjoyed his friends and family and, particularly, helping them when he could.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dan and Lorraine Hodge Department Head Discretionary Endowed Fund in the VT Foundation or to the Warm Hearth Foundation.

Arrangements handled by McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive S.W., Blacksburg.

Wingo, Mary Annette "Marianne" Perry

Mary Annette "Marianne" Perry Wingo, 86, of Blacksburg, passed into the arms of Jesus on Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Marianne was born in Easley, S.C., to the late Jefferson Langston and Maude Belle Perry on Jan. 24, 1936.

A devoted mother, wife, sister, daughter and aunt, Marianne was a woman of strong faith and unconditional love with many treasured friendships. Her love of nature resulted in countless animal friends surrounding her property in the Blacksburg house she made a home.

She had over 60 years of marriage with the love of her life, John Casper Wingo, until his death in 2016. An avid tennis player and hard worker, Marianne instilled a strong work ethic in her children, Alison Wingo Hesmer and John Jefferson "Jeff" Wingo. John and Marianne were proprietors of six Western Sizzlin' restaurants.

She is survived by her daughter, Alison Hesmer of Wilson, N.C.; a son, Jeff Wingo, and daughter-in-law, Dawn Wingo,

both of Purcellville, Va.; grandchildren Whitney Hesmer of Melbourne, Australia; Lauren Wingo of Herndon, Va.; and John Cameron Wingo of Raleigh, N.C.; sisters-in-law Ruth Ann Anthony of Buffalo, S.C. and Jeanelle Wingo of Union, S.C.; a precious cat, Sweet William (aka Sweetie Cat); and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Betty Richbourg (Jim), Langston Perry, Ruth Chrisman (Chuck), and Hazel Bradley (Jim) and brothers-in-law Bill Wingo and Ernest Anthony.

A memorial service will be conducted on Sunday, July 31, at 3 p.m. at Blacksburg Baptist Church with the Rev. Todd Millsap officiating. The family will receive friends after the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Blacksburg Baptist Church.

Arrangements handled by McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive S.W., Blacksburg.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Pry brings excitement to media days

New Virginia Tech head coach Brent Pry said he is where he is supposed to be when he was asked during ACC Media Days in Charlotte, N.C., about taking the Blacksburg job.

"I'm in the right place," he said. "I believe this is my calling."

Pry showed off a Hokie-lined dress coat during early introductions. Ironically, the jacket was done by a tailor in Penn Station where Pry served for many years as defensive coordinator for Penn State.

"It's a special place (Virginia Tech). It's not for everybody, but it was definitely for me," he said. Pry is a former graduate assistant who served in Blacksburg from 1995 to 1997.

He said coming back was coming home for him and his family.

One of the biggest factors for Pry while at Penn State was the heavy recruitment of players here in the commonwealth. In many ways, those players were leaving the state, ignoring state schools and taking their talent to Penn State.

Step number one as Pry puts it is to win that battle and change the recruitment game. "We've

got to fix that," he said. "We're going to recruit the heck out of the state of Virginia. That's very important to me. I saw what it did for Coach Beamer and his staff and his program."

Pry's point was emphasized when he got a text on his phone and paused to see that the Hokies had landed one of the top defensive back recruits in Virginia for 2023.

"Right now recruiting for us, it starts in the state of Virginia," Pry said. "We just got a lot better. There is nobody else that should know more about kids in this state than Virginia Tech. No other program. Not North Carolina. Not Penn State."

Linebacker Dax Hollifield is one of the returning defensive starters for Virginia Tech, and he definitely is no stranger to Pry. "It was really exciting (when Pry was hired)," Hollifield said. "Coach Pry recruited me a little at Penn State, so I knew him before. It was exciting to get a guy that knew the standard that was in Blacksburg back."

Pry was asked about the changes thanks to the transfer portal and the possibility of pos-

sible conference realignment.

"I've always been taught that you worry about what you can control," the head coach said. "That's where your focus is. What we can do is what's best for Virginia Tech. I love our brand. I don't know where else in the country, what other conference offers everything that the ACC does: Great academics, great climate, great cities, great rivalries, great talent. To me it's a rare combination that I don't think you get in any other leagues."

"I've been in the SEC, and I've been in the Big Ten," Pry said. "I love what we have to offer. I've got tremendous faith in our commissioner and our AD's and our presidents. They're very engaged in this. I expect big things. I feel very confident."

The transfer portal is changing the way programs like Virginia Tech go about their day-to-day activities, Pry said.

He hopes there can be some calendar dates put into place that make sense when it comes to when and how players can leave their current programs.

"I'm all for these guys having opportunities



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech football coach Brent Pry showed off his new threads at this past week's ACC Media Days.

to help themselves, to be in a better situation that fits them, but at the same time to protect our program and our players, we need that roster to be healthy, and to do that we need some end points," Pry said.

Pry has been impressed with the players who have hung tight in Blacksburg. Pry and the Hokies have benefited from the transfer of two Division I quarterbacks in Grant Wells (Marshall) and Jason Brown

(South Carolina).

"I'm excited about the quarterback position. Jason and Grant are both experienced play callers, signal callers," Pry said. "These guys, different kinds of paths, but what Jason did at the FCS level and then what he did at South Carolina, winning big games in big venues, that's what we would ask him to do here."

"Grant Wells was arguably if not the best, one of the best quarter-

backs in his conference two years in a row," the head coach said. "Both of these guys bring a ton of experience, a lot of maturity. They're leaders. They're workers. They have different skill sets. I'm really excited about both of them. Whichever guy ends up No. 1, we're going to have a hell of a good No. 2 to go along with it," Pry said.

Virginia Tech opens the 2022 season on Sept. 2 at Old Dominion.

Excitement building in Blacksburg

The one thing the Atlantic Coast Conference's 2022 football media days proved is there is a changing of the guard in Blacksburg. First-year coach Brent Pry was all smiles and full of energy as he met the members of the media.

Of course, those same journalists can be his worst enemy if things go south. For now, he has set the stage for a beautiful relationship.

There was an occasional question about the elephant in the room, the transfer portal and the future of conference alignment, but he has started out pretty good on his answers that typically start-

ed with "That's a good question."

Pry knows he is still working in the shadows of greatness as Frank Beamer left a legacy to follow. Justin Fuente was never able to get the used car truly out of the Lane Stadium Parking Lot. Only time will tell if Pry can find a good mechanic to revitalize the car Beamer drove into the national spotlight.

A good starting spot for Pry has been the revitalized relationships with high school coaches in the Commonwealth. Several of the top players in Virginia are bringing their game to Blacksburg. Something Pry said is a priority.



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Over and over again, he talked about winning the state in recruitment. Many of those same Virginians found their way to Penn State, where Pry had spent the past few years as the Nittany Lions' defensive coordinator.

"I know it firsthand," he told reporters.

During Pry's visit with sev-

eral reporters in Charlotte, he brought a new swagger and lots of energy the likes that has not been seen in a very long time in Blacksburg.

All of which has been needed. Now, the light switch must be turned on and this new coaching staff must learn on the fly. Many are in positions they have never been in before, thus giving the Hokies a clean slate so to speak.

In order to keep this momentum going, Pry must step out into the public arena, an area he has excelled in thus far. He has the personality to pull alumni and fans back into the fold. Again, something that had been lost in the past five years.

The optimism is there, but it could take a few years for the

Hokies to reach the steps of an excellent program once again. The process shouldn't take long, but fans will have to remain patient.

Instead of blowout losses, there could be a lot of close games with the Hokies having the opportunity to pull some wins out of the air.

Good job Coach Pry on your first ACC Media Day. Let's see what you can do.

This reporter's predicted ACC football finish for 2022:

Atlantic: 1) N.C. State, 2) Clemson, 3) Florida State, 4) Louisville, 5) Wake Forest, 6) Boston College, 7) Syracuse.

Coastal: 1) Miami, 2) Pitt, 3) UNC, 4) UVA, 5) Virginia Tech, 6) Georgia Tech, 7) Duke.

Chris McCoy records hole in one



PHOTO COURTESY OF THORN SPRING GOLF COURSE

Chris McCoy recorded a hole in one on #2 at The Thorn Spring Golf Course and Event Center during the recent Vettes for Vets golf tournament.

ACC commissioner optimistic about ACC's future

The landscape of college football has taken a drastic change in the past month, but the commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference remains optimistic about the league remaining intact.

Commissioner Jim Phillips told reporters at ACC Media Days this past week, "We are in a time of great change. That's a fair description of the last 25, 15, 10 years and really the last 12 months," he said.

"Any new structure in the NCAA must serve many, not a select few. This includes governance, media rights, membership, NCAA and CFP access," Phillips said.

Phillips began his tenure as the conference commissioner in February of last year and is only the fifth commissioner in the history of the ACC.

He is known as one of the leading voices across the college sports landscape. He was elected as the inaugural chair of the NCAA Division I Council in February 2015 and served as the first-ever sitting athletic director

on the NCAA Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

In March 2017, he was appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Selection Committee. Phillips also served as a member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Oversight Committee, was appointed to the Fiesta Bowl Board of Directors in June 2018, and chaired the Big Ten TV/Media Committee. He twice served as a member of the Rose Bowl Management Committee and was honored as the 2018 Sports Business Journal Athletic Director of the Year for his leadership in Northwestern.

Of course, the recent announcement of two PAC-12 schools moving to the Big Ten has started a flurry of conversations and both in and out of the ACC.

Phillips said while he would not go into details of those conversations, the conference as a whole is strong but is constantly evaluating all options that could give it further strength.

"There's been a lot of

rumors and speculation the last few weeks, and I understand we all want answers and certainty," he told the media. "With that said, these decisions will impact our member institutions and student-athletes for years to come, and all options must be carefully evaluated."

The commissioner sang his conference's praises. "No other conference won more NCAA National Championships than the ACC," he said.

The league's seven titles match the conference's record in an academic year. Additionally, ACC student-athletes won 20 NCAA individual titles. Beyond the seven team championships, eight additional ACC teams competed in the national semifinals, two for a national championship, and three teams had to face another league team in either the semifinals or finals.

Phillips also addressed the recent NIL (Name, Image and Likeness), which gives student-athletes the opportunity to gain money off all the above.

"[NIL] has provided some outstanding opportunities that we all celebrate. However, the lack of a single enforceable standard for NIL across the schools and all states has created an environment where inducements inaccurately labeled as NIL are disrupting recruiting," Phillips said.

Fair regulation of recruiting is essential for fair competition, according to the commissioner. "We all know NIL has upended recruiting, a result no one desired when it came into effect last July. How did it happen? NIL rules differ from state to state. Regulation is nonexistent. Enforcement of the rules is incredibly challenging," Phillips said.

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VDOT from page 5

place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

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

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

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

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

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

I-77 MOWING, BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK – Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and

slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

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. The new roundabout is now open to traffic. 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 419 TURN LANE EXTENSION AT COLONIAL AVENUE – Nighttime road work to lengthen the left turn lane from Route 419 onto Colonial Avenue in Roanoke County is underway. Drivers should expect nighttime lane closures, Sunday night through Friday morning between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., in both directions of Route 419 at Colonial Avenue. In addition, there may be daytime lane closures on Route 419 for paving outside of peak travel times. Work is expected to be completed in mid- or late August.

ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE – As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) is closed 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.

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 is 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.

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.

Crack seal operations will be performed on Route 419 South near Route 1699 and Salem City Limits.

Milling and paving operations, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with single lane flagging, in Roanoke County will include


o Route 605 (Shadwell Drive / Old Mountain Road) from Roanoke City Limit to Route 627.

o Route 601 Hollins Road from Route 115 to Route 627

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.

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