

# News Messenger

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00



## Faulkner, Hemingway, Fitzgerald: RUC English professor's literary travels take her to the giants

RADFORD – In the kitchen of William Faulkner's Rowan Oak estate sits a black rotary telephone in the corner of two painted white walls, both of which are covered with handwritten messages from people who had called the writer over many years.

One message, for example, might

read "Call Steve, and then Steve's phone number would be beside it," said Courtney Watson, an associate professor of English at Radford University Carilion (RUC). "There are generations of all this writing on the kitchen wall."

It's a fascinating preserved detail

that gives tourists at the Oxford, Miss., estate insight into the writer's life. It's also a detail that most visitors don't see. "If you're nice to the grad student who runs the place, sometimes you can go off tour and find the kitchen," Watson said with a smile.

But included in the official tour is another remarkable detail from Faulkner's life. When you walk up the steps to his study, you will find scrawled on the walls, in red and black grease pencil, the outline from his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "A Fable."

"It's actually written on the walls!" Watson said, still surprised from the first time she witnessed the oddity.

Faulkner wrote out what was to happen in "A Fable" over eight days, from one Sunday to the next. He began outlining the novel on papers which he taped to the

See **Literary Travels**, page 6



William Faulkner's Rowan Oak estate. He wrote the outline for his Pulitzer-Prize winning novel "A Fable" in grease pencil on the walls of the home's kitchen.

## Man killed after shooting incident involving Blacksburg, Montgomery officers

BLACKSBURG - A man is dead after firing on officers following a welfare check at a residence on Yellow Sulphur Road in Blacksburg on Friday.

According to the Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (Salem Division), which is investigating the incident at the request of the Blacksburg Police Department, the shooting occurred Friday, Aug. 26, in the 3000 block of Yellow Sulphur Road in Blacksburg.

"The incident began at approximately 2 a.m. when Blacksburg Police Department received a call for a welfare check at the residence," the Virginia State Police stated. "Officers from Blacksburg Police Department and deputies from the Mont-

gomery County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene, and attempted to de-escalate the incident. The male subject at the residence was speaking with officers, when the subject went into the residence and returned with a firearm. The subject discharged the firearm at the officers, and the officers returned fire, striking the subject."

Officers administered first aid, but Joshua David Amodeo, 29, of Blacksburg, died at the scene.

No officers or deputies were injured in the incident and it remains under investigation.

At the completion of the investigation, the Virginia State Police will turn the findings over to the Blacksburg Commonwealth Attorney's Office for adjudication.

## Virginia Tech students to help Kentucky county hit hard by destructive flooding

From holler to holler.

That's the message behind an initiative by Virginia Tech students to lend a hand to eastern Kentucky residents and fellow Appalachians whose homes were destroyed by severe flooding about a month ago.

From Sept. 2-4, a group of students enrolled in a Societal Health class this semester will visit Letcher County, Kentucky, where the worst of the flooding occurred in late July.

The flooding made national news, killing at least 38 people and destroying hundreds of homes.

While there, these Hokies will spend time mucking out houses, preparing food, organizing supplies for the community, and assisting with an Appalachian Roots Benefit Concert for flood relief.

The community service

See **Flooding**, page 2



Severe flood damage near Isom, Kentucky. Photo courtesy of Elaine Tanner of Friends for Environmental Justice.

## VDOT: Delays with lighting poles drive opening of Interstate 81/Troutville rest area to late September

The Virginia Department of Transportation has announced that the re-opening of the Troutville Rest Area on southbound Interstate 81 near milemarker 158 in Botetourt County has been delayed until the end of September because of problems with the manufacture and delivery of new lighting poles.

The rest area has been closed since May for work on a \$4.9 million project to extend the ramps at the facility and was originally expected to reopen before Labor Day. Supply chain issues delayed manufacture and delivery of the new lighting poles that must be installed before the facility can be reopened. VDOT's contractor, Branch Civil, Inc., will need additional time to install the lighting, so reopening the facility has been postponed.

A concrete barrier wall is currently in place in front of the rest area, and motorists are not able to enter the facility or use the parking lot and restrooms. Southbound I-81 drivers can still use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. Portable toilets and parking will continue to be available temporarily for

commercial vehicles at the Troutville Weigh Station located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149.

The ramp extension project at the Troutville Rest Area is intended to improve safety by providing motorists more space to accelerate or decelerate. The off ramp into the rest area is being extended approximately 500 feet, and the ramp onto southbound I-81 is being extended approximately 2,100 feet. The project also includes expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10 to 13 spaces.

The project is a part of the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in December 2018. The more than \$2 billion package of focused improvements was funded by the Virginia General Assembly and signed into law in spring 2019.

Additional information about the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program is available at [Improve81.org](http://Improve81.org). The website includes interactive maps and schedules and details about upcoming and current projects that are designed to improve safety, increase reliability, and foster economic growth along the 325-mile I-81 corridor.

## Round of a-paws for the dogs



University Libraries collaborates with Cook Counseling Center and the Virginia Tech therapy dogs to serve students visiting Newman Library. Photo by Kelsey Hammer for Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech therapy dogs Josie, Derek, and Wagner fetch stress from students with their companionship and unconditional love.

Kelsey Hammer, University Libraries digital literacy and multimedia production librarian who works on projects related to digital life, media creation, and collaboration, said one of her big projects has been combining efforts with the Virginia Tech therapy dogs to support students in finding joy, space, and support on campus — especially in Newman Library.

Studies show that petting a dog or other animal can increase the hormone oxytocin, resulting in feelings of calmness and contentment. Additionally, these interac-

See **Therapy Dogs**, page 4

**Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance**



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, Sept. 1:

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

## Saturday, Sept. 3:

**Potter in the Park 5K to Benefit Adult Literacy**  
It's time to leave the cupboard under the stairs and run or walk in the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park 5K fundraiser for literacy in Radford. The course winds through the forbidden forest and wizarding world of Bisset Park. The day will include a costume contest, "house" prizes, age-group awards, magical creatures, butterbeer, and magic wands for all finishers. Those who can't make it on Sept. 3 are invited to participate as virtual racers by registering as an "invisibility cloak." They may then walk or run three miles at a time convenient for them. They will still receive an official Potter in the Park T-shirt. For more information and to register go to [www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark](http://www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark), send an "owl" to [info@lvnr.org](mailto:info@lvnr.org), or call 540-382-7262. The race is hosted by Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley. All proceeds go directly to adult literacy programs in the community.

## Monday, Sept. 5:

**City of Radford closed for Labor Day**  
City of Radford offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5. Solid waste collection for Monday will be picked up on Tuesday. The drop center will also be closed on Monday for Labor Day. The Radford Public Library will be closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 3, 4, and 5 in observance of Labor Day.

## Friday, Sept. 9:

**Children's Yoga at the library**  
At the Radford Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m. Join Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You" and Alex Bowman from "Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic" for a children's yoga class. Relax and learn mindfulness techniques at the library. Children should bring their own yoga mats. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the library at 540-731-2621 or email Morgan at [morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov](mailto:morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov) to register.

## Saturday, Sept. 10:

**Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club fish fry**  
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its last Fish Fry for 2022 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will serve fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12 with children under 3 eating free.

The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. Find it on Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church craft show**  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 355 Independence Blvd. (across the street from Christiansburg High School) is having a craft and vendors show on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds go to support the church's youth programs. The show will include door prizes, a 50-50 raffle, a bake sale, and refreshments to purchase. For more information, contact Terry Mattox at 540-381-0845 or by email at [tmattox845@verizon.net](mailto:tmattox845@verizon.net).

## Sunday, Sept. 11:

**Meet Ninth Congressional District candidate Taysha DeVaughan**  
The Pulaski Democrat Committee is holding a Meet the Candidate picnic at 4:30 p.m. at Randolph Park. Hot dogs and fixings will be served at 5 p.m., followed by comments from Taysha DeVaughan, the Democrat candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 9th District. From Wise County, DeVaughan works with the Appalachian Community Fund, is the president of Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, is active in Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid, and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice.

"We are confident that hearing Taysha speak on the issues critical to Southwest Virginia – education, jobs, quality of life – will motivate donations to her campaign," said Suzanne Bowen, chair of the Pulaski County Democrats.

The picnic will be at the Dublin High School shelter. Donations to help with the cost of the food are optional but are appreciated. For more information, contact [bowensuzanne@yahoo.com](mailto:bowensuzanne@yahoo.com) or 540-320-4658, or Rebecca Scheckler at [3050hawks@gmail.com](mailto:3050hawks@gmail.com) or 540-557-7810.

## Monday, Sept. 12:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the city administration building, located at 10 Robertson St.

**Kids bracelet decorating art class**  
At the Radford Public Library from 5 to 6 p.m. Come join in for a bracelet decorating art class. Bracelet supplies are limited.

## Tuesday, Sept. 13:

**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. For further information, call

540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Radford Women's Club meet and greet

The Woman's Club of Radford will host a meet and greet at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Public Library, 30 West Main St., Radford. Participants can learn about the work of the Woman's Club in promoting children's literacy through Reading is Fundamental programs at Riverlawn, Snowville, and McHarg elementary schools and the Babies into Books program at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

## Homeschool drop-in

At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Homeschooling families can drop in anytime this evening. Older kids can try and work through a library-related scavenger hunt for a prize, and younger kids can play with bubbles.

## Fri., Sept. 23, and Sat., Sept. 24:

**RHS Class of 1972 Reunion**  
Radford High School's 1972 Class of Champions will hold its 50th Year Reunion on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24. Festivities will include a tailgate at the King Center on Friday, Sept. 23, and attendance at the football game. A social is planned for Saturday, Sept. 24, at Preston's at the River Course. The committee is looking for "Lost" classmates. Class members who haven't received information about the reunion can contact Reunion Committee Members [jennydoud@gmail.com](mailto:jennydoud@gmail.com) and [Martihale@yahoo.com](mailto:Martihale@yahoo.com).

## Radford High School Class of 1976 Reunion

Radford High School's 1976 Bicentennial Class and Largest Class Ever will hold its 45th (+1) Year Reunion on Sept. 23 and 24. Activities include attending the Friday, Sept. 23, football game together, an author luncheon with Ron Peterson, Jr., at the Radford Rec Center on Sat, Sept. 24, and a Saturday evening event at the River Company. Classmates who have not received an invitation should contact reunion co-chairs Susan Rockwell, [susanmrockwell1@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrockwell1@gmail.com), and Rick Weyer, [rmw4@yahoo.com](mailto:rmw4@yahoo.com).

## Saturday, Sept. 24:

**Friends of Claytor Lake Poker Run**  
A poker run fundraiser for Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon and leave out for the five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked, and a map will also be provided. Participants will then meet back at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food, and music. Email [info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org) or text 540-395-3625 to register. Registrants should send their contact information, along with their boat registration number to get \$5 off, or register the day of the run for \$30 per boat (two people) Any extra hands in a boat who want to participate will be \$10/each.

## Monday, Aug. 29:

**Welcome back teens!**  
At the Radford Public Library from 3 to 5 p.m. This is the first day of school for teens, so they can drop by the library for some relaxing crafts, to update their library account, and to create new cards. Each teen that checks in will get a piece of candy.

**Mother and Daughter Book Club**  
At the Radford Public Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This book club is for mothers and daughters (ages 8-12) to meet up and talk about books together. Discussed this month is "A Long Way from Chicago" by Richard Peck. Email Morgan at [morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov](mailto:morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov).

## Tuesday, Aug. 30:

**It's About Respect and Safety**  
At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Women's Resource Center will present its Peaceline program to educate and address issues surrounding sexual and partner violence, harassment, and relationship health. This evidence-based program has been administered in the public schools and is now open to anyone who wishes to learn or improve an understanding of respect and safety. Email [elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov](mailto:elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov) to reserve a spot. Pizza will be provided.

## Ongoing:

### Fine-free at Radford Public Library

In July, the Radford Public Library waived overdue fines for anyone who returned late items during the month. The library has now extended that waiver through August. Library patrons can bring their overdue items back and their library account will go back to zero.

### Friends of Claytor Lake calendar photo submissions

Friends of Claytor Lake is seeking landscape orientation, high resolution photos to consider for inclusion in their calendar. Submit by emailing [info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org) or texting (540) 395-3625. Those making submissions should include their contact information to receive photo credit if their photo is chosen. The deadline is Thursday, Sept. 1.

### Blacksburg Police community survey

The Blacksburg Police Department is asking the community to complete a short (approximately 3-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously, and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the department continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg Community. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>.

## Flooding

from page 1

project is part of their course, which examines the importance of social movements and mutual aid for collective well-being. Students will learn how community health and well-being are impacted by factors such as climate change, forced migration, and social injustice.

This trip will give them an up-close look at these issues.

"The way to reach students is to give them real-world opportunities to help them see what's at stake in the classroom learning," said Emily Satterwhite, an associate professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, who is co-teaching the course. "My other hope is that they can grapple with the relationship between the history of fossil fuel extraction in Appalachia and climate change — both the way that the fossil fuel industry causes and accelerates climate change, but also the extreme, extra vulnerability of fossil fuel communities."

Satterwhite, who also is director of Appalachian Studies at Virginia Tech, was interviewed by several media outlets last month related to the relationship of over mining and mountaintop removal to flooding issues.

Some residents in the region, which has a long history of coal mining, point to the ways that surface mining and mountaintop removal mining contributed to the severity of the flooding.

Students in Satterwhite's graduate-level class also are invited to participate. One of those students, Daniel Grizzard, is a second-year master's student in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials. His research focuses on finding environmentally sustainable economic opportunities for people living in rural Appalachian communities.

When he saw the news coverage of

the massive flooding, Grizzard said he felt powerless. The opportunity to go to Kentucky with this class has changed that feeling for him.

"I'm really grateful she [Satterwhite] was able to put this all together to allow students to engage with the community and benefit people in a more tangible, direct, and immediate way than research does sometimes," Grizzard said.

Rebecca Hester, an associate professor in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society, co-teaches the class with Satterwhite.

Danille Christensen, an assistant professor in the Department of Religion and Culture, also decided to lend a hand to the project. She will lead a quilt tying event with students who are part of her Folk Cultures in Appalachia course. Satterwhite's students will take the quilts with them to distribute to people in Kentucky.

"I could think of nothing better than a quilting to demonstrate our commitment to collective action and mutual aid, which are both longstanding values in the mountains," Christensen said.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets also is joining the cause. When Deputy Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. Travis Sheets learned about the trip, he moved quickly to make it possible for cadets to attend. Cadets answered the call in droves, and Satterwhite arranged to transport an additional 11 volunteers with experiences ranging from CPR and first aid to disaster relief and construction.

Trip organizers are raising funds to support additional goals of the Holler to Holler project. Those include purchasing supplies requested by community partners, protective gear for volunteers, and an additional \$5,000 to enable eKy Mutual Aid to purchase a trailer for a family whose home washed away.



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# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Meet Precious.** She came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center due to no fault of her own and has been a resident for a short amount of time. She is a friendly feline who loves affection and attention. She is litterbox trained and may prefer the great indoors. Stop by the center to meet this purrecious girl.



**Simba is ready to head home.** He can be a bit of a shy boy until he feels comfortable, and then he opens up and is friendly. Simba enjoys tasty treats and will gladly sit for a nibble. He also likes playing with squeaky toys.

## Virginia Ag in Classroom celebrates 30 years of connecting children with agriculture

Every year, an estimated 500,000 Virginia schoolchildren can better understand the value of agriculture thanks to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom.

The program, housed at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation since 1992, has connected children with agricultural concepts through professional development and resources for educators, school grants, teacher awards, volunteer initiatives and fundraisers.

In the last year, a record-breaking \$430,000 was raised to support AITC activities.

Tammy Maxey, who has led Virginia AITC for 16 of the last 30 years, was recently named executive director of the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

A former teacher, principal and 2020 president of the National AITC Organization, Maxey said

Virginia AITC continues to grow.

As the COVID-19 pandemic began, there was no road map for sharing educational resources in the era of social distancing and school closures.

“But it gave us room to grow in other ways,” she recalled. “We needed to serve our children and educators regardless of whether we could go to a school or see one another. Every bit of our growth the last few years was virtual. It forced probably 10 years of change overnight.”

AITC administrators redesigned content development and program delivery formats, resulting in a new continuum of virtual lessons. Now its website, social media pages and YouTube channels are filled with activities for educators and children.

In 1981, national AITC was initiated by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block to improve agri-

cultural literacy among the nation’s students. In Virginia, the organization was established through a partnership between Virginia Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau.

“In its first year, we saw 100 teachers and did a couple of trainings,” Maxey said. “Pre-pandemic we directly trained up to 3,000 teachers. Now we have professional development for teachers and name a teacher of the year. We offer grants and have an army of volunteers and AITC ambassadors.”

“Reading agriculture-themed books to children gives us an opportunity to share agriculture with students who might not be familiar with the industry,” said Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne F. Pryor. “And it helps them understand why it is so important in Virginia and in their own communities too.”



**In 2022, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is celebrating its 30th year of connecting children in the commonwealth’s classrooms with agriculture. Every year, an estimated 500,000 Virginia schoolchildren get a better understanding of the value of agriculture thanks to AITC.**

## NRCC to offer Lean Six Sigma training in Christiansburg

New River Community College has an upcoming Lean Six Sigma training session that can help businesses reduce costs and increase productivity.

Yellow Belt is an eight-week course for entry-level employees seeking to improve their role in the company by using the concepts and methodologies of Six Sigma. The train-and-do process uses classroom activities, combining lecture and simulation exercises.

According to the American Society for Quality, one corporation reported \$1.6 million in savings within the first year of implementing a Six Sigma initiative.

The training will be held in Christiansburg on Fridays beginning Oct. 14 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The regular price for the program is \$1,200, but with special state funding, the discounted price is \$400.

Additional financial assistance may also be available.

The course is one of 11 NRCC FastForward programs that provide affordable and short-term training through the Office of Workforce Development.

To register, visit [www.nr.edu/fastforward/yellow-belt.php](http://www.nr.edu/fastforward/yellow-belt.php); call 540-674-3613 or email [WFDtraining@nr.edu](mailto:WFDtraining@nr.edu).

### LARGE ESTATE SALE



**The Estate of Fleetwood and Vera Agee** will be liquidated on Thurs, Fri, and Sat, **September 8th, 9th, and 10th, from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, at 607 Eighth St. in Radford, VA.** There are several couches, chairs, bedroom suits, desks, tables, lamps, pictures, a huge variety of clothing, shoes, glassware, linens, jewelry, and tools, as well as, holiday items, washer/dryer, freezer, other appliances, many electronics, and a 1995 Toyota Camry LE with only 42,695 original miles. Also, antiques and collectibles, plus many RETRO and VINTAGE items to include a Hermes portable typewriter, Lane cedar chest, Miyata bicycle, Pleasure Chest Buddy cooler, Singer sewing machine, records, CD’s, tapes, and much more! Reductions on Friday and Saturday. **CASH ONLY!** Come and check out these awesome deals!!!

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news and photos to  
[communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)



# OPINION

## Buddy King: 'Observational humor' and toenail fungus

This column has been a lot of fun to write over the last several years. A friend asked me recently what the financial arrangements are. I told her that it was \$50 per column, but that I hoped to get the paper down to \$25 when I retire since I'll be on a fixed income.

I have particularly enjoyed reconnecting and hearing from old friends in the Montgomery County area. Hearing from my snarky colleagues at my law firm not so much, although my long time friend and law partner Susan tells me that my columns remind her of Erma Bombeck and Lewis Grizzard, high praise for a Southern boy like me.

I don't know if I have any particular skill or talent as a writer, but if I do, I think it's in trying to look at things in a different light, to try to find funny in the mundane. I call it "observational humor."

So, in this piece, I'm going to challenge my assumption that I can take a dreary, nondescript part of life and find humor in it. Events on a recent beach vacation with my kids and their families supplied the perfect topic. Toenail fungus. My daughters decided after a week of seeing me in flip flops that I had it and that I needed to get rid of it. A perfect challenge for me to write about. What can be less interesting

than toenail fungus?

My stay at the beach this past July was not the first time I was forced to think about this strange subject. A couple of years ago I spent New Year's weekend with my daughter Laura and her family in Chicago. I had a great time of course and was exhausted as you would expect. I took a flight out of O'Hare, intended to be direct into the airport 15 minutes from my house in slightly over an hour, and ended up with the standard airline treatment of being routed through Philadelphia and spending enough time sitting on motionless airplanes to have written 10 columns. I finally get home at 10:30 p.m., bone-weary but comfortable, in front of the fireplace with my cat on my lap. And then someone rapped on my front door, rousing me from near slumber.

It was my neighbor, Gordon, from a few doors down the street. I have written about him before, the one who likes to open my door and let the cat out despite my best efforts to warn him over the years that Scarlett is a flight risk. If I hadn't been in plain view through my glass door, I probably would have ignored him, thinking whatever disaster had befallen him, or whatever scheme he was working

on could wait until the next day.

But my better instincts kicked in, and I trudged to the door, stepping out into the cold and making a kick save on my cat as she tried to bolt. On cue, the first words out of my neighbor's mouth were "Do you have a problem with toenail fungus?" Apparently, instead of trying to sell me frozen steaks or a cleanser that "removes everything" (except for him apparently), Gordon had found the miracle cure for the toenail fungus scourge.

Before he got into his spiel, I uttered what I thought was the perfect response: "D you @\$\$%ing need to know right now?" Blessedly, he concluded that 10:45 on a Sunday night in January with work and the end of the holidays looming the next morning was not the best time to ask me about this subject, and he retreated down the street.

This episode did do one thing for me, though. It introduced me to the topic of "toenail fungus." Before that night I'm not sure I knew it was a "thing." I certainly (and logically I think) had never given the subject a thought. Nor did I again until the recent beach trip.

So, motivated by my wonderful daughters, or perhaps tired of hearing "You ought to see somebody about that," I scheduled an

appointment with a podiatrist. Podiatry itself seems like a good topic for a funny column as there are only a few body parts normal people would be less interested in looking at on a daily basis than feet. Or should be. My opinion at least.

My "foot doctor" is a good guy, knowledgeable and dedicated to his patients as best I can tell, although I don't think he ever looks above anyone's ankles. Couldn't pick you out in a crowd unless you were barefoot. Reminds me of my stepson Chad, who is so obsessed with feet that if he had dated Jennifer Aniston and discovered she had ugly toes, he would have broken off the relationship.

I had seen this particular podiatrist several years ago when my feet were suffering the effects of running and he cured my plantar fasciitis with a single shot in each heel. I don't remember toenail fungus coming up back then, although he did say on my recent visit "I see you STILL have THE fungus." Guess that's what a career based on looking at feet does for you. I remember most of the deals I have handled.

I have to say that, once again, Dr. Phalanges impressed me with his knowledge of the human foot. Never before have I been given so many options as to how to treat

something. They ranged from "We can remove all your toenails, that is the only 100% effective cure, it really doesn't hurt that much" to "We could do nothing, it really isn't that big a problem." I was very tempted by that last option, as that is my typical way of handling medical issues. It won't kill you. Until it does, ignore it; most things go away.

So, while I leaned to "doing nothing," I selected one of the "in-between options," a topical treatment with a "30% effective rate" but one substantially cheaper than the ointment that is "40% effective." Being a bit of a gambling man, I calculated the potential return versus the cost, and I concluded that the extra 10% effectiveness wasn't worth the additional skin (nails?) I'd have in the game.

And at least I can tell my girls that I'm "doing something." I'm trying to kick the problem, putting my whole "sole" in it, toeing the line, no longer acting like a heel.

*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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$45 a year in Montgomery County, \$54 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$58 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

## Home Country by Slim Randles: Labor Day isn't all about working

"I hate Labor Day," said Doc, sucking down yet another cup of coffee at the Mule Barn Coffee Shop.

"Ain't here yet," said Dud, reaching for the jelly packets. "Soon though, I guess."

"Few days," said Steve. "Doc, what do you have against Labor Day?"

Doc sighed. "I always have to work. I thought someone invented Labor Day so no one would have to work. Labor Day's about my busiest day of the year!"

"You're kidding. It's a national holiday, why would you have to work? People go fishing, go bow-hunting, take the family water skiing, Climb mountains. Fun stuff."

Doc sighed again in case the fel-

low members of the World Dilemma Think Tank didn't catch the first sigh.

"So what happens when everybody else doesn't go to work, but goes out to have fun?" Doc said. He counted on his fingers. "Remove fish hooks from thumbs, set broken arms when someone falls off an alp, patch up car crash victims, treat food poisoning after the teenaged son fixes the sandwiches. You name the fun; someone's going to make me pay for it."

"That's not the worst of it, either," Doc said. "You guys believe in the power of suggestion?"

We just sat there looking stupid. "I sure do. How many women in

this little valley are due to deliver babies in the next month?"

He looked around. "The answer is nine."

"And since there's a Labor Day coming up, when do you think they'll start contractions? That's right. Some will be early. Some have been trying to wait until the time is right. And that would be Labor Day. I hate Labor Day!"

"Sorry, Doc," said Herb. "I'll get your breakfast this morning."

See, somehow national holidays seem to bring out the best in us all.

*Brought to you by the American Medical Association, even though they've never sponsored us before. But they're nice.*

## Virginia gas prices continue their fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell by 5.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.62/g as of Monday, Aug. 28, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

As of Monday, prices in Virginia were 38.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but are still 65.4 cents per

gallon higher than they were a year ago. The national average price of diesel rose 7.3 cents last week to \$5.04 per gallon as of Monday.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.19/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.19/g.

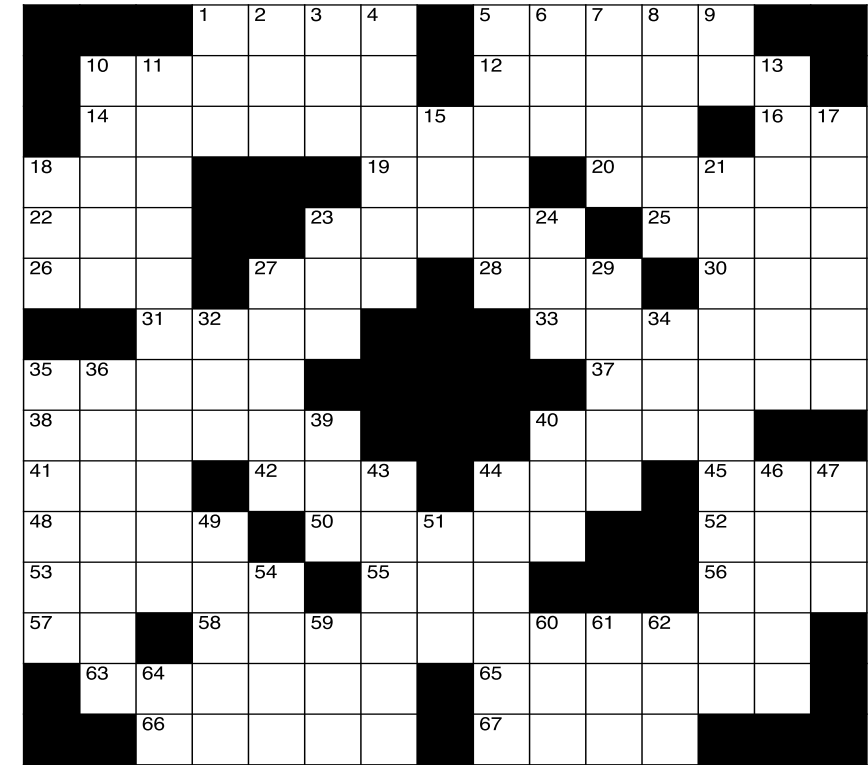
The national average price of gasoline fell five cents per gallon last week, to an average of \$3.81/g Monday, Aug. 28. As of Monday, the national average was down 39.8 cents per gallon from a month ago but is still 69.1 cents per gallon higher than it was a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

"The national average has declined for another week, extending the slide for the eleventh straight week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Gas prices are now \$1.20 per gallon lower than mid-June with Americans spending \$450 million less on gasoline every day as a result. Some issues have developed that we're keeping a close eye on, including the shutdown of the largest refinery in the Midwest," according to De Haan. "While that refinery may get back online sooner rather than later, it's not impossible that down the road the situation could impact prices in the

region. For the rest of the country, however, we'll continue to see prices moderate. This is of course subject to hurricane season, and it does appear that the tropics are starting to see some activity, so there's no guarantee the decline will continue."

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy's survey up dates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at http://prices.GasBuddy.com.*

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Currency of Guinea
  5. Avert something bad
  10. Sounds
  12. Immediate dangers
  14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
  16. Californium
  18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
  19. Coastal Scottish town
  20. Triangular lower back bones
  22. Trouble
  23. A way to smile
  25. Something that is not what it seems
  26. Of she
  27. Temporary living quarters
  28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
  30. Indicates near
  31. Spiritual leader
  33. Soup dish
  35. Philippine island
  37. No longer fashionable
  38. Peaks
  40. Alabama football team
  41. \_\_\_ King Cole
  42. Digital audiotape
  44. Open trough
  45. The woman
  48. Cools down
  50. Turkic language
  52. Body part
  53. Pulse steadily
  55. Embedded computer hardware company
  56. Indicates shape
  57. Thou (plural)
  58. Odd and remarkable
  63. An evening party
  65. National capital of Zambia
  66. Tantalizes
  67. Dark brown or black
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Not naturally outgoing
  2. Exclamation of pain
  3. Polynesian garland of flowers
  4. Surrounded by water
  5. Church towers
  6. Hot beverage
  7. Body parts
  8. Travel documents
  9. Railway
  10. Gradually wear away
  11. Measuring instrument
  13. Minor dust-ups
  15. Strongly alkaline solution
  17. Extreme scarcity of food
  18. Dash
  21. Philly culinary specialty
  23. Popular lager \_\_\_ Adams
  24. Snitch
  27. Trimmed
  29. Greek god of desire
  32. Take to the limit
  34. Cool!
  35. Sound mental health
  36. Native American group
  39. Test for high schoolers
  40. Rocky peak
  43. Preferences
  44. Bother
  46. Call attention to (slang)
  47. Snake-like fish
  49. Bulgarian capital
  51. Don't know when yet
  54. Italian Seaport
  59. Brooklyn hoopster
  60. Where to bathe
  61. Equal, prefix
  62. Beverage container
  64. Denotes openness

## Therapy Dogs

from page 1

tions can decrease cortisol levels, leading to lower anxiety and stress.

"Many of our dog events this year have centered on principles that so many of our collaborators share including wellness, celebration, and gratitude," said Hammer.

Over the past year, University Libraries has teamed up with the therapy dogs for events including Pops and Pups featuring Popsicles for students studying for finals; three dog birthday parties with cake, snacks, photo opportunities, and 3D-printed dog-themed giveaways made in the Prototyping Studio; and Newman Library's classroom dedication to the therapy dogs complete with a paw print plaque. One of the dogs,

Josie, held office hours in Newman Library.

In May 2022, the VT Therapy Dogs Skills Showcase celebrated National Therapy Animal Day and highlighted the many of the dogs' talents. Students watched them demonstrate their helping skills, such as giving a hug or attending to a person who is upset, grabbed therapy dog buttons and autographs, and gave the friendly pooches some pats.

"We also set up a huge smorgasbord of snacks and encouraged students to take handfuls!" said Hammer. "This was during finals and we know that can be a time where you might forget to eat or need an extra pick me up. Students had a ball!"

The events are fun and exciting for the dogs too. "These dogs love to work and they seemed to know this was set up as a time for them to shine!" said Steinruck. "They really brought their A game, and the event seemed to beam with joy and celebration!"

"These dog events offer something unique at a time students may need it most," said Steinruck. "Students work hard all semester and they are stressed. Offering them a time to connect and reduce stress is very beneficial. The energy at these events is awesome! Most of all, I hope the students feel loved, included, valued, and cared for!"

*By Elise Monsour Puckett*

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

# 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. The old bridge is being demolished. 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. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October

2022.

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. 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. The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound

See VDOT, page 6

## OBITUARIES

### Brown, Arleen Jane

Arleen Jane Brown “Nanny,” 72, of Christiansburg, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, at her home.

She was born in Blacksburg on Jan. 16, 1950, to the late Frank and Revella Ails Brown. Also preceding her in death were her brother, Larry Brown, and her sister, Becky Campbell.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Sherri Sons and Terri Meadows; a brother Lee Brown (Connie); sisters Bonnie Sage, Judy Brown, Barbra Brown, and Joyce Snider (John); grandchildren Brandon Garland, Debra Sons, Erin Sons, Halie Meadows, and Sarah Meadows; five great-grandchildren and

many nieces, nephews and friends.

She had a big personality for such a tiny lady. She was funny without trying and had jokes for days. She loved people and never met a stranger. She valued her family over everything and did her best to stay close and in touch. She loved her grandbabies and was always thinking of them. She loved watching the wildlife at her home and made sure she fed her critters every day. Her laughter, her smile, her attitude, her many quirks and signature catchphrases will be remembered always. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home.

### Carico, Kathy Vires

Kathy Vires Carico, 53, of Woodlawn, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, at Novant Forsyth Medical Center.

Kathy was born in Radford to the late Eddie Wayne and Edith Altizer Vires. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Eddie (Dee) Vires and Michael Vires.

Survivors include her husband, Delane Carico; a son, Justin Carico; a stepdaughter, Shonda Carico; a sister, Melinda Azbell; her father-in-law, Larry Earon Carico; her sister-in-law and spouse, Drs. Kerri and Anthony Gray; a special friend, Chelsey Snavely; and

several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, at Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel with Pastor Mike Wells officiating. Burial followed in the Ellis Melton Cemetery.

The family received friends at the funeral home on Tuesday prior to the funeral service. The family requested donations to be made to the American Kidney Fund 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852.

A guest book is available online by visiting [www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com](http://www.vaughanguynnandmcgrady.com). Vaughan-Guynn-McGrady Chapel is serving the family.

### Robeson, Andrew

Andrew Robeson, professor emeritus of Virginia Tech, beloved family patriarch and lifelong member of the Blacksburg community, reached the end of a deeply rich life on July 10, 2022. He was 96 years old.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Leigh Robeson and Mary MaJhews Robeson; sisters Helen Robeson, Mary Wood Pendleton, Martha

Robeson and Amenta Sjogren; and by his beloved wife Jean, who passed away Feb. 10, 2022.

He is survived by his four children: Martha Rodgers (John), Catherine Cunningham (Michael), Andrew Gordon Robeson (Elaine), and James Robeson; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, along with a number of beloved nieces and nephews.

Born in Blacksburg on April 20, 1926, Andy enlisted in the Navy just before turning 18 and served aboard the USS Oglethorpe, a transport operating in the Pacific Theater at the end of WWII. After the war, he returned to VPI to complete a BS in physics, followed by an MS and PhD from UVA.

In 1944, a blind date for a dance at the University of Richmond led to his meeting Jean White of Culpeper, Va. They were married June 19, 1948. After a brief professorship at Emory University in Atlanta, Andy came home to Blacksburg. One year of teaching at VPI preceded a year at Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology, from which he returned to Blacksburg to serve for 25 years as a member of the physics and engineering faculty specializing in nuclear science.

Taking early retirement in 1982, his



career focus shifted to consulting for the nuclear power industry, a role that fed his and Jean's love for travel. The extended family frequently joined them at assignments across the U.S. where they never failed to find a scenic location for holiday adventures.

Andy was a founding member, a faithful servant, and a constant source of leadership and maintenance at Northside Presbyterian Church. His love of baseball and golden retrievers was well-known, as was his passion for antique cars. Many Blacksburg residents will recall his 1910 Stanley steam-powered horseless carriage blowing its train whistle in town parades.

Andy and Jean toured the country with various antique car clubs, often bringing family along for the ride. The house Andy and Jean built on Kelsey Lane was a showcase of his building and design talent, utilizing many repurposed materials from former Tech buildings and salvaged items from other sources. Andy promised his bride that he would take care of her in their home until the end of their lives. He succeeded with the help of a wonderful network of caregivers who have become family, as well as a dedicated Carilion Clinic Hospice care team.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at Northside Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, with a reception following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, 1300 Progress St., Blacksburg, VA 24060; or Northside Presbyterian Church, 1017 Progress St. Blacksburg, VA 24060; or a charity of your choice.

### Farmer, Clara Jean Ferguson

“She was ready for her wings to fly home, but our hearts were not ready to let her go.”

Clara Jean Ferguson Farmer passed away peacefully on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, in Blacksburg after years of declining health.

She was born in Union, W.Va., but was raised in Giles County. She graduated from Narrows High School and attended Radford Women's College.

Jean packed a lot of life into her 86 years. For more than 25 years, she worked at Virginia Tech, first in the Student Health building, then in the basketball office as an administrative assistant to the basketball coaches and team. She really found her life's calling in that role.

She loved her Hokies and treated the team like family, helping them through many of their collegiate careers. She loved traveling to the away games and post-season tournaments so she could cheer on her “basketball sons.”

Her greatest love of all was for her family. Her support for her parents, sisters, brother, husband, sons, daughter, and grandchildren never wavered. She met the love of her life, Dwight Farmer, at a football game when she was in high school and married him the following year. They were married from 1952 until his death in 1989.

She always said she was like a Cardinal, she had one life love and it was him. She and “Cracker” raised their children in Fairlawn where they were active in their community, helping to found the Riverlawn Recreation Association.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Maude Ferguson; her husband, Dwight “Cracker” Farmer; a son,



Doug Farmer; and grandchildren Andy Farmer and Sheila Caudillo.

She is survived by her sons, Mike Farmer (Carol) of Chesapeake, Va., Bill “Bebop” Farmer (Karen) of Shelton, Conn., and Scott Farmer (Brenda) of Claytor Lake, Va; her daughter, Cindy Farmer Wood (Bill) of Greensboro, N.C.; her grandchildren Jerry, Joey, and Sonja Caudillo, Matt Farmer, Jon Farmer, Merle and Steve Sprague, Neil and Dwight Farmer, and Kylie and Abby Wood; and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

The family would like to say a special thank-you to Jacqui McDuffie and Matthew Graham of Medi Home Health & Hospice, who cared so wonderfully for their mother. Theirs was a special relationship gifted by God.

The celebration of Jean's life will be a Hokie affair. It will be held Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, Va. The family will greet friends starting at 12:30 p.m. at the church. Burial will follow at Sunrise Burial Park, 7228 RoundHouse St., Fairlawn, VA.

The family is asking that those joining them in this celebration of one of the greatest Hokie fans of all time wear orange and maroon and their best Hokie fan gear. T-shirts and casual attire are very welcome.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Jean's name to the Va Tech Hokie Club (earmarked for the VT Basketball Program) PO Box 10307, Blacksburg VA 24062-0307 and Medi Home and Health Hospice 319 N. Washington Ave., Pulaski, VA 24301.

### Smith, William Sidney

William Sidney Smith, 59, of McCoy, died Friday, Aug. 26, 2022.

He was born in Radford on Feb. 20, 1963, to the late Sherman Ellis and Goldie Reed Smith.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Samuel Ellis Smith; his paternal grandparents, Ruby and Irvin Smith; and his maternal grandparents, William Sidney and Mary Purdy Reed.

He owned and operated Blacksburg Auto Parts, his family business, which has been in Blacksburg for over 60 years, as well as Auto Experts, which he operated for over 15 years. Sid enjoyed farming, trout fishing, deep sea fishing, apple butter making, gardening, and ham and sausage making. He was also an avid race car fan, especially of Rusty Wallace.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Lisa Linkous Smith; a brother, David Smith; an aunt, Joyce Davies; an uncle, James and Nancy Smith; Lisa's grandmother, Ruth Johnston; mother-in-law



Brenda Linkous; brothers-in-law Michael Linkous and Matthew Linkous; a special niece, Gracie Linkous; special friends Jeff and Diana Vaught and Dreama and Ricky Price, and all his employees; his loving and furry companions, Molly and Rusty; and numerous other family and friends.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Scott Obenchain and the Rev. Kevin Albert officiating. Interment followed at Centennial Christian Church cemetery. The family received friends on Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

An additional celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Sid's home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions may be made to Montgomery County Animal Care and Control, 480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

### Kolarich, Jr., Louis Charles

Louis Charles Kolarich, Jr., 63, of Fairlawn, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis Charles, Sr., and Dorothy Marie Kolarich; and his sisters, Mary Ann Campbell, Kathleen Kolarich, and Grace Little.

Survivors include his loving wife of 36 years, Tammy Lee Hicks Kolarich; a son,



Louis Charles “Charlie” Kolarich, III; sisters and brother-in-law, Irene and Jack Johnson and Barbara Sue Saunders; in-laws the Hicks family; and many other relatives, and friends.

Per his request, no services will be held at this time.

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

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)



**FREDERICKSBURG VS. SALEM**

**SEPT 06 7:05**  
SERIES OPENER - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**SEPT 07 7:05**  
GAME TWO - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**SEPT 08 7:05**  
HOCKEY NIGHT, BARK IN THE PARK & THIRSTY THURSDAY - GATES OPEN 6:00

**SEPT 09 7:05**  
FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT & FIREWORKS - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**SEPT 10 6:05**  
COUNTRY NIGHT - GATES OPEN 5:00 PM

**SEPT 11 1:05**  
FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION - GATES OPEN 12:00 PM



# Literary Travels from page 1

walls in the study. However, a large fan he used to combat the Mississippi summer heat overmatched the tape, and the papers fell to the floor. So then he wrote his outlines directly on the wall.

"He wrote these with a grease pencil. It's not coming off," Watson said. "It's very neat and very orderly, and it showed what a methodical thinker Faulkner was. You can stand there and picture him in his office writing it all down. That was really cool and really exciting."

Watson is a literary tourist, a frequent visitor to sites like Rowan Oak, and Key West, Florida; and Monroeville, Alabama; and Paris, where writers like Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Harper Lee, Truman Capote, Eudora Welty and Robert Wright lived, wrote, and set scenes that made them the beloved writers they are today.

Delving into the scholarship of literary tourism began when Watson, who grew up in Florida and adores Southern writers, was in graduate school and was truly inspired when she, her classmates and fellow literary enthusiasts took a midnight

tour of the Oxford cemetery where Faulkner is interred.

Packs of cigarettes, bottles of bourbon and handwritten notes to William Faulkner were among the many items that turned Watson into a literary tourism scholar.

"I got my start as a literary tourist while I was in my Ph.D. program at the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi," she said. "I was lucky enough to take a class that was related to literary travel and tourism. Being in the South, we were focused on major sites that were in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. We went to Jackson, Mississippi, the hometown of Richard Wright and Eudora Welty, and saw the places where they grew up. In Eudora Welty's case, we saw the house she lived in her entire life, where she wrote all of her stories. We got to see that all for ourselves. I absolutely loved it."

"Then I started going on more adventures," Watson said. "I lived in Mississippi for three years. I loved Southern writers, and I wanted to learn about them as much as possible. Also, it was at a time I had not

really settled on what my area of scholarship would be. And this just seemed like a tremendous opportunity."

"I went to Oxford, Mississippi, which is where Faulkner was from and where he did the bulk of his writing, and I got to see all the places he mentioned in his books," she said. "It was so fascinating to me to see the fiction come to life and be in that physical space where he was."

"I will always, always love F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway," Watson said. "Both of them had fascinating lives; they traveled extensively throughout the United States and globally. You can go to a lot of spots throughout the world that are associated with Fitzgerald and Hemingway tourism. And also, the ancillary writers who were in their orbits."

"I love the American expatriates who lived in France from the early 1900s to the 1940s," she said. "There are so many wonderful stories about the work they did when they were in France and Spain and Italy. I absolutely love that period of American authors in other parts of the world."

Standing inside the courthouse museum in Monroeville, Ala., the site of the trial in "To Kill a Mockingbird," Watson said the moment and the place that hooked her on literary tourism was Oxford during a midnight tour of a cemetery.

"I thought it was a little strange at first," she said. "Around Faulkner's grave is seating for visitors. We were English nerds, so we were reading our favorite passages from some of our favorite Faulkner works. While we were there, I saw all of these little mementos that people had left for him."

"He was a lifelong smoker, so people would leave cigarettes to him. He was a lifelong drinker, so there were all these little bottles of bourbon. There were messages that people wrote to him, and there were pens lying around," Watson said. "And I was like, 'Oh, OK. It's not just me.' There is this whole community of people who come and see the places these authors lived and wrote. So, that was probably the moment I was hooked."

"And then I had another moment in Key West. Everybody

knows the bars Hemingway went to - Sloppy Joes is one of them that's really famous, but there's a neighborhood called Bahama Village that is sort of off the beaten path, and Hemingway did a lot of his writing there. There is this restaurant there called Blue Heaven, where he used to host boxing matches. The stories of him in that space are just so alive, and you can almost feel his presence when you're there."

"It's just really exciting to go to all the places authors visited and lived because a lot of those places are still standing," the professor said. "There's a bookstore in Paris called Shakespeare and Company, and they used to lend out books to Hemingway when he was really young; it was right after he finished his service as an ambulance driver in World War I. He came back to Paris and spent all of his time there. They still have some of the books he actually read on display, and it's this really cool tapestry of history you can see if you visit there."

*Chad Osborne  
Radford University*

# VDOT from page 5

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 later in the month of September. Supply chain issues have delayed manufacture and delivery of metal bases for the new lighting poles that must be installed before the facility can be reopened. The Virginia Department of Transportation's contractor Branch Civil Inc. has developed a plan to install temporary lighting. It will take additional time to install the temporary lighting, so reopening the facility will be postponed until later in September.

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

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

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143** - A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound is underway this summer during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather per-

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

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

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

**LANE CLOSURES:**

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

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

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

**I-581/220 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 dur-

ing 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 underway. Lane closures may be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

- **PAVING:** Paving is set to begin on August 28 for about 4 to 5 days or until complete. Drivers should expect lane closures and flagging operations during nighttime hours, 7:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.
- **Through November:** 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 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). 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. The bridge is located at the Salem city limits near Route 760's intersection with Route 639 (West Riverside Drive). The detour has been removed and the bridge is now open to traffic. 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 will be in place through the end of September, 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.

**SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

**BEDFORD COUNTY ROUTE 805 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** - A section of Route 805 (Stone Mountain Road) is closed for repair of a substructure and installation of a concrete slab span. This closure will be located 0.65 mile south of Route 743 (Bold Branch Road) and 0.50 of a mile north of Route 737 (Ayers Road). The road is scheduled to be open on September 23 at 4 p.m.

**ROUTE 221 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS** - A project to im-

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

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

**ROUTE 623 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** - A section of Route 623 (Turkey Foot Road) in Campbell County on the Bedford County line is closed to replace a culvert that carries Buffalo Creek. This structure is located .18 mile north of Route 460 and 0.68 mile south of the Bedford/Campbell County line. There will be signage for a detour. The road was scheduled to open at the end of July but has now been rescheduled to open September 9, 2022, due to recent flooding on the project, additional bedrock removal, and utility work.

**ROUTE 619 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** - A project to replace a culvert on Route 619 is underway. Route 619 will be reduced

See VDOT, page 10

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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### Legals - Botetourt County

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
Case No. CL21-610 BOTETOURT COUNTY Commonwealth of Virginia, in re. Wilmington Savings Fund FSB, et al vs. Andrew L. Lawson, et al  
The subject of this suit is to: rescind the September 16, 2020 foreclosure sale of 47 Garfield Lane, Roanoke, Virginia. It is ORDERED that: Any/All Heirs of BILAL NAEEM BOMANI appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before September 6, 2022. Signed: TOMMY L. MOORE, Clerk. 7/19/22

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317 **Case No. CL21-610** Botetourt County Circuit Court Commonwealth of Virginia in re **Wilmington Savings Fund FSB, et al v. Andrew L. Lawson, et al.** The object of this suit is to: rescind the September 16, 2020 foreclosure sale of 47 Garfield Lane, Roanoke, Virginia. It is ORDERED that: Any/All Heirs of HAZEL A. LAWSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before September 28, 2022. Signed Tommy L. Moore, Clerk on this day August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



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### Legals - Botetourt County

**VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT**

### Case No. CL22-314

TOWN OF BUCHANAN, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, V. MARY LOU Z. SWEET AKA.MARY LOU ZIMMERMAN SWEET, ET AL, Respondent(s)  
**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
The Object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, Town of Buchanan, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the Town of Buchanan, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 63A-11 1A Account No. 22901 All that certain lot, piece, or parcel of land, lying and being situate in the Town of Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia and being more particularly described as follows to-wit: BEGINNING at an iron pin get on State Secondary Route 617 corner to a gravel drive; thence with said gravel drive the following courses and distances: S. 41° 23' 15" E. 88.71 feet to a point; S. 10° 58' 52" E. 52.97 feet to a point; 5.8° 42' 01" W. 87.81 feet to a point; S. 22° 46' 12" W. 137.67 feet to point; S. 10 14' 20" W. 60.50 feet to a point; S. 9° 47' 11" E. 5.82 feet to a point, corner to the lands now or formerly owned by Clarence A. and Linda Z. Stinnett; thence with the line of Stinnett N. 65° 56' 09" E 256.14 feet to a point on the line now or formerly of Thelma B. Dupree, passing and iron pin found at 6.21 feet; thence with the Dupree line N 6° 15' 59" W. 376.53 feet to a point on culvert on State Secondary Route 617; thence with State Secondary Route 617, N. 57° 17' 17" E. 318.90 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 2.485 acres, more or less, as shown on plat of survey prepared by B. R. Shrader, C.L.S. dated September 8, 1980, revised December 12, 1980. And being the same property conveyed unto Mary Lou Zimmerman Sweet from James A. Zimmerman and Nettie V. Zimmerman, husband and wife, by Deed dated February 18, 1982 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, Virginia on February 24, 1982 in Deed Book 276 at Page 140. This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservation of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Plat Book 10 at Page 125. IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Mary Lou Z. Sweet aka Mary Lou Zimmerman Sweet, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 99 Albemarle Avenue, Buchanan, Virginia 24066-5513; Gary Alan Sweet, whose last known address is unknown; James Andrew Sweet, whose last known address is 8188 Lee Highway, Apt 12, Troutville, Virginia 24175; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, successors in title of the Respondents named herein or any lienholders of any named Respondents or against the aforementioned property are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown, and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before October 3, 2022 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Botetourt, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause. Entered on the 16th day of August, 2022 signed Joel R Branscom, Judge I Ask For This: Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. VBS No. 37158 Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804)545-2500 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378 TACS No.: 648935

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code Ann. §§ 8.01-316, -317 **Case No. CL21-610** Botetourt County Circuit Court Commonwealth of Virginia in re **Wilmington Savings Fund FSB, et al v. Andrew L. Lawson, et al.** The object of this suit is to: rescind the September 16, 2020 foreclosure sale of 47 Garfield Lane, Roanoke, Virginia. It is ORDERED that: Any/All Heirs of HAZEL A. LAWSON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before September 28, 2022. Signed Tommy L. Moore, Clerk on this day August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### Legals - City of Radford

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 508 17TH ST, RADFORD, VA 24141**

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$103,561.00, with an annual interest rate of 6.980000% dated February 9, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford as Deed Instrument Number 0500160, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the City of Radford, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford located at 619 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia on September 30, 2022 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit: LOT 1A ROSEMONT SUBDIVISION Tax Map No. 12-111-5 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 22-289964. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

### Legals - City of Salem

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended to date, notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Salem will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., September 12, 2022, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia, to receive views of citizens within the Salem School District regarding appointments to fill the expiring terms ending 12/31/2022 of two members on the City of Salem School Board. All candidates seeking appointment must submit a letter of interest and résumé to the Deputy Clerk of Council. Submissions are requested by noon on Friday, September 9, 2022, however in all cases must be submitted prior to the closing of this public hearing. Candidates may be interviewed individually by City Council. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA Signed H. Robert Light Clerk of Salem City Council

### Legals - Montgomery County

### Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia

VA code § 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317.20-104 Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073  
Case No. CL22001234-00 Arlecia McBride Johnson and Olivia Adeline Isabel Johnson v. Jonathan Arnold Johnson. The object of this suit is to: Name Change of a Minor. It is ORDERED that Jonathan Arnold Johnson appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interest on or before October 2, 2022



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### Legals - Montgomery County

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA CODE §§ 1-211.1;8.10-316,-317.20-104 **Case No. CL22000842-00** MONTGOMERY COUNTY 55 East Main Street, Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **ALIVER NICOLE HARRELL v. COREY HENDRICK HARRELL.** The object of this suit is to DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that COREY HENDRICK HARRELL appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 10, 2022.

Signed By: Robert M.D. Turk, Judge August 12, 2022

### VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROLINE COTTON COOLER, DECEASED SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION ORDER

It appearing that a report of the accounts of National Bank, also known as National Bank of Blacksburg, Executor of the Estate of Caroline Cotton Cooler, Deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate have been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the qualification, on Motion of National Bank, Executor, it is ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the estate to show cause, if any they can, on the 22nd day of September, 2022, before this Court at 8:30 a.m., against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Caroline Cotton Cooler, Deceased, to the distributees with or without requiring refunding bonds as the as the Court prescribes. ENTER this Order this 16th day of August, 2022. Signed Robert M. D. Turk, Judge. I asked for this Bettye Ackerman, Esq. VSB #72564 Campbell & Ackerman 320 Clay Street SW Blacksburg, VA 24060

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Week 2 Previews: Christiansburg, Radford try for 2-0

Severe storms played havoc with high school games this past week. Three Montgomery County teams took over an hour and half to open their 2022 season.

Christiansburg and Radford both picked up wins (Christiansburg over Floyd, and Radford in a Thursday matinee over George Wythe.) Auburn, Eastern Montgomery, and Blacksburg all started the year 0-1.

The Christiansburg-Abingdon game was moved to Thursday because of the officials shortage in Southwest Virginia.

This created a domino effect in the Christiansburg Middle School and Christiansburg High School junior varsity football schedules. The Blue Demon JV team will play at Abingdon on Wednesday, Aug. 31, with a 6 p.m. kickoff. The Christiansburg middle school squad will play at home vs Abingdon on Wednesday, Aug 31, with a 6 p.m. kickoff.

Akers official at Pulaski Pulaski County Public

Schools has announced the decision to remove the interim head coach title from Cam Akers, naming him the official head coach of the Cougar football program.

After college, Akers returned to Pulaski County as an assistant football and track coach. He eventually moved to Floyd County as an assistant and then to Floyd County under longtime Head Coach Winfred Beale. From there, he was named the head coach at Auburn High School in 2016.

Akers returned home to Pulaski County as an assistant coach under former Head Coach Mark Dixon, who recently retired. Akers finished his time at Auburn with a record of 20-30 despite having a limited number of players.

"We're pleased to have Coach Akers as our new head coach and look forward to watching him continue to move our football program in the right direction," said Dr. Kevin Siers, Pulaski County's Superintendent

of Public Schools. "He's already shown himself to be a strong motivator and organizer. He's proven to be an effective leader since moving into the interim position and has continued to build strong relationships with the players and assistant coaches. His goal of creating program continuity with the middle school and recreation league teams sets us up to see a lot of Cougar football wins in the future."

Games this week:

Blacksburg at Lord Botetourt  
In last week's loss to Giles, Blacksburg's Spencer Campbell had 114 yards passing on five of seven attempts. David Ajayi added 104 yards rushing on seven attempts with a touchdown. Carter Ackerman had three catches for 87 yards.

Botetourt fell 28-14 to E.C. Glass.

Abingdon at Christiansburg  
Abingdon picked up a 47-6 win last week over John Battle. Ectar Taylor rushed for 99 yards as the team totaled 232 yards

with six different players scoring touchdowns. The team was also five of 10 for 67 yards through the air.

Christiansburg tallied over 300 yards rushing as a team and spread the ball around with four different people scoring.

Gate City at Radford  
Gate City is coming off a 27-13 loss to Richlands. Radford won an adjusted Thursday night game at George Wythe.

Craig at Auburn  
Auburn's Landon Marrs threw a 66-yard touchdown in a 51-7 loss to Narrows. Craig slipped by Bland as Zachary Peters ran for 63 yards and two touchdowns.

Eastern Montgomery at Rural Retreat

Eastern Montgomery will face its second out-of-district power from Southwest Virginia. Rural Retreat is coming off a win over Ft. Chiswell.

In the loss to Holston on Friday, Eastern Montgomery was limited to 107 yards of total offense. Gage Akers did rush for

37 yards.

Rural Retreat's Ely Blevins threw for 108 yards, including a touchdown, and rushed for another score. Gatlin Hight added 110 yards on the ground.

Predictions: Lord Botetourt 48, Blacksburg 14; Christiansburg 40, Abingdon 21; Radford 27, Gate City 21; Craig 27, Auburn 7; Rural Retreat 38, Eastern Montgomery 7.

Area Top 5: 1) Christiansburg, 2) Narrows, 3) Galax, 4) Salem, 5) Glenvar.

VHSL wrestling note: Beginning with the 2022-2023 VHSL wrestling season, schools will use the weight classes newly approved by the NFHS wrestling rules committee. The 14 new weight classes are 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, and 285.

Former Blue Demon injured.

Tyrique Taylor suffered a torn ACL in an Emory and Henry scrimmage two weeks ago and will sit out his freshman season at the school.

## Louisville picked first in ACC volleyball, VT 12th

Louisville has been selected as the preseason favorite to win the 2022 ACC volleyball championship following a vote of the league's head coaches. The Cardinals received 10 first-place votes.

Louisville, which won the ACC last season with a perfect 18-0 record, returns all but two starters to its lineup, including preseason All-ACC selections Claire Chaussee, Anna DeBeer, Aiko Jones, Elena Scott, and Amaya Tillman.

Both the Cardinals and the Pitt Panthers advanced to last season's NCAA championship semifinals. Both teams finished with more than 30 wins.

Pitt finished second in the voting with 185 points, followed by Georgia Tech (173), Miami (150) and Florida State (145). North Carolina earned 134 points and was picked sixth with NC State (116), Duke (105), Notre Dame (87) and Clemson (72) rounding out the top 10. The Tigers were followed by Wake Forest (63 points), Virginia Tech (48), Boston College (39), Virginia (36,) and Syracuse (31).

Louisville's five preseason All-ACC selections led the conference while Georgia Tech, North Carolina, and Pitt had three each. Miami had two players named to the preseason team, and Florida State and Syracuse had one each.

Three ACC teams are ranked in the preseason American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 Poll: No. 4 Louisville, No. 6 Pitt and No. 9 Georgia

Tech. Miami, North Carolina and Florida State also received votes. Georgia Tech's No.-9 ranking is the highest preseason ranking in program history.

In 2021, the ACC had two teams in the national semifinals for the first time in league history, and its six NCAA teams tied the league record. The ACC's three teams in the regional finals and third round, and five teams in the second round were all the most in conference history.

The regular season began Friday, Aug. 26, with all 15 league teams in action. ACC Network is slated to air 21 conference volleyball matches with coverage beginning on Sunday, Sept. 4, with 2021 national semifinalist Louisville hosting Ohio State at 2 p.m. More than 150 ACC volleyball matches are slated for ACC Network Extra.

2022 ACC Volleyball Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Louisville, 191 points (10 first place votes)
2. Pitt, 185 points (5 first place votes)
3. Georgia Tech, 173 points
4. Miami, 150 points
5. Florida State, 145 points
6. North Carolina, 134 points
7. NC State, 116 points
8. Duke, 105 points
9. Notre Dame, 87 points
10. Clemson, 72 points
11. Wake Forest, 63 points
12. Virginia Tech, 48 points
13. Boston College, 39 points
14. Virginia, 36 points
15. Syracuse, 31 points

## Blacksburg falls to Giles 35-21



Blacksburg's Carter Ackerman takes a short third-down pass from quarterback Spencer Campbell and sprints to a touchdown on the Bruins' first series against Giles for an early 7-0 lead in their home opener for the 2022 season, but Giles went on to win the game 35-21.



Blacksburg quarterback Spencer Campbell breaks through a Giles tackle to score on a short touchdown run in the third quarter.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## Christiansburg shuts out Floyd 41-0



Kendric Long (left) sacks Floyd's quarterback in Christiansburg's 41-0 win. Long rushed eight times for 97 yards including a touchdown. Max Fernandez scored twice for the Blue Demons.



Curtis Altizer (left) and Dishon Garrison (right) halt Floyd's running back Trevor Miller (C).

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

# VDOT from page 6

to one lane with a temporary signal controlling traffic from Route 1460 to Route 839. Expected completion of the project is the end of September 2022.

**ROUTE 715 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** – A bridge replacement project over Norfolk Southern Railroad has closed Route 715 (Lowry Road). The bridge is located 0.085 mile south of Norfolk Southern Railroad to 0.048 mile north of Norfolk Southern Railroad on Route 715. Message boards will alert drivers. This replacement will change the current single lane steel and wooden bridge to a two-lane concrete bridge. A detour will be in place. Travelers will use Route 671 (Timber Ridge Road) to Route 221 (Forrest Road). The detour will remain in place until project completion which is scheduled for Fall 2022.

**SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

**ROUTE 122 UTILITY WORK** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along 122 from the Franklin County line to the Town of Bedford line and Route 460 eastbound from the Town of Bedford to Alum Springs Road. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulder or lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent slow rolls will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes.

**ROUTE 619 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Crews are replacing a

culvert on Route 619 with a road closure in place. The closure is being operated by temporary signals that are placing traffic in a single lane configuration on Route 619. A flagging operation will be used as needed on Route 619 from Route 1460 to Route 839 during the hours of 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**ROUTE 221** – Drivers should expect flagging and pilot truck operations northbound and southbound with alternating lane closures during nighttime hours.

### B O T E T O U R T C O U N T Y

**ROUTE 11 BUCHANAN BRIDGE PROJECT** - A construction project on the Route 11 Bridge in the Town of Buchanan is underway. Water Street is closed and drivers should expect lane closures with flagging operations to begin in about two weeks. Message boards are present to alert and update drivers.

**ROUTE 1095 (HIGHLAND DRIVE) PIPE FAILURE CLOSURE** – Route 1095 (Highland Drive) near its intersection with Sanderson Road has been immediately closed until further notice due to a pipe failure. The road is currently impassable and is being assessed for repairs and materials. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes to avoid the area such as Murray Court to Richardson. Please adhere to closure signs. The road is expected to be closed approximately at least through Mid-December 2022.

**ROUTE 622 CLOSURE** - A road closure will be in place on Route 622 (Prices Bluff Road) beginning September 19 at 8 a.m. to install a concrete slab span located 0.23 miles from Route 696 (Locust Bottom Road) and 0.40 miles from Route 622 (Bridge Street.) The road is scheduled to reopen on

October 28, 2022 at 4 p.m.

**ROUTE 611 (GREYLEDGE ROAD)** – A 1.5 mile section of Route 611 (Greyledge Road) is closed due to flooding that damaged the roadway. Extensive repairs will be needed and a detour will be in place. There is no estimated time for the road to reopen.

**ROUTE 817 (OLD RAIL ROAD) BRIDGE WORK** – Old Rail Road in Oriskany is closed for repairs to the bridge over Craig's Creek, the historic McCallister Truss Bridge. The bridge is located 0.60 miles from Route 704 (Branchwater Road) and 0.20 miles from Route 770 (Edlo Lane). The bridge will be closed during daytime hours, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, when the water level is low. Work on this bridge is restricted when water in the creek is high. All traffic between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. will use the Edlo Ford. Signs have been posted to alert drivers. Estimated time for completion Fall 2022.

### CARROLL COUNTY

**ROUTE 645 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Partial removal and demolition of the existing culvert on Route 645 (Stone Mountain Road) is underway. The road will be closed for removal of existing culvert and installation of a new box culvert. A detour will be in place at the intersections of Route 645 and Route 618 and Route 645 and Route 638. Estimated completion is April 2023.

**ROUTE 52** – Drivers should expect flagging and pilot truck operations with alternating lane closures during nighttime hours.

**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.

Routes 740, 744, and 791 are undergoing surface treatment. Motorists should expect flagging operations on any of the routes in the area.

**ROUTE 58 WESTBOUND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** - Work is underway to replace the bridge on Route 58 westbound over Crooked Creek near the Woodlawn area. The bridge is located between the intersections with Route 822 (Fieldview Road) and Route 887 (Glendale Road). Initially, the project will focus on constructing crossovers between the above-mentioned intersections with intermittent and temporary single lane closures in place. These crossovers are temporary during the bridge replacement with single lanes in each direction until the end of the project. Once the crossovers are complete, Route 58 westbound will be temporarily detoured through the left lane of Route 58 eastbound, limiting travel in each direction to a single lane. A right lane closure will be in place traveling westbound and a left lane closure traveling eastbound. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2022.

**TRAFFIC SHIFT** – A traffic shift is in place reducing both directions to one lane near Glendale Drive. It will be in place for approximately 12 months or until fall 2022. All eastbound traffic will use the existing right eastbound lane. All westbound traffic will be shifted to the existing left eastbound lane.

Right lane closures may be in place on Route 58 eastbound between Route 822 (Field-

view Road) and Route 887 (Glendale Road).

### CRAIG COUNTY

**ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK** – Temporary signals are controlling traffic across the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street) between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and allow extra travel time through the work zone. Weather permitting, the bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

### FLOYD COUNTY

**RUBBER DUCK DROP ON ROUTE 705 (SLUSHER STORE ROAD)** – On August 27 from noon until 2 p.m., the Rubber Duck Drop will take place on Route 705's (Slusher Store Road) bridge over Little River. Drivers should expect delays up to 15 minutes. Local law enforcement will be present to assist.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

**ROUTE 865 RURAL RUSTIC PROJECT** - Route 865 (Timberline Road) construction is underway for a rural rustic project which begins at 0.24 mile west of Route 781 to 0.38 mile north of Route 781. Drivers can expect intermittent flagging as needed. The scheduled completion date is October 13, 2022.

### ROUTE 643 PIPE

**REPLACEMENT** - Effective August 29 at 8 a.m., a section of Route 643 (Dillons Mill Road) will be closed for a pipe replacement located 0.4 miles from Route 742 (Dug Spur Road) and 0.1 Mile from Route 998 (Mirey Branch Road).

The road is scheduled to be completed on September 23 at 5 p.m.

**ROUTE 834 AND 670 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT** – The roundabout project at Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) and Route 670 (Burn Chimney Road) is underway. Flaggers will be controlling traffic around the intersection of Route 670 (Burn Chimney Road) and Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) on weekdays during the spring and summer months. The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone. Drivers should expect traffic shifts and new traffic patterns throughout the duration of the project as turn lanes and portions of the new roundabout are being constructed. The new roundabout with lighting is anticipated to open to traffic in fall 2022. Overall project is expected to be completed in early 2023.

**ROUTE 775 CLOSURE** - Route 775 (Iron Ridge Road) is closed to traffic as an emergency closure from Route 697 (Wirtz Road) to Route 220 due to a bridge washout. The road will remain closed until further notice.

**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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