

# News Messenger

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## Blacksburg Childcare Center earns national accreditation

Blacksburg's Rainbow Riders Childcare Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

NAEYC Accreditation is a rigorous and transformative quality-improvement system that uses a set of 10 research-based standards to collaborate with early education programs to recognize and

drive quality-improvement in high-quality early learning environments.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Rainbow Riders' administrator Kristi Snyder. "Our teachers and staff work hard to provide a safe learning environment where each individual can thrive. We're

so proud of our wonderful team of professionals for maintaining accreditation since 1989."

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Rainbow Riders went through an extensive self-study and quality-improvement process, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to verify and ensure that the program met each of the ten program standards and hundreds of corresponding individual criteria. NAEYC-accredi-

ed programs are always prepared for unannounced quality-assurance visits during their accreditation term, which lasts for five years.

In the 30 years since NAEYC Accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 6,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC. Fewer than 10 percent of all child care cen-

ters, preschools, and kindergartens nationally achieve this recognition.

"NAEYC-Accredited programs have committed to a process that takes time, energy, and dedication to complete" said Alissa Mwenelupembe, Senior Director Early Learning Program Accreditation. "Rainbow Riders has demonstrated their commitment to young children and their families."

## Music history exhibit at Alexander Black House to explore roots of old time, bluegrass

Music fans know that American blues music is rooted in West Africa. Less well-known are the African roots of old-time and its musical cousin, bluegrass.

From Oct. 7 through Nov. 19, Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation will present an exhibit titled "From Africa to Appalachia: Roots of Old-time and Bluegrass Music." The exhibit will be housed in the main galleries of the Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Road in Blacksburg.

Admission is free. The exhibit hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Old-time music is a genre of North American folk music, developing along with various North American folk dances, such as square dancing, clogging, and buck dancing. Old-Time music got its start on the gourd banjos of African slaves and then intertwined with the Scots-Irish folk tunes brought into the Appalachian regions. Through the exhibit,

the museum will honor that complex musical history and the profound influences of African Americans on not just blues and jazz, but also old-time, bluegrass and country music.

"I became aware of this lost musical history while at a concert featuring the original Carolina Chocolate Drops," said museum curator Janean Williams. "The group's musicians, Rhiannon Giddens, Dom Flemons, and Justin Robinson shared the history of African music and African American influences in the beginnings of the musical genre. I grew up knowing it as hillbilly music," Williams said. "I was stunned. As a native of Floyd County, I was surrounded by this music my entire life, yet had no idea of its roots. I am thrilled to now share this history through our exhibit."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum will present music programming, lectures, and a showing of the film "Black Fiddlers."



From Willis, fiddler Earl White will present a lecture on the history of Blacks in Old-Time music on Oct. 14 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation. White will also give a musical demonstration.

See **Alexander Black**, page 5



## Virginia's Appalachian Power customers to see rate increase Nov. 1

ROANOKE – A rise in the cost of coal, natural gas and purchased power over the past year will increase the rate Virginia customers pay for electricity starting November 1.

Appalachian Power, a utility subsidiary of American Electric Power outlined the effect of rising energy market prices and the steps it is taking to reduce customer costs in its annual fuel factor update filed this week with the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

The SCC reviews the company's fuel factor each year to determine whether it should be increased or lowered. Fuel costs are the portion of a customer's bill used to recover the cost of purchasing natural gas and coal for its power plants, as

well as the cost of purchased power. Appalachian Power does not earn revenue from fuel.

Energy costs began to spike in 2021. The rapid rise was due to several factors including the resurgence of the economy following the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Instead of recovering the increased costs over one year, the company has asked the SCC for approval to spread the amount over a two-year period, decreasing the impact on customers. For a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours in a month, this will result in an approximate \$20 monthly increase in their bill.

"We recognize these are challenging financial times

See **Rate Increase**, page 2



VT tree physiology expert John Seiler predicts a vibrant season of autumn color.

## Autumn color forecast looks promising for leaf watchers this year, says tree expert

All signs are pointing to a vibrant season of autumn color this year, thanks to plenty of summer and early fall rain, says a Virginia Tech tree physiology expert.

"We have plenty of moisture in the soil and the trees should be in great shape for a colorful display in the beautiful state of Virginia," says John Seiler, a forestry professor who specializes in environmental stress effects on woody plant physiology.

Seiler looks at weather patterns and the moisture in soil to predict peak autumn color. He says that rain levels can also impact the variety of color, but clear days in Oc-

tober are vital for a vivid display.

"Rainy weather patterns are keeping trees in Virginia healthy, which should prolong the fall color season and make leaf color more vivid," says Seiler. "We do, however, need some clear and sunny days in October for the red leaf colors to develop well."

So, when should leaf watchers plan to enjoy the foliage?

Seiler predicts trees in Virginia may not reach their peak foliage until the fourth week of October.

"The weekends of October 22 and 29 are likely the best bet. It looks like trick-or-treaters of the New River Valley will be set for a

vivid display."

*Professor Seiler specializes in environmental stress effects on woody plant physiology, including water and pollutant stresses. He is quoted regularly in broadcast and print publications due to his expertise in tree physiology. Seiler is the Honorable and Mrs. Shelton H. Short Professor of Forestry at Virginia Tech and was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor in recognition of his extraordinary academic citizenship and distinguished service within the Virginia Tech community. Seiler teaches in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.*

## RU's cybersecurity program awarded global accreditation

Radford University's School of Computing and Information Sciences degree program in cybersecurity has achieved accreditation by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.), the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.

ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

Radford University's Bachelor of Science Degree in cybersecurity is designed to prepare students to meet the anticipated demand for 3.5 million cybersecurity professionals by 2023. This program is the first at a four-year public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia and cultivates the depth and breadth necessary for security professionals to design and develop comprehensive

security solutions.

"The cybersecurity field is one of the fastest growing areas in our field today, with the number of graduates not meeting industry demand," said Radford School of Computing and Information Science Director Arthur Carter. "This accreditation of our Bachelor of Science in cybersecurity validates the content and rigor of our program. I am proud of the work our faculty in the cybersecurity area have put into creating and teaching this program. I look forward to seeing what our graduates accomplish as they make their mark on the field."

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision, and safety are of the utmost importance.

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that currently accredits 4,361 programs at 850 colleges and universities in 41 countries and areas.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Sept. 21:

**Hahn Horticulture Garden education session**  
At the Hahn Horticulture Garden on the campus of Virginia Tech; at noon. After spending the month of June in France and England, Robert McDuffie will share his thoughts and images of some of the wonderful private gardens that he saw. He was fortunate to find so many kind and generous garden owners who loved nothing more than to open their gates, serve tea, and explain how and why they garden.

**CAC advisory board meeting**  
The September meeting of the Aquatic Advisory Board has been moved to Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

**Art Club: Nick Cave and soundsuits**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Explore the art of Nick Cave and create soundsuits in his style of art. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

**Family READS**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 5:30 p.m. This is an English Learning program for families with low English skills. Parents will learn and practice English and learn to read with their children. Children ages 3 through 8 will engage in educational activities. Siblings are welcome, and homework help will be available. Pre-registration is required. For more information call (540) 382-7262 or email Anne Abbott at aabbott@lvnr.org.

## Thursday, Sept. 22:

**Piano performance**  
The Highland Faculty Piano Trio will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Davis Hall of the Covington Center for the Arts on the Radford University campus. The concert is free.

**Crafternoon: Wax Resist Painting**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 2 p.m. Participants will use crayons and watercolors to create a work of art. For all ages.

**Water bottle filters**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Make a water filter out of an old plastic water bottle. Supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

## Friday, Sept. 23:

**Game On!**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 3 p.m. Gamers of all ages are welcome to connect with other gamers and play a variety of Nintendo games. Participants are encouraged to bring their portable device, but it's not required. Snacks will be provided.

## 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 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 reunion committee is looking for "Lost" classmates. Any class member who hasn't received the reunion information should contact reunion committee members Jenny Doud at jennydoud@gmail.com and Marti Hale at 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. Activities include attending the Friday, Sept. 23, football game together, an author luncheon with Ron Peterson, Jr., at the Radford Rec Center on Saturday, Sept. 24, and a Saturday evening event at the River Company. Classmates who have not received a reunion invitation should contact reunion co-chairs: Susan Rockwell, susanmrockwell1@gmail.com, and Rick Weyer, rmw4@yahoo.com.

## Saturday, Sept. 24:

**Sons of Norway meeting**  
All people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland) are invited to attend and enjoy programs and activities on Scandinavian heritage and culture presented by the local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization from 1 to 3 p.m. at College Lutheran Church, 210 S. College Ave., Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

**Friends of Claytor Lake Poker Run**  
This fundraiser for Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon. Participants will leave from the marina for the five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked, and a map will be provided. The group will then gather back at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food and music. Email info@focl.org or text 540-395-3625 to pre-register. Include contact information and a boat registration number to get \$5 off or register the day of the event for \$30/boat (two people) Any extra hands in a boat that want to participate will be \$10/each.

**Fashion Show**  
Radford University Fall Fashion Show for Family weekend at 2 p.m. at Hurlburt Auditorium on the Radford University campus.

**Gospel Sing**  
Christiansburg Church of the Brethren will hold its annual gospel sing at 6 p.m. Dale Buckner, a soloist from Christiansburg, Sounds of Harmony from Floyd, and Melody and Austin Peyton, Kay Whitaker, and Mike

Campbell, a group from Auburn Baptist Church, will provide an evening of beautiful gospel music. The church is located at 310 S. Franklin St. across from Sunset Cemetery. The public is invited and is welcome to attend.

## Sunday, Sept. 25:

**Sand Casting 101**  
At Hacksburg, 1872 Pratt Drive Suite 1620, Blacksburg from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants can make their own sand cast aluminum object at this casting class. Sand casting is a process accessible to the hobbyist. For ages 16 and up. Wear all-natural fibers and long pants. The fee is \$5 for non-members, free for members. RSVP at <https://hb.gy/Sww84>.

## Monday, Sept. 26:

**Mother and daughter book club**  
At the Radford Public Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Discussed this month is 'Island of the Blue Dolphins' by Scott O'Dell. Email morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov with any questions, but registration is not required.

## Tuesday, Sept. 27:

**Teen book club**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. Read and discussed this month is "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V. E. Schwab.

## PROS: Performance to Reduce Online Scams

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is an interactive theater performance presented by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology; the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention; and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech to address online scams.

## Science fiction and fantasy book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion of "The Spirit Ring" by Lois McMaster Bujold. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

## Thursday, Sept. 29:

### Montgomery Chamber of Commerce training session

Hiring practices, campus recruiting and internships: What does post-pandemic recruiting look like? Hint, not 2019! The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce will host a training session on hiring practices, campus recruiting, and internships. The guest speaker will be Jim Henderson, the associate director, employer relations with Virginia Tech Career and Professional Development. Henderson leads a team whose primary function is to provide guidance and assistance to employers and recruiters throughout the nation, helping them recruit and hire students into internships, cooperative education and post-graduation jobs. The sessions is from 10 to 11 a.m. at 210 Laurel St. in Christiansburg. It is free to Chamber

members. The cost is \$10.00 for non-members.

<https://www.montgomerycc.org/events/details/hiring-practices-campus-recruiting-internships-9021>.

## Ongoing:

### Chamber Annual Awards Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting awards. Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 30 in any of the following categories: Business of the Year; Distinguished Business Leader; Distinguished Government Leader; Distinguished Non-Profit Leader; Non-Profit of the Year (small & large); Community Service – Organization; Community Service – Individual; Technology Company of the Year; Green Business of the Year. <https://bit.ly/mcc2022annual>.

### Coat Drive in Memory of Cindy Collins

Underway at the Meadowbrook Public Library in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3. Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL may be dropped off at Meadowbrook Public Library. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

### Blacksburg Police Department community survey

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

### Applications underway for NRV master gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of Virginia Cooperative Extension, is accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, caregiving, or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve the quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) are encouraged to apply. In the past, grants have been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, other educational groups, as well as community gardens and nursing homes. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit a project application, contact Carol Trutt: 540-239-9591 [caroltrutt53@hotmail.com](mailto:caroltrutt53@hotmail.com). Email is preferred, but postal service mail to Carol at the following address 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073. will be accepted.



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# New medication aide program offered at NRCC

Registration is now open for the new medication aide short-term training program at New River Community College.

Students in the medication aide program will be trained to work closely with patients in long-term care facilities. This program prepares students to take the Registered Medication Aide State Board Exam. The course includes 68 hours of instruction and consists of classroom and hands-on skills.

Students will learn basic pharmacology, the five rights of medication administration, and proper techniques for oral and topical administration of medications. They will also administer insulin and perform blood glucose tests. Interested students must have

## Rate Increase

for many people and families," said Chris Beam, Appalachian Power president and chief operating officer. "We strive each day to keep fuel costs as low as possible, continuously monitoring energy markets for opportunities to purchase fuel and energy at prices that are advantageous to customers."

Incorporating more renewable sources of power into the company's energy mix is another step in reducing customer fuel costs. As Appalachian Power adds more renewables, there is less need for coal and natural gas to generate power. At present, approximately six percent of power used by the company's customers is generated by renewable sources to include solar and wind. The company will continue to add to its renewables mix to comply with the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which requires Appalachian Power generate electricity with 100 percent carbon free sources by 2050.

Customers experiencing difficulty paying

the Certified Nursing Assistant license. The certification will increase employability in long-term care facilities.

The first course begins Oct. 31, 2022, and runs through Jan. 5, 2023. The classes will be held Mondays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for in-class instruction and Saturdays from 6:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. for clinicals.

The course is one of 12 NRCC FastForward programs that provide affordable and short-term training through the Office of Workforce Development. Virginia residents may qualify for special pricing.

To register, visit <https://www.nr.edu/fast-forward/medication-aide.php>.

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their monthly bill are encouraged to contact the company for assistance. Appalachian Power offers energy efficiency programs and payment options including the Average Monthly Payment Plan (AMP), which helps customers avoid seasonal spikes in their monthly bills by spreading costs throughout the year.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which, through its approximately 16,700 employees, operates and maintains the nation's largest electricity transmission system with more than 224,000 miles of distribution lines delivering safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 7,100 megawatts of renewable energy.

## PETS OF THE WEEK



**To bay or not to bay? That is the question Shakespeare the dog, not the writer, contemplates occasionally. He doesn't sing often but when he does, it's typically out of excitement. Shakespeare is a lovable younger dog who is friendly and enjoys meeting new people of all ages.**



**Otis is a happy dog who aims to please--especially when treats are nearby! He enjoys attention and is a smart boy who may know some basic commands like "sit" and "down." Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet pawsome Otis!**

# Boeing signs memorandum to provide interview pipeline for Corps of Cadets citizen-leader track

Boeing and Virginia Tech have signed a memorandum of understanding to provide an interview pipeline with increased internship and scholarship engagement for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. A signing ceremony took place Sept. 14 between Boeing and Virginia Tech at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

The memorandum provides a guaranteed opportunity for cadets graduating from the Corps of Cadets' Citizen-Leader Track to interview with Boeing. The interview opportunity also extends to military-track cadets once they have completed their service obligation or former cadets who have been medically discharged from military service.

Cadets in the Military-Leader Track pursue officer commissions through the ROTC programs and the Marine Platoon Leader Course. Cadets in the Cit-

izen-Leader Track graduate without a military obligation.

Along with the interview opportunities, Boeing also will collaborate to create an engagement plan to bring internships and scholarships to the corps and support increased cadet participation in the Innovation Collaboration course offered through the College of Engineering, according to the agreement.

Cadet Vivek Gopalam, a sophomore in the Citizen-Leader Track majoring in electrical engineering, is enrolled in the Innovation Collab course, which leverages industry mentorships and a hands-on learning opportunity that challenge students to solve current industry problems with innovation and collaboration.

"I have been surprised with how structured the innovation process is, with different methods of organizing, generating, and

analyzing ideas being employed to identify what the best solution to a given problem is in addition to the parameters of the problem," he said.

Gopalam is one of two cadets who were awarded internships with Boeing at the signing ceremony.

"I hope to work as an engineer at either a defense contractor or directly for one of the military departments, helping to develop, evaluate, and maintain systems that will be used in defense of our country. The internship with Boeing will allow me to gain industry experience in my major and expose me to the world of defense contracting," said Gopalam.

Cadet Pramil Patel, an aerospace engineering major and a sophomore in the Citizen-Leader track, was also offered an internship with Boeing.

"Getting to work with people from many different majors and understanding



**David Galhoun, president and chief executive officer of The Boeing Company, presents an internship to Cadet Vivek Gopalam (at right), the first cadet to receive an internship under the newly established memorandum of agreement. Photo by Katie Mallory for Virginia Tech.**

the different perspectives from the groups in the collab class has been very

interesting. I'm excited to get real-world experience in the aerospace field and

work for a company interested in space missions," Patel said.

# Hokie housekeeping: Celebrating the unsung heroes

The housekeeping teams at Virginia Tech provide best-in-class sanitation and customer service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to classrooms, administrative offices, student life spaces, and more on the Blacksburg campus.

"Our housekeeping teams assure that the university's buildings and grounds constantly express the sense of place and quality that is intrinsic to Virginia Tech," said Chris Kiwus, interim senior vice president and chief business officer. "They establish first – and everyday – impressions that all Hokies value and appreciate. Their profound dedication to creating a clean and well-maintained environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors represents what's best about Virginia Tech."

From addressing spills in between classes at McBryde 100 to keeping the concourse "debris free" during a cold and snowy February basketball game at Cassell Coliseum, these teams are often the unseen – and unsung – heroes of all university operations.

Industrywide, the biggest challenge facing housekeepers is the overall demand put on them to maintain a sanitary environment. "The demand has only been heightened given recent world events," said Greg Canaday, director of housekeeping for the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities.

The responsibilities do not stop at making sure surfaces are cleaned and

disinfected properly, there are also special requests tasked to housekeeping. These requests can range from cleaning up water leaks to cleaning up broken glass from an accident inside a building.

The university's housekeeping teams are there even when there is urgent carpet care needed for spilled beverages at important events. Virginia Tech's housekeepers work around the clock – including outside of standard business hours – to maintain stringent cleanliness standards campuswide.

"Residence halls represent a 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year operation," said Ken Belcher, director for facilities and operations for Student Affairs. "With over 10,000 residents and thousands of conference guests in the summer, housekeepers respond to routine matters throughout the day and evenings and unexpected events throughout the late evening and early morning hours.

"Beyond the dedicated tasks, our housekeepers make deeper connections with residents beyond just saying hello in the hallways; they become part of the community in which they serve. Our students notice and express concern when a housekeeper moves to another area or is out for an extended time. I love seeing thank-you notes and cards taped to the housekeeper's door."

"There are multiple standard operating procedures when it comes to cleaning a building," said Canaday.

"For example, restroom cleaning is not just cleaning the toilet, it's also providing floor maintenance. Additionally, we do glass, spot removal, and dusting. Typically everybody thinks that's a pretty simple job," said Canaday. "Many of us clean our homes and are accustomed to the conventionality of four to five individuals using a common restroom. Imagine, however, if your family consisted of 5,000 individuals all using that same common restroom. Think of the work it would take to clean and make that restroom suitable for each individual to use. It's a high-demand job but there has to be a certain skill and considerable training to ensure that the service we provide meets the university's dynamic needs."

It's also important to note the public's views have changed on housekeeping as a profession. "Housekeeping is a professional career that has not always been viewed in this manner. With recent global health events that perception has drastically changed," said Robbie Santolla, housekeeping area manager for the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities.

"Being able to step back and appreciate your work, what it means to you and this university, coupled with the appreciation that you receive from students, clients, and stakeholders makes you proud of the service you provide," said Santolla.

By Andrew Durfee



**An employee cleans floors in the Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building One. Photo by Sarah Myers for Virginia Tech.**

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# OPINION

## It wasn't the Titanic, but we came away shaken and stirred

After almost four decades of dreaming about it, earlier this year, my wife and I bought a house with access to Claytor Lake. That meant, of course, that for us to get any enjoyment out of the lake, we had to come up with some way to get on it. The answer was a pontoon, our first ever.

So we bought one despite our total ignorance of what to do with the darned thing once we got it. We also purchased a slip for it at Harry DeHaven Park to keep it permanently moored. We took the required test,

passed, and thus were granted license to load up and head out. "Load up" was where we made a rather interesting mistake and put our ignorance of all things nautical on display for the more experienced sea salts to see (which, in our case, is every single body on the lake with any form of lakeworthy transportation).

We loaded up, all right. My wife and I had thrown a party that day with a bunch of friends coming over to share a boat ride with us. We got a boat ride, but we also got more than

we bargained for. We got an adventure that we still laugh and talk about because we managed to escape from it without getting deep-sixed, i.e. drowned.

In defense of the wife and me, we had taken the pontoon out several times before without any problems, which probably lulled us into being somewhat careless this time out. Okay, seriously careless.

All hands were aboard when we left port, including Brutus, a 100-pound dog, and that was the problem. Way too many hands and way too much weight.

We hadn't navigated more than 50 yards or so when, much to our surprise as you might well imagine, the bow took a dive and water started pouring into the boat.

Again, in our defense, nobody panicked. We just started looking for a solution that quickly became obvious. First of all, we realized we had too much weight in the bow and not enough elsewhere, so we set about moving the bodies to the stern, which redistributed the weight, let the bow rise, and halted the invasion of the water.

Out of immediate danger, we calmed down, laughed and joked about the whole experience, breathed collective sighs of relief, and went on about our lake voyage without any more mishaps.

Shaken somewhat but still alive and much wiser in the ways of the pontoon.

*The author is a landlubber of a certain age who has quickly discovered that riding on the lake in a pontoon despite all the hassle is one of life's greatest pleasures.*

## Buddy King: America's royal families

If I aspire to become a true columnist, I need to write topical pieces from time to time. Thus, I am compelled to reflect on the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II, certainly the greatest British monarch of my lifetime. In fact, the only British monarch of my lifetime. This piece may not be what you're expecting though.

I don't really mean to be disrespectful of the Queen or her family. I am sure she did a lot of good things during her reign and I'm sure she meant a lot to a lot of people. But as an American, I feel obligated to make a little fun of the whole Royal Family thing. Wasn't America founded on the notion that royalty shouldn't exist? That

ordinary people should be allowed to govern themselves, to make their own decisions, to have a chance to do things for themselves and not have to hand all the fruits of their labors over to others based on a class system that no one even remembers the origins of? So, despite the thick hodgepodge of Western European DNA coursing in my veins (confirmed by 23 and Me and Ancestry, thank you), I am no Anglophobe. I may have come from English and Irish and Scottish and Welsh stock, but I hold no allegiance to the Royal Family.

Based on my limited success at genealogy, I learned that my branch of the King family arrived from England through the ports of New York and that my ancestors wandered their way down through the valleys of Pennsylvania and Virginia, eventually taking up shop as subsistence farmers in the Franklin County area in the 1750's.

According to the footnotes of Ancestry, this path denotes a very different family bloodline than that of those who entered the country through Tidewater or New England. In fact, the folks who put the story together for Ancestry referred to the migratory group of which the Kings were a part as "Southern Mountain Settlers" and "most likely the descendants of petty thieves" who had been deported. My daughters and I have taken great umbrage at that characterization. We are certain that if our forebears were thieves, that they were darn good at it! Our family is prideful about its accomplish-

ments!

Whether because of resentment that my ancestors apparently were asked to leave England or pure disinterest, I have paid very little attention to the Queen or to the rest of the Royal Family over my lifetime, mainly only when one of the male members would marry an attractive young lady. Otherwise, when I think of Dukes I think of James Madison University (or those basketball players who flop on their backs when someone gets within 3 feet of them), and when I think of Duchesses, I think of Motown. Certainly, there was a group known as Such and Such and the Duchesses, right?

I thought it might be fun to consider "royal families of America." While our citizens agree on almost nothing these days, I think most of us do agree that the Royal Family across the pond is irrelevant. It's a "British thing." But that's not to say that we don't have our own versions of Royal Families here in the good old USA. So, I thought I would explore possible American "royal families."

The low hanging fruit is the political branch of American aristocracy, such as it is. In this category, you got your Washingtons, your Roosevelts (Franklin and Teddy were only fifth cousins, but so what), your Kennedys, your Bushes. At least a hint of legacy and entitlement in this group.

Being the sports nut that I am, I also have to consider the "Mannings of New Orleans." The torch has passed from Archie to Peyton and Eli to Arch, Archie's grandson. A whole lot of "begatting" of

quarterback talent in that family. Also, LeBron seems to be nurturing his kids in a manner that might create a truly royal family, particularly given his nickname of King LeBron. I also have to mention the Ken Griffey's - Sr. and Jr.- given the fact that they both played in the same outfield together and that I love baseball history.

Then you probably need to consider the Kardashians. This is another group I don't follow except when one of them decides to pose naked in a barrel, and I don't know the first names of any of them. But they marry and divorce celebrities and act entitled and get in the news for no apparent reason, so they must be some form of royalty. They sound a lot like the late Queen's children and grandchildren. Don't ask me for the first names of any of them though.

I have my own first choice of a truly American Royal Family: the Marx Brothers (Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo, and Zeppo, a sixth brother, Manfred, having died in infancy). I have to admit that they were ahead of my time, except that Groucho was host of an early television game show called "You Bet Your Life" that I vaguely remember.

I remember Groucho in part because of his signature line. When a guest answered a big question on the quiz show (the "\$64 question"), Groucho would say, "and the duck comes down," and a toy duck with cash in its mouth would drop from the ceiling on a string. My contracts professor in law school used the same phrase when a student made a really astute response in class. Once we rigged a toy duck in the rafters of our lecture hall

and dropped it when Professor Sullivan used the line.

The Marx Brothers were born in New York City, the children of Jewish immigrant parents from Germany and France, and were extremely influential in Vaudeville, on Broadway, and in the early days of motion pictures. In fact, five of their 13 feature films are included in the American Film Institute's Top 100 Comedy Films of all time. Their career as an act spanned the period from 1905 to 1949.

My selection of the Marx Brothers has one major flaw. Their relationship was horizontal, not vertical. I have no idea what if anything their progeny did. I do know, however, that many of the great comedic minds of my lifetime claim that Groucho and Chico and Harpo had significant influence on their careers. The list includes Woody Allen, Alan Alda, Mel Brooks, Monty Python, Elliott Gould, and Carl Reiner. So I ignore the nonlinear aspect of their relationship based on the tremendous talent they helped spawn.

So, at the end of the day, I go with the Marx Brothers as the true Royal Family of the folks on our side of the pond. And they are still a heck of a lot more interesting to think about than your Elizabeths and your Charleses and your Williamses.

*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

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

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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.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. One of the four Vedas</p> <p>5. Part of (abbr.)</p> <p>8. At the peak</p> <p>12. African antelope</p> <p>14. Expression of satisfaction</p> <p>15. Yankees' ace</p> <p>16. Belittled</p> <p>18. A baglike structure</p> <p>19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder</p> <p>20. Actress Tomei</p> <p>21. Explosive</p> <p>22. Formal for "on"</p> <p>23. Cruelties</p> <p>26. Country singer Brad</p> <p>30. Make very happy</p> <p>31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal</p> <p>32. Albanian currency</p> <p>33. Subatomic particle</p> <p>34. Type of salt</p> <p>39. 007's creator</p> | <p>42. Emerging</p> <p>44. Railroad flare</p> <p>46. Observed</p> <p>47. Capable of reproduction</p> <p>49. Indicates adjacent to</p> <p>50. Legendary Notre Dame coach</p> <p>51. Not wide</p> <p>56. An embarrassing mistake</p> <p>57. Pearl Jam's debut album</p> <p>58. Denotes passerine birds</p> <p>59. Stumble</p> <p>60. Midway between east and southeast</p> <p>61. W. Indian trees</p> <p>62. You</p> <p>63. Pigpen</p> <p>64. Be aware of</p> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Crease</p> <p>2. "Honey" actress Jessica</p> <p>3. Broad volcanic crater</p> <p>4. Product safety watchdog</p> <p>5. Southern Colombian city</p> <p>6. Part of a church</p> <p>7. Perceptible by touch</p> <p>8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges</p> <p>9. Hairpiece</p> <p>10. Variety acts</p> <p>11. "Mystic River" actor Sean</p> <p>13. Remove salt</p> <p>17. Went out with</p> <p>24. Type of bread</p> <p>25. Popular Eagles song</p> <p>26. Philosophy degree</p> <p>27. Yes vote</p> <p>28. Passports and licenses are two</p> <p>29. No seats available</p> | <p>35. Pounds per square inch</p> <p>36. A way to launch an attack on</p> <p>37. The lowest cardinal number</p> <p>38. Popular Miller beer</p> <p>40. Pokes holes in</p> <p>41. Closest to</p> <p>42. Folk singer DiFranco</p> <p>43. Rivne's former name</p> <p>44. Flat ruler</p> <p>45. Lacking the means to do something</p> <p>47. Cockatoo</p> <p>48. Dred Scott decision deliverer</p> <p>49. Explosion exclamation</p> <p>52. Canadian flyers</p> <p>53. Houston university</p> <p>54. At some prior time</p> <p>55. Red, swollen mark</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

## Home Country by Slim Randles: Car problems

It was like buzzards circling a body.

The Jones kid, Randy, was out in the Mule Barn parking lot with the hood up on his car. He was staring down into it the way a first-time parachutist would look out the airplane door. You never quite knew for sure what lay ahead.

"Looks like Randy's got problems," said Steve. "Let's have a look," said Dud.

So coffee was left to get cold and the entire Supreme Court of All Things Mechanical – Steve, Dud, Doc, Herb and Dewey – trooped out to see what was going on.

They formed a powerful semi-circle of wisdom around the youth and his engine with folded arms and facial expressions that said, "It's okay, Kid. We're here."

Dewey spoke first.

"Having trouble, Randy?"

"Won't start."

Doc, who has the most initials after his name, said, "Give it a try."

Randy ground the engine, but it wouldn't kick over.

"Stop! Stop!" Doc yelled. "Don't want to flood it."

All Doc knows about flooding is that the animals went on board, two by two.

"Randy, I think it's the solenoid," said Steve, looking wise.

"Doesn't have one, Steve," Randy said.

"Sure it does. All cars have solenoids."

"Not the new ones. Haven't made solenoids in years."

Steve's expression said, "Young punks, what do they know?" But his voice said, "Well,

what do you know about that?"

"Need a jump?" Dewey asked.

"Got plenty of spark," Randy said.

Randy looked at the older men and then bent to the engine and smiled. His voice came floating up over the radiator. "Might be the junction fibrillator. Or it could be a malfunction of the Johnson switch. If I rerun the wire from the organ housing to the pump by-pass, that might get it done."

When Randy looked up, all the men had gone back in for coffee. He smiled and called Triple A on his cell phone.

*Brought to you by Ol' Max Evans, the First Thousand Years, by Slim Randles. Available from unmpress.com.*

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

# The 'living history' of Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine set to retire

Since the announcement of its formation in 2007, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTC-SOM) has grown rapidly and adapted to fill the needs of its students, its community and the nation's health care system as a whole. Through nearly 15 years of continuous changes at the school, at least one constant has remained.

Daniel "Dan" Harrington has served as the living history of VTC-SOM, helping launch the medical school as a unique public-private partnership and seeing it incorporated as an official college at Virginia Tech. In his current role as vice dean of VTC-SOM and formerly the vice president of academic affairs at Carilion Clinic, Harrington has played an integral role in establishing the school and developing its path toward a strong future. On Sept. 30, he will officially begin his well-deserved retirement.

"What I'm most proud of is to have been part of this incredible group of people from academia and health care who have come together to develop this school and change Roanoke," Harrington said. "It's really changed this community for the better, and to have even been a small part of that has been wonderful."

Although Harrington has made Roanoke his home, he grew up in a

small coal-mining town in West Virginia, where his father was the outside superintendent of the mines. Neither of his parents went to college, but they made it a priority for him and his two siblings to pursue higher education. He credits the "Harrington gene" for developing his work ethic at an early age and the fact he would later become widely known as the first person arriving at the VTC-SOM building every day at 5 a.m.

After the mines closed in his childhood hometown, Harrington's family moved to Beckley, West Virginia, where he stood out academically in high school. He eventually decided to attend West Virginia University and graduated from pharmacy school with Alpha Omega Alpha honors and went to the University of Virginia (UVA) for a five-year residency in internal medicine and psychiatry, which was a new program at the time.

After a series of faculty roles at UVA, Harrington had a meeting with his mentor and the chair of the psychiatry program that would change the trajectory of his career and life.

"He said 'Carilion is starting a psychiatry resi-

dency program. What do you think about moving to Roanoke?'" Harrington recalled. "I said, 'Not much. Are you firing me?' And he said, 'No, you know you will always have a job here. But if you go to Roanoke, I think you have a chance to develop something that is all your own.'"

Harrington took that opportunity and left for Roanoke in 1990 along with his wife, Gil; their young son, Alex; and infant daughter, Morgan. Joining Carilion, he developed the psychiatry residency program, took on additional leadership roles, and eventually became the head of all residency programs. In 2006, Carilion's chief executive officer came to Harrington with another opportunity to develop something new.

"Ed Murphy called me in and asked what I thought about starting a medical school here along with Virginia Tech," Harrington said. "He gave me and Donna Littlepage, who was in the finance department, about a week to put together a plan of what it would look like. And you know what, most of that plan came true."

Harrington traveled around the country with Murphy and then-Virginia Tech President Charles Steger to learn from other medical schools and develop the problem-based learning format that VTC-SOM has today.



**Dan Harrington, pictured with the HokieBird at the Docs for Morgan charity basketball game, helped develop initial plans for the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and became an integral leader at the school. Photo by David Hungate for Virginia Tech.**

Harrington was on board when Cynda Johnson became the founding dean of VTC-SOM, and he served as interim dean when she retired, helping the transition to Learman's leadership.

One of Harrington's fondest memories is of the summer when his daughter Morgan worked as an intern at VTC-SOM while a rising junior at Virginia Tech. He said that it was an eye-opening experience for her to see so many strong women in leadership roles as she began formulating plans to become

an educator herself.

After Morgan's tragic death in 2009, the outpouring of support from VTC-SOM, Virginia Tech, Carilion and the community helped the Harringtons heal. In honor of Morgan's life, they developed the Morgan Dana Harrington Memorial Scholarship at the medical school, constructed the Morgan Harrington Educational Wing at OMNI Village in Zambia, and founded Help Save the Next Girl, a national nonprofit that educates children and young adults

about the need for safety and personal responsibility.

Tracey Criss, associate dean for clinical science, helped establish and manages the annual Docs for Morgan charity basketball game pitting VTC-SOM students against Carilion doctors. The game and other fundraising efforts have helped the Harrington Memorial Scholarship generate more than \$500,000 to benefit students at VTC-SOM.

*By Josh Meyer*

## WalletHub study: Virginia is 2022's third-best state for teachers

With World Teachers' Day around the corner but teachers making an average of \$2,150 less per year than they did 10 years ago when adjusted for inflation, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its report on 2022's Best & Worst States for Teachers

The report concluded Virginia was the nation's third-best

state for teachers.

To help educators find the best opportunities and teaching environments in the U.S., WalletHub analyzed the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 24 key metrics, ranging from teachers' income growth potential to the pupil-teacher ratio to whether the state has a digital learning plan.

Some of those metrics for Virginia and the ranking among the 50 states and D.C. with the lowest numbers being the best are 17th – Average starting salary for teachers (adjusted for cost of living); 25th – Average salary for teachers (adjusted for cost of living); 4th – Quality of school system 26th – Pupil-Teacher ratio; 22nd – Public

school spending per student; 1st – Teachers' income growth potential; 11th – Projected competition in 2028; 10th – 10-year change in teacher salaries; 1st – Existence of digital learning plan.

According to WalletHub's report, the 10 best states for teachers are 1. New York 2. Utah 3. Virginia 4. Florida 5.

Washington 6. New Jersey 7. Pennsylvania 8. Massachusetts 9. Maryland 10. Connecticut.

According to WalletHub, the 10 worst places for teachers are 42. Nevada 43. Montana 44. Maine 45. Louisiana 46. Missouri 47. New Mexico 48. Arizona 49. District of Columbia 50. New Hampshire 51. Hawaii.

## Virginia's gas prices continue their fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 7.7 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.39/g as of Monday, Sept. 19., according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 30.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but are still 39.1 cents per gallon higher than they were a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined seven cents last week to stand at \$4.93 per gallon as

of Monday.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.89/g Monday while the most expensive was \$4.69/g, a difference of \$1.80/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 3.9 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.64/g Monday, Sept. 19. The national average is down 25.7 cents per gallon from a month ago but is still 45.9 cents per gallon

higher than it was a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"With a 14th consecutive weekly decline, the national average price of gasoline has now surpassed 2018's record decline, seeing its longest downward streak since 2015," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"While some states continue to see gas prices trend higher, the majority have continued to decline," De Haan said. "However, this week could change the downward trend. With some issues arising in Plains and Great Lakes states as the transition to winter gasoline begins, I think we have the best potential to see the weekly trend of falling prices snapped. West Coast states also continue to see increases as unexpected refinery issues continue to percolate, preventing a downward move. While gaso-

line could nudge higher, diesel prices should continue to ease after a much-needed jump in inventories last week."

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy's survey updates 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>.*

## Alexander Black

from page 1

Schedule of Events at the Alexander Black House:

1. Oct. 14, 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Earl White presents a lecture on the History of Blacks in Old-Time, with a musical demonstration and a Q&A section at the end.

2. Oct. 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Old-Time Music Jam. Museum visitors may bring their

instruments or come to listen in.

3. Oct. 21, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Patrick Salmons, professor with Virginia Tech's Department of Religion and Culture, will give a lecture on how African Americans were pushed out of "hillbilly" music by distributors and labels, the discrimination they faced, and how this genre's

full history is being rediscovered in the modern day.

4. Nov. 3, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Corbin Hayslett, manager of County Sales Music Store in Floyd will speak on the African American influence on old-time, focusing on local musicians.

5. Nov. 10, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. "Black Fiddlers" documentary, tracing the personal and

family stories of violin players of African descent in New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Texas, Missouri, and as far as Oregon during the Indian Wars and the Gold Rush. Inspired by the legacy of Joe and Odell Thomson, documentary director Eduardo Montes-Bradley reached out to musicians Rhiannon Giddens

and Justin Robinson from The Carolina Chocolate Drops and old-time fiddler Earl White to reconstruct three hundred years of Black music with the help of local historians, academics, and award-winning authors like Kip Lornell and John J. Sullivan. <https://www.heritagefilmproject.com/blackfiddlers>.

## V DOT ROADWATCH

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. New information is noted by "NEW" and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. 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 605: Intermittent

flagging operations will be present on Route 605, located under the New River Bridge, for work overhead on the bridge.

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. Road is now open. Flagging operations may continue to be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 685 UTILITY WORK – Utility work is being performed on eastbound Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) to connect gas lines starting on Monday, September 26, 2022. Motorists should expect delays due to lane closures from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Work is expected to be completed by September 30.

ROUTE 8 EVENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION - Route 8 may experience heavy traffic on fall weekends due to congestion related to tourist events at local farms in the area. If possible, motorists should utilize detours to avoid traveling on Route 8 between Christiansburg and Riner during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

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

# OBITUARIES

## Bandy, Ronald Edward

Ronald Edward Bandy, 65, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Sept. 16, 2022.

He was born in Portsmouth, Va., on Jan. 22, 1957, to the late Wilbur and Margaret Howard Bandy. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Mae Loftis, and his brother-in-law, Alford Harrell.

He is survived by his sisters and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Wayne Surface; Linda Harrell and Lois Suter; brothers and sisters-in-law, Billy and Dee Bandy, Joe and



Lynn Bandy, David and Pam Bandy; brother-in-law Damon Loftis; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held today, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. Burial will follow at 2 p.m. at Campbell Cemetery in Roanoke. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Brooks, Ellen Faye Dalton

Ellen Faye Dalton Brooks, 72, of Riner, passed away on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

She was born May 20, 1950, in Carroll County, Va.

Faye was preceded in death by her father, Wiley Dalton; her mother, Sabrina Jackson Dalton; her stepmother, Ruth Dalton; and her brother, Carson Dalton.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Larry Brooks, her daughter, Michelle Brooks, her sister, Estelle White (J.C.) of Mt. Airy, N.C.; brothers



Wayne Brown (Carroll) of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Chuck Dalton of West Bend, Wis.; and her sister-in-law, Diane Dalton.

Faye retired from GE in Salem after 38 years of service.

She always enjoyed giving of her time and talents to help others. She and Larry always shared their large garden with family, friends, and

neighbors. The family received friends on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at Horne Funeral Home in Christiansburg with a memorial service following.

## Glazener, Diana Lynne

Diana Lynne Glazener, 62, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She was born in Japan on Feb. 29, 1960.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhiannon Glazener; her son and daughter-in-law, Cassidy and Kelbi Carman;



her father, Harold Glazener (Shirley); and her mother Becky Glazener.

Memorial services were conducted on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Deacon Mike Ellerbrock officiating. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home.

## Graves, Johnie Kelly

Johnie Kelly Graves, 80, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at Lewis Gale Hospital-Montgomery. He was born in Montgomery Co., VA, on August 29, 1942, to the late Johnny Thomas and Kathleen Price Graves.

He was also preceded in death by his wife, Ruth E. Graves; sisters, Freda Graves, and Loretta Weller; mother of his children, Ruth Evelena Graves; and nephew, Bruce Wayne Baker. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Terry Graves; daughter and son-in-law, Angela and Jim Riegel; grandchildren, Justin, Aaron, Jordan, and John; stepson, Kenton Keillor (Kathy) and their children, John Daniel, Meagan, and Jason;



sisters, Doris Baker and Mary Jane Surface; aunts, Katherine Caldwell and Vivian Long; many nieces and nephews; and special friend, Carol Hargrove.

Special thanks to second and fourth floor nurses at Lewis Gale Montgomery, especially Jordan, Wendy, Merete, Margaret, Annette; and Nicole Thompson; Dr. Downer; and Hospice nurse, Bruce. Funeral Services were conducted Monday, Sept. 19, 2022 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Keith Graves and Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. Interment followed in the Price Family Cemetery. The family received friends on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022 at the McCoy Funeral Home.

## Hamblin, Harold Dennis

Harold Dennis Hamblin, 72, passed away Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022, at his home in Dublin. He was a signal maintainer for 31 years with Norfolk & Southern Railroad and a member of Dublin Church of God. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Wallace and Ethel Mae Hamblin.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Beverly Roan Hamblin; children, Ashlee Dawn Rostine (Matthew) of Jacksonville, N.C., Dennis Aaron Hamblin (Jessica) of Pulaski, and Micah Hamblin Price (Stephen) of Dublin; grandchildren, Jack, Kylene, Josie, Charlie, Rosie, Jack, Luke and Gabriel; brother, Rodney Lee Ham-



blin (Cathy) of Bluefield, W. Va.; sister, Judy Sandridge of Charlottesville; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at the Dublin Church of God. Graveside services with full military honors will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Dublin Church of God Youth Group or to Shadow Ranch.

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

## Huber, Georgene Josephine Lukes

Georgene Josephine Lukes Huber, 91, of Blacksburg, died Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022.

She was born in Flushing, N.Y., on Feb. 20, 1931, to the late Josef and Zdenka Prockar Lukes.

Georgene was the first child of her family born in the US after her parents and two sisters Rose Marie and Sylvia emigrated from Czechoslovakia to the United States. Raised in Flushing, her family was active in the vibrant Czech-American community in New York.

Georgene met her future husband while she was a student at Queens College and was working at her parents' ice cream parlor that bore her name. Georgene and Bill were married for 71 years. After working at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., Georgene and Bill raised their two children, Jeanne and Bill, in Westbury, N.Y., and later moved to Westport, Conn., and



eventually to Blacksburg to be closer to her grandchildren.

Georgene is survived by her husband, her daughter, Jeanne Huber-Happy; son Bill Huber and daughter-in-law Lynn Huber; grandchildren Kelsey Pasquarell, Clare Humphrys, Julian Happy, and Ben Huber; their spouses Micah Pasquarell, Adam Humphrys, Katherine Happy, and Elysia Huber; and great-grandchildren Grace Pasquarell, Dominic Pasquarell, Beatrice Pasquarell, John Pasquarell, Evelyn Humphrys, and Declan Humphrys.

The family will receive friends today, Wednesday Sept. 21, 2022, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Christiansburg. A funeral mass will follow at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## McCoy, Mary Ann Warden

Mary Ann Warden McCoy, 78, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022, in Westminister-Canterbury Nursing Home in Lynchburg. She was born on April 15, 1944, in Radford. She was an active and lifelong member of Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church and considered its members her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Anniebell Warden.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 55 years, Vernon Rodney McCoy; daughter and son-in-law, April and John



Keegan; daughter and son-in-law Wendy and Charles Kilgore; two grandsons, Caleb and Joshua Kilgore; brothers, James Warden Jr. and David Warden; and special friend and caregiver Lisa Coalson.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford with Rev. Maria Grimm officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Morgan's Chapel Church.

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

## Parson, Stephen (Steve)

Stephen (Steve) Parson, 79, died Aug. 2, 2022, of pneumonia, while in the hospital in Bluffton, SC.

He was born in Shenandoah, Iowa, but claimed Des Moines as his hometown. He was the oldest of four children of Betty and Maurice Parson.

He went to college on a football scholarship, and it was at the University of Northern Iowa (formerly Iowa State Teachers College) that he met and married Marolyn Hollis. This year they celebrated their 59th anniversary.

Steve earned BA and MA degrees at Northern Iowa. While an undergraduate, he joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and those brothers remained lifelong friends.

He was an educator at his core. His professional career began in Newton, Iowa, where he taught distributive education. From there he went to Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge to be a leader in adult education. In 1974 he was awarded a Charles Stewart Mott Foundation fellowship to pursue a doctorate at Western Michigan University. His book, Transforming Schools into Community Learning Centers, published in 1999, is still used as a reference in education courses around the country. After his retirement in 2007, he was the originator of the Foundation for Community Education.

Upon earning his doctorate, he was hired by Virginia Tech, where he was an administrator and associate professor for 30 years. He focused on community education and provided the skills needed for educators to be successful principals and



superintendents. He loved everything about Virginia Tech. Go Hokies!

He cherished his two daughters, Julie Parson and Michelle O'Neil. He took pride in their accomplishments, of which there are many. He was called "Pops" by his grandson, Aidan O'Neil. When speaking of Aidan, Steve always said, "He is very smart and is going to do great things."

He enjoyed reading the most, but his fly-in fishing trips to Saskatchewan, Canada, were legendary. In typical fashion, he bought a sailboat and then learned to sail. He loved his skiing trips to Pagosa Springs, Colo. He was proud that he learned to ski at age 40 and continued skiing until he was 73. Of late, he enjoyed taking Cassie, his Wire Fox Terrier, on long walks.

He is survived by his wife, Marolyn; his daughter Julie Parson and son-in-law Woodrow Young of Byron, Ga.; daughter Michelle O'Neil, son-in-law Brian O'Neil, and grandson, Aidan O'Neil of Union, Kent.; sister Penny Hirschman of Palm Springs, Calif.; sister Elizabeth Christiansen and partner Herb Hensley of Montgomery, Texas; and sister-in-law Pati Parson of Las Vegas, Nev.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Randall Parson.

A graveside service is scheduled for Oct. 1, 2022, at 10:00 am at Westview Cemetery, 723 E. Roanoke Street, Blacksburg.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the National Aphasia Association at www.aphasia.org.

## Meredith, Cimberly Lynn Dulaney

Cimberly Lynn Dulaney Meredith of Christiansburg went to be with her heavenly father on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022.

Cim fought a courageous and strong battle with many health issues over the years. However, God decided he needed another angel and took her home where there will be no more suffering or pain.

Cim was born on Mar. 31, 1970, in Radford, and was raised in Floyd County. She touched many lives during her journey on this Earth and was very proud of and fulfilled by her career as a nurse.

Cim was preceded in death by her parents, Jerry Douglas Dulaney and Drema



Blevins Dulaney. She is survived by her children, Amy Michelle Meredith of Narrows, and Kevin Cecil Meredith of Christiansburg; grandchildren Archer Evan Meredith and Arcadia Quinn Trump; sister Melissa Ann Dulaney of Virginia Beach; brother and sister-in-law, Jeremy (JD) and Dru Dulaney of Virginia Beach; as well as several nephews, nieces, and many cousins.

A visitation will be held at Trinity Community Church, Christiansburg, on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, from 5 to 6 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 6 p.m. with Pastor Brian Cockram officiating. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Game of year set in Radford vs. Christiansburg

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Week five in high school football will be highlighted by the game of the year so far when undefeated Christiansburg travels to unbeaten Radford. Christiansburg (3-0) had a week off to prepare for the matchup, while Radford (4-0) rolled in a win over Galax.

The tale of the tape could lie with both team's quarterbacks with a heavy lean toward Radford's Landon Cline. Last week against Galax, he completed

seven of 11 passes for 216 yards with four touchdowns. The offense runs through him as he has accounted for 20 touchdowns this season.

He has completed 34 of 45 passes for 915 yards with 16 touchdowns and has rushed 41 times for 125 yards with four more scores.

The Radford junior has several favorite targets including Virginia Tech-bound Marcell Baylor (12 receptions for 429) and Parker Prioleau (13-340).

Clark is the team's leading rusher with David Woodward

also running 11 times for 118 yards.

On defense, the Bobcats run a variety of defensive fronts and have snared seven interceptions this season. Max Kanipe leads the team with 36 total tackles and two sacks.

The flip side has Christiansburg also depending on its defense with its offense running through Tanner Evans, who took over at quarterback two weeks ago against William Byrd. The all-around player was thrown into the limelight after Pulaski County High School transfer Cam Co-

per wasn't able to produce much offense in two previous wins.

Against William Byrd, Evans completed 11 of 15 passes for 155 yards and finished as the team's leading rusher with 76 yards on six carries.

Christiansburg's defense allowed William Byrd only 64 total yards, 12 on the ground. In three games this season, Christiansburg has been stubborn for opponents on the ground, allowing an average of only 42 yards and picking off five passes.

Thaxton Henley, who is returning from an ACL injury that

took him out for most of last season, leads the team with two interceptions.

The Top Five has changed slightly after Giles shocked Narrows.

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

This past week, Eastern Montgomery took the annual "Golden Helmet" with a win over Auburn.

Predictions for this week's games: Radford 32, Christiansburg 30; Eastern Montgomery 24, Bland 20; Salem 44, Blacksburg 0.

## Eastern Montgomery defeats Auburn



Jude Mear (back) of Auburn sacks Eastern Montgomery's QB Gage Akers. Eastern Montgomery took the 20-13 win and claimed the "Golden Helmet," awarded to the winner of the annual cross county contest.



Eastern Montgomery's Gage Akers makes it across the corner of the goal line to score for the Mustangs in Friday's win. Akers rushed 16 times for 52 yards and two touchdowns. He also threw for a score.



Landen Marrs (right) gains yardage for Auburn, setting them up for their second touchdown of the game. Marrs also threw a 23-yard pass for a touchdown to Isaac Wayne.



Jesse Boston hurls over the goal line for Eastern Montgomery's final score of the night in the 20-13 defeat of Auburn.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

## Hokies welcome WVU to Lane on Thursday

As electric as the atmosphere in Lane Stadium has been over the last two weeks, there's no doubt it will ratchet up a few more notches this Thursday night, Sept. 22, when Virginia Tech football welcomes long-time rival West Virginia to Blacksburg for the first time since 2004.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m., and parking lots around Lane Stadium will open at 3 p.m. that afternoon. What makes this game even more notable is the return of the Hokie Effect theme that asks those in attendance to wear either orange or maroon depending on their seat location. Instead of a stripe like years past, this season's Hokie Effect will see the North half of Lane Stadium turn orange while the South half is covered in maroon.

Fans attending Thursday's game are encouraged to enter Lane Stadium and find their seats early in order not to miss a minute of the pregame festivities that will include skydivers and the iconic "Enter Sandman" team entrance. Thursday's matchup will also have a throwback feel as video board content and other in-

game elements will harken back to the mid-1990s when this rivalry was at its peak.

West Virginia is 1-2 on the season after a dominating 65-7 victory over Towson.

Six of West Virginia's nine touchdowns were scored on the ground, its most since getting seven in a 66-21 victory over Connecticut on Nov. 24, 2007. The Mountaineers scored on all of their offensive possessions and did not punt.

West Virginia will face a Hokie team coming off a 27-7 win over Wofford in Blacksburg to improve to 2-1 on the season. Virginia Tech knocked off Boston College last week after falling at Old Dominion to begin the season.

In the win over Towson, quarterback JT Daniels completed 16 of his 24 pass attempts for 174 yards, including a 2-yard touchdown toss to Kaden Prather on the game's opening possession before giving way to backup Garrett Greene with 1:31 left in the second quarter and WVU leading 38-7. Freshman CJ Donaldson continued his outstanding,

early-season running with three first-half touchdowns, including an 82-yard burst down the far sideline that was aided by Prather's hands-in-the-air downfield block that took out two defenders.

Donaldson's three-game rushing totals now show 274 yards, six touchdowns, and 9.4 yards per rush.

Against Towson, West Virginia had 624 total yards, 316 on the ground, and averaged 7.3 yards per play from scrimmage.

WVU's four quarterbacks combined to complete 27 of their 40 attempts for 308 yards and three touchdowns for Graham Harrell's offense.

A Mountaineer defense that entered the Towson game giving up an average of 401.5 yards and allowing its opponents a 59% success rate on third down, was significantly better. Towson finished with 180 total yards with only 56 yards on 22 plays in the first half against

West Virginia's No. 1 defense. The Tigers were just 3 of 14 on third down.

The winner of Thursday's game will receive the Black Diamond Trophy sponsored by Rish Equipment Company, headquartered in Bluefield, West Virginia. It was introduced in 1997 and was meant to symbolize the Appalachian region's rich coal heritage ("Black Diamond" is often used as a term for coal.)

Virginia Tech held the

trophy in six of the nine years in which it was contested, but West Virginia leads the all-time series 29-23-1. The last game was played on September 18, 2021, at Mountaineer Field in Morgantown. West Virginia won 27-21.

The teams met 53 times between 1912 and 2021, every year from 1973 to 2005, and as conference foes from 1991 to 2003 as members of the Big East Conference.

**HOKIES**

# HOKIE EFFECT

Virginia Tech vs. West Virginia  
 Thursday, Sept. 22 @ 7:30 p.m. ET  
 Lane Stadium

# Motor Mile Speedway hosts championship night

After a rainout the previous Saturday, Motor Mile Speedway hosted its Weekly Racing Series on Friday evening, September 16, as it was championship night for the Late Model Stock Cars, Mod-4's, U-Cars, and Pure 4's.

And because it was Friday night, Motor Mile had a few extra Late Model drivers on hand including two who are the finalists for NATIONAL champion in Late Model: Peyton Sellers and Layne Riggs.

Sellers came to "collect trophies" as he said after winning both 50-lap late model races. Riggs dropped back to eighth in the first race, so that he would start the second race in first place, following the inversion of the top 8 finishers in race 1.

Then in the second race, the car count dropped below the minimum for the winner to get bonus points, so Riggs just dropped out to save his car for Champi-

onship Night on Saturday at Dominion Speedway.

Sellers chose to stay out and win the second race. He had switched to his teammate's car, number 0, which seemed to be handling the track better. Sellers and Riggs would move on to the final race at Dominion Speedway on Saturday where Sellers won the first race.

The spotlight then changed to several local drivers competing to be track champion for Late Model, and Kyle Dudley prevailed.

Dudley and Mike Looney came into the night only 5 points apart. They battled in Race One, as they have all season, for many laps until Looney had a tire go down on him resulting in body damage to the car. He did not run the second race, going out after the first few laps.

Kyle Dudley celebrated with a couple of donuts in turn 1 concluding the

season for Late Model that saw Dudley and Looney dominating the season in Victory Lane.

Kevin Canter was crowned champion after winning both Mod-4 races. Jamie Lafon is the champ for U-Cars in spite of Kirby Shipman's winning both races, and William Hale won the championship for the Pure 4 division.

While their championship night is still to come, the Sportsman and Super Streets both had a single race on Friday. South Boston Speedway Limited Sportsman champion Kyle Barnes returned to Motor Mile and was the winner in Sportsman, and Brent Bell held off a hard charge from Hank Turman to win for Super Streets.

On Oct. 1, Motor Mile will welcome the Smart Modified Tour for "Smartoberfest Champi-

onship Night."

The fastest cars that have ever run at Motor Mile, the Smart Mod-

ified Tour, will have a 99-lap race, plus twin 30 lap races for Sportsman, and twin 25 lap features for

Super Streets.

Both local divisions will find out who their track champion is that night.



Peyton Sellers took both Late Model races Friday night at Motor Mile Speedway.



Brent Bell won the super street race Friday at Motor Mile.


PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOTOR MILE SPEEDWAY



Kevin Canter was crowned Motor Mile track champion after winning both Mod-4 races this past weekend.

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Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech and her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Mountain State University.


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## 11th-ranked Lady Hokies' schedule boasts 18 ACC games, ACC-B1G Challenge, and trip to Nassau

Virginia Tech women's basketball head coach Kenny Brooks announced the Hokies' 2022-23 non-conference schedule Wednesday morning, concurrently with the ACC office's release of the conference slate.

The Hokies will start the campaign at home with three consecutive games on Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum beginning Monday, Nov. 7, vs. Mount St. Mary's, then playing host to Bucknell on November 11 and USC Upstate on November 14.

Tech will then participate in the Pink Flamingo Championship in Nassau, Bahamas, where it will take on a pair of SEC opponents: Kentucky (November 21) and Missouri (November 23).

The following week, VT welcomes Longwood to Cassell on Nov. 27, followed by Nebraska as part of the ACC-B1G Challenge on Thursday, Dec. 1. That weekend, the Hokies will travel to Knoxville to take on the Lady Vols in the Jimmy V Women's Classic on ESPN2 on Dec. 4.

On Dec. 7, the Hokies will travel to Boston College in their first ACC matchup of the season. Later that week, on Dec. 11, UNC Asheville will tip at Cassell Coliseum at 2 p.m.

Following finals, Tech will welcome Notre Dame to Blacksburg for the first ACC home game of the slate.

Tech's final non-conference game will come on Dec. 21 at High Point.

On the Hokies' ACC 18-game schedule is a home-and-home with pod members Virginia, North Carolina, NC State, and Duke. Additionally, VT will play host to the Fighting Irish, Louisville, Wake Forest, Syracuse, and Florida State. Tech's road trips will take them to Clemson, Miami, Pitt, and Georgia Tech, in addition to Boston College.

The Hokies enter the season ranked 11th in ESPN's Way-Too-Early Top 25 following a historic season that saw several program records fall. For the first time, a Hokie was named ACC Player of the Year, an honor that center Elizabeth Kitley collected, in addition to being named Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Third Team All-America. Tech also won a program-best 13 ACC games, beat five ranked opponents and swept rivals Virginia and Duke.

Tech's lineup will feature eight returning student-athletes, and the squad has been bolstered with the addition of All-American Ashley Owusu from Maryland, All-ACC talent Taylor Soule, and former Boston College teammate Clara Ford, in addition to a talented freshman class.

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