

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

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Blacksburg UMC to hold children's consignment sale Oct. 22

Blacksburg United Methodist Church to hold its semi-annual consignment sale

Blacksburg United Methodist Church (BUMC) will hold its semi-annual consignment sale of children's items at the Whisner Building of the main church campus, 111 Church St. in Blacksburg, on Saturday, October

22, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Families will be able to get great deals on gently used kids' clothes and shoes, toys, books, games, movies, baby gear and accessories, sports equipment, and maternity clothing. Many

items will be like-new (some even brand-new). Some items will be half-price between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. but shoppers will want to arrive early for the best selection. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

Active duty Coast Guard visits Claytor Lake



Chief Campbell and Lt. Bannon debrief the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The job of keeping the boating public safe, both on the high seas and on the inland waterways, falls to the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. So the active duty Coast Guard came this way last month to support the mission. Their itinerary was quite varied from meeting with Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program students at Virginia Tech, to training the Auxiliary, to actively being supported by the Auxiliary while they conducted law enforcement missions on the lake.

Their purpose for being at Claytor Lake extended

even further when they met and conferred with a collaboration of: Pulaski Emergency Management and Pulaski Special Operations, all hosted by Flotilla 83 at their headquarters at the Search and Rescue Detachment on Claytor Lake. Flotilla 83 is actively working to encourage increased interagency cooperation for life-saving operations and environmental protection on and around the lake. At their headquarters on the far side of the lake, they have very sophisticated telecommunications and tracking systems to support these missions.

Virginia Tech earns 2022 Virginia Values Veterans award

Virginia Tech earned the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Impact Award at the recent 2022 Virginia Veterans and Military Affairs Conference. This is the second year in a row Virginia Tech has been recognized with one of V3's annual awards.

As a large-sized employer in the commonwealth, Virginia Tech received the Impact Award for demonstrating innovative support for Virginia veterans and promoting veteran employment.

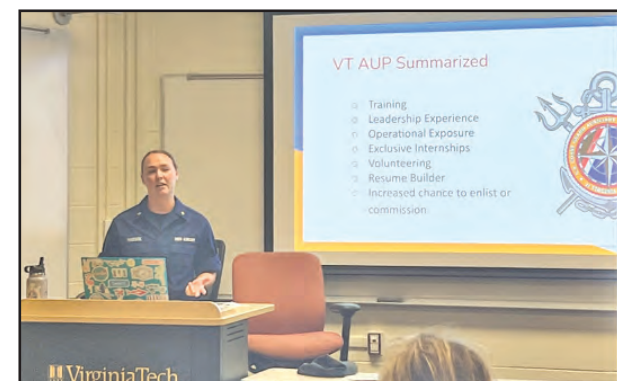
Virginia Tech's Talent Acquisition team dedicates resources and outreach efforts to V3 and other veteran organizations with the goal of attracting, hiring, and retaining more active and former servicemen and women to the university. In the past year, Virginia Tech has



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA VALUES VETERANS

(From left) Event emcee Greg McQuade of WTVR 6 Richmond, Virginia Tech Talent Acquisition Manager Jeff Cumberland, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Jason Pak, Virginia Tech Recruiter Enrique Noyola, and Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw.

See **Veterans Award**, page 2



Payten Hancock talks to Vt students about the Auxiliary.

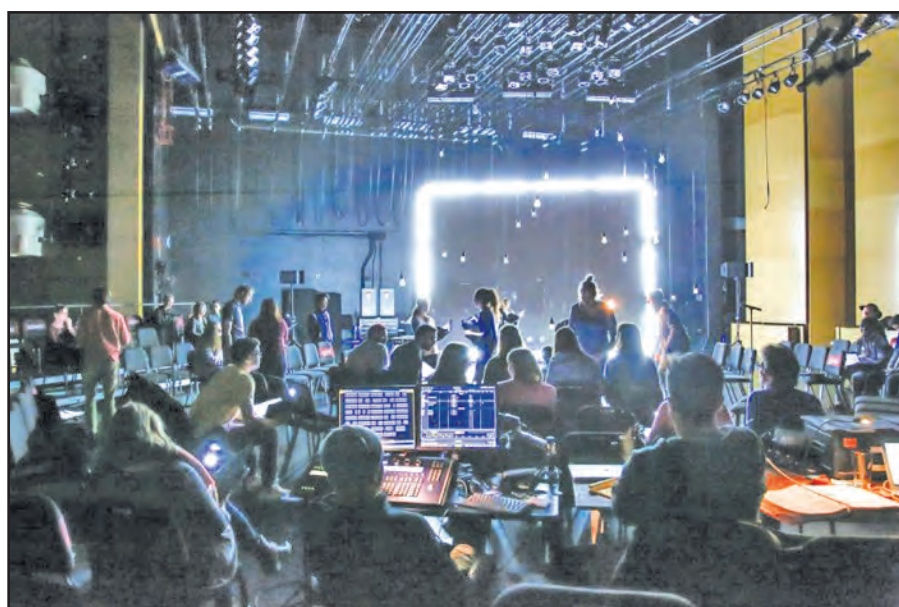


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHRD MALLORY ALLNUTT.

Student engagement is a priority for the Moss Arts Center, which has a rich record of outreach work both on campus and beyond.

Moss Arts Center becomes the newest member of Major University Presenters

As the newest member of Major University Presenters, the Moss Arts Center is now one of only 21 institutions in the country on a roster of leading university arts presenters that includes the University of Illinois (Krannert Center for the Performing Arts), Penn State (Center for the Performing Arts), and Stanford University (StanfordLive! Program and Bing Concert Hall).

"Major University Presenters are benchmark institutions for us, the models that I looked to in the earliest days

of developing the Moss Arts Center's mission, vision, and programs," said Ruth Waalkes, executive director of the Moss Arts Center and associate provost for the arts at Virginia Tech. "Commitment to students, learning, research, and community are hallmarks of MUP members' programs, just as they are at the Moss.

"Collective efforts of the consortium have had a tremendous impact on the professional performing arts field in general and have redefined the role of arts centers

on university campuses. I look forward to representing Virginia Tech and deepening the Moss Arts Center's national impact," said Waalkes.

For more than 20 years, Major University Presenters has facilitated opportunities for its member organizations to share information for benchmarking and improving programs, participate in high-value collaborative opportunities, increase program recognition at local and national levels, engage in

See **Moss Arts**, page 2

'Andares' explores the realities Indigenous people face at the crossroads of modern life and tradition



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCAS KANE

Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral's "Andares" comes to life onstage.

Woven from ancestral myths and traditional music, Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral's "Andares" reveals the extraordinary spirit of Mexico's remote corners and its humblest of inhabitants. With a live musician and inspired actors, the play shines a light on a range of realities — land usurpation, widespread violence, community resistance — that Indigenous people face at the crossroads of modern life and tradition.

In conjunction with Indigenous Peoples Day, the Moss Arts Center presents two performances of "Andares" on Wednesday, Oct. 12, and Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by El Centro-Hispanic and Latinx Cultural Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the performances will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Perform-

mance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

The work is performed in Spanish and Indigenous languages with English subtitles, and audiences will be seated on stage.

Three characters detail stories of Indigenous youth growing up in rural Mexico. At times hopeful, other times heartbreaking, they navigate cultural changes and its effects on their families. One character, Maychi, reminisces about tending to the crops with his father, admitting that he never felt a connection to the land like his father and brothers did.

"Even so ... I don't know why, but in my dreams I sometimes see myself returning to my village — once I'm old with a house next to the fields, rocking myself in my hammock, watching how the growing

See **Andares**, page 6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday, Oct. 10:

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., at 7 p.m. The agenda can be found at www.radfordva.gov.

Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and are allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channel 190 daily.

RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting

A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

STEM club

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. Join this home-school STEM club to explore science, technology, engineering, or math. Ages 8 and up.

Healthy eating and cooking for your family using an instant pot

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come learn how to make affordable, healthy snacks and meals using an instant pot for the family. Receive free cooking utensils at each class and register for an instant pot and cookbook on completion of the 4-week series. Activities will be provided for children 3 and older. Registration is required as space is limited. This program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

Tuesday, Oct. 11:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 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.

School board meeting
The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the RCPS Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda can be found at www.rcps.org.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The Blacksburg Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Christiansburg Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street).

Spooky movie trivia for teens

At the Radford Public Library 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A friendly Halloween-themed trivia competition for teens. Each correct answer will earn a piece of candy.

Women's Club of Radford meeting.

The Woman's Club of Radford will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Public Library.

Thursday, Oct. 13:

Ice cream social, wealth gap discussion

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1845 Cambria St., Christiansburg, will host an ice cream social and discussion of the wealth gap in the United States from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. Following refreshments, the church will use a Bread for the World's Racial Wealth Gap exercise to guide the conversation. This event

is sponsored by the church and LT2 ("Learning to Live Together").

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. This guild is for those willing to share their knowledge and learn from others. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Saturday, Oct. 15:

National Paint Your Own Pottery Day celebrated at local studio

Paint Your Own Pottery (PYOP) stores around the country will offer special classes and events to celebrate National PYOP Day. Paint 'n Fun Ceramics in Christiansburg will be participating with activities for everyone in the family.

Radford Reads

Mystery author Katharine Schellman will talk about two of her new books, "Death at the Manor" (Lily Adler series, Book 3), and "Last Call at the Nightingale" at the Radford Public Library at 3 p.m. Blacksburg Books will be present to sell copies of Katharine's books. This event was made possible by the Lamplighters.

Sunday, Oct. 16:

Author Talk with Jane Goette

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Jane Goette will talk about her book, "A River Road Memoir," a journey through a young girl's idyllic childhood in the rural South to her restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle becomes urgent and personal to her family. The unfolding story is told through the second daughter's eyes. This author event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Linda Spivey at 540-382-6969, ext. 221.

Thursday, Oct. 20:

Radford Photo Club meeting

The Radford Photo Club will meet at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Sharon Gilbert of Radford will talk about the different formats she uses to print her photos,

such as ceramic tile, wood, slate, and metal. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for October is pets. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Come to the Radford Public Library at 5 p.m. for a performance of the classic Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Bright Star Theatre. Follow Ichabod Crane as he becomes the schoolmaster in Sleepy Hollow and the spooky events no one will ever forget! Appropriate for ages 4+. Sponsored by the Lamplighters.

Saturday, Oct. 22:

Blacksburg UMC children's consignment sale

The Blacksburg United Methodist Church will hold its semi-annual children's consignment sale at the Whisner Building on the main church campus, 111 Church St., from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Blacksburg leaf compost pick up

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive, for composting and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup.

Register at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10139/304?backlist=%2fhome%2f-siteid-1#!>.

Sons of Norway meeting

For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), interesting programs, and activities on heritage and culture. The local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization meets on the fourth Saturday of each month (except for special events), from 1 to 3 p.m., at College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Ave., Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

Ongoing:

Stormwater utility credits available

Residents of the Town of Blacksburg who have a stormwater facility on their site, may qualify for a credit on their monthly stormwater utility fees. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to see if you qualify. The deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 2023. For questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Halloween costume drive

Now through Oct. 15 at the Meadowbrook Public Library. The library is collecting new and like-new Halloween costumes in all sizes. Drop off a costume at the circulation desk during library hours. Costumes are for a free program on Monday, Oct. 17, at the Meadowbrook Library from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. First come first served while costumes last.

Coat Drive in memory of Cindy Collins

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

Applications underway for NRV Master Gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association is now accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to educational, caregiving or community-based organizations seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life through a gardening-related project. Open to counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) and the City of Radford. Grants have previously been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, educational groups, 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. Email is preferred, but applications may be mailed to Carol at the following address: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.



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Veterans Award from page 1

hired 75 new employees who identify as veterans. Virginia Tech's Hire Vets Now Skill-Bridge program helps transitioning veterans gain skills by working under a university department or at a satellite campus. The program, similar to an internship, helps veterans find a career after fully transitioning out of the military. In addition, Virginia Tech has a number of veteran outreach and affinity groups, including the Veterans Caucus, Veterans@VT student veteran association, and Military Connected Hokies. "We are proud that Virginia Tech has been honored for a second year in a row for its outstanding contributions in the hiring of Virginia veterans," said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. "Our servicemen and women are a great asset to our community, and we are

committed to helping make their transition to the civilian workforce easier." In 2015, Virginia Tech became the first public university in the commonwealth to be certified by V3 for its commitment to hire veterans. In 2021, Virginia Tech was awarded the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Award. At this year's ceremony, 13 other employers in the commonwealth were recognized for their exceptional commitments to the V3 program and their hiring of Virginia military veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses. Part of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, the V3 program helps employers develop and implement long-term strategies and nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans.

Moss Arts from page 1

national research activities, and make positive, long-term impacts on the performing arts presenting field. Opening in the fall of 2013, the Moss Arts Center launched Virginia Tech's first-ever professional presenting arts program. Over the past nine seasons, the center has presented a wide breadth of performances and ex-

hibitions across multiple genres with an emphasis on diverse cultures and voices, as well as provided opportunities for deeper arts experiences through residencies, commissions, and engagement opportunities. "MUPs works to convene the leading voices in the university presenting world, so inviting the Moss Arts Center into the

fold is natural," said Brian Jose, director of University of Florida Performing Arts. "Virginia Tech's presenting program is a vital part of both the academic life and community life of Blacksburg, and we want to have that important voice at the table. Together, we work to ensure a vibrant performance environment on all our member campuses."

Send community news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

PETS OF THE WEEK



Buddy is a sweet younger dog with a happy attitude. He enjoys delicious treats and playing with tennis balls. He can be a little shy in new surroundings but is friendly once comfortable. Meet Buddy at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.



Dipper is ready to find his people. This pawsome little guy doesn't mind being held by his favorite humans and occasionally lets out soft purrs like a cat, when he feels content. His adoption includes his full guinea pig cage setup.

NRV Women's Resource Center Coats for Kids drive underway

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley's Coats for Kids collection is underway through October 30.

Being collected are coats for new and/or used light jackets and winter coats for both children and adults.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Christiansburg are American National Bank & Trust, 2950 Market St NE –

Dawn Bryant – 540-391-4040; First Bank & Trust Co, 150 Peppers Ferry RD NE- Marie Rorrer – 540-260-9060; Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Dr – Front Desk – 540.382.6500; Paint-N-Fun, Uptown Christiansburg – Terri Welch – 540-381-1770; Tan N Tone, 1504 N Franklin St - Sherry Chandler - 540.381-3777; and Tuck

Franklin St. - Dr. Jessica Morris 540.382.3000.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Blacksburg are Blacksburg Ballet/ Dance Tech, 1101 N Main St – Paige Godwin 540-961-6666; Courtyard by Marriott, 105 Southpark Dr- Front Desk – 540-552-5222; Smith and Associates, Ameriprise, 1901 S Main St. - Christine Smith – 540-443-9143;

Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, 620 N Main St.- Dr. Jennifer Rathmann – 540.951.4357.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Radford are Farmers Insurance, 1055 E Main Street – Belinda Blodgett Agency – 540-838-2198; Lil' Bit Corny, 111 3rd Street, – Christine Eilert – 540-250-0236; Ridpath Insurance Agency, 6107 Fulk Dr, - Suzie Anderson –

540.731.8696.

Drop-off locations and contacts in Fairlawn are Curtis Crowder- 540-731-6000; Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, 6580 Valley Center Dr, – Shannon Ainsley - 540.674.1991; New River Radio Group, 7080 Lee Hwy; Tuck Chiropractic Clinic, 7350 Peppers Ferry Blvd. Suite B, - Dr DJ McAnich - 540.731.4357.

October schedule of events: Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

Saturday, Oct. 8

Grub club at 11 a.m.

This new cooking program for kids will teach important kitchen skills and show them how to make simple and fun recipes that do not require an oven. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Children under 10 need to be accompanied by an adult. Registration

is required. The program is not recommended for those with food allergies.

Adopt a shelter dog celebration at 1:30 p.m.

Adopt a shelter dog celebration is an adoption event in cooperation with the Floyd County Humane Society Stop by the library to meet some new furry friends that are looking for their fur-ever

home.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

At 3:00 p.m. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist meeting

A certified peer recovery specialist from the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting at Jessie Peterman Memo-

rial Library in Floyd every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to add connection and support into their lives is welcome to participate. Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are trained to offer support to individuals who are dealing with substance use disorder and/or mental health challenges. These meetings will provide a safe,

non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness. There is no need to sign up.

Curious craft club at 4:30 p.m.

The curious craft club will be making Halloween Pumpkin Lanterns at the library on Tuesday, October 11th at 4:30 pm. It's time to make perfectly spooky papier-mâché lanterns. Participants can

have lots of fun with a messy afternoon of ripping paper, water, and glue.

Thursday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m.

Talking about books

To be discussed is the book "Memphis" by Tara Stringfellow. New members are welcome.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU

Culpeper gardener Paul Jarosh's 103-pound butternut squash set a new world record at the recent State Fair of Virginia Giant Vegetable Competition.

Virginia-grown giant vegetables break world and State Fair records

DOSWELL—Culpeper gardener Paul Jarosh's 103-pound butternut squash smashed a world record at the recent State Fair of Virginia Giant Vegetable Competition.

The squash weighs almost 40 pounds more than the current entry in the Guinness Book of World Records, and 20 pounds more than the standing record with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth.

Jarosh was inspired to grow giant vegetables in his backyard garden after witnessing previous State Fair weigh-offs. He obtained seeds from another world record holder.

"As soon as I set the fruit, I knew there was something different about it; it grew so rapidly," he said. "There's so much attention to detail and consistency when growing giant vegetables."

He conducted soil sampling and patch amendments for optimal growth.

"And I was clipping flowers off pumpkins every day to prevent the attraction of pests," Jarosh said.

He also took first place for his 174.5-pound bushel gourd and sixth place for a 230-pound pumpkin.

For now, Jarosh is reveling in the world butternut title.

"There's another gentleman in Michi-

gan who has a similar-sized fruit," he said. They met in an online giant vegetable growing community, comparing numbers, and estimating potential weights based on measurements.

"I'm waiting on him to weigh his fruit this weekend to see if he beats me," Jarosh said. "Either way, I broke the world record at the State Fair, and no one can take that away from me right now."

Setting a new State Fair record, Middlesex County gardener Luke Williams' Carolina X giant watermelon weighed in at 259.5 pounds, beating the previous 254-pound record from 2018. He also won the competition in 2021.

"I lost a bigger one than what I entered this year!" Williams lamented. "I pay attention to genetics, halfway-decent soil, nutrition and keeping it disease- and pest-free. But genetics is by far the most important."

Williams said he will save seeds to perpetuate the watermelon's strong genetics and try again next year.

"I want to grow one to 300 pounds," he said. "And I might quit after that."

Barry Shrum of Shenandoah County grew this year's winning pumpkin, which weighed 756 pounds. Southampton County's Ricky Atkins grew the runner-up, which weighed 642 pounds.

Virginia is for bug lovers with Virginia Tech's five bug-centric events across the state this fall

This fall, the College of Agriculture and Life Science's Department of Entomology and Virginia Cooperative Extension are hosting five bug-centric events in five Virginia locales: Montgomery County, Henrico County, Virginia Beach, Pulaski County, and Radford.

Virginia Tech bug festivals are free, community events that invite visitors and school children to learn about science through the fascinating and important world of entomology. Topics range from pollinators and urban pests to aquatic insects and forensic entomology. Each event features exhibits from Virginia Tech and around the region, hands-on activities, and, of course, lots of bugs.

University and community experts are on hand to answer questions and share their own excitement about bugs.

"Our goals are to inspire the next generation of scientists and showcase the importance of insects worldwide," said festival organizer and Department of Entomology faculty member Daniel Frank. "And what better vehicle to evoke curiosity than the vibrant, often alien-looking, extreme world of bugs."

Each Hokie bug festival has something special to offer, and with events



spanning the state, there's something for everyone.

Montgomery County

One of Virginia Tech's largest science outreach events of the year, Hokie BugFest 2022 returns for a 12th year on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Squires Student Center in Blacksburg. (A special pre-opening from 9 to 10 a.m. is reserved for people with mobility or other special needs.)

"We are thrilled to be back in person after two

years of online programming during the pandemic," said Frank.

This year's event boasts over 30 exhibitors including Virginia Tech labs, area museums, community groups, and industry experts. Visitors will enjoy hands-on activities, working bee hives, a bug library, 3D insects, and plenty of live arthropods including scorpions, blue death feigning beetles, tarantulas, millipedes, hissing cockroaches, and more.

OPINION

Governor declares state of emergency in advance of Hurricane Ian

Due to the pending weather forecasts, Governor Glenn Youngkin Thursday declared a State of Emergency in advance of Hurricane Ian, which is expected to impact portions of Virginia starting on Friday, September 30, 2022.

This State of Emergency allows the commonwealth to mobilize resources and equipment needed for response and recovery efforts. Virginians should be prepared for the potential of severe rainfall, flooding, wind damage, tornadoes, and other storm-related impacts.

Localities throughout the commonwealth may experience different impacts from Hurricane Ian. VHSL encourages its member schools to follow local forecasts and the governor's directives when deciding whether to postpone or play scheduled athletic events on Friday and Saturday. Each school is responsible for making these decisions.

VHSL also reminds all its members to take all necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of athletes, coaches, officials, spirit groups, bands, and spectators.

The full text of the governor's declaration reads as follows:

NUMBER TWENTY-TWO (2022)
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO HURRICANE IAN
Importance of the Issue

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center has been monitoring Hurricane Ian that, as of 0500 this morning, was located 75 miles WSW of Naples, Fla., moving at 10 mph. Ian is expected to make landfall in Florida this afternoon as a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane.

Although the forecasted tracks will become more certain in the coming days, Virginia is leaning forward given the likelihood of severe rainfall, flooding, wind damage, tornadoes, and other storm-related impacts as Ian moves north into the commonwealth and neighboring jurisdictions.

The effects of this weather system are also likely to cause significant impacts to infrastructure, roadways, and utilities. Pre-positioning supplies will be necessary to assist our local partners, and the Virginia Emergency Support Team will continue to support this incident.

The anticipated effects of this situation constitute a disaster as

described in § 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia (Code). Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article V,

Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, by §§ 44-146.17 and 44-75.1 of the Code, as Governor and Director of Emergency Management and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth's

armed forces, Virginia National Guard, I proclaim a state of emergency.

Accordingly, I direct state and local governments to render appropriate assistance to prepare for this event, to alleviate any conditions resulting from the situation, and to implement recovery and mitigation operations and activities so as to return impacted areas to pre-event conditions as much as possible.

Emergency services shall be conducted in accordance with § 44-146.13 et seq. of the Code.

2 Directive
In order to marshal all public resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures, I order the following actions:

1. Implementation by state

agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, as amended, along with other appropriate state plans.

2. Activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Emergency Support Team, as directed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, to coordinate the provision of assistance to state, local, and tribal governments and to facilitate emergency services assignments to other agencies.

3. Authorization for the heads of executive branch agencies, on behalf of their regulatory boards as appropriate, and with the concurrence of their cabinet secretary, to waive any state requirement or regulation, and enter into contracts without regard to normal procedures or formalities, and without regard to application or permit fees or royalties.

All waivers issued by agencies shall be posted on their websites.

4. Activation of § 59.1-525 et seq. of the Code related to price gouging.

5. Authorization of a maximum of \$2,750,000 in state sufficient funds for state and lo-

cal government mission assignments and state response and recovery operations authorized and coordinated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management allowable by The Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq. Included in this authorization is \$750,000.00 for the Department of Military Affairs.

6. Activation of the Virginia National Guard to State Active Duty.

Effective Date of this Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective September 28, 2022, and shall remain in full force and in effect until October 27, 2022, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order. Termination of this executive order is not intended to terminate any federal type benefits granted or to be granted due to injury or death as a result of service under this executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 28th day of September 2022.

Glenn Youngkin, Governor

Attested to by Kay Coles James, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Virginia gas prices fall another 3.3 cents per gallon

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 3.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.30/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 26.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 25.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.86

per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.81/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.48/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.81/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.48/g. The national average price of

gasoline has risen 11.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.78/g today. The national average is up 0.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 59.8 cents per gallon higher than 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.

Financial Focus: Should you stick with index-based investments?

You may have heard that you can simplify your investment strategy just by owning index-based or passive investments. But is this a good idea? You'll want to consider the different aspects of this type of investment style.

To begin with, an index-based investment is a vehicle such as a mutual fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that mimics the performance of a market benchmark, or index — the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500, and so on. (An ETF is similar to a mutual fund in that it holds a variety of invest-

ments but differs in that it is traded like a common stock.) You can also invest in index funds that track the bond market.

Index investing does offer some benefits. Most notably, it's a buy-and-hold strategy, which is typically more effective than a market-timing approach in which individuals try to buy investments when their prices are down and sell them when the prices rise. Attempts to time the market this way are usually futile because nobody can really predict when high and low points will be reached. Plus, the very act of constantly buying and selling investments can generate commissions and fees, which can lower your overall rate of return. Thus, index investing generally involves lower fees and is considered more tax efficient than a more active investing style.

Also, when the financial markets are soaring, which happened for several years until this year's downturn, index-based investments

can certainly look pretty good. After all, when the major indices go up, index funds will do the same.

Conversely, during a correction, when the market drops at least 10% from recent highs, or during a bear market, when prices fall 20% or more, index-based investments will likely follow the same downward path.

And there are also other issues to consider with index-based investments. For one thing, if you're investing with the objective of matching an index, you may be overlooking the key factors that should be driving your investment decisions — your goals and your risk tolerance. An index is a completely impersonal benchmark measuring the performance of a specific set of investments, but it can't be a measuring stick of your own progress.

Furthermore, a single index, by definition, can't be as diversified as the type of portfolio you might need to achieve your objectives. For example, the

S&P 500 may track a lot of companies, but they're predominantly large ones. And to achieve your objectives, you may need a portfolio consisting of large- and small-company stocks, bonds, government securities and other investments. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can give you more opportunities for success and can reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, it can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

Ultimately, diversifying across different types of investments that align with your risk tolerance and goals — regardless of whether they track an index — is the most important consideration for your investment portfolio. Use this idea as your guiding principle as you journey through the investment world.

Submitted by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczumski (540) 552-1421.

WalletHub: Virginia in middle of pack among safest states during COVID

With around 68% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and new cases down a lot since the start of the year, the personal finance website WalletHub has released updated rankings for the Safest States During COVID-19.

Some states are safer than others based on how well they have kept the pandemic under control and how much they are vaccinating. In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. The company's data set includes the level of COVID-19 community transmission, the rates of

positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

Virginia came in at No. 30 in the rankings, well within the middle of the pack.

The ten safest places, according to WalletHub's survey are 1. Vermont 2. North Carolina 3. Hawaii 4. District of Columbia 5. Utah 6. Colorado 7. Maine 8. Alaska 9. Florida 10. New Jersey.

On the other hand, the ten least safe states, according to WalletHub, are 42. Missouri 43. Indiana 44. Ohio 45. Georgia 46. Kentucky 47. Michigan 48. Tennessee 49. Iowa 50. Arkansas. 51. West Virginia.

News Messenger

Established 1869

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Leg shank
 - A way to recognize
 - "VeggieTales" character
 - Getting out of by cunning
 - Mythological mountain
 - Atomic #18
 - Viscous liquid
 - 2010 Denzel film
 - 12th star in a constellation
 - Made better
 - Pouches
 - Nervous twitch
 - This (Spanish)
 - Tennis legend Bjorn
 - Hand (Spanish)
 - Afrikaans
 - Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.)
 - Treated with kid gloves
 - Leaseholder
 - Frogs, toads, tree toads
 - Popular dance
 - Sailing maneuver: tack & _
 - Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)
 - Mark
 - Health insurance
 - Custom clothing brand
 - One who makes suits
 - Execute or perform
 - Degree of pleasantness when tasting
 - Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels
 - Blood group
 - Imaginary line
 - Hopeless
 - Darken
 - Spoke
 - Work units
 - CLUES DOWN
 - A way to fit out
 - Football carries
 - Force out
 - Maintaining equilibrium
 - Sealed with a kiss
 - Type of container
 - Hollywood
 - We
 - Small freshwater ducks
 - Norse personification of old age
 - Says who you are
 - Candidate
 - Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits
 - Defunct language (abbr.)
 - Take too much
 - Iranian province
 - Records electric currents
 - __ and feathers
 - Beloved Mr. T character
 - Moved (Spanish)
 - Beverage
 - Promotional material
 - Green vegetable
 - National capital
 - To any further extent
 - Swollen, inflamed lymph node
 - Anger
 - Pound
 - Popular Yugo
 - Salt of acetic acid
 - Millihenny
 - Israeli city __ Aviv
 - Make wider
 - Drink containing medicine
 - Acknowledging
 - Private, romantic rendezvous
 - Calvary sword
 - Disease of the lungs
 - 2001 Spielberg film
 - Fleshy, watery fruit
 - In one's chambers
 - Set of information (abbr.)
 - Dorm employee
 - Indicates position

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Carey, Patricia Catherine Long

Patricia Catherine Long Carey, 86, of Christiansburg, died Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at 10:20 p.m. Her husband, Nelson George Carey, her daughter, Cheryl Nannette Carey, and her grandson, Carl Ryan Linkous were at her bedside at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in Salem.

She was born on Long Island, N.Y. on Aug. 27, 1936, to the late John Walter and Barbara Franklin Long. She was preceded in death by her brother, John Walter Long Jr.

She is survived by her husband, Nelson George Carey; her children, Glenn Christopher Carey of Green Acres, Fla. (wife Tammy Pannell) and Cheryl Nannette Carey of Christiansburg; grandsons Brian Carey of Florida and Carl Ryan Linkous of Christiansburg; nieces Sarah King and Allie Long of Long Island.; great-nieces, Lucy May and Harlee Grace; and nephew, Justin Long of Long Island.

Patricia was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was very active in her church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Blacksburg. She was a member of St. Mary's Rosary Makers where she made more than 1,000 rosaries that were shipped around the world.



She was a money counter, heading up a group that cleaned the worship area of the church every Monday, a baker for funeral receptions, and a caller to alert the bakers. She crocheted small gift blankets for the newly baptized and shawls for the sick. She organized a court of Catholic Daughters of the Americas and served as the Charter Regent.

Among the Leggett employees and the Knights of Columbus, Patricia and Nelson became known as the Arthur Murray couple. The highlight of their dance career was a Knights of Columbus Convention, where they went on a midnight cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk and danced the night away on the upper and lower deck.

Graveside services will be conducted today, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Westview Cemetery, with the Father John Asare officiating. The family received friends on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, with a rosary service at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, Va. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Toys from the Heart, 905 Collins St., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Sira, Raymond

Raymond Sira, 60, of Shawsville, died as a result of a sudden accident at his home on Sept. 25, 2022. Ray was born on Nov. 28, 1961, in Raritan, N.J.

Ray graduated from Bridgewater-Raritan High School West and Somerset County Vocational School in Bridgewater, N.J. In addition to his studies in electronics, he was a tenor in the choir, the advanced choir, and the Cavaliers. Ray's sense of adventure started very young with his crawling through the storm sewers in front of his childhood home, then later going on trips with his dad to real caves. He fell in love with caves and the caving community, leading to a lifelong dedication and passion that shaped the rest of his life.

Ray's adventures continued with his love of motorcycles. A highlight was riding his bike cross-country to a National Speleological Society (NSS) Convention. During his younger years, Ray was an active member of the Northern New Jersey Grotto (NNJG), a local caving club, where he held positions as treasurer, vice chairman, chairman, and editor of the NNJG's newsletter Speleothes.

Ray left New Jersey and moved to the New River Valley area of Virginia in 1993 to be near the caves and cavers he grew to love. He soon took a job at Virginia Tech. Although he was a seasoned caver, he decided to attend the VPI grotto's training program and officially joined the VPI Cave Club as member 356 in October 1995. He became a life member of the grotto in spring 2011. Ray gladly helped take new students caving, graciously passing on his knowledge of caving skills and practices. He participated



in practice rescues, assisted in several cave search and rescue incidents, and often helped with cave and road cleanups.

Ray is in the yellow suit on the cover of the NSS' Caving Basics book. He was a lifelong NSS member where he was both secretary and treasurer of the NSS Vertical Section for many years. He also ran the Vertical Section climbing contest at NSS Conventions.

Ray was also the Giles County coordinator for the Virginia Speleological Survey for several years. As an accomplished caver, many stories of harrowing adventure involve him, a cave, and some combination of misfortune and excitement followed by a little luck, skill, and good company.

Ray was the son of Geraldine A. "Jerry" Sira (deceased) and Adrian "Ed" Sira, and the middle brother of Adrienne Ferenczy, Richard Sira, and the late Russell Sira.

He is survived by a brother-in-law Jeffrey Ferenczy; beloved nieces and nephews Kevin Sira, David Ferenczy, Nathan Ferenczy, Joshua Ferenczy, Olivia Ferenczy, and Hannah Ferenczy; and also beloved great-nephews Nicholas Sira, Nathaniel Sira, Victor Ferenczy, and Jeremiah Ferenczy.

Services were held, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Drive S.W. Blacksburg with a visitation before the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the VPI Cave Club scholarship fund in Ray's name. These funds will be used to sponsor young cavers who wish to attend the annual NSS Convention (VPI Cave Club, P.O. Box 558, Blacksburg, VA, 24063).

Smith, Connie S.

Connie S. Smith, 72, of Kewaskum, Wis., journeyed to heaven, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

She was born in Montgomery County on Oct. 31, 1949, to the late Isaac Webb Saul and Georgia Etta Ross Saul. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Smith, Sr.; her son, Robert Lee Smith, Jr.; her sister, Bobbie Saul Ross; and two brothers, Billy Ray Saul and Tommy Saul.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Wendell and Amy Smith; a daughter-in-law, Starlet Angel Smith; grandchildren Zachary and Hope Smith; adopted daughter Donna Christian and



her husband, Zane; adopted grandchildren Bandon and Ryan Cox; a brother, Isaac Webb Saul, Jr.; a sister, Sue Thorton; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends everywhere.

Connie worked for English Meadows and Wheatland nursing homes as a CNA Med Tech. To finish her career, she worked at Radford Hospital and retired in 2015.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Frankie Graham, Pastor Steve, and Lou Akers officiating. Burial followed in the Appalachian Conference Cemetery, Dublin.

Wright, Jaunita

Jaunita Wright, 91 originally of Ma-toaka, W.Va., passed away on Sept. 29, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wesley Wright; her parents, William and Fannie Baumgardner; brothers Clifton M. Baumgardner and Dewey E. Baumgardner; and sons Roger Calfee and Rondal Calfee.

Jaunita was survived by her children, Robert Wesley Wright II (Melissa), Rich-

ard Calfee, Robert Calfee, and Debra Calfee; 18 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Charles Baumgardner; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Radford Health & Rehab and the staff of Warm Hearth Village for their care of Jaunita.

Services will be private. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home & Crematory.

Price, Pearl Agee

Pearl Agee Price, 86, of Blacksburg, gained her angel wings Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022. She was born on June 29, 1936, to the late Frank and Flossie Agee. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Avenor Price; a sister, Belle Underwood; and a brother, Charles Agee.

She is survived by her daughters and son-in-law, Anita and Marvin Howard, and Sherry Price Rakes; son, Roger Price; grandchildren, Uriah Seth Miller (Lindsey), Paige Johnston, Nancy Bow-



yer; great-grandchildren, Axton and Jadon Miller, Kylo Cook; sisters, Ruth Aills and Jane Duncan; brother, Roy Agee; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be conducted Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Neal Tuner officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. Friday at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, Virginia.

Shultz, Kristy Dawn

Kristy Dawn Shultz, 42, passed away Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, at her home in Pulaski.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Anna Louise McPherson.

Survivors include her father, Robert Edward McPherson; her children, Harley Huffman



and Paul Huffman; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Todd Belcher; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private. The McPherson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Richardson, Samuel David

Samuel David Richardson passed away on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, at the age of 80, in Colorado.

He is survived by his daughter, Laura, and son-in-law Samir; nephew Bill Wright and his wife, Becky, of Powhatan, Va.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Otha A. Richardson and Josephine (Duncan) Richardson; and two sisters, Emma Lee (Richardson) Wright and Mary Josephine



"Billie" (Richardson) Houghton. He was born and raised in Christiansburg. He loved the mountains and enjoyed them his last eight years in Denver. He loved going to Aspen, Vail, and Breckenridge with Laura and Samir.

He served in the U.S. Navy as a submariner, then went on to earn a civil engineering degree at Virginia Tech. He was proud to be a Professional Civil Engineer and worked hard his entire life.

Wilson, Donna Simpkins

Donna Simpkins Wilson, 89, of Radford, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Voyce James Wilson; parents Jake Anderson and Vera Meredith Simpkins; sisters Ruth Terry and Hazel Wade; and brothers Seibert Simpkins, Ellis Simpkins, Gene Simpkins, Orville Simpkins, Ernest Simpkins, Curtis Simpkins, and Erby Simpkins.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Katrina Wilson; grandsons Cole and Zeke Wilson; a sister-in-law, Juanita Simpkins; a special niece, JoAnn Little; and many other relatives and friends.



The family received friends on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services followed with Pastor Neil Wood officiating. Burial followed in Wilson Grove Cemetery in Snowville.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Snowville Volunteer Fire Department, 4551 Lead Mine Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347, the Snowville Ruritan Club, 4867 Lead Mine Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347, or the Wilson Grove Cemetery Fund, 7820 Wilson Grove Rd, Hiwassee, VA 24347.

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

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Wednesday October 19th @ 4 PM

100 Wooded Acres for Sale

TBD Parkway Ln S., Floyd, VA 24091

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



100 +/- acres of land which showcases nice mature timber. This would be a great purchase to clear off for income. It would also make an excellent recreational property for hunting, ATV riding, hiking, camping and more! The property has 3500' of Dodd's Creek frontage as well. Only 1 mile South of town of Floyd and 3 miles from Blue Ridge Parkway at Tuggles Gap. The deed description from an old unrecorded survey indicates 100 acres. Access is a 50' easement over an existing driveway extending from VA Route 8 and across Dodd's Creek to the subject property. It is all wooded with mostly mature white pine and some mixed hardwood. The terrain ranges from level to heavy slope and has several cabin or permanent home sites. The southern boundary has long range views.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at
540-239-2585 or gallimore.matt@gmail.com;
or Mauyer Gallimore at 540-250-5051

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VaAuctionPro.com
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Blue Ridge Land
& Auction Co., Inc

Schedule annual chimney sweep and inspection ahead of heating season

RICHMOND – Annual chimney inspections can help homeowners secure peace of mind.

As fall sets in and temperatures begin to drop, now is the time to assess the safety of chimneys, fireplaces and heating units.

“Your chimney should be cleaned and inspected by a licensed, reputable service each year, which can help prevent fires,” said Dana Fisher, chairman of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Safety Advisory Committee. “Cleaning should include removal of accumulated soot, debris or animal nests.”

The Chimney Safety Institute of America asserts that even rarely used chimneys should be inspected annually. Besides the buildup of combustible soot or animal nests, other types of

structural deterioration can make a chimney unsafe to use.

The association noted that having a professional examine a chimney will help a homeowner be aware of any problems that can be addressed before lighting a fire.

“A thorough inspection of the chimney can locate cracks, which can cause fire to spread from the chimney to your home,” Fisher said.

The CSIA reminds homeowners that although gas is generally a clean-burning fuel, those using gas logs in a fireplace still need to take precautions. A chimney can still become non-functional when the flue is blocked, forcing carbon monoxide, fumes and soot into living spaces.

Regular maintenance on heating units also can save

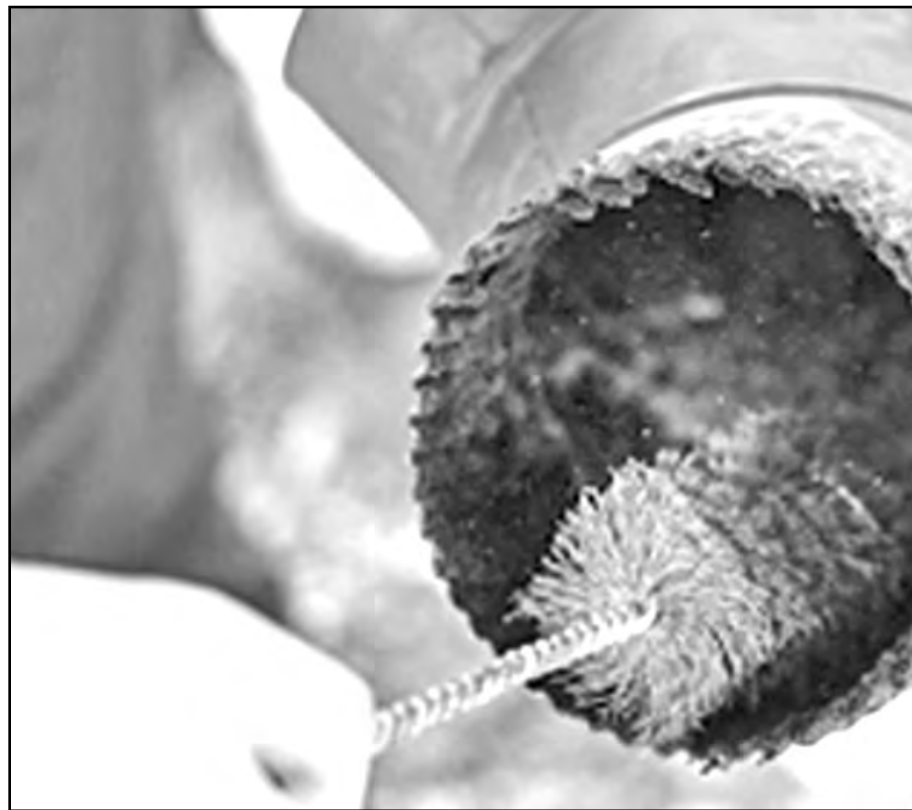
money on energy bills.

While a licensed chimney sweep can address clogs, buildup and structural problems, homeowners are encouraged to take extra precautions during the heating season.

Keep fireplace hearths free of debris, decorations and flammable materials. Remove any branches or leaves from the roof or anywhere that could block the chimney. Burn only seasoned, dry wood in fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, and always keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

Additionally, check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning. Replace the batteries once a year, and test each detector monthly.

To locate your nearest CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep, visit csia.org/search.



VDOT 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. 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.

LANE CLOSURES: Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

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

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS
Montgomery County: Right lane closures in

place for paving of I-81 southbound between mile marker 130 to 128.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) will undergo 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 the end of 2022.

ROUTE 11/460 MAINTENANCE WORK – Beginning on October 11, the right lane will be closed on Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road) towards Christiansburg Mountain from Route 641 (Den Hill) to just east of Route 639 (Mt. Pleasant) for

shoulder and ditching. This lane closure will be in place throughout the week and is scheduled to reopen on October 14, weather permitting.

ROUTE 622 BRIDGE WORK CLOSURE – Route 622 (Bradshaw Road) will be closed for a bridge maintenance project over Bradshaw Creek beginning on October 17. The location of the bridge is 0.10 mile from the Roanoke County line and 2.0 miles from Route 623. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes and residents on the road will have access to their homes during the closure. The road is expected to be open on October 20.

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

See VDOT, page 10

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday October 20th @ 4 PM
Whitebarrel Winery for Sale
4025 Childress Rd & 3850 Poppy Ln,
Christiansburg VA 24073

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase a great property near Christiansburg VA. There are 2 offerings available. Offering 1 features a 1.5 story retail building, storage building and 9.514 acres. Offering 2 features .510 acres located on Poppy Lane. Offering 1 was intended and used as a winery but could be repurposed and used for other commercial uses or agricultural uses. There are grape vines on Offering 1 currently which were used by the winery operation. Offering 2 would be great for building a home and is in a great location.

Offering # 1 - This offering consists of a 1.5 story retail building, a storage building and 9.514 acres. Retail Building is 3,032 sq ft, built in 2011. Very good quality construction. Metal roof, insulated panel siding, and stacked stone fireplace chimney. Interior flooring is commercial grade carpet in second floor offices, stained and sealed concrete in tasting and retail area, kitchen, 2 restrooms and hallway. Sealed concrete in the storage and mechanical room. Interior walls and ceilings are painted drywall. 12' to 15' vaulted ceilings in retail and tasting areas, and 8' in remainder. Heat Pump and electric wall heaters in restrooms. Kitchen has a triple stainless-steel sink and wash sink. Two 200-amp distribution panels, fire and security alarm system, built in speakers and large black walnut tasting bar. Stone paver patio, porch and walk with 16' x 16' canopy over patio. The improvements for this property were intended to be used as a winery. Improvements could be repurposed for other commercial uses or possibly as a residence.

Offering # 2 - This offering consists of .510 acres of land located at 3850 Poppy Lane in Christiansburg VA. This building lot is mostly open and located across Poppy Lane from Offering 1. Property has been perked but perk has expired. Build your dream home on this lot. Great location near Christiansburg and Radford VA!

Preview Dates – Friday September 30th and October 7th at 4 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per tract required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack at VAuctionPro.com

CONTACT– Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091 (540) 745-2005 VaAuctionPro.com Lic# 2907004059



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

Andares

from page 1

bean plant embraces the corn, tracing drawings on the soil with my finger,” Maychi says. “And dying there, in my hammock, with the scent of the rain over the last embers of the burning field.”

Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral is a theater company dedicated to creating original works inspired by the narratives and theatricalities of Mexico's Indig-

enous people, touching themes of social, cultural, and human value. Héctor Flores Komatsu founded the company after a year-long theatrical search across Mexico's Indigenous communities as part of his work as an inaugural recipient of the Julie Taymor World Theater Fellowship.

Related events
Immediately after the performance of “Andares”

on Wednesday, Oct. 12, speak with Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral in a post-performance question-and-answer session moderated by Jacqueline E. Bixler, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

During their visit to Blacksburg, members of Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral will conduct workshops with high school students and a local nonprofit organization serving Hispanic and Latinx communities and will engage with Virginia Tech students through class visits in programs including Spanish, theater arts, women's and gender studies, and the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought.

Ticket information

Tickets for the performance are \$25 for general admission and \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Week 6 high school preview: Battle of Burgs, Radford QB Clark sets new school record

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Battle of the Burgs will take place this week when Christiansburg travels to Blacksburg. Typically, each team's record can be thrown out as the cross-county rivals have exchanged swing after swing for over 20 years.

The winner of this contest will receive the Huckleberry Coal Mining Helmet.

Meanwhile Radford will attempt to move to 7-0 on the season with a trip to Carroll County. Landon Clark broke a school record this past week previously owned by former Ole Miss QB Kenny Alderman. Clark now

has 1,526 yards passing with 24 touchdowns with no interceptions. In addition, Clark has added 66 runs for 210 yards with four more touchdowns.

Clark, who is only a junior, barring an injury should own every school record before his graduation.

Clark is this past week's play-

er of the week after leading the Bobcats over Alleghany.

The Virginia High School League is expected to release later this week its first point standings for this season. For now, Radford is second behind an unbeaten Graham while Christiansburg is tied with Abingdon, a team they beat earlier in the

year, for second behind Lord Botetourt.

This week's predictions: Christiansburg 39, Blacksburg 14; Radford 52, Carroll County 7; Grayson 40, Auburn 7; Eastern Montgomery 24, Craig 18.

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

Ashley's secret identity leads to RU Hall of Fame

The latest Radford University Sports Hall of Fame class includes someone close to me. Mike Ashley is a mentor and was a roommate and a groomsman in my wedding. He is most of all, a friend.

While we have lost touch over the past few years, we have stayed in contact with an occasional phone call or a meeting at a Salem coffee shop.

This past week, he was inducted into the Radford University Hall of Fame a list he helped to start. I scratch my head and wonder why it took so long. A lot has to do with Ashley's own humility. He never tooted his own horn.

So, I will do it for him.

Some of us got lucky and learned the real side of the new inductee. I started work in the sports information office as a student at Radford University, and Ashley was kind of scary when he told me to fold programs for an upcoming soccer game, mentioning I would have to attend the game to hand

them out.

After a while, I heard his loud laughter that made the job much easier. There were the typical jokes in and around the media courtside seats. I also learned about his desire to play college basketball.

The latter was something he gave up, finding a typical lunchtime game at the Dedmon Center more to his liking. I will give him this. The man had a jump shot outside the three-point line that former hotshot Doug Day envied.

I would learn more about that jump shot on a neighborhood court on weekends after I moved in with him in a quiet Radford neighborhood. That's where I found another secret identity of this man.

He loves everything Batman and his friendly cookouts after hours would have a Bat theme. He even dressed as Batman for Halloween and other events.

Then there was the night he said he wanted to be a comedian. Nothing out of the ordi-



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

nary for a guy who was full of jokes. But he invited friends to a Roanoke Comedy Club where he took to the stage. A local television station did a story on the new chapter in Mike's life. I described it in a local newspaper column as being "better than sliced bread."

He would tell the comedy club audience and the television crew that he was welcoming his dating service to the night for filming.

He also hosted many summer parties at his house where the slip and slide was brought out. I also remember trying to kick a field goal with a floor fan instead of a football. Failure.

Ashley would always keep us laughing.

He was and still is one of the biggest fans of Salem baseball. I don't think there is an opening day he has missed. I learned to follow the lead and sit with him and some friends behind the home-team dugout in the old Kiwanis Field.

Radford University wouldn't have had a baseball team without him. I remember a largest-steak-eating contest at a Texas steakhouse during a tournament trip by the Radford University women's basketball team.

In the announcement of his induction, the RU Hall of Fame committee described him as "the walking embodiment of Radford Highlanders knowledge and pride, Mike Ashley is a true connection between the past and present." This is true. He has always been and continues to this day to be a true supporter of the university.

Let's look at the serious side of the man who came to Radford University as a student in 1980 and immediately began writing for The Tartan (the

school's newspaper), eventually becoming its sports editor.

A column he wrote launched the first RU baseball club in 1982, for which he served as the initial president. Two years later, the club became a varsity team.

Ashley graduated in 1983 and returned to his alma mater as a Sports Information Director across multiple stints that spanned more than a decade. He was a member of the staff that ushered the Highlanders into the Division I era. He mounted a national campaign that helped the women's basketball program earn a spot in the 1989 Women's NIT, and he was a founding member of the Radford University Sports Hall of Fame Committee in 1995.

Ashley just remember: You're better than "sliced bread," and I still don't know if you're really not Batman since I never saw the two of you in the same room at the same time.

Congrats, Mike. Thanks for everything. A well-deserved honor.

Patrick Henry defeats Blacksburg 42-3



Blacksburg's Gordan Grisham-Vaden returns a kickoff against Patrick Henry during a rainy first half Friday night. Blacksburg fell to 0-5 after the 42-3 loss.



Blacksburg quarterback Spencer Campbell attempts to avoid a tackle by Patrick Henry's Jahzae Kimbrough.




Blacksburg's Luke Poff celebrates a second-quarter interception with his Bruin teammates.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

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Salem edges Christiansburg 6-0



Robert McCrea (right) quickly contains a Salem running back early in Friday's game, which was played in rain and heavy winds. Salem would take the 6-0 win.



JT Thompson (left) and Jayron Thompson (right) dually tackle a Salem wide receiver stopping his progress mid-field.



The Christiansburg offensive line creates a hole for RB Tanner Evans, who would rush 25 times for 95 yards in the loss.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Staneck takes over Blacksburg softball program

Blacksburg High School has a new varsity softball coach. Wednesday afternoon, the school announced the promotion of Alec Staneck from his role as junior varsity coach to the varsity post.

He was hired this past spring to handle the junior varsity and has a background in coaching after playing college baseball at Methodist University (NC.). When an injury brought an end to his playing career, he changed his focus to coaching.

Staneck has more than 10 years of coaching experience between travel and school ball. "I had the opportunity to work alongside some of the best coaches in the country during my tenure in

North Carolina. Coaching with them, I learned what it means to be an all-around coach on and off the field," he said.

Staneck is originally from Islip, N.Y. After his playing career ended, he graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University.

"I am looking to continue the success this program has had over the years," he said. "As well as implementing new ideas that will bring us together to accomplish the goals we have set not just for the team but for the entire program. We will be a team that plays the game the right way and we will not be out-worked."

VDOT

from page 6

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:

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures at exit 137 are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

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

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

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

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

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE

The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will remain closed until before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel. The opening scheduled for the end of September has been rescheduled due to the contractor encountering challenges with a slope on the project.

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 before Thanksgiving to support holiday travel.

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.

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

Botetourt County: Left lane closures on I-81 northbound between mile marker 147 and 149.

Pulaski County: Right lane closures in place for paving of I-81 northbound between mile marker 102 to 104.

Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Periodically, exit 132 northbound may be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

Roanoke County: The exit 141 on-ramp on southbound I-81 may periodically be closed. Message boards will notify drivers.

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 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 completed in December 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:

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

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

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

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

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

I-581 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 BRIDGE DECK AND MAINTENANCE 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 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Right and left lane closures in place on I-77

southbound, mile marker 13.5 to 12.5 over Route 702 and I-77 northbound, mile marker 11.5 to 12.7 over Route 702. Height restrictions are in place at 14' 6".

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.

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.

ROANOKE COUNTY

ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING ROCK – A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is set to begin. The new roundabout is currently open to traffic. During the remaining construction, lane closures may be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

Through November: 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). Both lanes are open to traffic with flagging operations in place through the end of the project.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE – The Blue Ridge Parkway will be repairing slope failures and a culvert failure at mile marker 127.9. A 15-mile stretch of the Parkway, mile marker 121.4 to 136, will be closed to all uses including cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place until 2023.

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