



Montgomery County Public Schools

Candidates discuss top priorities for Montgomery County School Board at forum

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The League of Women Voters and the NAACP, both non-partisan organizations, hosted the Montgomery County School Board candidate forum Thursday night, Sept. 7.

Some hot button topics discussed during the candidate forum were school funding, transgender student rights, and how candidates will work together with the Board of Supervisors and town councils to accomplish goals for the county's public schools.

Karen Jones, Political Action Chair for the NAACP, welcomed everyone to the forum and Dr. Brandy Faulkner, professor of Political Science and Africana Studies at Virginia Tech University, served as the forum's moderator.

Each candidate was permitted two minutes for opening and closing statements and two minutes to respond

to questions. Some questions were made available to the candidates prior to the event, while other questions came from the audience members.

Incumbent Penny Franklin and opponent Mark Mear, both running for District B, were present for the forum.

Marti Graham, the current District E board member, announced earlier this year that she would not seek reelection. Derek Rountree and Lindsay Rich are the candidates for District E. Rich was not present for the forum.

Laurel Purcell, District F candidate, was also present during the forum and is running for the seat left by Sue Kass as she steps down from the position.

Edward Gitre and Jason Massie are running for District G. Massie was also unavailable for the forum.

The first question of the evening

See **School Board**, page 6

VDH encourages public to make an emergency plan during National Preparedness Month

RICHMOND – September is National Preparedness Month, an annual observance that serves as a reminder of the importance for families and organizations to develop response plans to prepare for unexpected emergencies or disaster situations.

Emergency situations that have widespread impact can take many forms: natural disasters such as major storms that cause flooding, wind damage, property destruction, or power outages; biological hazards such as infectious disease outbreaks that spread across a population causing serious illness and strain on the health care system; or manmade events including acts of violence or other catastrophes that cause mass injuries and casualties.

During National Preparedness Month, the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Commonwealth's four Regional Healthcare Coalitions urge Virginians to develop plans for emergency situations. A family plan means preparation and discussion ahead of catastrophic events so everyone understands how they will communicate during an emergency and

how they will reconnect when danger has passed. It also involves having a family list or form with information including important phone numbers, insurance contacts and other key medical and essential information needed for emergency response, as well as on-hand emergency supplies (water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, and a portable radio to access emergency alerts and warnings, and more). Learn more about building an emergency supply kit here. Emergency plans should contemplate what supplies, information, and documents families will need during shelter-in-place events, situations warranting evacuation to a safer location, or the need to search for loved ones after an emergency. Learn more about preparing at vaemergency.gov/prepare.

"The importance of preparedness cannot be overstated," said Dr. Noelle Bissell, Health Director for New River Health District. "Outcomes are far better with these simple measures on the front end versus picking up the pieces on the back end."

See **VDH**, page 5

Living with snakes in Virginia

Snakes occur in many different places, including yards and homes in rural and suburban areas. Most species are small and secretive and are seldom seen by homeowners, but larger snakes can create quite a commotion. If you live near a creek, woods, or fields, then snakes may occasionally show up in your yard. The best way to deal with snakes is to educate yourself, your family, and your neighbors about them. Remember that you have invaded the snake's world, not the other way around. By realizing that snakes are part of the local wildlife (just like songbirds and squirrels) and a sign on a healthy environment, you may even enjoy the prospect of a snake residing on or visiting your property.

We also realize that not everyone is excited to see a snake in their yard, so there are a few things you can do to deter snakes from living near your house. Snakes will stay in an area only if appropriate food and shelter are present. If you eliminate these, snakes will not be attracted to your yard. Try the following:

Regularly mow your yard short.

Eliminate hiding places for mice, rats, and other small animals that would be food for snakes.

Remove snake shelter such as brush and mulch piles, thickets, and lumber.

Remove bird feeders during the spring and summer. Bird seed that falls to the ground attracts rodents, which in turn attract snakes.

There is no government-approved chemical repellent that will deter all snakes from your yard. Products sold in stores primarily contain sulfur, which washes away quickly, and their effectiveness is highly questionable. The only truly effective way to keep snakes out of your yard is to fence the entire area with a solid four- to five-foot fence made of a slick material, buried a foot in the



PHOTO BY J.D. KLEOPFER/DWR

An image of a ribbon snake; this snake is black with two yellow stripes going down its body, one on each side.

ground.

A snake in your home is the most difficult situation for all concerned, including the snake. Almost all snakes that enter homes are non-venomous species and are simply in search of food such as mice. They can enter any opening that a mouse can squeeze through, so sealing all opening where pipes and electrical wires enter the dwelling will help prevent snakes from making an

unwanted appearance in your home.

If you do find a snake in your house, non-lethal options to remove it include sweeping the snake into a trash can with a broom or calling a licensed pest removal company. Search the internet for the telephone number of a reputable nuisance wildlife control company. Your local Animal Control may assist, but their involvement with snakes or other native wildlife removal varies between

cities and counties. Government agency personnel normally will not come to your house to remove a snake. Any captured snake should be released to the nearest natural area and only with landowner permission.

How you can help conserve and protect snakes

See **Snakes**, page 3

Research places Virginia second in list of best states for business growth

New research has revealed the best states for business growth, with Georgia taking the top spot.

Business consulting firm Venture Smarter analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to discover the business growth rate in each state based on the number of establishments in December 2021 compared to December 2022.

Top of the list is Georgia, with a business growth rate of 13.50%. In December 2022, there were 397,515 business establishments compared to 350,189 in December 2021. Corporate income tax is set at a reasonable rate of 5.75% in Georgia, with the state also offering job tax credit to reduce corporate tax liability for eligible businesses.

In second place is Virginia, which witnessed a business growth rate of 10.50%; the number of businesses increased from 305,345 in December 2021 to 337,394 one year later. The state offers many small business incentive programs, including the Virginia Enterprise Zone, which has many benefits, from tax exemption for rehabilitated structures to tax credits for creating employment.

Arizona is in third place with a business growth rate of

10.40% after seeing the number of business establishments rise from 191,756 in December 2021 to 211,683 the following year. The state has the 14th lowest corporate income tax rate in America at 4.9%.

Montana and Vermont are in joint fourth place, with both states seeing a business growth rate of 10.20%; Starting an LLC in Montana requires an initial filing fee of just \$35, which is significantly lower than in other states, such as California, with a cost of \$500. As well as this, Vermont citizens can take advantage of several business incentives, such as flexible profit distribution, which allows companies registered as LLCs to choose various ways to distribute profits.

In fifth place is Michigan, with a business growth rate of 9.80%; the state saw establishments increase from 275,636 in December 2021 to 302,624 in December 2022. Michigan experienced a small business revenue increase of 24% between January 2020 and January 2022, significantly higher than the 6.9% average rate across the nation.

South Carolina is in sixth place; the state witnessed the

number of establishments grow from 155,945 in December 2021 to 170,968 in December 2022, resulting in a business growth rate of 9.60%. South Carolina offers incentives for new businesses registered as a corporation, such as no local income tax, no state property tax, and no inventory tax.

Ranking in seventh place is North Carolina, with a business growth rate of 9.20% after seeing the number of establishments rise from 325,058 in December 2021 to 354,823 12 months later. The state has one of the country's lowest corporate income tax rates at just 2.5%.

Colorado and Hawaii are in joint eighth place. These states both experienced business growth rate of 9.10%. Businesses starting as an LLC require a low filing fee in both states at \$50, with the additional cost being \$10 every year in Colorado and \$20 in Hawaii.

Following closely behind is Idaho in ninth place – the state saw the number of establishments rise from 82,118 in December 2021 to 89,454 in December 2022, equating

See **Growth**, page 5

The path to recovery does not run through a morgue.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Sept. 17:

Welcoming Week at the YMCA at Virginia Tech
Welcoming Week brings New River Valley neighbors of all backgrounds together to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places. The YMCA at Virginia Tech is proud to host our 3rd annual Welcoming Week with support from the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, Blacksburg Farmers Market, The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation, local businesses, community groups and individuals. More information can be found at: <https://vtymca.org/welcoming-week/>

Wednesday, Sept. 13:

Huckleberry Trail Section Closure
Beginning at 7:30 a.m., sections of the Huckleberry Trail will be temporarily closed for crews to conduct brush trimming along the trail route. This closure will begin on the trail section located at Linwood Lane, ending at Fire Station #2 on Prices Fork Road. The work crew will conduct a systematic closure of trail sections as they progress. All maintenance work is expected to be complete by 3:30 p.m. the same day. This closure was originally scheduled for Sept. 6. Due to equipment issues, this closure has been moved to Sept. 13.

Thursday, Sept. 14:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club Open House
At Slusser's Chapel Fellowship Hall, 1543 Mt Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. Drop by between 6:30 and 8 p.m. This is an opportunity for community members to talk with Ruritan members about current club projects, suggest new ones, and to see if they would like to join us.

Saturday, Sept. 16:

Mornings with the Mayor
Join Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith on Sept. 16 and Sept. 23, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. to learn how the Town of Blacksburg operates. Tour the new police station, explore the Town's history and geography and learn how to get involved at any age! Program admission is free. Open to ages 8 – 12 years. Program admission is limited to 12 participants. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. To register, call 540.443.1026 or email lsaulding@blacksburg.gov.

Wilderness Trail Festival
The 50th annual Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival will take place in downtown Christiansburg, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location of vendors will extend on Main Street all the way from Town Hall to Burger King. A record number of vendors have registered this year.
The event will include the usual local arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, an enhanced children's area, two stages, an emergency services location, great food all day, classic cars, raffles, a silent auction, and more.

Ladies Night Out Workshop
At First Missionary Baptist Church, 7318 Manns Dr., Fairlawn, Va., 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ruth Wolford New Mount Olive UMC—Radford. Sponsored by Deaconess Ministry—FMBC. Refreshments will be served.

Shred-A-Thon

Town of Blacksburg Shred-A-Thon; 9 a.m. – noon, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. Free event is a great opportunity to recycle unneeded household documents, records, etc. Please bring documents in a box, tote or paper bag and observe the limit of five containers per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hardback books, and non-paper materials. This is a drive-thru event only. Remain in your vehicle during drop off. For more information, call the Town of Blacksburg Recycling office at 540-443-1212.

Thursday, Sept. 21:

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 located at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, Sept. 23:

Radford Summer Concert
Last installment of 2023 concerts, featuring country artist Ryan Perry and opening act Sofie Lynn. Held on grounds of Glencoe Mansion, just off West Main St. (600 Unruh Dr.). Gates open at 6 p.m., music starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Food trucks and adult beverages.

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Monday, Sept. 25:

Special Education Advisory Committee
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will also 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, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link. We hope to see you there!

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County 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 allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Sept. 26:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month 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 televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

On-going:

Hydrant Testing
The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

Market Square Jam
Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

Blacksburg Farmers Market
Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

Christiansburg Farmers Market
Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

Radford Farmers Market
Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

Free GED classes
New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

Snakes

from page 1

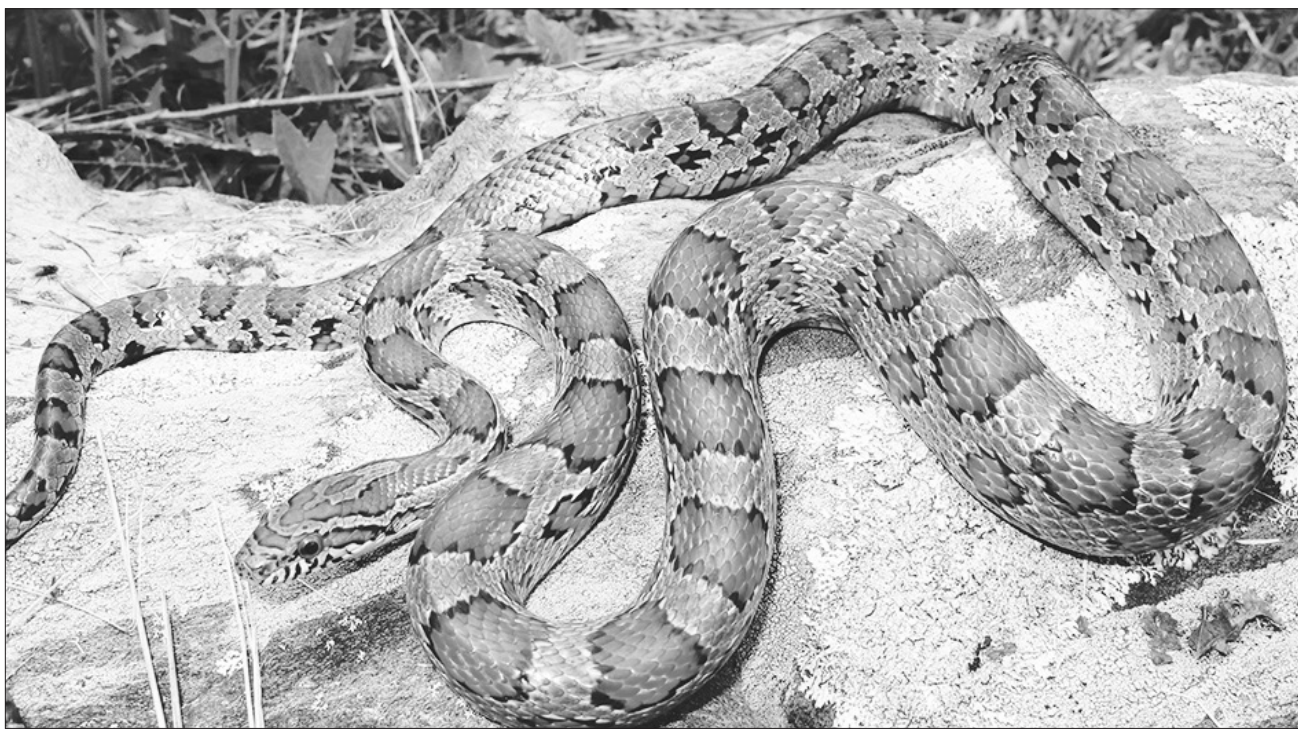


PHOTO BY J.D. KLEOPFER/DWR

An image of a red corn snake on a rock; this snake is copper in color with dark orange spots surrounded by a black perimeter.

Support efforts to establish and protect natural areas.

Educate yourself and others about these amazing animals.

Keep portions of your property in natural conditions by not mowing, grazing, or timbering. You will be amazed by the amount of wildlife it attracts.

Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides in your lawn and garden.

Avoid using glue traps for rodents and nylon netting for landscaping. They often inadvertently kill snakes and lizards every year.

Do not remove rotting logs and standing dead trees, because they are an important component of the habitat needs of many species of snakes and lizards. They use these habitats to forage for insects, as cover from predators, and as nesting sites.

Help conserve land through land donations, donations to organizations, or conservation easements.

Submitted by the Department of Wildlife Resources

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OPINION

Financial Focus: Take steps to prepare for a long retirement

How long will you live? Of course, your longevity is somewhat unpredictable. But it may be a good idea to plan for a long life — and the financial issues that go along with it.

It's reasonable to think you've got a long way to go. In fact, 72% of retirees now think they will live longer than their parents, according to a recent survey from Age Wave and Edward Jones. Their optimism may be justified: A 65-year-old woman can expect to live almost 20 more years, while a 65-year-old man can anticipate about 17 more years, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And these figures are just averages — if you're healthy at 65, you could spend two or even three more decades as a retiree.

To help maintain the resources necessary to pay for these years, you may need to take several steps, such as the following:

Seek income and growth from your

investments. Once you're retired, you'll probably need to rely more heavily on your investment portfolio to help pay for your cost of living. That means you will need a mix of investments that provide income — to supplement your Social Security and any pensions you might have — and growth — to help keep you ahead of inflation. You might also consider specific investments designed for longevity, such as a fixed annuity, which can provide you with a regular income stream you can't outlive.

Establish a reasonable withdrawal rate. You'll need to establish and maintain a reasonable withdrawal rate — the percentage of your portfolio you take out each year. As a general rule, many people start out in retirement by designating a 4% annual withdrawal rate, but your individual figure will depend on a variety of factors, such as your age, the size of your portfolio, other sources of income and so on. And

keeping an emergency fund on the side can help you with unforeseen costs that could otherwise cause you to withdraw more than you'd like. Unsurprisingly, the goal with choosing the appropriate withdrawal rate and monitoring it throughout retirement is so you don't outlive your portfolio.

Consider adding some earned income. Once you've formally retired from your career, you might consider working part time or doing some consulting. The added income can improve your cash flow and take some of the pressure off your investment portfolio. Keep in mind that your income level in retirement will determine what tax rate you pay on your Social Security benefits. If you take Social Security early and are earning above a certain amount, your benefits could be temporarily reduced.

Don't underestimate health care costs. Even with Medicare or Medicare Advantage, your out-of-pocket health

care costs can be considerable. Upon first retiring, it's often a good idea to budget between \$4,500 to \$6,500 per person annually, though depending on your health, prescriptions and supplemental insurance, your costs could certainly be higher or lower than this range. And these figures don't include the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous and aren't typically covered by Medicare. To help protect yourself — and your family — from long-term care expenses, you may want to work with a financial professional, who could recommend insurance strategies or other techniques.

A long life can certainly be rewarding — and even more so when you're prepared for it.

This article was written by Edward Jones, Member SIPC, and submitted by Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczmarski, 540-944-1511.

Virginia gas prices decline over last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia have fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.55/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 10.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 8.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 0.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.426 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.99/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.48/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.99/g while the highest was \$4.47/g, a difference of \$1.48/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.79/g today. The national average is down 3.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 11.4 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.

Historical gasoline prices in Virginia and the national average going back ten years:

- September 11, 2022: \$3.47/g (U.S. Average: \$3.67/g)
- September 11, 2021: \$2.99/g (U.S. Average: \$3.17/g)
- September 11, 2020: \$2.11/g (U.S. Average: \$2.19/g)
- September 11, 2019: \$2.31/g (U.S. Average: \$2.57/g)
- September 11, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.83/g)
- September 11, 2017: \$2.55/g (U.S. Average: \$2.65/g)
- September 11, 2016: \$1.99/g (U.S. Average: \$2.17/g)
- September 11, 2015: \$2.09/g (U.S. Average: \$2.36/g)
- September 11, 2014: \$3.17/g (U.S. Average: \$3.42/g)
- September 11, 2013: \$3.33/g (U.S. Average: \$3.54/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

- Roanoke- \$3.49/g, down 0.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.49/g.
- Richmond- \$3.50/g, down 2.6 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.52/g.
- West Virginia- \$3.57/g, down 2.6 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.60/g.

"The national average hit some road bumps over the last week after starting to decline early in the week. The second half saw the national average rise as gas prices in the Corn Belt started spiking, pulling the average price in the US along with it," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "In addition, the West Coast saw more refinery snags, pushing gas prices higher, and so areas of the West Coast got punched along with the Corn Belt states. Over 10 states saw prices rise by over 10 cents per gallon compared to last week, while some like Iowa and Minnesota have seen average prices spike by over 30 cents per gallon. There is some good news for those in the hardest hit states in the Midwest, however, as gasoline prices should start to level off and even decline by mid-week. And with most of the nation switching back to cheaper winter gasoline on Saturday, we should see more price decreases for most the nation in the weeks ahead, barring further refinery disruptions and hurricane season. Fall tends to bring falling gas prices, and I'm hoping this year won't be any different."

Submitted by GasBuddy

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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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AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Tech support scams trending

Some of the top scams are the ones that have been around the longest.

One might think that a crime like the tech support scam, which has been around for 15 years, might fade away but it is more common than ever. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, the tech support scam was reported by nearly 18,000 victims who had a combined \$588 million stolen from them last year.

These scams start with an unsolicited phone call or a pop-up alert on your device, claiming

to be from Microsoft, Norton, or another related company warning of grave problems. The goal is to persuade you to allow them to remotely connect with your device where they can convince you they find something terrible. They are actually seeking to install malware to harvest personal information and logins, creating ways to get back into your device or convincing you to pay for expensive repair and protection — all of which is fake.

Bottom line, the urgent phone call or popup message is a sham. Don't answer (or hang up

immediately if you do), and to rid your screen of the message, exit out of your browser, power down your device or do a hard shut down. Keeping your operating systems and security software up to date is an important way to keep real viruses and malware out.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Submitted by AARP

NRCC students graduate from practical nursing program

New River Community College held a graduation ceremony for the practical nursing program on August 3, with 11 students receiving certificates and nursing pins.

Practical nursing graduates include Lanette Joy Austin, Alena Mickle Bond, Jessica Marie Chestnut, Heidi Lee Daigneault, Alexander John Holder, Hope Nichole Howard, Karleigh Mae Krinock, Charles Wade LeFew, Autum Tamar Nixon, Adela Rae Riddle, and Selenia Orenca Urena.

Dr. Deborah Kennedy, NRCC Dean of Student Services, addressed graduates at the ceremony. Lanette

Austin and Tamar Nixon were chosen by their peers to give the student address.

NRCC's certificate program prepares students to qualify as contributing members of a health care team, rendering patient care in a variety of health service facilities. These students are now eligible to take the Virginia Board of Nursing examination leading to licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

For more information about practical nursing at NRCC, visit www.nr.edu/nursing/pn.php.

Submitted by NRCC

CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

- Undergarments for women
- Periods of time
- Dramatist Henrik
- Any thick messy substance
- Examination
- Japanese city
- Daze with a blow
- With fireplace residue
- Synthetic acrylic fabric fiber
- Pittsburgh University
- Scorched
- Potato state (abbr.)
- Anger
- Suitable for use as food
- To wipe out, obliterate
- Used of unskilled work, esp. domestic
- Loose earth, soil
- Petrol container
- Great (60's slang)
- Conditions of balance
- Foes
- Sec. of Energy Steven
- 6th day (abbr.)
- Without qualification or exception
- Sarah's title
- Leisurely stroll
- Austr. Army Military Unit
- Bowfin genus
- S.A. mountain chain
- Scott Case 1857
- Mound
- Springfield, IL candy founder
- Frambesia
- Reduced price event

CLUES DOWN

- Pear variety
- The Sator-___ Square
- Light purplish-blue
- Plants of the genus Cassia
- Shelf unit for ornaments
- Live in
- Arthur ___, Wimbledon champion
- A thwarting and distressing obstruction
- Cut off from others
- Tree trunk outgrowth
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Br. public boys school
- ___ Ling mountain range
- ___ Clapton, musician
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- Peruvian province
- Diagonal cut of cloth
- A narrow path or road
- Fraternal Order of ___
- The boundary of a surface
- Granular old snow
- Rt. angle cleaving tool
- Irreducible material
- Oldest man-made rayon fiber
- Affirmative! (slang)
- Burial cloths
- Surface layer of grass & roots
- Not shaky
- Kidney-shaped nut
- Nursemaids in India
- Alkali bee genus
- Warble
- A citizen of Denmark
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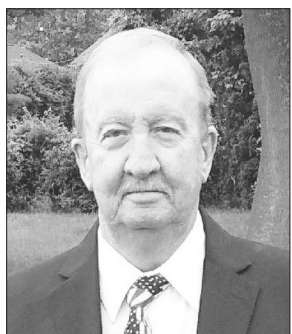
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OBITUARIES

Walker, Larry Edward

Larry Edward Walker, 78, of Radford, passed away Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. He was a member of the Radford Fire Department and EMS and a veteran of the U.S. Army. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Walker and Blanche Walker Collier; and sister and brother-in-law, Anita and Harless Bain.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Brenda V. Walker of Radford; daughter, Renee Walker



of Mont Alto, Penn.; grandson, Dakota Young of Radford; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Barbara and Eddie

Repass; niece, Kim Repass and her daughter Khloe; and many other wonderful friends.

The family received friends 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Rev. James Sasser and Pastor Craig Reed officiating.

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

Jesberg, Barbara Ann Olinger

Barbara Ann Olinger Jesberg, 76, passed away on Thursday, September 7, 2023. She was a member of Fairlawn Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter James and Mildred Clear Olinger; and her husband, Carl Jesberg.

She is survived by her son, Eric White; grandchildren, Alexis Thacker (Rick) and Dustin White; great-grandchildren, Beck and



Ad Thacker; sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary

Haynes (Charles); and many other family members, cousins and special friends.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Fairlawn Baptist Church. Memorial services and a meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

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

Lester, Sibil Dawn

Sibil Dawn Lester, 92, of Riner, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

She came into this world a strong and determined woman and left us in the same way. Sibil was born on June 26, 1931, and lived a full 92 years working hard and constantly moving. She was employed at Hubble Lighting, retiring in 2003. Sibil has lived in Riner since 1968 and never moved nor changed her phone number. She was known for keeping her home and yard beautiful. She was the last of the last on all sides of the older generation and will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Sibil was preceded in sleep by her



husband, Perry Lincoln Lester; all of her siblings and their spouses; nephew, Tommy Sutphin; and her nieces Kathy and Carolyn Lester.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Karin K. Gravley (John, II); grandson, Jason Lincoln

Lester (Kayla Kay Tiplady); granddaughter, Karina Danielle Jones (Raleigh); great-grandchildren, Taylor Nicole East, Serenity Grace Jones, Frankie Jones-Gee (Taylor) and Dixie Lynn Jones; great great-grandchildren, Carter Gee, Natalee Gee and Olivia Gee; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of life was held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Andre Lavache officiating.

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

Medley, Deborah "Debbie" Reynolds

Deborah "Debbie" Reynolds Medley, 67, of Pulaski, passed away Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem, Va. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray M. and Pearl Quesenberry Reynolds; and sister and brother-in-law Doris and Ricky Owens.

Survivors include her son, Lynn Medley of New Castle; her daughter and son-in law, Kim and Gary Wolfe of



New Castle; sisters and brother-in-law, Glenna and Chuck Quesenberry of Christiansburg,

and Barbara Reynolds of Conover, N.C.; grandchildren, Harley, Halie and Jaycob; five great grandchildren; nephews and nieces, Robin, David, Brian, Amanda and Chris.

A celebration of Debbie's life will be held in a private family ceremony at a later date.

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

VDH

from page 1

"Our experiences from recent years have demonstrated the critical importance of being ready to respond when emergencies happen," said VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton. "Emergency situations can occur at any time. Virginians across the Commonwealth have witnessed this in the form of major flooding in Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia, a snowstorm that stranded motorists on the interstate in Northern Virginia, and the COVID-19 outbreak beginning in 2020. In each case, those emergencies developed quickly and presented serious health and public safety concerns for people impacted by them. When emergencies happen, hospitals are part of the critical infrastructure engaged in response efforts. Because of this, hospitals and other health care organizations partner with state and federal government agencies to conduct ongoing emergency preparation and planning efforts. Just as these organizations plan for the worst, it is vital for families and private sector firms to also have regularly updated plans that can be activated when an emergency happens."

"I urge Virginians to take time during National Preparedness Month to assess how prepared they and their families are for coping with disasters and emergencies," said State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton, MD. "Do you have enough water and non-perishable food on hand to last for several days if everything shut down? Do you have your mobile phone set up to receive emergency alerts? If you had to evacuate, where would you go and how would you get there? Have you made plans for your pet if you had to evacuate to a shelter? These are some of the questions we all should be thinking about year-round as disasters come in all forms and can happen anytime.

VDH and its Local Health Districts provide oversight of many emergency response functions, including monitoring for disease outbreaks, insuring food and water safety, and mass casualty management."

This year, the theme of National Preparedness Month is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3." Its focus is on helping elderly individuals, including those from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events and threats, prepare for emergencies. Additional information and resources about emergency preparation and planning are available through Ready.gov and the Red Cross.

For businesses, Ready.gov recommends conducting a risk assessment to identify potential emergency scenarios as part of the development of an emergency response plan consistent with organizational objectives and focused on protecting staff, visitors, contractors and others on premises if an emergency occurs.

In Virginia, critical public and private sector organizations collaborate to conduct ongoing planning preparation activities to be ready when disaster strikes. This includes VHHA, its member hospitals and health system, and VDH. These organizations partner on the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP), an initiative supported with grant funding from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). VHHA and VDH work through VHEMP to address gaps in the health care delivery system regarding the ability to respond to disaster situations. This work is facilitated by a network of four regional healthcare coalitions (the Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Eastern

Virginia Healthcare Coalition, the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, and the Southwest Virginia Healthcare Coalition) that work with health care facilities and response organizations to help prepare for emergency response situations. Each regional healthcare coalition maintains a Regional Healthcare Coordination Center (RHCC) to support response activities during a disaster affecting health care facilities.

The extent of meaningful cooperation between government agencies, health systems, and regional coalitions is reflected in the effectiveness of Virginia's emergency response apparatus. The Commonwealth has been recognized several times in recent years for its high level of preparation for public health emergencies. That includes the latest report by Trust for America's Health, Ready or Not 2023: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters and Bioterrorism, which again places Virginia in the top tier of states for emergency readiness. The report measures state levels of preparedness to respond to a wide range of health emergencies including infectious outbreaks, natural disasters, and manmade events. Previous annual reports from Trust for America's Health – including those compiled during the lengthy response to the COVID-19 pandemic – also ranked Virginia in the top tier of states in 2022, 2021, and 2020. Virginia has also been ranked among the top states in the National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHPSI) report that evaluates state readiness to respond to public health emergencies.

Submitted by the Virginia Department of Health

DMV offers electronic title transfer for qualified vehicle sales

New website offers more online options for Virginians

RICHMOND - As part of DMV's renewed efforts to provide superior service to Virginians, the agency is expanding its already extensive menu of online options on its newly designed website. Qualified vehicle buyers and sellers now have the ability to transfer vehicle ownership electronically. The electronic titling (e-titling) program gives an individual selling a vehicle to an individual buyer the ability to transfer the title through DMV's website.

The seller, buyer, and vehicle must meet certain requirements in order to take advantage of the e-titling program. Requirements for e-title transfer include:

Buyer and seller must be Virginia residents with myDMV accounts

Sale is one owner to one buyer
No liens present on the title
No holds on customers' accounts
Sale for a passenger vehicle (car, sport utility vehicle, truck); no trailers, mopeds or all-terrain vehicles)

"The next time you buy a car from someone who isn't a dealer, you may be able to transfer ownership without having to go to a DMV office," said DMV Commissioner Gerald Lackey. "With the launch of our reimagined website, we continue to look for innovative ways that allow Virginians to take care of their DMV business anytime and anywhere."

For a complete list of e-titling requirements, visit dmv.virginia.gov/title.

Growth

from page 1

to a growth rate of 8.90%. A range of business tax credits are available to Idaho entrepreneurs, including the small employer capital investment credit, which offers a tax credit of 3.75% to small businesses on new equipment purchased in the state.

Last on the list is Utah in tenth place with a business growth rate of 8.40%; in December 2022, the state had 137,277 establishments compared to 126,644 in December 2021. Utah has a low corporate income tax rate of 4.85%, as well as an LLC filing fee of \$54 with an additional charge of \$18 every year.

On the opposite end of the scale, Washington has the worst business growth rate of -16.80%. The state had 284,440 establishments in December 2022, which decreased by 47,644 in December 2022; Washington was

the only state to witness a decrease of establishments.

A spokesperson from Venture Smarter has commented: "With the key benefits of starting a business in the states mentioned, it will be fascinating to witness the business growth rate over time and see how many more entrepreneurs thrive with the available support."

"However, regardless of your state, it's vital to research the fees you will be expected to pay as they can vary significantly across states – not to mention, there are many incentives to take advantage of if you are eligible that can make the process of starting a business smoother and cheaper."

Submitted by Venture Smarter

Send community news and photos
to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Children's National Hospital, Virginia Tech unite to advance AI for pediatric health



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Subha Madhavan, Pfizer vice president and head of clinical artificial intelligence/machine learning, stresses the need to use artificial intelligence methods to understand children's health at a meeting of scientists and innovators.

"Start by determining the problem you desire to solve, then decide on the technology to solve it," said Subha Madhavan, vice president and head of clinical artificial intelligence/machine learning with global biopharmaceutical company Pfizer.

Madhavan was the keynote speaker at AI for Pediatric Health and Rare Diseases, an inter-institutional meeting of scientists and innovators co-led by Children's National Hospital and the Virginia Tech Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics to discuss the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to understand pediatric health.

The pressing issue at the gathering at the Children's National Research & Innovation Campus in Washington, D.C., involved tackling diseases, particularly cancer, in children, an area that suffers from limited treatment options and inadequate research compared with diseases affecting adults.

"It's hard to think of a more compelling subject than using AI to advance children's health," said Madhavan, who was on the Pfizer team that developed the first Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved oral treatment for COVID-19. "Data insights powered by AI are key to the speed and innovation of medicine development and enhancing patient outcomes and experiences."

The Virginia Tech-Children's National collaboration originated when Michael Friedlander, vice president for health sciences and technology at Virginia Tech, introduced the leadership of the Sanghani Center to teams at Children's National Hospital.

"As researchers in data science and machine learning, we are generalists by training," said Naren Ramakrishnan, director of the Sanghani Center and the Thomas L. Phillips Professor in the College of Engineering. "This meeting was an opportunity to hear from Children's

National Hospital researchers about specific analytical problems they face and how we can further machine learning and AI research in support of these problems. We are connecting Virginia Tech researchers to experts who are doing clinical studies in specialized areas and have extensive health care data sets. It's a natural fit."

Marius Linguraru of Children's National Hospital, who chaired the conference along with Ramakrishnan, described the potential of artificial and human intelligence working together to improve pediatric health.

"AI is the single greatest tool for improving equity and access to health care for underprivileged and marginalized communities, especially in pediatrics," said Linguraru, principal investigator at the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation. "As a population, kids are vastly underrepresented in scientific research and resulting treatments, but pediatric specialties can use AI to provide medical care to kids more efficiently, more quickly, and more effectively. We are thrilled to be part of this conversation about the future of AI in medicine, especially as we think about how to better care for children."

The meeting featured sessions on smart surgery, rare diseases, and emergency medicine with talks by both Virginia Tech and Children's National faculty and researchers. A panel on public-private partnerships, a luncheon discussion by FDA researchers on regulatory science tools, and spotlight talks by faculty rounded up the event.

Lance Collins, vice president and executive director of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus; Vittorio Gallo, interim chief academic officer at Children's National Hospital, and Friedlander opened the event, providing a platform for faculty and fellows from both institutions to connect, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations.

"The Sanghani Center is a wonderful resource, loaded

with talent, innovation, and leadership that can be an additional nexus for Virginia Tech in the health science space, helping to create additional ties between Virginia Tech and Children's National," said Friedlander, who is also the executive director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, which operates Virginia Tech's labs on the Children's National Research & Innovation Campus. "Our complementary interests in data science, machine learning, and pediatric health care solutions create ideal conditions for progress and innovation."

"Artificial intelligence is one of the key research areas of focus for the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus," Collins said. "The partnerships between the Sanghani Center, Children's National, and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute will continue to further the research and innovation goals of all involved. It's an exciting time to be at Virginia Tech."

By combining skills and resources, the collaboration aims to address pressing issues affecting the hospital, such as specific diseases, smart surgery for pediatric health, and hospital management.

"This is the perfect time to enhance these collaborations and bring the leading edge of artificial intelligence to bear on children's health," Gallo said.

To jump-start the research, a seed funding opportunity supported by both Virginia Tech and Children's National was announced. The initiative is intended to provide the necessary resources for individuals to join forces across institutions and to kick-start projects that have the potential to grow into larger, impactful endeavors.

"The hope is that these seed grants will ignite collaborations and create a ripple effect of positive change," Ramakrishnan said.

John Pastor for Virginia Tech

School Board from page 1

asked the candidates to answer what they believed to be the biggest challenge for MCPS and how they would address that challenge. Derek Rountree, MCPS parent and a VT graduate with a PhD in Physics, responded first.

"The biggest challenge MCPS faces is attracting and retaining teachers and staff...teachers in Montgomery County are underpaid by six thousand dollars compared to their average peers around the state," Rountree said. "Additionally, our custodians are starting at \$13.86 per hour for day shifts, \$14.40 for night shifts."

Penny Franklin, running for District B, agreed with Rountree that funding is a big issue in the county.

"The state made a huge mistake last year and did not properly calculate how they were going to fund schools," Franklin said. "We as citizens have to take a stand and come together for all the stakeholders to send the message, we want our schools funded, we want to be able to retain the best teachers and the best staff we can."

Miear believes that although funding is a challenge, a focus on curriculum and instruction is a higher priority.

"Funding is a challenge, no doubt, but I think our biggest challenge is the most basic thing in education and that's reading, writing, and math," Miear said. "Our reading scores are down from pre-covid 5 percent, our writing scores are down 13 percent, and our math scores are down 10 percent. That's a problem."

Dr. Edward Gitre, running for District G, is a parent and an Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech.

"I'm running for school board to defend public education at a time when it has come under political assault in this country," Gitre said.

He discussed this political attack in two parts; with one addressing book banning and the other speaking to the issues of protecting students' rights, particularly the conversations that need to happen concerning transgender issues.

"We have an obligation under state and federal law and also under a moral obligation to address this issue, so it does not tear this community apart," Gitre said.

Laura Purcell is the parent of two children in the MCPS public schools and a Virginia Tech graduate as well as a VT teacher in writing, public speaking, and media writing. Special education is a top priority for

Purcell, if elected.

"Adequate support for students with special needs and especially 504 plans and IEPs," Purcell said.

Safety is a topic that may parents have addressed the MCPS school board about at recent meetings. Each candidate was asked how they would address safety concerns from intruders but also complaints from students and parents about bullying in schools.

Franklin agreed that discipline has become an issue and through the involvement of both parents and administration, this can be improved.

Four out of the five candidates in the forum spoke against Governor Youngkin's transgender policy when Faulkner posed the question, "LGBTQ+ topics have drawn much attention and created some controversy and disagreement. How will you facilitate a beneficial outcome around these topics?"

Miear is in support of Youngkin's policies which require students to use the bathroom that correlates with their sex assigned at birth. Under the governor's policy, students are also to participate in athletic and school activities according to their sex assigned at birth. Additionally, Youngkin's policy requires parental approval if a student wishes to change their pronoun(s).

"I am in support of Governor Youngkin's policy which I believe is very reasonable," Miear said. "The current MCPS policy allows for biological males to change in the same locker room as females, this is absolutely ridiculous, it allows biological males to compete in sports against females, which is unfair."

Miear went on to say that requiring teachers and staff to use preferred pronouns of students can violate their religious beliefs.

Franklin supports the policy that MCPS accepted, which is in opposition to Youngkin's policy.

"I will not support Governor Youngkin's recommended whatever because it does nothing but help to separate and help to harm students and put them into more difficult situations than now," Franklin said.

Rountree is a proponent of parents' involvement in school but is concerned about legal conflicts that schools may find themselves in if the governor's policies are put into action by MCPS.

"Governor Youngkin's model policies are a minefield of legal challenges awaiting school districts," Rountree said.

"There were zero queer kids who were out in my high school, and I think that was sad," Purcell said. "You can't fully engage and learn if you are hiding

yourself."

Gitre also sits in opposition to Youngkin in his transgender policies for Virginia's school systems.

"Equality is baked into our foundational documents and our government," Gitre said. "I think Youngkin takes us in the wrong direction. I am committed to a more perfect union."

One question coming from an audience member addressed concerns about effective collaboration amongst local governing bodies.

What steps will you take to improve collaboration with the school board members, Board of Supervisors, and the town of Christiansburg? What's the best way to address differences of opinion amongst the board members?

Gitre emphasized that he is for a public school district that provides education for everyone. Some previous comments of Blacksburg versus the rest of the County or that Blacksburg may become a city and no longer be a part of the Montgomery County Public School division would not be supported by Gitre.

Miear felt that much improvement could be made on the collaboration of MCPS board members and other governing bodies.

"Our MCPS school board has a reputation around the state, and it hasn't been good folks...they call themselves dysfunctional," Miear said.

Franklin disagreed with Mark and believed that recent changes in administration have improved collaboration and local government relations.

"Now, the school board is working much better together and why is that?" Franklin said. "It was good when I first came here and then it went downhill, and now it's getting better. I'll let you make the determination with that."

"All of the kids deserve a quality education, no matter what region of our county they come from" Rountree said.

"As voters, I hope that you will all listen to the other candidates besides just school board, because we aren't a funding body, and a lot of things are out of our control," Purcell said.

Additional information about voting, rezoning of districts, and where to vote can be found on the League of Women Voters for Montgomery County, VA's website at <https://my.lwv.org/virginia/league-women-voters-montgomery-county-va>.

The next candidate forum will be the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors discussion on Sept. 14, 7 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.



Marketplace



THE FINCASTLE HERALD THE Vinton Messenger THE NEW CASTLE RECORD SALEM TIMES REGISTER News Messenger RADFORD News Journal

Yard Sales - Craig County

Estate Sale Home of Janie Scott Friday 9/15 thru Sunday 9/17 9 am to ? Rain or Shine 281 Red Brush Road New Castle VA Take Rt. 311 North to right on 611, then left on Rt. 605. Third driveway on the left.

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Events

INTRODUCING VIRGINIA BLEND (FORMERLY VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN) WE ARE LOOKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN INTERESTED IN SINGING a CAPPELLA MUSIC IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY COME AND JOIN US AT OUR GUEST NIGHT ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER, 25 th 7:30 - 9:00 pm At GRACE CHURCH 2731 Edgewood St. SW ROANOKE, VA 24015 Light refreshments will be served after rehearsal Please RSVP by Sept. 20 th to Larry Shepherd 540.525.0709

Legals - Craig County

Trustee's Sale 3430 Craig Valley Dr, New Castle, VA 24127 (Parcel ID: 86 A 10, 86 A 11, 86 A 12)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 18, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$88,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Craig, Virginia on July 22, 2005, in Deed Book 150, at page 542, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on October 17, 2023 at 1:00 PM, in front of the building housing the County of Craig Circuit Court, 182 Main Street, New Castle, VA 24127, the property designated as Tract No.1 containing 1.40 acres +/-, Tract No. 2 containing 0.22 acres +/-, and the Alice Q. Lee House Tract containing 0.50 acre, as described on plats or

Legals - Craig County

maps prepared by John Max Hancock, Sr., C.L.S., recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 43, Page 201 and in Deed Book 27 Page 400. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$9,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Poulin, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 413 Stuart Circle, Suite 314, Richmond, VA 23220, File No. 22-002417, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA: 1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of David A. Thompson, property owner, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow a 1,500 square foot detached garage on the property located at 640 Joan Circle, (Tax Map # 243 -2 -16). If approved, Salem City Council intends to adopt the ordinance(s) associated with the above item(s) on first reading, with a second reading of those ordinance(s) at a subsequent meeting. Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Clerk of Council

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on September 21, 2023, at 4:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearing shall be to determine if a certain structure is dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structures should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structures are located as follows:

Legals - City of Salem

(1) A dilapidated structure located at 702 Front Avenue, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 201 - 10 - 2); and (2) Dilapidated structures located at 2500 West Main Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map #175-2-3). All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potentially dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036). THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM BY Troy D. Loving Building Official

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold a public hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2309 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, on September 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, to consider the following applications.

Request of Crystal G. H. Lowery, property owner, for a variance from Section 106-202.3(A) of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance pertaining to site development regulations, for the property located at 1000 block of Ohio Avenue, Tax Map # 197-1-15. The petitioner is requesting a variance of twenty-five (25) feet of frontage, twenty-five (25) feet of lot width and one thousand five hundred square feet (1,500) square feet of lot area.

At this hearing, all parties in interest will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why such requests should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Office of the Zoning Administrator, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 3753032).

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM BY: Mary Ellen H. Wines, CZA, CFM Planning & Zoning Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL23000992-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re NANNIE FAY LONG, THOMAS LONG AND EDWARD LONG v. NONE It is ORDERED that GAIL LONG, BETHANY LONG, SABRINA LONG, SCOTTY W. LONG, BILLY W. LONG appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 20, 2023 AT 8:30 AM.. AUGUST 9, 2023 TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL23001417-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AMANDA COVEY, KYEMPER ELLINGTON ALLEN v. COMMONWEALTH The object of this suit is to: MINOR NAME CHANGE. It is ORDERED that SCOTT ALLEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT 11 AM AUGUST 23, 2023 K.MIKE FLEENOR, JR, JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Legals - Montgomery County

Order of Publication Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL23001416-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AMANDA COVEY, KYENDALL MAE MARIE ALLEN v. COMMONWEALTH The object of this suit is to: MINOR NAME CHANGE. It is ORDERED that SCOTT ALLEN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before OCTOBER 30, 2023, AT 11 AM. AUGUST 23, 2023 K. MIKE FLEENOR, JR. JUDGE TIFFANY M. COUCH, CLERK

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

MRDN LLC, trading as BIG BELLY PIZZA & SUBS RESTAURANT, 105 W. LEE AVE. VINTON VA. 24179. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application, Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Consumed ON and OFF Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

NASIM FALTAS OWNER NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Services Needed Salem Area

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2023-2024. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment and a minimum guaranteed payment for the season.

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Applications received by 7:00 PM on Monday October 2, 2023 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements. Questions can be directed to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497.

Services Needed Salem Area

Email: SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov EEO/AA Employer

Services Needed Christiansburg Area



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MONTGOMERY SPORTS



FILE PHOTO

Rick Cormany has retired from the head coaching position at Radford High School.

Cormany stepping down from Radford post

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - One of the area's winningest high school basketball coaches is stepping down.

Radford's Rick Cormany announced Thursday he is retiring from a very productive time at the New River Valley school.

"It's just time," he said. "I've been year to year since 2019."

After almost four decades, Cormany will finish his career with 773 wins, good for second-most in VHSL history. He previously served as assistant coach at Radford University before accepting a job as the head man at Rocky Gap. He was there for five years before accepting the post at Radford in 1993.

Cormany said he doesn't know what he was thinking in those early days at Rocky Gap. "I just knew I had to try and out work everyone and try to learn everyday if we had any chance to be successful. I was way too young to be a head coach anywhere, but I had hard working kids that would get to gym at 6 in the morning and would get better," he said.

The 773 wins puts Cormany in some elite company with the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) along with retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories).

Cormany just finished his 30th season at Radford and over 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats.

Radford won 21 of the last 22 regular season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17

tournament championships, the last four Conference 45 championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), three state runner ups, nine state Final-4's and state champions in six of the last 12 years.

Cormany finds it hard to pinpoint his favorite memories when you've been a head coach for 40 of your 42 years.

"Enjoying the locker room and coach's office with players and other coaches will be what I'll miss most," he said. "We worked hard but had fun. All six state championships were fond memories, but all the region and district championships were special as well."

There had been some speculation he would retire after two of his returning players have transferred to post-graduate programs. Rick's son, Gavin, is now at Oak Hill Academy while Elijah Kelly moved to the Miller School near Charlottesville.

His other son, Gavin, is playing at the Naval Academy.

"I want to support his team more and be at more of Navy's games," Rick Cormany said.

"I need to be around as dad more and hopefully watch both my sons play as their dad and not their coach. And I want to get out and hack at that golf ball more," he said with a smile.

He had retired from his counselor and teaching position at Radford several years ago and had just served as the basketball coach for the past two.

Radford begins the search for a new coach immediately as preseason basketball workouts were scheduled to start next week. The season will start in November.

Christiansburg slips by William Byrd



Quarterback Tanner Evans runs into the North endzone on a QB keeper scoring the Blue Demons first TD of the game. Christiansburg took the 14-10 win to move to 3-0 on the season.



Christiansburg's sturdy lineman Carter Stallard (left), Jayden Nieves (second from right), and Jaiden Edwards (right) create a hole for Izaiah Cotto (center) to pass through.



Josiah Ratley (left) and JT Thompson (right) double-team a William Byrd running back stopping the Terrier's progress.



PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

William Byrd's Quarterback faces a triple threat of Blue Demon defensemen Josiah Ratley (left), Donovan Richardson (center), and Noah Davis (right).

Blacksburg ends losing streak, Clark leads Radford to 3-0 mark

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The losing streak for Blacksburg High School is over. Football fans had seen the Bruins' mark stretch back three years, but Friday night, they rolled in a 40-14 win over Floyd in earning their first since October 2019.

QB Ethan Karpa completed 15 of 25 passes for 243 yards and three touchdowns, and Javier Waldron had seven receptions for 104 yards.

Eastern Montgomery also picked up their first win of the year, while Radford and Christiansburg remained unbeaten.

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

This week's games:

Cave Spring at Christiansburg

Cave is 1-2 after last week's 7-3 loss to Glenvar. Their lone win this season was 42-3 over Western Albermarle

in Week One. The other loss was 30-27 to Northside. Cave was 6-5 last season including a 24-14 loss to Christiansburg.

After the departure of Nick Leftwich to William Fleming earlier this year, Cave Spring High School introduced Hunter Shepherd as its new varsity head football coach on Friday. The 27-year-old William Byrd alum spent the last four years as the defensive coordinator at Staunton River.

Prediction: Christiansburg 38, Cave 14.

Rockbridge at Blacksburg

Rockbridge is 0-3 after a 55-8 loss to Alleghany. So far, this season, they have been outscored 152-22 with losses to Staunton and Parry McCluer.

Prediction: Blacksburg 30, Rockbridge 12.

Galax at Radford

Radford rolled to another win (42-3) on the road at Virginia High. Landon Clark finished 14 of 25 through the air for 196 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed

for 80 yards on eight carries with eight scores.

Max Kanipe was Clark's favorite target catching seven for 158 yards including a 50-yard touchdown.

The Radford defense held Virginia High to 42 yards of total offense.

Meanwhile, Galax picked up their first win of the season 21-13 over Carroll County. Tadrhun Tucker rushed for 207 yards on 41 carries, including 119 in the first half. QB Tommy Jones was limited in the game but completed five of 10 for 70 yards.

Prediction: Radford 40, Galax 20.

Eastern Montgomery at Auburn

Eastern Montgomery picked up their first win of the season (22-16) on the road at Northwood.

This week, the school renews the "Golden Helmet" competition with cross-county rival Auburn, who was slated to continue a weather-delay contest on Monday night against Craig County.

Prediction: Auburn 20, Eastern Montgomery 18.

Lightning, rain plays havoc at Lane on Saturday

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Lightning and heavy rain delayed the completion of Saturday's Virginia Tech-Purdue for over five hours.

The biggest logistic of the suspension was convincing a sellout crowd to leave the stadium. For the first hour, most of those fans hung out under the stadium in the concession area. After that time, many found their way back to parking lot to their cars. This, in turn, led to a large majority of the fans simply leaving.

Many Hokie fans remember the 2001 nationally-broadcast game between Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech. Television announcers watched as lightning struck near one of their cars. The game would be cancelled because of the severe weather and become infamous in Hokie football history.

The Michigan State-Penn State contest in 2017 was subjected to a weather delay, which lasted for 6 hours and 58 minutes. Another 110-minute halt occurred in 2016's tie between Wyoming and Northern Illinois.

The NCAA policy is pretty straight forward and similar to the Virginia High School League.

"Once lightning enters the warning ring, you must stop competition and move student-athletes and spectators to safe areas. You may not begin any activity until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike inside the warning ring.

Lightning strikes will disappear from the screen once they are 30 minutes old."

The Lightning and addition rain, which seemed to be blowing sideways, shut down the competition even longer, in the case of Saturday's game, over five hours.

According to a NCAA report, lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect intercollegiate athletics.

Within the United States, the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) estimates that 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring medical treatment occur from lightning strikes every year.

Virginia Tech has and had staff on Saturday watching the warning area and the National Weather Service radar.

Typically, the system will alert staff lightning has been recorded in the outside ring nearly 18 miles away. Once, it reaches the 10-mile range, staff receive additional alerts. In addition, every time another strike was recorded within that range, the 30-minute delay restarts.

The NCAA points out that outside locations increase the risk of being struck by lightning when thunderstorms are in the area. Typically, anything referred to as a "shelter" is not safe from lightning. Dugouts, refreshment stands, open press boxes, rain shelters, golf shelters and picnic shelters, even if they are properly grounded for structural safety, are unsafe and may actually increase the risk of lightning injury.



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Heavy rain fell on Worsham Field in Lane Stadium on Saturday afternoon, causing a lengthy delay in the Purdue vs. Virginia Tech football game.

Tech officials made announcements telling those fans who were under the concourse of the stadium more "safer" locations were available. This included Cassell Coliseum and the Rector Field House. Staff and fans were quickly moved to those locations.

According to the NCAA rules, a non-conference game like the Virginia Tech-Purdue game could have been cancelled if the weather did not clear. Instead, at around 6:15 p.m., teams were back on the field.

Fans re-entered the stadium, but many had gone home. The Hokie faithful had decreased in an estimated half from the initial sellout crowd.

Drainage system at Tech's Lane works well

Marty Gordon
 NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Over four inches of rain fell in less than two hours Saturday during the Virginia Tech and Purdue football game.

Throw in heavy lightning throughout the area, and the game was delayed for over five hours.

The teams took the field around 6:30 p.m. for a 12-noon game after storms moved out of the area.

While the players were able to dry their uniforms, questions remained on what the conditions of the field would be.

Virginia Tech officials had no doubt the field would not be a slippery surface, like other games were struggling with on Saturday afternoon.

The secret weapon was the GreenTech's ITM system. GreenTech is a Georgia-based turf company that had installed the state-of-the-art collection system, which

allows up to 16 inches of drainage per hour.

Trays were installed below the field surface with pumps throughout field. Saturday, a portable pump sat on the Purdue sidelines, pulling water from underneath and then to a nearby drain.

Lane earned the distinction of becoming the first collegiate football facility in the nation to install this Integrated Turf Management (ITM) system. Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey had previously installed the system with lots of success.

After a 2001 regular season football game against Georgia Tech was rained out, Virginia Tech decided to look into a new drainage system. So, the school installed an unusual "tray catching system."

Worsham Field received top-of-the-line natural grass turf, drainage, an air vacuum and blower system, and remote monitoring and control of field conditions and maintenance procedures at a cost of \$1.3 million.

According to background from the initial

installation, the GreenTech's tray system allows for athletic field turf to be cultivated off-site because each tray contains the soil and breathability needed for grass to grow.

The system on the playing field, one of only two such modular fields in the country, is composed of 4,224 46-inch by 46-inch trays of sod positioned above asphalt. In conjunction with a portable vacuum pump, the playing surface stays dry even during heavy rain.

According to an article in Lawn and Landscape shortly after the installation, the company said each tray is composed of five inches of gravel in the base followed by eight inches of sand, and then the sand is covered by soil and a layer of Patriot bermudagrass sod.

Saturday, the system worked and there was a football game played five hours later.

Knights Crossing Invitational at Green Hill



Blacksburg's Reese Bradbury led the Bruins to a 4th place team finish in the girls "Red" race at Knights Crossing.



Blacksburg teammates Harrison Whitfield (right) and Henry Strahm (left) placed 11th and 12th to lead the Bruin boys to a team championship in the Knights Crossing "Red" race on Saturday.



Christiansburg's Noah Jones placed 37th in the Knights Crossing "Red" race on Saturday at Green Hill Park.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Eastern Montgomery's Sisson Spencer placed 57th in the varsity "Red" race at Knights Crossing with a time of 17:26.2 to lead the Mustangs' team.

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, September 28th at 4 PM
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The home is in the Pilot VA area of Floyd County. Within a short commute of Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Roanoke and Salem VA.

PREVIEW – Friday, September 15th at 4 PM

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before November 13th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 28th, 2023. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

These pets and many others are available for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, 480 Cinnabar Rd., Christiansburg. Phone: (540) 382-5795.

Jar-Jar is a prime example of a kitty with an independent spirit. She likes to decide on her own when to sit in a human's lap or receive pets. She would do best in a home where she is the only cat and children are above 12 years old.



Sosa is a happy boy who shows off his fun personality outside of his kennel at the Animal Care and Adoption Center. He loves, loves, loves to have a ball—tennis, rubber, bouncy. You name it, he'll probably play with it! He also enjoys relaxing in a "splot" position from time to time. He would need to be the only dog in his future home. Stop by to meet Sosa!

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