



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIP HERMAN

Town of Blacksburg is recognized for winning two 2023 Virginia Municipal League Awards, partnering with Live, Work, Eat, Grow. Pictured (left to right): Steve Kruger, Laina Schneider, Emily Gibson, Kim Thurlow, Elisabeth Willis, Arlean Lambert, Jennifer Wilsie, Shelley Fortier, Carol Davis, and Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith.

Blacksburg recognized by council for winning 2023 VML awards

The town won the Virginia Municipal Innovation Award for Community Health and the Virginia Municipal League President's Award

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

The Town of Blacksburg was recognized at the Nov. 28 town council meeting for their achievement of the 2023 Virginia Municipal Innovation Award for Community Health as well as the Virginia Municipal League (VML) President's Award for Innovation for the community gardens program, Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith announced.

"We won both awards at the VML this year, and I think that there is really a main reason why, and that is a partnership," Kim Thurlow, Blacksburg Housing and Community Development Initiatives Manager. "We are lucky tonight to have

Arlean here with us, and really, she was the spark plug behind the community garden program in the town. She opened up her private land for the community benefit."

Arlean Hale Lambert offered up a garden space on her own property.

"Arlean and the YMCA operated the garden on her property until 2019. That year, she donated the land to the Town of Blacksburg, and LWEG took on the management of the garden program," Garden Coordinator Steve Kruger said. "Two new gardens were added in Town Parks and managed by LWEG: Wong Garden in 2020, and the Garrison

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Amy Pruden, University Distinguished Professor, to deliver fall 2023 University Commencement address



PHOTO BY PETER MEANS FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Amy Pruden

BLACKSBURG - University Distinguished Professor and environmental scientist Amy Pruden will deliver the keynote address at Virginia Tech's University Commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 15.

Pruden is the W. Thomas Rice Professor in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where her research program focuses on using DNA-based tools to track pathogens and antibiotic resistance in the environment.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech's College of Engineering in 2008, Pruden was a faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University. Pruden earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati.

Pruden's Research Team uses next-generation DNA sequencing tools to probe the microbiomes of natural and

engineered water systems. By zooming in on the DNA of disease-causing bacteria and the genes that prevent antibiotics from killing them, she is able to identify effective water treatment processes that are protective of public health. Pruden's team has used similar approaches to track antibiotic resistant bacteria from farm to fork and assess the effects of antibiotic use in livestock.

Pruden served as lead author on the United Nations Environment Programme 2023 Bracing for Superbugs report and is currently a working group leader of the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance.

From 2017-2019 she served on the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine Consensus Committee on Management of Legionella in Water Systems, which is

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Blacksburg hosts Miracle on Main Street holiday celebration

BLACKSBURG - A big crowd turned out for Downtown Blacksburg's Miracle on Main Street Winter Lights festival and holiday parade Friday, Dec. 1.

The festivities included a winter market with

downtown merchants, visits with Santa at the Lyric Theater, a performance by the Holiday Spectacular LEAPettes, a tree-lighting ceremony, a choral performance by the Blacksburg Children's Chorale, the TubaChristmas concert, and the parade. The parade

began on Main Street at the Turner Street intersection and followed Main Street through downtown, ending on Eheart Street.

Staff Report



The Blacksburg Children's Chorale performs during Blacksburg's Friday Christmas celebration.



Families watch the Christmas tree lighting in Blacksburg on Friday evening.



Children wave from a nativity scene float during Friday's Christmas parade. This year's theme was "Miracle on Main Street".



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

A festive team of mules pull a decorated wagon down Blacksburg's Main Street.

New Hokie-themed semi-truck helps drive the Sharing the Road program forward

A team from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute revived a 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck in Hokie fashion.

The eight pylons complete the front grille of the 1995 VTTI Peterbilt truck. Photo by Jacob Levin for Virginia Tech. Originally used just for research, the truck will now be the first fully dedicated truck for the institute's Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program.

"I am honored to have been able to help with the restoration of this classic American icon to represent this outreach program and the university," said Mark Golusky, the team leader: field operations. "The new purpose of this truck fits perfectly into our Virginia motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), that it serves

to help teach the public on safe driving habits while driving around large vehicles."

The program itself is expanding in exciting ways. During the next year, it will be offered in 150 new schools and begin to incorporate virtual components.

Since 2017, the Sharing the Road team has conducted safety demonstrations for over 28,000 students in six states and has multiple new states planned for the near future. Along with teaching strategies for safely interacting with large trucks, the program provides participants the opportunity to see a semi-truck up close and experience the large blind spots from a driver's seat.

The Peterbilt will not only fill that role, but will do so while adorned with multiple Virginia Tech elements

including: A representation of the Pylons above War Memorial Chapel on the front grille; Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) written at the top of the wind deflector; a Chicago maroon and burnt orange paint scheme; homage to Virginia Tech's military history; orange stitching on black leather seats; orange seatbelts, dashboard, and gearshift; a HokieBird hood ornament; and a HokieBird gobble air horn.

"We are excited to grow this important program to reach more drivers across the United States, especially with our revived Peterbilt," said Matt Camden, team

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Dec. 7:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion, Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Dec. 8:

Christmas on Main in Downtown Christiansburg

Join The Town of Christiansburg starting at 5 p.m. for Christmas at the Market featuring local crafters and other vendors, followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Parade. The Tree Lighting Ceremony with the mayor will take place at Town Square at roughly 6:50 p.m., with the Christmas Parade starting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9:

NAACP year-end meeting

The NAACP will hold its year-end meeting 9 -11:30 a.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart St., Christiansburg. Douglas Asante will speak about Ghana and the slave trade.

Monday, Dec. 11:

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, Dec. 12:

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.

Sunday, Dec. 17:

Luminary display

The annual Stroubles Mill Neighborhood Association Luminary display will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Blacksburg (Hethwood). Rain date is Monday, Dec. 18.

On-going:

Blacksburg stormwater utility credit application deadline

Deadline for Stormwater Utility Credit Applications is Jan. 1, 2024. If you are located within the Town of Blacksburg and have a stormwater management facility on your site, you may qualify for a credit on your monthly stormwater utility fee. Go to www.blacksburg.gov/stormwaterfund and review the Stormwater Utility Credit Manual to know more. Stormwater management facilities are typically ponds (either dry ponds/dry detention basins or wet retention basins). Other types include underground storage structures (usually located under parking lots in commercial areas), vegetated areas like bio-retentions, and mechanical filters that remove oil and sediment from stormwater runoff. Questions, contact stormwater@blacksburg.gov or call 540-443-1354.

Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan Amendment application process

In 2021, Town Council adopted the updated Comprehensive Plan. As part of the mid-way evaluation between five-year updates, the town accepts privately initiated applications for amendments to the plan. Amendments include changes to Future Land Use Map designations or the text of the Plan. Applications due on Jan. 15, 2024. A pre-application meeting is required prior to submittal. Contact Maeve Gould, Comprehensive Planner, at (540) 443-1300 or CompPlan@blacksburg.gov, with questions, or to schedule a pre-application meeting.

Eligibility applications for Christmas Store 2023

Online applications are being accepted and reviewed now through Dec. 6, 2023 to shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store in December. Go to the Christmas Store website at www.mccchristmasstore.org and click on Apply to Shop. First, you will see the documents you need to have ready to upload before beginning the application process. Then scroll down some more to see the criteria you must meet to see if you are eligible to apply to shop at the store in December. If you qualify to shop at the store Dec. 5-9, you will receive the link to select your shopping appointment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University alum Susan Carroll is the 2023 Winter Commencement speaker at Radford University. She serves as the President of Inova Loudoun Hospital and Senior Vice President of Inova Health System.

Radford University's Winter Commencement 2023 Speaker: A trailblazer in healthcare leadership

RADFORD - Radford University is honored to welcome Susan Carroll '96, MBA, M.H.A., as the distinguished speaker for the Winter Commencement ceremony, set to inspire the graduating class of 2023.

Carroll currently serves as the President of Inova Loudoun Hospital and Senior Vice President of Inova Health System. Her impressive portfolio includes providing daily direction for system-wide functions in Security and Emergency Management and Patient Support Service.

With over 25 years of invaluable experience within Inova, Susan is hailed as a highly accomplished health system executive. Her journey began in 1996 at Inova Loudoun Hospital, where she started as the Director of Business Affairs. Over the years, she ascended through the ranks, holding key positions such as Chief Operating Officer, Vice-President of the Inova Cancer Service Line, CEO at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Region, Interim President of Inova Fairfax Hospital, and President of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

Carroll's educational background is as diverse as her professional journey. She holds a Master of Health Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Ohio University, showcasing her commitment to excellence in both healthcare and business. Her journey comes full circle as she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Radford University.

In addition to her impactful role at Inova, Susan is an active member of the healthcare community, serving on the Board of Trustees at Shenandoah University and as a member of the Loudoun CEO Cabinet. She also sits on the Inova Fairfax Radiology Board and the Loudoun Surgical Center Board. Susan's commitment extends beyond the healthcare sector; she has served on various community boards, including the Loudoun Free Clinic, Children's Science Center, and the Loudoun Credit Union.

In 2022, she received the esteemed Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow, a recognition of her outstanding community service, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond her professional achievements, Carroll finds joy in her personal life. She resides in Ashburn with her husband and two boys, embracing a love for travel, skiing, and actively participating in her boys' sports activities.

Her wealth of experience and dedication to service will undoubtedly leave a mark on the graduating class.

Radford University will celebrate the achievements of nearly 380 graduates on Dec. 8 and 9.

The graduate commencement and hooding ceremony starts at 5 p.m. on Dec. 8 in Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall. The undergraduate commencement ceremony is Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Bondurant Auditorium, Preston Hall.

Radford University

Student Achievements

Local students named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH - Gabriel Palma, of Blacksburg, and Rachel Perkins, of Christiansburg, have been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2023 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults.

Blacksburg resident named to James Madison University dean's list

HARRISONBURG - Rebecca Linkous, of Blacksburg, has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the summer 2023 semester. Students who earn dean's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Linkous is majoring in Individualized Study - BS.

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

JMU congratulates participants in Dukes Making a Difference

HARRISONBURG - More than 140 students, many of them new to JMU, participated this August in DMAD: Dukes Making a Difference, to volunteer with nonprofit agencies in the Harrisonburg area, including Logan Boone and Emma Lucero, of Christiansburg. The program gives students an opportunity to meet other service-minded Dukes, to learn about Harrisonburg's most pressing social issues and to interact with individuals and organizations making the Harrisonburg community a better place for all residents.

Ohio Wesleyan Student Spencer Amacher presents research at science symposium

DELAWARE, OH - Spencer Amacher, of Blacksburg, was among the student-scientists presenting original research at Ohio Wesleyan University's 31st annual Patricia Belt Conrades Summer Science Research Symposium.

Amacher presented "Prolonged Heart Preservation: Assessment of Cardiac Function With Intermittent Left Atrial Perfusion" conducted at the University of Michigan. Amacher is a

Biochemistry - Basic and Pre-Medicine/Pre-Dentistry major.

The university's Sept. 28 symposium featured more than 40 OWU students discussing their original research and answering questions at the two-hour event. Laura Tuhela-Reuning, director of the Summer Science Research Program (SSRP), shared her thoughts on the value of such mentored research experiences.

"One of the most rewarding parts of SSRP for me is watching the students grow as scientists, seeing them take command of a research project, and knowing that they are gaining the confidence to speak and act as scientists," Tuhela-Reuning said. "Science cannot be learned solely from a book. Science must be experienced through research, and at OWU, we encourage students to plunge in, preparing them to be successful researchers both at OWU and at other universities."

Learn more about the OWU Connection and Connection Conference at www.owu.edu/OWUConnection and more about the Summer Science Research Program and annual symposium at www.owu.edu/ssrp.

Radford student awarded Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship

The Coast Guard Foundation has awarded 187 new scholarships, totaling \$650,000 in support for the 2023-2024 academic year. Since the program's inception in 1990, the Foundation has awarded more than \$6.9 million in scholarships, ensuring Coast Guard children can build strong futures through a college education or technical school training.

Meredith Dabney, child of the late Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class James Dabney from

Radford was awarded a Coast Guard Foundation Scholarship. She attends Texas Tech University.

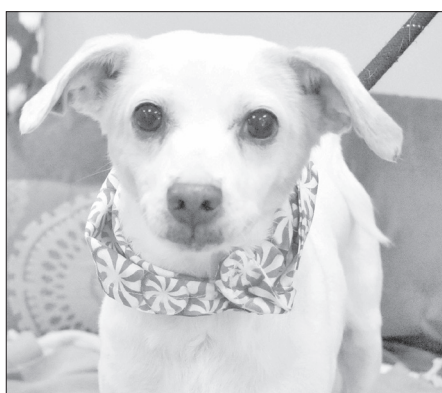
Coast Guard Foundation scholarships benefit the children of people who are serving or have served in the U.S. Coast Guard, whether active duty, reserve, retired or deceased.

"We are, as always, absolutely committed to ensuring that Coast Guard service members and their families have everything they need to be successful," said Susan Ludwig, president of the Coast Guard Foundation. "This includes, on an essential level, supporting their children's goals in education. These are talented, high-achieving students who are already serving their communities the way their family members do. Our scholarships are made possible by generous donations from individuals, families, corporations and foundations across the country."

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.

Meet Puddin! She is a sweet gal with a cuddly personality. She greets happily and enjoys being petted. Her love for affection will melt your heart, so you can be assured that she will never desert you. Visit the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet her! Ideally, Puddin would go to the same home as her pal, Pie.



Pie is a vibrant gal, who is ready to give a slice of her love to everyone she meets! She has an energetic personality, but she would gladly settle down for a spot on your lap and a cuddle. She knows basic commands and would likely learn more if treats were involved. Pie and Puddin prefer to go to the same home.



Sharing the Road from page 1



PHOTO BY JACOB LEVIN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck with Virginia Tech will serve as the first fully dedicated truck for the Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program. The eight pylons complete the front grille of the 1995 VTTI Peterbilt truck.

leader for the institute's Research to Practice and Outreach group. "Our goal is to connect with schools and communities in each state to share life-saving strategies for sharing the road with large trucks."

The 1995 Peterbilt semi-truck with Virginia Tech will serve as the first fully dedicated truck for the Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program. Photo by Jacob Levin for Virginia Tech. The truck is just one of the significant changes coming to the program during the 2023-24 academic year.

With \$1.3 million in funding through four grants, the program will expand to an additional 150 schools in multiple states. The funding also supported the purchase of 10 virtual reality headsets that will allow people unable to climb into the driver's seat of the tractor-trailer to still experience the life-saving demonstration, which is a critical component as

the program continues to expand beyond just high school-age participants. The grants come from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the Delaware Department of Transportation.

"This program provides an excellent opportunity not only for vulnerable road users, but for drivers of all ages to learn how to safely navigate our many roadways, which we share on an everyday basis with these large trucks," said Scott Tidwell, the institute's senior field research technician. "It is a very rewarding experience to put our research to practice and provide the general public with these tips and strategies that can save their lives."

The Sharing the Road with Large Trucks program was recently featured on "Good Morning America" and Univision ahead of the busy holiday travel season

to help educate travelers on the dangers of passing large trucks. It also was featured on "Curious Conversations," a Virginia Tech podcast series of free-flowing conversations with Virginia Tech researchers that take place at the intersection of world-class research and everyday life.

For more information or to schedule a visit with the 1995 Hokie Peterbilt, email sharingtheroad@vtti.vt.edu or visit the website.

Virginia Tech

Old Pros Big Band Orchestra presents holiday music concert

The Old Pros Big Band Orchestra of New River Community College will present holiday music Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg Mall.

Admission is free, and donations will be accepted to the NRCC Educational Foundation to support the band. The NRCC Educational Foundation assists New River Community College in the endowment and distribution of scholarship funds, the purchase of equipment and furnishings, and the financial support of academic and community enrichment programs, such as the Old Pros.

Under the direction of Dean Chiapetto, the band plays music from

the heyday of the Big Band Era as well as today's modern sounds. The Old Pros are celebrating their 50th year. Over the years, the band has performed for events and groups including Gov. John Dalton's Inaugural Ball, NRV Air Show, The Homestead Resort, Virginia Lions Club Convention, NRCC Graduation and many more. The band's members include professionals, small business owners, teachers, retirees and students with varied musical backgrounds.

For more information about the Old Pros and to view their concert schedule, visit www.nr.edu/oldpros/.

Submitted by New River Community College

Pruden from page 1

the No. 1 source of waterborne disease in the U.S. She has published more than 200 peer-reviewed book chapters and manuscripts and is a Fellow of the International Water Association.

In addition to being a University Distinguished Professor, Pruden is the recipient of several awards, including the Alumni Award for Research Excellence, the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research from the College of Engineering, the Water Research Innovator Award, the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering, and the Paul L. Busch Award from the Water Environment Research Foundation.

Commencement is Friday, Dec. 15. The undergraduate ceremony is at 10:30 a.m. and the Graduate School ceremony is at 2:30 p.m. Both ceremonies are at Cassell Coliseum on Virginia Tech's

Blacksburg campus.

Three graduate students will speak during the school's commencement ceremony. They plan to share thoughts about their graduate education journey. The short remarks are modeled on the Nutshell Games created by the Center for Communicating Science.

The students are: Imani Lewis, who is earning a master's degree of public and international affairs; Ikhlas Rabab'ah, who is earning a doctoral degree in architecture and design research and graduating this semester with her master's degree; and Norovbanzad Tsogt-Ochir, who is earning a master's degree in civil engineering.

Visit Virginia Tech's commencement website for information and updates on fall commencement ceremonies.

Virginia Tech

VML from page 1

Garden in Cedar Hill Park in 2021."

The successful partnership between the Town of Blacksburg and the community garden project is growing again, with additional garden spaces.

According to the presentation at the Council meeting, there are 100 existing community garden plots, 30-50 more in the works, a variety of programs that function all year round, with many opportunities for volunteers to become involved.

Blacksburg Town Council approved a plan to allocate funding for the community gardens, along with other town projects, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Signed by President Biden in March of 2021, a 1.9 trillion-dollar plan was established to provide assistance to Americans in need following the pandemic.

"Our mission is to cultivate vibrant communities by fostering local food, farms, and gardens; creating jobs and growing small businesses; supporting an affordable home for all; and gathering friends and neighbors," the nonprofit organization states on their website at www.liveworkeatgrow.org.

What started as revitalization of the old Prices Fork Elementary School in 2012, has become successful in meeting many needs for the local community members of Blacksburg.

The Prices Fork Elementary School provides mixed-income apartments, contains a shared-use kitchen called the Millstone Kitchen, has an independently owned restaurant business called El Rancho, and craft beer at the Moon Hollow Brewery.

There are many opportunities to volunteer with the organization as well. Local organizations such as Virginia Tech University student groups, boys and girls scout troops, master gardeners, and individuals that just love to work in the garden find a way to support one of the local gardens. The Adopt-a-Bed/Weed Hunter is also a fun and relaxing way to spend some time outdoors while beautifying a spot at a local garden. Those interested in signing up for a garden spot to tend can send an email to gardens@liveworkeatgrow.org, or go directly to their website, select the volunteer page and click on the Choose a Garden Spot on Signup button.

OBITUARY

Slusser, Martha Sue

Martha Sue Slusser, 77, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

She was born in Montgomery Co. on Feb. 14, 1946 to the late Wilbur and Nellie Duncan Slusser. She was

also preceded in death by a brother, Harry Slusser. She is survived by her brother, Gerald D. Slusser.

Graveside service will be conducted Wednesday, Dec. 6,

2023 at 2 p.m. in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1-1:45 p.m. Wednesday at the McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.



Route 663 (Walton Road) Bridge Replacement Montgomery County

Find out about a project to replace the Route 663 (Walton Road) bridge over Crab Creek in Montgomery County. The bridge is located 2.7 miles north of Route 11 (Lee Highway). The existing bridge will be replaced with a wider structure with shoulders. Traffic will need to use local detour routes for approximately 12 months during construction.

Review the project information at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353, 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Tyler Teer, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 on or prior to **December 21, 2023**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Tyler Teer at the phone numbers listed above.

UPC: 117012
State Project: 0663-060-865, B668, C501, P101, R201
Federal Project: NHPP-5150(232)
From: 2.7 miles north of intersection with Route 11
To: 2.95 miles north of intersection with Route 11



Northbound Interstate 81 Exit 105 (Radford) Ramp Extension Montgomery County

Find out about a project to extend the ramp onto northbound Interstate 81 at exit 105 (Radford) in Montgomery County. The on ramp will be extended approximately 2,000 feet and a new chain-link barrier will be installed along the nearby rock face.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act document in the form of a Categorical Exclusion at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem, 540-387-5353 1-800-FOR-ROAD, or TTY/TDD 711. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Eli Mannon, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153, on or prior to **December 21, 2023**. If a request for a public hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Eli Mannon at the phone numbers listed above.

Federal Project: STP-5150(212) UPC: 116198
State Project: 0081-060-862, C501, P101, R201
From: 0.202 mile north of Route 232
To: 0.827 mile north of Route 232

Full-time Radiologic Technologist

Monroe Health Center is seeking a Full-time **Radiologic Technologist** for our **Craig County Health Center in New Castle, VA**. Position requires current Virginia license, **experience in a clinic setting is ideal**. Ability to work in a busy environment, experienced with Electronic Medical Records, good communication skills, ability to establish a good rapport with patients and staff. Great Benefit package includes, 11 paid holidays, paid time off, Anthem health insurance, Paid long term disability, life insurance, and WV Public Employees Retirement System. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 8am to 4:30pm. NO Weekends. Please send completed employment application and resume to Monroe Health Center, P.O. Box 590 Union, WV 24983, Attn: Stephanie Aliff, HR Director, or by e-mail at saliff@monroehealthcenter.com You can obtain an Employment application at any of our locations or it can be downloaded at www.monroehealthcenters.com. We value diversity - in backgrounds and in experiences. Monroe Health Center is an equal opportunity employer.

OPINION

Addressing the underlying problems related to gun violence is important

November 30th was a significant date for the Virginia General Assembly, as that was the deadline for lawmakers to submit our legislative proposals to be considered during the 2024 legislative session in Richmond. While many of these pieces of legislation are in the early stages of drafting, some bills have already been filed and can be viewed on Virginia's Legislative Information System (LIS) website. As expected, some of the early submissions by the new Democratic majority seek to restrict 2nd Amendment rights and criminalize the ownership of popular firearms used for home defense, hunting, or just plain old "plinking". One such piece of legislation is House Bill 2.

House Bill 2 represents the usual attempt by those on the left to criminalize lawful and responsible ownership of so-called "assault firearms". What this bill does is assign a class 1 misdemeanor not only to those who buy or sell a firearm identified as an "assault weapon", but also to those who merely possess these firearms. Under the definition of the bill, any semi-automatic centerfire rifle (or pistol) with a magazine capacity in excess of 10 rounds is considered an "assault weapon". The bill goes on to describe functions, features, and magazine-

styles that are impermissible should it become law. It captures many rifles – and perhaps an even greater number of handguns – that are commonly owned by Virginia residents for self-defense. A semi-automatic hunting rifle with a detachable magazine and a muzzle compensator – not uncommon in hunting – would be made illegal. It may even mean that your child or grandchild's .22 caliber rifle, long-used to promote and teach safe firearm handling and usage, could be determined to be illegal simply based on the style of the firearm's magazine.

In my opinion, this is an example of government overreach and does not do anything to solve the underlying problems relating to the prevalence of gun violence. We should not be making criminals out of responsible and law-abiding Virginians who seek to mind their own business, protect their families, and enjoy the benefits that come with target practice. We should be promoting the safe storage of firearms so they are away from the hands of minors, and I have submitted a bill this year to expand the program in which tax credits are offered to those who purchase a gun safe. And we should continue to teach our children firearm safety and the responsibility that comes with

gun ownership, as many of our role models did for us as children. And finally, we should be focusing on mental and behavioral health treatment that lessens the prevalence of violence in our communities, whether perpetrated with a firearm or not. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the General Assembly to tackle these important issues while ensuring that we don't criminalize otherwise law-abiding Virginians. Be on the lookout for future columns where I'll be sharing my 2024 legislative priorities!

It is my honor to represent you in Richmond, and I want you to be fully informed what your government is doing for you. As the Delegate representing the 12th District (soon to be the 42nd District due to redistricting), your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelJBallard@House.Virginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

- Delegate Jason Ballard

Average Virginia gas prices unchanged in last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia are unchanged in the last week, averaging \$3.11/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 12.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 4.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.18 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.70/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.59/g while the highest was \$4.29/g, a difference of \$1.70/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.21/g today. The national average is down 18.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 14.9 cents per gallon lower 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:

December 4, 2022: \$3.23/g (U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)
 December 4, 2021: \$3.22/g (U.S. Average: \$3.36/g)
 December 4, 2020: \$2.07/g (U.S. Average: \$2.16/g)
 December 4, 2019: \$2.34/g (U.S. Average: \$2.61/g)
 December 4, 2018: \$2.30/g (U.S. Average: \$2.44/g)
 December 4, 2017: \$2.30/g (U.S. Average: \$2.47/g)
 December 4, 2016: \$2.06/g (U.S. Average: \$2.18/g)
 December 4, 2015: \$1.88/g (U.S. Average: \$2.04/g)
 December 4, 2014: \$2.57/g (U.S. Average: \$2.72/g)
 December 4, 2013: \$3.21/g (U.S. Average: \$3.24/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:
 Roanoke- \$3.05/g, unchanged from last week's \$3.05/g.
 Richmond- \$3.07/g, up 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.06/g.
 West Virginia- \$3.20/g, up 5.9 cents per gallon from

last week's \$3.14/g.

"We've barely eked out a drop in the national average over the last week, extending the streak to 11 straight weeks of decline, even as some states have seen prices jump, while others have seen prices continue to inch lower. Motorists can blame the OPEC+ meeting for causing oil to jump early last week and then plummet late last week for the volatility in gas prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The good news is that as the dust settled, OPEC+ agreed to barely move the needle, deepening their production cuts by an additional 900,000 barrels per day in 2024, with Saudi Arabia extending their own million barrel per day cut through March. However, that wasn't enough to offset concerns of falling global demand, which pushed oil back down to below \$73 in Sunday night trading, giving hope that the national average still could fall to \$2.99/gal by the end of the year."

Submitted by GasBuddy

News Messenger
 Established 1869
 (540) 389-9355
 P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153
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Give us your view:
 editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$46 a year in Montgomery County, \$55 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$59 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: What to know before your next web search

Most of us do it several times a day. We have a question, need a phone number or are looking for a website, so we open a search engine and type in our request. What happens next is becoming more and more dangerous.

To steer clear of impostor scams, a widely recommended precaution is to avoid clicking on links or dialing numbers provided in emails or texts. Instead, contact the company or agency using a verified website or phone number. Beware however that even web search results can be manipulated.

The easiest way that scammers do this is with advertising dollars. By paying to promote their fake websites that mimic legitimate sites, a criminal can jump to the top of your web search results. Complicating matters, some app-based companies lack customer service numbers, so web searches only bring back malicious phone numbers.

This doesn't mean you can't trust web searches, just search carefully. Always look closely at the top results to make sure that they are what you are looking for

before clicking. You may also want to avoid clicking on links that are advertisement or "sponsored." Not all promoted links are fake, but it's important to understand that promoted web ads are a tactic of scammers.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork, or call the AARP Fraud Watch Helpline at 1-877-908-3360.

Submitted by AARP Virginia

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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64				65						66			
67				68						69			

CLUES ACROSS
 1. Chop up
 5. Ones who utilize
 10. Sings with closed lips
 14. South American hummingbird
 15. Serves as a coxswain
 16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
 17. Spur
 18. Senile
 19. Tanzanian people
 20. Cruel
 22. Boxing's "GOAT"
 23. Yokels
 24. London soccer team
 27. Chinese chess piece
 30. Supervises flying
 31. 007's creator
 32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
 35. A spider makes one
 37. Liquefied natural gas
 38. Opaque gem
 39. Brazilian palm
 40. Periodical (slang)

CLUES DOWN
 1. Not low
 2. Small water buffalo
 3. A mark left behind
 4. Archaic form of have
 5. Fiddler crabs
 6. Popular Hyundai sedan
 7. Deport
 8. Making over
 9. Midway between south and southeast
 10. Arabic masculine name
 11. Type of acid
 12. Popular 1980s Cher film
 13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
 21. Chinese city
 23. "Star Wars" character Solo
 25. The bill in a restaurant
 26. Old, ugly witch
 27. Burn with a hot liquid
 28. To claim or demand
 29. "A Doll's House" playwright
 32. Involuntary muscular contraction
 33. Pea stems (British)

CLUES ACROSS
 41. You might step on one
 42. Marvin and Horsley are two
 43. Partner to cheese
 44. Unpleasant smell
 45. Field force unit (abbr.)
 46. Fashion accessory
 47. Cool!
 48. Time zone
 49. Songs to one's lover
 52. German river
 55. Go bad
 56. Sword
 60. Very eager
 61. Leaf bug
 63. Italian seaport
 64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
 65. Member of Jamaican religion
 66. Large wading bird
 67. Carries out
 68. Eternal rest
 69. It holds up your head-words

CLUES DOWN
 34. Double or multiple fold
 36. No longer is
 37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)
 38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
 40. Cloth or fabric
 41. Planks
 43. Disfigure
 44. Angry
 46. Baltic coast peninsula
 47. Large, flightless birds
 49. Plants of the lily family
 50. Medieval Norwegian language
 51. Polio vaccine developer
 52. Not soft
 53. Exchange rate
 54. Voice (Italian)
 57. Baseball's Ruth
 58. Famed guitarist Clapton
 59. Take a chance
 61. Wife
 62. Elaborate handshake

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Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening drivingshift for newspaperdelivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355

Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work installing, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$12 per hour. Contact Christine, Circulation Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email customerservice@ourvalley.org

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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 50 BERRY RIDGE RD, BUCHANAN, VA 24066.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 17, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$173,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200000244. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 12, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE BUCHANAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, BY SURVEY, WITH METES AND BOUNDS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY CHRISTOPHER N. MCMURRY, L.S., DATED AUGUST 28, 2008, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 45, PAGE 35. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

Legals - Botetourt County

LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-365831-1.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 366 Bridge Street N, Buchanan, VA 24066

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$53,680.00 dated December 1, 2015 recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for Botetourt County on December 14, 2015 as Instrument Number: 1504503, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction, at the Main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of Botetourt County, 1 W Main St, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and briefly described as: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY OF HEARTHLAND SUBDIVISION, PREPARED BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S., DAIED JULY 3, 1991, OF RECORD IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, IN PLAT BOOK 14, AT PAGE 73. Tax ID: 22559. TERMS OF SALE: A bidder's deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required in the form of a certified or cashier's check. Cash will not be accepted as a deposit. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustee may forfeit deposit. This is a communication from a debt collector. This notice is an attempt to collect on a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. (Trustee # 23-008417) Substitute Trustee: ALG Trustee, LLC C/O Orland PC PO Box 2548, Leesburg, VA 20177 (703) 777-7101 website: www.Orland.com The Vendor auction.com will be used in conjunction with this Sale. Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832.

Legals - Botetourt County

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 17, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$173,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 200000244. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on January 12, 2024, at 12:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE BUCHANAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 3.00 ACRES, BY SURVEY, WITH METES AND BOUNDS AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY CHRISTOPHER N. MCMURRY, L.S., DATED AUGUST 28, 2008, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN PLAT BOOK 45, PAGE 35. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees,

Legals - City of Salem

DIVORCE NOTICE

Granville County Civil Court in Granville County, NC will be hearing a plea for the decree of divorce for which suit is pending and as filed by Larissa L. Peluso-Fleming of 4010 Pastor Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (petitioner/wife) versus Andrew Taylor McDonald of 1619 Valhalla Court, Salem, VA 24513 (defendant/husband) The defendant must enter a defense to such pleading within 30 days after the date of receipt of divorce filing as delivered by the Roanoke County Sheriff's Department. Should the defendant fail to make a defense within that time period, the plaintiff shall apply to the court for relief.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?



To place your ad, call 389-9355

Legals - City of Salem

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission,

at its regular meeting on December 13, 2023, at 7:00 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. Consider the request of E2ST John, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 68 St. John Road (Tax Map # 155-2-2.1) from HBD Highway Business District to HM Heavy Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Poindexter SW Florida, LLC, property owner, for rezoning the property located at 2105-2121 Apperson Drive (Tax Map # 281-1-2.2) from BCD Business Commerce District to HBD Highway Business District.

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 PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: H. Robert Light Deputy Executive Secretary

Legals - Montgomery County

TOWN OF BLACKSBURG - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BLACKSBURG TOWN COUNCIL will hold public hearings on Tuesday, December 12, 2023

beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, regarding the following items:
Ordinance 2032: An Ordinance Vacating a Public Utility Easement on Land Located at 215 Cork Drive. The proposed ordinance request is to release the Town's interest in a Public Utility easement located at 215 Cork Drive.

Ordinance 2034: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Section 18-401 Pertaining to the Surcharge for Certain Industrial Wastes. The proposed ordinance establishes a surcharge to be imposed on industrial sewers for discharges of BOD and TSS in excess of the levels contained in normal wastewater under the terms of an approved Discharge Permit.

Ordinance 2039: An Ordinance to Amend Town Code Sections 22-221 and 22-222 Pertaining to Tax Exemptions for Elderly and Disabled by Increasing Income and Asset Limits. The proposed ordinance will increase the eligibility limits for income and net worth for elderly or disabled persons. This will align with recent changes to Montgomery County's income and net worth limits.

Ordinance 2042: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate an Additional \$194,000 of the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Grant Funds to the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. The Town has received an additional \$194,000 from the Virginia Department of Health Lead Inventory Project and these funds must be accepted and appropriated to the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget of the Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

Legals - Montgomery County

Ordinance 2043: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2043 will accept and appropriate \$76,680 of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the Department of Energy to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

Ordinance 2044: An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2023/2024 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$406,038 in VDOT Primary Extension Paving Funding and \$168,750 in VDOT Primary Extension ADA Funding to the General Capital Improvement Fund.

All persons affected by or interested in these ordinances above may appear and present their views. After each public hearing, Town Council will consider action on the item. Copies of materials related to the above items are on file and can be obtained in the Office of the Town Clerk, 300 South Main Street, Blacksburg, weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For land use matters, copies of applications and all related items may also be found online at www.blacksburg.gov/public hearings or reviewed in person at the Blacksburg Planning and Building Department, 400 South Main Street, Blacksburg, Virginia. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting should contact Lorraine Spaulding, Town Clerk at (540) 443-1025 or 443-1000 (voice or TDD).

Legals - Roanoke County

LEGAL NOTICE

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Seeking Applicants to Fill Vinton District Vacancy

The Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County is searching for candidates to fill the vacancy in the Vinton Magisterial District as the result of P. Jason Peters' election to the Roanoke County Commissioner of the Revenue.

The person appointed shall be a qualified voter of the Vinton Magisterial District and hold office until a special election in November of 2024.

The person elected at the special election will serve the remainder of Mr. Peters' term, which expires December 31, 2025. If any qualified voter in the Vinton Magisterial District would like to be considered for the vacancy, please mail or email a 300-word essay on why you want to be the Supervisor for the Vinton Magisterial District and why you feel you are qualified to serve to the Chief Deputy Clerk at the following address or email by January 1, 2024. Deborah C. Jacks Chief Deputy Clerk to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors 5204 Bernard Drive Roanoke, Virginia 24018 Telephone: 540-772-2003

Email: djacks@roanokecountyva.gov or Dated: November 26, 2023 Deborah C. Jacks Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board

Legals - Town of Vinton

ABC NOTICE

Maa Vedai 6 LLC, trading as JENNIFER GROCERY, 1312 Patterson Ave SW, Roanoke, Roanoke City, VA. 24016.

Legals - Town of Vinton

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application-Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Haresh Chaudhari, Only Member.

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.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford to play for state title Saturday

Marty Gordon
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Radford High School will play for the Class 2 state football title this weekend after beating last year's state champion Graham this past week on the turf at Christiansburg in front of 4,000-plus fans. Radford will face Riverheads at Salem stadium.

The Bobcats (12-1) are seeking their first state title in 51 years, and Saturday will be their first state championship appearance since 2009. You can't say that about their opponent.

Riverheads (13-1) is no stranger to the state championship game. The numbers show: District Champions in 1975, 1976, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; Region B Runner-up in 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011; Region Champions in 2000,

2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; State Runner-Ups in 2015 and State Champions in 2000, 2006, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

This will be Riverheads' ninth straight trip to the big game. They moved up to Class 2 this season after winning the last seven trophies in Class 1.

Last year, they beat George Wythe in the championship, also played at Salem as Riverheads rushed for 485 yards and seven touchdowns in the 49-27 win. Riverheads running back Cayden Cash-Cook rushed 17 times for 282 yards and five touchdowns.

The Gladiators had to use a field goal as time ran out earlier this season in a win over Christiansburg. The wins have come in buckets for the team.

Riverheads has clicked off 13 straight wins after losing their season opener 8-7 to Central Woodstock. They avenged that loss in the playoffs.

This past weekend, Riverheads rolled 37-7 over Poquoson. They have outscored opponents 451 to 160 this season.

Caden Cook-Cash has been the workhorse for Riverheads. He has rushed for 100 yards in eight games.

He was last year's Class 1 Offensive Player of the Year after gaining 1,879 yards rushing with 175 carries and 26 rushing touchdowns including 775 yards in four playoff games. He has rushed for over 3,900 yards in the past three years. A foot injury forced him to miss several games during the regular season.

The team runs a Wing-T formation, which relies on blocking and pulling defenders out of position, plus some misdirection, to create running room. In so many ways, it looks similar to the Single-Wing run by Radford's foe in Giles.

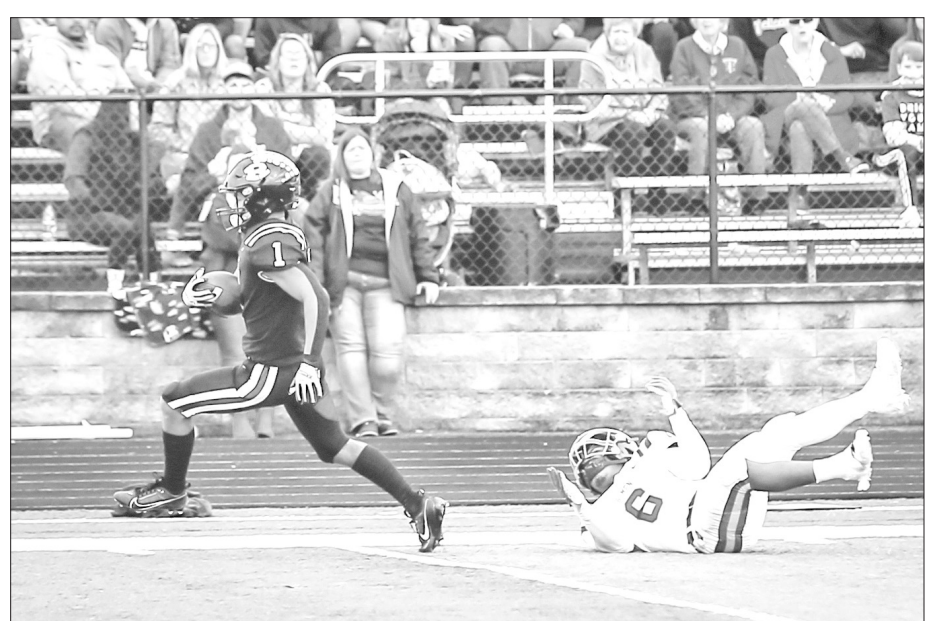
Radford advances over Graham



Receiver Max Kanipe pulls down a pass reception between two Graham defenders.



The Bobcats' defense, including #14 Cole Martin, #28 Brandon Thompson, and #7 Landen Clark, gang tackles a Graham receiver.



Receiver Sincere Taylor makes a catch and leaves the defensive back on the ground while racing to the end zone for a Bobcats' touchdown.



Dawson Martin wraps up the Graham quarterback for a sack as the defense held the normally potent Graham offense to only 10 points.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Clark rewriting Radford's record books



PHOTO BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford quarterback Landen Clark avoids a defender to score Radford's touchdown in Saturday's state semi-final game.

Marty Gordon
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Glenvar's loss is Radford's gain. Landon Clark has led the Radford High School football team to an undefeated record and this week's state championship to be played in Salem. He didn't even suit up in the black and gold until his family moved to Radford when he was in the eighth grade, from none other than the school's toughest rival - Glenvar.

Two weeks ago, it was last minute drive by Clark that gave the Bobcats regional title over Glenvar, who ironically had become the spear in his new team's side for two of the past four years.

Sunday, he looked back at the semi-final win over Graham.

"I'm proud of our guys. Saturday was one of the most physical games we have had all year," Clark said.

He laughs at being called the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) at Radford High School, but he has taken control of the record books and is racing to the top of almost every category.

"I wouldn't go [being called the GOAT] that far," Clark said.

But let's take a look at the stats.

The senior leader has thrown 191 completions on 317 attempts for 3,109 yards with 36 touchdowns. He has also rushed 120 times for 1,083 yards and 25 scores. Combined he has been involved in one form or another to over 90 percent of Radford's offense.

He has also become very important on the defensive side of the ball. Of course, Saturday was no exception as Clark picked off two interceptions from his free safety spot and tallied 17 tackles.

See Radford, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Hokies to face Tulane in Military Bowl

Virginia Tech's win over the University of Virginia propelled them to their sixth win of the season and will go bowling on Dec. 27 in the Military Bowl against Tulane.

The announcement was made Sunday night.

Virginia Tech football will play in the Military Bowl against Tulane Wednesday Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. ET in Annapolis, Md. at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, marking Tech's 35th all-time bowl berth.

The Hokies (6-6, 5-3 ACC) and Tulane (11-2, 8-1 AAC) have faced

each other before, with the most recent contest taking place in 1989 in favor of the Hokies, 30-13. Tech narrowly leads the all-time series 5-4.

Ticket reservations for the Military Bowl will be made available Sunday evening exclusively for Hokie Scholarship Fund donors as of March 1, 2023. The deadline for donors to complete their ticket reservation is this Tuesday at noon ET. Following the deadline, tickets will be allocated based on priority point ranking with the top three membership levels receiving guaranteed access to tickets.

Bama owns CFP, FSU disrespected

Marty Gordon
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The Final Four teams for the College Football Playoffs were unveiled Sunday and left many fans and college leaders scratching their heads. #1 Michigan will play #4 Alabama, and #2 Washington will face #3 Texas. It is the inclusion of

11-1 Bama from the Southeastern Conference that has us all wondering what the CFP committee was thinking when they made those decisions.

The playoff was set up with conference champions in mind, but Bama, who won the SEC title, did lose to Texas earlier this year. Florida State

See CFP, page 8

Radford

from page 7

"I like playing both sides of the ball. The safety is like the quarterback on defense. It helps me to read the offense, and I will do whatever this team's needs," he said after the win over Graham.

His last statement has been true all season even taking on the role of punter for Radford.

Against Graham, Clark was 10 of 21 for 199 yards with two touchdowns and punted five times for an

average of 42 yards.

The Elon University signee only stands at 6-0, 200 but is able to sit back behind a pretty good line of Bobcats and remain pretty unscathed this season.

Looking ahead, Clark wouldn't go out on the limb and make a prediction on the contest against Riverheads. Instead, he used the simple analogy of "it would not be a better way to go out but to win a state championship."

"Right now, we are 0-0, and we're looking to go 1-0 this week. We have prepared that way every week this season and will do so again."

Clark and the Bobcats are expecting the faithful to show up in full force as Saturday's game is being played just down the interstate in Salem. Game time in 11:30 a.m.

CFP

from page 7

out of the ACC finished undefeated and beat Louisville in the conference championship. Yet, they were left out of the final four. Something is just not right.

Florida State head coach Mike Norvell summed it perfectly to this decision.

"I am disgusted and infuriated with the committee's decision to have what was earned on the field taken away because a small group of people decided they knew better than the results of the games.

"What is the point of playing games? Do you tell players it is okay

to quit if someone goes down? Do you not play a senior on Senior Day for fear of injury? Where is the motivation to schedule challenging non-conference games? We are not only an undefeated P5 conference champion, but we also played two P5 non-conference games away from home and won both of them. I don't understand how we are supposed to think this is an acceptable way to evaluate a team."

Florida State athletics director Michael Alford also ripped the College Football Playoff Committee.

"The 2023 Florida State Seminoles are the epitome of a total TEAM.

To eliminate them from a chance to compete for a national championship is an unwarranted injustice that shows complete disregard and disrespect for their performance and accomplishments."

"For many of us, today's decision by the committee has forever damaged the credibility of the institution that is the College Football Playoff."

Alabama moved from the top nine to the top four in a quick fashion, and we have to wonder why. Of course, Bama has spent its share of time in the CFP including winning it a couple of times. So, what is up with them getting the

bid over FSU who had been in the Top Five for the past five weeks.

The Seminoles did not lose. The Seminoles did what the CFP committee had always wanted the undefeated conference champions to have a chance for the national championship.

But not this year, the whole scenario has become a joke. I told several people just weeks ago if Bama beat Georgia then the committee would find a way for the "cash cow" to be there on Jan. 1.

Thanks for the CFP to be nothing new. It's the same message. Let's Bama play

Summit highlights cybersecurity careers for rural students

Enma Haga stood in the coolly lit grand hall, processing the abundance of data presented to her over the past hour.

"We don't really have a lot of unique programs like this," said Haga, a student at Northwood High School in Saltville, Va.

She, along with six other students from Smyth County schools, joined scores of students and faculty at Radford University's Classroom to Career Cybersecurity Summit 2023 on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

This daylong event, hosted by Radford's Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab, is part of the Professional Accelerated Cyber Education (PACE) program. The summit was designed to accomplish two main objectives.

One was to strengthen the coordination among regional businesses and governments, K-12 schools and workforce development agencies to prepare rural students for the changing needs of the current workforce.

The second objective was "to see how we can improve outcomes for rural students like you so that we can actually build out the career pipelines that you need in order to be successful," said Matt Dunleavy, Ph.D., executive director of Radford's IMPACT Lab, in his opening remarks.

"That means you go by the vendor tables, introduce yourself and ask them, 'Hey, what are you looking for in an IT security analyst? How can I prepare now in high school to get a job in your company?'"

Those vendors included several representatives from a number of businesses and education institutions that call Southwest Virginia home, including Radford University, Food City, Wize Solutions, First Bank and Trust and others.

High school students and their career and technical education (CTE) teachers from across the region visited the summit to explore its unique education and networking opportunities. In addition

to Smyth County, summit-goers came from Botetourt County, Bristol City, Carroll County, Danville City, Galax City, Russell County, Smyth County, Washington County and Wise County public schools.

They heard from experts in the cybersecurity field, including retired U.S. Rear Admiral David Simpson; Jessica Gulick, commissioner of U.S. Cyber Games; David Raymond of Virginia Cyber Range; Kara Joyce, registered apprenticeship consultant with Virginia DoL's Registered Apprenticeship Division; James Blevins, director of the Rural IT apprenticeship program; Crystal Breeding, director of employer and workforce services at United Way of Southwest Virginia; Rob Graham, superintendent of Pulaski County Public Schools; and Alex Leonard, an IT specialist and instructor at Carroll County Public Schools.

Radford University Professor Prem Uppuluri, director of the university's School of Computing and Information Science, was there, too, providing expertise through a series of panel discussions. Uppuluri also led groups of students - separated into red, blue and green teams - through

simulated activities such as capture the flag exercises, which simulate real-world computer security challenges and are a common learning tool at Radford's School of Computing and Information Science.

In addition to those exercises, students had a chance to explore Washington County Public Schools' mobile STEM Lab, which was equipped with robotics, drones and virtual reality activities.

Hosting the Career Cybersecurity Summit 2023 was possible through a \$1.2 million U.S. Department of Education - Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development grant. Through the funding, Radford is continuing efforts through the IMPACT Lab to develop and deliver cybersecurity micro-credentials, courses and certificates to students and teachers.

For the past six years, the IMPACT Lab has delivered online, self-paced, competency-based education (CBE) in high-demand workforce areas throughout Virginia and several neighboring states. The CBE approach focuses on teaching specific job-related skills needed to complete a critical task within the workplace. To date, the IMPACT Lab has secured approximately



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY
High school students and their career and technical education (CTE) teachers from across the region visited Radford University's cybersecurity summit to explore its unique education and networking opportunities.

\$16 million in external funding to support its work, including the largest grant in the history of the university.

"We want to rapidly empower learners to obtain career-gain skills. We also want to strengthen our current workforce," Dunleavy noted while also explaining that all the programs are online and self-paced.

"That means you can integrate this into your existing curriculum," he said to teachers in the room. And, to students, "you can actually work through these credentials as you're doing your regular schoolwork."

In addition to cybersecurity, IMPACT Lab programs include geospatial intelligence, data science and K-12 education.

"I think it's really interesting to learn about

all the paths you can go in," Haga said just before walking outside to pilot a drone at the mobile STEM lab. "This is a great opportunity for us, and it's nice to find out Radford, somewhere near us, actually has programs like this."

Those words were music to the ears of her teacher, John King, the senior technology specialist at Smyth County Public Schools, who also completed the IMPACT cybersecurity certificate.

"It solidified what I've been telling them and teaching them," said King, who teaches cybersecurity fundamentals in Smyth County. "It brings it all together. It lets them know there are real-life opportunities for what they are learning in class."

Chad Osborne for Radford University

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