

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00



NRV Chapter of Virginia Organizing seeks county funds for low-income housing repairs

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

Virginia Panbecker, representative of New River Valley's Chapter of Virginia Organizing addressed the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors March 25, 2024, with a request for funding for a program that is proposed to improve low-income community members' housing safety issues.

"We are a community-led non-partisan organization that focuses on addressing issues in our community," Panbecker said. "Everyone needs safe, healthy, and affordable housing. Unfortunately, this is not a reality for all NRV residents. According to the Housing and Urban Development, 14% of Virginians lived

in inadequate housing between 2014 and 2018, which is defined as housing having three or four maintenance issues such as water leaks, mold, holes in the floor, inadequate heating, non-functional plumbing or major appliances and faulty wiring."

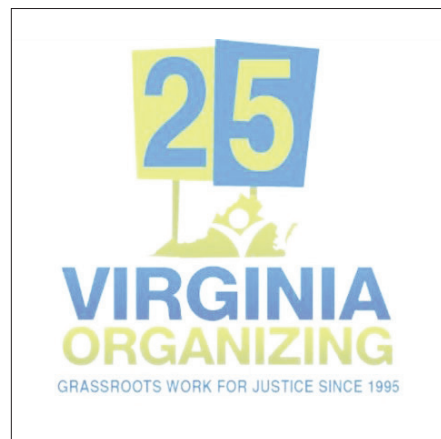
"Many families in the NRV face just such living conditions in the only homes they can secure, over 4,000 of whom spend more than 50% of their monthly income on housing and cannot afford needed repairs increasing the risk of severe health consequences."

Panbecker said critical funding is necessary to combat these housing issues.

"We are asking for the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors to support establishing a whole home repair

program to grant money to low-income homeowners and also to landlords with low-income renters for needed repairs," Panbecker said. "In this program, for landlords to be eligible they must keep renters in their homes for at least three years. This helps with housing security and holds landlords accountable so that if they get money for repairs, the residents have the opportunity to stay for at least three years before they raise rates."

According to the organization's website at virginia-organizing.org, "Virginia Organizing is a non-partisan statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives."



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NRV CHAPTER VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

The NRV Chapter of Virginia Organizing was established in April of 2017.



PHOTO BY RYAN ANDERSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Sen. Mark Warner (at left) started a conversation with biotechnology industry leaders for a roundtable conversation on research, innovation, and economic development this week at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC in Roanoke.

Sen. Mark Warner convenes biotech leaders in Roanoke and New River valleys

A rare glimpse of the biotechnology ecosystem in the region occurred this week when U.S. Sen. Mark Warner convened many of its tech sector leaders at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC.

The Research, Innovation, and Economic Development in Biotech event highlighted progress and potential as well as Virginia's proposed research triangle, which primarily includes Virginia Tech and the research institute, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

"To have Sen. Warner here, and this group of stakeholders together, is a special day for us to be able to share our common goals and interests," said Michael Friedlander, executive director of the research institute and Virginia Tech's vice president for health sciences and technology. "With such a well-informed, influential, and supportive person as a Sen. Warner sharing a dialogue with us, I think great things are going to come out of this meeting."

"It was a wonderful opportunity to get all of our partners together

across these sectors that all support the biotechnology enterprise in the region. And to have Sen. Warner convene us was a very nice twist in the sense that he has a lot of insights at the federal level and certainly in Virginia," Sands said. "Having all these people who represent different parts of the ecosystem on hand to hear the same messages really knits everyone together. It was fantastic."

As the chairman of the U.S. Senate's intelligence committee, Warner sees the kind of research

See **Biotech**, page 2

Tax assessments, post-employment benefits under discussion at the Montgomery County BOS meeting

Lori Graham
Contributing writer

A Tax Assessment Impact Rate schedule was shared with the public during the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting March 26, 2024, reflecting effective increases from \$0.01 to \$0.05 on taxes per \$100 in property valuation due to reassessment values.

Last year, the county did not see an increase in real estate taxes, but property assessments did go up.

"I appreciate staff getting this together but also you remember, too, I know last year we lowered the tax rate, but the majority of people still pay more where it was reassessed," Supervisor Todd King said.

Supervisor Sara Bohn asked County Administrator Angie Hill to clarify King's comment applying the revenue neutral concept in relation to real estate taxes.

"If people's, the value of their property increased more than the average rate their taxes went up and if their property values increased less than the average rate, their tax would go down," Hill said.

"Blacksburg homes increased more than the county in Christiansburg, which means Blacksburg residents did have more taxes than they had to pay on average... but, I can't say that 50% were more and less, but it all averaged to be the same," Bohn said.

The Tax Assessment Impact Rate chart can be found in the agenda of the Board Docs section at www.montva.com.

The Board of Supervisors also discussed proposed insurance plans for county employee retirees including an Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB) impact assessment.

There were previously two options, Plan A and Plan B, but an additional Plan C had been added "providing a 60% contribution for individuals that have either 25 or 30 years of service depending on what kind of duty they performed for the county and assuming that they could meet the other criteria," Hill said. "We also calculated the impact of switching to Plan C, which is



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

60%, so you can see in the far-right column of both of these charts, these are the cost estimates for the liability and also the per year cash impact."

According to the chart, which can be found also at www.montva.com, Hill said that 60% supplement applied to all plans for a family would be result in an approximately \$419 premium and for a retiree and family it would be approximately \$1,000. The impact chart also shows the 60% supplement costs applied for everyone at all levels of benefits, resulting in approximately \$419 for all beneficiaries across the board whether single or family.

The Board of Supervisors made the final decision to have the numbers run again by the actuaries as the retirement insurance would be in effect immediately since those employees planning to retire in the next couple of months would need the final figures. The full policy would be applied, however, in the next fiscal year.

In other announcements, the Auburn Park bid contract was supposed to go out on March 28 but has been pushed back to April 4 due to a needed change for design.

Also, the Magistrate and Support Services building is moving along, Hill said.

"The demolition is complete and they're going to work on the building pads to grade those this week," Hill said.

Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg provides gift cards to schools

As part of its continuing program of supporting local schools' need for clothing and supplies, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg recently delivered Walmart gift cards to Montgomery Central, Falling Branch Elementary, and Christiansburg elementary schools.

The cards, for \$550, \$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart, were delivered to schools with a low balance on their cards and had requested additional funds. This program was started several years ago for the seven schools in Christiansburg, and cards are replenished by the Club as needed.

Before this program was introduced, often teachers and staff members would personally pay for the needed items that the children could not afford.

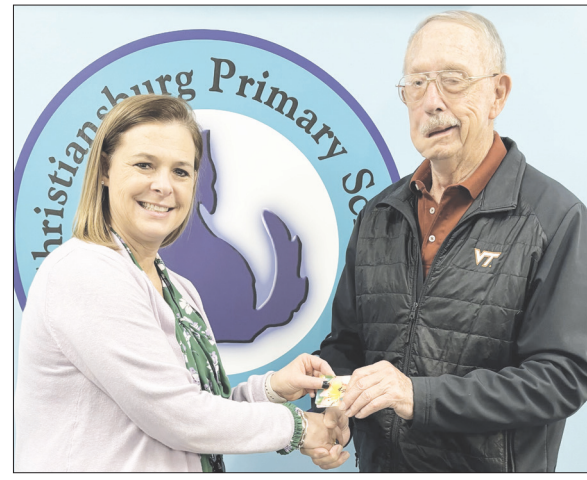
The cards were delivered by Kiwanis member Ernie Wade.

Kiwanis is a global organization of members, clubs, and partners who are dedicated to changing the world, one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has served the local community since its charter was granted in 1949 and will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg



Left to right: Ann Lawson, counselor, Montgomery Central School and Ernie Wade, Kiwanis member.



Left to right: Jessica Jones, principal of Christiansburg Primary School and Ernie Wade, Kiwanis member.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Left to right: Ann Mitchell, principal of Falling Branch Elementary School and Ernie Wade, Kiwanis member.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 4:

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.

Southwest Virginia College and University Pop-up Event

New event brings together Bluefield University, Emory & Henry College, Ferrum College, New River Community College, Radford University and Roanoke College, giving future students a chance to meet college representatives in the New River Valley. Free event will occur at New River Valley Community Colleges' Christiansburg mall location in Christiansburg, 6 to 8:30 p.m., with representatives from different colleges sharing insights about educational opportunities.

Saturday, April 6:

Skipper Cannon Firing

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired once on Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. on the Drillfield as part of the opening celebration for The Big Event at Virginia Tech. The Big Event is a student-run day of service. Thousands of students and university employees come together to complete nearly 1,200 community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and the New River Valley.

NRCC offering free computer tune up

On Cyber Day anyone can bring their laptops, desktops, tablets and phones for a free tune up and virus scan. The NRCC Computer Club is hosting the event 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 133 & 134 Godbey Hall at NRCC in Dublin. Several students and Dr. David Filer, NRCC information systems technology professor, will be working on the systems at the event. Any Windows or Android device is welcome. The NRCC Computer Club focuses on the skills of repairing and creating computers for campus and community use. For more

information about Cyber Day, contact Filer at dfiler@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4272.

NRCC Family Fun Festival and Campus Cruise In

New River Community College's Campus Cruise In will be held 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in parking lot E at NRCC in Dublin. The Campus Cruise In will feature classic cars from regional car club members. The event is sponsored by the automotive technology department, is family-friendly, open to the public and free of charge. The Family Fun Festival and NRCC's Cyber Day event will also be going on during the Cruise In. The Family Fun Festival will include a variety of activities for adults and children.

Monday, April 8:

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, April 9:

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 St.). 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.

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will convene for its regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed at www.rcps.org.

Saturday, April 13:

Mount Tabor Ruritan Biscuit Breakfast

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will be serving up hot biscuits topped with delicious sausage gravy, or with the latest batch of our "world-famous" apple butter, with scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee; 8 to 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Slusser's Chapel, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg.

It is fundraiser for our club to help us as we serve our community, and donations will be accepted for the breakfast. There will be sign-up information available for our newest community initiative -- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This is the last breakfast until October.

On-going:

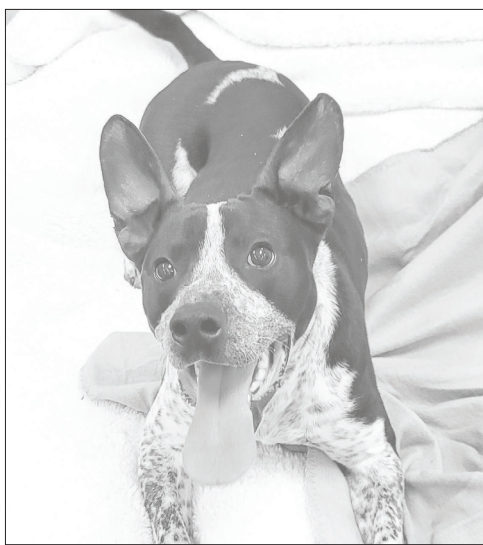
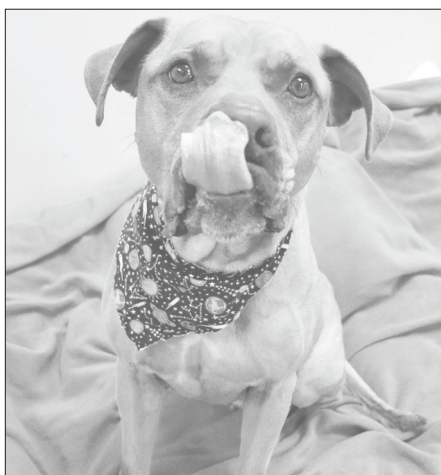
Radford Noon Rotary Club's Field of Honor

The Field of Honor will be installed on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery prior to Memorial Day and will be displayed until the Fourth of July. The Radford Noon Rotary Club is looking for people to sponsor flags. Individual flags are \$50. Corporate Sponsorship is: Bronze - \$250; Silver - \$500; Gold - \$1000; and Platinum - \$2500. For further questions, and to register, contact rotary.club.of.radford.noon@gmail.com.

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.

Rango is a sweet boy with a laid-back personality. He gladly follows a "sit" or "down" command for a yummy treat. Rango also appears to get along with other dogs. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet this pawsome dog!



Happy boy Frank has a zest for life! He's a younger dog who is energetic and friendly towards his fellow pups as well as humans. He enjoys playing with toys, including things that squeak and things that bounce. As for treats? Yes, Frank loves those, too.

Biotech from page 1

going on at Virginia Tech with partners at Carilion Clinic and the Children's National Research & Innovation Campus in Washington, D.C., as potentially fitting into the national security envelope.

"National security is no longer simply who has the most tanks and guns and ships and plans, it's who's going to dominate in a variety of technology domains [such as] synthetic biology, bio-manufacturing, and the next generation of biotech," Warner said. "In so many ways, what is happening at Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and at the medical school is really cutting edge. The next generation of bio is something I'd love to be an advocate for."

"What we're building together is attracting the brightest minds in health care, technology, and research who are putting their ideas to work here," said Carilion Clinic CEO Nancy Agee. "It's exciting to think about the cures, therapies, and medications of tomorrow that will be developed here and benefit patients everywhere."

The roundtable included more than two dozen biotech, health care, economic, and academic leaders from the region and the state, including Joe Benevento, Virginia's deputy secretary of commerce and trade and interim CEO of the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corp., and Heywood Fralin, Roanoke businessman, economic development proponent and the namesake benefactor of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute. Fralin noted that the broad region of the Roanoke and New River valleys and the area around Martinsville and Danville to the south was the fastest growing economically in the last year, according to Virginia data.

Friedlander cited the research institute's growth from its opening 14 years ago to

more than 40 faculty-led research teams this year. The research institute, with over 500 employees and students, holds more than \$220 million in current active outside funding. Its funding per faculty member rivals some of the country's larger and more established research centers. He also noted the globally rich talent pool that the research institute draws upon is a major contributor to its success and that is at least partly attributable to the welcoming environment provided by the Roanoke community, consistent with Warner's assessment of the impact on our nation's global competitiveness.

A panel discussion featured Erin Burcham, president of Verge Alliance and executive director of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council; Tony Seupaul, executive vice president and chief physician executive at Carilion Clinic; Sarah Snider, CEO and co-founder of BEAM Diagnostics, a company founded from research at Fralin Biomedical Research Institute that develops technology to support behavioral health care; and Rob Gourdie, a research institute professor and founder of the Tiny Cargo Co., which is developing a therapeutic drug delivery system.

Moderated by Virginia Tech Associate Vice President for Innovation and Partnerships Brandy Salmon, panelists extolled the support from Virginia Tech, the research institute, state and local governments, and RAMP, Roanoke's start-up business accelerator program. Multiple attendees also noted that Roanoke's natural beauty, outdoor amenities, and vibrant arts scene are valuable assets for drawing the people needed to grow the biotech sector.

Leigh Anne Kelley and John Pastor for Virginia Tech

★ ★ ★ PREMIER LAND ★ ★ ★
AUCTION
 Fri, Apr.19 at 12:30PM at the
 Hampton Inn, 380 Arbor Dr, Christiansburg, VA
 Mature Timber, Prime Hunting, Residential

285 Acres

Copperhead Rd, Shawsville, VA (Montgomery Co)
 Convenient to Roanoke, Christiansburg, and Blacksburg, this scenic acreage offers big timber, hilltop views, lush valley fields, buffered privacy, and bountiful hunting.

- 285 acres offered in 2 tracts and as a whole
- Easy access from US-460 / US-11 and I-81
- Majority in mature hardwoods - timber cruise available
- Very accessible. Excellent road through the valley from the gated entrance to the end of property with atv trails throughout
- Beautifully wooded peaks offering distant views and a unique buffer from the outside world for a serene seclusion within
- Prime hunting with long shooting lanes. Ideal for hunt clubs.
- Timber Est. of 1,644 Int.(mbf) / 1,123 Doyle (mbf) / 8,352 tons with estimated value of +/- \$300,000

For details, call Mike at 434-847-7741 or visit trfauctions.com
PREVIEWS: Tue 4/2 4-6pm | Sun 4/7 1-3pm | Sun 4/14 1-3pm
 Thu 4/18 3-6pm | Self-guided tours ok anytime
DIR: From Christiansburg, US-11N/US-460E 7mi to L on Friendship Rd (636). 1.1mi to L on Copperhead Rd. 0.3mi on left.
TERMS: 10% deposit. 5% buyer's premium. Close on or about 30 days. Full terms online.

TRFAUCTIONS
 Torrence, Read, & Forehand
 VAAF501

Details, photos, & terms online
 434.847.7741 | TRFAuctions.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL SERVICE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES TO BE IMPOSED BY THE MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held on April 18, 2024 at 1:30 pm at the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, 555 Authority Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 concerning MRSWA's proposed rates, fees and charges for solid waste and refuse disposal services. Such proposed rates, fees and charges are as follows:

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Clean brush, wood & pallets	\$65.00 per ton (\$3.25 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Construction waste	\$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Dead animals	\$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Industrial waste	\$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Leaves	\$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Municipal solid waste – jurisdictional	\$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Municipal solid waste - commercial	\$52.00 per ton (\$2.60 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
Sludge	\$74.00 per ton (\$3.70 minimum charge up to 100 lbs.)
White goods/appliances– containing freon and propane tanks containing propane	\$19.00 per unit freon/propane surcharge
Direct Haul – non friable asbestos	Contact NRRA
Mulch sold to public	\$22.00 per ton
Untarped/unsecured loads	\$10.00 per load (in addition to the per ton material fee)
Member clean-up events	\$74.00 per ton

Special waste: Must be of a type allowed by law and acceptable to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Rate charged will be a rate set by the New River Resource Authority plus cost of transportation and handling.

RECYCLING SERVICES

Tires	\$0.20 per pound (\$4.00 minimum charge up to 20 pounds)
-------	--

Single Stream recycling processing fee: \$74.00 per ton charge for loads of single stream recyclables unless contaminated and rejected then the processing fee is \$79.00 per ton.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

Virginia National History Day district contest draws more than 200 young competitors to campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University recently hosted Virginia History Day's District 3 contest, and students from a dozen local schools came to present their research projects and have them evaluated by judges.

By its very nature, the Virginia History Day competition focuses on the past, but in the New River Valley, its present and future seem to be gaining traction as well.

On March 15, as it has done since 1996, Radford University hosted Virginia History Day's District 3 contest, and students from a dozen local schools came to present their research projects and have them evaluated by judges.

In reviewing the entry list, one of the event's organizers noticed an encouraging trend.

"Three years ago, the number of students attending was in the 50s," said Ann Roberts of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership (STEL), which oversees the event for the College of Education and Human Development.

"Last year, it was 153 students," Roberts said. "This year, it's over 200."

Indeed, even prior to 2020 – when the District 3 competition had to be held completely virtually – attendance generally averaged between 50 and 70 contestants, so this current spike represents historical growth, so much so that at the event's awards ceremony in the Bonnie Auditorium of the Hurlburt Student Center, university officials said adjustments would need to be made going forward.

"I have got to say that it looks like next year we will not be in this room because we will be in a bigger room," STEL Director Amanda Bozack told a capacity

crowd, sparking applause.

The competitors spanned grades five through 12 and presented projects across numerous formats – exhibits, performances, documentaries, papers and websites – with each addressing this year's theme: historic turning points.

Just as impressive as the spike in attendance, perhaps, was the sheer range of subjects and interests the young students chose to tackle – the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jane Goodall, the Italian Renaissance, Kristallnacht, the U.S.S. Monitor, the women's suffrage movement, the Loving v. Virginia court case, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Hurricane Katrina, the Treaty of Versailles and Martha Graham were just some of the dozens and dozens of research topics.

Participants who took third through first place will now advance to compete at the state level April 27-28 at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, Virginia. The national phase of the competition will be held June 9-13 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Within District 3, one dozen local institutions were represented, including Blacksburg and Pulaski middle schools; Check, Critzer, Floyd, Indian Valley, Snowville and Willis elementary schools; Cave Spring High School; Blacksburg New School; North Cross School and St. John Neumann Academy.

During the awards ceremony, Virginia History Day Coordinator Sam Florer thanked the faculty organizers

– including Moore, Bozack, Associate Professor of Social Studies and Special Education Darren Minarik, and more than 40 judges – as well as the students who spent weeks or even months preparing.

"It's a lot of work to do this, so no matter if you win or if you lose, you should be really proud of creating a project and being here and sharing your love of history," Florer told the crowd.

"Hopefully, you'll want to keep coming back and doing this year after year."

Afterward, Florer, who has been the Virginia History Day coordinator since 2019, said he noticed another promising thread in 2024.

"A lot of the participants' teachers are former students at Radford," he said. "They went through the teacher licensure program at Radford, and so many of them were exposed to this program as students. Many were taught by Ann Roberts ... and so that has been a great pipeline for getting folks interested."

"Radford also always encourages their current pre-licensure students who are currently in that program to judge at the local contest, so I would say there were probably 10 to 15 of those Radford students who served as judges," Florer continued.

"That's another great strategy for getting future teachers interested in wanting to get their students involved, once they have a classroom of their own."

Neil Harvey for Radford University



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRCC

Rock band Atlanta Rhythm Section will perform Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin.

Atlanta Rhythm Section coming to NRCC

Rock band Atlanta Rhythm Section will perform Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin. The event is part of the NRCC 2023-2024 Concert Series.

Tickets for the show are on sale now. Reserved seating tickets are \$40 in advance and available for purchase online only at www.nr.edu/concerts. General seating tickets are \$30 in advance and available online or in-person at the NRCC Business Office, 23 Godbey Hall, Dublin (cash and

checks only for in-person sales). General seating tickets will be \$35, and reserved seating tickets will be \$45 when purchased at the door.

The Atlanta Rhythm Section (ARS) came together in 1970 after working on a Roy Orbison recording session.

Keyboardist Dean Daughtry and drummer Robert Nix had been members of Orbison's backing group, the Candyman, and Daughtry and guitarist J.R. Cobb had been members of the Top 40 hitmakers Classics IV.

Rounding out the original ARS lineup were vocalist Rodney Justo (replaced after the first album by Ronnie Hammond), guitarist Barry Bailey, and bassist Paul Goddard.

In 1977, "So In To You" became the band's breakthrough single, reaching the U.S. Top 10, and the album from which it came, A Rock And Roll Alternative, went gold. Their platinum follow-up album, Champagne Jam, broke into the

See *Rhythm*, page 10

Food City launches innovative new Ship to Home service

Food City is announcing the launch of an innovative new platform designed to assist customers in purchasing items typically not found in traditional supermarkets.

Food City's Ship to Home (www.FoodCityShips.com) service enables customers to shop for hard-to-find items online and have them conveniently delivered to their door by FedEx. With nearly 30,000 available items, customers can choose from a wide variety of categories, including pet care, pantry staples, refrigerated and frozen foods, beverages, and more.

"Food City was one of the first retailers in our market to offer online ordering and curbside pick-up. We're excited to launch our new Ship to Home service which will provide our valued customers access to thousands of additional items, combined with the convenience of direct-to-home delivery," says Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

FoodCityShips.com boasts an extensive

inventory sourced from over 1,000 different food manufacturers. Customers can explore a diverse range of offerings, including over 700 gluten free items, 2,000 natural and specialty items, 700 sauces, herbs, spices, and seasonings, 500 decadent desserts, 2,000 candy and snack items, and an impressive selection of over 15,000 restaurant-grade items.

Having commenced operations on a limited basis in January, www.FoodCityShips.com is now accessible to all shoppers.

Food City

FISH DAY

It's Time to Stock Your Pond!

DELIVERY WILL BE: Thursday, April 18th

Christiansburg 10:45-11:30

@Southern States

Wytheville 12:30-1:15

@Farmers Milling & Supply

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

FISH WAGON

To Place an Order Call: 1-800-643-8439 www.fishwagon.com

OPINION

Delegate agrees with Youngkin vetoes

Although the Virginia General Assembly's 2024 regular session is now complete, work continues in regard to Governor Youngkin's action on the hundreds of bills sent to him for consideration by the House and Senate. The Governor has signed over 100 bills into law at the time of this writing, and he has also vetoed 34 pieces of legislation (with more vetoes expected this week). Many of the governor's recent vetoes revolve primarily around public safety related legislation, and fortunately, his veto pen is protecting Virginians from dozens of bad ideas passed forth from the Democrat-controlled General Assembly.

Among those "bad ideas" is House Bill 455, which would have allowed prosecutors to charge possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance as a misdemeanor. Before the bill was amended, this also included fentanyl, which means that a person could have been charged with a misdemeanor for possessing up to 500 fatal doses of this deadly drug. This bill undermines the seriousness of drug offenses, and it will unfortunately lead to a public perception that possession of a scheduled drug such as cocaine or heroin is not a serious offense; akin to underage alcohol possession. Such perception would hinder our efforts to combat drug crises, such as the opioid epidemic. As a society, we can be fair to those who seek recovery while also providing strong legal disincentives to the abuse of substances that destroy families and lives.

Another public safety bill that met Governor



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

Youngkin's veto pen is House Bill 972, which prohibited courts from inquiring into a defendant's immigration status. Deportation is a serious outcome for non-citizens convicted of crimes. However, courts must absolutely have the right to inquire as to the immigration status of a defendant, as it is relevant information to the way the justice system should handle a potential flight risk. Such limitations on the information available to courts risk impeding their ability to adjudicate cases fairly and accurately, potentially resulting in severe consequences for the public.

Also vetoed by Governor Youngkin was House Bill 77, which sought to minimize sentencing – even retroactively – for those who commit robberies in Virginia. This proposal obviously poses significant public safety consequences for the Commonwealth, further reducing the tiered penalties for the different types of robberies. The Department of Corrections

has reported that as of March 1, 2024, approximately 3,340 inmates with robbery as their most serious offense are incarcerated. Of the cohort of inmates released last July and August with enhanced earned sentence credits, 804 were re-arrested within three months of their release date. 50 of those who were re-arrested committed a robbery offense. Releasing violent offenders early harms our communities, and this bill further erodes the public's confidence in safe streets.

It's truly disappointing to see the Democratic majority's focus on pandering to those who break our laws instead of embracing policies that make our communities safer. Fortunately, Governor Youngkin is a reliable backstop against many of these policies becoming law – this year. Victims of violent crime – and anyone who values safe communities – should remember General Assembly Democrats' priorities come next election season.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, 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.

AARP Virginia Fraud Alert: Celebrity scams in the age of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new shiny object that has captured the world's attention. It's also captured the attention of criminal scammers who are using it to make their fraudulent schemes more realistic than ever. One area where AI scams are particularly dangerous is celebrity impostor scams.

For many years criminals have been impersonating celebrities

online to steal from fans. Fake celebrity profiles offer fans personal connection, VIP access, investment opportunities or the chance to support favorite charities. These criminals attempt to create a bond through messaging or even a phone call from their "rep." With the power of AI, these scams can move from messaging to deepfake videos. Recent fake celebrity product

endorsements impersonating Dolly Parton, Elon Musk and Tom Hanks demonstrate just how convincing these schemes can be.

Posting on a celebrity's social media account might be exciting, but it could put you at risk of this impostor scam. In whatever way you choose to enjoy your favorite celebs, do so recognizing that an opportunity to personally connect

with them is likely a scam.

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

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

AARP Virginia

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Heather Bell, *Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Aila Boyd, *Executive Editor*

aboyn@ourvalley.org

Wendi Craig, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

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.

Correction

A recent article in the News Messenger, "Public hearing set for H2Okies, New River Valley Aquatics lease request for new building construction," published March 16, 2024, included the following errors. The News Messenger regrets the errors.

* Possible construction for a building to provide additional space is needed, for the H2Okies program, not

the Christiansburg Aquatic Center and was presented by H2Okies Head Coach/Director Scott Baldwin.

* The peak hours of the competition pool are already at max capacity, not the facility itself.

* Balzer and Associates, Inc., a design, and construction development company, has been working with the H2Okies program in the

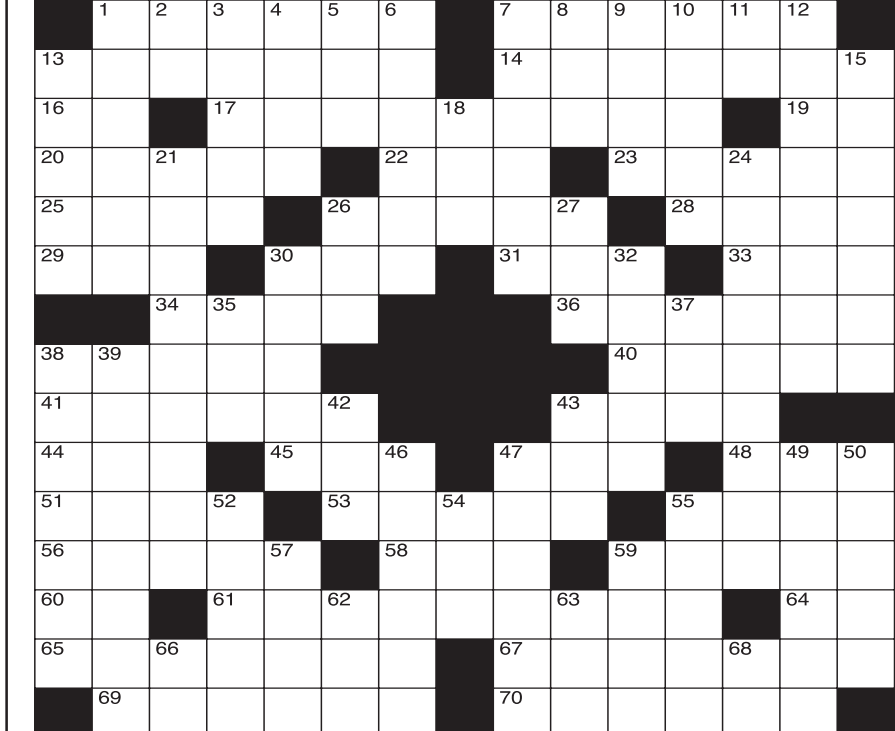
process of this facility's construction, upon lease approval, not the CAC.

* Since 2010, the H2Okies has given over \$60,000 in donations, not the CAC, to continued operations for competitive swimming and will continue to do so.

* The land proposal public hearing will be set according to advertising requirements, not on April 26.

Send community news and photos to:
communitynews@ourvalley.org

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Colas</p> <p>7. Single-celled animals</p> <p>13. The rear car of a train</p> <p>14. Endangered</p> <p>16. It cools your home</p> <p>17. Helper</p> <p>19. "The First State"</p> <p>20. More aged</p> <p>22. Partner to cheese</p> <p>23. Type of wrap</p> <p>25. From a distance</p> <p>26. Satisfies</p> <p>28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared</p> <p>29. God of battle (Scandinavian)</p> <p>30. Cooking utensil</p> <p>31. Soviet Socialist Republic</p> <p>33. Able to perform</p> <p>34. Big man on campus</p> <p>36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period</p> | <p>38. Porticos</p> <p>40. Alban and Peter are two</p> <p>41. Gets up</p> <p>43. Humble request for help</p> <p>44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)</p> <p>45. Unhappy</p> <p>47. Hint or indication</p> <p>48. A way to plead</p> <p>51. Digits</p> <p>53. Broadway actress Daisy</p> <p>55. Jewish calendar month</p> <p>56. Author Gore</p> <p>58. Peacock network</p> <p>59. White poplar</p> <p>60. Promotional material</p> <p>61. A period of calm</p> <p>64. Take too much</p> <p>65. Emit energy</p> <p>67. Something you can take</p> <p>69. Mended with yarn</p> <p>70. Inconsistent</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Calm down</p> <p>2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)</p> <p>3. One who pretends</p> <p>4. Hang glide</p> <p>5. Distinctive practice</p> <p>6. Mariner</p> <p>7. Peaks</p> <p>8. Queens ballplayer</p> <p>9. Geological times</p> <p>10. Twofold</p> <p>11. Atomic #13</p> <p>12. Tranquillizing</p> <p>13. Metric weight unit</p> <p>15. Indicates</p> <p>18. Unwanted rodent</p> <p>21. Partly cooked with hot water</p> <p>24. One who can be recommended</p> <p>26. Resembles a bag or pouch</p> <p>27. Midway between south and southeast</p> <p>30. Sets up for a photo</p> | <p>32. California white oak</p> <p>35. More (Spanish)</p> <p>37. After B</p> <p>38. Decorated tea urn</p> <p>39. Island</p> <p>42. Car mechanics group</p> <p>43. Wordplay joke</p> <p>46. Cut a rug</p> <p>47. Prickly plant</p> <p>49. Speech in praise of a deceased person</p> <p>50. European buzzard</p> <p>52. Influential linguist</p> <p>54. West African languages</p> <p>55. Siskel's partner</p> <p>57. Skinny</p> <p>59. Oblong pulp</p> <p>62. Consumed</p> <p>63. Small, mischievous sprite</p> <p>66. Powerful lawyer</p> <p>68. Indicates position</p> |
|--|---|--|---|



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>DIGITAL ONLY</p> <p>One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00</p> | <p>DIGITAL & PRINT</p> <p>Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00</p> | <p>PRINT ONLY</p> <p>Yearly Print Only Subscription \$46.00 Radford \$55.00 Virginia \$59.00 Out of State</p> |
|---|--|--|

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

OBITUARIES

Duffy, Jr., Finch Weston

Finch Weston "Frank" Duffy, Jr., 82, of Radford, passed away Monday, April 1, 2024.

He was a proud U. S. Marine and retired from the Virginia State Police with 30 years' service. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Finch Sr. and Lelia Duffy; and sister, Norma Jean Hatcher.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Barbara F. Duffy; son, Alan Duffy (DeEtta Ray);



many beloved nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

The family will receive

friends 10 - 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Mike Honaker officiating. Interment with full military honors with follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Gilbert, Bobby Earl

Bobby Earl Gilbert, 80, of Elliston, died Friday, Mar. 29, 2024, at his home.

He was born in Welch, W.Va. Oct. 6, 1943, to the late Taulbee and Eva Pryor Gilbert. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Alma Lee Gilbert; his second wife, Barbara Lee Gilbert; a son, Bobby Lee Gilbert; brothers Jimmy, Ernie, Billy, and Roger Gilbert; and sisters Peggy Songer and Mary Miller.

He is survived by his



daughters, Alice Theis (Butch), Lori Duncan and Kathy Campbell (J.D); grandchildren Jessica,

Travis, Brandon, Amy, Timmy, Andy, Chris and Robin; 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; a sister, Pat Main; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were conducted Tuesday, April 2, 2024 in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Wes Connor and Rev. Mike Sanborn officiating. The family received friends Monday, April 1, 2024 at McCoy Funeral Home.

Everhart, Sr., James Ernest

James Ernest Everhart, Sr., 80, passed away Wednesday, Mar. 27, 2024. Jimmy was born May 18, 1943, in Loudoun County, the son of the late Calvin Everhart and Margie Fleming.

He was a proud Vietnam veteran having served as a Sgt. in the U. S. Army as a helicopter crew chief to the Lt. Col. from 1967 - 69. He was a member of the Radford VFW Post #776 and the American Legion - Dublin Post # 58 where he was a member of the honor guard for many years. In his early years he was an auto mechanic and moved on to spend his career as a master carpenter and had built many buildings and homes in the Northern Virginia and NRV areas.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a great storyteller and shared his life experiences with others. He liked classic cars



and had quite a collection of different models.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Jeanne (Ray) Phillipson.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, June H. Everhart; children, Anne Elizabeth Helms (Robert) and James E. Everhart, Jr. (April); grandchildren, James Everhart III (Misha You), Devon Everhart (Samantha), and Carissa "Ashley" Helms (Svenja Williams); great grandchildren, Magnolia Dean Everhart and Greyson

Piercy; brothers and sisters-in-laws, Barrett and Peggy Everhart, and Randolph and Linda Everhart; sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Bill Rutter; honorary brothers, Gary Harris and Ray Powell; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the funeral home with Rev. Don Shelor officiating. Interment with full military honors will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the VFW Post #776, 913 Second St., Radford, VA 24141.

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

Holmes, William Lynn

William Lynn Holmes, 54, of Riner, went to be with his Heavenly Father, Friday, March 29, 2024, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born May 15, 1969. He was preceded in death by his father, Jessie Holmes. Willie was a member of Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church.

He is survived by his wife, Rexella Holmes; daughters, Felicity Holmes and Phoebe Holmes; mother, Darlene



Holmes; sisters, Kimberly Albert, Theresa Holmes, Elizabeth Holmes, and Jessica Roop (Jason); brother, Allen Holmes

(Marie); several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted, Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church with the Pastor Lee Sarver officiating. Interment will follow in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends Wednesday April 3, 2024, 4-6 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg.

Koland, Judy

A memorial service for Judy Koland of Morris, Minn., will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Pedersen Funeral Home in Morris, with Reverend Emmy Swedlund officiating. Visitation will begin at noon until the time of service at the funeral home. Entombment will be at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Christiansburg at a later date.

Mary Judith 'Judy' Templeman was born July 8, 1935 to Milo William and Marion Julia (Galpin) Templeman in Muscatine, Iowa. She was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal faith. Judy attended Muscatine Grade School and graduated in 1953 from the Muscatine High School. She went on to the University of Iowa where she earned a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Music. She married Clyde Johnson and they had four children.

In earlier years, Judy was busy raising four boys, much of it on her own. Once the four boys were safely in school, Judy started her professional career. She spent several years as an elementary music teacher, worked as an optometric assistant and served as news director at the local radio station for several years. She also served a term as a city council member in Morris. After leaving Morris, she continued her education in Special Education and worked



many years as a special ed paraprofessional.

On July 31, 1981, Judy and Lennerd 'Laddie' Koland were united in marriage at the Isanti County Court House in Cambridge, Minn. She welcomed Laddie's children, and eventually their children into her life. Judy was an active member of the Episcopal Church. Her faith was very important to her and passed that down through the generations. She was a current member of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Christiansburg.

Judy loved to golf; while in Morris, she was a member of the Pomme de Terre Golf Course and enjoyed playing on summer days with her group of friends on Ladies' Day. Wherever she and Laddie moved to, they found a course to play on, and were especially fond of The Hill course in Christiansburg.

She was a huge opera fan, listening to the Metropolitan Opera every available Saturday afternoon. She left this world with opera playing

in her room and her family by her side.

Judy died Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at The Legacy in Morris, Minn. She was 88 years old.

Judy is survived by her husband, Laddie Koland; her sons Jeff (Anne) Johnson, Joe (Sandie) Johnson, Jon (Renee) Johnson, and Matt (Amanda) Johnson; 12 grandchildren: Nick (Shae) Johnson, Steve (Nellie) Johnson, Kyle Anderson, Tricia (Steven) Murphy, Joshua (Megan Peterson) Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Jessica Steffen, Mark (Becky) Steffen, Madelaine Johnson, MacKenzie (Sean) Hammer, Jacob Johnson, and Jaret (Gwen Hanson) Johnson; nine great-grandchildren: Clyde Johnson, Tiger Ann Johnson, Lucie Jonson, Clara Peterson, Oberon Steffen, Raven Steffen, Ellie Hammer, Max Hammer, and Luke Hammer; two children by marriage: Lisa (Dave) Ault, and Paul (Shelly) Koland; and four grandchildren by marriage: George Perpich, Anna Ault, Erik Ault, and Andy Ault.

She is preceded in death by her parents: Milo and Marion Templeman, stepmother Ozelle Templeman; and one sister, Nancy Vetter.

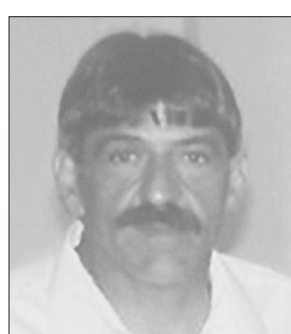
Pedersen Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements for Judy. To send condolences to the family, please visit www.pedersenfh.com.

Jones, Bentley Calvin

Bentley Calvin Jones, 66, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, Mar. 28, 2024.

He was born in Christiansburg Aug. 14, 1957, to the late Daniel Russell and Lillian Cooper Jones. He was also preceded by his brother, Rev. David Jones and his first wife, Wanda Jones.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Chrystal Long, Tabitha Hollins (Brent), Wendy



Hall (Willie), Mercedes Cunningham, Samantha

Goerlich (Jason), Jada Earles; son, Dorian Jones; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister, Nancy Smith; and brothers, Curtis Jones and Tom Jones.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 3, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Kevin Poston officiating. Interment followed at Westview Cemetery.

Meadows, Gary R.

Gary R. Meadows, 71, of Dublin, was born July 24, 1952 and completed his earthly journey Wednesday, Mar. 27, 2024.

He was a dedicated member of Heritage Church and was very active in the food pantry. Gary felt called to start a prayer ministry, alongside being active in the food pantry, to minister to people in need of prayer. He also started a men's bible study group. Gary was always trying to show people how to love the Lord. He was a giving and loving person who lived a life full of service, even serving in the U.S. National Guard from 1971 until 1977. He worked for Pulaski County as a school bus driver for 14 years. Gary never met a stranger and enjoyed talking to and helping everyone. His career in the retail profession was a great opportunity for him to meet people. Gary began his career at Heck's Inc. in Beckley, W. Va., before becoming manager of the Radford store. From there, he moved up to



become district manager, servicing stores in several states. He also worked for Service Merchandise and Big Lots before retiring from retail and becoming a car salesman. Gary loved traveling and buying and selling cars but eventually ended up doing what he loved best (accompanied by his faithful canine companion, Luke) and that was farming. His love of going to auctions and buying and selling farm equipment did not compare to the love he had for talking to people. Gary genuinely loved everyone.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lacy Lonnie, Sr., and Irene Mills Meadows; brother, Lonnie Meadows; and his sister, Margie Thomas.

Survivors include his loving wife of 47 years, Sharon "Kitty" Meadows; children and their spouses, Matthew and Rebecca Meadows, Wes and Melissa Jarrell, and Traci and Ben Wright; grandchildren, Candice and Colton Meadows, Mikayla, Bailey, and Hudson Jarrell, and Meadow Wright; brothers, Randy Meadows, Sr. and Thomas Edward Meadows (Becky); sister, Donna Smith (Alan); brother-in-law, David Meadows (Kim); sister-in-law, Jennifer Bailey; and many other relatives and special friends.

Gary's wish was to be cremated. The family will receive friends 12-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the Heritage Church in Dublin. A memorial service will begin at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Heritage Cares Food Pantry, 6195 Cleburne Blvd, Dublin, VA 24084.

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

Parish, Nancy Ann Linkous

Nancy Ann Linkous Parish, age 86 of Mount Airy NC passed from this life on

February 28, 2024. Nancy was born and raised in Montgomery Co. Virginia. She was the daughter of the late Arnold R. Linkous and Oveda Linkous. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Arnold "Sonny" R. Linkous. She preceded her husband Robert K. Parish in death by one day. Robert K. Parish originally from Galax, VA passed away on February 29, 2024.

Nancy and her family left to cherish

her memories are sons, Randy Parish and his wife Amanda, and Andy Parish, granddaughter, Katie Parish Pimson and her husband Jim, sister Rita L. Callahan and her husband Eddie, sister-in-law Susan Linkous, nieces DeAnne C. Webb and husband John, and Farrah Linkous, nephews Todd Callahan and his wife Pam, Darrell Linkous, and his wife Stephanie. Two step grandsons Daniel and Eli Harbaugh and step great granddaughter Avery Pierson.

Nancy and her husband were graduates

of Kentucky Christian University and spent their 64 years together spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. They served congregations in Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and North Carolina.

They have gone home together to meet the Lord. Dual services to celebrate their lives and ministry will be held on Saturday March 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm with visitation preceding the service from 12-2 pm at Moody Funeral Home, Dobson NC. Burial will follow at the Double Creek Church of Christ, Dobson NC.

Send community news and photos to:

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Tourism program offering free Google training to area businesses and attractions

While most business owners recognize the importance of a digital presence, it is now regarded as a necessity, no longer a luxury.

Your Google Business Profile is the single largest source of organic (non-paid) exposure for your business online and maybe your first impression to potential customers.

The Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County Regional Tourism office is excited to announce a free virtual workshop series to help ensure your online presence is in great shape. The webinar will be led by Miles Partnership, a strategic marketing company focused

exclusively on travel and tourism.

There are two webinars being offered Tuesday, April 9 and Tuesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. on both dates. The first presentation is more of an overview and general introduction, while the second highlights more advanced topics. Advance registration is required by visiting: sites.google.com/view/montva

David Rotenizer, executive director of the regional tourism program, said the programs will be a valuable experience.

"We are pleased to make this opportunity available to Montgomery County businesses,

attractions, and interested residents," he said. "As more people turn to Google for area destination information, it is critical we meet with them with content expectations and delivery. Google also helps to populate our new virtual visitor center: <https://vc-gotomontva.com/>."

This program is made available with funding through the American Rescue Plan Act Tourism Recovery Program (ARPA) administered by the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County Regional Tourism



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG-CHRISTIANSBURG-MONTGOMERY COUNTY REGIONAL TOURISM

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

DR FAME
ALLERGY
ASTHMA

540-404-9598
1002 APPERSON DR • SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
WWW.DRTOMFAME.COM

FOX RADIO 910
Roanoke and 104.3 FM
ATLANTA BRAVES
CBS SPORTS RADIO

ROANOKE'S #2 NEWS TALK AND SPORTS RADIO STATION
(Nielsen Fall 2022 book)
www.foxradioroanoke.com
(540) 343-7109

Lisa Martin, REALTOR®
Serving the industry for 30+ years
Roanoke Valley & Blue Ridge Mountains
Premier, REALTORS
(540) 597-0480
Lisa@Lisa2buy.com • www.Lisa2buy.com
1638 Roanoke Road, Suite 101
Daleville, VA 24083

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

MHC
Monroe Health Center

Craig County Health Center
226 Market Street - New Castle, VA
Phone: (540) 864-6390 Fax: (540) 864-6356

*Physical Exams * X-ray Services
* Laboratory Services * Acute Care
*Mental Health Services * Well Baby Checks
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

CARPET RE-STRETCHING!
STEVEN W. DURRANCE FLOORS

Repairs • New Sales • Expert
540-776-9591
Cell: 540-353-7908
Licensed & Insured
carpetroanoke.com

Sunflooring Inc.
STEVE SMITH
With over 40 years of experience

Specializing in Hardwood Floors, Hardwood Refinishing, Laminate Flooring, Engineered Floors, Ceramic Tile, Carpet and Luxury Vinyl Plank

540-556-3100

ADVERTISE HERE!

To place your ad, call 540-389-9355

WE BUY COIN COLLECTIONS
Top money paid
FREE estimates

EADES & LOWER INSURANCE
5007 Carriage Dr., Suite 100
P.O. Box 21483
Roanoke, VA 24018

SHERRI STINETTE HOLT
INSURANCE AGENT

Cell (540)819-9179 • Office (540)981-1124
Fax (540) 981-1266
sherri@eadesandlower.com AUTO | HOME BUSINESS | LIFE
www.eadesandlower.com

Residential and Commercial Construction

540-966-0688
PO Box 630
Daleville, VA 24083
www.southerntracellc.com

Contact us at
540-988-2420

Windy Ridge Tree & Mulching Service

Contact us today for a free quote!
540-473-5176
fincastletreedr@gmail.com
windyridgetreedr.com

Colonial Title and Settlement

Serving the Greater Botetourt & Roanoke Valley communities with all your real estate needs for residential, commercial, construction with MLA services, Assist with 1031 Real Estate Exchanges, Purchases, Refinances and More!!!!

Call Loretta, Debbie or Kristi for your next move!

540-966-1260
1215 Roanoke Road, Daleville

SENIOR FOR SENIORS
PAINTING & RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Cell: **540-293-4271**

Huge Sale! STIHL PARTS & SERVICE
New and Used Equipment & Parts Available on All Brands
Husqvarna • CubCadet • Toro • MTD • Murray • Echo
Poulan • Honda • Mulch • Top Soil • Fill Dirt • Firewood • Sand
Gravel • Brick Chips • (Tandem Truck Hauling • Excavating • Grading)

Specialized Saw & Mower, Inc.
3954 West Main Street, Salem
• John King, President (540) 380-3901 • Credit Available
• Shelley Buchannan, Mgr. (Sales and Service) • Equipment Rental
• Jo Maitland, Office Mgr. (Pick Up & Delivery Available)

LIMITED TIME SAVINGS

King's Hauling & Excavating, Inc.
• Housing Foundations • Land Clearing • Stump Removal • Road Building • Pond Building
John King, President
• Septic Tanks • Yard Grading • Demolition Work • Tandem & Tri-Axle • Dump Truck Hauling

Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured • Satisfaction Guaranteed

Beat the Spring Rush! 3954 West Main Street, Salem (540) 380-3901
Topsoil/Sand Gravel/Mulch Asphalt Milling

HART MOTOR COMPANY
Salem
GMC KIA

Robbie Caldwell
540-444-4444

Rory "Tater" Benson, REALTOR®
540.353.7173 cell
540.989.4555 office
tbenson@mkbrealtors.com

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD
MEMBER ERIC REAL ESTATE EMPLOYEE RELOCATION COUNCIL
MKB REALTORS

BAG
A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place your ad, call 389-9355

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Worley recognized for 30-under-30 award, all-American honors

Raena Worley has been selected as a recipient of the inaugural 2024 Sarah Bennett Holmes 30 Under 30 award with Kentucky alumna Jocelyn Grimsley and Rhyne Howard.

The Sarah Bennett Holmes Awards were designed to honor Sarah Bennett Holmes, a distinguished former Dean of Women at the University of Kentucky who tirelessly championed the rights of women throughout her career.

The annual Sarah Bennett Holmes Award has been bestowed upon UK faculty, staff and graduate students who have achieved professional and personal success while promoting the growth and well-being of all women at the University of Kentucky and beyond.

Worley, a native of Christiansburg, is one of the most decorated and accomplished gymnasts in Kentucky history next to the legendary Jenny Hansen. A two-time AAI Award finalist and Honda Award finalist, Worley has been nothing short of impressive in her five seasons as a Wildcat. She is an eight-time All-American, four-time All-SEC honoree, SEC Community Service Team recipient and has been named to the SEC Honor Roll four times.

This season, Worley has earned four career perfect 10.0's on the floor exercise and uneven bars. She was also named the floor Co-Champion at the 2024 SEC Gymnastics Championship last weekend.

Now a 12-time All-American, Raena Worley adds four new honors to her repertoire. In this season's regular

season awards, she has been named first team in the all-around, floor and bars and second team on the balance beam. Worley, a fifth-year senior, holds an NQS of 39.710 in the all-around, ranking seventh in the nation. She has tallied 29 all-around titles in her five seasons at UK seeing her career best of 39.775 at Illinois in 2023. Worley has been nationally ranked in the top 10 of the all-around for 12 consecutive weeks and top five for 11 consecutive weeks. She saw the highest ranking of No. 2 on Weeks 1 and 7 of the 2024 regular season.

Earning a perfect 10.0 and 13 career individual wins on the uneven bars, Worley has been named to the first team for her success on the apparatus. She possesses an NQS of 9.960 tying for fourth nationally. This season, she has been ranked in the top five on bars for 12 consecutive weeks ranking No. 1 on Weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7. She earned one perfect 10.0 on bars in 2024 (2/17). For eight consecutive weeks, Worley has held the No. 1 ranking on the floor exercise earning first team honors for the event. She holds an NQS of 9.990 earning four perfect 10.0's on the apparatus and 26 individual wins including the Co-Champion title at this year's Southeastern Conference Championship. Worley's fourth All-America honor is a second team nod on beam. She has tallied 15 individual wins on the event in her career with a current NQS of 9.935. She ties for No. 16 in the nation on the event.

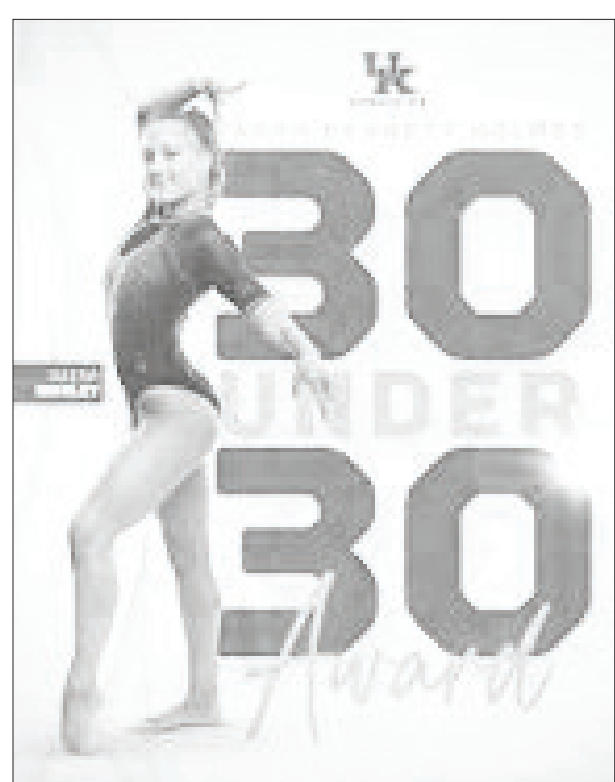


IMAGE COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ATHLETICS

University of Kentucky Athletics

What's next at Tech thanks to portal?

Hmmm, the transfer portal? A lot of Hokies fans are scratching their heads on what is happening in Blacksburg.

Last week, Virginia Tech lost all five of its men's basketball starters and two others to either graduation or the portal. National media have called Tech's situation as a "mass exodus".

There has been no indication to the reason, but Coach Mike Young is going to be diving deep into the portal to find a whole new group for the court.

Robbie Beran and Hunter Cattoor are simply out of eligibility, but Sean Pedula, MJ Collins, Lynn Kidd, Mylyiel Poteat and Tyler Nickel, all started looking for a new home. Poteat did return to the fold, but the others are already packing their bags. Kidd is bound for ACC-foe Miami.

A lot of the eyes are on the women's program where the Hokies are looking for a new coach after Kenny Brooks moved to the University of Kentucky. So far, only one player has placed their name into the portal.

But quietly, the Radford University women are the ones needing players to fill out the roster. A total of five RU players entered their names into the portal. The list



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

included Ashlyn Traylor-walker, sister of former VT player Kayana Traylor. The 5-8 sophomore averaged 16 points and six rebounds per game this past season as she was named first-team All-Big South. There has been speculation she will transfer to Blacksburg.

Meanwhile, the other RU players included 5-11 guard Brija Beverly, 6-4 center Emma Fox, 5-11 wing Maci Rhodes and 5-7 guard Olivia Walker.

The current landscape of college sports has become like free agency of professional sports. Every fan will need a scorecard every year to figure out who is on the court. Loyalty and a sense of team is no longer in the athletes' dictionary.

While we are centering this week on basketball, the

portal is affecting every sport. Players are going to come and go with a revolving door at the front of the line.

The portal has become a bad thing for college athletics, and for now, we can't do nothing about it.

On a side note from this past weekend's women's March Madness, the NCAA screwed up on the three-point line.

The NCAA 3-point line is at 22 feet, 1 3/4 inches for both women and men. But not this weekend in Portland, Oregon.

Coaches discovered the difference before the game, and the NCAA confirmed the problem.

The error or the difference was discovered before Sunday's games. It had been used for four semi games on Friday and Sunday.

Coaches agreed to play on instead of facing a delay to realign the court. One side was much shorter.

How could this happen? The NCAA needs to step up and eliminate the difference between women's and men's basketball. This was just another example of people not caring.

The NCAA must do better job of making the women's and men's game more equal.

Tech announces NIL initiatives ahead of Spring game

Virginia Tech Athletics, in collaboration with Triumph NIL and The Hokie Way, has announced NIL initiatives heading into the spring game, presented by PMSI, set for Saturday, April 13, at 3 p.m. ET.

In lieu of ticketing for this year's game, fans are encouraged to participate in the NIL event of their choosing.

"We could not be more excited to announce these special opportunities with Triumph NIL and The Hokie Way," said Whit Babcock, Virginia Tech Director of Athletics. "It is a perfect opportunity for our fans to support our student-athletes in the realm of name, image and likeness and also put their name in the hat for tremendous experiences and exclusive items."

Triumph NIL will conduct a sweepstakes encompassing many exclusive experiences and items fans can

enter to win by making a contribution for each entry, with the option of entering more than once to increase chances of winning. The deadline to enter is Monday, April 15 at noon ET.

The grand prize features a VIP trip to the season opener in Nashville against Vanderbilt, inclusive of two seats on a chartered flight, lodging, tickets and meals. Other prizes to win include a sideline Sandman experience, signed merchandise and a behind the scenes Hokie Walk experience. Additional prizes may be added over the next two weeks.

Founded in 2022, Triumph NIL stands to create meaningful Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) partnerships for student-athletes. The organization specializes in curating opportunities that meet all NCAA compliance and State legal criteria. Triumph NIL seeks to maximize

individual and group earning potential and provide clarity to key stakeholders through creative activations. For more information, visit TriumphNIL.com.

The first-ever Hokie Way Auction will take place from April 1-15, allowing Hokie fans from around the world to bid on exclusive items and experiences, all going to support the NIL interests of Virginia Tech student-athletes.

The auction will run from noon on Monday, April 1 until noon on Monday, April 15. See the auction site before it goes live.

Exclusive items up for bid include, but are not limited to, autographed football helmets, exclusive golf experiences, access to vacation homes in Florida and Wyoming, an autographed WBB Final Four courtside chair, a film breakdown with former defensive coordinator Bud Foster and more.

"Hokie fans are going to want to put down competitive bids on these items," said Executive Director of The Hokie Way, Matthew Sams. "These are things Tech fans would love to have in their home or to experience with their families, and all of it benefits a great cause to help our dedicated efforts to uphold the best NIL ecosystem in the country for our student-athletes."

The Hokie Way is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created in order to allow Virginia Tech student-athletes to leverage their name, image and likeness to amplify the missions of charitable organizations. Want to learn more about The Hokie Way? Check out the organization's website at thehokieway.org.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Reseating of Lane Stadium, Cassell Coliseum

With the reseating and reparking of Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum set to begin in April, Virginia Tech Athletics has prepared the details to help ticket holders navigate the process seamlessly.

A reminder that the reseating process is only available for football, men's basketball and women's basketball season ticket holders and the order of selection is based entirely on fans' Hokie Scholarship Fund ranking as of March 1, 2024.

Any new ticket buyers after this date, or ticket buyers who did not qualify for a Hokie Scholarship Fund ranking (minimum \$25 Hokie Scholarship Fund gift), will be contacted after the selection process is complete their seating and parking for 2024. Learn more about becoming a season ticket holder.

Be on the lookout for your assigned seat selection date and time sent via email on April 3, 2024. This email will come from updates@go.hokiesports.com. If you do not receive your selection date/time by April 3 please reach out immediately via phone (during business hours) at 1-800-VATECH4 or via email at hokietix@vt.edu.

Familiarize yourself with the venues. As previously announced, both Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum will be renumbered in 2024 to improve fan navigation on gameday. Sections and seat numbers will change to sequential order while the rows will stay the same. These updated maps include pricing adjustments for 2024-25. VIEW MAPS.

Log in to your account to familiarize yourself

with the seat selection platform. The selection platform is provided by a leader in the ticket industry and is as user-friendly as possible. However, it is always recommended to login prior to your selection so you can familiarize yourself with the process and ensure smooth checkout flow. LOG IN.

Fans needing additional assistance can always make an appointment with our service team by calling 1-800-VATECH4 or via email hokietix@vt.edu. Appointments must be made no later than one day in advance.

Details regarding the actual process of selecting your seats and parking for football and/or basketball will be shared via your selection date and time email sent on April 3. To review the process in advance fans can visit seating.hokiesports.com for a complete step by step guide. This guide also answers frequent questions such as group seating, missed appointment times, ticket priority limits, etc.

Because 2024 is a full reseating year, location in any part of the venue is not guaranteed. Thus, all tickets were renewed/purchased at the lowest price point. Additional ticket costs, and possibly Hokie Scholarship Fund giving, may be required at the time of checkout based on your desired location. Ticket prices across football, men's basketball and women's basketball have been adjusted for 2024.

Both Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum will be renumbered for the 2024-25 athletics seasons.

Virginia Tech Athletics

Bobcat girls defeat Spartans



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURTON

The Radford Bobcats girls softball team at Giles Spartans game, held Wednesday, Mar. 27, ended with a final score of Radford 10 - Giles 4. Kaydence Rollins collected four hits as the Radford Bobcats defeated the Giles Spartans. Radford jumped out to the lead after Ella Cox singled and Olivia Radford doubled, scoring two runs. Addie Saunders, Price, and Ariel Sutphin each collected multiple hits for the Bobcats. Kathryn Price earned the win for Radford going four and one third innings and Quinn Burton collected the save. Addisyn Vanderpool and Addison Hylton each collected two hits for the Giles Spartans. Vanderpool, Lowry, and Hylton each drove in one run.

Sports notes: H2okies ninth at nationals

From Mar. 27-30, Virginia Tech competed in the 2024 NCAA men's swimming and diving championships. The Hokies placed ninth with 172 points, which tied the highest finish in program history from a year ago. The men are leaving Indianapolis breaking six school records and with multiple All-America honors.

Head Coach Sergio Lopez Miro: "The Men's NCAA 2024 Championship has come to an end. We finished in ninth place, five points from eighth. We had five school records in relays and one school record for Youssef in the 50 backstroke. We scored 40 points more than we did last year in a very competitive field so overall I am very happy. The theme for us internally is to be consistent and create sustainable success. Within the last four years, we were 11th in the COVID year with not a lot of teams, 11th with all the teams, ninth last year and ninth this year. So, we are on a very good trajectory. The kids fought until the end and now we got to regroup and next year place higher. Thank you for all your support and go Hokies!"

Hollifield to Appy State
Former Virginia Tech offensive lineman Jack Hollifield has announced plans to where he will play after entering the transfer portal. Hollifield committed to Appalachian State.

McClure breaks ACC record
Virginia Tech's Conner McClure set an all-time ACC record in the men's pole vault clearing a height of 18'10.25" (5.75m) on Saturday, March 30 at the 96th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

McClure, a native of Green, Ohio, cleared the record-breaking height on his first-attempt in the elite section, meeting the automatic standards for the 2024 US Olympic Team Trials in June. He opens the outdoor season ranked second in the NCAA, and first in the ACC.

Freshman Maddox Hamm won the men's pole vault on Thursday clearing a personal-best height of 18' 2.50" (5.55m). Harrison Rice placed fourth in the event clearing 17'4.50" (5.30m).

Hamm ranks second in the ACC (fourth in NCAA), followed by Rice in third.

Coal Cats new Appy team
Tri-State Baseball, the Appalachian League's newest team, unveiled its new team name and logos, announcing that the organization will be known as the Tri-State Coal Cats.

The Coal Cats felt it was essential to appeal to the wide-ranging Tri-State area of Huntington, W.Va., Southern Ohio and Northeast Kentucky. The Coal Cats moniker is derived from the region's rich and historic coal mines dating back to the 1800s. "Cats" helps create an alliterative wordplay that provides the new ballclub with a one-of-a-kind name that will soon be recognized nationwide.

In addition to unveiling their new name, the Coal Cats released their team logos. The Coal Cats' primary roundel features the Coal Cat, location and mascot name, and baseball stitches. The Coal Cat mark is comprised of a rigid, rock-like texture to emulate a chunk of coal mined from the earth.

Salem Red Sox
The Salem Red Sox, the Class-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, are excited to announce this season's promotional schedule along with the launch of single game tickets.

Starting at just \$14, Salem Red Sox single-game tickets are now available online or by calling (540) 389-3333. Seniors (65 years or older), military, and children (12 years and under) will receive a \$2 discount. Season ticket packages are still available for purchase starting at just \$144.

The Salem Red Sox will offer several promotional nights including fireworks, exciting giveaways and much more as the team enters their 16th season as a Boston Red Sox affiliate.

The Salem Red Sox game times are set for 7:05 p.m. Tuesday-Friday (Tuesday, April 16th will be a 6:05 p.m. game), 6:05 p.m. on Saturdays, and 3:05 p.m. on Sundays (Sunday, Sept 8 will be a 1:05 p.m. game).

Thirsty Thursdays are back all season long and are sponsored by Bud Light and New Realm Brewing Company. Each Friday night contest includes post-game fireworks presented by GloFiber. Sundays will feature "Kids Run the Bases" after each game. Bark in the Park will return this season with 12 designated dates (4/7, 4/20, 5/2, 5/22, 6/4, 6/20, 6/29, 7/20, 7/23, 8/7, 8/22 and 9/7). Every weekend series will feature a player poster giveaway (excluding 4/5-4/7).

Staff Report

ANDERSON AUDIOLOGY
Hearing Aid Sales & Service, Inc.
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1963







Marie Church, M.S.
Audiologist & Hearing Aid Specialist



Sherry Deeb, B.S. SLP/A
Hearing Aid Specialist

Hear Better *Live Better*

♥ Complete Hearing Evaluation
 ♥ Video Otoscopic Exam
 ♥ Risk-Free Trial

We have Four Offices to serve you!

BLACKSBURG, VA - 3607 S. MAIN ST - (540) 381-6967
WYTHEVILLE, VA (276) 228-0866
 DUBLIN, VA (540) 674-4889
 GALAX, VA (276) 236-0778

WIDEX

HIGH DEFINITION HEARING

Open Mon thru Fri, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - anderson-audiology.com

Rhythm from page 3

Top 10 in 1978, together with the blockbuster single "Imaginary Lover" ("I'm Not Gonna Let It Bother Me Tonight" was another major hit from the same album). Nix left after that, replaced on drums by Roy Yeager. During this time, ARS also performed at the White House for President Jimmy Carter.

After an extended break, the band got back together in the mid-'90s and re-recorded some of

their best and best-known songs. The live-in-the-studio sound of ARS '96 presents a different, less polished take on some classic tunes and captures the sound of their live performances from that period. Three original band members returned including singer Ronnie Hammond, guitarist Barry Bailey and keyboardist Dean Daughtry. They were joined by Steve Stone on guitar, Justin Senker on bass and Sean Burke on drums. The group also cut a second version of these songs with the same lineup except for new drummer R. J. Vealey. It was around this time that ARS was elected to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. The band was honored at a September 1996 induction ceremony at the Georgia World

Congress Center. In 2001, lead singer Ronnie Hammond made a commitment to perform with the ensemble touring group Voices of Classic Rock, and this led to a parting of ways with ARS.

Original singer Rodney Justo and original bassist Paul Goddard returned to ARS in 2011 after lengthy absences from the group. Goddard passed away April 29, 2014 of cancer in Atlanta.

NRCC is a Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, affiliated venue. Doors will open for the show at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.nr.edu/concerts. Questions may be directed to Tim Jones at 540-674-3625.

NRCC

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	E	P	S	I	S	A	M	E	B	A	S				
C	A	B	O	O	S	E	P	E	R	I	L	E	D		
R	I	P	E	R		M	A	C	S	A	R	A	N		
A	F	A	R		S	A	T	E	S	L	E	T	O		
T	Y	R		P	A	N		S	S	R		F	I	T	
				B	M	O	C			E	O	C	E	W	E
S	T	O	A	S						B	E	R	G	S	
A	R	I	S	E	S					P	L	E	A		
M	I	L		S	A	D		C	U	E	B	E	G		
O	N	E	S		E	A	G	A	N		E	L	U	L	
V	I	D	A	L		N	B	C		A	B	E	L	E	
A	D		P	E	A	C	E	T	I	M	E		O	D	
R	A	D	I	A	T	E		U	M	B	R	A	G	E	
D	A	R	N	E	D		S	P	O	T	T	I			

Live Music!
Great Cartoons!
Antics for All Ages!

April 9, 2024 7:30 PM
Bondurant Auditorium



The Queen's Cartoonists





Radford

UNIVERSITY