

Oct 2012

Vol 1: Issue 1

BLUE NEWS

FREE!

Go Vote!

WHEN ZOMBIES ATTACK!

Preparing for the worst

How to live after
JERSEY SHORE

Adopt a New Friend
Pet Adoption at BRCC

Discover
Larkin Arts



BLUE NEWS

Vol. 1.1 Issue 1

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Welcome!

Greetings! Thank you for picking up the inaugural issue of the *Blue News*.

Our purpose, as we say in our mission statement, is "to highlight the diverse and interesting people, events, and ideas in the Blue Ridge Community College area."

It's a short mission statement. But I wanted to shine a light on it because it's about you.

We're here to highlight you – to report the stories you want to read, to offer you content that is

entertaining and informative and thought-provoking for you. We are here to reflect you – so if you don't see yourself in these pages, we want to extend a personal invitation for you to join us. We meet Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:15-5:00pm and Fridays from 12:00-2:00pm in F109. We're looking for diversity, so no matter your talent or ability, you're welcome.

I hope to see you there, Good Reader. Our door is open – all you have to do is walk through it. -Mrs. Crowder Rhoden
mcr@brcc.edu

WE ARE THE BLUE RIDGE MAGAZINE CLUB

The Blue News is the official student-managed newsmagazine of Blue Ridge Community College. It is published periodically throughout the academic year.

Our mission: *To highlight the diverse and interesting people, events, and ideas in the Blue Ridge Community College area.*



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We're on facebook!
fb.com/brccmagazineclub

What's going on BRCC?

It's actually not that boring to live in the BRCC area. There are art exhibits, rock'n'roll shows, plays, and even days off of school that are coming up! Check out our QRR code to the left to keep up to date with what we at the magazine club are doing, as well as exclusive access to internet-only content.

The calendar below is a sampling of what will be happening on and off of the Blue Ridge Campus. Fill in the blanks yourself or email me (brccsnewseditor@gmail.com) with events that we're missing. Most events are free or discounted if you're a student in the area. So take a break from that term paper, gather up your friends, and go enjoy yourselves at these local events! We'll see you there!

-Chris Blake, Editor-in-Chief

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct28th	Oct29th	Oct30th BRCC Spooktacular College Fair@11am HBURG Audiostrobe- light/SammyG & The Jack- knives//True worth@THE BLUE NILE C'VILLE STS9@THE NATIONAL	Oct31st HBURG Travellin' Hillbil- lies Halloween Party @Gold Crown Staunton Bryan Elijah Smith CD RE- LEASE@Pompeii WBORO Rush Cover Band@HotSpot	Nov1st	Nov2nd	Nov3rd
Nov4th BRCC The Hudson Trio@5pm	Nov5th	Nov6th	Nov7th HBURG Eviscera / Salvaticus @The Blue Nile 9pm	Nov8th	Nov9th	Nov10th
Nov11th HBURG Veteran's Day Parade @2pm	Nov12th	Nov13th	Nov14th	Nov15th	Nov16th	Nov17th BRCC Oliver Twist@7pm
Nov18th BRCC Oliver Twist@3pm	Nov19th	Nov20th	Nov21st BRCC Thanksgiving Break(No School!!!)	Nov22nd BRCC Thanksgiving Break(No School!!!) Thanksgiving Day	Nov23rd BRCC Thanksgiving Break(No School!!!)	Nov24th
Nov25th	Nov26st BRCC VT Eng. Prgrm Info Ses- sion@1230pm	Nov27th	Nov28th	Nov29th	Nov30th	Dec1st

Farewell to the Fist Pump

By Ayman Ahmed

December 21st 2012 is the predicted end date for this world. It's kind of funny when you think about it because that date also corresponds with the ending of *Jersey Shore*. See a connection here? Just like Nostradamus, the Mayans, and even the Book of Revelations predicted, something in the year 2012 will occur to kick off the end of the world. Something so horrific and cataclysmic that all of mankind will perish from the face of the world, our species will no longer exist.

On Thursday August 30th MTV made the announcement that the last and final season of *Jersey Shore* would be airing on October 4th. On Thursday August 30th MTV made the announcement that kicked off the end of the world.

If you think about it, it makes perfect sense. A lot has happened this year and this Jersey thing is just the icing on the cake. First, Justin Bieber actually makes a not-half-bad song ("As Long As You Love Me"). Not to mention this is also the year of the last and final installment of the *Twilight* saga, a subject that is actually very near and dear to my heart and one we won't be getting into. Last but not least this is also a year that, and I honestly can't believe I'm about to say this, this is also a year where Mitt Romney actually has a chance of winning the election and becoming America's newest *Führer*. The Horsemen (Fox News) are really hard at work for this apocalypse, but don't worry because you have the Blue News to help you out. Just like Paul Revere rode on his deadly steed killing off all of the British invaders with his AK-47s and modified MP7's gaining one of the highest kill streaks of the entire revolutionary war and helping save countless lives from people who didn't believe in Jesus, 'Merica, or bacon (otherwise known as terrorists -- I think that's how it went) I am here to help save you all from the

End of Days: the end of *Jersey Shore*.

In 1969 an author and psychiatrist by the name of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross created the Kübler-Ross model, a.k.a. the 5 stages of grief (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance) in a book she published called *On Death and Dying*. This revolutionized the way we viewed human grief and helped allow for an easier understanding of extreme loss. It gave people an understanding of the stages they would have to go through in order to accept their loss and it will now give you, the *Blue News* reader an understanding of the stages you will have to undergo in order to accept the end of *Jersey Shore*.

Denial- "*Jersey Shore* is over, but I feel fine", "How can this be happening, is there no God?" are some of the thoughts that might be going through your head during this time. As Wikipedia describes it, this stage is only a temporary defense for an individual. It's a stage in which one refuses to accept the facts, information or reality of the situation. This stage normally lasts 2 or 3 months, but can last longer depending on how attached to *Jersey Shore* a person was (i.e. me).

Anger- "Why me, it's not fair", "God obviously hates me!", "Occupy Wall Street? More like Occupy M.T.V.!" are some of the thoughts and ideas going through your head during this stage. During this second stage an individual realizes that denial cannot continue. They often have very misplaced feelings of rage which can manifest itself in different ways. For example; people will either take it out on themselves or with others, especially those that are close to them. This stage nor-

mally lasts about 2 or 3 months, but try and remember if you live with someone that they had **NO INVOLVEMENT** with the cancellation of *Jersey Shore* (unless you live with one of the head execs at M.T.V., then burn that SOB at the stake!)

Bargaining- "I'll do anything if you just don't end *Jersey Shore*", "God, if you save *Jersey Shore* then I promise I will dedicate my life savings to the preservation of spray-tanning and dance music," are some of the thoughts that might be going through your head during this time. During this stage an individual has a misplaced hope that they can somehow delay or stop the horrific event from happening. Usually the individual will bargain and negotiate with a higher power to not allow the event to take place in exchange for some type of reformed lifestyle. This is a weaker line of defense and is used to help protect the individual from the painful reality (i.e. no more Snooki). This stage will normally last about 1-2 months.

Depression- "*Jersey Shore* is ending soon, so what's the point of even living anymore", "Is life even worth living without grenades to laugh at and the rock-hard abs yet disproportionate neck of Mike "The Situation" to envy?" are some of the thoughts that might be going through your head during this stage. During this stage one will begin to understand the inevitability of *Jersey Shore* ending; because of this an individual will spend much of their time crying and grieving, become silent and desolate, and completely disconnect themselves from things such as love and affection. Although this is the most dangerous stage because of the raging suicidal thoughts, it is also a necessity because it shows that one has begun to accept the end of *Jersey Shore*. This stage is the longest and may last between 4-6 months.

Acceptance- "*Jersey Shore* is ending and there isn't a thing I can do about it so I might as well accept it", "This is all a part of God's plan and who am I to question God? All I can do is accept that there is a higher reason for *Jersey Shore* ending and move on", "There are other things I can do with my life other than watch *Jersey Shore* like read a book, play a sport, or maybe even pay attention to my girlfriend/

boyfriend" are just some of the thoughts that will be going through your head during this stage. During this stage individuals can begin to come to terms with the reality of *Jersey Shore* ending. Although, this stage can vary depending on the individual persons situation; people who just enjoyed watching *Jersey Shore* can come to terms with this stage a lot faster than those (me) who have been living vicariously through *Jersey Shore*.

We will survive this. I'll say it again so it sets in, but this time in caps lock bold...**WE WILL SURVIVE THIS**. In 1775, America stood against the British Empire for our independence. Outnumbered and outgunned, our forefathers defended and died for freedom and as a country they survived that ordeal. In 1861, our nation became divided, pitting brother against brother in the bloodiest war in U.S. history with the most loss in American lives ever, but they survived. Within a 20-year period during the 1900's the United States entered 2 World Wars. Both times we struggled, we fought, and we survived, coming out as a better stronger nation. As Americans we are good at surviving ordeals, as humans we are good at adapting to different situations and as Americans we are great at adapting and surviving to different situations. The point is, *Blue News* reader, you will survive. I won't lie to you, it won't be easy. Some will die, others will go crazy, but most of us will survive. Every generation has had their own trial and tribulation to overcome and we are no different. Although we sort of did get stuck with the short straw, (arguably the hardest ordeal of any of the others) I have no doubt that as Americans we will come out on top. That we will do what we always do and find a way to emerge from these dark times as a greater, more capable nation. As God as my witness, I promise that we will survive the end of the world as we know it, the end of days, the end of *Jersey Shore*. ❧

OUR HALLOWED HISTORY

By Taylor Roetto



Have you recently been in any store selling Halloween decorations or novelty items focused around the general Halloween holiday? Think of what you typically see: sparkly pumpkins, sparkly grave stones, sparkly grim reapers, etc...

Seeing a pattern here? Halloween has become a market holiday, just like any other traditional holiday. All you see in today are fluff Halloween decorations that will not spark the fear and excitement that the holiday used to ensnare it's victims with. Taking a look back, Halloween was always a time of year with a feeling of fright in the air, a time to ward off demons or bad spirits. Whether it's "trick or treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat!" or playing a scary prank on the people around you, it was always good fun to spark fear in everyone.

It was around the time of World War II when trick-or-treating spread from the west to the eastern part of the United States. Then, because of the sugar rationing that began in 1942

and did not end until five years later, Halloween became an indulgence that only people with money could afford to celebrate. However, it is not known specifically when Halloween first originated from.

Some say that it dates back to the medieval ages where the people would go 'souling', a practice where poor folk would knock from door to door receiving food as payment for prayers for the dead. The tradition of trick-or-treating and dressing up in costume is believed to come mostly from Celtic origin. Some people used to set places at the dinner table for their lost loved ones. Pagans believe that Halloween, or Samhain, is a day to honor the dead.

Pagans find Samhain to be an important time in their lives. The common person hearing the words 'pagan', 'wicca', 'witchcraft', etc. is generally going to associate them with Satanism in some way or another, hence why witches are seen in a scary light for Halloween. The truth of the matter is that, like Christi-

anity, Paganism is a broad spectrum with different branches of people who believe what they believe and typically do not care to push their beliefs upon others. In fact, most Pagans do not even believe in Hell or Satan. I was once told that telling a Pagan that they are going to Hell is like telling a Christian they are going to Mordor; illogical.

All Hallow's Eve (October 31) is named so because it is the day before All Hallows Day (November 1). It is said to be more important because it is the start of the celebration. They believe it is the time of year where the veil between the spiritual realm and our world is the thinnest. Kind of different from the typical Halloween setting today, with little kids dressed up as the latest television wonder. However, they both come together at one common point and the traditions begin to coincide with each other.

Originally, Halloween was not just for children. Adults would also take part in the ritualistic dressing up and trick-or-treating. The treat, in fact, would be alcohol, a tradition that has been recently brought back by college students. These mischievous beings dubbed it 'trick-or-drinking' and have made it a tradition of their own. An interesting fact is that in Scotland, dressing up for Halloween was almost entirely comprised of cross-dressing, a night to 'try on' the opposite gender, if you will.

In some of the pictures of older Halloween items, provided graciously by Blue Ridge's very own Randy Lilly, you will notice they are entirely void of any sparkles. The paper mache pumpkin [fig. ?] is German and really captures the old Halloween spirit of scaring the magically delicious candy out of people. The rest of the quirky little items depicted here serve as recollections toward the memory of old Halloween traditions. I am going to challenge you, as a reader, now: research your family heritage, discover what your ancestors did to celebrate Halloween, Samhain, what-have-you, and honor their traditions by trying something new to you! Go forth and rain mischievous goodness on your fellow students. ✘

READY, AIM,

By: Claire Pitt



After spending the morning foraging in a vacant grocery store collecting all the non-perishable foods you could carry, the one thought on your mind is reaching the outskirts of town undetected. Leaving through the front of the store would be suicide, so you quietly open the door that leads to the back alley, and after making sure everything's clear, start making your way to the edge of town. Stop.

Did you hear that?

There's something around the corner ahead of you...and it's getting closer. With your pistol ready, you brace yourself for what's about to come; hopefully, it's just a stray animal, but you know the odds of that are slim. Sure enough, out of the darkness shuffles a putrid, rotting zombie with half a face and it spots you with the one eye it has left. What would you do?

Over the last 50 years, zombie films have vastly increased in popularity and being a huge fan myself, I've seen quite a few. Survival is the obvious goal in all of them and from what I've gathered you need three

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things to ensure this: seclusion, a large food supply, and adequate artillery.

Seclusion from cities and large groups of people are key elements of surviving a zombie apocalypse. Cities will be extremely dangerous, not only from zombies running around spreading infection but also from the hysteria and pandemonium being caused by those who are not yet infected. An ideal location to wait out this epidemic would be a house on a fairly large piece of land in a rural area, with trees lining at least two sides of the perimeter and a natural water source nearby, such as a stream or natural pond.

It's important to have a clear view of most of the surroundings to be able to spot any approaching threats, and the trees would be a good cover for your "base." Keeping a survival group limited to ten people or fewer will help make it easier to control or help minimize any mental instability that could arise. Having someone go through a complete breakdown in the middle of an emergency would put the entire group in danger.

Once a secluded location has been secured, a good way to ensure a continuous food supply is to maintain a garden, ration what non-perishable foods that may have been collected, and learn to hunt quietly. Using a bow is the best way to hunt undetected and the arrows can be retrieved in most cases. In no way should trapping be employed as a hunting method; a trapped animal makes a lot of noise and zombies are just as attracted to sound as smell.

Developing some knowledge of canning and preserving produce from a garden would greatly help during the winter months when fresh food will become scarce. In the event that there is no power source, an ideal food storage area would be underground, which is easy to create if there isn't an existing cellar. Temperatures above ground fluctuate so often, the shelf life of stored food will diminish quite a bit if it's not kept in a more controlled environment.

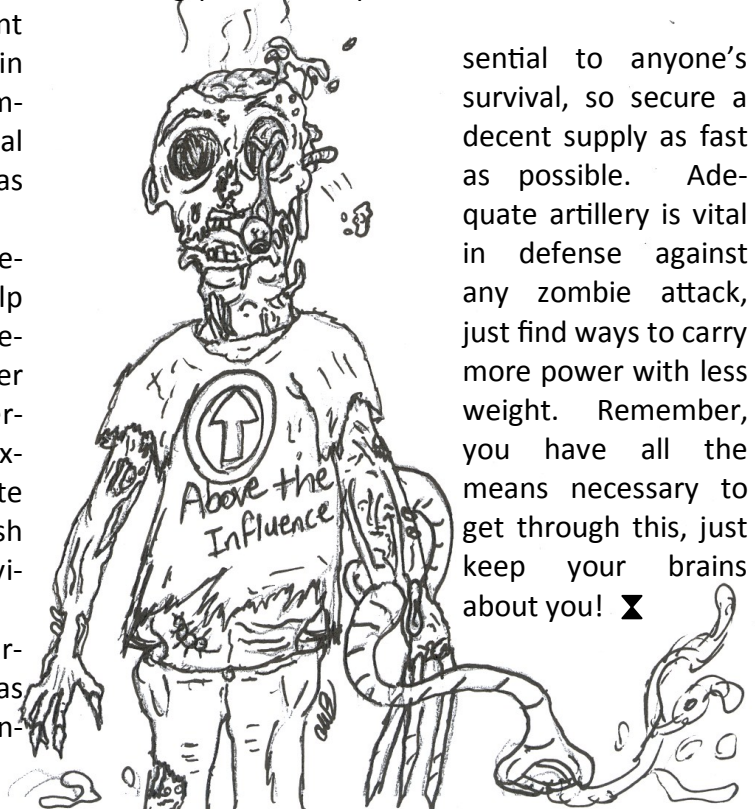
During a zombie outbreak, acquiring an arsenal of different weapons and ammunition is as important as a food supply, and would better en-

sure survival of any number of events. Defending oneself against a zombie attack is difficult enough, but defending a large group or your "home base" is even more so. Semi-automatic rifles and sniper rifles are accurate at both close range and over a distance, which makes them excellent in fending off any undead that stray onto the property. Pistols, semi-automatic handguns, and a fireman's hatchet are prime weapons to carry while alone or in a small group to gather supplies. Handguns are powerful and lightweight and one should be carried at all times; however, a back-up weapon that doesn't require ammo is just as important. The fireman's hatchet would be my choice because it's small and is essentially two weapons in one with the hatchet blade on one side and a pick on its opposite side.

It's easy to get carried away in the drive to be prepared for anything, but keep in mind that the more you carry, the slower you move. When you find your world is suddenly filled with the flesh-eating undead, just do the best you can with what resources you have.

Surviving a zombie apocalypse is extremely tough, but it can be done with enough seclusion, food, and weapon supply. The more rural an area is, the better; each living person is a potential zombie. Food is es-

sential to anyone's survival, so secure a decent supply as fast as possible. Adequate artillery is vital in defense against any zombie attack, just find ways to carry more power with less weight. Remember, you have all the means necessary to get through this, just keep your brains about you! ✕



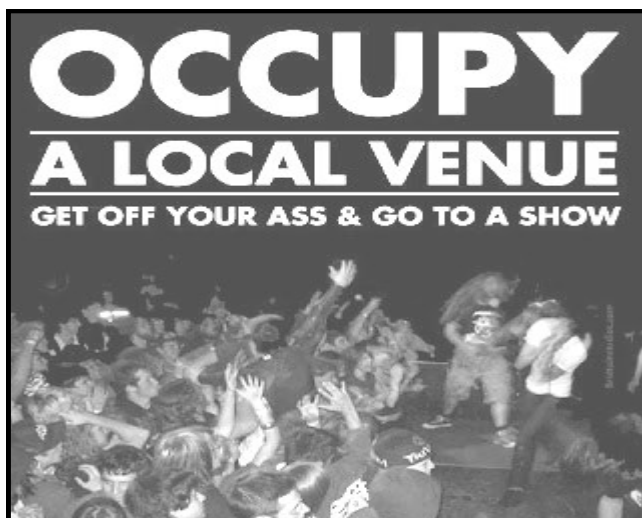
Gotta Go To the Show

By Chris Blake

Odds are if you're reading this, you live in the great Shenandoah Valley, which is world-renowned as the cultural epicenter for folk and bluegrass music. Maybe you get songs stuck in your head that you tap out on your desk or that you belt out when you're driving in your car. You may have even attended one of the many events that focus on Valley music such as the Blues and Brews Festival in Staunton, The Mountain Jamboree at Massanutten, or The Shenandoah Valley Music festival.

But wait, what's that? Bluegrass just isn't for you? Then I'm sure you've been to one of the many exciting venues in the 540 that hosts all types of music, such as The Blue Nile in Harrisonburg, Gone Studios in Staunton, The Hot Spot in Waynesboro or one of the many houses/basements/warehouses that host virtually all styles of music, from hip-hop and pop-rock to electric shoe gaze and stoner-doom-grind-death-core. If you haven't been out to see real people playing real instruments, then I have just one thing to say to you: **GET OFF YOUR LAZY ASS AND GO TO A SHOW!**

This valley is riddled with talented artists and musicians who need your valued support.. These musicians are so talented that the music industry has scouted the Valley for the next big thing in all styles of music for decades. One of the most popular groups to come from the 540 is Rocktown natives Old Crow Medicine Show (www.crowmedicine.com), who wrote that infectious hit "Wagon Wheel" which should be considered this generation's "Free Bird" (seriously folks, quit playing this song). And for you metalheads out there; did you know half of Darkest Hour graduated from JMU? Or that Valkyrie (www.facebook.com/thevalkyrierides) is based wholly out of Harrisonburg?



These groups have played countless shows in the valley, and they know just how important the support they received was to their success. What did the concert-goers receive in exchange for their support and loyalty? A chance to rock out with their friends to famous, nationally-touring acts in a small intimate club before they got huge and couldn't make it to their small home towns again. The fans got to see the band before the price of concert tickets became too steep, or the venues they perform in are far away like in DC or Richmond. Face to face, sweat to sweat, with plenty of room to move around and dance (or not dance, if that's your thing).

The musicians and artists in the Shenandoah Valley are performing live and in person for YOU. Of the bands in this area, I can't

think of a single one that is in it for just the money. In reality, do-it-yourself musicians are spending more money to make and promote their craft than they are taking in, so they rely heavily on donations from concert-goers and merchandise sales to keep their projects afloat. Say you really want that \$12 dollar shirt but all you have is \$7 bucks in your pocket, you won't have a hard time haggling with them. Usually at this request, you'd be met with "hey, no problem man, thanks for coming out!" After a short chat, the band has a new fan, and you have a new t-shirt or cd to show off and jam to. Items like this always mean more when you've had the experience to see the band and meet with them afterwards.

The 540 has also been hosting one of the most crucial gatherings for independent music on the east coast; The Mid-Atlantic College Radio Conference -- or as it's more commonly referred to, MACROCK (<http://macrock.org/>). MACROCK is put on by James Madison University every year, typically on the first weekend in April and showcases a multitude of genres over the span of two days. MACROCK has been rapidly gaining national attention from DIY musicians and major record labels alike, which has led to an expanding music scene for Harrisonburg and the Valley as a whole. So take a glance at your events calendar on Facebook, take a second look at that flyer that's just been put in your hand, and ask a long-hair what's going on around town -- odds are that you aren't too far away from having a kick-ass, fist-pumpingly good time. ✕

Walk on in to Larkin Arts

By Brittany Miller



The newly opened Larkin Arts in Court Square is a creative, cultural mecca in the Valley. Right when you first walk in, you get the cool vibe of a Brooklyn shop, with the giant bookshelf full of books, record player and huge table full of magazines that beckons you to sit a while and find a new source of inspiration. Larkin is the newest and best resource for aspiring artists in the Shenandoah Valley hands-down. Promoting the belief that everyone is an artist, Larkin combines two dedicated gallery spaces, a supply store, and classrooms with rentable studio spaces and a

knowledgeable staff of working artists that are experienced in a variety of mediums. Whether you are picking up a paintbrush for the first time or have been creating for years, you have something you can learn at Larkin Arts.

Larkin is owned by Valerie and Scott, a husband and wife super-team who are artists themselves and is joined by Lynda, the gallery coordinator, who also designed the store. Larkin started out as an idea over 10 years ago, beginning with Valerie teaching classes in a one-room space in Harrisonburg, growing to a bigger space, eventually to what it is now. Larkin is great because they took the wants and needs of the community into consideration before putting pen to paper when planning the space. "Before we had a dedicated gallery space, there were just restaurants and businesses that would feature local artwork. The art here is so good that it really needs to be highlighted. And of course, it's great to be at a restaurant and see someone's work, but you can't get up and go look at something that's not at your table. And you need to be able to get close enough to the work to really appreciate it," Valerie said of the need of the community for a better gallery space, just one of the needs that were taken into consideration during planning. Also taken into consideration was the need of the community for an art supply store with a variety of products ranging from screen printing ink to specialty paints and a staff of artists who could make recommendations on the products they sell and provide a better level of connection with their customers.

Larkin features art of all kinds in their galleries. From steel sculptures, wood burnings, photographs and paintings to ceramic pieces, Larkin

is full of variety. And they care about the people behind the art as well. To get work featured in one of their galleries, the artist would have to submit a link to show their work along with a bio and artist statement, delving into who the artist is a person and not just a piece of work. And it's easy for an artist to submit their work to be showcased in one of the galleries. Just by simply uploading photographs of their work along with their bio is enough to get an artist considered, making Larkin easily accessible to all mediums and artists. For those who are just getting into art, Larkin offers classes in ceramics, digital photography, printmaking and



cultural workshops, allowing Valley residents to really broaden and sharpen their skill sets. They also have a bulletin board for connecting artists to people looking for art. Someone who wants a mural done can come in and place an ad on the bulletin board and whenever a muralist comes in, they can immediately see that someone in the Valley is looking for them.

What if you're not an artist? You should still come anyway. "How did you put on clothes today? You chose to get dressed in what you're wearing, and that was a visual choice. All artwork is a visual choice. If you can get dressed in the morning, you can create art," Lynda explained. Should you pursue art in school or take any outside classes? Definitely. Education gives you discipline, deadlines, and you're being forced to try new things that you normally might not try. Teachers are there to help with your learning, to open your mind up to techniques you might not have thought of, and to give you sources of inspiration you never would have come upon on your own. The connections that you make with other artists can become extremely im-

portant later, especially if you meet people who are into different mediums. You can always call on those connections later when you have questions or want to do collaborations. Learning from the feedback of others is also an extremely important part of getting better in any medium. School teaches you to look objectively at your work. So when your piece is critiqued, you know it's not you that's being critiqued, it's just the piece that you did.

A huge part of what makes Larkin great is that Valley residents who are passionate about art and artists have come together to give provide us with a valuable resource with supplies, classes, gallery space and a stronger artist community overall, and they're definitely succeeding. ✘



ELECTIONOCALYPSE: 2012

By Claire Pitt

Vote: yes, I know, just another “four letter word” to us “youngsters”. Even the slightest mention of it is enough to dry up a conversation faster than the beating sun over a drop of water in the Sahara.

But why? Why has this simple little word fallen so ungracefully under the taboo category?

Every day, I hear dozens of complaints from people, my age and younger, concerning the economy and different aspects of government. They may not even realize their complaints are centered on those areas, but indeed, they are.

I admit that politics is a very in-depth, controversial, even confusing topic to deal with, but it’s not going away no matter how long you ignore it.

Even I refused to talk about it up until a few years ago; as I got into my elder teen years, my views differed from those of a close family member, which created a few heated arguments, and resulted in my avoidance of the subject altogether. It also resulted in my complete ignorance of politics; but once I moved on and was able to talk with others who shared the same views, I found a renewed interested and learned exactly how much I was affected by the decisions of complete strangers.

To be honest, it made me really angry (but don’t worry, I don’t turn green or wear purple pants). Between election years 2004 and 2008, the voting rate between individuals aged 18-24 only rose two percent, and it’s still below 50%! Less than half of all 18 to 24 year-olds who are registered to vote actually GO OUT and vote! That’s astounding!

With only half of our peers casting their ballot we are allowing our parents and grandparents to have more of a say in the policies and representatives of the country we are to inherit.

These policies range from the cost of college, healthcare, Wall Street, big oil, marriage equality,

workplace equality, etc. To act as if all of these issues and many more don’t affect us now is silly.

With only 49% of 18 to 24 year olds showing up at the polls, that means half of my friends should either get more involved, or stop complaining about politics. We could make such a difference if we put our minds and actions to it, we really could.

Among local, Congressional, Senate, and House of Representative elections, there is a new Presidential election upon us; so now’s the time to turn over a new leaf and cast your vote if you want to see some change.

If you’re eligible to vote but choose not to, then you do not have the right to complain; it’s like refusing to talk and then getting mad because no one is listening to you. And not voting because “all candidates are the same” is a lazy hipster excuse.

Do your own research on the candidates and learn the differences, they do exist. Now remember to go vote on Tuesday, November 6th, polls are open from 6:00am-7:00pm. Be heard! ✘

The Polling Place

By Samantha Hill

I polled 30 people about the candidates – overall, many people were reluctant to give me an answer. Many students expressed concern about Pell Grants. Others said they thought both parties sucked so they weren’t voting or didn’t know. However, here are the results of our unofficial, unrepresentative, *Blue News* poll:

Obama: 11

Romney: 4

Independent: 3

Not voting: 4

No comment: 2

Undecided: 5

“Liberalitarian”: 1 (Student insisted I write it as this).



Close Encounters of the “Furred” Kind

By Claire Pitt

According to aspc.org, there are around 5-7 million companion animals who find themselves in a shelter each year in the United States. Out of those, 3-4 million are euthanized (60 percent of dogs, and 70 percent of cats). You may think that there is just no way that one single person can make a difference when looking at those figures, but the truth is, you’d be wrong. As a shelter pet parent, I can tell you firsthand that welcoming a shelter animal into your home can be one of the most important and rewarding things you do in your lifetime. My husband and I are reminded every day of just how much a difference we’ve made in the life of our dog; from the constant wagging tail, to the big toothy grin, to the toys she leaves us at the door for us to find when we come home. You have the same opportunity to experience this love and devotion for yourself! Right now there are 7 cats and 6 dogs available to be adopted through BRCC’s very own Vet Tech department in partnership with local shelters. Each has their own personality and is waiting for someone like you to show just how much love they have to give.

Fabulous Felines



Stewie is about 2 years old and such a sweet guy! He wants to show affection so much, he doesn’t know where to start; from cuddling up on your shoulder, to rubbing against your legs. Toys aren’t as important to him as your undivided attention!



Queen has a very confident and “regal” demeanor. She is around 3-4 years old and while she doesn’t like to be picked up, she does enjoy being scratched behind the ears and playing with toys on a string.



Sophie is a cuddly young adult. She just loves attention and playing with toys, her favorite of which, is the laser.



Having a new pet is an exciting and fun time for everyone but keep in mind it is a huge responsibility and can be a little stressful at times. To help the transition go a little smoother, there are some things you can do to prepare for their arrival before you even bring them home.

All pets need food bowls, water bowls, and of course, food! Most likely they also need a collar and a leash/harness to go with it, maybe even a sparkly new i.d. tag; and new toys are always appreciated! These are all things you don't have to wait until the ride home to pick up, especially if you know the size of your pet ahead of time.

Patience and time go hand-in-hand when you and your new companion are adjusting to one another. If you have a family vacation coming up and can't bring animals along, it's probably not the best time to bring a new animal home. Ideally, plan to have at least a weekend to spend with them so you can be the one introducing them to their new surroundings; at the same time, they'll become accustomed to you being in their new environment as well. Also, if you already have animals in your home, it's a good idea to make sure all their shots are up-to-date and are at least in good health before introducing them to the newest member of the family. Make a walk and feeding schedule ahead of time, especially for dogs. Since most cats use litter boxes, a walking schedule wouldn't really be necessary. Figure out what times you can take Fido outside to do his/her business,



and try to fit that time in as close as you can after they've eaten a meal. Are you going to allow them on the furniture? Will there be areas in the house you'd rather they didn't go? Where do you want them to sleep? Also, be sure to set some play time aside, even if you have to schedule it on the calendar as a reminder at first. Nothing means more to them than your undivided attention. These are all things to consider beforehand; figuring them out as you go may get a little frustrating for both of you.

Set rules the minute they walk through the door; when they mess up, don't freak out. With dogs, usually a calm, assertive “ah-ah!” sound will startle them enough to not try the disapproved action again. If you decide to use a crate, be sure to research proper crate training techniques to make that easier on you both. Cats are less likely to act out if they have a designated area that is “theirs”, where they feel content and safe; such as an area where their bed/cat den is, or scratching post and toys are. You'd be surprised how easy these things are to do and they don't take as much effort as you may think, plus the reward is totally worth it. If you are interested in making one of these wonderful animals a new edition to your family, please contact Sandra S. Martin, LVT to set an appointment. Her email address is martins@brcc.edu, and her contact number is 540-453-2236. ❖



Alisha and Alison are sisters, about 7 months old, and would love to be adopted together. Alisha (pictured left) has long hair, is pretty outgoing, and loves the “mouse-on-a-string” toy. Alison (pictured right) has a shorter coat and is a little shy, but loves to play with the laser.



Sunkist is also around 1 year old and is very observant. She doesn't like to be handled much, but she is pretty relaxed and likes to be petted.



Angie is about 1 year old, possibly a little older and is such a sweetheart! She goes limp whenever you pick her up and “squeaks” when she purrs. She likes toys, but enjoys attention more.

Classy Canines

classy canines



Mason is a medium-large magnificent red-tick hound. He is about 1-2 years old, is very sweet, and has a beautiful bay. He's pretty energetic, so he will need a lot of attention and plenty of space to play.





Pip is a small female, around 1 year old. She is a bit shy at first but very sweet once she warms up to you. She would make a great cuddle buddy.



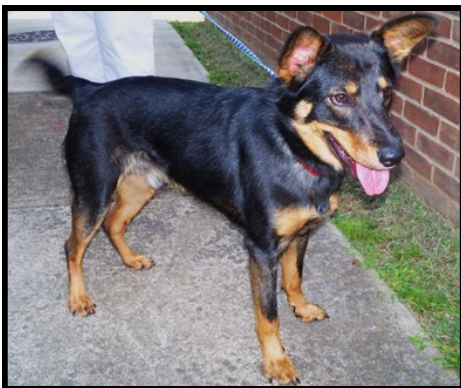
Cash is an adorable young male who loves people and loves to play; he eats up as much attention as he can get. He is around 7 months old and should be medium-small sized when he's full-grown.



Adler is a very energetic male, about 2 years old. He would probably do best in a 1-dog home; he's playful, friendly, and a great listener!



Howie is one loveable guy! He absolutely loves to play with tennis balls; he's also a cuddler and will sit with you if you invite him up into your chair.



Buddy is a ball of fun! He's around 1 year old, has a long coat, and rolls in the grass rain or shine. He loves to play with just about anything, especially if you throw it!

Classifieds



Zimride Now Available at BRCC!

Need a ride? Willing to offer one and split costs? Now you have a safe way to achieve that! Zimride requires an “@brcc.edu” or “@vccs.edu” email address to use, and you can sign in with that, or log in using facebook. This service offers cool features like radio/music preferences and photo viewing to ensure a smoother riding experience all around. Sign up today and help reduce your carbon footprint! <http://zimride.brcc.edu>



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We are currently accepting (free of charge) classified ad submissions and general student submissions.

If you would like to advertise in our classified section, please include:

- *a brief description
- *time frame (if applicable)
- *a safe contact number/email address to list with the ad

Our current categories are:

- *Musician's Corner (to list musical instruments/equipment for sale/wanted, looking for band members, etc)
- *For Sale
- *Lost & Found
- *Items Wanted/Needed
- *Rideshares
- *Rentals/Rooms

(if you have an entry that doesn't fit into one of the categories listed, send it anyway, we'll work with you!)

General student submissions can include, but are not limited to:

- *original short stories
- *original art
- *birthday/anniversary wishes
- *etc

All submissions must be sent to:

brccnewseditor@gmail.com



**Taylor Roetto, President
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brcnewseditor@gmail.com**

Thanks for reading!
We are looking for creative writers,
sales staff, graphic artists, cartoonists/artists,
and photographers to enhance our team.



Please Recycle

Oct 2012

Vol 1: Issue 1

BLUE NEWS

FREE!

Go Vote!

WHEN ZOMBIES ATTACK!

Preparing for the worst

How to live after
JERSEY SHORE

Adopt a New Friend
Pet Adoption at BRCC

Discover
Larkin Arts



BLUE NEWS

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Welcome!

Greetings! Thank you for picking up the inaugural issue of the *Blue News*.

Our purpose, as we say in our mission statement, is "to highlight the diverse and interesting people, events, and ideas in the Blue Ridge Community College area."

It's a short mission statement. But I wanted to shine a light on it because it's about you.

We're here to highlight you – to report the stories you want to read, to offer you content that is

entertaining and informative and thought-provoking for you. We are here to reflect you – so if you don't see yourself in these pages, we want to extend a personal invitation for you to join us. We meet Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:15-5:00pm and Fridays from 12:00-2:00pm in F109. We're looking for diversity, so no matter your talent or ability, you're welcome.

I hope to see you there, Good Reader. Our door is open – all you have to do is walk through it. -Mrs. Crowder Rhoden
mcr@brcc.edu

WE ARE THE BLUE RIDGE MAGAZINE CLUB

The Blue News is the official student-managed newsmagazine of Blue Ridge Community College. It is published periodically throughout the academic year.

Our mission: *To highlight the diverse and interesting people, events, and ideas in the Blue Ridge Community College area.*



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Classifieds

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