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# News Journal



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## Governor lifts mask mandate, announces Virginia will end COVID-19 mitigation measures on May 28

Governor Ralph Northam Friday lifted Virginia's universal indoor mask mandate to align with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The governor also announced that Virginia will ease all distancing and capacity restrictions on Friday, May 28, two weeks earlier than planned.

The updates to Virginia's mask policy are reflected in amendments to Executive Order 72 and became effective at midnight Friday night along with previously announced changes to mitigation measures.

Virginia is able to take these steps as a result of increasing vaccination rates, dramatically declining COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, a statewide test positivity rate, and revised federal guidelines.

"Virginians have been working hard, and we are seeing the results in our strong vaccine numbers and dramatically lowered case counts," said the governor. "That's why we can safely move up the timeline for lifting mitigation measures in Virginia."

"I strongly urge any Virginian who is not yet vaccinated to do so," Governor Northam said. "The vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your community from COVID-19. The message is clear: vaccinations are how we put this pandemic in the rearview mirror and get back to being with the people we love and doing the things we have missed."

The CDC guidelines state that fully-vaccinated individuals do not have to wear masks in most indoor settings, except on public transit, in health care facilities, and in congregated settings.

Businesses retain the ability to require masks in their establishments. Employees who work in certain business sectors, including restaurants, retail, fitness, personal care, and entertainment, must continue to wear masks unless fully vaccinated, per CDC guidance. Those who are unvaccinated or not fully-vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks in all settings.

The state of emergency in Virginia will remain in place at least through June 30 to provide flexibility for local government and support ongoing COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Governor Northam will take executive action to ensure individuals have the option to wear masks up to and after that date. Masks will continue to be required in K-12 public schools, given the low rates of vaccination among children.

## Dan McKinney named new Radford Chamber executive director

RADFORD - The Radford Chamber Board of Directors has named Dan McKinney, who has served on the chamber's board for nearly 10 years, to lead the chamber as its new executive director.

Chamber Board President Abram Williams announced Friday that McKinney has accepted the position of executive director and began his new role last week.

"Many of you may already know Dan as he has served on the Radford Chamber Board for nearly 10 years, including both the treasurer and president roles," the chamber's announcement reads. "Dan brings a wealth of experience with him, and he is excited to begin leading the chamber."

McKinney replaces Ciara Harris as executive director. Harris recently became executive director of the Friends of Claytor Lake, a conservation group that spearheads lake de-



**Dan McKinney**

bris clean-up; creates fish habitat structures; and conducts mussel salvage efforts, water quality monitoring, and lake events. She had been executive director of the chamber for two years.

McKinney has a background in business management and marketing, as well as sales and customer service experience. He is a Radford University graduate with a business administration degree.

## Ride of Silence set for this evening, May 19



Cyclists will gather in Radford this evening, Wednesday, May 19, for the annual Ride of Silence. This ghost bike pictured above is displayed the week of the Ride of Silence at the site of a cycling death in 2008. Dr. Fess Green was killed while cycling near the entrance to Bisset Park. Ride of Silence events are held nationwide in honor and memory of people killed or injured on roads while cycling or on foot, as well as to increase awareness of cyclist safety. The public is invited to attend the ride, which is done at a slow pace for all ages. The group will begin the ride by meeting at the parking lot of Sal's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria on West Main Street at 6:30 p.m.

## RU Board of Visitors approves renaming building after President Brian O. Hemphill



Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill (center) stands with Board of Visitors Rector Robert A. Archer and board member Krishna Chachra as he is honored at the most recent meeting of the university's board of visitors.

The Radford University Board of Visitors unanimously approved a resolution at its most recent quarterly meeting to recognize outgoing President Brian O. Hemphill by renaming the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences building Hemphill Hall.

In a separate measure to honor Dr. Hemphill's career and legacy as a champion of student engagement and success, the board established the President Brian O. Hemphill Student Scholarship Fund to provide life-changing opportunities for future generations of Highlanders.

President Hemphill joined the Radford family on July 1, 2016. He began his tenure with an impressive record of serving students and set forth a bold vision for Radford University's future.

Significant accomplishments of his career at Radford University, reflected in the resolution, include the merger of Jefferson College of Health Sciences into Radford University, the \$34 million renovation of Reed and Curie halls, the launch of the competency-based program IMPACT, and the ideation

and current construction of a world-class hotel within close proximity to campus.

Under Dr. Hemphill's leadership, Radford University saw the highest enrollment in history at 11,870 in fall 2019; the highest graduate enrollment in history at 3,903 in fall 2019; the highest percentage of first-generation students in history at 39% in fall 2019; the most new freshman applications in history at 16,138 in fall 2019; the highest average GPA in history at 3.32 in fall 2020; and the most degrees annually conferred in history at 2,430 in 2019-2020.

President Hemphill was also instrumental in Radford University's historic fundraising efforts. The university saw its endowment increase by 42.3% during his tenure with an \$8 million gift to name the Davis College of Business and Economics representing the largest gift by an individual in the history of the university; a \$5 million gift to name the Artis College of Science and Technology representing the largest gift by an

## Christiansburg police shut down three massage parlors; Blacksburg police seek armed robber

After a three-month undercover operation resulting from citizens' complaints of illicit sexual activity, the Christiansburg Police Department on Wednesday, May 12, executed search warrants at three massage parlors operating in Christiansburg. The businesses were shut down and five

persons were arrested. Meanwhile, Blacksburg police continue to seek a suspect in connection with the armed robbery of the Fast Mart Marathon convenience store at 1211 Toms Creek Road on Wednesday May 12.

The suspect displayed a weapon during the incident and fled

the area with an undisclosed amount of money. No one was injured during the incident.

The suspect is described as a heavyset black male, approximately 5'6" to 5'8" in his early 40's.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact the Blacksburg Police Department at (540) 443-1400 or to remain anonymous by calling the Blacksburg Police Tip Line at (540) 961-1819 or by emailing [ciu@blacksburg.gov](mailto:ciu@blacksburg.gov).

In response to the citizens' complaints, the Christiansburg Police Department's Vice Unit's undercover officers purchased massage services as advertised by the businesses. In each establishment, during the legitimate massage, the officers, without suggestion or solicitation, were offered sexual services in exchange for an additional fee.

To be clear, the undercover officers always declined these acts, and no officers engaged in sexual activity with the employees of these businesses. The investigation consisted of multiple visits to each location to ensure that the offer of sexual acts for money represented a regular business



Blacksburg police are seeking a heavyset black male in connection with the armed robbery of the Fast Mart Marathon.

See Police, page 6

See Hemphill, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, May 19:

**American Red Cross Blood Drive** - At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 1 to 6 p.m. the American Red Cross will be having a blood drive at the Waldron Wellness Center-Carilion Community Room. Sponsored by Blue Ridge Church and the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. Schedule an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). If patrons of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library have fines and donate blood, the library will forgive up to \$10, redeemable only at Meadowbrook Public Library. Donors will also be able to select a used library book to take home compliments of Friends of the Library, Meadowbrook Chapter.

**Art Club Virtual Meeting** - At the Christiansburg Library from 2 to 3 p.m. Create a Nature Zine and learn about artist John James Audubon. Stop by the library for a curated craft kit and catch a video tutorial on the Christiansburg Facebook Page.

## Thursday, May 20:

**Talking About Books: Nonfiction Virtual Meeting** - At the Christiansburg Library from 11 a.m. - noon. This month's book is "Cleopatra: a Life" by Stacy Schiff.

**A Bedtime Tale with Bedtime Tails and Katarina Illona** - At the MFRL Library online from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The author of "Bed-

time Tails: A New Adventure," Katarina Illona will present a talk and a reading. Bedtime Tails introduces readers to Perkins the cat, who lives with his mom and dad. His peaceful life is flipped upside down when a new addition is added to the family: his new sister, Daisy. Join Perkins as he maneuvers these changes, all while learning how important it is to accept and welcome others. Email Kerri at [kcopus@mfri.org](mailto:kcopus@mfri.org) to register.

## Thursday, May 20 - Friday, May 28:

**Blended learning lifeguard training** - At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center May 20 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Pre-Test May 21 through May 26. Video portion of the training May 27 and 28 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The cost is \$200.

## Friday, May 21:

**United Way Drive-Thru Breakfast** - At the Hampton Inn, 680 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg from 6-9 a.m. Pick up a breakfast bag for a \$10 donation that will include a breakfast biscuit, fruit, a pastry, a cup of coffee, and a newspaper. Donations can be made to local first responders and teachers, and delivery will be provided.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** - At the Blacksburg Library from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

**Teens Cook: Pesto** - At the MFRL Library online at 1

p.m. Watch the librarians and try your hand at making homemade pesto.

## Monday, May 24:

**Radford Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament: Birdies, Bogeys, and Business** - At the Pete Dye River Course at VT with Captain's Choice shotgun at 1 p.m. Registration and lunch starts at 11:30 p.m. Award of prizes via social media is at 6:00 p.m. Contests include Hole in One and Closest to the Pin with a \$200 prize. Team registration fee is \$350 per team. Email [radfordchamber@govt.com](mailto:radfordchamber@govt.com) to be emailed a registration form.

**Talking About Books: Fiction Virtual** - At the Blacksburg Library from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "On Earth We are Briefly Gorgeous" by Ocean Vuong. Call ahead to reserve a copy and get the link for virtual participation.

**Beans to Plastic** - At the MFRL Library online at 1 p.m. Check out the STEM video on how to turn beans into plastic.

## Tuesday, May 25:

**MFRL at the Christiansburg Rec Center** - Christiansburg Library from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Miss the library? Want to save a trip? Books will be available for checkout while you work out. Also available will be library cards and information about the library.

**Science Fiction and Fanta-**

**sy Book Club: virtual** - At the Blacksburg Library, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join for a discussion of "Babel 17" by Samuel R. Delany. Call ahead to get a copy of this month's book and to get the link.

## Wednesday, May 26:

**Warm Hearth Village pickleball court ribbon cutting** - Sponsored by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce from 11 a.m. until noon at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg.

**Hahn Horticulture Garden Virtual Road Trip** - At 2 p.m. from Lotusland with Paul Mills and Rebecca Anderson. Register online and a zoom link will be provided: [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cumxRA4Mec96guy](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cumxRA4Mec96guy).

## Monday, May 31:

**Radford Memorial Day Service** - Hosted by VFW Post 776 and the Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 of the American Legion at 11 a.m. at Bisset Park gazebo, Radford.

## Thursday, June 3:

**Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues Zoom breakfast** - From 8 to 9 a.m. Register at <http://bit.ly/June2021Eggs>. Once attendees register and pay, they will receive the Zoom link 48 hours prior to the program. Space is limited and reservations are required. Register and pay online or contact [programs@montgomerycc.org](mailto:programs@montgomerycc.org).

The deadline to register is June 2, 2021, by 4 p.m.

Speakers will be Mark Husband, the Director of Career and Technical Education for Montgomery County Public Schools, and Mark Rowh, the Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations. The program will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m., but registrants are encouraged to join early from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. for networking. Admission fee is \$10 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

**Montgomery Chamber of Commerce bocce ball tournament** - From 2-8 p.m. at Montgomery County Moose Lodge 1470, 115 Farmview Road, Christiansburg. Register a team at <http://bit.ly/mccbocce2021>, but only a limited number of slots remain open.

## Saturday, June 12:

**Department of Wildlife Resources Boating Safety Class at Clayton Lake** - At the State Park Water's Edge Building, 6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive; Dublin from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Materials and instruction are free of charge. Bring a pencil, a highlighter and lunch. Students may bring food and drink for themselves during the class. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required. By registering for this class, the student agrees to observe all pandemic protocols for this indoor class including social dis-

tancing and mask wearing as required by the governor's most recent executive order. Before entering the class, the student will be asked a short health-related symptom survey and will be asked to affirm that the student will abide by classroom rules. RSVP at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/167760>. For more information, contact Mendy Harman at 540-494-3569, [mendy.harman@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:mendy.harman@dwr.virginia.gov).

## Ongoing:

### All month of May

**StoryWalk** - All month of May at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "If You Give a Pig a Pancake."

**Grab and Go Crafts** - All day at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Drop by the library for Take and Make Craft Kits available for grab-and-go at the library or with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

### Saturdays through October:

**Radford Farmers Market** - The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through October 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Services parking lot (the Old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

# VT's cybersecurity program graduates first students

Among the students receiving degrees from Virginia Tech this spring and summer will be the first 50 graduates of a fast-growing cybersecurity program specifically designed to meet the high demand for professionals with both technical and business expertise.

The program, known as BIT-Cyber, is a specialty in the business information technology major in the Pamplin College of Business. A hallmark of the program, launched in fall 2019, is its requirement of an extended field study or internship in the final semester to help prepare students for the workplace.

The field experience builds on the foundation

of the program's academic curriculum, said Justin Monday, an assistant professor of practice who coordinates the field study. "There is really no substitute for the application of knowledge in a real-world environment, especially where technology and security threats are constantly changing, and the stakes for businesses and individuals are high," Monday said.

Cybersecurity jobs are numerous, Monday noted, but employers prefer to hire workers who have experience. Through the field study, employers get a chance to get to know a prospective hire and gain tangible value from the student's efforts, he said. "The employers routinely express gratitude for the work

ethic and intelligence of our BIT-Cyber students," Monday said.

For students, the value of the field study is immeasurable: They get to discover which of the many aspects of cybersecurity they wish to pursue and what being a professional involves. "Certainly, they have the opportunity to advance their cybersecurity skills when they tackle their assigned tasks, but there are also other learning experiences from being immersed in the demanding environment of business expectations, including deadlines, presentations, communication skills, supervisee roles, and diverse business cultures," Monday said. "There's no doubt that our students level

up after these experiences."

Holly Kania and Jason Kim are among the program's graduating students who feel better equipped to start their new jobs as risk analysts at Deloitte in metro Washington, D.C.

Both completed paid internships at Cyentia Institute, a technology research firm in metro D.C. co-founded by Virginia Tech alumnus Wade Baker, who received his Ph.D. in business information technology and is now also a faculty member in the department.

In his field study, Kim researched, gathered, and analyzed data for a forthcoming report on web application security and security trends. "My responsibilities included finding and extracting relevant information from reports available online or within Cyentia's own library," Kim said. In her field study, Kania researched, collected, and analyzed data on the 100 largest cyber loss events of the past five years. That research has been published in a report.

"I gathered informa-



From left: Business information technology assistant professor Justin Monday and graduating seniors Holly Kania and Jason Kim at Pamplin Hall. Kania and Kim are among the 50 students who will make up the first graduating class for Virginia Tech's cybersecurity program. The pair completed internships in the BIT-Cyber program and will be starting new jobs at Deloitte in the metro Washington, D.C., area. Photo by Justin Rocha/PRISM.

tion that included who the threat actors were, how the incident occurred, what the response of the organization was, and what records, hard files, and monetary sums were lost," Kania said.

Both students completed their field studies entirely online and also worked closely with the professionals on their teams, participating in meetings and collaborat-

ing as needed.

All students in the BIT-Cyber program, which currently enrolls nearly 300, have to secure their own internships. But they receive a lot of help, Monday said, from faculty who serve as internship coordinators and from Pamplin's career services office, which sends information on opportunities and Business Horizons career fairs and Career Days.

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## PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet, call (540) 382-5795 or email [animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov).



**Sam is a younger adult dog who would do best as the only pet in his future home. He's a curious investigator who likes to check things out with his nose. Sam would benefit from some doggie manners training. He is housetrained.**



**Wild Thing lives in a community cat room with Buzzy. The preference is that they are adopted together to the same home. Wild Thing is a little shy sometimes but when he's around Buzzy, he can show off some nimble moves, and they can both be very entertaining.**

# OBITUARIES

## Camper, Bruce Matthew

Bruce Matthew Camper, 57, of Blacksburg died Wednesday, May 12, 2021. He had hoped to complete his degree at Liberty University in 2022. Bruce was an avid Hokie football fan and loved his nieces, Karis and Kadyn. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Bertha Jane and Bill Crabtree; his father, Robert



Camper; a brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Tania Camper, and their daughters, Karis and Kadyn; and numerous other relatives. A memorial service was conducted on Sunday, May 16, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Dobbins, Agnes Lawrence

Agnes "Boots" Lawrence Dobbins, 77, of Radford, passed away Thursday, May 13, 2021. She was retired from Atlantic Bay Mortgage Company where she was an administrative assistant. She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Ray Dobbins; and her parents, Dexter and Georgia Lawrence.



Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Ray and Amy Dobbins of Radford; grandchildren Noah Dobbins and Bryanna Dobbins; a sister, Barbara Mullin of Ohio; and many other relatives and friends. The family received friends on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Danny Newman and the Rev. Frankie Graham officiating. Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

## Haynes, Wayne Eugene

Wayne Eugene Haynes, 93, of Fairlawn, Va., passed away on Saturday, May 15, 2021, in his home with his family. Wayne was an active member of Fairlawn Baptist Church for over 60 years. He was a retired Maintenance Foreman from RAAP and was co-owner of Haynes Brothers Camper Sales. He was a U. S. Army veteran.



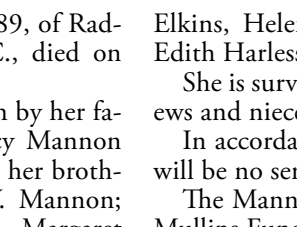
Wayne was married to Joyce, his fiery red-headed Kentucky gal, for 71 years. Wayne was preceded in death by his son, Stephen Wayne Haynes; his grandson, Christopher Wayne Broyles; his parents, Alfred and Mary Haynes of Jenkins, Kent.; and his brothers, Charles, James, H.B., Earl, and Roy Haynes. The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021 at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Pastor Greg Harrell and Pastor Danny Collins officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

Survivors include his wife; his son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Jackie Haynes of Fairlawn; his daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Bill Turpin of Radford, and Beth and Kyle Rich-

ardson of Roanoke; 15 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren; his sister, Freda Mullins of Jenkins, Kent.; and a large extended family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either the Women's Resource Center or to God's Pit Crew. The Haynes family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneral-home.com

## Mannon, Elizabeth Mae

Elizabeth Mae Mannon, 89, of Radford and Washington, D.C., died on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Early Lacy Mannon and Isabell Altizer Mannon; her brothers Robert E. and Lacy W. Mannon; and her sisters Elma Hale, Margaret



Elkins, Helen Mannon, Louise Reed, Edith Harless, and Claudine Tice. She is survived by a number of nephews and nieces. In accordance with her wishes, there will be no services. The Mannon family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory.

## McManaway, Jerry Lee

Jerry Lee McManaway moved to his eternal home on May 11, 2021. Jerry was born in Pettry, W. Va. on Nov. 11, 1941. He lived and worked in Charleston, W.Va., for 55 years, but related to declining health he moved to Radford, living with Ruth and Bobby Stuart. Jerry was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Ida Romaine Dove, his father, Albert Jasper McManaway, and two brothers, Bill McManaway, and Clinton McManaway. Survivors include a son and a daughter; three sisters, Ruth and Bobby Stuart, Ruby Vaught of Princeton, W. Va., and Rachel and Carroll Herman of Thomasville, N.C.; two brothers, Ernest and Pat McManaway of Wetumpka, Ala., and Jess and Mary Vaught of East Bend, N.C.; and numerous nieces and nephews includ-



ing a special niece and nephew who assisted with his care, Katrina "Rita" Reed and James "Jamie" Atwood, both of Radford. Honoring Jerry's wishes, his remains will be placed near the graves of his parents. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." John 14:1-4 The McManaway family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Historic Montgomery



This black and white photograph is of a Coca-Cola delivery truck and driver in front of the Surface-Lee block building in Cambria. The watch tower for the N & W Railroad is in the background. This was one of three photographs originally mounted together on mat board, probably as part of an early museum exhibit. (This image and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

# Deadline extended for Leading Lights awards nominations; COVID-19 Heroes category added

NRV Leading Lights has announced an extended deadline for receiving submissions for this year's Volunteer Award nominations from across the New River Valley. The new deadline to submit nominations is June 15. The nomination form is online at <http://leadinglightsnr.org/nominations>.

The organization has also announced that a special new category of nominations will be received this year: COVID-19 Heroes, a category designed to honor grassroots groups and organizations that have specifically stepped up to serve the New River Valley in response to the pandemic. Nominees in this category are intended to recognize the collective group and not one individual person.

NRV Leading Lights recognizes volunteers in the New River Valley each year who are making community-changing impacts. The award presentations culminate in an annual celebratory event. Due to the challenges of COVID-19, this event will be virtual for 2021, and the chosen charities of each Distinguished Recipient will be highlighted in a video.

NRV Leading Lights also honors Distinguished Recipients by making a monetary donation to the non-profit of their choice, honoring all nominees in the virtual event, and presenting each nominee with a plaque as well. Awards are given in three categories: community (seven awards), high school (two awards), and college (two awards). In the community award category, an award is reserved for a volunteer in Floyd County, Giles County, Pulaski County, and Radford City, and two awards are reserved for Montgomery County (due to population size).

One award is also reserved across the whole New River Valley to recognize a Lifetime Volunteer Achievement. Nominees must be current residents of the New River Valley or if they are being nominated for a student category, they must be currently enrolled in a school or college in the New River Valley. Distinguished Recipients in each category will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: strong community involvement; a demonstrated lifestyle of dedicated, continuous, long-term involvement to the community; proven leadership; and creativity in initiating and implementing projects that lead to a better quality of life.

Those who have been nominated before but not selected as a Distinguished Recipient may be nominated again. Individuals and organizations are highly encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding New River Valley volunteers they know of or volunteer with. Administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, club sponsors, and youth mentors are asked to nominate young people for the high school and college awards. Groups and organizations cannot be nominated for awards. Leading Lights nominees are typically engaged in diverse volunteer activities across the New River Valley. Collectively they spend thousands of hours over their lifetimes volunteering with clothing banks, rescue and disaster relief teams as youth mentors, managing holiday programs, overseeing weekend 'food backpack' programs, helping at local food kitchens, serving with civic groups, community building, and volunteering with more than a hundred other noble local charitable activities and programs. Leading Lights is focused on the impact of a volunteer's work and leadership.

Call (540) 230-0815, email [leadinglightsnr@gmail.com](mailto:leadinglightsnr@gmail.com), or visit [www.leadinglightsnr.org](http://www.leadinglightsnr.org) for more information or if assistance is needed. Area non-profit organizations collaborate with the Virginia Tech German Club Alumni Foundation (GCAF) for the Annual "Leading Lights: Shining a light on neighbors helping neighbors" recognition awards for volunteers in the local community.



**Spring Leagues Now Forming!**

**SPRING LEAGUE BONUS BUCKS:**

**BUY \$50, GET \$10**

**BUY \$20, GET \$3**

**BUY \$10, GET \$1**

Call 382-5525 and ask for Amanda or Terry

**575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg**  
[www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)

Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

## Renfro, Kathy Testerman

Kathy Testerman Renfro, 71, of Christiansburg, passed away on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. She was born on Nov. 13, 1949, in Troutdale, Va., to the late Claude and Samie Ruth Testerman. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Joann T. McCollam and a brother, Terry Testerman. She is survived by her daughter, Lau-



ra Renfro; a son and daughter-in-law, Philip and Amanda Renfro; grandsons Ethan Brown and Wade Renfro; sisters and brother-in-law, Claudette T. Cook, Carolyn T. and Bill Wertz; a brother, George A. Testerman; and a sister-in-law, Phyllis Testerman. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 4 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, Blacksburg.

# OPINION

## Virginia's gas prices jumped by 16+ cents per gallon in past week

Virginia gas prices have risen 16.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.95/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Gas prices in Virginia are 23.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.22/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia Monday was priced at \$2.54/g while the

most expensive was \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.45/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 6.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.03/g Monday. The national average is up 16.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.17/g higher than a year ago.

"The national average gas price surged last week thanks to big price jumps in Southeastern states due to the pre-

viously shut down Colonial Pipeline, but most areas outside that region saw smaller fluctuations," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"With the pipeline now back in service, I expect prices to come down in the hardest hit states, specifically the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and Virginia," said De Haan. "The drops should lead the national average to

soon fall back under the \$3 per gallon mark, but motorists shouldn't get too excited. Prices may start to head higher in a few weeks should Memorial Day gasoline demand be red hot.

"In addition, motorists in the affected areas should see outage numbers continue to decline this week, especially early in the week when gasoline demand tends to be lowest," said De Haan. "I'm

optimistic that there will be enough recovery by Memorial Day for motorists in these states to fill up without having to search for gasoline."

GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

## In brief: Governor leads trade mission to Europe

Governor Ralph Northam is leading an international trade and marketing mission to Europe through Friday, May 21.

He is accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball and representatives from the Virginia Economic Development Part-

nership. During the course of their trip the governor and his delegation will visit Germany, Greece, and Switzerland and will participate in 15 meetings over the course of the mission.

"As we emerge from the pandemic and continue our recovery, we can focus more on driv-

ing economic development and recruiting new investment," said the governor. "Sharing Virginia's compelling business story with companies and partners across the globe has never been more important, and I am grateful for this opportunity to build relationships over the

course of this marketing mission that will lead to new jobs and positive growth for the commonwealth."

Governor Northam and his delegation are participating in foreign direct investment meetings, including two business roundtables, to discuss

Virginia's advantages with leaders of international companies. In addition, the governor is meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, and Eva Weigold Schultz, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Bern, Switzerland.

## Virginia DMV to expand appointment opportunities

RICHMOND – In line with Governor Ralph Northam's recent announcement about easing the current COVID-19 restrictions, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will open more windows in its customer service centers beginning June 1, creating 184,000 additional appointment opportunities across the commonwealth.

Customers can begin to sched-

ule these new appointments next week. Additional windows will open in stages on June 1, June 15 and in July as DMV continues to hire and train new employees to expand appointment availability, adding to the more than 530,000 appointments Virginians already have scheduled over the next three months.

"Virginians have told us they appreciate the convenience and

high quality service the appointment system affords," Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb said. "The governor's recent announcement enables us to open more windows so customers can secure appointments sooner, but we are still taking great care to offer service that is safe for everyone."

Customer service centers and mobile operations teams continue to operate by appointment

only for specific services that generally necessitate an in-person visit. Appointment opportunities are currently available for a 90-day period.

DMV is conducting more transactions across all service channels now than pre-pandemic. The vast majority of the 15 million transactions conducted since DMV started reopening customer service centers in May

2020 have been completed by service delivery methods other than at an office, such as online or by mail.

Prior to the pandemic, DMV conducted an average of 309,000 transactions per week statewide across all service channels. Last week, the agency completed more than 365,000; of those, only about 73,000 were done in a customer service center.

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## QuoteWizard: Fatal overdoses are up 38.7% in Virginia, 10th highest nationwide

According to a report from QuoteWizard, one of the nation's leading online insurance marketplaces, the number of fatal drug overdoses has increased by more than 27% since the start of the pandemic, including a 38.7% increase in drug-related overdose deaths in Virginia, the 10th highest increase in the country.

The report's statistics say that nationwide, 87,203 persons died of an overdose in 2020, compared to some 69,000 in 2019. 2013 of those deaths were in Virginia;

1451 persons died from overdoses in the commonwealth in 2019.

Among the finding from the report are that Louisiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia have had the highest increases in overdose-related deaths; Pennsylvania, Florida, and California had the highest numbers of overdose deaths overall; and combined, opioids account for nearly 70% of the overdose deaths.

The ten states with the number of their drug overdose deaths in 2020 and the percentage of the in-

crease from 2019 are 1. Louisiana, 1816 deaths, a 53.2% increase; 2. Kentucky, 1939 deaths, an increase of 49.2%; 3. West Virginia, 1208 deaths, a 49.0% increase; 4. Colorado, 1478 deaths, a 42.4% increase; 5. South Carolina, 1568 deaths, an increase of 41.6%; 6. Tennessee, 2865 deaths, a 40.9% increase; 7. Florida, 7394 deaths, a 40.8% increase; 8. Wyoming, 96 deaths, an increase of 39.1%; 9. Mississippi, 465 deaths, a 38.8% increase; and 10. Virginia, 2013 deaths, an increase of 38.7%.

## Governor proclaims EMS Week in Virginia through May 22

Virginia governor Ralph Northam has proclaimed the week ending Saturday, May 22, as Emergency Medical Ser-

vices (EMS) Week in the commonwealth.

This special week honors EMS responders' commitment to providing the best prehospital emergency medical care to all people in Virginia.

Over the last year and a half, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed an immeasurable strain on everyone, especially Virginia's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers. Through the height of this public health crisis, the commonwealth's first responders have continued to deliver lifesaving emergency care to the communities they serve. Last year, EMS providers responded to more than

1.56 million calls for help in Virginia, which represents approximately 4,280 incidents per day.

"Virginia's EMS providers are on the frontlines of our healthcare system, providing care to severely ill and injured people in all kinds of situations, in homes, on the side of the road, wherever the emergencies are located," said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver. "Numerous lives are saved every year because these highly trained men and women are able to get medical care to people quickly. We appreciate your hard work and salute your skill and

dedication."

"This pandemic has further highlighted the commitment and expertise of Virginia's EMS providers," said Gary Brown, director of the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS. "You are our heroes and we will be forever thankful for your ability to save lives during our greatest hour of need. As we continue to make strides in the fight against COVID-19, we are reminded that our way through this pandemic is to get shots in arms. I have gotten my vaccination and want to express how important it is that all of our EMS providers get vaccinated too."

## Hemphill from page 1

alumna in the history of the university; and the most ambitious comprehensive campaign in university history, having already raised \$69 million of the \$100 million goal.

The board's resolution said, "While President Hemphill leaves a legacy of professional achievements at Radford University, what will be remembered most is who he is as a person, a character defined by integrity and genuine

care for others, which formed the foundation for building trust, meaningful partnerships and long-lasting relationships, and a humility that never put himself in the spotlight, rather never missing an opportunity to give credit to others."

President Hemphill has been selected as Old Dominion University's ninth president. He will start his new role there on July 1.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Punctuation mark  
6. Married woman  
9. Nocturnal rodent  
13. Suffix  
14. A way to disappoint  
15. Saddle horse  
16. West African country  
17. Philippine island  
18. "Girls" creator Dunham  
19. A type of twin  
21. Groans  
22. Infections  
23. What a beaver makes  
24. Thou  
25. Make a mistake  
28. Receive  
29. Dresses  
31. Burn the surface of  
33. Where coaches observe  
36. Ceremonial offices  
38. Paddle  
39. The body's main artery

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Loose-fitting undergarment  
2. Western Roman city  
3. Unit of length  
4. Type of electricity  
5. Article  
6. Mothers  
7. Monetary unit  
8. Single Lens Reflex  
9. Tan-colored horses  
10. Region  
11. Cautious in spending money  
12. Belittle  
14. Sarcastic  
17. Fathers  
20. Clothes  
21. Opera's Callas  
23. Lentil dish  
25. Energy-saving module  
26. Make sense of a language  
27. Hurries through

**CLUES ACROSS**  
29. Songs to one's lover  
30. Name given to plant groups  
32. Improves  
34. Patriotic women  
35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid  
37. Instrument in Indian music  
40. Request  
42. Make into leather without using tannin  
43. Defies  
47. Neither  
49. Flower cluster  
50. Phonological unit  
52. Leaves in water  
53. Cavalry-sword  
55. Famed American cartoonist  
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid  
57. Scarlett's home  
58. Make  
59. Stony waste matter  
61. What to do at auction  
65. Incorrect letters

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Hokies claim seven individual champions at ACC competition

Virginia Tech took seven individual championships at the ACC Championships over the weekend that propelled the men's track and field team to a second-place finish. The Hokie women finished in seventh place.

Virginia Tech sprinter Cole Beck won the ACC's 100-meter championship over the weekend. Fitsum Sevoum set a facility and ACC Championships record in the 3000m steeplechase.

In the final event of the championships, the men's 4x400m relay team of Patrick Forrest, Cameron Rose, Tyreke Sapp, and Jacory Patterson took home the ACC title with a time of 3:06.46, the second-fastest 4x400m in Virginia Tech history. The race marked Patterson's fourth entry of the day and Rose's third.

Beck followed his preliminary pole win in the 100m with a school record and title-winning performance, posting a time of 10.11 seconds. His time broke the previous Virginia Tech record of 10.14 seconds, set by Darrell Wesh in 2013.

Patterson repeated as outdoor 400m champion in the ACC's, posting a time of 45.14 seconds to continue his resume as one of the greatest sprinters in conference history.

"Fantastic meet by our

team," said VT Director of Track and Field Dave Cianelli. "We fought to the very end, and with the people we brought to this meet, we got 100% out of each person. To finish second with the men was a great effort. This outdoor season our team has been hit with some injuries and illness, but that is life, and you deal with it. I am so proud of how this team has persevered this spring and performed here this week."

The runner-up finish for the men's team marks the sixth consecutive outdoor championships in which the Hokies have finished in the top three on the men's side.

"Throughout the season with all the COVID protocols, I think both teams fought to the end," Associate Head Coach Tim Vaught said. "We didn't win the meet, but we won the battle. They did everything they could to win, and I have to take my hat off to both teams."

"It was a hard fight for the men, we were in it to try to win, and the women's team was really strong," Wright said. "They're going to be stronger next year, and we're going to keep building on that. The men's team finished second with a lot of personal bests, a lot of ACC champions, and we're going to come back next year and be prepared to win."



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech sprinter Cole Beck is this year's Atlantic Coast Conference 100-meter champion.

Tech finished the championship meet with seven individual ACC Championships and four new school records.

"Overall, I'm really proud of our teams," Associate Head Coach Andrew Dubs said. "The men and women both fought extremely hard all weekend and gutted out everything they had for this program. The results may not be where we wanted but given everything we have gone through the last 15 months and even the last month, it's been hard. Regardless, everyone here at this meet gave ev-

erything they had, not just this weekend but all year, and that's what it means to be a Hokie."

"I think the sprinters put everything on the table, they gave everything that they had," Dubs said. "These guys that have been with me for a few years, they did phenomenal. Jacory again is ACC champion in the 400. Cole Beck, the last three weeks how he's been developing in the 100m and now to win the ACC and to break the school record that has stood for a good number of years, and is the first Virginia

Tech athlete to win the men's 100m. To get three guys in the final of the 200, especially Cameron Rose as a freshman was really impressive and earned some good points. At the end for the guys to know they weren't going to win as a team but to tell me that they were going to win their relay, that they would end the meet as champions, going from seeded eighth to winning, I take my hat off to them. That was phenomenal for the team spirit to see that and for those guys to come back and win that 4x400m relay. It was very

exciting, we had a good, hard fought meet, and we're set up for a bright future."

Lindsey Butler delivered a sensational effort in the 800m, crossing the line at 2:01.32 to take second place in the ACC and set the second fastest outdoor time in Hokies' history.

Diego Alejandro Zarate claimed third place and first-team All-ACC honors in the 1500m run by posting a time of 3:42.23.

Next up for the Hokies is a trip to the NCAA East Regional qualifying meet, set to run from May 26 to May 29.

## Blue Demon MJ Hunter wins Debbie Snell Scholarship

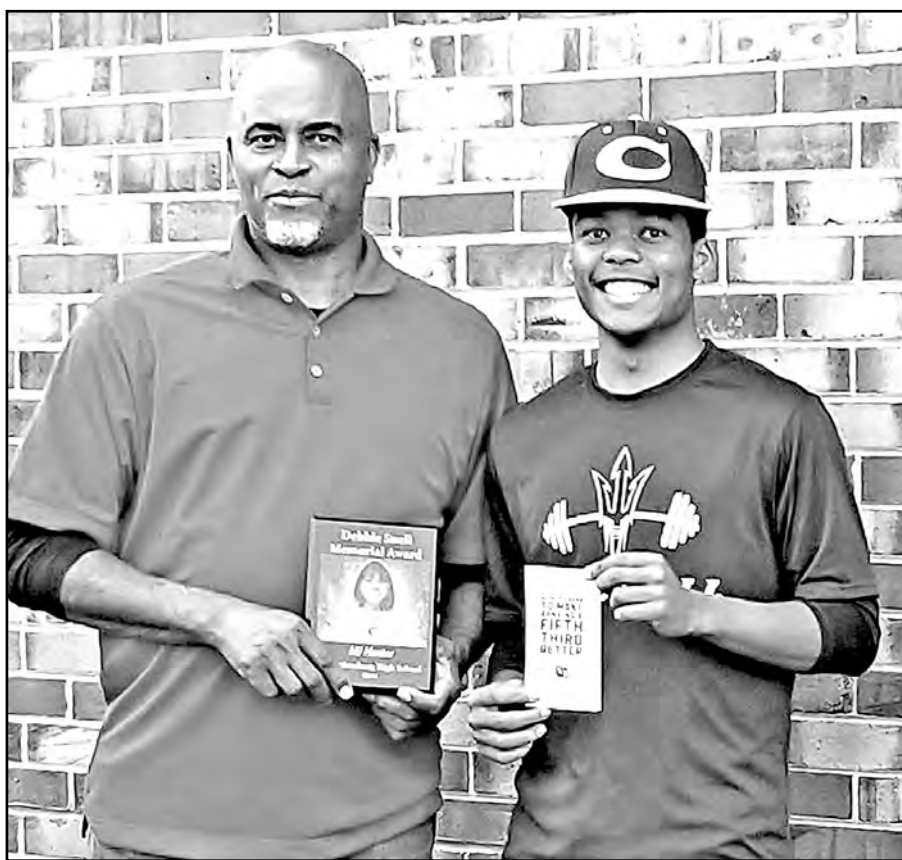


PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Christiansburg High School athlete MJ Hunter (right) has been named this year's winner of the Debbie Snell Memorial Scholarship. Pictured with Hunter is Donald Wayne Snell, who made the presentation Friday. Snell passed away six years ago and was a well-known local athlete. The scholarship is given annually to a deserving athlete in the New River Valley.

## Hokies win state diver, freshman swim awards

Hokies Noah Zawadzki and Youssef Ramadan earned individual honors in this year's Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) awards as announced this week by the organization. Zawadzki was named the VaSID Diver of the Year for the University division following an impressive performance at the ACC Championships in February. The junior placed fourth in both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events and fifth on the platform. Zawadzki was also recognized as First-Team All-State by the association. Following a breakout first season with the Hokies, Ramadan picked up another honor as the VaSID Rookie of the Year. Last month Ramadan was also named ACC Freshman of the year by the Conference. At the conference championships, Ramadan swam an impressive time of 44.32 in the 100 butterfly, breaking multiple records in the process. His time was the third fastest time ever in the NCAA, the fastest time ever swam by a freshman in NCAA history, and the No. 1-time in the country at that point in the season.

At the NCAA's Ramadan picked up several All-American honors and contributed to the highest team finish in program history. He was also named First Team All-State in the Butterfly.

Nine Hokies and two relays were named VaSID First Team All-State for the university division. The athletes recognized were Emma Atkinson, Blake Manoff, Antani Ivanov, Carles Coll Marti, Ramadan, Taj Cole and Zawadzki. The relays recognized were the 400 freestyle relay and the 800 freestyle relay.

Four Hokies were also recognized as VaSID Second Team All-State. Rita Gyorgy, Emma Atkinson, Sarah Shackelford, and Joseph Perrault received the honors.

2021 VaSID University Division Men's Swimming & Diving Team State Diver of the Year - Noah Zawadzki, VT

State Rookie Swimmer of the Year - Youssef Ramadan, VT

**First-Team All-State**

Sprint Free - Blake Manoff, VT; Distance Free - Antani Ivanov, VT; Breaststroke - Carles Coll Marti, VT; Butterfly - Antani Ivanov, VT; Butterfly - Youssef Ramadan, VT; IM - Keith Myburgh, VT; Diving - Taj Cole, VT; Diving - Noah Zawadzki, VT; 400 Free Relay - VT; 800 Free Relay - VT.

**Second-Team All-State**

Diving - Joseph Perreault, VT; Backstroke - Emma Atkinson, VT; Sprint Free - Sarah Shackelford, VT; IM - Reka Gyorgy, VT.

## Tech Athletics optimistic about full house at Lane this fall

As previously announced by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, outdoor sports and entertainment venues in the state may operate at 50% capacity.

With this capacity adjustment, encouraging public health data, and a variety of operational adjustments that are in process, Virginia Tech Athletics remains optimistic that Hokie Nation will return in full force to Lane Stadium this fall.

"With the health and safety of our student-athletes, the community, and fans in mind, our team is hard at work preparing for what a full capacity Lane Stadium could look like this fall," said Director of Athletics Whit Babcock. "We're excited, and hopeful, to be able to return to what makes Blacksburg special, the passion and pageantry of gameday. While we still have a long way to go, we're going to do everything we can to make sure Lane is rocking on September 3."

Operational measures in process include sanitization enhancements in Lane Stadium such as the installation of over 200 hand sanitizing stations, con-

tactless concession options, preparation for socially distanced seating and lines, and mobile ticketing options.

Virginia Tech's season-opening football game against North Carolina will kick off in primetime on Friday, Sept. 3 at Lane Stadium. The kickoff time and televising network will be announced at a later date. Other home matchups for the 2021 campaign feature games against Notre Dame, Pitt, Syracuse and Duke.

For as little as 1% down, Tech fans can secure season tickets in Lane Stadium for the Hokies' 2021 home slate. Flexible payment plans are available, running through July 2021. Season tickets are the best value and the best way to guarantee a spot in Lane Stadium this fall.

Should any capacity restrictions remain in place that may alter season ticket packages/locations, season ticket holders will have first access to tickets prior to the general public.

As more clarity is provided surrounding capacity in Lane Stadium, additional ticket packages may be made available as early as June.



# Tech's Keely Rocharad named ACC Pitcher of the Year



Junior Keely Rocharad has been named the ACC Pitcher of the Year after she posted a 24-7 record during the regular season and led the country in two categories.

After a regular season that saw her go 24-7, junior pitcher Keely Rocharad is the ACC Pitcher of the Year. The Williamsburg, Va., native is the fifth ACC Pitcher of the Year in Hokies history.

Rocharad had an incredible year, leading the ACC in multiple statistical categories and leading the ACC and the country in two categories, strikeouts (288) and shutouts (13). Rocharad also led the conference in innings pitched (194.0), complete games (25), opponent's batting average (.144), earned run average (1.12) and tied for the league lead in wins (24).

Tech placed five play-

ers on the All-ACC teams, tied for the second most among the conference with Clemson, one behind both Florida State and Notre Dame. The Hokies matched their school record from 2019 with five players making an All-ACC team.

Rocharad is the lone first-teamer while sophomore first baseman Jayme Bailey, sophomore third baseman Kelsey Bennett, sophomore outfielder Kelsey Brown and freshman short stop Cameron Fagan made the second team. Fagan also made the All-Freshman team, just the sixth All-Freshman Team member in Virginia Tech history.

# Highland results from 5/8/21

## Highlander Virtual Half-Marathon Results

1. John Serrano, 1:36
2. Zach Andrews
3. Lauren McBride
4. Jeff Anderson
5. Alejandro Redondo
6. Kim Kitts
7. Laura Jacobsen
8. Alex Wade
9. Bobby Turk
10. Marie Colitti
11. John Reynolds
12. Joni Eversole
13. Socheata Brown
14. Kelly Krantz
15. Shelby Evans
16. Eric Kreuter
17. Michele Messner
18. Dan Woods
19. Deanna Felton
20. Melinda Cruz
21. Chris Poulson
22. Paul Shaefer
23. Christina French
24. Heather Lam-

bert 25. Jeffrey Kempe

## Highlander Virtual 5K Results

1. Paul Snell
2. Mike Ostlund
3. Kylie Williamson
4. Brandon Jackson
5. Todd Harkrader
6. Andrew Schofield
7. Amanda Maks
8. Tiffany Shoop
9. Anthony Del Grosso
10. Kelly Cella
11. Carrie Lyons
12. Michael Del Grosso
13. Special Gray
14. Alyssa Fishel
15. Jennifer Sveda
16. Catherin Kemper
17. Vivian Harkrader
18. Cindy Larkin
19. Jason Burton
20. Crystal Burton

21. Jennifer Retallick
22. Connie Shea
23. Nichole Ruggiero
24. Christina French
25. Kim Rieson

20. Katasha Dunford

## Highlander Half-Marathon in-person results

1. Jordan Chang, 36:56
2. Morgan Pace
3. Paul Titus
4. Landon Dermott
5. Timothy Wommack
6. Michael Gonzalez
7. Kristen Chang
8. Hana-ko Baker
9. Amanda James
10. Emro Gjata
11. Eligah Wommack
12. Gregory Lane
13. Steve Diaz
14. Manuel Winfrey
15. Logan Wommack
16. Gregory Harrell
17. Nick Reed
18. Joshua Norris
19. Tom Klins
20. Georgianna Cary

# Outdoor report: Oldest river system in North America, New River is one of best fishing rivers in Virginia

Anglers who plan a trip on the New River will be floating into the past.

The New River is an ancient river system, the oldest on the North American continent and second only to the Nile River in Africa as the oldest river in the world. It begins as two streams in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, before merging into the New River four miles from the Virginia line. And therein lies another quirk of this ancient river — it flows northward rather than southward like most of the other major rivers along the eastern seaboard.

It meanders some 160 miles through the counties of Grayson, Carroll, Wythe, Pulaski, Montgomery and Giles in Virginia before it turns into Bluestone Lake in West Virginia and emerges later as the Kanawha River at the Gauley Bridge. The New River ends its metamorphosis when it empties into the great Mississippi River.

Throughout its journey in Virginia, the New River flows through spectacular, untamed mountain scenery complete with craggy rock cliffs and magnificent gorges. Thus, the New River provides plenty of excitement for whitewater enthusiasts, with several major Class II — III rapids. There is also an abundance of flatwater to please motor boaters and canoeists.

Fishing is not to be missed in on the New River. Simply stated, the New rivals the James and Rappahannock rivers as



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DWR

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources is planning to hold special stocking events at the Crooked Creek and Clinch Mountain fee fishing areas this June. Hatchery biologists will be stocking several hundred citation-sized brook, brown and rainbow trout to test the skills of anglers of all ages.

one of the best fishing rivers in Virginia. It supports outstanding populations of just about every major freshwater game fish in the state: Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, Rock Bass, Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Muskellunge, Walleye, Black Crappie, Channel

Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redbreast Sunfish, and Bluegill. State records caught from the New River include Muskellunge (45 lbs. 8 oz.), caught June 1, 2007, Smallmouth Bass (8 lbs. 1 oz.), caught March 12, 2003, and Walleye (15 pounds, 15 ounces), caught December 15, 2000.

Claytor Lake, a mainstem New River reservoir, yielded the state record Spotted Bass (4 pounds, 12 ounces), caught January 1, 2020, and the state record Hybrid Striped Bass (15 pounds, 13 ounces), caught March 16, 2016. The New River is likely to yield new state record fish in the future.

Fast water and big rock outcroppings are a feature of the New River, spelling perfect habitat for big Smallmouth Bass and Flat-

head Catfish. Pull your canoe up on an island and fish with jigs or spinner baits to hook some fine trophies.

But that doesn't mean the New is all fast water. Several lazy, slow stretches abound, where you can soak in the spectacular scenery of rock cliffs, old Indian settlements and tobacco farms, and still have luck fishing for Rock Bass near grass beds. The slow waters near the dams along the river will may yield big Flathead and Channel Catfish as well as Walleye and Smallmouth Bass when fished with jigs and live bait.

Outdoor recreation activities abound along the river. New River Trail State Park parallels the river for over 50 miles from Pulaski to Fries or Galax. It is a beautiful tract of land that allows hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists to take in the beauty of the river as it sweeps through southwestern Virginia.

Plus, a trip to the historical Shot Tower State Park near Jackson Ferry is a must.

The nearly 4,400-acre Claytor Lake in Pulaski County was created out of the river in 1939 by a hydroelectric dam, and is now a well-used recre-

ational spot. The 400+ acre Claytor State Park adjoins the lake, providing campgrounds, cottages, a marina, and hiking trails for visitors.

Outfitters can be found all along the New River, so a quick call to a local chamber of commerce will put you in touch with an experienced guide who will eliminate much of the worry about planning a float trip along this historic Virginia waterway.

In other news, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources has started a largemouth bass tagging project in the Chickahominy River, tagging 650 bass throughout the river. This project aims to estimate catch-and-release parameters and movement of largemouth bass in the Chickahominy and James Rivers.

If you catch a largemouth bass with a red dart tag in the James or Chickahominy River: take a photo of the tag, record the number, and release the fish with the tag still attached. Report the tag to the phone number on the tag and claim a \$5 reward! Tag reports will be entered into a lottery for a chance to win \$50.

--Virginia DWR

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