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## RU holds groundbreaking for Artis Center

At a special ceremony on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, Radford University administrators and supporters officially broke ground for the Artis Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity.

Named for alumna Nancy Eisenhart Artis of the Class of '73 and her husband, Dr. H. Pat Artis, who donated \$6 million to the university to support student scholarships, the Artis Center is a state-of-the-art complex that will serve as a blended teaching and learning space for the arts and health sciences.

"Today, the commitment and generosity of Nancy and Pat Artis takes yet another bold step forward," said Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill during the ceremony.

The Artises founded and owned Performance Associates, Inc., a company based in Pagosa Springs, Colo., that focused on performance and replication for enterprise storage subsystems. As longtime supporters of the university, they also donated \$5 million in 2017 to establish the Artis Endowed Scholarship Fund. In appreciation, the Artis College of Science and Technology was named in their honor.

Following the most recent announcement of the naming of the Artis Center, the Artises credited their fathers, Harry P. Artis and Harry W. "Hap" Eisenhart, for investing in them through education.

During Tuesday's event, Nancy Artis said, "Like so many other young men, they set aside their personal dreams, ambitions, and goals of education to answer their nation's call to fight in World War II. Both of these men faced combat in the Pacific as naval aviation machinist mates. Surviving, they returned to lives of service, raised families, and instilled their children with a thirst for education. The only investment either of these men



Wielding the shovels at Tuesday's ceremony for the groundbreaking of RU's Artis Center were (left to right) Mark Lawrence, a member of the Radford University Board of Visitors; university benefactors Nancy Artis (Class of '73) and H. Pat Artis; and RU President Brian O. Hemphill.

ever made was for the education of their children, the first generations to attend college."

To celebrate the Artis and Eisenhart family legacy of providing access and opportunity for others, the Artises joined President Hemphill, Board of Visitors members, local and state representatives, and dozens of others at the afternoon ceremony in the Covington Center to commemorate the project, the largest capital investment in the history of Radford University.

"In recent years, under President Hemphill's leadership, there have been many achievements and advancements," said Board of Visitors member Mark S. Lawrence. "In turn, the level of support for this university has grown significantly at both local and regional levels. One clear example of that support is the project that we are all gathered here to celebrate today."

The Artis Center at \$101 million and 178,000 square feet will support

the evolving needs of many academic programs and inspire increased collaboration among students and faculty from across disciplines. Once completed in late 2023, the multi-story building will be the largest academic building on campus. It will replace existing space for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, specifically McGuffey and Porterfield Halls, and create blended student spaces serving the Waldron College of Health and Human Services and the Artis College of Science and Technology.

"The Artis Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity will be a game-changer for our faculty, our students and for the disciplines we are so deeply committed to," said Margaret Devaney, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Paul Lund, principal of Hord Coplan Macht, Inc., the design firm se-

See **Artis Center**, page 4

## Belle Heth sixth graders recognized for good citizenship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Belle Heth Elementary School sixth graders Lily Brunner (left) and Reece Honaker have been selected as the 2020-2021 recipients of the school's prestigious Citizenship Award. According to Belle Heth Principal Tara Grant, the award "is voted on by all staff members and recognizes students who strongly exemplify what it means to be a Belle Heth Bobcat."

## VT professor's research aims to blind mosquitoes to the perfect blood temperature for them: 98.6

Though a mosquito's body temperature is a cool 28 degrees Celsius (82.4 Fahrenheit), its highly evolved thermosensory system prefers to drink the blood of organisms with a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius: Fahrenheit 98.6.

The millennia-old waltz between mosquitoes and the creatures possessing their optimal blood — humans — is one with tragic consequences for half of our planet today, each year yielding 200 million malaria cases and 400,000 human deaths.

Virginia Tech School of Neuroscience Assistant Professor Lina Ni hopes to cut in on this dance by researching one of a mosquito's more lab-friendly and less dangerous colleagues, the fruit fly. Her research has recently been awarded a five-year \$1.05 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health.

"If we limit mosqui-

toes' ability to detect temperature change, we hope that we can better control them," Ni said. "Hopefully then they will not be able to find us so the disease will not be spread."

Like all animals, mosquitoes rely on ambient temperatures to set their body temperatures and "guide the blood-feeding behaviors through which they transmit human diseases," Ni wrote in her grant proposal. "Thus, it is important to identify the temperature-sensing molecules and neurons to help control disease vectors."

Fruit flies, or *Drosophila*, share some mosquito traits without the ability to transmit disease to humans. They also have "very powerful genetics," allowing them to be genetically manipulated to see if the neurons involved in the temperature-sensing systems can be tweaked, Ni said.

Preliminary studies

See **Mosquitoes**, page 2

## RHS grad earns Dobbins Family Community Service Scholarship

RADFORD - Beatrice Lavery, who will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University, has been named this year's recipient of the Radford City Public School's Partners for Excellence Foundation, Inc.'s Don and Janell Dobbins Family Community Service Scholarship.

The Dobbins scholarship was established in October 2018 to promote volunteerism by high school students. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a Radford High graduate who attends a four-year college or university.

Qualifications include 30 hours of volunteer work during junior and/or senior years at a non-profit organization.

"Consideration was given to Beatrice for her volunteer work in the community," said Janell Dobbins. "Beatrice has volunteered at the clothing bank, postal food drive, and in her free time is an

See **Scholarship**, page 4



Beatrice Lavery

## Family pets and cicadas don't always mix

Brood X cicadas have now arrived in large numbers in the East and Midwest, providing backyard pets with a tasty treat. Veterinarian Mark Freeman from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech says pet owners should be extra careful in the next few weeks.

"As a general rule, a pet can eat several cicadas without any complications," said Freeman. "Most dogs find

them quite fascinating, and will happily pick them up in their mouths. Once the pet discovers how delightfully crunchy they are, they will also happily eat them. And then eat more and more of them.

"This is where the problems can develop," Freeman said. "Gorging on cicadas can result in varying degrees of GI upset such as vomiting and diarrhea, stomach and intestinal pain, and even the

possibility of an obstruction if they ingest too many shells which then can't pass through."

Dr. Freeman warns pet owners that if you see your pet take a cicada in his or her mouth, don't try to take it away from them, as this could cause them to swallow the cicada whole, which presents a choking hazard.

"Either allow them to chew it up, then try to get it out of the mouth, or just allow them to chew it up and swallow it, but keep them away from any more," Freeman said.

"One strong recommendation for dog owners prior to the hatch of the cicadas is to teach the pet the 'leave it' command," Freeman said. "That way, when you're out on a walk with your pet and they come across a number of cicadas, you can more easily keep them from ingesting a large number of them. If you have a young puppy, it would be ideal to keep them on a leash and under control when out on walks to avoid the risk of

ingesting large numbers of cicadas."

Freeman said that if your pet gorges on cicadas, he would recommend you see your veterinarian as soon as possible to establish an appropriate treatment plan based on the severity of clinical signs that develop.

"A little vomiting and diarrhea can be managed relatively easily, but severe GI pain or possible obstruction requires a much more aggressive intervention," said Freeman "For those dogs who only ingest a few cicadas, the risk is very low for any complications or for treatment to be necessary."

Experts from Virginia Tech's department of entomology point out the periodical cicadas will be mostly gone by early July and will not be back for another 17 years. So it's a once in an average pet's lifetime that they will find them.

Dr. Mark Freeman is Clinical Assistant Professor in Community Practice at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VLAD CHETAN FOR PEXELS

For dogs, gorging on cicadas can result in varying degrees of GI upset such as vomiting and diarrhea, stomach and intestinal pain, and even the possibility of an obstruction if they ingest too many shells which then can't pass through.



With a \$1.05 million grant, VT assistant professor Lina Ni is taking a novel approach to eliminating the deadly battle between mosquitoes and humans. Human blood is the perfect temperature for mosquitoes, so Ni is using fruit flies to help limit mosquitoes' ability to detect temperature changes. If she can do that, mosquitoes won't be able to find humans and kill 400,000 of us each year.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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 the Bisset Park gazebo.

**Town of Blacksburg Closings**  
All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday May 31. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center is open from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Blacksburg Community Center is open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Zumba and Aerobics classes are cancelled on May 31. Trash pickup in the Southeast Quadrant is rescheduled for Wednesday, June 2. Please have all trash at the curb by 7 a.m. There is no Blacksburg Transit bus service on Memorial Day.

**Town of Christiansburg Closings**  
In observance of Memorial Day, Christiansburg Town Hall and the Christiansburg Aquatic and Recreation centers will be closed on May 31.

**City of Radford Closings**  
In observance of Memorial Day, Radford City administrative offices will be closed. Solid Waste Collection normally collected on Mondays will be collected on Tuesday, June 1. Please have trash ready for pick up by 7:30 a.m. The Drop Center will be closed on May 31. The Radford Public Library will be closed today, Saturday, May 29, through Monday, May 31.

## Tuesday, June 1:

**COVID-19 vaccine clinic**  
A Virginia Department of Health/New River Health District COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Radford Fire Department, 1500 Wadsworth St. The one-dose vaccine will be free.

## Thursday, June 3:

**Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues Zoom breakfast**  
The breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Register at <http://bit.ly/June2021Eggs>. Once attendees register and pay, they will receive the Zoom link 48 hours prior to the pro-

gram. 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.

The 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

Will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 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.

**American Legion meeting**  
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

## Friday, June 4:

**New Glencoe Mansion art exhibit**  
The Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host its new gallery photography exhibit from June 4 through Aug. 29, 2021. The exhibit is "Mountain Rail Tails" and features the works of photographer Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images.

## Blacksburg Wheels and Wagons parade

The Town of Blacksburg's annual wheels and wagons event will once again parade through town on Friday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 pm. A fleet of dump trucks, snow plows, fire trucks, police cars, buses, and more, will roll out from the Airport Road Fire Station #3, located at 407 Hubbard St. in Blacksburg, and end in the same location.

## Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6:

## Plein air workshop at Smithfield Plantation

A plein air workshop will be held at Smithfield Plantation from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The workshop will be taught by Matt Gentry and Gerri Young of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. Register through [historicsmithfield.org](http://historicsmithfield.org). The cost is a \$15 donation to Smithfield with all proceeds going to support Smithfield Plantation. A supply list will be provided to registrants. Repeat attendees are welcome. The workshop is for ages 15 and up.

## Monday, June 7:

**2021 Real Estate Taxes due**  
Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the first installment of 2021 have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 7, 2021. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540-961-1105. Payment may be mailed, made in person at 300 South Main St., Blacksburg, Virginia, or paid online at [www.blacksburg.gov/payments](http://www.blacksburg.gov/payments). Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 7, 2021. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2021.

## Tuesday, June 8:

**The Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting**  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. William Reed will give a talk on the 12th Virginia Infantry. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Saturday, June 12:

**Department of Wildlife Resources Boating Safety Class at Claytor Lake**  
The class will be held 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 accom-

panied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required. By registering for this class, the student agrees to observe all pandemic protocols for this indoor class 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 the month of May at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. The walk begins at the library's 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. They are 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 Service parking lot (the Old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

## Thursdays through October:

**Christiansburg Farmers Market**  
Every Thursday through October the Christiansburg Farmers Market will be held at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

# Despite COVID-19, Christiansburg Lions Club still serves

Even with all that has been going on with the pandemic and the COVID-19 virus and the restrictions and guidelines from the governor, the Christiansburg Lions Club has been active in its service to the Town of Christiansburg and the New River Valley.

The Lions continued to meet on a regular basis, wear-

ing masks, maintaining social distancing, and trying to stay safe and healthy.

Much of the club's service had to do with ways for the community to enjoy better health. Among the projects the Lions donated to this past year were diabetes research, eye-sight conservation, and leader dogs. The club offered eye

screening for local schools and at public events.

The Christiansburg Lions financially supported local fire departments, rescue squads, Boys and Girls State at the high schools, Leading Lights recognition, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, the Community Health Agency, summer youth

and family feeding programs, and The Christmas Store. The club also presented scholarships to high school seniors.

One of the main ways the club members work to provide the funds for their philanthropy and service to others is through the annual Lions Club Holiday Craft Show that the club sponsors on the

first Saturday in December. From 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., the club hosts more than 140 craft vendors offering handmade, homemade, and original items so the community can get some early Christmas shopping done. The show typically brings out 3,500 to 4,000 shoppers, which supports local crafters and their work.



Still serving the community despite the restrictions of the pandemic are (left to right) Christiansburg Lions Club President Charles DeHart, Lions Club Vice President Jim Mattox, and Lions Club Secretary Joe Wade.



The Christiansburg Lions Club received seven new members at its May meeting at the Christiansburg Moose Lodge. With 56 members, the club is the strongest Lions Club in the district.

## Mosquitoes

from page 1

from Ni's lab, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science, have discovered a set of previously unidentified warm-activated neurons in fly larvae that detect warm temperatures. These neurons may have an additional function to modulate their neighboring cool-activated neurons.

"This study might provide novel targets to control blood-feeding behaviors of mosquitoes and other disease vectors," Ni wrote in her grant proposal.

For Alisa Omelchenko, manager of Ni's laboratory, the experience of

identifying thermosensory molecular targets has been exceptional.

"Temperature sensation is vital for animals to survive, mate, and reproduce but the molecular and cellular mechanisms are still widely unknown," Omelchenko said. "Thermosensory research within [fruit flies] allows the development of simplified, though still complex, models and helps determine molecular targets that can be adapted to modify heat-seeing behaviors in disease vectors, such as mosquitoes. This fundamental research creates an opportunity to develop methods

of modifying mosquito feeding behavior and ultimately prevent their spread of diseases."

Ever the neuroscientist, Ni insists that her research isn't really about mosquitoes, despite the fact that the results of her research may abate a scourge that afflicts half the world. "I focus on temperature-sensing receptors and neurons," Ni said. "When I saw that animals responded to temperatures behaviorally or neurons are activated by temperature changes, I always felt it was amazing."

— Written by Michael Hemphill

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



# Vern Simpson honored by New River Community Action as its Volunteer of the Year

**Tristan Mortensen**  
Contributing writer

The New River Community Action (NRCA) presented Vern Simpson with the Philip Sadler Memorial Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award at the organization's recent Board of Directors meeting.

Simpson was honored for his volunteer service with the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry (BIFP).

Simpson has volunteered at the food pantry for 15 years in various roles. He served as the volunteer director of the pantry for four years following the departure of longtime volunteer director Freda Cromer and currently serves as the volunteer assistant director.

His responsibilities cover the entire spectrum of operations including food acquisition and distribu-

tion, client screening, volunteer training, facility maintenance, and compliance with Feed America and NRCA guidelines.

After assuming the role of volunteer director, Simpson began taking steps to encourage community involvement. He divided roles and responsibilities to increase participation by more volunteers, asked volunteers to make suggestions for the operation and improvement of the pantry and implemented many of those suggestions, and helped to grow both the number of people served by the pantry and the support of the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Simpson reorganized operations so clients could continue being served while also protecting the health of the BIFP's volunteers. He developed a drive-through system

that has allowed the program to operate without interruption.

NRCA annually awards the Philip Sadler Memorial Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award in memory of Philip M. Sadler, a Pulaski County attorney, community leader, and humanitarian. The award is presented to an outstanding agency volunteer in recognition of exceptional service to the community.

NRCA assists approximately 9,000 residents of the New River Valley each year working in collaboration with local health and human service partner agencies, volunteers, community, and faith-based organizations through a variety of programs that address local conditions of poverty and improve the lives of low-income individuals and families.



**Vern Simpson and his wife, Linda, have been volunteers at the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry for 15 years. The New River Community Action recently honored him for his work by presenting him the Philip Sadler award as the organization's Volunteer of the Year.**

## Health district announces updated mobile vaccination clinic schedules

(CHRISTIANSBURG) -- The Virginia Department of Health's New River Health District, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and other supporting partners, has announced updated dates and locations for an ongoing series of mobile vaccination clinics.

These mobile clinics will offer free COVID-19 vaccines to those ages 18 and up in a series

of smaller and more local clinics, primarily in rural and underserved areas where vaccine access can be challenging. They are designed to reach unvaccinated Virginians at times and places that are closer and more convenient.

The mobile vaccination clinics will move from place to place to support local health department efforts in the New River Health District and across the state.

The mobile clinics will offer the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, thus eliminating the need for a mobile clinic to have to return to a particular area for second-dose shots.

Mobile Vaccination Clinics in the New River Health District

Saturday, May 29: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Floyd County Farmers Market, 203 South Locust St., Floyd, Va. 24091

Sunday, May 30: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Draper Volunteer Fire Department, 4380 Academy St., Draper, Va. 24324

LOCATION CHANGE:  
Tuesday, June 1: 2 to 8 p.m.

Radford Fire Department, 1500 Wadsworth St., Radford Va. 24141

Wednesday, June 2: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Pulaski Department of Social

Services, 53 Commerce St., Pulaski, Va. 24301

Thursday, June 3: 3 to 7 p.m.  
Dublin Baptist Church, 100 Hawkins St., Dublin, Va. 24084

Sunday, June 6: 1 to 4 p.m.  
Timberlake Building, 120 North Main St., Pearisburg, Va. 24134

Monday, June 7: 5 to 9 p.m.  
Narrows Volunteer Fire Department, 133 Center St., Narrows, Va. 24124

## Christiansburg Aquatic Center's June fitness schedule

Aqua Yoga (Monday/Wednesday/Friday)

9:30-10:15 a.m.; June 7-30; \$55 for residents, \$65 for non-residents.

Aqua Yoga utilizes the principles and movements of hatha yoga and adapts them to the water. The yoga poses practiced in this class will help participants develop strength and static balance, as well as increase their range of motion. Beginners are welcome.

With a maximum enrollment of eight, Thea Vincenti will teach the classes in the therapy pool.

Morning Fit (Monday/Wednesday)

9:15-10:15 a.m.; June 2-30; \$35 for residents, \$45 for non-residents.

This shallow water workout combines calis-

tenics style movements with variations of upper and lower body resistance exercises. Participants will jog, kick, march, and jump through the water to improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

Danielle Bland will teach these classes at the slide side of the leisure pool, deep beach area.

Maximum enrollment is seven.

Warm Water Workout (Monday/Wednesday)

10:30-11:30 a.m.; June 2-30; \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents.

This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations. This class is for participants with the goal of increasing strength,

flexibility, and range of motion in a relaxing and low impact atmosphere.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting one session of Warm Water Workout per person per month.

Danielle Bland will teach these classes in the therapy pool. Maximum enrollment is eight.

Rolling in the Deep (Tuesday/Thursday)

9:30-10:30 a.m.; June 3-29; \$30 for residents, \$40 for non-residents.

Strap on an aqua belt and take part in a deep water class in the competition pool. Participants will need to bring an aqua belt and resistance gloves (gloves are not required). Expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging, skiing, and more to

develop core strength.

Jilliann Kowalcik will teach these classes in the competition pool. Maximum enrollment is 16.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday)

9:15-10:15 a.m.; June 1-29; \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents.

Danielle Bland will teach these classes in the therapy pool. Maximum enrollment is eight.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday)

10:30-11:30 a.m. June 1-29; \$45 for residents, \$55 for non-residents.

Danielle Bland will teach these classes in the therapy pool. Maximum enrollment is eight.

Hydro Power (Tuesday/Thursday)

5:45-6:30 p.m.; June

10-29; \$25 for residents, \$35 for non-residents.

This aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool.

Julliann Kowalcik will lead these classes with a maximum enrollment of 18.

Swim and Trim (Wednesday)

7-7:45 a.m.; June 2-30; \$25 for residents, \$35 for non-residents

Start your day off right with a new routine consisting of half dryland workout and half water

workout. Guaranteed to hit all the right muscles and have participants ready to conquer the rest of their day. Please bring a mat or extra towel for the deck exercise portion. Jilliann Kowalcik is the instructor in the leisure pool. Maximum enrollment is eight.

Rise N' Shine Water Aerobics (Wednesday)

7-7:45 a.m.; June 2-30; \$25 for residents, \$35 for non-residents.

Gear up for this morning class that will get participants ready for the day. An aerobics class for the early risers so they can kick off their day energized.

The instructor is to be determined with the classes being taught in the leisure pool. Maximum enrollment is seven.

## Warm Hearth Village resident Evelyn Long celebrates 70-year Virginia Tech class reunion



**Evelyn Long, Class of '51, was one of only 36 women in her class of 1002.**

Warm Hearth Village resident Evelyn Long joined the Virginia Tech classes of 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966 recently in celebrating her 70-year class reunion with Zoom sessions.

Hosted online, the reunion celebrated all of VT's Cornerstone Alumni, those who have served as the foundation of the university for more than 50 years.

Long, Class of '51, attended each of the four virtual reunions at the WHV Village Center.

She was the first of her family to attend college. She started out majoring in biology at what is now James Madison University, an all-girls school at the time. Dissatisfied with the program, she transferred to Virginia

Tech as one of only 36 women out of 1002 in her graduating class.

Long said being at Tech was a wonderful experience. "Absolutely perfect. I always knew I would go to college. I loved being in school," she said.

Ellen Rorrer, the marketing consultant at the village, worked with Long

and Cornerstone Alumni to coordinate the virtual reunions for the residents.

"The village has the privilege of being home to many Virginia Tech alumni, retirees, and Hokie enthusiasts," Rorrer said. "We are so grateful we could bring the virtual Cornerstone Alumni events to residents. It's important to

keep them engaged and connected in the greater community; especially when it comes to their Hokie pride."

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.

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# OPINION

## Have I finally become my parents? I sure hope so.

Without a doubt, the most priceless ad campaign running on television right now belongs to Progressive Insurance in which Dr. Rick, a supposed “parents-life coach” coaches home buyers on un-becoming their parents.

The gist of the campaign is that it happens every time: New home owners buy a home and become their parents.

Dr. Rick advises his audience that “the waiter doesn’t need to know your name”; he throws all the pillows off a couch so crowded with them there’s no place to sit (while the pillow lover suffers a convulsion); he forcefully tosses into the trash a “No fussin’, no cussin’, no backtalkin’” sign a woman proudly displays; he declares “We’re going to open a PDF” and his audience acts as though he has just told them they had to battle an alligator; he warns in a tone of rather hope-

less resolution, “It’s a constant battle”; he says, “Remember, they’re not programs, they’re TV shows” and “You woke up early. No one cares.”

My wife and I got a big laugh recently when as we were walking out of a local restaurant, she realized she had told the waiter our names. At least in that regard, we have become our parents.

I couldn’t be prouder.

If there were ever anybody in this life I wanted to become, it would be my parents.

My father’s been dead for more than 30 years, and I still miss him. My mother’s been dead for more than 20 years, and yes, I miss her, too. One of the best and most indelible moments of my life came during the time I was in seminary and was the pastor of a pair of little country churches. She and I sat on the front porch of the

parsonage one weekend shortly before she died and she told me how proud she was of what I was doing there. I made my mother proud. I don’t know if there’s anything on this earth more fulfilling than that.

They were kind, loving parents, nothing like what you see so often in TV dramas these days with parents abusing their children whether it’s physically or emotionally or turning the home into a drug den.

What made them special wasn’t money, prestige, or fame. They were just ordinary, everyday people in the classic sense of the term. They got up every morning, went to work, and along the way, managed to take care of their three children and make them feel loved and wanted.

I’ve said this before, but my dad was a hero. During World War II, he fought his way across

North Africa and Italy. My mother was a hero, too. She spent more than three years not knowing from day to day whether my dad was alive or dead. I have no idea how she made it. Just a wild hope, I guess.

They got the three of us through college, though to this day, I’m not quite sure how they managed it financially. After we all graduated, they bought a place on a lake. Oh, not one of those fancy-smancy million-dollar places. It was simply a trailer, but when they went, the kids went with them, and there we created some of the fondest memories of our lives.

Again, after we graduated from college, they bought Georgia Bulldog season football tickets. Mom, dad, the wife, and I went to the games, usually accompanied by another couple. Again, great, unforgettable memories.

They raised us right. They took us to church on Sunday. They took us to some friends’ place down in Panacea, Fla., a little fishing hole of a town, nothing fancy, but again, more good times and lifelong memories.

I miss all that. I guess I always will. Sometimes the memories can be a little painful still even after all these years.

But I remind myself how much more painful it would be if I didn’t have them.

I loved my parents with a passion. I respected them. I honored them. And I thank God to this day that he gave them to me.

*The author is a man of a certain age who was born and raised in the perfect era for him by parents who, as far as he is concerned, were nothing short of perfect.*

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

## Carilion Clinic updates hospital visitation to allow two visitors per day

With the decrease in community spread of COVID-19, Carilion Clinic has updated its hospital visitation restrictions to the green level, which allows two visitors per day for adults during an inpatient stay instead of one visitor as was allowed under the yellow level restrictions.

The change was effective at the following facilities on Wednesday, May 26: Carilion Giles Community Hospital, Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital, Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and Carilion Tazewell Community Hospital.

Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital and Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital will transition to green level visitation restrictions start-

ing Tuesday, June 1.

All hospitals have been at yellow level visitation restrictions since March of this year. Other than the change in the number of visitors allowed, the other restrictions remain in place to keep staff, patients, and visitors safe. Anyone who is sick may not visit patients in Carilion facilities, and all visitors will continue to go through the screening process before entering any facility. While in the facility, visitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering. Shared spaces such as waiting areas and cafeterias remain closed.

This is the first time green-level visitation restrictions have been implemented at Carilion hospitals since the restrictions went into place on March

13, 2020.

“It’s encouraging to see a decrease in community spread across our region, but it continues to be critical that we remain vigilant,” said Charlotte Tyson, vice president of Hospital Operations. “Our top priority is the safety of our patients, staff and visitors. We ask that the community also do their part to stop the spread by getting their COVID-19 vaccine.”

To help reduce the spread and exposure of COVID-19, Carilion Clinic’s visitor guidelines ask anyone who is feeling sick, has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 21 days, or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days not to come to the hospital to visit patients.

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Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
Ed McMinn, *Editor* ..... editor@ourvalley.org  
Heather Bell, *Community News Editor* ..... communitynews@ourvalley.org  
Lynn Hurst, *General Manager* ..... lhurst@ourvalley.org  
Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant* ..... advertisc@ourvalley.org

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## VDOT launches towing and recovery incentive program on I-81

RICHMOND, Va. – Virginia’s new Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (81 TRIP) hit the Interstate 81 corridor Monday with the mission of reducing the amount of time drivers sit in crash-related congestion.

“Virginia’s economy takes a hit of up to \$1,200 for every minute that drivers spend in traffic,” noted VDOT Commissioner Stephen C. Brich. “Incidents are the number-one cause of congestion on I-81, so we can make a real improve-

ment on that interstate by getting lanes reopened more rapidly.”

81 TRIP is an incentive program that partners VDOT with heavy-duty towing and recovery companies to standardize their response to commercial vehicle crashes. The program facilitates safe and quick clearance with improved towing standards, procedures, and training.

81 TRIP pays a \$2,500 to \$3,500 incentive to a tow company that is able to open a travel lane within 90 minutes of receiving notice to proceed from law enforcement on the scene.

Crash-related delays enact significant impacts on drivers and the environment. This program helps to reduce lost-time costs, improve reliability, and lessen the risk of second-

ary crashes that can occur in vehicle queues. These incidents account for 20% for all highway crashes and become increasingly likely until congestion is cleared.

“Interstate 81 has a high percentage of trucks rolling through mountainous terrain, which contributes to the highest incident-related delay among interstates in Virginia,” explained I-81 Program Delivery Director Dave Covington. “We have seen success with towing incentives on interstates in the Richmond area since 2017, so we expect similar positive results on the I-81 corridor.”

Locally-based towing and recovery companies were invited to participate in 81 TRIP. To be eligible, these companies must meet requirements to ensure only well-trained operators with

proper heavy-duty equipment are dispatched to large commercial vehicle incidents.

81 TRIP is a part of the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in December 2018. The more than \$2 billion package of targeted improvements was funded by the Virginia General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Ralph Northam in spring 2019.

Additional information about the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program is available at Improve81.org. The website includes interactive maps and schedules and details about upcoming and current projects that are designed to improve safety, increase reliability, and foster economic growth along the 325-mile corridor.

CROSSWORD

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  - 23. Exactly suitable
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  - 26. Encomium
  - 29. Dreaming eye movement
  - 30. Principle vein
  - 35. Japanese apricot
  - 36. \_\_\_ Speedwagon band
  - 37. Fish eggs
  - 38. Ethiopian capital
  - 43. Considerate care
  - 44. Units of loudness
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  - 57. Dark brownish black
  - 59. Syrian goat hair fabrics
  - 61. One of the Great Lakes
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  - 63. Taps gently
  - 64. Hamilton’s bill
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## Scholarship

advocate for social justice and women’s rights.” Lavery will be a communication art major at VCU, which focuses on observational drawing, digital image making, concept design, comics and graphic novels, sto-

## Artis Center

lected for the Artis Center, called the project “creative and unique” and “one of the most innovative projects in the region.” “It will be a building that breaks down silos,” Lund said. “It will be a building where artists work with health professionals. It will be a building that the general student population will come to learn in its classrooms. You will see dancers dancing. You will see painters painting. You will see the health clinic healing and working with autistic chil-

## Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org



# NRCC celebrates graduates at three ceremonies

New River Community College recently held three in-person commencement ceremonies for graduates from the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. The college held the separate ceremonies for graduates within their specific programs to ensure that all aspects of state guidance were followed based on recent capacity guidance from the governor's office regarding college commencement events. The ceremonies were for

the associate degree nursing graduates for spring 2020 and spring 2021 and the practical nursing summer 2020 graduates, for the arts and sciences students for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, and for the business and technologies students for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years. NRCC President Pat Huber addressed graduates at all three ceremonies. "I look forward to what you, our graduates, will do.

You have shown what you can do. This last year and a half have proven that," Huber said. "So now it is time to go forward with your knowledge and skills and do great things. Surround yourselves with successful friends, colleagues, and mentors and believe in yourselves because we believe in you." NRCC College Board Chair Steve Harvey of the City of Radford spoke on behalf of the board. "Graduates, to say your edu-

ational journey may have had a few bumps in the road is an understatement," Harvey said. "When everything changed, you rolled with the punches every time, but I hope you are able to see now that the rewards of learning are life-changing. Education gives you the opportunity to design your own future, to grow as leaders in your communities, in business, or in government." Due to space limitations, only graduates and limited faculty/staff were permitted

to attend their designated ceremony in person. All COVID-19 safety protocols were followed by those attending the ceremonies, including physical distancing and face mask requirements for every participant. The three ceremonies were livestreamed for family, friends, and others to view off-campus. To view the ceremonies online, visit NRCC's graduation webpage at [www.nr.edu/students/graduation.php](http://www.nr.edu/students/graduation.php).

# Resources available to keep children, youth safe on Virginia farms



As the school year winds down, more children and youth may be working on Virginia farms, but while farm work instills values children and adolescents can use their entire life, work on the farm can be hazardous.

From developing a good work ethic to learning responsibility, farm work instills valuable skills in youth that they can use throughout their lives. But farm work can be hazardous. As the school year winds down, more youth may be working on farms and keeping them safe is important. Children and adolescents are at increased risk for injury if assigned tasks don't match their developmental level and abilities. To help educate parents and employers about specific farm safety practices associated with youth, the

National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has created three resource booklets on gardening, operating farm equipment, and working with animals. "If we can get farm parents and supervisors to use the guidelines to assign work, it will ultimately result in fewer injuries and fatalities for our working youth," said Dr. Marsha Salzwedel, a project scientist with the center. Developed from the center's Agricultural Youth Work Guidelines, the booklets outline 50 common tasks youth may perform on the farm, such

as operating a tractor, milking cows, and hand harvesting. They identify hazards and include information on proper adult supervision, training, child labor regulations, and assessing a young person's ability to perform a specific job safely. To learn more and to download the booklets, visit [cultivatesafety.org/](http://cultivatesafety.org/) work. Farm safety also is an important topic for Virginia Farm Bureau, and the organization has a comprehensive farm safety resources website with information for farm families at [vafb.com/safety](http://vafb.com/safety).

# VDOT road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT** - Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

**TRAFFIC SWITCH:** A new traffic pattern is in place detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound between the intersections above, limiting each direction to a single lane.

**ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW** - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A detour is in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2021.

**ROUTE 685 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION** - Contractors are constructing several turn lane and road improvements on Route 685 (Pricess Fork Road) between

Route 1145 (Stratford View Drive) and Route 654 (Brooksfield Road). Motorists should expect daily shoulder closures with intermittent lanes closures controlled by flagging forces. Current work hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but are subject to change as construction progresses. Work is expected to last through summer 2021.

## VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK

- Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last until fall 2021.

**WATERLINE CONSTRUCTION** - Construction of a waterline along Route 659 (Vicker Switch Road), Route 719 (Switchback Road), Route 660 (Crab Creek Road), and Route 661 (Christman Mill Road) includes shoulder closures and lane closures. The work is ongoing and is expected to be complete by spring 2021.

## INTERSTATE 81 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT S-CURVES IN BOTETOURT COUNTY

- A project to improve the S-curves along southbound I-81 in Botetourt County between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5 is underway. This project will enhance safety and improve vehicle

traction. Work includes repaving the travel lanes, applying new pavement markers and installing underground pavement drains. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and the speed limit will be reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. This project also includes permanently closing and removing the southbound off ramp at exit 167 (Buchanan) to reduce speed differentials, conflict points and lane changes associated with exiting vehicles. The estimated completion date is summer 2021.

There will be lane closures between mile marker 168 and 170 between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday night through Friday morning.

## INTERSTATE 81 WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143

- A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the dura-

tion of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

**I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** - The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between

the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is summer 2021.

The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 POT HOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews are patching potholes along southbound Interstate 81 in Pulaski and Botetourt Counties. Mobile right and left lane clo-

tures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 97 and 162, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane

See VDOT, page 6

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# VDOT

from page 5

closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**LANE & RAMP CLOSURES:** Through Thursday, May 27, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. drivers should expect center, right and left lane closures, north and southbound from Franklin to Wonju exits for paving operations. On Thursday, May 27, the on ramp to I-581/220 will be closed for paving operations from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD** - Work has begun to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete at the end of 2021.

**I-581 BRIDGE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate

581 between exit 6 and exit 4W and exit 3C to exit 6, northbound and southbound. Right, center and left lane closures may be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Single lane closures may be in place during daytime hours, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Estimated completion date July 2021.

**I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY**- Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs

and expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)**

**I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-77 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN CARROLL COUNTY**- Weather permitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**I-77 BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK** - Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 dur-

ing nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

**I-77 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**ROANOKE CITY**

**ROUTE 11 & ROUTE 117 INTERSECTION:** Work on a pedestrian improvement project on Route 11 (Williamson Road) is underway. The work is .45 miles south of the intersection with Route 117 (Peters Creek Road) and will end at the intersection. The majority of the construction, phase one and two, will take place during daytime hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The southbound lane of Williamson Road will be closed and traffic will be shifted into the center turn lane. The northbound lane will remain open. In addition, left turns will not be permitted into all entrances from both southbound

and northbound lanes within the work zone on Williamson Road. This pattern will remain in place through the first two phases of the project. During the third phase of the project, work will be performed with lane closures in place during night hours only, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Shoulder closures will be in place throughout the project with message boards to alert drivers. Expected to be completed in December 2021.

**ROUTE 460 (ORANGE AVENUE) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS** - Intersection improvements on Orange Avenue and Hollins Road are underway. Turn lanes will be extended on Orange Avenue and the traffic signal will be replaced at the intersection. Hollins Road will be widened from Orange Avenue to McDowell Avenue. Flaggers will be in place to direct traffic at the intersection of Orange and Hollins during daytime hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Estimated completion is October 2021.

**TRAFFIC SWITCH:** During nighttime hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning, the

See VDOT, page 7

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilips-blacksburg.org](http://www.stphilips-blacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church**- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit [www.sttofc.org](http://www.sttofc.org) for mid-week masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: [www.fbradford.org](http://www.fbradford.org), 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on 105.9 FM, 101.3 F, 1430AM.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, [www.trinitycburg.org](http://www.trinitycburg.org).

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Know the Facts

Read Ezra 6:1 through 8:36

Nicole wanted to wear a Christian T-shirt to school, but she was nervous. "What if someone complains? What if I get in trouble with the principal?"

Thankfully, her mom had already researched the issue.

"According to the Equal Access Amendment, if any kid in school has a T-shirt that has any kind of non-school graphics or message on it, you can wear a T-shirt with a Christian message," Nicole's mom said. She explained that Nicole had many rights as a Christian student, so she didn't need to be intimidated.

In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree

concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid (Ezra 6:3).

As the Israelites rebuilt the temple, they faced many hassles. However, they knew their legal rights. They knew King Cyrus had approved the rebuilding of the temple, and they had to educate the authorities who challenged them.

Challenge for Today: When unbelievers challenge your faith, don't just give in. Know the facts and your rights. Don't be afraid to politely claim them.

Quicklook: Ezra 6:1-12

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)**

## CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

## LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: [clcradford.org](http://clcradford.org). 540-639-2671.

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. [l.christopher695@comcast.net](mailto:l.christopher695@comcast.net). Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Radford Worship Center**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7

p.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 Fourth Street, at the corner of 4th and Randolph Streets. Worship at 10am in the sanctuary, masked and distanced. Phone 639-2585. Find us on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford and on our Website: [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org). We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond. Kelsey and Peter Hawisher-Faul, Co-Pastors.

## UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc).



# VDOT

from page 6

travel lanes of eastbound Route 460 (Orange Avenue) will be resurfaced at the intersection of Hollins Road, east of the intersection with Kimball Avenue and west of the intersection of 11th Street. Drivers should expect various lane closures in the area during this time. Once the resurfacing of eastbound Route 460 is completed, the left lane of eastbound Route 460 and the left lane of westbound Route 460 will both be closed for the reconstruction of the median turn lanes as well as the median along Hollins Road.

## ROANOKE COUNTY

**IRONMAN 70.3 VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE TRAFFIC** - Starting Thursday, June 3, drivers can expect traffic impacts associated with the Ironman 70.3 Virginia's Blue Ridge event to be held on June 6. Message boards will be in place to communicate changes to drivers. Be aware of the following:

Starting Thursday, June 3, Route 648 (Reservoir Road) will only be open to local traffic.

On Sunday, June 6, the right northbound lane of Route 11 will be closed between Route 648 (Reservoir Road) and the Town of Buchanan.

On Sunday, June 6, Route 43 will be closed to through traffic from 7 a.m.

until 1:30 p.m. between Buchanan and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

During the event, police will be present to assist with traffic control, particularly at the Route 220 Alternate and Gateway Crossing intersections.

**ROUTE 419 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** - Work for improvements on Route 419/Electric Road between Ogden Road and the Route 220 Expressway at Tanglewood Mall is underway. The work includes constructing a third lane along Southbound Route 419/Electric Road between Ogden Road and the Route 220 Expressway on ramp. There will be crosswalks added with pedestrian signals and modifications to the existing traffic signals. Sidewalks will be constructed along Northbound Route 419 and along Southbound Route 419 between Ogden Road and South Peak Drive. There will be new surface pavement placed and the pavement markings will be redone. The contractor continues to perform storm sewer and waterline pipe installation. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

Daytime hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and nighttime hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. will be in place for possible lane and shoulder closures.

A water main is being

installed across Route 419. A single lane closure is in place in the eastbound and westbound lanes during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., Monday through Thursdays. Paving of business entrances may occur during these nighttime hours as well.

**ROUTE 220 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BACK CREEK** - Work to replace the existing bridge over Back Creek is under construction. The bridge is near the intersection of Route 657 (Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive). There will be periodic left lane closures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Route 220 southbound and northbound between Route 676 and Route 715. Route 220 southbound left shoulder will remain closed during this stage. Southbound traffic is on the newly constructed section of the bridge. The existing southbound bridge is being removed. The Route 220 crossover at Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive is closed and no left turns will be allowed during this stage. Estimated project completion is fall 2021.

**LANE CLOSURE:** There will be periodic left lane closures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Route 220 south and northbound between Route 676 and Route 715.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE** - While

the Blue Ridge Parkway makes repairs to slope failures, detour signs will detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway. Traffic will be rerouted onto Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Those traveling north, will use the reverse of this detour. Detour signage will be attached to existing VDOT signage and will be in place through June 2021.

## BEDFORD COUNTY

**ROUTE 460 S-CURVE REALIGNMENT** - Work has begun to realign 1.4 miles of the eastbound lanes of Route 460 in Bedford County near Montvale, about eight miles west of Bedford and approximately 2.3 miles east of Montvale. Eastbound and westbound Route 460 is reduced to one lane. Drivers can expect the speed limit in both directions of Route 460 to be reduced to 45 mph. In addition, there will be alternating long-term, single lane closures on westbound and eastbound Route 460. Message boards will be posted to alert drivers of upcoming lane closures and traffic pattern changes. Completion is expected in summer 2022.

**ROUTE 460 CROSS-OVER CLOSURE** -The median crossover on Route 460 near Montvale located at Route 726 (Wilkerson

Mill Road) is closed until summer or fall of 2021. Drivers will not be able to turn left from Wilkerson Mill Road onto westbound Route 460. This will primarily impact Misty Ridge Lane residents. Drivers can still turn right onto eastbound Route 460 and make a U-turn to proceed westbound. Motorists can also use Route 691 (Quarterwood Road) as an alternative route to access westbound Route 460.

**ROUTE 122 UTILITY WORK** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along 122 from the Franklin County line to the Town of Bedford line and Route 460 eastbound from the Town of Bedford to Alum Springs Road. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulder or lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent slow rolls will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes.

**ROUTE 746 CLOSURE OVER GOOSE CREEK** - A section of Route 746 (Dickerson Mill Road) is closed to install a superstructure over Goose Creek. The closure is located 0.6 mile south of Route 691 (Robertson Road) and 6 miles north of Route 24. There will be a marked detour in place. The road is scheduled to be closed until December 2021.

**ROUTE 644 (LANKFORD MILL ROAD)**

**CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** - Route 644 (Lankford Mill Road) remains closed for a bridge replacement project over Big Otter River. This closure is located 0.01 mile east of Route 673 (Benchmark Lane) and 0.50 mile west of Route 675 (Lizard Ridge Road). A nine mile detour remains in place so drivers should expect delays in travel times and plan accordingly. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2021.

**ROUTE 622 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** Work to replace the bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railway on Route 622 (Everett Road) is underway. The bridge is closed. The closure is located 0.48 mile north of Route 1329 (West Crossing Drive) and 1.06 miles south of Route 646 (Gladden Circle). A signed detour will be in place. Drivers traveling from the south end of the bridge will use Route 811 (Thomas Jefferson Road) to Route 221 South (Forest Road) to Route 646 (Gladden Circle) to Route 622 (Everett Road) Drivers traveling north will use Route 646 (Gladden Circle) to Route 221 North (Forest Road) to Route 811 (Thomas Jefferson Road) back to Route 622 (Everett Road). The road is scheduled to be closed until May 2022.

# OBITUARIES

## Bain, Carl Otis

Carl Otis Bain, 88, passed away Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at his home in Radford.

He was retired from Lynchburg Foundry. Carl was a U. S. Army veteran and a life member of VFW Post #776.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Riner and Johnnie Mae Bain; brothers James Walter Bain, Harless Leon Bain, and Kenneth Lee Bain; and a sister, Agnes Isabel Omph.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Amanda Bain; an adopted daughter,



Jennifer Musselman (Bobby); a brother, David Bain; a sister, Ocie Ratliff; sisters-in-law Joann Sowers, Margie (Tommy) Mannon, and Carol (Dennis) Crigger; a brother-in-law, Dennis Criner; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services will be private.

The Bain family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in

Radford. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Cobb, Roy Burton

Roy Burton Cobb, 69, of Christiansburg, passed away Sunday, May 23, 2021.

He was a member of Gospel Light Baptist Church. Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Mary Cobb; and a brother, John (Jackie) Cobb.

Survivors include his loving wife of 32 years, Shirley Marie Cobb; daughters and sons-in-law Brandy and Ron Frank, Bekka and Jeff Loder, and Tracy Crosier; a son and daughter-in-law, Timothy and Reva Otey; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Sue and Jim Forrest; brothers and

sisters-in-law, Danny and Joyce Cobb, Hugh and Cheryl Cobb, and Bobby Cobb; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Pastor Keith Weaver officiating. Interment was private.

The Cobb family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

Be sure to 'Like' the News Journal on Facebook.

# Marketplace

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### For Rent - Apartments

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### For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE** Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

### Help Wanted - General

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help** The Salem Times-Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

### Legals - City of Radford

**Request for Proposals City of Radford East Main Street Sidewalk Improvements UPC 117992**  
(State Project # EN20-126-225, P101, R201, M501) May 17, 2021

The City of Radford is seeking expressions of interest from consulting engineering firms who wish to be considered to provide professional engineering services for: The City of Radford East Main Street Sidewalk Improvements, Transportation Alternatives Project. The project is funded through a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) grant. This project shall be developed utilizing VDOT policies and FHWA guidelines. In addition, the project design shall meet or exceed current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official (AASHTO) standards. The estimated cost of the proposed project is approximately \$477,000. Design and construction of the project is anticipated to take approximately 3 1/2 - years.

The objective of this project is to improve the safety of pedestrian access along US Route 11 creating a safe walking passage for Radford University students and staff while providing safer access to existing businesses. Moving pedestrians away from

### Legals - City of Radford

empty lot paths, the new sidewalk follows US Route 11 (East Main Street) between Jefferson Street and University Drive. This project will construct approximately 900 linear feet of new sidewalk and remove a midblock crosswalk currently used by Radford University students in the City of Radford.

Services may include, but not be limited to: planning, design, developing construction documents, environmental review, submittal of applications to VDOT, surveying, bidding, construction management (including pay requests and VDOT reimbursement submittals) and other professional services as required to complete the project.

The full RFP may be obtained from the City of Radford Website [www.radfordva.gov](http://www.radfordva.gov) or on the eVA website <https://www.eva.virginia.gov>

Submit four copies of the proposal along with a searchable PDF file to the City Manager's office, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 attention Jay Eanes. The proposal must be received at the City office no later than 4:00 PM on Jun 7, 2021.

The City is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and/or female owned business firms are encouraged to apply.

### Legals - Montgomery County

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

- A. Rezoning request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73 (4.711 acres) from Agricultural (A) and Two-Family Residential (R-2) to Single Family Residential (R-1) with conditions. The proposal is to construct 24 single-family detached dwellings. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- B. Conditional Use Permit request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC for a Planned Housing Development to consist of 24 Single-Family Residential dwellings on property located adjacent to Wades Lane and Agee Street, Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at [www.christiansburg.org/](http://www.christiansburg.org/)

### Legals - Montgomery County

[youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit [www.christiansburg.org/publichearings](http://www.christiansburg.org/publichearings).

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Altizer lands hole-in-one



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Eric Altizer nailed a hole-in-one last week on hole #11 at Auburn Hills Golf Club.

## Former Appy League leader passes away

Former Appalachian League President Lee Landers died Monday of natural causes at the age of 83.

Appalachian League officials heaped praise upon the former league leader.

“Lee transformed the Appalachian League and really took the league to new heights in his 23 years at the helm,” said current league president Dan Moushon. “Lee was a tremendous leader, a mentor to so many and a friend to everyone he met in his 60 years in professional baseball. He was truly beloved by all.”

Boyd Sports President and Chief Operating Officer Chris Allen described Lee as “one of the old-timers that grew up in baseball. Having had the opportunity to get to know Lee over the years, I was always amazed at the wonderful stories of his career. Most people remember Lee as the Appalachian League President, which he served for over 20 years. What they may not realize is Lee had a career that spanned over 60 years. Lee, first and foremost, was a wonderful person who never met a stranger. He was also an icon in our industry and a true ambassador for professional baseball. RIP old friend.”

“I cannot think of someone who has directly impacted more thriving, young baseball executives than Lee Landers,” said Ryan Keur, the owner and team president of the Burlington Sock Puppets and the Danville Otterbots. “Both personally and professionally, Lee always took the time to check in and genuinely care about your progress and how your entire team was doing. As the King of Baseball, he has molded many people and executives throughout the sport who will carry on with the same level of professionalism, compassion, and sense of community that Lee instilled within us.”

Bristol State Liners General

Manager Mahlon Luttrell called Lee, “The truest gentleman that you would ever meet. Mr. Landers touched the lives of so many people in the sport of baseball. There was not a person that he would not walk up to or sit by that when he left, you felt like a friend. Rest in Peace my friend; our thoughts and prayers to the entire family.”

During the 2017 Baseball Winter Meetings in Orlando, Fla., Landers was named the 2017 King of Baseball, an honor that recognizes a veteran of professional baseball for longtime dedication and service.

Landers’ career in professional baseball began in 1959 in Fresno, Calif., and included stops in Modesto, Twin Falls, Little Rock, Tulsa, New Orleans, and Springfield, Ill., where he was named general manager of the Springfield Cardinals after the 1981 season. During his 12-year tenure with Springfield, he received Executive of the Year honors and the Promotional Award of Excellence, and was a nine-time winner of the Midwest League’s Gold Award for excellence in operations. Landers was named vice president of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1986.

After taking the reins of the Appalachian League in 1996, Landers was honored in 2001 with the Warren Giles Award for outstanding service as a minor league president in 2001, was presented the first annual Bowie Kuhn Award from Baseball Chapel in 2008, and had four of his Appalachian League teams (Bluefield, Burlington, Greeneville, and Pulaski) honored with the Bob Freitas Award for the Short Season classification. Landers also served on Minor League Baseball’s Game Operations and Umpire Development committees. He was inducted into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Appalachian League Hall of Fame in 2019.

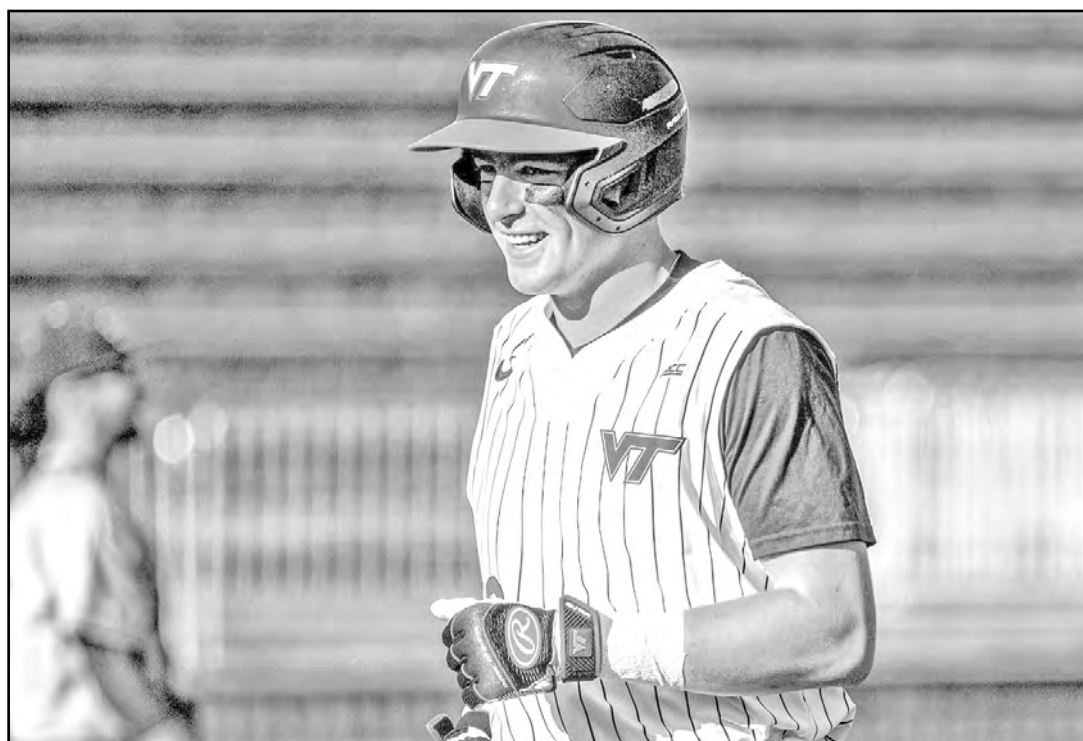


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Outfielder Gavin Cross this week became the first freshman in Virginia Tech baseball history to be named to the All-ACC First Team.

## Hokie Gavin Cross named to All-ACC, All-Freshman teams

Virginia Tech outfielder Gavin Cross has been named to the Atlantic Coast Conference All-ACC and All-Freshman teams, the league announced Monday.

Cross became the first Tech

freshman to be named First Team All-ACC in program history, and the first All-Freshman team honoree since Ian Seymour in 2018.

The Bristol, Tenn., native finished the regular season with

a .357 batting average in 196 at-bats. He led the ACC in hits (70) and triples (5) and finished third in total bases (126).

He was previously named a 2020 Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American.

## Three Highlanders receive conference baseball honors



Radford University catcher Straton Podaras was this week named to the Big South All-Conference baseball first team.

Three Radford University baseball players have received Big South Conference honors, the Radford baseball team announced this week.

Catcher Straton Podaras was named to the all-conference first team. Junior infielder David Bryant, who led the team in batting average and home runs, was named to the all-conference second team. Senior outfielder Anthony Galati was named to the conference all-academic team.

Podaras led the team both on the offensive and defensive fronts all season long. Defensively behind the plate, Podaras had his best season

of his career catching 31 runners attempting to steal. This pushed his career total to 79, a program record. Offensively, Podaras posted an impressive .302/.434/.414 slash line. His batting average and on-base percentage both ranked second on the team while he also racked up eight doubles and two home runs.

David Bryant broke out this season offensively, leading the Highlanders in many offensive categories which garnered him second team all-conference honors. Bryant slashed .364/.480/.594, leading the team in all three categories of batting average, on-base per-

centage, and slugging percentage. His seven home runs were also a team-best while he also had nine doubles and four triples.

Rounding out the Big South annual awards for the Highlanders was Anthony Galati, who was named to the all-academic team after his perfect 4.0 GPA as a marketing major. Just a week ago Galati was a recipient of the Big South Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence. On the field he was a strong contributor to the Highlander offense this season with a .235/.373/.333 slash line to go with seven stolen bases and 25 RBIs.



Transferring to VT from Delaware, midfielder Gabby Johnson tied for the Blue Hens team lead in points and goals and was named Third-Team All-Conference for the recently completed season.

## VT women’s soccer lands transfer

Virginia Tech women’s soccer head coach Chugger Adair announced Thursday the signing of Delaware transfer Gabby Johnson. The Midlothian, Va., native will be eligible to compete for the Hokies right away and will have two seasons of eligibility remaining beginning with the 2021 season.

In her three seasons of competition with the Blue Hens, Johnson scored six goals and had two assists, while racking up 39 shots. She was named to the All-Colonial Athletic Conference Third Team this spring.

A midfielder, she appeared in five matches and tied for the team lead in points and goals.

“On behalf of the staff, we are excited for Gabby to join our program,” Adair said. “She has proven to be successful with Delaware and a consistent performer in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) as she has made their all-league team. Gabby will bring not only her soccer playing ability, but leadership, experience and joy for soccer to our program. She will be a wonderful fit with our current midfield unit.”



# Blacksburg's Ben Carroll honored as conference Freshman of the Year

Blacksburg High School graduate Ben Carroll has been voted the Big South Conference's Freshman Golfer of the Year.

Campbell junior Pontus Nyholm was voted the 2021 Big South Men's Golfer of the Year by the league's head coaches, it was announced this past Tuesday afternoon at the Men's Golf Championship Awards Ceremony. Charleston Southern head coach Jason Payne was voted Coach of the Year, and Winthrop senior Rohan Boettcher was voted Men's Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the Big South's sports information directors.

Nyholm is the fourth consecutive Camel to earn Big South Golfer of the Year honors. He is the Big South's leader in stroke average (69.48) and in Top 10 finishes (six) in 2021, and was the only Big South golfer to win three events this spring: the Southern Invitational, the Golfweek Spring Invitational, and the Stitch Intercollegiate. Nyholm carded a 17-under 199 (68-69-62) to win the Stitch Intercollegiate, which was part of a string of nine consecutive rounds in the 60s, that earned him a sponsor's exemption in the Korn Ferry Tour's Rex Hospital Open June 3-6 at TPC Wakefield in Raleigh. The four-time Big South Golfer of the Week honoree entered the Big South Men's Golf Championship ranked No. 13 nationally by Golfstat, No. 16 in the PGA TOUR University rating and No. 52 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking.

Payne led the Bucs to one of their strongest seasons in program history as the squad finished the 2021 regular-season with the conference's best

stroke average and No.-2 seed in the Big South Championship. Charleston Southern went 22-1 against Big South competition leading up to the conference tournament and had all five players sit among the Big South's top-20 individual scorers prior to the event, including three in the top-10 in the standings. Under Payne's leadership this season, the Bucs took the tournament title at the Pinnacle Bank Intercollegiate while finishing among the top five teams in six different tournaments this spring.

Carroll (Blacksburg) was the Bucs' lone underclassman to crack the starting lineup for Charleston Southern in the spring 2021 season. He entered the post-season with the eighth-lowest stroke average during the conference regular-season and turned in top-10 performances at the Wofford Invitational (ninth) and the Pinnacle Bank Intercollegiate (fifth). Carroll's final-round 68 (-4) at the Wofford Invitational marked a career-low for the freshman in the Bucs' final tune-up to the 2021 Big South Championship. He tied as the Bucs' second-highest finisher at the conference championship with a 3-over par 216 (71-73-72).

Boettcher (Santa Cruz Do Sul, Brazil) is a 3.99 GPA student majoring in business administration. He was a 2020 Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-America Scholar and has been named to the Big South Presidential Honor Roll three times. Boettcher played in all six events this spring and finished the Big South Championship with a 4-over 217

(73-69-75), which featured a season-low 69 in the second round.

Also announced this past Tuesday afternoon were the Big South Men's Golf All-Conference and All-Freshman teams, which are selected by the head coaches and based on regular-season play plus performance in the Conference Championship. The members of the All-Academic Team and the league's All-Championship Team (the top five finishers) were also announced.

2021 Big South Conference men's golf All-Conference Team

Pontus Nyholm, Campbell; Hunter Fry, USC Upstate; Brandon Einstein, High Point; Jake Carter, Charleston Southern; Ryan Tattan, Winthrop; Tyler Beeck, Charleston Southern; Edwin Blomander, Campbell; Josh Hetherington, Campbell; Henrik Lilja, Campbell; Jake Scruggs, Gardner-Webb.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

**Blacksburg High School grad Ben Carroll, who plays golf for Charleston Southern, has been named the Freshman of the Year by the Big South Conference.**

2021 Big South Conference men's golf All-Freshman Team

Ben Carroll, Charleston Southern; Bryce Corbett, Radford; Max DuPree, USC Upstate; Romain Lanteri, Campbell; Gregor Meyer, High Point.

2021 Big South Conference men's golf All-Academic Team

Henrik Lilja, Campbell; Alan Smith, Charleston Southern; Jake Kehoe, Gardner-Webb; Drew Weary, High Point; Brandon Weaver, Longwood; AJ Nolin, Presbyterian; Tyler Hull, Radford; Hunter Fry, USC Upstate; Rohan Boettcher, Winthrop.

Boettcher was named the conference's Scholar-

Athlete of the Year.

2021 Big South Conference men's golf All-Championship Team (Top 5 finishers)

Hunter Fry, USC Upstate (Medalist); Brandon Weaver, Longwood; Hunter Duncan (from Blacksburg), Radford; Ryan Tattan, Winthrop; Jake Scruggs, Gardner-Webb.

## Basketball Hokies land berth in NIT season tip-off tourney

Virginia Tech, along with Iowa State, Memphis, and Xavier, will headline the 2021 NIT Season Tip-Off at Barclays Center in Brooklyn as announced Thursday by the tournament.

The event semifinals are set for Wednesday, Nov. 24, with the final and consolation games set for Friday, Nov. 26.

The Hokies will be making their first appearance in the tournament since 2011. That season, they beat Monmouth (91-46) and Florida International (78-63) in Blacksburg before making the trip up to Madison Square Garden where Tech lost to Syracuse and beat Oklahoma State.

Coming off their fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament berth (2017-19, 2021), the Hokies are set to return their top four scorers from last season. Under the direction of 2020-21 ACC Coach of the Year Mike Young, Tech is ranked No. 10 in ESPN's latest "Way-Too-Early Top 25."

The tournament bracket and schedule will be announced this summer. Tickets are not yet on sale, but fans can secure first access to the best seats and discount offers by signing up for the official pre-sale at nitseasontipoff.com.

ship and his third consecutive 20-win season. Hardaway, who had a 14-year NBA career, was a four-time All-Star and spent two seasons with the New York Knicks.

Xavier is led by head coach Travis Steele and returns its top seven scorers, including second-team All-Big East point guard Paul Scruggs and three-point shooting specialist Nate Johnson.

In his first year, Head Coach T.J. Otzelberger will lead Iowa State, which made the NCAA Tournament both in 2019 and for six consecutive years from 2012-17. The team will welcome top recruit Tyrese Hunter, ranked No. 37 overall and ranked as the No. 7 point guard in the country by ESPN.

The NIT Season Tip-Off has been played in New York City since 1985, and this fall marks the sixth year the tournament will be held at Barclays Center. The 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19. Oklahoma State won the tournament in 2019.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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