



Saturday, June 19, 2021 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

## Christiansburg announces new public relations director

The Town of Christiansburg Monday announced that Christina Edney has joined the staff as the new public relations director.

Edney began her new position on Monday, June 7, 2021.

Before joining the Town of Christiansburg, Edney served in the University Relations Department of Radford University producing creative, communicative, and strategic content including videography, photography, and writing.

Edney joins the town with nearly 10 years of professional experience in communica-

tions, media, and public relations. She previously served as the general manager of the Pulaski Yankees and as a TV reporter and anchor.

“Christina was chosen from an excellent candidate pool which made for a difficult decision but gave us more confidence that we were hiring an exceptional person,” said Town Manager Randy Wingfield. “I believe her videography skills will be very useful moving the town forward with more interactive and promotional web-based content. I think her social media skills and background in journalism, television pro-

duction, sports management, sports marketing, and public relations/public information will lead the town to great things considering the town has been very sports-tourism oriented in our recreational facilities and program development.

“I am also confident Christina will continue to be able to put out the excellent quality of materials and information our public relations department has produced in the past,” the town manager said.

A New River Valley native, Edney grew up in Pulaski and received a bachelor's degree in Communications: Journal-

ism from Liberty University.

“Christiansburg is truly the place to be,” Edney said. “The diversity and opportunity within our community is limitless and growing. I am honored to be a part of this team and a part of this community. I am also looking forward to serving the Town of Christiansburg with transparent, honest, and clear communication.”

In addition to her public relations work, Edney enjoys floating and kayaking on the New River, traveling to her favorite state of Texas, and watching Virginia Tech and Philadelphia Eagles football.



New town PR director Christina Edney



**Black cowboys at the “Negro State Fair” in Bonham, Texas, in 1913, almost 50 years after General Order No. 3 proclaimed the freedom from slavery in Texas. Through the Juneteenth Scholars Program, Edward Anthony Polanco discovered that Black cowboys in Mexico used native plants for health and healing, a practice learned from the Nahuas, indigenous people, during the Mexican colonial period. Photo courtesy of Texas State Historical Association.**

## Juneteenth scholars' research bridges the past and the present

Rich red velvet cake, luscious strawberry pie, and sweet red punch may be the delectable traditions of contemporary Juneteenth celebrations, but the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences has its own remembrance honoring the historic struggle for freedom and the culmination of the end of slavery.

To commemorate and uplift the culture and achievements of the Black and minority populations, continue the fight for social justice, and champion inclusion and diversity, the college founded the Juneteenth Scholars Program last year.

Seven early-career faculty members from the departments of History, Political

Science, Religion and Culture, and Sociology made up the first cohort of the Juneteenth Scholars. With funding from the college and undergraduate research support, they delved into a range of topics. Their work covered a broad swath of research that looks at historical, political, and modern-day marginalized populations.

“Our scholars' research makes connections between history and today's critical challenges,” said Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. “They are looking, for example, at a range of populations, from Black

See **Juneteenth**, page 3

## RU president announces university's return to normal operations

Radford University President Brian O. Hemphill announced Tuesday in an open letter that “with a strong focus on vaccines, the university will be returning to normal operations in nearly all aspects of our overall efforts and daily engagements.”

In his letter, Dr. Hemphill provided a number of Summer 2021 updates effective Tuesday, June 15.

Physical distancing requirements (to be phased in for specific configurations and locations based on planned events and institutional priorities for campus-wide completion by Aug. 13, 2021) will be removed with a return to normal operations.

Revised room capacities (as determined due to COVID-19 related physical distancing) will be removed with a return to normal.

Dedicated entrances and exits will be removed and return to normal operations.

The two-person limit in all elevators will be removed with a return to normal.

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols will return to normal operation.

Daily symptom tracker requirements will be revised with a continued requirement for partially vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and no requirement for fully vaccinated individuals.

The visitor pre-registration process will be moved with a return to normal operation.

The president said in his letter the changes for Summer 2021 will remain in place for Fall 2021. The updates will be implemented on the main campus effective Aug.



15, 2021, for the start of a new academic year.

The letter further discussed the vaccine requirements for students.

“In addition to the operational updates, which represent both a systematic and thoughtful phased return to normal operations, Radford University is implementing a vaccine requirement for students attending in-person classes and/or activities. This vaccine requirement is effective with the Fall 2021 semester and must be met prior to students arriving on campus or in the area for the start of the semester as any delayed compliance could pose a significant risk to the immediate campus.

“Students enrolled in a fully online program with no in-person engagement or physical presence on campus are not subject to the vaccine requirement as they pose a limited health and safety risk to the immediate campus. Additionally, an exemption process for either a medical or religious reason is available.

“For students, both new and returning, taking Fall 2021 classes, all vaccine-related documentation, either demonstrated compliance or requested exemption, is required by

Aug. 2, 2021. Electronic submissions can be uploaded via a secure Mediat website at <https://radford.mediatconnect.com>. As an alternative submission process, a paper form can be downloaded, completed, and returned to the university. All submissions must be received by the Aug. 2, 2021 deadline.

“Questions regarding the overall process and/or an individual situation can be submitted via e-mail to [vaccine@radford.edu](mailto:vaccine@radford.edu). Additionally, the Dean of Students Office can be contacted at (540) 831-6297 for those needing assistance by phone.”

The letter concluded with the president's statement that “As Radford University faculty and staff model responsible behavior for all Highlanders, especially students, every employee is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated as it represents our best individual and collective defense to the pandemic. Please note that unvaccinated members of the campus community may be subject to required surveillance testing on a reoccurring basis. The university looks forward to its continued efforts to provide engaging and safe experiences in the weeks and months to come.”

## Former Radford City police employee convicted of malfeasance

Robert Andrew Wilburn, who retired as a lieutenant from the Radford Police Department in 2019, has pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of malfeasance in public office and made restitution in the amount of \$2,418.25 to the City of Radford.

In September of 2020, the Radford City Police Department became aware of a discrepancy in funds stored as criminal evidence

in the police department's custody. Radford Police Chief Jeff Dodson immediately initiated a full inventory of the evidence room, a review of all associated records, and an internal investigation.

Questionable transactions were discovered from cases ranging from 2017 to 2019. In October 2020, the internal investigation identified a former

employee as being connected with the financial discrepancies. Chief Dodson then requested the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Salem Field Office to conduct an independent criminal investigation.

The findings of the investigation were then turned over to the special prosecutor appointed to the case. On June 11, 2021,

Wilburn, 52, of Ripplemead, Va., was charged and pled guilty to the one misdemeanor malfeasance count. Upon the guilty plea, Wilburn made restitution to the City of Radford.

Chief Dodson said, “The Radford City Police Department, as a long accredited agency, has zero tolerance for any malfeasance of office, especially when committed by a former employee.

“Situations like this can endanger public trust, but I want to assure our residents that this was an isolated incident and it was the very policies in place that helped us to effectively identify and fully address the evidential discrepancies. The Radford City Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety and service to our city.”

## VT, Radford University among top 10 best values in Virginia

Virginia Tech and Radford University are among the top 10 best-value colleges in Virginia, according to SmartAsset.com.

Virginia Tech is ranked #3 for 2021, which is up one spot from the previous year. Radford University is ranked #8 for 2021, which is two spots higher than the university's last ranking in 2019.

According to SmartAsset's methodology, the company

“looked at five factors to determine the best value colleges and universities in the U.S.: tuition, student living costs, scholarship and grant offerings, student retention rate, and starting salary for new graduates.” Each institution was given a College Education Value Index and ranked based on their index score. Virginia Tech's score was 71.91 and Radford University's score was 43.11



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, June 19:

### Radford Juneteenth Commemoration

Hosted by the RADical Change Commission from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Bisset Park Gazebo. Share stories and hopes as the community gathers to listen and learn. The commission will provide free pizza, ice cream, and drinks, as long as supplies last, and asks participants to bring chairs, blankets, or other seating preferences. The event will conclude with a candlelight vigil to honor the evening shared together.

### MFRL Library closing for Juneteenth

All Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library branches will be closed on Saturday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth. The library will reopen on Monday, June 21.

## Monday, June 21:

### Blood Drive

The New River Health District and the American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Blue Ridge Church, 1655 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. An appointment may be scheduled by calling 540-585-3328.

### Bubble Brigade

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 3 p.m. This is a foam party for all ages with music and games. This free event will be held outside, rain or shine. Participants are encouraged to socially distance and wear masks. Contact spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

## Sunday, June 27:

### The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County NAACP meeting

This will be a general body meeting at 3:30 pm. All are welcome. Dr. Noelle S. Bissell, Director of the New River Health District Virginia Department of Health, will be the guest speaker as she will present an update on the current COVID-19 in the New River Valley, including the status of vaccinations.

Register in advance for this meeting at <http://bit.ly/MRF-NAACPJune>. July is vacation month, and the general body meeting will not be held.

## Monday, June 28:

### Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a special meeting for a tour of McHarg Elementary with the school board meeting in closed session to follow at the

School Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org).

## Saturday, July 10:

### New River Valley Garden Tour

Advance tickets, maps, and brochures for and about the tour are now available at each branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. The cost is \$15. The tour will be held during the hours of 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. rain or shine.

## Wednesday, July 14:

### Radford Library Brown Bag Book Club

The Brown Bag Book Club is getting together again to read and discuss "Follow the River" by James Alexander Thom. The club will meet at noon. No formal commitment is needed, just drop in when the book appeals to you.

## Ongoing:

### Through July 17:

### MFRL Summer Reading Program

The library's summer reading program for kids and teens is easier than ever this year. Par-

ticipants may sign up in person or online and may choose how long they want to read every day. Participants will win a free book when they read for 10 days and will earn a raffle entry for prizes when they read for 15 days.

## Through July 31:

### Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program

Though Saturday, July 31, the Radford Public Library will be running its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win baskets. The summer reading program is a fun way to promote literacy, encourage reading as a healthy habit, and help readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

## Through Aug. 29:

### Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery now has its newest art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," on display. The exhibit features photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonstic Image.

The exhibit will be on display through August 29 and dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the

edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum and there is no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

## Wednesdays through September:

### Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 will continue each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park. This season marks the jam's 10th anniversary.

## 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 Christiansburg Farmers Market will be held at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

# Radford High student awarded Rev. George Ducker Memorial Scholarship

Alice Rin of Radford High School has been awarded the 2021 Reverend George Ducker Memorial Scholarship by New River Community Action (NRCA).

The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior in the New River Valley who has displayed strong leadership ability in academic endeavors as well as in the greater NRV community.

During her years in high school, Rin maintained a 4.0 grade point average while juggling many ex-

tracurricular activities and working at her family business. She participated in the National Honor Society, the Students vs. Cancer Club, the Be the Change Club, track, and the cross-country team, theater, and the marching band. Rin has also received several awards for her artwork.

She also found time to volunteer at area schools. She supervised holiday events at McHarg Elementary, helped students at Belle Heth Elementary design book covers for their short stories, and organized

a food drive for Bobcat Backpacks to donate to local families in need.

Originally from China, Rin moved to the United States with her parents at age 5. She learned English as a second language, which was made more difficult by moving from state to state. She will be the first generation in her family to attend college.

"Throughout high school, I became confident that I want to enrich my life with the wonders of creation and design," Rin said. "In college, I want to be-

come an influential leader with courage and positivity to inspire others."

She will attend Virginia Tech in the fall where she will study design.

The \$1,000 scholarship is given in honor of the Reverend George Ducker, who served the NRV Community as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Radford, as a member of the Radford City School Board, and as a member of the community action board of directors from 1986-1992.

By Tristan Mortensen



RHS senior Alice Rin is the recipient of a scholarship presented in recognition of her strong leadership skills in the NRV and her academic accomplishments.

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Commercial Development Opportunity in Blacksburg VA  
26.7 Acres on Harding Rd, Blacksburg VA 24060



Bidding Opens Aug. 26th & Ends Sept. 9th at 4 PM  
Go to [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)

26.7 acres of open development land in the Town of Blacksburg VA. Within walking distance to downtown Blacksburg & VA Tech. Property has ideal topography for development with 1,365 +/- ft of road frontage on Harding Road. Town water & sewer at site and readily available along with Natural Gas & Gigabit Internet Connectivity. Property is gently sloping and allows for potentially unblocked mountain views from every lot. Property is equally suited for Single or Multi-Family Development, Student Housing, 55+ Active Adult or Retirement Community and/or Private Estate.

There is extensive local & regional public transportation network (Blacksburg Transit) & Smart Way Commuter Bus with direct links to Airport, & Northern VA. Newly approved rail service and Amtrak Station scheduled for 2024. Existing Bus Stop within 100 ft of property. Walkable Community to all convenient amenities.

Download Bidder Pack for Maps, Terms, Zoning, Sample Purchase Contract, sample development plan. Sample Development is not approved & is shown only for illustration purposes of what might possibly be accomplished. Bidders are expected to do their own research and due diligence for their own ideas for intended use approval and feasibility.

**Terms** - Bidding opens on August 26th. 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Buyers are expected to complete due diligence prior to bidding. Earnest Money Deposit of \$150,000 required on day of sale. Close in 60 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 9th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes.

Contact - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at  
540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)

102 S. Locust Street,  
Floyd, VA 24091  
(540) 745-2005  
[VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)  
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Blue Ridge Land  
& Auction Co., Inc

## PETS OF THE WEEK



Most of sweet Belle's kittens have found homes. Now it's her turn to find her purrfect match. She has been a resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center since the end of April. She is a younger cat who is curious and gentle. She enjoys yummy treats and doesn't mind being held or carried.



Lakin is looking to sniff out her forever home. She was found wandering solo on a local hiking trail. It's unclear how long she's been on her own, but she's a bit slender and will need to put on some weight. Lakin is a little skittish and will need some caring humans who can show her that life can be filled with love and joy.

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

[ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)

# Leadership change announced at Radford's NRV Disability Resource Center

Barbara Clark, who is currently serving the New River Valley Disability Resource Center as its independent living coordinator, will step into the role of the organization's executive director effective July 1.

She will succeed Frank Hayes, who is retiring on June 30.

The disability resource center relocated to Radford in May.

After a nationwide search, Clark was chosen "for her extensive knowledge about and passion for the consumer-driven, life-improvement-focused work at which the NRV DRC excels," said Crystal Hypes, the chair of the center's board of directors.

"With the launch of our new strategic plan and Ms. Clark at the reins, the NRV DRC is sure to make an even greater impact in the community than is currently felt," Hypes said.

Clark has been with the disability resource center since 2016 when she worked as the organization's community advocate. In December 2017, she was named the center's independent living coordinator. She has nearly 25 years of experience in roles supporting people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

Prior to beginning with the DRC, Clark worked as the great

expectations coach for the Office of Transitional Programs at New River Community College and as the Assistant Coordinator for the Disability Resource Center at Radford University.

The resource center has operated as this area's Center for Independent Living since 2015. The five-person office has sustained delivery of services throughout the pandemic and will continue with best practices as needed due to the known vulnerabilities of their consumer base, according to guidelines from the National Council on Independent Living.

The retiring Hayes has had a long, distinguished career lead-

ing non-profit organizations. He has served as the Controller of Pocahontas Memorial Hospital in Marlinton, West Va., the Administrator of the Virginia Synod Lutheran Home in Roanoke, the Executive Vice President of Virginia Lutheran Homes, the Executive Director of Brandon Oaks Retirement Community, the Executive Director of Greenbrier Valley Hospice in Lewisburg, West Va., the Executive Director of the Roanoke United Methodist Home, and the Program Director of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia. He plans to spend more time with his four grandchildren and enjoy travel-

ing more with his wife, Connie.

The disability center's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to live independently. The center serves the community at large by advocating for and creating an environment accessible to all. The center operates under a strict philosophy of consumer direction. People of all ages with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization.

It serves the New River Valley, which consists of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties and the towns within and the city of Radford. All services at the center are provided free of charge.

## Juneteenth from page 1

cowboys during the colonial period of Mexican history, to laborers in 19th-century California, to marginalized populations at modern-day universities. In these ways, the Juneteenth tradition is inspiring new work in social justice."

To mark the June 19 holiday, here is a recap of the 2020 Juneteenth Scholars' research:

### Brandy Faulkner, assistant professor of political science, Smith Professor of Black Studies

"The deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and similar racial atrocities became a rallying point for many in 2020. Many Black university students became inspired to work toward changes in diversity, equity, and inclusion at predominantly white universities.

"We saw many students and student organizations put out lists of demands to university administrators, but I wanted to see the results," said Faulkner, a collegiate assistant professor of political science and the Gloria D. Smith Professor of Black Studies. "How did administrators respond? Were the students effective? Often underrepresented students feel isolated. Did they connect with the broader community? Was it supportive? Did the students get the help and the resources they needed to be successful?"

These were the questions Faulkner researched. After studying lists of student demands, she found commonalities across the universities, including Virginia Tech, Penn State, and the University of Missouri.

"Students want better recruitment efforts," she said. "They want to know what universities are doing to recruit underrepresented students. They want more faculty who look like them. The students perceive that by not having access to Black faculty, for example, something is missing."

### Andrea Baldwin, associate professor of sociology

Andrea Baldwin's Juneteenth Scholars project also involved studying predominantly white universities and the impact of their diversity and inclusion policies on those with minoritized and marginalized identities. In her research, she examined the colonial history of the university, including a decade of orientation policies and practices, particularly those geared toward inclusion and diversity.

She found that these policies often portray how the marginalized and minoritized feel in and about the university in a way that is different from those who are white. She said that although universities such as Virginia Tech acknowledge their controversial histories and take actions, such as listing preferred pronouns on student name badges and denouncing land and labor exploitation, these aren't enough.

Today, institutions such as Virginia Tech, Baldwin said, are in a nebulous place as they navigate the establishment of inclusion and diversity policies and programs while trying not to create dissension within its majority. There is still much work to be done, she added, and she cautions universities to be careful not to continue to alienate their minoritized and marginal-

ized populations.

### Desirée Poets, assistant professor of political science

Veering away from the world of higher education, Desirée Poets, an assistant professor of political science, focused on social justice and collective memory issues far south of the U.S. border. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when disinformation became a widespread issue, community museums and community-run newspapers in Rio de Janeiro provided needed support, unrivaled by the government, to the people in working-class and informal neighborhoods known as favelas.

"Community museums became important in community communications, starting campaigns that were also sometimes artistic on how to raise awareness on pandemic-related concerns, especially toward working-class communities," Poets said. "And the larger museums also became distribution centers for hygiene kits, food, and basic needs for the residents.

Community-run newspapers also played a major role in disseminating crucial information to the public, in ways that were easily discernible to their audiences. With a team affiliated with the Institute for Policy and Governance's Community Change Collaborative, Poets investigated how two community newspapers, Fala Roça in Rocinha and Maré Online in the Maré favela complex, supported their respective communities during the pandemic.

"The community museums and newspapers demand citizenship rights and the services that Brazil's Constitution promises to their communities," Poets said. "It's a natural continuation of social justice-oriented collective memory initiatives, which are all about how the past informs what we think about the present, and then, how the future will look. For these groups, collective memory has always been a space and an agent of social change. That they're taking on this more explicit role now, just makes sense."

### Amaryah Armstrong, professor religion and culture

## Donate Blood In Memory Of Mark Stewart



Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

### Blood Drive Professional Rehab Associates, Inc.

Bloodmobile  
1200 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA

**Friday, July 9, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS  
(1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org  
to schedule an appointment.



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Amaryah Armstrong's Juneteenth Scholars research included two projects: one pertaining to racial ideas of fetal personhood and the other on the apocalyptic political theology of W.E.B. Du Bois as a way to imagine Black futures beyond current forms of white supremacy. Du Bois, a sociologist and writer, was a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909 and the first Black man to earn a doctorate from Harvard University.

In the fall of 2020, Armstrong, an assistant professor of religion and culture, published "Surrogate Flesh: Race, Redemption, and the Cultural Production of Fetal Personhood" in the Journal of Ecumenical Studies.

"The paper looks at how Christian theological ideas shape racial ideas of fetal personhood," she said. "There's an increasing use of images of Black children and babies in anti-abortion billboards and advertisements to support a notion of fetal personhood. But this idea of fetal personhood is often used to criminalize pregnant persons, especially Black pregnant persons. So, I'm trying to understand two things.

"One, how does the use of these images displace the threat of anti-Blackness from white supremacist violence to Black wombs and Black reproductive justice? And secondly, how do these advertisements and images rely on Christian ideas of redemption and damnation to position anti-abortion advocates as saving Black people and children from the threat of Black reproductive freedoms?"

### Allan Lumba, assistant professor of history

Allan Lumba is using the current national calls for diversity, equity, and inclusion to inspire his Juneteenth Scholars research. He is studying the history of public perceptions of early California migrants during the late 1800s and how these shaped ideas of the individual's rights regarding work and labor.

"We looked at what we would consider white presses, publications such as newspapers that were run by white owners and white journalists," said the assistant professor of history. "There

were anxieties over newly freed Black people coming from the South. Chinese migrants were traveling across the Pacific to work in the mines and laundries. Mexican Americans were the ones who owned the land in California before being displaced. And of course, there were the indigenous people."

According to Lumba, the perception was that these marginalized populations were stealing jobs from white free workers. This was in opposition to holding corporations and employers accountable for hiring lower-wage workers.

"Words like coolie pop up," he said. "Interestingly, coolie, meaning in a pejorative way, a worker who steals jobs — low-paying, wage labor that was closer to slavery than free labor. And so within the public perception, those with the label of coolie, usually Chinese workers, were the new form of slave system."

### Edward Anthony Polanco, assistant professor history

Weather-worn men, with hats tilted down on their foreheads, riding off into the sunset on their trusty steeds is a stereotype, but in this case, the cowboy is Black. And such were those who roamed southcentral Mexico during the colonial period of Mexican history.

Edward Anthony Polanco, an assistant professor of history, found evidence of the cowboys' associations with other indigenous and mixed-race people. They all used Native and entheogenic substances whose hallucinogenic properties were thought to release the God within.

"I was most shocked by finding evidence of Black cowboys in southcentral Mexico who used herbs and roots to avoid falls and injuries while riding horses and bulls," he said. "The Black cowboys acquired these products from Native specialists who had been using these plants and herbs to avoid injuries for a long time."

Through his research of 17th-century documents

from Mexico, Polanco found that Native, Black, and mixed-race people worked together and against each other as they negotiated their positions in colonial society. Those documents had a common thread — many of the Black communities used these Native plants.

### Lucien Holness, assistant professor of history

Before Black communities in Texas celebrated their first Juneteenth, another historic date heralded hope for freedom from slavery. According to Lucien Holness, an assistant professor of history, West India Emancipation Day was a beacon of hope for free and enslaved Black Americans. Celebrated on August 1, it commemorated the abolition of slavery in the British Caribbean in 1834.

Traditional Emancipation Day festivities often involved the marching of Black militias in uniform. And this is where Holness's research for his Juneteenth Scholars project begins.

"This project looks at African Americans in militia companies in Massachusetts," he said. "During the 1850s, Northern Blacks, freeborn and formerly enslaved, sought to establish their own independent military companies."

Holness chose Massachusetts because it was the site of the most sustained campaign to form a militia company in a place where the commonwealth's law

prohibited Black men from serving in such enterprises.

"Because of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, people feared being taken back into slavery," he said. "So these militia companies were important institutions within Northern Black communities that stood against Southern slave catchers and slaveholders, who were entering these Northern locations, now empowered by the law to capture African Americans, some escaped slaves, some not. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act made all that much easier."

The petitions and efforts to change the militia law were unsuccessful until the Civil War.

"Many African Americans did establish their own militia companies, however," Holness said, "and they drilled in public spaces where they could get the ire of whites. It was a very dangerous thing to do, to have young Black men under arms, parading through these Northern urban centers, which could arouse a violent reaction from a local white population. So, seeing this militancy not just as a response to the Fugitive Slave Act and protecting communities, I believe it may have been the beginning of a war for liberation, a war for emancipation."

Written by Leslie King

## KIDS BOWL FREE ALL SUMMER

**2 FREE GAMES OF BOWLING A DAY THIS SUMMER**

To register your child for free games, go to [www.KidsBowlFree.com/NRV](http://www.KidsBowlFree.com/NRV)

**Safe, Fun Environment all Summer**  
**No rain, no heat - just fun**

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

• Life Center of Galax •

# Job Fair

Galax Public Library

**Many open positions!**

<b>June 25</b> 3pm – 7pm	<b>June 26</b> 10am – 3pm	<b>Community Room</b>
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**610 W Stuart Drive**  
**Galax, VA 24333**

Open Interviews for:  
RN/LPN, BHA, Counselors, Dietary, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Security, Intake, and Reception

276-236-2994

# OPINION

## Buddy King: Father's Day and standing on the shoulders of two generations

As Father's Day approaches, it dawns on me that I have not written a column on the topic. I did write one piece on the single word I would use to describe my Dad; that word was "serious."

I chose that adjective not because my father wasn't fun or didn't have a sense of humor. He was and he did at the right time and in the right place. But he took his responsibilities and his life seriously - family, church, citizenship - in a way that I don't think people do these days. I truly think that he wanted and lived a "purposeful" life, and that the purpose extended well beyond his own life.

This made me start thinking about how fortunate I have been and how far families can come in a few generations.

My father's father was Charles Millard King. I barely and only very vaguely remember him. He was small and bald and didn't have his real teeth and looked like so many men of that time who

were fortunate to live as long as he did. He died at age 78 when I was almost six years old. He had that gaunt, tired look of an old man who had worked hard his whole life and was tired and ready to lie down and rest.

He had fathered nine children and supported and helped raise them along with his wife, Virgie Mae, first in a house with no running water in a hollow in a place called Pilot, later from a modest home on Craig Street in Christiansburg. I remember the home on Craig Street mainly for the chicken coop in the backyard and a small pasture where my grandparents usually had a horse or two and a cow. Buy short and sell long I think, within walking distance of the Christiansburg stockyard. They owned no car, ever.

My own father was the oldest of the nine kids and his twin brothers came along two years later. I shudder to think what their life was like in those early years in that hollow in Pilot. Grandfather

Charlie worked a variety of jobs to keep the wolf away from the door (probably literally in those days in that part of the county). He was a mechanic and a carpenter and a handy man and a millworker and a coal miner at different times.

My father told me that his dad would get on the train and go live in coal camps in southern West Virginia and send money back home when things got really bad. No wonder he looked tired and rarely had much to say and never seemed to smile. He was simply worn out, and I think he looked forward to two things: easier times for himself in the afterlife and better lives for his children and their children.

While I am not in the position to judge about the quality of his afterlife, I think he paid his dues sufficiently to have earned peace and rest. I can say that he clearly succeeded in the second objective. My dad and all three of his brothers graduated from college with various graduate degrees as

well, and all had successful working lives and raised successful children.

All four of the girls were top students, smarter than the boys my dad always said, held back only by the limited opportunities for women of that time. So grandfather Charlie's progeny were provided the opportunities he must have dreamed of when he was working 14-hour days for little pay and little material gain.

My father certainly did not let his dad down and didn't squander his opportunities. He inherited his father's work ethic and sense of purpose and his mother's brains and gift of gab. He worked his way through college, and while he lacked the money to realize his dream of becoming a doctor, he had an almost legendary career as an educator. He also was one of Christiansburg's leading citizens for many years, I think I can safely say, a leader in his work, his church, and his community. A truly purposeful life.

I'm not sure of the right analogy here, but I think it would be appropriate to say that I have stood on the shoulders of Evans Sr., who stood on the shoulders of his mom and dad. They made my life possible and also so very easy compared to what they endured.

Even though my dad has been gone for over 20 years now, I still think of him daily and am thankful that he saw purpose beyond himself. I think he would be very happy to see that my own children have grown into purposeful adults with successful careers and families of their own.

We live in tumultuous times. Values that are considered fixed and traditional by one generation are questioned or even attacked by the next. The passage of time changes perspective. The sands are constantly shifting. But I hope the role and importance of parents in living for something beyond themselves never goes away. This is the time of year we honor fathers. Here's to mine.

## Virginia posts record revenue increase in May

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced recently that total general fund revenues rose 66.2 percent in May, the largest monthly revenue increase in more than 50 years.

The governor also announced the appointment of Joe Flores as Secretary of Finance and Carter Hutchinson as Deputy Secretary of Finance.

More than 85 percent

of the growth in May can be attributed to a return to normal tax filing dates for estimated payments and a shorter extension this year for individual final payments.

May is typically a significant month for revenue collections. In addition to regular collections of withholding and sales taxes, estimated and final payments for individuals are normally due May 1. However, last year the filing date was extended to June 1. This year, the due date for final payments was moved to May 17 to align with the federal due date. To accurately assess growth, data for the entire quarter of April through June will be needed.

"Virginia's economy is roaring back to life thanks to hard work following the science and one of the strongest pandemic responses in the country," said Governor Northam. "New COVID-19 cases are at re-

cord lows, our vaccination rates are among the nation's highest, and Virginians are heading back to work, and these record revenue gains are the result.

"We have a strong team with the right experience," the governor said. "Joe Flores is a highly-qualified, dedicated public servant with a deep understanding of the state budget and a strong background in fiscal policy, and I am confident our economic momentum will continue."

Flores has served as Deputy Secretary of Finance in the Northam administration since January 2018. He has helped lead initiatives like Medicaid expansion and has spearheaded how the commonwealth uses and distributes federal stimulus funds during the pandemic. Hutchinson has served as Deputy Policy Director in the Northam administration since January 2018.

"We have a great deal of important work ahead of us in the coming months to manage the Commonwealth's finances as we emerge from the pandemic and rebuild our economy," Flores said. "I am grateful to Governor Northam for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to serve alongside our strong team in the finance secretariat, including Deputy Secretary June Jennings and the leadership and staff at our agencies."

On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections advanced 17.8 percent, above the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth. Collections in June must total \$0.3 billion to attain the revenue forecast in Chapter 552, compared with June collections in the two years prior to the pandemic of about \$2.4 billion. Collections of payroll withholding taxes grew 13.8 percent in May. Collec-

tions of sales and use taxes, reflecting April sales, grew 37.5 percent in May.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve the commonwealth and the Northam administration, and I have complete confidence that Virginia's finances will be in good hands with Joe Flores at the helm," said Secretary of Finance Aubrey Layne.

On a year-to-date basis, collections of payroll withholding taxes, which account for 62 percent of general fund revenues, increased 4.4 percent, ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth. Sales and use tax collections advanced 11.1 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, ahead of the annual forecast of 4.7 percent growth. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, total revenue collections grew 17.8 percent in May ahead of the annual forecast of 2.7 percent growth.

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## Virginia among states hurt most by European travel ban

The personal finance website WalletHub Tuesday released the results of its survey of the states hurt the most by the European

travel ban, and Virginia was on the list, coming in at No. 21.

As the website noted, the summer travel season is approaching, and in a typical year, many states would expect the arrival of tourists from all across Europe from the United Kingdom to Sweden. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of the UK, Ireland, and European Schengen area have been barred entry into the country. States will need to account for billions of dollars in economic losses as a result.

According to WalletHub, the European travel ban is not specifically correlated with the COVID-19 incidence rate. The U.S. is banning 31 European countries that have a low or extremely low incidence rate. How-

ever, it allows entry from at least 27 countries with equal or higher incidence rates than the highest incidence rate registered in one of the 31 European countries. In addition, some countries whose residents are allowed to enter the U.S. are in the midst of a new wave of the pandemic, such as Argentina and the U.A.E.

While the U.S. will be hurt economically by the lack of European tourists, not all states will be impacted equally. To determine the states hurting the most from the European travel ban, WalletHub calculated the potential monetary losses based on the number of inbound tourists to each state alongside their total spending and compared the result to each state's gross domestic product (GDP).

Only 28 states ap-

peared in the rankings. The other states were not ranked because of their marginal impact from the European countries: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming. However, the website points out, they may be impacted by the travel ban on other countries including China, India, and South Africa.

Affected the most by the European travel ban, according to WalletHub's survey, were Nevada, the District of Columbia, New York, Florida, Hawaii, Utah, Arizona, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and California.

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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59					60			61			
62					63				64		

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. \_\_\_ Dhabi, Arabian capital
  4. Invests in little enterprises
  8. Stalk of a moss capsule
  12. Beach material
  14. Maneuver in a game
  15. A castrated male chicken
  16. Write bad checks
  17. Sewer inhabitants
  18. Farewell (Spanish)
  19. Player makes 3 goals in one game
  22. Greek rainbow goddess
  23. Tax collector
  24. Make unhappy
  27. Hygienic
  32. Double-reed instrument
  33. Beetle Bailey's dog
  34. Fee, \_\_\_, foe, fum
  35. One dish meal
  38. Goatlike antelope
  40. Consumed food
  41. Peels
  42. Emerald Isle
  43. Duties helpful to others
  45. Fragments of cloth
  47. Frozen river
  48. Spanish river
  49. Stated an inquiry
  56. Laid-back California county
  57. Fearless and daring
  58. Sound after its source has stopped
  59. Blackboard rock
  60. A domed or vaulted recess
  61. Six (Spanish)
  62. French city
  63. Herringlike clupeid fish
  64. Oriental sauce
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Requests
  2. Spoken in the Dali
  3. Up to the time of
  4. Common ankle injury
  5. Tedium
  6. 9th Greek letter
  7. Abnormal closed body sac
  8. One who obtains pleasure from other's pain
  9. Long narrative heroic poem
  10. Possessed by force
  11. Autonomic nervous system
  13. Treats with contempt
  15. Bears
  20. Before
  21. Light ringing sound
  24. Blends of soul and calypso
  25. Fall off in intensity
  26. Fungus medicine
  27. Gross receipts
  28. Square measures
  29. Ablaze
  30. Incapable of flexibility
  31. Bears, sheep or goats
  33. An open skin infection
  36. Effeminate
  37. Competed in a speed test
  39. Supplies with air
  44. Short stays
  45. Sown a lawn
  46. 60 min. units (abbr.)
  48. Second largest Oklahoma city
  49. Fence picket
  50. 2nd largest Algerian port city
  51. Camel or goat fabrics
  52. 19th Hebrew letter
  53. Frosts
  54. 17th state
  55. Inquisitorial
  56. Manuscripts (abbr.)

## Financial Focus: How should investors respond to inflation?

For more than a decade, inflation has been essentially dormant. In recent months, though, economists have expected an uptick but were still surprised by the sharp jump in the April Consumer Price Index (CPI), which rose 4.2% from a year ago. As an investor, what can you expect if we do enter a more inflationary environment?

First, it's useful to understand the main causes of the recent spike in prices. Part of the explanation is simply a result of increased economic activity in the spring of 2021 over the same period a year ago when prices collapsed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. And this reopening of the economy has also resulted in a surge in demand for

travel-related services such as hotels, airfare, and rental cars. Another contributing factor is a widespread shortage of manufacturing materials that have limited production and driven up prices for an array of consumer goods.

Will this inflationary pressure continue? It's not

See Inflation, page 5

# Lt. Col. Russell Jones takes helm at Radford Army Ammo Plant

Lt. Col. Russell A. Jones recently took command of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, succeeding Lt. Col. Anthony J. Kazor, who had been commander since June 6, 2019.

The ceremony was broadcast live via Facebook, and distinguished guests, family, and friends were in attendance. Social distancing was observed, and COVID-19 measures were explained prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

"We welcome all friends, family, past commanders of RAAP, co-workers, and distinguished guests," said Ken Diloia, the risk management team chief and the narrator for the ceremony.

Maj. Rod Gilliam, the U.S. Joint Munition Command chaplain, delivered the invocation, following the entrance of the official party.

During the ceremony, red roses were presented to Kazor's wife, Katie, in appreciation for her support during his command. Pink roses were presented to Kazor's daughter, Ashleigh, and a Radford Challenge Coin was presented to his son, Brendan, for their support of the army family.

Yellow roses were presented to Jones's wife, Stephanie, welcoming her to the command team. Roses were also

presented to Jones's daughters, Reese and Harper, and coins were presented to his sons, Noah and Braxton, for their support

"Known as the 'Heart of the Ammunition Enterprise,' Radford Army Ammunition Plant has a long and distinguished history in support of our nation's warfighters," said Diloia. "Team Radford provides America's warfighters with superior performing propellants, energetics, and munitions in order to enable engagement and destruction of targets with total confidence."

Col. Patrick Daulton, Commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal, served as the presiding officer during the change of command ceremony. U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Morrison, the color bearer, led the ceremony as Radford's colors were moved from Kazor to Daulton and then to Jones.

"The good news is I have several pages of remarks here to commend the last two years of Lt. Col. Kazor's accomplishments here at Radford. Unfortunately I have misplaced my reading glasses, so this will be an abbreviated version," said Daulton, who welcomed both the Kazor and Jones families who traveled for the ceremony.

"I would like to thank you for joining us today. I know the pride you must feel as we celebrate the Kazor Family's place in Radford's history," Daulton said.

Daulton also acknowledged Jones's family. "I'm so glad you could all be here today to celebrate as we formally pass the responsibility and authority for Radford's mission from one commander to the next," he said. "I am humbled to be here with this great workforce and supportive community. I'd also like to pass on my thanks to the Radford workforce and welcome Lt. Col. Jones and his family to this community."

The commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal commended all the Radford employees who have operated in the COVID-19 environment. "Well done Anthony and Team Radford. It hasn't always been easy during this challenging time," said Daulton. "I know all of you here will provide the support, technical expertise, and candor to enable Lt. Col. Jones to lead this amazing team and ammo plant."

Kazor remarked about how fast two years goes by. "It is truly amazing the accomplishments Team

See **Ammo Plant**, page 6



From left, Pine Bluff Arsenal commander Col. Patrick Daulton, incoming Radford Army Ammunition Plant commander Lt. Col. Russell A. Jones, and outgoing Radford Army Ammunition Plant commander Lt. Col. Anthony J. Kazor stand at attention during Radford's change of command ceremony.



Lt. Col. Russell A. Jones, his wife, Stephanie, daughters Reese and Harper, and sons Noah and Braxton pose for a photo following the Radford Army Ammunition Plant change of command ceremony.

## New River Health District COVID-19 update: cases remain very low

Dr. Noelle Bissell, director of the New River Health District, addressed the media Wednesday and provided an update of the district's COVID-19 status, the gist of which is that cases remain very low, in single digits even.

The director said she expected the low numbers to continue through the summer. "With vaccinations and precautions, we can keep these numbers down," she said. She urged everyone to "enjoy the weather and spend more time outdoors. Wash your hands. Stay home if you are sick."

"Those who aren't vaccinated should avoid the 3 C's: crowded places, closed spaces, and close contact," Dr. Bissell advised. "We are thrilled to have such low numbers, but COVID-19 has not been totally eliminated. We do continue to test, mainly symptomatic individuals. Those who test positive are still asked to self-isolate for 10 days; those

who are not vaccinated and have had close contact with a COVID positive individual are asked to self-quarantine for 10 days (or 5-7 days with a negative test). Those who are vaccinated and have contact with a COVID positive individual should monitor for symptoms and get tested/self-isolate if symptoms develop.

"With such low disease prevalence, asymptomatic testing can yield false positives," Dr. Bissell said. "The less encouraging news is that the pace of vaccinations in the New River Health District has slowed significantly. We have fully vaccinated 14% of our 12-19 year olds; 31% of our 20-29 year olds; 42% each of our 30-39 and 40-49 year olds; 49% of our 50-59 year olds; 60% of our 60-69 year olds and 73% of those 70+ years old. Those with at least one dose are 22%; 38%; 51%/51%; 68% and 80% re-

spectively."

She encouraged those who have received the first dose of Moderna or Pfizer to be sure to complete the series with the second dose for optimal protection.

"One is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the J&J or second shot of Moderna/Pfizer," the health district director said. "We expect that as time passes, more people will decide to get their vaccine, and it is extremely easy for them to get it. You can go to vaccines.gov and find a vaccine available near you through a pharmacy like Food City, Kroger, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, or CVS. That is the most convenient way for most people to get vaccinated, as they can make it during a routine outing."

"New River Pediatrics, Blacksburg Pediatrics, and Children's Choice all offer vaccine," she said. "You can also come to regularly scheduled clinics

through the health department or one of [the district's] pharmacy partners. Christiansburg Pharmacy is vaccinating every Thursday at the Christiansburg Farmer's Market from 4 to 7 p.m. And the Giles County and Montgomery County Health Departments are having vaccine clinics at their offices every Friday morning, from 8:30 to 10:50 a.m.

"Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Martin's pharmacies offer all of the vaccines, as does the Pharm House. Radford Drug, Davidson's, and Main Street Pharmacy offer Moderna and J&J."

Dr. Bissell suggested that those seeking vaccination should call and confirm which vaccines are available at the location/time preferred.

"We also continue to do outreach events," the health director told the media. "On

Saturday, June 19, we will be at the Juneteenth Celebration in Floyd at the Warren G. Lineberry Community Park from 10 a.m. until noon. Saturday afternoon, we will be at the Christiansburg Institute from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

"The number of people getting vaccinated at these events is small," Dr. Bissell said, "but we continue to do everything we can to make the vaccines available and convenient because every single vaccine we can deliver is an important step towards protecting individuals and our community. About 150 J&J vaccines were given by the VDEM mobile units throughout the district. Sixty-seven Pfizer and J&J vaccines were given at the Giles festival this past weekend. "Vaccinations truly are the light at the end of the tunnel for COVID," the health director concluded.

## Inflation

from page 4

easy to make predictions of this nature, but, for now, the Federal Reserve seems to believe the recent price hikes are temporary, and, as a result, will continue its policy of keeping interest rates low. But a few more months of higher-than-expected inflation could change the Fed's view and its actions.

In any case, how should you as an individual investor respond to even the potential threat of rising prices? You'll need to keep in mind that inflation affects different types of investments differently. Consider fixed-income securities such as

bonds, which pay a set interest rate – the coupon rate. Because rising inflation erodes the value of a bond's future income, bond prices typically fall during inflationary periods. This is particularly true of longer-term bonds, due to the cumulative effect of the lower purchasing power. On the other hand, stocks – especially those of larger companies – tend to do well during inflationary periods, which might not be that surprising, considering that a company's revenue and earnings may increase at a rate similar to that of inflation. Of

course, "stocks" is a broad term, and some industries will do better than others when inflation is on the rise.

Even if inflation keeps advancing, you may not want to make significant changes to your investments. For example, although their prices may fall, bonds can still be valuable assets, since they can help reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. And if you've already got a good mix of stocks appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, there's probably no need to shake things up.

Here's one more thought to keep in mind about inflation: It serves as a reminder that you'll always need to have a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to avoid losing purchasing

power. As we've seen, inflation won't always be in hibernation.

Ultimately, your own actions and decisions will determine your success as an investor, but you'll still want to be aware of how a development like inflation

can affect the economy and the financial markets. If we are entering territory we haven't seen in a while, it pays to stay alert.

Submitted by Meghan Kuczmarzski, Edward Jones Financial Advisor 540-552-1241.

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# Ammo Plant from page 5

Radford has made in this time,” he said. “It seems like we have as a nation lost an entire year with the pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted the resiliency and dedication of Team Radford. We completed the mission every day.” He said when he first arrived that the completion of the construction of the new nitrocellulose facility seemed an impossible milestone. “Today construction is complete and final walk-throughs are occurring,” Kazor said. “The start of the commissioning activities is well underway and the next

step is to start running product through. This groundbreaking facility is truly impressive and marks the beginning of major modernization efforts at Radford.” The outgoing commander of the ammo plant thanked his fellow commanders across the Joint Munition Command. “I’d like to thank Col. (Gavin) Gardner and Col. Daulton. Thank you for your trust and confidence in me, and my abilities,” he said. “Thank you for your support and freedom to truly command Radford. Your support, leadership, mentorship,

coaching, and teaching are appreciated, and are examples of what true leadership is.” Kazor expressed thanks to his entire staff. “Thank you for your awesome work, dedication to duty, and excellence each one of you displays day in and day out,” he said. I have said it since day one, I am amazed at the multiple hats you wear and the high level of professional work that you do. You have made my job here at Radford easy.” He said he will miss the job, the team and the area. “The New River Valley is an amazing place with

so much to offer if you are willing to break away from the pavement,” said Kazor. “I thank everyone who directly and indirectly supported Team Radford over the years and those who will continue to support us into the future. Serving as the commander has been the honor of my career.” Incoming commander Jones thanked Daulton and the Joint Munitions Command senior leadership for the command opportunity. “I’m humbled by your trust and confidence,” he said. “I will work hard to maintain it.”

Jones thanked the New River Valley community for their warm welcome. “The beauty of this area and the local charm are unparalleled,” said Jones. “I’m proud to be part of this amazing tradition and look forward to continuing to foster the teamwork here at the plant, and building partnerships within the community.” A reception for Jones and his family followed the change of command ceremony.

*Story by Rachel Selby*

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

A	B	U	S	B	I	C	S	E	T	A			
S	A	N	D	P	L	O	Y	C	A	P	O	N	
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## Free renter education workshop offered Wednesday

A free renter education workshop will be presented Wednesday, June 23, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Radford New River Community Action, 100 E. Main St., in Radford. The workshop is for tenants or anyone considering renting, especially college students. The following points will be discussed at the workshop: 1. Are you ready to rent? 2. The steps to renting 3. The ins and outs of credit 4. How to find the right place. 5. Handling the application process 6. Under-

standing the application process 7. Getting back your security deposit 8. Housekeeping, maintenance, and repairs 9. The right way to terminate a lease 10. Utility savings tips 11. Fair housing and eviction laws. The workshop is designed to help anyone learn the key elements and skills to be a good tenant and a good landlord. Interested attendees should contact Leigh-Anne Hall at 540.633.5133 extension 417 or email lhall@nrca.org. Prospective attendees should register at least one

day in advance, though registration is preferred but is not required for attendance. The two-hour workshop discusses the expectations of landlords and helps attendees learn their rights, responsibilities, and good practices, such as how to check their credit score and how to improve it. Class facilitators will do a budget in class and will present scenarios about how to make tough choices in tight months. The workshop will help people learn where their money

goes and help them make sure that rent is a top priority. Applicable to anyone learning about renting, the workshop also covers good management practices and energy-saving tips. The workshop will teach attendees how to save money on their utilities by doing simple things like remembering to turn off the lights, hanging clothes on the line, and cleaning the coils on the refrigerator. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded.

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip’s Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, 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.sttof.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.fbcradford.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.

### 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

### I Need Help

Read Psalms 11:1 through 18:50

Many of the Psalms are full of praise to God. We sometimes visualize David as peacefully strumming a harp as he quietly watches a flock of sheep grazing on a grassy slope. Psalm 13 presents a different picture.

David apparently had doubts, troubling thoughts, and enemies. Things did not always go well for him. In the first part of this psalm, David, in authentic transparency, expressed some real concerns. He apparently had enemies who were getting a little too close for comfort. The amazing part is how, in spite of the chaos around him, David made a decision to trust God.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation (Psalm 13:5).

Everything does not always go well for us either. We face challenges that seem overwhelming, and we do not always see a clear path through the jungle of everyday life. But God is our Source of help, and we can trust Him to get us through!

Prayer Suggestion: Father, I do not feel up to the task that is before me at times, but I have decided that I will trust You.

Quicklook: Psalm 13:1-6

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at 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. 540-639-2671.

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry Christopher (540) 552-7194. 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

### 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. 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. **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.



# RADFORD SPORTS

## Thirteen Hokies qualify for Olympic Trials

Wednesday morning, 13 Virginia Tech athletes confirmed their selections to the USA Track & Field (USATF) Olympic Team Trials. Five current athletes, six alumni, and two assistant coaches qualified for the meet and will compete among the nation's best athletes for a chance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The current VT athletes selected were Rachel Baxter, pole vault; Cole Beck, 100 Meters; Chauncey Chambers, triple jump; Essence Henderson, shot put, discus throw; and Fitsum Seyoum, 300m steeplechase.

The VT alumni selected were Vincent Ciattei 2018, 1500 meters; Queen Harrison-Clay 2010, 100m hurdles; Hanna Green 2017, 800 meters; Drew Piazza 2017, 800 meters; Jordan

Roach 2016, discus; and Deakin Volz, 2019, pole vault.

The assistant coaches selected were Willy Fink, 5,000 meters, and Bridget Guy, pole vault.

The USATF Olympic Team Trials run from June 18 until June 27 at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene. To book a ticket to Tokyo as part of the USATF team, an athlete must finish in the top three and achieve the Olympic standard in their event. The 10-day meet will be broadcast on NBC's networks as part of its Olympic coverage.

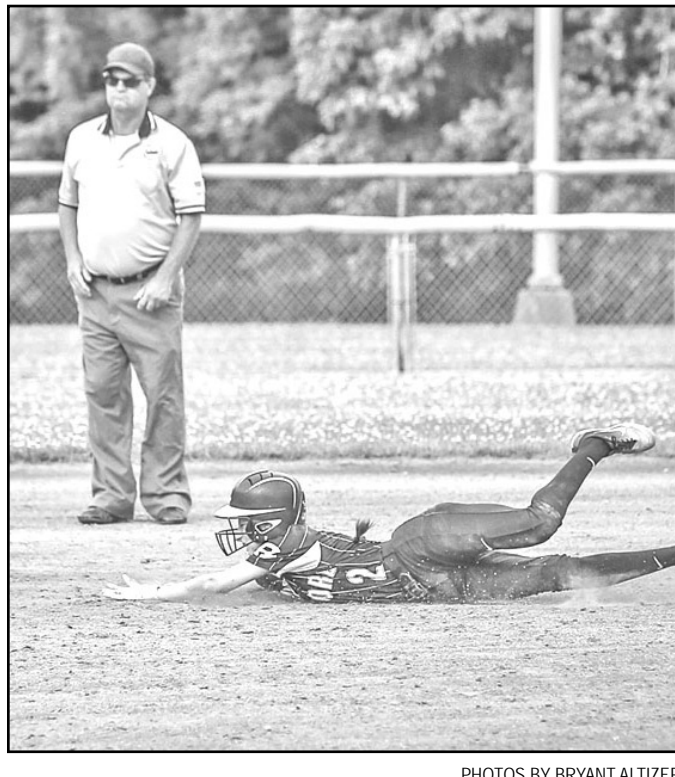
Tech legend Queen Harrison-Clay brings previous Olympic experience to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, having competed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the 400m hurdles.

--VT Athletics

## Radford High softball ends season with loss



Bobcat shortstop Kathryn Price fields a grounder in the team's final regular season game.



Radford's Autumn Howard slides safely into second base in the team's final regular season game. The Bobcats lost 15-2 to James River.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Radford High boys advance in soccer playoffs



Vance Steele fires a shot on goal in the Bobcats' 3-1 playoff win against Chatham.



Radford's Brody Shull dribbles around a defender in the defeat of Chatham.



Parker Prioleau shoots on goal late in the game against Chatham. He had a first-half goal in Radford's win.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Talk of 12-team college football playoffs interesting

The college football environment is about to change, and I don't know yet if it's for the good or the bad. This week, athletic directors from the country's top schools met to discuss the new idea that has been floated of a 12-team playoff system.

There are pluses and minuses of this decision, but through it all, this new plan would transform college football as we know it.

The plan would take the top six ranked conference champions and the next six best as selected by the College Football Playoff Committee.

The teams that are seeded 5-12 meet in the first round of the playoffs after the respective league championship games to determine the four teams that will advance to face the top four teams, which have byes.

Those four quarterfinal games will be held via the bowl sites as would the two semifinal games leading up to the College Football Playoff Championship Game.

Yes, more teams will gain an opportunity to play for the title. But in most instances, those that advance into the playoffs could play as many as 17 games in one season.

I don't see upperclassmen wanting to play in that many games and jeopardize their future in the National Football League. We saw that this past year when several players did not dress for the bowl games. So we will not be seeing teams and rosters that



**From the Sidelines**

Marty Gordon

played well during the regular season.

Strike one for this new plan.

Secondly, old bowl games like the Rose Bowl could lose their luster. Up until now, the west coast game has been between the PAC-12 and the Big 12, creating a rivalry that has stood through time, and somewhere in there is the great Rose Bowl parade and festival. Other bowl games would also lose their original luster.

Strike two for this new plan. I am waiting for strike three to fall.

The positive side of the plan includes increased television viewership, meaning more money for all the schools in the ACC. Another plus is the fact that teams like Central Florida and Coastal Carolina might receive a chance to prove themselves with the big names like Alabama and Clemson.

The 2017 Central Florida team, with its perfect 12-0 record, served as a prime example. The American Athletic Conference Knights were left out of the four-team playoff because they played in a "weaker" (non-Power 5) league. Thus, the top 12 could come down again to "strength of schedule."

Hokie fans are also won-

dering if it will help their favorite team. Well, that can be answered yes and no. In most cases, Tech has not finished in the top four of the final polls. Thus, they would not receive a bye even if they won the Atlantic Coast Conference. But the positive in this mix could give the Hokies a chance to finish in the top 12 and gain a home playoff game.

I can see the cash registers ringing now, and university officials could see as many as seven games in Lane Stadium.

The new playoff system could begin in 2023 and has been three years in the making. The four-team college playoff was introduced in 2014 and has been debated for the past five years with some wondering why we were seeing the same four teams every year.

I like the idea of more teams being included in the playoff picture, but I am not convinced 12 is the answer. Like other sports writers, I have pushed for eight teams, and I still believe that is achievable.

The key to the plan could come down to how many teams are placed in the group from the SEC, the ACC, and the Big 12. In the past, each of these conferences has seen as many as two teams picked for the show.

I do believe it could mean my fav team, Notre Dame, will have to consider coming back to the ACC. One year will not be enough, and the Irish will need to come back to conference play.

## Radford High girls soccer defeats Giles to advance



Radford's Kora Epperly passes the ball to the middle in the Bobcats' 4-0 win over Giles Tuesday in the regional soccer tournament.



Makenzie Page switches direction in front of the goal on her way to scoring one of her three goals in Tuesday's regional tournament win.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

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## Hokie defensive back Chamarrri Conner named to Lott Trophy watch list



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Defensive back Chamarrri Conner led Virginia Tech in 2020 with 81 tackles.

Virginia Tech defensive back Chamarrri Conner is one of 42 players to be named to the Lott IMPACT Trophy watch list.

The Lott IMPACT Trophy is presented annually to the college football defensive IMPACT player of the year. IMPACT is an acronym for: Integrity, Maturity, Performance, Academics, Community, and Tenacity. The award purports to equally recognize the personal character of the winning player as well as his athletic excellence. The award selection is voted on by members of the national media, previous finalists, and the board of directors of the Pacific

Club IMPACT Foundation. The award is named in honor of College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive back Ronnie Lott.

Conner (6-0, 211) started all 11 games for Tech in 2020, leading the team with 81 total tackles (60 solo). An honorable mention All-ACC selection a year ago, the Jacksonville, Fla., native had 3.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, four breakups, four quarterback hurries, and forced a fumble. Conner was recognized twice as the ACC Defensive Back of the Week during the 2020 campaign. He has played in 37 games with 24 starts for the Hokie

ies in his career, totaling 162 tackles (113 solo), 13.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, and three interceptions.

College defensive players are nominated to the list based on the IMPACT on their teams on and off the field. The 42 represents Ronnie Lott's number during his legendary career.

The winner of the Lott Trophy, which will be announced in December, will receive \$25,000 for his university's general scholarship fund.

This is the 18th year for the Lott Trophy, which has donated more than \$1.6 million to schools and other charities around the country.

## Lane Stadium to be at 100 percent capacity for Tech football in 2021

Virginia Tech director of athletics Whit Babcock announced Monday that Lane Stadium will operate at 100 percent capacity for football games in 2021.

Tech Athletics will continue to work within all guidelines mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, in addition to abiding by all health and safety precautions recommended by university and local health officials.

"We are excited to welcome Hokie Nation back home this season," Babcock said. "There is no place else in college football like Lane Stadium when 'Enter Sandman' starts playing and the whole place starts jumping. I know how much our coaches and players missed having that home field advantage last season, and I also realize how anxious our fans are to see the Hokies play in person in

2021.

"We can't wait to see everyone on September 3," Babcock said. "Sincere thanks to our fans for their patience and unwavering support throughout this process, as well as a special thank you to our coaches, student-athletes, and staff who persevered through the challenges of the past year."

Specific health guidelines for all Virginia Tech home events and venues for fall will be announced once all details are finalized.

Tech Athletics also wants to share important ticket-related updates so that fans can make decisions in advance of the fall.

Season tickets are the only way to guarantee seats for all seven home games in 2021 and the chance to renew seats for the 2022 football season.

Demand for new season tickets is higher than it has been in the last few years so fans who have interest in this option should connect quickly with a member of the fan development team.

It is very unlikely that single game tickets to the game against Notre Dame will go on sale to the general public due to the increased demand for season tickets and the Fighting Gobbler Four-Game Package. If some single game tickets are available for Notre Dame, they will be available only to Hokie Club members, pending availability. For this reason, fans interested in attending this game should consider season tickets or purchasing the Fighting Gobbler Four-Game Package (limited quantities remain).

The four-game package is \$300 all-in (including



Virginia Tech Athletics is planning for sold-out crowds beginning with the September 3 opener vs. North Carolina.

a \$25 contribution to the Hokie Club). For comparison, currently the most affordable ticket on

StubHub for the Hokies' matchup with Notre Dame is \$295, meaning that fans can access three

additional games for approximately the cost of one game on the secondary market.

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JUNE 25 Jimmy Parker (Nashville Recording Artist, Country)

JULY 2 Domino Band (Variety and Rhythm & Blues)

JULY 9 Dixie Power Trio (New Orleans Style Jazz)

JULY 16 Groove Kontrol (Smooth Rhythm & Blues)

JULY 23 Gerry Timlin (Irish Folk)

JULY 30 Surrender Dorothy (Rock and Rockabilly)

### >>> CLASSIC MOVIES

THE HISTORIC LYRIC THEATRE, 135 College Ave. Office Hours: Call (540) 951-4771 or visit [www.thelyric.com](http://www.thelyric.com)  
July & August Movies / TBD

### >>> SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Solstice Celebration / JUNE 14-19

Check online for a list of week-long events at <https://downtownblacksburg.com/summer-solstice-blacksburg>

Independence Day Celebration Fireworks / JULY 4, 9:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam / Every Wednesday beginning JUNE through SEPTEMBER, 7-9 PM

Steppin' Out Street Festival / AUGUST 6-7

### >>> ART EXHIBIT

PERSPECTIVE GALLERY, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Squires Student Ctr., Virginia Tech

Hours: Call (540) 231-4053 or visit [www.campuslife.vt.edu/Squires/Perspective\\_Gallery.html](http://www.campuslife.vt.edu/Squires/Perspective_Gallery.html)

JUNE 8-JULY 31 / "Place"(A Juried Exhibit of Work from the Blacksburg Regional Art Association)

Masks are required for individuals who have not yet been vaccinated, as mandated by the State of Virginia.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE



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