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McHarg School renovation moves along through supply chain delays



Radford Superintendent Robert Graham looks over the progress of the McHarg Elementary School renovation project Thursday.



The large floor plan of the new gymnasium can be seen against the backdrop of the worker walking along the far wall of the structure.

Heather Bell
hbell@ourvalley.org

RADFORD – The new and improved footprint of McHarg Elementary School is coming together nicely these days, but supply chain delays have pushed the completion date forward by several months.

On a tour of the site Thursday, Radford City Public Schools Superintendent Robert Graham said the project is moving along well now, but the cost of building materials and months-long delays to get steel and other supplies has made it daunting to say the least.

“Steel was ordered for the gymnasium in December, and it came in in July,” he said. “And the costs are so much higher when you can even get what you’ve ordered. We have these change orders coming in and it’s stressful, but it’s nobody’s fault. Avis [Construction, Inc.] has done a super job working with us.”

School officials have worked with contractors to cut \$1.2 million from the specs of the original project to stay on budget due to the higher costs of building products. Manual shades will replace powered shades in the gymnasium, for example. Additional funds from coronavirus relief funds were also used to supplement the budget.

Graham said the original completion date was slated for this October, but has steadily moved

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School starts Monday for Radford City Public Schools



Calling all Bobcats! School starts in Radford on Monday for half of the students and on Tuesday for the other half.

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RADFORD – Half of Radford City Public School’s students will head back to the classroom this Monday, Aug. 16, and the other half will start the school year on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

On Monday, grades pre-K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 will go to the first day of school. Those grades will not go to school on Tuesday, giving grades kindergarten, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 a chance to have their first day.

“This gives our campuses a chance to focus on half the students at a time for the first day of school,” said Radford Superintendent Robert Graham in a recent interview. “We want things to go as smoothly as possible and be a great experience for our students and our staff.”

A message to school families on rcps.org said, “RCPS is staggering the first day of school to allow students the opportunity to get adjusted to the classrooms, procedures, and schools in a smaller setting.”

That message, along with other information for families, can be found under the “Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year” tab at rcps.org.

The tardy bell rings at 8 a.m. at all schools each day. All grade levels will have two-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, at 12:40 p.m. for all schools. The 12:40 p.m. early dismissals will occur each Wednesday in all grade levels for the entire school year. All grade levels will attend school until 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Open House is occurring at all schools on Thursday, Aug. 12. At McHarg and Belle Heth elementary schools, teachers have made appointments with each family between 3 and 7 p.m. At Dalton Intermediate and Radford High schools, families are invited to Open House from 4 to 7 p.m.

In his interview, Graham said the school board will make a decision about the use of masks in school buildings at its meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 10, which occurred after press time.

Domestic incident results in police shooting

A domestic disturbance in Christiansburg on Saturday night, Aug. 7, resulted in the shooting by a police officer of a male holding a female at knife point.

At about 10:57 p.m., members of the Christiansburg Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of

Gold Drive.

Preliminary information from the scene indicated that upon arrival officers found a man holding a woman at knife point. Officers attempted to negotiate with the male, but he was non-compliant and began to cut the woman. At that point, a single shot was fired, hitting the man, who was subsequently airlifted to Roanoke Memorial Hospital where

he was treated for the injury from his shooting. The woman was transported to LewisGale Hospital Montgomery for treatment of serious injuries sustained in the knife attack.

The Virginia State Police were contacted to conduct the criminal investigation into both the domestic incident and the law enforcement use of force. That investigation remains ongoing.

Touch-a-Truck NRV drives into town Saturday

The New River Valley Home Builders Association will present the sixth annual Touch-A-Truck NRV event Saturday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg, 782 New River Road, in the back parking lot.

For those with sensitive ears, the event will be horn- and siren-free from 10 a.m. to noon.

Children will get to have a safe and hands-on learning experience

by climbing into the driver’s seat and exploring vehicles such as fire trucks, police vehicles, dump trucks, and construction vehicles.

The event will include business and non-profit booths with activities to keep the kids busy, local food trucks, and a raffle for a custom-built playhouse that will be built right on site.

This family event is open to everyone.

Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 per

family ticket (valid for up to four attendees.) Children 2 and under are free. Net proceeds from event ticket sales go towards local trades education programs and the NRV Home Builders Care Fund, which helps to fund scholarships for future construction and trade students, community charitable contributions, and future workforce development initiatives.

To learn about the event’s COVID-19 policies, visit <https://www.touchatrucknrv.com/covid-19>.

To pre-purchase tickets and learn more about the event, visit <https://www.touchatrucknrv.com/>.

Event sponsors and the particular exhibits they sponsor are Big rig sponsor: 84 Lumber, Snowplow sponsors: Gay and Neel, Inc., Meridian Waste, Shelter Alternatives, Inc., and Slate Creek Builders; Bucket truck sponsors: SAS Builders and Chandler Concrete; and supporting sponsors: Aspire Marketing Agency, Affordable Portables, Baseline Solar, Budget Blinds, Draper Aden Associates, ESPN Radio, NRV Macaroni Kid, Shentel, Signarama, the Town of Christiansburg, and Uptown Christiansburg.

Carilion Clinic updates hospital visitation to yellow level restrictions

Effective Tuesday, Aug. 10, Carilion Clinic upgraded its hospital visitation restrictions to the yellow level for all Carilion hospitals.

The upgrade from the green level, the least restrictive, resulted from the hospitals’ monitoring of the level of COVID-19 spread in the immediate community surrounding each hospital. When transitioning from green level to yellow level, the primary change is allowing one visitor per day for adults during an inpatient or Emergency Room stay. (Previously, they were allowed two in most cases.) Other restrictions remain to keep staff, patients, and visitors safe.

The move to yellow level marks the first transition back to a more restrictive visitation policy since earlier this summer. Anyone who is sick may not visit patients in Carilion facilities. All visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering while in a facility. Shared spaces such as waiting areas and cafeterias remain closed.

“This was a tough de-

cision to make, but our top priority remains the safety of our patients, staff and visitors,” said Charlotte Tyson, vice president of Hospital Operations. “We cannot stress enough the importance of our community doing their part by getting their COVID-19 vaccine and masking when indoors to help stop the spread of this deadly virus.”

Carilion officials say they will continue to monitor the situation. Visitation guidelines for each of Carilion’s facilities are assessed weekly to indicate if it is safe to allow visitation. Risk levels are determined by COVID-19 activity in the community and the availability of personal protective equipment and supplies.

The public is encouraged to visit [virginia.gov](https://www.virginia.gov) or [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinate.virginia.gov) to find vaccines near them. Visitors interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine while at Carilion can visit a Carilion retail pharmacy location. Calling ahead is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.



The NRV Home Builders Association will present Touch-a-Truck NRV Saturday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 11:

Brown Bag Book Club
The Radford Public Library's Brown Bag Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a book discussion from noon until 1 p.m. Participants may bring a lunch. This month the group is discussing "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

West End Wednesdays
On the grounds of Glencoe Museum from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Featuring live music, food and merchandise vendors, yoga and more.

Radford High School Boosters Golf Tournament
The 13th annual Radford High School Boosters Club golf tournament will be held at the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech. A shotgun start will begin at 1 p.m.; the format is captain's choice. Proceeds benefit all the athletic teams at Radford High School.

Saturday, Aug. 14:

Fourth Annual Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament

At the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech. The tournament benefits the "Carilion Cares for Children" program providing tuition discounts at the Radford Early Learning Center for families with financial need at Radford Child Development, Inc.

The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 2 p.m. Captain's Choice Foursomes are \$300 per foursome if paid online by Aug. 13 and \$400 per foursome at the door, depending on availability. Prizes include a \$100,000 hole-in-one contest for 10 participants chosen by purchased raffle ticket, a 2021 vehicle from Harvey's in Radford for a hole-in-one, and awards for first-through-fourth-place teams and closest to the pin. The day includes an awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes, and muligans. Register at www.radfordchilddevelopment.org/golf.

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club Fish Fry
Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic

Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The meal will feature single servings of fish, fries and slaw, homemade desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults and carry-outs and \$5 for children under 12. Children under 3 will eat free. Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge will be playing some folk music. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information.

Monday, Aug. 16:

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Golf Tournament
"Swing Fore Persons with Intellectual Disabilities," the 24th Annual Golf Classic at Blacksburg Country Club, will tee off at 1 p.m. following lunch. For more information and to sign up, contact the Intellectual Disabilities Agency at 381-0310 or email sheila@idanrv.org.

Saturday, Aug. 21:

Eastmont Tomato Festival
This free outdoor festival features contests for tomato art and tomato recipes, as well as com-

petitions for biggest, ugliest, and best-tasting tomato. Participants can also don their best tomato-themed outfits to compete in the ever-popular tomato pageant and belly up to become the tomato-eating champion.

Enjoy great food (including fried green tomatoes, BLTs, pizzas, tomato sandwiches and tomato biscuits), live music, games, music, arts and crafts, and much more. At the Meadowbrook Community Center courtyard, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. More information is available at eastmontcf.com, [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eastmonttomatofestival@gmail.com), or eastmonttomatofestival@gmail.com.

Saturday, Aug. 28:

Dialogue on Race 2021 Summer Summit
From 4-5:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Moose Lodge No. 1470, 115 Fairview Rd. NE, Christiansburg. The theme is Student Voices: Reflections on Race and Racism in our Schools. Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event>

Reg?oeidk=a07eib8sml7c5bacc8a&oseq=&c=&ch=.

Triwizard Tri-Mile Trail Race

At Bisset Park, at 9:30 a.m., a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley. Register for the race at www.lvnrv.org/potterinthePark. For more information, call (540) 382-7262 or send an "owl" to info@lvnr.org. Follow <https://www.facebook.com/LVNRV/> for race updates.

Through Aug. 29:

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

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is showing its latest gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images.

The exhibit 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 with no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh

Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 continues each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park.

Simply Elemental Art Exhibit

The Simply Elemental art display in the Hahn Horticultural Garden (on the Virginia Tech campus) is on display through Sept. 30.

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.

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market continues every Thursday through October at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

A bold vision to re-imagine the Virginia Tech residential experience

Virginia Tech's Student Affairs is laying the groundwork for an innovative residential life model that promotes well-being, student success, and inclusion, transforming on-

campus living and making higher education a catalyst for cultural change.

In an article titled "Why Higher Education Should Lead the Well-being Revolution," co-authors Frank

Shushok, vice president of Student Affairs, and Tom Matson, senior executive director at Gallup, state that poor mental health and loneliness are on the rise, that higher education institutions can and should be a catalyst for change, and that a foundation of personal well-being can advance societal well-being.

"It's time for higher education to lead a cultural transformation with well-being as the foundation for advancing the outcomes we desire, not only for our students but also our world," wrote Shushok and Matson.

"One of the things I love about Virginia Tech is that we're brave enough to challenge the structures and practices that were

built for previous generations," Shushok said. "It requires a spirit of innovation, flexibility, and courage to constantly redesign our university for now and tomorrow.

"In Student Affairs, we are committed to do whatever it takes to support the individual success, learning, and well-being of every student," Shushok said. "The well-being of our students is going to take center-stage."

The potential impact of campus residential environments on students is enormous. Almost every undergraduate student at Virginia Tech begins their experience in a residence hall. The habits, patterns, and relationships formed during the first year can significantly influence the trajectory of a student's success.

Using mostly existing staffing and resources to redesign and implement an innovative structure, the new model will integrate Residential Life with Hokie Wellness and create strong partnerships with Cook Counseling Center and Living-Learning Programs. The goal is inclusive residential environments where all Hokies thrive. Five live-in professional counselors will be integrated into the program.

"The time has never been more important," said Amy Epperley, who will become the executive director of Hokie Wellness. "Year after year, we see students experiencing decreasing mental health and

increasing loneliness. We know nationally that college students are struggling and they are struggling at Virginia Tech, too. The global pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges. The data support our understanding that the current model is broken."

A recent Healthy Minds survey indicated that 21 percent of Virginia Tech students have elevated levels of depression. That's about 7,200 students or more than one in five.

That 23 percent of Virginia Tech students have elevated levels of generalized anxiety disorder. That's about 8,000 students or almost one in four.

That just 45 percent of Virginia Tech students reported that they were flourishing ("Flourishing" is a term used by the Healthy Minds survey to determine positive mental health and is a summary measure of a student's self-perceived success in such areas as relationships, self-esteem, purpose, and optimism).

Currently, about 10,000 students reside in on-campus housing. About 6,700 are first-year students. Campus residences include 15 living-learning communities and four residential colleges, which are already having an enormously positive impact on student outcomes. Virginia Tech continues to strive for close to 70 percent of residential students involved in a living-learning program by 2024.

Under the new struc-

ture, the 10,000 on-campus students will become five communities of 2,000, each with a dedicated leadership team and student leaders with expertise in diversity and inclusion, well-being, and student success. Within each community of 2,000 students, there will be peer groups of 150 students.

Opportunities for mentorship, proven vital to undergraduate success, will be emphasized and enhanced by the new structure.

The new model was introduced to Student Affairs faculty and staff in July 2021. In August, the implementation team and working groups are being formed. By January 2022, managing directors for well-being and inclusion and coordinators will be named. Student leaders will be identified in February. Training, programming, and support systems will be in place by May. Embedded counselors will be in place by June. The first cohort of students will move in under the new model in August 2022.

"We have one of the largest Student Affairs units in the country," said James Bridgeforth, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and Experience VT. "These are decisions that shape students' lives, the future of our university, and the future of the college student experience nationwide."

-Written by Sandy Broughton



The focus of the new residential model is well-being for all students. The goal is inclusive residential environments where all Hokies thrive. Photo by Christina Franusich for Virginia Tech.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

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PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each week the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome.



Zak and Dak are two peas in a pod (or two guinea pigs in a plush banana). They are adorable little guys and are estimated to be about a year old. Since they are best friends and love to be together, they will need to be adopted together.



Tucker is a sweet, gentle orange tabby. He will gladly circle his favorite human's legs for a cozy nuzzle. He enjoys affection and tasty kitty treats. One of Tucker's favorite activities is "making biscuits."

Food City awards \$700,000 to area schools



Food City, which has a store locally at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford, will begin on Sept. 1 to distribute

\$700,000 to area schools through its 2021-2022 School Bucks program. Each school year, Food

City's School Bucks program provides \$700,000 in contributions to more than a thousand partici-

pating area schools. "It goes without saying that the past year has certainly been one like no other. Most of our area schools have incurred significant expenses due to COVID-19 and need additional support," said Food City President and CEO Steven C. Smith. "We're pleased to be distributing \$700,000 in contributions at a time when they need it most." The 2021-2022 School Bucks program will continue through May 10, 2022. For every \$1 customers spend using their Food City ValuCard, they will receive one School

Buck point. To have their points credited to the school of their choice, customers should visit foodcity.com/schoobucks to link the Food City ValuCard to the preferred school. Food City has once again pledged \$700,000 for the current school year. School allocations are based upon the percentage of customer purchases assigned to each school, and schools can monitor their progress online at foodcity.com. "Food City is committed to supporting the education of our youth," said Smith. "Since the program's inception, we've

awarded over \$20,000,000 in much-needed educational equipment and tools to more than 1,000 participating area schools." For more information about Food City School Bucks Challenge, contact your local school, visit foodcity.com or contact the Food City School Bucks Coordinator, Lisa Johnson, at 1-800-232-0174. Headquartered in Abingdon, Va., K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City's parent company) operates 137 retail outlets throughout Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, North Georgia, and Alabama.

'Good bugs' play a key role in gardening success

There's no way around it: Insects are unwelcome guests in most people's homes, and some residents go to great lengths to expel creepy crawlers from their dwellings. But in the garden, it's a whole different story. Whatever your definition of "bugs," they are a crucial part of supporting plant growth and acting as pest control, pollinators, and facilitators of soil regeneration. Of the 10 quintillion insects estimated to be living on Earth, about 99% of them provide positive ecological benefits. Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, a Virginia Tech entomology professor, offered a few impartial reviews of insects that some may consider harmful. Bees – Anthophila Pfeiffer's review: "Bees have a very positive role

in the environment, including the role they have with humans. They're good because they pollinate a wide variety of plants. Honey bees, bumblebees, and mason bees are all useful pollinators." Ladybugs – Coccinellidae Pfeiffer's review: "Most ladybugs are predatory, but a couple of North American species feed on plants, such as Mexican bean beetles. They can be very effective in reducing mites and aphids. Ladybugs often hunt in ground cover and in trees. They help control pests on a wide variety of horticultural crops." Praying mantises – Mantidae Pfeiffer's review: "Praying mantises are almost entirely predatory, and they often catch pest insects. However, it's hard

for them to really put a dent in a pest population because they're not all that numerous." Ground beetles – Carabidae Pfeiffer's review: "Ground beetles are an interesting family because they're mainly predatory, but some feed on seeds in the ground. Ground beetles often are good predators of caterpillars, and generally they're good predators of pest insects that spend some part of their life cycles in the ground cover." Vespid wasps – Vespidae Pfeiffer's review: "The vespid wasps, such as paper wasps and yellow jackets, have a mixed role, mostly because people are leery of them because they can sting. Some species are more aggressive than others,



but they're beneficial during most of the growing season because they feed on caterpillars and other pest insects in farm fields." Lacewings – Chrysopidae

Pfeiffer's review: "There are two main families of lacewings—green and brown. Their larvae are entirely predatory, and they're sometimes called aphid lions because they're voracious

predators of aphids. Overall, they can be very effective predators of soft-bodied insects. Some species mainly feed on pollen, but I don't know of any that cause injury to plants."

McHarg

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forward to the current estimate of March 31, 2022. That means McHarg and Belle Heth Elementary schools will remain a combined campus for the entire 2021-22 school year. The new school includes 18 grade-level classrooms and will accommodate grades Pre-k

through second. A new gymnasium, an impressive library and STEM learning area, a lot of glassed areas for natural lighting, and inviting courtyard areas are just some of the features that stand out. Security features are state-of-the-art, and the HVAC system offers high level

filtration and individual classroom temperature control. "I'm so excited to see this finally happening," said Graham, reminiscing about the nearly two-decade process in bringing the project to fruition. "This building will truly allow us to give 21st century instruction

in a 21st century learning environment." Construction began on the original portion of McHarg School in 1956 and was completed in 1957 at a cost of \$443,428. The school originally served first through seventh grades with an enrollment of 360 students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS

This drone photograph, taken in July, shows the new footprint of McHarg Elementary School. The school is currently under renovation and is slated for completion on March 31.

Unbroken: New soft electronics don't break, even when punctured



Current passes through a self-healing circuit. Photo by Alex Parrish.

Want a smartphone that stretches, takes damage, and still doesn't miss a call? A team of Virginia Tech researchers from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Macromolecules Innovation Institute has created a new type of soft electronics, paving the way for devices that are self-healing, reconfigurable, and recyclable. These skin-like circuits are soft and stretchy, sustain numerous damage events under load without losing electrical conductivity, and can be recycled to generate new circuits at the end of a product's life. Led by Assistant Professor Michael Bartlett, the team recently published its findings in Communications Materials, an open access journal from Nature Research.

Current consumer devices, such as phones and laptops, contain rigid materials that use soldered wires running throughout. The soft circuit developed by Bartlett's team replaces these inflexible materials with soft electronic composites and tiny, electricity-conducting liquid metal droplets. These soft electronics are part of a rapidly emerging field of technology that gives gadgets a level of durability that would have been impossible just a few years ago. The liquid metal droplets are initially dispersed in an elastomer, a type of rubbery polymer, as electrically insulated, discrete drops. "To make circuits, we introduced a scalable approach through embossing, which allows us to rapidly create tunable

circuits by selectively connecting droplets," post-doctoral researcher and first author Ravi Tutika said. "We can then locally break the droplets apart to remake circuits and can even completely dissolve the circuits to break all the connections to recycle

the materials, and then start back at the beginning." The circuits are soft and flexible, like skin, continuing to work even under extreme damage. If a hole is punched in these circuits, the metal droplets can still transfer pow-

er. Instead of cutting the connection completely as in the case of a traditional wire, the droplets make new connections around the hole to continue passing electricity. The circuits will also stretch without losing their electrical connection, as the team pulled the device to over 10 times its original length without failure during the research. At the end of a product's life, the metal droplets and the rubbery materials can be reprocessed and returned to a liquid solution, effectively making them recyclable. From that point, they can be remade to start a new life, an approach that offers

a pathway to sustainable electronics. While a stretchy smartphone has not yet been made, rapid development in the field also holds promise for wearable electronics and soft robotics. These emerging technologies require soft, robust circuitry to make the leap into consumer applications. "We're excited about our progress and envision these materials as key components for emerging soft technologies," Bartlett said. "This work gets closer to creating soft circuitry that could survive in a variety of real-world applications."

-By Alex Parrish

game time SENIOR LEAGUE FALL SCHEDULE

Golden Years - Mondays at 1pm BEGINS AUGUST 16TH

Up and At'Em - Wednesdays at 1pm MEETING AUGUST 18TH

Oldies but Goodies - Thursdays at 11:30am BEGINS AUGUST 19TH

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OPINION

Buddy King: The Joe and Carlis show and the summer of 1969

It was the end of summer, 1969, the start of my junior year of high school. It was the summer of Woodstock, the rock concert/bacchanalia in upstate New York that accelerated the end of innocence for the post-World War II era in America.

It was a time when the country was turning more and more against the conflict in Southeast Asia. It was the dog days of August in Christiansburg. For me, it was the time I had been looking forward to since I was old enough to hold a thought. It was the start of high school football practice my first season on varsity.

Like in much of small town America at this time, high school football was almost a religion in Christiansburg. At the least, it was a rite of passage, a way to test and establish your manhood. Many of our fathers, uncles, brothers, and cousins had played, on the same field and for the same school, wearing the same colors. My dad and his brothers, Clyde and Cline, had played for CHS in the early days of high school football in Southwest Virginia.

My cousin Joe had been the star of stars

when I was very young. I often tell the story that when I was brought home from the hospital, one of our neighbors gave my Dad a regulation football to put in my crib for me to sleep with. Ironically, in my two years plus on varsity, I remember touching the ball only once or twice, doing what I did (chase guys with the ball) not requiring that I handle one myself.

So, from early childhood, I felt destined to play for the Blue Demons on Friday nights. I went to the games from a very young age, sitting on the bench between the team doctors when my dad was principal, later in the stands watching the games with my parents. Most boys my age were playing football with paper cups behind the bleachers, but I was watching, learning the difference between the Split T and the Wing T formations, dreaming of my turn.

All of this is not to imply that Christiansburg High had a grand and glorious football tradition.

Compared with most of our New River District foes -- the Blacksburg Indians, the Radford Bobcats, the Dublin

Dukes, the Pulaski Orioles, the Narrows Green Wave, the Giles County Spartans, the George Wyrthe Maroons, the Galax Maroon Tide, and the Carroll County Cavaliers -- we were average at best.

There have been a few glory years of CHS football based on my quick research: the late 1920's and early 1930's when uncles Clyde and Cline were the stars and the team was coached by Bentley Hite (later a very successful lawyer and community leader in Christiansburg) and the team played for a state championship one year; the late 1950's and early 1960's when Cousin Joe scored 40 touchdowns and the team played under iconic C'burg coaches Buddy Earp and Omar Ross (Coach Ross "lost" to Blacksburg 7-7 in perhaps the epic game in CHS history when a win would have won the NRV District for the Blue Demons in 1963); and the early 2010's when the team was led by Brendan Motley (It's between Motley and Cousin Joe as to who is the best CHS athlete of all-time.) and made consecutive runs for the state championship.

The rest of CHS football history is largely marked by mediocrity, with some shining moments. During my years we were known for beating teams we shouldn't

beat and losing to teams we should have beaten.

CHS hired a new head football coach during the spring or summer of my sophomore year, Joe Rusek, a native of the hardscrabble coal country of New Kensington, Penn., a classically tough Western Pennsylvania guy. Coach Rusek became a member of the CHS Emory & Henry Mafia and was fresh off a state championship at Sullivan County, Tenn., about 2 hours down I-81 from us. He had a connection to Christiansburg through his assistant coach Carlis Altizer (another E & H guy and from a classic Christiansburg family of athletes and students).

Our school's Demons Booster Club became aware of the connection and participated in the recruitment of Coaches Rusek and Altizer. To say that they arrived with fanfare and hype does not do the circumstances justice.

This was the era of football in high school, college and pro when the welfare of the players was not the highest priority. It was only about 15 years after the Junction Boys (see the great book by the same name), the survivors of a pre-season camp at Texas A & M, conducted by the legendary Bear Bryant, where players would literally escape and run off in the middle of

the night. So, "tough," "physical," "hard," and "hot" were the orders of the day for most coaches.

Coach Joe Rusek and Coach Carlis Altizer did not fail to meet expectations. This is not to say these were bad men. In fact, all of my coaches were great men and teachers and motivators. It was just the times.

They had been coached hard themselves, learned that life was about effort and hard work, and they wanted to instill these values in their charges. And they wanted to win. I don't remember Coach Rusek ever giving us participation trophies.

The two coaches (I thought of them as Batman and Robin, but never voiced that anywhere within earshot of them) spent the spring and summer of 1969 trying to get every half-way-able-bodied boy in Christiansburg excited about trying out for football. They knew that numbers gave them chances to separate the wheat from the chaff and to see "who really wanted IT." We were always in pursuit of that elusive "IT." I figured we had a lot more chaff than wheat, but what the heck? I was zealously committed to not being chaff. I wanted to show that I wanted IT.

So the coaches, who recruited other coaches

from other sports who weren't otherwise occupied in the fall, put together a staff and coerced and cajoled about 95 boys to come out for the team, which included freshmen and sophomores who would end up on junior varsity. As I recall, we all got helmets and shoes for practice, which started on Aug. 10, the first five days being without pads. I was pretty certain our old locker room didn't have enough pads for 95 players, but I assumed attrition would take care of the problem.

I was right. When preseason ended, at the start of classes, we had around 37 left, as I recall, to field a varsity team and a jayvee team. There had been no cuts, pure attrition. If you wanted IT bad enough you made the team.

These were the days of the infamous "two-a-days." We practiced every day at around 7 or 7:30 in the morning for two and a half to three hours to "miss" the heat and then again around 3:30 or 4:00, presumably to catch it. Coaches Rusek and Altizer were convinced that previous CHS teams had not been tough enough, that they had been soft, particularly the prior season when the team was picked to win the district and went 1 and 9.

See King, page 6

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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New Virginia DMV online payment option saves customers a trip

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) continues to expand its offering of online transactions by adding the ability for credentialed customers to establish a payment plan contract online.

This new online option will enable more than 150 customers per week to skip a trip to DMV and creates additional appointment opportunities for customers who require in-person service.

If customers owe fees as a result of not insuring their vehicles, they may be able to enter into a payment plan to pay the fees over time and continue driving. Since payment plans were established by the General Assembly in 2017, more than 53,000 customers have successfully completed their contracts with DMV.

In Virginia, in order to purchase license plates or register a vehicle (to receive decals), customers must certify that their vehicle is covered by the minimum insurance requirements or pay the Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee.

When customers are cited for driving without vehicle insurance, their licenses are suspended until they comply with the following three requirements: 1) file a Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (SR-22), 2) pay the reinstatement fee, and 3) pay the noncompliance fee up front or enter into a payment plan to pay the fee over time in monthly installments, which may also be paid online.

The suspension action and requirements are the same whether an insurance company reports to

DMV that a customer's liability insurance coverage on a vehicle has terminated or been cancelled during the registration period and the customer has not obtained another policy, or the customer has not temporarily deactivated the license plates or permanently surrendered the license plates.

To avoid a suspension of driving privileges, the requirement to pay the noncompliance fee, and the related requirements, customers must ensure that there are no lapses in insurance coverage for vehicles during their registration period and that they either deactivate or surrender license plates to DMV prior to cancelling their insurance.

For more information on DMV's payment plan program, visit <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#statpay.asp>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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51				52	53	54			55		56	57
			58						59			
60	61						62	63			64	
65						66					67	
68						69						70

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Calls balls and strikes
4. Turkish officer
9. Repaired shoe
14. Grass genus
15. Small, sealed vial
16. Primp
17. Immoral act
18. A tool to communicate
20. Crumbles away
22. Egg-like
23. Districts (abbr.)
24. Dressed
28. Small island (British)
29. Dialect of Chinese
30. Force unit
31. Borderlines
33. Norse gods
37. Morning
38. Fiddler crabs
39. Tell a story
41. Consumed

42. Atomic #58
43. About old Norse poems
44. Fencing swords
46. One-time Tigers third baseman
49. Southpaw (abbr.)
50. Neither
51. Conversations
55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation
58. Cyprinids
59. Appropriate to a festival
60. Pearl Jam frontman
64. Wrath
65. Italian city
66. A way to get there
67. A nose or snout
68. German seaport
69. A horse for riding
70. Airline representative (abbr.)

- CLUES DOWN
1. Unhappy
2. Silk fabric
3. Unbroken view of a region
4. Middle Eastern territory
5. ___ and Andy, TV show
6. Central processing unit
7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
9. Weapon
10. Delivered a speech
11. Probably going to happen
12. Midway between northeast and east
13. Danish krone
19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
21. Fall slowly in drops
24. Bestow an honor upon
25. Childishly silly
26. Related on the mother's side

27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent
32. Tribe of ancient Britons
34. Financial firm Goldman ___
35. Stephen King thriller
36. Went in again
40. Commercial
41. Poking holes in the ground
45. Prisoners of war
47. Pursued pleasure
48. "Seinfeld" character
52. Body of water
53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)
54. People who utilize
56. Nostrils
57. Inner mass of some fungi
59. Honor lavishly
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Turn down
62. Small round mark
63. Expected at a certain time

Financial Focus: The right emotions can be useful in investing

You may have heard that it's important to take the emotions out of investing. But is this true for all emotions?

Certainly, some emotions can potentially harm your investment success. Consider fear. If the financial markets are going through a down period – which is actually a normal part of the investment landscape – you might be so afraid of sustaining losses that you sell even the investments that have good prospects and are suitable for your needs.

Greed is another negative emotion. When the financial markets are rising, you might be so motivated to "cash in" on some big gains that you will keep purchasing investments that might already be overpriced – and since these investments are already expensive, your dollars will buy fewer shares.

In short, the combination of fear and greed could cause you trouble.

But other emotions may prove useful. For example, if you can channel the joy you'll feel upon achieving your investment goals, you may be more motivated to stay on track toward achieving them. To illustrate: You may want to see your children graduate from college someday. Can you visualize them walking across the stage, diplomas in hand? If so, to help realize this goal, you might find yourself ready and willing to contribute to a college savings vehicle such as a 529 plan. Or consider your own retirement: Can you see yourself traveling or pursuing your hobbies or taking part in whatever activities you've envisioned for your retirement lifestyle? If you can keep this happy picture in mind, you may find it easier to maintain the discipline needed to consistently invest in your IRA, 401(k), or other investment accounts.

Another motivating force is the most powerful emotion of all – love. If you have loved ones who depend on you, such as a spouse and children, you need to protect their future. One key element of this protection is the life insurance necessary to take care of your family's needs – housing, education and so on – should something happen to you. Your employer may offer group life insurance coverage, but it might not be sufficient, so you may want to supplement it with your own policy.

Furthermore, you may need to protect your loved ones from another threat – your own vulnerability to the need for long-term care. Someone turning age 65 today has almost a 70% chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This type of care, such as an extended nursing home stay or the help of a home health aide, is extremely expensive, and, for the most part, is outside the reach of Medicare. So, to pay for long-term care, you might have to drain a good part of your resources – or depend on your grown children for financial help.

To keep your financial independence and avoid possibly burdening your family, you may want to consult with a financial professional who can recommend a strategy and appropriate solutions to cover long-term care costs.

By drawing on positive emotions, you can empower yourself to make the right financial moves throughout your life.

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

Record amount donated to Virginia Tech this past fiscal year



New gifts and commitments to Virginia Tech for Fiscal Year 2020-21 passed \$200 million for the first time.

Virginia Tech supporters from around the world combined to give a record \$200.3 million in new gifts and commitments to the university over the course of the 2020-21 fiscal year, which ended June 30.

"We are deeply grateful for the remarkable support we have received from Hokies everywhere," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "Their generosity and engagement inspire us as we seek to advance as a leader in higher education and have a positive impact on communities in Virginia

and around the globe."

Record giving was driven by unprecedented participation by donors, including nearly 12,400 participants in the university's annual Giving Day, as well as extraordinary generosity shown by contributors such as Boeing, which made the largest corporate gift in Virginia Tech history with a \$50 million commitment toward the Innovation Campus.

Thanks to tens of thousands of Hokies who gave, new gifts and commitments to the university increased by 8 percent

from what had been a record total of \$185.4 million in fiscal 2020. And Virginia Tech's undergraduate alumni giving percentage – a key factor in prominent national rankings of universities – increased from 15 percent to 20 percent.

"Nationwide, the percentage of alumni giving to their alma maters has been declining for many years, but not here," said Vice President for Advancement Charlie Phlegar, '78, '87. "We are excited and extremely grateful to have received a record amount of new

gifts and commitments this year while also seeing such a major increase in the percentage of our alumni who give."

Gifts were made by every member of the university's Board of Visitors, the Boundless Impact Campaign Steering Committee, the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, the Virginia Tech Foundation Board, and several other leadership groups across the university.

"Virginia Tech is moving forward at a time of unprecedented challenge," said Horacio Va-

leiras, '80, a tri-chair of the Boundless Impact Campaign Committee and member of the Board of Visitors. "This is a university that prioritizes service in the spirit of Ut Prosim and is eager to take on the complex challenges that will shape tomorrow's world. My wife Amy and I are happy to support this work. It's great to see so many others step up and give as well."

More than \$1 million was given in support of the university's Beyond Boundaries Scholars program, and more than \$100,000 was donated in support of the InclusiveVT Scholarship Fund. Both programs have a university match in place to double the impact of every dollar given.

The fiscal year also saw the launch of Reach for Excellence, the most ambitious campaign ever for Virginia Tech Athletics, with a goal to raise \$400 million overall.

"Hokies are second to none when it comes to caring about their teams," Athletics Director Whit Babcock said. "We deeply appreciate their support for the hundreds of student-athletes whose accomplishments in competition and life raise awareness of our university around the world."

The record year of giving has Virginia Tech on

pace to achieve its \$1.5 billion goal for Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech, which was announced in October 2019 and is expected to run through 2027.

Campaign progress stood at \$850.8 million as of June 30, which was nearly 57 percent of the goal. More than 69,000 Hokies have been involved in meaningful ways since the campaign began, leaving the university well on its way to reach the 100,000 alumni engagement target for Boundless Impact.

"These are tremendous results, particularly when you consider the challenging circumstances we have all faced this past year," said Preston White '63, who serves on the Boundless Impact Campaign Steering Committee and the Board of Visitors and along with his wife, Catharine White, made a \$100,000 matching gift toward the Beyond Boundaries Scholars Program to help attract new donors to that program. "Hokie Nation really stepped forward this past year to support the school we love. I'm thrilled to see this, and I'm excited to see the tremendous, positive impact that all this giving will make going forward."

-By Albert Raboteau

VT issues mandate requiring wearing of masks in campus indoor public areas

In its ongoing effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the growing challenge of the delta variant, and a corresponding rise in cases in communities across the country, and to align with the recently updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Tech will require the proper use of masks by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, when indoors in designated public areas.

As a part of this mandate, the university has instituted an interim requirement for face coverings in instructional spaces at the start of the fall semester. Both instructors and students, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear face coverings in all classrooms

and laboratories when classes begin Aug. 23.

Virginia Tech will re-evaluate this interim requirement later in September after a thorough review of both campus and regional data related to the overall status of public health.

In the case of instructional settings that differ from customary classroom and laboratory configurations, department heads should contact the Office of Emergency Management to determine if any adjustments to the mask wearing requirement may be appropriate.

In addition, all faculty, staff, students, and visitors at all Virginia Tech owned or leased facilities located in communities with substantial or high community transmission are

required to wear a mask in indoor public spaces starting Aug. 10. These include all lobbies, foyers, atriums, hallways, and elevators accessible by the general public, as well as auditoriums, arenas, theaters, museums, concert halls, or other areas used for a performance or an exhibit.

This mask requirement does not apply to private work places, such as any office, work area, or employment meeting space that is not open to the public in the normal course of business.

Similarly, wearing of masks is encouraged but not required in on-campus residence halls because of the lower risk of transmission among a largely vaccinated student community. Wearing of masks is required in public settings

such as dining facilities, when individuals are not eating or drinking.

Masks are not required in outdoor settings at this time.

"Virginia Tech has achieved a high level of vaccine adoption, and we expect that progress to strengthen in the days ahead," said Mike Mulhare, assistant vice president for emergency management. "At the same time, it would be irresponsible to ignore the latest data, science, and public health guidance about the delta variant and the increasing risk it poses to the community around us. By requiring face coverings in public indoor spaces, we

add an additional layer of protection to help us deliver a consistently full and safe experience as we start the fall."

As of last Thursday, 88 percent of all students and 73 percent of all employees have verified they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Students had until Friday, Aug. 6, to submit their vaccine information, and employees have until Aug. 15 to submit their vaccine information.

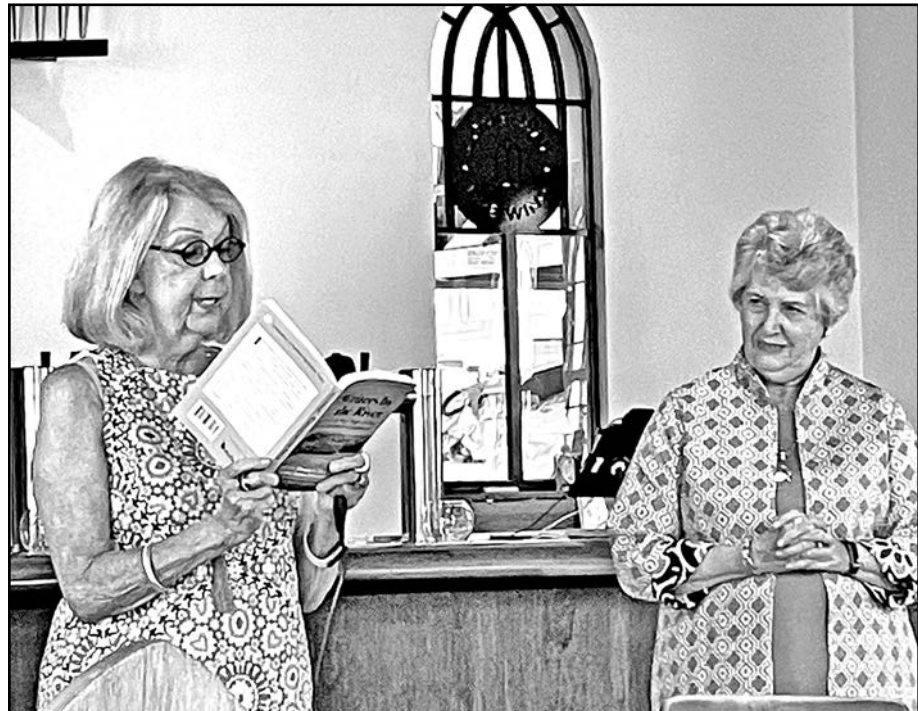
Virginia Tech will permit unit supervisors and their teams to determine mask requirements based on unique work-related circumstances. In such cases, team members should discuss specific

circumstances under the guidance of their supervisor or unit head. The Division of Human Resources and a college or unit human resources professional may also provide additional assistance.

Students with questions may contact the Dean of Students Office (540-231-3787) for assistance.

Any university faculty, staff, or student located in Blacksburg, Roanoke, or the greater Washington, D.C., metro area who is not fully vaccinated is required to participate in a surveillance testing program that will include mandatory testing at an initial frequency of at least once a week.

Radford Rotary guest speakers



Dr. Grace Toney Edwards and Donia Eley were the guest speakers at the weekly meeting of the Radford Rotary Club on July 28. They discussed their creation of the book "Writers by the River: Reflections on 40+ Years of the Highland Summer Conference," a collection of essays that reflect the history of the work of Appalachian writers who have attended this yearly gathering. The authors shared some readings from the book and provided an overview.

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OBITUARIES

Durrill, Preston Lee

Preston Lee Durrill, 85, of Blacksburg, passed away on Aug. 3, 2021.

Preston was born on April 4, 1936, to Everett Durrill and Alice Roberts in Fort Madison, Iowa. After high school he attended MIT, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in nuclear engineering. In 1966, he earned a doctorate in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech.

Preston spent 37 years as a chemistry professor and the Dean of Graduate School at Radford University. After retiring from RU, Preston worked as a professor of chemistry and chemical engineering at Virginia Tech. During his 55 years of teaching, he also enjoyed doing science experiments for students in local school districts and working with teachers to further their science accreditation.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, David. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Lorraine; three children: Steven Durrill (Gwen),



Beth Graham (Jim), and Linda Durrill; and eight grandchildren: Katie, Preston, Ben, Mackenzie, Zoe, Ayla, Leo, and Penelope. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, BJ Durrill.

Preston had a passion for gardening, playing tennis, and teaching science. The time and contributions he donated to Radford University and Virginia Tech, as well as to local K-12 schools, have left a lasting impression.

Preston's patient, gentle, and caring nature touched and enhanced the lives of his family, friends, students, pets, and the countless plants he nurtured. All who knew him would agree that he left the world a better place.

The family requests that all donations are made to the American Red Cross where he faithfully donated blood and platelets. A private funeral service will be held for the immediate family. A celebration of Preston's life will be held at a future date.

Linkous, Betty

Betty Linkous of Christiansburg, born Feb. 22, 1937, passed away on Aug. 5, 2021, at Radford Health and Rehab Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Annie Mae Linkous of Blacksburg; her husband, John Linkous of Christiansburg; her brothers, Milton Buck and Roger Linkous; and her sisters, Arlene Reed, Carolyn Snead, Faye Pyles, and Teresa Redd.



She is survived by her brother, Wayne Linkous (Joyce) of Christiansburg; a sister, Bonnie Puckett (Johnny) of Bedford; a sister-in-law, Beatrice Linkous; a brother-in-law, Herman (Junior) Reed of Riner; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

A private service will be held. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral

Home, Blacksburg.

Tuck, Trula Crawford Cumbo

A life well lived.

Trula Crawford Cumbo Tuck was born on Oct. 21, 1937, to Roy Crawford and Betty Cruise Crawford. Trula's parents owned Roy's Cash Store in Blacksburg, and they lived above the store until they sold it in the 1970's. Early in her life she decided "you had a choice in life, you can either wear out, or rust out" and she said she made the decision to "wear out."

After graduating from Blacksburg High School, she left Blacksburg for New York to attend New York University (NYU). While attending NYU she met, fell in love with, and married William "Bill" Burton Cumbo.

The couple left New York City for California, where they had three children. In January of 1963, Bill Cumbo unexpectedly and suddenly died of what was believed to be a brain aneurysm. Trula, a widow with three children, returned to Blacksburg.

In 1966, she fell in love and married Bill Tuck and they had two children. While seven months pregnant with her



fourth child, she graduated from Virginia Tech.

Trula was a loving and supportive mother, a beloved wife, and one of the best human beings this world has ever known. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, David W. "Bill" Tuck; a son Steven Cumbo and his wife, Araceli; a daughter Kendall Cumbo Blosser and her husband, Michael;

sons Phillip Cumbo, Christopher Tuck and his wife, Susan, and Craig Tuck and his wife, Greta; and one brother John Crawford and his wife, Kathy.

She was blessed and loved by her 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and by family and friends too numerous to count, including her special friend and companion, Valerie Ramey, who became like a sister to her.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Blacksburg Rescue Squad.

Moore, Susan W.

Susan W. Moore, 71, passed away Aug. 1, 2021, at her home in Montgomery County.

She was born in Bristol, Va., to the late William M. "Bill", Jr., and Mary Katherine Boy Williams.

A graduate of Virginia High School (1967), she earned a BS in math education from Radford College (1971) and an MS in math education from Old Dominion University (1981). Her 30-year career teaching math, physics, and chemistry in the Newport News School System began at Huntington Intermediate School and concluded at Menchville High School in 2001.

As an educator, she received multiple Teacher of the Year awards and was once recognized as the Virginia Junior Academy of Science Sponsor of the Year. She chaired the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Physics Curriculum Revision committee and served on the UVA Teachers' Institute planning committee, the VDOE Science Project Handbook committee, the VDOE Academic Tech Applied Science Writing team, the Christopher Newport University (CNU) Clinical Faculty, and multiple CNU VQUEST STARS Reforms projects.

She trained teachers in the Eisenhower Consortium at the Appalachian Educational Laboratory and was involved with the Department of Energy's Teacher Research Associate program, serving as both a participant and a lead teacher.

After retiring from Newport News Schools, she undertook the development of various STEM outreach projects at NASA's Langley Research Center, first as a volunteer in the Education Office,



and then as an employee of Science Applications International Corp (SAIC) and Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI). She contributed to NASA's SAGE III SOLAR, CERES S'COOL, GLOBE Contrail Education, and MY NASA DATA outreach programs.

Surpassing her love of teaching was her love of family. She was always eager to hear of the latest adventures of her grandchildren and cherished every visit with her immediate and extended family, whether it be over the phone or together on holidays, beach trips, or game-day tailgates. She was a member of Windsor Avenue, Denbigh, and Raleigh Court Presbyterian churches. Her servant's heart was an overflow of her faith in Jesus Christ. She was a devoted Virginia Tech sports fan, saving her most intense cheers for VT wrestling and football.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Philip Moore; children Jason (Julie) Moore of Yorktown, Va., and Hunter (Anne) Moore of Roanoke; a brother John Edward (Ann) Williams of Lynchburg, Va.; grandchildren James, Journey, Hunter Manning, and Henry; a nephew, Brian (Laekan) Williams of Blacksburg; and a niece, Lauren (Tyler) Young of Lynchburg.

The family will begin welcoming friends at 10 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg, VA.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to The Mission Fund of Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, 1837 Grandin Rd. SW, Roanoke, VA 24015.

Olinger, Jr., John David (JD)

John David (JD) Olinger, Jr., 61, of Blacksburg, went home on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

He was born in Radford on Jan. 1, 1960, to the late John David, Sr., and Betty Ann Mullins Olinger.

JD sold cars at Hokie Honda for 20 years and most recently worked at the Radford Arsenal. He loved to spend time with his family and friends and going fishing.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Tammy Olinger; daughters Kelley Olinger and Kasey Olinger; sisters and brothers-in-law, Debbie and Mike Meadows, Becky



and Roger Broce, and Karen and Chip Craven; a brother, Chuck Olinger; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to Melissa Tarter for all of her love and support.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Blue Ridge Church, Christiansburg with Pastor Scott Obenchain officiating. The family received friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blue Ridge Church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

King from page 4

So lack of toughness and conditioning was not going to be the downfall of their team.

The ultimate conditioning tool of the era was what we called "grass drills." Others called them "up-downs." They had been made famous by the great pro coach of the time, Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers.

You would run in place as fast as you could (or try to make it look that way), until a coach would yell "hit it" or blow a whistle when you were to fall to the ground and catch yourself with your hands and bounce back up and resume running. This was the start of every practice and went a really long way to determine who wanted IT. I remember kids actually walking off the practice field during the midst of grass drills and trudging up Sheltman Street, praying for sweet escape and that they wouldn't have Coach Rusek or Coach Altizer for class.

The coaches seemed to relish running kids off. Frankly, I saw no defecations that surprised me greatly or that made me worry about our team. I did worry whether we would have enough players to scrimmage.

Grass drills would last anywhere from five minutes to 2 and 1/2 days, depending on the coaches' moods. They would be followed by other loosening-up exercises, drills (featuring blocking and tackling under the guise of friendly little titles like Bull in the Ring and Oklahoma Drill and Nutcracker (not my fave given my position, since I was a crackee rather than a cracker).

This would be followed by a lot of repetition of running of plays and formations, the meat and potatoes of football, and then usually with "live" reps, where we would block and tackle. This was called "hitting" and the coaches couldn't wait to "hit" (note, they weren't the ones "hitting"). Coach Altizer loved to do a standing back flip and yell "whack a head" after a particularly good "lick" had been struck, something I bet they don't yell much anymore. Coach Rusek's pet phrase when teaching the forearm shiver was "bring a snot bubble to his nose." (I kid you not.)

Hitting was the reason, ostensible and sometimes actual, that most of us played football, but sometimes after two hours of practice in 85- or 90-degree heat, enthusiasm for more "hitting" tended to wane. It did present opportunities to prove yourself and to show how much you wanted IT. Given our limited numbers and the lack of good football players, it also gave a smaller, less talented kid like me the chance to shine in practice and earn a playing spot. The CHS second-team offense was no match for my quickness and desire, but Radford's and Blacksburg's first-teamers seemed not as bothered in games.

After a half-hour or so of live scrimmaging, the coaches ended practices with the one phrase that struck fear in our hearts even more than "grass drills": "wind sprints." Usually they would be announced by Coach Altizer blowing his whistle and yelling "line up boys." We would line up on a line on the practice field (grassless I should add) and sprint (in theory) on his whistle.

The sprints would be anywhere from 40 yards to 100 and we would do anywhere from 10 to 20, depending on how sadistic Carlis and Joe felt that day. The object was to see how much wind they could suck out of our lungs. In full uniform.

Suffice it to say that three weeks of two-a-days in the Augusts of my adolescence are lasting memories, particularly the fall practice of 1969 when the Joe and Carlis Show came to town. I was convinced to tough it out, that I was not a quitter, and that there was no way they would run me off.

It seems 100 years ago now, but for a boy raised in the Christiansburg of those years, and in my family, not playing under the Friday Night Lights was never an option. You just didn't quit.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

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RADFORD SPORTS

“Normal” finally returns to Hokie practices



Hokie head coach Justin Fuente said this week it's "nice" to regain a sense of normalcy at Tech's football practices. He worries, though, that "normal" may be temporary.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Coach Justin Fuente said this week it's nice to be back to normal at Virginia Tech's football practices in Blacksburg. Of course, there is always the threat that he worries about; it could come to a screeching halt.

"It feels great. But there is a little apprehension on how long this feeling of normal is

going to last, to be perfectly honest," the head Hokie told reporters after the team's second day of practice. "I haven't really talked about it with too much of the team because we've only practiced twice so far. And I don't know where this all is going to go. It seems like we're learning more each day on what may or not happen this season. But, yeah, so far, it's been refreshing. We

didn't have the same feeling on certainty at least in the short time we've been in fall camp."

Defensive back Keonta Jenkins spoke to the media about how much optimism there is with not having to worry too much about COVID-19 anymore and having a regular fall camp and season.

"It's a lot better knowing that you're practicing and working towards a full Lane Stadium where a ton of people will be cheering for you," Jenkins said. "Having regularly scheduled meetings and practices and not being so distanced with each other. So, with that, I have more of an urge to go out there and practice even more with not having to wear face shields and stuff like that."

In news from Chapel Hill, North Carolina football is preparing for literally

everything for their Sept. 3 season opener at Virginia Tech. Last week, the Tar Heels ended training camp practice by blaring Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

UNC head coach Mack Brown says his team has great respect for Virginia Tech. "In fact, they have had our number for a while now, and we played that six-overtime game the last time we played in Blacksburg," he said.

Brown said "Enter Sandman" is one of the best entries in college football, but his team must not worry about who they are playing, but instead worry about being the best they can be.

The early coastal division favorite has also taken an added step in removing distractions and dealing with COVID issues by staying in a hotel during preseason workouts.

"COVID is still real. It's not gone, so we have to deal with it," Brown told reporters last week.

The Heels are staying in a nearby hotel during preseason workouts. "There are fewer distractions by doing that," the veteran head coach said.

Tennessee transfer running back Ty Chandler is turning heads at the Heels' practices. Chandler, who racked up 3,291 all-purpose yards in 46 career games for Tennessee, came to Chapel Hill as a prime prospect to replace the NFL-bound duo of Michael Carter and Javonte Williams.

Brown is excited to have Chandler's experience in the fold, and that will help when he comes to Blacksburg in the big environment.

At UT, the 6-0, 210 Chandler tallied 2,046 rushing yards on 4.9 yards

per carry and 465 receiving yards on 10.1 yards per catch, and added 780 yards in kickoff returns.

And what a college football opening weekend it will be as many wives and girlfriends will lose their spouses for those three days. The schedule not only includes the UNC-VT game but a number of marquee matchups like Clemson-Georgia, Wisconsin-Penn State, Alabama-Miami, Notre Dame-Florida State, LSU-UCLA, and Ole Miss-Louisville.

In other Hokie notes from this past week, former Hokie Adonis Alexander has signed with the New Orleans Saints.

For those West Virginia-to-the-ACC doubters, only three ACC schools averaged a higher football attendance than did WVU in the 2019-20 season: Virginia Tech, Clemson, and NC State.

RU's Sydney Fisher picked as Big South co-woman of year



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

RU softball player Sydney Fisher finished this past season as the Big South Conference's leading hitter.

Radford University softball's Sydney Fisher has been voted the 2020-21 Big South Co-Woman of the Year sponsored by Musco Lighting, the conference office announced recently. She becomes the third Highlander in history to garner the award, joining Hope Creasy (softball, 2009-10) and Jessica Wollmann (women's soccer, 2018-19).

The Big South's Woman of the Year Selection Committee voted Fisher and High Point volleyball's Abby Bottomley the co-honorees among the 10 candidates

nominated for the award. The committee determined the winners using the criteria of service and leadership (including community services, campus activities, and leadership positions), academic achievement, athletics excellence, and a personal statement from each candidate.

As the Big South's Women of the Year, Fisher and Bottomley will be automatically nominated as the conference's candidates for the national NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Fisher was a three-year starter for the Highlanders

(2019-21), and a two-time First-Team All-Conference honoree. This past season, she finished as the Big South's leading hitter with a .392 average to go with 73 hits, 14 doubles, and 105 total bases in 54 games played. She recorded hits in all but 12 games and had 17 multi-hit games as one of the conference's most consistent sluggers.

The Appling, Ga., native earned Third-Team Mid-Atlantic All-Region honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). Fisher was also a Top 10 Finalist for the national Senior CLASS Award in 2021 and earned Second-Team All-America honors from the organization. She graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA as a double major in biology and chemistry, was voted the 2021 Big South Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and also earned the Big South's prestigious Christenberry Award for Academic Excellence this past spring, the highest academic honor a Big South student-athlete

can achieve.

In the classroom, Fisher's emphasis was in biochemistry and animal studies and as part of her program she conducted research in soil sample analysis and aquatic insect identification. Fisher presented some of her research at Radford University's Winter Creative Activities and Research Days (CARD), and will be presenting her new research later in the year.

A VaSID Academic All-State honoree, Fisher was a two-time presenter at the Radford Creative Activities and Research Day and was a member of the Dean's List each year of college.

Outside of playing softball and pursuing her academic interests across two fields of science, Fisher became involved in the non-profit organization Vets of All Color which supports

and encourages minorities in the veterinary field and has become a sitting board member and speaker for the organization. Other community service involvement included the Martin Luther King Day of Service in the Radford area, starting the first chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for Radford softball, and campaigning the campus for outreach.

Fisher also worked various softball camps and volunteered as a Special Education PE assistant at local schools.

Fisher was also a guest on the Big South's "Cultural Conversations" video podcast series as part of the Conference's anti-racism initiatives. She is among 535 overall nominees for NCAA Woman of the Year, which is now in its 31st year.

The NCAA Woman of

the Year Selection Committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, will choose 10 women from each division to make up the Top 30.

The committee will determine the top three honorees in each division from the Top 30, and the nine finalists will be announced this fall. From those nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will choose the 2021 NCAA Woman of the Year.

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RU lands women's basketball, baseball transfers

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford University has received commitments from a pair of transfers: St. Anne's-Belfield point guard Olivia Wagner and Seton Hall pitcher Peyton Reesman.

Wagner comes from an athletic family. Two brothers have played college baseball. Her mother scored over 1,200 points in her career at Ferrum College, and her father, Billy, is a former major league pitcher who played 16 years.

Wagner averaged 17.9 points, 4.2 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.5 steals two years ago for a team that reached the state semifinals. She plans to major in kinesiology and nutrition.

Baseball pitcher Peyton Reesman is also

coming to RU after spending the past two seasons at NCAA Division II's Seton Hill University. He transferred there from the University of Pittsburgh and helped lead the team this past season to a 39-8 season and the Div. II College World Series.

Reesman, who overcame Tommy John surgery, pitched 25.2 innings, mainly in relief, striking out 35 batters and finishing with a 3.16 earned run average.

Seton Hill finished the season ranked fifth in the country in the final National College Baseball Writers Association poll.

Reesman posted a 35-to-9 strikes-to-balls ratio during this past season. The team played the season wearing patches on their uniforms in honor of teammate Maclean Maund, who died in a car accident over the winter break before the season began.

CHS golf tournament holes in one



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HILLS GOLF CLUB

Auburn Hills Golf Club hosted the Christiansburg High School golf tournament this past weekend with not one but four holes in one being recorded. Pictured are: (from left) Matt Wright, hole No. 11; Ken Dolp, hole No. 14; Gary Slusher, hole No. 11; and Chris Patterson, hole No. 11.

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RU partners with firm so athletes can take advantage of NIL legislation

Radford University Athletics has announced a department-wide partnership with INFLCR, which educates and prepares staff and student-athletes for new opportunities and guidelines resulting from the Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) legislation that went into effect July 1.

INFLCR provides the leading content and compliance software platform for college athletic programs. Radford University's comprehensive partnership utilizes all facets of the INFLCR platform and will help student-athletes grow their personal brands and maximize Name, Image & Likeness opportunities.

"We are excited to partner with INFLCR to help our student-athletes build their personal brands and to also help educate and support the

new era of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) in college athletics," said Deputy Athletics Director Cory Durand. "We look forward to sharing our student-athletes' individual stories as we continue to expand our digital strategies for Radford Athletics."

INFLCR provides college athletic departments with the content delivery and compliance platform to assist NCAA athletics programs in the management and monitoring of student-athlete Name, Image, and Likeness activities. INFLCR's verified suite of products ensures student-athletes are provided the tools, content, and financial literacy to participate in upcoming opportunities from NIL legislation.

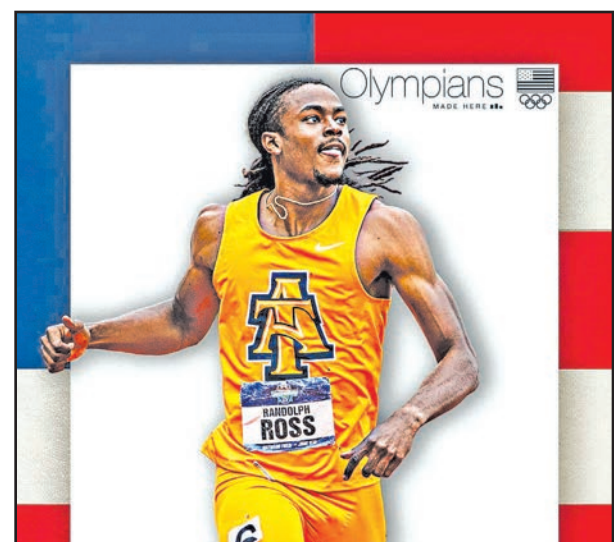
"Our partnership with INFLCR

will make a significant impact for us," said RU Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Malinda Tasler. "Providing education and resources for our student-athletes to ensure that we are compliant will be crucial as we move forward as a department."

Athletic programs are adopting this approach to educate and prepare staff and student-athletes for new opportunities and complexities from upcoming NIL legislation, aiming to ultimately provide best-case scenarios for student-athletes who will soon look to participate in monetization activities from their NIL.

INFLCR will play a large part in Radford's overall student-athlete development plan to be rolled out over the course of the 2021-22 academic year.

Big South's Randolph Ross wins Olympic gold



Randolph Ross from North Carolina A&T brought home gold from the summer Olympics for the Big South Conference this past week as a member of the 4X400 USA relay team.

VT receiver, linebacker sign deals with gaming companies

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech receiver Tre Turner has announced a deal with the YOKE Gaming App,

and linebacker Keshon Artis has announced a partnership with MS Alliance.

Turner said in a Twitter post he has agreed to a deal with the YOKE Gaming App, a platform

for all gamers to hit the sticks with the biggest stars in sports. The app boasts, "All your favorite stars are now gaming with their fans in one place. Download YOKE to join athletes or

beat them at their own game."

Fans buy YOKE Coins, challenge one of the online participating athletes to a game (for Madden, this costs about \$5) and, if the athlete accepts, the

fan then joins the athlete on video chat as they play with or against each other online

Popular games played through YOKE include Warzone, NBA 2K, and Fortnite.

Outdoor report: From mollusks to mountaintops

On a remote corner of campus, in tanks and constructed ponds bubbling with fresh water, an unusual life cycle is taking place.

At Virginia Tech's Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center, the process begins when female adult mussels release strings of larvae, called glochidia, into the water. Designed by evolution to lure fish closer by looking like food, these packets of larval mussels attach themselves to the gills of fish introduced to the tanks. In the wild, that process would provide the glochidia a way to migrate upstream against the current before detaching to start their lives as filter feeders. In the tanks, the same strange method means that a threatened species will see a boost in its population.

"We're doing recovery work with a lot of endan-

gered mussel species, which includes hatching them in our labs and then distributing them into water systems where there is a restoration need," said Jess Jones, a restoration biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an associate professor in VT's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. "In any given year we work with eight to 12 species, and we'll release 10,000 to 20,000 animals into water systems in Virginia and the surrounding states."

The process of transforming from larval mussels to juveniles takes two to three weeks. Then the mussels detach and are collected by siphoning the bottoms of the tanks. The juveniles are brought to the mussel culture facility where algae-laden pond water is cycled to feed them for one to two years un-

til they are large enough for release into ecosystems where mussel populations have declined due to environmental degradation or pollution.

This effort is one of the many ways that the College of Natural Resources and Environment is partnering with federal agencies to serve Virginia and the nation while providing students with unique learning opportunities.

For federal scientists, having a connection to Virginia Tech means they can utilize laboratory resources and cutting-edge technologies as well as collaborate with colleagues in natural resources and environmental conservation.

"The value added is tremendous on both sides," said Mark Ford, an associate professor of wildlife conservation and unit leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. "The university is getting talented faculty who are bringing important research questions to Virginia Tech not only for the commonwealth, but in some cases the nation. In return, instead of doing research in isolation, federal scientists can conduct their work amidst this ideas-generating campus."

Ford has focused much of his recent research on endangered North American bats. "Endangered bats intersect not only forest management but the energy sector, development, and even national security," he said. "Everyone who has to manipulate something on the landscape somehow bumps into challenges of bat conservation."

The Cooperative Research Unit, which also includes Professor Paul Angermeier, an aquatic ecologist, and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Hunter, a landscape ecologist, currently supports 19 graduate students and four postdoctoral researchers in addition to cooperating with numerous other faculty and students, both within the college and across campus. The unit is researching an array of diverse subjects, from the efficacy of best land management practices in the upper Tennessee River basin to support aquatic health, to tracking the success of re-introduced elk in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia.

"We work closely with the Department of Defense in collaboration with the college's Conservation Management Institute," Ford said. "The military installations in

Virginia and elsewhere in the East are very actively managed, not only from a mission perspective but also from a natural resources stewardship perspective. As such, they are terrific places to acquire research data."

In other state wildlife notes:

If you are a Virginia resident and are in possession of any species of reptile and amphibian that is 1) native or naturalized to Virginia and 2) was in your personal possession before July 1, 2021, you need to register your animals with the Virginia Reptile and Amphibian Registry.

These conditions apply to all animals regardless of origin (wild-caught or captive-bred), as well as animals obtained outside of Virginia. Individuals holding Exhibitor and/or Educator permits

should also register their animals in the event you choose not to renew your permit in the future.

Cornsnake morphs (ghost, snow, fancy, and other nonnative variations) and albino animals do not need to be registered. This registry will be open only until Dec. 31, 2021. For questions, contact vahepregristry@dwr.virginia.gov.

For individuals with a Hold & Sell permit, which is required to captive breed and sell certain native species, the Department of Wildlife Resources will be removing scarlet kingsnake and mole kingsnake from the list and adding Northern pinesnake. The agency will also be lifting the ban on the sale and possession of Mexican axolotls. These changes became effective Aug. 1.



PHOTO BY JIM STROUP, VIRGINIA TECH

Raising and releasing freshwater mussels into southern Appalachian streams to help restore natural populations is one of several projects the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech carries out in partnership with federal agencies.

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Andy Sayers named new CHS cross-country coach

Christiansburg has a new cross-country coach. On Friday, the school announced that Andy Sayers, who had coached at Floyd County High School, has been hired.

"I applied for the job because the tradition and culture of running that has been created at CHS over the years is the type of running community I want to be a part of," Sayers said. "More than that, however, I am excited to be teaching social studies at CHS this year. I love to relate

the stories of history and current events to the students. Watching students come to understand the vastness of history and then find their space within it never fails to inspire me."

Sayers coached for four years at Floyd and previously coached middle school track in Roanoke at James Breckinridge Middle School for three years. "Running has been a lifelong pursuit for me. It is a sport that matters a great deal in my family," he said.

Sayers ran cross country and track at Buffalo Gap High School and at Roanoke College.

"My goal for the team is to help this group reach its potential," the new head coach said. "If each student-athlete performs to the best of his or her ability, our goals will sort

themselves out. Probably the biggest goal for coaches of every sport this year, however, is to have a healthy and as close to normal season as we can."

In looking across the board, the girls and the boys, according to Sayers, have very talented runners returning from last year's teams.

"The boys will be carving out their own niche as we have several young runners poised to make the leap into the varsity seven," Sayers said. "The girls have returned most of their top seven and are hungry to compete. Our goal is to compete at the highest level within our district, region, and state. The kids have worked hard over the summer, and the first week of practice was no different."

Sayers' wife, Shelli Sayers,

is the Director of Track & Field and Cross Country at Radford University. He said absolute joys of his life are watching her lead the young women and men at RU to reach their athletic peak, but also to grow into confident, strong people.

"She and I talk track and cross country at the dinner table, on car rides, and when we are out and about," the new Blue Demon coach said. "Though we would love for our kids to run, we support them in their own interests outside of running and racing. Shelli is the best coach I know, and I'm excited to see where she leads the Highlander program in the future."

Sayers will teach U.S. history, psychology, and government at CHS.

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