



Saturday, September 18, 2021 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

## K9 Xander honored for Radford service before relocation

RADFORD - The Radford City Council Monday honored Radford City Police Officer Tuttle and K9 Xander citing the duo "for their dedicated service," as well as announcing the retirement of K9 Xander from the Radford department.

K9 Officer Xander, a six-year-old Belgian Malinois, has served the Radford City Police Department since 2017. K9 Xander began his working career in Radford with Officer Jenkins from 2017-2019, and then Tuttle began training him in March of 2020, and they became certified together in June of 2020.

"During the short year they were together, K9 Xander and Officer Tuttle recorded over 200 hours of training and over 40 deployments," according to the Radford Police Department.

K9 Xander has aided multiple jurisdictions, including the the Town of Pulaski, Montgomery and Pulaski counties, and the Radford Arsenal.

"There is no value that can be placed on the impact that K9 Xander has had in our community," reads a police department statement. "K9 Xander will be retired from service from the Radford City Police Department, but will be



**Radford City Police Chief Jeff Dodson, RCPD Officer Tuttle, and Mayor David Horton honored the service of K9 Xander at Monday's Radford City Council meeting.**

relocated to another agency where he can continue to serve, due to his young age and high drive."

The Radford City Council commended Xander for his years of service to the Radford City

Police Department.

"K9 Xander has been a valued member of the Radford City Police Department and we wish him well on his next endeavor."

--Heather Bell

## MFRL to launch second edition of Edgar A. Long book

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) and Christiansburg Institute are partnering to launch the second edition of *A Vision of Education: Selected Writings of Edgar A. Long*.

Free and open to the public, the book launch will take place on three occasions:

Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library, 125 Shelton St.

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St.

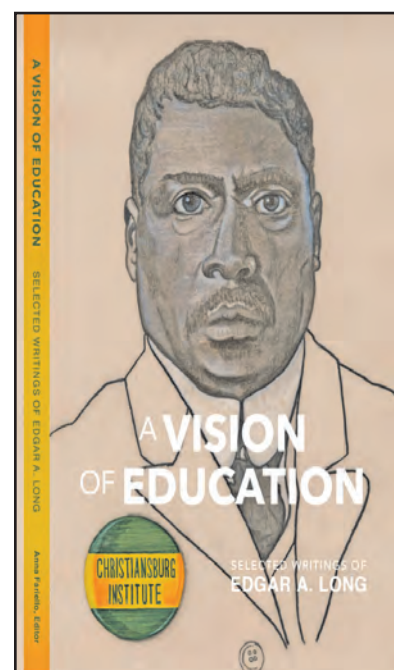
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville.

Books will be available to purchase after the program.

The second edition is made possible by a grant from the Virginia Humanities. The first edition, also grant funded by the Virginia Humanities, was originally published in 2001 by the Christiansburg Institute and was edited by Anna Fariello.

Beginning in 2020, Christiansburg Institute staff, board members, and descendants of

Edgar and Anna Long collaborated to reprint a second edition of *A Vision of Education: Selected Writings of Edgar A. Long*. The second edition includes new original cover art, a new preface, a letter from Edgar and Anna Long's grandson, updated photographs, and an updated timeline.



## Dorothy Gillespie artwork, grants, and more presented to Radford Early Learning Center

RADFORD - Radford Child Development, Inc. has received an original piece of art by Dorothy Gillespie and a yearly grant to support the arts at the childcare center.

RCD, Inc., board member Mr. Dick Harshberger and his wife Kathleen Harshberger, worked with Gillespie's son, Gary Gillespie Israel, to secure artist Gillespie's legacy in Radford. At a small ceremony Friday, Sept. 10, Israel presented Gillespie's "Earth Ribbon" for installation at the Radford Early Learning Center.

Israel, who is also president of the Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation, said the donation was a testament to his mother's strong belief in the power of education.

"As a distinguished professor of art at Radford University, my mother conducted

seminars and offered advice on the passion and business of art," he said. "She also regularly worked alongside students, producing art and organizing events and projects."

The Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation will continue to support arts education at the Radford Early Learning Center through an annual \$500 grant and the donation of Dorothy Gillespie Paper Sculpture Kits developed at Roanoke College in partnership with the Foundation. The kits will enable teachers at the center "to encourage young children's artistic development and enable them to draw connections between their own creations and the newly installed Gillespie work," according to RCD, Inc.

"We are thankful to Dick and Kathleen who continue to be the greatest supporters of

education and arts in our community," said Dr. Agida Manizade, president of the RCD board. Israel reiterated those sentiments.

"I would like to thank Dick and Kathleen Harshberger for being my good friends and big supporters of my efforts to preserve my mother's legacy in Radford and around the country," Israel said. "They were instrumental in the success of my mother's 2020 Centennial Celebration in Radford. Radford and Radford University were very important to my mother and are a very big part of my mother's legacy. With over 90 pieces of artwork spanning six decades, RU houses the largest and most comprehensive collection of my mother's work. Her association with Radford University began in the 1960's when she gave one of her pic-

es to Radford College on extended loan. Over the years she continued to donate art to Radford University, and she had been instrumental in procuring gifts from other artists for an ever-growing University col-

lection."

Radford Child Development is a completely volunteer-run and led organization. It was launched nine

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**Pictured left to right are Katie Thompson, Director of the Radford Early Learning Center; Dr. Corey Herd Cassidy, Board Member of Radford Child Development, Inc.; Gary Israel, President of The Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation; and Dr. Dick Harshberger, Board Member of Radford Child Development, Inc.**

## Game of cornhole leads Radford pair to engagement

If love is blind, as the saying goes, it probably doesn't care much about romantic settings. Moonlit gardens on enchanted evenings may be nice, but you're just as likely to find true love over a game of cornhole. Just ask Duncan Sandoz '20 and Leah Stepp '21.

"Duncan and I met at the Junior Twilight on April 10, 2019," Stepp said. "Duncan was playing cornhole with his friend, and I wanted to play with my friends. Duncan and his friend asked if we wanted to play. After playing cornhole, we spent hours

talking as a group even after the event was over. Before heading back to the dorms/apartments, we all exchanged Snapchats."

Their happy relationship continued through the rest of their time at Radford. Sandoz logged hours studying in McConnell Library and working out at the gym; Stepp concentrated on building her teaching career and squeezing in tennis and extracurriculars between her classes and school placement. After graduation, Sandoz took a job in risk management in Roanoke, his hometown. Stepp prepared to pursue her master's degree in special education K-12 while working part time at a Blacksburg child-care center.

When the time came for them to take the next step in their lives together, Sandoz thought there was only one perfect way to pop the question. And one perfect place: the Radford campus.

"We met playing cornhole, so I wanted to recreate the night we met," Sandoz said.

"It took about three months to put all the pieces together," he said. "Starting

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**Duncan Sandoz, RU Class of 20, and Leah Stepp, RU Class of 21, met while playing cornhole, and Sandoz later recreated the cornhole scene on the RU campus as the stage for his marriage proposal.**

## News Brief: Radford police arrest Blacksburg man for sexual assault of minor

33-year-old Zachariah B. Wilson of Blacksburg has been charged with six felonies relating to the sexual assault of a minor or minors after his arrest by the Radford City Police Department Sunday, Sept. 12.

The charges include sexual assault on a victim through mental incapacity or helplessness, two counts of sexual assault of a victim under the

age of 13, and two counts of taking indecent liberties of a child under the age of 15.

The offenses allegedly occurred between October of last year and July of 2021. Other details remain sketchy, and whether Wilson was related to the victim(s) is not known.

Wilson is being held at the New River Valley Regional Jail.

## Blacksburg, Christiansburg police departments investigate larcenies from vehicles

Blacksburg and Christiansburg police departments are conducting a joint investigation into early morning larcenies from vehicles.

The suspects targeted vehicles located at "Fitness Facilities." Multiple vehicles located in parking lots at local gyms were broken into. Various items were taken.

The suspect vehicles are a dark colored Jeep SUV and a white GMC, possibly an Acadia. Both vehicles appeared to display out-of-state license plates. The suspects were described as two black males.

Both departments are asking the community for any assistance in helping to identify the vehicles and/or the occupants. The departments

remind everyone to continue to make sure your vehicles are secure, and items of value should not be left in your vehicle. Anyone observing any suspicious activity at any time should report it to the police by dialing 911 or calling the New River Valley Communications Center at (540) 382-4343.

Anyone having information about these crimes or any other crimes should contact the Blacksburg Police Department at (540) 443-1400 or the Christiansburg Police Department at (540) 982-3131. To place an anonymous tip, call the Blacksburg Police Tip Line at (540) 961-1819 or email CIU@blacksburg.gov.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 18:

**Church's annual gospel sing**  
Christiansburg Church of the Brethren's annual gospel singing at 6 p.m. Dale Buckner of Pilot; Sounds of Harmony of Floyd; and The Glorylanders of the NRV will be providing the music. A social hour with light refreshments will follow the concert. The singing will be inside the church, but will also be transmitted to the parking lot. Those feeling uncomfortable coming into the church because of COVID-19 may remain in their vehicles and listen through their radios.

## Dungeons & Dragons: Level 5 (Virtual)

Everyone is welcome at the Radford Public Library's D&D One-shots at 4:30 p.m. The shadowy city of Radishford has been plagued by mysterious birds, but it's all reaching a pinnacle with level 5: The Carrion King. Email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to join either the in-person or virtual session (via Discord).

## All Ages Storytime

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. Stories, rhymes, music and movement, and a craft as a family will be shared, helping to develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

## Creative Writing

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. Join in person or virtually in a Go-To-Meeting for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email mupthegrove@mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information. A Go-To-Meeting account is not necessary to join.

## Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Sign up at the

front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center both to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages are welcome. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

## Watercolor Fun

At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Local artist and teacher Jesi Pace-Berkeley will teach a class on how to paint with watercolors. Supplies are limited and registration is required. Call the Blacksburg Library at (540) 552-8246 to register for this program.

## DIY Gnome/Fairy Garden

At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. All supplies provided for all ages. Email mupthegrove@mfrl.org or call the library 540-268-1964 to register. Limited to 10 people per 30-minute time slot. The program will be in the courtyard weather permitting.

## Teen Dungeons & Dragons

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. The good news is the library is going back to in-person for the DND session this month.

## Tuesday, Sept. 21:

### Tween Book Club: Stargazing

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Those between the ages of nine and 12 who are interested in reading and talking about some fun books, are invited to join in on the third Tuesday of every month for a conversation about a different book each month. This month the club will be reading the graphic novel "Stargazing" by Jen Wang. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

## Autumn Sensory Bottles

At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Make a fall leaves-inspired sensory bottle. Supplies are limited. All ages are welcome.

## Thursday, Sept. 23:

### Montgomery County Christmas Store Fundraiser

Charity Pint Night at Eastern Divide Brewing Company from 3-9 p.m.

For every pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1.00 to the Christmas Store.

A silent auction will be held from 5-7 p.m. Bring a new pack of children's socks or underwear to stock the shelves of the Christmas Store and be entered to win a door prize. Go to [www.mcchristmasstore.org](http://www.mcchristmasstore.org) for more information.

### What Isn't Remembered

At the Radford Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, winner of the 2021 Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, is a Russian-Armenian emigre who moved to the U.S. in 199, after witnessing perestroika and the collapse of the Soviet Empire. She graduated from both Radford and Hollins Universities. She has published over 50 stories and received eight Pushcart nominations.

### Dungeons & Dragons: Level 5 (In-person)

At the Radford Public Library at 4:30 p.m. Email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to join either the in-person or the virtual session (via Discord).

## Through September:

## Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 continues each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. through Wednesday, Sept. 29, 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.

## Take & Make Crafts

All month at the Blacksburg Library.

Craft kits are available all month long. Each week will have a new craft for kids to take home.

## Interactive Movie Kits

All month at the Christiansburg Library and the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Each kit contains popcorn and props for four individuals to participate in making movie night interactive. The movie is not included and supplies are limited.

## Crafts to Go

All month at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Drop by the Meadowbrook Public Library for take and make craft kits. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited.

## Wednesday, Oct. 20:

### Radford Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold its next community meeting at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Li-

brary. The event will be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP modernization and environmental Projects. Interested persons may reach out to RFAAP with questions or to conduct research on their own through the following resources: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>; Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>; and Email: [usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil).

## Through October:

### Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at 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 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot.

## Ongoing:

### Passports available at the Radford Public Library

The Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Anyone planning overseas travel should get their passports as early as possible because the current wait time is 18 weeks.

# Cornhole

from page 1

with contacting the five friends that were there the night we first met, two of whom lived in different states. When it was time to buy the ring,

I found out that it had to be custom-made to what I wanted. Then, I had to custom-make the cornhole boards. Within these three months, we

would walk around campus secretly preparing her for the big day."

That was nothing, he said, compared to the hardest part: "facing her

father and asking for his permission."

In the end, the top-secret mission went without a hitch. With the friends rounded up, the cornhole games assembled and Stepp's dad on board, it was time for the big moment.

"I was genuinely surprised about the proposal," Stepp said. "Everyone kept it a secret from me for so long. I was so blown away I cried before he even got down on one knee." While she wondered why they were walking around campus in nice clothes, "We would always take walks around the campus in the afternoon, so I really didn't put too

much thought to it. He said earlier in the week we were going on a fancy date night."

Sandoz and Stepp, who both enjoy the summer months, are tentatively planning their wedding for July 2022, with a beach honeymoon to follow. There's a lot to look forward to and many memories to cherish. And they owe it all, strangely enough, to a rousing game of cornhole.

"When meeting that night, we had no idea what would become of it," Stepp and Sandoz said. "We love that Radford created an opportunity for us to meet."

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## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Thursday September 30th @ 4 PM

Land & Home for Sale at Auction in Floyd VA!

4643 Webbs Mill Rd, Riner VA 24149

Grace Lane, Riner VA 24149

Bid Online Now at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)



+/- 137.81 acres of land for sale, being offered in 3 tracts. The properties consist of wooded acreage, farmland, fenced pastures, Little River frontage, a spring branch, small ponds, a singlewide mobile home, and another home. Enjoy the convenient location in Riner between Floyd and Christiansburg. All three offerings will be offered individually with online bidding. Bidders wanting to purchase more than one offering will need to be the high bidder on all offerings desired. Each offering will remain open and displayed until bidding is complete on all 3 offerings. For example, if a bid is made on offering # 1, all offerings will be extended. Refer to information in bidder pack.

Preview Date – Saturday September 18th @ 10 AM

**Offering # 1** – This property features +/- 19.23 Acres along with a +/- 2,120 sq. ft. home with 3 BR and 1 BA. Home has as shingle roof, vinyl siding, heat pump, and basement. Home was built in 1933. There is also a single wide mobile located on property. Home is located at 4643 Webbs Mill Road, Riner VA 24149. Back (eastern) boundary adjoins Offering # 2 and # 3. Refer to bidder pack for property maps. Earnest money deposit for offering # 1 is \$5,000.

**Offering # 2** – +/- 19.02 Acres located on Grace Lane. The property has fencing and good building sites. Property would be good for farming or a country home with acreage with a short commute to Floyd, Christiansburg, I-81, Radford, and Blacksburg VA. There are a couple of small sheds and small pond on property. The single wide located at 233 Grace Lane, Riner VA is not for sale. Address could be helpful to locate this property because it is located on Offering # 2 and Offering # 3 border. Refer to maps for illustration. Offering # 2 western border adjoins Offering # 1 eastern border. Offering # 2 also adjoins Offering # 3. Earnest Money Deposit for Offering # 2 is \$10,000.

**Offering # 3** – +/- 99.56 Acres located on Grace Lane. The property is mostly open has fencing and joins Little River. Access road is a shared road to single wide mobile home located at 233 Grace Lane, Riner VA not included in this sale. Single wide mobile has right of way access along western boundary of this tract. This land is mostly open, has a couple of sheds, small pond, and just under 1,800 feet of Little River Frontage. Property has been used for grazing and is great land for farming, and livestock. There are good building sites for anyone wanting a country home with farmland near Floyd VA, Christiansburg, Radford, Riner, Radford, and I-81. Offering # 3 western border adjoins Offering # 1 eastern border. Offering # 3 also adjoins offering # 2. Earnest Money Deposit for Offering # 3 is \$10,000.

**Offering # 1** is a different owner from **Offering # 2** and **# 3**. In the event a bidder is purchasing multiple offerings, a separate contract will be required for Offering # 1.

**Terms** – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Winning and confirmed bidder will be expected to pay Earnest Money Deposit and sign the real estate purchase contract on the day of sale. Close on or before November 15th 2021. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence and have the responsibility to review the contract prior to bidding. Download Bidder Information Pack at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)

Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com) ; Or contact Dale Moran, Realtor/Auctioneer at 540-392-9900

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## THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TIP AMENDMENT

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment is to modify funding for Blacksburg Transit and New River Valley Community Services. It is available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County. It is also available on the MPO website: [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org)



Written comments for this amendment will be received until 5:00 PM, October 19, 2021.

**The public can also speak at the November 4, 2021 MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 PM at the Montgomery County Government Center.**

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov) or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.



# Church of the Brethren to present annual gospel sing

CHRISTIANSBURG - Three gospel performers will bring a joyous sound to the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren this evening, Saturday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. The occasion is the

church's annual gospel sing. The church is located at 310 S Franklin St. Dale Buckner of Pilot; Sounds of Harmony, of Floyd; and The Glorylanders of the NRV will provide the music.

"All three are very popular in the area for spreading God's word through their God-given musical talents," the church announced. "The Christiansburg Church of the Brethren invites everyone to

come and enjoy an evening of beautiful gospel music." A social hour with light refreshments will follow the concert. The singing will be inside the church, but will also be

transmitted to the parking lot. Those feeling uncomfortable coming into the church because of COVID-19 may remain in their vehicles and listen through their radio.



Pilot's Dale Buckner will present joyous gospel music this evening at the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren's annual gospel sing.



Also scheduled to present their unique gospel sound at the Church of the Brethren are The Glorylanders of the New River Valley.



Offering their harmonies in praise of the Lord at the Church of the Brethren tonight are the Sounds of Harmony from Floyd.

# RSVP sponsors tribute to local first responders on 9-11 anniversary

Pat Brown  
Contributing writer

To honor first responders on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy, members of the Montgomery County RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) packed and delivered baskets of treats for 21 emergency agencies in Montgomery County and Radford.

Two hundred and fifty local RSVP members, all 55 years of age or older, donated their time to bake treats and pack snacks into baskets. A group of nine volunteers delivered the gift baskets and trays on trips that included stops at Radford University and Virginia Tech, both of which maintain first-aid squads. The thank-you treats went to police stations and sheriff's headquarters, fire stations, and rescue teams.

RSVP Director Mandy Hayes called the event a "Patriot's Day of Service." Last year's event had to be virtual because of the threat of COVID. Noting that RSVP is designed to attract seniors, Hayes said, "We serve some of the most vulnerable people."

Hayes said RSVP members usually give out tote bags to residents of a lo-

cal nursing home at Christmas illustrating that the volunteers are busy all year long. The bags are filled with useful and thoughtful items, some of which might be holiday themed. This year bags will go to residents of the Kroontje facility at Warm Hearth Village.

On Veterans Day in November, nursing homes receive vases of flowers in red, white, and blue from RSVP. "In normal times our volunteers put those together," Hayes said, but health concerns prevented a group project last fall, so flowers had to be ordered.

RSVP offices are located on the first floor of the Montgomery County Health Department building. Montgomery County has had a senior volunteer program in place for the past 48 years and includes Radford City as part of the service area.

The agency is funded by the federal government through AmeriCorp, by the Montgomery Board of Supervisors, and by local fundraising efforts and donations.

Hayes singled out Supervisor Sherri Blevins and County Administrator Craig Meadows for their ongoing support of RSVP.



Volunteers from the Montgomery County Retired Senior Volunteer Program baked 22 trays of homemade treats and packed up 22 baskets of pre-wrapped goodies for first responders around Montgomery County and Radford, timing their efforts to coincide with commemorations of the 20th Anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attack. Pictured, left to right, are Shirley Mullins, Carol Trutt, Brenda Arnold, Rosemary Jones, and Shirley Hallock.

# Local students among semifinalists in 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program

Students from Blacksburg High School, Christiansburg High School, and Eastern Montgomery High School were among the 16,000 students nationwide announced Wednesday, Sept. 15, as semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring.

High school juniors entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit

Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community

activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

About 15,000 of the semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on

the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

The National Merit Scholarship winners of 2022 will be announced in four nationwide news

releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 362,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

The semifinalists from Blacksburg High School are Chase A. Beams,

Ayca Bulbul, Katerina A. Leedy, Kylene J. Monaghan, Seonbin Song, and Kevin Xu.

The semifinalist from Christiansburg High School is Jade M. Riddle.

The semifinalist from Eastern Montgomery High School is Ava V. Lazar.

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org



**903 Walker Drive, Radford**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Agents and Public Invited  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2021, 2 - 4 PM**  
Brick Home. Prestigious Neighborhood. 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths. Heat Pump. Covered parking for two vehicles. Fireplace. Formal Dining Room. Host, Kem Darden.  
Directions: From W. Main Street in Radford, go South on Walker Street. Turn Left on Walker Drive. Home on the right.  
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# OPINION

## Appalachian Power requests fuel rate increase for Virginia customers

ROANOKE, Va. -- Appalachian Power, a utility subsidiary of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), this week filed its annual fuel factor update with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) and is requesting an increase in the fuel rate for its Virginia customers.

Fuel costs are the portion of a customer's bill used to recover the cost of natural gas and coal used in the generation of

electricity as well as the cost of purchased power. The SCC reviews the company's fuel rate each year to determine whether it should be increased or lowered.

Fuel costs are approximately 20 percent of a residential customer's electric bill. The current fuel factor is 1.999 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Appalachian's proposal increases the fuel factor to 2.300 cents per kWh. For a customer using

1,000 kilowatt hours in a month, this will result in an increase of approximately \$3. The fuel factor was reduced last year due to lower costs; this year's increase brings it to the same level as it was in 2019.

If approved, the increase will go into effect in November. At that point, a Virginia residential customer using 1,000 kWh/month will pay 12.29 cents/kWh for electric-

ity, a cost that remains below the national average. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the average residential U.S. cost for electricity was 13.41 cents per kWh. (Electric Power Monthly, August 24, 2021.)

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power. AEP's approximately

16,800 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 223,000 miles of distribution lines to deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

## WalletHub ranks Virginia among happiest states

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, over the past year and a half, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we know it and hurt many people's mental health with four in 10 adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder. In light of this, WalletHub searched for the states that will most promote happiness in the wake of COVID-19 and ranked them from happiest to least happy.

The website's results placed Virginia among the happiest states in

the union at the No. 17 spot.

In this study, WalletHub drew upon the findings of "happiness" research to determine which environmental factors are linked to a person's overall well-being and satisfaction with life. Previous studies have found that good economic, emotional, physical, and social health are all key to a well-balanced and fulfilled life.

To determine where Americans exhibit the best combination of these factors, WalletHub

examined the 50 states across 31 metrics divided into three key dimensions: 1) Emotional and physical well-being, 2) Work environment and 3) community and environment.

Among the metrics and their individual rankings that contributed to Virginia's relatively high place in the survey with the lower numbers indicated the most happiness were the percentage of depressed adults: 13; the suicide rate: 11; the long-term unemployment rate: 28; the volunteer rate: 21; the

separation and divorce rate: 17; safety: 15; COVID-19 positive tests in the past week per capita: 20.

Among the metrics in the emotional and physical well-being dimension WalletHub used to determine its rankings were adverse childhood experiences, the share of adult depression, social well-being, the share of adults with alcohol use disorder, adequate sleep rate, and sports participation rate.

Some of the metrics included in WalletHub's work environment di-

mension to determine the rankings were the number of work hours, commute time, the share of households earning annual incomes above \$75,000, the share of adults worried about money, the current unemployment rate, and the long-term unemployment rate.

The metrics used in the community and environment dimension were the volunteer rate, ideal weather, the average leisure time spent per day, the separation and divorce rate, and safety.

According to WalletHub's survey, the ten states in the union most promoting happiness in the wake of COVID-19 are 1. Utah 2. Minnesota 3. Hawaii 4. California 5. North Dakota 6. South Dakota 7. Idaho 8. Maryland 9. New Jersey 10. Massachusetts.

Ranking in the bottom of WalletHub's happiness scale were 41. New Mexico 42. Alaska 43. Alabama 44. Tennessee 45. Kentucky 46. Oklahoma 47. Mississippi 48. Louisiana 49. Arkansas 50. West Virginia.

**RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL**  
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## Virginia students outperform peers on SAT

RICHMOND — Virginia high school graduates outperformed their global peers on the SAT in 2021, according to data released Tuesday by the College Board, the non-profit organization that administers the college admissions test.

Forty-one percent of Virginia's 2021 graduates took the SAT, compared to 65% of the commonwealth's 2020 graduates. The College Board attributes the sharp decline in participation — and related fluctuations in stu-

dent performance on the test — to factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a pause in testing during spring 2021, and the closure or reduced capacity of local testing centers in response to public health orders.

Of the 38,927 Virginia 2021 graduating seniors who took the SAT, 63% met or exceeded the College Board's college-readiness benchmarks in both the reading and writing, and the mathematics sections. Globally, 46% of SAT takers met the readi-

ness standard on both sections of the test.

"While this year's results represent a snapshot of achievement on the SAT during an extraordinary year, Virginia students overall continue to perform well above their peers nationwide," said Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane.

The commonwealth's high school graduates outscored their peers overall and on both required sections of the college-admissions test,

as follows:

Virginia's average overall score of 1151 was 91 points higher than the average for all 2021 tested graduating seniors.

Virginia's average of 584 on the reading and writing section of the SAT was 51 points higher than the average for all 2021 tested graduating seniors.

Virginia's average score of 567 in mathematics was 39 points higher than the average for all 2021 tested graduating seniors.

## Financial Focus: Prepare yourself financially for illness, just in case

All of us hope to live long, healthy lives, so we do what we can to take care of ourselves through proper diet, exercise, and avoiding unhealthy activities.

However, none of us can predict our future, so it pays to be prepared for anything including a serious physical illness or the onset of some type of mental incapacity such as Alzheimer's disease.

Of course, you may never face these infirmities, but you should be aware that they could upset your long-term financial strategy and place considerable stress on your loved ones. What steps can you take to head off these threats?

First, make sure you know what your health insurance covers and how much you might have to pay out of pocket for treatment of illnesses such as cancer or kidney ailments. If you're on Medicare (supplemented with Medigap) or Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C), you'll want to know all about deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. However, if Alzheimer's or another type of dementia is involved, Medicare may not cover the costs that could be incurred in an assisted living facility, so you may want to consult with a financial advisor, who can suggest ways of protecting yourself from long-term

care costs, which can be quite high.

Your next move is to make sure you have adequate liquidity. It's hard to predict how many out-of-pocket costs you could incur when coping with a serious illness, but it's a good idea to have enough cash readily available, rather than dipping into your 401(k) or other retirement accounts. So, if you're retired, you might want to keep up to a year's worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account.

Here's another important step: Update your estate plan. Hopefully, if you have a serious illness, you'll be able to recover. But it's still a good idea to review your estate plan to ensure everything is in order, such as your will and your living trust if you've created one. If you've kept up your life insurance, you'll also want to ensure your premiums are still being paid. And don't forget to review your beneficiary designations on your 401(k), insurance policies, and other financial documents, since these designations can supersede the instructions in your will.

As part of your estate planning, you may want

to include a durable power of attorney for finances, which allows you to name someone to manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which lets you name someone to make medical decisions for you if you're unable to do so yourself. You may also create a health care directive or living will to express your wishes if you don't have a power of attorney for health care, or the person named in a power of attorney for health care can't be reached in an emergency. And since estate planning can be complex, you'll certainly want to work with a legal professional and possibly your tax and financial advisors as well.

You might think it's somewhat grim to prepare yourself financially in case you become seriously ill or if your life is touched by Alzheimer's or another mental infirmity. But it's a positive move. You're protecting yourself and your loved ones from whatever life may throw at you.

-- Submitted by Meghan Kuczmariski, Edward Jones Financial Advisor

**CROSSWORD**

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69						70					71		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Bulla
  - Former Egyptian Pres.
  - Anwar
  - Identical
  - Military assistant
  - True health
  - Indonesian phenomenon
  - Japanese social networking
  - Bring banquet food
  - Front of the head
  - Jean Paul \_\_, author
  - Movie settings
  - Incline from vertical
  - Bleats
  - One who sings carols
  - Any high mountain
  - Mutual savings bank
  - Tequila plant
  - One point N of due E
  - Not large
  - Khoikhoi people
  - Soccer player Hamm
  - European owl genus
  - Palio race city
  - Hostelry
  - Outer ear eminences
  - Explosive
  - Illuminated
  - Musical pieces in slow tempo
  - Not crazy
  - Star Trek helm officer
  - Gave the axe
  - Make a mental connection
  - City founded by Xenophanes
  - Extremely angry
  - Wild Eurasian mountain goat
  - Voyage on water
  - Comforts
  - Otherwise
  - Young herrings in Norway
  - Weapon discharges
  - Prepares a dining table
  - Shopping pouches
  - Old Italian money
  - Central German river
  - Composer Ludwig van
  - A way to withdraw
  - Macaws
  - Radiotelegraphic signal
  - Highest card
  - Any bone of the tarsus
  - Places to store valuables
  - Actor Ladd
  - Nutmeg seed covering
  - Vision organs
  - Abnormal breathing
  - Crownworks
  - Religious recluse
  - Fruits of the genus Musa
  - Thou \_\_ do it
  - Repeatedly
  - Plant of a clone
  - African tribe
  - No. Irish borough & bay
  - French Chateau Royal
  - Bulk storage container
  - "Good Wife" Actress Julianna
  - Assoc. of Licensed Aircraft Engineers
  - An account of events
  - West \_\_ archipelago
  - Coercion
  - Leaves of the hemp plant
  - Jai \_\_ sport
  - Designer Chapman
  - Having the skill to do something
  - Exam
  - Prior wives
  - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
  - Volcanic mountain in Japan
  - Vietnamese offensive

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org



# National observance places focus on farmer safety

To produce enough food and fiber to supply worldwide consumer markets, farmers often work through adverse and hazardous conditions.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, agricultural occupations are the most dangerous in America, with 573 fatalities registered in 2019, or 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

To raise awareness of farming's occupational hazards, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) has designated Sept. 19-25 as National Farm Safety and Health Week. The annual safety promotion has been observed during the third week of September since 1944.

The theme for 2021 is "Farm Safety Yields Real Results," a reminder that it's in everyone's interest to prioritize the health and safety of those who provide

the nation's food, fiber and fuel.

Each day during National Farm Safety and Health Week, the AgriSafe Network will host two free webinars. AgriSafe is a nonprofit organization representing health professionals and educators who strive to reduce health disparities in agricultural communities. Daily webinar topics include tractor safety and rural roadway safety; overall farmer health; safety and health of youth in agriculture; agricultural fertilizer and chemical safety; and safety and health for women in agriculture.

Farm State of Mind, an American Farm Bureau Federation campaign, is among the programs also being promoted during the safety week. The goal of the campaign is to provide relevant information and critical mental health resources for farming families, as

well as reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness in rural communities.

NECAS also will promote American Farm Bureau's Think F.A.S.T. campaign, which focuses on addressing on-farm safety concerns pertaining to teens.

Farmers and other rural residents can access additional farm safety resources through the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation safety website.

Information on the site is compiled by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Farm Safety Advisory Committee and addresses topics such as accident response, agricultural hazards, mental health, and rural road safety. Site content also includes links to safety resources offered by other farming advocacy organizations.

"Safety is such an important aspect of farming, and we want to make

sure folks have access to as many resources as they can to help make their jobs as safe as possible," said Dana Fisher, chair-

man of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation safety committee. "As farmers begin the busy fall harvest season, National Farm

Safety and Health Week is a great time to remind our farmers that their physical and mental health should always come first."



According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, agricultural occupations are the most dangerous in America. Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Safety and Health Week.

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

**St. Thomas Anglican Church**- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek 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, unmoveable, 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, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

## 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

## 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.

## EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-

oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

## 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.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. 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., 7p.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph. Sunday school at 10am; worship at 11am in the sanctuary, masked & distanced. Phone 639-2585. Watch the service live on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford. www.pcradford.org. We are called to share the love of Christ in this community & beyond. Kelsey & 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

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Sincere Remorse

Read Hosea 8:1 through 14:9

"Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt" (Hosea 8:13).

Hosea declared the futility of Israel offering insincere sacrifices. The Lord was not pleased with rituals performed without remorse for wrongdoing. Instead of receiving forgiveness from heartfelt confession, the nation suffered punishment for their accumulated sins.

Hebrews 9:22 teaches that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgive-

ness." The blood from animal sacrifice pointed to the time when Christ's blood would secure forgiveness for all who receive Him. His death paid the penalty for sin once and for all.

Israel had treated the Lord as one of many gods, sacrificing only to gain favor. Doing good things to gain God's favor will not cover our sin. Nothing can substitute for the blood Christ shed. God sees each heart. He knows if there is true remorse that brings about change.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord Jesus, my forgiveness is only possible through You. I owe You everything.

Quicklook: Hosea 8:11-13

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



# OBITUARIES

## Ward, Robert "Bob" C.

Robert "Bob" C. Ward, 69, of Greenville, S.C., who recently moved to Radford, gained his wings on Sept. 11, 2021, while at home with his loving wife, Sherry Ward.



He worked as a machinist and supervisor but was forced to give up his career due to his health.

A special thank-you goes to the staff at Legacy Hospice of Roanoke for their loving care and support during his final days.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Margaret Ward, and his son, Donald Ward.

He was born in Knoxville. Bob joined the Navy and was a machinist mate third class and served on the U.S.S. Dixie.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry, of 33 years; his children, Lisa Wood, MaryAnn Ward, Brian Ward, Tammy Seaman, Bobby Reed, Jr., and Kevin Reed; sisters Brenda Smith and Wilma Edens; and many loving grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Bob was a loving father, husband, grandfather, and friend to everyone. He loved sports, especially racing and football, where his favorite teams were the Tennessee Volunteers and the Chicago Bears. Bob was a dirt track racing enthusiast who enjoyed spending time at the track with his family and racing buddies.

The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. today, Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 10 a.m. Interment will be private in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601, or flowers may be sent to Mullins Funeral Home, Radford, Virginia, 120 W. Main St., Radford, VA, 24141. Please order from Northside Flower Shop or Gates Flowers.

## Allen, Claude Kawood

Claude Kawood Allen, 81, of Christiansburg, died Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021.

He was born in Montgomery County on April 17, 1940, to the late William Dewey and Robbie Lee Dowdy Allen.

He was also preceded in death by his wife, Peggy McCoy Allen.

He is survived by his daughter, Denise Bowman (Steven Austin); a son and daughter-in-law, C.K. and Janet Allen; grandchildren Rob Bowman,

Nicole Hodges and her husband Allen, Victoria Short, and Justin Short; sisters and brothers-in-law, Barbara Perdue and Ernie Finney and Bonnie Guthrie and John Burton; a brother and sister-in-law, Ronnie and Ann Allen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family thanks Friendship Health Care Center South for their care during Mr. Allen's illness. A private graveside service will be held. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Gilmore, Ethel Collins

Ethel Collins Gilmore, 76, of Christiansburg, passed away Sunday Sept. 12, 2021.

She was born on June 30, 1945, to the late Woodrow Wilson and Clara Mann Collins.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Ronnie Lee Gilmore; a brother, Charles Collins; and a brother-in-law, Bruce Luckado.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Mark Sullivan, Darlene and Richard Viers, and Jessica Gilmore and fiancé, Jason Icard; sons Nathan Gilmore and Neil Gilmore and fiancée, Samantha Crockett; grandchildren Joshua Huffman, Jake

Huffman, Grace Sullivan, and Serenity Icard; great-grandchildren Leeiam Huffman, Gabriel Huffman, Colton Huffman, and Sawyer Huffman; sisters and brother-in-law, Marie Luckado and Carole and Nelson King; brothers and sisters-in-law Gaynor and Mary Sue Collins, Everett and Donna Collins, and Kirby and Myra Conner; sister-in-law Zylphia Collins, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, in the Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg, with the Rev. Neil Turner officiating.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Bane, Gerald "Jerry" Junior

Gerald "Jerry" Junior Bane, 74, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021.

Jerry was born and raised in Parrott, Va., which was always home to him no matter where he lived. He worked many years as a pipe insulator for various companies and retired from RAAP.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Leander and Bertha Bane, and his daughter, Angela Bane Tuck.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Bane; two sisters, Mary Ann Chinault (Robert) of Belspring and Shirley Simpson of Roanoke; a son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Deborah Bane of Brooksville, Fla., and a daughter and

son-in-law, Leslie and Wayne Nelson of Christiansburg; five grandchildren, Tory Tuck Fillinger (Phillip), Brandy Aviles (Dony), Taylor Tuck, Logan Adkins, and Grace Nelson; four great-grandchildren, Liam, Brayden, Ellie, and Declan; and many special nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed.

The family requests that contributions be made in Gerald's memory to Heartland Hospice in Roanoke.

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

## Hackney, Joyce P.

Joyce P. Hackney, 74, of Pilot Mountain passed away Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson.

She was born in Blacksburg on June 28, 1947, to the late Paris E. and Norma Gene Sweeney Price. Joyce was a loving homemaker who will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Audra and Larry Lowe of Pilot Mountain; sons and daughters-in-law, Tommy E.A. and Wendy Hackney of Williamsburg, Va., Walter D. and Patsy Hackney of Elliston; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandson, and six great-granddaughters; sisters and brothers-in-law, Ann and Buddy Hoback of Dublin, Sue and Ralph Long of Blacksburg; a brother and sister-in-law, Dwight

and Nancy Price of Blacksburg; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Joyce was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas E. Hackney; a sister and brother-in-law, Gayle and Jimmy Hudgins; and a brother, E. Stephen Price.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Banner-town Baptist Church with the Rev. Jonathan Barker officiating. The family received friends from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home, 945 Zephyr Rd., Dobson, NC 27017. Online condolences may be made at www.moodyfuneralservices.com.

## Learning Center

years ago with the mission of bringing a high-quality childcare and early education center to the Radford area. The result of this initiative is the Radford Early Learning Center, currently run by KinderCare Learning Centers under contract with RCD, Inc.

Radford Early Learning Center is a Level 3 Virginia Quality facility and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Radford Child Development provides support to early learning center teachers as well as families in financial need.



Gary Gillespie Israel, son of renowned artist Dorothy Gillespie and president of the Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation, shows a child at Radford Early Learning Center his mother's artwork.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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G	R	E	E	C	A	T	E	R	F	A	C	E
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C	A	R	O	L	E	R	A	L	P	M	S	B
A	G	A	V	E	E	B	N	S	M	A	L	L
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S	I	L	D	S	H	O	T	S	S	E	T	S

## Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Through Friday, Sept. 10, alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

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

**DMV Notice:** The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width

for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

**ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT** - Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

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

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

**ROUTE 636 BRIDGE**

**REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW** - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. A detour is also in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2021.

**UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460** - MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

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

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**Help Wanted - General**

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**

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

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**

Ghanshyam Enterprise INC, trading as Garry's, 3631 Radford Rd, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-6147.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Sureshbhai P Patel, Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Christiansburg volleyball takes down Lord Botetourt



Baylee Reasor serves in Christiansburg's big win over the defending state champion Lord Botetourt Cavaliers Tuesday. Reasor served three aces to go with 11 kills and 12 digs in Christiansburg's 20-25, 25-19, 14-25, 15-13 win.



Niqua Banks makes the pass in Christiansburg's win Tuesday over Botetourt. The Blue Demon squad improved to 6-1 on the season. Kyleigh Phillips had 28 assists and four aces in the match.



Addison Reasor sends the ball back over the net in Tuesday's defeat of the Cavaliers, a traditional state volleyball powerhouse.

## Matt Hagan to return to track after battle with COVID

Reigning National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Camping World Series Funny Car champion Matt Hagan will return to competition this weekend at the NHRA Carolina Nationals in Concord, N.C., after missing two races due to COVID-19.

Hagan has completed all the NHRA protocols and has been cleared to suit up and strap back into his 11,000-horsepower Shelor Motor Mile Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat Redeye where he will continue his title defense.

Hagan enters the weekend ranked second in the point standings and less than one round behind the current point leader following his team's victory last weekend at the Mopar Express Lane NHRA Nationals Presented by Pennzoil, the first of NHRA's seven Countdown to the Championship playoff races.

Hagan discussed his COVID-19 experience in an interview.

"COVID affects everyone differently, and it was something that hit me re-

ally hard. It started like the flu and then just never got better. I had several days of lying in bed with a fever, chills, and aches and finally ended up having to check myself into the emergency room. I spent a night there receiving fluids and steroids, and they were doing everything they could do to bring my 104-degree temperature down.

"My breathing was really concerning to them and that's why they kept me overnight. Once they got my oxygen up and finally got my fever down to about 101, they released me from the hospital, but I still wasn't out of the woods. It still took some time for my body to recover.

QUESTION: Indy would have been your 288th race. Have you ever missed a race since embarking on your professional NHRA career in 2008?

HAGAN: No, I've never missed a race. I was talking to my dad about that yesterday, actually. We were saying it's pretty crazy that I've been able to race for almost 15 years now and never had

to miss one. I've always been healthy; never had a broken bone or anything, which when you think about it, I'm on the farm when I'm not at the race track. I've never been kicked by a cow or gotten run over by a piece of equipment.

QUESTION: How did you follow along or watch the Indy and Reading races? On TV? Live timing?

HAGAN: I had about 100 people texting me all day long. And obviously, I was following the @ShoreRacing social media channels, checking all of the round-by-round results, too, so that kept me right in the loop.

But honestly, even if I never looked at social media or turned on live timing, I still would have known what was going on because my phone was going off nonstop.

QUESTION: Now that you're healthy, what have you been doing to prepare to return to the driver's seat?

HAGAN: As big of a setback as this was for me, I feel 100% confident and I'm 100% ready to



Riner's Matt Hagan is the defending 2020 World Champion and will be back in action this weekend.

go racing this weekend in Charlotte. I've been doing cardio, lifting weights. I'm a little weaker on the weights than I'm used to, but my lung capacity has bounced right back. That was the biggest concern for me – putting on 30 pounds worth of gear, and the nitro, and the g-forces, and strapping in and not being able to breathe, and thankfully, that's not even a concern of mine anymore. I truly feel like I'm ready to go.

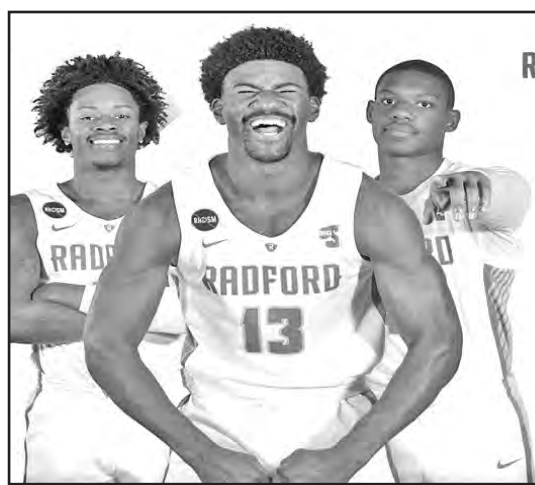
QUESTION: You've

been out of the seat since Brainerd, which was almost a month ago now. Do you feel behind at all knowing that all of the other championship-contending drivers enter Charlotte with two solid weeks of back-to-back racing?

HAGAN: I don't feel at a disadvantage at all. We've taken months off before. Last year we had about four months off due to COVID, and we came back and won that first race back. I feel very

confident in my abilities to drive the race car and be a good leaver on the starting line. I feel excited because I know I get to crawl back into a great race car. I've been doing this for so many years, so the g-forces and acclimating to the speed isn't really that big of a deal to me. I know what I've got to do. My guys will put a great race car underneath me and I'm confident I can get back in there and not miss a beat.

## Big South schedule finalized for RU men's basketball



2021-22 BIG SOUTH SCHEDULE RADFORD MEN'S BASKETBALL			
1.5	1.8	1.12	1.15
1.19	1.22	1.26	1.29
2.2	2.5	2.9	2.12
2.16	2.19	2.23	2.26
HOME		AWAY	

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

The Radford men's basketball team will play 16 Big South games as part of the 2021-22 season, the conference office announced Wednesday.

The Highlanders begin their quest for the seventh regular season championship in program history on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at USC Upstate. They then return home for back-to-back contests in the Dedmon Center against Big South newcomer North Carolina A&T (Saturday, Jan. 8) and Longwood (Wednesday, Jan. 12).

Another brief road trip comes up right after with a game at Campbell on Saturday, Jan. 15. Radford then returns to the NRV for another pair of home games against Hampton (Wednesday, Jan. 19) and UNC Asheville (Saturday, Jan. 22).

The Highlanders will swing through North Carolina to close out the month of January, playing against High Point on Wednesday, Jan. 26, and Gardner-Webb on Saturday, Jan. 29.

The squad then welcomes Charleston Southern (Wednesday, Feb. 2) and Presbyterian (Saturday, Feb. 5) to the Dedmon Center before traveling for the sole showdown with Winthrop (Wednesday, Feb. 9) and a rematch with Hampton (Saturday, Feb. 12).

In two of the biggest dates on the schedule, Radford hosts Campbell (Wednesday, Feb. 16) and High Point (Saturday, Feb. 19) for the final two home games of the year. They then close out the regular season at Longwood (Wednesday, Feb. 23) and N.C. A&T (Saturday, Feb. 26).

In a change from previous years, the Big South Tournament will be held at Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte March 1-6.

The Highlanders will be led by Head Coach Darris Nichols in his first year at the helm. They return several key contributors from last season, including seniors Lewis Djonkam, Josiah Jeffers, Shaquan Jules, and

Chyree Walker. Tickets for both Radford men's and women's basketball will go on sale soon at radfordtickets.com.

2021-22 RADFORD MEN'S BASKETBALL BIG SOUTH SCHEDULE	
1.5.22	@ USC Upstate
1.8.22	N.C. A&T
1.12.22	Longwood
1.15.22	@ Campbell
1.19.22	Hampton
1.22.22	UNC Asheville
1.26.22	@ High Point
1.29.22	@ Gardner-Webb
2.2.22	Charleston
2.5.22	Presbyterian
2.9.22	@ Winthrop
2.12.22	@ Hampton
2.16.22	Campbell
2.19.22	High Point
2.23.22	@ Longwood
2.26.22	@ N.C. A&T

## Auburn downs Glenvar



Avery Zuckerwar returns the ball during Wednesday's 23-25, 24-26, 25-18, 25-19, 15-9 win over Glenvar. The victory stretched Auburn's win streak to 67, which breaks a 48-year-old Virginia High School record. Zuckerwar finished with 10 kills, two aces and two digs.



Auburn's Anna McGuire sets the volleyball during the team's win over Glenvar. McGuire tallied 35 assists, and Stacy Lewis added 18 digs.



Allyson Martin goes up against the Glenvar blocker and is able to force the ball back over the net. Martin had 27 kills, 28 digs and three blocks in the match.



# Lady Highlanders release 2021-22 basketball schedule

The Big South portion of the Radford University women's basketball 2021-22 schedule was announced by the Big South office Tuesday afternoon.

The 18-game slate includes nine games in the Dedmon Center and a pair of matchups against Big South newcomer North Carolina A&T. The Highlanders will open conference play on the road against UNC Asheville on Dec. 29. The first home conference match is currently slated just after that on Jan. 1.

Radford will spend a majority of the first half of its schedule on the road with six of the first nine games scheduled for opponents' courts. The second half of the schedule flips that theme as seven of the last ten games of the season will be played in

the Dedmon Center.

The program's final tune-up before the Big South tournament will be at home on Feb. 26 against Presbyterian. The Big South Championship will be hosted at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte this season as the conference will move away from the previous format that allowed top-seeded teams to host portions of the tournament.

Head Coach Mike McGuire owns a 102-50 record against Big South teams and is currently on a streak of seven straight conference seasons without a losing record. McGuire earned his 100th Big South win last season against Charleston Southern. Overall, Radford enters the year with a 341-191 (.641) record against Big South competition which is first in the all-



## 2021-22 BIG SOUTH SCHEDULE RADFORD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

12.29	1.1	1.4	1.8
1.11	1.15	1.18	1.22
1.25	1.29	2.1	2.5
2.9	2.12	2.15	2.19
<b>HOME</b>	2.22	2.26	<b>AWAY</b>

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

time standings.

2021-22	BIG SOUTH SCHEDULE
12.29.21	@UNC Asheville
1.1.22	Winthrop
1.4.22	@High Point

1.8.22	Gardner-Webb
1.11.22	@North Carolina A&T
1.15.22	@Presbyterian
1.18.22	Hampton
1.22.22	@Campbell

1.25.22	@Charleston Southern
1.29.22	Longwood
2.1.22	USC Upstate
2.5.22	North Carolina A&T
2.9.22	High Point

2.12.22	@Gardner-Webb
2.15.22	UNC Asheville
2.19.22	@Winthrop
2.22.22	@Hampton
2.26.22	Presbyterian

# RU, VT baseball set fall exhibitions

Radford University baseball head coach Karl Kuhn Monday announced a packed fall schedule that includes three exhibition games and a father-son camp day. All three games will take place at Sherman Carter Memorial Stadium in the Radford Athletics Complex.

Kicking off its fall schedule, Tech will welcome the Ontario Blue Jays to Blacksburg on Friday, Sept. 24, at 2 p.m. Regarded as one of Canada's top

development clubs, the Blue Jays have produced eight major-league players across their 25-year history, including current pros like Cleveland outfielder Josh Naylor and Toronto reliever Jordan Romano.

VT will also host a home exhibition game against in-state foe Liberty University at 5 p.m. on Oct. 15 at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park. Both exhibition games will be open to the public with free admission for all fans.

The Hokies will conclude the fall exhibition season with a game on the road against Radford University at 4 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Ballpark concessions will be open and available to all fans for both Tech fall games at English Field. Per Virginia Tech athletic department policy, all guests must wear masks regardless of their vaccination status when utilizing indoor facilities.

The Highlanders will kick

off their fall against those same Ontario Blue Jays at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26. Fans are then invited to come back on Friday, Oct. 15, for the team's second exhibition game of the fall, a 6 p.m. game with Potomac State.

The Highlanders' final exhibition game of the season will be the previously mentioned contest against Virginia Tech in the Radford Athletics Complex on Oct. 22.

The weekend will continue

with a father-son camp day on Saturday, Oct. 23, presented by Highlander Baseball Camps. To view pricing and get registered, visit highlanderbaseballcamps.com.

All three exhibitions are presented by Radford baseball. Everyone is welcome with no admission charge.

Fall exhibition games may vary in length and format from traditional nine-inning contests at the discretion of both coaching staffs.

# Outdoor report: Dove hunting harvest looks to be below average this year

With a gradual decline in the dove population numbers in Virginia over the past 15 years or so, the 2021 season could yield average or below average results for dove hunters.

The mourning dove is one of the most abundant game birds in North America. Data from recent years indicate there are around 194 million doves in the United States and around 5 million in Virginia. Mourning dove hunting is very popular and is offered in 41 U.S. states and several Canadian provinces.

In the United States, an estimated 750,000 dove hunters harvested around 11.7 million doves during the 2020 hunting season. Recent surveys in Virginia indicate there are around 16,500 dove hunters in the state and the average harvest is

around 225,000 doves annually.

In 2021, late winter and early spring weather was mild but quite wet with many areas getting above average rainfall. These wet conditions sometimes lead to a reduction in dove nesting success. Doves build fairly shallow nests that can get damaged by wet and windy conditions. In addition, the nestlings are susceptible to this cool and wet weather, and their survival is often lower in these conditions.

Overall, production looks like it will be around average to slightly below average this year.

Dove hunter success often depends not only on the dove populations and nesting success, but also on the condition of the habitat and the amount of food available. Like always, conditions varied around the

state. In most areas, planting dates for agricultural crops (corn and sunflower) were close to normal with mild weather and warm conditions during spring planting.

Good to abundant precipitation throughout the summer has led to a very good crop of both native vegetation and agricultural grains in many parts of the state, especially the eastern portions.

As the corn harvest increases in early to mid-September, this will open up more feeding grounds for doves. This may also spread the birds out across the available habitat and make concentrations of birds harder to find. Some pre-season scouting may be necessary to help locate areas that doves are using. Look for fresh cut agricultural fields or areas with lots of native plant foods like millets

and pokeberry.

Remember to check your birds to see if any are wearing leg bands. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) captures and leg-bands doves in July and August, just prior to the hunting season. The information obtained from this banding program is used for evaluating dove population status and for developing hunting season regulations. Only about 5 to 8% of the doves the department bands are recovered by hunters, and most of those recoveries (90%) occur within the state of Virginia. Out-of-state recoveries of Virginia-banded doves have come predominantly from neighboring states or states in the southeastern U.S., including Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and a couple from Flor-

ida. Most band recoveries occur during the first two weeks of the season, and 90% of all recoveries occur during the month of September, an indication that most dove hunting occurs during September.

Remember to report any bands you recover to the Bird Banding Laboratory website [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov). You will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" that includes information on where and when the dove was banded.

Also, remember to register for the department's Harvest Information Program (HIP) well before going dove hunting so you aren't rushed trying to do everything at the last minute. Enjoy your hunting and be safe. Good luck.

-- Gary Costanzo, DWR Migratory Game Bird Manager

# Big South, Hercules extend partnership

The Big South Conference, in conjunction with its official basketball championship logo reveal, announced Sunday that Hercules Tires, a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Tire Distributors and one of the largest independent suppliers of tires in North America, has extended its title sponsorship of the conference's basketball championships for two years.

The agreement continues a partnership that began in 2020. The 2022 and 2023 Hercules Tires Big South Men's and Women's Basketball Championships will be held in Charlotte, N.C.

The 2022 Hercules Tires Big South Men's and Women's Basketball Championships will be played at historic Bojangles Coliseum for the first time, and the facility marks the league's first neutral site for its marquee basketball events since 2003 and just the fifth time overall in the conference's 38-year history.

The multi-year extension marks one of the largest sponsorships in Big South history. In addition to the title sponsorship, Hercules Tires will continue to have an integrated marketing presence, allowing the brand to have ongoing

connections with Big South alumni, fans, students, and employees at all conference championship events. Hercules Tires will also return as the title sponsor of the annual Big South Basketball Campus Tour.

"We're excited to continue the partnership we've enjoyed with the Big South Conference which continues to prove itself as a leader in college athletics," said Josh Simpson, Senior Vice President of Hercules Tires. "Our sponsorship entitlements continue to allow us to strengthen our brand recognition with students, athletes, and the loyal fan base of

the conference in some of our key markets."

"Hercules Tires has been a wonderful partner for the Big South Conference, and we are thrilled that they are back as the title sponsor of our basketball championships," said Big South Commissioner Kyle Kallander. "Tipping off for the first time in Charlotte in March, the Hercules Tires Big South Conference Basketball Championships will be an outstanding experience for our student-athletes and fans, largely due to Hercules Tires support. Welcome back, Hercules Tires."

The 2022 Hercules

Tires Big South Basketball Championships are scheduled for March 1-6 and will feature four games a day leading up to Championship Sunday on March 6. The women's tournament will begin Tuesday, March 1, with first-round games while the men's event begins Wednesday, March 2 with first-round contests. The women's quarterfinals are Thursday, March 3, followed by the men's quarterfinals on Friday, March 4.

Each championship semifinal round will be Saturday, March 5, with both championship contests set for Sunday, March 6. The official

2022 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championship brackets, as well as ticket information, will be released at a later date.

Founded in 1983, the Big South Conference is currently composed of 12 member institutions: Campbell University, Charleston Southern University, Gardner-Webb University, Hampton University, High Point University, North Carolina A&T State University, Longwood University, Presbyterian College, Radford University, UNC Asheville, USC Upstate, and Winthrop University.

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



# Landowners encouraged to contribute acorns for 2023 hardwood seedling crop

Statewide expansion of hardwood habitat is the grand prize for a unique scavenger hunt open to all Virginia landowners.

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) is collecting a variety of acorn species and nuts that can be planted at its Augusta Forestry Center in Crimora. The seeds from these nuts will produce 2023's hardwood seedling crop and be sold to Virginia forestland owners, typically to reforest open lands.

State foresters said seedlings sprouted from Virginia-grown acorns generally produce trees that will best thrive in Virginia's climates. But some of those seeds

are hard to procure in abundance. Species needed include black oak, black walnut, Chinese chestnut, chestnut oak, live oak, northern red oak, pin oak, southern red oak, swamp chestnut oak, swamp white oak, white oak, and willow oak.

"Virginia Farm Bureau and other associations helped us get about \$300,000 from the (state's) general fund last General Assembly session to expand our Augusta nursery," said Ed Zimmer, deputy state forester. "A lifting machine, sprayers, and irrigation pipe will allow us to expand about seven acres of fields there for the 2023 planting crop, so we're tripling the

amount of acorns we're ordering from bulk producers. We hope to have about 1.3 million hardwoods and 2.3 million conifers."

The public can help with that effort by collecting and donating acorns. September and October are the best months for collecting in most areas of the state. This year's deadline for receiving acorns is October 15.

"Acorn collection can be a fun activity for both children and adults," Zimmer said. "And it provides an opportunity to learn more about Virginia tree species."

Foresters said acorn collectors should look for healthy trees by avoiding those with bulges or in



sect infestation and those that appear diseased or deformed.

Make sure each burlap or paper collection bag of seed is labeled with the species, source location, and date. Do not mix nuts from different species in the same bag. Store collected nuts in a cool area (not a freezer) for no more than 10 days

before delivering them to a VDOF office. Bags also can be mailed directly to the Augusta Forestry Center at 90 Forestry Center Lane, Crimora, VA 24431.

More details and identification tips are available on the VDOF website and from the Augusta Forestry Center, 540-363-7000.

## Purchasing the correct insurance coverage means enjoying toys worry free

Boats, motorcycles and RVs all can provide carefree summertime fun, but it's important that they're properly protected with insurance coverage.

Virginia Farm Bureau can provide coverage for a variety of recreational vehicles and offer policyholders peace of mind.

Boat insurance With a properly endorsed boat insurance policy, also known as a navigator policy, boats are covered in and out of the water.

Boat owners can purchase coverage for personal-use watercraft such as fishing boats, motor boats, pontoon boats, and Jet Skis, as well as coverage for trailers and other equipment needed to tow them.

A standard policy will cover property damage to a boat, its motor, and other valuable on-board accessories, such as communication devices and radar instruments. The policy also provides liability coverage to help pay for injuries sustained by passengers in the event of an accident as well as damage done to other boats.

Additional coverage that can be purchased includes towing and emergency services and personal property and uninsured boater protection.

For policyholders who intend to share ownership of a boat or any vehicle with fam-

ily or friends, it's important that each person on the title be listed as an insured and each operator listed as a driver on the policy. Otherwise, losses incurred by owners not listed on the policy may not be covered.

Motorcycle insurance Motorcycle coverage is similar to what's offered through standard auto insurance policies, and bikes can be protected under a pre-existing policy or on a separate one.

Motorcyclists can opt for the same coverages available to passenger vehicles—liability, collision and comprehensive coverage—which offers protection against damage caused by other vehicles, thieves, vandals, and weather. Additional protection against uninsured motorists, medical expenses and income loss due to an accident also may be purchased.

Lisa Whitus, personal and commercial lines underwriting manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co., noted motorcyclists should be mindful of liability coverage due to the dangers associated with motorcycles.

"Motorcycles are much smaller vehicles, so they're not going to do a lot of property damage like other larger vehicles would," Whitus said. "But, because motorcycles offer their drivers and passengers little protection, accidents can cause severe injury or death.

That's why it's important to keep in mind the potential costs of bodily injury."

To compensate for above-average injury risks, Whitus recommends policyholders purchase liability limits of \$100,000 per person per incident for bodily injury and \$300,000 in coverage for an entire accident. She also recommends bikers endorse their policies with \$50,000

for total property damage.

Motorhome and RV coverage

Camper vans, travel trailers and full-size RVs also can be covered under an auto policy.

Insurance needs often depend on the type of vehicle, but liability, collision, and comprehensive coverage are available on most recreational vehicles. Other optional

endorsements include coverage for pets and electronic equipment and transportation and towing expenses.

ATV coverage

Most homeowners can endorse an all-terrain vehicle on their home insurance policies if the vehicle will be used only on the premises of the insured property. Coverage under a homeowner policy provides limited pro-

tection for damage, liability and theft claims.

However, if a policyholder plans to use the ATV elsewhere, it must be insured under an auto policy. Customers can then purchase coverage for bodily injury and property damage liability, collision and other than collision, medical payments, and protection against uninsured motorists.



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### MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON AMENDMENT # 1 TO THE 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) seeks public comment on an Amendment to its Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan. The purpose of the Amendment is to update and expand the constrained project list because of an increase in revenue estimates. Copies of the Plan are available for review at: Planning Offices in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford, the Counties of Montgomery and Pulaski, and on the MPO website at: [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org).



**Deadline for Written Comments: October 19, 2021**

The public can also speak at the MPO Policy Board Meeting November 4, 2021, 2 P.M., at the Montgomery County Government Center.

This plan is being developed in compliance with the FAST Act and its amendments (Public Law 114-94, December 4, 2015).

**Questions? Contact MPO Director Dan Brugh**

**Phone: 540-394-2145**

**Email: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov)**

The New River Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMO) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Discrimination Complaint Form, email: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov) or call (540) 394-2145.





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