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## Radford Police Department looking for a name for newest K9 officer

The Radford City Police Department is looking for the public's help in naming its newest addition to the department.

"We are inviting the community to help name the newest officer that has joined the Radford City Police Department," the department recently announced. "This handsome male K9 is a 15-month-old Belgian Malinois from the Netherlands. This excited pup will begin training with his handler in October but first needs to learn his name before training."

Citizens have until this Friday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m. to enter the naming contest. Follow the QR code on the photo or link to submit your suggestion for a name to [https://corexmsr52jgkmlbpj71.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0xfBCIGx0ssrs7c](https://corexmsr52jgkmlbpj71.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0xfBCIGx0ssrs7c).

The police department also announced it could use some donations to the K9 program.

"We have been asked by several citizens how they could donate to the K-9 Program," the department's announcement reads. "If you are interested in helping us sustain our K9



**This 15-month old Belgian Malinois is the newest K9 officer for the Radford City Police Department, and he needs a name.**

Unit with all the necessary equipment, training, and medical costs, donations can be made by sending personal or corporate checks."

Send donations to the following address and note

in the memo section that this is a donation for the K9 Unit: Radford City: Radford City Police Department c/o Cindy Carroll, 20 Robertson St., Radford, VA 24141.

-Heather Bell



The Radford University Planetarium is located in the Center for the Sciences on East Main Street.

## Radford University Planetarium now open with limited seating

RADFORD – The Radford University Planetarium is now open, but people interested in attending must get permission to see the show.

"We have settled on the protocols that will help to keep everyone as safe as possible while still offering shows for everyone," said Dr. Rhett Herman, planetarium director. "Our shows for the next few weeks, until at least mid-October, will be Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. We will also have our popular Saturday morning kids' shows starting on Saturday, Sept. 25, at 10:30 a.m."

The following protocols are in place to attend a show:

Email [planets@radford.edu](mailto:planets@radford.edu) with your name, your phone number, the date of the show that you would like to attend, and the total number of people in your COVID-family group with the names of all people in their group including their names and the total number of people in their group.

The maximum number of people allowed for any group is 27 so social distancing can be maintained.

To attend any show, persons must receive a confirmation email and bring that email with them to show to the planetarium operator upon arrival.

See Planetarium, page 2

## Radford Photo Club announces September challenge winners

RADFORD – Rebecca Harris of Radford won the Radford Photo Club's September photo challenge, Silhouette, with her photo, "Day Is Done," taken in Pulaski County.

Joyce Sims of Radford won the open category with her photo of a Monarch butterfly on a zinnia in her garden.

The Radford Photo Club meets monthly at the Radford Public Library. At the next meeting, on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m., Brian Smith of Blacksburg will share his photos of birds and talk about how to photograph them. He will bring the equipment he uses. Photography enthusiasts are invited to attend



"Day Is Done" by Rebecca Harris



Joyce Sims's photograph of a monarch butterfly on a zinnia.



CREATIVE COMMONS IMAGE / CC BY 3.0.

**Large wildfires create pyrocumulus clouds that carry aerosols into the atmosphere where they influence climate change by upsetting the balance of radiation reaching the Earth's surface. Better data about how aerosols behave in the atmosphere can facilitate more accurate climate prediction.**

## The unexplored region of the atmosphere that could help predict climate change

About 17 kilometers above the Earth's surface, the first layer of the atmosphere meets the second one. At a boundary called the tropopause, the troposphere ends and the stratosphere begins. Straddling this interface, for about five kilometers on either side, is a band of the atmosphere labeled, matter-

of-factly, the "upper troposphere/lower stratosphere" — the UTLS.

This chilly slice of dust and gases doesn't get a lot of press. But the materials swirling around in it powerfully influence the climate we experience on Earth, and good data about what's going on in the UTLS will

power much more accurate models of how we can expect the climate to change, and when. So far, however, we know very little.

"It literally is, as hard as this is to believe, an unexplored region in the atmosphere," said Scott Bailey, a professor in Virginia Tech's

See Climate Change, page 6



The Christiansburg High School Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Mandy Steele, was among the featured performers at Saturday's festival.

## Christiansburg Kiwanis Club presents Wilderness Trail Festival

The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg turned downtown into a place of celebration and fun Saturday, Sept. 18, by sponsoring the 48th annual Wilderness Trail Festival.

Last year's festival was cancelled because of the pandemic. Some sponsors and vendors nevertheless chose to donate their pre-paid fees to the club and the club had some reserves on hand, so all planned youth activities were funded.

This year's event included the usual local arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, a children's area, two stages, an emergency services area, great food all day, and raffles.

A noticeable change to Saturday's footprint was that Hickok Street was closed by the town for planned repairs. The vendors normally located there were moved to East



Hauntingly beautiful traditional Andes music from Bolivia was played at the festival by Itumiray of the Zampona (pictured) and the quena.

See Festival, page 3



# Christiansburg Aquatic Center October fitness schedule

Morning Fit (Monday/Wednesday); 9:15-10:15 a.m., Oct. 4-21, \$42 residents; \$52 non-residents.

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

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the slide side of the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of 16.

Warm Water Workout (Monday/Wednesday); 10:30-11:30 a.m., Oct. 4-27, \$50 residents; \$60 non-residents.

This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations. This class is for those whose goal includes increasing strength, flexibility, and range of motion in a relaxing and low impact atmosphere.

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10. Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one session per person per month.

Rolling in the Deep (Tuesday/Thursday); 9:30-10:30 a.m., Oct. 5-28, \$42 residents; \$52 non-residents.

Strap on an aqua belt for a deep-water class in the competition pool. Participants can expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging and skiing to develop core strength.

Julliann Kowalcik is the instructor with a maximum enrollment of 20. This class allows drop-in participation.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday); 9:15-10:15 a.m., Oct. 5-28, \$50 residents; \$60 non-residents.

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10. Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one session per person per month.

Warm Water Workout (Tuesday/Thursday); 10:30-11:30 a.m., Oct. 5-28, \$50 residents; \$60 non-residents.

Danielle Bland is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of 10. Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one session per person per month.

Hydro Power (Tuesday/Thursday); 5:45-6:30 p.m., Oct. 5-28, \$42 for residents, \$52 for non-residents.

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

Julliann Kowalcik is the instructor with a maximum enrollment of 20. This class allows drop-in participants.

Swim and Trim (Wednesday); 7-7:45 a.m., Oct. 6-27, \$22 residents, \$32 non-residents.

Participants can start their day off right with a new routine consisting of half dryland workout and half water workout. It's guaranteed to hit all the right muscles and have everyone ready to conquer the rest of the day. Participants should bring their own mat or extra towel for the deck exercise portion.

Julliann Kowalcik is the instructor in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight and two participants per lane. This class allows drop-in participants.

Rise N' Shine Water Aerobics (Wednesday); 7-7:45 a.m., Oct. 6-27, \$27 residents, \$37 non-residents.

This morning class will get participants ready for the day. This is an aerobics class for the early risers so they can kick off their day energized.

Edward Tickle is the instructor at the slide side of the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

Fluid Movement (Friday); 8-9 a.m., Oct. 22-Nov. 19 with no class on Nov. 5, \$27 for residents, \$37 for non-residents.

Motion is lotion for the joints. This class provides exercises that assist with balance, stability, and range of motion with a gentle, movement filled workout in shallow water. Low impact, the water helps relieve discomfort of exercise or stretching while relieving stress and increasing flexibility and balance control.

Ana McRoberts is the instructor in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

Fit and Fabulous (Friday), 9:15-10:15 a.m., Oct. 22-Nov. 19 with no class on Nov. 5, \$22 for residents, \$32 for non-residents.

This one-hour workout will increase functional movement, range of motion, muscle strength, and flexibility by using inspiration from workouts such as HIIT, Tabata, Kickboxing, Aqua Zumba, and Pilates. Workouts will vary weekly to keep participants moving and on their toes. Upbeat music combined with a little bit of something for everyone creates a fabulous workout for all fitness levels.

Ana McRoberts is the instructor in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of 12. This class allows drop-in participants.

Aqua Yoga (Saturday), 9-10 a.m., Oct. 23-Nov. 20 with no class on Nov. 6, \$28 residents, \$38 non-residents.

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

Thea Vincenti is the instructor with a maximum enrollment of 10. This class allows drop-in participants.

# PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

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



**Gibbons enjoys making friends of the human variety and may do best in a home without other pets. In the past, he has shown that he doesn't like other dogs. Gibbons knows the "sit" command and will gladly pose for a tasty treat.**



**Animal Care and Adoption Center resident Perly is a pleasantly plump kitty who will need hygiene help from her humans due to her weight and long hair. She tends to show an independent spirit and prefers not to be carried. She may do best in a home without younger children.**

## Festival

from page 1



**At the festival, the public got the chance to see the drones used by Wing to make deliveries in Christiansburg.**

Main Street and the medical parking lot. The Home Improvement Row was located on West Main Street near Burger King.

The overall festival grew once again as an additional food court was added, and the number of vendors grew so that space extended on Main Street from Burger King to town hall.

The children's area was located in front of the Atlantic Union Bank branch at the intersection of Main and Franklin streets. It included two inflatables, a slide, and a bouncy house. This location was close to the emergency service location on South Franklin Street that included fire trucks, rescue vehicles, and police cars.

The live crafters area was greatly enhanced and was located on East Main Street in the town hall parking lot. This area included a blacksmith, a wood turner,

a basket maker, a bullet maker, hand-crafted leather, a corn shuck chair bot-tomer, and the Wilderness Trail Museum.

The community stage sponsored by Shentel was in the Dollar General Store parking lot on West Main Street near Burger King with performances beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m.

A second stage sponsored by Great Road on Main was located on North Franklin Street at the intersection of Main Street near the Atlantic Union Bank. Again, performances ran from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Two food courts offered

several vendors preparing and cooking fresh food. One food court was on North Franklin Street near the Main and Franklin intersection and the other was placed on East Main Street near the Christiansburg Town Hall.

In past years, the arts and craft festival drew from 7,500 to 10,000 attendees from all over Virginia and neighboring states.

All proceeds from this event benefited the youth-focused programs of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club, which assumed operation of the festival from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

## Montgomery among districts receiving school innovation grants

Montgomery County is among the statewide school districts that have been awarded a second-year school innovation grant.

Montgomery will receive a \$50,000 grant under the auspices of the state Board of Education's Profile of a Virginia Graduate program.

The award was announced Monday by Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane.

The grant will be used by the Montgomery school system to implement the Profile of a Virginia Graduate program through innovative technology courses and career pathways. Teacher externships and student internships will allow both educators and students to earn IT micro-credentials.

"These grants will help ensure that the vital work of innovation in our public schools continues despite the disruptions caused by CO-

VID-19," Lane said. "These innovations are aligned with the Virginia Department of Education's vision of maximizing the potential of all students and equipping young people with the skills needed to succeed and graduate college, career and life ready."

The 2021 Virginia General Assembly authorized up to \$500,000 in competitive grants for the 2021-2022 school year for divisions to plan innovations approved by the Virginia Department of Education or to implement previously approved plans.

The legislature defined the essential elements of program innovation as student-centered learning with progress based on proficiency, real-world connections aligned with local workforce needs and emphasizing transitions to college or career or both, and innovative models

for educator support and staffing.

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# OPINION

## Rock and roll may never die, but . . .

Looks like Neil Young got it right when he sang, "Rock and roll will never die."

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for those who enrich our lives with their rock and roll. Folks of my baby-boomer generation have been forced to stand helplessly by while our music icons have stubbornly persisted in dying.

Some died of so-called natural causes after long and productive lives. (See Aretha Franklin, Johnny Cash, David Bowie, Glen Campbell.) Others died tragically, their lives and careers cut short whether by the hands of others (See John Lennon, Selena, Marvin Gaye.) or from their own self-destructive behavior. (See Kurt Cobain, Janis Joplin, Whitney Houston, Tom Petty.)

We hear much about the vagaries of life in the fast line. (See The Eagles.) but it's perhaps worthy of note that (speaking of the Eagles) at his death Glenn Frey had been married to his second wife for more

than 25 years with three children. Cory Wells of Three Dog Night was married to his wife for 50 years and had five grandchildren. David Bowie and Iman were married for 24 years with Bowie insisting it was love at first sight. They worked hard to keep their relationship private and personal, away from the tabloids. Upon Bowie's death in 2016, Iman vowed never to remarry.

I have a long list of concerts the wife and I have attended, but mention of Cory Wells brings to mind one I missed. I was all set for a Dog concert at the Georgia National Fair, but it was cancelled at the last minute because of Wells's health. It was pretty bad indeed; he died a few days later.

Mention of Three Dog Night dates me, I know, but did you know that at one stretch the group had 17 consecutive number-one hits? I'm impressed.

But I do understand that I have reached the age when I am a walk-

ing anachronism. I suspect most folks feel that way when their years accumulate faster than the national debt. Much about these times we live in now has simply passed me by, and, trust me, I feel no urge to catch up. It's not worth the trouble.

Nevertheless, I try not to be too hard on today's pop music. I really like Rag and Bone Man, for instance, and as far as I'm concerned, "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons is about the most creative and imaginative song I've ever heard. And Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" is just about perfect. (Has anybody seen the video in which Sheeran sings "Perfect" with Andrea Bocelli? Talk about perfect!)

But to prove that I'm an anachronism, I feel no guilt or shame in admitting that Roy Orbison remains my all-time favorite singer, and he's been dead since 1988. Here's a weird and wonderful fact: My wife and I saw Roy in concert. About a year ago. How is that possible? Holograms. Perfectly syn-

chronized with a 40+-piece orchestra and background singers. Weird but wonderful. After a song, the audience, including me, applauded, and I caught myself wondering what the heck we were applauding. After all, it's not like he was there.

The pattern for the early decades of our lives, wonderfully enough, is that of addition. For some time, we add: education, experience, a spouse, children, material things. At some point on our timeline, however, we reach and step across a tipping point. It's impossible to identify exactly when this momentous event occurs; we can only look back one day with the somewhat startling realization that we have been there and done that.

Once the tipping point is crossed, sadly enough, the pattern of our lives becomes subtraction. We start losing things: our health, our parents, our pets, our energy, our hearing, our enthusiasm. Mostly, though, we lose people as our circle of life seems to become

smaller: friends, acquaintances, and family. The final bit of subtraction, of course, is ourselves.

We can all still enjoy and sing along to the subtracted musicians' work, but it's just not the same somehow even with an astonishingly produced hologram with an orchestra. And there will never be any new music.

So it's up to us to make our own new music, though not necessarily with a keyboard or an electric guitar. We make our music by the love we spread, the joy we share, the service we render. Once again, some rather talented old rock and rollers had it right: The love you take is equal to the love you make, the closing line in, appropriately enough, the song "The End" in the Beatles' Abbey Road album.

*The author is a man "of a certain age" who lives in Christiansburg with his wife and son and a crippled cat.*

## Buddy King: How my music devices have evolved

My morning routine involves rising early, between 5:30 and 6:00 and "easing into the day." Seven days a week, 365 days a year. Probably influenced by my Dad's farm boy upbringing, I have never at any point in my life slept in, not even in high school when many of my friends would take great pride in sleeping until the "crack

of noon" on Saturdays or in college when the night before and the time to rise and shine got perilously close together.

I have the fondest of memories of my Dad's start to his day. He would sit at the table in our little kitchen reading the Roanoke Times and listening to Louis "Rooster" Kanode on our local radio

station, WBCR (standing for Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford, and later changing its call letters to WJXX, standing for nothing that I knew of.)

The other morning I was thinking of those long-ago early mornings and how my Dad would listen to Rooster on his transistor radio. It "dawned" (pun intended) on me that it might make for an interesting column to write about how the devices I listen to music and sports and news on have evolved over the years.

My first memories of the "device" (what we call them these days) on which I listened (we "stream" these days) to music and talk was a combination of a radio, a turntable and a piece of furniture. It had a radio dial across the front and a hinged door which pulled down and held a "phonograph" player which folded out to play records: 33's, 45's and 78's. These numbers stood for the number of revolutions per minute (thus, rpm's) that the vinyl spun on the turntable.

and grandmother Weaver's house, and my Aunt Mary Alma's house. They were prominent fixtures in each house, predating, and then co-existing with the television age I grew up in. My memories of listening to radio or playing records on these devices are limited but warm.

I also remember that as we moved into the mid-60's, my folks bought a "console" from Kyle Jennings at the Music House. It was a more impressive cabinet radio with table legs and a sliding top that covered the turntable and radio dial. It produced terrible sound, but my Dad said it was "stereo," and it was one of the Rents' proudest possessions.

I remember a 78 album of Gene Autry doing "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" and of Bing Crosby doing "White Christmas", and putting a spindle in a 45 record to make it fit in order to listen to "Big Bad John" and "Going to Kansas City" and 33 and 1/3 albums galore: Perry Como, South Pacific and Bill Cosby (I'm thankful my parents never learned of his downfall). I also remember listening to the broadcasts of college football games, particularly play-by-play guy Frank Soden saying, "The Gobblers have the ball on their own 20, first and 10, moving from left to right on your radio dial." How did Frank know that?

from the cabinet radio in my Aunt Maggie's house. I'm pretty sure I got the idea from my Cousin Bobby, who had done the same with the radio from his Mom's house. Mine is still in my attic somewhere.

The next device I remember was a simple childlike record player in my bedroom. As I recall, it only played 45's, and the records usually had three songs on each side. I remember listening to "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and "Hang Down your Head Tom Dooley" on my little phonograph player.

As I grew older, and more "sophisticated" in my tastes, I moved into the fairly short-lived era of "eight tracks." These things were large cartridges encasing magnetic tapes that played the music after you slid them into the eight-track player. These players were known to occasionally "eat" the tape, ending the lifespan of that cartridge. If you were lucky, the eight track player didn't completely swallow the tape and you were able to extract it so that the player could live again. This was during my high school era and I listened to artists like Grand Funk Railroad and Jimi Hendrix and the soundtrack from Woodstock played very loudly on my eight-track player. I am pretty sure I remember hearing my Dad say to my Mom once when a tape had snapped in the player, "I hope he can't fix

the damn thing this way."

I played my collection of eight-track albums in a large player in my bedroom (behind closed doors) and in another one that I installed in our second family car, which I usually had access to during my junior and senior years of high school. I have vivid memories of Friday afternoons before going to the gym at CHS to dress for our football games. In an effort to "psych myself up" and get "reckless, I would get on the old "Mud Pike" (a frontage road between Christiansburg and Radford) and drive very rapidly and listen to Sly and the Family Stone or Canned Heat doing "Going up the Country" at a very high volume. No doubt a contributor to my current hearing issues, but fun at the time.

At some point later, the "eight-track years" evolved into the cassette phase. These were smaller and the era lasted longer. The cassettes also suffered from the malaise of snapping and getting wrapped around the internal organs of the machines that played them. I had a bunch.

I can't leave this era of my high school years without mentioning the "four-track player." I am not positive of their history, but I believe four-tracks lived less than one "phone year" and were quickly replaced by the eight-track. I wouldn't even bother

See King, page 6

### RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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62				63					64			

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. One of the four Vedas
5. Part of (abbr.)
8. At the peak
12. African antelope
14. Expression of satisfaction
15. Yankees' ace
16. Belittled
18. A baglike structure
19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder
20. Actress Tomei
21. Explosive
22. Formal for "on"
23. Cruelties
26. Country singer Brad
30. Make very happy
31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
32. Albanian currency
33. Subatomic particle
34. Type of salt
39. 007's creator
42. Emerging
44. Railroad flare
46. Observed
47. Capable of reproduction
49. Indicates adjacent to
50. Legendary Notre Dame coach
51. Not wide
56. An embarrassing mistake
57. Pearl Jam's debut album
58. Denotes passerine birds
59. Stumble
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. W. Indian trees
62. You
63. Pigpen
64. Be aware of

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Crease
2. "Honey" actress Jessica
3. Broad volcanic crater
4. Product safety watchdog
5. Southern Colombian city
6. Part of a church
7. Perceptible by touch
8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
9. Hairpiece
10. Variety acts
11. "Mystic River" actor Sean
13. Remove salt
17. Went out with
24. Type of bread
25. Popular Eagles song
26. Philosophy degree
27. Yes vote
28. Passports and licenses are two
29. No seats available
35. Pounds per square inch
36. A way to launch an attack on
37. The lowest cardinal number
38. Popular Miller beer
40. Pokes holes in
41. Closest to
42. Folk singer DiFranco
43. Rivne's former name
44. Flat ruler
45. Lacking the means to do something
47. Cockatoo
48. Dred Scott decision deliverer
49. Explosion exclamation
52. Canadian flyers
53. Houston university
54. At some prior time
55. Red, swollen mark

## Virginia is sixth-best state for teachers: WalletHub

The personal finance website WalletHub Monday released its ranking of the most teacher-friendly states in the country. The Commonwealth of Virginia emerged a winner in WalletHub's rankings, landing as the sixth-best state for teachers based on 24 teacher-friendliness indicators.

Earlier in 2021, WalletHub continues, teachers in many schools across the U.S. had to provide online-only instruction to students or a hybrid of online and in-person learning. Because of the difficulties of switching to this system, a massive number of students experienced significant learning loss.

that helped determine Virginia's high ranking (with the lower numbers indicated the better teacher-friendliness) were average starting salary for teachers (adjusted for cost of living): 17, quality of the school system: fourth; pupil-teacher ratio: 28; public school spending per student: 25; teachers' income growth potential: 1; projected competition in year 2028: 11; 10-year change in teachers' salaries: 7; existence of digital learning plan: 1.

As WalletHub points out, teaching can be a profoundly rewarding career, considering the critical role educators play in shaping young minds. But many teachers find themselves overworked and underpaid. Education jobs are among the lowest-paying occupations requiring a bachelor's degree, and teacher salaries consistently fail to keep up with inflation. Meanwhile, the Every Student Succeeds Act demands growth in student performance. And this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to make teachers' jobs even harder than usual.

In some states, teachers are more fairly paid and better protected against the current pandemic than in others. Those states are less likely to face a revolving door of teacher turnover. To help America's educators find the best opportunities and teaching environments, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia using what it considered to be key indicators of teacher-friendliness.

Some of the factors

The five states that WalletHub ranked more teacher friendly than Virginia in its survey were 1. New York 2. Utah 3. Washington 4. Pennsylvania 5. New Jersey.

The ten least teacher-friendly places in the United States, according to WalletHub, were 42. New Mexico 43. Louisiana 44. Hawaii 45. Missouri 46. Nevada 47. Montana 48. Arizona 49. Maine 50. District of Columbia 51. New Hampshire.

# OBITUARIES

## Alderman, Ersell William

Ersell William Alderman, 85, passed away Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, at his home in Dublin.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Max Creek Baptist Church.

He was a retired supervisor with Giffin Pipe. Ersell was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lee and Pearl Ethel Alderman; and a daughter, April.

Survivors include his loving wife of 56 years, Gloeda S. Alderman; sons William David Alderman and his fiancée, Pam, of Dublin, Tony and Jill Alderman of Radford, and Kevin Neal Alderman and Cheryl of Lynchburg; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way; brothers and sisters-in-law, Ray and Vicky Alderman of Salem, Bobby and Shirley Alderman of Merrimac, and Henry and Frances of Vinton; sisters



Betty Hanks of Christiansburg and Patricia Buckland of Narrows; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, at the Max Creek Baptist Church. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Mike Coleman officiating.

Graveside services with full military rites will be held today, Wednesday, September 22, at 2 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Gideons International, PO Box 923, Radford, VA 24143 or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

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

## Blume, Edna Earl

Edna Earl Blume, 95, of Blacksburg died Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021.

She was born in Hillsville, Va. on April 9, 1926, to the late Eddie Leroy and Malesia Webb Akers. She was a longtime member of Blacksburg Baptist Church.

Following her teaching at PHS, she was Extension Home Economist for two years in Carroll County. Then after one year at VPI, working with clothing and home furnishings programs, she completed a Master of Science Degree at Ohio State University where she stayed for 12 years as State Extension Clothing Specialist, working the western and northern sections of the state with Ohio State University as her home base.

In 1968, she married Dr. George Blume, moved to Blacksburg, taught in the clothing departments at Radford



University and VPI, and then retired to community activity and doing five-to-ten mile runs. Her voluntary membership in the American Legion Auxiliary allowed her to serve at the local, state, and national positions.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. George Blume; and a brother, Benny Bruce Akers.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Tommy McDearis officiating. The family received friends immediately following the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Blacksburg Baptist Church Food Drive, 550 N. Main St., Blacksburg, Va. 24060.

## Gibson, William

### "Bill" Horace

William "Bill" Horace Gibson, 93, of Christiansburg, passed away Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran who retired from Hercules with over 35 years of service. He was most recently an avid farmer who always enjoyed taking the tractor for a spin.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Mary Gibson; and a sister.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Doris Semones Gibson; a godson, Anthony Price II; cousins Dr. Wallace and Emogene Huff; special friends Tony and Sherry Price



and Michael Mantz; and many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Willis with Pastor Diana White officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Baptist Church in Radford, 215 Third Ave., Radford, VA 24141.

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

## Hoyt, Carol Sue Nickle

Carol Sue Nickle Hoyt, 79, passed away on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Ruth Nickle; and her husband, Larry Gordon Hoyt.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Mike Sexton; a son, Jeff Hoyt; grandchildren Zack (Maria), Nathan and Bethany Sexton, and Jeff, Brandon, Kristin, Grace, Elsa and Cora Hoyt; brother and sister-in-law, John



and Debbie Nickle; special friend Bonnie Wood; and other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

The family requests that contributions be made in Carol's memory to Carter Street United Methodist Church, 1229 Second St, Radford, VA 24141.

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

## Lucas, Luke Matthew

Luke Matthew Lucas, 48, of Hiwassee, passed away on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, at Charleston Trauma Center of West Virginia. He was born in Montgomery County on Mar. 6, 1973.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James (Jimmie) Lucas and Brenda Simpkins and his in-laws, Allen and Shirley Bryant, and a grandchild.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Melissa Lucas (Sweetcheeks); his children, Samantha and Danielle Lucas; three brothers and their significant others, Mark (Stephanie) Lucas, John (Ami) Lucas, and Joey Lucas (Laura); a sister, Leona (Jamie) Adkins; brothers-in-law Jimmy (Barbara) Pack, Allen Pack, and a special brother-in-law, David Helton; sisters-in-law, Mary (Jeff) Linkous, and Jackie Bryant (fiancé, Carl Jr. Letner); and multiple aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; four very special lifelong friends Donnie and Tina Shephard, Ralph Janey,



and Kevin Yoders.

After dropping out of high school, he decided to go back and get his diploma. It took him three years to get it, but he did it. He worked at Turman Lumber Company as a sawyer for 30 years. In his spare time he enjoyed being with friends and family, hunting, fishing, wood working, and riding his Harley.

You could always catch him tinkering around with things and fixing them back. He had a special heart for his dogs and bird (Babe). He would do anything for anyone and had a heart of gold, as well as always having a smile on his face no matter what. The family offers a special thank-you to CAMC Trauma Center of West Virginia for the care given to Luke.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, from 4 to 6 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity or to help with expenses.

## Linkous, Michael Todd

Michael Todd Linkous, 51, passed away at his home in Radford on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021. He was a photographer specializing in abstract and artistic photography. He worked for National Geographic and Seventeen magazines, as well as his own business, Visual Mojo. He participated in and received awards in many art shows across the world.

He loved grilling Cajun/New Orleans food and considered himself an honorary New Orleanian. He loved his family deeply, especially his daughters.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Connie Faye Linkous; paternal



grandparents Colbern and Radie Linkous; and maternal grandparents Frank and Christine Edwards.

Survivors include his father, Donald E. Linkous; daughters Hailey and Alexa Linkous and their mother, Shannon Linkous; sister and brother-in-law, Michelle and Michael Turner; aunt and uncle, Brenda and Emory Smith; and numerous cousins and friends.

A memorial gathering was held from 5 until 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

The Linkous family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

## Surface, Joyce Lucas

Joyce Lucas Surface, 72, of Blacksburg, died Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

She was born in Chesterfield County, Va. on Oct. 11, 1948, to the late Lacy Lee and Nellie Sue Bland Lucas. She was also preceded in death by three sisters, Bonnie Sue Royal, Barbara Lee Thompson, and Betty Jo Sheppard; a nephew, Brian Stuart Sheppard; and a beloved dog and companion, Kasey.

She is survived by her husband, Eric Surface; son Anthony Wayne Crawford and significant other Haley; a niece, Mis-



sy Thompson; nephews Joe Sheppard and Blake Royal; her mother-in-law, Mary Jane Surface; four sisters-in-law; and two brothers-in-law.

A funeral service will be held today, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating. Interment will follow in the Levi and Mary

Jane Surface Family Cemetery in Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Weeks, Johnnie Ray

Johnnie Ray Weeks, 63, of Snowville, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021.

He was a U. S. Army veteran. Johnnie was preceded in death by his father, Curtis Ray Weeks.

Survivors include his mother, Rosie Iva McPeak Weeks; sisters and brothers-in-law, Rose and Doug Yett, Roxane and Tim O'Donnell, and Lilly



Bechtel; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

The Weeks family is in the care of the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory of Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

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# While visiting the state fair, ‘Thank a Farmer’



DOSWELL—Virginians visiting the State Fair of Virginia may want to stop at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation’s exhibit to “Thank a Farmer.”

During the state fair, which will run from Sept. 24 through Oct. 3 at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County, the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation will be emphasizing the importance of farming. The organization’s Farm Safety Advisory Committee is spearheading an effort to demonstrate to farmers how much the public supports their work.

Visitors to Farm Bureau’s exhibit space will be encouraged to write messages or draw pictures that illustrate how much they appreciate farmers providing them with food, fiber, and fuel. They also will be asked to share their support on social media using the hashtag, #VaLovesFarmers.

“Farmers do so much for Virginians, and they work hard every day. Farming can be extremely stressful and adversely affect farmers’ mental health,” said Dana Fisher, chair of the VFBF safety committee. “We wanted a tangible way for the public to show its support of farmers. And since so many people visit

the state fair, we thought this would be a good place to kick off this program.”

Children will be able to fill in farm-themed coloring sheets using soy-based crayons, and adults can provide handwritten messages of thanks and encouragement. Drawings and notes will be displayed beside the Meadow Pavilion.

After the fair, the display will be exhibited at the VFBF Annual Convention, one of the state’s largest annual gatherings of farmers.

Additionally, some fairgoers will be interviewed about their thoughts on agriculture and farmers. Those videotaped messages will be shared on social media.

“Agriculture remains the foundation of Virginia’s economy and our largest private industry,” said Brad Copenhaver, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. “In addition to providing us with food, fiber and fuel, agriculture can also support recreation, tourism, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, land conservation and flood mitigation, and improve water quality, soil health, and carbon sequestration. The Thank-A-Farmer program lets farmers know how much

we appreciate their contributions to our everyday lives and as stewards of our land, water and other natural resources.”

Fair visitors will be able to explore the importance of Virginia agriculture through interactive features of the Farm Bureau exhibit. Among the activities will be a tractor simulator equipped with videos that let people steer their way through a day on the farm. Fairgoers also can enjoy learning the benefits of Virginia’s commodities by selecting from several short videos on a farm products display.

“There will be a lot of interactive, self-guided activities,” said Whitney Perkins, assistant director of agriculture, development, and innovation, who is heading up the organization’s presence at the fair. “We’ve geared the content in a way that everyone can learn something.”

Children will be able to get hands on and match products with corresponding agriculture commodities through a tactile My Plate activity board. In addition, they can rotate through various Virginia farming facts on a silo equipped with a digital display and tractor steering wheel.

## Climate Change from page 1

Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. “And it’s crucial for climate change prediction.”

Effective mitigations require accurate predictions, said Bailey, who is also the director of Space@VT, the university’s center for space science and engineering research.

“Imagine you’re the mayor of a big coastal city,” he said. “You know that over the next 50 years the sea level is going to rise and cause flooding, so what do you do? Do you need to strengthen the beaches? Do you need to update the building codes to prepare for harsher storms? Do you need to start to literally

move the city inland? And when? Is that a 20-year problem or a 40-year problem? You’re going to have those questions for every city on the coast, all over the country.”

The basic narrative about climate change is that greenhouse gases trap heat, raising the temperature and driving extreme weather events.

“But there’s much more to the story,” Bailey said, explaining that human activity actually contributes to two competing processes. Warming is one of them, but the other, less intuitively, is cooling: Aerosols suspended in the atmosphere act like a heat shield, scattering incoming sunlight back out into space and tamp-

ing down temperatures.

The UTLS, where the temperature and air pressure create congenial conditions is where a lot of the drama plays out. Researchers know what some of those aerosol compounds are, but very little about their relative abundances or how they change with time. Bailey, with a heavy-hitting team of collaborators at research institutions all over the country, has mapped out a plan that could finally shed some light on this mysterious region of the atmosphere.

Their proposal features a fleet of six small satellites, each about the size of a picnic cooler, that would orbit not within the UTLS but hundreds

of kilometers above it.

The technological heart of the project is the satellites’ cargo. Each one will carry unique sensors that measure how much of the sun’s light is absorbed at precise wavelengths. Twice every orbit, when each satellite will be in just the right position to peer down through the UTLS at the sun, the sensors will capture sunlight filtered through the UTLS aerosols. The resulting absorption patterns will function like chemical fingerprints that the team can use to identify the components of those aerosols and track how they change with time with greater resolution and precision than has

been available before.

“What’s unique about this instrument is that it can back out atmospheric properties in really narrow altitude increments,” Bailey said.

The aerosols floating in the UTLS originate on Earth. They come from sea salt, biological material, plumes of wildfire ash, smog belched from factory smokestacks, and volcanic dust, churned upwards into the atmosphere by storms and air currents and other turbulence.

Some amount of these aerosols would filter into the UTLS naturally. But human activity has pumped enough into the atmosphere to throw off the balance of heat com-

ing in and out.

“We’re perturbing the atmosphere in ways we can’t predict and seeing changes that we’re struggling to understand,” Bailey said. “If one day you see pollution generated by a wildfire, for example, you want to track its movement over time. You need a detailed profile to do that, and that’s what this instrument can do.”

“How much it’s going to warm by when is crucial, and there are still big error bars on when we’re going to hit certain temperatures,” Bailey said. “We’re not going to get there without this mission. This is not a small step forward — this is a big step forward.”

## King from page 4

with referring to this device but for the fact that the only one I ever saw was owned by Dave White. Dave graduated from Emory & Henry my sophomore year of high school and came to Christiansburg High as an assistant football coach the next fall. He was the coolest guy in town. He drove a white convertible, always had an attractive date seated next to him, and had a four-track player. The four-track was the only uncool thing Coach White ever did to my knowledge.

The next step in my progression through devices that played music and talked to us was during my college years. Two of the “cool kids” in my suite my first year - surfer dudes turned hip-

pies from Virginia Beach - had something called a “reel-to-reel” player. All I recall is that these things were beyond my price range and I wasn’t sure where you would get the reels. I was told they were for people who “were more serious about music” than I apparently was.

Eventually, after college and in the early days of married life and having been awarded a credit card by the bank I was working for, my wife and I had a few beers after work one Friday and used said credit card at a place called Sound City to purchase a Garrard turntable and AKL speakers and a device that connected the two. The total purchase price was around \$400, significant when your sal-

ary was \$8,000 a year. We also had to buy some albums (33’s dominated this period) to play. I mainly remember Fleetwood Mac and the Allman Brothers. I also recall discussions with the salesperson about woofers and tweeters, components which impacted the cost of the speakers and made them about the same size as the refrigerator in our tiny apartment in Radford. After a few beers on a Friday afternoon, we wanted NICE woofers and tweeters!

The next phase was the “CD” era, which dominated much of my post-college life until the computer age. They didn’t break off in the machine like tapes and they didn’t get scratched like records (or rarely, like

maybe when a reveler in your house fell on the CD player). I had more CD’s than Carter had liver pills like my grandmother used to say. Over the last several years I have pretty much given away my impressive collection to charity auctions at my church or at my office. As I will explain, I now listen to my music and my games on nothing that I can hold or feel.

In other words, I am a convert to “Spotify.” For \$9.99 per month I can use my phone to listen to any song ever recorded. I can make my own “playlists,” and I don’t have to do anything unlike when the record or CD had run its course. As the Grateful Dead said so well, “The music never stops”. I can

also use my phone to listen to sports talk radio on Sirius XM. I can even actually call people on my phone and talk to them! But I digress.

I would love to have a conversation with my Dad someday about how my music comes “from the cloud.” It might take a while to explain, not that I could. He would probably just ask me to turn it down a little.

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

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# YMCA at Virginia Tech's second annual Community Change Project begins



The YMCA at Virginia Tech began its second annual Community Change Project Wednesday, Sept. 15. The fundraiser will run through Nov. 15, 2021.

The goal for this year's campaign is \$3,500, according to Laureen Blakemore, director of community engagement.

The Community Change Project offers

an easy way to support the YMCA at VT's community programs that include Meals On Main, Senior Connections, After School Care, and international programs. Participate by dropping spare change off at the Y Thrift Shop, at any of the five branches of National Bank in Blacksburg, or at the National Bank Marketplace branch in Christiansburg.

Donors wishing to receive a tax credit for their donation should include a note with their donation that contains their name and contact information. More information about the project is available by contacting Laureen Blakemore, Director of Community Engagement (engagement@vtymca.org) or by visiting [www.vtymca.org/change](http://www.vtymca.org/change).

## A drone pilot pays it forward

Christopher Stewart is a pilot at the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP), working on drone operations that help companies and the Federal Aviation Administration determine how to incorporate drones into U.S. airspace.

But one day recently the Air Force veteran, along with MAAP senior engineer Andrew Kriz, set aside his usual day jobs to head to Newport News to teach a group of local high school students how to fly. The seminar was part of Industry Link, a STEM workshop sponsored in part by Virginia Tech Honors College.

Kriz: How did you get involved with aviation yourself?

Stewart: My grandfather had been a pilot for Trans World Airlines, and as a little boy I knew that I wanted to fly. When I was 15, I had the opportunity to fly with a local pilot during an airshow at the Charles B. Wheeler airport in downtown Kansas City. He took off from the airport and then allowed me to take control while flying right-seat for 20 minutes around downtown Kansas City and Ar-

rowhead Stadium — go Chiefs! It was inspiring to see the world from that perspective. As a child my original dream was to be an astronaut, but you have to be less than 6'3," and I'm too tall. So I thought, all right, I'll be a pilot.

Kriz: This wasn't your first experience working with students. You've also done a lot of community outreach related to the drone delivery program in Christiansburg. What do you enjoy about sharing this technology with people?

Stewart: I genuinely feel like this is where things are going. Not only in the commercial drone industry but also with applications like drone delivery and urban air mobility — drone taxis — that will interact with the general public. So, I like getting up in front of people and engaging with them about this technology. It's exciting to me.

Kriz: How did the students respond to the workshop?

Stewart: We started with a presentation. The students were quiet and gave brief answers when we asked them questions. But once they had the controller in their hands, they came alive. You could tell the lights

were on, the wheels were spinning, and they were asking all kinds of questions. They were great listeners and extremely focused. I think one of the students actually gave me a fake name originally, which I thought was funny because it was something I would have done in high school. But once we started flying, none of those antics mattered. They really responded.

Kriz: What was the actual flight training session like?

Stewart: Piloting seemed to come naturally to them. Several students said that playing video games had prepared them for controlling the aircraft, which is something I hear a lot.

They did have trouble with reverse sensing — knowing how to control the aircraft when it's facing towards you rather than away from you. Most people struggle with this. Even experienced pilots catch themselves getting confused sometimes. I had them perform basic maneuvers: flying up, down, yawing clockwise or counterclockwise, rolling left and right. We did box pattern flying, where you just fly around in a square.



PHOTO BY ALICIA GENDELL FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

**Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership drone pilot Christopher Stewart explains flight techniques to a high school student as part of a STEM workshop in Newport News, Virginia.**

In the end, all of them were able to take off and land without me taking over the controls. I was really impressed, and it was so much fun to see their enthusiasm.

Kriz: What do you hope they took away from the experience?

Stewart: I spoke with the students about career opportunities in the STEM industry and explained how I found myself in the position I'm presently in. I pulled out my drone license and showed them that it looks just like my

other pilot's license. It's legitimate.

I broke it down for them and explained that if they wanted to, they could take the FAA test to apply for the license, get it in the mail in a couple of weeks, and start making money as a legal drone operator, for example, by working with a local realtor to get aerial pictures.

One guy asked how old he would have to be, and when I said 16, he said, "What, really? My birthday is in two weeks and I'm 15

now. So you're saying when I turn 16 I can go take this test, and get a drone and make money with it?"

"Yeah, that's exactly what you can do."

"I'm gonna do that!"

Another student said, "Why didn't anyone tell me this before; I can do this?"

A lot of career paths can seem really far away when you're in high school. They were amazed that this was something they could do now.

## 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. New information is noted by "NEW" and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke.

### 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 closures 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 through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating lane closures may 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.

**I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Alternating lane closures may be in place through Sept. 23 for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning.

**RAMP CLOSURES:** Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during nighttime hours for milling and paving from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Ramp closures will be in place from September 19 through September 23. Message boards will update drivers. Only one ramp will be closed at a time.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**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 with a detour is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. 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.

**INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143** – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

Drivers should expect delays. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Message boards will alert drivers.

Daytime lane closures with flagging operations may be in place on Green Ridge Road due to installation of shoulder stone.

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

Botetourt County: Alternating lane closures will be in place between mile marker 167 and 169 on northbound I-81 between the hours of 7

# RADFORD SPORTS

## High school football game previews: Radford vs. Christiansburg, Blacksburg vs. Salem

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Growing up in Wythe County, I knew what the New River District was all about. There was Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Giles and Radford. When the Virginia High School League decided to reclassify sports programs around the state according to enrollment, things changed. The old New River District was no more, and those common foes were never to be seen again.

Recently several of those schools have seen the value at the gate of rescheduling those former opponents. This is true this weekend when Radford will travel to Christiansburg to play on the turf. The two schools did play in 2008 when Christiansburg won 20-13. The two had played for five straight years leading up to that game.

Christiansburg and Radford first played in 1915, and the

Blue Demons took a 9-7 win. But in a twist, the two played a week later with Radford taking a 16-6 victory.

Radford's last win over its Montgomery County neighbors was in 1997 (21-7) in a year the Bobcats finished 11-2, losing in the state playoffs to Powell Valley. Overall, Radford leads the series 51 to 32.

Meanwhile down the road, Blacksburg opens its River Ridge District play with perennial top-ranked Salem. Christiansburg will then travel to Salem next week. Blacksburg and Christiansburg will then face each other in three weeks.

Area Top Five: 1) Salem, 2) Radford, 3) Christiansburg, 4) Glenvar, 5) Pulaski.

Games this week:  
Salem (2-1) at Blacksburg (0-3)

Salem is still reeling from a season opening loss to West Virginia power Martinsburg but has put together two straight wins

to prepare for its River Ridge opener in Blacksburg. The Spartans routed Northside 42-0 this past week as they rushed for 206 yards.

Blacksburg on the other hand is still trying to find a niche in a season that could come down to its play after this contest. The Bruins got some good news this week with the return of quarterback Parker Epperley, who has yet to play this season after a season-ending knee injury in the spring. He should also provide a spark on the defensive side of the ball.

The Bruins have been outscored 96 to 46 this season.

Prediction: Salem 44, Blacksburg 0.

Bland (2-1) at Eastern Montgomery (1-2)

Bland is trying to put together its first real football season in almost two years as the numbers game has been a problem. So far, this season they have wins over Craig County and Rye Cove.

Their lone loss was 39-0 to Narrows.

Travis Reed is in his second season at the helm of Bland, which was 0-6 in spring play and was outscored 295 to 34. The school had cancelled the 2019 season because of the lack of players. They finished with 13 players in the spring. The school is not playing a full Mt. Empire District schedule in an effort to add more competitive games with smaller schools.

Bland does have an offensive line that averages 245 pounds and has a defensive line anchored by sophomore Sam Pickett (6-1, 385). Kalen Morehead (6-0, 205) does provide some power in the running game.

Eastern Montgomery finally broke a losing streak to cross-county rival Auburn and came away with a 31-0 win this past week. Seth Burleson had 21 carries for 241 yards. Quarterback Gage Akers ran for a score and threw for two more. The ques-

tion is whether the Mustangs will have a letdown in this week's game.

Burleson was the News Messenger's player of the week because of his play against Auburn.

Prediction: Eastern Montgomery 28, Bland 27.

Radford (3-1) at Christiansburg (3-0)

Radford thought they had a big win last week over Galax before the Maroon Tide sent the game into overtime and intercepted the Bobcats at the goal line to pick up the 27-24 win.

Quarterback Marcell Baylor led the Bobcats with 171 yards rushing on 12 carries. Baylor also had 100 yards passing on a six-for-16 night. So far this season, Radford has outscored its opponents 131 to 64.

Christiansburg had to travel three hours for an option game and a 28-20 tough win over Central Wise.

Prediction: Radford 30, Christiansburg 21.

## Radford falls to Galax in overtime



Atticus Henderson avoids a Galax defender after catching a pass early in the first quarter. Galax would rally to take the 27-24 overtime win on Radford's home field.



Tyrel Dobson runs through a tackle and scores the Bobcats' first touchdown of the game on a long run. With the loss to Galax, Radford is 2-1 on the season. Dobson finished with six carries for 53 yards.



Receiver TJ Aursby hauls in a long pass and completes a 73-yard touchdown after the catch.



Kicker Vance Steele nails a PAT out of the hold of Taylor Stambersky in Radford's overtime loss to Galax.



Hokies quarterback Braxton Burmeister was 19 of 31 for 223 yards passing with two touchdowns against the Mountaineers Saturday, but it wasn't enough to pull out the win.

## Virginia Tech falls to West Virginia 27-21

Jarret Doege threw two touchdown passes, Leddie Brown rushed for 106 yards and a score and West Virginia survived No. 15 Virginia Tech's furious rally from a 20-point deficit to beat the Hokies 27-21 on Saturday.

The Mountaineers (2-1) built a 27-7-point lead midway through the third quarter but saw that mostly evaporate behind Virginia Tech's Braxton Burmeister.

Burmeister threw for two scores, including a 29-yard touchdown toss to Jalen Holston with 3:10 left. Virginia Tech got the ball back with 2:11 remaining on Jermaine Waller's interception of Doege at the West Virginia 17, but Burmeister threw incomplete on fourth-and-goal from the 3 and West Virginia ran out the clock.

It was one of three Virginia Tech drives

that stalled inside the West Virginia 10 with the Hokies coming away with no points.

Burmeister finished 19 of 31 for 223 yards.

Virginia Tech (2-1) had allowed only three touchdowns in its first two games but gave up two quick scores to the Mountaineers, who couldn't keep up the momentum after halftime.

Burmeister overcame a sack to throw three straight completions at the end of the third quarter, and his 25-yard scramble on third down set up Raheem Blackshear's 20-yard scoring run at the end of the third quarter to close the gap to 27-14.

Doege finished 15 of 25 for 193 yards, and West Virginia outgained the Hokies 369-329.

## Hokies making no excuses for WVU loss

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Saturday's trip to Morgantown and its result were not what Virginia Tech's football team had expected. The game was within their grasp with less than two minutes to go with a first down inside West Virginia's five-yard line, but the Mountaineers' defense put up a goal line stand for the record books.

It was just one of several VT trips inside the 10-yard line that did not result in any points.

Following the 27-21 setback, no one in burgundy and orange was making excuses. They were disappointed but weren't pointing to specific areas of the game.

Offensive lineman Brock Hoffman said the team just needs to execute with the chances it gets.

"It's very disappointing when we can't finish and execute in the red zone, especially inside the 10 (yard line)," he said.

Head Coach Justin Fuente expressed some of that frustration after the game during his post-game press conference. He said it all centers around running the ball.

"We were up-and-down running the football today," the head Hokie said. "When we were behind, there was a time in there when we didn't have the luxury of being able to run it. To me, it centers around that and being able to run the ball. We missed a couple of plays to get touchdowns."

But there were positives, according to the coach, as the Hokies were able to recover from a two-touchdown deficit.

Fuente called it deflating that his team was not able to score in the red zone especially at the end of the first half.

"Yeah, I mean, we had a chance to be either down 10 points if you score a touchdown, which I thought would've been a miracle, to be honest with you, with only being down that much," Fuente said. "Then, having to settle for a field goal, and still, if you punt that through, you don't let it get away as much. So, to not have that, it even speaks higher of our players. To have that disappointment, suck it up and go back out there and compete. It speaks a lot to our kids and the investment into what we're doing."

The Mountaineers (2-1) built a 27-7-point lead midway through the third quarter but saw that mostly evaporate as the Hokies rallied late in the contest. WVU's defensive stalemate in the red zone was the key as the Mountaineers slammed the door not once but three times, and the Hokies came away with no points.

There was some controversy on a catch by Tech's Tayvion Robinson that initially looked like he caught the ball for a score. The ruling on the field was no catch.

Robinson thought otherwise. "Yes, I did think I caught it. My hands were on the ground (when I corralled it). Me, my teammates and everyone else I talked to thought it was a touchdown. But it got overturned."

Now the team has to regroup for Richmond back in Lane Stadium this coming Saturday, and the idea of home sweet home.

# Blacksburg volleyball takes down Salem



**Blacksburg's Gabby Brooks tips the ball past Salem defender Mia Esworthy during Thursday's volleyball home match. The Bruins took the win in straight sets 25-6, 25-22, 25-17.**



**Blacksburg's Peyton Seeley passes for the Bruin offense against Salem.**



**Blacksburg's Anna Hanowski hits from the left wing as Salem's Kia Bowen defends. With the win, Blacksburg is now 4-1 on the season.**



**Blacksburg's Sophia Johnston hits against the Salem defense in the 3-game sweep of the Spartans.**

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

## ACC reveals men's basketball schedules

The Atlantic Coast Conference rolled out the 2021-22 men's basketball slate Thursday night during "Nothing But Net" on the ACC Network.

Of Virginia Tech's 20 games, the Hokies are set for home-and-home dates with North Carolina, Pittsburgh, NC State, Virginia, Miami, and defending ACC champion Georgia Tech. Wake Forest will be Tech's foe for the conference opener on Dec. 4 at Carilion Clinic Court at Cassell Coliseum. That game will air on the ACC Network.

Season-ticket options for Virginia Tech men's basketball are now on sale for the upcoming 2021-22 season. New this year, fans are able to purchase a season ticket package exclusively to Virginia Tech's ACC home schedule for a discounted price in comparison to a traditional full season ticket.

The Hokies will return to non-conference play for three games before traveling to Duke on Dec. 22 for a showdown on ESPN2 at 9 p.m. Tech won the lone matchup last season 74-67 behind 50 percent shooting from the floor.

Staying in the Tar Heel State, the Hokies will close out 2021 with a Dec. 29 battle in the "Dean Dome" with North Carolina on ESPN2.

The Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield, features the Hokies and the Cavaliers squaring off on Jan. 12 in Charlottesville at 9 p.m. on ESPN2, followed by the return trip to Blacksburg on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. on ESPN as part of Big Monday. No. 20 Tech defeated eighth-ranked UVA 65-51 at home last season riding the momentum gained from a 19-0 run late in the second half.

Other schedule highlights include the Hokies' first trip to Tallahassee since March 5, 2019, and first trip to Chapel Hill since Jan. 21, 2019.

Tech's longest ACC home stand is a three-game stretch against Syracuse (Saturday, Feb. 12), Virginia (Monday, Feb. 14) and North Carolina (Saturday, Feb. 19). The Hokies close the regular season with three of their final four on the road, including the finale on March 5 at Clemson on RSN.

The conference opener vs. Wake Forest marks the first time Tech will open ACC play at home in back-to-back seasons since 2015-17. As Mike Young enters his third season at the helm of the Hokies, he is 2-0 in ACC openers, twice beating Clemson.

Barclays Center will once again welcome the New York Life ACC Men's Basketball Tournament to Brooklyn March 8-12, 2022. The tournament was previously held there in 2017 and 2018. Tech will also play at Barclays Center for the NIT Season Tip-Off in November. Remaining ACC game times will be announced when they are made available by the conference office.

Virginia Tech's men's basketball schedule 2021-22:

Nov. 9: Maine at home; Nov. 12: Navy at Annapolis (Veterans Classic); Nov. 15: Radford University at home; Nov. 18: Saint Francis (PA) at home; Nov. 21: Merrimack College at home; Nov. 24: University of Memphis (NIT Season Tip-Off in Brooklyn N.Y.); Nov. 26: Xavier/Iowa State (NIT Season Tip-Off in Brooklyn, N.Y.); Dec. 1: Big Ten/ACC Challenge at College Park, Md.; Dec.

4: Wake Forest at home; Dec. 8: Cornell University at home; Dec. 12: University of Dayton at Dayton, Ohio; Dec. 17: St. Bonaventure (Hall of Fame Shootout in Charlotte); Dec. 22: Duke University at Durham; Dec. 29: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jan. 1: University of Pittsburgh at home; Jan. 12: North Carolina State University at home; Jan. 12: University of Virginia at Charlottesville; Jan. 15: University of Notre Dame at home; Jan. 19: North Carolina State University at Raleigh; Jan. 22: Boston College at Chestnut Hill, Mass.; Jan. 26: University of Miami at home; Jan. 29: Florida State University at Tallahassee; Feb. 2: Georgia Tech at home; Feb. 5: University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh; Feb. 12: Syracuse at home; Feb. 14: University of Virginia at home; Feb. 19: University of North Carolina at home; Feb. 23: Georgia Tech at Atlanta; Feb. 26: University of Miami at Coral Gables; March 1, University of Louisville at home; March 5: Clemson at Clemson; March 8-March 12: ACC Championship Tournament at Brooklyn.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																		
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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](https://www.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 **Offering # 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](https://www.VaAuctionPro.com)

**Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585**  
**or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com) ; Or contact**  
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**Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc**

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

# VDOT

from page 9

p.m. and 6 a.m. the following morning, Sunday night to Friday morning.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 141 and 143, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

**I-581/220 LANE & RAMP**

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

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

**INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)**

**I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-77 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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

**I-77 BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK** – Weather permitting, crews will

remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

**ROANOKE CITY**  
None at this time.

**ROANOKE COUNTY ROUTE 220 SLOPE REPAIRS TO BEGIN IN ROANOKE COUNTY NEAR CROSSBOW CIRCLE INTERSECTION** – Work to repair a slope along southbound Route 220 just south of its intersection with Route 1290 (Crossbow Circle) in Roanoke County has begun. Heavy rains in recent years have caused debris and soil along this slope to move. Drivers can expect short-term lane closures with flaggers directing traffic on Crossbow Circle when construction equipment is being moved into the site. A shoulder closure along southbound Route 220 will be installed in the months ahead as work progresses. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed fall 2021.

**OGDEN ROAD LANE CLOSURES** – Nightly road closures will be in place on Route 681 (Ogden Road) for utility work to install a sanitary sewer connection. These nightly road closures will continue through September 2021.

**ROUTE 11 & ROUTE 117 INTERSECTION: PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS** – Construction has begun on a pedestrian improvement project on Route 11 (Williamson Road). Work will take place .45 miles south of the intersection with Route 117 (Peters Creek Road) and will end at the intersection. The majority of the construction, phase one and two, will take place during daytime hours, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The southbound lane of Williamson Road will be closed and traffic will be shifted into the center turn lane. The

northbound lane will remain open. In addition, left turns will not be permitted into entrances from both southbound and northbound lanes within the work zone on Williamson Road. This pattern will remain in place through the first two phases of the project. During the third phase of the project, work will be performed with lane closures in place during night hours only, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Shoulder closures will be in place throughout the project with message boards to alert drivers. Expected to be completed in December 2021.

Southbound traffic within the work zone on Williamson Road, south of the intersection with Peters Creek Road, will be shifted through the center lane during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays.

**ROUTE 11 NORTH (ROUTE 460 EAST) WEST MAIN STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT** – Work is underway installing sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements on Route 11 North (Route 460 East). The location begins 0.012 mile east of the intersection with Technology Drive and will extend to the intersection with Route 643 (Garman Ave/Alleghany Drive). Lane closures and flagging operations are possible, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with limited closures allowed after 6 p.m. Expected completion is December 2021.

**ROUTE 419 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** – Work for improvements on Route 419/Electric Road between Ogden Road and the Route 220 Expressway at Tanglewood Mall is underway. The work includes constructing a third lane along Southbound Route 419/Electric Road between Ogden Road and the Route 220 Expressway on ramp. There will be crosswalks added with pedestrian signals and modifications to the existing traffic signals. Sidewalks will be constructed along Northbound Route 419 and along Southbound Route 419 between Ogden Road and

South Peak Drive. There will be new surface pavement placed and the pavement markings will be redone. The contractor continues to perform storm sewer and waterline pipe installation. Estimated completion is fall 2021.

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

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

**ROUTE 220 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BACK CREEK** – Work to replace the existing bridge over Back Creek is under construction. The bridge is near the intersection of Route 657 (Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive). There will be periodic left lane closures between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Route 220 southbound and northbound between Route 676 and Route 715. Route 220 southbound left shoulder will remain closed during this stage. Southbound traffic is on the newly constructed section of the bridge. The existing southbound bridge is being removed. Estimated project completion is fall 2021.

**PAVING OPERATIONS:** Drivers should expect daily changes in traffic pattern for milling and paving southbound and northbound. Delays in the area are possible and message boards will alert traffic.

**CROSSOVER CLOSED:** The Route 220 crossover at Crowell Gap Road and Winter Drive is closed and no left turns will be allowed during this stage.

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

# THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO LET OUR GUARD DOWN.



**Wear a mask over your nose and mouth**



**Stay at least 6 feet away from others**



**Avoid crowds**



**Find your free vaccine**

We're all tired of COVID-19. But with new and more dangerous variants of the virus here in Virginia, we have to stay committed to stopping the spread. Please do your part by following the steps above. Find your free vaccine at [Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinate.virginia.gov) or learn more by calling **1-877-VAX-IN-VA**.

**We're not finished yet.**



**VACCINATE VIRGINIA**

**VDH** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH