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Radford City Council seeks candidates for council vacancy

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RADFORD - The resignation of former Radford City Council Member Forrest Hite has left an open seat on the city council, and the remaining members are in search of a candidate to fill the vacancy.

The council has been tasked with filling a vacancy, which occurred when Hite stepped down from his role as a council member in June, leaving approximately two years remaining in his term. Hite resigned to move out of the area.

The city charter requires the remaining members of

the council and the mayor to appoint an interim replacement to serve until a special election will take place in conjunction with the next city council election, scheduled for Nov. 8, 2022.

"Historically, when a vacancy has occurred, city council members and the mayor have asked a recently-serving former member of the council to serve an interim role," according to a statement from the City of Radford. "The reasons for this are numerous including the individual has extensive service to the Citizens of the City of Radford; the individual has familiarity with the process,

activities, and operation of the City Council; the individual has familiarity with the issues at hand facing the current City Council; the individual has placed his or her name before the public at large and has been elected to office at some point; the individual has engaged with the public through the execution of their duties; the individual has worked with their employer and through other commitments to be able to serve; and due to all these factors, the individual can begin service quickly, serving effectively with experience."

The City Council may go this route, but is also opening up the vacancy to Radford citizens

at-large.

"The current City Council respects the historic process, but also wishes to engage with the citizens of the City of Radford to help inform the members' appointment process," the statement reads. "As such, the City Council is requesting a statement of interest from citizens to aid their efforts. This communication can include qualities desired for the interim appointee, nominations of self or other individuals for consideration to serve in the role on an interim basis, as well as any general support for council

members to consider as they work toward their appointment within the 30 days following the vacancy of the position.

"Ultimately, the remaining members of Radford City Council will nominate a candidate or candidates for the role and vote to appoint an individual to serve," the statement concludes. "Your assistance is appreciated."

To nominate an individual or yourself, email a statement of interest to the City Clerk, Jenni Goodman at Jenni.Goodman@radfordva.gov by July 22, 2022 at 5 p.m.

See New Candidates, page 4

Radford Police collecting supplies for flood victims

Heavy rains caused flash flooding in Buchanan County on July 12, leaving more than 100 homes damaged or completely destroyed, along with several businesses.

The Radford City Police Department is stepping up to help the victims displaced by the flooding, and is hoping the community will help provide items needed by those affected.

"The Radford City Police De-

partment will be collecting items to deliver to those in need and/or displaced by the flooding in Buchanan County," the department announced. "Officers went on Thursday (July 14) to deliver an initial care package and efforts to assess the needs of the area. We will be accepting donations of: bleach, cleaning supplies of all kinds, buckets, shovels, paper towels, water, brooms, mops, bat-

teries and flashlights. Please consider giving! All donations can be dropped in our PD lobby with plans of us making a return trip to the area with the items on July 25."

Anyone who would like to contribute can drop off the listed items to the Radford City Police Department headquarters before July 25. The RCPD is located at 20 Robertson St., Radford.

COVID-19 cases, deaths rise in Virginia's nursing homes for second straight month

New data indicate rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths in America's nursing homes, including those in Virginia, rose substantially in June for the second month in a row, ending several months of decline from the peak of the initial Omicron wave in January 2022 and heightening concerns that a new surge is upon us.

The rate of nursing home resident deaths nationwide increased by more than 50% in the four-week period ending June 19, according to AARP's Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard, with more than 750 resident deaths reported.

In Virginia resident deaths were up from a rate of .04 per 100 residents in the previous four-week period ending May 22, to .06 in the four-week period ending June 19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 3,000 nursing home residents in Virginia have died from COVID-19.

Furthermore, the rate of resident cases nationwide increased by 27%, compared to the previous four weeks, according to the dashboard while the rate of staff cases nationwide increased by 42% during the same reporting period.

Nursing home resident cases in Virginia were up from a rate of 2.74 per 100 residents in the previous four-week period ending

May 22, to 4.14 in the four-week period ending June 19. The rate of staff cases was up from 2.29 per 100 residents to 3.81 compared to the previous dashboard release.

"Our loved ones in nursing homes are among our most vulnerable," said David DeBiasi, advocacy director for AARP Virginia, which serves more than 1 million members aged 50 and older in the commonwealth. "Rising deaths and cases of COVID-19 among nursing home residents and staff nationally show that for their sakes, we must remain vigilant, and we must hold nursing homes accountable for providing high quality care and safe environments."

The latest data from the AARP COVID-19 Nursing Home Dashboard show that as of June 19, 74% of nursing home residents in Virginia were fully vaccinated with at least one booster dose, a slight increase from mid-May. Among nursing home staff, nearly 50% are fully vaccinated with at least one booster dose, a slight increase from mid-May.

Nationwide, about 29% of nursing homes reported a staffing shortage in the four weeks ending June 19. The percentage of facilities in Virginia reporting a shortage of nurses or aides was 34% in the four weeks ending June 19.

Saturday concert features 80's throwback tunes

RADFORD - The latest installment of the City of Radford's summer concert series will harken back to the days of leg warmers and Members Only jackets, as an 80's cover band hits the stage.

Cassette Rewind, described as the ultimate authentic '80s experience, is the featured performer at the concert, set for this Saturday, July 23 on the fields of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery.

"Born in the '80s and raised on radio, Cassette Rewind is the ultimate authentic '80s experience," according to the band's website. "Valley girls, jocks, preppies, and nerds will have the time of their life when the DeLorean hits 88 mph and suddenly they're at, like, the most righteous party of the era. Feel the power of love when your bedroom boombox comes

to life with captivating, dynamic performances of Prince, George Michael, Journey, Whitney Houston, and countless 1980s pop icons. Grab your Members Only jacket and put on your

leg warmers because nothing's gonna stop you now from getting footloose and singing along. Be kind, please Cassette Rewind.

Alcoholic beverages provided by Radford

Chamber of Commerce for purchase. Please bring a blanket or chair. Gate opens at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. Children under 12 are free.



Cassette Rewind, an 80's cover band, will be performing this Saturday, July 23 at the City of Radford's latest installment of its Summer Concert Series.

New Mount Olive UMC fish fry back again



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last month's New Mount Olive United Methodist Men's fish fry brought long lines of people out to the church, so the guys are hosting another one this Saturday. Pictured are Gilbert Meadows and Joe Webb getting the fish ready for the customers at last month's event. New Mount Olive United Methodist Church is located at 309 Russell Ave. in Radford. The men will be frying fish from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Menu prices are \$10 for dinners that include two pieces of deep fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, and dessert; Fish sandwiches \$6; and an extra piece of fish \$3. Call-in orders are available by calling the church at 540-639-6425. Delivery is available in the Radford area only, or folks can pick up their orders at the church.

Forest Service Blacksburg shooting range to close temporarily

The Blacksburg Shooting Range in the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests will be temporarily closed from Monday, July 25, through Monday, August 1, 2022, for maintenance and repair work.

"The shooting range is one of our busiest recreation sites and has accumulated wear and tear over time that needs to be addressed," said District Ranger Beth Christensen. "Thank you to our community members and groups who are working with us to keep the facility orderly, safe, and pleasant for its us-

ers."

The district is working with local community volunteers to complete several work projects that will improve visitors' experience at the range. Projects include trash cleanup, grading the range, parking area and access road improvement, treatment of encroaching non-native plant vegetation, placing boulders to secure range perimeters, and resetting and leveling gates at the entrance to the range.

Anyone seeking to volunteer to assist with any of these activities can contact Eastern Divide District Ranger Beth Christensen at 540-552-4641.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 21:

Photography presentation
Photographer Michele Borgarelli will discuss the topic of landscape photography at the July 21 meeting of the Radford Photo Club. The meeting is at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. It will be followed by an outing to a nearby park to practice landscape photography. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Friday, July 22:

Enjoy your national forest
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Ranger Beth Christensen will present a brief overview of the Eastern Divide Ranger District/George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and the Forest Service.

Claytor Lake snakes
At the Radford Public Library at 11 a.m. A volunteer from Claytor Lake State Park will visit the library to show off a selection of snakes and other reptiles.

Saturday, July 23:

Animal care and adoption center celebrates 5-year anniversary
The Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center will celebrate its five-year anniversary from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festivities include Nana's Sweets and Treats Food Truck, a petting zoo, facility tours, giveaways, and of course, adoptable cats and dogs. For more information about the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, visit www.montva.com/acac

City of Radford concert series
1980s band Cassette Rewind will play on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. Gates open at 6 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Concertgoers can bring a chair or a blanket. Food and beverages will be available for sale. \$5 per person. Children under 12 are free.

Fish fry
At the New Mount Olive United Methodist Church, 309 Russell Ave., Radford; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dinners are \$10; fish sandwiches are \$6; an extra piece of fish is \$3. Call the church at 540-639-6425 for call-in orders. Delivery is available in the Radford area only or come by and pick-up a call-in order. The fish fry is sponsored by the United Methodist Men.

Adult yoga
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Come follow along with a video from Yoga with Adriene. Adults of all fitness levels and experience are welcome to bring their yoga mats and comfortable clothes for a judgment-free, no-stress event. Registration is recommended.

Call or stop by the circulation desk to register.

Music on the lawn: Andy & Judy Daigle
At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is the third show in the library's Music on the Lawn concert series. Concertgoers should bring their lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert will happen rain or shine!

Seashell bath bursts: DIY
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to make a bath burst in a seashell mold. Registration is required for this free event. All supplies will be provided.

Eight Point Star
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5 p.m. Eight Point Star features Mike Gangloff and Matt Peyton as songwriters. Mike also plays fiddle and banjo and an eight-string Norwegian Hardanger-style fiddle. Matt also plays guitar, dulcimer, and sometimes theremin. Isak Howell plays banjo, guitar, and harmonica. Tim Thornton plays bass, dulcimer, and sometimes guitar.

Sunday, July 24:
Free Sustainable Garden Tour
Free tours of Blacksburg sustainable gardens featuring native plants, wildlife-friendly plantings, edible landscaping and beauty will be hosted by the Sustainable Blacksburg nonprofit community organization on fourth Sunday afternoons through September. Light refreshments will be served at these drop-in tours. The July 24 tour is 6 to 8 p.m. at Arlean Lambert's garden and the Hale Community Garden at 215 Maywood St. The gardens highlight edible landscaping and vegetable gardening. Lambert enjoys figs, strawberries, kiwis, nuts, greens, and other edibles, including edible flowers, at her north Blacksburg home.

Monday, July 25:
Talking about books
At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "All the Ways We Said Goodbye" by Beatriz Williams. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Wednesday, July 27:
Sustainable Blacksburg lunch and learn: low-waste kids
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Bring the family and learn about a variety of ways to reduce waste in your home and life.

Teen Book Club
At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. This month teens will read *How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe* by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland. Snacks will be provided.

Thursday, July 28:
Lunch and Learn: Adverse child-

hood experiences
At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Bring your lunch and learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences with New River Valley Community Services. ACEs are traumatic experiences in childhood and the teenage years that may put children at risk for violence, chronic health problems, and mental health/substance use disorders. Youth-serving organizations, coaches, caregivers, and community members who gain awareness of ACEs can also help prevent them from happening, giving children a better opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe and stable environment.

Friday, July 29 through Sunday, July 30:

Mary Draper Ingles Festival
Events commemorating one of Virginia's most famous colonial heroines. Festival features colonial period reenactors, old-time crafts and skills, an art exhibit inspired by Ingles and many children's activities, including a petting zoo, at Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery. The historic Ingles Farm, which showcases a replica of Mary's cabin, will be open for tours and talks by interpreters. Long Way Brewing, a craft beer company whose name is a take on the frontierswoman's journey, will also feature live music, food trucks, a children's play zone and a living history performance by West Virginia actress Karen Vurch. Friday evening kicks off with the dedication of the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park at Glencoe. James Alexander Thom, author of the national bestseller, "Follow the River" is expected to sign books during the event. Long Way Brewing will kick off its celebration with the reintroduction of a craft beer named in honor of Mary, music and food. Saturday's activities will run most of the day at Glencoe, the brewing company and the Ingles Farm. On Sunday, the festival continues at Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin and will feature interpreters, live music and tours of the historic Ingles Tavern located on the banks of the New River in Pulaski County. Coordinated by Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery and made possible in part by a grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. For an event schedule, go to www.glencoemansion.org or phone (540) 731-5031.

Saturday July 30:
Kids' stuff swap
At the Blacksburg Library at 12:35 p.m. Kids can bring their old stuff they no longer need and sweep it for things they do need. Items allowed include clothes and shoes, sports gear, school and art supplies, homeschool curriculum and supplies, backpacks and lunch gear, and books. Good quality items only please. Donations are not required to participate. The library will begin accepting donations on Monday, July 25. Email mhall@mfrl.org for additional information.

Quilting marathon: Make a quilt bookmark
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 8 a.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters are hosting a quilting marathon. The public is invited to see these skilled individuals quilting. The group will be working on individual projects and will also have supplies to make a quilt bookmark for all ages. Participants may bring their quilting projects or questions and they will help you. This program is open to all ages.


Thursday, Aug. 4:
American Legion meeting
American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, contact 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Aug. 5 and Saturday, Aug. 6:
Book Sale
Book sale at the Radford Public Library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of books for all ages will be available at reasonable prices.

Tuesday, Aug. 9:
Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Ongoing:
United Way emergency food pantry in need
The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate pantry items, please drop them off at the United Way office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit
Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces an exhibit, Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now that will be on display through Aug. 18 in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission is free, hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A reception will be held Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. It is open to the public. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century. It takes farming and agriculture to present-day local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. For more information, visit blacksburgmuseum.org.



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Radford's Daniel Burzek receives 2022 engineering technology award for academic excellence

Radford's Daniel Burzek has received the 2022 engineering technology award for academic excellence. He originally attended the British Columbia Institute of Technology where he completed a diploma program in electronics engineering technology in 1997. In 2002, he moved to Radford where he now resides with his

wife and three children. Burzek began his studies in the electrical engineering technology program in 2016, is now completing his undergraduate degree, and will graduate summa cum laude. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honors society and works as an electronic engineer at Motion Control Systems.



Radford's Daniel Burzek

Virginia Tech's administrative and professional faculty award winners announced

Three employees received the first Administrative and Professional (A/P) Faculty Award, which recognizes A/P faculty for their extraordinary contributions, accomplishments, and consistent performance for Virginia Tech.

The winners are Ellen Douglas, associate controller in the Department of Insurance and Risk Management; Amy Rizzo, senior research veterinarian in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine; and Keri Swaby, director for undergraduate research.

In addition, the first team award went to the Diversity Education and Engagement team.

The winners were recognized during a ceremony on July 13.

The recognition program highlights the integral roles that A/P faculty hold as they lead and manage a variety of positions.

Historically, Virginia Tech offers multiple award programs to recognize faculty and staff for their commitment to the university and community, new ideas, and teamwork. The newly created A/P faculty award program focuses on approximately 2,100 of Virginia Tech's employees.

"Our A/P faculty are an important and highly valued part of the Virginia Tech community and are critical to achieving the university's strategic priorities," said Executive

Vice Provost Don Taylor. "I am pleased to see their contributions and service celebrated, and I congratulate each of the award winners and nominees for their accomplishments."

"By adding this award to our recognition program, we can more fully recognize all of our faculty and staff for their contributions at Virginia Tech," said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. "We appreciate the service and contribution A/P Faculty make to the university."

Ellen Douglas has worked at Virginia Tech since 1987.

Amy Rizzo joined Virginia Tech in 2016.

Keri Swaby joined Virginia Tech in 2017.

Ken Miller, vice president for finance, wrote in a letter of endorsement for Ellen Douglas, "Ellen is a trusted, credible, and respected partner who builds strong working relationships with colleagues at Virginia Tech, at other universities, and with her state government counterparts. When university property is damaged from natural disasters such as fires and floods, Ellen jumps into action, working with stakeholders to comprehensively document and submit insurance claims for damage."

Jennifer A. Zambriski, assistant professor in the Department of Population Health, wrote in a letter of nomination for Dr. Amy Rizzo, "Dr.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE WHITESCARVER FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

The 2022 administrative and professional faculty award nominees. Of the group pictured above, the three award winners were Ellen Douglas, associate controller in the Department of Insurance and Risk Management; Amy Rizzo, senior research veterinarian in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine; and Keri Swaby, director for undergraduate research.

Rizzo has consistently demonstrated excellence as she works to advocate for both researchers and research animals. In addition to consistently serving the Virginia Tech community, she often goes above and beyond the call of duty. Over the last year, there have been three occasions when I found myself facing dire emergencies impacting my research animals. On all three occasions, Dr. Rizzo was off duty and still showed up to help me and offer solutions. She has a true gift for finding common ground and compromise."

Jill Sible, associate vice

provost for undergraduate education, wrote in a letter of nomination for Keri Swaby, "While the pandemic dramatically limited in-person undergraduate research opportunities in 2020 and 2021, Keri's unwavering commitment to supporting students and her creative approach to problem-solving resulted in an overall increase in the engagement of the Office of Undergraduate Research with students and faculty. While Keri prefers to work in the background on behalf of students and faculty, she has emerged as a dedicated and effective leader

among A/P faculty. She also contributes regularly to publications and conference presentations on undergraduate research."

The team award winner was the Diversity Education and Engagement team of Michelle Carter, director of diversity engagement; Alicia Cohen, director of diversity education; Michele Deramo, assistant provost for diversity education; Victoria Ferguson, director of the Solitude Fraction site; and Sandy Martin, administrative assistant.

In a letter of nomination, Stacy Wilkerson, chief of staff for the Office for Inclusion and Di-

versity, wrote, "The work of the diversity education and engagement (DEE) team has made Virginia Tech a leader in the field of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. The DEE team, led by Michele Deramo, is a dynamic group of talented and dedicated individuals committed within the field of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The team strives for excellence at every level. Their deep commitment to this work is invaluable to the growth and development of Virginia Tech as a leader in the work of racial truth-telling and racial consciousness."

PETS OF THE WEEK



Meet Polly. She's a nice gal who came to the Animal Care and Adoption Center with her dog father, Paul. While they are not necessarily a bonded pair, they would do well to go to the same home. Both dogs are friendly and know a few basic commands. Polly is a little more reserved than Paul.



Dink is an older cat who has gotten along with small- and medium-sized dogs in the past. She also seems to enjoy children more than adults. Currently, she shares a space with Callie, her BFF (Best Feline Friend). The pair will need to be adopted to the same home. Dink's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.

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 counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. 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 98 to 109. 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 summer 2023.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Lane closures on Route 615 maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October

2022.

ROUTE 641 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 641 (Wayside Drive) will be closed at 8 a.m. on June 21 for a culvert replacement over Spring Branch. Drivers should watch for signage. The road will reopen on July 22 at 5 p.m., weather permitting.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Starting June 20, road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) will begin for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging forces. Work is expected to last until August 2022.

INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between

mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five-mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE – As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635

(Goodwin Avenue) is closed for approximately 30 days where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time.

BARRIER WALLS: Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142

Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes

OPINION

Home Country by Slim Randles: No trumpet, no problem. Carry the flag in the parade

The annual Fourth of July parade through our town began this year with a mystery. You see, a couple of the boys cornered Jimmy Angles down by Lewis Creek and hit him in the mouth. On purpose. Ordinarily, this wouldn't have made headlines in the Valley Weekly Miracle, or even the New York Post, but Jimmy played first trumpet in the band.

played ... past tense. The pain and swelling of his lips meant he couldn't play the great trumpet found in Mr. Sousa's marches on the Fourth. It meant that the other three trumpeters all moved up a notch. The new "first" trumpeter just happened to be one of Jimmy's assailants.

The horses came first, of course, with cowboys and cowgirls and wannabe cowboys and cowgirls and used-to-be cowboys and cowgirls riding along

and waving.

Then came the 4Hers, dragging reluctant lambs and goats after them. But hey, they were shiny clean lambs and goats. The queen and several other cute high school girls followed in a convertible, and then came the band. The parade's brain trust, Doc and Dud, actually planned it this way. It was decided over coffee that it was a far, far better thing we do to let

the horses go first so the band wouldn't frighten them. If this meant the 4H kids and the band members had to dodge a few equestrian "products" on the street, so be it.

A small-town parade on the Fourth of July is where everyone goes to see how big the kids have gotten over this past year and to celebrate us all being different ... and the same ... for yet another year.

But how about Jimmy Angles and his temporarily inactive trumpet mouth? We found out as the band came into view. Jimmy was out in front of them all, carrying the American flag.

Happy birthday America!

Brought to you by the 5,400 letter carriers who were bitten by neighborhood dogs last year. Let Fido watch TV for an hour and save a postman.

Virginia gas prices fell 16.6 cents/gallon last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 16.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.29/g Monday, July 18, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 54.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but are still \$1.32/g higher

than a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined 10.8 cents last week and stands at \$5.54 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.25/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.99/g, a difference of \$2.74/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 15.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.51/g Monday. The national average is down 47.9 cents per gallon from a month ago but still is \$1.35/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"We've seen the na-

tional average price of gasoline decline for a fifth straight week with the pace of recent declines accelerating to some of the most significant we've seen in years," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "This trend is likely to reach a sixth straight week, with prices likely to fall again this week. Barring major hurricanes, outages or unexpected disruptions, I forecast

the national average to fall to \$3.99/gal by mid-August. So far, we've seen the national average drop for 34 straight days with over 25,000 stations now back at \$3.99 per gallon or less, and thousands more stations will join this week. In addition, we will see several states fall back under an average of \$4, the majority being in the south, but that could spread to more states in the weeks ahead."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

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New Candidates

from page 1

Include the following in the statement of interest:
Name of the Individual
Any qualifications for service
Contact information including:
Email Address

Mailing Address
Phone Number
In order to serve as a City Council member per the city charter section § 2.3, "Any person qualified to vote in the city shall be eligible to the

office of mayor or councilman." City leaders ask the public to nominate only individuals or one's self if qualified to vote in the City of Radford to ensure the process runs smoothly.

Uprooted in Appalachia



PHOTO BY ELISE MONSOUR PUCKETT

Members of the Stooksberry family lived near Loyston, Tenn., on their Civil War-era 350-acre homestead. They were relocated and their property was submerged during the creation of Norris Lake. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Eurasian shrubs
7. Strikes and rebounds
13. Group of advisers
14. Modern necessity
16. Top lawyer in the land
17. Philadelphia university
19. Of I
20. Functions as a laser
22. Basketball phenomenon
23. Famed island
25. Parent-teacher groups
26. Distributes
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Ad
30. Circulation problem (abbr.)
31. Brother or sister
33. A famous "Squad"
34. Stage actor Anquady
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Saclike cavities
40. Sound units

CLUES DOWN

1. Flowing
2. Computer department
3. Lasts
4. DiFranco and Samsonyan are two
5. ___ de sac
6. Merchant
7. Hosts film festival
8. State of agitation of fuss
9. A way to praise
10. Opaque gems
11. McKinley is one
12. Smallest interval in classical Western music
13. Famed designer Lauren
15. Occupies
18. Small island (British)
21. Misuse of the sacred
24. Covers with a thin sheet
26. Most valuable player
27. Title of respect
30. Investigated discreetly

CLUES ACROSS

32. Belonging to the bottom layer
35. Black tropical American cuckoo
37. Music genre
38. Indicates one is in mourning
39. Secured forever
42. Bodily cavity
43. A dog is one
46. Chose to do something
47. Annoy persistently
49. Large hotel rooms
50. Beg
52. Docket
54. Subway dwelling rodent
55. Sources
57. Mild Dutch cheese
59. Spanish city
62. Consumed
63. Ballplayer's tool
66. Midway between north and east
68. Atomic #3

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS Radford's Sophie Graham named to Emory & Henry spring dean's list

Sophie Graham of Radford has been named to the Emory & Henry College Spring 2022 dean's list. To be named to the dean's list, students must be full-time and must receive at least a 3.6 GPA for the semester.

Located in the Highlands of Virginia, Emory & Henry College

has devoted itself since 1836 to the belief that education can have a transformative effect on an individual, a place, and ultimately the wider world.

Emory & Henry College is consistently ranked among the nation's best private liberal arts institutions. The college's many accolades

include the Presidential Award for Service Learning, the highest national recognition for community service and service learning; and top tier recognition in Washington Monthly, USA Today, and Newsweek. Emory & Henry is also listed among the top 40 schools in Colleges that Change Lives.

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org

Shades of green in systems thinking

Like budding leaves along a vista of trees, the term “green engineering” comes in all shades and hues at Virginia Tech.

To Hayley Capitan, green engineering is a team of 47 students designing a wind turbine for a U.S. Department of Energy competition.

To Saifur Rahman, it's figuring out how to deploy storage capacity to make electricity more useful from photovoltaic panels like the array he first erected in 1988 atop Whittemore Hall.

To Sean McGinnis, green engineering is shorthand for sustainable systems. It's analyzing the overall environmental impact of, for instance, ethanol, which does reduce fossil fuel consumption but also requires energy to grow

the corn as well as pesticides that contaminate water systems.

Green engineering, to Tripp Shealy, literally means green – incorporating plants, trees, grassy roofs and other bio-features into an engineering design.

Despite its many divergent branches, green engineering's roots lie deep within Virginia Tech's commitment to infuse environmentally conscious attitudes, values, and principles, combined with science, technology, and engineering practice, all directed toward improving local and global environmental quality.

As Maryam Shakiba, assistant professor in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, who studies

how macroplastics in the earth's ocean waters break down to microplastics, states, “All engineering should be green, ideally.”

In some respects, the College of Engineering's greening was first planted in 1979 with the hiring of Rahman. Today he is the Joseph R. Loring Professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, but 43 years ago he was a young professor with a newly minted Virginia Tech Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

Rahman's research had been in nuclear energy, a field that literally imploded that year with the partial meltdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania. But he'd been fortunate that summer



In May, the Virginia Tech Wind Turbine Team traveled to the AWEA CLEANPOWER conference in San Antonio to compete in the 2022 Collegiate Wind Power Competition, where they won the Connection Creation Contest. Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy.

prior to his Virginia Tech appointment to work at Duke Energy, where he had explored solar and offshore wind

as potential energy sources.

“So I had those students and the experience, and I had the data, so

I thought why not use this to build a course at Virginia Tech?” Rahman reflected.

By Michael Hemphill

OBITUARIES

Reed, Herman Junior

Herman Junior Reed, 84, of Riner, passed away Sat., July 16, 2022.

He was born Oct. 25, 1937, in Montgomery County, the son of the late Herman and Quincy Reed. He served in the US Air Force from 1955 to 1959. He worked at Corning and Volvo and was a lifelong farmer. He was preceded in death on April 18, 2005, by his wife, Arlene Linkous Reed, and a sister, Mary Ethel Reed.

Survivors include his three sons, Charles (Kathy), Rickey (Kim), and Ronald (Tina); a daughter, Cindy Reed, all of Riner; a brother, James (Buelah), of Christiansburg; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Ray (Andrew), Daniel Reed (Meg), Scott Reed (Amber), Andrew

Reed (Elizabeth), Chelsea Sale (Zack), Reba Wheeler, and Noah Reed; 15 great-grandchildren; four special nephews; a brother-in-law, Wayne (Joyce) Linkous of Christiansburg; a sister-in-law, Bonnie (Johnny) Puckett of Christiansburg; and special friends Darlene (Allen) Phillips.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bible Holiness Church in Christiansburg, the Alzheimer's Association; or the Dementia Society.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at the Bible Holiness Church with DeWayne Martin officiating. Graveside followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg. McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg is in charge of the arrangements.

Miles, Helen Jeffries

Helen Jeffries Miles, 102, of Blacksburg, widow of Hugh S. Miles, Jr., died on July 14, 2022. Born in Norfolk, she moved to Culpeper in 1922 with her parents, the late Helen M. and John Lewis Jeffries Jr., both Culpeper attorneys. She was also predeceased by a brother, John L. Jeffries, III, also a Culpeper attorney.

Surviving are three sons: Hugh Smith Miles, III (Judy), of Richmond, John Jeffries Miles (Carolyn), of Alexandria, and William Murrell Miles, MD (Kathy) of Gainesville, Fla. She is also survived by seven grandchildren: Suzanne Pate, Anna Benetiz, William Miles, Mary Helen Beydler, Henry Thomas Miles, Sally Lacy, and Elizabeth Brown, and 16 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Margaret Jeffries Jones and Nancy Jeffries Bischoff, and a sister-in-law, Jean Perkinson Miles.

Helen received her BA degree from Farmville State Teachers College (now Longwood University) in 1940, where she was a member of several honorary fraternities, the Monogram Club and Kappa Delta sorority. She received her MA degree in 1970 from Virginia Tech where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

In 1946 following World War II, she and Hugh moved to Blacksburg where he resumed his teaching position in the Mechanical Engineering Department of



Virginia Tech. Later Helen taught in the English and History departments at Tech for 18 years. She was an advisor to the Tech chapter of Kappa Delta for 10 years, a past president of the Tech Faculty Woman's Club, the Women of Christ Episcopal Church and the Colonial Dames XVII Century.

She served as an interpreter at Smithfield Plantation, a volunteer at Montgomery Regional Hospital, and for over 50 years on the Altar Guild of Christ Church. She had been an active member of the DAR, the Blacksburg Sports Club and a bridge club that was founded in 1948.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the companion ladies of “Warm Hearth at Home,” as well as the staff at Showalter Assisted Living. These ladies were the primary reason that Helen was able to lead a happy and gratified life, even after losing her sight.

Her funeral was held at Christ Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. with the Reverend Scott West officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Christ Episcopal Church, Box 164, Blacksburg 24063, or the Boys Home of Virginia, 414 Boys Home Road, Covington, VA 24426, or to the Hugh S. Miles, Jr., Memorial Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Fund, Va. Tech Foundation (0336), 902 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Long, Warren Harrison

Warren “Weasel” Harrison Long, 94, of Radford, passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

He retired from the Lynchburg Foundry in 1980 and went on to be an excavator and lifelong farmer. Weasel was preceded in death by his loving wife, Velva Margaret Akers Long; his parents, Cooper K. and Nancy Ann Long; a son-in-law, Jeffrey Worrell; a sister; and a brother.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Mike Conklin; grandchildren and their spouses, Kimberly and Garry Wright and Jason and Holly Worrell; great-grandchildren Nathan Wright, and Meriam and Jeffrey Worrell; sister Roxie Dishon; sister-in-law Reva Martin; special neph-



ew Carl Akers; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family received friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, July 16, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services began at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Neil Wood officiating. Snowville Masonic Lodge #159 AF & AM conducted the graveside service on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice.

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

Walker, Christopher (Chris) Lance

Christopher (Chris) Lance Walker, 61, formerly of Pulaski, passed away Dec. 27, 2021.

He is the son of the late Oliver and Annie Mae Walker, Jr.

Grandparents are the late Leonard and Mary Williams and the late James Oliver and Isabel Walker.

Chris graduated from Pulaski County High School in June 1978 and later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He also attended Temple University in Philadelphia for graduate studies. Pursuing an acting career, Chris appeared in nu-



merous stage, television and movie productions. He lived in New York, N.Y., for many years and most recently in Philadelphia.

Chris is survived by his twin sister Caye and her husband, Michael; brother Stredrick and his wife, Mary; and his sister Olivia, along with other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum, 5555 Lee Highway, Dublin, Virginia 24084.

Obituary courtesy of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Bower, Willodene Wilma Scaggs

Willodene Wilma Scaggs Bower, 81, of Christiansburg, passed away Friday, July 15, 2022, at Pulaski Health and Rehab.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, July 18, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens.



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RADFORD SPORTS

Behind the tale of Lane Stadium North

(Editor's note: Parker Wood shares about the iconic day.)

It's an archaic combat practice.

Upon vanquishing an opposing force on the battlefield, the prevailing battalion justifiably plants its flag on previously contested ground. New territory has been annexed. Victory has been achieved.

While no physical land is up for dispute when Virginia and Virginia Tech meet annually in football in the Commonwealth Clash presented by Smithfield, ask anyone with stake in Blacksburg's side of the rivalry and they will alert you to the contrary. Someone like Parker Wood, for instance, whose iconic sign written on Walmart posterboard could be read high, amid the sea of Tech fans who stormed Scott Stadium after the Hokies' 29-24, Clash victory last November in Charlottesville: 'Lane Stadium North.'

"For the record, I did not come up with the name 'Lane Stadium North,'" Wood said. "I had seen it in miscellaneous places before. But, the night before [the game], I thought about it."

At the time of the game, Wood was in his junior year at Tech studying finance. Growing up roughly 30 minutes outside of Charlottesville, he casually took in UVA football and basketball games with his family, more so when his older brother was attending the university.

"It really was not until my senior year of high school that I started looking more at Virginia Tech. I had toured there at the end of my junior year and just really liked how it

kind of fit with me well. It was pretty late when I really started looking at Tech."

Wood committed his academic future to Blacksburg. It took him little convincing that the proper recipe for a Tech football gameday was to arrive early and always stay through to the end.

However, Wood's formula for a successful 2021 Commonwealth Clash experience was in jeopardy. He woke up on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving short of a ticket to Scott Stadium, needing a favor from his UVA brother to ultimately reserve his spot on the hillside.

"I was not sure if I was actually going to make it to the game," Wood said. "My brother hooked me up [with a ticket] about two hours prior to pregame. I made the sign in a quick run to Walmart. It was so last-minute. But it definitely worked out well."

Wood's confidence to carry his sign behind enemy lines may have been matched that night only by interim head coach J.C. Price and the visiting Hokies, who were determined to finish off the Cavaliers and reach bowl eligibility. Yet through the heckling and the animosity, he was greeted by an emerging wave of 'Go Hokies' shouts and cheers.

After all, this was Lane Stadium North.

From the bottom of the hillside in Scott Stadium, Wood had trouble asserting his sign in the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd of Cavaliers supporters.

"[My brother, his friend and I] were at the very bottom of the hill for the entire game and it definitely became really crowded," Wood said. "I was actually only holding

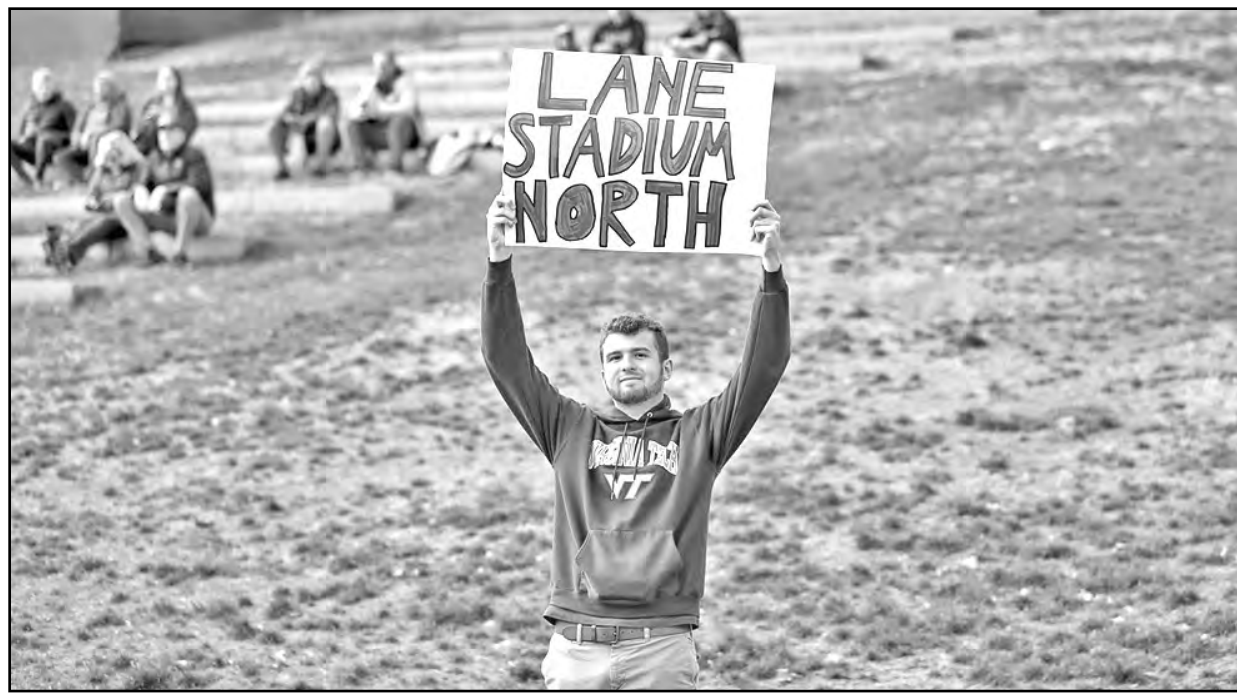


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Parker Wood made the UVA-Virginia Tech game in Charlottesville a little more interesting when his sign bragged about how many times the Hokies had won on the Hoos home field.

my sign a few times during the game just because the people around me were not very fond of it. But you know, I did my own thing."

Wood's night was about to turn viral after a pregame photo of him and his sign landed a prime spot on Instagram, courtesy of @HokieSports.

"I did not have a great WiFi connection at the stadium, but at some point, I eventually saw it," Wood said. "I got a bunch of texts from friends and Snaps. So, that was pretty fun."

With his phone blowing up, Wood fielded texts from friends and family who were following the game remotely.

"My family's reaction was more of pride in me like, 'That's my son!' Or, 'That's my cousin!'" Wood said. "But my friends were a lot more happy that I had my sign right in front of all the UVA fans. They were saying, 'You're famous!' Or, 'That's my roommate!' There was def-

initely a lot of pride across the way."

But Wood's pride that night was far from being extinguished. Before him, Tech was immersed in a classic, back-and-forth rivalry affair with Virginia, twice answering UVA touchdowns during the first half while a 32-yard field goal by John Parker Romo brought the Hokies within 21-17 of the 'Hoos at halftime.

Raheem Blackhear's 50-yard run early during the third quarter helped lead to Tech's game-tying touchdown as the Hokies drew level at 24-24.

Given its first lead (27-24) by a second Romo field goal, Tech's strip-sack of UVA quarterback Brennan Armstrong during the closing minutes of regulation appeared to seal the victory, despite an untimely fumble that prolonged the contest. However, the Hokies' defense managed to successfully halt UVA in the red zone, prompting a remarkable

scene at Scott Stadium, as Tech fans victoriously rushed the field at Scott Stadium.

"You know, it was kind of unorthodox for away fans to rush the field," Wood said. "It all happened so fast. People on the left of the hill started going first. From that point, I was on the right side and figured if there were already 20-30 people going out there, I might as well join, too."

Ditching his brother and his friend, Wood high-fived Tech players during his full-on sprint to midfield to join the excited mob of Hokie Nation.

"That was a special moment. I was really happy for the players," Wood said. "I mean, at the end of the day, I know the players, how hard they had worked, and how much they wanted it. So, I was really happy to see them celebrate and really take it all in."

Arms raised high,

Wood and his sign captioned the exuberant Tech crowd perfectly. After all, the Hokies had now won 12 of their last 15 games at Scott Stadium; this was becoming their second home field: Lane Stadium North.

"I could not really see until afterwards, but I saw pictures," Wood said. "It was actually a pretty decent crowd on the field. It was not just the 20 or 30 people I had seen when I first ran out there. That really surprised me afterwards, seeing how it really did feel like a home game."

As Wood acknowledges, it was a moment only possible with Hokie Nation.

"All I can say is that Hokies travel – not just to Scott Stadium. I think the dedication we bring to our players is just really impressive compared to other fan bases," Wood said.

Scott Stadium – more commonly known as Lane Stadium North.

Sports notes: RU volleyball assistant hired; former RHS volleyball player honored by SEC; RU women's soccer goalkeeper transfers; RU to host FanFest

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Radford High School volleyball player Trinity Adams, who is playing for the University of Florida, has been named to the SEC First Year Academic Honor Roll the Southeastern Conference announced Thursday. That brings the Gator volleyball program's total number of academic accolades to 10 for the 2021-22 academic year.

On the court, the Gators finished 22-9 and 14-4 in the SEC en route to the program's 28th Regional Semifinal appearance. Six players collected All-SEC accolades while three Gators earned All-American status from the American Volleyball Coaches Association..

To be recognized for the SEC Academic Honor Roll, the student-athlete must meet the following criteria: 1) have a GPA of 3.00 for either the preceding academic year or have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution; 2) be on scholarship, be a letterwinner, or have participated on a varsity team for two years if non-scholarship; 3) have completed 24 semes-

ter hours of non-remedial credit at the nominating institution; and 4) have been a member of the varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.

New RU assistant Following a two-year stint as the head men's and women's volleyball coach at Division III Medaille University, John Forman has been hired as a Radford University volleyball assistant coach, Head Coach Sherisa Livingston announced Wednesday afternoon.

Forman brings an impressive resume with him to the New River Valley, gaining knowledge and experience at all levels of collegiate volleyball in both the United States and Europe.

In his time at Medaille, he was hired as the university's first full-time head volleyball coach and took on the task of building a consistent contender. The men's team soon made its first conference tournament appearance since 2017 with multiple all-conference selections.

Forman got his coaching career started in 1998 where he was named an assistant coach at Dean College in Franklin, Mass. He

moved to the University of Rhode Island where he was an assistant for a year in 2000-2001. He then added Brown University to his resume, serving as an assistant coach at the Ivy League institution from 2001-2006. He recruited six All-Ivy League players for the Bears.

RU soccer goalkeeper transfers

Eastern Kentucky University soccer head coach Matt Cosinuke has announced the signing of former RU goalkeeper Lauren Seedlock.

She was named to the Big South All-Conference Second Team in 2021 after starting all 19 matches, posting a 13-5-1 record, and recording 11 shutouts. She made 72 saves on the season.

Seedlock selected EKV over such schools as Pittsburgh, Southern Miss, George Washington, and Bellarmine.

APPY all-star game

The Burlington Sock Puppets will host the 2022 Appalachian League All-Star Game at Burlington Athletic Stadium on July 25 and July 26. The two-day event will feature a Fan Fest and Skills Competition on Monday and the All-Star Game on Tuesday.

"We are extremely proud to be hosting the Appalachian League All-Star Game in Burlington," Burlington Mayor Jim Butler said. "We believe we have an All-Star venue in Burlington Athletic, and we have an All-Star Team in our Sock Puppets; so it's only fitting that we host the All-Star Game. We are honored to have that opportunity."

All-Star Game festivities begin on Monday, July 25 when the gates to Burlington Athletic Stadium open at 5 p.m. with a full-roster autograph session for fans. Live music, fire breathers, circus acts, inflatables and more will also start when the gates open. At 7 p.m., the Skills Competition is slated to begin. This event will not only focus on the incredible, physical talent of the All-Stars, but will also pit the fans of each Appalachian team against other fans, players, and coaches.

The All-Star Game, which is set to start at 7 p.m. on July 26, will feature the best players from the West Division against the best players from the East.

"Last season's All-Star Game in Pulaski was a great event for the play-

ers, fans, and everyone involved," League president Dan Moushon said. "In addition to showcasing our players' skills, we look forward to the exciting events and festivities that the Sock Puppets have planned for both players and fans in Burlington."

During the plate meeting prior to each game, the home team manager will determine if they want to play offense or defense in the event of a tie game after regulation (7 or 9 innings). For the team on offense, the player on the lineup card immediately preceding the batter due up will be placed on first base.

The defensive team will have three outs to prevent the offense from scoring. If the team on offense scores, they will win the game. If the defensive team retires the side without allowing a run, they will win the game.

If the player starting the inning on first base scores, it will count in the statistics as a run for the player and an RBI for the batter who drove him in (if applicable) but will not count towards the pitcher's earned-run average. The sudden death rule guarantees that no game will be played beyond 9.5 innings or beyond 7.5

innings for a doubleheader game.

RU FanFest Radford University Athletics will host a Highlander Fan Fest on Thursday, Aug. 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Sinkland Farms.

An evolution of the "Meet the Coaches Night" hosted in previous years, the evening will include food trucks, kids' activities, inflatables, and more to kick off the 2022-23 athletics season. Guests will still have the opportunity to meet and greet with coaches from each of Radford's 16 teams and to learn more about each program.

Season tickets for the 2022-23 men's and women's basketball campaign will be on sale at the event, giving attendees a chance to secure their favorite seats.

The event is free to attend,

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

Motor Mile offering biggest purse in track history

Motor Mile Speedway is investing in its own future by announcing the largest purse in the history of the track, over \$50,000.

This includes \$5,000 to win in the Sportsman Division and \$10,000 to win in the Late Model Stock Car Division on Saturday Oct. 8. Green flag is at 5 p.m.

Late Model Stock Car entries are expected from all over Virginia and the Caroli-

nas, including track champion and Martinsville 300 winner Mike Looney, reigning track champion Kres VanDyke, and 2021 national champion Peyton Sellers. Rising star Kyle Dudley will do double duty as he readies his Late Model and Sportsman cars.

Motor Mile Speedway has one of the strongest classes of Sportsman cars, with Carl Budzefski leading the points. He'll be joined in October by

local star Daryn Cockram and a field of winners, including Jamie Sweeney and Brad Foy. These local stars will be challenged by South Boston points leader Kyle Barnes and an expected field of stars from South Boston, Kingsport, Dominion, and more for the 100 lap tilt.

Pole awards and contingency programs will be announced in the months leading up to the event.

Mark Ebert, President and

CEO at Motor Mile Speedway and the Rusty Wallace Racing Experience, said, "We've been looking for the opportunity to add a signature race at Motor Mile since we took over. When the CARS Tour race was changed, we saw an opportunity for a big year-end race on October 8. We've been in contact with a bunch of the Late Model teams, and it looks to be a good weekend for them. We look forward to a great

field of cars in both the Late Model and Sportsman divisions."

Jeff Roark, the Speedway's General Manager, said, "This is going to be a chance for us to really feature all that we offer here at Motor Mile. We're going all out with the VIP menu for this race, including shrimp cocktail, crab cakes and steak tips. It's going to be an amazing event with some of the best racing you'll ever see."

Radford University golfer tops in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Radford University's Nick Taliaferro sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole Sunday to win the State Open of Independence presented by CapTech by one stroke over defending champion Evan Beck of Virginia Beach.

Taliaferro, who grew up minutes from Independence Golf Club, the host of the event, posted a three-day aggregate 10-under-par 203, finishing with a 1-over-par 72 on Sunday.

"If you told me a month ago I would win this tournament, I probably wouldn't have believed you. I wasn't hitting it well at all," Taliaferro said. "But since the second round of the State Am, I've been playing really well. I don't know. It's hard to put it into words. It's cliché. But it's obviously a big confidence boost to know I can play against the best players in the state and win."

Richmond's Mark Lawrence and Glen Allen's Chris O'Neill shared low professional honors, each posting three-day aggregate totals of 5-under-par 208. They tied for third with amateur Alex Price, who plays at Christopher Newport University.

After 12 holes of his final round, Taliaferro sat at 14-under, five strokes clear of his nearest competitor, and a win seemed inevitable. Until it wasn't.

He hit his drive on the long par-4 13th hole left, but he still had a reasonable lie and window for his approach shot. Then things got weird. His second shot drifted into the spongy bermuda rough left of the green. Even worse, he had a downhill lie for a delicate chip and not much room with which to work. His shot went long and trickled over the green, and he was unable to get up and down for bogey. Suddenly the lead was down to three strokes.

"That didn't really rattle me," he said. "It was just a case of being in the wrong spot."

He quickly recovered on the par-3 14th. He hit his tee shot well to the right, but on the green, and he lagged the putt close and made par to settle his nerves.

On to the 15th, where the newly installed far right back tee box had given players fits all week. Taliaferro's first drive hooked hard left and well out of bounds. His provisional went to the right into a penalty area, and he had to take relief for a one-stroke penalty. His fourth shot (including the two penalty strokes) flew the green, and he was unable to get up and down, leaving him with a disastrous triple-bogey seven.

Taliaferro's Radford teammate Channing Blevins, caddied for Taliaferro all week, and he offered some simple words to calm him down once the pair reached the 16th tee.

"If I had told him Friday morning that he'd be tied for the lead with three holes to go, he probably would have taken it," Blevins said. "So let's forget about the last three holes and do the best we can and get a couple of good looks."

Beck was already in the clubhouse at 9-under at that point, so Taliaferro knew he needed to play the last three holes at 1-under to secure the victory.

He regained the steadiness that had been the benchmark of his game all week. He hit his drive on 16 down the middle and made a two-putt par. On the par-5 17th, he was straight down the middle again and made a two-putt par. On 18, Taliaferro hit what Blevins called "his best drive of the week," leaving him an 8-iron approach that he hit to 12 feet, hole high right.

Taliaferro and Blevins conferred for several minutes over the putt, and Taliaferro admitted he had some nerves as he lined up to hit it.

"Deep breaths," he said. "Just kept telling myself, deep breaths. It's something I was working on."

The putt was straight and true from the start. With it three feet from the hole, Taliaferro raised his putter, and when it dropped, the sizable gallery surrounding 18 roared, and Taliaferro pumped his fist, the championship secure.

"I knew the read," he said. "I just had to put a good stroke on it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Radford University golfer Nick Taliaferro won the State Open Sunday with a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

VDOT from page 6

between Route 822 (Fieldview Road) and Route 887 (Glendale Road).

CRAIG COUNTY

ROUTE 311 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MEADOW CREEK – Temporary signals are controlling traffic across the bridge and will be in place throughout the project. Construction will begin on the northbound side of the bridge and once completed, work will switch to the southbound side. In addition, a section of Route 646 (Allen Street) between Route 650 and Route 311 will be closed during construction and a signed detour will be in place. All traffic will be detoured to Marshall Street

and Kanawha Street to access either 311 or the homes located off Allen Street. Speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone with a width restriction of 9 feet. Drivers should expect delays and allow extra travel time through the work zone. Weather permitting, the bridge is expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2022.

FLOYD COUNTY

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should

watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Route 221 northbound, milling and filling operations 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

ROUTE 726 CLOSURE – A section of Route 726 (Wads Gap Road) is closed for a low water structure replacement. This structure is located one mile South of Route 613 (Naff Road) and .2 mile north of Route 664 (Hicks Hollow Road). The road is scheduled to be completed on August 3 at 5 p.m.

ROUTE 619 CLOSURE – Effective August 3 at 8:30 a.m., a section of Route 619 (Pleasant Hill Road) will be closed for

one day for a pipe replacement. This closure will be located 0.3 mile south of Route 40 (Franklin Street) and 0.4 mile north of Route 939 (Menefee Road). The road is scheduled to be completed on August 3 at 7 p.m.

ROUTE 834 AND 670 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT – The roundabout project at Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) and Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road) is underway. Flaggers will be controlling traffic around the intersection of Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road) and Route 834 (Brooks Mill Road) on weekdays during the spring and summer months. The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the work zone. Drivers should expect traffic shifts and new traffic patterns throughout the duration of the project as turn lanes and portions of the new roundabout are being constructed. The new roundabout with lighting is anticipated to open to traffic in fall 2022. Overall project is expected to be completed in early 2023.

ROUTE 775 CLOSURE – Route 775 (Iron Ridge Road) is closed to traffic as an emergency closure due to washout. The road will remain closed until further notice.

ROUTE 220: Crack sealing operations in place on northbound Route 220 near Route 618 and Route 718 during nighttime hours. Drivers can expect alternating lane closures with flagging operations.

SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various

routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.

GILES COUNTY

ROUTE 673 ROAD WIDENING AND RESURFACING – The widening, stabilizing, and resurfacing of Route 673 (Penvir Road) is underway. Work begins at the intersection with Route 61 (Wolf Creek Highway) through 1.2 miles south of the intersection. Drivers can expect intermittent single lane closures controlled by flagging operations. Expected completion is September 2022.

HENRY COUNTY

ROUTE 692 (HORSE PASTURE PRICE ROAD) CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE WORK – A section of Route 692 (Horsepasture Price Road) is closed for approximately four days due to bridge work to replace the concrete riding surface and span on the bridge over Jennings Creek. The bridge is located on Route 692 about 0.4 mile from Route 694 (Wagon Trail Road) and 0.3 mile from Route 793 (Bouldin Road). Motorists should expect flaggers controlling traffic on the bridge for a few days before and after the closure as crews complete the bridge work. During the four-day

closure, drivers will need to seek alternate routes. A detour is available using northbound Route 220 at the North Carolina state line onto westbound Route 58. Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming bridge closure.

ROUTE 807 PIPE REPLACEMENT – Route 807 (Sarah Avenue) is for a pipe replacement located between the two intersections of Eastview Drive for approximately two weeks. Signs will alert drivers. The road is expected to reopen on July 25.

ROUTE 1142 CULVERT REPLACEMENT –Route 1142 (Miles Road) will be closed for a culvert replacement. A detour will be in place. Signs will alert and guide drivers. The road is expected to reopen on August 5.

PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Paving operations on Route 58 to the county line of Martinsville to Leatherwood Creek. Expect alternating lane closures during nighttime hours with flagging operations.

ROUTE 220 SOUTH RIDGEWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS – Construction has begun for safety improvements on Route 220 South from VA/NC State line to Route 688 at mile marker 3.06. There will be a left lane closure in place until the work is complete. Completion is expected October 2022.

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