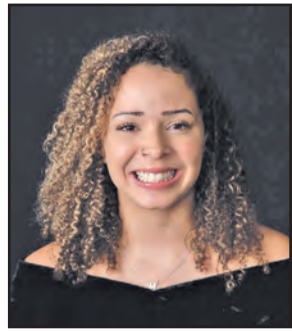




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Alexis Newcombe



Hannah Flinchum



Lindsey Riddle



Maggie Dent

## Philanthropic Educational Organization awards scholarships to stand-out students

RADFORD - Chapter H, the Radford chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), awarded scholarships this past academic year to four young women.

The STAR scholarship worth \$2,500 was awarded to Maggie Dent, a graduate of Radford High School. Dent served in several school related leadership roles including being the drum major of the Radford High Marching Band and performing with

and mentoring her high school swim teammates. Dent will attend Arcadia University in Glenside, Penn. this fall in the public health and physical therapy program.

The P.E.O. STAR scholarship was established in 2009 to provide scholarships for exceptional high school women to attend an accredited postsecondary educational insti-

tution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year. The competitive scholarship is for women who exhibit excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service, and the potential for future success.

In addition, Chapter H awarded the two Dorothy Collins scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each; and

See **Stand-Out Students**, page 6



In July, Radford City Police participated in an active threat training course designed to increase the survivability of victims injured during an active threat situation.

## Radford Police take part in active threat training

The Radford City Police Department participated in active threat training sessions throughout July.

The first two sessions were conducted through Louisiana State University's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Educa-

Center, along with the top subject matter experts in the country, develops courses that address the most current preparedness needs. The first course the Radford City Police Department participated in, alongside Radford Fire and EMS, the Radford Sheriff's Department, and Radford University emergency management officials was Active Threat

The LSU National

See **Threat Training**, page 3

## Three Radford Photo Club photos tie in contest

Rebecca Harris, Joyce Sims, and Debby Ring, all of Radford tied for first place in the open theme photo challenge at the Radford Photo Club's July meeting. Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg won the theme challenge, a photo in the style of an artist.

Harris's photo is of the Mary Draper Ingles statue by Matt Langford, located on Unruh Drive

across from the Glencoe Museum and Gallery. Sims's photo is of a horse and its foal on the Talbert Farm in New River. Ring's photo, taken in Costa Rica, is of an exotic frog.

Borgarelli's winning photo is called Blue Bonnet. He said, "The image was taken in Texas last spring and post-processed in the spirit of the painter Claude Monet, one of the

founders of impressionist painting."

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. It meets monthly at Radford Public Library. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public.

Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.



"Exotic Frog" by Debby Ring



"Mare and Foal" by Joyce Sims



"Mary Draper Ingles" by Rebecca Harris



"Blue Bonnet" by Michele Borgarelli

## Radford NRV Medical Center among Carilion award winners

Radford's Carilion New River Valley Medical Center was among four Carilion Clinic hospitals that received six awards from the American Society for HealthCare Engineering (ASHE) for improvements in sustainability.

The awards included the Energy to Care Sustainability Champion Award, which recognizes facilities with a strong commit-

ment to lowering energy use and meeting sustainability goals.

ASHE is a professional membership group of the American Hospital Association with the goal of creating safe and efficient health care environments.

Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital and Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital

made up two of the four recipients for this year.

To win this award, facilities had to track energy, water, and greenhouse gas emissions in the Energy to Care dashboard; have an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or above; be an ENERGY STAR certified hospital; have a published sustainability statement,

See **Award Winners**, page 5

## Blacksburg's Steppin' Out Festival Aug. 5, 6 to feature 200+ arts and crafts vendors

The Town of Blacksburg's 41st annual Steppin' Out festival will take place Friday, Aug. 5, and Saturday, Aug 6.

For two days, the streets of downtown Blacksburg will be bustling with over 200 arts and crafts vendors and thousands of attendees. More than 30 bands and community entertainers will perform.

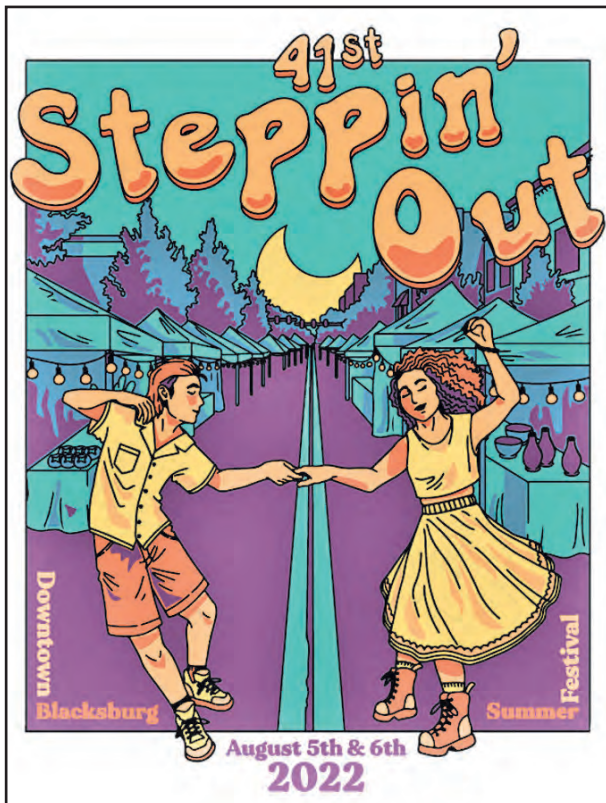
Steppin' Out is presented by Downtown Blacksburg, Inc., and admission to the festival is free. Town of Blacksburg metered

parking is also free during the event.

Featuring touring bands, regional acts, and local favorites, the live music kicks off Friday afternoon and concludes at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Attendees can expect to see a range of genres including funk, soul, rock, jam, pop, Americana, folk and everything in between.

Rock the Blocks LLC has curated the line-up for Steppin' Out since 2016. Yvonne "Eve" Yee, founder of Rock the Blocks, said, "We received an over-

See **Steppin' Out**, page 5



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

**Radford High School alumni mixer**  
Radford High School will hold an alumni mixer at Brick House Pizza in Radford from 5 to 7 p.m. The athletic booster club will speak and talk about their objectives for the year. The boosters will also be taking new members. Pizzas will be available first come, first serve. Alumni will meet the coaches, administrators, and teachers and learn more about fall sports at Radford High School and the new weight room.

**Root Beer Float Day**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Participants will get one small root beer float in celebration.

## Friday, Aug. 5:

**Science Investigations: Weird Water**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. This science program for elementary age kids will explore the weird properties of water and the scientific reasons behind why it behaves the way it does. The program includes hands-on experiments. For the best experience, kids should arrive promptly at 2 p.m. The program is best for ages 7 and up, but younger children can participate with adult help.

## 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 on sale at reasonable prices.

## Saturday, Aug. 6:

**PAWS to Read with Derek**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Participants can sign up for a 10-minute time slot to read with a therapy dog. Call the library at 540-552-8246.

**Music on the Lawn: Haze and Dacey**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is the fourth show in the library's Music on the Lawn concert series. Concertgoers should bring lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert will go on rain or shine.

## Monday, Aug. 8:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
This regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Radford City Administration Building, 10 Robertson St. For more information, www.radford.va.gov.

**STEM club**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. The library's homeschool STEM club where will explore science, technology, engineering, and/or math. For ages 8 and up.

## 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 at 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.

**Talking about books**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Whispers from the Steppe" by local author Mary Jacobowski. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

serve a copy.

**Homeschool creative writing group**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Teens and Tweens can join this new Homeschool Creative Writing club. Participants can practice their writing skills, share them with others, and learn about constructive criticism by working with peers and talking about stories. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

## Wednesday, Aug. 10:

**Loops group**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their projects and join the loops group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

## Saturday, Aug. 13:

**Mt. Tabor Ruritan Fish fry**  
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd. in Blacksburg. Servings will include fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Prices are \$12 for adults and carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12 with children under 3 free. The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing, and the fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

## Saturday, Aug. 13 - Sunday, Aug. 21:

**Marching Virginians band camp**  
The Virginia Tech Marching Virginians will hold their annual band camp from August 13-21 at the Marching Virginians Field on the Virginia Tech Campus. Adjoining neighborhoods may be able to hear the band rehearsals from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on those days. The Blacksburg community is welcome to come out and watch the rehearsals

as well.

## Ongoing:

**Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy Registration Now Open**  
Registration for the 2022 Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy is now open. The deadline for Christiansburg and Montgomery County residents to register for this free, eight-week course is Aug. 15. Citizens Academy provides a hands-on experience for participants, covering a wide variety of local government functions ranging from fire and rescue to libraries, animal care, and public works. Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning Sept. 7 and ending on Oct. 26.

**United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need**  
The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate some pantry items can drop them off at the United Way's office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

## Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces an exhibit, "Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now" 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 open to the public will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century. It brings agriculture in Southwest Virginia to the present-day local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. For more information, visit blacksburgmuseum.org.

# Jessie Peterman Library to offer weekly counseling sessions

The Jessie Peterman Memorial Library has added a weekly counseling session to its calendar.

Through a partnership with Radford's 401 Peer Center, part of New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS), a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist from

the 401 Peer Center will lead a group meeting titled "We Could All Use a Little Help" in Floyd every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

Anyone who would like to add connection and support to their lives is encouraged to join.

Leroy Robinson, supervisor of the 401 Peer Center, says, "We

are honored, through collaborative efforts, to partner with Jessie Peterman that will allow the Peer Center to expand its services throughout the New River Valley. As we grow towards becoming a regional training facility with the support of NRVCS and Floyd County Drug Court,

this collaboration with the library will be the first of many to come."

The 401 Peer Center is a peer-led facility that offers a safe place to anyone struggling with substance abuse disorder, mental health disorder, homelessness, and/or unemployment, or to

anyone simply looking to connect with Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to improve one's quality of life.

These meetings will provide a safe, non-judgmental space that will promote overall wellness. Signing up for the sessions is not required.



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## OBITUARIES

### Foster, Stella Thompson

Stella Thompson Foster, 84, of Radford, passed away Friday, July 29, 2022, at her home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Benny and Myrtle Thompson; her husband, Harlan Gary Foster; and her two sons, Keith Glenn Church and Phillip Miguel Church.

Survivors include her sister, Patricia Thompson Saunders; nephews Kevin Saunders, Scott Saunders, and Matthew Saunders; a niece, Stacy Saun-

ders Branigan; many great-nephews; a great-niece; a special uncle, Olen Thompson; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Anna Handy of Radford for all of her support and care.

Per Stella's request, no services will be held at this time.

The Thompson/Foster family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

### Garst, Mary Frances (Dolly)

Mary Frances (Dolly) Garst, 86, of Blacksburg, passed away Thursday, July 28, 2022, at Lewis-Gale Medical Center.

She was born in Montgomery County on May 24, 1936, to the late James and Mary Sarver Alls. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Don A. Garst; a son, J. Wayne Garst; a sister, Janie Gray; and a brother, Harry Alls.

She is survived by her children, Libby Heinemann, Mary A. Hendrickson, Jerry A. Garst, and daughter-in-law Alison Garst; grandchildren Lindsey Holman (Hank), Kari Traugott (Dustin), Kellie Lavine, Leslie Combs (Shaun), Morgan Hendrickson, Emily Garst (John),



Katie Prewitt, Vickie Foy (Matt), and Connor York; great-grandchildren Josh Holman, Gage Simpson, Shelby Holman, Austin and Landon Traugott, and Ryan and Aiden Combs; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Don McKinney officiating.

Interment followed in the Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg. The family received friends Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg, VA. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Blacksburg Fire Department or Blacksburg Rescue.

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

# Montgomery homeowners asked to report destructive jumping worms

BLACKSBURG — While many gardeners welcome worms in their soil, there's one wriggling fiend that is unwanted.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is asking Virginia residents to keep an eye out for the invasive jumping worm. Recently spotted in Chesterfield County, the worms are becoming widespread across the state. Since 2019, they've been seen in Albemarle, Bedford, Chesterfield, Frederick, Goochland, Loudoun, Louisa, Montgomery, Northumberland, Prince William and Wise counties, as well as in the cities of Fairfax, Lynchburg and Virginia Beach, according to the Virginia Tech Department of Entomology.

"Mainly we hope that people are aware of these invasive worms and try their best to not spread them through potted plants or soil," said Theresa Dellinger, Virginia Tech

insect identification lab diagnostician.

Also known as Alabama jumpers, crazy worms, Jersey wrigglers and snake worms, they're recognized by their erratic jumping and thrashing behavior when handled or disturbed.

Ranging from red to brownish purple in color, they're identifiable by a smooth, milky-colored band of tissue that encircles the worm's body. Measuring 3 to 6 inches long, they sometimes have a glossy, iridescent sheen but are not slimy to the touch.

While many worms are thought to be beneficial to the soil, the jumping worm is an exception. They feed on leaf litter and mulch at the soil's surface, removing an important organic layer and changing the soil structure underneath—leaving it bare, with a uniformly dry, granular appearance resembling coffee grounds.

This leaf litter consumption also removes beneficial nutrients that plants need and changes the moisture level of the underlying soil—increasing the potential for erosion. Additionally, animals that live and feed on the leaf litter and topsoil may be affected by habitat loss.

Extension cautions people to be aware when sharing plants that may contain jumping worms, and avoid introducing organic mulch or soil from outside sources unless it's been heat-treated. Thoroughly clean items with soil on them, such as gardening tools and shoes, before going into another yard.

Additionally, worms sold as bait should never be released in the wild.

"It's almost certain that some of these worms have been spread by people using them for fish bait too," Dellinger noted. "And people buying worms online



**Invasive jumping worms are becoming widespread across Virginia, including Montgomery County. They feed on leaf litter, thus increasing the chances of soil erosion and depriving animals that feed on the litter of a valuable source of food.**

for composting should be aware that their purchase may actually contain a mix of worms, including jump-

ing worms."

Anyone believing they may have found jumping worms should take an

up-close, clear photo or a video and report the finding to the local Extension office.

## Virginia Tech researcher Lijuan Yuan to test vaccine for norovirus, which sends 900,000+ children to U.S. hospitals annually

Lijuan Yuan, professor of virology and immunology at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia

Tech, will evaluate a potential live oral vaccine for norovirus, the No. 1 cause of foodborne illness.

Indiana University's

John Patton and colleagues are developing a norovirus vaccine that uses the Rotarix rotavirus vaccine as a platform. Us-

ing reverse genetics, they will insert a norovirus protein into Gene 7 of the rotavirus. The virus will then express the norovirus

protein in the gut, inducing an immune response against norovirus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, norovirus is the leading cause of vomiting and diarrhea from acute gastroenteritis in the United States, resulting in 19 million to 21 million cases every year.

Norovirus tends to affect young children and the elderly the most. It's responsible for about 24,000 hospitalizations and 925,000 outpatient visits for American children each year, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Rotavirus also causes acute gastroenteritis and hits young children the hardest.

"Together, rotavirus and norovirus cause over 415,000 deaths every year, and norovirus also has a very significant burden even in the countries that

don't have a lot of deaths," said Yuan. "The economic cost is huge, \$4.2 billion in direct costs and \$60 billion in indirect societal costs. You hear about norovirus outbreaks on the news all the time in hospitals, nursing homes, and cruise ships and how it's closing down restaurants, so it's got a lot of economic implications."

In her lab, Yuan studies gnotobiotic pig models of human enteric virus infection and disease, including how probiotics affect immunity and the evaluation of rotavirus and norovirus vaccines and anti-norovirus biologicals.

Working with gnotobiotic pigs is both time and labor intensive, but the pig model of norovirus will test a vaccine that could help millions of people.

*Written by Sarah Boudreau*



**The Yuan laboratory team.**

PHOTO BY ANDREW MANN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

## Threat Training

from page 1

Integrated Response Care (ATIRC), designed to increase the survivability of victims injured during an active threat situation.

The course addresses the need for quick and decisive communication between law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services in an active threat event. This training also provides law enforcement officers with key medical skills to be used at the point of injury.

The hands-on exercises in the course help to improve communication between law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services during active shooter events, emphasizing the goal of increasing the survivability of the victims. These exercises also give participants experience working under duress during an active threat event in order to develop and solidify critical decision-making skills.

The second course was Active Threats on Campus and was attended by members of Radford

City Public Schools alongside Radford public safety officials.

This week, Radford City Police are conducting a final round of trainings in the evenings

from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Radford High School. This is force-on force-training,

and multiple law enforcement agencies are participating. Community members may see an increased police presence in the area during those evenings.

"RCPD remains committed to training in the most up-to-date tactics with the most current research and information," said Pete Rutzinski, Radford's interim Deputy

Chief of Police.

"This allows our agency to be better prepared to protect and serve our community daily should an active threat incident arrive."



**An active threat training session in July was attended by members of Radford City Public Schools and Radford public safety officials, including the Radford City Police Department, the Radford Sheriff's Department, and Radford University emergency management officials.**

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# OPINION

## Buddy King: My 50-year class reunion took me back to simpler, better times

The one thing we are always told that is constant in life is change. Just a clever way of saying nothing is constant. Everything changes. And we wouldn't really want things not to change. We would be stuck with the results of our own worst instincts forever. So change is good, or at least inevitable and natural. Hopefully in the direction of a better world. At times you wonder.

Another thing about life that we hear is that change is hard. Lots of us, particularly as we get older, say "I don't like change," "why aren't things the way they used to be?" And we become the subject of ridicule from younger generations for not "embracing change," for "being behind the times," against "progress," "out of date," whatever cliché you want to use. But that too is natural. Change necessarily means that the intersection of the circle of the experiences and ideas

of the older generation with that of the younger is small. Otherwise change would not occur.

I think the greatest dream many of us have, what I would wish for if I found the genie in the bottle and got one wish, is to be around when the current younger generations become the age we are now. When the tables are turned. Impossible of course, but it would be confirming for us when they come to realize that it's not easy to change the world, that life is hard and complex. Fast and unforgiving. No do-overs.

Why am I waxing philosophical? Because I just returned from my 50th high school reunion (actually 51st, but who's counting?) in my wonderful old hometown of Christiansburg. If there is ever a point in life when you are entitled to reflect and be introspective this is it! So on to the occasion, when change reversed course for a few hours.

For most in atten-

dance, working life is now over or winding down, egos if they ever existed have waned or been satisfied, hormones have disappeared or at least are calming down. Like the ads on television, we have become our parents, actually our grandparents. Nothing much to prove, no one left to impress.

So getting together with folks, quite a few of whom you haven't seen in 40 or 50 years and whose lives have gone in so many different directions, while awkward at first, is simpler and easier than at prior reunions, where the conversations were typically like this:

- at the 10th, "what a great job I have and how smart am I and let me show you pictures of the babies."

- at the 20th, "yeah, we're divorced now and I've changed jobs and yeah some of the kids have some problems, but everything is working out all things considered."

- at the 30th, "I've got a few aches and pains and I am starting to worry about my parents

and let me show you pictures of the grandkids and yeah I'm looking forward to retirement."

- at the 40th, "yes, I've lost my parents too and the kids have moved away, but I'm getting by and I still have my health largely and in 2,076 days I can retire."

This one was different. Yes, it was a little awkward at first to strike up a conversation with someone you haven't seen in 40 or 50 years, and thank God for being able to peek at blessed name tags, but this time it felt warm and genuine. Sure, we talked a little about what surgeries we had coming up, but no one much cared about impressing anyone. Our lots in life have been largely cast.

We remembered lost classmates (sadly, way more than I realized). We joked about being thrilled to "still be on the right side of the daisies." We were just truly happy to see each other.

Change was all around us, but yet sometimes it seemed like nothing

had changed. We only wished we could spend more time with each other before moving on to the next conversation. I am guessing it was like a form of speed dating, but with a common denominator (our years together in school) as a starting point.

We shared some laughs and some tears. But mainly we remembered sharing a special part of our lives. Many of us started in first grade together and spent our entire youth in a wonderful small town where school was the hub of life. Our families knew each other, and community was a real thing, not just a buzzword. There were few strangers in those long ago times and change seemed non-existent. Little did we appreciate what was bearing down upon us.

Some of us had it easier than others back then, and some of us have better memories of those times than others. But I think for a few hours we all relished that we had experienced such a significant part of our lives together

and that we had a bond that lots of people never have.

Growing up in small town America in a simpler time, in a village that truly raised its kids. If only we could go back to that way of life, when suspicion and fear were not a part of daily routine.

I just chatted with one of the folks in attendance who had a different background culturally than many of us. He said he looked around the party on Saturday night and felt how little he had in common with many of the others in attendance. But then he said how glad he was to be there and how much better things would be if the world was more like the people in that room. That says it all.

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

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Radford News Journal (USPS 387-780) is published twice a week for \$45 a year in the City of Radford, \$54 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$58 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

## Home Country by Slim Randles: The day popcorn killed the mules

"You know it used to was even hotter than it is right now, don't you?" Windy looked up from his lunch. Oh boy, professorial mood. We're gonna get it. "I used to pack mules, a-course. Well, I packed 'em 'til the accident, anyway."

"Accident, Windy?" Dang it, Dud, you've done it now.

"Nobody can say I don't love them little mules, but that accident took all the packin' enthusiasticals right outa me.

"Over in Death Valley it was. Summer. Hotter'n ... well, you know. I was takin' the pack mules out each day with the lunches all packed on 'em fer these dudes.

Kinda fun.

"Jest why these here folks want to go a pick-a-nickin' on a hot day I couldn't say. To each his own said the old maid as she kissed the cow, I guess. Mules is the best manmade

varmint in history, ya know? But even mules got theirselves a limit on hotness.

"Them mules. My mules ... oh I was so very happy with them mules. But what's done is water under the road and chickens swimmin' upstream, ain't it?

"Well, that day we had a party that was partial to popcorn. Loved the stuff. I put two big cans on each mule in bag loads. One on each side.

"And we wasn't but maybe ... oh, like 20 minutes on the trail when the accident happened. (sob) I still can't rememorate it today without goin' all gooshy inside, either.

"What happened was somethin' we never figgered on. Nossir! Why, the heat was just a-hottenen down on them pack mules and their packs got all hot, and them cans of

popcorn got all hot and then the popcorn went to poppin'.

"Pardner, you never seen such a goldarn wreck in your life! Them mules heard that popcorn a-poppin' and figgered somebody was shootin' at 'em. Yessir. And they went to buckin' around out there, and when they did, the lids come off all 16 cans of popcorn and it looked like the Fourth of July, with big ol' fountains of that popcorn cas-cradin' down 'round them mules.

"And when the popcorn hit the ground, the mules looked at it, thought it was snow and froze to death! A terrible tragedy, and I ain't packed popcorn since that day."

Brought to you by <https://www.amazon.com/Cowboys-Guide-Packing-Backyard-Horse-ebook/dp/B00W2U3VXE> now just \$3.49 on Kindle.

## Virginia gas prices fell another 15.4 cents per gallon last week

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 15.4 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.97/g as of Monday, Aug. 1, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 66.9 cents per gallon lower than they were a month ago but still are 98.9 cents per gallon higher than they were a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined 14.8 cents last week to \$5.27 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.39/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.69/g, a difference of \$2.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 15.9 cents per gallon last week to an average

of \$4.17/g Monday. As of Aug. 1, the national average for gasoline was down 65.5 cents per gallon from a month ago but was still \$1.02/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 continue to see average gas prices falling in every state, with the national average down for the seventh straight week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Even better, nearly 20 states have also seen their average decline to \$3.99 or less, with over 70,000 stations now at that level or below. The outlook is for a continued drop in most areas," according to De Haan. "However,

some supply tightness in areas of the Northeastern U.S. could push prices up slightly until inventories rise or imports do. For now, Americans are seeing prices nearly 90 cents lower than their mid-June peak and are spending close to \$330 million less on gasoline every day as a result. As long as oil prices hold at these levels or lower, we'll see another decline in most areas this week."

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. 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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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Disco light
  - 7. London radio station
  - 10. Aerospace Co. Morton
  - 11. Capital of Puglia, Italy
  - 12. A phantom or apparition
  - 13. Packed wine
  - 14. The ocean below 6000 meters
  - 15. 1st dynasty: AKA Xia
  - 16. Every
  - 17. Six (Spanish)
  - 18. His ark
  - 20. Segment or a circle
  - 21. Pres. Johnson or Obama
  - 26. 12th Greek letter
  - 27. The First Lady
  - 32. A blood group
  - 33. Takes to task
  - 35. Prints money (abbr.)
  - 36. Airbus manufacturer
  - 37. An instance of selling
  - 38. 12th month (abbr.)
  - 39. Baseball's Ruth
  - 40. 1959 Nobel biochemist Severo
  - 43. Weights deducted to obtain net
  - 44. To lie scattered over
  - 47. 6th Jewish month
  - 48. Physical maltreators
  - 49. Founder Franklin
  - 50. Published
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Fish of the genus Alosa
  - 2. Rock singer Turner
  - 3. Muslim weight from 1 to 5 pounds
  - 4. Turkish unit of weight
  - 5. Bovine genus
  - 6. Popular shade tree
  - 7. The principal foundation of
  - 8. La \_\_\_ Tar Pits
  - 9. Spanish hero soldier
  - 10. Brains egg-shaped grey matter
  - 11. Fundamental
  - 12. Bast
  - 13. Small angels
  - 16. Not or
  - 17. S Pacific island group
  - 19. Ad \_\_\_: impromptu
  - 22. Gen. \_\_\_ DeGaulle
  - 23. Hasidic spiritual leader
  - 24. Aluminum
  - 25. Considerate and solicitous care
  - 28. Popular Canadian phrase
  - 29. Consumed food
  - 30. Hayfields
  - 31. About Andes
  - 34. Secondary School Certificate
  - 35. Pen maker Castell
  - 37. Brand of clear wrap
  - 39. Past tense of bid
  - 40. Resort city on Lake Biwa
  - 41. Big Bear was chief
  - 42. A group of cattle
  - 43. The bill in a restaurant
  - 44. People of the Dali region of Yunnan
  - 45. One point S of due E
  - 46. Pig genus

Submit letters  
to the editor to  
[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

## Radford's Abigail Caldwell named to Champlain College dean's list

Abigail Caldwell of Radford has been named to a Champlain College dean's list for the Spring 2022 semester.

Caldwell is currently enrolled in the game art and animation major.

To achieve dean's list honors, a student must

maintain a 3.5 grade point average during the semester.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vt., with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ire-

land. From its campus overlooking Lake Champlain, the college offers an innovative academic experience and more than 100 residential and online programs, including undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates.

## Award Winners

from page 1

have a designated sustainability champion on staff, and have a designated green team. Additionally, four Carilion facilities received the 2022 Sustained Performance

Award: Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital, and Carilion

Rockbridge Community Hospital

"Sustainability is all about collaboration. We have so many employees and volunteers who are actively working

towards these goals," said Sara Wohlford, Carilion's director of sustainability. "Our engineering and maintenance staff are always looking for ways to improve our buildings," said

Wohlford. "This recognition serves as a catalyst and motivation for even more change. It's so exciting to see our work pay off. But we aren't stopping here."

## Steppin' Out

from page 1

whelming number of artist submissions this year, which has brought in new and diverse acts to complement our local bands. There's everything from singer-songwriters to 10-piece bands. Take a chance and you might discover your new favorite band downtown."

Deau Eyes from Richmond will take the stage Friday night, performing as a five-piece band led by Ali Thibodeau. Their headlining performance follows the recent release of the band's sophomore album "Legacies" in June, which has been described as "an undeniably cinematic journey, informed by her love of artists from Brandi Carlile to Emily King to Fiona Apple."

Jazz, soul, and funk-influenced jam

band Yam Yam will close out the festival Saturday night. Hailing from Harrisburg, Penn., the band brings a high-energy performance to the festival.

On the Community Stage, located in the National Bank of Blacksburg parking lot, festivalgoers can catch a wide variety of performances from ballet to Tae Kwon Do. A new addition to the lineup this year is Blue Ridge Vocal Connection, a community chorus.

The stage sponsors are Moss Arts Center, Shelter Alternatives, Baseline Solar Solutions, the National Bank of Blacksburg, and AT&T.

A fourth "busking area" has been added this year that will feature stripped-down performances for casual entertainment.

# Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** - 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 though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 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.

**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 are 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.

**PATTERSON DRIVE BRIDGE WORK IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO DETOUR TRAFFIC NEAR ROANOKE COUNTY LINE** - Through Sept. 2, Route 669 (Patterson Drive)

will be closed to through traffic due to work on the bridge over Bottom Creek. The bridge is located about 0.1 mile west of the Roanoke County line near Route 669's intersection with Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Traffic can detour around the closure using Route 607 (Bottom Creek Road) and Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Electronic message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming bridge closure.

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

**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

### 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 underway. 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 where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days 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. Estimated to reopen August 11.

**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 replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140, and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

### I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE

- The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed until September 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

### REST AREA OPTIONS:

While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

**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 been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed.

The final surface paving and markings for northbound is underway this summer during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, 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 POT HOLE 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

**ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD** -On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2022.

### LANE CLOSURES:

o A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

o A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.

o A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

o A right lane clo-

sure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

(UPDATED 7-1-22) \* **I-581 BRIDGE 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. Scheduled traffic impacts include:

o Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

o Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

o Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### 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 MOWING, 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

**13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR** - A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

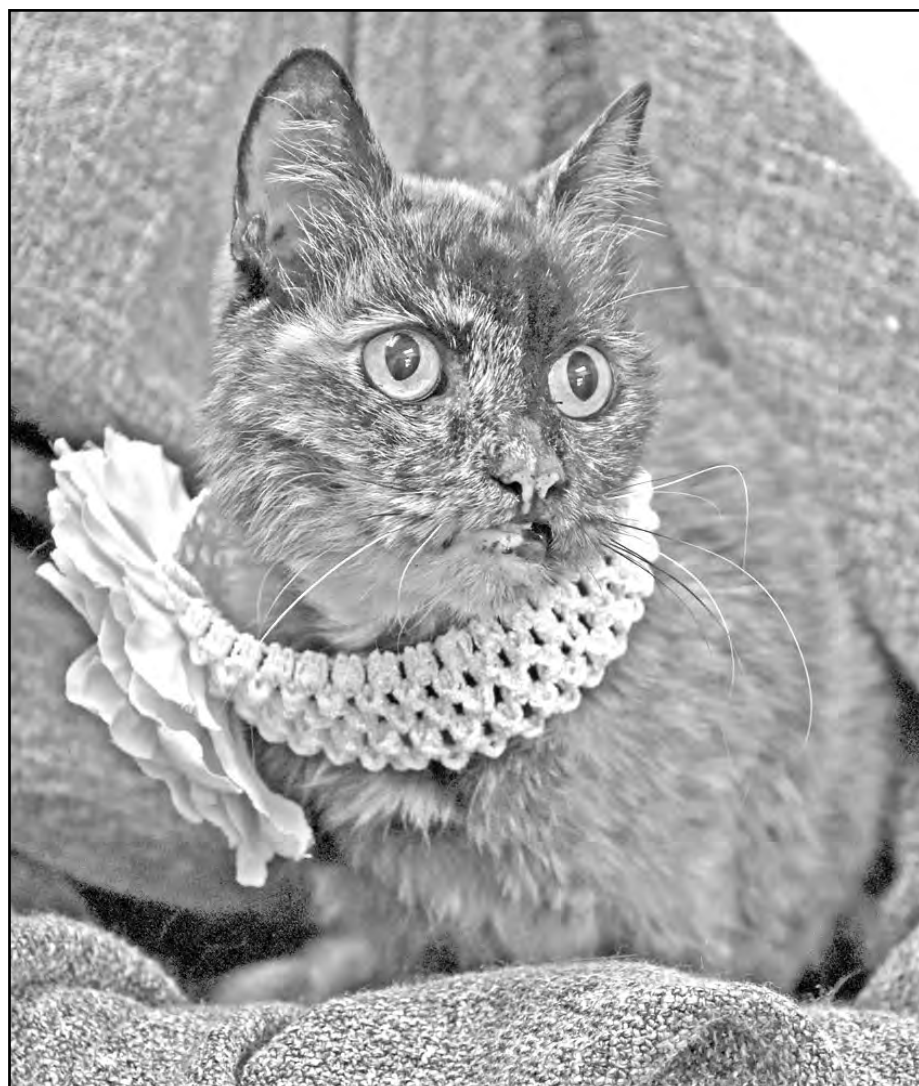
### SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS

- 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.

### ROANOKE COUNTY

**ROUTE 311 AND ROUTE 419 ROUNDABOUT AT HANGING ROCK** - A road project to replace the signalized intersection of Route 311 and Route 419 in Roanoke County at Hanging Rock with a roundabout is underway. The new roundabout opened to traffic on

# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Meet Huckleberry.** She became a resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center after she was found roaming on a local trail. She is as sweet as her name might indicate. Huckleberry loves attention and affection from her favorite people and prefers a home where she is the only pet.



**Rosie would love to find her furever home.** She is an older gal who prefers hanging out on a comfy couch, though she does well walking on a leash and would benefit from some exercise. Rosie's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.

## Virginia peach inventory down, sweet crop still expected

Peach season is here, and Virginia growers are reporting another delicious crop is available this summer despite an unpredictable spring.

A series of freezes hit several Virginia localities in mid- to late-April, causing damage to fruit crops that were in vulnerable growth stages.

Robert Saunders, general manager of Saunders Brothers Inc. in Nelson County, said he had "a lot of damage and lost fruit," resulting in a smaller peach crop this year.

However, despite losing some peaches early, Saunders noted the rest of the growing season has been relatively straightforward.

"Everything's been going OK for us so far, knock on wood, but we're kind of early in the season, and we're just starting to hit our peak," he said. "Moisture has been OK for the year,

and it's been feast or famine, but the fruit has been moving very well for us."

Saunders said he can irrigate his peaches if rainfall isn't forthcoming, as much of Virginia is mired in moderate drought conditions according to National Agricultural Statistics Service's most recent crop report.

Avoiding an extended period of drought would help reduce heat stress, said Saunders, who added that his main concern now is seeing damage from hail and strong winds.

While excessive summer heat has plagued Virginia farmers and residents alike throughout summer, it does come with an upside pertaining to peaches.

"The flavor is really, really good this year," Saunders said about the 59 varieties grown at his operation. "That's one of the things about the heat when

you're not (getting rain). The peach flavor is really enhanced."

Patrick County grower Harry Harold also said he had gone a while without rain but, like Saunders, his peaches were tasting "very good and sweet." Harold said he was growing Convender, Loring and Redskin varieties, as well as others.

Ben Snapp, who operates West Oak Farm Market in Winchester, also said his farm lost early peach varieties to freezes, but later varieties are thriving. The market now is offering John Boy peaches, with more varieties coming through early October.

"The season has been great. It's been a great growing year," Snapp said. "We've been fortunate enough to have a lot of rain. The fruit has a very nice size to it and has done really well, and it has a great flavor."



**A series of freezes in April caused damage to the commonwealth's fruit crop, but growers are nevertheless reporting another delicious crop will be available this summer.**

## VDOT

from page 5

July 15. During the remaining construction, lane closures may be in place. Drivers should expect the following:

The new roundabout is now open to traffic. Drivers should still expect nighttime lane closures with flaggers between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday around the roundabout for final paving, pavement marking and sign installation.

**ROUTE 419 TURN LANE EXTENSION AT COLONIAL AVENUE** - Nighttime road work to lengthen the left turn lane from Route 419 onto Colonial Avenue in Roanoke County is underway. Drivers should expect nighttime lane closures, Sunday night through Friday morning between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m., in both directions of Route 419 at Colonial Avenue. In addition, there may be daytime lane closures on Route 419 for paving outside of peak travel times. Work is expected

to be completed in mid- or late August.

**ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE** - As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) is closed where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days 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. The road is scheduled to re-open approximately August 11.

**ROUTE 628 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** - Route 628 (Greenridge Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located .25 miles east of the road's entrance from Route 780 (Cove Road). Lane closures on Route 628 with temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is Octo-

ber 2022.

**ROUTE 760 (DIUGUIDS LANE) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT & DETOUR** - A project to replace the Route 760 (Diuguids Lane) bridge over the Roanoke River is underway with preliminary work. The bridge is located at the Salem city limits near Route 760's intersection with Route 639 (West Riverside Drive). Typical work hours are expected to be Monday through Saturday during daytime hours with occasional work on Sunday. Flagging operations may be in place periodically and occasional night work is possible. Drivers can expect short-term lane closures with flaggers controlling traffic on West Riverside Drive periodically. Access to Green Hill Park, private entrances and businesses will be maintained at all times. Completion is expected in the winter of 2022.

Flagging operations in place, Monday through Friday, 9

a.m. to 3 p.m., on southbound Diuguids lane as well as the intersection of Harborwood Road/W Riverside Drive. A right lane closure northbound may also be in place, Monday through Friday.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY CLOSURE** - The Blue Ridge Parkway is repairing slope failures. Detour signs to detour traffic around the Bent Mountain section of the Parkway will be in place. Traffic will be rerouted to Route 220 south to Route 419 north to Route 221 south. Traffic traveling north on the Parkway would be reversed. The detour is expected to be in place through Summer 2022.

**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.

Crack seal operations will be performed on Route 419 South near Route 1699 and Salem City Limits.

Milling and paving operations, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with single lane flagging, in Roanoke County include:

- o Route 605 (Shadwell Drive / Old Mountain Road) from Roanoke City Limit to Route 627.

- o Route 601 Hollins Road from Route 115 to Route 627

**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.

## Stand-Out Students

from page 1

one Suzanne Garst Glass scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

The Dorothy Collins scholarship was established in 2003 and is available to women who are graduating seniors at Radford High School or Pulaski County High School who will be attending an accredited institution the fall after their high school graduation. The scholarship is named in

honor of Dorothy Collins, the mother of two adopted children who devoted her life to helping underprivileged children. Consistent with her life, this scholarship was established to help young women in this community

who need direct financial assistance to achieve their educational goals. The 2022 recipients of the Dorothy Collins scholarships are Radford High School graduate Lindsey Riddle and Pulaski County High School graduate Hannah Flinchum. Both of these young women will be attending Radford University in the fall to study nursing.

Suzanne Garst Glass was a 46-year member of Chapter H. As a former teacher and social worker, she spent her life promoting education and the social welfare of children. She was dedicated both professionally and personally to the PEO mission of promoting educa-

tional opportunities for women.

The 2022 recipient of the Suzanne Garst Glass scholarship is Alexis Newcome. One of three children of a single mom, Newcome will be attending Radford University to pursue a degree in

Criminal Justice.

PEO is a nonprofit organization that has helped thousands of women pursue educational goals by providing millions of dollars in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans. The sisterhood also owns and supports Cortey College. To learn more about PEO visit [peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org).



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# RADFORD SPORTS

## CHS baseball skipper is coach of the year

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

This past spring, Dale Nelson led the Christians-

burg High School baseball team to one of its best regular seasons in the history of the school. The Blue Demons finished unbeaten

in the tough River Ridge District, and had only two regular season losses to teams outside the state of Virginia during a tourna-

ment in Tennessee.

But in his battle off the diamond, Nelson might have met his biggest challenge. Last summer, he discovered a lump in the upper part of his mouth. At first, like many individuals, he ignored it. Finally, he asked a doctor what the problem could be.

Nelson was told he had Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, a relatively rare form of cancer that most commonly develops in the salivary glands or other regions of the head and neck. It can also occur in other parts of the body, such as the breast, skin, cervix in females, and the prostate gland in males.

Nelson's doctor took drastic action, surgically removing the lump and part of his right lymph node. Part of his scalpella was removed and placed in the area where the lump was taken out.

After that, he had to undergo 38 grueling radiation treatments.

Most of the surgery and treatment was done at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville. He took time away from his

teaching job at CHS, staying with family in Richmond so he could travel to and from UVA every day.

He credits the support of his wife, Stephanie, and the entire CHS baseball family for getting him through this ordeal.

This came just a few years after Nelson had a non-cancerous tumor removed from his spinal cord.

"It's been tough for the Nelson family, but a lot of people have gotten me through it," he said last week.

All of this came on the heels of his six-year-old son being diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

But this is where baseball has become a distraction of sorts.

He still wonders how his cancer developed. "The first question (from the doctor) was do you smoke, do you dip. I said no," the coach said. Neither has anyone else in his family suffered from this rare form of cancer.

This past week, a new MRI showed no sign of the cancer for the 42-year-

old coach. "I feel lucky . . . lucky from dealing with the Adenoid cystic carcinoma and lucky to have coached an unbelievable team this past season," he said.

Nelson just finished his seventh season at the school, and he gave all the praise to the kids.

"I haven't thrown the first pitch or had the first hit. It was all them," he said.

Over the span of the last four years, Christiansburg has put together a 104-32 mark with a 5-0 regular season two years ago during the battle with COVID.

"We had a really outstanding team, and I am proud of them," Nelson said.

The coach also credited his assistant coaches for keeping the program together as he had his off-the-field battle.

For his leadership on the field and his brave battle off the field, Nelson is the News Messenger/News Journal coach of the year.

He plans to continue to coach and teach physical education at the high school.



PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

This past season, Dale Nelson (left) led the Christiansburg High School baseball team to a River Ridge District title and an undefeated season despite battling cancer.

## Football practice opens around Southwest Virginia



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Radford High School will go back to the longtime black helmet look after switching to white helmets this past year.

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

High school two-a-days started Monday with several questions about area schools who have new coaches. Also, the Virginia High School League's (VHSL) Alignment Committee has issued recommendations for changes in classification for several of area schools.

The changes were based on new enrollment numbers reported this past year and would take effect in the 2023-24

school year.

The biggest change could be the dropping of Pulaski County from Class 4 where it has become a stable force to Class 3 with Christiansburg. The change means Pulaski, Cave Spring, Christiansburg, and Hidden Valley will give the River Ridge District four Class 3 teams while Salem and Blacksburg will remain Class 4. Patrick Henry will move up from Class 5 to Class 6.

Christiansburg's Region D will now include 13 teams.

The Three Rivers District, which includes Radford, will now have five Class 2 teams as Patrick County joins as a member and is bumped from Class 1.

Also, George Wythe and Grayson County will move up from Class 1 to 2.

The realignment committee also recommended that Liberty Christian Academy and Liberty (Bedford) High School move to Class 2 from Class 3.

Each school will be given an August 8 deadline to submit an

appeal on the decisions.

Meanwhile on the field, David Seabaugh has regrouped at Auburn after the school's last season was squelched after just four games. COVID did not play a role in that shutdown. Instead, it was the large number of injuries and the lack of depth that killed the season.

This year, Auburn looks to start the season with more than 22 players.

In Blacksburg, a new coach, Zach Leonard, will try to rebuild a program that had its

share of success over the past 10 years but left it in the locker room in the past two seasons.

Leonard had coached for the past four years at Christiansburg High School after stops in Rural Retreat, Glenvar, and Patrick Henry. He brings an abundance of football knowledge and experience to the program. He replaces Eddie Sloss who resigned last year after completing Blacksburg's second winless season. Sloss will now fill an assistant coach's role at Christiansburg.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL

Auburn High School will jump start its football program with a new look on the gridiron. The school will don blue helmets with the school's A.

## Hokies open football camp

Virginia Tech Football is officially back as the team kicked off fall practices Tuesday, Aug. 2, signaling the start of new head coach Brent Pry's first season in Blacksburg.

Tickets are on sale now in a wide variety of options, ranging from season tickets to all six of Tech's home games to individual game tickets and customizable 3- or 4-game mini plans.

Fans also have a wide variety of options to keep up with all the latest Hokie news and action.

**HOKIEPOD PODCAST NETWORK**

Bill Roth and Mike Burnop will team up to host the new

"Level Seven" series. Perfect for those fans looking for a deep dive into the latest from the gridiron, this podcast will release new episodes every Tuesday during the fall. The first episode debuted earlier this summer featuring a conversation between Roth and Coach Pry.

Additionally, Mackey will host a weekly podcast featuring interviews with Hokies football's coordinators and assistants during the fall. New episodes will be released on Thursdays.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

To stay up-to-date on the latest from fall camp, fans can also follow the Hokies' social media platforms. Fans can find photos,

videos, and behind-the-scenes content from practice on the team's Twitter handle (@HokiesFB), Instagram account (@hokiesfb) and TikTok page (@hokiesfootball). Fans can also see the latest news on the team's Facebook page (@VirginiaTechFB).

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

Fans can stay connected with the Hokies by subscribing to Key Plays, the official email newsletter of Virginia Tech Football. Sent every Wednesday during the season, this newsletter packages the best content and important updates into an easy-to-read breakdown that is delivered right to fans' inbox.

**HOKIESPORTS MOBILE APP**

For all the latest news, highlights and more, fans can download the official HokieSports Mobile App from the Google Play store or Apple App Store. Practice reports, interviews, photo galleries and videos from fall camp can be seen on the HokieSports Mobile App, and fans can sign up for push notifications to guarantee they never miss an update.

**TEXT MESSAGING**

Fans can have Virginia Tech Football content sent right to their mobile device. Text HOKIESFB to 83200 to receive text messages featuring the best content from fall camp.

**FOOTBALL FAN DAY**

Fans can meet this year's squad during the Hokies' annual Football Fan Day, set for Sunday afternoon, Aug. 14. Presented by

Virginia529, Football Fan Day offers Tech fans an opportunity to interact with new Coach Pry and the rest of the team inside the Beamer-Lawson practice facility. The event is free and open to the public.

Current Hokie Kids' Club members will receive exclusive early access to Fan Day at 1 p.m. ET before the general public enters 15 minutes later. The Fan Day festivities will conclude at 2:15 p.m. ET. Visit HokieSports.com/FBFanDay for complete details.

Hokie Kids' Club memberships are still available for the upcoming season. Those who secure Maroon memberships by Friday, Aug. 19 can take advantage of an exclusive ticket offer for Tech's home games against Boston College and Wofford this fall.

# Blue Demon Mason Self named high school baseball player of year



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Auburn High School baseball coach Eric Altizer (left) receives his Hall of Fame plaque from Hall President John Montgomery.

## Auburn baseball coach honored by Hall of Fame

Five area baseball players and contributors were inducted Saturday into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame at the 30th induction ceremony at the Salem Civic Center.

Inducted into the hall as the baseball Class of '22 were Eric Altizer, Ryan Gilleland, Tyler Lumsden, Keith Mayhew and Doug Pence. "Butch" Craft received the Wayne LaPierre, Sr., award for contributions to the game.

Altizer is a former player and is the current coach at Auburn High School. The Eagles have won three state championships under Altizer.

A 1995 graduate of Jefferson Forest High School, Gilleland played four years as a second baseman at the University of Virginia, batting .337 in 1997. He's the present coach at Jefferson Forest High and has also been a coach with the West team in the Commonwealth Games.

Lumsden is a 2000 graduate of Cave Spring High School who went on to pitch at Clemson University for three years. He was a first-round pick of the Chicago White Sox in 2004 and pitched seven seasons in professional baseball, including three years at the AAA level.

Mayhew is one of just five Ferrum College players to have his jersey retired. He was a three-time All-American pitcher, including a first-team selection

in 1995. When he graduated, he held the NCAA Division III records with 350 career strikeouts and 149 in a season. He was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 1995. Mayhew died in 2015.

Pence is a long-time coach and volunteer with the William Byrd High School program who also coached American Legion baseball. He was a tireless worker, maintaining Byrd's Terrier Field and was a key person in getting the fieldhouse built on the grounds.

The long-time owner of The Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Craft has been a big supporter of the game, sponsoring youth teams for many years. She has been a sponsor for the Hall of Fame since the early 1990s.

The Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 and honors players and contributors from the counties of Alleghany, Roanoke, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, and Montgomery and the independent cities located within the boundaries of those counties. The Hall of Fame building is located on the grounds of the James E. Taliaferro Complex, next to the Salem Red Sox administrative office behind the third base seating area of Salem Memorial Ballpark. It is open to the public on Friday and Saturday nights during the 2022 season and upon request.

## Blacksburg Rec Department softball champs



The Henry Heth squad won this year's Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department's coed league spring softball championship.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The team from Slusher's Chapel won this year's Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department's church league spring softball championship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTOR MILE SPEEDWAY

Karl Budveskiel won both Sportsman races Saturday night at Motor Mile Speedway.

## Motor Mile racing heats up

Motor Mile Speedway Saturday night hosted the Southern Ground Pounders Classic Sportsman and Modified series for the second time this year. Cars from as far back as 1938 raced around the track at speeds comparable to many of the race cars of today.

Several divisions from the track's weekly racing series, including Late Model Stock Cars, Sportsman, Mod-4's and Enduro's, put on a show.

For the Late Models, the first race seemed like a repeat of many races this year with Mike Looney winning and Kyle Dudley finishing second. But the face in third place on the podium was different with Zeke Shell finishing in third with the number-one car.

The second race went a little differently. Mike Looney had to start at the rear of the field after the inversion, but he showed his experience and his speed and moved right up to second place behind Kyle Dudley.

Many laps of side-by-side racing between Dudley and Looney had the fans on their feet. Then while fighting for the lead, Looney had a front tire going down. So he spun the car, perhaps intentionally, to get a caution and change the tire without losing a lap. He then began charging back to the front again, but in the end he had to settle for fourth place with Dudley getting the win. Cory Dunn finished a strong second.

The biggest cheers came for the third-place finisher, hometown favorite and racing legend Derek Lancaster. He returned to his hometown track to race for the first time since his fiery crash at Talladega in April of 2021 while driving in the ARCA NASCAR series.

With emotions high, Lancaster didn't say much in the post-race interview except for how thankful he was. The crowd shared his emotion.

Emotions were also high in the Sportsman Division. Karl Budveskiel won both races and said

after the races that he was not alone in the car. He lost two loved ones recently including his father the previous weekend. He said he knew Dad was happy to see him win both races in this very competitive racing division. Charles Smith finished second in the first race, and Jacob Porter finished second in race two. Richard Caldwell finished third in both races.

Jonathan Hall won the Mod-4 race with Trevor Hart winning the \$2,000 to win the Enduro "bubble race," although the bubble machine did not finish the race. It seemed to tucker out after about 10 laps of the 100-lap race.

Saturday, Aug. 6, A-1 Heating and Cooling will present the Six Pack Series race #3 and #4. Mike Looney has a chance to win a bonus \$10,000 for winning all 6 races in the series. He won the first two back in the spring, but there is a bounty on Looney.

If a new driver wins a late model race in the series, he gets a bonus of \$1k for winning. If Looney wins both races this weekend, then the bounty will increase the following week for the final two races in the series.

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