



Wednesday, August 24, 2022 • USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org • \$1.00

RCPD Communications Supervisor recognized for leadership

RADFORD - The Radford City Police Department has recognized and congratulated Communication Supervisor Kim Conner on her completion of the APCO Registered Public-Safety Leaders (RPL) Designation.

line program that leads to the professional designation of Registered Public-Safety Leader (RPL). RPL recipients receive a certificate of acceptance into the APCO Institute Registry of Public Safety Leaders, a prestigious acknowledgment of excellence within the 911 profession.

Conner was able to attend the 2022 APCO International Conference in Anaheim, Calif., to receive her certificate.

“The Radford City Police Department is incredibly proud of Communications Supervisor Kim Conner for her perseverance and dedication to being an inspirational leader,” the department announced.



Radford City Police Department Communication Supervisor Kim Conner is recognized for her recent completion of the APCO Registered Public-Safety Leaders (RPL) Designation.

Radford car show raises funds for good causes



PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELL

Hundreds of cars, from Model T's of the 1920s to modern supercars including a Ferrari, filled the grounds of Bisset Park recently for the New River Valley Cruisers Super Cruise-in Radford. The event brought a big crowd of people down to the park to see the cars and trucks, enjoy deejayed music, food trucks and the fellowship of fellow car enthusiasts. Money was raised for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the Shriners transportation fund.

Bobcat fans cheer on their team at Battle of the Bridge



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Radford High School Principal Tara Grant submitted this photo of fans at Friday's Battle of the Bridge football game, an annual game between RHS and Pulaski County High School. "Bobcats Nation was alive and well at Dobson Stadium as our football team beat the Cougars," said Grant. The Bobcats beat PCHS 28-17.



Students of all grade levels will once again share buses for the 2022-23 school year.

Students of all ages to shares buses for school transportation

RADFORD - Students of all grade levels will continue to ride the same buses together this year, the school division has announced.

"RCPS explored separating age groups for the 2022-2023 school year, but due to an increase in ridership in the last couple of years and having building tardy bells being within a few minutes of each other, the division has found that separating ages would present other challenges," according to an announcement by Radford City Public Schools. "The division considers many factors when creating bus routes including ridership loads, student supervision, early morning pick-up times (before 6:30 a.m.), late after-school drop-off times (after 4:20

p.m.), after-school extracurricular activities, and after school athletic practices and events."

"After considering these factors and others, RCPS has decided that it will continue to mix

elementary, middle, and high school bus riders during both mornings pick up and afternoon drop-off," the announcement continued. "This will help cut down on multiple trips to the same area of the city creating routes that are more efficient. It also allows for later morning pick-ups and earlier afternoon drop-offs."

Bus routes can be found online at www.rcps.org, as well as a list of bus ridership rules.

The start of the 2022-23 school year was delayed

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Radford University students help community through tax assistance program



RADFORD UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Earlier this year Dylan Jones '22 (left) was one of the Radford University volunteers who helped the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program file about 400 tax returns from across the New River Valley.

RADFORD - New River Community Action's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program isn't what you'd call a massive operation. It consists of just one paid coordinator and a staff of volunteers, yet its efforts reach far and have considerable local value.

VITA provides free tax preparation and consultation to those making less than \$56,000 a year. Between February and April, it filed returns for about 400 residents around the New River Valley and, in doing so, saved those taxpayers nearly \$100,000, collectively, based on the average price for standard tax services.

"Essentially, it means they're not going somewhere and paying to have their taxes done," said Lacey Desper, the VITA director for the New River Valley. "They're coming in and getting them done for free, and so that cost - usually about \$250 or more - goes away."

Desper put the total savings at \$94,750. "They keep that money and can put it to use," she said.

Desper, who started as a VITA coordinator last year, said the program has a budget of only about \$35,000 from a federal IRS grant and the Virginia Cash Campaign. With such modest resources, she knew she'd have to

See Tax Assistance Program, page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 24:

Sustainable Blacksburg Lunch and Learn: Electric Cars

At the Blacksburg Library; noon. Dave Ropper will talk about electric cars; driving distance, maintenance, charging, and more! Stay for the show-and-share of actual Tesla's in the wild. Presentation will be both in person and virtual.

Christiansburg Central Business District meeting

The Town of Christiansburg's Central Business District Committee will meet from noon to 1 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room at Town Hall.

Thursday, Aug. 25:

Film Screening: "On the Basis of Sex"

At the Blacksburg Library; 6 p.m. Join for a free screening of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's biopic "On the Basis of Sex" to commemorate Women's Equality Day.

Radford Photo Club meeting

Adi Ben Senior of Radford will present his photo exhibit, "The Human Side of Trees," at the Radford Photo Club's meeting at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The meeting is open to the public. Trees are one of Ben Senior's most well-known subjects in a lifetime of photo projects. In 2016, he was asked to participate in a fundraising exhibit for the Syrian refugees who were coming to Europe. His photos of trees represent humans and their moments in life.

Saturday, Aug. 27:

Noise Alert

The Virginia Tech campus and surrounding community may experience elevated levels of noise emanating from the Drillfield area from Inflation-Fest from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 28:

Coast Guard Auxiliary picnic

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's flotilla picnic will be held at Claytor Lake State Park from 3:30 - 6 p.m. The shelter number has not yet been assigned. That information will be forthcoming. Mission Barbecue is donating pulled pork, pulled chicken, jalapeno cheddar sausage, mac and

cheese, green beans, coleslaw, slider buns, and assorted sauces. They will also provide tablecloths, plates, eating and serving utensils, cups, and sweet tea and lemonade. Those attending the picnic can feel free to bring a side dish, dessert, or drink.

Monday, Aug. 29:

Crafternoon for Adults Only

At the Radford Public Library; 1-2 p.m. Need some time to focus on your crafting? Bring your supplies and knit, crochet, needlepoint, etc. at the library! Some crafting supplies are provided. Want to help make a Linus Project blanket? We have supplies for that! You can work on a blanket to donate to Project Linus! All crafters are welcome, from painting to writing, knitting and more.

Tuesday, Aug. 30:

Teen Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 4 p.m. Welcome to Teen Book Club! Every month we get together to discuss a new book. This month we are reading "Last Night at the Telegraph Club" by Melinda Lo. Join for a great discussion.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Join us for a discussion of "The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve your copy.

Thursday, Sept. 1:

American Legion meeting:

The 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, please call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Saturday, Sept. 3:

Potter in the Park 5K to Benefit Adult Literacy

Calling all wizards and muggles! It's time to leave the cupboard under the stairs and run or walk in the Tri-Wizard TriMile Potter in the Park 5K fundraiser for literacy in Radford. Wizarding wear optional! The course winds through the forbidden forest and wizarding world of Bisset Park. Costume contest, "house" prizes, age group awards, Magical Creatures, butterbeer, and magic wands for all

finishers . . . tons of fun for muggles and wizards alike! Can't make it on Sept. 3? Virtual racers are invited to participate! Register as an "invisibility cloak" virtual racer and walk or run 3 miles when it's convenient for you (you'll still receive your official Potter in the Park t-shirt). For more information and to register go to www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark, send an "owl" to info@lvnr.org, or call 540-382-7262. Hosted by Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, all proceeds go to directly to adult literacy programs in our community.

Monday, Sept. 5:

City of Radford closed for Labor Day

City offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5. Solid waste collection for Monday will be picked up Tuesday. Drop Center closed on Monday.

Thursday, Sept. 8:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM in

Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. If you are willing to share your knowledge and learn from others this guild is for you. We welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Sunday, Sept. 11:

Meet Ninth Congressional District candidate Taysha DeVaughan

The Pulaski Democratic Committee is holding a Meet the Candidate picnic at 4:30 p.m. at Randolph Park. Hotdogs and fixings will be served at 5 p.m., followed by comments from Taysha DeVaughan, the Democratic candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 9th District. DeVaughan, who is from Wise County, works with the Appalachian Community Fund, is the president of Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, active in Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid, and a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice. "We are confident that hearing Taysha speak on the issues critical to Southwest Virginia - education, jobs, quality of life - will motivate donations for her campaign," said Suzanne Bowen, chair of the Pulaski County Demo-

crats. Learn more about DeVaughan at www.devaughanforcongress.com. The picnic will be at the Dublin High School (DHS) Shelter. Donations for the food are optional but appreciated. For more information, contact Bowen at bowsensuzanne@yahoo.com or 540-320-4658, or Rebecca Scheckler at 3050hawks@gmail.com or 540-557-7810.

Monday, Sept. 12:

Radford City Council meeting

The city council will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the City Administration Building, located at 10 Robertson St.

Tuesday, Sept. 13:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to attend. For further information, please call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Fri., Sept. 23 and Sat., Sept. 24:

RHS Class of 1972 Reunion

Radford High School's 1972 Class of Champions will hold its 50th Year Reunion on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24. Festivities include a tailgate at the King Center Fri., Sept. 23 and attendance at the football game. A social is planned for Sat., Sept. 24 at Preston's at the River County. The committee is looking for "Lost" classmates. If you are a class member and haven't received the information contact Reunion Committee Members: jennydoud@gmail.com and Martihale@yahoo.com

On-going:

Fine Free at Radford Public Library

Have you heard the news? In July, RPL waived overdue fines for anyone who returned late items during the month of July. The waiving continues throughout August! Bring your overdue items back and your library account will go back to zero! RPL is going fine-free to create a more equitable library. Help us practice waiving those overdue fines - it's long overdue!

Transportation

from page 1

by two weeks for all Radford City Public School students but is set to begin Friday, Aug. 26, for pre-kindergarten, first grade and ninth grade and on Monday, Aug. 29, for kindergarten and grades two through 12. Open House is now scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. for all students at each school.

The start/end times for RCPS schools are as follows:

McHarg Elementary (PreK-2nd): Tardy Bell 7:50 a.m. Dismissal 2:20 p.m. (Doors

open at 7:20 a.m.)

Belle Heth Elementary (Third through Sixth grades): Tardy Bell 7:50 a.m. Dismissal 2:20 p.m. (Doors open at 7:20 a.m.)

Dalton Intermediate (Seventh and Eighth grades): Tardy Bell 8 a.m. M,T,F/9 a.m. W,Th Dismissal 3 p.m. (Doors open at 7:30 a.m. M,T,F/8 a.m. W,Th)

Radford High School (Ninth through Twelfth grades): Tardy Bell 8 a.m. M,T,F/9 a.m. W,Th Dismissal 3 p.m. (Doors open at 7:30 a.m. M,T,F/8 a.m. W,Th).

Tax Assistance Program

from page 1

get creative to draft volunteers and find other means of assistance.

"I mass-spam emailed every accounting professor at Radford University," she said.

The strategy worked. One respondent was Wendy Li, an assistant professor of accounting and the faculty advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, the honor society for business majors.

"I believe VITA can benefit the candidates and members of Beta Alpha Psi and general accounting students to gain some tax experience and contribute to the community at the same time," said Li.

She put Desper in touch with Douglas Brinckman, head of the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Business Law, as well as Joy Bhadury, Ph.D., dean of the Davis College of Business and Economics, who helped Desper connect with student volunteers and also provided her much-needed workspace in Kyle Hall.

"The office we got was more than we could have dreamed of," Desper said. "We had a reception area, a place for incoming clients to sit, three offices, and a conference room. It was fantastic."

VITA's headquarters are in Pulaski, so having a second location on a bus route also gave the public easier access to the program, which covers an area that includes Floyd, Giles, and Montgomery counties.

Doing people's taxes isn't the only service VITA provides. As clients dropped in for face-to-face meetings, a need for additional consulting came to light.

"You'd be surprised

how much education the majority of the public actually needs on doing their own taxes," Desper said. "We explain to people how their W2s interact with their Social Security and how that affects their taxes. We tell people why they're owing money every year and what they can do to fix this."

Desper and her staff were able to give general practical advice to some of the clients, such as one customer who was putting his finances at risk by pre-signing all his personal checks or the woman who hadn't realized she'd been mishandling her federal returns for years and was owed \$6,500, which Desper said she ultimately received.

"She was in tears by the time it was over," Desper said.

Benefits extend to the campus as well. In addition to preparing returns for more than 40 students, VITA's partnership with Davis College allowed three Highlanders and two high school students the opportunity to volunteer and receive several hours of training, familiarizing them with IRS procedures and affording them real-world experience.

"I learned how to do taxes, which is a great thing," said Sydney Carneal, a senior accounting major from Blacksburg who volunteered 70 hours this year and prepared about 30 tax returns.

"I want to be a certified public accountant after I graduate, and this definitely strengthened that," Carneal said, adding that she will participate in VITA again next year.

"A lot of students, they can come to us even if

they're still dependents and, if they work, they can get a tax refund for themselves, instead of having their parents file it," Carneal said. "It takes about an hour, and we don't keep any personal documents. You come in, you give us your information, we input it, we file your tax return, and then we give it back to you."

Desper praised Carneal and the others for their efforts.

"Without volunteers, there is no program," she said.

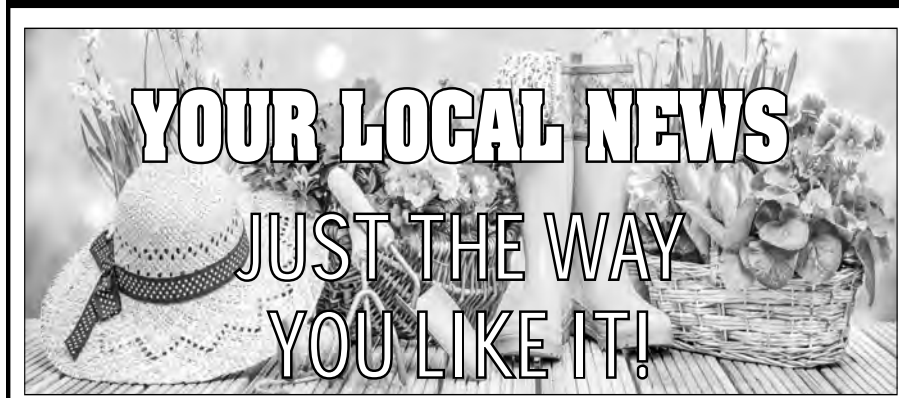
Desper plans to link VITA with Radford University again next tax season and said she'll take as much help as she can get, from citizens to students, business and accounting majors, or otherwise. She's hoping to add a social media guru to her team and would like to find a way to extend VITA into Floyd County where a large percentage of this year's clients came from.

"This started with me just randomly sending emails," Desper said. "I'm excited to see where it can go, what it can become."

The officials who helped link VITA and Radford University were pleased as well. "This is an excellent example of an external partnership that benefits the community as well as our students," Bhadury said.

More information about VITA, including schedules, required documents, volunteer opportunities and what kind of services they can and cannot provide, can be found on New River Community Action's website.

Neil Harvey
Radford University



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OPINION

Buddy King: Preserving The Oaks Victorian Inn

When I returned to Christiansburg for my high school reunion a couple of months ago, I seized the opportunity to stay at The Oaks Victorian Inn, the beautiful old bed and breakfast at the corner of East Main and Park Streets, the crown jewel of the oldest section of town. This area is affectionately known as the “Park.” I don’t know if that neighborhood was called the “Park” because of the street that runs through it, from East Main to Cambria Street or whether the street took its name from this leafy section of town that truly resembles a park.

I vaguely recall a “Park” family, so I am guessing that the street came first. While I did not grow up in the “Park,” being a “West Main kid,” my memories and my families’ connections (on both sides) to this oldest section of Christiansburg are strong and run deep. More on that later.

Back to “The Oaks” for a few more well-deserved compliments. I had enjoyed staying in this lovely old Victorian Inn, known as the “Pierce home” to old time Christiansburgers, a few times in the past after my parents had passed away and I no longer had a “free place to stay” on my returns to my hometown. My visits included a

couple of graduations and funerals, and, having driven or walked past the beautiful old yellow house hundreds or thousands of times in my life, it was natural for me to want to stay under its roof.

I was extremely saddened when I heard it had closed a couple of years ago after one of the former owners passed away. While the devil COVID made reopening challenging and maybe unlikely, I thought of the old home as a community asset and was certain that someone, someone special, would come along and take on stewardship – and I was right.

The new stewards ARE special, the wonderful Shannon (Roberts) and Jason Whatchamacallit (actually, the Magenheimers – I couldn’t resist Shannon and Jason). And faithful and dedicated stewards they are. While I have enjoyed all my stays in this wonderful old inn, one of the finest anywhere, the Magenheimers have taken this historic home to new heights

From the moment you arrive until the moment you regretfully have to leave, you can witness (and sense) their love for the home and its character and history. From outstanding breakfasts and front porch hospital-

ity to luxurious amenities, your time is “well wasted” at The Oaks, as the poet Brad Paisley would say. Shannon had me from the moment she said that she had “dreamed of owning this home” since her days as a little girl growing up in Blacksburg.

Speaking of history and family ties, the King and Weaver families, of which I am a member of each, have lots of both with The Oaks and the “Park.” My father attended parties and dances on the third floor of this home when he was in high school in the 1930’s (being friends with Ed Pierce); my aunt Mary Alma and cousins (Joe and Bobby) had lived in the small upstairs apartment directly across the street for several years in the 1950’s and Aunt Mary Alma played bridge during this time at the Pierce home on Friday nights.

My grandmother Weaver and my aunt Maggie and my mother had lived right around the corner, on Junkin, having built their home there in the ‘40’s. I attended first and second grades (and my dad had attended high school and had his office as superintendent of schools for a number of years) in the building directly across the street from the Weaver house.

Farther down Park, on Craig

Street, my grandparents Charlie and Virgie Mae (Sutphin) King raised my dad and his seven siblings, replete with chicken coop in the backyard and a small pasture next door. My third- and fourth-grade years were also spent in the neighborhood, at the original Christiansburg High School, currently an apartment building across East Main from the beautiful homes in the day of the “Grubbs” family and the “Rose” family (The Rose home was owned by my Dad’s good friend, the wonderfully named Roscoe Roland “Railroad” Rose). More ties to an old neighborhood would be hard to find.

While visiting at The Oaks, I took the Magenheimers on a walking tour of the Park, Shannon and Jason graciously indulging my runaway sense of nostalgia. I remembered many residents of the homes along Park and the side streets and wondered what had become of so many people who had been part of my early life. Many have passed on of course, but in my mind’s eye, the Christiansburg of the 1960’s seemed both eerily present and poignantly distant in the “Park.”

This part of Christiansburg (thankfully) seems to have

changed remarkably little over the last 50 years. I couldn’t help but think of my father and his many siblings walking to and from school and afternoon jobs and my grandfather Charlie walking to his work, all up and down that old street. The family owned no car. I thought of my Dad returning from World War II to live on Junkin with my mother in their first home, my grandmother and aunt having died there, my cousins and I having started school there, all on Junkin. I thought of numerous classmates and family friends who populated the area. A lot of family history for such a small parcel of ground.

Thanks again to Shannon and Jason for their hospitality, their patience for my old stories of life in the Park during the day, and most of all, for saving and preserving The Oaks, a true Christiansburg landmark. It is in good hands with the Whatchamacallits.

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.

RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

Serving Radford since 1884

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153
USPS 387-780 • ourvalley.org

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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 bear and the convertible

Packing people into the backcountry doesn’t sound really exciting, I know. And if it gets exciting, it’s undoubtedly because something went wrong. But we did have occasional chuckles during those eight summers.

I stopped off at the backcountry ranger’s tent near Bullfrog Lake in Kings Canyon National Park. He mostly checked fire permits and had a fun summer. He told me to get off my horse and in the tent ... NOW, to see what he had.

He said no matter how many times they told campers not to feed the wild animals, there was always someone with a hearing problem. On the western slopes of the park, where there are roads, a young guy was driving along

in his brand-new Chevy hard-top convertible when he spotted a bear moseying along.

That’s when the great idea hit him. He wrapped some bacon around the steering wheel, opened the driver’s door, and stepped out with his camera. In a few minutes, the bear climbed in behind the wheel and was eating the bacon. He closed the car door on the bear. Click, click! Wow. It sure looked like the bear was driving the car.

But when he walked over to open the door and let the bear out, the bear had other ideas. He growled and snapped and our photographer backed off.

When the bacon was gone, the

bear discovered a creel in the back seat smelling deliciously of prime trout, and he wanted that, too. So he turned and started climbing into the back seat. Unfortunately, the bear stepped squarely on the car’s brand-new horn as he went for the creel.

So the picture the ranger showed me was a good illustration of what a brand-new hardtop convertible looks like when a hand grenade goes off. Think sardine can. The bear left and without using the brand-new door.

But most of the time ...

Brought to you by “A Cowboy’s Guide to Growing Up Right” by Slim Randles. Buy one for that problem kid down the street. Only \$2.99 on Amazon.com.

Virginia gas prices continue to fall

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 6.9 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.68/g on Monday, Aug. 22, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 48.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but stand 69.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has declined 6.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.97 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.13/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.19/g, a difference of \$2.06/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 5.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.86/g as of Monday. The national average is down 51.3 cents per gallon from a month ago but is still 72.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

“While some areas saw

gas prices rise slightly last week, the national average saw yet another weekly decline, extending the streak to ten straight weeks,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “The pace of declines is certainly slowing down as oil prices have bounced up slightly, but the West Coast and Northeastern U.S. are areas that still may see gas prices decline while the South and Midwest see the drop fade and potentially slight increases. According to De Haan, “In addition to falling gasoline prices, the average price of diesel has fallen below \$5 per gallon for the

first time since March, likely helping to cool off aggressive inflation numbers. Thus far, Mother Nature has spared us from disruptions from hurricanes, but that remains a wild card as we head into the peak of hurricane season.”

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.

WalletHub: Virginia employers have ninth biggest hiring struggle in the U.S.

As the personal finance website WalletHub notes, during the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Americans lost their jobs and experienced financial difficulties due to unemployment. Now, for many employers, the shoe is on the other foot. Lots of businesses are struggling to hire enough workers, which has sometimes led to delays in services and reduced business hours.

In fact, the labor force participation rate has experienced the slowest recovery of any recession since World War II. Some businesses aren’t even able to keep the employees they already have as Americans are quitting their jobs at record rates in what’s been dubbed the “Great Resignation.” It’s not just a U.S. phenomenon, though. Twenty percent of global workers plan to quit their jobs this year.

Within the U.S., workers are easier to find in some states than others. To see where employers are struggling the most in hiring, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Co-

lumbia based on the rate of job openings for both the latest month and the last 12 months. The website then ranked the states in the order of which states are struggling the most to find employees.

The rankings revealed that Virginia is among the states having the most difficult time hiring, landing as the state whose employers are having the ninth biggest hiring struggle in the country.

According to WalletHub, the ten states having the most difficulty finding employees are 1) Alaska 2) Georgia 3) Kentucky 4) Vermont 5) West Virginia 6) Montana 7) Louisiana 8) Massachusetts 9) Virginia 10) Ohio

At the opposite end of the hiring problems, WalletHub’s survey revealed that the following ten places are having the easiest time finding employees: 42) Pennsylvania 43) New Jersey 44) Oregon 45) California 46) Florida 47) Utah 48) Connecticut 49) District of Columbia 50) New York 51) Washington.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. One point north of due west</p> <p>4. Indigenous peoples of Northern Scandinavia</p> <p>9. Popular California/Nevada lake</p> <p>14. Go quickly</p> <p>15. Fatty acid in soaps</p> <p>20. Brand of fuel stations</p> <p>22. Asserts to be the case</p> <p>23. Type of infection</p> <p>24. With metal inlays</p> <p>28. Chinese philosophic principle</p> <p>29. Early multimedia</p> <p>30. Employee stock ownership plan</p> <p>31. He investigated Clinton administration</p> <p>33. Shells</p> <p>37. Six</p> | <p>38. Snake-like fish</p> <p>39. Capital of Kenya</p> <p>41. Influential group (abbr.)</p> <p>42. Used to chop</p> <p>43. It comes as a case</p> <p>44. Challenges</p> <p>46. Small amounts</p> <p>49. The Golden State</p> <p>50. Peyton’s little brother</p> <p>51. For walking in Alaska</p> <p>55. Buddhist honorific titles</p> <p>58. Lively ballroom dance</p> <p>59. Capital of Albania</p> <p>60. Late night host</p> <p>64. Draw from</p> <p>65. A way to utilize</p> <p>66. One who is not native Hawaiian</p> <p>67. A power to perceive</p> <p>68. Bulky</p> <p>69. Horse mackerels</p> <p>70. Proclaim out loud</p> | <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Hits</p> <p>2. Bathroom accessory</p> <p>3. Young</p> <p>4. Beef cattle</p> <p>5. It’s often in soap</p> <p>6. For each</p> <p>7. Innermost membrane</p> <p>9. Enveloping the brain</p> <p>8. A way to leave</p> <p>9. Emaciation</p> <p>10. Punish with a fine</p> <p>11. Steeds</p> <p>12. Having eight</p> <p>13. Greek goddess of the dawn</p> <p>19. Mature reproductive cells</p> <p>21. Armadillo species</p> <p>24. Ancient country in what is now Romania</p> <p>25. Extreme greed</p> <p>26. Stars</p> <p>27. Poems</p> <p>31. Places to sit</p> | <p>32. One from the Lone Star State</p> <p>34. Small rails</p> <p>35. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)</p> <p>36. Where coaches work</p> <p>40. Indicates position</p> <p>41. Mammals</p> <p>45. Resembling a wing</p> <p>47. Beliefs</p> <p>48. Hindu male religious teachers</p> <p>52. Mischievously</p> <p>53. Where athletes want to end up (abbr.)</p> <p>54. Large, deep-bodied fish</p> <p>56. Horned squash bug genus</p> <p>57. Excessively sentimental</p> <p>59. Shared verbally</p> <p>60. You can put it on toast</p> <p>61. Data mining methodology (abbr.)</p> <p>62. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects</p> <p>63. Mauna ____, Hawaiian volcano</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

LAND TRANSFERS from page 3

Dorothy Nester Bolt to Daniel Lloyd Bolt, 12.363 ac., Riner Magisterial District

Canda Property LLC to Goodwill Industries of the Valley, 1.671 ac., lot 39, Christiansburg, \$1,995,000

Christopher French to French Living Trust, lot 16, Maple Ridge Village 4 Brittany Meadows Blacksburg

Robin Scully to Robin Scully Living Trust, 3.313 ac., lot 7, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Tammy S. Costigan to Tammy S. Costigan, lot 5, Sec 4, Craig Mtn. Christiansburg

Michael Penn Huffman Trustee to John Lloyd, 2 parcels, 2 and 1/8 ac and 4 ac., Blacksburg, \$85,000

William R. Winemiller to Deborah Winemiller, lot 1, Olde Towne Estates, Christiansburg, \$340,000

Jeffery M. Czarniecki to Joseph Daniel Rudolph, lot 513, Blacksburg Country Club Estates, Sec III, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$885,000

Kramer Davis Luxbacher AIF to Julia C. Klapproth, lot 32, Ph 1, Village at Toms Creek, Ph 1, Blacksburg, \$590,000

Kipps Farms LLC to Stetson Homes LLC, lots 413, 414, 415, and 416, Westhill Subdv., Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$268,400

Glenn A. Cobb to Glenn A. Cobb Trust, 3.3725 ac., lot 2, Walnut Hills Subdv.

Raymond S. Smoot, Jr. Trust to Bradley Whitney Babcock III, 0.313 ac., Lusters Gate Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Benjamin S. Hutchins to Samantha Clark Underwood, lot 36, Vistavia Subdv., Ph II, Christiansburg, \$356,500

Matthew G. Gross to Matthew G. Gross, 0.765 ac., Mt. Tabor Magisterial District

Anthony Scott to Anthony

Scott, 2021007983

Anthony R. Scott to Double V LLC, 1.0980 ac., lot 1, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$365,000

Omni Om LLC to Dutt Export Inc., 2.008 ac., new lot 1, riner Magisterial District, \$850,000

Roger W. Woody to John Kirk McGuire, lots 1 and 2, Vistavia Subdv., Ph II, Christiansburg, \$625,000

Michael D. Quesinberry to Anthony R. Scott, 1.127 ac., lot 51, Heritage Place, Ph III, riner Magisterial District, \$615,000

Patricia W. Wood to Nancy S. White, 1.0426 ac. Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$5,000

Zachary T. Sowers to Craig Cronenwett, lot 25, Town and Country Estates, Sec. 1, Christiansburg, \$353,000

Zhargal Dampilon to Brian D. Booth, 0.9582 ac., lot 5, Maple Spring Farm II Subdv., Blacksburg, \$479,450

Traveling Manns LLC to Blue Sky Homes LLC, 2.01 ac., metes and bounds, Blacksburg, \$675,000

Harold George Philippi, Jr., to Robert W. Bentley, 5.670 ac., lot 9, Riverwood Estates, Ph 1, Riner Magisterial District, \$630,000

Anthony L. White to Oracio Izaguirre Montenegro, lot 11, Ph IV, Kensington Subdv., Christiansburg, \$412,500

Kelly R. Nelson to CB Smith Construction, Inc., lot 24, Sec 1, Harman Forest, \$32,800

Christopher S. Russo to Bradley Russell Horton, lot 1, East Ridge Subdv., Christiansburg, \$265,000

Carol Shelor to John M. Shelor, 1.385 ac., Shawsville Magisterial District

Leslie G. Dove to Joshua M. Dove, lot 19, Windsor Estate, Ph 1, Christiansburg, \$330,000

Mary Dean Coleman to Jacob Sells

Juanita W. Gambill to Andrew G. Burns, metes and bounds, see legal, Christiansburg, \$259,900

Kipps Farms LLC to Stetson Homes LLC, 2022005831, \$90,200

Estate of Calvin Duncan to Lesa V. De Los Rios, lot 5, Lilly Auburn Magisterial District, \$29,900

Phillip Nelson Martin to Hedgehog Properties LLC, see legal, Christiansburg, \$128,000

Charlotte H. Epperly to Wendy R. Carter, three parcels, See legal, Shawsville Magisterial District, \$30

Victoria H. Andrews to Jaemont Investments, Inc., Lot 3, Oak Tree Townhomes, Christiansburg, \$219,900

Kipps Farms LLC to Stetson Farms LLC, lots 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, Westhill Subdv., Pris Fork Magisterial District, \$335,500

Chabad of Virginia to Chabad Serving Virginia Tech, los 3, 4, Sec VI, Blacks Addition Prices Fork Magisterial District

Paul D. Simpkins to Justin Bryant Dowdy, 5.751 ac., lot 3, Riner Magisterial District,

Daniel L. McRorie to Zhenhua Tian, 0.292 ac., lot 50, Fiddlers Green, Blacksburg, \$706,000

Hunter F. Gately to Christopher Shaver, lot 40, Belmont Farms, Unit 2, Christiansburg, \$232,000

Travis L. Kingrey to Philip T. Pope, 5.000 ac., lot 3A, Riner Magisterial District, \$390,000

Sandra C. Davis to Cap Investments, Inc., 0.4359 ac., Blacksburg, \$1,250,000

Jeffrey M. Joiner to Cunningham G. West, lot 4, Longview Estates, Sec III, Prices Fork Magisterial District, \$425,000

William K. Griffith to Sarah

Gayle Leonard, 0.341 ac., Parcel B, Christiansburg, \$272,650

Curtis W. Absher Trust to Neal t. Vines, 1.161 ac., Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$190,000

Tyler O. Walters to Walters Living Trust, lot 38, Countryside Estates, Ph III, Blacksburg

Kent F. Murrmann to Murrmann Living Trust, 2 parcels, lot 48, Woodland Hills, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, and lot 22, Karr Heights, Sec 1, Blacksburg

Dorin Shen to Vandelay Property Management, lot 8, Olde Towne Estates, Christiansburg, \$370,000

Marvin W. Wrenn to Jier Y. Han, lot 4, Mtn. top Estates, Ph 1, \$340,000

C C and B Development LLC to SAS Eagle Givens LLC, 0.202 ac., lot 107 and 0.184 ac., lot 116, Northside Park, Sec XII, Blacksburg

Robert W. Vaughan to Robert N. Wills III, lot 6, East Ridge Subdv., Christiansburg, \$249,900

Roger W. Woody to RW40 LLC

Roger W. Woody to RW46 LLC

Walter I. Stultz, Jr., to Walter I. Stultz, Jr., 3 parcels, see legal, Riner Magisterial District

Wallace L. Andrus, Jr., to Matthew J. Kelly, 24.737 ac., tract 5, Riner Magisterial District, \$222,500

Hughes Investments LLC to Kemberly Scott, 0.45 ac., lot 2, \$285,000

JBC Properties LC to Jimmy S. Martin, 2 parcels, 0.8614 ac., parcel 1, and 1.5655 ac., parcel 2, Shawsville Magisterial District

Glade Heights LLC to Glade Spring Crossing LLC, 3 parcels, 0.318 ac, parcel 1; 41.713 ac., parcel 2; and 3.719 ac., parcel 3,

Blacksburg

Devon E. Smith to Michael C. Midkiff, lot 40, Oak Tree Townhomes, Ph IV, Christiansburg, \$295,000

Robert M. Ballenger to Herbert Randolph Patton, Jr., lot 1, Auburn Hills Fairway Homes, Riner Magisterial District, \$485,000

Earning L. Blythe to John Famolari, lot 7, Ph IV, Preston Forest, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District, \$785,000

Robert Deal to Marcio R. Rodriguez Guzman, lot 127, Windmill Hills Subdv., Sec. 14, Christiansburg, \$425,000

Joseph M. Reynolds to Larry D. Elliott, lot 9, Riner Magisterial District, \$222,000

DEEDS TRANSFER UPON DEATH

David Clyde Scanland to Kallie Nicole Covey, Southerly 90 ft. of lot 40 Oakwood Subdv., #1

Roy Phillip Harman to Mary Kelly Harman, 4 parcels, Riner Magisterial District

Duane M. Mills to Mills Living Trust, lot 2, Apperson Park Sec 7 Blacksburg

R. Stephan Reisinger to R. Stephen Reisinger Living Trust, metes and bounds, see legal, Blacksburg

Mark E. Curtis to Ryan Daniel Curtis, lots 1A, 2, 3, 4, Christiansburg

Christopher French to French Living Trust, lot 16, Maple Ridge Village 4 Brittany Meadows, Blacksburg

Robin Scully to Robin Scully Living Trust, lot 38, Countryside Estates, Ph III, Blacksburg

Kent F. Murrmann to Murrmann Living Trust, 2 parcels, lot 48 Woodland Hills, Mt. Tabor Magisterial District and lot 22 Karr Heights, Sec 1, Blacksburg

Inside Design summer camp provides transformative experience for high school students

In the summer of 2003, Ryan Patterson, then a high school student, attended the Inside Design summer camp at Virginia Tech. "This was my first foray into architecture, and I remember feeling even at the time how impactful that spark would be," he said.

Patterson joined Virginia Tech's architecture and design school in 2005 and earned his bachelor's degree in architecture in 2009.

Fast forward to the summer of 2022, Patterson, now an architect at the firm of Fultz & Singh, taught a new generation of high school students at the same summer camp.

Founded by faculty members Donna Dunay and Robert Dunay 20 years ago, the Inside Design program introduces high school students to the Virginia Tech college experience and teaches them to think and approach the world like professional designers. Chris Pritchett, an associate professor in architecture, now leads the program.

"One of my goals was to not only introduce young students to design and to our school, but to introduce them to individuals in the profession as well," he said.

This year, Pritchett recruited active architecture and design professionals to serve as instructors at the camp.

He connected with a team of designers from Fultz & Singh, an architecture firm in Richmond. Instructors Ryan Patterson, Amrit Singh, Logan Healy, Jessie Gemmer, Kylie Heald, and Chase Long are all alumni of Virginia Tech's architecture program, and they welcomed the opportunity to connect their alma mater with their community.

Pritchett and the instructors from Fultz &

Singh saw this partnership as strengthening the relationship between Virginia Tech and the professional design world. Over the course of the six-day camp, the instructors and their teaching assistants guided 154 students into a new way of perceiving the world and helped them see through the eyes of a designer.

Their first task was to explore a familiar, personal object to better understand why and how it was created. Each student brought a small item from home, dubbed an "artifact." They were instructed to treat it as "a precious object." In addition, they cataloged every detail of the artifact in a variety of media as though it would

become a museum display.

As the sessions progressed, the students explored more complex concepts. They worked with light and shadow, spatial analysis, and other techniques as they became more familiar with the thought process of a designer.

"Seeing the progression of the students thinking they had no idea what to do, and then getting to a place where they were proud of what they made, had a profound impact on me - because I remember that feeling myself," said Patterson.

These moments, he said, "revealed the inherent potential of every

student."

On the final day of the camp, students collected everything they created over the course of the week — models, designs, and drawings — and assembled a Cabinet of Curiosities exhibition in the lobby of Cowgill Hall. Family members were invited to view the exhibits and tour the studio space. The exhibits demonstrated the students' progression over the course of the week and highlighted the evolution of their thinking processes.

"The final exhibits they put up looked like college-level design work," said Lauren Malhotra, an events planner in the school.



PHOTO BY LELAN YUNG FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

Professionals from Fultz & Singh, all alumni, partnered with Chris Pritchett and AAD teaching assistants to lead the Inside Design program. From left are Mei Machuga, Chris Tucker, Isabel Parras, Chase Long, Logan Healy, Kylie Heald, Rebecca Rainey, Jessie Gemmer, Amrit Singh, Ryan Patterson, Chris Pritchett, and Grayson Bennett.

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Large-scale research effort on drone traffic management will answer a critical need in a growing industry

Virginia Tech has won its sixth major federal contract to lead research on an increasingly urgent question: How to safely manage drone traffic.

The Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) was selected to lead one of two teams participating in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) UTM Field Test, a research project designed to evaluate the technology and standards being developed to help safely coordinate and prioritize drone flights as drone activity in the low-altitude airspace ramps up. "UTM" is short for "unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) traffic management."

MAAP is one of seven FAA-designated drone test sites. For this project, it will be teaming up with a sister test site, the Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence and Innovation at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. MAAP, the Texas test site, and eight companies leading the charge on developing technology in this area will collaborate with the FAA and NASA on the project.

Drone technology is becoming more capable; regulations are evolving to accommodate more advanced operations. Multiple companies have announced plans in the last few months to launch services such as drone delivery in locations around the country. All this suggests the advent of a time when drone technology can begin to pay dividends on its potential — but also when the physical distance that has allowed most operations to be managed in isolation from each other will begin to close.

"We're just now beginning to see things scale," said Tombo Jones, MAAP's director. "As we advance beyond individual operations in self-contained areas, it will be essential to have technology that can safely schedule and prioritize flights so that they don't interfere with each other."

"These flight tests are critically important in the further development of UTM — the ability to take operational concepts and testing them in complex, 'real-world' environments," said Mike Sanders, the

executive director of the Texas test site. "We're very pleased to be a part of the MAAP team and leverage our ongoing work in UTM to contribute to the depth and breadth of the testing environment."

Safely managing drone traffic requires diverse sources of data routed through multiple software platforms. Each of these technologies is being developed by individual companies, with oversight and evaluation from the FAA through research programs such as this one. The composition of MAAP's field test team reflects how complex this ecosystem is.

ANRA Technologies, Collins, and OneSky have all developed software platforms to schedule and deconflict drone operations. Wing, which has recently launched a residential drone delivery service in the Dallas metro area to complement its inaugural program in Christiansburg as part of its U.S. operations, is developing technology to enable the identification of nearby drones and evaluate other UTM software.



PHOTO BY MARK BLANKS FOR VIRGINIA TECH. An engineer at the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership launches a drone during tests of systems designed to manage drone traffic.

OBITUARIES

Bryan, Paul Louis

Paul Louis Bryan, 56, of Blacksburg, went to be with the Lord on Aug. 20, 2022, at home. Born in May 1966 in Portsmouth, Va., he was the son of the late Louis Linwood Bryan and Faye E. Bryan.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 31 years, Kristina Hadsell Bryan; beloved daughters Ashley Bryan Harvey (Tim) of Christiansburg, Brittany Bryan Rose (Martin) of Blacksburg, and Cassandra "Sandra" Bryan (Lindsey Nanz) of Boise, Idaho; five grandsons; and additional family members listed below.

Paul and Kristina moved from Portsmouth to Dublin, Va., in 1993 and to Blacksburg in 1999. Paul worked in the food service industry for over 25 years for establishments such as Pizza Hut, High's Ice Cream, KFC, Hardee's, McDonald's, Wendy's, Warm Hearth Dining, Virginia Tech Dining Services, Mellow Mushroom, Zaxby's, Burger King, and Hwy 55. He worked in the lawn service industry in Portsmouth, including as a live-in groundskeeper for Meadow Brooks Memorial Gardens Cemetery; likewise, he performed grounds maintenance for the Blacksburg Parks & Recreation Department. He was a parts driver for Harvey's Chevrolet and held positions at Pulaski Furnishings, Findley's, and the Foundry.

Paul loved all things sci-fi, especially Star Trek, Star Wars, and Transformers. He shared his love of Transformers with his grandsons, as he was just a big kid at heart who loved his family well. Some of his favorite sayings were, "Transform and roll out!" and "Beam me up, Scotty!" Paul grew up in Portsmouth's Sweethaven Baptist Church and later joined his wife at Western Branch Community Church



in nearby Chesapeake. After moving to the New River Valley, the couple eventually joined Dublin Presbyterian Church (presently known as First Dublin Presbyterian Church ECO), where he was a member of the choir and showed that he had the heart of a servant helper.

In addition to his parents, Paul was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Cheryl Barnes Hadsell; uncle "Skip" Thomas R. Daughtry; two great-aunts, Quelda Daughtry and Marian Moore; and maternal grandparents, "Maw" and "Pops". Surviving family members also include brothers Jon "Barrie" Bryan of Portsmouth, Lee Thomas Bryan of Wake Forest, N.C., and Mark Edward Bryan of Christiansburg; sister Angela Bryan Twiford (Scott) of Carrollton, Va.; father-in-law Wayne Lee Hadsell, Sr., of Pilot Mountain, N.C.; sister-in-law Dee Hadsell Gazzo (Mike) of Rochester, N.Y.; brother-in-law Wayne Hadsell, Jr., of Gloucester Point, Va.; aunt Marilyn "Deedee" Daughtry of Chesapeake; cousins Keith Daughtry and Kristopher Daughtry of Portsmouth, and Kevin Daughtry (Nicole) of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; ten nieces and nephews; six great-nieces and -nephews; many other cousins; and nine grand-fur babies.

There will be a celebration of life service on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., at Dublin Presbyterian Church ECO. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Good Samaritan Hospice or a donation to the family to help cover expenses (contact McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg). A special thanks to Good Samaritan Hospice. Please think of Paul the next time you enjoy a good sci-fi show.

Lee, M.D., Thaddeus Carmichael

Thaddeus Carmichael Lee, M.D., passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, at the age of 78.

He was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Dixon Lee, Jr.; his mother, Mattie McClemore Lee; and his brothers, Daniel Dixon Lee, III, John Munroe Lee, and Michael Ellis Lee.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Gilbert; a younger brother, Robert; a sister, Mattie Gay Whitaker; a sister-in-law, Ann; a daughter, Sara; his sons, Daniel, Peter, and Samuel; a special nephew, Tyler Lee; and grandchildren Ryan, Ele, Benton, Catherine, Caden, and Stella.

Thad was born in Dillon, S.C. on May 15, 1944. He was a Senate Page for United States Senator Strom Thurmond in 1958 and later attended Clemson College before graduating with his Medical Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1971.

He attained the rank of major in the United States Air Force and was the Chief Medical Officer of Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey where he met his dearest, closest friend, Bill Scruggs, with whom he remained in contact with for the rest of his life.

Thad practiced family medicine in Radford for over 44 years, taking care of patients throughout the New River Valley. During his time in the area, he was known for his empathy, devotion, and passion when talking with and treating his patients. This was best demonstrated through his commitment and atten-



tiveness to his patients' lives and their health. He would often remain late at the office so that he had enough time with each person.

An avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout, Thad enjoyed hiking, camping, and bicycling. He was well known for his love of animals. During his lifetime, he cared endlessly for a number of horses, cats, and dogs as well as other farm animals and wildlife. He could often be seen in his yard tending to his bird feeders, always making sure there was extra feed for the squirrels, chipmunks, and deer.

In the backyard, Thad prepared a small plot of land to serve as a cemetery for all of the animals that passed away while in his care. He said it best: "Animals are God's creatures, and we are meant to love them as we do each other."

In his later years, he enjoyed, and may be best remembered for, spending time on his front porch, watching over the community and the animals that he had nurtured and cared for his entire life. He took pleasure in spending his retirement time with his wife, his children, and grandchildren, as well as his three dogs, Buddy, Kadie, and Boe, and his three cats, Godiva, Twinkie, and Callie.

Services will be private and burial will take place in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. The Lee family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Cole, Patrick Raymond

Patrick Raymond Cole, born Sept. 19, 1968, passed away Aug. 10, 2022, in Plano, Texas, from complications of diabetes and kidney failure.

He was a graduate of Blacksburg High School and Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, W.Va.

He earned a master's degree in Christian education from Southwestern Texas Theological Seminary in Fort Worth in 2011. While serving in the U.S. Naval Reserves, he was called into active duty in 1991 to support Operation Desert Storm where he served as a navy corpsman with the rank of petty officer.

He was employed in a variety of call-center jobs after settling in the Dallas area. His true calling was working with children's education in Baptist churches. For the past two years, he had assisted with the children's program at Unity Point Baptist Church in Plano. He was

devoted to his friends and family, especially those who shared his vast interest in and knowledge of sports.

Patrick is survived by his father, Steve Cole, and Steve's wife, Rosemary, of Blacksburg; his mother, Claire Cole Curclo and her partner Selby McCash, of Fredericksburg, Va.; a brother, Scott Cole and his wife, Diana, of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; a sister, Robin Cole Lacy and her husband Willis of Fredericksburg; an aunt, Jane Roberts, of Bradenton, Fla.; and five nieces and nephews.

A commemoration of life was led by Unity Point pastor Darrell Vang at the Collin Baptist Association in Fairview, Texas, on Aug. 14. Interment will be in the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Unity point Church, 1302 Cherokee Trail, Plano TX 75023.

Weeks, Raymond Dewey

Raymond Dewey Weeks, 83, of Christiansburg, died Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, at New River Valley Medical Center.

He was born in Russell County, Va. on May 13, 1939, to the late Rev. Dewey and Artie Kegley Weeks. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley F. Weeks; brothers Willie Weeks and Guy Weeks; and sisters Margie Roark, Leona Hughes, and Frances Morrison.

Raymond attended Restoration Faith Tabernacle in Christiansburg. He had a lifelong love of music and was a talented guitarist and singer and was a former member of the Dixie Rangers Country Band.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Delia C. Weeks; sons and daughters-in-law John and Kimberly Weeks and Kevin and Melissa Weeks; grandchildren



Chandler Weeks, Branson Weeks, and Rae-Anna (Tweetie Pie) Weeks; a sister, Mary Musick; a brother and sister-in-law, Charlie and Frances Weeks; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held today, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Michael Casto, Pastor Shawn Martin, and Pastor Steve Coffey officiating. Entombment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

The family will receive friends from noon to 1 p.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg. The family would also like to give appreciation to Lewis Gale Montgomery Hospital, Radford Health and Rehab, and Carilion New River Valley Medical Center for their support.

Womack, Lawrence Albert

Lawrence Albert Womack, 54, of Blacksburg, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, at his home.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1968, to Dale and Diane Perfater Womack. He was preceded in death by his dad, Dale, and his grandparents, William and Dorothy Womack and Dewey and Elizabeth Perfater.

Lawrence was self-employed, the owner of Hot Diggity Dogs food concession. He was also well known for the many auctions and events he worked in the area. He was a dedicated fan of Southern Gospel music and made many lasting friendships with groups around the country. He loved to drive the large buses for many groups and help out



in any way possible.

He is survived by his mom, Diane Womack; a sister and brother-in-law, Shannon Womack Carter and John Carter; a nephew, Colson Carter; and many beloved cousins, family members, and special friends.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Phillip Martin and the Rev. Richard Hall officiating. Interment will follow at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. today, Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home Blacksburg.

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RADFORD SPORTS

Shortage of referees will affect high school football schedules

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The first week of high school football starts Thursday when Radford plays George Wythe. The change in the normal Friday night schedule is a direct result of a shortage of officials.

According to a recent survey of state high school associations including Virginia, an estimated 50,000 individuals have discontinued their service as high school officials since the 2018-2019 season (the last season not affected by the COVID pandemic). The Virginia High School League did not report how many the commonwealth could be down this year.

The growing referee shortage across the country and here in western Virginia is making it harder and harder to field a full officiating crew. Five-man crews took the field for several benefit games this past week.

The problem could force schools like George Wythe and Radford to move more games to Thursday or Saturday. Filling out this year's schedule could be problematic for many of the schools.

The question also lies with the pay as the crews will be splitting \$400 to \$500 per game.

But many other former officials are pointing to the fact of the rise of poor sportsmanship from players, coaches, and fans as a primary

reason they do not want to continue to referee. Also, the sportsmanship problem is preventing new groups of officials from taking the field.

Former Blacksburg head coach Eddie Sloss has a new job. He is back on the sidelines this season on Alex Wilkens's at Christiansburg. Sloss stepped down from the Blacksburg head coaching post this past November.

Blacksburg finished this past season winless, and their record for the past three years was 6-21.

Sloss's first year, 2018, Blacksburg completed a 13-1 season before losing to Woodgrove in the Class 4 state semifinals.

Prior to his time at Blacksburg, Sloss spent four years at Carroll County High School from 2014-2017 where he compiled a 5-35 mark. Formerly, he was an assistant at both Blacksburg and Christiansburg High Schools. Sloss is a graduate of Blacksburg High School.

Players to watch Radford's Marcell Baylor, who played quarterback, running back, and receiver in 2021 and was this past year's all-county/all-city offensive specialist of the year. He recently announced his commitment to Virginia Tech after finishing the season with 29 touchdowns and 2,095 combined yardage for the Bobcats.

Christiansburg linebacker Cur-

tis Altizer, who will have to step up and fill the void of Drew Llyod, who graduated. Altizer finished last season with 94 tackles including 64 solos.

Radford quarterback Landon Clark, who took over game direction in game number six last season and completed 53 of 78 passes for 889 yards with 10 touchdowns.

Predicted records for the 2022 season: Christiansburg 9-1, Blacksburg 2-8, Eastern Montgomery 8-2, Radford 8-2, Auburn 0-10.

Predicted district finishes in 2022:

River Ridge: 1) Christiansburg, 2) Salem, 3) Patrick Henry, 4) Hidden Valley, 5) Cave Spring, 6) Blacksburg, 7) Pulaski.

Pioneer: 1) Narrows, 2) Eastern Montgomery, 3) Parry McCluer, 4) Covington, 5) Bath, 6) Craig.

Three Rivers: 1) Glenvar, 2) Radford, 3) James River, 4) Carroll County, 5) Floyd, 6) Alleghany.

Mt. Empire: 1) Grayson County, 2) Galax, 3) George Wythe, 4) Ft. Chiswell, 5) Giles, 6) Bland, 7) Auburn.

Changes in high school football rules: By state association adoption, the team box may now be extended beyond the 25-yard line.

1-3-3: The game ball may be changed between downs, Any

game official may order the ball changed between downs.

1-4-3: The number "0" Is now legal.

2-3-8: A chop block has been redefined as an illegal combination block where contact is made above and below the waist.

2022 POINTS OF EMPHA-

SIS: Targeting/defenseless players, legal uniforms, and equipment and sportsmanship.

First week game predictions: Giles 24, Blacksburg 7; Christiansburg 41, Floyd 14; Radford 21, George Wythe 20; Narrows 44, Auburn 0; Eastern Montgomery 28, Holston 21.

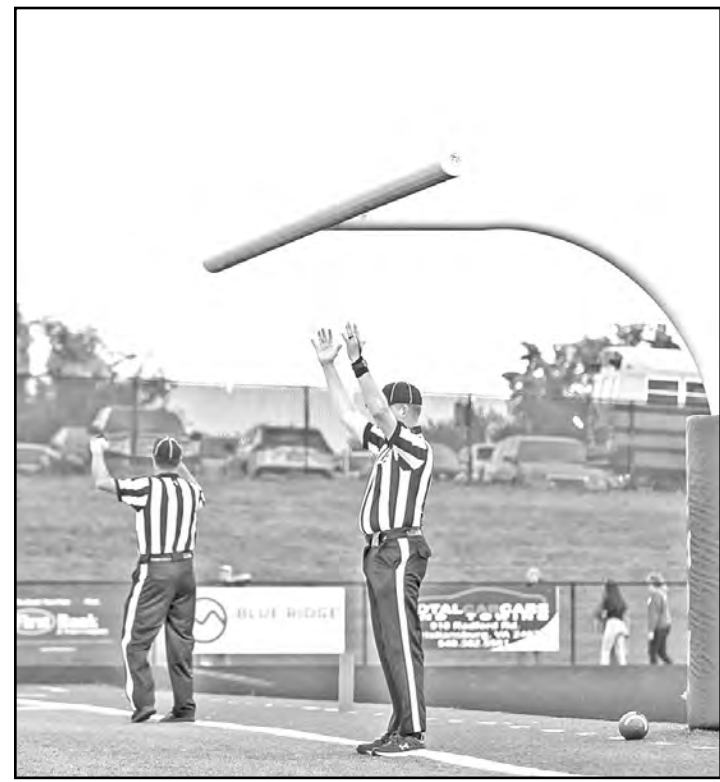


PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Two referees work Friday night's scrimmage between Christiansburg and Giles high schools. Because of the lack of numbers, officials were limited to a five-member crew.

Christiansburg's Tanner Evans, preseason player of year



FILE PHOTO

Tanner Evans stops a Lord Botetourt runner in last year's state Class 3D loss. The rising junior will lead Christiansburg into the 2022 season.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Tanner Evans played as many as six different positions last season for Christiansburg High School, gaining the nickname "Swiss Army Knife."

Christiansburg head coach Alex Wilkens said Tanner is the definition of a Swiss Army Knife.

"He's smart, he's strong, he's quick, he's fast, he can catch, he can throw, he can block, he can kick. He legitimately could play any position on the football field," Wilkens said.

"There's not a skill that he doesn't think he can do and he's right. His competitiveness is special; he hates to lose, and he holds himself to a very high standard for performance," Wilkens said. "And what is most re-

markable about him is his unselfishness. He doesn't care who gets credit or who gets the ball, he loves to see his teammates shine and will do whatever we need of him to help the team. He's the most diverse football player I have ever been around."

Last year, the sophomore rushed 79 times for 685 yards with seven touchdowns. He also had 15 receptions for 247 yards and returned 10 punts for 278 yards. On defense, he had 62 tackles with 45 solos and six interceptions.

"Tanner's ability to play anything gives us depth and makes us hard to defend," Wilkens said.

Wilkens said Evans will play a major role in the team's success this season.

"I think our success depends on his leadership and

how he practices, not necessarily how he plays," the coach said. "If the best players on your team are your best leaders and workers, then everyone else follows suit. I think the big plays he makes energizes our team, but we are balanced enough that the threat of him makes other players better as well and we can be successful even without big stat sheet type games from him."

Already in two scrimmages, Evans has been counted on to be a major key on both sides of the ball while returning punts. For last year's numbers and early projections for this season, Evans is the All-County/All-City preseason player of the year.

Evans and the Blue Demons will open the 2022 season at home Friday night against Floyd County.

Remembering RU Coach Charlene Curtis



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

I will never forget the years I spent on the sports information staff at Radford University. I was a sophomore wandering around the Dedmon Center when I ran into a woman walking down the hallway. She asked me if I was lost. I told her no, but I was looking for the women's basketball coach's office.

She laughed and pointed me in the direction of the basketball offices. I walked in and sat down. The receptionist said the coach had stepped out but would be back in a moment.

Shortly after, Charlene Curtis walked in. She was the women's basketball coach and the same woman in the hallway that pointed me in the way of the office.

Over the years, she would always flash me her famous smile and greeting. Curtis would leave for Wake Forest but again, I ran into her in Winston-Salem. She never forgot my name and was always gracious when we bumped into each other.

She passed away last week. Leaders at Radford University called her a trailblazer at both RU and in the broader collegiate athletics landscape. She was also a two-time member of the Radford University

Board of Visitors.

"Charlene Curtis is one of Radford University's most accomplished alumni," said Director of Athletics Robert Lineburg. "She was an outstanding student, a tremendous basketball player, an excellent musician, and a great coach and administrator. She has had and will continue to have a profound impact on our university."

"Charlene was the coach that made a difference in her players' lives by teaching them so many foundational values that impacted them in so many positive ways," Lineburg said. "In addition, Charlene loved Radford University and remained involved throughout her life by devoting her time, service, and money to helping so many young people."

"This is a difficult time for the Highlander family, but we know her incredible legacy will live on at Radford University. I speak for myself and countless others in saying that it was a true honor and privilege to know Charlene Curtis."

In 1972, Curtis was the first African-American to play on the Radford women's basketball team, and she was the first 1,000-point scorer - male or female - in Radford basketball history. After her playing career ended, she secured her first job as a teacher and band director in Bedford County where she served as the first African-American teacher and coach ever at her school.

Her coaching career took her

back to the collegiate ranks where she earned a graduate degree and worked on the staff of legendary head coach Debbie Ryan at the University of Virginia.

Curtis would eventually return to Radford as the women's basketball program's head coach from 1984-90, posting a 121-53 (.695) record overall and an incredible 46-2 (.958) mark in Big South Conference play.

She was a two-time Big South Coach of the Year, leading the Highlanders to four Big South regular season championships, three Big South Tournament championships, and an appearance in the 1989 WNIT.

"On behalf of our current team, staff, and alumni, we are saddened to hear about the passing of Charlene Curtis," said Head Women's Basketball Coach Mike McGuire. "Radford has lost an amazing pioneer, leader, teacher, and coach. Quite simply, Charlene is a legend for our women's basketball program," McGuire said.

"Charlene had incredible careers at Radford, both as a student athlete and a coach. Each season, we could feel the impact that Charlene has had on the women's basketball program here. She helped to raise the bar and expectations for women's basketball success at Radford."

"Charlene loved Radford and was committed to making a difference for the young women in our program," McGuire said. "She is the epitome of what a dedicated

and invested alumna is all about. But, even with all of the success that she had, Charlene will be remembered for the type of person she was. The way she cared about other people and encouraged them to pursue excellence will never be forgotten by anyone who ever met her. She lived a life that impacted others and must be celebrated."

After her time at Radford, Curtis went on to Wake Forest University as the first African-American women's basketball head coach in the history of the Atlantic Coast Conference. She also made stops at Temple University as the school's first-ever African-American head women's

basketball coach and at the University of Connecticut as an assistant under Geno Auriemma.

She was eventually named the head of officiating for women's basketball in the ACC and contributed to ESPN and Fox Sports South as a women's basketball analyst.

Her accomplishments, both on the sidelines and in the community, led to the dedication of the Radford women's basketball coach's suite in her name on Feb. 5, 2022. A special ceremony was held in the Dedmon Center Sport Performance Facility where Curtis gave a speech while surrounded by former players and staff members.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Former RU Coach Charlene Curtis, who died last week, was the first African American to play on the Radford women's basketball team, and the school's first 1,000-point scorer, male or female.

Radford, Blacksburg golfers help Blue Ridge team to overall win on Junior Golf Tour

Hunter Crist of Radford and Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg defeated Carter Wolfe of Gate City and Wyatt Cochran of Blountville, Tenn. 3-to-2. recently on the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour.

Also, Major Ewing of Blacksburg teamed with McKenzie Weddle of Floyd to defeat Abby Bradley of Castlewood and Kolben Gregg of Greenville, TN.

Those wins helped carry the Blue Ridge team to an overall win over players from the Sneds Junior Golf Tour in the annual 2-Tour challenge on Aug. 20.

Fincastle in Bluefield played host to the all-star players from the two junior tours.

This unique event has been played since 2018 and is contested in match-play style. Nine points were at stake in the competition that featured a "4 ball" or "better ball" format of play on the opening nine holes and singles matches on the closing nine holes.

In "4 ball" or "better ball," each player is paired with a partner. The two play their own balls throughout the hole but count the score that is lowest.

During the singles matches, each player competes against one other player from the opposing side. Each team had six players. The teams vied for three points during the "4 ball" matches and

six points during the singles matches.

Because the Blue Ridge team had won the previous year, the Sneds side would need to secure five points to win the contest. The Blue Ridge side prevailed 6 1/2 to 2 1/2.

Though it seems the results amounted to a comfortable four-point victory, match play results are seldom comfortable. Four of the matches ended with a 1-up score, the slimmest of margins to gain a point.

Here is a breakdown of the nine matches:

On the opening nine holes, the Blue Ridge side won all three of the "better ball" matches. In

match #1 David Goode of Wytheville teamed with Rocky Frye of Bramwell, WVa, and defeated Tucker McLain of Church Hill, Tenn., and Tanner McPeck of Rogersville, Tenn., 1 up.

The Blue Ridge Tour was able to win match #2 as well as Hunter Crist of Radford and Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg claimed wins.

In match #3, Major Ewing of Blacksburg teamed with McKenzie Weddle of Floyd to win for the Blue Ridge Junior team.

Playing in the singles matches on the second nine holes, the Sneds Tour got on the board first as Tanner McPeck defeated David Goode 2-1 in match #4.

However, the Blue Ridge Tour won the next three matches to secure the team victory.

Rocky Frye made a clutch 3-foot putt on the final hole to maintain his 1-up advantage and defeat Tucker McLain in match #5.

Hunter Crist defeated Carter Wolfe 2-1 in match #6. Ryan Highfield defeated Wyatt Cochran 3-2 in match #7.

The Sneds Tour registered another point as Abby Bradley defeated McKenzie Weddle 1-up in match #8. In the final match, Kolben Gregg and Major Ewing tied. After tallying all of the matches, the Blue Ridge side earned a 6 1/2 to 2 1/2 victory.

Sports news: Sellouts continue at Tech

On the heels of a sellout announcement for Virginia Tech football's game against West Virginia, tickets for the Hokies' upcoming slate continue to be in extremely high demand.

The Tech athletics department announced Thursday, Aug. 18, that tickets in the upper East stands and upper South End Zone are sold out for Virginia Tech's games against Boston College, Miami, (Fla.) and Virginia.

Consequently, Fan 4-Pack ticket packages for these contests are no longer available, along with 3- and 4-game mini plans. This leaves single game tickets in the lower east and west stands as the only remaining option for these matchups.

The athletics department had previously announced that tickets in the upper south end zone are sold out for Tech's game against Wofford.

Strack to Tech
Clara Strack, a 6-foot-3 forward/center who will be a senior, is expected to be the first Hamburg N.Y., graduate to play Division I basketball at Virginia Tech since Blake McClimans, Class of 2009, who played for the University of Michigan men's team. Strack is believed to be the first Hamburg girls basketball player to go Division I in at least 30 years.

She was named to the All-Western New York large schools first-team last season and the Class A all-state first team after finishing second in Section VI in points (26.5) and first in rebounds (16.9). She led the

Bulldogs to their third consecutive A-1 sectional title.

She had offers from Georgia Tech, Ohio State, Virginia, Indiana, and Wake Forest, among others.

Anderson to join VirginiaPreps.com writing team

Earlier this year, Robert Anderson announced his retirement as a full-time sports writer after 44 years, the past 21 at The Roanoke Times following his start at the Bristol Herald Courier. Now, VirginiaPreps.com is pleased to announce that Anderson will be joining its team to contribute periodic stories, specializing in coverage in the Roanoke area.

"We're extremely thrilled to add a Hall of Fame worthy writer and reporter to our staff in Robert Anderson, whose dedication and work for so many years with the Roanoke Times goes unmatched on the prep sports scene in my opinion," said VirginiaPreps Publisher Matthew Hatfield.

"Simply put, he has a reservoir of knowledge and resources. I'm sure the readers and subscribers will enjoy immensely the content he provides to the site," Hatfield said.

Part of the Rivals Network powered by Yahoo! Sports, VirginiaPreps.com provides comprehensive coverage across the entire commonwealth on high school sports.

Polynesia's Fuga on football watch list

The Polynesian Football Hall of Fame has announced that the 2022 Watch List for the Polynesian

College Football Player of the Year Award includes Virginia Tech red-shirt defensive lineman Josh Fuga. The award is presented annually to the most outstanding college football player of Polynesian ancestry who epitomizes great ability and integrity.

The overall watch list is composed of 85 players from 43 different FBS schools.

Last season, Fuga played in all 13 games, starting three at DT. He totaled 21 tackles with five solo stops, one tackle for loss, and 0.5 sacks. Fuga's first career start came in a win over Middle Tennessee State. He recorded a career-high six tackles vs. Notre Dame.

"The Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Award has become one of the most competitive and prestigious awards in college football," said Jesse Sapolu, Polynesian Football Hall of Fame chairman, co-founder and inductee. "This award has become a source of great pride for Polynesians everywhere."

Five finalists for the 2022 Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Award will be unveiled on Dec. 1, and the winner will be announced on December 15.

Appy League announces all-league team

The Appalachian League has announced the 2022 All-Appalachian League Team as voted on by the league's managers. The All-Appalachian League Team is highlighted by

Bluefield's Jackson Feltner, who was named Player of the Year, and Burlington's Mason Ruh, who earned Pitcher of the Year honors.

The All-Appalachian League Team is composed of five infielders, four outfielders, three pitchers, one catcher, one designated hitter, and a two-way player. In total, eight of the ten Appy League teams are represented with Kingsport's four selections leading the way. Bluefield, Burlington, Elizabethton, and Pulaski all had two selections. Bristol, Danville, and Johnson City had one each. Thirteen of the 15 selections are from Division I schools, and Northern Illinois is the only school with multiple selections.

DH: Ryland Zaborowski, Pulaski, Miami (OH)

Zaborowski hit .372 with nine home runs and 37 RBI in 36 games. He had 45 hits, 12 doubles, 21 extra-base hits, a .500 OBP, a .694 SLG and a 1.194 OPS. Zaborowski finished third in the Appy League in extra-base hits, tied for third in home runs and tied for fourth in RBI. He had 14 multi-hit games, eight three-RBI games and four four-RBI games.

On July 22 against Elizabethton, Zaborowski went 4-for-5 with two home runs, four RBI, four runs and a walk. Zaborowski was the Player of the Week of July 4-10 and the starting DH for the East All-Stars.

Two-Way: TJ Fondtain, Pulaski, San Diego State

Fondtain hit .366 with four home runs, 26 RBI and a 1.100 OPS in 37 games. He had 41 hits, 12 doubles, three triples, a .466

OBP and a .634 SLG.

On July 16 against Bristol, he went 4-for-5 with a double, a triple, five RBI's and two runs. On the mound, Fondtain was 2-3 with a 2.51 ERA in six appearances (five starts). In 28.2 innings, he allowed 34 hits and 11 runs (eight earned). He also struck out 34 and walked just four. Fondtain struck out 11 in eight innings in Burlington on June 30, both season-highs. He was the Player of the Week of July 18-24 and an East All-Star.

Hokie Way

The Hokie Way, an independent nonprofit organization that will create active engagements for Virginia Tech student-athletes with charitable goals, has launched.

The Hokie Way will raise funds to support charitable organizations across the commonwealth through the active engagement of Virginia Tech student athletes who wish to use their names, image, and likenesses (NIL) to advance the work of charitable organizations. With the help of aligned collectives focused on NIL opportunities, The Hokie Way will assist in building cause-marketing partnerships.

"The Hokie Nation turns out strong to show its support. When we have a hurricane on a Thursday night [football game], we still show up," said Jim Petrino, president of The Hokie Way board of directors. "Our fans are fantastic in that way and support us greatly. We are the school with the lunch pail, which symbolizes how everyone gets involved. That's the right way to do NIL, and that's The Hokie Way."



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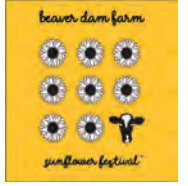
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