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# Radford University nursing school named one of Virginia's top 10

Nurse.org has named Radford University's School of Nursing programs among the 10 best in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A panel of five nursing professionals with over 55 years of combined nursing experience and

seven nursing degrees reviewed nursing programs statewide to compile the list. In choosing the top programs, the panel looked at reputation, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rate, tuition, and acceptance

rate. Nurse.org also noted that only those schools accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) were eligible for consideration.

"We are thrilled to be selected among the top 10 Nursing Schools in Virginia," said Wendy Downey, interim dean of the School of Nursing. "The dedication of our faculty to the success of each student both in the classroom and during clinical rotations is demonstrated through our NCLEX pass rates, which have been well above both the state and national averages for many years."

The section focused on Radford's nursing programs highlights the university's smaller class sizes, leading to more specialized instruction and individualized attention, and a curriculum that prepares nurses for a variety of careers that most begin as soon as they graduate. It also cites the advantage of in-state tuition rates, leading to a more affordable education.



# Pedestrian struck by vehicle in Blacksburg dies on scene

Friday morning, Sept. 2, shortly after midnight, Blacksburg police officers and members of the Blacksburg Rescue Squad answered a call to the 2200 block of S. Main St. in response to a call reporting that a pedestrian had been struck by a vehicle.

The pedestrian was identified as John Wallace Thomasson, 20, of Fairfax, Va. Despite life-saving measures taken at the site of the collision,

Thomasson did not survive his injuries. Early reports indicated that the driver of the vehicle was cooperating with the police department's investigation.

According to the Blacksburg Police Department, the investigation into the incident is ongoing. The department has asked that anyone with information about the case to please call the department at 540-443-1400.



# Governor appoints Tyler W. Lester to Radford University Board of Visitors

RADFORD – Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Friday the appointment of Tyler W. Lester of Abingdon to the Radford University Board of Visitors.

Lester currently serves as the legislative director for Virginia Senator Todd Pillion and served as his legislative aide while a

member of the Virginia House of Delegates from March 2016 to January 2020.

Lester is a 2015 graduate of Radford University with a bachelor's degree in political science. He has served on the Alumni Association Board of Direc-

See Lester, page 4

# Potter in the Park 5K raises funds for adult literacy

Radford Mayor David Horton shows some of the sizable crowd that turned out to the TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park 5K fundraiser for literacy at Radford's Bisset Park on Saturday.

The annual event is a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley and has a Harry Potter theme with wizarding wear optional. The course "winds through the forbidden forest and wizarding world of Bisset Park" and in addition to the run/walk, includes a costume contest, "house" prizes, age group awards and more. Visit [www.lvnrv.org](http://www.lvnrv.org) to learn more about Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley and the organization's programs to support adult literacy in the NRV.



PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON

# Roanoke College report shows Virginia consumer sentiment rebound

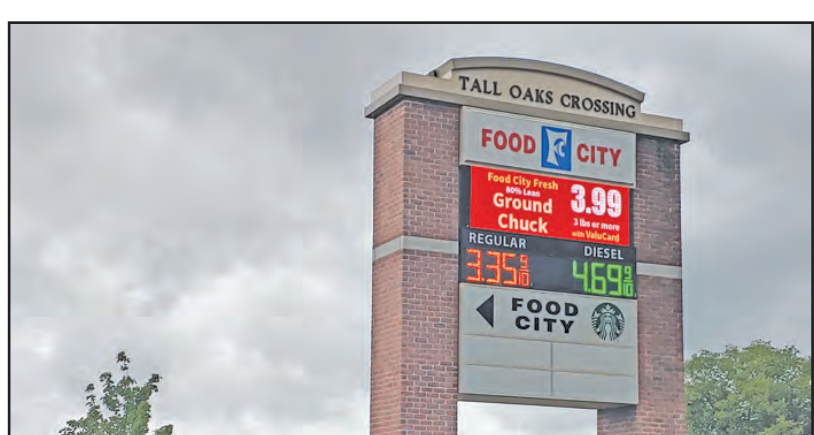


PHOTO BY HEATHER BELL

Gas prices have lowered since their peak earlier this summer, including Food City on Tyler Avenue in Radford. The lower prices at the pump have helped improve consumer sentiment in Virginia for the third quarter, according to a report from The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College.

**Aila Boyd**  
 aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Consumer sentiment in Virginia is up for the third quarter, according to an Aug. 23 report from The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College.

The rebound comes after heavy losses over the first half of 2022.

"Consumer sentiment turned a corner in the third quarter of 2022, moving up more than in the last four years," Alice Louise Kassens, a senior analyst at the college, said in the report.

Inflation, the report noted,

had been the primary drag on sentiment. When gas prices started to fall in July, the relief translated to increased optimism.

The price of a gallon of regular gas at the Food City gas station on Tyler Avenue in Radford was \$3.35 on Monday.

Analysis provided in the report indicated that supply chain issues are sorting themselves out. If the issues continue to be resolved, prices should continue to decline. In addition to simply alleviating the pain at the pump, the report said lower gas prices should translate to lower food prices

because of decreased shipping costs.

"Hopefully, this will continue, and we will trend upwards," Kassens said. "Strong consumer confidence highlights how consumers feel about the economy and can also impact the future. If people are worried about the economy's future, it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and we can push ourselves into a recession."

She also noted that the labor market remains strong, which has been aided by the pullback in quarantine recommendations for school-age children. Parents have had more freedom to pursue job openings.

# State Superintendent encourages Virginia families to submit applications for free meals

RICHMOND — Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow is encouraging Virginia families to submit free meal applications to local schools.

Virginia is expanding eligibility for free meals during the 2022-2023 school year through funding provided by the General Assembly in the state budget. Students with

families at or below 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Previously, students from families with an income at or below 130% of the poverty level were eligible for free meals.

Emergency federal flexibility that allowed free meals for all students during the pandemic expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Moving forward, many Virginia schools will now require applications and use family income to determine eligibility for free, reduced-price or paid meals.

"School meals are important sources of nutrition for students and help reduce food insecurity in the commonwealth," Balow said. "I urge all families to apply to determine

if they qualify. Filling out an application is simple and takes less than 15 minutes."

Students are automatically eligible for free meals if anyone in their household receives benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Medicaid.

Schools will notify families if a child is automatically eligible.

More than 525,000 students qualified for free meals in Virginia when data were last collected in 2019. The new eligibility means approximately 64,500 more kids can access free meals.

Many Virginia schools and

See Free Meals, page 3

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Thursday, Sept. 8:

### Stress-free art

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. This is a low-key art session where participants can color, paint, or doodle their stress away. All supplies will be provided. Suggested for participants in the ninth grade or above. Registration is recommended by calling the library at 540-552-8246 or stopping by the circulation desk.

## Friday, Sept. 9:

### American Red Cross blood drive

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. Call 1-800-RED Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MFRL to schedule an appointment.

### Children's yoga at the library

At the Radford Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m. Join Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You" and Alex Bowman from "Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic" for a children's yoga class. Children will relax and learn mindfulness techniques. If possible, they should bring their yoga mats. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the library at 540-731-2621 or email Morgan at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov to register.

## Saturday, Sept. 10:

### Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club fish fry

The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its last fish fry of 2022 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The club will serve up fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12, and free for children under 3. The club will be frying the fish rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. Find it on Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

### Bingo!

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1:30 p.m. Come out for an afternoon of fun Bingo. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

### Suicide Prevention Day: Lock & talk Virginia

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. as the library recognizes World Suicide Prevention Day. Partners from New River Valley Community Services will offer a one-hour training in the suicide prevention class QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer). After the training, time will be allotted for questions and conversations surrounding mental health and suicide prevention. Materials from Lock & Talk Virginia will be available. For more information, visit www.lockandtalk.org.

## Sunday, Sept. 11:

### Blacksburg Baptist Church 170th anniversary

Blacksburg Baptist Church is celebrating its 170th anniversary with a homecoming celebration, a day of worship, food, fun, and music. The church will recognize the faith and investments of those gone before who made the dream of the church possible. The church will also recognize the sacrifices of those who have served the church and

those who sacrificed in response to the attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001. The day will include worship at 11:15 a.m. followed by a catered lunch on the front lawn to include games for children and a photo booth for families. The lunch will be followed by a concert, also on the church's front lawn. For more information, call 540.552.3869.

### Meet Ninth Congressional District candidate Taysha DeVaughan

The Pulaski Democrat Committee will hold a Meet the Candidate picnic at 4:30 p.m. at Randolph Park. Hot dogs and fixings will be served at 5 p.m., followed by comments from Taysha DeVaughan, Democrat candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the Ninth District. From Wise County, DeVaughan works with the Appalachian Community Fund, is the president of Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, is active in Lonesome Pine Mutual Aid, and is gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice. The picnic will be at the Dublin High School shelter. Donations for the expense of the food are optional but are appreciated. For more information, contact Suzanne Bowen at bowensuzanne@yahoo.com or 540-320-4658, or Rebecca Scheckler at 3050hawks@gmail.com or 540-557-7810.

### Knit and chat

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants can bring their newest work in progress to knit, crochet, spin, or weave.

### Chess club

At the Blacksburg Library at 3:30 p.m. Come learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Ages 8 and up. All skill levels are welcome. Supplies will be provided.

### 9/11 Patriot Day memorial at the Snowville Christian Church

Pastor Jerry King, members, families, and friends of the Snowville Christian Church invite everyone to a special celebration at 11 a.m. Music will be shared by members of the Pulaski County High School Advanced Concert Choir, and a special 9/11 Patriot Day Memorial tribute will be shared and observed during the worship service. The church is located at 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee. Directions to the church and information are also available on the church website (snowvillechristianchurch.com) and Facebook page.

## Monday, Sept. 12:

### Radford City Council meeting

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

### Kids bracelet decorating art class

At the Radford Public Library from 5 to 6 p.m. Join the library staff for a bracelet decorating art class. Supplies are limited.

### Healthy eating and cooking for your family using an instant pot

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come learn how to make affordable, healthy snacks and meals using an instant pot for the family. Participants will receive a free cooking utensil at each class and have their names entered for an instant pot and cookbook upon completion of the 4-week series. Activities will be provided for

children 3 and older. Registration is required as space is limited. This program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

## Tuesday, Sept. 13:

### Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford.

### 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, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

### Radford Woman's Club meet and greet

The Woman's Club of Radford will host a meet and greet at 10:30 a.m. at the Radford Public Library. Participants can learn about the work of the Woman's Club in promoting children's literacy through Reading is Fundamental programs at Riverlawn, Snowville, and McHarg elementary schools and the Babies into Books program at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

### Homeschool drop-in

At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Homeschooling families can drop in anytime this evening. Older kids can try and work through a library-related scavenger hunt for a prize, and younger kids can play with bubbles.

### Talking about Books: "Chasing the Squirrel"

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Chasing the Squirrel" by Ron Peterson. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

### Homeschool creative writing club

At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Teens and Tweens are invited to the library's Homeschool Creative Writing club for a chance to practice their writing and share it with others. The program will feature fun and creative prompts and learning about constructive criticism by working with peers, and talking about stories. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

### Kids take over the kitchen

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Come learn how to make some yummy food. Supplies will be provided. Registration is required. Ages 9 and up.

## Wednesday, Sept. 14:

### Hahn Horticulture Garden education session

At the Hahn Horticulture Garden on the campus of Virginia Tech at noon. Artist David Ferrell will talk about his photography and his paintings.

### Family READS volunteer orientation

At the Blacksburg Library at 5:30 p.m. This is an English learning program for families with low English skills. Parents will learn and practice English and read with their children. Children ages three through eight will do fun educational activities. Siblings are welcome and homework help will be available. Pre-registration is required. For more information call (540) 382-7262 or email Anne Abbott at aabbott@lvnr.org.

### Brown Bag book club

Participants may bring a lunch to this casual discussion or they may enjoy Aaron's latest culinary concoction. Discussed this month is "The Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis. The club will then meet on Oct. 12 to discuss Stephen King's "The Shining."

## Thursday, Sept. 15:

### Va. Tech Women's Club reception at The Grove

The Virginia Tech Women's Club will host a welcome reception at The Grove at VT from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The reception is free and is open to the public. Dr. Laura Sands, the club's honorary president, and Club President Sue Bentley will host the reception. Refreshments will be provided. All women are invited to come learn about the mission of VTWC to provide scholarships to VT women, enjoy luncheons and programs, join a variety of interest groups, attend Friday Forums on differing topics, and provide service to the community. Parking space is provided in the Litton-Reaves Extension Lot and shuttle service will be available. Contact VTWC65@gmail.com with any questions.

### Radford Reads with Lesley Wheeler

At the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Author and poet Lesley Wheeler is the author of the novel "Unbecoming." Her poetry and essays appear in American Poetry Review, Massachusetts Review and elsewhere. Wheeler teaches courses in nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century poetry in English as well as creative writing in speculative fiction. This event is free, is open to the public, and is sponsored by RPL's Lamplighters.

## Friday, Sept. 16:

### Kickoff on College Avenue

The Blacksburg Partnership and Virginia Tech's New Student and Family Programs, in collaboration with the Town of Blacksburg and Downtown Blacksburg, Inc., are presenting "Kick-Off on College Ave." This community-focused and child-friendly event will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. on College Avenue and Draper Road. The event will be featured on the VT Fall Family Weekend 2022 schedule to highlight downtown to Virginia Tech students and their families, while also serving as a gathering place for football fans and local residents to "kick off" the game weekend.

## Wednesday, Sept. 21:

### Hahn Horticulture Garden Education Session

At the Hahn Horticulture Garden on the campus of Virginia Tech at noon. After spending the month of June in France and England, Robert McDuffie will share his thoughts and images of some of the wonderful private gardens that he saw. The climate in Normandy is very similar to that of England and so is the love of plants and gardens.

## 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 on Friday, Sept. 23, and attendance at the football game. A social is planned for Saturday, Sept. 24, at Preston's at the River Course. The committee is looking for "Lost" classmates. Class member who haven't received the information about the reunion can contact reunion committee members Jenny Doud and Marti Hale at jennydoud@gmail.com and Martihale@yahoo.com.

### Radford High School Class of 1976 Reunion

Radford High School's 1976 Bicentennial Class and largest class ever will hold its 45th (+1) Year Reunion. Activities include attending the Friday, Sept. 23, football game together, an author luncheon with Ron Peterson, Jr., at the Radford Rec Center on Saturday Sept. 24, and a Saturday evening event at the River Company. Classmates who have not received an invitation should contact reunion co-chairs: Susan Rockwell, susanrockwell1@gmail.com, and Rick Weyer, rmw4@yahoo.com.

## Saturday, Sept. 24:

### Friends of Claytor Lake Poker Run

This fundraiser for Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon and leave out for the five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked, and a map will be provided. Participants will then gather back at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food and music. Email info@focl.org or text 540-395-3625 to register. Participants should send their contact information and their boat registration number to get \$5 off or register the day of the poker run for \$30/boat (two people) Any extra hands in a boat that want to participate will be \$10 each.

## Ongoing:

### Coat Drive in memory of Cindy Collins

Underway at the Meadowbrook Public Library in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3. Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL may be dropped off at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

### Blacksburg PD community survey

The Blacksburg Police Department is asking the community to complete a short (approximately 3-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously, and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the BPD continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg Community. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8.

### Applications underway for NRV Master Gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is now accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, caregiving, or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery (and towns within) are encouraged to apply. In the past, grants have been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, other educational groups, as well as community gardens and nursing homes. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit a project application, contact Carol Trutt at 540-239-9591 or caroltrutt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but snail mail may be used to Carol at 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Callie is a happy and gentle girl. She knows how to sit and shake, and she is ready to learn more commands. She will even curl her tail when she's enjoying a good scratch. Callie could be a pawsome addition to your family. Meet Callie at the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center.**



**Baby Lion is definitely a lion ... a small lion ... a soft, friendly, purring, sweet lion. Baby Lion loves a good rub and purrs up a storm. Playful and affectionate, Baby Lion is a sponsored adoption. Visit the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet Baby Lion.**

## Fiddle sensation Eileen Ivers brings traditional Irish music to life

A whirling, upbeat evening celebrating the influences of Celtic tradition ushers in the Moss Arts Center's 2022-23 season. Nine-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion Eileen Ivers and her band, Universal Roots, bring traditional Irish music to life on the Moss stage on Friday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

In the hands of Ivers, the violin pushes fiddling tradition boundaries from a folk music staple to an intensely driving world stage experience. Her Moss performance will feature traditional pieces dating back hundreds of years alongside her own original pieces written in the same style. Ivers celebrates the journey of the immigrant and showcases how Irish music, together with other roots music, became a fundamental building block of Americana music.

One of the most awarded All-Ireland Fiddle and Banjo champions ever, Ivers has been called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the future of Celtic fiddle" by the Washington Post. A celebrated guest

soloist with over 50 symphony orchestras, she has a celebrated career as a performer, composer, producer, songwriter, band leader, educator, and multi-instrumentalist, connecting American, Irish traditional, jazz, blues, and world roots.

Grammy-awarded and Emmy-nominated, Ivers has performed with Sting, Fiddlers 3 with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Regina Carter, Patti Smith, Al Di Meola, and The Chieftains. She was the groundbreaking musical star in the "Riverdance" theatrical shows, a founding member of Cherish the Ladies, a former member of the Hall and Oates band, and was a featured instrumentalist on many soundtracks, including "Gangs of New York" and "Back to Titanic."

Ivers's band, Universal Roots, features Matt Mancuso (lead vocals, guitar, trumpet, and fiddle); Buddy Connolly (button accordion, whistles, piano, and vocals); Lindsey Horner (upright and electric bass, baritone sax, and vocals); and Dave Barckow (lead vocals, percussion, and guitar). Ivers completes the ensemble on fiddle, mandolin, banjo, bodhran, and live looping.



**Eileen Ivers and her band, Universal Roots. Photo courtesy of Joseph Killeen.**

## Free Meals from page 1

divisions use a program called the Community Eligibility Provision to serve free meals to all students, in which case free meal applications are not collected. Families can contact their local school divisions to see if they are a part of the program.

"It's more important than ever for families to apply for free school meals. If no application is on file, students will need to pay for meals on the first day of school and may start to accrue meal debt, said VDOE School Nutrition Director Sandy Curwood. "And

the good news is, if you qualify, free meals are seamless. Students will access their meals in the cafeteria with a pin number or a lunch card, with no overt identification. Please apply now," Curwood said.

Filling out a free form may help families qualify for addi-

tional benefits to include discounted exam fees and college applications, extracurricular and scholarship opportunities.

"School meals are critical to supporting academic success and well-being," said Director of No Kid Hungry Virginia Sarah Steely. "We are grate-

ful to all school nutrition staff who work hard to fuel our students' minds and bodies," Steely said.

Families can reach out to their local school nutrition department with questions related to the free meal application form.

## New River Valley girls can join Girl Scouts for free this fall

**Thanks to a generous gift, all girls who join Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline by September 30, 2022, will receive a free membership for the upcoming membership year (October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023). Co-leaders can join for free with a new troop of eight or more girls.**

## LARGE ESTATE SALE



**The Estate of Fleetwood and Vera Agee will be liquidated on Thurs, Fri, and Sat, September 8th, 9th, and 10th, from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, at 607 Eighth St. in Radford, VA.** There are several couches, chairs, bedroom suits, desks, tables, lamps, pictures, a huge variety of clothing, shoes, glassware, linens, jewelry, and tools, as well as, holiday items, washer/dryer, freezer, other appliances, many electronics, and a 1995 Toyota Camry LE with only 42,695 original miles. Also, antiques and collectibles, plus many RETRO and VINTAGE items to include a Hermes portable typewriter, Lane cedar chest, Miyata bicycle, Pleasure Chest Buddy cooler, Singer sewing machine, records, CD's, tapes, and much more! Reductions on Friday and Saturday. **CASH ONLY!** Come and check out these awesome deals!!!

Submit news and photos  
to [editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)

# OPINION

## Slim Randles: Home Country Calling the bull elk

It's the music of the Western mountains, and this is the only time we get to hear it. It has a hollow sound, as though a flute were a foot thick and 12-feet long, and it is the lonely call of the bull elk.

It starts in early September and by October becomes more of a war chant. When winter shuts down the breeding season, the bulls go quiet once

again and pal up with other bulls to face winter together.

But now, the call is there. Veteran elk hunters call it "the locate call." It isn't meant to be intimidating to other elk either. The spirit ghost of the mountains dictates the bull sends this high, hollow note out to the world.

If I may be permitted to translate, the locate call is just

a reminder, not a threat.

"Anybody oooooo-ut there?" That was Pete, sitting on top of a ridge near the Continental Divide. From the bottom of the canyon to the west, maybe four miles away, we hear an answer.

"This is She-r-r-r-r-rm. Remember me from last winter? Goin' girlin'-n-n-n soon, Pete?"

"Thought I mi-i-i-ight, Sherm. Luck to you."

"And you-u-u-u-u too-o-o-o!"

In a month, they'll be gathering cows and Pete will threaten to dismember ol' Sherm with a single antler, but that's during the rut, and that has more grunting sounds in it.

If you should go out there and try to call one in close

enough for a picture or at least a conversation, they would like me to remind you they are both 12 feet tall, weigh more than a ton each, and could whip a freight train. And they're good-looking guys, too. Pass the word.

*Brought to you by A Cowboy's Guide to Hunting Elk by Slim Randles. Now on Amazon.com.*

## Correction

In the edition of the News Messenger of Wednesday, Sept. 3, the headline of an article on Page 1 mistakenly said LewisGale Medical had

performed a transplant. What was performed, however, was an implant, not a transplant. The Messenger regrets the error.

## Financial Focus: Are you properly insured?

You probably won't see it on your calendar, but September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. And it is indeed important to be aware of the importance of life insurance. Are you adequately insured?

Many people aren't. About 40% of Americans face some type of life insurance gap, either because they're uninsured or underinsured, according to a 2021 survey by the research and advocacy groups LIMRA and Life Happens.

The need for life insurance is pretty straightforward: If something were to happen to you, would your family be able to continue their same lifestyle? Would the mortgage still be paid?

Would your children still be able to further their education?

So, if you decide that you should acquire or strengthen your life insurance, how much do you need? Your employer may provide you with some insurance as an employee benefit, but it may not be sufficient. You might have heard that you should have coverage worth seven or eight times your annual salary. But this estimate is just that — an estimate. Everyone's situation is different, and there's really no one formula that can tell you how much insur-

ance you require.

To determine the coverage you need, you'll want to consider several factors, including your age, number of dependents, your income and that of your spouse, and the size of your mortgage.

Knowing how much coverage you need is obviously important, but you'll also want to consider what type of life insurance is right for you. You have two basic choices: term or permanent insurance.

As the name suggests, term insurance provides coverage for a specified amount of time, such as 10, 20 or 25 years. Term insurance only offers a death benefit — there's no buildup of cash value in your policy. Generally speaking, term insurance is considered to be quite affordable, especially when you're young.

Permanent insurance, on the other hand, offers a death benefit and the opportunity to build cash value. Because of this, premiums for permanent insurance — which includes "whole life" or "universal life" — are considerably higher than those for term life.

Which type of insurance should you choose? Again, it all depends on your situation and your preferences. Some financial experts advise people to "buy term and invest the difference" — that is,

use the money saved on the lower term insurance premiums to invest in stocks and mutual funds. Others, however, disagree, and point to the benefits of permanent insurance, such as the ability to borrow against the cash value of a policy to pay for unexpected expenses.

Ultimately, in making the choice between term and permanent insurance, you'll need to look at your entire financial picture to determine which option is best for you.

In fact, life insurance should be a key component of your overall financial strategy, along with your investment mix and the long-term goals you've set. Insurance can even play a role in your estate planning, as you determine the best way to distribute assets to your family members and any charitable organizations you support.

Life Insurance Awareness Month lasts 30 days — but your need for life insurance can endure for decades. Make sure you're doing everything you can to protect your loved ones.

*This article was submitted by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczumski, (540) 552-1241.*

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Radford News Journal is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Radford. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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## Lester

from page 1

tors since 2017.

"We are fortunate to have another dedicated alumnus on the Board of Visitors who can share his knowledge and experience in ways that will further the success of our students," said RU President Bret Danilowicz. "Tyler is passionate about his alma mater, and we look forward to his service in this new leadership role."

Lester also graduated from Southwest Virginia Community College where he was president of the Student Government Association for two years and was a founding chair of the College Republicans.

"I am incredibly humbled to have this opportunity to serve on behalf of Governor Youngkin and Virginians at an institution that I love and believe in," said Lester

upon learning of his appointment. "As a Highlander, I am personally invested in Radford's mission and am committed to working together to fulfill that mission in the region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and beyond."

Lester was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Charlene Curtis '76, who passed away on Aug. 18, 2022.

## Local students enter James Madison University Class of 2026

James Madison University welcomed the class of 2026 to campus this month. The incoming freshman class represents students who hail from 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 17 countries around the world.

Students from Radford are Ethan Channel, whose major is music, and Tali Vidal, whose major is dietetics.

Students from Blacksburg are Gabriela Arms, whose selected major is biology; Noah Canter, whose selected major is engineering; Nathan Lewis, whose selected major is kinesiology; James Miller, whose selected major is kinesiology; Emily Phillips, whose selected major is elementary education; and Nikolas

Rensberger, whose selected major is art history.

Students from Christiansburg are Elyza Coggins, whose selected major is communication sciences and disorders; Natalie Jones, whose selected major is general psychology; Megan Newcomb, whose selected major is nursing; Kaylie Richmond, whose selected major is media arts and design; Joci Shelton, whose selected major is theater; Katherine Widner, whose selected major is nursing; and Haleigh Williams whose selected major is general psychology.

From Shawsville, a student is Mackenzie Kidwell, whose selected major is biology.

## Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg presents gift cards to three schools

As a continuation of the Clothe a Child Program and the School Supplies Program, Oliver Lewis, MCPS Administrator of Family Engagement and a Kiwanis member, and Kiwanian Ernie Wade presented \$550 Walmart gift cards to three Montgomery County Schools.

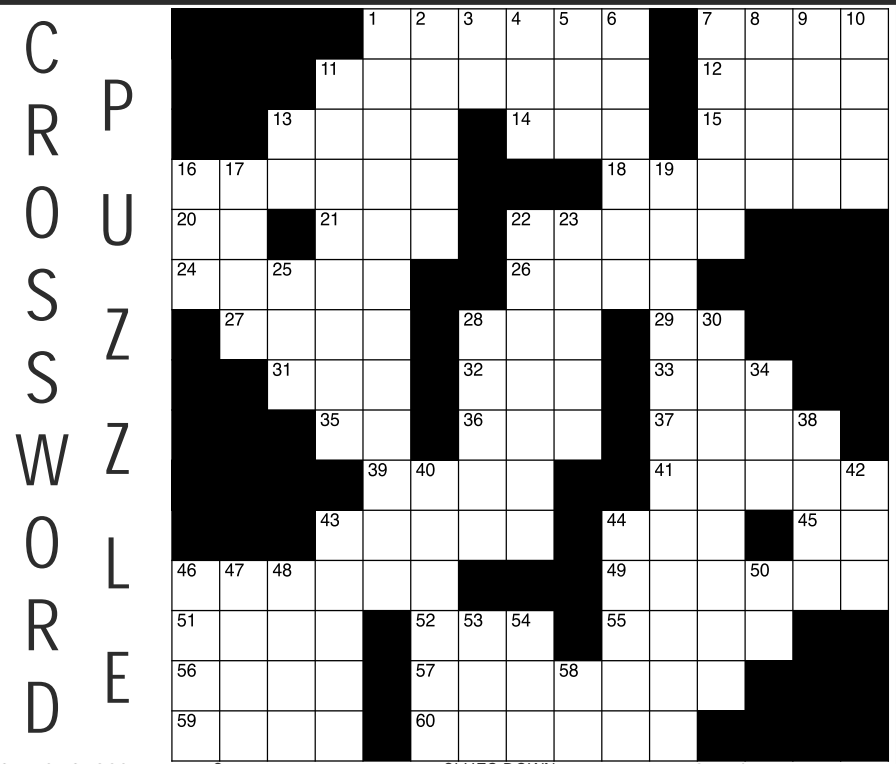
Receiving the cards were CHS Principal Gene Jones; Montgomery Central School Counselor Ann Lawson, and Belview Elementary School Principal Chris Hewitt.

These two programs were started several years ago at all the Christiansburg schools to serve those in need and are ongoing programs. Once the schools use up the

funds on the cards, they let the Kiwanis Club know, and the cards are replaced. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg funds the card for \$500 and Walmart adds \$50.

Funding for service projects such as these are raised by events such as the Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival, which is held the third Saturday of September each year.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided service to the local community since its charter was granted in 1949.



- |                                |                                 |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>            | Corp.                           | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                      | 25. One who overacts                     |
| 1. Our 10 numerals             | 33. Talk noisily                | 1. Word shortening                     | 28. Facial gesture                       |
| 7. Horseshoe cleat             | 35. New Testament               | 2. Tore down (var. sp.)                | 30. Absence of aggression                |
| 11. Ear shell                  | 36. Tax collector               | 3. 22nd state (abbr.)                  | 34. China                                |
| 12. Soprano solo               | 37. Mediation council           | 4. Tropical constrictor                | 38. Older Bridges brother                |
| 13. Vestments                  | 39. Not in use                  | 5. Hostelry                            | 40. Plays                                |
| 14. Heart's singer Wilson      | 41. Act as master of ceremonies | 6. Examine and expurgate               | 42. Term denoting psychic abilities      |
| 15. Set of type in one style   | 43. Skin lesions                | 7. Small restaurants                   | 43. Oral polio vaccine developer         |
| 16. Withdraw from work         | 44. Stiff bristle               | 8. E. Asian anis liquor                | 44. Any habitation at a high altitude    |
| 18. Ancient Hebrew coin        | 45. Equally                     | 9. Infestation of head louse           | 46. Hyperbolic cosecant                  |
| 20. Megacycle                  | 46. Pool dressing room          | 10. New Yorker film critic Pauline     | 47. Russian mountain range               |
| 21. 26th British letter        | 49. Eyebath                     | 11. An orange-red crystalline dye      | 48. An aromatic salve                    |
| 22. Colonnaded Greek walks     | 51. Thick piece of something    | 13. Indicates position                 | 50. Venezuelan fashion designer initials |
| 24. Russian sourgrass soups    | 52. Angry                       | 16. Root mean square (abbr.)           | 53. Highest card                         |
| 26. OK Corral's Wyatt          | 55. 20th Hebrew letter          | 17. Electronic counter-countermeasures | 54. 5th son of Jacob                     |
| 27. Cheremiss                  | 56. 3rd largest Colombian city  | 19. 12-31 greeting                     | 58. Music storage device                 |
| 28. Schenectady County Airport | 57. Gum arabics                 | 22. Fastens                            |  |
| 29. Laptop                     | 59. A song of praise to God     | 23. Himalayan wild goats               |  |
| 31. Actress Farrow             | 60. Dispatcher                  |  |  |
| 32. NYSE for Murphy Oil        |                                 |  |  |

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

# Study: Virginians have best levels of lung health in America

A five-year study by whitehotpr.com that ranked locations in the United States based on smoking rates and pollution levels ranked Virginia as the state with the best lung health in America.

The Lung Institute, a source for pulmonary information for better lung health, including disease prevention and manage-

ment, commissioned the national study to establish a ranking of lung health across America. The data analysis factored the change in smoking rate in each state across the last five years and the change in pollution level across the last five years measured in PM2.5, which is the average daily density of fine particulate

matter in micrograms per cubic meter.

According to the study, Virginians experienced a 5% decrease in smoking rates over 5 years and a decline in PM2.5 (-5), placing smokers in the commonwealth in the number-one position overall across the 50 states.

On the other hand, at the opposite end of the rankings, Texas emerged in last place (#50) with the least healthy lung health trend over five years. The Lone Star State had a 1% decrease in smoking rates, and a 2.3 decrease in air pollution.

The five states with the healthiest lung health in the nation

based on data over the last 5 years were 1. Virginia 2. Colorado 3. Tennessee 4. Delaware and 5. Washington.

The five states with the unhealthiest lung health in the nation based on data over the last five years were 46. Missouri 47. Maine 48. Oregon 49. Oklahoma 50. Texas.

# It's a sweep: Virginia Tech clinches top three places at NASA Aeronautics University Design Challenge

For wilderness areas and communities battling devastating wildfires, first responders need to move swiftly and have the most efficient tools at their disposal.

Aviation plays a critical role in wildfire suppression and containment, and through the work of scientists, engineers, test pilots, and programmers, aircraft are becoming safer and more efficient, sustainable, and accessible than ever before. But is it possible for engineers to also channel these innovations to better serve the needs of the general public?

After a yearlong effort to explore the use of urban air mobility and regional air mobility vehicles within a firefighting scenario, three Virginia Tech capstone design teams swept the top three spots at this year's NASA Aeronautics University Design Challenge.

Virginia Tech has a long history of successes in undergraduate design team

competitions. At this particular NASA design challenge, Virginia Tech teams have brought home top honors 11 times over the past decade. Clinching the top three spots in one year is unprecedented.

The annual design competition, sponsored by NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, gives student teams the opportunity to solve some of the biggest technical challenges facing the aviation community today. Multidisciplinary teams put their skills to work by designing and building solutions to real-world problems.

Professor Pradeep Raj said he incorporates the NASA Aeronautics University Design Challenge into the classroom, in part, because the missions and technical challenges are often system-centric as opposed to focusing on a single vehicle.

"I've found that this approach tends to expand the scope and broadens

the design space for the students," said Raj. "Designing an operational fleet really opens up the possibilities for different types of vehicles, varying sizes, propulsion systems, and it challenges the students to investigate the overall operational aspects more closely for the fleet to successfully complete their mission."

The undergraduate curriculum within Virginia Tech's Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering leads up to a yearlong capstone design experience in the senior year. Aerospace engineering design courses use the group design process to both better simulate the way design is done in the real world and promote the benefits of collaborative learning.

Raj and Professor of Practice Wm. Michael Butler jointly served as the faculty instructors and advisors for the air vehicle design track within the capstone design course for

the 2021-22 academic year. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in aerodynamics, vehicle design, and technology systems integration to the classroom.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech in 2012, Raj served three decades at Lockheed Martin with

the last 12 years in the Advanced Development Programs division known as Skunk Works. Butler, a three-time Hokie, spent more than two decades in industry in advanced development programs. He worked as an air vehicle configurator at General Dynamics, which later

merged under the Lockheed Martin corporation. Butler joined the Department of Engineering Education at his alma mater in 2013 and joined the aerospace and ocean engineering department in 2021.

By Jama Green



Virginia Tech's Water Acquisition And Targeted Release Regional Air Mobility design project brought home first-place honors in the NASA Aeronautics University Design Challenge. Illustration courtesy of Colin Fischer.

## VDOT ROADWATCH

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.

### 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. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Flagger operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 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 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. 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. 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:

• 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 later in the month of September. Supply chain issues have delayed manufacture and delivery of metal bases for the new lighting poles that must be installed before the

facility can be reopened. The Virginia Department of Transportation's contractor Branch Civil Inc. will need additional time to install the lighting so reopening the facility needs to be postponed.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are 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 of 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.

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

• Montgomery County: Lane closures in place for paving of I-81 northbound between mile marker 116 to 114.

• Roanoke County: Alternating lane closures on I-81 northbound for milling and paving from mile marker 134.5 to 132.4, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**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.

See VDOT, page 6

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday September 15th @ 4 PM

Land for Sale in Riner VA

TBD Pugh Rd NW., Riner, VA 24149

Bid Now at [VaAuctionPro.com](https://www.VaAuctionPro.com)



You have the opportunity to purchase land for sale in Riner VA at Online Auction. There are 2 offerings being sold simultaneously. Both lots are located on Pugh Rd and are a mixture of wooded and open land. They would be great for building your dream home! Bidders desiring both lots will need to be high bidder on both lots. Each offering will stay open until all bidding is complete and all offerings will close simultaneously.

**Offering # 1** - This offering consists of 7.02 acres of undeveloped land. It is primarily open with a small portion of wooded acreage. This would be an excellent homesite with gorgeous country views. You could also start a nice mini farm.

**Offering # 2** - This offering consists of 25.7 acres of undeveloped land. It is primarily wooded with some cleared spots. This offering also features Laurel Branch running through a portion of it. This is a great tract for building a home or for recreational use!

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 per tract required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase both tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Download Bidder Information Pack at [VAAuctionPro.com](https://www.VAAuctionPro.com)

Contact Broker/Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)

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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

# OBITUARIES

## Amodeo, Joshua David

Joshua David Amodeo, beloved only son of April Lynette Easter Amodeo and Philip James Amodeo, was born Aug. 25, 1993 in Salem. Joshua passed away on Aug. 26, 2022 at the age of 29.



He is survived by his parents: April and Philip Amodeo; his seven sisters: Cassandra Lynette Gross, Caroline Alyse Amodeo, Danielle Ruth Amodeo, Marissa Rebecca Amodeo, Josalyn Elizabeth Amodeo, Emma Rose Amodeo, and Liliana Isabel Amodeo; his grandparents: Leonard and Carole Easter, of Ararat, Va. and Philip and Dorothy Amodeo, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; a brother-in-law, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends.

Joshua was most recently employed as a manager at Cook Out in Blacksburg where he greeted everyone with a smile. He previously worked as a security guard for the Radford Arsenal and drove buses for the Blacksburg Transit. Joshua pursued excellence in every position he took on and quickly made friends with his colleagues wherever he went.

Joshua was a graduate of Radford University where he excelled as a major in criminal justice as a proud Highlander. He relentlessly pursued his higher education while facing (and overcoming) numerous challenges that few were aware of because it was his nature to be private.

Prior to attending Radford University, he was a midshipman for three years at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., a dream he had held dear to his heart from his teenage years. Joshua loved the structure of a military life and long desired to serve in the United States Navy, just as his great-grandfather had served in WWII.

He chose to attend Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Va., entering as a tenth grader where he was a rising star and leader of Band Company. After his high school graduation, he attended the Kiski School in Saltsburg, Penn., for one year as a Naval Academy Prep school student. At Kiski, he met several of his lifelong friends who all went on to become

midshipmen together at the Naval Academy.

Joshua was an avid gamer and had his own you-tube channel. He received the prestigious Eagle Scout award in early August of 2011. He was an active member of Scout Troop 706 in St Mary's Catholic Church while being dual-enrolled in the scout troop for Hargrave Military Academy. He was also a member of the Order of the Arrow and spent many summers on Claytor Lake at Camp Powhatan, Camp Ottari, and in the rustic Mountain Man camp.

One of his lifelong dreams was to be a published author. He had most recently finished a novel, along with countless short stories and poems. Joshua spent a lifetime writing about his observations as well as diving deeply into his imagination to bring out truly unique storylines.

He was a deeply spiritual young man and pursued understanding Scripture, as well as religious history. While he disliked the traditional Bible Studies that were a required part of his Hargrave academic studies, he was consistently awarded the Bible Award, year after year. During his early teen years, he served his church faithfully as an altar server at St. Mary's Catholic Church and he was confirmed in the Catholic faith in 2010.

His parents and sisters received family and friends at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg on Tuesday Sept. 6. His funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blacksburg today, Sept. 7, 2022 beginning at 2:30 p.m. followed by a processional to Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg where he will be laid to rest. His parents are hosting a Celebration of Life at his lifelong family home immediately afterwards.

Anyone desiring to do so may honor Joshua with any of the following while bringing joy to his loved ones: Plant a tree in his memory or support one of his favorite charities: local Scout Troops; American Red Cross; Wounded Warriors; the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, and any organization that protects cats or other animals.

## Helbert, Susan Summer

Susan Summer Helbert, 67, of Radford, passed away on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.



She was preceded in death by her parents, William Berryman Helbert, Jr., and Eloise Bird Helbert. She is survived by her sisters, Ramona Helbert Byrne (Mark) of Genoa, Nev., and Claudia Jan Helbert of San Leandro, Calif.; her aunt and uncle, Margaret and Jack Bird of Houston, Texas; and a number of cousins and friends. She is also survived by her beloved cats, Gino, Mike, Mango, and Pyewackett.

Susan graduated from Radford High School and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She worked for the federal government for 32 years, and she retired as an Associate special agent in charge of policy at the EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

Throughout her career, she was widely recognized for the excellence of her investigative and policy work by numerous federal agencies including the EPA, DOJ Environmental Crimes Division, US Attorneys' Offices, and NCIS.

She participated in the EPA CID investigation of the anthrax mailings in 2001 and was one of the EPA CID special agents involved with the collection of evidence and body collection at the Pentagon in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

After her retirement, she moved back to Radford to care for her mother, Eloise, and continued living in the family home after her mother's death. In retirement, Susan was active in both community and church work and was a lover of people and cats, a lover of food both gourmet

and junk, an avid sailor, a consummate storyteller, and a defender against injustice.

The family wishes to extend their appreciation to the staff of Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center in Pulaski where Susan was cared for after she suffered massive strokes in November 2021. The family also extends a very special thanks to Bruce Wood, a hospice case manager with Carilion Hospice of New River Valley. The family wishes to also thank a friend of the family, Andrea Lewis, for her special care of Susan at the end of her life. Finally, a grateful thanks goes to Nancy Crawford Landes, who, with the help of Pound Pals of Radford re-homed Susan's fur babies.

Instead of flowers, donations to the following would be appreciated: First, the American Stroke Association, either at National Center, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75231 or online at stroke.org; second, 350.org at PO Box 843004, Boston, MA, 02284 or online at 350.org; and locally, Pound Pals of Radford, at PO Box 2851, Radford, Virginia 24143.

A memorial service will be held at St. Jude Catholic Church, 1740 Tyler Rd, Christiansburg, on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022, at noon. Another celebration of Susan's life will be held in Annapolis, Md. on Sept. 18, 2022, aboard the Woodwind. For specific information about this second memorial, please leave inquiries for Susan's sister, Ramona, online in the condolences section at the Mullins Funeral Home website.

The Helbert family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Rowe, Jr., Joseph M.

Joseph M. Rowe, Jr., unexpectedly passed away on Aug. 27, 2022, at his home in Christiansburg. He had just celebrated his 70th birthday on Aug. 17, 2022.



He was born in Washington, D.C. and was adopted by his parents, Joseph M. Rowe, Sr., and Mildred R. Deans. Joe, as everyone knew him, was preceded in death by them both.

His parents also adopted his two siblings, Robert (Bobby) Rowe and Therese Stafford. Joe was blessed with a third sibling, Jon Winslow, later in his young adult life. Joe had two children, Michelle D. Rowe and Peter James (PJ) Rowe with Pamela Orange Rowe. Pammy preceded him in death also.

Joe's children were the love and lights of his life. They grew up poor, but always said they wouldn't change a second of

their lives with their father. His passing was unexpected, but truthfully that was the way he would have wanted it.

He wasn't a great athlete, a war hero, a movie star, or a world leader, yet he showed his children how to live life simply, honestly, and humbly. He shared even when he barely had anything to share. He was kind hearted and

generous to his own detriment at times. He shared his knowledge of life and life's experiences. As his children, we learned how to do many tasks, and he showed us the importance of attention to detail.

We are telling the world about you, daddy, not to embarrass you, but to share your life and exploits. Know that we are proud of you and the life you lived.

Tell John Wayne and Audie Murphy howdy for us all. Until we meet again.

## Moye, Jerry

Jerry Moye, 75, of Blacksburg, passed away Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, at his home.



He was born in Oak Hill, W.Va., on Feb. 19, 1947, to the late Charles Buford and Elizabeth Kitts Moye.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Saville Moye; sons Charles David Moye and his wife, Katie, and

Jerred Moye and his wife, Tayler; grandchildren Sydney, Anna, and Sophie; two brothers, a sister, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was conducted Monday, Sept. 5, 2022, at Jerry and Lisa's home. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Long, Sharon Ann Darnell

Sharon Ann Darnell Long, 65, of Radford, passed away on Aug. 31, 2022, at Commonwealth Senior Living.



Sharon was born on June 20, 1957, to parents Hugh Darnell and Anna Darnell, who have preceded her in death.

She was a 1975 graduate of Ashe County High School and a 1979 graduate of Wake Forest University with a B.A. in English. She worked as a librarian, a teacher, and a designer in public relations. She had a love for learning, especially literature, an appreciation for art, and a deep love for her family.

She is survived by her husband of

43 years, Dr. Gary Long of Radford; her children, Jessica Long of Radford, and Nathan Long (Jill) of Browns Summit, N.C.; her grandchildren, Riley and Colbie Long of Browns Summit, N.C.; her brother, Phil Darnell (Bennett), her sister, Teresa Rose (John), and nieces and nephews.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions to Micah's Backpack (St. Michael's Lutheran Church, ☒ Micah's Backpack, 2308 Merrimac Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060).

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

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

## VDOT

from page 5

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

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

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 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.

### 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

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Week 3 preview: Radford, Christiansburg still unbeaten; Blacksburg gives up 70, East Mont falls to 0-2

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

High school football is heating up for Radford and Christiansburg, which are both still unbeaten while Blacksburg and Eastern Montgomery are still looking for their first win of the season. The Auburn squad is wondering if it will fall victim to the numbers game.

Auburn scratched last season because of depth. This past week, their opponent had to bow out because of the same issue.

Craig County canceled its Friday game Friday against the

Eagles, and the game will not be rescheduled. Whether the game will be recognized as a win for Auburn remains to be determined.

Games this week:  
Christiansburg at William Byrd

Christiansburg is coming off a big win over regional-rival Abingdon. While three different players scored, the Blue Demons showed little or no passing game. They also netted more than 90 yards in penalties, something they will have to clean up against a better Byrd on their home field.

This past week, Byrd fell 39-

36 to Hidden Valley, giving up 233 yards through the air. Quarterback Israel Hairston completed eight of 14 passes for 205 yards with an interception. Deshannon Reed rushed for 101 yards in the loss.

Ft. Chiswell at Radford  
Radford had a dominating 62-12 win over Gate City as quarterback Landon Clark was responsible for eight scores. He completed 10 of 12 passes for 278 yards with six touchdowns. He also rushed for 83 yards and two touchdowns. Marcel Baylor caught four of those passes for more than 100 yards with two TD's.

The Fort fell 36-7 to George Wythe, which Radford beat in its opener. Mikey Melton ran for 57 yards and a touchdown in the GW loss.

Blacksburg at Amherst  
Blacksburg has a lot of questions after a 70-0 loss to Lord Botetourt. Amherst is a perennial playoff team and should provide similar problems for new Blacksburg coach Zach Leonard.

Amherst is 1-0 after beating G.W. Danville 40-25.

Auburn at Floyd  
Floyd beat Patrick County 32-12 as Ryan Swortzel completed 10 of 18 passes for 148 yards and three touchdowns.

Eastern Montgomery at North Cross

Eastern Montgomery's schedule isn't any easier as they play a private school primed to win another state title. North Cross is 1-1 after falling 23-13 this past week to St. Christopher's.

Area Top 5: 1) Christiansburg, 2) Narrows, 3) Salem, 4) Radford, 5) Galax.

Predictions for this week:  
Christiansburg 33, William Byrd 21

Amherst 43, Blacksburg 0  
Radford 34, Ft. Chiswell 20  
North Cross 40, Eastern Montgomery 10  
Floyd 32, Auburn 7

## Radford blasts Gate City 62-12



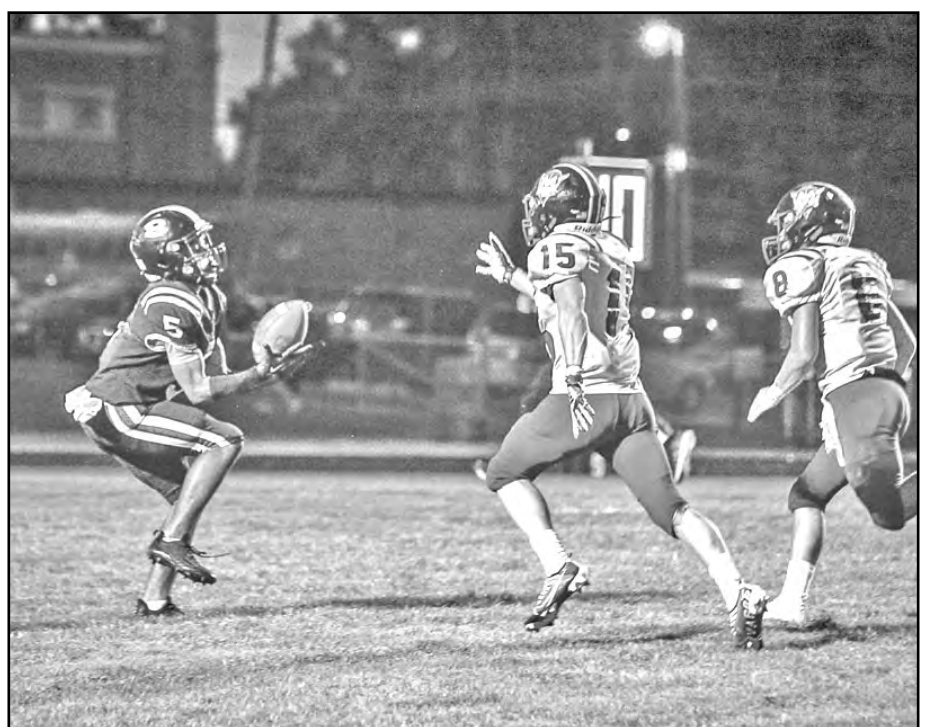
Marcel Baylor catches a touchdown pass to get the Bobcats on the scoreboard in the team's 62-12 win. Baylor finished with four receptions for 109 yards.



Max Kanipe gets behind the Gate City defense and hauls in a pass to score a long touchdown.



Quarterback Landon Clark scores on a long touchdown run and finished with 79 yards rushing on 10 attempts. Clark was also 11-13 for 284 yards. For his play, he is this week's News Journal player of the week.



Parker Pringleau beats two defenders and catches a touchdown pass. Radford is now 2-0 on the season.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

## Unanswered questions after Hokies' loss to ODU

The Hokie faithful might have more questions than answers after Saturday's loss to Old Dominion. Everyone needs to remember that this is a new coaching staff with little experience with their fellow coaches and players. The offense is learning how to work with a new quarterback under center, the receiving corps has a lot to learn, the running game was really non-existent at crucial times, and the defense must take the next step to be competitive this season.

Fans had to be convinced there was a full moon in the Tidewater sky, and everything seemed to be going the wrong way.

ODU was picked to finish at the bottom of the Sun Belt

Conference and had brought in a new offensive coordinator in the past month. Things seemed to be in favor of the Blacksburg visitors.

Tech was favored by five points at kickoff.

The game had all the weird twists and turns during and after ranging from the Hokie coaching staff being trapped in an elevator at the end of halftime to a confrontation between a player striking an ODU fan.

Receiver Connor Blumrick has issued an apology after hitting a fan who rushed the field after the game.

Blumrick was leaving the field with the rest of the team when a fan flowed into his path and the redshirt senior



### From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

launched his arm in the fan's direction.

Blumrick issued the following apology via Twitter on Saturday:

"I would like to sincerely apologize to ODU and Hokie Nation for my actions after last night's game. Following an emotional loss, in trying to get to the locker room safely, there was an incident including contact between myself and a fan that I regret. This is not an accurate reflection of my char-

acter, and I am truly sorry to those I have let down, including my coaches, teammates, and fans."

Now, back to what first-year coach Brent Pry and his new staff might have learned. It will be tough for them this week.

It's not to say they can't find fixes, but it will take a lot to renovate the used car Justin Fuente left sitting in the Lane Stadium parking lot. First, Pry had to find the keys, which were not left in an obvious location. Secondly, he had to fix the starter and install a new battery.

But the car just wouldn't start without cleaning out the fuel line and adding fresh gas.

Typically, a tune-up takes a little time to make a difference.

The same is true with this football team. Not much was left in the tanks, and Pry must start from scratch.

This also means a new coach's first year is something that could be a shot in the dark. When Frank Beamer took over in Blacksburg, he had a few lean years. Now the faithful must be willing to wait for Pry to find the right combination.

The foundation has holes in it, and it could take years to fill. Pry has taken early steps to begin that work, and now isn't the time to stand on the top of the mountain and yell at him or the team.

The next game is just another day in the lab for the coach and his new staff. It will take time.

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

# Virginia Tech déjà vu against ODU

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Grant Wells threw four interceptions in his first start for Virginia Tech as Old Dominion rudely welcomed the Hokies to the 757- area code Friday night with a stunning 20-17 win, Old Dominion's second straight win against the Hokies in Norfolk.

First-year Hokie head coach Brent Pry called the Hokies' play sloppy.

"I felt like they pressed and attention to detail which showed up in the last scrimmage a little bit ... just more penalties than we've been having," Pry said. "You don't have five turnovers, 15 penalties. We want to make people earn it. Not to take anything away

from Old Dominion. They've got a nice looking football team and a nice environment here. (We) kind of went into a hornets' nest."

Pry would not put all the blame on his new QB on the interceptions.

"Some of them were, some weren't (on him)," he said. "Grant threw some nice balls. Obviously, ball security has got to be. He's an accurate passer. He's got to get those (interceptions) cleaned up. You've got to be smart with the football."

Running back Keshawn King and linebacker Dax Hollifield did put together impressive showings.

King had a breakout performance, finishing with 111 rushing yards on 19 carries to go

along with a 6-yard touchdown reception. The game marked his second career 100-yard outing on the ground and the most rushing yards by a Tech player in a season opener since Trey Edmunds notched 132 rushing yards against Alabama back on Aug. 31, 2013.

On the other side of the ball, Hollifield did a little bit of everything as one of the leaders of Tech's defense. He finished with 11 tackles, including 1.5 tackles for loss, to go along with two forced fumbles, two pass breakups, and one fumble recovery, showcasing his versatility as one of the best linebackers in the ACC.

Hollifield's 10 tackles were the most by a Hokie in a season opener since Rayshard Ashby's

13 tackles against Boston College on Aug. 31, 2019. Hollifield also became just the second player since 2007 to record two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery in the same game.

Receiver Kaleb Smith showed some brief moments of greatness until he was injured early in the first quarter. Pry said that was a big blow as he is the team's best wide receiver.

"He's been our most consistent player," Pry said. "He got hurt on the kickoff. He got a minor injury that kept him out of the game. He tried to go and couldn't work through it. I thought we were still able to move the ball against their defense. We've just got to be able to protect the football and

we've got to make plays."

Now the Hokies will have to regroup as Boston College comes to town on Saturday. Pry tried to stay upbeat, telling his team they did so many good things despite the loss.

"I said I've been around good football teams, a bunch," the head Hokie said. "There's so many things we did that represent a good football team, but then there's these things we did where you can't win. You can't win when you do these things. I think the positive things they're correctable. We can fix those things as coaches and players. We're able to run the ball, able to do things. We've got a solid football team. We've just got to keep investing and clean up our mistakes."

## Virginia Tech players' lockers robbed during loss to Old Dominion

by Joseph Staszewski  
New York Post

Virginia Tech didn't leave Old Dominion with a win and it appears it left without some of the team's belongings as well.

The Virginia Tech athletic department issued a statement Sunday con-

firmed "there were items missing" from the football team's locker room following the Hokies' stunning 20-17 loss to Old Dominion in Norfolk, Va., on Friday.

"The university is working with law enforcement and Old Dominion Uni-

versity on the matter, and will have no further comment," Virginia Tech said in a statement, per ESPN.

ODU police chief Garrett Shelton told Zach Staton of WKTR in Virginia that his department was made aware 15 minutes after the game ended

that items were taken and less than \$8,000 worth of property was stolen.

ODU said in a separate statement it was aware of the "theft of personal property of a few Virginia Tech student-athletes" on Friday.

"ODU athletics sin-

cerely apologizes to Virginia Tech, the Virginia Tech athletic administration and the young men who had items stolen," the school said. "The ODU Police Department is working diligently to resolve this incident."

The loss itself was one

of the most embarrassing in school history, new head coach Brent Perry's debut. Adding further insult to injury, the contest was delayed at halftime after members of the Virginia Tech coaching staff got stuck in an elevator at the stadium.

## Tri-Wizard Tri Miler Race results, September 3, 2022: (Top 50)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Raheem Williams (16:55.71); 2) Tyler Milletti; 3) Louis Semtner; 4) Kevin McGuire; 5) Katie Wardinski; 6) Nick Gazzillo; 7) Salomon Saavedra; 8) Drew Ehresman; 9) Patrick Feucht; 10) Jaime Bunker; 11) Randy Burrier; 12) Rob Semtner; 13) Billy Turner; 14) Keely Semtner; 15) Alex Rottkamp; 16) Isaac Neild; 17) Ezra Nield; 18) James Sloan; 19) Tombo Jones; 20) Jason Simmons; 21) Jeff Meadows; 22) Rob Colley; 23) Reese Bunker; 24) Carries Braun; 25) Kyle Nield; 26) Chris Roberts; 27) Gentian Bridgeman; 28) Qyle English; 29) Robin Jones; 30) Dominique Benjamin; 31) Addi Quesenberry; 32) Chris Quesenberry; 33) Joey Simmons; | 34) Jeremy Wiginton; 35) Elyzabeth Fortis; 36) Lisa Abbott; 37) Jay Abbott; 38) James Fesmirekeith; 39) Emily Closee; 40) Heather Keith; 41) Julie Flanagan; 42) Hollace Oakes; 43) Rachel Roberts; 44) Oliva Close; 45) Jan Downs; 46) Aiden Altizer; 47) George Morgan; 48) Kim Feucht; 49) Tammy Knick; 50) Carey Caldwell. |
|--|--|



Submitted photo. Last week's race in Radford's Bisset Park took on a Harry Potter theme. The event raised money for NRV literacy.

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VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

## RU's Shaquan Jules is set to play basketball for the US-Virgin Islands national team

Radford University senior Shaquan Jules is set to begin play at the 2022 FIBA Americup for the U.S. Virgin Islands National Team this week.

FIBA is the International Basketball Federation, which governs basketball worldwide. The acronym is derived from the French for Fédération Internationale de Basketball.

Jules will help the

team navigate a challenging slate of games to be played in Brazil, including opponents such as Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

Coming into the tournament at number 57 in the FIBA World Rankings, the U.S. Virgin Islands' roster also features Trivante Bloodman (Mississippi State), Jahsean Corbett (Chicago State), Amir Nesbitt (Hampton)

and Earl Baker (Slippery Rock).

Jules got his first taste of game action with the national team back in June for a series of friendlies. At the collegiate level, he averaged 5.8 points and 4.6 rebounds per game while shooting 61.9% from the field across 29 appearances last season. He also represented the Highlanders on the Big South Conference All-Academic Team.

Friday, 9/9  
VIP Night - 4pm-7pm

Saturday & Sunday, 9/10-9/11  
Opening Weekend - 10am-5pm  
Botetourt K9 Demo - 1:30pm  
Saturday - Live music  
Sunday - Child musicians & Dancers

Monday, 9/12  
Open to the public - 5pm-7:30pm  
Sunset Yoga - 6:30pm  
Petal & Pail Bouquet Bar - 5-7:30pm

Tuesday, 9/13  
Preschool Field Trips - 10am-2pm  
Sunset Dinner - 5:30pm  
CLOSED to the public

Wednesday, 9/14  
Senior Citizen Day - 10am-2pm  
Open to the public - 5pm-7:30pm  
Petal & Pail Bouquet Bar - 5-7:30pm

Thursday, 9/15  
Special Needs Day - 10am-2pm  
Open to the public - 5pm-7:30pm  
Goat Yoga - 6:00pm

Friday, 9/16  
Sunset Dinner - 5:30pm  
CLOSED to the public

Saturday & Sunday, 9/17-9/18  
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