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# News Journal

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## New River Community Action Council Board of Directors elects officers

The Board of Directors of the New River Community Action, Inc. elected officers at its annual board meeting.

Elected were Tonia Winn, board chairperson; John McEnhill, vice-chairperson; and Lee Simpkins, Secretary/Treasurer. As officers for the board, they also serve on the Board's executive committee.

Board chairperson Tonia Winn is the Montgomery County government representative to the board appointed by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. She has served on the NRCA Board of Directors since May 2017. She has worked in the human services field for 28 years and is currently the Director of Human Services for Montgomery County.

Board vice-chairperson John McEnhill is the Floyd County representative to the Board appointed by the Floyd County Board of Supervisors. McEnhill has served on the NRCA Board of Directors since June 2002 and had been chair of the board since 2012. He currently serves as board chair for the Floyd County Department of Social Services and volunteers many hours each month for several NRCA board committees and special projects.

Board secretary/treasurer Robert "Lee" Simpkins is Radford City's ex-officio representative. Simpkins has served on the NRCA Board since August 2015. As secretary/treasurer, he also serves as the chair of the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The New River Community Action Board of Directors is pictured above. Back row, left to right: Lee Simpkins (board secretary/treasurer), Michael Grigsby, Sarah Greene, Melissa Dodson, John McEnhill (board vice-chairperson), Tonia Winn (board chairperson); seated, left to right: Aline Brinckman, Dr. Boyoung Park, Kelly Patton, and The Rev. Gina Rhea.

See **Action Council**, page 4

## Radford Public Library to host Radford Reads with Lesley Wheeler

RADFORD - The Radford Public Library's latest installment of its literary program Radford Reads will give attendees the chance to meet author and poet Lesley Wheeler.

The event is set for Thursday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Wheeler is the author of the novel "Unbecoming," the recently released "Poetry's Possible Worlds," and many other works. Her poetry and essays appear in American Poetry Review, Massachusetts Review and elsewhere. She is the poetry editor of "Shenandoah" and the Henry S. Fox Professor of English at W&L University, and she teaches courses in nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century poetry in English, as well as creative writing in speculative fiction.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Poet Lesley Wheeler will host Radford Reads at the RPL on Sept. 15.

This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the library's Lamplighters.

## Children's musical coming to Radford University

By Sean Kotz  
Radford University

RADFORD - Things will get a little fishy on stage at Radford University this fall.

Auditions have concluded and the cast is set for Radford University's annual performance aimed at young audiences. This year's offering is The Rainbow Fish Musical. The play is a cautionary tale about vanity and self-importance inspired by the popular children's book, The Rainbow Fish, by Swiss writer and illustrator Marcus Pfister.

The play is part of a long-standing series of autumn productions that often provide many local children with their first experience with a live production. Ticket holders should expect a lively romp of a production with singing, dancing, humor, and lots of colorful costumes.

Associate Professor and stage veteran Robyn Berg, will direct and choreograph the show. Dylan Jones plays the title role and is accompanied by Sarah Lindsay Merriman as Little



Dylan Jones captured the lead as Rainbow Fish for the children's musical coming to Radford University.

Fish and Sydney Pepper as Octopus. Three other actors will play dual roles.

See **Musical**, page 4

## Photo of Irish mountains wins landscape photo contest

Linda Waggaman of Radford won the Radford Photo Club's August theme challenge, landscape photography, with her photo of Irish mountains in the fog.

Robert Daniels, of Snowville, won the open theme category with a dramatic photo of grass.

The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. The September meeting will be a potluck picnic at Bisset Park in Radford on Sept. 15. The photo challenge is trees or a tree. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public.

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



PHOTO BY LINDA WAGGAMAN

This photo of Irish mountains in the fog was the August theme challenge winner for the Radford Photo Club. The theme was landscape photography.



RADFORD UNIVERSITY PHOTOS

Sydney Pepper (right) will play Octopus and Zoe Keith will take a dual role as Sardine and Clownfish. Sarah Lindsay Merriman (center) will be Little Fish for the children's play, "The Rainbow Fish Musical," on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. on the stage of Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall on Radford University's main campus.

## Food City and Budweiser present Folds of Honor

On Friday, Aug. 26, representatives from Food City and Eagle Distributing presented a check totaling \$8,000 to Anheuser-Busch's Folds of Honor program, which honors the sacrifices of America's veterans by providing scholarships to the spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members.

Food City donated \$1.00 for every case of Budweiser 24-pack of 12 oz. cans purchased from Eagle Distributing during the promotion.

See **Food City**, page 4



PHOTO BY ROBERT DANIELS

The Radford Photo Club's win for the open category was this photo of seeding grass.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 3:

### Potter in the Park 5K to benefit adult literacy

The TriWizard TriMile Potter in the Park 5K fundraiser benefits adult literacy in Radford. Wizarding wear is optional. The course winds through the forbidden forest and wizarding world of Bisset Park. The day includes a costume contest, “house” prizes, age-group awards, magical creatures, butterbeer, and magic wands for all finishers. Racers who can't make it on Sept. 3 can register and participate as virtual racers by registering as an “invisibility cloak” virtual racer and walking or running three miles whenever it's convenient. Invisibility cloak racers will still receive their official Potter in the Park T-shirts. For more information and to register go to [www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark](http://www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark), send an “owl” to [info@lvnrv.org](mailto:info@lvnrv.org), or call 540-382-7262. The race is hosted by Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley with all proceeds going to support adult literacy programs in the community.

## Monday, Sept. 5:

### City of Radford closed for Labor Day

City of Radford offices will be closed on Monday for Labor Day. Solid waste collection for Monday will be picked up on Tuesday instead. The drop center will also be closed on Monday. The Radford Public Library will be closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Sept. 3, 4, and 5 in observance of Labor Day.

### Town of Blacksburg Labor Day closings

The following schedules will be in place for the Labor Day holiday for Blacksburg: All town administrative offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Community Center and Aquatic Center will be closed. Trash in the Southeast quadrant will be picked up on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Blacksburg Transit will be operating on the intermediate service schedule. Blacksburg Transit offices will be closed for Labor Day.

### Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library branches closed

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be closed for Labor Day.

## Tuesday, Sept. 6:

### Brick Blast

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Participants can put their engineering skills to the test by coming to the library and building.

## 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. This event is suggested for participants in the ninth grade and above. Registration is recommended by calling the library at 540-552-8246 or stopping by the library's 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](http://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. Kelly McCoy of “The Whole You” and Alex Bowman from “Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic” will present a children's yoga class at which children may relax and learn mindfulness techniques. If possible, children should bring their own yoga mats. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the library at 540-731-2621 or email [morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov](mailto:morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov) to register.

## Saturday, Sept. 10:

### Mt. Tabor Ruritan 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 fish; fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12; free for children under 3. The club will be frying fish rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. Find it on Facebook at [MtTaborRuritan](https://www.facebook.com/MtTaborRuritan).

### Bingo!

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

### Suicide Prevention Day: Lock and Talk

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

## Sunday, Sept. 11:

### Blacksburg Baptist Church 170th anniversary

Blacksburg Baptist Church will celebrate its 170th anniversary with homecoming, 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 in Blacksburg and of 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 presents 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 to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 9th 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 a 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](mailto:bowensuzanne@yahoo.com) or 540-320-4658, or Rebecca Scheckler at [3050hawks@gmail.com](mailto: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, and/or weave.

### Chess club

At the Blacksburg Library at 3:30 p.m. Learn chess with US Federation member Rishi. Recommended for ages 8 and up but all skill levels are welcome. Supplies will be provided.

## 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. Bracelet supplies will be provided for a bracelet decorating art class.

## 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, 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, 30 West Main St., Radford. 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.

## Thursday, Sept. 15:

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

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

## 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 members who haven't received information about the reunion can contact Reunion Committee Members Jenny Doud at [jennydoud@gmail.com](mailto:jennydoud@gmail.com) and Marti Hale at [marthale@yahoo.com](mailto:marthale@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 at [susanmrockwell1@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrockwell1@gmail.com), and Rick Weyer at [rmw4@yahoo.com](mailto:rmw4@yahoo.com).

## Saturday, Sept. 24:

### Friends of Claytor Lake Poker Run

This Poker Run fundraiser to benefit Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon and will leave out for five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked, and a map will be provided. Participants will then regroup at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food, and music. Email [focl.org](mailto:focl.org) or text 540-395-3625 to register and include contact information and a boat registration number to get \$5 off or register the day of the event for \$30 per boat (two people). Any extra hands who want to participate in the boats will be \$10/each.

## Ongoing:

### Coat Drive in Memory of Cindy Collins

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

### Blacksburg Police Department 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 department continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>.

radfordnewsjournal.com

# NRCC welcomes new faculty members



Chris Bower is an NRCC mathematics instructor.



Dustin Carter is an NRCC assistant professor of electrical engineering.



Josh Graham is an NRCC associate professor of welding.



Kasey Cantrell-McCowan teaches math at NRCC.



Heather Umberger is an NRCC assistant nursing professor.

## NRCC welcomes RU President Danilowicz to its Dublin campus



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Monday, Aug. 29, New River Community College welcomed new Radford University President Bret Danilowicz to its Dublin campus for a visit. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Mark Rowh, NRCC Vice President of Workforce Development; Dr. Marten L. denBoer, RU Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Angela Joyner, RU Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education; Dr. Pat Huber, NRCC President; Dr. Bret Danilowicz, RU President; and Dr. Peter Anderson, NRCC Vice President of Instruction and Student Services.

## Study: Virginia is #1 state in country for playing video games at work

A survey of 2,000 gamers by northstarinbound.net found that Virginians are among the most obsessed players in the country when it comes to video games.

Among the findings: Virginia is the third-most gaming-obsessed state in the country with an average of 15 hours per week spent gaming. The commonwealth ranks no. 2 when it comes to where gamers play on their computers daily

(37%) and no. 5 where gamers play on their phones daily (53%). According to the survey, 59% of Virginia's gamers play during work hours, making it the #1 state where gamers play during work hours.

The survey found that Virginia's gamers play an average of six hours weekly on their consoles, five hours weekly on their phones, and five hours weekly on their computers.

## YMCA at Virginia Tech Welcoming Week Sept. 9-18, 2022

The YMCA at Virginia Tech, a member of Welcoming America network, will host Welcoming Week for the second year.

Welcoming Week is an annual celebration to showcase the movement of communities striving to be more welcoming places for all, including immigrants. This year's theme, "Where We Belong," aims to bring neighbors of all backgrounds together to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places.

Organized by a Y volunteer team of community leaders, the event is hosted in partnership with the Town of Blacksburg and the Blacksburg Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. Numerous local businesses and organizations are also participating in the event including Blacksburg Books, Art Factory, Wonder Studio, The Chinese School, Dream Dance Studio, Halwa Bakery, and Blacksburg No 1 among others.

The YMCA invites all businesses and organizations in the New River Valley to endorse the Community Welcoming Statement in a show of community-wide effort to welcome all.

Welcoming Week 2022 includes the following activities: 1. Community Picnic, Sunday, Sept. 11, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Park in Blacksburg. Fun activities and games for all include a community soccer game.

2. Multilingual Storytime, Thursday, September 15, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg-Montgomery-Floyd Regional

Library. Bring the children to enjoy an hour of storytelling in different languages.

3. Community Poem - Community Poetry Project hosted by Blacksburg Books to create a poem from collective submissions of community reflections on 'welcoming' and 'belonging' for all.

4. Youth Art Exhibition and Competition - Thursday, Sept. 15 until the end of October at the Blacksburg Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. All Montgomery County school-age children are invited to participate to express 'welcoming' and 'belonging' through art. Winners of the competition will be announced during the Welcoming Festival on Sept. 18.

5. YMCA at Virginia Tech Welcome Tour - Saturday, Sept. 17, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Y center in Blacksburg. A special welcome tour will introduce newcomers to all the YMCA community programs. In addition, visitors will be able to see the New Virginians traveling exhibit at the Y-Center in observance of Citizenship Day. The exhibit explores the historical and continuous journey towards the ideals of America. The New Virginians project is a collaboration between the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities with support from 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution, which names New Virginians a Legacy Project.

6. Welcoming Festival - Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, 1 to 4pm at Market Square Park in downtown Blacksburg. A cultural celebration and welcome featuring entertainment, food, vendors, and family fun.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN TOLAN FOR THE PALEOBIOLOGY & GEOBIOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP AT VIRGINIA TECH  
Christopher Griffin in 2017, excavating part of the *Mbiresaurus raathi* skeleton, wrapped in a plaster field jacket.

## Virginia Tech and Zimbabwean paleontology teams lead discovery and naming of Africa's oldest known dinosaur

An international team of paleontologists led by Virginia Tech has discovered and named a new, early dinosaur. The skeleton — incredibly, mostly intact — was first found by a graduate student in the Virginia Tech Department of Geosciences and other paleontologists over the course of two digs, in 2017 and 2019.

The findings of this new sauropodomorph — a long-necked dinosaur — newly named *Mbiresaurus raathi* were being published today in the journal *Nature*. The skeleton is, thus far, the oldest dinosaur skeleton ever found in Africa. The animal is estimated to have been 6 feet long with a long tail. It weighed anywhere from 20 to 65 pounds. The skeleton, missing only some of the hand and portions of the skull, was found in northern Zimbabwe.

"The discovery of *Mbiresaurus raathi* fills in a critical geographic gap in the fossil record of the oldest dinosaurs and shows the power of hypothesis-driven fieldwork for testing predictions about the ancient past," said Christopher Griffin, who graduated in 2020 with a Ph.D. in geosciences from the Virginia Tech

College of Science. Griffin added, "These are Africa's oldest-known definitive dinosaurs, roughly equivalent in age to the oldest dinosaurs found anywhere in the world. The oldest known dinosaurs — from roughly 230 million years ago, the Carnian Stage of the Late Triassic period — are extremely rare and have been recovered from only a few places worldwide, mainly northern Argentina, southern Brazil, and India."

Sterling Nesbitt, associate professor of

geosciences, also is an author on the study. "Early dinosaurs like *Mbiresaurus raathi* show that the early evolution of dinosaurs is still being written with each new find and the rise of dinosaurs was far more complicated than previously predicted," he said.

The international team at the heart of this discovery include paleontologists from the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, and Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

### 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!!!

# VDOT ROAD WATCH

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

**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY:** To make travel easier this coming Labor Day weekend, the Virginia Department

of Transportation (VDOT) will suspend many highway work zones and lift most lane closures on interstates and other major roads in Virginia until noon Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old

## INTERSTATE 81

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen**  
See VDOT, page 5

# RADFORD NEWS JOURNAL

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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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## Food City

from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Pictured right to left at the check presentation are Betsi James, Food City Special Events Manager; Eric Roberts, Anheuser-Busch; Arthur Todd, Eagle Distributing; Steven Jones, Food City District Manager; Brent Dalton, Eagle Distributing; Steve Merrell, Eagle Distributing; Scot Benson, Folds of Honor representative; Joe Greene, Food City District Manager; Ron Tacker, Food City Executive VP of Operations, Knoxville Division; Barry Brogan, Food City District Manager; Tony Higginbotham, Food City Store Manager; Donny Rector, Food City Senior Human Resources Specialist.**

## Musical

from page 1

Georgi Fenimore plays Starfish and Ms. Minnow, Zoe Keith plays Sardine and Clownfish, and the roles of Pufferfish and Hermit Crab will be performed by Olivia Nargi. Graduate student Kole Butler is the

musical director, and senior Drue Maggio is the assistant director. Senior Meagan Cox will serve as stage manager.

Performances will take place on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and again at 2 p.m. on Nov.

13 in Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall on Radford's main campus. General admission is \$8 and children get in for \$4. Radford University students can get in for free. Faculty and staff tickets are \$6.

## Action Council

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board's finance committee. Simpkins is the retired Radford City fire chief.

The 2022-23 Board of Directors also includes Sarah Greene from Floyd County; Kelly Patton, Melissa Dodson, and Corbin Vierling from Giles County;

Aline Brinckman from Montgomery County; Michael Grigsby, Linda Baylor, and The Rev. Gina Rhea from the City of Radford. Dr. Boyoung Park is an ex-officio member with expertise in early childhood education. Krystal Thompson is the board's chief executive officer.

**CROSSWORD**

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Sustained dull pain
  - 5. Hoover Dam Lake
  - 9. An earnest appeal
  - 10. Tree trunk used in sport
  - 11. Close by
  - 12. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
  - 13. Delaware
  - 14. Makes in salary
  - 16. Fringe-toed lizard
  - 17. Two-year-old sheep
  - 18. = to 198 liters in Egypt
  - 19. Barnum & Bailey
  - 21. Destruction
  - 25. Shock treatment
  - 26. A priest's linen vestment
  - 27. Consumed
  - 28. Etymology (abbr.)
  - 29. Doctors' group
  - 30. Tsetung or Zedong
  - 31. Subroutines
  - 35. Maintenance
  - 36. Sacred shrine in Mecca
  - 40. Mutual savings bank
  - 41. The cry made by sheep
  - 42. Fell back from flooding
  - 43. Farm state
  - 44. British Isle in the Irish Sea
  - 45. Georgian monetary unit
  - 46. Turkish rulers
  - 48. Utter sounds
  - 49. Mains
  - 50. Fashionable water
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Temporary cessation of breathing
  - 2. Not cloudy
  - 3. Listened
  - 4. Acquired by effort
  - 5. Chart of the Earth's surface
  - 6. Eastbound
  - 7. Yellow-fever mosquitos
  - 8. Small amount of residue
  - 10. With great caution, warily
  - 12. One who copies behavior
  - 15. One point E of due S
  - 16. Fiddler crabs
  - 17. A large cask
  - 20. Adult male swan
  - 22. Of the whale & dolphin
  - 23. Frozen water
  - 24. Metric ton
  - 27. Marine or parasitic protozoas
  - 28. Cologne
  - 29. Built by Noah
  - 30. Indicates physician
  - 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
  - 32. Environmental Protection Agency
  - 33. Supplement with difficulty
  - 34. Dark fur coat animals
  - 35. Utilization
  - 37. Unit = to 10 amperes
  - 38. Stalin's police chief
  - 39. Almost horizontal mine entrances
  - 40. Missing soldiers
  - 44. More (Spanish)
  - 47. Express surprise

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



# OBITUARIES

## Cox, Jonathan Howard



Jonathan Howard Cox, beloved son of Catherine Cox and Jim Cox, passed peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022, after a long battle with cancer.

A visitation time is pending, and funeral services will be private. The Cox family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

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

# VDOT

from page 4

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

- Nighttime lane closures may 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. has developed a plan to install temporary lighting. It will take additional time to install the temporary lighting, so reopening the facility will be postponed until later in September.

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 2022.

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://www.stphilipsblacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sunday's at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church**- located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit [www.sttfc.org](http://www.sttfc.org) for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church**, 555 West Rock Road, Radford, 639-3873. Rev. Corwin C. Casey, Pastor. Worship with us: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.; Praise and Worship: 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.org) 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, [www.trinitycburg.org](http://www.trinitycburg.org).

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**Childress Church of God**, 4187 Piney Woods Rd., C'Burg. 381-3693. Sun. School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. & Wed. 7 p.m.

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School - 10:00A.M. Morning Worship - 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804-921-0828

### CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

**Radford Church of God in Christ**, 206 Russell Ave., Radford. Supt. Ronald A. Watson, Sr.; Elder, 639- 5948. Sun. School 9 a.m.; Prayer 11:30 a.m.; Worship 6 p.m.

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: [www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto:office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com), Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and [www.graceradford.org](http://www.graceradford.org).

### LUTHERAN

**Christ Lutheran Church**, 201 Harvey St. Sunday worship with communion at 10am; fellowship & snacks at 11am. All are welcome. Upcoming events and fellowship opportunities (Senior Brunch, Faith & Film, Rough Draught, etc.) detailed in weekly email and on website: [clcradford.org](http://clcradford.org). 540-639-

# Radford

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### God Repays

Read Ezekiel 24:1 through 27:36

Why do people sometimes seem to get away with sinning? Does God look away when these evils come against His children?

"Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck" (Ezekiel 27:27).

When Israel turned away from the Lord, the people became prey for the enemies of God. The nations that attacked Israel assumed God would not judge their sin, but they were mistaken. God watched and recorded every evil deed. A day of accounting was decreed.

In time, Israel's enemies lost wealth, status, and strength. Some even disappeared from the world altogether.

When trials come, Christians should not presume that God is unconcerned with their struggles. He sometimes uses difficulties to discipline and train them for righteousness. As His people wait upon Him, their faith grows.

One day you will be lifted above your trials, and retribution will be given to those who would plunder you.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You even now.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 27:26-31

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)**

2671.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://www.oslc-cburg.org) and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg> to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, Fl. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email [hope@stmcl.us](mailto:hope@stmcl.us) or visit our Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Larry

Christopher (540) 552-7194. [l.christopher695@comcast.net](mailto:l.christopher695@comcast.net). Sunday school at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7p.m.

### PRESBYTERIAN

Join us at **The Presbyterian Church of Radford**, 201 4th Street, at the corner of 4th & Randolph, for Sunday worship at 10 am with our Interim Minister Rev. Steve Willis. Phone 639-2585. Watch the service live on Facebook: The Presbyterian Church of Radford. [www.pcradford.org](http://www.pcradford.org) We are called to share the love of Christ in this community and beyond.

### UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382- 0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00am. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com). **St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10am, Sunday School 9am. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc).

# HOME AND COUNTRY

By Slim Randles

## A dry bath in paradise and buzzards

The evening was one of those that come back to you time after time, year after long year. It comes back and whispers of how good life can be when you're well fed, enjoying life, and a good friend shares the front porch with you on a summer's evening.

It was that way with Doc and Steve the other night. Doc thought he might have to do a scientific paper on the soporific effects of ice tea, fried chicken, and corn on the cob. As long as it didn't take any effort.

So when this huge meal had been bull-snaked down, the two grinning friends came out to the porch to watch the sun go down behind the trees along Lewis Creek. The air had that orange and russet glow, and the breeze, that little one that caresses the neck, came slowly down from the hills and made their shirt collars wiggle ever so slightly.

It was like taking a dry bath in paradise.

Doc sidled up to one of the porch

posts and gently tested it to see if it could hold the extra weight he was carrying with that meal. It stood fine, so he leaned against it seriously and looked out on the evening's warmth.

Steve, who was enjoying having a fine meal that someone else cooked for a change, leaned against the post on the other side of the steps.

And then they just stood quietly, watching the day make beautiful skies as it ended.

The shadow on the ground foretold the presence of the circling bird. Doc and Steve paid no attention at first. Then a few minutes later, it was

joined by two more circling birds over Doc's house.

"Buzzards," Steve mumbled.

"Yep," said Doc.

They circled some more.

"I think one of us should move a little ..." said Doc.

"Move?"

"Well ... to let them know ... you know."

Steve sighed, then glanced over at Doc. "Flip you for it."

*Brought to you by Saddle Up: Cowboy Guide to Writing, by Slim Randles. Check it out at Rio Grande Books.com.*

## WalletHub: Virginia is 2022's sixth-hardest-working state in America

With Americans working an average of almost 1,800 hours per year and leaving an average of 4.6 days off unused last year, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2022's Hardest-Working States in America.

To determine where Americans work the hardest, WalletHub compared the 50 states across ten key metrics. The data set ranges from average workweek hours to share of workers with multiple jobs to annual volunteer hours per resident.

When the website completed its survey,

Virginia emerged in the rankings as the sixth-hardest-working state in the country. The rankings for Virginia among the states for some of the metrics WalletHub used to determine its rankings with the lower numbers the best are as follows:

How hard does Virginia work?

Average workweek hours: 14; average commute time: 8; employment rate: 15; share of workers with multiple jobs: 22; annual volunteer hours per resident: 9; average leisure time spent per day: 24.

WalletHub's completed survey listed the nation's ten hardest-working states in the following order: 1. North Dakota 2. Alaska 3. Nebraska 4. South Dakota 5. Texas 6. Virginia 7. Oklahoma 8. Kansas 9. New Hampshire 10. Wyoming.

At the opposite end of the rankings are the ten states WalletHub ranked as the states that are the least hardest working: 41. Oregon 42. Ohio 43. New Jersey 44. Massachusetts 45. Connecticut 46. West Virginia 47. Michigan 48. New York 49. Rhode Island 50. New Mexico.

## Elk viewing tours starting September 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF DWR

Join two knowledgeable guides on an evening bus tour of Virginia's elk country in scenic Buchanan County this fall. These public elk-viewing tours, offered by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in partnership with Breaks Interstate Park, will travel through private lands, with special permission from the landowners, to view elk habitats that are otherwise inaccessible to the public. Pre-registration is required.

### Dates and Times

Evening elk tours will be offered weekly starting September 8th and continuing into October.

September: 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. September tours begin at 6:00 pm EST.

October: 4th, 18th, and 25th. October tours begin at 5:00 pm EST.

### Location

Tours meet at Southern Gap Outdoor Adventures (1124 Chipping Sparrow Road, Grundy VA 24614).

### What to Expect

Tours will last 2-3 hours. We will have one or two designated stopping locations along the way where you can get out of the bus to see the elk. However, the tour and viewing of the elk will primarily take place from the bus. Tours will conclude

at Southern Gap Outdoor Adventures. Restrooms will be available at Southern Gap Outdoor Adventures and at one stop during the tour.

### How to Sign Up

Each tour will be limited to 25 guests who will be required to pre-register through the DWR website. Both registration and cancellation will be closed 24 hours prior to any tour date.

### Cost

These tours are free, so there is no cost to register. However, if you register and can no longer attend the tour, please cancel your reservation, so that your seat can be filled by someone else.

### What to Bring

The DWR suggest bringing a camera, binoculars, and water. Plan on wearing footwear appropriate for the outdoors and bring a raincoat and an extra layer. (There will be some opportunities to get out of the bus.)

### Policies

Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Pets are NOT allowed on the tour. Unless otherwise instructed, please remain within arm's reach of the bus.

### 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



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

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# RADFORD SPORTS

## Radford University releases 2022-23 men's basketball Big South schedule

The Radford University men's basketball program will take on all nine teams in the Big South Conference across an 18-game slate for the 2022-23 season, the league office announced Tuesday afternoon.

Conference play kicks off with a road contest at UNC Asheville on Thursday, Dec. 29, before the Highlanders play host to Presbyterian on Saturday, Dec. 31 (Party in the Dedmon Center on New Year's Eve) and USC Upstate on Wednesday, Jan. 4 for the first game of the 2023 year.

From there, Radford heads to Gardner-Webb (Saturday, Jan. 7) and Winthrop (Wednesday, Jan. 11), followed by another home game against Charleston Southern on Saturday, Jan. 14. The team closes out the month of January with a trip to Campbell on Wednesday, Jan. 18, a pair of home games against High Point (Saturday, Jan. 21) and reigning Big South champion Longwood (Wednesday, Jan. 25) and the start of a South Carolina swing at USC Upstate on Saturday, Jan. 28.

That road trip continues at Presbyterian on Wednesday,

**BIGSOUTH ROADMAP**

<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> Dec. 29 Feb. 15	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Dec. 31 Feb. 1	<b>USC UPSTATE</b> Jan. 4 Jan. 28
<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> Jan. 7 Feb. 8	<b>WINTHROP</b> Jan. 11 Feb. 4	<b>CHARLESTON SO.</b> Jan. 14 Feb. 11
<b>CAMPBELL</b> Jan. 18 Feb. 25	<b>HIGH POINT</b> Jan. 21 Feb. 22	<b>LONGWOOD</b> Jan. 25 Feb. 18

**HOME AWAY**

Radford Pulaski Roanoke Petersburg Hopewell

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Feb. 1 to begin the new month. February also features road games at Charleston Southern (Saturday, Feb. 11), Longwood (Saturday, Feb. 18) and High Point (Wednesday, Feb. 22).

More importantly, Radford welcomes Winthrop (Saturday, Feb. 4), Gardner-Webb (Wednesday, Feb. 8), UNC Asheville (Wednesday, Feb. 15) and Campbell (Saturday, Feb. 25) to Carilion Clinic

Court at the Dedmon Center.

The first round of the Big South Tournament is set for Wednesday, March 1, and the rest of the postseason tourney will take place between March 3-5.

All game times are still to be determined, so be sure to check back at RadfordAthletics.com for updates on schedule changes and game times.

## Big South announces 2022-23 RU women's basketball schedule

The Big South Conference announced the women's basketball schedule for the upcoming 2022-23 season Tuesday afternoon. In the release, the Highlanders learned the dates for this year's 18 total contests against all nine Big South opponents.

The slate includes nine games at the Carilion Clinic Court in the Dedmon Center with the Highlanders playing host to every member of the Big South throughout the season. The conference portion of the schedule kicks off on the home court on Dec. 29 against UNC Asheville, the second straight season Radford opens conference play against the Bulldogs.

With a quick turnaround, Radford will close out 2022 on Dec. 31 in Clinton, S.C., against Presbyterian for the team's first road conference game. After another road trip to USC Upstate (Jan. 4) to open up competition in 2023, the Highlanders return to the New River Valley to host Gardner Webb (Jan. 7) and Winthrop (Jan. 11).

Three of the next four contests will be on the road for Radford as the Highlanders will play at Charleston Southern (Jan. 14), High Point (Jan. 21), and Longwood (Jan. 25). In between that trio of road games, the RU faithful won't want to miss a huge match-up with Campbell (Jan. 18) in Dedmon. The Highlanders and

**BIGSOUTH ROADMAP**

<b>UNC ASHEVILLE</b> Dec. 29 Feb. 15	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Dec. 31 Feb. 1	<b>USC UPSTATE</b> Jan. 4 Jan. 28
<b>GARDNER-WEBB</b> Jan. 7 Feb. 8	<b>WINTHROP</b> Jan. 11 Feb. 4	<b>CHARLESTON SO.</b> Jan. 14 Feb. 11
<b>CAMPBELL</b> Jan. 18 Feb. 25	<b>HIGH POINT</b> Jan. 21 Feb. 22	<b>LONGWOOD</b> Jan. 25 Feb. 18

**HOME AWAY**

Radford Pulaski Roanoke Petersburg Hopewell

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

the Camels will meet in the Dedmon Center with fans in attendance for the first time since early 2020.

In the back stretch of conference play, five of the final nine games will be on Radford's home court. The women will play host to USC Upstate (Jan. 28), Presbyterian (Feb. 1), Charleston Southern (Feb. 11), Longwood (Feb. 18), and High Point (Feb. 22). Scattered among those games will be road visits to Winthrop (Feb. 4), Gardner-Webb (Feb. 8), UNC Asheville (Feb. 15), and the regular season finale at Campbell (Feb. 25).

The Big South Tournament returns to a central host site in 2023. The Bojangles Arena in Charlotte will host the conference tournament once again with action taking place between March 1 and March 5.

RU Head Coach Mike McGuire currently owns a 105-65 record against Big South foes with the 105 wins ranking as the second-most among active coaches and fifth-most against all-time Big South coaches. Overall, the Highlanders enter the 2022-23 season with a 344-206 (.625) Big South record, which is first in the all-time standings.

## Big South to host first freshman basketball academy

The Big South Conference Freshman Basketball Academy will host its first-ever Big South its freshmen basketball student-

athletes the weekend of Sept. 10-11 in Charlotte.

The goal of the event is to help acclimate the league's first-year college students to Division I basketball. It will feature guest speakers along with workshops on mental health, interactions with law enforcement, financial literacy, and media training.

More than 60 men and women basketball freshmen representing all 10 Big South member institutions will attend. The event is sponsored by Big South Corporate Partner First Citizens Bank and was the brainchild of Senior Associate Commissioner James Holland.

"Having the opportunity to coordinate and be a part of the first Big South Basketball Academy for our incoming freshmen is a

tremendous honor," said Holland. "The transition from high school to college can be very challenging both mentally and physically. Our goal as a conference office is to provide training and information that will help our young men and women get off to a great start at their respective college campuses. The Big South Conference is committed to preparing our student-athletes to be the best they can possibly be, both on and off the court."

Confirmed speakers include Big South Commissioner Kyle Kallander, NBA Vice President of Basketball Operations Garth Glissman, and representatives from First Citizens Bank and the North

See Big South, page 7

**game time AT THE SUPERBOWL**

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★ Youth Leagues now forming ★  
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							S	E	A	S

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# Auburn Hills tournament champs



**Eddie Woolwine won the regular division club championship this past week at Auburn Hills Golf Course.**



**Dennis Hunter won the senior division club championship this past week at Auburn Hills Golf Course.**

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## RU softball program names new assistant coach

The Radford University softball program has announced that Krystal Goodman has joined the team as an assistant coach for the 2022-23 season.

Goodman will bring to the New River Valley an impressive playing and coaching résumé. She was competing as a professional athlete in Italy and the Netherlands. While there, she performed in competitive A1 leagues with Club Forli and the Amsterdam Pirates.

She also helped instruct younger players on pitching fundamentals, observing cultural differences in pitching fundamentals along the way.

On the coaching side, Goodman most recently spent time at Southern Miss as a graduate assistant coach where she instructed and designed bullpens, called pitches in games, and created strength, preventative arm care and recovery plans for pitchers.

Goodman has also served as a fastpitch softball pitching

coach with the Overdrive Club Team in Biloxi, Miss.. Working with the team, she scheduled and instructed private lessons in group and individual settings, teaching eight to 18-year-old youth pitching mechanics, leadership skills and physical fitness.

The Long Beach, Miss. Native also spent four years as a collegiate athlete. Her career began at the JuCo level with Chipola College, where she totaled a 51-4 record over two years with

438 strikeouts over 363.1 innings. Her performance at Chipola helped guide the team to a runner-up finish at the NJCAA Championship in 2018.

From there, Goodman joined one of the best softball teams in the country in Alabama and was excellent in three seasons with the Crimson Tide. In 2019, Goodman made 25 appearance going 11-1 with a 1.63 ERA across 94.1 innings pitched. In the shortened 2020 season, she

made six appearances with wins over Liberty and Penn State. Goodman earned CoSIDA Academic All-District Honors and CoSIDA Second Team Academic All-American during the 2020 season.

During her final collegiate campaign in 2021, Goodman made 12 appearances including a win over 13th-ranked Louisiana and finishing a combined no-hitter against Alabama State in the NCAA Regionals.

## Big South from page 7

Carolina Highway Patrol. Additional sessions will focus on the Big South's \$2 million investment to support and enhance its basketball programs,

as well as opportunities to interact with other student-athletes from around the conference

on a non-competitive level while sharing similar experiences as first-year college students.

"The launch of the Big South Basketball Academy reflects the conference's highest priority: supporting our student-athletes," said Kallander. "It is our goal through this important initiative that participating student-athletes will get a head start in adjusting to college life, receive important skills training that will assist them in navigating the world of a Division I student-athlete, and inform them of the Big South's commitment to winning on the court, in the classroom, in the

community, and in life. We are also so grateful for First Citizen Bank's generous support of the Big South Basketball Academy."

"The demands of a college environment -- handling time management, workloads and finances for example -- can be particularly challenging for freshmen," said Andy Shene, Charlotte Metro Area Executive for First Citizens Bank. "At First Citizens, we understand how important it is to have a solid game plan when it comes to the transitions in life. That's why we're partnering with the Big South to launch

this academy and help provide student-athletes with proactive strategies for success in school and beyond."

The Big South Conference is celebrating its 39th year in 2022-23 and has been based in Charlotte since 1997. The league will host its marquee basketball championship tournament in the Queen City at Bojangles Coliseum for the second consecutive year in March 2023, and last season both Big South championship games were televised on a national linear network for the first time in conference history.

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org

### THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 CONNECTOR ROAD STUDY UPDATE

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is updating this study to evaluate potential routes for the 460 Connector between the Southgate Interchange on the US-460 Bypass and Route 657 (Merrimac Road) in Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg. A public meeting will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on **September 21, 2022** at the VTCRC located at 1691 Innovation Dr., Suite 1025, Blacksburg, VA. Information is also available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County. It is also available on the MPO website: [www.newrivervalleympo.org](http://www.newrivervalleympo.org)



**Give your written comments** at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St., Suite 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov). Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, September 30, 2022.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c).

The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: [brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov) or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

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