

News Journal

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Early Childhood Champion Awards recognize educators, advocates and innovators

This year, 23 people received nominations for First Steps' 4th annual Early Childhood Champion Awards.

Created in 2021, these awards recognize the early education and childcare providers, preschool teachers, child development specialists, human service providers, healthcare professionals, librarians, policymakers, and advocates who have positively impacted the lives of the NRV's youngest citizens.

The nominations submitted by parents, colleagues, supervisors, neighbors, and other community members were incredibly compelling. During the award ceremony Aug. 23, we recognized all the nominees and announced this year's winners. Each winner received a cash award provided by the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

2024 Early Childhood Champions of the Year:

Seth Zaki and Connor Farrell both work at a local restaurant and they approached the YMCA at Virginia Tech about using their parking lot in Blacksburg to cook and serve food to people in need on their days off. They just needed the space, and they would take care of everything else. The Y's staff immediately thought of their Meals on Main program, which provides meals and enrichment activities to children in need in Christiansburg and Blacksburg. Seth and Connor were a perfect fit. They began cooking meals for both children and families on the Meals on Main food truck, waking up early to do food prep, to cook and serve, and to stay late afterward to clean up – all as volunteers. They spend up to 16 hours, every Tuesday, serving more than 100 children and their families, and they are constantly looking for ways to expand that impact. One of their nominators wrote, "Seth and Connor are two of the most kind, hardworking, and determined young men I have ever met."

2024 Runner-Up
Amanda Cargill Hobin: Amanda received 6 nominations from parents and colleagues at Head Start who describe her as caring, loving, supportive, dedicated, innovative, adaptable, and much more. Parents talked about the care she takes in meeting each student's specific needs, while colleagues describe her as "a burst of positive energy and enthusiasm [that] radiates off her onto her peers."

2024 Honorees
Dr. Rosanna Breux: Rosanna is the director of the Child Study Center at Virginia Tech and an assistant professor in the Dept. of Psychology. She was nominated by her supervisor who talked about her extraordinary work with children and parents conducting psychological assessments and connecting families to early intervention and community resources. Her nominator wrote: "Rosanna's innovative and empathetic approach to care and education has significantly enriched the lives of young children and their families in the NRV."

Emily Perkins: Emily was nominated by a colleague who wrote at length about her fierce advocacy for the families and staff at Giles Head Start. For more than 25 years, Emily has helped families overcome barriers so their children have what they need to be successful. Her nominator wrote "She is the person you want in your corner when times get tough."

Cheryl Vaughan: Cheryl is a therapist and clinic manager at CORA Physical Therapy in Blacksburg. She was nominated by a parent who talked about Cheryl's work to build her son's confidence and to build a loving and authentic relationship with him. She also spoke of Cheryl's willingness to pivot to support both parent and child. She wrote, "it makes such a difference to have providers that take the time to understand your child—to show love to your child. When I think of Cheryl, that's what I think



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE NRV

Nominees and recipients of the 2024 Early Childhood Champion Awards

- of-love."
- Full List of the 2024 Nominees
- Learn more about each of these nominees on the 2024 Early Childhood Champions page.
- Susan Bailey: A teacher at the Blacksburg United Methodist Church Preschool Program
- Jason Ballard: A delegate representing District 12 here in the NRV in the Virginia House of Delegates
- Rosanna Breux: Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech and Director of the Child Study Center
- Melanie Brusseau: A teacher at the Radford Early Learning Center
- Kayla Crowder: Former director of North Blacksburg KinderCare and now an early childhood education consultant for the Calfee Community & Cultural Center in Pulaski
- Michelle Crowder: A teacher at the Radford Early Learning Center
- Amanda Cargill Hobin: A Head Start teacher with New River Community Action
- Audrey Kirk: An early education

- workforce recruiter for EO
- Linda Naughton: Owner and teacher at Heart 'N Hand Early Learning Center
- Sidney Nelson: Director of the Radford Early Learning Center
- Phillip Norman: Western Regional Manager for ChildCare Aware of Virginia
- Taylor Okes: A Head Start teacher with New River Community Action
- Emily Perkins: Director of the Giles Head Start Site for New River Community Action
- Hayden Polseno-Hensley and Rose McCutchan: Owners of Red Rooster Coffee and Yellow Hen Childcare
- Patricia Dianne Sheppard: A family day home provider
- Taylor Wyatt Step: A teacher with Rainbow Riders Childcare Center
- Kara Thurman: A preschool teacher at Auburn Elementary
- Cheryl Vaughan: A therapist and pediatric clinic manager for CORA in Blacksburg

Community Foundation of the NRV

Kindergartners enjoy the fruits of their labor



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS

Cullip Station, located in Dublin, offered up several bushels of corn for the kindergarten classes to "shuck" and then eat at lunch the next day.

See **Kindergartners**, page 3

Fall census shows growth in overall enrollment at Radford University

New student growth, recruitment resulted in overall gains for first time since fall 2019

RADFORD - Radford University experienced year-over-year growth for the first time since 2019, as fall 2024 preliminary census figures captured on Sept. 9 revealed a total of 7,686 total students, an increase over the fall 2023 headcount. On the main campus, undergraduate, in-person student totals

See **Enrollment**, page 3

Christiansburg Police, ATF arrest man for gun thefts

CHRISTIANSBURG - A man has been arrested after allegedly stealing firearms from a local business.

According to the Town of n Sept. 5 at approximately 7:22 a.m. Christiansburg Police responded to a call for service in regard to a burglary at a business on the 1600 block of North Franklin St. Upon arrival, police found a break-in had taken place and five guns had been stolen from the business.

Christiansburg Police immediately began investigating and notified the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Together, both agencies were able to track down the suspect within just 7 hours of the call. Toney Lee Lanham Jr. was arrested and charged with breaking and entering, larceny of a firearm, wearing a mask to conceal identity during a crime, and felony vandalism. Lanham has since been released on bond. All weapons were recovered.

The Christiansburg Police Department would like to thank the ATF for its partnership in helping solve this case quickly and efficiently. We would also like to thank the numerous citizens and loss prevention employees who helped in tracking leads which ultimately led to the suspect's arrest.

Town of Christiansburg

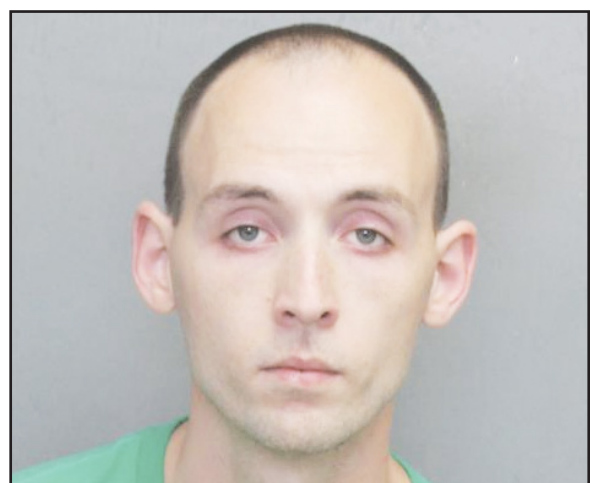


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG

Toney Lee Lanham, Jr.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

Several vineyards will be participating in this weekend's Wine festival at Sinkland Farms.

Savor the Flavors at Sinkland Farms' second Annual Wine Festival

Sinkland Farms is hosting its 2nd Annual Wine Festival, a celebration of fine Virginia wines, craft spirits, and local music, "set against the stunning backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains" this weekend. Mark your calendars for Saturday

and Sunday, Sept. 21-22, 2024, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and join Sinkland Farms "for a weekend of indulgence and entertainment just before the start of our famous Pumpkin Festival."

year's festival brings together some of Virginia's finest wineries and a local distillery, offering a diverse selection of wines and spirits. Participating wineries include:

Wine & Spirits Tastings: This

See **Wine**, page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 18:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 2 – 6 p.m. The market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Market Square Jam

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment on Wednesday evenings, June through September. The jam takes place at Market Square Park from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a list of hosts, please visit blacksburg.gov/marketsquarejam.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

AARP Blacksburg Health and Wellness Fair

Health and Wellness Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the Christiansburg Recreational Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., in Christiansburg. Free and co-sponsored by AARP Blacksburg, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), and the Christiansburg Recreation Center. More than 80 exhibitors offering free services (e.g., blood pressure, body mass, bone density, skin cancer, vision, and hearing screenings, immunizations) and information. Also, professionals sharing nutrition, exercise, in-home health services, and home renovation. Also includes a blood drive and the Veterans' Center mobile unit. Keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Friedlander of the Virginia Tech-Carilion Research Institute, who will be speaking between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on the up-to-date research on aging and Q&A to help us all lead more informed and happier lives. For more information on the AARP Blacksburg Health and Wellness Fair, visit <https://www.blacksburgaarp.org/2024-health-and-wellness-fair> or contact Sue Magliaro at sumags@vt.edu. To donate blood and avoid waiting, go to https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/267451.

Christmas Store shopping applications

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is accepting applications to shop at the Christmas Store during Store Week on December 9-14, 2024. Go online at www.mcchristmasstore.org for information about Eligibility Requirements. Applications will be accepted at certain in-person interviews, online, and at locations in the community. On Sept. 18, applications will be taken at the Health & Wellness Fair at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Interviews will be held at the Christmas Store Building on Sept. 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Oct. 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

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

Saturday, Sept. 21:

Blacksburg Farmers Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a local, family-friendly gathering place in downtown Blacksburg featuring farmers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside artisans of baked goods and handmade crafts. For more information, visit <http://blacksburgfarmersmarket.com>.

Radford Farmer's Market

Every Saturday through October; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, 600 Unruh Dr.

Wine

from page 1

Daring Wine Company: Savor the passion in every bottle with small-lot wines and ciders produced in Southern Virginia.

Virginia Mountain Vineyards: Explore a variety of white and red wines, ranging from gently sweet to full-bodied, elegant, and dry.

Dobbins Hollow Winery and Cidery: Delight in wines and ciders crafted from fruit grown at Dobbins Hollow, plus inventive craft cocktails.

Notaviva Winery: Enjoy supple white, rosé, and red dry wines paired with musical inspiration to elevate your tasting experience.

Woods Acre Winery: Indulge in semi-sweet fruit wines hand-crafted in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Featured Distillery:

J.H. Bards: Sample a range of Virginia Straight Bourbon, Rye, Single Malt, Maple Whiskey, and Sinking Creek Vodka, all crafted to perfection.

Live Music Lineup: Enhance your wine tasting experience with live music performances from some of the region's top talent:

Saturday, September 21: Last Chance Band – Don't miss the electrifying 80s review by one of the best female vocalists in Southwest Virginia, accompanied by two seasoned musicians. Expect hits from Bon Jovi, The Bangles, Elvis, Neil Diamond, Prince, Dolly Parton, and many more, providing great dance and listening music.

Sunday, September 22: Dirt Road Breakdown – Enjoy rocking Americana from Lee Worley and Bob Chew in a unique duet that sounds like a full four-piece band. Their originals and covers bring a swampy, soulful vibe that will leave

you wanting more.

Family-Friendly Attractions:

The Corn Maze: Challenge yourself in our expansive

Visit weekly for an ever-changing supply of homemade goodies, crafts, plants, meats, produce, and more.

Sunday, Sept. 22:

Vintage Market

At Market Square Park, 100 Draper Rd SW, Blacksburg; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The market is made up of a carefully chosen group of vendors selling a wide selection of quality vintage items, upcycled crafts, and occasional antiques. For more information, visit blacksburgfarmersmarket.com/vintage-market/.

Monday, Sept. 23:

Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are normally held the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

Tuesday, Sept. 24:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular town council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Identity theft scams with Better Business Bureau

At the Radford Public Library, noon – 1 p.m. Scammers will do whatever it takes to get their hands on your personal information. Once they have it, they can effectively become you, using your identity to open accounts, file taxes, or obtain medical coverage. Sloan Champney, Public Relations and Communications Specialist of Better Business Bureau, will cover how to spot these scams and protect yourself from thieves wanting to steal your identity. Pizza provided. Handouts and small giveaways available from BBB.

Wednesday, Sept. 25:

Free GED Prep Classes with NRCC

At the Radford Public Library, 9 a.m. – noon. Join NRCC in the community room for free GED prep classes! For more info call 540-674-3682.

Thursday, Sept. 26:

Christmas Store fundraiser at Eastern Divide

The Montgomery County Christmas Store will kick off its fundraising campaign at Eastern Divide from 3 to 9 p.m. For each pint, flight, or soda sold, Eastern Divide will donate \$1. Featured will be a silent auction

with many great items (<https://auctria.com/auction/MCCSFallFundraiser>). Bring a package of children's socks or underwear and be entered to win a door prize. Come out to raise money for the Christmas Store to help neighbors in need.

Montgomery Museum Aviation Art + History reception

Above: A History of Montgomery County Aviation," sponsored by Wing Aviation. Exhibit explores and celebrates the county's rich legacy in aviation, featuring historic artifacts and stories highlighting the community's impact on the skies above us. Historic photographs, uniforms, and World War II aviator gloves provide tangible links to the important local contributions to the war effort during the 1940s. Two modern commercial delivery drones and other artifact will showcase the culmination of the work, research and innovation produced by the Virginia Tech Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership. Complementing the historical exhibit is a special art showcase celebrating 'Flight,' featuring works by local artists. The exhibit opening and reception will take place Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, located at 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Guests will enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar during the event.

Saturday, Sept. 28:

Pilot Community Center Celebration

The Pilot Community Center (former Pilot School) was recently added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Celebrate these designations and also honor former teachers and students of the Pilot School, 1 p.m. Pilot Community Center, 4449 Brush Creek Road, Pilot. Unveiling of historical designation plaques, live music, refreshments, prizes, and lots of good memories. This event is free to the public.

Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation's 9th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ, noon – 5 p.m., at St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall. Admission is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs. Performance schedule: 12:30-1:30 p.m. The JoJo Stockton Project, 2-3 p.m. McFadden and Friends. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lady D and Mi\$\$ion. Beer and wine, barbeque, and sweet treats for purchase from Blue Ridge Beverage, Kirk's Famous BBQ, and Next Door Bake Shop. NAACP and The League of Women Voters will provide voter registration information. Free parking at the Gilbert Street Parking Garage. Proceeds go toward the continued preservation of St. Luke and Odd Fellows Hall, which will be open to guests during the event. For more information, visit: <https://blacksburgmuseum.org/>.

Ongoing:

Menagerie, exhibit at Fine Arts Center for the NRV

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley presents Menagerie, celebrating the diverse talents of artists residing in the NRV. At the Fine Arts Center in Pulaski at 21 West Main St., Pulaski, through Oct. 5, 2024. Some artwork contains mature content and may not be suitable for children.

Blacksburg smoke testing sewer lines

The Town of Blacksburg and CHA Consulting, Inc., will perform smoke testing in the upper Harding Sewershed during the week of Sept. 9 and Sept. 16. The process blows smoke into the sewer system, which then escapes through leaks found in the lines. During this work, citizens may see smoke coming out of the ground, and occasionally, when household plumbing is not in conformance with code, smoke may enter residences. For questions and more information: Contact Shawn Veltman, Town Engineer at 540.443.1352, sveltman@blacksburg.gov.

Glencoe Mansion art exhibit by Sidra Kaluszka

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery will host "Do You Dream In Color," an art exhibition by artist Sidra Kaluszka for September and October at Glencoe Mansion, located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford. The exhibition will be on display from now until Oct. 27.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SINKLAND FARMS

The corn maze will be ready for adventuring at the Wine Festival.

five-acre corn maze, with winding paths and hidden points of interest. See if you can navigate your way out using the provided maze map.

Kids' Adventures: Little ones will love the farm animals, a giant jump pad, a ropes course, a spider climber, and more. While the kids play, parents can relax with a glass of wine on the terrace. Don't forget to visit

The Cottage Shoppe, filled with seasonal treats and unique gifts perfect for the holidays.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://sinklandfarms.com/wine-festival>.

Sinkland Farms

OBITUARIES

Custer, Kevin Dale

Kevin Dale Custer, 60, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Redrick Barstal and Willadean Adkins Custer.



Survivors include his loving wife, Michelle Eads Custer; his daughter and son-in-law, Amanda Stuart (Jimmy); son and daughter-in-law, Stephen Eads (Taylor); grandchildren, Makenna, Teagan, Adalynn, Jalen and Ryder; brother and

and Scott Eads; canine companions, Alice and Ernie; special friends, Junior Dalton and Mike Hall; and numerous other family members and friends.

A celebration of life was held Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at the New Hope Church of God in Christiansburg with Pastor T. Michael Bond officiating.

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

Sowers, Violet Evonne Simpkins

Violet Evonne Simpkins Sowers, 75, of Christiansburg, passed away Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arville Ray and Nellie Louise Simpkins; her loving husband, Joe David Sowers; brothers, Les and Harold Simpkins; sister, Kathy

Reece; and her nephew, Benjamin Sowers.

Survivors include her nephews, Dwayne Simpkins (Angi), and Tim Simpkins; her niece, Sarah Gillenwater (Joe); and many other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024, at the

Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. Tony Hart officiating. Burial will follow in Shiloh Cemetery in Pulaski County.

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

Epperly, Peggy Brumfield

Peggy Brumfield Epperly, of Christiansburg, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. She was born in Montgomery County Feb. 11, 1941, a daughter of Osbin Fases Brumfield and Annie Frances Johnson Brumfield. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband of 61 years, Garnett William Epperly, Sr.



Peggy worked many devoted years as a secretary for The Department of the Army at Virginia Tech, from which she retired. Taking a brief retirement she then started working for LewisGale Hospital Montgomery as a Medical Records Clerk and again retired after 10 years of

service.

Peggy enjoyed many pastimes. She was a talented seamstress, pianist, and organist, but her greatest enjoyment was traveling the world. She and Garnett traveled to all 50 states. She also visited Europe, Mexico, Canada, South America and Egypt. She was a member of North Fork Baptist Church. She served as choir director, pianist, and organist for many years.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Sept. 16, 2024 in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Danny Collins officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery.

Kindergartners from page 1



McHarg Elementary School kindergartners shuck corn during a recent class activity at the school.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS

The children enjoyed the fresh corn they shucked the following day at lunch, courtesy of Cullip Station farm.

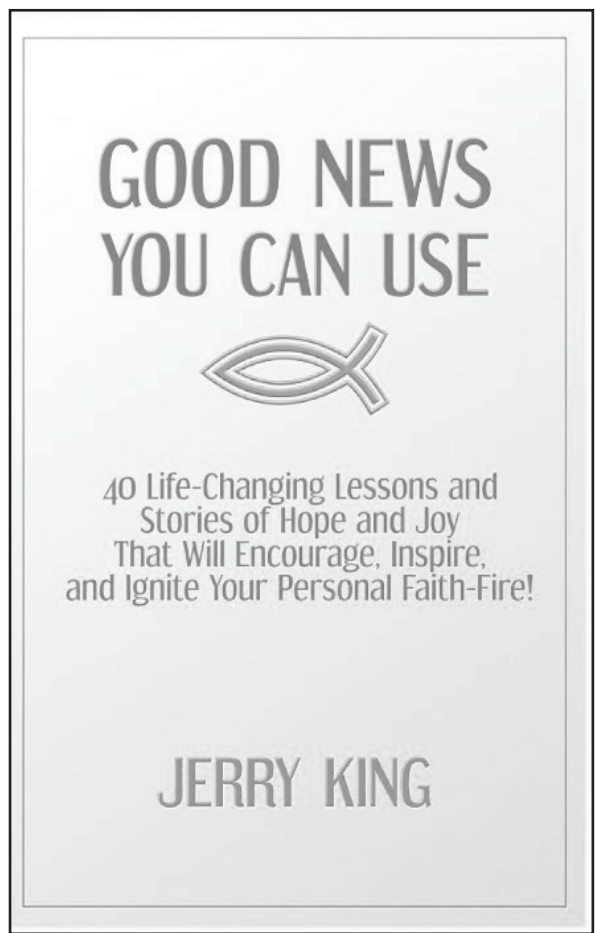
NRV author and former educator and pastor releases new book

KDP Amazon Publishing recently announced the release of Jerry King's inspirational, faith-based book "Good News You Can Use: 40 Life-Changing Lessons and Stories of Hope and Joy That Will Encourage, Inspire, and Ignite Your Personal Faith-Fire!"

Testimonials describing the book include popular author Joanne Liggan who shares, "Jerry has a unique way of taking a portion of scripture and relating it to a modern-day story, many from his own personal experiences. This book will lift your spirits and show you how to live a fuller, more spirit-filled life."

Dave Gittings, chaplain of the Virginia Tech football team says, "Jerry has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry for over three decades and his spiritual wit and wisdom are evident in Good News You Can Use."

"People from all walks of life are facing unprecedented challenges and problems," said King. "One of the main purposes for writing the book is to encourage readers using personal



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF JERRY KING

stories and relate them to life-changing truths found in scripture."

Examples of chapter titles include: How to Stay Steady In Your Storms, Face Your Fears and Defeat Defiant Giants, Too Blessed to Be Stressed, and Unleash Unlimited Love and Start Living Life Out-Loud!

"Good News You Can Use" is available in print, e-book, and audio book

formats on Amazon.com. King added that the paperback version includes a study guide to use for small-group studies and copies may be provided for church groups and others.

For additional contact information or questions go to the website: jerry-king.com.

Staff report

NRCC announces presidential finalists' public open forums

As part of the process for selecting a new president, New River Community College will be holding open forums for community interaction with the five finalists for the position. Separate sessions will also be held for students, faculty and staff.

Each community forum will be conducted from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the college's Christiansburg site inside the Uptown Christiansburg location. Forum dates are as follows:

Schedule for the community open sessions with NRCC

presidential candidates **Dr. John Davis** Wednesday, September 18

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Open/public forum with community Room 123, NRCC Christiansburg site

Dr. Peter Anderson Friday, September 20

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Open/public forum with community Room 123, NRCC's Christiansburg site

Dr. Ted Lewis Wednesday, September 25

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Room 123, NRCC Christiansburg site

Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston

Friday, September 27

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Room 123, NRCC Christiansburg site

Dr. Robert Brandon Wednesday, October 2

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Room 123, NRCC Christiansburg site

The forums are open to the public. There will be brief remarks by each candidate followed by a question-and-answer session.

More information on each of the candidates is available at <https://www.nr.edu/news/more.php?id=1742>.

New River Community College

Enrollment from page 1

jumped to 5,059, 396 more students than fall 2023, and the 5,927 combined undergraduate and graduate students enrolled represent an increase of 6% over last fall's headcount.

New student growth is the primary driver of Radford's higher enrollment totals, as the university made significant strides to add both new freshman and new transfer students. In addition, targeted local recruitment at local high schools and stronger transfer pathways from regional Virginia Community College System (VCCS) institutions helped fuel growth.

At all locations, 1,414 new freshmen are enrolled, the university's largest total since 2019, and 723 new transfers marks the university's most in a single year since fall 2013.

Retention rates across the university jumped significantly for a second straight year. New freshmen retention, which saw a fall-to-fall increase of 4.3% last year, rose again by another 2.9% to reach the university's highest rate

since fall 2016. The overall retention and graduation rate is 86.6%, a five-year high.

Radford University Carilion in Roanoke is welcoming 1,003 new and returning students this fall, including 587 undergraduate students and 416 graduate students.

At preliminary census capture 479 students are enrolled in Radford's online Fast Track programs, which include

three graduate degrees and the RN to BSN degree; that number is expected to grow during the fall semester. An additional 277 students are enrolled in competency-based education programs (CBE) administered by the Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab. Radford is Virginia's only four-year public institution to offer CBE programs for working professionals.

Radford University

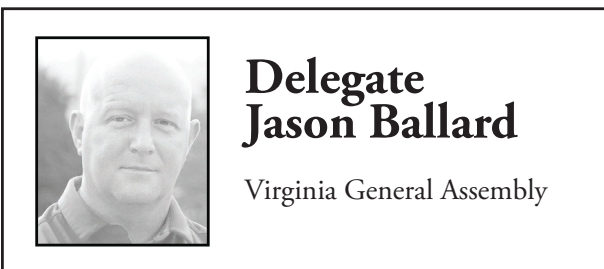
JBR VINEYARDS & Winery
Hand tended vines. Hand Crafted Wines
PRESENTS
The 5th. Annual
PAW PAW FESTIVAL
Way Down Yonder In The Paw Patch.
Sat., Sept. 28, '24. Sun., Sept. 29, '24
Fisher Peak Timber Rattlers. Bobby Parker
Noon to Five O'clock
1360 Springdale Road, Pearisburg, Va. 24134
No Admission Fee. Child and dog friendly.
540-250-7291 - jbrvineyards@gmail.com
facebook.com/jbrwine - www.jbrvineyards.com

OPINION

Delegate offers opinion on ICE detainers

It seems like common sense: someone in the United States illegally who has been convicted of a crime should be removed to their home country, especially if they've committed a violent crime. But unfortunately, that appears to be a bridge too far for many Virginia Democrats, especially in Northern Virginia. As such, a number of local law enforcement agencies in Northern Virginia refuse to cooperate with the United States Department of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

Last week's opinion from Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares makes it crystal clear: local law enforcement agencies in Virginia are expressly allowed to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement agencies. This was never a problem in Virginia, until our previous Attorney General — a Democrat — bent to left-wing pressure. Former Attorney General Mark Herring made a mess of the situation nearly a decade ago, when he issued an opinion stating that local law enforcement agencies could be held liable if they held an illegal immigrant on an ICE detainer. Not only did that have a chilling effect on cooperation efforts, it emboldened other agencies to flout similar cooperation efforts. For example, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid



Delegate Jason Ballard

Virginia General Assembly

refuses to even communicate to ICE that inmates in the United States illegally are going to be released to the public at all. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will not transfer inmates subject to an ICE detainer without a judicial warrant; but that's not a requirement according to the new Attorney General opinion.

"The General Assembly expressly provides in 53.1-220.2 that the sheriff 'may upon receipt of a detainer from ICE transfer custody of the alien to ICE no more than five days prior to the date he would otherwise be released from custody,'" Miyares wrote. At least two recent murders in Northern Virginia are alleged to have been committed by illegal immigrants who

should have been held locally until they were taken into custody by ICE. Last week, a Salvadoran man in the United States illegally after already being deported once was arrested for alleged abuse of two young boys. The boys were found chained at the ankles, apparently so they wouldn't leave the home while left unattended.

The conclusion of AG Miyares' opinion states that "it is my opinion that a sheriff is expressly authorized to cooperate with federal officials by providing them pre-release notification as requested by the detainer." This opinion makes it crystal clear: agencies that don't cooperate with ICE don't have a legal leg to stand on. They're simply endangering Virginians as a form of virtue-signaling that flouts the law.

As the Delegate representing the 42nd House District in the Virginia General Assembly, your concerns are my greatest priority. If ever I may be of assistance to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at DelBallard@HouseVirginia.Gov. You can also follow me on Twitter @JasonBallardVA or like my Facebook page, Jason Ballard for Delegate, to keep up to date with what I am doing in Richmond and in our community on your behalf.

How to protect yourself from financial fraud

In 2023, Americans reported they were the victims of more than \$10 billion in financial fraud. With fraud increasing in frequency and intricacy, investors must stay vigilant about protecting their financial security. Here are six steps you can take to help protect yourself:

Actively avoid scams. The best advice for bypassing fraud involves a series of don'ts. Don't pick up calls or respond to texts from numbers you don't recognize. If your bank leaves a message, return the call only after double-checking you have the correct number for your financial institution. Don't click on links or download documents unless you are certain of the source. Don't provide account information over the phone, email or social media.

Look for red flags. Typos, grammatical errors and unusual return email addresses are giveaways of phishing emails. Scammers often use a fake address that mimics the address of a trusted source. To "unmask" the sender, hover over the visible address to reveal the real source.



Josh Smith, CRPC

Financial Advisor, Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Additionally, be wary of investment scams that promise sky-high returns. If your gut is telling you it's too good to be true — it probably is.

Monitor your accounts. Check account transactions and balances frequently to keep an eye out for suspicious or unauthorized charges. If you do not recognize an expenditure or suspect fraud, contact your financial institution immediately. If available, activate alerts to receive immediate notification of suspicious activity on all bank accounts and credit cards. As an added precaution, request a free credit report annually from the three major credit bureaus. Review your report to spot any changes in your credit rating or unauthorized applications for credit.

Manage your passwords. The security of your accounts is only as good as the privacy of your passwords. Security experts recommend updating important passwords regularly (every three to six months) or sooner, in case

of a data leak. A strong password is long, randomized and unique. Consider using a password manager, which securely stores and completes login fields.

Take advantage of two-step verification. With two-factor authentication (2FA) activated, your user ID and password will prompt a request for your phone number or email. You'll receive a unique passcode to complete the login process. This extra layer of security makes it much more challenging for bad actors to hack into your secure accounts. If your password is compromised, 2FA creates one more barrier to entry.

Avoid public Wi-Fi. Most public Wi-Fi sources are insufficiently secure. As a result, cyber criminals often hack into public Wi-Fi in search of financial information to exploit, such as passwords, account numbers or personal data. If you must rely on public Wi-Fi, use a virtual public network (VPN) to protect your connection. If you don't have access to a VPN through an employer, download and subscribe to a reputable network so you can safely access Wi-Fi when away from home.

It is important to remain vigilant. Pay attention to reports of fraud in the news and take note of new ploys to avoid becoming a victim. Know that there are many resources available to protect your financial accounts and security. A financial advisor can help you understand the best measures to put in place to protect your financial information.

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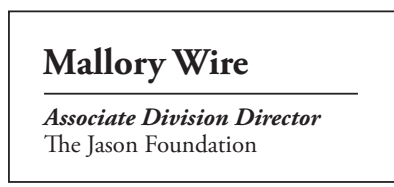
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September is Suicide Awareness Month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For many, the subject of suicide is considered taboo and surrounded by stigma. They believe the mere mention of suicide around friends and family can cause suicidal thoughts for them. This is simply untrue.

World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th. One of the ways to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide is by talking about suicide and suicidal ideation, which can spur meaningful conversations about mental health and potentially save lives.

Did you know that suicide is the 2nd overall cause of death for young people ages 10-24 in the state of Virginia? However, suicide is also one of the leading causes of preventable death. Many of those considering suicide will give some sign of their intentions, either



Mallory Wire

Associate Division Director
 The Jason Foundation

verbally or behaviorally. By knowing the warning signs and knowing how to help, you could save a life.

Join the conversation about suicide awareness and prevention and reach out to those who have been personally affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect those struggling with suicidal ideation to professional counselors and treatment services that can help them.

If you know someone you love is struggling with depression or thinking about suicide, get help now. The 988 Suicide and Lifeline is a free resource, available 24 hours a day, for

anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. There are trained counselors and mental health professionals available around the clock to assist anyone facing a mental health crisis.

The Jason Foundation (JFI) is another available resource. Although September is the dedicated month for suicide prevention and awareness, JFI works toward suicide prevention all year long. JFI is dedicated to the awareness and prevention of youth suicide through educational programs that equip youth, parents, educators, and the community with the tools and resources to identify and assist at-risk youth. Visit The Jason Foundation's website to learn more about youth suicide, the warning signs, and how you can help make a difference. JFI has never charged a school, community, or individual for the use of its programs or resources. <http://www.jasonfoundation.com>.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
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56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

CLUES ACROSS
 1. One of the four Vedas
 5. Part of (abbr.)
 8. At the peak
 12. African antelope
 14. Expression of satisfaction
 15. Yankees' ace
 16. Belittled
 18. A baglike structure
 19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder
 20. Actress Tomei
 21. Explosive
 22. Formal for "on"
 23. Cruelties
 26. Country singer Brad
 30. Make very happy
 31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
 32. Albanian currency
 33. Subatomic particle
 34. Type of salt
 39. 007's creator

CLUES DOWN
 1. Crease
 2. "Honey" actress Jessica
 3. Broad volcanic crater
 4. Product safety watchdog
 5. Southern Colombian city
 6. Part of a church
 7. Perceptible by touch
 8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
 9. Hairpiece
 10. Variety acts
 11. "Mystic River" actor Sean
 13. Remove salt
 17. Went out with
 24. Type of bread
 25. Popular Eagles song
 26. Philosophy degree
 27. Yes vote
 28. Passports and licenses are two
 29. No seats available
 35. Pounds per square inch
 36. A way to launch an attack on
 37. The lowest cardinal number
 38. Popular Miller beer
 40. Pokes holes in
 41. Closest to
 42. Folk singer DiFranco
 43. Rivne's former name
 44. Flat ruler
 45. Lacking the means to do something
 47. Cockatoo
 48. Dred Scott decision deliverer
 49. Explosion exclamation
 52. Canadian flyers
 53. Houston university
 54. At some prior time
 55. Red, swollen mark

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RADFORD SPORTS

Gridiron this past week: Radford only area team to pick up win, changes for football night off the field

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The recent uptick in threats to schools in southwest Virginia is affecting not only the classroom but also the grid iron. Two area games were postponed last week after social media posts alluded to threats.

In addition, several schools, like Radford, are taking extra efforts for the night of those home football games. While there has been no indication the measures are because of any past or future threats, there are some major changes.

As of this past week, any student under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the game. Students without adult supervision will not be allowed admission to the game.

In addition, the school system has outlawed certain items like footballs, skateboards, scooters at the game.

The announcement about the

measures also said loitering in areas such of the concession stand, visitor's side, ticket-taking areas or behind the press box will not be allowed.

Administration and law enforcement will be present at all home games and will be asking those who might be loitering to either sit in the stands or leave the premises.

On the field this past week, Radford was the only area school to pick up a win. Christiansburg fell to William Byrd. Eastern Montgomery lost to Northwood, and Blacksburg was on the wrong end to Floyd.

Player of game from this past week:
 Pace Prioleau was the defensive leader for Radford in the 35-14 win over Virginia. For his effort, he gives the defense the Player of the Week honors. He finished with 10 tackles for his third straight game tallying double tackles.

- Area top five:
 1) Glenvar
 2) William Byrd

- 3) Northside
 4) Radford
 5) Salem

Friday night games:

Blacksburg (1-2) at Rockbridge (0-3)
 This could be an interesting matchup with Rockbridge still looking for their first win of the season. Rockbridge, who has not had a winning season since 2020, has lost 63-14 to Alleghany, 42-21 to Staunton and 33-16 to Parry McCluer. Last season, Blacksburg picked up one of the only wins in a 38-20 game.

Against Alleghany, Marshall Earhart rushed for 82 yards on seven carries, while Patrick Looney added 71 yards and touchdown. Elijah Watkins scored their other touchdown.

Blacksburg is starting to lean on its sophomore quarterback Sam Szefc who completed 10 of 27 passes for 155 yards in a loss to Floyd. Jaxon Keys rushed 12 times for 73 yards.

Christiansburg (1-2) at Cave Spring (1-2)

Christiansburg is ready to begin River Ridge District play against Cave who lost 40-0 to Glenvar a week ago. The Knights do have a 21-14 win in the season opener against Western Albermarle. The other loss came 21-14 to Northside.

The Blue Demons, who took at 42-33 win last season, hold the margin in this series with 13-11 mark.

Radford (2-1) at Galax (0-3)

Friday's contest will be a matchup of last year's Class 1 and 2 state champions, but Galax will be looking for its first win of the 2024 season after 20-7 loss to Carroll County, 52-0 to Graham and 34-0 to Glenvar after finishing 2023 11-4 and a 7-6 win over Essex in the state title game. Radford fell 56-19 to Galax for one of its few losses early in last year's championship season.

Predictions this week:

- Christiansburg 28, Cave Spring 20
 Blacksburg 28, Rockbridge 18
 Radford 32, Galax 10.

Floyd rolls in win over Blacksburg



Blacksburg's Luke Mann gets around the edge of the Floyd County defense for a nice gain for the Bruins. Blacksburg (1-2) falls to Tim Cromer-led Floyd County 14-34 on Friday night. The win was the first ever for the Buffaloes over the Bruins.



Blacksburg's David Reese (left) and Jared Bradley sack Floyd County quarterback Sam Phillips during the first quarter on Friday night. A combination of big plays by the Buffaloes and Blacksburg mistakes would result in a 34-14 Bruin loss.



Blacksburg's Nate Means makes a diving 14-yard fourth down touchdown catch in front of Floyd County's Aiden Bain just before halftime Friday night. Blacksburg quarterback Sam Szefc completed 10 of 27 passes for 155 yards with two touchdowns.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg inducted their 2024 Hall of Fame class this past weekend. Class members are (l to r) Michael Mecham (soccer), Jenifer Kittle (track and field), Kris Kittle Barnes (track and field), and Jay Purcell (basketball).

Five things we learned about Hokies in ODU win

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech's win over Old Dominion this past weekend helped fans to understand this year's team a little more. Matter of fact, the contest opened the door on five things we learned about the team from Blacksburg.

In Saturday's game, the Hokies got things started quickly by scoring a touchdown on their first two drives of the game. The two touchdowns were the first time Tech has scored touchdowns on their first two drives of a game since Oct. 23, 2021 against Syracuse in Lane Stadium.

The last time the Hokies scored on their first two drives of the game was in 2023, also against Syracuse. In that game Tech opened with a 43-yard field goal, followed by a 16-yard touchdown pass.

There is a new "sack man" in Blacksburg. Redshirt senior Antwaun Powell-Ryland continued to show his prowess on the field Saturday picking up four sacks in the game. The four sacks tied the record for sacks in a game, and it's his second time picking up four sacks which ties the record for multiple four sack games with "the Sack man" and defensive great Bruce Smith.

- Here's the full list of players with four sacks in a game:
 Antwaun Powell-Ryland vs. Old Dominion - 2024
 Antwaun Powell-Ryland vs. Wake Forest - 2023
 J.C. Price vs. Miami - 1995
 Morgan Roane vs. William & Mary - 1985
 Bruce Smith vs. William & Mary - 1984
 Bruce Smith vs. Duke - 1983

Tech's offensive line did their job protecting the quarterback against the Monarchs by not allowing a sack in the game. It's the second year in a row that Old Dominion didn't pick up a sack against the Hokies. The last time a team was sackless against Tech in back-to-back seasons, was in 2011 and 2012 against Boston College.

Wide receiver Jaylin Lane was chosen to wear the number 25 after recording a 58 yard punt return the previous week against Marshall. Since the tradition started in 2016, nine wide receivers have donned the number 25 jersey in a game.

Lane finished the game with seven receptions for 106 yards, the most by a wide receiver while wearing number 25. The previous most was by Tré Turner against Marshall in 2018. In that game, Turner had 99 yards receiving on three catches.

Saturday's game marked the 373rd consecutive game during which Virginia Tech has scored. The Hokies are in fourth place in both the all-time and active streak lists.

Drones is definitely a dual threat.

Mobile quarterbacks can be found a dime a dozen in college football, but few can finish plays lowering their shoulders and trucking defenders like Kyrone Drones does.

Tech's signal caller had his way against Old Dominion's defense as a runner, tallying 117 yards on the ground. The redshirt junior's best run of 53 yards paired wonderfully with a stiff arm, sending a Monarch defender into the turf and trucking another on his way out of bounds after picking up another 12-plus yards after contact.

Drones scored a rushing touchdown in the first quarter on a Tech tush push and added another through the air, finding a wide-open Jaylin Lane for a 25-yard connection in the game's opening drive. The Houston, Texas native threw for 176 yards, with his longest completion going for 46 yards on a broken play in which he connected with Lane.

The offense depends on the run. Tech's identity under offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen starts with the run, and running back Bhayshul Tuten continues to showcase why he is a key cog within the scheme.

In back-to-back games, the Paulsboro, New Jersey native has recorded over 100 rushing yards. Tuten looked

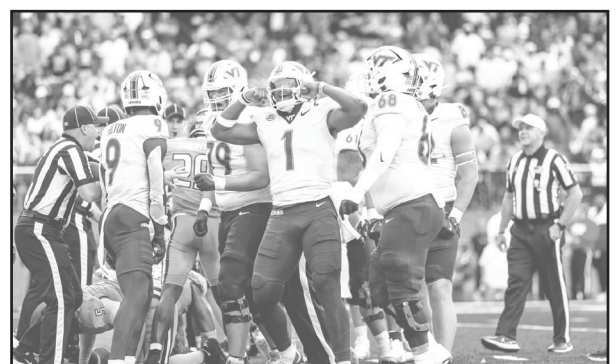


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech quarterback Kyrone Drones celebrates after scoring a touchdown in Saturday's win over ODU.

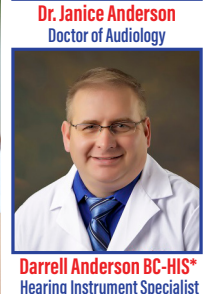
very impressive against the Monarchs, displaying a strong mix of speed and finishing plays with power, delivering the contact to incoming defenders.

The senior tailback rushed for 115 yards and two touchdowns on 21 totes, with a solid 5.5 yards per carry average. In the fourth quarter, it became the Tug Boat Show as Tuten scored on a 16-yard rush on the first play and ripped off a 22-yard score the following possession after Mansoor Delane's interception.

The transfer portal has benefited the roster tremendously over the past two years. This offseason, the interior defensive position group saw an invigorating collection of talent come to Blacksburg. On Saturday, Kelvin Gilliam Jr. made his presence known, generating pressure throughout the matchup. The Oklahoma transfer amassed six tackles and recorded his first sack of the season. Gilliam recorded a solid 75.6 tackle grade, according to Pro Football Focus. Now onto Rutgers.

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Radford Bobcats down Virginia High



Radford's Sam Khandan-Barani pressures the Virginia High quarterback in the first quarter of Friday's 35-14 win.



Pace Prioleau races 65 yards to the endzone with a pick six early in the first quarter to put the Bobcats up 7-0. Cole Martin also had 76-yard fumble recovery for the home team for another touchdown.



Quarterback Luke Gaither fires a pass in Radford's 35-14 win Friday night. Gaither finished the game 23 of 36 for 179 yards and three touchdowns.

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F	L	B		T	E	N		O	S	C
F	A	L		E	S	E		Y	A	C
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J. D. Grubb rushes up the middle against the Bearcat defense for three of his 106 yards on 11 carries.

AARP Virginia fraud alert: Work-from-home-job scams

Many Americans are on the hunt for the perfect remote job or side hustle, and criminal scammers are ready to exploit these ambitions. With work-from-home jobs increasing in popularity and employment scams on the rise, now is a great time to review the warning signs of a shady job posting.

Beware of any job that offers a large income with little to no training or experience. Likewise, avoid any position that requires you to pay in advance for certification, training, or equipment. Business offers guaranteed to "pay off quickly" or "double your investment" are also highly suspicious.

Make sure to check that job sites specializing in remote work screen the openings and companies listed, and don't assume a position is genuine just because it was posted on a legitimate job board. It could still be a scam. Furthermore, it's important to be cautious of online testimonials; work-at-home sites are full of fake personal stories of people claiming to make thousands of dollars a month because they took advantage of this "amazing opportunity."

AARP Virginia

Child Passenger Safety Week includes Interstate 81 Operation DISS-RUPT

The Virginia State Police will be conducting a traffic safety initiative called Operation DISS-RUPT for a 48-hour period on the Interstate 81 corridor on September 19 and 20.

DISS-RUPT is an acronym for Ditch Distractions, Never Drive Impaired, Comply with Speed limits and Seat Belt Safety. This operation will coincide with Child Passenger Safety Week.

Along with enforcement, troopers will engage the public with safety talks and hand out brochures about traffic safety in the rest areas and will have messaging on the travel boards within the Interstate 81 corridor.

The goal is to achieve zero fatal crashes during the designated enforcement period, and to reduce the total number of crashes on our interstates for the calendar year by 10% plus increase seatbelt and child safety seat usage while traveling.

The public will be provided information brochures and pamphlets on the Move Over Law, Ride2Save Lives, Human Trafficking information, recruiting and VDOT traffic alert programs. The 48-hour operation will be held in conjunction with VDOT, the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the West Virginia State Police.

Virginia State Police

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