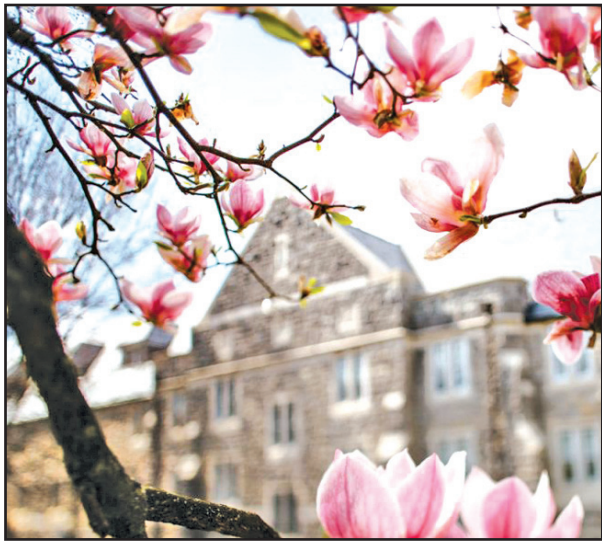




## Blacksburg and Virginia Tech to maintain consistent gathering sizes to limit COVID-19 spread



Blooms appear on VT's campus with the arrival of warmer weather. Photo by Christina Franusich for Virginia Tech

"To continue to manage the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Tech will restrict outdoor gatherings to 50 people, and indoor gatherings on campus will continue to be limited to 10 people. The Town of Blacksburg will continue to restrict all gatherings to no more than 50 people either indoors and outdoors."

So declared Byron Hughes, Virginia Tech's Dean of Students, and Anthony Wilson, Blacksburg's Chief of Police, in a recent open letter to the Virginia Tech community.

The duo pointed out in the letter that spring's warmer weather "has also resulted in an uptick in large outdoor gatherings which has compromised the safety of the community and runs counter to the continued vigilance needed for effective public health measures. We have reason to be optimistic - especially as more and more are vaccinated - but we must remember that we are still very much in a pandemic, and each of us must act with great care

See **Gathering**, page 3



For Christians, simple Easter displays such as this one at St. Paul UMC symbolize a set of complex, seemingly contradictory beliefs. The color of royalty, purple symbolizes Jesus's role as the creator and king of everything that exists. The cross symbolizes Jesus's scandalous death by crucifixion. Jesus's Easter resurrection then transformed the cross into the ultimate symbol of hope. Thus, this display stands as a symbol of Christians' tenuous belief in Jesus as both wholly God and wholly man.

## Construction to begin at Blacksburg Transit Multi-Modal Transit Facility

Workers are preparing to begin construction soon at the new Blacksburg Transit Multi-Modal Transit Facility, which will improve the long-term transit experience on the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus.

The product of over a decade of planning led by the Town of Blacksburg in close coordination with Virginia Tech, the Blacksburg Transit Multi-Modal Transit Facility project will deliver a central transportation hub and alternative transportation facilities in the vicinity of Perry Street, embedded within the North Academic District.

The capstone of this expansive, 6+ acre project will be a 13,000-gross-square-foot, two-story transit center that will serve as a hub for multiple modes of alternative transportation, including Blacksburg Transit, the Smart Way



Rendering of current-day Perry Street reimagined through the Blacksburg Transit Multi-Modal Facility project. Goodwin Hall is to the right in this rendering with the planned pedestrian-friendly walkways and plazas and east bus loop in the foreground.

bus, Virginia Breeze, and bike share. The first floor will provide an air-conditioned and heated rider waiting area and will house Virginia Tech's Alternative Trans-

portation Department and Hokie Bike Hub. On the second floor will be a break area for Blacksburg

See **Facility**, page 4

## CHS students' art on display at Montgomery Museum

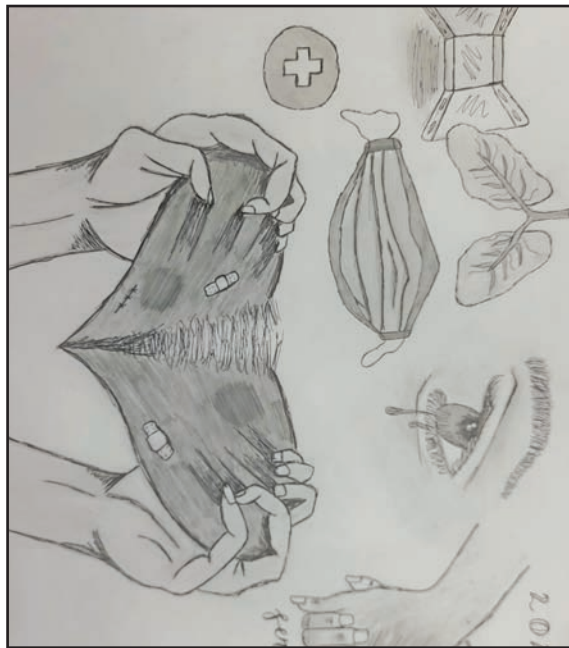
Now on display through April 30 at the Montgomery Museum of Art & History, 300 Pepper St SE in Christiansburg, is an exhibit titled (dis)Connected, presenting works by students from Christiansburg High School.

In this display, CHS student artists show the various phases of learning and creating art during the COVID 19 crisis. The show begins with an homage to 2020 seniors who were preparing to exhibit their work at the Montgomery Museum when schools closed.

The show progresses

through the museum's rooms and follows the CHS Art Department students through reopening, attending school remotely, a hybrid of remote and in-person learning, and finally a return to full-day instruction a year later.

The display explores the students' emotions and reactions to scheduling changes, fear of the unknown, and the visual perspective of an art student during an unprecedented pandemic. The exhibit is evidence that in this unprecedented school year, creativity was not cancelled.



"Decisions" by Sara Breeding



"Chicken House" by Nick McCumsey



"Is It Over Yet?" by Jaedlyn Weaver

## Despite Easter eggs and Easter bunnies, Easter Sunday is the holiest day of the year for Christians

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in roughly 30 A.D. The holiday concludes the "Passion of Christ," a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent—a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice—and ends with Holy Week, which

includes Holy Thursday (the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his 12 Apostles, also known as "Maundy Thursday"), Good Friday (on which Jesus' crucifixion is observed) and Easter Sunday. Although a holiday of high religious significance in the Christian faith, many traditions associated with Easter date back to pre-Christian, pagan times.

How is the date for

See **Easter**, page 3

## Easter survey: 78 percent of Americans eat chocolate bunnies' ears first; one chocolate bunny sells for \$49,000



In its annual Easter survey, the personal-finance website WalletHub found that 78% of Americans claim they eat the ears off chocolate bunnies first and that the world's most expensive chocolate Easter bunny sells for \$49,000.

Other information garnered from the survey revealed that COVID-19's impact on Easter has waned in that 91 million Easter observers reported their spending plans were affected by the pandemic this year, which is 47% less than the number impacted last year.

WalletHub's survey also revealed that \$21.6 bil-

lion or \$180 per person celebrating will be spent on Easter this year, that \$3 billion is projected to be spent on Easter candy this year and that 60 percent of parents plan on sending Easter baskets to their children even after they have moved out.

Other information related to Easter and faith garnered by the website includes the following statistics: 76 million Americans say they would donate part of the upcoming stimulus check to a religious organization. Religion is a

See **Survey**, page 5

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, April 3:

**Caturday Storytime**  
Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online at 11 a.m. Share in reading to Creature the cat. Creature was adopted from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center two years ago by one of the staff members and loves to lay around and read. Email shodges@mfrl.org for info on this Go-To Meeting and to sign up.

**Teen Dungeons and Dragons**  
Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online from 2 - 4 p.m. DnD is now virtual on Discord. Library staff suggest downloading Discord for ease of access, but this is not required. To join the Discord server, contact shodges@mfrl.org for more info. Ages 11 years and up.

## Thursday, April 8:

**Virtual Author Talk with Ron Peterson, Jr.**  
Join the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library as bestselling author Ron Peterson, Jr. discusses his new novel, "Chasing the Squirrel: The Pursuit of Notorious Drug Smuggler Wally Thrasher." Ron will be joining MFRL virtually on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m. along with Wally Thrasher's son, Montana Thrasher. "Chasing the Squirrel" is the true story of Pulaski native Wally Thrasher, whose investigation led to the biggest drug bust in Mid-Atlantic United States history in 1986.

## Monday, April 12:

**Radford Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting**  
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 5 p.m. The meeting will be a Google meet virtual meeting. The public is invited to attend. To be invited to the meeting, contact Josh Brown, Chairperson, at 267-3083, or Daniel Hill, Director of Special Education, at 267-3223, to be invited with a virtual meeting link.

## Tuesday, April 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 at 3204 Riner Road. Jonathan McPeak will give a talk on the "History of the Virginia 45th Infantry Regiment." Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Wednesday, April 14:

**Radford Chamber of Commerce Business over Breakfast**  
The Radford Chamber of Commerce presents "Business over Breakfast" from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at Sweet & Savory Donuts and Bagels, 1026A Clement St., Radford. Guest speaker is Elijah Sharp with the NRV Regional Commission, who will present information about the new E. Main Downtown Plan and how everyone can get involved. Please bring a face mask to this event to abide by current COVID-19 state regulations.

## Wednesday, April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26:

**Hahn Horticulture Garden Virtual Road Trip**  
The second stop of the five-stop Zoom tour of gardens and arboretums at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center with Tanya Zastrow will take place April 14 at 2 p.m. Register online for these talks and a zoom link will be provided: [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cumxRA4Mec96guy](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cumxRA4Mec96guy). The third stop will be on April 28 at 3:30 p.m. and will feature the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with VT alumnus Brian Trader. Then comes a visit on May 12 at 2 p.m. to the Wisconsin Arboretum with VT alumnus David Stevens. The tour ends on May 26 at 2 p.m. at Lotusland with Paul Mills and Rebecca

Anderson.

## Through Thursday, April 15:

**ARTGAWK Exhibition**  
"ARTGAWK: Selections from the Radford University Permanent Collection" is an exhibition of 111 works that range widely in media, artistic styles, and historical periods. The hours of the exhibition are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. at the Art Museum at the Covington Center.

## Through Friday, April 16:

**Young Chef Ingredient Challenge**  
Through Friday, April 16, all day at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Young chefs have the chance to challenge their creativity by making a meal with carrots, lemon, honey, and potatoes. They can add more ingredients to their recipe(s), but the meal must include all the ingredients listed. Please submit a photo and recipes by April 16. Email shodges@mfrl.org for further questions and for submission.

## Saturday, April 17:

**Teen Dungeons and Dragons**  
Online from the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## Thursday Through Saturday April 22, 23, 24:

**2021 Spring Plant Sale Pickup Days**  
The 2021 spring plant sale, a joint fundraising event between the Hahn Horticulture Garden and the VT Horticulture Club, is online this year due to COVID limitations on gatherings. The sale site link is <http://springplant->

saleatvtv.com/company.site. Quantities are limited, so early ordering is suggested.

## Tuesday, April 27:

**Book Discussion and Meet the Author, Ron Peterson, Jr., at Radford Library**  
The Radford Public Library hosts Ron Peterson Jr. for a Meet the Author/Book Discussion session via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. He'll be discussing another person of local interest in his new book, "Chasing the Squirrel: The Pursuit of Notorious Drug Smuggler Wally Thrasher." Wally Thrasher, who was recently profiled on "America's Most Wanted" as US Marshals chased leads in his pursuit, grew up in Pulaski County.

## Through Saturday, April 24:

**"Unbearable Beauty" Exhibit at Moss Arts Center**  
The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

## Throughout April:

**Grab and Go Crafts**  
All the month of April, at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Call the library to request Take and Make Craft Kits. Available for grab-and-go with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

**StoryWalk**  
All the month of April, at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "Move!"

# Blacksburg spring cleanup begins Monday

The Town of Blacksburg's spring cleanup begins Monday in the town's northwest quadrant. The cleanup will then

continue the week of April 12 in the southwest quadrant, the week of April 19 in the southeast quadrant and the week of April 26 in the northeast quadrant.

The spring cleanup is a curbside collection for debris and brush. The service is provided to Town of Blacksburg recycling and refuse customers and is not intended for the collection of waste from major construction and/or demolition debris. For the curbside materials to be picked up, they must be separated into distinct piles of brush, metal appliances, tires, and other debris.

The brush must be no longer than seven feet and no greater than six inches in diameter. Metal appliances must have any airtight doors removed. Tires must be removed from the rims and have an inside diameter of 19 inches or less. No more than eight tires per household will be picked up, and no commercial, racing, or farm-use tires will be accepted. Other debris is items such as miscellaneous household junk and bamboo.

Residents are asked to place items curbside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of their scheduled collection. Brush and yard de-

bris are collected one day, and metal, tires, and other bulky items are picked up on another day during the week. Residents are asked not to place additional items curbside after everything has been collected.

Items intended for cleanup must be accessible from the public right of way. The town will not enter private property, parking lots, or driveways to remove materials. Items placed near mailboxes, water meters, fire hydrants, posts, or other obstacles that could be damaged will not be collected. The town is not responsible for damages.

The following items are not acceptable for collection during cleanup:

1. Hazardous waste, household and yard chemicals, and paint. These materials can be taken to events sponsored by the New River Resource Authority that are held several times a year. Latex paint should be dried in its can using kitty litter or sand. Once dry, the entire can should be disposed of in the trash.
2. Propane tanks. Only small camping types are acceptable, (16.4 oz. net weight or less).
3. Household garbage. Please dispose of household garbage in your trash cart during weekly collection. Additional garbage may be taken to Montgomery County's Consolidated Waste Sites or to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority.
4. Tires with an inside diameter of greater than 19 inches. Dispose of larger tires at the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority.
5. Batteries. Car batteries should be taken to local automotive parts stores for recycling. Alkaline batteries are not hazardous and can safely be thrown in with your household trash. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Home Depot and Lowe's.
6. Electronics. Residents may recycle electronics free of charge at the YMCA, 1000 North Main St.
7. Fluorescent Lamps. Home Depot accepts CFLs for recycling for free.
8. Leaves. Leaves must be bagged for collection during the fall and spring cleanups. Loose leaves are only collected during leaf collection, which begins the end of October.

**BONOMO'S**

Enjoy the selection for all shapes and sizes to wear now at its best

860 University City Blvd. | Blacksburg  
Mon - Sat 11:30-4 • (540) 951-8102  
Always free and convenient parking

**YOUR LOCAL NEWS**

**JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!**

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

<b>DIGITAL ONLY</b>	<b>DIGITAL &amp; PRINT</b>	<b>PRINT ONLY</b>
One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00	Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00	Yearly Print Only Subscription \$44.00 Radford \$53.00 Virginia \$57.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at [montcova.com](http://montcova.com) or mail to address below

## SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed  or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

## NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is updating its 2014 Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan as a multimodal systems plan, which includes transit, bicycle, and pedestrian planning. An overview and an opportunity for public input will be provided. Registration and information about the April 6, 2021 online (virtual) event are found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nrv-mpo-2021-multimodal-plan-tickets-147016619667>. Further information is also on the NRV MPO website: [www.montgomerycountyva.gov/mpo](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/mpo)

**The public can speak or provide written comments** during the April 6, 2021 MPO Multimodal (Bicycle and Pedestrian Update) Plan Public Input virtual meeting between 4:00-6:00 PM. Written comments can also be received until 5:00 PM, **April 13, 2021**.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the bike/ped plan update 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.

# Gathering

from page 1

and caution.

"The governor of Virginia recently announced new guidelines for gathering sizes of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors, beginning April 1. However, the Blacksburg Town Council voted on Tuesday evening to confirm the 50-person gathering size for indoor and outdoor gatherings. This decision is supported by both the town and by Virginia Tech. Their action underscores the seriousness with which we must approach the pandemic, and the personal responsibility that each of us must take to lower the risks for the entire community.

"The police department will continue to enforce noise ordinances and alcohol violations off campus, and referrals will still be made to the Student Conduct Office. On campus, the COVID-19 Events Working Group will continue to provide guidance for student programming and university-sanctioned events. Additionally, the 50-person limit does not apply to commencement activities, which will adhere to the governor's separate guidance on commencement.

"We hope that students and community members will still find ways to gather safely,

whether that meeting is in their pod, enjoying outdoor recreational activities in smaller groups, or attending some of the many events Virginia Tech is offering that follow current safety guidelines.

"In summary: (1) on-campus gatherings outdoors must be 50 people or less, indoor gatherings must be 10 people or less; (2) off-campus gatherings in Blacksburg must be 50 people or less, whether indoors or outdoors; (3) continue to wear your mask(s) when outside your pod; (4) continue to practice physical distancing; (5) get a vaccine as soon as you can."

## Montgomery recreation sites openings for visitors in Washington and Jefferson National Forests

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are opening recreation sites on the Eastern Divide Ranger District in Bland, Botetourt, Craig, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Tazewell, and Wythe Counties, and in Virginia and Monroe County, West Virginia, this spring for the 2021 recreation season.

On April 15, the Eastern Divide Ranger District will fully open the following reservable group campgrounds for the 2021 recreation season: Boley Fields, Caldwell Fields, Craig Creek and Steel Bridge. Reservations can be made at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Then on May 13, the Eastern Divide Ranger District will open The Pines, The White Rocks and the White Cedar campgrounds on a first-come-first-served basis. The White Rocks and White Cedar campgrounds will be opened with reduced services as their water systems are currently not operational. There is the possibility that the water system at the White Cedar camp-

ground will be repaired by early summer. The White Rocks Campground's water system will not be available for the 2021 recreation season, and porta-potties will be in place. Note that the Walnut Flats Campground will not be open during the 2021 season due to much-needed construction upgrades.

Day-use recreation areas across the Eastern Divide Ranger District will be open, though their restrooms will be temporarily closed due to COVID-19 concerns. If local pandemic conditions improve, there is the possibility that restrooms at these day-use areas could open at some point in the 2021 season.

Many recreation areas, including hiking and biking trails, are open year-round. For the most current conditions on the status of recreation sites, contact the Eastern Divide Ranger District at (540)552-4641, visit the district's website [www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj); or follow the district on twitter at <https://twitter.com/GWJNF1>.

## Bollo's apple crumb pie wins YMCA at Virginia Tech's Try Y's Pi



Alison Marr, baker at Bollo's Café & Bakery, displays a slice of the apple crumb pie that was taste-tested and judged to be the best in the VT YMCA's Try Pi contest.

Bollo's apple crumb pie was the winning entry in the first annual YMCA at Virginia Tech's Try Y's Pi contest that took place in March in partnership with Our Daily Bread, Next Door Bake Shop, Blacksburg Bagels and Bollo's Café & Bakery.

Participants purchased tickets for a four-piece pie sampler. Each sampler contained a piece of pie from each of the four bakeries. Blacksburg Bagels provided a S'mores pie, Next Door Bake Shop provided a tomato pie, Our Daily Bread provided a strawberry rhubarb pie, and, of course, Bollo's provided

its apple crumb pie.

When the tasting was over, the voting began online through the event site hosted by Eventeny, and Bollo's entry was judged the winner. Everyone who voted was entered into a drawing to win gift cards from the four bakeries.

Proceeds from this event will support the YMCA at VT Meals on Main program feeding children in the New River Valley.

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is currently hosting another new annual event: the Y Spring Expo, which continues through April 25. This vir-

tual event showcases the many and varied programs provided to the community by the YMCA at Virginia Tech and features the child-friendly programs from Virginia Tech, local businesses, and the community.

The Y Spring Expo features themed weeks. April 2 through April 9 is Healthy Lifestyles Week. Healthy Kids Week is April 10 through April 17, and Environmental Stewardship Week wraps up the expo from April 18 through April 25.

Shopping with juried artisans in the expo's craft market runs throughout the event.

## Easter

from page 1

### Easter determined?

Easter falls on a different date each year.

Easter Sunday and related celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, are considered "moveable feasts," although, in western Christianity, which follows the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter typically falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox.

In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, which adheres to the Julian calendar, Easter falls on a Sunday between April 4 and May 8 each year.

In some denominations of Protestant Christianity, Easter Sunday marks the beginning of Eastertide, or the Easter Season. Eastertide ends on the 50th day after Easter, which is known as Pentecost Sunday.

In Eastern Orthodox branches of Christianity, Easter Sunday serves as the start of the season of Pascha (Greek for "Easter"), which ends 40 days later with the holiday known as the Feast of the Ascension.

### Why Is Easter Called 'Easter'?

St. Bede the Venerable, the sixth-century author of *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* ("Ecclesiastical History of the English People"), maintains that the English word "Easter" comes from Eostre, or Eostrae, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. Other historians maintain that "Easter" derives from *in albis*, a Latin phrase that's plural for *alba*, or "dawn," that became *eostarum* in Old High German, a precursor to the English language of today.

Despite its significance as a Christian holy day, many of the traditions and symbols that play a key role in Easter observances actually have roots in pagan celebrations—particularly

the pagan goddess Eostre—and in the Jewish holiday of Passover.

### Religious Tradition of Easter

The resurrection of Jesus, as described in the New Testament of the Bible, is essentially the foundation upon which the Christian religions are built. Hence, Easter is a very significant date on the Christian calendar.

According to the New Testament, Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities, essentially because he claimed to be the "Son of God," although historians question this motive, with some saying that the Romans may have viewed him as a threat to the empire.

He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect in the province of Judea from 26 to 36 A.D. Jesus' death by crucifixion, marked by the Christian holiday Good Friday (the Friday before Easter), and subsequent resurrection three days later is said, by the authors of the gospels, to prove that he was the living son of God.

In varying ways, all four of the gospels in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) state that those who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection are given "the gift of eternal life," meaning that those of faith will

be welcomed into the "Kingdom of Heaven" upon their earthly death.

### Passover and Easter

Notably, Easter is also associated with the Jewish holiday of Passover, as well as the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, as described in the Old Testament. These links are clearly seen in the Last Supper, which occurred the night before Jesus' arrest and the sufferings Jesus endured following his arrest.

The Last Supper was essentially a Passover feast. However, the New Testament describes it as being given new significance by Jesus: He identified the matzah (or bread) he shared with his 12 apostles as his "body" and the cup of wine they drank as his "blood."

These rituals would come to symbolize the sacrifice he was about to make in death, and became the basis for the Christian ritual of Holy Communion, which remains a fundamental part of Christian religious services.

As Jesus' arrest and execution were said to have occurred during the Jewish observance of Passover, the Easter holiday is often close to the former celebration on the Judeo-Christian calendar.

### Easter Eggs

Irrespective of denomination, there are many Easter-time traditions

with roots that can be traced to non-Christian and even pagan or non-religious celebrations. Many non-Christians choose to observe these traditions while essentially ignoring the religious aspects of the celebration.

Examples of non-religious Easter traditions include Easter eggs, and related games such as egg rolling and egg decorating.

It's believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain pagan traditions that pre-date Christianity. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance of Easter, i.e., Jesus' resurrection or rebirth.

Many people—mostly children—also participate in Easter egg "hunts," in which decorated eggs are hidden. Perhaps the most famous

Easter tradition for children is the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, when children roll Easter eggs down Capitol Hill.

### Easter Bunny

In some households, a character known as the Easter Bunny delivers candy and chocolate eggs to children on Easter Sunday morning. These candies often arrive in an Easter basket.

The exact origins of the Easter Bunny tradition are unknown, although some historians believe it arrived in America with German immigrants in the 1700s. Rabbits are, in many cultures, known as enthusiastic procreators, so the arrival of baby bunnies in springtime meadows became associated with birth and renewal.

Notably, several Protestant Christian de-

nominations, including Lutherans and Quakers, have opted to formally abandon many Easter traditions, deeming them too pagan. However, many religious observers of Easter also include them in their celebrations.

Easter foods are steeped in symbolism. An Easter dinner of lamb also has historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. The phrase "lamb of God" is sometimes used to refer to Jesus and the sacrificial nature of his death.

Today, Easter is a commercial event as well as a religious holiday, marked by high sales for greeting cards, candies (such as Peeps, chocolate eggs and chocolate Easter bunnies) and other gifts.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 TAX LEVIES AND BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing be scheduled for 6:00 P.M. April 8, 2021 on the proposed intention to address the below listed local tax levies for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 upon which matter citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

FURTHER, notice is given of the Board's intention to propose no increases in the following tax levies for Fiscal Year 2021-2022:

Real Property tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Personal Property tax levy remains at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value.

Machinery & Tools tax levy remains at \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed value.

Merchant's Capital tax levy remains at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mobile Homes tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Notice is also given that the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County scheduled a public hearing for 6:15 P.M. or as soon thereafter, April 8, 2021 on the **Advertised Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget** in the amount of \$210,986,555. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
F. CRAIG MEADOWS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



**Spring Leagues**  
Now Forming!

**SPRING LEAGUE BONUS BUCKS:**  
BUY \$50, GET \$10  
BUY \$20, GET \$3  
BUY \$10, GET \$1

Call 382-5525 and ask for Amanda or Terry

**575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg**  
[www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)

# OPINION

## Governor proposes accelerating marijuana legalization in Virginia

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam Wednesday proposed moving up the legalization of simple possession of marijuana to July 1, 2021, nearly three years sooner than previously planned.

The governor also announced he is proposing changes that advance public health protections, set clear expectations for labor protections in the cannabis industry, and begin to seal criminal records immediately.

The changes come in the form of amendments to Senate Bill 1406, sponsored by Senators Adam Ebbin and Louise Lucas, and House Bill 2312, sponsored by Majority Leader Charniele Herring, which legalize the adult use of marijuana in the commonwealth.

“Our commonwealth is committed to legalizing marijuana in an equitable way,” said the governor. “Virginia will become the

15th state to legalize marijuana, and these changes will ensure we do it with a focus on public safety, public health, and social justice. I am grateful to the advocates and legislators for their dedicated work on this important issue, and I look forward to this legislation passing next month.”

A report of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission issued in November 2020 found that black Virginians were more than three times as likely to be arrested for simple possession of marijuana. Data from Virginia courts show that trend has continued since the simple possession of marijuana was “decriminalized,” punishable with a \$25 civil fine, on July 1, 2020.

Governor Northam said this fact drove his proposal to advance legalization by three years, and that he remains committed to working with legislators and advo-

cates to repair past harm.

The governor proposed the following legislative changes:

1. Public health: Governor Northam is proposing two budget amendments. The first change immediately funds a public awareness campaign on the health and safety risks of marijuana. The other measure funds training to help law enforcement officers recognize and prevent drugged driving. These amendments also include explicit language directing ongoing support for public health education.

2. Worker protections: Governor Northam’s amendments authorize the new Cannabis Control Authority to revoke a company’s business license if it interferes with union organizing efforts, fails to pay prevailing wage as defined by the United States Department of Labor, or classifies more than 10 percent of employees as indepen-

dent contractors.

3. Ending disproportionate enforcement: The governor’s amendments allow adults to legally possess up to one ounce of cannabis, without intent to distribute, beginning July 1, 2021. These amendments would maintain current public safety measures that prohibit smoking while driving, smoking while driving a school bus, and possession on school grounds, for example. Governor Northam noted that these are not “new crimes,” but rather the continuation of common-sense policies to protect children, drivers, pedestrians, and others.

4. Speeding up sealing of records and expungements: Governor Northam’s amendments allow for expungement and sealing of criminal records on marijuana to begin as soon as state agencies are able to do so and simplify the criteria for when records can

be sealed. The General Assembly passed broader legislation to implement comprehensive expungement reform beginning in 2025. This generational change requires extensive updates to state agency computer systems and processes, which were made possible by funding in the governor’s introduced budget. In the coming months, Governor Northam will continue to work hand in hand with legislators to make Virginia’s criminal justice system more equitable, including through efforts to resentence individuals previously convicted for marijuana offenses.

5. Home cultivation: The governor’s changes will allow households to grow up to four plants beginning on July 1, 2021. The amendments would require the plants to be labeled with identification information, out of sight from public view, and out of range of individuals under the age of 21.

## Virginia to expand vaccine eligibility to all adults by April 18

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced Thursday that all individuals in Virginia age 16 and older will be eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine starting on Sunday, April 18, ahead of the May 1 nationwide goal set by President Joe Biden.

The governor made the announcement during a visit to a vaccination clinic at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Prince William County.

This news comes as nearly every Virginian in the highest risk groups who has pre-registered for a vaccination appointment has received one,

and those still on the pre-registration list will receive appointment invitations within the next two weeks.

“The COVID-19 vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is getting brighter every day as more and more Virginians get vaccinated,” said the governor. “We continue to work with diverse providers and community partners across the commonwealth to distribute vaccines in a fair and equitable way and ensure those at the highest risk are vaccinated first. Expanding vaccine eligibility to all adults marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to put this pandemic behind us, and I thank all of the public health staff, health care workers, vaccinators, and volunteers who have helped make this possible.”

With over 3.7 million doses of vaccine administered so far in Virginia, more than one in three adults have received at least one dose and one in five Virginians are fully vaccinated. Virginia is administering vaccine doses as quickly as they are provided by the federal government. Because the commonwealth has followed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize those at highest risk and because Virginia is a large and diverse state with many essential workers, many out-of-state commuters, and a high percentage of the population that wants to be vaccinated, it has taken some time to open eligibility to the general public.

In addition to adopting phased eligibility based on risk, Virginia has fo-

cused on equity throughout its vaccination effort by providing targeted resources in multiple languages, scheduling clinics in collaboration with community partners, performing grassroots outreach to drive pre-registration and scheduling, and implementing large, state-run community vaccination centers in areas with vulnerable populations. These efforts will continue when eligibility opens to the general public in Phase 2.

Twenty-one of Virginia’s 35 local health districts have already started vaccinating essential workers in Phase 1c after providing appointments to everyone eligible in Phases 1a or 1b on the pre-registration list. Beginning Easter Sunday districts that have invited everyone pre-registered in Phase 1c may invite mem-

bers of the general public who have pre-registered.

Based on the supply projected by the federal government, all local health districts will have enough vaccine to open appointments to the general public by April 18. Those at highest risk will continue to receive priority in the scheduling process.

Everyone who lives or works in Virginia should pre-register so they can be notified when they are eligible for vaccination and an appointment is available. To pre-register, visit [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov) or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682, TTY users call 7-1-1). Assistance is available in English, Spanish, and more than 100 other languages. Videoconferencing in American Sign Language is also available at [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov).

**News Messenger**

Established 1869  
 (540) 389-9355  
 P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153  
 USPS 016-490 Online: [www.ourvalley.org](http://www.ourvalley.org)

Michael Showell, *Publisher*  
 Ed McMinn, *Editor*  
 editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*  
 communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*  
 lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*  
 advertise@ourvalley.org

---

**Give us your view:**  
 editor@ourvalley.org

The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. 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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## To The Montgomery County Judges of the Circuit Court

Dear Sir or Ma’am,  
I would like to tell this story about my son Daniel Lee Wright, who recently passed away. Although I

am a grieving mother and my son’s unexpected death has devastated our family, I am not sharing his story because I am angry or wish to place blame on anyone. I only wish to reach out to any judge that may perhaps come across this letter to remember their oath as it is written, “I do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons and do equal to the poor and to the rich and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me under the con-

stitution and laws of the United States, so help me God.”

My son was on his way to court when his vehicle had gotten stuck in a snowbank, and since he lived three hours away, he was not able to get a ride. When he promptly called the court to explain, he was advised to show up before the judge as soon as possible, which he did. This particular judge jailed my son, and this is what ultimately caused my young, healthy son’s untimely death. He was not a threat to society by

any means, and I do not understand given the fact that the jails are overrun with COVID-19 why this decision was made. My son contracted this deadly virus while he was confined in the Montgomery County jail and died a few weeks later.

Again, I write my son’s story in hopes that it may save someone’s son or daughter in the future.

*Linda Cerami  
(304) 897-7318  
2019 Needmore Rd. |  
Baker, WV 26801*

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		11							
	13			14					
16	17				18	19			
20		21		22	23				
24		25		26					
	27			28		29	30		
		31		32		33	34		
		35		36		37		38	
			39	40		41			42
		43				44		45	
46	47	48				49		50	
51			52	53	54	55			
56			57		58				
59			60						

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Our 10 numerals
  - Horseshoe cleat
  - Ear shell
  - Soprano solo
  - Vestments
  - Heart’s singer Wilson
  - Set of type in one style
  - Withdraw from work
  - Ancient Hebrew coin
  - Megacycle
  - 26th British letter
  - Colonnaded Greek walks
  - Russian sourgrass soupsomething
  - OK Corral’s Wyatt
  - Cheremiss
  - Schenectady County Airport
  - Laptop
  - Actress Farrow
  - NYSE for Murphy Oil Corp.
  - Talk noisily
  - New Testament
  - Tax collector
  - Mediation council
  - Not in use
  - Act as master of ceremonies
  - Skin lesions
  - Stiff bristle
  - Equally
  - Pool dressing room
  - Eyebath
  - Thick piece of something
  - Angry
  - 20th Hebrew letter
  - 3rd largest Colombian city
  - Gum arabics
  - A song of praise to God
  - Dispatcher
- CLUES DOWN**
- Word shortening
  - Tore down (var. sp.)
  - 22nd state (abbr.)
  - Tropical constrictor
  - Hostelry
  - Examine and expurgate
  - Small restaurants
  - E. Asian anis liquor
  - Infestation of head louse
  - New Yorker film critic Pauline
  - An orange-red crystalline dye
  - Indicates position
  - Root mean square (abbr.)
  - Electronic counter-count-measures
  - 12-31 greeting
  - Fastens
  - Himalayan wild goats
  - One who overacts
  - Facial gesture
  - Absence of aggression
  - China
  - Older Bridges brother
  - Plays
  - Term denoting psychic abilities
  - Oral polio vaccine developer
  - Any habitation at a high altitude
  - Hyperbolic cosecant
  - Russian mountain range
  - An aromatic salve
  - Venezuelan fashion designer initials
  - Highest card
  - 5th son of Jacob
  - Music storage device

### Facility from page 1

Transit operators and office and meeting space for Blacksburg Transit and the Alternative Transportation Department.

The new building will be located adjacent to the south side of the Perry Street Parking Garage.

The Perry Street area as it exists today will be reimaged. Seventeen bus loading and unloading slips will be grouped around two bus loops located east and west of the new transit center. Perry Street will be closed and transformed into a pedestrian-friendly plaza that doubles as a portion of the Infinite Loop, a two-mile accessible and multimodal route identified in Beyond Boundaries 2047 and the Campus Master Plan, connecting additional future accessible

routes.

Centralization of bus stops and routes throughout the region at the facility will help improve safety and convenience for riders and pedestrians, as well as efficiency of the Blacksburg Transit system. Currently, a large concentration of bus routes wait in front of Burruss Hall for pickups and drop-offs. Buses will continue to drop off and pick up at Burruss Hall, but will not wait there for extended periods of time.

“The Town of Blacksburg is excited to start construction of the Blacksburg Transit Facility on Virginia Tech’s campus,” said Blacksburg Town Manager Marc Verniel. “This project is another example of the outstand-

ing partnership the town and the university have established. Because of this partnership, what was an idea 20 years ago is becoming a reality. When finished, the facility will provide a safe, efficient, and centralized location for passengers arriving on and departing from campus.”

“Undoubtedly, the project would not be breaking ground without the outstanding leadership from the Town of Blacksburg. We are grateful for our continued close collaboration with town leaders,” said Dwayne Pinkney, VT’s senior vice president and chief business officer.

The \$36 million project is being funded by Blacksburg Transit using federal grants.

## OBITUARIES

### Shepherd, Carl "Bud" Leslie

Carl "Bud" Leslie Shepherd, 77, of Christiansburg, died Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at his home. He was born in Vicker, Va., on May 9, 1943, to the late James Hugh and Agnes I. Musselman Shepherd. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy and Larry Shepherd, and two sisters, Shirley Sheppard and Sheila Shepherd.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Lee Shepherd, of Christiansburg; a daughter and son-in-law, Angie Shepherd and Jason Alls; sons and daughters-in-law, Kerry and Leatrice Shepherd and Dean and Tracy Shepherd; grandchildren Paige, Laiken, Justin, Isaac, Zach, Dylan, Jesse, Lily, Amber, Hayden, and Evann; great-grandchildren Ryleigh and Hayden; sisters and brother-



in-law Deborah Shepherd, and Patsy and Frank Cooper; brothers and sisters-in-law Kenneth and Edith Shepherd, Gary and Brenda Shepherd, Jerry and Wanda Shepherd, Michael and Barbara Shepherd, Gus and Von Shepherd, and Roger and Stephanie Shepherd; sister-in-law Bobbie Shepherd; brother-in-law James Lanier; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Brooke Priest for her care during Bud's illness.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 2, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jube Burk officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

### Turner, Ethel Hunter

Ethel Hunter Turner, 91, died peacefully on Sunday, March 28, 2021, at her home in Pulaski.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Turner, her previous husband, Henry Conner; a son, Johnny Conner; stepsons Alfonso Conner, Nick Conner, James McClanahan, Willis Conner and Curtis Conner; stepdaughters Annie Montgomery and Viola Francis; and a brother-in-law, Ira Stith.

She leaves to cherish her memories seven daughters: Charlotte Carrington, Jackie



(Douglas) Pompey, Patsy Conner, Deloise Conner, Kathy (Kevin) Millirons, Angela Turner and Melissa Turner; two stepsons, Harry Conner and Thomas (Connie) Conner; a sister, Margie Stith; and a host of grands, great-grands and great-great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The Turner family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

### Baker, Alison Marie

Alison Marie Baker passed away on March 28, 2021. She was 45.

Alison was born on Jan. 15, 1976, in Blacksburg, VA, to Eddie and Judi Baker. A graduate of Emory and Henry College, Alison joined the family business at Positive Radio Group. She was Manager of radio stations ESPN Blacksburg and Classic Hits Z101.3.

A gentle soul with a positive spirit, Alison enjoyed nature, hiking, gardening, and also enjoyed video games. She was an energetic person with a radiant personality. Even in the most trying of circumstances, she could inspire anyone to smile.

Alison is survived by her parents, Eddie and Judi Baker of Riner; her sisters Diane Baker and Michelle Hall and husband Seth; and her brother, Alan Baker and his wife, Audrey, of Blacksburg. She is also survived by her grandmothers, Virginia Baker of Blacksburg, and Edith Jones of Virginia Beach, plus many aunts, uncles and cousins from coast to coast.

Visitation was held on Friday, April 2, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m., at McCoy Funeral Home. A funeral service followed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance at <https://www.ocrhope.org>.

### Taylor, Barbara Ann (Whetsel)

Barbara Ann (Whetsel) Taylor, 73, of Christiansburg, formerly of Dunganon, Va., went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

She was one of nine siblings born to Mable Marion (Lackey) Whetsel and William Calvin Whetsel in Miller Yard, Scott County, Va. They preceded her in death along with her two brothers and sister; Don Whetsel, Robert Whetsel and Wanda (Jean) Blevins. Barbara was also preceded in death by her loving husband Cecil (Gene) Taylor and by her precious great-grandchild, Charlee Mayne Sharlow.

Barbara was married to her loving husband Cecil (Gene) Taylor for 55 amazing years. Gene and Barbara Taylor spent most of their lives working as owners of the Dairy Queen formerly in Blacksburg. They brightened and touched many lives through employment, friendship and phenomenal customer care for over three decades.

Barbara is survived by three brothers, William (Bill) Whetsel, Jr., Charles Whetsel, and Dale Whetsel; and two sisters, Katheryn (Whetsel) Countiss and Rita (Whetsel) Serra. She is also survived



by her three children and their spouses, Emily Taylor Brooks (Ben); Jason "Brad" Taylor (Kari) and Amy Taylor Rhodes (Lee).

She was an adored Nana to 11 grandchildren: Courtney Johnson, Ethan Rutherford, Brandon and Miranda Taylor, Kaylee and Matthew Rose, Cloe Taylor, Bryan Taylor, Mathieu and Chelsea Sharlow, Ryan and Victoria Sharlow, Cassandra Sharlow, Samuel and Marianna Rhodes, and Santanna Rhodes. Ten great-grandchildren were also blessed to call her Nana: Cecilia Johnson, Avery Bonds, Brysen Taylor, Brooks Taylor, Dakotah Sharlow, Micah, Braxton and Adilyn Sharlow and Elizabeth Dae Barker and Memphis Rhodes.

There are also countless others who called her "Nana"; those were family by love.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Lee Naff officiating. Burial will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends Monday from 1 p.m. until service time at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Survey

from page 1

source of comfort. 47% of Americans say that religion has helped them get through the pandemic. The pandemic has made us appreciate family and health more. COVID-19 has made Americans most grateful for their family (39%), followed by health (29%) and then freedom (12%). More people might celebrate in person this year. Americans are 23% more likely to celebrate Easter with friends and family compared to last year.

Fifty-five percent of Americans who celebrate Easter will simply stay at

home during the holiday without going out or meeting with other people, according to WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez. "Of the people who will leave home to celebrate Easter, the largest share will get together with friends and family, while much smaller shares will attend church in person or have a meal at a restaurant," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also expects that churches may experience fewer donations than a typical Easter, as around 29 percent of people who celebrate Easter will donate less on the holiday

this year than they did last year.

The clothing industry will see the biggest hit around Easter, as nearly 46 percent of Easter-celebrating people who usually buy a new outfit say they will forgo one this year, Gonzalez said. According to the WalletHub analyst, "Close to 30 percent of Easter celebrants will also pass on buying Easter baskets, Easter candy, Easter food and family portraits. While people's Easter spending plans are less impacted this year than last year, they are still far from normal."

# Aquatic Center sets April fitness schedule

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center has set its schedule of fitness classes for April.

#### Aqua Yoga

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, April 7-28 (no class April 16) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

\$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

Aqua Yoga utilizes the principles and movements of hatha yoga and adapts them to the water. The yoga poses practiced in this class will help participants develop strength and static balance, as well as, increase their range of motion. Beginners are welcome.

With a maximum enrollment of eight, the class will be taught by Thea Vincenti in the therapy pool.

#### Morning Fit

Monday/Wednesday, April 5-28 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

\$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents.

This shallow-water workout combines calisthenics style movements with variations of upper and lower body resistance exercises. Participants will jog, kick, march and jump through the water to improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

Maximum enrollment is seven. The class will be taught by Danielle Bland at the slide side of the leisure pool.

#### Warm Water Workout

Monday/Wednesday April 5-28 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

\$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

This warm water exercise program is designed for individuals with arthritic and mobility limitations. This class is for those whose goals include increasing strength, flexibility, and range of motion in a relaxing and low impact atmosphere.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one April session of Warm Water Workout per person.

The maximum enrollment is seven, and Danielle Bland will teach the class in the therapy pool.

#### Rolling in the Deep

Tuesday/Thursday April 6-29 from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

\$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents

Strap on an aqua belt and jump in for a deep water class in the competition pool. Participants will need to bring their own aqua belt and resistance gloves (gloves are not required). Expect to perform aerobic exercises such as jogging, skiing, and more to develop core strength.

Jillian Kowalcik will teach the class with a maximum enrollment of nine.

#### Rolling in the Deep

Tuesday/Thursday, April 6-29 from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.

\$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents.

Taught by Eddie Tickle in the competition pool, the class has a maximum enrollment of six.

#### Warm Water Workout

Tuesday/Thursday, April 6-29, from 9:15 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

\$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one April session of Warm Water Workout per person.

Danielle Bland will teach the class in the therapy pool with a maximum enrollment of seven.

#### Warm Water Workout

Tuesday/Thursday, April 6-29, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

\$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

Due to limited spacing and class popularity, the center is limiting the class to one April session of Warm Water Workout per person.

With a maximum enrollment of seven, Danielle Bland will teach the class in the therapy pool.

#### Hydro Power

Tuesday/Thursday, April 6-29, from 5:45 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

\$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents.

This aqua class combines cardiovascular training and muscle conditioning through methods of interval training, abdominal work, and muscle enduring activities. These combinations provide a great workout with the use of equipment such as pool noodles and water weights in the leisure pool.

Julliann Kowalcik will teach the class with a maximum enrollment of nine.

#### Hydro Power

Tuesday/Thursday, April 6-29, from 5:45 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

\$40 for residents, \$50 for non-residents.

Eddie Tickle will teach this class in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of six.

#### Rise'n Shine Water Aerobics

Wednesday, April 7, 14, 21, 28, from 7 a.m. until 7:45 a.m.

\$20 for residents, \$30 for non-residents.

Gear up for this morning class that will get participants ready for the work day. An aerobics class for the early risers so they can kick off their day energized! Eddie Tickle will teach the class in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of seven.

#### Swim and Trim

Wednesday, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 7 a.m. until 7:45 a.m.

\$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.

This routine consists of half dryland workout and half water workout and is guaranteed to hit all the right muscles and have participants ready to conquer the rest of their day!. Participants should bring their own mats or extra towels for the deck exercise portion of the class.

Julliann Kowalcik will teach the class in the leisure pool with a maximum enrollment of eight.

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

**Ends Thursday, April 8th at 4 PM**  
Income Producing Rental Property for Sale in Christiansburg VA!  
104 Evans St. Christiansburg VA 24073



### Bid Online Now at VAAuctionPro.com

4-Unit apartment building that has been recently remodeled and updated. The .191 acre property has been well maintained and is beautifully landscaped. There are parking spaces in front of apartments 1 & 2 as well as a large, paved lot behind the building. Each unit has laminate and carpet flooring and laundry hookups along with an electric range, refrigerator and dishwasher. Located in Downtown Christiansburg. Each unit is currently rented. Purchaser shall honor current annual lease until expiration. Contact auction company for rent roll.

**Apartment 1** – 2 BR, 1 BA on the upper/street level and has a parking space in front.

**Apartment 2** – 2 BR, 1 BA on the upper/street level and has a parking space in front.

**Apartment 3** – 2 BR, 1 BA on the lower level.

**Apartment 4** – 1 BR, 1 BA on the lower level.

**Preview Date - Saturday March 27 @ 2 PM**

**Terms** – 10% Buyer's Premium, \$10,000. Earnest Money Deposit, Closing in 45 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Property is being sold by Online Only Auction with a SOFT CLOSE. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Auction ends once bidding ends. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete details.

**Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com) ; You can also contact Levi Cox Realtor at 540-230-7162 or email [levicox87@gmail.com](mailto:levicox87@gmail.com)**

102 S. Locust Street,  
Floyd, VA 24091  
(540) 745-2005  
VaAuctionPro.com  
Lic# 2907004059



**Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc**

## Deadline for grads to register for VT in-person commencements is April 16

Virginia Tech will host 15 in-person commencement ceremonies in Lane Stadium May 10-16 that will be divided up by college to celebrate graduating Hokies while also adhering to public health guidelines.

Registration for graduating students and their guests is required. The last day to register is April 16. Each graduate may invite up to four guests.

During the week of April 19, all registered students will receive an email to secure up to four guest tickets. In order to comply with the state guidelines, information for each guest must be submitted when signing up for tickets. Entrance without a ticket will not be permitted.

The virtual university commencement will be on Friday, May 14, at 6:15 p.m., and degrees will be conferred at this time. This year's commencement keynote speaker will be announced later this month. The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the greater Washington, D.C., metro area will also host in-person ceremonies separately.

Each ceremony is expected to last two hours. Large colleges will have more than one ceremony,

and students will select which time they will attend. If a graduate would traditionally attend a departmental ceremony they should now attend their college ceremony. Graduates that associate with multiple colleges should choose their preferred ceremony.

The schedule for the in-person college ceremonies that will be held at Lane Stadium is as follows:

Monday, May 10: 2 p.m. Graduate School (1 of 2); 6:30 p.m. Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

Tuesday, May 11: 4 p.m. Graduate School (2 of 2).

Wednesday, May 12: 6 p.m. College of Engineering (1 of 3).

Thursday, May 13: 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. College of Engineering (2 and 3 of 3); 6 p.m. College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Friday, May 14: 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. College of Science (1 and 2 of 2); 6:15 p.m. University Commencement virtual ceremony.

Saturday, May 15: 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (1 and 2 of 2); 6 p.m. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Sunday, May 16: 8 a.m. College of Natural Resources and Environment; 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Pamplin College of Business (1 and 2 of 2).

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the greater Washington, D.C., metro area will also have in-person ceremonies, which will take place in Roanoke and Falls Church, respectively. The school of medicine will host its ceremony May 8 and the D.C. area ceremony will be May 18. Details about these ceremonies will be communicated to graduates separately.

The Corps of Cadets will also host a graduation ceremony. It will be May 3 at 5:30 p.m. on Upper Quad. Details will be available at vtcc.vt.edu/commencement. More than 8,000 Hokies are graduating this spring. Because of that, hosting multiple in-person events, as well as an online ceremony, is necessary to accommodate public health protocols while also making the experience special for graduates and their families.

Ceremonies will include a message from the dean, and graduates will be able to walk across the stage as their name is read. Photos will be taken, and graduates will be able to choose to have their image mailed to them.

## Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club has college scholarships available

The Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club has \$500 scholarships available to students planning on attending college in the fall.

The funds are awarded to candidates living in the 24060 zip code who have applied to college, including NRV Community College.

The application form is available on the club's Facebook page. It highlights the characteristics the club is looking for, including, in addition to grades, community volunteer work.

Each year the club awards five or six scholarships and invites the winners to a dinner meeting. The winners then have a chance to share what they are doing in the community.

This attention to community volunteer work sets the Ruritan scholarships apart from typical scholarship programs. The Ruritans know many teens are already contributing to the community by volunteering at food

banks, or giving of their time for activity with children or the elderly. Not all good works count toward consideration for the scholarships. For instance, effort limited to a teen's own family does not count.

COVID-19 may have disrupted volunteering activities, so club members will be looking at the history of volunteering over a high school career.

For any questions, contact Wendy Baldwin at 646.352.3936.

The Mt. Tabor Ruritans are hoping that in this year of disrupted schooling, students are still thinking about the excitement of going to college. Someone may have already graduated from high school and are heading to college after a "gap year." That is okay for scholarship consideration.

The club stands ready and willing to help out some with college expenses, which can be burdensome for both students and the family.

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays 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.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in 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: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

**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

### 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.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**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 THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Declare the Truth

Read Isaiah 43:1 through 45:25

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

When the people of Israel persisted in looking to the gods of the nations that surrounded them, the Lord was provoked to address their unfaithfulness. He called Israel to make a thoughtful examination of exactly what the gods of other nations had to offer. He then contrasted these false gods with himself.

These gods of the nations, which were no gods at all, could not choose Israel. But

God, who is the only God, did make a choice. In His choosing, He had a purpose. He wanted Israel to know that He alone is God, to believe in His character, and to understand His love for His chosen.

Then He wanted one more thing. He wanted His people to acknowledge Him before all others and declare His glory. Instead of seeking false gods, Israel should have been declaring: "Only our God is God; no other is like Him."

Thought for Today: God wants our love for Him to be evident to all.

Quicklook: Isaiah 43:9-13

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

currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorial-blacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

### MULTI-CULTURAL

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. 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.

**Radford Worship Center**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, 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., 7 p.m.

**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 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

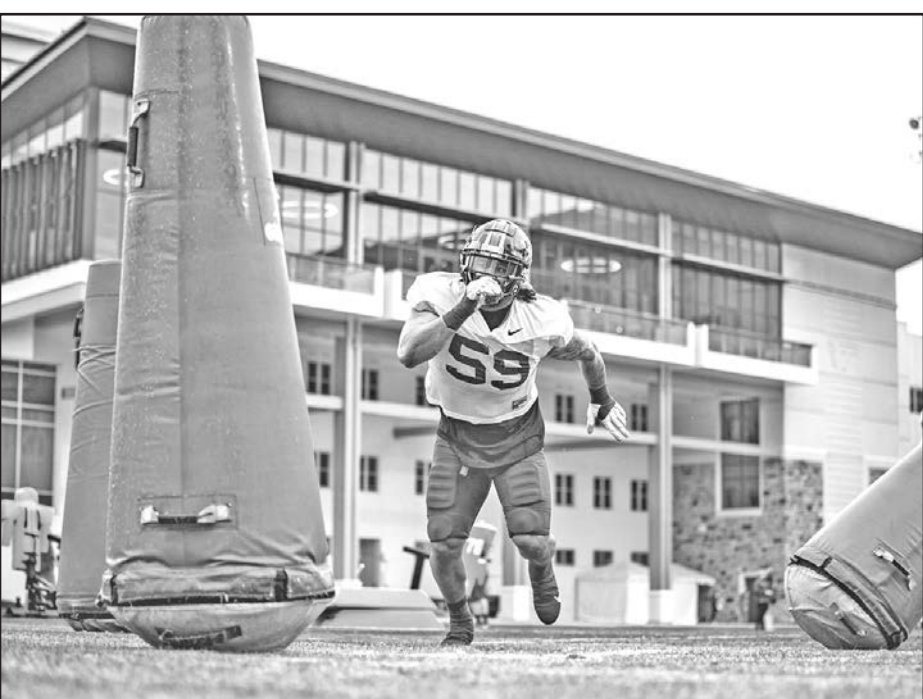
### WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, C'burg. Facebook LIVE service Sundays at 9:00 AM., Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Virginia Tech spring training passes midway mark



Jordan Williams, a redshirt junior defensive lineman from Virginia Beach, goes through the drills in the team's spring training workouts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

The Hokie football team was busy going through drills this week outside at Lane Stadium in preparation for the 2021 fall season.

Virginia Tech head football coach Justin Fuente and the Hokies have wrapped up another week of spring practice, passing the halfway point of their spring workouts during the week.

After COVID-19 and the quarantine stripped Tech of its entire spring schedule in 2020, Fuente is appreciative for every opportunity to get on the field

this year

"We're grateful for every single one of them," the head Hokie said of Tech's allotted 15 practices for the spring. "You look across the country at teams that have had to pause – I think there's three of them in our league – probably nine or 10 across the country that have had to pause. We've been fortunate so far, and we've got our

fingers crossed. We've gotten in good work on fundamentals and special teams."

Fuente indicated that Tech delved more into situational football this past week. Throughout spring practice, numerous players have pointed to Tech's 33-15 win against Virginia last December as a "complete game" and a sign of the potential of this squad in

2021.

Perhaps the most unusual bit of news that was broken this week came on NFL Network's Good Morning Football. Although it was no secret in the Tech locker room, Khalil Herbert revealed that he was born with 12 fingers (six on each hand) and six toes on his left foot. Among more predictable tidbits the Tech

running back dropped was the fact that his favorite NFL running back of all time is LaDainian Tomlinson, who owns a similar physique and running style. Combined with the fact that his birthday is April 21, the No. 21 that Herbert wore in college is also an homage to Tomlinson.

--VT Athletics

## ACC names VT's Sam Latona the freshman wrestler of year

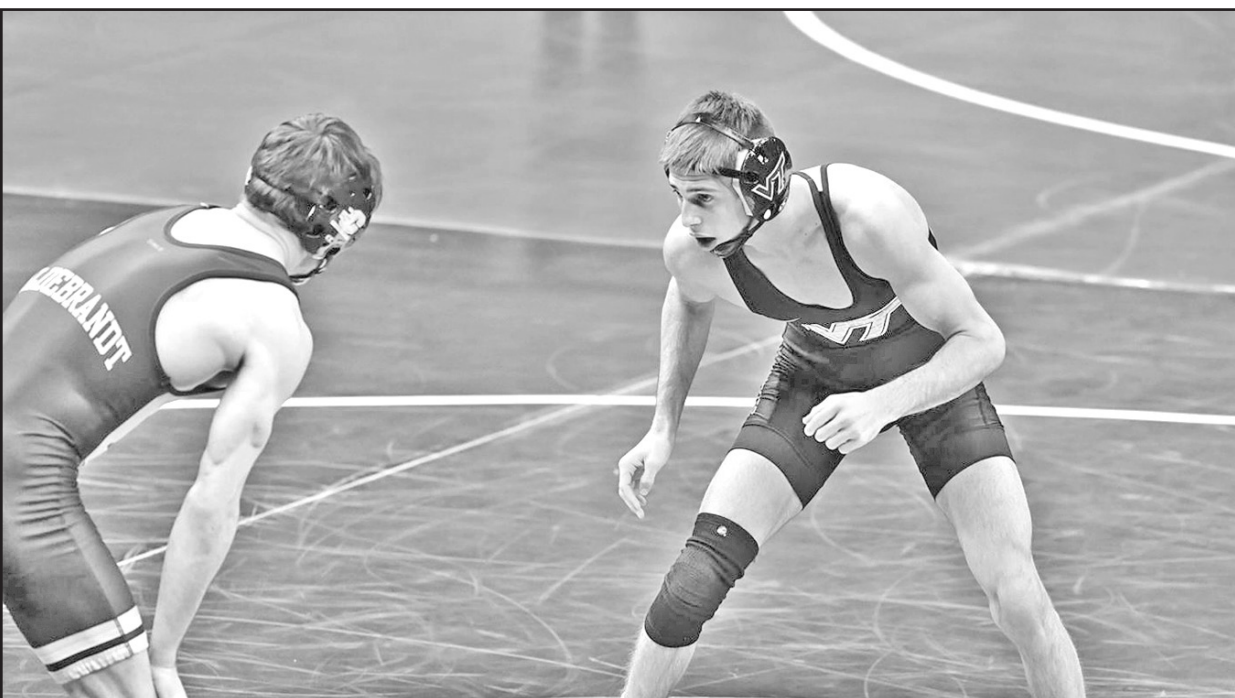


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Wednesday Sam Latona became the ninth Hokie wrestler to be named the ACC Freshman of the Year.

Following one of the better rookie campaigns by a Hokie in recent memory, the ACC has named Virginia Tech wrestler Sam Latona its Freshman of the Year, as announced by the league office on Wednesday.

Latona becomes the ninth Hokie to receive the honor, the most in the league. NC State is second with four freshmen so honored. Tech has now fielded the Freshman of the Year in three of the last four seasons.

An Alabama native, Latona placed sixth in the 125-pound weight class at the NCAA Championships to earn All-America honors in his first season compet-

ing for the Hokies. He finished the season with a 14-3 mark and won the ACC championship at 125.

Latona, one of 43 Virginia Tech All-Americans all-time and one of three this season, posted an 8-0 mark in dual matches.

The nine Virginia Tech ACC Freshman of the Year award winners are Jarrod Garrett, 2009; Brain Stephans, 2010; Devin Carter, 2011; Nick Brascetta, 2012; Joey Dance, 2014; David McFadden, 2016; Hunter Bolen, 2018; Mitch Moore, 2019; and Sam Latona, 2021.

--VT Athletics

## Tech ramps up fan experience

Virginia Tech plans to continue rolling out new and engaging content for Hokie Nation as spring football practices continue.

Though athletic department personnel are disappointed a traditional spring game weekend is not possible due to current local COVID guidelines, there will be no shortage of coverage of spring football practice in addition to what has already been a look inside the program this off-season. While practice highlights, hype videos, photo galleries, and interviews with coaches and players have long been staples of Tech's football coverage, fans can expect those elements and even more in the coming weeks.

"Hokies Football in Your House" is a new special planned for the conclusion of spring football.

Head Coach Justin Fuente and assistant coaches will break down top moments from the past season as well as spring practices to give fans an inside look at the state of the program, the returning members of the team, and the newcomers. Hokie Nation will also see exclusive elements from Tech football student-athletes discussing their improvement and aspirations for this fall.

Last spring, the "Hard Hat Series" drew praise from fans as Tech student-athletes and coaches engaged in candid conversations on football and campus life as well as

the special talents of the football team off the field. This year, that concept evolves to the next step. In addition to those multi-person roundtable conversations, mic'd up elements from practices are being added to bring fans closer to the action and their favorite student-athletes.

Look for the first episode coming soon featuring offensive line coach Vance Vice and two of his top pupils, Brock Hoffman and Lecitus Smith. Multiple episodes are currently in production with cornerbacks coach Ryan Smith up next along with Jermaine Waller and Dorian Strong. Other position groups will be featured in the weeks to come.

Fans should continue to follow @HokiesFB on Twitter and Instagram for quick-hitting exclusive content. Extended versions of videos and interviews are archived on both HokieSports.com and the Virginia Tech Athletics YouTube channel. Look for a complete spring wrap-up with Coach Fuente after the conclusion of spring practice has concluded.

Fans can register for the Tech Talking Points to have VT Athletics content delivered directly to their inbox on a regular basis.

Stay tuned as the creative team at 25 Beamer Way continues to find new and exciting ways to bring fans closer to their favorite team.

--VT Athletics



Radford's Salma Loudili earned Big South Player of the Week honors after a perfect week of competition in which she went 3-0 in singles play and 2-0 in doubles play.

## RU's Salma Loudili tabbed tennis Big South Player of the Week

The Big South Conference announced Wednesday afternoon that Radford University women's tennis player Salma Loudili had been named the Big South Player of the Week after her perfect record amongst competition last week.

Loudili was a perfect 3-0 in singles play and 2-0 in doubles play in three close

matches last week. Two of those three singles victories came on court two with the last coming on court one in a big clinch against UNC Asheville where the match ended in a 4-3 final score. Teaming up with Melissa Ifidzhen, the duo clinched the doubles point for the Highlanders against Presbyterian, was the lone doubles court

to beat Davidson, and went unfinished with a 4-3 lead against UNC Asheville.

Loudili now owns a four-match winning streak in singles, pushing her total singles record to 8-3. Her winning percentage of .727 is fifth best in the Big South, and the eight wins are second-best. Loudili is an unbeaten 3-0 in conference play.



# Outdoor Report: 2021 walleye fishing forecast

Each year in March, fisheries biologists and hatchery production staff collect adult walleye from the New River, Staunton River, and the South Holston Reservoir for the production of fingerling walleye to stock in selected lakes and rivers in Virginia.

Walleye were spawned or hatched at Vic Thomas, Front Royal, King and Queen, and Buller fish cultural stations and were raised in ponds until they were about 1.5 inches long when they were stocked in locations across the state. Additionally, female walleye are crossed with male saugeye to produce the hybrid saugeye. Saugeye perform well in some systems and are stocked with or in place of walleye. In 2020, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources stocked approximately 1,025,283 Walleye fingerlings.

Overall, 2020 was a good production year slightly above the long-term annual production average for the past decade of 890,852 fingerlings statewide.

The following report offers walleye sampling results and fishing forecasts on waters stocked with walleye and saugeye fingerlings. Anglers who want the challenge of catching a walleye or saugeye should fish one of the locations in this forecast.

In 2021, walleye fishing on the Upper New River from Buck Dam downstream to Allisonia will be consistent with recent years due to annual stocking since 2014. In 2015 and 2017 to 2020, walleye were stocked at multiple sites from Allisonia to Fries. As a result, annual walleye catch rates in fisheries biologists' spring electrofishing sampling increased from the low-catch rates in 2014 and 2015.

Anglers fishing from Buck Dam to Claytor Dam will have to release 19- to 28-inch walleye year round under the new size limit effective January 1, 2021, but they should catch plenty of walleye under 19 inches. In spring 2020 electrofishing samples, 58% of the walleye collected were in the 14- to 19-inch size range.

When you fish for walleye on the Upper New River, follow these size and creel limits: 1. From Buck Dam downstream to Claytor Lake Dam: Year-round: All walleye 19 to 28 inches caught must be released unharmed. Anglers may keep two walleye per day less than 19 inches or over 28 inches. This regulation allows anglers to harvest a few smaller male walleyes (typically less than 19 inches) or a trophy female walleye (typically greater than 28 inches)

while protecting the best spawning-size walleyes in the population.

2. From Fries Dam downstream to Buck Dam: As of January 1, 2021, the statewide 18-inch minimum length limit, with a five-per-day creel limit for walleye is in effect year-round. Biologists tagged walleye in the Upper New River from 2008 to 2012 as part of a statewide walleye research project. A cash reward of 20 dollars will still be offered for the return of these tags with catch information.

Anglers can remove the tag by cutting through the monofilament attachment with scissors or a knife. The fish can then be released or harvested (the length limits listed above apply). Return the tag and catch information to the address printed on the tag. Catch information includes date, time and general location of catch, and "Was the fish harvested or released? Were you fishing for walleye?" and "Did you catch other walleye on this fishing trip?"

Anglers visiting South Holston Lake in 2021 should experience good Walleye fishing although not as productive as in re-

cent years. Sampling during 2020, including both electrofishing and gillnetting, exhibited a decline in catch, although a mostly desirable size structure remains with most walleye collected during the fall gillnetting larger than 18 inches.

Winter gillnet surveys provide a more complete picture of the walleye population at South Holston Lake in terms of population densities, growth rates, and survival of stocked fingerlings. A reduced stocking in 2016 of 42,640 Walleye fingerlings due to hatchery production issues has resulted in a missing year class, which is now evident in our sampling efforts.

As a result, anglers should still enjoy the current state of the fishery, and more recent stockings at the requested allocation will increase the population that recruits to the fishery over the next few years.

Anglers can expect average fishing during the spring spawning run on the South Fork Holston River due to a reduced lake population. Anglers congregate near the community of Alvarado from February through April to catch walleye on the



Walleye fishing awaits Virginia anglers along the New River and in places like Hungry Mother Park.

spring spawning run.

During May and June anglers find Walleye feeding along the shorelines of the lake. The post spawn top water bite in the lower lake will yield the best Walleye fishing Virginia has to offer. Walleye growth is outstanding, so anglers should find plenty of fish larger than the minimum size of 18 inches. Most Walleye exceed 10 inches in their first year and measure 15 to 18 inches in their second year. Walleye generally reach 20 inches by their third year.

This 108-acre lake provides anglers with a great opportunity to catch Walleye

in a small lake setting. Located in Hungry Mother State Park, the lake is also a great destination for families.

The Walleye population is stable or slightly increasing. There are good numbers of fish up to 20 inches and just enough larger ones to cause anglers to lose some sleep this summer. Walleye up to 28 inches in length have been landed in recent years. April, May, and June are the three best months with night fishing generally being more productive. Most anglers use artificial lures, but live shad, minnows, and night crawlers are also very effective.

## Blue Ridge Junior golf tour to kick off new season in Radford

The Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour is set to celebrate its 23rd season in 2021 with the announcement of the season's tour schedule.

The Tour offers golfers up to age 18 the opportunity to learn golf rules, etiquette, and skills while playing golf courses in southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia.

Tour Executive Director Dewayne Belcher says, "Developing character and sportsmanship through the game of golf has been the motto since the beginning of the tour in 1999. With that foundation, we have seen young players exhibit sportsmanship in inspiring ways."

After navigating the COVID-19 restrictions during the 2020 season, tour officials are hopeful of returning to normal in regard to gatherings for the academies and rules clinics.

"We followed instructions from health authorities last year and altered the plan by putting instruction for the academies and rules clinic online for viewing," Belcher said. "Our tournaments were played with a few special rules provisions to maintain social distance and reduce common touch points. Members and their families did an admirable job and kept the safety of all in mind throughout the season. We are hoping to be free of restrictions by the time events begin in May but are prepared to use the online options and special rules provisions again if necessary."

Action will begin with the first of three golf academies on Saturday, May 22, at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech in Radford. Instructional academies follow at Draper Valley Golf Club in Draper and Fincastle Golf Course in Bluefield.

The "Golf by the Rules" clinic will also be held at Fincastle. Tournament play begins in early June with stops at the River Course, The Greenbrier, Tazewell County Country Club, Glade Springs Resort, Auburn Hills Golf Club, Blacksburg Country Club, and Fincastle.

Interested junior golfers can find all dates, events, and sites at brjgt.com. Registration also can be completed on the website.

The cost to join the tour is \$30, and each tournament is \$20 except for the season-ending tour championship. This is a two-day event and costs \$40. Through the experience, the junior golfer will receive a number of BRJGT gifts including the official 2021 cap. Also, the player will become a better golfer, make many good friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Age groups are divided into the following categories: 17-18, 15-16, 13-14, (all play 18 holes), 10-12 and 9-and-under (both play 9 holes). Also, there is an additional developmental group for ages 13-18 for those who are brand new to golf. The latter includes a coach to accompany the players for nine holes during selected tournaments.

"2021 promises to be another fun season filled with many rewarding experiences," Belcher said.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS											
	A	R	A	B	I	C	C	A	L	K	
	A	B	A	L	O	N	E	A	R	I	A
	A	L	B	S	A	N	N	F	A	C	E
R	E	T	I	R	E	S	H	E	K	E	L
M	C	Z	E	D	S	T	O	A	S		
S	C	H	A	V	E	A	R	P			
M	A	R	I	S	O	H	P	C			
M	I	A	M	U	R	Y	A	P			
N	T	I	R	S	N	L	R	B			
	I	D	L	E	E	M	C	E	E		
	S	O	R	E	S	A	W	N	A	S	
C	A	B	A	N	A	E	Y	E	C	U	P
S	L	A	B	M	A	D	R	E	S	H	
C	A	L	I	A	C	A	C	I	A	S	
H	Y	M	N	S	E	N	D	E	R		





# GRAND OPENING! BLACKSBURG

---

## APRIL 9-10

Friday 8:00am — 5:00pm  
Saturday 8:00am — 2:00pm

---

## & KUBOTA FIELD EVENT

Food • Drinks • Prizes

Demonstrations • Factory Representatives • Special Pricing





Compact Tractor Packages



RTV Utility Vehicles



Z-Turn & Riding Mowers



Construction Equipment

# Call: 540-908-3782

3809 South Main Street • Blacksburg, VA

BeverageTractor.com | beveragetractor@hotmail.com



Together we do more



**Ashley**  
HOMESTORE

this is home.

the big deal

EVENT



**0%**  
interest  
for 24 months

plus take  
an additional

**10%**  
off

already low  
sale prices!

shop now →

**BLACKSBURG:  
1540 S MAIN STREET**

**Monday-Saturday: 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Sunday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Roanoke | Lynchburg | Harrisonburg | Staunton  
Waynesboro | Bluefield | Blacksburg | Wytheville**

Previous purchases excluded. Discounts applied to regular MSRP price. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offers are nontransferable and do not apply to sales tax, shipping, mattresses, homestore specials, clearance, manager specials, floor model, Protection Plus plans, warranty and service charges. See store for details. Finance is subject to credit approval. See store for details on all financing offers. Valid through 4/5/21.