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Chamber presents 2021 Women's Leadership Awards at conference



Montgomery County Chamber Executive Director Sharon Scott (left) presents the Woman Business Leader Award to Nanci Hardwick.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce held its eighth annual Women's Leadership Conference virtually with over 120 attendees.

The 2021 theme was "A Year for Recovery & Discovery," encouraging women to recognize the challenges over the last 14 months, to find the positives, and to find ways to move forward. The virtual program was unique this year as it hosted a breakout session for young women ages 12-17 to examine careers and make decisions about their future.

Master of Ceremonies Amy Woods, the Chief Nursing Officer at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, led the program and announced the 2021 Women's Leadership Awards recipients.

Lateffa Smith of Community Housing Partners received the Community Builder Award.

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Radford PD launches community survey on policing, crime, safety

The Radford City Police Department has launched a community survey seeking opinions about the police department and about crime and safety in Radford neighborhoods.

Participation in the survey by Radford residents is voluntary but is encouraged by the department. According to the PD, the survey should take less than 30 minutes to complete and there are no foreseeable risks or benefits to anyone who completes a survey form.

A department statement released about the survey said, "Understanding community views of the police is important for developing appropriate law enforcement and social service responses to problems in the City of Radford, and for improving police-community relations. All answers are anonymous and no individual responses will be identified in any reports produced from the survey."

Police Department Chief Jeff Dodson said, "Across the country recently, we have seen many communities suffering from the erosion of trust between the community and their police agencies. Maintaining a high level of

trust with our community requires that we listen and then be responsive to their concerns. This community survey allows our agency to better understand those needs and develop appropriate responses in addressing these concerns. Our goal is to ensure that we are delivering the most professional and highest quality of law enforcement service to our community here in Radford."

Radford City utility customers will receive a letter in their utility bill this month explaining the survey and where it can be found. The survey will be available on the following platforms and locations through May 31, 2021: the Radford City webpage: www.radfordva.gov, the Radford City government Facebook page, and the Radford City Police Department Facebook page.

Paper copies of the survey will be available for pickup at the following locations: the Radford City Police Department, 20 Robertson Street, Radford; and the Radford University Police Department.

For any questions concerning the survey and accessibility, email policeinfo@radfordva.gov.

Lane Stadium to be rockin' at full capacity this fall

Virginia Tech says football games will have fans jumping to "Enter Sandman" this fall with plans for the stadium to be at full capacity.

Athletic officials started allowing students to buy season tickets but are taking it one step at a time. A final decision will depend on state and local restrictions, if there are any, when the first game kicks off on September 3 against the UNC Tar Heels.

Student season tickets for both 2021-22 football and men's basketball are now available for purchase. At this time, student ticket orders are available for returning students only. Tech Athletics remains hopeful that Hokie Nation can return to Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum in 2021 while keeping the health and safety of Hokie student-athletes and fans in mind.

In the meantime, athletics department staff is hard at work as sanitization enhancements in Lane Stadium are ongoing. They include the installation of over 200 hand sanitizing stations, contactless concession options, and preparation for socially distanced seating and lines. For the first time, men's basketball season tickets will be available for purchase at the same time as football. This includes a new football/men's basketball combo package that provides students with a ticket



to all home games except for basketball break games.

New this year is the inclusion of a Student Hokie Club membership (\$25 gift) during the order process. Students will be asked to make one gift for their membership; thus students who have already made their \$25 Student Hokie Club gift for the 2021-22 membership year will not be asked to make a second gift. Football only tickets are available for \$150, which includes all fees as well as a \$25 Student Hokie Club Gift. Men's basketball only tickets are available for \$170, which includes all fees as well as a \$25 Student Hokie Club Gift. A combo pack of football and men's basket-

ball is available for \$285, which includes all fees as well as a \$25 Student Hokie Club Gift.

The deadline to order for returning students is the final day of exams on May 14.

Tickets are available while supplies last, and limited quantities will be available for men's basketball and the combo pack. Should capacity in either venue be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, student season-ticket holders and Student Hokie Club members will receive priority over the general student population.

Student seating in both Cassell Coliseum and Lane Stadium is now general admission.

Story, the Library's Saint Francis Service Dog-in-training, nears testing milestone



Story, the Radford Public Library's Saint Francis Service Dog-in-training, will be taking her test soon to become a full-fledged service dog.

RADFORD - Story, the Radford Public Library's St. Francis Service Dog-in-training, turned one year old in March and is halfway finished with her training journey before she heads to a home to be in service to a person who needs her.

"She is coming to the end of her intermediate training, and she'll be tested by designated Saint Francis Service Dog (SFSD) staff on these skills to ensure that she can consistently follow the necessary commands and skills needed of her," the library announced.

"SFSD dogs are usually involved in training for the first two years of their lives before being matched with their partners. As a volunteer with SFSD, a library staff member will continue to work with Story until the next step. Story has ben-

efitted from the attention and socialization from all library staff, and we've had so much fun spending time with her. We'll keep our patrons posted on Story's next chapter."

Story recently went on a tour of spots of interest to test her skills and manners.

Saint Francis Service Dogs is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help children and adults with disabilities become more independent and self-sufficient through partnership with a professionally trained service dog and to promote the use and acceptance of service dogs through public and professional education, providing advocacy for service dog partners, and supporting the growth of the service dog industry on a national level," according to the SFSD website.

Governor partly rolls back Virginia mask mandate

Virginians will still need to wear masks indoors and at large, crowded events outside, but Gov. Ralph Northam amended his executive order Thursday to allow fully vaccinated people — meaning those who received their final COVID-19 vaccine dose at least two weeks earlier — to remove their masks outdoors in small gatherings, following new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"The CDC's recommendations underscore what we have said all along; vaccinations are the way we will put this pandemic behind us and get back to normal life," Northam said in a statement. "Our increasing vaccination rate and decreasing number of new COVID-19 cases has made it possible to ease mitigation measures in a thoughtful and measured manner. I encourage all Virginians who have not yet received the vaccine to make an appointment today."

Northam's mask mandate — first affecting all Virginians ages 10 and older, and then lowered to age 5 — was put in place in late May 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, following the CDC's recommendation.

With Thursday's change, mask use is still required indoors and at crowded events like concerts, sporting events and graduation ceremonies, the governor's office said in a news release.

Northam, who previously announced some lifted restrictions beginning May 15, moved up one change to go into effect immediately, allowing up to 1,000 people to attend outdoor recreational sporting events. The news release said that Northam expects further rollbacks by mid-June as long as health metrics and vaccination continue to progress positively.

Virginia's and other states' masking policies heavily influenced life across the nation over the past year. Some businesses in Virginia were shut down after repeatedly violating the mandate, and state Sen. Amanda Chase was forced to sit in a Plexiglass cubicle during state senate sessions because she refused to wear a mask. However, health officials and Northam have attributed Virginia's relatively low COVID rates compared to other states to its mask mandate and other safety precautions.

Although some governors have completely rescinded masking mandates in recent weeks, others have taken more cautious approaches. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan declared this week that Marylanders did not need to wear masks outdoors except for in large ticketed venues and on public transit, a similar policy to Northam's. Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser also released new

See Mandate, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 5:

Talking About Books

At the Christiansburg Library from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "Caste: The Origins of our Discontents," by Isabel Wilkerson.

And at the Meadowbrook Public Library from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. To be discussed is "Woman of Troublesome Creek," by Kim Richardson. Call to reserve a copy.

Thursday, May 6:

Growing Your Garden

Join for a demonstration and discussion on plant propagation, growing more plants through cuttings. VT Alumna Ashley Appling '12 will be the guide. Appling has a master's degree in horticulture and serves as the agriculture and natural resources agent for Virginia Cooperative Extension. She is housed in the Culpeper Extension Office and serves Culpeper, Madison, and Orange counties.

She'll share her expert advice, take questions, and hear from you about your experiences as home gardeners. Register at: <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/chapter-cheers-garden>.

American Legion meeting

Harvey-Howe-Carper American Legion Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post 776 on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Saturday, May 8:

Virtual Pet Show and Tell

At the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library

Online at 11 a.m. A chance to show off your pet. All pets are welcome: cats, dogs, bunnies, horses, rodents, fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, whatever. No prizes except for sharing the joy of having a pet. All ages are welcome.

Join in virtually for this program on Go-to-Meeting. Registration is required and space is limited. Participants will be emailed a link to the session one day before the program. Email spahl@mfl.org to register.

Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9:

Plein Air Journaling

At historic Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Participants will work with local artists Gerri Young and Matt Gentry to learn how to journal with watercolor (or the medium of choice) on site. The workshop is suitable for beginner to intermediate painters, ages 15 and up. The fee is \$15, and the class is limited to 15 students. For more information or registration, email kjewell@historicalsmithfield.org.

Monday, May 10:

STEM Club

Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online at 1 p.m. Please pick up the activity materials May 5 through May 10. Email shodges@mfl.org for any questions.

Tuesday, May 11:

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 at 3204 Riner Road in Christiansburg. Dana Jackson will give a review of the new book, "Patriots Twice," by Samuel Hood. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Talking About Books: Nonfiction Virtual

At the Blacksburg Library from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "The Feather Thief," by Kirk Wallace Johnson. Call ahead to reserve a copy and learn more.

Wednesday, May 12:

Hahn Horticulture Garden Virtual Road Trip

At 2 p.m. from the Wisconsin Arboretum with VT alumnus David Stevens. Register online and a zoom link will be provided: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cumxRA4Mec96guy.

Chair Yoga for everybody: Virtual

From 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Join Rachel for 20 minutes of chair yoga, a perfect practice for anytime you want a break but can't leave your seat.

Going Out Green

At 3 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Learn about environmentally friendly burial options from Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge. Email Kerri at kcopus@mfl.org to

register.

Evening Book Talk: Virtual Meeting

From 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. To be discussed is "A Woman of No Importance," by Sonia Purnell.

Thursday, May 13:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold its next Commander's Community Meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating is very limited. The event will be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about the plant's modernization and environmental projects. Environmental compliance and corrective actions will be among the topics discussed.

Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15:

Lifeguard Training Recertification

Christiansburg Aquatic Center; 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday. The cost is \$100.

Tuesday, May 18:

Dungeons & Dragons

At 4:30 p.m., join the Radford Public Library's very first Dungeons & Dragons adventure, a one-

shot adventure for level 1 characters. To participate message the RPL on Facebook or email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov.

Thursday, May 20 through Friday, May 28:

Blended learning life-guard training

Christiansburg Aquatic Center May 20 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.: Pre-Test. May 21 through May 26: Video portion of the training. May 27-28: 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$200.

Monday, May 24:

Radford Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament: Birdies, Bogeys, and Business

At the Pete Dye River Course at VT with Captain's Choice shotgun at 1 p.m. Registration and lunch starts at 11:30 p.m. The awarding of prizes via social media is at 6:00 p.m.

Contests include Hole in One and Closest to the Pin with \$200 prizes. The team registration fee is \$350 per team. Email radfordchamber@govt.com to be emailed a registration form.

Wednesday, May 26:

Hahn Horticulture Garden Virtual Road Trip

At 2:00 p.m. from Lotusland with Paul Mills and Rebecca Anderson. Register online for these talks and a zoom link will be provided: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cumxRA4Mec96guy.

Ongoing:

Through May 14:

Young Chef: Ingredient challenge

All day at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Calling all young chefs to challenge their creativity by making a meal with spring peas, basil, and any kind of cheese (including vegan). 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 May 14. Email shodges@mfl.org for further questions and for submission.

All month of May

Story Walk

All the month of May, at the Christiansburg Library. Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "If You Give a Pig a Pancake."

Grab-and-Go Crafts

All day at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Drop by the library for Take-and-Make Craft Kits, available for grab-and-go at the library or with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

Each Saturday through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through October 30, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the New River Valley Community Services (the Old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Blacksburg High students produce Campus Tour broadcasts



Blacksburg High School juniors Joe Bowen (left) and Mason Lattimer hosted the four Campus Tour video broadcast segments produced to represent BHS.

Kim Radford's dual enrollment sports and entertainment management class has produced a series of broadcasts called Campus Tour by Reach and Teach, the aim of which is to provide students hands-on activities incorporating business and marketing concepts while practicing teamwork, communication, and networking.

Participation in the project could also mean an educational grant for the school.

To complete Campus Tour, the class was divided into 5 teams: planning and logistics

with Joe Bowen, Alexis Snyder, and Tyler White; public relations with Mark Frimpong and Tate Harrison; graphic design with Sophia McGrady Robert Cowan, and Gerald Skenderian; marketing with Samantha Skinner, Mason Lattimer, and Ethan St. Martin; and budgeting with Luke Boyle and Ryan Lachenal.

Each team was delegated specific tasks to complete that culminated in four video broadcast segments to represent Blacksburg High School: "Faculty Flex," "I'm Weak," "Challenge Accepted," and "Are

You Sure?" BHS juniors Joe Bowen and Mason Lattimer hosted the segments.

Faculty Flex features a pushup competition with BHS teachers Doug Day, Eddie Sloss, and Eric Morgan. The other segments consist of fun activities students completed with strategic goals and objectives in mind.

Radford said she was proud of the progress her class made on this project in the current learning environment.

"The kids have worked really hard on

See **Tours**, page 5

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PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



Fluff ball Coop can be a purrty shy gal at times and may need a moment to get acclimated in a new home. She currently lives in a community cat room at the Animal Care and Adoption Center with other felines. In the past, she has also lived with a small dog. Coop is housetrained and loves being indoors.

Fat Boy Slim is not an award winning musician/DJ, but he could earn a nomination for best go-with-the-flow kind of dog. Few things affect him, and he's not one to exhibit high energy. When it suits him, he'll play with toys and stuffed animals. He would do best in a home without small children or other dogs.

National search launched to find VTTI's next executive director

A national search has been launched to recruit the next executive director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI).

The transportation institute executive director will oversee the university's

largest research institute, which is conducting more than 300 current research projects in partnership with more than 100 public and private organizations to improve transportation safety nationally and globally. VTTI exceeded \$50

million in externally sponsored awards in fiscal year 2020 and historically accounts for 12-15 percent of sponsored research at Virginia Tech.

The executive director will also become the new president of VTTI LLC, a

\$5 million annual university-affiliated research corporation running the Global Center for Automotive Performance Simulation in Halifax County, Va.

The new transportation institute executive director will replace Tom Dingus, who has led VTTI for 25 years and recently announced his plans to return to the faculty.

Stefan Duma, executive director of Virginia Tech's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, will chair the search committee. The search committee members are

Dennis Dean, university distinguished professor in biochemistry, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Elizabeth Hooper, director of the state Office of Government Relations.

Ron Fricker, interim dean, College of Science and statistics professor.

Pascha Gerni, chief finance and administration officer, VTTI.

Eric Glenn, senior research specialist, VTTI.

Raymond Major, associate professor, business information technology, Pamplin College of Business.

Cathy McGhee, director of research and innovation for the Virginia Transportation Research Council.

Miguel Perez, associate professor, biomedical engineering and mechanics, the College of Engineering and group leader, data engineering, VTTI.

Hesham Rakha, Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professor of Engineering, Charles E. Via Jr. Department of

Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering; director of the Center for Sustainable Mobility, VTTI.

Don Taylor, executive vice provost, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Brandy Salmon, associate vice president, Innovation and Partnerships LINK + LICENSE + LAUNCH.

Susan Soccolich, research associate, VTTI.

Eileen Van Aken, chair, Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, College of Engineering.

Yang Zhang, associate professor, School of Public and International Affairs.

The Division of Human Resources's Talent Acquisition team will assist with the search.



A robotic pedestrian used for sensor testing gets ready to cross a street on the Virginia Smart Roads.

Virginia Tech alumna builds online community for women in construction

With women comprising only 10 percent of people working in construction, it may seem difficult for young, female professionals entering the construction field to find their voice.

That's why Kathryn Hart, a 2016 alumna from the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, a joint venture between the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering, created Space to Build, an online community for women in construction to network, share, and grow with each other.

Space to Build brings its community together through various platforms including an active Instagram page of nearly 1,000 followers. It also features a podcast that has been downloaded and streamed

in 22 different countries and features weekly interviews and casual discussions with women in the fields of architecture, engineering, and construction.

"Women on construction sites can easily feel isolated and miss having another woman to go to for advice or support," Hart said. "That is not to say we don't appreciate our male co-workers who have supported and mentored us because we do. There are just situations where having another female's perspective makes more sense."

Space to Build provides resources for young female professionals in construction. They learn from other professionals who share their experience with difficult or unexpected situations in the field. The community also celebrates

each other's victories and accomplishments like earning internships and developing female-positive curriculums about construction for parents to share with their children.

Growing and maintaining her community has not been easy as Hart juggles Space to Build along with her full-time job as a superintendent for a general contractor in Northern Virginia and as the Northeast Region Professional Development and Education Chair for the National Association of Women in Construction. However, she finds the spark of motivation to keep moving forward as she receives an influx of touching success stories from young women in the community who feel like they have been given permission to pursue the

things that they're interested in in the construction industry. Hart has always known the importance of peer support in construction ever since she was a student at Virginia Tech.

Much of Hart's success is from the building construction program's focus on collaboration. Projects and presentations from students are often reviewed by outside industry professionals, and underclassmen are encouraged to provide feedback on senior projects as well.

Hart parallels this collaborative attitude with how the construction field operates. Along with the abundant networking opportunities, Hart believes that this is what sets Virginia Tech's construction program apart.

Hart's bold ideas continue in Space to Build as

she plans to expand and innovate in the near future with hopes of migrating her social media community to a new platform that will provide chat functionality and other opportunities for people to directly connect with each other. Expanding on the podcast,

Hart is working to collaborate with other podcasters to produce a construction miniseries. Hart is also looking to host webinars and events with special guest speakers and panel discussions.

-- Written by Jared Cole



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA GHOBAI
Virginia Tech Building Construction Alumna Kathryn Hart stands in front of a construction project.

Chamber

from page 1



Chamber Treasurer Kelly Kendrick (left), Assistant Vice President of First Bank & Trust Company, joins Emerging Leader Award winner Tessa Wright, who is also with the First Bank & Trust Company.

The Emerging Leader Award was presented to Tessa Wright of First Bank & Trust Company.

Receiving the Spirit Award was Rhonda Whaling of LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

Nanci Hardwick of Meld Manufacturing Corporation was named the Woman Business Leader of the Year.

New River Health District Director Dr. Noelle Bissell was the chamber's 2021 Woman of the Year.

"We encourage and support female leaders in our business, non-profits, civic and government leadership who make decisions affecting our business community," said Chamber Board Chairman Henry Bass. "Since 2015, we have developed themes that reflect the

professional development needs of our local leaders. We know through research that the pandemic has more adversely impacted women than men, and women of color have been affected even greater."

Nneka Logan, Ph.D., an associate professor in the School of Communications in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, was the keynote speaker this year. She shared her insights as to what recovery looks like and how women can move forward with a plan of action aimed at discovering new approaches to work, family, and self-care.

Robyn Jones, Chamber board member and the Chief Operating Officer of Joba, noted, "We had ten outstanding local leaders who led breakout sessions

and participated in panels to encourage and support attendees."

Several other leading women in the community presented to the conference, including Danylle Kunkle, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Radford University; Sara Yun, Board Certified Hypnotherapist and Yoga Instructor, Neurolinguistic Programming Coach, Licensed Massage Therapist, and owner of Yun Yoga and Hypnotherapy; Amy Pruden, Ph.D., W. Thomas Rice Professor in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering at VT and former Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Graduate Education in the Graduate School; and Megan Atkinson, local educator and Leadership New River Valley graduate.

Marianne Washington of Movement Mortgage and a board member who served on the 2021 planning committee said, "Planning a conference during a pandemic is challenging. We waited until

April in hopes that the COVID cases would be lower and vaccinations would be higher, allowing us to meet in person possibly. When this did not happen, we moved forward with our virtual plan with a goal of 120 attendees, and we met that goal."

Aaron Harris-Kirby, Past Chamber Board Chair, indicated she "believes the program will be in person in 2022, and we can exceed the 250 attendee mark." The chamber has contracted with author Amy Herman to be the keynote speaker.

Chamber Executive Director Sharon Scott said about the conference, "Our goal is to keep the cost of this vital program affordable. LewisGale Hospital Montgomery has been a huge supporter of this program with a sponsorship at the highest level. We are so appreciative of the local business community that recognizes the contributions of women and the value they add to our community."

In addition to LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, other companies sponsoring the conference were Pointe West Management, First Bank & Trust Company, The Orange Bandana, Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Coldwell Banker Townside Realtors, English Meadows of Blacksburg, First & Main, Freedom First Credit Union, Hurt & Proffitt, National Bank of Blacksburg,

Servpro of Montgomery and Pulaski counties, American National Bank & Trust company, Automation Creations, Inc., and Budget Blinds.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce serves Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and all of Montgomery County. The chamber supports approximately 600 local businesses through marketing, educational, and network-building opportunities



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OPINION

WalletHub: Virginia among best states for working moms

With Mother's Day around the corner and mothers regaining jobs lost due to COVID-19 at a faster rate than fathers, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2021's Best and Worst States for Working Moms. Virginia came in at No. 12 among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce, and nearly 66% of moms with children under age 18 were working in 2020, according to WalletHub. That's naturally been impacted by the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, though. Mothers were initially disproportionately impacted by job losses compared to fathers, and while they have also regained jobs at faster rates, unemployment has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, the website said. Even during non-pandemic times, says WalletHub, working moms still face an uphill battle in the workplace as their average hourly wage is only 85% of what men make and only 6% of S&P 500 companies' chief executives are women. Such obvious in-

equality brings up not just financial questions but also deeply ingrained social issues. For instance, should women have to choose between career and family? To determine the best and worst states for working moms, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three key dimensions: 1) Child Care, 2) Professional Opportunities and 3) Work-Life Balance and then those dimensions using the following relevant metrics: 1. Day-Care quality 2. Child-Care costs 3. Pediatricians

per capita 4. School-System quality (based on WalletHub's "States with the Best and Worst School Systems" ranking 5. Share of nationally accredited child care centers 6. Number of childcare workers per total number of children 7. Gender pay gap (women's earnings as a percentage of men's.) 8. Ratio of female executives to male executives 9. Median women's salary 10. Share of working women living with economic security 11. Share of families in poverty ("Families" include single mothers with children aged 0 to 17.) 12. female un-

employment rate 13. gender-representation gap in different economic sectors (the absolute difference between the share of female employees and male employees). 14. WalletHub's "Best States for Working from Home" ranking 15. Parental-leave policy 16. Average length of a woman's work week (in hours) 17. Women's average commute time (in minutes). According to WalletHub's survey, the top five places for working moms were 1. Massachusetts 2. District of Columbia 3. Connecticut 4. Vermont 5. Minnesota.

Va's gas prices keep going up

Virginia's gas prices rose 2.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.74/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 1.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.05/g higher than a year ago. According to Gas-

Buddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia is priced at \$2.35/g today while the most expensive is \$3.49/g, a difference of \$1.14/g. The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.89/g today. The national average is up 1.8 cents per gallon from a

month ago and stands \$1.13/g higher than a year ago. "The nation's gas prices perked up again last week as oil prices advanced to fresh multi-year highs on COVID improvements overseas and the switch to summer gasoline, which is basically now complete," said Patrick De Haan,

head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "Last week saw the national average hit its highest level in two years, and with continued recovery in gasoline demand, the increase in price is likely to continue into the future," De Haan said. "Americans may now want to brace themselves for the

possibility of a \$3/gal national average in the weeks ahead, as demand remains strong as Americans take to the roads. "The question going forward is how much demand will continue to recover and rise. Will it lead to record summer gasoline demand? We indeed may see some weeks with new records as Americans get in their cars this summer, but the question is how many will do so? That will determine how much high-

er prices will go." GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

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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.

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Teacher Appreciation Week continues through Friday

The governor's self-proclaimed Teacher Appreciation Week in the commonwealth continues through Friday, May 7.

As part of the observance, Gov. Ralph Northam is encouraging all Virginians to participate by sending personalized thank-you notes to recognize educators for their service and dedication to students.

This year's sixth annual Thank-a-Teacher campaign, sponsored by the Virginia Lottery in partnership with the Virginia Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and The Supply Room, celebrates the important role of teachers in Virginia and highlights the talent of young artists by featuring student artwork on each thank-you note.

"While this school year looks unlike any other, one thing remains the same: Teachers are the driving force in

equipping our children with the knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary for success," said the governor. "Virginia's teachers have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic, and during Teacher Appreciation Week we have a special opportunity to show them our gratitude.

"I encourage Virginians across the commonwealth to join us in recognizing all those who are investing their time and talent to ensure every student is served equitably and shaping the lives of our future leaders in more creative ways than ever before."

More than 100,000 thank-you cards have been sent to Virginia teachers during the first five years of the campaign. To send a digital thank-you note or to request hard-copy notes for your school, visit thankateacherva.com. Hard-copy notes also are available through participating PTA chapters and at all Virginia Lottery customer service centers. Digital and hard-copy thank-you notes may be sent to teachers through Friday, May 7.

Qualifying teachers who receive a thank-you note can enter a drawing for a chance to win one of two Virginia vacations from the Virginia Lottery and \$5,000 in credit for their school from The Supply Room.

For the fourth year in a row, the thank-you notes feature the beautiful designs of three student artists selected through the Virginia Lottery's "Thank a Teacher" Art Contest. The winning entries were created by Sarah Saravanan, a first-grade student at McNair Lower Elementary School in Fairfax County, Karmare Brownlee, an eighth-grade student at Tabb Middle School in York County, and Andrew Gibson, a senior at Gretna High School in Pittsylvania County.

Each winning student-artist received a \$150 gift card from the Virginia Lottery. The art department at each winner's school also received \$1,000 from the Virginia Lottery and a \$1,000 credit from The Supply Room.

"Our superhero teachers have gone above and beyond for students over the past year," said First Lady Pamela Northam. "From early childhood to K-12, Virginia educators have quickly adjusted to new guidelines and are providing students with a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment to return to throughout the commonwealth. This week, let's thank them for going the extra mile every day for Virginia's children."

"Every day, thousands of teachers are working to make a difference in

the lives of our children and, consequently, Virginia's future," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. "Teachers choose their profession because they are passionate about enriching the lives of the students who fill their classrooms. As your secretary of education, a former teacher, and a public school parent, I invite you to take a few moments to write a thank-you note to the teachers that sacrifice so much for our students."

"Virginia's K-12 public school teachers have always been a valuable and important resource for the commonwealth," said Virginia Lottery Executive Director Kevin Hall. "The Thank-a-Teacher campaign is a great opportunity to celebrate those teachers who have moved heaven and earth to continue supporting Virginia students and their families during these challenging days."

Authorized by Virginia voters in a successful 1987 referendum, the Virginia Lottery generates more than \$1.6 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, lottery customers helped generate more than \$595 million in funding for public education. The Virginia Lottery has been the source of more than \$10 billion for public schools since 1999.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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62						63					64		

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Prevents harm to young
 - 5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
 - 8. Partner to pan
 - 11. Cavalry unit
 - 13. Peyton's little brother
 - 14. Mexican dish
 - 15. Disseminates info to the public
 - 16. Set an animal on
 - 17. Canadian flyers
 - 18. Elongated mouths of anthropods
 - 20. I (German)
 - 21. Opposite of west
 - 22. Glows
 - 25. Measures how quickly a car moves
 - 30. One who has gained wealth
 - 31. Patti Hearst's captors
 - 32. Extensive landed property
 - 33. Male aristocrat
 - 38. For each
 - 41. More fidgety
 - 43. Very happy
 - 45. A place to store info
 - 47. Helps to heal
 - 49. 12th month (abbr.)
 - 50. Broad, shallow craters
 - 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
 - 56. Frost
 - 57. Ethiopian town
 - 59. Curved shapes
 - 60. Company that rings receipts
 - 61. Spiritual leader
 - 62. Sheep native to Sweden
 - 63. Cars need it
 - 64. Partner to relaxation
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
 - 2. Type of school
 - 3. Formal close (music)
 - 4. Transmits high voltage
 - 5. A way to occupy a certain area
 - 6. Draws out
 - 7. His Airness
 - 8. Nocturnal rodents
 - 9. South American plants
 - 10. Homestead
 - 12. Bland or semiliquid food
 - 14. Forest resident
 - 19. The body needs it
 - 23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
 - 24. Spell
 - 25. Relaxing place
 - 26. Political fundraising tool
 - 27. Make a mistake
 - 28. Partner to Adam
 - 29. Tyrant
 - 34. Unit of electrical resistance
 - 35. A history of one's life
 - 36. Actor DiCaprio
 - 37. Sea eagle
 - 39. Avoiding being caught
 - 40. ___ de Mornay, actress
 - 41. Belonging to a thing
 - 42. Not us
 - 44. Motorcars
 - 45. Capital of Bangladesh
 - 46. Ancient Greek sophist
 - 47. Practice boxing
 - 48. ___ Grant, actor
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. S. Sudan river
 - 53. A bumpkin
 - 54. One point south of southwest
 - 58. Small island (British)

Mandate

from page 1

mask guidance Thursday, allowing vaccinated people to shed face coverings for small indoor private gatherings, and vaccinated people can socialize with unvaccinated people outdoors, although unvaccinated people should still wear a mask.

As of Gov. Northam's mask use change, 3.7 million Virginians — 43.9% of the population — are vaccinated with at least one dose, and

29.9% of the state, or 2.5 million people, are fully vaccinated. Shots are available for anyone age 16 or older. Although there are walk-in appointments available in some regions of the state, many clinics are still requiring advance appointments.

All adult residents of Virginia can now register to get vaccinated at vaccinate.virginia.gov or call (877) VAX-IN-VA, or (877) 829-4682.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Absher, Kathleen Price

Kathleen Price Absher, 81, of Christiansburg, died Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at her home.

She was born in Montgomery County on Sept. 27, 1939, to the late Minor and Ruby Woolwine Price.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Charlie Price, and a sister, Betty Neighbors. She was employed at Virginia Tech for over 25 years and retired from Radford University. She enjoyed volunteering at The Christmas Store. Kathleen was a member of Belmont 2 Ruritan Club.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, J.C. Absher; a daughter and son-in-law, Angie



and John Emery; a son and daughter-in-law, John C. and Christine Absher; sisters and brothers-in-law, Alice and Buck Wrenn, Judy Dowdy, and Carolyn Alls; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Sandy Price; grandchildren Ashley, Coby, Logan, Kailey, and Avery; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, May 1, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Gunter, Jimmy Wilson

Jimmy Wilson Gunter, 82, of Christiansburg, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, April 26, 2021. He was retired from Federal Mogul with over 30 years of service.

Jimmy was an avid sports fan, especially watching UVA football and basketball, and NASCAR, as well as sitting on the porch watching the wildlife around him. He also loved music, particularly Elvis and Motown, playing the guitar, and watching Andy Griffith, game shows, and soap operas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Nellie Gunter; one brother and five sisters.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Carol Gunter; a son, Jon (Kristin) Gunter;



daughters Melissa Gunter, Kristi (Steven) Osborne, and Julie (Jeff) Sink; a stepson, Eric Burlingame; grandchildren Camden, Carrington, Joshua, Jakob, and Adam; brothers Paul Gunter and Sonny (Lora) Gunter; sisters Jeanetta (Frank) Reynolds, and Ollie Sue Morris; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at the Faith Christian Church in Christiansburg, followed by funeral services with Pastor David Rhudy officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

The Gunter family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Cooper, II, Ralph Franklin

Ralph Franklin "Frank" Cooper, II, 63, of Christiansburg, died Sunday, April 25, 2021.

He was born in Beckley, W.Va., on June 23, 1957. Frank was preceded in death by his father, the Rev. Ralph Franklin Cooper.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patsy Cooper; his daughters Kristen Cooper and special friend, Veronica and Kimberly Ashwell and her husband, Jonathan; his mother, Retha Cooper; his brother, Randy Cooper; a nephew, Josh Cooper and his wife, Kristen; a great-niece, Luna; and numerous extended family members.

Frank was a loving father and husband and was a special uncle to his many nieces and nephews. His special little girls, Josey and Skylynn, and his little "buddy," Adam, were especially dear to him.

Frank attended Abundant Praise Congregational Holiness Church. He loved his daughters and spending time with them. He was very generous in



making sure they had everything they needed. They were the highlight of his life.

Frank enjoyed going on adventures with his son-in-law, which included museums and his very first Atlanta Braves baseball game in Washington, D.C. He and his wife enjoyed their many day trips, often visiting caverns, which was a favorite of his, but not necessarily a favorite of hers due to her fear of being underground, which he found quite amusing. He was also an avid NASCAR racing fan.

Frank will be deeply missed by all who knew him and our hearts will be forever broken.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, April 29, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jerry Shepherd and the Rev. Gary Shepherd officiating. Interment was held in Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Martin, Larry "Oakley"

Larry "Oakley" Martin, 64, was born on Oct. 21, 1956, and passed away at home on April 18, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Treva Wheeling Martin; fathers Kenneth Leon Martin and Fred Alls; grandparents Oakley and Macie Bryant Wheeling, a son, Travis Martin and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins.



the Rev. Ed Gallimore officiating.

Left to cherish his memory is his aunt, Lois Alls Lancaster; an uncle, Robert "Bobby" Alls; a special cousin, Michael Lancaster; other numerous cousins and a special lifelong friend, Mack Lynn.

A graveside service was conducted Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Dudley Cemetery in Fagg, Va., with

Tours

from page 2



BHS teacher Eric Morgan (left) and student Ethan St. Martin participated in "Faculty Flex," a video segment featuring a pushup contest.

producing this broadcast and have learned so many valuable skills, including what it takes to be a project manager," Radford said. "The ultimate goal of this project is to reinforce time and project management skills while incorporating marketing and management core fundamentals. This is the first year we have partnered with Reach and Teach, and I would absolutely do it again."

Co-Managers of the Planning and Logistics team, Joe Bowen and Alexis Snyder said they felt the project was both challenging and rewarding.

"This year, we had limited time to accomplish this project, and only half of our class was at school for in-person learning," Snyder said.

"We all worked together to get it done and we are proud of our final work."

"It was great to complete a project the school can see and give us feedback on," Bowen said about the project. "We really want to win the competition between schools, so now is the time to have our community rally behind us. We need as much support as we can get."

Blacksburg High School's segment of Campus Tour premiered on Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m. on YouTube. The video link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRqAOeGRufg>. The community can support the Bruins by watching the video and sharing it with others in the community for viewing. Viewing votes will close at midnight on Friday, May 21.

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENT TO THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION ON THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE TO BE PAID BY RETAIL CUSTOMERS OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY FOR THE PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PROGRAM
CASE NO. PUR-2020-00117

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted what has become known as the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA"). As pertinent here, the VCEA required the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to determine the universal service fees to be collected from customers of Appalachian Power Company ("APCo") and Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion") to fund the Percentage of Income Payment Program, or PIPP, established by statute. PIPP funds would be allocated to retail customers of APCo and Dominion to reduce the energy burden of utility customers participating in certain public assistance programs. The VCEA further required that the universal service fees "shall not be collected from customers . . . until such time as the PIPP is established."

On December 23, 2020, the Commission issued an Order in this docket determining a universal service fee for APCo of \$0.001803 per kilowatt hour ("kWh") to recover approximately \$25 million annually. This universal service fee was approved "with no effective date at this time." The Commission also ordered that, "[u]pon enactment of legislation setting forth further details on the PIPP and subsequent direction by this Commission, APCo shall file for review and revision (if necessary) of the PIPP fee, prior to collection of the fee from customers."

On March 24, 2021, the Governor of Virginia signed what has become Chapter 308 of the 2021 Virginia Acts of Assembly. This law establishes the PIPP Fund on the books of the Comptroller. Chapter 308 also modifies the definition of "PIPP eligible utility customer"; sets caps on the annual cost of PIPP-related programs, including administrative costs, at \$25 million for APCo and \$100 million for Dominion; requires the Commission to initiate proceedings to provide for an annual true-up of the universal service fee within 60 days of commencement of the PIPP; and requires the Commission to promulgate "any rules necessary to ensure" funds collected from APCo's and Dominion's universal service fees are directed to the PIPP Fund and that the utilities receive adequate compensation from the PIPP Fund for all reasonable PIPP costs, including bill credits for PIPP-eligible customers. Finally, Chapter 308 requires the Commission to issue an order "as soon as practicable" following the July 1, 2021 effective date of Chapter 308, to begin the collection of the universal service fee from customers.

The Commission entered an Order on Additional Proceedings that, among other things, reopens and remands this case to a Hearing Examiner for additional procedures concerning the PIPP and associated universal service fee, including consideration of specific questions appended to the Order ("Appendix"). Among other things, these questions are designed to help the Commission discern whether Chapter 308's modification to the definition of "PIPP eligible utility customer" requires a change to the universal service fee; when the universal service fee should start being collected; and what costs the initial fee collections should be designed to recover.

TAKE NOTICE: At the previously approved rate of \$0.001803 per kWh to recover approximately \$25 million annually in universal service fees from APCo customers, a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity per month would experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$1.80. The amount of the fee, as well as the timing of its implementation, are matters under review in this proceeding. The universal fee ultimately approved by the Commission in this docket may be lower than the previously set fee. Under Chapter 308, the cap on the annual cost of PIPP-related programs, including administrative costs, is \$25 million for APCo.

The Order on Additional Proceedings directs APCo to make a supplemental filing on or before May 12, 2021, responding to the Appendix and also allows interested persons an opportunity to file comments, to request a hearing, or both on or before May 28, 2021.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. All pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Commission's Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and Commission Staff in this matter shall be performed electronically. Please refer to the Commission's June 12, 2020 Order Establishing Proceeding for further instructions on Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

On or before May 28, 2021, any interested person or entity may file comments responding to the Appendix and to APCo's supplemental filing, and may also address any related matters for the Commission's consideration. Comments shall be made by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information). Commenters are urged to submit comments electronically, though comments also may be sent to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118.

On or before May 28, 2021, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission, in accordance with the Rules of Practice, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Appendix and on APCo's supplemental filing. All requests for hearing must include the email address of the filer or its counsel, along with (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be addressed adequately without a hearing. Filers are urged to make their requests electronically via [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), though requests for hearing also may be sent to the Clerk of the Commission at the physical address listed above. All requests for hearing, however submitted, shall be served simultaneously on Commission Staff; on counsel for APCo, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power, 1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1100, Richmond, Virginia 23219, njcoates@aep.com; and on all respondents in this case. If a sufficient request for hearing is not received, the Commission may consider the matter and enter an order based upon the papers filed herein.

All documents filed in this case shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00117. Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and copies of the Commission's Order Establishing Proceeding, Order on Additional Proceedings including the Appendix, and other documents filed in Case No. PUR-2020-00117, may be found on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information). APCo's supplemental filing also may be viewed at this website after it is filed.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford's Prioleau named district offensive player of year; Dobson earns defensive honors



Bobcat senior P.J. Prioleau is the Three Rivers District offensive player of the year.



Radford High junior Tyrel Dobson has been named the district defensive player of the year.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School dominated the "spring" all-Three Rivers District football team released

on Monday as senior P.J. Prioleau was named the offensive player of year and junior Tyrel Dobson was named defensive player of the year. In addition, nine Radford

players were named to the first-team all-district squad.

Prioleau finished the season with 31 carries for 230 yards and four touchdowns. He also had 10 receptions for 200 yards and two touchdowns. The Bobcats fell in the playoffs to eventual state champion Appomattox.

Dobson led the defense with 49 tackles including 25 solos.

Other first-team all-district offensive players from Radford were offensive lineman Alex Kanipe, receiver Marcell Baylor, kick returner Xavier Cobbs, and quarterback Zane Rupe, who

made the first team in the all-purpose position.

First-team all-district defensive players from Radford were lineman Spencer Perdue, end Alex Kanipe, linebackers Tyrel Dobson and Brent Mabry and defensive back Marcell Baylor. In addition, Prioleau was named all-purpose on the defensive side of the ball.

Radford lineman Reece Mabry was named to the second-team all-district offense as were Darius Wesley-Brubeck and receiver Xavier Cobs.

Second-team defensive players from Radford were linebacker Wesley-Brubeck and backer Kamaree Tanner.

Virginia Tech wrestler Bryce Andonian wins Junior Nationals

Virginia Tech wrestling's Bryce Andonian will compete in the 2021 United World Wrestling's Junior World Championships this summer after winning the title at the 2021 UWW Junior Nationals Sunday afternoon.

Andonian won both his matches Sunday in the best-two-out-of-three final to earn first place at 70 kilograms and qualify for the Junior World team, which will compete at the Junior World Championships in Ufa, Russia from August 16-22.

The sophomore from Kirtland, Ohio, is Virginia Tech's fourth Junior World Team member in program history, following the most

recent member Mekhi Lewis, who won gold at the 2018 Junior World Championships in Slovakia. Joey Dance (2012) and Sean Gray (1999) round out the list of Tech's Junior World Team members.

VT's Clayton Ulrey was also in action Sunday at the Junior Nationals, as he went 1-1 to earn fifth place at 74 kilograms. The freshman was trailing in the fifth-place match before he pulled off the pin with just over a minute remaining.

Incoming Hokie Cooper Flynn went 3-1 Sunday after a 2-1 Saturday to earn fourth place at the Junior Nationals at 57 kilograms.

JUNIOR NATIONALS

Cooper Flynn - 57 kilograms

(5-2, 4th Place)

Round of 32: Flynn decided Noah Surtin, 8-1

Round of 16: Flynn decided Troy Spratley, 7-2

Quarterfinals: Richard Figueroa II decided Flynn, 6-4

Consolation Round 5: Flynn decided Jett Strickenberger, 8-0

Consolation Round 6: Flynn decided Noah Surtin, 6-6

Consolation Semifinals: Flynn defeated Sheldon Seymour (technical fall), 12-1 (2:22) 3rd Place

Match: Matthew Ramos dec. Flynn, 9-4

Bryce Andonian - 70 kilograms (7-0, 1st Place)

Round of 64: Andonian techni-

cal fall win over Brayden Roberts, 10-0 (4:15)

Round of 32: Andonian technical fall win over Nicholas Stoltenberg, 13-2 (0:45)

Round of 16: Andonian technical fall win over Ridge Briggs, 12-2 (2:48)

Quarterfinals: Andonian decided Caleb Henson, 16-9

Semifinals: Andonian technical fall win over Jack Thomsen, 10-0 (1:42)

Best 2 of 3 Finals: Andonian won by fall over Ed Scott, 1:01

Andonian decided Scott, 12-9

Clayton Ulrey - 74 kilograms (5-2, 5th Place)

Round of 64: Ulrey won by technical fall over Ben Durocher, 12-1 (3:28)

Round of 32: Ulrey decided Drake Smith, 13-6

Round of 16: Ulrey won by technical fall over Brady Henderson, 12-2 (2:35)

Quarterfinals: Ulrey decided Derek Gilcher, 7-3

Semifinals: Cade DeVos won by technical fall over Ulrey, 10-0 (1:51)

Consolation Semifinals: Julian Ramirez decided Ulrey, 7-0

5th Place Match: Ulrey won by fall over Derek Fields, 4:50

--VT Athletics

Hokies Caleb Farley, Christian Darrisaw drafted in NFL's first round

Virginia Tech cornerback Caleb Farley and offensive tackle Christian Darrisaw were taken in the first round of the 2021 NFL draft Friday night in Cleveland.

Farley went to the Tennessee Titans with the 22nd pick. Right behind him, Darrisaw was claimed by the Minnesota Vikings with the 23rd pick.

Hokie safety Divine Deablo went to the Las Vegas Raiders in the third round as the 80th pick.

In all, 25 players from the ACC were drafted in the first three rounds.

The first overall player taken in the draft was Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

Notre Dame led with five players drafted. Clemson had four players selected; North Carolina and Virginia Tech had three. Miami and Syracuse each

had two players taken in the first three rounds while FSU, Louisville, Wake Forest, N.C. State, Boston College and Pitt each had one player draft.

ACC selections in the NFL draft listed by round, overall pick number, name, position, school, and NFL team:

1 - 1st, Trevor Lawrence, QB, Clemson, Jacksonville Jaguars; 1 - 18th, Jaelan Phillips, DE, Miami, Miami Dolphins; 1 - 22nd, Caleb Farley, CB, Virginia Tech, Tennessee Titans; 1 - 23rd, Christian Darrisaw, OT, Virginia Tech, Minnesota Vikings; 1 - 25th, Travis Etienne, RB, Clemson, Jacksonville Jaguars; 1 - 30th, Gregory Rousseau, DE, Miami, Buffalo Bills; 2 - 35th, Javonte Williams, RB, North Carolina, Denver Broncos; 2 - 42nd, Liam Eichenberg, OT, Notre

Dame, Miami Dolphins; 2 - 46th, Jackson Carman, OT, Clemson, Cincinnati Bengals; 2 - 47th, Asante Samuel Jr., CB, Florida State, Los Angeles Chargers; 2 - 48th, Aaron Banks, OG, Notre Dame, San Francisco 49ers; 2 - 52nd, Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, LB, Notre Dame, Cleveland Browns; 2 - 57th, Tutu Atwell, WR, Louisville, Los Angeles Rams; 2 - 61st, Boogie Basham, DE, Wake Forest, Buffalo Bills; 3 - 65th, Andre Cisco, S, Syracuse, Jacksonville Jaguars; 3 - 72nd, Alim McNeil, DT, NC State, Detroit Lions; 3 - 78th, Chazz Surratt, LB, North Carolina, Minnesota Vikings; 3 - 80th, Divine Deablo, S, Virginia Tech, Las Vegas Raiders; 3 - 81st, Hunter Long, TE, Boston College, Miami Dolphins; 3 - 82nd, D'ami Brown, WR, North

Carolina, Washington Football Team; 3 - 83rd, Tommy Tremble, TE, Notre Dame, Carolina Panthers; 3 - 85th, Am-

ari Rodgers, WR, Clemson, Green Bay Packers; 3 - 90th, Patrick Jones II, DE, Pitt, Minnesota Vikings; 3 - 95th, Rob-

ert Hainsey, OT, Notre Dame, Tampa Bay Buccaneers; 3 - 101st, Ifeatu Melifonwu, CB, Syracuse, Detroit Lions.



Christian Darrisaw



Caleb Farley

Softball's Pete D'Amour claims win number 100 fastest in VT history

The No. 20/19 Virginia Tech softball team ended its final ACC series of the year Sunday with an 8-1 win over Syracuse, the 100th win at Virginia Tech for head coach Pete D'Amour.

In his third season at Blacksburg, D'Amour thus became the fastest coach to reach 100 wins

in the program's history, taking just 127 games to accomplish the feat. The Hokies won 47 games in 2019, 21 in the shortened 2020 season and are up to 32 wins this year after Sunday.

"Sami [Fagan] came up to me after the game with a game ball and I said, 'What the heck is

this for?' I didn't have any idea we had won 100 games," D'Amour said. "I'm thankful for our staff; they make me look good. Also, a coach can't have success without his players. You can have spurts of success here and there with talented kids, but to have sustained success, you have to have players with good character that buy in to what the staff is teaching.

"We've been fortunate to have a core group of players at VT that aren't only just good players,

they're good kids. Here's to 100 more."

The Hokies (32-12, 23-11 ACC) completed their first sweep of the year with the win Sunday against Syracuse (19-20, 11-17 ACC). They were led by Keely Rochard and Kelsey Bennett. Rochard (24-7) got the win in all four games and Bennett led the team offensively with seven RBIs.

"We needed to flush out last weekend and that's exactly what we did," Bennett said. "We knew this was our last series weekend and we needed to go out on a strong note to carry over to Liberty on Tuesday and for the postseason."

THE GAME

Tech had the bats going early Sunday as Bennett singled to the right-center gap in the first inning, which brought Jayme Bailey and Cameron Fagan home for a 2-0

lead. The Hokies got two more runs in the fourth when Darby Trull smacked her first home run of the year. Fagan then homered in the fifth inning to extend the lead to 5-0 after five.

Emma Ritter got on the scoreboard with a double up the middle in the sixth inning, scoring Fagan from second base. After the Orange got a run in the bottom of the sixth, Alexa Milius hit a single down the right-field line and Bennett came across for the 8-1 lead.

Rochard started her fourth straight game Sunday, but the heavy duty did not slow her as she threw five innings and surrendered just three hits. Freshman Mackenzie Osborne pitched the sixth inning, and fellow freshman Ivy Rosenberry closed out the win in the seventh inning.

NOTES

•Trull hit her first home run of the season and first home run since April 21, 2019. The junior had seven home runs in 2019 but did not hit one out of the park in the shortened 2020 season.

•Bennett had two more RBIs Sunday and finished out the weekend with a team-leading seven in the series. The sophomore is second on the team in the category with 36, four behind Bailey's 40.

•Fagan hit her third home run of the season Sunday, finishing off a series in which she hit .429 with six runs scored and three RBIs.

•Mackenzie Lawter tied her career high with three walks in the series finale. The junior scored ahead of Trull's fourth-inning home run.

•Kelsey Brown stole her 29th base of the season Sunday and has not been thrown out all season.

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