

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg



Wednesday, July 21, 2021

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Epperly denied parole in Gina Hall murder case

Radford native Stephen Epperly will remain behind bars after the Virginia Parole Board turned down his latest request to be set free.

Despite the fact he was given life in prison for the death of former Radford University coed Gina Hall, Epperly remains eligible for parole.

This past week's decision is number seven, but he could receive another hearing next year on the basis of his geriatric age status. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has told pa-

role officials to consider releasing as many as 1,500 prisoners because of their age to cut back on the number of older prisoners being held around the state. Epperly is in his late 60s.

Hall disappeared on June 28, 1980, and evidence pointed to Epperly being the last person who saw her alive. He was convicted without a body and has maintained his innocence despite being behind bars for the past 40 years.

Family members have continued

to search for Hall's remains and recently said they found what they think are dismembered parts of her body. Those findings were mentioned in letters to the parole board.

So far, the parole board has not posted its reasoning for denying Epperly's hearing.

Epperly was recently moved from a maximum security prison near Richmond to a minimum security facility in Lawrenceville where he underwent hip surgery.

Montgomery administrator to lead state's Local Government Management Association



In addition to his duties as Montgomery County Administrator, Craig Meadows is serving as President of Virginia's Local Government Management Association through June 30, 2022.

Montgomery County administrator Craig Meadows has been elected president of Virginia's Local Government Management Association.

Meadows assumed his duties on July 1 and will serve through June 30, 2022. He was elected by the

membership during its annual conference in Virginia Beach on June 18.

A member of the association since 2009, Meadows has previously served in various officer roles in the association, most recently as President-Elect. Before becoming an officer, he served as a member of the association's Executive Committee. His service to the association includes co-chairing the winter conference in 2013; chairing the Professional Development Committee in 2017-2018, and co-chairing the Strategic Planning Committee this past year (2020-2021).

"For over a decade I have been involved with the association, and I value the service that it provides to the members of our organization," Meadows said. "It has been a great experience and a wonderful opportunity to serve and interact with colleagues throughout the state, building regional partnerships and relationships along the way. The knowledge base and resources made available to association members is invaluable," he said. "I'm honored my colleagues throughout Virginia elected me to serve as their leader."

Serving with Meadows as an officer of the association are Augusta County Administrator Timo-

thy Fitzgerald (President-Elect); Manassas City Manager William Patrick "Pat" Pate (First Vice President); Staunton City Manager Steven Rosenberg (Second Vice President); Gordonsville Town Manager Deborah Kendall (Third Vice President); and Amherst Town Manager Sara Carter (Secretary). Falls Church Deputy Manager Cindy Mester is the Immediate Past President.

The Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) is a statewide association of local government management professionals who serve Virginia's counties, cities, and towns. It is a state affiliate of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) and is an affiliate organization of the Virginia Municipal League.

With 355 members statewide, VLGMA offers professional development events, information resources, and networking opportunities to its members. It also actively works to build the next generation of local government management professionals which has included the founding of, and continued support to, the Local Government Certificate Program at Virginia Tech.

Blacksburg recognizes Montgomery League of Women Voters' 50th anniversary

Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith recently presented the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County with a proclamation in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The proclamation cited the league's work in "believing in the power of democracy and encouraging citizens to take a larger role in public affairs."

"We thank the community for 50 years of support," said Elizabeth Obenshain, league president, "and plan to continue the league's civic work that is vital to American democracy." League vice president Deborah Travis said planning is now

underway with other community organizations for candidate forums for the House of Delegates, Town Council and other local offices before this fall's important elections.

According to Obenshain, the league's goal is to ensure that community members know about candidates' positions on local issues and are encouraged to vote. A major focus this year is a study of equity in school financing.

"Together with the league in Washington County, we are coordinating a statewide study to document whether state funding is equitable and ensures high quality education for all

K-12 students," said Obenshain. The Virginia Constitution states that the General Assembly "shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained."

This is just the latest in the programs the Montgomery County League has undertaken in its 50-year history. "We didn't get to celebrate the League's 100th anniversary last year or our own 50th anniversary as we would have liked because of COVID, but we are so pleased to have this recognition from the Town of Blacksburg and Mayor Hager-Smith," Obenshain said.



Listening to Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith reading the proclamation honoring the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County on the occasion of its 50th anniversary are (from left) Susan Terwilliger, League Observer Corps; Deborah Travis, vice president; and Elizabeth Obenshain, president. Also present are town council members (from left in background) Michael Sutphin, Susan Mattingly, and Jerry Ford.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History buys bank building, will relocate



The Montgomery Museum of Art & History has signed a contract to purchase the former Bank of Christiansburg building and will relocate to the 4 East Main St. location.

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History has signed a contract to purchase the former Bank of Christiansburg building on the town square at 4 East Main St.

This building is a keystone of the Downtown Historic District in Christiansburg and will provide a vastly expanded space for the museum to serve as a community cultural center. The 15,000-square foot building will enhance the organizational capacity and will accommodate greater public programming.

The new location will serve as the premier destination for community arts

and history exhibitions and will boast greater exhibit space, library and archives, a café, a gift shop, and meeting space. Artifacts, including many currently held in off-site storage, will soon be stored and cared for properly on-site.

"We are a museum growing with our community and this acquisition will greatly contribute to the revitalization and economic vitality of the region," said Casey Jenkins, the museum's executive director. "The museum is seeking strategic partners to invite as anchor tenants

See Relocate, page 2

Man captured in county faces death penalty on murder charges

A former Alabama man living near Christiansburg along Pilot Road and caught by the U.S. Marshal Service in 2018 will finally receive his day in court.

According to Lee County, Ala., authorities, prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty on two capital murder charges for Derrill "Rick" Ennis in the death of a female Auburn coed 12 years prior to his arrest. He is expected to have a jury trial that will begin on Aug. 2 after a psychological test ruled he was mentally fit to stand trial.

Ennis had been living in the New River Valley building yurts when police

received a tip on his location. He has always been a person of interest in the 2006 death of Lori Ann Slevski but had dropped off investigators' radar after leaving the area.

Late last year, Ennis pleaded not guilty during a preliminary hearing. Prosecutors had delayed his trial because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Virginia State Police, in cooperation with Alabama authorities, searched Ennis's Montgomery County property for nearly two days. So far, investigators have not revealed if they found any evidence in the case.

Farmers Market celebrates Christmas in July



The Christiansburg Farmers Market is offering some early holiday cheer with a Christmas in July celebration going on through the end of the month. The market operates each Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. in the parking lot of the Christiansburg Recreation Center and market officials urge parents to bring their children by the market's information tent for a special Santa Beacon to help Santa find their home this Christmas. Santa will also be on hand checking out the vendors and taking down childrens' Christmas lists.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 21:

Art Club: Virtual Meeting
At the Christiansburg Library at 3 p.m. Who was Amrita Sher-Gil? Learn about her life and be inspired by her oil paintings to create portraits. Catch the library's tutorial on Facebook or YouTube. Stop by the library for curated crafts.

Thursday, July 22:

Movie Matinee
From 2-4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. The movie is Onward, rated PG.

Friday, July 23:

Family Game Night
At 4 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Join other kids and families for a live, interactive game night online. Everyone will play jackbox party night games on family friendly settings. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Monday, July 26:

Ice Cream in a Bag: STEM
At 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Li-

brary online. Check out the STEM video on the science of making ice cream in a bag.

Monday, July 26 – Friday, July 30:

Smithfield Summer Camp
At Smithfield Plantation from 9 a.m. until noon. Campers at Smithfield's summer camp will experience life on the early Virginia frontier in a unique and historic environment through interactive activities geared towards children ages 8 through 10. Register through Blacksburg Parks and Recreation, keyword search: "Smithfield."

Thursday, Aug. 5:

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

Saturday, Aug. 7:

Pilot Community Center auction
At its most recent meeting, members of the

Pilot Community Center decided to hold auctions to raffle off three gift cards of \$25 each at Linkous Auctions. These will be the community center's only fund-raisers until the fall to have money for other renovations. Community members will be set up from 9 a.m. until noon and then will take the tickets to Larry Linkous, who will draw the winning tickets and announce the winners. The auction schedule and set-up location is Chloe Bishop, 5950 Riner Road.

Tuesday, Aug. 10:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Guest speaker Charlotte Conner will give a talk on "First Battle of Manassas: Unwarranted Deaths of Savable Soldiers." For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Saturday, Aug. 14:

Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament

At the Pete Dye River Course with all proceeds benefiting the "Carilion Cares for Children" program, which provides tuition discounts at the Radford Early Learning Center for families with financial need at Radford Child Development, Inc. Shotgun start at 2 p.m. Captain's Choice Foursome with entry fee of \$300 per foursome paid on-line by Aug. 13; entry fee is \$400 per foursome at the door, based on availability. A \$100 per-hole sponsorship may be paid on-line by Aug. 6.

Prizes to be awarded include a \$100,000 hole-in-one contest for 10 participants chosen by purchased raffle tickets and a 2021 vehicle from Harvey's in Radford for a hole-in-one. Prizes will be awarded to first-through fourth-place teams and the closest to the pin. The tournament includes an awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes and mulligans. Register at

www.radfordchilddevelopment.org/golf.

Ongoing:

Through July 31

Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program
The library is sponsoring its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win raffle baskets. The summer reading program is a fun way to promote literacy, encourage reading as a healthy habit, and help readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"
Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery continues its art gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images. The exhibit dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit

found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum, and there is no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021
Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 continues each Wednesday through September from 7 to 9 p.m. at Market Square Park.

Through October:

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

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is held every Thursday through October in the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg Kiwanis delivers supplies for children, elderly to Montgomery social services

In April the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg agreed to partner with Montgomery County Social Services (DSS) to provide needed supplies for the children and the elderly whom DSS serves and made their first delivery of supplies. On Tuesday, July 13, the club made a second delivery of supplies for children and the elderly as requested by DSS.

The club has amended its budget to continue to support DSS with needed supplies and will be offering volunteer labor where and when it is needed.

The second three-month's supplies delivered to DSS included diapers, baby wipes, pack and plays, laundry detergent, 409 Cleaner, Clorox wipes, and Ensure.

County director Kelly Edmonson said the DSS staff was overwhelmed with the amount of supplies donated to serve the needs of families in the community. She said, "These supplies have been a blessing in our community during a time when it has been needed the most. Thank you for your support."

Edmonson also said, "A doctor we work with asked who was helping with this for the elderly. He was so impressed that Kiwanis was able to support these community needs. Thank you again. You have no idea how much we appreciate it."

Since 1949, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided support to the local community. Funds for service projects are raised by the club through various fundraisers, grants, and donations. The largest fundraiser is the Kiwanis Wilderness



Kiwanians Ernie Wade (second from right) and Jim Vanhoozier (far right) recently delivered supplies for children and the elderly to Montgomery County social services (DSS). Also pictured are DSS Supervisor Heather Linkous (far left) and DSS Director Kelly Edmonson.

trail Festival, which will take place on Sept. 18 of this year. Kiwanis is a global or-

ganization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

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ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Commercial Development Opportunity in Blacksburg VA

26.7 Acres on Harding Rd, Blacksburg VA 24060

Bidding Opens Aug. 26th & Ends Sept. 9th at 4 PM

Go to VaAuctionPro.com

26.7 acres of open development land in the Town of Blacksburg VA. Within walking distance to downtown Blacksburg & VA Tech. Property has ideal topography for development with 1,365 +/- ft of road frontage on Harding Road. Town water & sewer at site and readily available along with Natural Gas & Gigabit Internet Connectivity. Property is gently sloping and allows for potentially unblocked mountain views from every lot. Property is equally suited for Single or Multi-Family Development, Student Housing, 55+ Active Adult or Retirement Community and/or Private Estate.

There is extensive local & regional public transportation network (Blacksburg Transit) & Smart Way Commuter Bus with direct links to Airport, & Northern VA. Newly approved rail service and Amtrak Station scheduled for 2024. Existing Bus Stop within 100 ft of property. Walkable Community to all convenient amenities.

Download Bidder Pack for Maps, Terms, Zoning, Sample Purchase Contract, sample development plan. Sample Development is not approved & is shown only for illustration purposes of what might possibly be accomplished. Bidders are expected to do their own research and due diligence for their own ideas for intended use approval and feasibility.

Terms – Bidding opens on August 26th. 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Buyers are expected to complete due diligence prior to bidding. Earnest Money Deposit of \$150,000 required on day of sale. Close in 60 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 9th 2021. 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.

Contact – Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com

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

United Country Real Estate

Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

Relocate

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to complement the institution's vision of a cultural center."

The museum, which serves all of Montgomery County, has outgrown its space at 300 South Pepper St. The new space will allow the museum to meet the needs of the rapidly growing and diverse regional community of the New River Valley. Education, community engagement, and preservation are among the leading priorities for the museum, and each of these will be enhanced by the new space.

"This is a unique opportunity for the museum to provide a forum for rich storytelling, interactive experiences for students, research and genealogy, and to expand our ability to tell difficult and neglected stories of the New River Valley," said museum cu-

rator Sherry Wyatt. "The space will serve as an excellent conservation and preservation facility for our object, photograph, archive, and textile collections."

The goals of the acquisition of the building are to position the museum to be a lasting cornerstone of the community and to make the visitor experience participatory, exciting, and inclusive. The museum will reach out to new audiences, cultivating community development and growth.

Since 1983, the museum has operated out of the historic manse on Pepper Street. Plans are underway to retain the property and to rent the space out to interested parties. The educational and recreational opportunities of the museum garden and outdoor art installations will continue.

Historic Montgomery



This c. 1880 photograph depicts the Montgomery Female Academy built on College Street in Christiansburg in 1860. The Academy opened in 1852 and was a well-respected institute of learning for girls and young women. Oceana Pollock was school principal from 1876 until 1890. The man in the foreground of the photograph may be John Newton Jordon, the school groundskeeper. Mrs. Pollock's nieces, who became known as the Sisters in Black, did not arrive at the school until 1903. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

OBITUARIES

Akers, Alexander Merle

Alexander Merle Akers, 58, of Christiansburg, went to be with the Lord on the evening of July 17, 2021, after a lengthy battle with various illnesses.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William (Bill) Akers and Mary Stump Akers, and his brothers, Bobby Lee Akers and Steve Akers.

He is survived by his wife, Rhonda S. Akers; his sons and daughters-in-law Alexander (AJ) Akers, Jr., and Emma Akers, William (Willie) Akers and Brandi Dennis, and Michael Songer; his daughters and son-in-law, Crystal Heslep and Gary Heslep, and Pame-



la Songer; his four grandchildren Chelsie Chrisley, Aliyah Dennis, Henry Akers, and Charlotte Akers; his three sisters and brothers-in-law, Rosemary and Paul Rutherford, Wesley and Larry Needham, and Sally and John Smith; his brother and sister-in-law, Billy Joe and Joyce Akers; as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Graham, Zelma Howery

Our loving mother, Zelma Howery Graham, 88, of Christiansburg, took flight with the angels on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. She was born in Floyd on January 15, 1933, to the late Frank and Margaret Howery.

Graham is survived by her son, Everette 'Marty' Graham (Jewelynn) of Powhatan, Va.; her daughter, Susan Camper (Carl) of Riner, as well as sisters Francis Bower of Biglerville, Penn., and Jane Richwine (Ralph) of Gardners, Penn.; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 68 years, Caswell; her adored son, Philip Mark; brothers Robert Albert and Paul; and sisters Lillian Hale and Faye Reeder.

When her dad decided to buy a farm in Gettysburg, Penn., she was the only sibling who wanted to move back to Virginia. Her dreams were joining the service to see the world, but a cute guy named Cas thwarted her plans. She made up for it later and really enjoyed the trips and cruises she went on. It is still a mystery just how many bridge couples and canasta clubs she was a member of, but those times with dear friends were cherished.

She always expressed how important it was to participate and volunteer in the community and she developed many lifelong friendships from working with the



Virginia State Beauty Pageants, the Floyd Ward School of Dance, the Izaak Walton League, the Montgomery Museum, the polls on every election day, the Christmas Store, as a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church and the Order of the Eastern Star, McDaniel Chapter #47.

She enjoyed fishing, watching everything grow, baking and sharing, having conversations with anyone, history, politics, learning about nursing in classes at NRCC because her mother was one, playing bridge and canasta, and her church family.

Since she was a homemaker, her family had the luxury of her time her whole life. She was a wonderful and creative mother and just last week said 'a mother would do anything for her children' — and that she did tenfold.

It's the turn of her family and friends in Heaven now to enjoy her personality again. Mom, we love you, and will wait our turn again.

Per her wishes, a graveside service will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 1 p.m. at the entrance of Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg, with Arnold Naff officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Langhorne, Loretta Lyon

Loretta Lyon Langhorne, 88, of Christiansburg, passed away Saturday, July 17, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Beulah Lyon; her husband, Kemp Langhorne; and sisters Dorothy Davis, Edith Goad, and Josephine Jones.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Nanette Langhorne; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Joyce

Lyon; a niece, Deborah Price; and several nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A special thanks goes to her home caregivers.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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

Pack, James "David"

James "David" Pack, 76, of Pearisburg, passed away on Saturday, July 17, 2021, in Pearisburg.

David was born May 28, 1945, in Christiansburg, son of the late James Woodrow Pack and Catherine Jane Peach. He graduated from James Blair High School in Williamsburg in 1963. David served in the United States Air Force from 1963 to 1965 as an airplane mechanic. He left the service early to care for his mother and two siblings.

He lived with his family briefly in Baton Rouge, La., before moving to Front Royal, Va. He was an avid bowler and loved golfing, photography, and travel. David taught his sons Chris and Mark to have a strong work ethic, as well as many of the skills related to home ownership such as electrical work, plumbing, and building. He enjoyed traveling; taking leisurely drives; and spending time with his family. He was a past President of the Babe Ruth League.

David was a sprinkler fitter and worked for several prominent companies. He helped install sprinklers at the Library of Congress and the Manassas Mall. He retired from the Sprinkler Fitters Local 669. He would often take his sons to work with him. After retirement, he owned a tour bus company, where he enjoyed taking travelers to New York, Atlantic City, and other places. A few years ago, he took a cross-country trip in his Camaro with a friend, accomplishing one of his bucket list items.

He was known for his outgoing personality, his warm smile, and his quick wit.

Like his sons, he grew to love cooking. In later years, he enjoyed working on vintage vehicles with his two step-sons, Aaron and Garrett. In recent years, he enjoyed traveling in his RV with his wife and his mother-in-law, and spending time as he could with family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his second wife, Cynthia; his sister, Debora Byers; his brother, William Peach; and his granddaughter, Chelsea Kanatus.

Surviving are his loving and devoted wife, Verna Sarver Pack; his mother-in-law, Virginia Evelyn Sarver; his brothers, Keith, Frederick, and Robert Peach; his sons, Christopher David and Mark William Pack (Janet); his step-sons, Aaron Atwood and Garrett Wymer; his grandsons, Ryan Kanatus, Zachary William Pack, and Tanner David Pack; and his granddaughter, Hannah Lynn Pack; a special cousin, Carolyn Rowland; and an uncle, Robert Barnett. The family would like to give special thanks to neighbors Jerry and Rita Palmer and also to the staff at Heritage Hall-Rich Creek.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in David's honor to the American Cancer Society (David and several loved ones were survivors of cancer.) and/or the American Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent to the family. A memorial service was held with family and close friends on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Brian Burch and Pastor Jamie Hutton officiating. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Shaw, Donald Richard

Donald Richard Shaw, 81, of Christiansburg, died Thursday, July 15, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Bluefield, W.Va. on Aug. 9, 1939, to the late Earl Lawrence and Lucille Berdie Roberts Shaw.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Belle Shaw, and brothers Earl (Artie) Shaw and George Shaw. He was a lifelong member of the Christiansburg Fire Department and served for 50 years. He is a veteran of the US Army and a member of the United Church of God. He retired from Virginia Tech with 35 years of service.

He is survived by his sons and daughters-

in-law, Mark and Kristi Shaw, Alan and Susan Shaw, and David and Twyla Shaw; daughters and sons-in-law Karen and Rick Rector, Dian and Martin Matsko; grandchildren Brandon, Jessica, Brian, Jordan, Kaitlyn, Caydee, and Ally; great-grandchildren Jude, Axl, Floyd, Hudson, Crosby, and Isabelle; a sister, Sally June Maness; and a brother, John Shaw.

Services will be handled privately. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. The family received friends on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at the family home at 415 North High St., Christiansburg. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Local news surging with burst of young talent from the School of Communication



Jessica Mardian, a 2020 multimedia journalism graduate, is a producer at WDBJ-7. She's one of a number of recent School of Communication graduates working in the local news industry in Roanoke. Photo courtesy of Jessica Mardian.

Reid Campbell was just beginning his job as a producer at WDBJ-TV in Roanoke when he was tasked with filling in for the 6 p.m. show. He managed the content, stacked the show, and then, in an ironic twist of fate, handed the rundown to anchor Robin Reed.

Just a few weeks earlier, Campbell had been a Virginia Tech senior handing in assignments to Reed, a professor of practice in the School of Communication. Now as producer, Campbell was giving the 40-year WDBJ veteran his assignment for the night.

"When he handed me my rundown and said, 'Robin, here's your rundown.' I said, 'Well, at least you turned your assignment in on time,'" said Reed with a grin.

The newsroom erupted in laughter. It was a harbinger for the smooth-sailing show that was about to take place with Campbell calling the shots behind the scenes.

"It was weird to go from 'He's my professor' to now I'm telling him what to do," Campbell said. "I'm speaking into his ear, telling him, 'Hey, we're going to cut this story. Hey, I need you to read this.' It was weird being in charge of his anchoring all of a sudden, but it was cool. It was like 'I made it' a little bit."

Campbell is just one example of a number of recent graduates from the School of Communication's multimedia journalism program who have immediately launched into a career in the local news industry. Nowadays, while print media has taken its lumps, digital media in the form of the local news is still going strong.

The hiring practices within these television stations have changed, giving a priority to the young up-and-comers who are bringing a passion to the jobs they perform.

"Ten seconds out of college and we're hiring them," Reed said. "That's happening throughout the country."

"By all surveys, the local news continues to be a well-thought-of institution," Reed said. "If we've got young people coming out of college with enthusiasm and energy, I can only think that their ideas are the ones that are going to make this industry continue to roll at some level."

Enter Alessandra Young onto the scene. Young, a 2020 graduate, is the nightside reporter for WSET-TV in Lynchburg, a position she began nearly two years ago when she was still a Virginia Tech senior. Her lively personality and on-camera demeanor — which she credits to developing in Reed's Broadcast Performance class — makes her the ideal candidate for the role.

"The multimedia jour-

nalism major at Virginia Tech taught me my love for this. I walked in and never looked back," Young said.

"Robin Reed was my professor in that class, and that was the first time that I actually sat down at a desk and read a prompter for the first time," Young said. "I thought, I love this. This feels natural. This feels like something I would want to spend my career doing."

The School of Communication provides all the tools to make these dreams possible for those in the multimedia journalism major. The course sequence begins with Media Writing and progresses to Advanced Multimedia Reporting. All the skills are brought together for Digital Newsroom, the senior-year class that simulates an actual newsroom environment.

Using the state-of-the-art equipment in the school's multimedia center at the Moss Arts Center, students put on a biweekly newscast in the course, shifting between the different roles of producer, technical director, multimedia journalist, and anchor among others.

"The program does a great job of not only making you interact with your peers, but having you do all the jobs," Young said. "Not everyone wants to be in front of the camera and not everyone wants to be behind it. You learn appreciation for the other person's job and you start to understand the stresses that the other side goes through. You learn if it's a good fit for you. Tech

does a good job of preparing you for that."

This was certainly the case for Campbell. While he performed fine in front of a camera, he realized it wasn't for him. Instead, he preferred to be the one wearing the producer's headset.

"You literally write the news and you see people read it," Campbell said. "You watch an hour and know you made all of that. It's a fulfilling feeling. During Digital Newsroom, I had a week where I produced. I liked it, and I was good at it. When you're the boss of your own show, that's an exciting feeling."

While School of Communication graduates enter the local news industry throughout the country, a special pipeline is being built in stations across Virginia, particularly in Roanoke and Lynchburg.

"In recent years we've had graduates get jobs all around the country, from Florida to Massachusetts and the Virginia Tidewater region all the way to Nebraska," said Jared Woolly, an instructor in the School of Communication. "Still, it's particularly satisfying when they land right here at home in the Roanoke/Lynchburg market. Not only is this where they've called home for four years, but it's a pretty big media market for a first job in broadcast journalism. We are fortunate to have great partners at the journalism outlets in Southwest Virginia who hire our graduates, and it's always fun to see a great story or newscast put together by a recent graduate."

KIDS BOWL FREE ALL SUMMER

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OPINION

'Buddy' King: Of my irrepressible neighbor, Parkinson's, and aerobics

One of the simple joys of life is "collecting" interesting people. By "collecting," I mean having the good fortune of having folks pass through your life who are fun or inspirational or challenging or different or maybe all of the above at the same time. I feel I have been blessed in this regard many times over.

One such person who came into my life, made it fun, and left it too soon was my neighbor, Tom, who lived across the street from me about 30 years ago. I was at a point in my life when I was "coming into my own." I had two wonderful young daughters and was in the process of making partner at my law firm. My wife and I had bought a very big and very old house with a 3-acre yard in a classic old neighborhood. Between family, work, keeping up the house and yard, and community activities, time was precious. This is where my story with Tom begins.

Tom lived across the street with his wife Linda and their three beautiful teenaged daughters. His route to being at that place at that point in time is a necessary part of this story.

Tom was born into a large Irish-Catholic family in Waterbury, Conn. As I recall, Tom had six or seven siblings. The family business was a brewery that turned out a number of beers, the best known of which was called Red Fox Ale. The family sold the brewery at some point when Tom was a child to the Rupert family, the longtime owners of the New York Yankees. Red Fox Ale had been a very popular brand with

the troops overseas during World War II I understand.

Tom graduated from Georgetown University and returned to Connecticut and took a very nice job on Madison Avenue. This would have been in the early '60's, so it was the time of the heyday of "Mad Ave." as portrayed on the television show "Mad Men" a few years ago. Three-martini luncheons, country-club lifestyle, and easy life in the suburbs with a loving wife and family. And then at age 35, Tom was stricken with Parkinson's disease.

I do not recall where Tom had met his wife, but she was from a large Clarksburg family, so when Tom's life began to decline because of his illness, they moved back to Linda's roots. I ended up in their neighborhood and in Tom's life a few years later to my good fortune if not his.

The blessing, and the curse, of having Tom as a neighbor was that he had plenty of time on his hands. His Parkinson's had progressed to the point where he could no longer work and could no longer drive (He didn't give this up easily as police officers around Bridgeport at the time will attest). He got around our little town on a motor scooter playing tennis at the city courts with anybody and everybody who would take him on. Children, housewives, retired couples. They all became part of Tom's tennis circle.

In the evenings and on weekends, I became his playmate. It was important to Tom's coping with his illness, I believe, both mentally and physically, that he remain active. So if he saw me

working in my yard or on my house, he would come across the street. He said he was activating a tradition from his old Connecticut days called the "BS'er" Club. A member who spied a neighbor doing household chores or yard work would bring a drink (alcoholic of course) to the other neighbor and "try to talk them through it." Tom called these visits "counseling sessions," the goal being to reform a neighbor's "priorities." Quite fun, if you weren't working 60 hours a week and trying to help raise two young kids and take care of your home.

Tom's main goal on his visits was to get me to toss an "aerobic" with him. It was my first experience with one of these things. If you don't know what one is, I will describe it as a metal ring coated in plastic. It behaves like a Frisbee on steroids and has become a staple of my family's beach vacations.

It was a great form of exercise for Tom, although a tad embarrassing for me. Tom had difficulty in tossing the aerobic back because of his Parkinson's. So we would be much like a dog with his master with me spinning it way in front of Tom and Tom running it down and bringing it back to me like a dog fetching a stick. Tom had an amazing sense of humor, and often he would put the aerobic in his mouth and bring it to me and heel.

The aerobic became a cornerstone of our friendship. Since my days were usually pretty full, and since we were both insomniacs, Tom because of his medication and me just "because," Tom would often get me out of my house at

one or two in the morning and we would go to the parking lot of the nearby Toys R Us and toss the darn thing. Occasionally, when a new cop came on the local police force, the officer would drive by and see us and stop to check us out. Tom's illness made his gait a constant stumble, so the new officer would sometimes ask me "Is he drunk?" Since I often would have had a couple of beers while we were "aerobicing," Tom would yell at the cop, "Ask me about him, ask me about him."

Our late night sessions at Toys R Us would frequently end with Tom asking me to take him to Kroger. At that time it had an all-night deli that made a sandwich called the "4 by 4." I don't remember now what either four represented, but I recall we ate a bunch of them.

As I said before, Tom had a wonderful sense of humor. His condition made his face look distorted and his speech became slurred, so most people thought he was mentally challenged. Nothing could have been further from the truth. He would call me at work every time he heard a new lawyer joke. I had already heard them all, but I would laugh uproariously.

Once Tom had been trying to work a crossword puzzle while sitting on a bench in the waiting room at his doctor's office. A person came by and looked at Tom and saw the pencil shaking in the air. The guy grabbed the pencil and gave Tom a quarter. Tom immediately called me, told me the story, and asked me to take him to Walmart to buy a big supply

of pencils. He told me he thought he could make a bundle, buying short and selling long.

One of my favorite Tom stories involved Thanksgiving dinner at his home one year. Being the traditional family patriarch, Tom insisted on carving the turkey and pouring the wine for the adults. Suffice it to say the dining room floor ended up littered with pieces of turkey and the white table cloth wound up splattered with red stains. His great wife Linda took it all in stride, and we all sat patiently while Tom performed his traditional duties. He then topped it off with his favorite toast: "Here is to my beautiful daughters, no car dates until you're 25 and no sex until I'm dead and gone."

Tom and his family moved to Winchester after a few years as our neighbors, his wife taking on a new career in anticipation of Tom's not being around much longer. One day he was found dead on the ground beside his motor scooter in a neighbor's yard, no doubt looking for a friend to play with or to talk through the hazards of yard work.

As I have mentioned before, I like to find a word or phrase to describe people I know well. For Tom the word is "irrepressible." He never gave up.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

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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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Virginia's unemployment rate drops again

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam announced Friday that Virginia's unemployment rate dropped 0.2-percentage point to 4.3 percent in June, compared to 8.8 percent one year ago. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the commonwealth continues to be below the national rate of 5.8 percent.

"Virginia's falling unemployment rate and expanding labor force show the strength of our economy and business climate," said the governor. "We continue to be recognized as the best place in America to do business because we are building a commonwealth where both workers and employers can thrive. We can all be optimistic about what the future holds as we move beyond this pandemic."

Virginia had the fourth lowest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate among the Southeast states behind

Alabama, Oklahoma, and Georgia.

"The commonwealth's positive job growth and falling unemployment rate are welcome signs that workers are finding safety and opportunity in the job market," said Secretary of Labor Megan Healy. "I look forward to maintaining this positive momentum in partnership with our business and workforce development partners, who are working diligently to ensure Virginians have all the support they need to transition back into employment."

"Another drop in the commonwealth's unemployment rate is a great way to conclude this exciting week," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "We expect to see continuing job growth in the coming months."

In June, Virginia saw over-the-year job gains of 2.8 percent, and total nonfarm payroll employment in-

creased by 3,200 jobs. The labor force increased by 4,343 to 4,234,360 as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 5,448 to 183,799. The number of employed residents rose by 9,791 to 4,050,561.

The private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 179,900 jobs, and employment in the public sector added 10,500 jobs. Compared to a year ago, on a seasonally adjusted basis, 10 of 11 major industry divisions experienced employment gains.

The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in leisure and hospitality, up 67,200 jobs, or 25.5 percent. The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in trade and transportation, up 40,100 jobs, or 6.5 percent. Professional and business services experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 26,300 jobs, or 3.5 percent.

Virginia's gas prices rise once again

Virginia gas prices rose 1.1 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.95/g by week's end, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Gas prices in Virginia are 2.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 93.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia is priced at \$2.65/g while the most expensive is \$3.69/g, a difference of \$1.04/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.13/g. The national average is up 5.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"While the national average has seen a slight rise over the last week, we may see some stabilization coming to the pump as oil

prices hold just under their 2021 peak from last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"Without additional crude oil supply coming online in the weeks ahead, we could see oil test \$80 per barrel in the next couple of weeks," De Haan said. "However, with U.S. gasoline demand falling slightly last week, we may have already seen peak consumption with the July 4 holiday. While the jury isn't quite in on that just yet, we're potentially only 4-6 weeks away from gas prices beginning a seasonal decline that we're likely all eagerly awaiting."

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 are accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

Three Virginia cities on WalletHub's list of places with highest homicide rate increase during COVID

Three Virginia cities -- Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, showed up on WalletHub's list of the top 50 cities in the country with the highest increase in homicide rates during COVID.

In a survey released last week, the personal finance website placed Norfolk in the No. 16 spot on its list while Chesapeake and Virginia Beach landed at numbers 48 and 50 respectively.

The website noted that homicide rates have risen by an average of 33% in 50 of the most populated U.S. cities between quarter two of 2019 and quarter two of 2021 and are still rising.

To determine which cities have the biggest homicide problems, WalletHub compared 50 of the largest U.S. cities based on per capita homicides in quarter two of 2021, as well as per capita homicides in quarter two of 2021 vs. quarters two of 2020 and 2019.

The top ten cities on the list -- those with the highest homicide rate increase

-- were New Orleans, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit, Milwaukee, Louisville, Atlanta, Memphis, and Kansas City, Mo.

To gain some background and perspective into the drastic rise in homicides, WalletHub interviewed a professor from Montclair State University. Asked why there has been such a sudden spike in homicides, he cited "a period of instability/challenge with COVID, social unrest, and political change. During these periods faith in social institutions wavers (like the criminal justice system) and overall social control may weaken."

"In addition, we had people forced to stay home, and a large portion of crimes are committed by those we know, so crimes that recently increased such as domestic violence, assaults, and homicide may be due to interpersonal conflicts, increased use of drugs and alcohol, as well as increased social and economic pressures due to the pandemic."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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60					61				62		63	
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Fashion accessory
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Ethnic group of the Philippines
- 14. Popular cookie
- 15. Fabric
- 16. Alcoholic liquor
- 17. Peter ____, Dutch portrait painter
- 18. Longtime Chicago mayor
- 19. A famous "Lady"
- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Polio vaccine developer
- 24. Songs sung in open air
- 27. Military movements
- 30. Male parent
- 31. Beloved hot beverage
- 32. Female sibling
- 35. Tackled the QB
- 37. Set a dog on someone
- 38. Long live! (Spanish)
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Pouch

- 41. Smooth fabric
- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Institute legal proceedings against
- 44. Scarred
- 45. Draw from
- 46. Brother or sister
- 47. Body part
- 48. Commercials
- 49. London soccer team
- 52. Satisfied
- 55. Surgical technique (abbr.)
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. French industrial city
- 61. Intellectual property organization (abbr.)
- 63. Helps to carry food
- 64. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 65. One-time Empress of the Roman Empire
- 66. Intestinal pouches
- 67. None better
- 68. "WandaVision" actress

- 69. Comedic actress Kathryn
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Fifth notes of major scales
- 2. Region
- 3. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 4. Georgetown athletes
- 5. They follow A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Hairdressers' domain
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Members of a priestly caste
- 13. Southern Ghana people
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Body of water
- 25. Awesome!
- 26. Calendar month
- 27. Native of region in Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. Exclusive

- 32. Alaskan town
- 33. Covered with ivy
- 34. Loose granular substances
- 36. Native American tribe
- 37. Written American English
- 38. Holiday (informal)
- 40. Add up
- 41. Small brown and gray rails
- 43. Get off your feet
- 44. Express disgust
- 46. Surface of the ground
- 47. Put into a silo
- 49. Belief
- 50. British noblemen
- 51. Tennis game
- 52. Dry, protective crust
- 53. Swiss river
- 54. Large integers
- 57. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 58. Every one of two or more
- 59. "Deadpool" actor Reynolds
- 61. Earlier
- 62. Peter's last name



THE FINCASTLE HERALD

The Vinton Messenger

THE NEW CASTLE RECORD

SALEM TIMES REGISTER

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

Yard Sales - Radford City

Huge Garage Sale
Friday 7.23
8am-4pm
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8am-4pm
1100 Forest Ave
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Clothes (some new),
Kitchen, Christmas, and
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Rain or Shine

Auctions

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Salem Storage
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Salem Storage
will conduct
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Clerical**

**Administrative
Assistant**

Botetourt Resource
Center, Inc.
Opportunity to help serve
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non-profit agency
Downtown Buchanan
Qualified candidates must
be reliable, organized,
personable, enjoy working
with the general public,
especially senior citizens.
Work collaboratively with
local churches, civic
organizations, businesses
and other non-profits.
Ability to responsively and
efficiently manage
priorities and maintain
confidentiality and have
MS Word, Excel and
QuickBooks experience.
Clerical duties include
answering the telephone,
filing, records
management, assisting
with activities and local
errands.
10-15 hours/week; flexible
schedule.
Mail or e-mail resume and
references to BRC, Inc.,
P.O. Box 153, Buchanan,
VA 24066
mlucasbrc@yahoo.com

**Help Wanted -
General**

**Part Time
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The Salem TimesRegister
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\$7.50 per hour. Contact
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Manager, Salem-Times
Register (540)389-9355
or email
lhurst@ourvalley.org

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Hiring Full-Part Time
Front Desk Clerk and
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TAP (Total Action for Progress) is the second largest community action agency in Virginia, employing more than 300 employees. We encourage people to think creatively, grow professionally, and make a positive impact within the agency and in the communities in which we serve.

The following position is open with TAP:

**Home Based
Coordinator**

Responsible for the supervision of all Home Based staff. Provide direction, support and reinforcement to the Home Visitors. Ensure the Home Base Program exemplifies the Head Start philosophy of supporting and encouraging family goals and objectives, involving parents in the development and education of their children, and strengthening the capacity of parents and families to become self-sufficient and to support the general development of their own children. Serve as a resource person to Home Visitors and as the liaison between the Home Visitors and the Head Start Services Area staff.

- Through experience and/or training with established organizational skills which will ensure the proper operation of the program.
- Models respect and acceptance with staff and holds self just as responsible for the outcome of the program as anyone else.
- Shows loyalty to staff for their dedicated work and acknowledges their success to the agency.
- Demonstrated knowledge of preschool development, community resources and agencies that work with families.
- Seeks opportunities to provide training for professional development within the agency, the state and the region. Capable of working independently with staff or in tandem with other agencies/institutions.
- Represents the Home Based program to the community, volunteers and patrons in a professional manner.
- A Bachelor's Degree with concentration in early childhood development or related field.
- Four years' experience working with families and young children.
- Three years' experience in a supervisory capacity.

For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website www.tapintohope.org

Must be able to adjust work schedule as needed. Complete background

**Help Wanted -
General**

check required. FT, w/competitive benefits. Salary: \$17.10- \$23.56 Per Hour. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code: HBC-EHS/HS, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St., Roanoke, VA 24001-2868 or fax to 540-345-1944

Applicant email address is required for response concerning this job. For more information about this job and to apply online:

See our website: www.tapintohope.org
TTY: 540-345-4096
AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace
Bilinguals encouraged to apply.



TAP (Total Action for Progress) is the second largest community action agency in Virginia, employing more than 300 employees. We encourage people to think creatively, grow professionally, and make a positive impact within the agency and in the communities in which we serve.

The following position is open with TAP:

**Crew Technician 2-
ECHR**

This person will perform task on dwellings to enhance the fuel conservation and reduce heating cost in accordance with the DHCD Weatherization Installation Standards

- Must be knowledgeable in Heating and Cooling Systems, Construction and Carpentry
- Must have experience using various tools and diagnostic equipment, read a tape measure, have basic mathematical skills
- Must possess the ability to understand and follow directions
- Must be able to read and speak English
- High school graduate or equivalent required
- Must have completed all Crew Technician classes and have a minimum of 6 months Field Experience

Must be able to adjust work schedule as needed. Complete background check required. FT, w/competitive benefits. Salary: \$15.00- \$17.00 per hour. Submit cover letter and resume to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code: CT2-ECHR Box 2868, 302 2nd St., Roanoke, VA 24001-2868 or fax to 540-345-1944

Applicant email address is required for response concerning this job. For more information about this job and to apply online:

See our website: www.tapintohope.org
TTY: 540-345-4096
AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace
Bilinguals encouraged to apply.

**Legals - City of
Radford**

PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that pursuant to VA State Code 15.2-1719, Radford City Police Department is advertising a list of found and unclaimed property which is currently being stored in our evidence room. If you have lost property and it matches the description below, please call (540) 267-3214 to identify and claim your property. Bicycles, Wallets, US Currency, Cell Phones, Firearms, Medical Equipment, Tobacco Products, Documents & Paperwork, Machetes, Knives, Personal Defense Devices, Keys, Purses, Jewelry, Coins, Clothes, Radios, Ammunition, Credit Cards, Tools and Electronics. You must show proof of ownership or provide a detailed description of your property. All unclaimed property will be disposed of after August 1, 2021. Dated this July 12, 2021 – Radford City Police Department, 20 Robertson Street Radford, VA 24141

**Legals - City of
Radford**

**Public Notice
Environmental
Permit**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce an informational briefing and public hearing on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facility to manage hazardous waste in in Radford, Virginia. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: July 21, 2021 to September 20, 2021. INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING: 30 W. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Radford Public Library, Community Meeting Room, on August 12, 2021 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm PUBLIC HEARING: 30 W. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Radford Public Library, Community Meeting Room, on August 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Treatment Permit, EPA ID No. VA1210020730 APPLICANT NAME: Radford Army Ammunition Plant FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: Radford Army Ammunition Plant, 4050 Peppers Ferry Road, Radford, VA 24143. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Radford Army Ammunition Plant applied for a reissued permit on March 20, 2012, for treatment of waste explosives by incineration. The facility is in Radford, Virginia. The draft permit will allow the facility to treat waste pyrotechnics, explosives, and propellants by incineration and store hazardous waste in tanks. HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand-delivery, e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet, and application at the DEQ, Blue Ridge Regional Office at 901 Russell Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153, every workday by appointment. Copies of the permit documents are also available at the DEQ, Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, 1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Radford Public Library, 30 W. Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, and the DEQ website www.deq.virginia.gov. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Ashby Scott; DEQ, Office of Financial Responsibility and Waste Programs, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia, 23218; Phone: 804 698-4467; Fax (804) 698-4178; E-mail: Ashby.Scott@deq.virginia.gov.

The following RFP may be obtained from the City of Radford Website www.radfordva.gov or on the eVA website <https://www.eva.virginia.gov>

**Legals - City of
Salem**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold public hearings, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on August 4, 2021, at 3:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearings shall be to determine if a certain structure is dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structure should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structure is located as follows:

- (1) A dilapidated structure located at 17 7th Street Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 184 – 2 – 2).

All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potential dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036).

THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY Troy D. Loving
Troy D. Loving,
Building Official

**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

ABC NOTICE

SANDROCO, LLC, trading as Sandro's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant, 2775 Market St. NE, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA

**Legals - City of
Radford**

the eVA website <https://www.eva.virginia.gov>

Submit a searchable PDF file to Kim Repass at kim.repass@radfordva.gov. The proposal must be received at the City office no later than 4:00 PM on August 2, 2021.

The City is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and/or female owned business firms are encouraged to apply.

**Request for
Proposals
City of Radford
East Main Street
Downtown Business
District Building
Revitalization Project**

The City of Radford is seeking expressions of interest from consulting engineering firms who wish to be considered to provide professional architectural and/or engineering services for: The City of Radford East Main Street Downtown Business District Building Revitalization Project. The selected firm(s) will partner with a downtown planning committee to develop exterior and interior building design concepts that are aimed at improving the downtown streetscape and quality of building stock. The objective of this project is to eliminate blighting conditions, increase building occupancy, and grow the downtown mixed-use environment. Services may include, but not be limited to: planning perspectives, design, developing construction estimates, and other professional services as required to increase preparedness for the purpose of pursuing implementation funding.

The full RFP may be obtained from the City of Radford Website www.radfordva.gov or on the eVA website <https://www.eva.virginia.gov>

Submit a searchable PDF file to Kim Repass at kim.repass@radfordva.gov. The proposal must be received at the City office no later than 4:00 PM on August 2, 2021.

The City is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and/or female owned business firms are encouraged to apply.

**Legals - City of
Salem**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Board of Appeals (Building) of the City of Salem, Virginia will hold public hearings, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-38 Code of City of Salem, Virginia, on August 4, 2021, at 3:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting and hearings shall be to determine if a certain structure is dangerous to the inhabitants of the City and whether such structure should be ordered to be repaired or demolished. The structure is located as follows:

- (1) A dilapidated structure located at 17 7th Street Street, Salem, Virginia (Tax Map # 184 – 2 – 2).

All parties in interest at the public hearings will be given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and show cause why action by the City and Board to remedy a potential dangerous situation should or should not be granted. For additional information, contact the Building Official's Office, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia (Phone 375-3036).

THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS OF THE CITY OF SALEM

BY Troy D. Loving
Troy D. Loving,
Building Official

**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

ABC NOTICE

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**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

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Alessandro Pugliese,
Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**ORDER OF
PUBLICATION**

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Case No. JJ019381-01-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY J & DR – JUV (CHRIST) Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ELSAYED, LAURA The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY
It is ORDERED that the defendant ELSAYED, AHMED HASSAN appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 09/01/2021 08:30 AM 07/12/2021
Amie Blankenship
CLERK

AT&T Mobility, LLC

is proposing to construct a 30 foot metal pole telecommunications tower facility located near Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., VA 24060 (37 14 45.28 N, 80 24 51.36 W). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 6121004806 – JLD EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (203) 231-6643.

**CAUSE NO.
2021-07472**

RECEIPT NO. 1010158, \$8.00. VBF 06/03/2021 TR # 82976137, EML
PLAINTIFF: SULLIVAN, AMBER DAWN In The 311TH Judicial District Court vs. DEFENDANT: SULLIVAN, JERAMIE WARD of Harris County, Texas

**CITATION BY
PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

TO: SULLIVAN, JERAMIE WARD, AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, WHOSE RESIDENCE AND WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN, RESPONDENT(S):

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE Petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Petition of SULLIVAN, AMBER DAWN Petitioner, was filed in the 311TH Court of Harris County, Texas, on the 5TH day of FEBRUARY, 2021, against SULLIVAN, JERAMIE WARD, Respondent(s), and the said suit being numbered 2021-07472 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Matter of the Marriage" of SULLIVAN, AMBER DAWN and

**Legals -
Montgomery
County**

SULLIVAN, JERAMIE WARD and in the interest of the child(ren): NAME: CULIN ALEXANDER SULLIVAN, DOB: 04/01/13, PLACE OF BIRTH: HOUSTON, STATE WHERE CHILD LIVES NOW: TEXAS; the nature of which suit is a request to ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE. "The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property and custody and support of the children, which will be binding on you." ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT HOUSTON TEXAS ON THIS THE 15TH day of JUNE, 2021.

Lonya Porter
Deputy

**Legals - Town of
New Castle**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF
3484 DICKS CREEK
RD, NEW CASTLE,
VA 24127**

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$107,100.00, with an annual interest rate of 4.250000% dated April 30, 2014, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the County of Craig as Deed Book 192, Page 584, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Craig, on the courthouse steps at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Craig located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia on August 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit:

Tax Map No. 66-1-3

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: USDA. Reference Number 21-288873. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

Publication Dates:
July 14 and July 21, 2021

**Legals - Roanoke
County**

**ORDER OF
PUBLICATION**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104
Case No. CL21-888
ROANOKE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT 305 E. MAIN ST SALEM, VA 24153
ALTIZER, ZANDER LEE v. MCGUIRE, CONNER LEE The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE OF MINOR
It is ORDERED that Ashley Altizer appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on 8/27/21 @ 11:00 AM
Enter 7/16/21
Judge Dorsey

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VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Hearings to solicit public comments on the drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in Virginia.

A total of eight public hearings will be held in July and August. Hearings are scheduled regionally both in person and virtually. Hearings will be livestreamed and archived online

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Auburn names new head football coach

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Illinois native David Seabaugh is the new head football coach at Auburn High School.

He fills the opening created when former coach Cam Akers became an assistant at Pulaski County.

Seabaugh comes to the area after spending this past season as the quarterback coach and passing game coordinator at Kemper County High School in Dekalb, Miss. Last year, the team finished 8-3.

He started his coaching ca-

reer right out of high school at his alma mater, Litchfield High School, in Illinois and then attended college at Mississippi State University where he was able to work for the football team in recruiting.

When Mississippi State had away games, he drove back to Illinois Friday morning to make the game that night.

While in his senior year at State, he worked with the football team at Starkville High School.

Originally from Walshville, Ill., a tiny town of about 45 people, Seabaugh became aware

of the Auburn opening this past month.

"I think the most attractive part of this job opening (at Auburn) was that this is a school that has won 30+ state championships in eight years with all of their other sports," Seabaugh said. "You don't win state championships without having athletes and having an administration that really sees the importance of athletics in schools. Now my job is to correlate that to the football field."

He met with players and their parents late last week. Auburn is coming off a 3-4 spring sea-

son after COVID-19 moved the 2020 season.

Seabaugh's first goal at Auburn is to bring some excitement back to the football team. "I'm not going to come in promising to make deep runs in the playoffs in my first season," he said. "But I will say we will have a product on the field that the people in this community can be excited about."

This past season, the lack of numbers affected the Riner program as no junior varsity team was fielded.

"My philosophy is something I stole from Bill Walsh," Sea-

baugh said. "As he says, 'If you do all of the little things, the score will take care of itself.' Everything we do, we will be trying to do it perfectly. If we focus on being precise and being as perfect as we possibly can, the score will take care of itself."

He will be teaching physical education and advanced physical education and is still assembling his coaching staff and is looking for a defensive coordinator.

He jumpstarted the school's program on Monday with off-season lifting. Auburn opens the 2021 season at home versus Narrows.

Former player's threats shut down Appy League's Kingsport Axmen

USA Baseball, the national governing body for amateur baseball, has decided to end the Kingsport Axmen's season after the team received threats from a former player, according to WJHL-TV in Tennessee.

In an open letter to the Kingsport community dated July 15, 2021, the team's managing company, Boyd Sports, explained the situation.

"The loyalty of the baseball fans of Kingsport drives us in everything we do. For that reason, we know we owe you transparency, and we are writing to update you on difficult events that have impacted our season," the letter read.

"Recently, Kingsport Axmen players experienced troubling and concerning behavior involving a former teammate, who is now under the care of medical professionals. Since becoming aware of this matter, Boyd Sports, USA Baseball, and Major League Baseball all have aimed to act with the best interests of the welfare of the players and the staff in mind. After discussions regarding these unusual circumstances, USA Baseball made the decision to allow the players of the Kingsport Axmen to return home.

"Because of this turn of events, we are adjusting as necessary. We are in the process of

assembling a travel team with a different group of players to complete the season because a decision like this affects not only the Kingsport Axmen but every other team in the league's schedule. We do not want to let down our other nine partners in the Appalachian League.

"This has been a challenge for all of us, and we appreciate your understanding and loyalty. Boyd Sports is committed to our fans, season ticket holders, and corporate partners in Kingsport long-term. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the bright future of baseball in Kingsport," said Chris Allen,

President of Boyd Sports.

According to WJHL, former Kingsport pitcher Matthew Taylor was arrested for allegedly making threats, which led to the postponement of Monday's and Tuesday's games against Greenville as a precaution. Taylor, a Kingsport native, was charged with false reports and harassment.

According to WJHL, court documents state that following his dismissal from the team, Taylor sent Snapchat messages to a player in which he said he would "kill every single one of y'all" and made references to "Columbine 2.0."

The station also reported that

Allen said those members of the Axmen who wished to continue playing could do so with other teams in the league if they desire.

The station reports that Boyd Sports also owns the Johnson City Doughboys, the Greenville Flyboys, and the Elizabethton River Riders in the Appalachian League, plus the minor league Tennessee Smokies team in Sevierville.

The Axmen were 12-19 in the Appy Leagues' West Division prior to the cancellation of the rest of their season.

Pulaski's River Turtles had no games remaining with the Axmen this season.

VT club baseball team wins national title

Virginia Tech's club baseball won the National Club Baseball Association's World Series in June with a 6-0 win over Iowa State. Virginia Tech junior Braden Huebsch pitched a perfect game to lead the Hokies to its first-ever World Series title.

"To come out with a win was just an amazing feeling," said Jonathan Spaulding, the team's starting shortstop for the World Series and past president of the team. "We play for each other and that, in and of itself, is enough for us to have a competitive edge."

The victory underscores the ways that Virginia Tech's 29 sport clubs turned a challenging pandemic year into an opportunity.

After the coronavirus halted all practices and competitions for these teams in the spring of 2020, the approximately 1,164 sport club athletes returned to campus in the fall to practice under strict public health guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19. The teams were limited to practice only, no travel for competitions, and regular COVID-19 health check-ins and testing were required. They also had to find creative ways to practice with limited physical contact, based on guidelines that the NCAA and Virginia High School League established for varsity and high school athletics.

This involved emphasis dur-

ing practices on conditioning and drill-based activities, said Julie Rhoads, assistant director for sport clubs with Virginia Tech Recreational Sports. The program also provided students with personal protective equipment.

"We were able to practice and sustain, once the program was in a routine, which was really amazing because you could see the students needed it," Rhoads said. "They needed that outlet from online learning."

Still, the pandemic did not seem to dull students' interest and enthusiasm for joining many of the sport club teams. Just after the start of the fall 2020 semester, at least 55 students tried out for club baseball, competing for only seven spots.

By the spring, all sport clubs were allowed to compete against other schools, but travel was limited to a four-hour radius from Blacksburg to eliminate the need to stay overnight. COVID-19 tests were required before and after travel for all athletes.

The baseball club had to seek out locations to meet rivals for games that were within this radius. And because most Virginia universities did not allow their sport clubs to compete during the spring, the baseball club joined a conference that included many North Carolina club teams in order to compete.

Spaulding, who also worked as a sport clubs supervisor for

the Virginia Tech program, was a driving force behind helping to make the season as competitive as possible for the baseball team.

Even with travel restrictions lifted, not all sport clubs were able to compete in the spring. Some opted only to continue with practices while others, like the fencing club, didn't have a choice. Their conference did not field enough teams to compete, Rhoads said.

In particular, it helped that baseball is considered a low-to-moderate-risk sport, COVID-19 wise, due to its limited physical contact and its being an outdoor sport, she said.

Even so, "for a large amount of that year, we didn't think we could play at all," said Skylar Petry, a pitcher for the baseball club. Petry played on the Virginia Tech varsity baseball team for one year before joining the club team.

A few Virginia Tech sport clubs, including the baseball and softball clubs, were able to make their seasons work and even have stand-out performances. In fact, the softball club finished third in the National Club Softball World Series in May in Columbus, Ga.

For the baseball club, games were held most weekends and the team practiced several days a week at the former Blacksburg High School field.

As the season was winding

down, the majority of the baseball club team received the COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccine, plus baseball's low- to moderate-risk level, set the stage for the team to travel to Pittsburg, Kansas, for the World Series, after the club won regionals in Greenwood, S.C. The Hokies were one of eight teams to advance to the national championship.

The team lost its first game to Salisbury University, but moved out of the losers' bracket by defeating East Carolina University twice.

"That was a huge thing for us," Spaulding said. "That's why we played the way we played, and as well as we did. [The rivalry] kind of lights

the fire under us."

Petry pitched a no-hitter in the second game against the University of Iowa, the game that saved the team from elimination. It was only the second time Petry has pitched a no-hitter in his baseball career. His first time was as a high school player.

Petry said he celebrated his feat briefly and then quickly turned to preparing for the upcoming games. "I was like 'that's one game down,'" he said.

As was evident with Huebsch's perfect game and Petry's no-hitter, pitching is one of the team's strengths, Spaulding said.

--Written by
Jenny Kincaid Boone



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD L. MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY AND CONNOR NGUYEN
Virginia Tech's baseball club team celebrates after winning the National Club Baseball Association World Series in Pittsburg, Kan.

Highlander inks deal with LA Angels

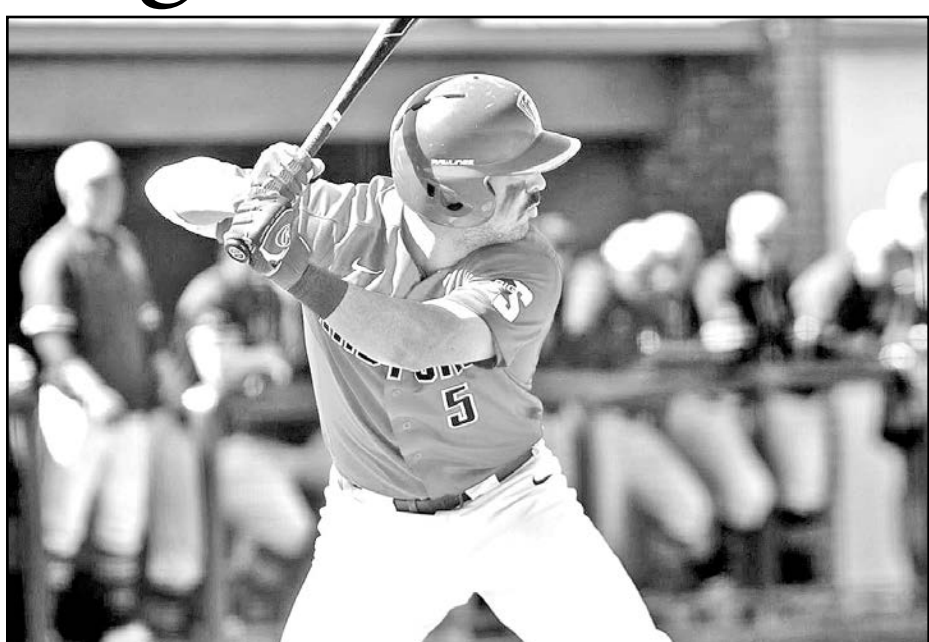


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Catcher Straton Podaras finished his career at Radford University with a .272 average and is now headed to the minor leagues.

Radford University baseball standout Straton Podaras is headed west after signing a professional contract with the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday.

Podaras has been a steady presence both at the dish and behind the plate for the Highlanders over the last five years, playing in 176 games and making 156 starts. He finished his collegiate career with a .272 batting average and an even more impressive .414 on-base percentage. He also set a program record with 79 caught runners attempting to steal.

The Glen Head, N.Y., native put together his best season as a graduate student in 2021,

earning First Team All-Big South honors. He was also named one of 16 semifinalists for the Buster Posey Award, an honor given annually to the nation's top collegiate catcher.

Offensively, Podaras posted a .302/.434/.414 slash line. His batting average and on-base percentage both ranked second on the team. He also had eight doubles and two home runs. He added to his defensive stats with a whopping 31 runners caught stealing.

The Angels, a member of Major League Baseball's AL West division, have affiliated minor league clubs in Salt Lake City, Utah (AAA), Medi-

son, Ala. (AA), Pasco, Wash. (A+), and San Bernardino, Calif. (A).

Should Podaras realize his dreams and climb the ranks all the way to the majors, he would become the second Highlander in history to play for the Angels, joining Phil Leftwich (1993-96).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

Hokie Essence Henderson named VaSID Field Athlete of the Year



At the ACC Championships, Essence Henderson set a school record in the shot put, the third time during the season she had broken the Hokies' record. She also broke the school record for the discus six times during the season.

Essence Henderson was named the Virginia Sports Information Directors' (VaSID) All-State Women's Field Athlete of the year last week, as she and five other Hokies earned all-state honors.

Joining Henderson on the all-state teams are Eszter Bajnok, Rachel Baxter, Sara Killinen, Lauren Berman, and Lindsey Butler. VaSID honors are voted on by sports information directors in the state of Virginia. VaSID names 44 all-state teams in 23 sports each year, as well as an academic all-state squad and an all-sports champion in both the university and college divisions.

Henderson delivered a sensational season to earn Field Athlete of the Year. At the ACC Championships, she took the shot-put title with a school record throw of 17.23m (56' 6.5"), the third time she had broken the Hokies' record this year. In the discus, Henderson broke the Virginia Tech record six times on her way to a berth at the NCAA Championships. There the sophomore finished seventh with yet another school record throw of 57.72m (189' 4"). Henderson competed at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in both the discus and shot, finishing 16th and 17th respectively.

Eszter Bajnok earned first-team honors by excelling in both horizontal jumps this season. The grad student finished third at the ACC Championships in the triple jump and fifth in the long jump and set a new school record in the long jump with a leap of 6.52m (21' 4.75") earlier this year at the Torrin Lawrence Memorial. At the NCAA East Prelims, Bajnok finished seventh to advance in the triple jump before taking 12th place and second-team All-American honors

at the NCAA Championships.

Rachel Baxter continued her strong vaulting outdoors to earn a spot on the VaSID first team. Baxter posted a season's best mark of 4.40m (14' 5.25") at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials, finishing 14th. At the ACC Championships, Baxter finished third to take first-team All-ACC honors, earning a trip to the NCAA Championships.

Freshman Sara Killinen's first outdoor season was as impressive as her indoor season and saw her selected to the VaSID first team. Finishing in second place in the hammer at the ACC Championships with a throw of 64.92m (213' 0"), Killinen moved into fourth all-time in the Hokies' record book. At the NCAA East Prelims, Killinen finished 14th, just two places away from a trip to Eugene.

Lauren Berman earned second-team all-state honors after a stellar 1500m season. The grad student finished with a time of 4:10.82 at the ACC Championships for second all-time at Virginia Tech. Berman finished fifth at the conference meet and advanced past the NCAA East Prelims to compete at the NCAA Championships. There Berman competed as one of the nation's best, finishing 11th to earn second-team All-American honors.

Lindsey Butler followed an exceptional indoor campaign with an equally impressive outdoor season in the 800m, earning a spot on the all-state second team. Butler ran a personal best and Olympic-qualifying mark of 2:01.32 at the ACC Championships to secure a second-place finish. At the NCAA Championships, Butler finished sixth to earn first-team All-American honors.

Virginia Tech 2021 football schedule

Friday, Sept. 3	North Carolina	Lane Stadium	6 p.m.	ESPN
Saturday, Sept. 11	Middle Tennessee	Lane Stadium	2 p.m.	ACCN
Saturday, Sept. 18	West Virginia	Morgantown	noon	FS1
Saturday, Sept. 25	Richmond	Lane Stadium	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Oct. 9	Notre Dame	Lane Stadium	TBA	ESPN/ABC
Saturday, Oct. 16	Pitt	Lane Stadium	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Oct. 23	Syracuse	Lane Stadium	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Oct. 30	Georgia Tech	Atlanta	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Friday, Nov. 5	Boston College	Chestnut Hill	7:30	ESPN2
Saturday, Nov. 13	Duke	Lane Stadium	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Nov. 20	Miami	Miami Grdns	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Nov. 27	Virginia	Char'ville	TBA	VT Spts Nwork
Saturday, Dec. 4	ACC C'ship	Charlottesville	TBA	ABC

VT Athletics seeking PA announcers, national anthem singers, halftime acts

The Virginia Tech athletics department is currently seeking talented individuals to serve as national anthem singers, halftime performers, and PA announcers at select Virginia Tech athletic events.

These individuals and groups will contribute to the high-energy atmosphere and experience for Hokie student-athletes and fans. National anthem performances can be utilized at men's and women's basketball games and potentially at soccer, baseball, and softball games. Halftime acts would be asked to perform at men's and/or women's basketball games. PA announcers would be utilized at men's and women's soccer, volleyball, baseball, and lacrosse.

The Virginia Tech athletics marketing department is using this search to best identify talent available for a wide range of opportunities across all of the school's sports. The PA announcer will be required to attend all home games, including any preseason exhibition games and any postseason events. This includes nights and weekends.

National anthem performers and halftime acts are scheduled by game and typically perform only once per sport.

Applicants should submit a resume detailing relevant experience, three references related to your ability to perform this position, and an mp3/mp4 recording of your vocal talents or routine to vtmarketing@hokiesports.com no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, July 30.



Outdoor report: Looking for smallmouth

During the dog days of summer, many anglers put their rods and reels down and are content to wait until later in the fall for cooler weather. Unfortunately, these anglers end up missing some of the most exciting warm water fishing conditions of the year. During this time frame, I tend to focus my efforts on one species of fish in Virginia, smallmouth bass. Pound for pound and inch for inch, these fish fight harder than most other freshwater fish in the state.

Smallmouth Bass in Virginia
Smallmouth bass, frequently referred to as smallies or bronzebacks, are a freshwater member of the sunfish family Centrarchidae. Their green and brown sides are often marked with vertical black bars. Some of these fish have war-paint-like markings extending horizontally and diagonally behind their eyes and across their gill plates.

Smallmouth bass are native to the Great Lakes system and the Mississippi River Basin including the Tennessee and Big Sandy River Drainages of Southwest Virginia. However, these game fish have been introduced all across the Piedmont of Virginia and are truly a worthy opponent on rod and reel.

Because of the smallmouth's widespread range in Virginia, they are readily available to anglers fishing west of the coastal plains above the fall lines of our major river systems. This allows anglers who reside in cities and large metropolitan areas to fish local smallmouth opportunities are plentiful.

The James River in Lynchburg and Richmond, the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, the Rivanna River in Charlottesville, the Maury River near Lexington, and the New River in Southwest Virginia are fine examples of local opportunities.

The mainstem and larger tributaries of these rivers are full of smallmouth. Anglers in Northern Virginia can focus efforts on the Upper Potomac River as well as the Shenandoah mainstem, North Fork, and South Fork. The North Fork of the Holston River and the Clinch River provide excellent smallmouth opportunities in Southwest Virginia.

Floating these larger rivers in a canoe or raft can be a great way to cover water. Just remember to wear your life jacket. You can also wade-fish these rivers and their tributaries, especially in the lower flows of late summer.

Summer Conditions
My favorite conditions to fish for smallmouth are from mid-summer into early fall. During this time of the year our rivers and streams are typically at lower flows with fantastic water clarity. These conditions provide for some incredible sight-fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass. Look for fish to be holding against steep banks with overhanging trees and vegetation. During the middle of hot summer days it can pay off huge when you find a shady bank with depth and current. It can also be productive to target riffles and pocket water during this time of the year. Smallmouth will often be in the faster and more oxygenated water when river temperatures get hot.

It's important to think about structure when locating summer smallmouth. These

fish will often be found along a rock ledge or drop off.

During hot, bright, summer days, the fishing can be most productive early in the morning and again in the evening. I try to fish during these times as smallmouth will often be active during low light conditions and can get sluggish during the middle of a hot bright afternoon.

That being said, these fish can be caught in the middle of bright sunny days as well. Also, afternoon cloud cover and a light shower can turn the fishing on in a matter of moments.

Rods/Reels & Tackle/Approach
Medium to medium-light spinning and baitcasting rods in the 7-foot range are great for late summer smallmouth. It can pay off to scale down in low clear water. You may want to consider fishing 6-8-lb. test instead of 10-12 lb. Soft plastics work well for smallmouth, and favorites include swim baits and tubes.

Topwater baits are a late summer "go to" with low and clear water. Try fishing buzzbaits, the smaller Whopper Plopper 90, Zara Spooks, and Heddon Tiny Torpedos. Buzzbaits and Whopper Ploppers can be retrieved quickly across the surface enticing explosive takes. The rotating tail of the Whopper Plopper acts like a propeller and creates lots of noise and attention.

For fly fishing, 9- to 10-foot rods in the 6 to 8 weight range are best. You will want a heavier rod on our larger rivers. Heavier rods in the 7 to 8 weight range will also turn over some of the bigger bugs we tend to throw this time of year on floating fly lines.

Don't let the dog days of summer keep you from missing some of the most exciting warm-water fishing conditions of the year. Late-summer smallmouth should be on your angling to-do list. The conditions during this time of the year are excellent for sight fishing and cater to a topwater approach. From the smaller tributaries to the larger rivers, smallmouth opportunities are diverse across the state. Make time to get out this summer and fish local in Virginia.

-By Alex McCrickard, DWR Aquatic Education Coordinator



PHOTO BY PATRICK DUDLEY

Fishing with friends is a great way to spend time on the water. Joe Revercomb shows off a nice Virginia smallmouth caught on a popper.

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