



## Montgomery Chamber President, CEO leaving

Sharon Scott, President and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, has announced she will be leaving her dual posts in 2021.

"Scott has been with the chamber since 2011, first as a volunteer, then as the Special Initiatives Coordinator, and she served as Interim Executive Director when Catherine Sutton left in 2013," according to

Henry Bass, 2021 Chamber Board Chair. "Scott was hired in December of 2013 as Executive Director following a national search, and most recently was promoted to President and CEO."

Scott initially shared with the board at the 2019 planning retreat her plans to leave the chamber. Those plans were solidified last October during the 2020 planning retreat.

Asked about her tenure with the chamber, Scott said, "I have joked since 2014 that I love this job 98% of the time, but the reality is that is true. This has been the most rewarding job I have ever held because I serve our business community. I vividly remember in my interview being asked what the biggest challenge I

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Montgomery Chamber President and CEO Sharon Scott will soon be ending her decade-long involvement with the organization.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NRV HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

The 2020 Excellence in Building award winners as presented by the New River Valley Home Builders Association were (top row, left to right) Jeff Nosenzo (Brown Insurance Agency); Sean Beliveau (Slate Creek Builders); Ed Tuchler (Shelter Alternatives); Austin Hauslohner (Setter Construction); (middle row, left to right) Roger White (White Builders); Cassidy Jones (Slate Creek Builders); Jesse Thomas (Back to Nature Landscaping); Alice Coddington (Shelter Alternatives); (bottom row, left to right) Jason Hardy (Carter Bank and Trust); Wes Smith (Setter Construction); Mike Farris (Back to Nature Landscaping).

## NRV Home Builders hand out 2020 Excellence in Building awards

The New River Valley Home Builders Association (NRVHBA) presented its Excellence in Building Awards at its summer awards event on Thursday, July 15.

Jeff Nosenzo with Brown Insurance Agency and President of the Association in 2020 and 2021, along with Justin Boyle, CFO of Green Valley Builders and Vice-President of the NRVHBA, announced the winners from among thirty-two nominees in eight different categories.

The nominees came from 14 different local businesses and/or individuals. Nominees were required to submit design plans, client letters of

satisfaction, and before/after photography. The winners were chosen by their peers among the 125 members of the New River Valley Home Builders Association.

Among the Design Excellence Awards, Slate Creek Builders won the Best Kitchen category for the third year in a row, and Back to Nature Landscaping & Construction took home the Best Outdoor Living award for the fourth year in a row. Shelter Alternatives won the Best Bath category while White Builders and Setter Construction was awarded the Best Remodeled Home and Best New Home awards.

Jason Hardy of Carter Bank and Trust was awarded the 2020 Association Service Award for his board service and outstanding volunteer work throughout 2020. Brown Insurance Agency was recognized as the NRVHBA Associate Member of the Year, awarded each year to a non-Builder member of the NRVHBA for outstanding service and contributions to the industry and association.

Setter Construction was presented the Builder of the Year Award for building and operating with quality and integrity in mind, for

See **Excellence**, page 4

## Eighth annual Giving Day sets another record with \$519,000 for nonprofits



Jim McAlister with First Bank and Trust presents a check for the Most Money Raised: Large Organization to the YMCA at VT staff and board members.

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFN-RV) once again set a Giving Day record, raising \$519,643 from some \$2,250 donors for nonprofits across the New River Valley.

The event exceeded its \$430,000 goal. In the eight years of the program to date, the Giving Day has raised more than \$2.1 million.

The CFN-RV also awarded \$15,000 in incentive grants, which encourage active participation during the Giving Day. Sixteen organizations received these awards for the largest number of unique donors, two superstars, most money raised, a grant for the best video, power hour awards, and more.

The incentive grant award winners:

1) Most Money Raised (\$1,500 each): Large Organization: YMCA at Virginia Tech; Medium Organization: Springhouse Community School; Small

Organization: New River Valley Leading Lights.

2) Most Unique Donors (\$1,000 each): Large Organization: St. John Neumann Academy; Medium Organization: Montgomery Museum of Art & History; Small Organization: Calfee Community & Cultural Center.

3) Video Grant (\$1,000): Women's Resource Center of the NRV.

4) Golden Ticket Winners (\$500 each): 10 a.m.: Friends of the Huckleberry Trail; 2 p.m.: Live Work Eat Grow; 8 p.m.: New River Land Trust.

5) Peer-to-Peer (\$500): The Agape Center.

6) Power Hour Grant (\$500 each): Early Bird: Literacy Volunteers of the NRV; Coffee Break: Springhouse; Awakening Vitality; Lunch Hour: NRV CARES; Happy Hour: Children's

See **Giving Day**, page 4

## Radford's Mason Sproule named Class 2 Male Athlete of Year

Radford High School's Mason Sproule has received one of 19 scholarships awarded by the Allstate Foundation and has been recognized as the Virginia High School League's Class 2 Athlete of the Year.

The scholarships recognize contributions in athletics, academics, and leadership. Sproule was a four-year letterman in soccer and football for the Bobcats. He will participate in an upcoming Fellowship of Christian Athletes all-star soccer game.

Sproule graduated as the salutatorian of his class and will be attending the College of William & Mary in the fall.

The letter from the Virginia High School League informing Sproule of the award said "a Queen Anne Bowl and a letter confirming the scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will follow. The award letter also requested that Sproule let VHSL Director of Commu-

nications Mike McCall know when he has made his decision as to where he will be attending college so his \$1,500 scholarship can be deposited with the school's financial aid office.



Bound for William & Mary, Radford High's Mason Sproule has received notice he has been named the VHSL Class 2 Athlete of the Year.



The 2021-22 Board of Directors for New River Community Action is pictured above: back row, left to right: Joe Guthrie, John McEnhill, Boyoung Park, Aline Brinckman, Lee Simpkins, Melissa Dodson, Linda Baylor, Serena Ming, Kim Fernandez, Michael Grigsby, and Tonia Winn; seated left to right: Kelly Patton, Elaine Powell Hawkins, Tina Lindsey, Gina Rhea, and Sarah Greene.

## New River Community Action Board of Directors elects officers

Radford -- The New River Community Action, Inc., (NRCA) Board of Directors elected officers at its annual board meeting on July 15.

The board elected John McEnhill to serve as the board chairperson for fiscal year 2021-22. Kim Fernandez was elected vice-chair, and Joseph Guthrie was elected Secretary/Treasurer. As officers for the

board, they also serve on the board's executive committee.

McEnhill is the Floyd government representative to the board appointed by the Floyd County Board of Supervisors. He has served on the NRCA Board of Directors since June 2002 and has been the board chair since 2012. He currently serves as Executive Director for the Floyd County Chamber of

Commerce and volunteers many hours each month for several NRCA Board committees and special projects.

Fernandez has served on the NRCA Board since 2019 and is a representative from Montgomery County. She is a veteran of the United States Navy and has degrees

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Monday, July 26:

**Ice Cream in a Bag**  
At 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Check out the STEM video on the science of making ice cream in a bag.

## Tuesday, July 27:

**Concert in the Park**  
At the Bisset Park gazebo from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Radford Parks and Recreation Department. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the Cadillac Ranch Band.

## Monday, July 26 – Friday, July 30:

**Smithfield Summer Camp**  
At Smithfield Plantation from 9 a.m. to noon. Campers to 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."

## Wednesday, July 28:

**Teen Book Club**  
Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online at 4 p.m. Each month teens will discuss a new book. This month's book is "Dread Nation" by Justina Ireland. Email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

**DIY Ice Cream**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library. Multiple time slots will be available but preregistration is required. Make your very own ice cream in a bag, add your toppings of choice, and learn a little

about the science behind ice cream making. Four time slots will be available with a maximum of 10 people per time slot. Just come into the library or call to sign up for a preferred time. Ages up to 17 years.

## Thursday, July 29:

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club**  
Blacksburg Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join in a discussion of "All Systems Red" by Martha Wells. Call ahead to get a copy of this month's book.

## 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**  
The Pilot Community Center's final auction fundraiser until the fall will raffle off three gift cards of \$25 each at Linkous Auctions. 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 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-Unwarrant-

ed Deaths of Savable Soldiers." For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

## Wednesday, Aug. 11:

**Brown Bag Book Club**  
Join the Radford Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month for a book discussion from noon to 1 p.m. Bring a lunch if you like. This month the group is discussing "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

## Saturday, Aug. 14:

**Fourth Annual Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament**  
At the Pete Dye River Course. Benefits the "Carilion Cares for Children" program providing 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; \$300/foursome paid on-line by Aug. 13; \$400/foursome at the door, based on availability; \$100/Hole sponsorship paid on-line by Aug. 6. Prizes: \$100,000 Hole-In-One contest for 10 participants chosen by purchased raffle ticket. 2021 Vehicle from Harvey's in Radford for a Hole-In-One. Prizes include first- through fourth-place teams and closest to the pin. Awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes and mulligans. To register go to www.radfordchilddevelopment.org/golf.

## Ongoing: Through July 31:

**Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program**  
The library presents 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 presents its newest 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 will continue each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. through September 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 will be held every Thursday through October at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

# Seafood prices are on the rise as demand continues to grow

Disruptions to supply chains from the pandemic in 2020 have rippled across the U.S., including the demand for seafood and rising retail prices for consumers, said Virginia Tech research scientist Fernando Goncalves at the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

"Many economic sectors have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic, including labor availability to the seafood industry, loss of opportunities in sales for restaurants, seasonality of species, changes in consumption habits, preferences, and market channels," says Goncalves.

According to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the entity that regulates and controls commercial fisheries production and shellfish aquaculture, Virginia seafood production has dropped almost 90%, but the dockside value, in dollar figures, dropped around 43% compared to 2019.

Jonathan Van Senten, from the Seafood Economic Analysis and Marketing Research program, explains that seafood prices are up largely in response to increased production costs and supply chain challenges.

"In some cases this is a function of supply and demand," said Van Senten.

"For example, where seasonal fisheries had reduced landings and now we have restaurants reopening and the demand for seafood picking up again."

Van Senten said that a major impact on the seafood sector last year was the disruption of primary marketing channels. "Most of the seafood in

the U.S. has traditionally been consumed in restaurants, which led to a loss of revenue and reduced production and fishing effort in response," Van Senten said. "This loss of revenue resulted in secondary impacts across fisheries and aquaculture in terms of labor impacts and production challenges."



CREDIT: PIXABAY

# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Sassy is an indoor cat who would do best as the only pet in the home. She is a bit scared of dogs, and other felines just aren't her cup of tea. Sassy is about 2 years old. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center if you think Sassy may be your purrfect match.**



**Handsome senior dog Bandit has been a resident at the center since March and can't wait to find his forever home. Bandit enjoys being outside and has a history of getting along with kids of all ages. His adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.**

## MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is amending its 2021-22 Unified Planning Work Program. The Amendment adds a study of the Huckleberry Trail and a corridor study for the extension of Southgate Drive from Route 460 to Merrimac Road this fiscal year. A draft plan is available for review at the Offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, Pulaski County, as well as the Montgomery County Government Center. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org

Deadline for written comments: 5:00pm August 18, 2021

Oral comments will also be taken at the MPO Policy Board meeting at 2:00 pm on September 2, 2021 at the Montgomery County Government Center or remotely.

The New River Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMPO) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, questions, or to obtain a Discrimination Complaint Form,

Contact MPO Director Dan Brugh  
Phone 540-394-2145  
Email brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov

# Keep lawn mower safety in mind throughout the summer



**More than 37,000 people are injured in lawn mower-related accidents each year in America, resulting in about 90 deaths.**

May 6, 2018, was one of those gorgeous spring days perfectly suited for outdoor chores.

Lisa Barnett and her husband, Mathew, had both taken the day off to work on their property in Louisa County. She was driving their zero-turn commercial riding mow-

er, the kind with differential steering controlled by two handles designed to cut closely around obstacles.

She was almost finished mowing, but the power take-off switch was not communicating with the pulley and belt, preventing the mower blades

from spinning correctly.

Barnett was focused on finishing the task.

"I was in a hurry and wanted to help it along," she said. "I kept engaging and then disengaging the switch. But in my haste to hurry it up, I didn't disengage, and when I reached down to pull on the pulley, it ripped my hand right through it."

A deep laceration zig-zagged through her left hand, severing a ligament. She remained calm and drove back toward the house, steering with her right hand and left elbow.

"We jumped in the car, and off to the emergency room we went," Barnett said.

Fifteen stitches and a pin held her hand together until she had orthopedic surgery. The scars healed nicely, but the awful memory is still

visceral.

"I have fairly decent usage of that hand, but I can't make a complete fist or pick things up with it, and it gets really cold in the wintertime," Barnett said. "But I was very fortunate to keep my fingers. I believe if I had taken the brunt a little higher where the bones are smaller, I may have lost part, or both of, my fingers."

The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates more than 37,000 Americans suffer a power mower-related injury each year, resulting in about 90 deaths.

"Unfortunately, lawn mower and bush hog injuries are frequent occurrences throughout the spring and summer months," said Dr. Eric Kramer, a Rockingham County emergency physician.

He said mowing accidents tend to result in two categories of injury: lacerations and amputations, or blunt trauma. Kramer said common injuries are a result of people attempting to hand-clear debris while the mower's engine is still running.

Blunt-trauma injuries occur when mowers and tractors upend while the rider is moving along a steep gradient, pinning them to the ground.

"Given the substantial weight of the machinery, patients sustain an array of physical damage ranging from severe arm and leg crush injuries, to more significant chest and abdominal trauma," Kramer said. "This often necessitates rapid transfer to a trauma center."

Riding with Grandpa on the mower also presents hazards, especially to

the children.

An estimated 9,400 children are injured by lawn mowers every year in the U.S., especially in rural areas, according to the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Lawn mowers are responsible for 12% to 19% of traumatic amputations among kids. Dana Fisher, chairman of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Safety Advisory Committee, advised against allowing children or pets to be nearby while mowing.

"Lawn mowers are powerful and potentially dangerous machines that are designed for one operator," Fisher explained. "Adding an additional child rider makes it harder for the operator to control the machine and could lead to the child falling off and being seriously injured."

# Bear's-eye view: Cameras on black bears provide research and outreach opportunities

A typical encounter with a black bear in Virginia goes something like this: you hear a rustle of leaves and then glimpse a patch of black fur as a large animal shuffles off into the dense underbrush of the forest.

Now researchers in the College of Natural Resources and Environment are gaining a closer look at our elusive neighbors and sharing some of their findings with the public, both on social media and in a new exhibit at the Mill Mountain Zoo in Roanoke.

The research project on bear behavior, led by Professor Marcella Kelly of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, involves putting collars mounted with small video cameras on 19 black bears to provide a snapshot into the day-to-day moments of a bear's life.

"Every 20 minutes the camera takes 20 seconds of video," said Kelly, an affiliate of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute. "At that rate, we're able to get about two months of data from each bear,

which tells us a lot about their behaviors and particularly about their diets that we couldn't get from stomach content or scat analysis."

Master's student Brogan Holcombe, who previously managed Kelly's Wildlife Habitat and Population Analysis Lab, said that the information they're collecting is offering new insights into bear behavior as well as providing information about broader land management concerns.

"In the central Appalachian Mountains, there's been a decrease in the deer population in recent years," Holcombe said. "One of the questions we're looking into is whether or not bears are impacting that decline and how. Are black bears scavenging deer carcasses, are they actively looking for fawns when they drop in early June, or is it something else?"

The research is part of the broader Virginia Appalachian Carnivore Project, led by Kelly, which is studying the predator-prey dynamics of bears, coyotes, and bobcats. By



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

**A Virginia Tech research team is putting collars equipped with small video cameras onto black bears to gain insight into the bears' day-to-day activities.**

placing GPS collars on predators and then monitoring when they cluster around a dead animal, researchers are able to go out into the field and perform forensic analysis to determine how the prey species died.

"Bears are a challenge because they gobble up food quickly, so we couldn't answer a lot of questions about their eat-

ing behaviors by searching their clustered locations," Kelly said. "We pitched the idea of putting cameras on bears, and the Safari Club International and Acorn Alcinda Foundation provided funding for the camera collar project."

While camera footage of bears enjoying meals of fresh venison tends to get the most attention,



PHOTO BY DAVID FLEMING, VIRGINIA TECH.

**Professor Marcella Kelly, right, leads the research project, assisted by master's student Brogan Holcombe, left.**

the collected footage also has the potential to inform land management considerations around invasive plant species in the region.

"In our preliminary analysis of just a few bears, we've noticed that the females tend to eat the invasive wineberry, while the one collared male appeared to prefer the native huckleberry and blueber-

ry," Holcombe said. "As female bears tend to have smaller home ranges, we don't know if they're significantly spreading wineberry, but it's something that we're keeping separate in our analysis to provide information to state officials for their research into this invasive plant."

— Written by David Fleming

## CEO Leaving

from page 1

see in this position is. I remember saying the budget; we were still carrying \$75,000 in loan debt. I was also asked how long I would stay if I was hired, and my response was six to 10 years.

"Leaving now will be the eight-year mark for me," Scott said. "I am certain this is not a surprise to the business community that I am leaving, the worst-kept secret. We hinted at the 2021 Annual Manual in my message. We have adjusted some

work structurally to support the sustainability of programming.

"I had three goals to achieve during my tenure: pay off the debt, find a home for the chamber, and create a dues structure that reflects the value of this chamber. When I leave, I will have achieved these goals".

Aaron Harris-Kirby, the chamber's immediate past chair, said, "I know I appreciate her willingness to stay through 2021 to have the continuity through

the pandemic."

Asked what she would miss most about the job, Scott said, "I will miss the members. We have some of the best members and board members in the world of chambers of commerce. Over the last ten years working with this chamber and the last eight, serving as the manager and administrator, I have gotten to know so many of our members on a professional and personal level.

"Originally, I had planned to leave in 2020, but I could not do that to our members, board, or a new leader; we still had so much pandemic navigation before us. But I am not going anywhere; my husband and I love this community."

Bass said, "The chamber will be seeking applications for the position immediately, and Scott, who is not involved with the selection process, has agreed to assist with onboarding the new

president and CEO."

Mark Woolwine, 2021 Vice-Chair of the chamber board and a board member since 2019, said, "The new leader will still have lots of exciting work to do given our strategic direction. We have a great staff who have been given leadership development opportunities to support the needs of our membership. This is a great opportunity for our chamber of commerce and business community."

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## HOUSING CONNECTIONS, INC. AND VIRGINIA HOUSING OPENING WAITING LIST TO ACCEPT HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER APPLICATIONS

Housing Connections, Inc. and Virginia Housing will open the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Applicants can apply starting at 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The program will take applications ONLINE ONLY. The website to apply is [vhda.apply4housing.com](http://vhda.apply4housing.com).

The Housing Connections, Inc. waiting list area covers Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski counties.

Those who apply will be chosen randomly by lottery to be added to the waiting list. Not everyone who applies will be added to the waiting list. Applicants will receive a confirmation number once their application is submitted indicating the application was received but this does not guarantee you will be added to the waiting list. Applicants may check to see if they were chosen in the lottery on August 5, 2021, after 10:00 a.m. by going to the following website: [vhda.apply4housing.com/status](http://vhda.apply4housing.com/status).

Anyone can apply on behalf of any applicant. Applicants can apply using a laptop or desktop computer or mobile device. Applications will not be taken by phone, mail or in person. If the applicant is a person with a disability and they require an accommodation in order to apply, please contact the Housing Connections staff for assistance to apply during the opening time period.

For more information about the application process, please contact Housing Connections at 540-921-1392 or visit [www.virginiahousing.com](http://www.virginiahousing.com).



# OPINION

## Home Country

**Slim Randles**  
*Contributing writer*

When the distinguished-looking elderly gentleman walked into the Iditarod Race headquarters (a room at the Roosevelt Hotel in Anchorage), I had no way of knowing this smiling man was going to lead me to my most embarrassing moment.

It was during the 1974 race, and my wife, Pam, ran race headquarters. I'd run the race in 1973 without managing to impress anyone. But, hey, I was a dog musher, and here was a guy with a Boston accent, asking about the race.

His name, he said, was Norman Vaughan, and he had just moved to Anchorage.

Well, I taught Norman Vaughan for the next hour how to drive a dog team. He smiled and nodded and listened patiently. Before he left,

he told me we were probably going to see a lot of each other in the future and thanked me for the information.

Not 20 minutes later, the radio announcer let everyone know that the guest speaker at the mushers' banquet that evening would be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole as part of the safety plan for the Byrd Expedition.

Byrd named a mountain in Antarctica for Norman, and Col. Vaughan took some young people down there and climbed it on his 100th birthday.

Embarrassing? I suppose, but at least he learned the correct way to handle a dog team, right?

*Brought to you by Dog-sled: A True Tale of the North, Slim's first book. Available at Amazon.com.*

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

## News Messenger

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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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## WalletHub: Virginia is tenth worst state to start a business in

As the personal finance website WalletHub noted, starting a business is never easy.

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, about a fifth of all startups typically don't survive past year one of operation, and nearly half never make it to their fifth anniversary. That's without considering the economic damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in 200,000 more permanent business closures than usual within a year of the pandemic's start.

Thus, choosing a state that provides the ideal conditions for business creation is crucial.

To determine the most fertile grounds in which to launch and grow an enterprise, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 28 key in-

dicators of startup success. The website also compared the states across three key dimensions: 1) business environment, 2) access to resources and 3) business costs.

The rankings placed Virginia down at No. 41, making it the tenth worst state in which to launch a new business.

The indicators WalletHub used in the access-to-resources dimension to determine its rankings were financing accessibility, venture investment amount per capita, human-capital availability, higher-education assets, the share of the college-educated population, and the working-age population growth.

Across the business cost dimension, WalletHub used the following indicators: business costs, labor

costs, average annual single insurance premium per enrolled employee, corporate taxes, the total spending on incentives as a share of the state's GDP, office space affordability, and the cost of living.

Among the indicators WalletHub used in the business environment dimension were the average length of the work week, the share of engaged workers, the growth in the number of small businesses, the startups per capita, the growth of average business revenues, and the five-year survival rate.

The states that fell behind Virginia in the rankings were 42) Delaware 43) Pennsylvania 44) Missouri 45) Alaska 46) Wyoming 47) West Virginia 48) Rhode Island 49) Connecticut and 50) New Jersey.

## Virginia cities show up in top 50 of WalletHub's most educated cities in America

With more than 97% of educators reporting learning loss among their students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal-finance website WalletHub Tuesday released its report on 2021's Most & Least Educated Cities in America. The Washington, D.C., Alexandria and Arlington, Va., complex came in as the third most educated place in the country.

Two more Virginia cities -- Richmond at No. 37 and the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News complex at No. 42 -- also landed among the most educated American cities and complexes.

To determine where the most educated Ameri-

cans are choosing to settle down, WalletHub compared the 150 largest U.S. metropolitan statistical areas across two dimensions -- 1) educational attainment and 2) quality of education and attainment gap -- and across 11 key metrics: 1) the share of adults aged 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher 2) the share of adults 25 and older with at least some college experience or an associate's degree or higher 3) the share of adults 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or higher 4) the share of adults 25 or older with a graduate or professional degree 5) the quality of the public school system 6) the average quality of

universities 7) enrolled students in the top 1,009 universities per capita 8) the number of summer learning opportunities per capita 9) the racial education gap 10) the gender education gap and 11) the education quality index score, which is a comparative measure of the achievement gap between students from low-income families, as measured by participation in the free and reduced price lunch program, and their more advantaged peers.

According to WalletHub's survey, the ten most educated cities in the country are 1) Ann Arbor 2) San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif. 3) Washington, D.C.-Ar-

lington, Va.-Alexandria, Va. 4) San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, Calif. 5) Madison, Wisc. 6) Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass. 7) Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C. 8) Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. 9) Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas 10) Provo-Orem, Utah.

WalletHub's 10 least educated of the 150 major cities in America were 141) Corpus Christi, Texas 142) Ocala, Fla. 143) Salinas, Calif. 144) Stockton, Calif. 145) Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, N.C. 146) Modesto, Calif. 147) Bakersfield, Calif. 148) McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas 149) Brownsville-Harlingen, Texas 150) Visalia, Calif.

## New Officers

in human services and early childhood education. She also serves on the board's membership, program planning and evaluation, and executive committees.

Guthrie is Pulaski County's government representative to the board appointed by the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. He has served on the NRCA Board since May 2020. As Secretary/Treasurer, he also serves as the chair of the board's finance committee. Guthrie is the chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and is a Virginia Tech Senior Instructor.

Also on the 2021-22



**NRCA Board President John McEnhill**



**NRCA Board Vice-Chair Kim Fernandez**



**NRCA Board Sec./Treasurer Joseph Guthrie**

board of directors are Sarah Greene from Floyd County; Kelly Patton, Melissa Dodson, and Corbin Vierling from Giles County; Aline Brinckman and Tonia Winn from Montgomery County;

Elaine Powell Hawkins and Serena Ming from Pulaski County; and Michael Grigsby, Linda Baylor, and Gina Rhea from the City of Radford. Dr. Boyoung Park is an ex-officio member with

expertise in early childhood education. Tina Lindsey and Lee Simpkins also serve as ex-officio members from Radford. Krystal Thompson is the board's chief executive officer.

## Giving Day

Advocacy Center of the NRV; Finish Line: Calfee Community & Cultural Center.

7) 2021 Superstar Awards (\$1,000 each): Downtown Christiansburg, Inc.; Floyd Center for the Arts.

NRV CARES was the winner of one of five power hour grants this year for the most unique donors in a given time period. They won the lunch break power hour and encouraged their donors to give during the noon hour to help them win.

Andi Golusky, NRV CARES's executive director said, "With this being our first year at really promoting GiveLocalNRV, we were excited to win the lunch break

power hour award. We have incredible donors, and they really helped us to secure this awesome award. For a small organization like ours, awards like this make us literally jump for joy."

Golusky shared a video on the NRV CARES Facebook page of staff members jumping with joy to show donors how excited the organization was to win the grant. The video also included a thank-you message.

Each year, the CF-NRV Board of Directors chooses a Video Grant winner to honor an organization that creates a video promoting its nonprofit and GiveLocalNRV. This year, the winner was the Women's Resource Center of

the New River Valley (WRC).

Laura Beth Weaver, the WRC's executive director, said, "The WRC is honored to be chosen as the video winner this year. GiveLocalNRV is a wonderful reminder that while the needs of our neighbors are great, so, too, is the generosity of our community. The clients of the WRC and so many other worthy and valuable programs benefit from the coalescing of support on days like GiveLocal."

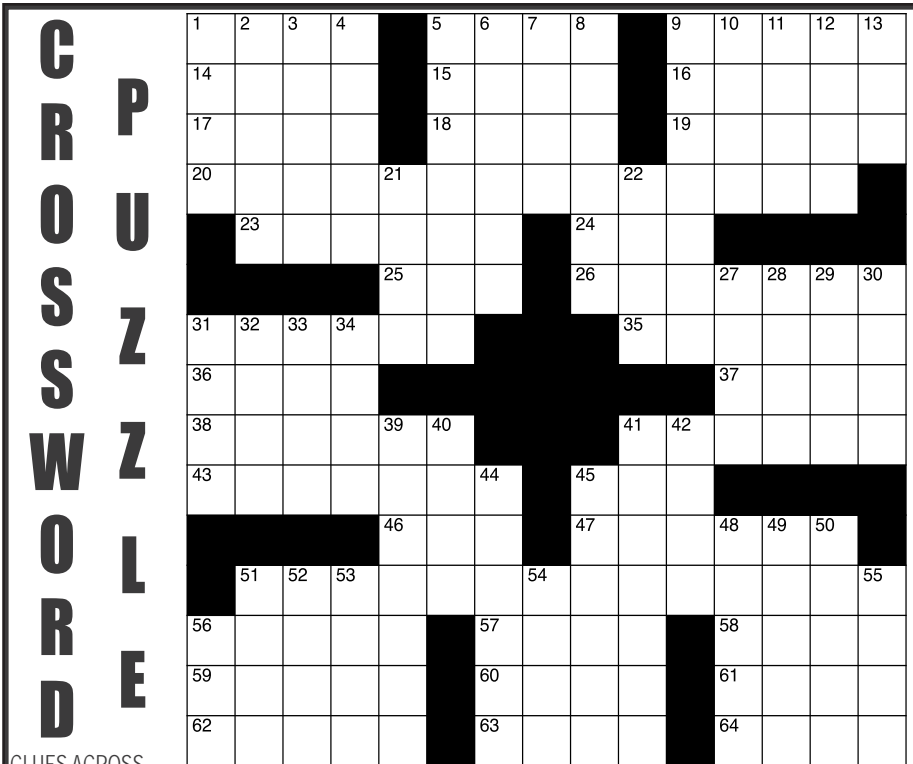
Community members can learn more about the event and continue to make donations to their favorite nonprofit organizations through the platform year-round at www.givelocalnrvalley.org.

## Excellence

its consideration of community impact when planning and building, and for having a high customer satisfaction rating.

"We are beyond thankful for the opportunity to be the winner of the 2020 Builder of the Year Award. May we build for a better tomorrow as we build a culture of craftsmanship," said Wes Smith and Austin Hauslohner, co-owners of Setter Construction.

Jeff Nosenzo, 2021 NRVAHBA President, said, "The NRVAHBA could not be prouder of these outstanding businesses and for them to be a part of the association. Last year was likely the hardest for us all in some time; however, each of these winners fought through adversity and still provided top-notch products and services. It's just a testament to the quality businesses they have built right here in the New River Valley."



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Peruvian province
  - 5. Mama \_\_, rock singer
  - 9. Elephant's name
  - 14. Yellow edible Indian fruit
  - 15. Arabian Gulf
  - 16. Lucci's Kane character
  - 17. Minstrel poet
  - 18. Huxley's fictional drug
  - 19. Atom-bombed
  - 20. Strangenesses
  - 23. Mortar's crushing partner
  - 24. Kilocalorie
  - 25. Very efficient light source
  - 26. Slow oozing
  - 31. Corpses
  - 35. Abounding in trees
  - 36. Total destruction
  - 37. About aviation
  - 38. Reveres
  - 41. Lymphatic throat tissue (1 of 2)
  - 43. Monarch seats
  - 45. Macaws
  - 46. Icahn's airline
  - 47. City railways
  - 51. Able to be put out
  - 56. Imitative
  - 57. Conclusions
  - 58. Grizzly, black or teddy
  - 59. Bitstock
  - 60. Six
  - 61. The largest continent
  - 62. Study or work tables
  - 63. Young children
  - 64. Large integers
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. A French abbot
  - 2. Civil Rights group
  - 3. The third hour, about 9 a.m.
  - 4. Am. ventilation
  - 5. A prince's fortified building
  - 6. Felt deep affection for
  - 7. A tractor-trailer
  - 8. Noshes
  - 9. British auto maker
  - 10. Wild sheep of northern Africa
  - 11. 2-wheeled transport
  - 12. Breezes through
  - 13. Radioactivity unit
  - 21. Neocortical temporal lobe epilepsy (abbr.)
  - 22. Frosts
  - 27. A design or arrangement
  - 28. The class of birds
  - 29. Pickled ginger
  - 30. Alkenes
  - 31. A spoiled child
  - 32. Arabic agarwood perfume
  - 33. Christian \_\_, designer
  - 34. Japanese waist pouch
  - 39. Lures with desire
  - 40. Joined by stitching
  - 41. Locks of hair
  - 42. Sole of pledge
  - 44. Most wise
  - 45. Among
  - 48. Capital of Morocco
  - 49. Excessively fat
  - 50. Murdered
  - 51. Ireland
  - 52. Yuletide
  - 53. Sound of a clock or timer
  - 54. Freshwater mussel genus
  - 55. Amounts of time
  - 56. Million barrels per day (abbr.)

# A tale of trusses and two-by-fours: Virginia Tech and forest service connect housing data with forest products industry



The monthly housing report includes data on housing starts of single- and multi-family homes, building permits, completed constructions, and home sales, as well as information about wood use in construction, regional housing prices, affordability data, and U.S. and global economic indicators. Photo by Anne Wernikoff, Virginia Tech.

Go into any hardware or home improvement store, and you'll likely see that something is up: the price of wood products. The same holds true for real estate: lower mortgage rates and an uptick in demand have caused house prices to soar in a wildly escalating market.

These drastic price fluctuations have put a significant burden on both the housing industry and the hardwood and softwood lumber companies that provide the materials for new buildings and remodeling work. To manage such a volatile market and make informed decisions, corporations and individuals in both fields need up-to-date data.

That's where Urs Buehlmann, a professor in the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and Delton Alderman, a research forest products technologist with the USDA Forest Service, come in. Since 2011, they have worked together on a monthly housing report distributed to industry partners and individuals.

"In essence, we provide the housing industry with a distillation of the trends taking place in the U.S. housing market," said Buehlmann, a faculty member in the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials and a Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist. "Instead of people having to go out and find information and make sense of where things are going, we present that information in an easy-to-read format so that those in the affected industries can make good decisions going forward."

The report is one of many collaborations that connect Virginia Tech to research and

engagement taking place at the forest service.

"The agency strongly encourages us to work with universities," said Alderman, who earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech. "As federal researchers, we know that we can't do everything on our own, and it helps to have a connection with one of the few schools in the country that has an established and well-regarded wood materials program."

The monthly housing report, which Buehlmann estimates reaches some 20,000 professionals, helps companies and individuals by closing the gap between changes taking place in the housing industry and the impacts such changes have on the hardwood and softwood industries.

"The housing market is vital to the hardwood industry," said Judd Johnson, editor of the Hardwood Market Report and a professional with 30 years of experience working in and monitoring

the U.S. hardwood industry. "The info that the housing report provides offers us comprehensive information on what's happening not only in construction but on the financial side of things as well."

The report includes data on monthly housing starts of single- and multi-family homes, building permits, completed constructions, and home sales, as well as how that data align on a month-to-month and year-to-year basis. There is also information about wood use in construction, regional housing prices, affordability data, and U.S. and global economic indicators.

"The key figures I look at are the number of housing starts and lumber usage that the report discloses," said Robbie Watkins, a purchasing manager for Fortress Wood Products. "Those are some of the contexts I use to try to stay ahead of trends in a market that is going through an interesting moment."

Alderman said that the

data in the report are critically important to the decision-making processes for builders and manufacturers.

"A lot of secondary manufacturers base their production schedule off housing-under-construction data," he said. "While larger companies can afford the association fees that allow them to access this data quickly, we work to close the gap with smaller companies that need this information."

"The idea was never that someone would read it cover to cover," he said. "The driving intention was that we would present the data consistently so that different needs could be covered by the same report. Some people will turn to the housing data first, while others might be more interested in the gross domestic product forecasts we provide."

Although publishing a monthly report is a demanding task, the schedule means that the housing and economic information being shared is accurate and up to date.

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

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

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

**BAPTIST**

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

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

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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

**CHURCH OF GOD**

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

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

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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

**ECKANKAR**

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### We Forget; God Remembers

Read Isaiah 14:1 through 18:7

Forgetting things causes problems. People who forget where they put their car keys will be late for an appointment. Those who forget a birthday or anniversary will find their relationship with the other person suffers. Those who forget God will find things will not go well in the long run.

You have forgotten God your Savior; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress (Isaiah 17:10).

In this section, Isaiah predicted several gloom-and-doom scenarios for the nations who chose not to honor God—who forgot God. These nations had historically bullied God's people and were sometimes unwittingly God's instrument to bring His people back to Him.

But God remembered His own, promising to show compassion to them and turn the tables on the nations that had been the oppressors: "The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land" (Isaiah 14:1).

God always remembers us and waits for us to remember Him.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I want to remember You in all things.

Quicklook: Isaiah 17:7-14

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

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

**LUTHERAN**

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

**MULTI-CULTURAL**

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

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

the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

**PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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

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

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship,

11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodist-church.com.

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

**WESLEYAN**

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

# OBITUARIES

## Parrish, David Joe

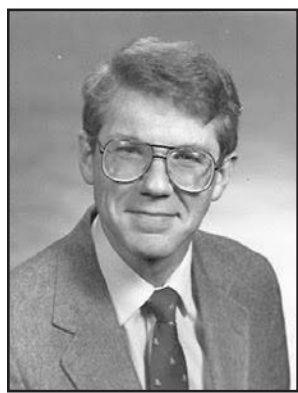
David Joe Parrish died peacefully at home Monday morning, July 19, 2021, in Blacksburg, from the aggressive prostate cancer he fought bravely for 11 years.

From the beginning of that fight, he was grateful for having lived a full life of family, friends, teaching, racquetball, fishing, gardening, and golf. He was 77.

David was born Dec. 23, 1943, in Knoxville, Tenn., the son of Leon and Evelyn (Moore) Parrish, the middle child of three brothers (Thomas and Donald). He was raised in Johnson City, Tenn., where he attended East Tennessee State University. At ETSU he was cadet commander of the Army ROTC.

It was also at ETSU that he met his future wife of 52 years, Janette Gass, in the university choir. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from ETSU, he received a National Science Foundation grant for graduate work at Wake Forest University. He then went on active duty with the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany for two years, where he rose to the rank of captain. Upon returning to the states, he completed his PhD in plant physiology at Cornell University.

After a year and a half of post-doctoral work at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, he took a professorship at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg in what was then the Department of Agronomy. David was instrumental in the evolution of that department into the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and was



one of the original authors and drivers of the Environmental Science BS degree program. He was also the Undergraduate Program Director for many years.

He was a respected academic advisor to both graduate and particularly undergraduate students. David was a great writer and believed in the importance of writing, which he shared with his students. In addition to the miles of red ink bestowed on his students' papers, he coauthored the textbook Plant Science, and in his final years he wrote The Gyroscope of Life, a personal reflection on important themes from his lifelong study of biology and life sciences.

David was an avid racquetball player, substituting racquetball for his lunch hour for all of his time at Virginia Tech. He also became a regular fisherman, getting out on the New River as soon as the weather would allow, racking up over 170 days on the river one year.

In his later years he took up golf, meeting up with a cherished regular Tuesday group most weeks. He also maintained an abundant vegetable and fruit garden despite marauding deer and other woodland creatures.

David is survived by his wife, Janette; sons Joe (Angela) and Nathan (Honore); his younger brother, Donald; and grandchildren Carter, Tyler, and Evelyn.

He was preceded in death by his elder brother, Thomas. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.

## Via, Frances Newbern

A loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Frances Newbern Via went to be with the Lord on July 19, 2021.

Frances was born Aug. 14, 1936, to Willard Winfield Newbern and Alethia Lacy Newbern. She grew up in Elizabeth City, N.C., where she also married her husband, Thomas Cooper Via, Sr., on Jan. 1, 1956.

After Cooper finished his service in the Navy and she completed her study of radiology, they began their 57 years of marriage in Blacksburg.

Frances lived every day of her life filled with friendships, family, and fun. There was never a day she was not spending time with those she loved most or enjoying one of her many hobbies.

She was an expert seamstress, African violet grower, bridge player, gardener, baker, antique collector, and cook. She was known throughout the community and beyond for her various cakes but especially her 13-layer chocolate cake.

As a member of the Blacksburg Country Club, she was an avid golfer and Cooper and she were Pioneer members of the Hokie Club. Since 1965 when Lane Stadium was built, she spent her Saturdays dressed in maroon and orange cheering on her Hokies.

Frances was an active, longtime member of Blacksburg Baptist Church and was a member of the Barnabas Sunday School class. She loved to travel the world with her friend, Billie Mills, and has visited many European



countries.

However, her favorite place to visit was always the beach with friends and family where she enjoyed teaching one of her favorite activities, catching crabs.

Although she kept herself busy through all of her hobbies and friendships, she was happiest when all of her family was gathered around her. Her spirit of fun and 13-layered chocolate cake will live on forever in all of our memories.

She is survived by her brother, Willard Windfield Newbern, Jr., and his wife, Scarlett; her children, Thomas Cooper Via, Jr., and his wife, Jo; Christopher Newbern Via and his wife, Melanie; and Elizabeth Via Turbyfill and her husband, John; her grandchildren, Nancy Via, John Christopher Via, Daniel Via (Grace), John Preston Turbyfill (Courtney), James Turbyfill (Brittney), Melanie Via Spicer (Jamison), William Turbyfill, and Woodrow Turbyfill; great-grandchildren Caroline Linkous, Susan Via, Cooper Turbyfill, and Jamison Spicer.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, July 22, 2021, in the Blacksburg Baptist Church with Dr. Tommy McDearis and the Rev. Todd Millsaps officiating. Interment followed in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Frances's name to the Memorial Fund, Blacksburg Baptist Church, 550 North Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

## Whitlock, Terri Lynn

Terri Lynn Whitlock, 41, of Floyd, died Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Bluefield, W.Va., on June 20, 1980, to Bobby "Freddie" Goodall and Paula Ann Jones.

Terri is survived by her husband, Christopher "Brock" Whitlock, of Floyd; her mother, Paula Ann Jones Best and Howard of Christiansburg; father Bobby "Freddie" Goodall, and Marsha, Princeton, W.Va.; maternal grandparents Virginia J. Henthorn, Robert C. Jones, Sr., and William Don Henthorn; paternal grandparents Bobby Goodall and Anna Goodall; a sister and brother-in-law, Nikki and Todd Hallinan and their children Caleb, McKenna, and Levi; a brother and sister-in-law, Justin and Kimberly Best and their children Tyler and Kayley; father-in-law Pete Whitlock; brothers-in-law Greg Whitlock, Steve Whitlock and Tammy, and their children Josh, Luke, Emma, Holly, and Lanie; aunts and uncles Robert C. Jones, Jr., and Paula and children Crystal and Samantha; Linda Alvis



and Derk and son Jonathan; Paul Jones and Cristi, and children Tiffany, Matthew and Abigail; Rodney Altizer and Linda and son Derek; Dana Partin and Hank, Carlos Altizer and children Jocie and Clay, Roger Thurman and children Bianca and Zalen; Wayne Whitlock and Patricia; Bob Whitlock and Linda, and Anita Duncan.

She was preceded in death by her mother-in-law, Becky Whitlock, and an aunt, Dixie Thurman. She cherished her family at the Christiansburg Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Fire and Rescue Departments, and the Commonwealth Attorney Office.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, July 16, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Todd Hallinan and the Rev. Tony Robertson officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Relay for Life of The New River Valley.

## Slusher, Jr., Donald William

Donald William Slusher, Jr., 53, of Radford, passed away Monday, July 19, 2021.

He was a member of the Pulaski Moose Lodge and was an equipment operator with New River Recycling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald William Slusher, Sr., and Mary Elizabeth Page Carr; and his wife, Cindy Fay Cupp Slusher.



Survivors include his son, James Michael Slusher, Sr.; daughters Amanda Alice Slusher (Karla) and Stephine Fay Brown; five grandchildren; a sister, Melissa S. Beasley (Kenny); and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private. The Slusher family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

## Cole, Jr., Lloyd Benjamin

Lloyd Benjamin Cole, Jr., 80, passed away at his home in Dublin on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

He was a U. S. Marine and was retired from Harris Mechanical where he was a design draftsman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. L. B. Cole, Sr., and Hilda Thompson Cole.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gail B. Cole; daughters and sons-in-law, Grace and Geoff Brown of Fairlawn, Charity and Shane Lytton of Dublin, and Erika and Bobby Tinsley of Pulaski;

son Seth Benjamin Cole of Dublin; sister Leantha Thornton of Floyd; seven grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors were held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021, with Chaplain Dan Pecaro officiating.

The Cole families are in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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

Marketplace

THE FINCASTLE HERALD
The Vinton Messenger
THE NEW CASTLE RECORD
SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
News Messenger
RADFORD News Journal

### For Rent - Apartments

**2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style**  
accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120



### For Sale - Misc

**FOR SALE**  
Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

### Help Wanted - General

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**  
The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

**Associate Extension Agent**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Montgomery County Extension Office, Christiansburg, VA. Apply on-line at <http://jobs.vt.edu>. Search for job # 516820. EOI/AA Employer.

### Legals - City of Radford

**ABC NOTICE**  
Gabby Properties LLC, trading as Nesselrod on the New, 7535 Lee Highway, Fairlawn, Pulaski County, Virginia 24141.  
  
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Bed & Breakfast license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
  
Jeffrey Caldwell, Member  
  
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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### Legals - Montgomery County

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:  
  
A. Conditional Use Permit for a Commercial Auto Garage at 1250 Roanoke Street for Tax Parcel Nos. 498 - ((7)) - 16A, 498 - ((7)) - 17A, and 498 - ((A)) - 113C by Glenwood Martin on behalf of Twin Oaks Properties LLC. The property is designated Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the

### Legals - Montgomery County

time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at [www.christiansburg.org/youtube](http://www.christiansburg.org/youtube) and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit [www.christiansburg.org/publichearings](http://www.christiansburg.org/publichearings).  
  
A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at [awarren@christiansburg.org](mailto:awarren@christiansburg.org) with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS



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Virginia Tech football coach Justin Fuente addressed reporters Wednesday in Charlotte.

## Fuente to ACC media: Running game, defense high priorities for Hokies

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

During Wednesday's ACC preseason kickoff press conference, Virginia Tech head football coach Justin Fuente declared the running game and the defense to be high priorities for his team if it is to prosper this fall.

He also said the passing game could take some pressure off his team's ground game.

"It will be difficult to replace Khalil (Herbert)," the head Hokie said. "He was the source of so many big plays. I'm not sure in my coaching career if I've ever had a season with that many big, long runs. But in regards to (quarterback) Braxton (Burmeister), Braxton is -- he'll probably get mad at me for saying this, but he's probably one of the top three or four athletes on the entire team. He'd say one or two, but I'm going to say three or four. He has played as a young player and played some last year. He's got a chance to be really, really explosive."

"We need to continue to find a way to share that load, though, out of the tailback room. Braxton is an accomplished thrower. I feel better about that part of it than I have in some time. But we're going to need to find a way. I don't know that Braxton is going to be the answer to the production that we lost from the tailback position," Fuente told reporters. "We're going to have to have Jalen Holston, we're going to have to have Raheem Blackshear, we're going to have to have some young guys that I think have some real, real talent step in there and be able to contribute as well."

This off-season has really helped with that whole process, according to Burmeister, who also addressed the media. "Having spring ball this year, being around my guys every single day, I think that I've really evolved as a leader, learned how to communicate better, kind of taken ownership of the whole offense. I think the guys around me see that and are giving me that opportunity to do so," he said.

Burmeister was one of three players that accompanied Fuente to media day. Defensive back Chamarr Conner and tight end James Mitchell also spoke to reporters.

Burmeister said he is definitely getting more comfortable with his receivers and is building chemistry and timing.

"We throw a lot of timing routes, a lot of quick outs, a lot of 10-yard outs. And feeling comfortable to really rip those outs and throw them hard and just being on time with the guys," he said.

One of those receivers is Mitchell, a 6-3, 242 junior. He has added 10 pounds to his frame since last season.

"I'm running well. I'm as strong as I've ever been," Mitchell said. "That was a huge part of me coming back, continuing to get stronger. I play down there in the trenches. Continue to be able to block those guys on the line. Also working on my routes. I try to do a lot of things for the offense. Being able to go out there and run routes against defensive backs and safeties; that's also something I've tried to focus on."

Last year, Mitchell had 26 receptions for 435 yards and caught a team-high four touchdown passes. He also rushed for another score. Wednesday, he praised Burmeister for his effort this spring and summer.

"I would say one thing about him. He's definitely a confident player. When he steps in the huddle, he's calm, cool and collected. He knows how to get guys behind him and play for him. Since we had a full spring and a full summer, he's really stepped up with his communicating, just trying to lead guys and stuff like that," Mitchell said.

The other area with questions is the defensive side of the ball. Fuente said his staff has learned that practice is actually important.

"We, like everybody else, were deprived of spring ball. Our fall camp, once the students hit town, deteriorated into survival mode really quickly," Fuente said. "We had no foundation. I think that's what we've gone back to throughout the 15 practices in the spring. I like the changes we've made and the additions we've brought in on our staff, both from a recruiting standpoint and from a schematic standpoint and a knowledge standpoint."

Conner started all 11 games at cornerback this past year and led Tech with 81 tackles (60 solo). He also had 3.5 tackles for loss, two interceptions, four pass-breakups, four quarterback hurries, and a forced fumble.

He expressed excitement for the secondary this season. "We got a lot of guys that got a lot of experience over the last year. We got a lot of guys moving around. We got a lot of depth, much more depth in our safety room, our cornerback room," Conner said.

A major change this fall is the fact there will be fans and a lot of them at Tech's opener. Fuente called Lane Stadium a special and unique place.

"Our fans are the best fans in all of America. Our fans show up to the game not to be entertained but to participate, to help our football team win the ballgame. They've been deprived of that opportunity. But it's more than a game. It's a social event. People show up several days early and begin tailgating, preparing," he said.

## Help wanted: Coaches across the board in county

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Plenty of job openings dot the recent Montgomery County school site including 14 high school coaches and another 15 at the county's four middle schools.

Christiansburg High School has the most openings with a

need for head coaches in girls lacrosse, boys track and cross country and golf. The school is looking for assistants for in girls and boys lacrosse, along with softball.

At Blacksburg, the high school needs an indoor and outdoor track coach and several assistants for football.

Eastern Montgomery has an opening for cheer coach, while Auburn still needs a head wrestling, cross country and girls basketball coach.

Across the river, Radford is seeking a new boys soccer coach following the resignation of Mark Layne at the end of this past spring season.

## Watching the Olympics with Hokie athletes

Antani Ivanov has spent a long time waiting for a few minutes in a Tokyo pool.

After nearly qualifying for the 2016 Olympics, the Virginia Tech junior qualified for his home country, Bulgaria, in the 100 and 200 butterfly for the 2020 Games. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the games were delayed until July 2021.

"Waiting three or four years was a really long period of time for me," said Ivanov, who is studying business management. "But then with COVID and the Olympics getting pushed back a year, it was actually good for me. This was my best year at VT and now I'm in a better position to do something in Tokyo."

During the past season, Ivanov earned a bronze medal in the 200 fly at the 2021 NCAA Championships and took sixth place in the 100 fly, and earned his second individual All-American honor of the season. At the ACC Championships, he placed second in the 200 fly and third in the 100 fly.

Last week, Ivanov traveled to Tokyo alongside his Hokie teammate freshman Youssef Ramadan, who will compete in the 100 fly for his home country, Egypt.

"It's so nice being on a team here," Ramadan said. "In Egypt, I was always [training] alone ... They're not only my teammates; they're my really, really close friends."

The pair is part of a school-record seven current or former Virginia Tech athletes representing their respective countries in the Olympics. Swimming events in the 2020 Olympics began today, July 24.

Ramadan qualified for the 2020 games by swimming the Olympic standard A-Cut time in June.

"I was just so happy," Ramadan said. "The fact that I'm heading to the Olympics, and I'll come back home [to Egypt] as an Olympian is so surreal."

This season, Ramadan broke records at the 2021 ACC Championships with a 44.32 finish in the 100 butterfly. It was the fastest time swum by a freshman in NCAA history and was the No. 1 time in the country at that point in the season.

Both Ramadan and Ivanov were led to Blacksburg by Sergio Lopez Miro, director and head coach of Virginia Tech's men and women's swimming and diving. Lopez Miro, who won a bronze medal in the 200 breaststroke for Spain in the 1988 Olympics, is also in Tokyo, as is assistant coach Albert Subirats. The pair will serve as coaches for Iceland and Singapore, respectively. It will be Lopez Miro's fourth Olympics as a coach and Subirats's first.

"It will be a little bit

different, but definitely exciting to be there with the athletes that we have been working with for the last two or three years," said Subirats, who was also a four-time Olympic athlete for Venezuela.

Along with coaching their respective teams and Ivanov and Ramadan, the two coaches will also be helping six other swimmers who train with their New River Valley-based team, Pinnacle Racing. That group is headlined by Hokie alum Ian Ho competing for Hong Kong and includes 2016 Olympic gold medalist Joseph Schooling (Singapore), Farida Osman (Egypt), Santo Condorelli (Italy), Anton McKee (Iceland), and Krystal Lara (Dominican Republic).

"It's great for swimming in the New River Valley. It's a great way to share that swimming is something that can be a lifelong activity for anyone," Lopez Miro said.

For Ivanov, competitive swimming began around the age of 9 and became a sport he took very seriously around 15. He holds the Bulgaria National Record in the 50, 100, and 200 fly, as well as the 200 free.

Once in Blacksburg, Ivanov said he was challenged by having so many life changes at once and not having immediate success in the ACC. "But I was determined to trust the process here at VT and it's been great," he said. "Training with these coaches, I would say that brought me to the next level."

Ramadan said he's been swimming for as long as he can remember.

"It's what defines me as a person -- I like to swim," said the rising sophomore studying engineering. "I don't



Several Hokie swimmers are ready to make waves in Tokyo including Antani Ivanov who will swim for Bulgaria in the 2020 Olympics.

think I am ever as happy anywhere other than in the pool competing. After all the work I put in, all those turns and yards I swam, when I look up and see I beat my time, that's the best feeling in the world."

It took quite a few turns and yards for Ramadan to qualify, as he's attended multiple meets during the past months to get a qualifying time. He said it was in his ninth or 10th swims in his final meet that he finally broke through.

"There were some points where I was depressed and not in the zone. Where I was about to say, screw this meet, I'm going home," Ramadan said. "But I kept doing what my coaches asked me to do and that last day I hit it. All of my hometown was just so happy. All of Egypt was so happy. I got so many messages I had to shut my phone down."

Lopez Miro said the future is bright for Ramadan, whose athleticism was evident the first time the coach saw him.

"I just really liked the way he dove in the water and just moved," the coach said. "I think we're going to see

him swim really fast at the Olympics."

Lopez Miro said earning a second swim medal would be a great achievement for Ramadan, while Ivanov has an outside shot of medaling in Tokyo.

"The way he can win a medal is by staying the course and not trying to do anything special," the coach said. "Just keep doing what he does. I think he has a lot more in the tank and he knows it."

Ivanov said he's excited to feed off the adrenaline of his first Olympics, as well as to take part in some of the Games' traditions.

"I'm really looking forward to getting the Olympic rings tattoo," he said.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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