



Mobile vaccine clinics are making COVID-19 vaccines more accessible to the community

In the spirit of Ut Prosim, (That I May Serve), a group of dedicated and creative Virginia Tech students and faculty, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), is working to make vaccines more available to the community with mobile vaccine clinics and the COVID vaccine car.

As the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, circulates throughout Virginia, it is more important than ever that people get vaccinated to help protect the vulnerable in their

community like children and those who are immunocompromised.

The mobile vaccine clinics are a partnership between the Virginia Tech represented by the COVID-19 Crushers, the New River Health District (NRHD), VDH, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM), and the New River Valley Public Health Task Force that aims to make COVID-19 vaccinations easy, safe, and accessible while providing vaccine education to the community. The COVID-19 Crushers have held 11

vaccine clinics and vaccinated more than 600 people in the New River Valley community.

"We were so excited to be onsite again at Claytor Lake to provide the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines for free so that our community members have a choice and convenient access to COVID-19 vaccine education," said India Collins, a medical assistant from VDH.

"Our mobile vaccine clinics

See **Mobile Clinics**, page 2



Mobile vaccine clinic at Claytor Lake State Park in partnership with the Virginia Tech COVID-19 Crushers, New River Health District, Virginia Department of Health, and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. Photo courtesy of Kristin Rose Jutras for Virginia Tech.



Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés (left), pre-eminent jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves (center), and saxophone titan Joe Lovano (right) will present a magical evening of jazz standards on Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Moss Arts Center.

Tickets now available for Moss Arts Center fall performances

Tickets for individual performances are now on sale for the Moss Arts Center's fall events.

From intimate evenings led by musical masters to transformative stories of identity, culture, and migration, the lineup marks the center's return to a season of in-person performances.

"Our theme is 'gathering,' and you'll see the theme's connections to the way artists gather from BANDALOOP's dancers literally gathering momentum as they swing on ropes down the wall of our building to artists committed to gathering strength through community to those gathering the courage to stand up for themselves," said Margaret Lawrence, Moss Arts

Center director of programming. "Most of all, we celebrate being able to gather once again with our entire, beloved community. The season includes new faces, plus a chance to meet, in-person, some wonderful artists we streamed during the pandemic shutdown. How exciting that fall signals the return of these newfound friends."

Complementing the center's performances and exhibitions are a collection of experiences designed to offer deeper connections with artists, ideas, and community members, including informal jam sessions with performers, intimate conversations with artists, community celebrations with local musicians, and inter-

disciplinary panels with Virginia Tech faculty members on timely topics.

Virginia Tech students will have exclusive access to master classes with renowned artists and ensembles, and area school-aged students will be treated to special matinee performances.

Moss Arts Center fall performances:

BANDALOOP
Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, 5 and 6 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, 1 and 2 p.m.

Free event
The season kicks off in September with the unforgettable sight of dancers

See **Tickets**, page 3

Radford's NRV Regional Commission receives \$2 million housing grant

RADFORD -- Virginia Housing Authority recently awarded the New River Valley Regional Commission, based at 658 Valley Center Dr., Ste. 124, in Radford, a \$2 million grant to provide more affordable housing to the region.

"We are proud to provide these grants to Virginia's 21 planning district commissions," said Virginia Housing CEO Susan Dewey. "We have a close working relationship with these organizations, and this grant program will build upon that partnership by promoting regional approaches to housing development, enhancing collaboration between local housing service providers, and creating new affordable homes."

The grant funding will allow the New River Valley to pursue the development of a regional housing trust fund and the creation of at least 20 new affordable housing units in the region. Virginia Housing also provided funding for the region's Regional + Local Housing Study released in April 2021.

"This grant is perfectly timed for the NRV to implement the innovative and carefully considered strategies identified in the Regional + Local Housing Study, which was released earlier this year," said New River Valley Regional Commission Board Chair Mike Maslaney.

"The region understands the critical need housing presents and is eager to participate in pursuing

this opportunity for significant change. Regional cooperation will be essential to its success."

The grant program is a new initiative provided through Virginia Housing's REACH Virginia program, which uses Virginia Housing's own resources to provide support to local housing groups, non-profits, developers and other partner groups working to meet affordable housing needs.

"We are pleased that Virginia Housing has made significant funding and strong collaboration with the planning district commissions a top priority in its efforts to support regional housing opportunities and solutions," said Kim Callis, president of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions.

Kevin Byrd, executive director for the New River Valley Regional Commission, said, "It has been a pleasure to work with Virginia Housing on the completion of the regional housing study, and we are grateful for their continued commitment to housing with the announcement of this new funding source. We look forward to the positive impact it will make within the region."

"Virginia Housing's grants will allow the planning district commissions to make development resources available to their housing partners and focus on regional priorities," said Chris Thompson, Virginia Housing's Strategic Housing Director.

Poll: 87 percent of unvaccinated Virginians don't plan to get the vaccine

RICHMOND, VA – Nearly seven in 10 Virginia adults (69 percent) indicate they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Among those who haven't been vaccinated, however, the majority (87 percent) say they don't plan to get the vaccine.

Virginians also maintain favorable views of hospitals with some saying their views have grown more favorable as a result of the work of hospitals during the pandemic.

These findings are among the results of a recent statewide poll of 800 registered Virginia voters conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy that included a range of questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, perceptions about hospitals and health insurance companies, and other health care issues.

On the subject of vaccinations, those who are unvaccinat-

ed offered a range of reasons for not being inoculated, including concerns that the vaccine could cause other health problems (28 percent), doubts about the health threat posed by COVID-19 (22 percent), doubts about vaccines in general (18 percent), a feeling that the vaccine is unnecessary for individuals who have already contracted coronavirus (17 percent), and skepticism about the federal government's role in vaccine development (13 percent).

The poll also found that 13 percent of Virginians either personally experienced a mental health or substance abuse challenge during the pandemic or had a close family member who did. Of that 13 percent, 85 percent indicated they had already received treatment for their challenges or plan to seek help while 11 percent said they don't plan to

See **Unvaccinated**, page 3



Otis Brawley, David Williams, Roberta Schwartz, Mark Batshaw, Diana Bianchi, Sharon Peacock, Robert Wachter, Carol Greider, Debara Tucci, and Bin He will present the Maury Strauss Distinguished Public Lectures this year. The free public lectures are hosted by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute.

Nobel laureate, Institute of Health leaders to present 2021-22 Maury Strauss public lectures

Since the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC opened its doors 11 years ago, it has exposed thousands of community members in Southwest Virginia to leading scientists and health thought leaders from across the world.

The 2021-22 lecture series, which is free and open to the public, features a Nobel laureate

and National Institutes of Health directors among the group of 10 esteemed invited speakers. The talks will cover a range of emerging topics in health research from social inequities in health and precision medicine and the genetics underlying aging and cancer to brain-machine interfaces.

"We are delighted to be able

to share the future of health and medicine with our neighbors and colleagues, as envisioned by some of the world's most respected and accomplished thought leaders, scientists, and innovators," said Michael Friedlander, executive director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and vice presi-

See **Maury Strauss**, page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Aug. 7 - Sunday, Aug. 8:

Radford Public Library Book Sale
Main fundraiser for the Lamplighters. Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 8, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Masks and gloves will be provided at the library entrance. Some tables will be set up inside the library to increase the shopping space. Hardbacks are \$1.00 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children's books are half that.

Monday, Aug. 9:

Blacksburg Community Center Open Gym returns

Open gym at the Blacksburg Community Center has returned to its normal time. Lunch time volleyball: Monday and Friday – 12-4 p.m.; badminton open gym: Tuesdays – 8 a.m. -11 a.m.; pickleball open gym: Thursdays – 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.; basketball Open Gym: Please call the Community Center at 540-443-1140 for availability.

Radford City Council meeting

In the city council chambers at 10 Robertson St. at 7 p.m. For the agenda, visit <https://www.radfordva.gov/Agenda-Center>.

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 the "First Battle of Manassas: Unwarranted Deaths of Savable Soldiers." For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Radford City School Board meeting and board retreat

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting and board retreat on Aug. 10, 2021, at 1 p.m., at the School

Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

Wednesday, Aug. 11:

Brown Bag Book Club
The Radford Public Library's brown bag book club meets on the second Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. for a book discussion. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch. This month the group is discussing "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

West End Wednesdays

On the grounds of Glencoe Museum from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Featured will be live music, food and merchandise vendors, yoga and more.

Saturday, Aug. 14:

Fourth Annual Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament

At the Pete Dye River Course. The tournament 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 begins at 2 p.m. The fee for a Captain's Choice Foursome is \$300 per foursome paid online by Aug. 13; \$400 per foursome at the door, based on availability. Prizes will be awarded for first-through-fourth-place teams and closest to the pin.

The day will include an awards dinner, gift bags, refreshments, raffle prizes, and mulligans. Register at www.radfordchild-development.org/golf.

Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club Fish Fry

Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. The meal will feature single servings of fish, fries and slaw, homemade desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults and carry-outs and \$5 for children under 12. Children under 3 will eat free. Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge will be playing some folk music. The fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for

further information.

Monday, Aug. 16:

Intellectual Disabilities Agency Golf Tournament

"Swing Fore Persons with Intellectual Disabilities," the 24th Annual Golf Classic fundraiser at Blacksburg Country Club, will tee off at 1 p.m. following lunch. For more information and to sign up, contact the Intellectual Disabilities Agency at 381-0310 or email sheila@idanrv.org.

Saturday, Aug. 21:

Eastmont Tomato Festival

This free outdoor festival features contests for tomato art and tomato recipes, as well as competitions for biggest, ugliest, and best-tasting tomato. Participants can also don their best tomato-themed outfits to compete in the ever-popular Tomato Pageant and belly up to become the tomato-eating champion. Enjoy great food (including fried green tomatoes, BLTs, pizzas, tomato sandwiches and tomato biscuits), live music, games, music, arts and crafts, and much more. The festival will be held at the Meadowbrook Community Center courtyard, 267 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. More information is available at eastmontcf.com, facebook, or eastmonttomatofestival@gmail.com.

Saturday, Aug. 28:

Dialogue on Race 2021 Summer Summit

From 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Moose Lodge No. 1470, 115 Fairview Rd. NE, Christiansburg.

The theme is Student Voices: Reflections on Race and Racism in our Schools. Register at

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eib8sm17c5bacc8a&oseq=&c=&ch=>.

Triwizard Tri-Mile Trail Race

At Bisset Park at 9:30 a.m. The event is a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of the

New River Valley. Register for the Triwizard Tri-Mile Trail Race at www.lvnrv.org/potterinthepark. For more information, call (540) 382-7262 or send an "owl" to info@lvnrv.org. Follow <https://www.facebook.com/LVNRV/> for race updates.

Ongoing

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is presenting its newest art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Blue-moonistic 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 with 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 from 7 to 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park.

Simply Elemental Art Exhibit

The Simply Elemental art display in the Hahn Horticultural Garden (on the Virginia Tech campus) will be on display through Sept. 30.

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market is held each Saturday through October 30 from 9 a.m. to 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 continues every Thursday through October from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot.

Maury Strauss

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dent for health sciences and technology at Virginia Tech. "We are also proud to celebrate the diversity of these leaders in the biomedical and health scientific enterprise."

Here is the 2021-22 Maury Strauss Distinguished Public Lecture Series lineup:

1) "Cancer Control in the 21st Century with Special Attention to Disparities in Health," by Otis Brawley, M.D., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P., Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Department of Epidemiology at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, on Sept. 9, 2021.

Brawley is also an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

2) "Social Inequities in Health: What Each One of Us Can Do," by David Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H., the Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health, chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, on Sept. 16, 2021. Williams is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Science, and the National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

3) "Digital Innovations Are Essential For Leading Organizations: A Houston Methodist Hospital

Experience," by Roberta Schwartz, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief innovation officer at Houston Methodist Hospital, on Oct. 14, 2021. Schwartz is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Healthcare Executives.

4) "Travels Around the Urea Cycle," by Mark Batshaw, M.D., senior investigator in the Center for Genetic Medicine Research at Children's National Hospital and former physician-in-chief and chief academic officer at the Children's National Hospital, on Nov. 4, 2021.

5) "(Tentative Title) Advances in Precision Health Research for Children," by Diana Bianchi, M.D., director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, on Dec. 16, 2021. Bianchi is also head of the Prenatal Genomics and Therapy Section for the Medical Genetics Branch at the National Human Genome Research

Institute and is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

6) "SARS-CoV-2 Variants – Past, Present, and Future," by Sharon Peacock, Ph.D., professor of public health and microbiology in the Department of Medicine at the University of Cambridge, and executive director and chair of the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, on Jan. 20, 2022. Peacock is an elected member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences.

7) "The Digital Transformation of Healthcare: (Finally) A Time for Optimism," by Robert Wachter, M.D., the Holly Smith Distinguished Professor in Science and Medicine, the Benioff Endowed Chair in Hospital Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, on Feb. 10, 2022.

8) "(Tentative Title) Role of Telomeres in Ge-

nome Stability, Cancer, and Aging," by Carol Greider, Ph.D., recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology at UC Santa Cruz on Feb. 24, 2022. In addition to the Nobel Prize, Greider is a recipient of the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

9) "Improving Accessibility and Affordability of Hearing Health Care," by Debara Tucci, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health, on April 14, 2022.

10) "Dynamic Brain Mapping and Brain-Computer Interfaces," by Bin He, Ph.D., trustee professor in the Depart-

ment of Biomedical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, on May 5, 2022. He is an elected fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, the Biomedical Engineering Society, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

The series of free public lectures is named for Maury Strauss, a Roanoke businessman and long-time community benefactor who recognizes the value of bringing thought leaders and innovators in science, medicine, and health to share their work and vision with the Roanoke community.

All of the lectures will be streamed live via Zoom, and some are anticipated to be presented in-person at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute. For more information about the lecture series and how to tune in via Zoom, visit the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute's website.

Mobile Clinics

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have been successful to help get underserved community members and those with vaccine hesitancy concerns vaccinated," Collins said. "We meet the community

members where they are at, and our clinics provide a relaxed setting where people can be more receptive to vaccine education and outreach."

The grassroots effort is being facilitated by the COVID-19 Crushers, a dedicated group of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty ambassadors from Virginia Tech helping to spread facts, not fear, about the coronavirus in the New River Valley.

"Many people come to the lake with their family and friends, so we are able to educate and vaccinate large groups of people at a time. This helps protect our community as a whole," said Fernanda Gutierrez, one of the founding members of the COVID-19 Crushers and a Master of Public Health graduate student from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medi-

cine. "We have doctors on staff from VCOM who are able to talk with patients about their concerns. We are grateful to Virginia Tech, the TECH Together Campaign, and the Town of Blacksburg for providing us with funding. The COVID vaccine car helps us transport supplies to our mobile vaccination clinics."

Seth Coble, a community member who was vaccinated at the mobile vaccine clinic at Claytor Lake on July 24, said, "The vaccine was very accessible. I got the vaccine to help protect my community and to do my part to help the pandemic end more quickly."

Mobile vaccine clinic staff members are selecting their vaccination sites by looking for areas where they can make vaccines easily accessible to remote areas, underserved populations, and people who lack access

to transportation. "Our education and outreach and mobile vaccine clinics allow us to meet community members where they are. We have set up mobile vaccine clinics at local mobile homes, restaurants, construction sites, and created drive-thru clinics to make vaccination more accessible to everyone in the community," said Teagan Neveland from the COVID-19 Crushers.

Other leaders on the New River Valley Public Health Task Force include Matt Hulver, executive director of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech; Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson; Noelle Bissell, director of the New River Health District; Carla Finkielstein, an associate professor at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC; and Ron Fricker.

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets names new director of Rice Center for Leader Development

Jamie McGrath has been named the new director of the Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development, which oversees the academic program of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

McGrath, a 1990 corps graduate who retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of captain, has served as the corps' deputy commandant for Third Battalion since September 2020.

"Jamie McGrath brings a special combination of military and educational experience to the role," said Maj. Gen. Randal Fullhart, the commandant of cadets. "His passion

for teaching and inspiring young leaders will ensure the Rice Center's curriculum continues to offer relevant lessons to cadets and students across campus."

The Rice Center offers cadets a comprehensive program of academic coursework, leadership experiences, and ethics education. It oversees 17 accredited courses and a range of training that span the four years of the cadet experience, as well as the corps' minor in leadership studies, administered through the Pamplin College of Business.

"The Rice Center seeks to build upon the corps' immersive leadership labo-

ratory and provide cadets with the intellectual tools to improve their personal leadership capability, grounded in ethics and informed by global competency," McGrath said. "As we move forward, the Rice Center will engage with university, alumni, and corporate partners to show cadet leaders a rich spectrum of leadership opportunities and experiences."

A nuclear-trained surface warfare officer in the Navy, McGrath served in a variety of assignments at sea, including as a staff member for the commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and as the commander of the Maritime Expedition-

ary Security Squadron Seven in Guam. He also taught chemistry, materials, and radiological fundamentals at the Naval Nuclear Power School.

He served as the liaison for commander, Naval Forces Europe, to commander, U.S. European Command, and on the Joint Staff J7, where he led the Joint Exercise Division executing a globally integrated exercise program to support the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Global Campaign Plan.

His last active-duty position was as a military professor at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. He also worked as a senior



PHOTO BY SHAY BARNHART FOR VIRGINIA TECH. **Jamie McGrath is the new director of the Major General W. Thomas Rice Center for Leader Development.**

moderator and as a Fellow in the John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research.

McGrath earned a bachelor's degree in history from

Virginia Tech and master's degrees in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College and in military history from Norwich University.

Unvaccinated

pursue treatment. Those figures reflect a broader continuing trend of increased utilization of behavioral health treatment by Virginians, a pattern that held true during 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even as hospital admissions, emergency department visits, and most other hospital service lines saw considerable declines in volume last year, the utilization of behavioral health and substance abuse services in hospitals rose during the pandemic.

Nearly 9 in 10 Virginians (88 percent) now say they feel safe about going to a hospital or doctor's office to get medical care despite the

continued presence of COVID-19. And fewer Virginians are delaying health care services due to COVID-19 concerns. Last year, nearly four in 10 people (39 percent) said they had delayed care due to the pandemic. Now, just 23 percent say they have delayed care. Of those, four in 10 (40 percent) said they still have not rescheduled care they put off during the pandemic.

In other poll findings:

- 83 percent of people view Virginia hospitals favorably and 78 percent said they have had a positive personal or family experience in Virginia hospitals.
- One in four Virginians (25 percent) said the work of hospitals

during the pandemic – when hospitals treated and discharged more than 58,000 COVID-19 patients, administered more than 2 million vaccine doses, and served as a first line of public health defense – made their views of hospitals more positive.

- Nearly two-thirds of people (63 percent) believe it is unfair for insurance companies to make record profits in a pandemic while health care providers and the rest of the economy suffers, and a majority (56 percent) view health insurance companies unfavorably, compared to 21 percent who view them favorably.
- As in previous polling, results

from this survey show that most Virginians (57 percent) said they aren't aware of the State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance, its regulatory function, and the services it can provide to the public.

- And three in four Virginians (75 percent) say they support changes to the state Ethics and Fair Business Practices Act law to prevent insurers from unilaterally changing contract terms with providers that can result in patients being out-of-network with their preferred providers.
- A majority (54 percent) believe that Virginia's Certificate of Public Need (COPN) program should be kept in place as opposed to just

14 percent who believe it should be eliminated. That is in line with the results of polling conducted in 2020 and 2019 when 59 percent and 55 percent of people, respectively, said that the program should be retained.

- And 74 percent support requiring insurers and drug companies to help fund the annual state share of costs for Medicaid expansion. Those results are consistent with previous polling when 70 percent (2020) and 72 percent (2019) expressed support for this concept. Right now, Virginia hospitals are the only health care sector partners shouldering those costs, which this year will exceed \$400 million.

Tickets

rappelling down the side of the center. The exterior of the Moss Arts Center becomes an outdoor dance floor for BANDALOOP, performers who inspire wonder and challenge what is possible. Join a celebration of the human spirit and community with these free outdoor performances. In case of inclement weather, check the Moss Arts Center website for updates.

Indigenous Performance Productions

"Welcome to Indian Country"

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

Commissioned in part by the Moss Arts Center, "Welcome to Indian Country" is a new evening of stories, poetry, and music — from jazz to Appalachian — celebrating Native peoples and culture. Together, the performers exemplify the vibrant life of modern Indigenous people, honoring their ancestors and capturing the joy they feel as part of a Native community while sharing their expressions with the world. The event is presented as a work-in-progress in partnership with Virginia Tech's American Indian and Indigenous Community Center.

DeLanna Studi "And So We Walked"

Monday, Oct. 11-Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

In 2015 Cherokee actor and writer DeLanna Studi retraced the path her great-great-grandparents took along the Trail of Tears. A powerful one-woman show honoring Indigenous people everywhere, "And So We Walked" recounts Studi's own journey to understand her identity. Studi performed excerpts of this work for the Moss online "HomeStage" series. This fully staged production is presented in celebration of Indigenous People's Day in partnership with Virginia Tech's American Indian and Indigenous Community Center.

Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet

Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Two leading chamber ensembles join forces for

a concert highlighting the experience of migration. "(im)migration: music of change" features music written or inspired by migrants and immigrants from the African and Latin diaspora. Catalyst Quartet features alumni from the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition while Grammy-nominated Imani Winds leads a revolution of the wind quintet. Performing both individually and together, the ensembles transform ancestral stories into music.

Pink Martini featuring China Forbes

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Always a sold-out party, the band Pink Martini is inspired by the romantic Hollywood musicals of the 1940s and '50s. With arrangements of Latin music, cabaret, and cinema scores, its sound defies categorization. Following last year's wildly entertaining "HomeStage" series virtual performance by founders China Forbes and Thomas Lauderdale, this event brings them in person with the entire band to the stage of the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre.

"An Evening with Jes-

Jesmyn Ward

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

MacArthur "Genius" Jesmyn Ward is described as the standout writer of her generation. Raised in Mississippi, Ward is the first woman and the first person of color to win two National Book Awards for Fiction, joining the ranks of William Faulkner, Philip Roth, and John Updike. Her novels build deep empathy for the human condition. This event is presented in partnership with the Department of English Visiting Writer Series.

Conrad Tao, piano

Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Leading the new generation of classical music, pianist and composer Conrad Tao has amassed a steady stream of awards and critical acclaim for his performances, com-

positions, and recordings. This fresh and insightful evening includes works by Beethoven and Schumann, as well as American composers John Adams and Fred Hersch, and a new Moss-commissioned work by Tao.

Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

"Holiday Pops Spectacular"

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, 4 p.m.

A Moss tradition, one of the most popular evenings of the year makes its triumphant return: the "Holiday Pops Spectacular" with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. With much to celebrate this upcoming holiday season, join friends and family for a merry musical program for audiences of all ages.

Tickets
Tickets for individual

performances can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Subscriptions are also available and offer discounted prices and priority seat selection. Two subscription levels, Premier and Silver, are available for fall semester performances. The Premier Subscription includes all performances at a 25 percent discount. For fall 2021, eight shows are included in the Premier Subscription, and Miwa Matreyek's performance of "This World Made Itself" and "Infinitely Yours" can be added. The Silver Subscription offers a 15 percent discount off ticket prices with a minimum of three performances.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Ends Wednesday August 18th at 4 PM

Quadplex for Sale in Pembroke VA

1221 Eggleston Road, Pembroke VA 24136

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



Quadplex in Giles County VA. 4 Unit apartment building, built in 1975. In good condition & consists of 3,952 sq. ft. The units on the upper level have 3 BR & 1.5 baths. Lower level units have 2 BR & 1 BA. This would be a wonderful investment property! Has a shared well with apartment building on adjoining property. Features shingle roof, brick exterior, private septic, paved driveway & more! Shared Driveway with other apartment building which is a right of way off Eggleston Rd. Short drive to Blacksburg & Christiansburg VA. Very close to the WV line, Mountain Lake & New River!

Preview Dates- Friday August 6th & 13th @ 5 PM

Terms – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required day of sale. Closing in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence.


Download Bidder Information Pack at VaAuctionPro.com

Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or Ed Gallimore, Realtor at 540-230-9090

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



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc



BUY BACK PRICING AUGUST 2021

Material	Price/lb
Aluminum Cans (beverage cans only)	\$0.47
Clean Aluminum Scrap	\$0.32
Clean Cast Aluminum	\$0.20
Irony Cast Aluminum	\$0.06
Aluminum Insulated Wire	\$0.14
Brass	\$0.48
Copper (#1)	\$2.98
Copper (#2)	\$2.75
Copper Insulated Wire	\$0.80
Lead	\$0.28
Steel	\$0.03
White Goods (appliances)	\$0.03

(PRICE CHANGES CAN OCCUR ON A DAILY BASIS)

MRSWA - Recycling Services
555 Authority Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 381-2820

Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4 pm
(closed Saturdays, Sundays & holidays)

BUY BACK IS OPEN - METALS ONLY!

OPINION

COVID-19 update: Country, NRV seeing bump in cases from Delta variant

At her weekly press conference Wednesday, New River Health District Director Dr. Noelle Bissell warned of reports from across the country and even in parts of Virginia about the surges in the number of COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant.

"Delta is more contagious and it's spreading quickly, now being responsible for over 80% of cases nationwide," Dr. Bissell told reporters. "In the New River Valley, we are seeing an expected bump in cases and following it closely."

The good news, according to Dr. Bissell is that the increase in the number of cases has not meant an increase in hospitalizations. "The majority of cases of severe illness, hospitalization, and death continue

to be in those who are not vaccinated," Dr. Bissell said. "We can keep that from happening in the New River Valley. For those who are not vaccinated, please try to put aside anything you've seen on social media or heard from friends about COVID-19 and the vaccine. We are a divided society right now and misinformation is rampant.

"If you have questions, please consult your doctor, pharmacist, or the health department. And take a moment to reflect about being your parent's child and your children's parent, about being a brother or sister to your siblings. Think of those closest to you and how you want to protect them from harm.

"Let's also think about putting the pandemic behind us,

how wonderful it would be to not have COVID dominate the conversation and get back to socializing," the health district director said to the press. "Think about not having to wear a mask on public transportation.

"Getting more people vaccinated is the way to keep things from escalating in our community, and it's the light at the end of the long, dark tunnel of this pandemic. For those who have had COVID, we don't know how strong the immunity is against the variants, but we do know the vaccines are very effective against the variants. The vaccine is remarkably effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

"It's much safer to get the vaccine than it is to get COVID," Dr. Bissell said. "Significant

adverse effects after vaccination are very rare (<0.5%) and will happen in the first few months while sequelae from infection can present several months later (especially after mild or asymptomatic infections) and last much longer term.

"In the New River Valley, we have vaccinated 42.1% of the total population and more than 49% of those aged 16 and over," Dr. Bissell said. "We continue trying to make the vaccine convenient. We are planning to be at the NRV Fair this week: Thursday and Friday from 5-8 p.m., and Saturday from 2-6 p.m.

"Christiansburg Pharmacy offers vaccine Thursdays at the Christiansburg Farmers Market at the Christiansburg Recreation Center from 3 to 7 p.m.

All of our pharmacy partners have vaccine and are very accommodating (Christiansburg/Blacksburg Pharmacies, Martin's, The Pharm House, Radford Drug, Davidson's, Main Street Pharmacy). Chain pharmacies including Wal-Mart, Kroger, CVS, and Walgreen's all have vaccine.

"The health department has clinics on Friday mornings at the Giles County Health Department and at the Montgomery County Health Department, and we continue to vaccinate the homebound. Please call the health department to make an appointment or if anyone needs special accommodations. The number is 540-267-8240; that and more information are on our website, NRVRoadToWellness.com."

WalletHub ranks Virginia among safest states during pandemic

As the personal finance website WalletHub points out, as the U.S. continues its efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, staying safe is one of Americans' top concerns.

But, according to the

website, while almost all states have fully reopened, some states are already safer than others. To determine which states are the safest right now, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia

across five key metrics.

The website determined that Virginia is among the safest places to be in the country, ranking the commonwealth at No. 18 in its poll.

The five metrics WalletHub used to determine

its rankings were vaccination rate, positive testing rate, hospitalization rate, death rate, and estimated transmission rate.

The website's survey revealed that the ten safest states in the union are

(1) Vermont (2) Maine (3) Connecticut (4) New Mexico (5) Washington (6) Massachusetts (7) New Jersey (8) New York (9) Rhode Island and (10) New Hampshire.

The ten least safe states in the country (42

through 51), according to WalletHub, are (42) Tennessee (43) Wyoming (44) Oklahoma (45) Missouri (46) Nevada (47) Alabama (48) Florida (49) Mississippi (50) Louisiana and (51) Arkansas.

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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 has 12th least equitable school districts in U.S.; Montgomery is 27th in state

The personal finance website WalletHub has determined that Virginia has the 12th least equitable school districts in the United States with Roanoke County finishing as the most equitable school system in the commonwealth and Montgomery County coming in at 27.

As the website pointed out, the U.S. is one of the most educated countries in the world, but it doesn't provide the same quality elementary school or secondary school education to all students. In many states, more affluent school districts receive a greater amount of funding per student than do poorer districts.

Discrepancies between the rich and poor have been exacerbated even more this year by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to WalletHub. Low-income students have suffered

the greatest "learning loss" due to partial or total remote learning. One contributing factor is that people in low-income districts are less likely to have the technological resources they need.

States that provide equitable funding to all school districts can help prevent poor students from having lower graduation rates, lower rates of pursuing higher education and smaller future incomes than their wealthy peers, the website says. The difference is dramatic: College graduates have \$524 to \$1,112 higher median weekly earnings than people with a high school diploma and no college experience, depending on the degree.

Some districts within Virginia are fairer than others. To find out where school funding is distributed most equitably, WalletHub scored 132 dis-

tricts in Virginia based on two metrics: average household income and expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools per pupil.

The survey determined that the ten most equitable school districts in Virginia with the amount spent per pupil within the system are (1) Roanoke County Public Schools, \$10,475 (2) Henrico County Public Schools, \$10,268 (3) Rockingham County Public Schools, \$11,829 (4) Louisa County Public Schools, \$12,194 (5) Madison County Public Schools, \$12,498 (6) Richmond City Public Schools, \$14,585 (7) Middlesex County Public Schools, \$13,097 (8) Williamsburg-James City Public Schools, \$12,457 (9) King William County Public Schools, \$11,760 and (10) Colonial heights City Public Schools.

WalletHub: Virginia's pre-K education system ranks 27th in nation

The personal finance website WalletHub has determined that Virginia's pre-K education system ranks 27th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The website notes that while good elementary schools, high schools, and colleges are important factors for parents to consider when choosing where to settle down, the availability of quality pre-K education is just as crucial. Unfortunately, pre-school enrollment dropped by 12% for 3-year-olds and 17% for 4-year-olds during the COVID-19 pandemic. As in-person programs reopen this fall, though, parents should have a lot of choices.

According to WalletHub, a study by the National Institute for Early Education Research has shown that students enrolled in full-day pre-K programs do better on math and literacy tests than their peers who attend only partial day preschool. In addition, those who attend pre-K programs have been shown to have less risk of future crime than those who do not. Plus, early education programs may generate billions of dollars for the economy over a few decades, as they lessen the need for social services and create more productive citizens.

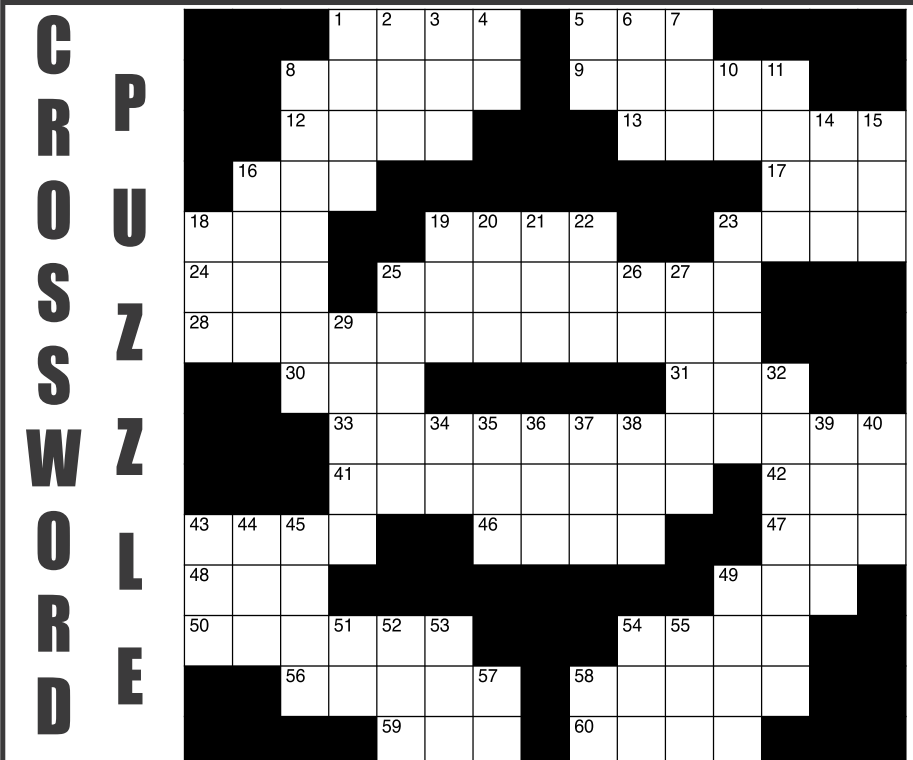
To help parents find the states with the best early education systems, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across three key dimensions: "Access," "Quality" and "Resources & Economic Support." The website then evaluated the dimensions using 12 key metrics and determined each state's and

the District's weighted average across all metrics to calculate each overall score. The resulting scores were then used to rank each state and D.C.

The metrics used in the "Access" dimension were the share of a state's school district that offer state pre-K programs, the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-K programs, the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in pre-K, pre-K special education, and Head Start, and the presence of waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance.

The metrics used in the "Quality" dimension were the pre-K quality benchmarks met with the following benchmarks considered: (1) early learning and development standards (2) curriculum supports (3) teacher has BA (4) specialized training in pre-K (5) assistant teacher has CDA or equivalent (6) staff professional development (7) class size 20 or lower (8) staff-child ratio 10 or better (9) vision, hearing, and health screening and referral (10) continuous quality improvement system; income requirement for state pre-K eligibility; requirement of school safety plan and audits.

The metrics used in the "Resources and Economic Support" dimension were total reported spending per child enrolled in preschool; the change in state spending per child enrolled in preschools (2018-29 to 2019-20); the total state Head Start Program spending per child enrolled in preschool; and the monthly child care co-payment fees as a share of the family income.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Pesetas (abbr.)
 - 5. Mutual savings bank
 - 8. Supplementing with difficulty
 - 9. Dancer Twyla
 - 12. 100 = 1 kwanza
 - 13. Sleep gear
 - 16. Travel a route regularly
 - 17. Sever the edges
 - 18. A people of Myanmar
 - 19. Titan mother of Helios
 - 23. 2 syllable metrical foot
 - 24. Rapid bustling movement
 - 25. Makes more precise
 - 28. Brittle bone disease
 - 30. Don't know when yet
 - 31. Graphical user interface
 - 33. Make the connection
 - 41. Uncaptured prisoners
 - 42. No (Scottish)
 - 43. Oh, God!
 - 46. Counting of votes
 - 47. A cgs unit of work
 - 48. Actress Basinger
 - 49. Foot digit
 - 50. Banded metamorphic rock
 - 54. South American nation
 - 56. Dwarf juniper
 - 58. Sunfishes
 - 59. Exclamation: yuck!
 - 60. Inner surface of the hand
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Landscaped road (abbr.)
 - 2. Fasten with a cord
 - 3. Black tropical American cuckoo
 - 4. Specific gravity
 - 5. Metric ton
 - 6. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
 - 7. The cry made by sheep
 - 8. Actor Gould
 - 10. Actor Wagner's initials
 - 11. Native to Latin America
 - 14. Silent
 - 15. All the best (texting)
 - 16. Protective cushions
 - 18. Path (Chinese)
 - 19. Thrust horse power, abbr.
 - 20. 10 = 1 dong
 - 21. Stray
 - 22. Military mailbox
 - 23. Copy of a periodical
 - 25. Glides high
 - 26. Spanish "be"
 - 27. Draws near in time
 - 29. In a way, receded
 - 32. Rocks formed from magma
 - 34. Integrated circuit
 - 35. Skip across a surface
 - 36. Central mail bureau
 - 37. Snakelike fish
 - 38. ___ Aviv, Israel
 - 39. Swiss river
 - 40. Nickname for Margaret
 - 43. Electrocardiogram
 - 44. Cotton seeding machine
 - 45. 50010 IA
 - 49. Electric rail car
 - 51. 29th state
 - 52. "Law & Order: ___"
 - 53. Special interest group
 - 54. Blue grass genus
 - 55. Rt. angle building extension
 - 57. New Hampshire
 - 58. Military policeman

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hydration: Beating the August heat



RICHMOND—Slathering on sunscreen isn't only for a day at the beach; it's just as essential on the farm and at other outdoor work settings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports

skin cancer is on the rise. Each year 4.3 million people in the U.S. are treated for basal cell cancer and squamous cell skin cancer, and in 2018, there were an estimated 1.3 million people living with skin melanomas.

Farmers and their employees are among the groups most at risk. While experts advise everyone to limit time spent outdoors during the hottest part of the day—between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—many farmers need those crucial daylight hours.

“The major factor is the amount of time that farmers spend in the sun,” explained Dana Fisher, chair of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Farm Safety Advisory Committee. “Whether it is planting in the spring, caring for fields and animals in the summer, harvesting in the fall, or the fall and winter calving seasons, any exposure to the sun without protecting your skin can lead to an increased risk of skin cancer.”

With the CDC projecting

106,110 new cases of skin melanomas and 7,180 deaths from skin cancer in 2021, it's important to stay mindful about combating the sun's intense rays.

Regularly apply broad spectrum, sweat- and water-resistant sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 15 or higher to all exposed skin—including ears, hands, neck and lips—and reapply at least every two hours. Broad spectrum sunscreens offer protection against both UVA and UVB rays, two types of ultraviolet rays that cause sunburns, premature skin aging, and increased skin cancer risk. Follow the directions on the sunscreen's label to ensure proper application.

Wearing long sleeves, pants, broad-brim hats, and sunglasses

also can help block harmful rays, particularly if they're sun-protective.

In addition to sun exposure and sunburns, Fisher added there are other risks tied to working outside in scorching temperatures.

“With pressure to take advantage of sunny days for making hay and tending other crops, farmers are always pushing their personal limits,” Fisher said. “Heatstroke and dehydration can happen quickly if farmers do not take measures to keep themselves cool and hydrated.”

Signs of heatstroke include weakness, confusion, nausea and headache. Fisher advised taking frequent breaks to cool off and drinking lots of fluids when working in the heat.

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

An Honest Heart

Read Jeremiah 4:1 through 5:31

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city” (Jeremiah 5:1).

In many ways, Jerusalem represented the heart of Israel. The temple, the priesthood, the nation's leadership—each of these was centered in Jerusalem. As a city that was central to Israel's worship, you would think that its inhabitants would be righteous and that honesty would be practiced by all who live there.

But in Jeremiah 5:1, God instructed Jeremiah to search out the city. Why? Because God needed more information? No! God had already searched the city and

found no reason to withhold judgment. He wanted Jeremiah to understand His decision to act.

Jeremiah was to go throughout Jerusalem and consider everything he saw. A thorough search was required. What was he to look for? He was to seek an honest person who dealt honestly with others, who sought after truth.

God knew he wouldn't find even one. Jerusalem's corruption was complete, and judgment was coming.

Prayer Suggestion: Help me, Lord, to honestly search my heart and consider my ways before You.

Quicklook: Jeremiah 5:1-5

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. Moonsup “Paul” Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.
WESLEYAN
Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, 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

Angle, The Rev. Dr. James M.

The Rev. Dr. James M. Angle passed from this life to his Heavenly reward on Aug. 1, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his beloved Sharon Belcher Angle, who was the heart and soul of Healing in His Wings Ministry, and a granddaughter, Cheyenne.

Survivors include his children, Rhonda—the smartest (Steve) Howell, Jay—the only son (Jan) Angle, Dr. Robyn Angle—the baby, and the Rev. Cathy Angle; grandchildren Dr. Timothy (Marnee) Byrd and the Rev. Jake (Kayla) Angle; great-grandchildren Max and Lola; a sister, Betty (the late Ralph) Hager; a sister-in-law, Sandra Bailey and family; and many nieces and nephews; and special friends and faithful ministry partners, the Rev.'s David and Lisa Marks.

Saved in 1966, Jim began full-time ministry shortly thereafter with the youth choir at the Radford Church of God, evangelized with the Soul Lifters Quartet and the Radford Coffee House Ministry, and helped birth the Fairlawn Church of God. Around 1974, he started the Blacksburg Church of God where he and wife Mary pastored until her death in 1976.

God sent Sharon in 1977, and together they continued the work at Blacksburg Church of God for 10 more years. Healing in His Wings Ministry began in 1987 and operated full-time for 40-plus



years with outreaches in the United States and 36 countries. Their primary love was for Southern India where they traveled yearly and held mass crusades, supported a school, an orphanage and a home for the aged.

Healing in His Wings Ministry and its global partners have had over two million souls come to Christ. This has been due entirely to God and to the precious ministry partners and friends they have been blessed with during their ministry. Your faithfulness and dedication to Him and to Jim and Sharon, has been boundless.

The family would like to thank caregivers Lisa French and Teresa Robinson, the staff at Radford Health and Rehab, and especially the evening nurses who had to tend to a bossy night owl for months and the incredible team (family) at Carilion Clinic Hospice NRV, who provided such loving, excellent care. We could not have made it without you.

A private memorial for the family will be held due to COVID precautions.

To honor Jim's and Sharon's life and legacy, please continue to spread the Gospel.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Betty Davis Ministries, P.O. Box 1444, Salem, VA 24153.

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

Bradley, Jr., Robert Lyle

Robert Lyle Bradley, Jr., 74, born on June 2, 1947, of Riner, went to his heavenly home on Saturday, July 31, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert L. Bradley, Sr.; his wife, Lovetta Murdock Bradley; and a brother, Dennis Bradley.

He is survived by his mother, Beverly M. Bradley of Shawsville; three sons, Peter Bradley of Southwick, Mass., Tony Bradley (Diane) of East Hampton, Mass., Brian Gale (Anna) of Gilbert, Ariz.; his stepchildren, Sonya, Rochelle, Melinda, Lynn, Richie and Robbie; six brothers, Gary (Linda), David (Patty), Jim (Denise), Doug, Rick, and Tim; a sister, Lanie; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bob also leaves behind numerous cousins, nieces, nephews,

friends, and other relatives.

Bob helped his brother Gary at Heritage Stone and also as a self-contracting painter. He enjoyed helping others in any way he could and loved being with his family.

The family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery in Blacksburg and Good Samaritan Hospice for the exceptional care they provided during the last two weeks of Bob's life, as well as all of the friends and family who lifted him up in their prayers.

McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg is providing services for the family. A celebration of Bob's life is planned for August 2021. More details will be provided by the family.

Alderson, Sally

Sally Alderson was born on Jan. 15, 1925, in Baltimore to Margaret Dunning Belt and John Belt. She died in Blacksburg on July 18, 2021, after 96 years of love and service.

Sally was kind, generous, artistic, and creative. She supported and encouraged all family members and attended all of the track and cross-country meets of her granddaughters with a plate of homemade brownies for the team. She made and shared ceramics and many kinds of needlework and crafts. She was a Master Gardener, a Girl Scout leader, and a Cub Scout den mother who knew the equivalent of le mot juste for clothing design, sewing lovely clothes for almost everyone in the family and for some international friends. She also enjoyed camping and sailing.

She was a charter member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Va., where she organized the children's choir, taught children's Sunday school classes, sang in the adult choir, and was active in the Women of the Church.

She was predeceased by her husband of 71 years, William Alderson; her sister, Margaret Peccianti; and her brother, J. Robert Belt.

She is survived by her children, Robert Alderson and Mary Lee Hendricks with her husband, William; her granddaughters and their families: Elizabeth Alderson, Margaret and David Krell, parents of Linda and Daniel; and Sarah Hendricks and Oscar P. Hurtado-Gonzales, parents of Cristina, Alice, and W. Alexander; and Mary and Daniel Jaasma, parents of Micha and Eliana; and four nieces.

The family thanks Warm Hearth, LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, the rescue squad, and medical transport for their kind and competent healthcare. Contributions in Sally's memory may be made to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church (701 Church Street, Blacksburg 24060) or to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry.

A service of worship and in celebration of Sally's life will take place on Aug. 14 at 3 p.m. at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

Millirons, Timothy Scott

Timothy Scott Millirons, 63, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, at his home in Radford.

He was the former owner of Hall's Garage Doors in Christiansburg for over 20 years. He was preceded in death by his father, Franklin Hicks Millirons.

Tim attended Auburn High School. While there, he met the love of his life, Ella Mae. Through their 45 years of marriage, Timmy and Ella Mae enjoyed one-on-one battles in basketball and ping pong, taking vacations to Surfside Beach and Pigeon Forge, riding in his Mustang, working around the house, and more recently working puzzles.

Dad was always there for his children. He worked hard to make their lives better. If they needed something to be fixed, built, moved, or repaired, he was the first person there to help. His greatest joy was being Paw Paw. He enjoyed nothing more than joking around and picking on his five grandkids. He was so proud and loved watching them play basketball,

golf, track, softball, and even stair ball.

Survivors include his loving wife, Ella Mae Meredith Millirons; a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Sherry Millirons; a daughter and son-in-law, Shelley and Andy Bond; his mother and stepfather, Anita Hall Marsh and Leslie Marsh; his grandchildren, Ethan, Nicholas, Dylan, Haley, and Karley; a brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Tammy Millirons; a sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Larry Bratton; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 12 noon today, Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services will follow at noon with Blake Griffith officiating. Per the family's request, please wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society.

The Millirons family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. www.mullinsfuneral-home.com.

Johnston, John Ray (Pete)

John Ray (Pete) Johnston, went home to be with our Lord and Savior on Aug. 1, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Johnston; his stepfather, Charles King; and his father-in-law, Kevin Vest.

Pete was the most loving, caring man you would ever meet, and he never met a stranger. Anytime you spoke with him, you were sure to walk away with a smile on your face. He will truly be missed by us all.

He is survived by his wife, Evonna Johnston; a son, Jack Johnston; his mother, Eleanor King; a brother and sister-



in-law, Ralph and Kathy Johnston; his mother-in-law, Regina Vest; an uncle (like a brother), Mitchell Albert and wife, Diana; an aunt (like a sister), Emily Oliver and husband, Jerry; aunt Kitty Collins; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

A memorial service was held on Friday, Aug. 6, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Lee Sarver officiating. The family received friends prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Montgomery County Humane Society and/or Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is summer 2021.

Lane closures will be in place for milling and paving on I-81 northbound from August 8 through August 13.

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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

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

TFW VA LLC, trading as The First Watch, 2730 Market St, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-0000.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

John Tobe, Managing 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 or 800-552-3200.

Legals - Montgomery County

ABC NOTICE

Absolute Accessories & Treasures LLC, trading as Absolute Accessories & Treasures, 302 W Main St Ste A, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-2975.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Sabrina Martin

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.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 16, 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 hearings is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73 (4.711 acres) from Agricultural (A) and Two-Family Residential (R-2) to Single Family Residential (R-1) with conditions. The proposal was revised to construct 26 single-family detached dwellings. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Legals - Montgomery County

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC for a Planned Housing Development to consist of 26 Single-Family Residential dwellings on property located adjacent to Wades Lane and Agee Street, Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73.

C. Conditional Use Permit for R-3 Multifamily Dwelling District uses in the B-3 General Business District by Bruce A. Moses (owner) on behalf of Bryan A. Rice (Applicant) at 975 Radford Street (Tax Map No. 525-A-19). The proposal is to construct five (5) Townhome units. The property is designated as 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 time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the applications,

Legals - Montgomery County

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 with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

RU women's soccer picked third in Big South preseason poll

The Big South Conference released its 2021 women's soccer preseason poll Wednesday afternoon with the Radford University Highlanders selected to finish third among the conference's eleven members.

High Point was named the preseason favorite with eight first-place votes. Voters picked Campbell to finish as the conference runners-up.

The Highlanders have now been picked to finish within the league's top five teams for 13 straight seasons.

The fall season is set

to kick off on Thursday, Aug. 12, as the Highlanders will travel to Washington, D.C., for an exhibition against American University. The team will then return to Radford for a second exhibition match on Monday, Aug. 15, against Concord.

The regular season then begins on Thursday, Aug. 19, in Cupp Stadium against Mount St. Mary's. Radford will make its first road trip of the season on Aug. 27 to face Wofford.

The remainder of the season's schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 2 East Tennessee State University Home
- Sept. 4 Delaware State Home
- Sept. 9 Marshall Away
- Sept. 12 George Mason Away
- Sept. 16 VMI Home
- Sept. 22 Longwood Away
- Sept. 25 Campbell Away
- Sept. 29 Gardner-Webb Home
- Oct. 2 USC Upstate Away
- Oct. 6 UNC Asheville Home
- Oct. 9 Winthrop Home
- Oct. 13 High Point Away
- Oct. 16 Presbyterian Home
- Oct. 20 Hampton Home
- Oct. 23 Charleston Southern Away
- Oct 30-Nov 7 Big South Tournament

Lady Hokies to play Wisconsin in ACC/Big 10 challenge

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team will travel to Madison, Wis., to take on the Wisconsin Badgers in the 2021 Big Ten/ACC Women's Basketball Challenge on Dec. 1 the ACC announced Tuesday.

Tip time and television network designation will be announced at a later date.

One of the most successful teams in the challenge in recent years, VT is one of two teams in either conference boasting a five-game winning streak in the competition. Head Coach Kenny Brooks has an undefeated record at 4-0 in the challenge since taking over the program in 2016 with wins against Nebraska, Illinois, Rutgers, and Purdue by an average margin of 21.3 points.

The Lady Hokies previously matched up with Wisconsin in the 2008 Challenge losing 61-52 and again in 2012 winning 47-38.

Overall, Tech owns a 7-6 record in the challenge since making its first appearance in the competition in 2007.

The Lady Hokies'

record in the challenge through the years is as follows:

2020: Challenge not contested due to COVID-19; 2019: defeated Purdue 67-54; 2018: defeated Rutgers 67-51; 2017: defeated Illinois 96-49; 2016: defeated Nebraska 76-67; 2015: defeated Penn State 64-59; 2014: lost to Northwestern 45-70; 2013: Lost to Indiana 65-71; 2012: defeated Wisconsin 47-38; 2011: loss to Iowa 47-58; 2010: lost to Minnesota 58-63; 2009: lost to Michigan 51-71; 2008: lost to Wisconsin 52-61; 2007: defeated Minnesota 68-62.

The 2021 challenge schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 1: Nebraska at Wake Forest, Ohio State at Syracuse, Georgia Tech at Purdue. Virginia Tech at Wisconsin, North Carolina at Minnesota, Rutgers at Pitt.

Thursday, Dec. 2:

Iowa at Duke, Florida State at Illinois, NC State at Indiana, Miami at Maryland, Michigan at Louisville, Notre Dame at Michigan State, Northwestern at Clemson, Penn State at Boston College.

Hokies begin work for 2021 season; countdown on for Sept. 3 home opener

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech head coach Justin Fuente knows the Hokies opener against North Carolina on Sept. 3 is a big game, but neither he nor his team is no stranger to "big games." Wednesday, he told reporters the program has known for some time that with the advent of the ACC Network there would be conference games to open the season.

"I'm just happy that we've got one at home; it seems like we've been everywhere except home," Fuente said. "So we're excited about that part of it. But we will go about our installation the way that we did before we played West Virginia or any of the other teams we've opened up against."

For now, the coaching staff is working on fundamentals and evaluating its young players. Within the next 10 days, they will turn their attention to their first opponent.

The Hokies return 23 starters with a minimum of four starts in 2020, including preseason All-ACC honoree defensive end Amaré Barno and tight end James Mitchell. Other notable returners include quarterback Braxton Burmeister, who owns a 3-1 record as Tech's starter; wide receivers Tayvion Robinson and Tre Turner; defensive back Chamarrri Conner, who led the team with 81 tackles a year ago; and linebacker Dax Hollifield.

Carolina enters the 2021 season continuing a remarkable turnaround that has seen the Tar Heels go from two wins in 2018 to the Orange Bowl in 2020. The 2021 team will feature a Heisman candidate in quarterback Sam Howell, the return of 21 of 22 starters from the Orange Bowl, and a top-15 recruiting class, all of which will combine to have the Tar Heels ranked as one of the nation's top teams heading into the fall.

Burmeister is the clear-cut Hokie starter going into camp with little or no quarterback competition for Fuente and his staff to worry about. But there is the question of who could be the next up if Burmeister goes down.

"We'll continue to do it like we always do it," Fuente told the media last week. "Guys that deserve reps will continue to get reps, and guys that prove they don't deserve reps will get fewer rounds. But I don't know that naming Braxton (Burmeister) as the starter really has changed anything; it just is nice to know that. You know that's the direction you're clearly heading."

"I don't know that it's better or worse for the football team having competition or knowing who the guy is going to be," the head Hokie said.

Offensive coordinator Brad Cornelsen also pointed out that the staff has been assessing the running back situation without Khalil Herbert.

"Those guys that have some experience, you know: Raheem [Black-shear], Jalen [Holston],



Quarterback Braxton Burmeister ran the Virginia Tech offense through its workouts Wednesday in the Beamer-Lawson Indoor Practice facility.

and Keshawn [King]. Those are the guys kind of with the most experience underneath them heading into fall," Cornelsen said. "Those will be the guys that kind of mix in the most there with probably the first group up front."

Defensive coordinator Justin Hamilton continues to sing the praises of defensive back Chamarrri Conner and the strides he has made this preseason.

"Let me go back and we first got him or when I first got him in 2019, he was very raw," the defensive boss said. "From a drill perspective, from technique, backpedaling, transitioning, pad level, he was very raw. We've seen him finetune that. He's a guy that if you come over here on a Saturday or a Sunday when we're not in practice, not working, it's not uncommon at all to see him out there on the grass working by himself," Hamilton said.

"He was working on the sled one day last year. I just so happened to see that. He's out in the sandpit," Hamilton said. "He's a guy that works on his craft, and he's gotten much better at understanding what formations mean, what splits mean, what receivers' strengths and weaknesses mean, what the meters of receivers

mean, and the pre-snap reads for quarterbacks."

"As far as a technician, that's where I've seen him make the most strides," Hamilton said of Conner. "He's always been an aggressive contacts seeker. But technically, he's become much more sound."

Virginia Tech offensive lineman Brock Hoffman has been named to the Wuerffel Trophy watch list, an award that honors a student-athlete's commitment to serving his community. He is also a nominee for the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team, which also recognizes Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) student-athletes for their efforts in the community.

The Wuerffel Trophy, the premier award in college football for community service, is awarded to the FBS player that best combines exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement. The award honors its namesake Danny Wuerffel, who won the Heisman Trophy in 1996 as the quarterback for the Florida Gators.

Hoffman (6-3, 317) started all 11 contests at center for Tech in 2020. The Statesville, N.C., native helped the Hokies lead the ACC in rushing at 240.1 yards

per game. Hoffman was twice named the ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week in 2020. He was an All-ACC first-team honoree of Eric Mac Lain and was an honorable mention pick on the official All-ACC squad.

During his time at Virginia Tech, Hoffman has made a positive impact in both the New River Valley and his hometown in North Carolina. He has served as a mentor to students at Prices Fork Elementary School in Blacksburg and his former elementary school in his hometown.

Among his many other community outreach efforts, Hoffman served as a social influencer to raise awareness for last year's virtual Polar Plunge that benefited Special Olympics Virginia. He also organized a book drive and a card-writing campaign to benefit residents of Richfield Senior Living in Salem.

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