



## Brian Booth takes helm as Blacksburg Transit director



**Blacksburg Transit's new director started his career with the organization as a bus driver and dispatcher while he was in college at Virginia Tech.**

Brian Booth, a native of Hardy, Va., and a 2007 Virginia Tech graduate, has accepted the position of Director at Blacksburg Transit.

Booth started his career as a bus operator and dispatcher with Blacksburg Transit (BT) while he was still in college at Virginia Tech.

After leaving BT in 2011, he stayed in the transit industry, assuming various leadership roles at New River Valley Community Services before ultimately becoming the manager overseeing all aspects of the transportation department, which included the operation of Radford Transit. In 2017 Booth became the general manager of the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company.

Steve Ross, Blacksburg's deputy

town manager said of the new director, "Brian's experience with fixed route bus service, paratransit services, university relations, and governmental agencies, along with his demonstrated leadership abilities make him a perfect fit for the Town of Blacksburg and BT."

Since BT began service in 1983, more than 40 former employees have moved on to transit careers at other systems. Booth is the first to come back and lead the organization. His first day with Blacksburg Transit was Monday, Aug. 30.

A department of the Town of Blacksburg, Blacksburg Transit operates public transportation services in the Town of Blacksburg, including Virginia Tech, the Town of Christiansburg, and portions of Montgomery County.

## Blacksburg wins spot in Mayors Innovative Design Cohort

The Town of Blacksburg is one of three cities to win a spot in the Mayors Innovative Design Cohort, a national partnership between the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Mayors Innovation Project to help build zero carbon, resilient, healthy, and equitable cities.

Blacksburg leaders will have the opportunity to address the climate crisis while creating equitable, inclusive public spaces.

The town began working in 2019 on a retail incubator concept in partnership with Downtown Blacksburg Inc., the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and the Small Business Assistance Center. The envisioned retail-focused incubator has three primary goals: (1) to preserve and enhance the dynamic atmosphere of Blacksburg's historic downtown, (2) to provide quality products and experiences to the surrounding community, and (3) to give entrepreneurs an opportunity to create and expand their businesses in a low-risk setting.

The property chosen for these design efforts is 414 N. Main St., the former Cooks Clean Center property, which

is now owned by the Town of Blacksburg, and is part of the Voluntary Remediation Program through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The project area has seen an influx of redevelopment in recent years with restaurants, breweries, high tech companies, and the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech.

"This is such an exciting opportunity," said Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith. "We'll be using a collaborative approach to create a retail incubator right in the heart of Blacksburg's historic commercial district. It will form a nexus for the arts, commerce, and tourism while the physical space gives a boost to small businesses and nonprofits. And we're especially excited that we'll be working with an experienced group of architecture professionals to bring this longtime dream to life."

"The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is excited to work with three mayors in their cities on projects to make neighborhoods more equitable and resilient to climate change," said 2021 AIA President Pe-

See Cohort, page 5

## Montgomery-Floyd Library, Blacksburg Library to host local author Sarah Warburton

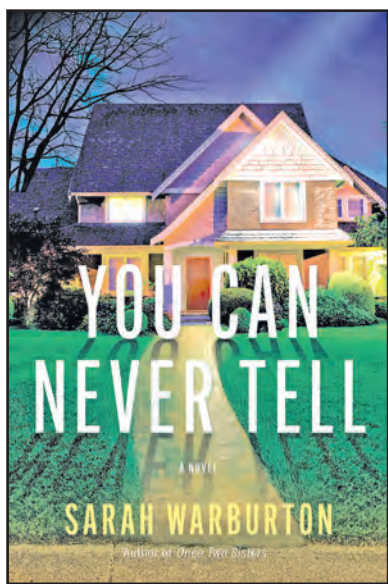
Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will host author Sarah Warburton on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m. and at the Blacksburg Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Warburton will be discussing her newly published book, *You Never Can Tell*.

A local author, Warburton is the oldest of four sisters raised in Virginia and is an avid reader and knitter. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Latin from the College of William and Mary, an M.A. in classics from the University of Georgia and another M.A. degree from Brown. She has studied writing with Pam Houston at the Taos Writers Workshop and with Justin Cronin in Houston.

Her work has appeared in the Southern Arts Journal, Women on Writing, Embark Literary Magazine, Oyster River Pages, and Crimereads. Her first novel, *Once Two Sisters*, was a Publishers Weekly pick of the week, a Crimereads recommended debut, and a PopSugar featured title.

Her second novel, *You Never Can*



***You Never Can Tell*, a suburban serial killer thriller, is Sarah Warburton's second novel.**

*Tell*, is a suburban serial killer thriller that was published in August 2021 by Crooked Lane Books. Blacksburg Books will be selling Warburton's novel after the programs. They will accept cash, check, cards, and Ven-



**Local author Sarah Warburton will discuss her newest book on Sept. 9 at MFRL and on Sept. 14 at the Blacksburg Library.**

mo. Warburton will be available to sign books after her talks.

For more information about the programs, call Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library at (540) 382-6969 ext. 215.

## VT alumnus with cerebral palsy wins paratriathlon national title

Chris Marston, VT Class of 2003, suffered a stroke at birth that was diagnosed as cerebral palsy. It left him with one leg an inch longer than the other and no motor skills in his right hand.

But that didn't keep him from winning the Toyota USA Paratriathlon National Championship in July, a competition that requires swimming the equivalent of half a mile, biking for 12.5 miles, and running for three miles.

A relative newcomer to the sport, the Mechanicsville, Va., resident competed like a wily veteran, grinding through the miles and outlasting competitors not just in his classification, but also those in many others.

"I had the butterflies and the stress, and I was pleasantly surprised," Marston said. "But it was not totally unexpected. I had been forewarned by people that I had been talking with, and they told me, 'There is a lot of distance between you and everyone else in your class.'"

"Seeing them [race officials] pull the banner across at the finish line, it felt very good, and at that point, I knew that I had won."

The win capped a rather stunning rise to his prominence as a paratriathlete. He's been competing for just two years because he hadn't realized that those with cerebral palsy qualified for Paralympic competitions.

Cerebral palsy can involve many things, but is always associated with movement disorders caused by damaged parts to the developing brain. The damage often occurs before or during childbirth all the way up to 2 years of age. Damage can occur from a stroke or other interruption of blood supply to the brain, causing damage that lasts a lifetime.

"There's not a cure, per se, to take away that damage," said Stephanie DeLuca, who serves as director of the DeLuca Lab in the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC in Roanoke. She has studied neuromotor impairments for more than 25 years. "It's there, but it's not something that progresses. It's not a disease. "It's something that happens, and then the brain continues to develop," DeLuca said. "Sometimes, even though there is a 'damaged area' of the brain, the brain develops compensatory strategies, and a person can end up with high levels of functional abilities."

Despite his limitations, Marston plays sports and always has. But he struggled as a child, particularly in team sports, and he often felt as though he let his teams down.

So he gravitated toward track and field, which features a series of mostly individualized events, and he picked up a passion for running. He kept that passion

See Marston, page 8

## Art Pannonia to present pieces by local artist Pam Sable Friday

**Pam Sable Friday**



**"Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones" by featured artist Pam Sable is one of the works at Art Pannonia's exhibit Friday, Sept. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 114 N. Main St. in Blacksburg.**

Art Pannonia will feature the works of local artist Pam Sable Friday, Sept. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Located at 114 N. Main St. in Blacksburg, the gallery displays original paintings and sculptures by local, national, and international artists.

A busy grandmother, Sable is a graphic artist and freelance illustrator and one of the first artists who came through Art Pannonia's doors twenty years ago. Since then, she has given the gallery a new show every two years.

Sable's works consist of a single line. She never

picks up her pen until the project is finished with her signature. Her subjects are musicians, dancers, and people in various professions, often in humorous situations. She also loves to portray children and animals, and portraits of lovers, family, and friends. With a minimum of lines, she focuses on the significant motion and emotion, making recognizable the thought behind the message of the picture. Her husband, Dan, invents hybrid motors for cars and airplanes.

"What's My Line?" is the title of the show.



**Chris Marston struggled to play team sports as a kid, but has established himself as one of the nation's best paratriathletes. Now he's striving to attain the ultimate dream, competing in the 2024 Paralympics in Paris. Photo courtesy of FinisherPx.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, Sept. 2:**

*American Legion meeting* - American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. Representatives from Boys State and Girls State will be recognized at this meeting. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

**Thursday, Sept. 2 – Saturday, Sept. 4:**

*Bag Book Sale* - All Day at the Christiansburg Library. \$1 per book, \$5 per bag. All proceeds benefit the Montgomery Friends of the Library.

**Friday, Sept. 3:**

*Passionate Painters Reception* - At the Blacksburg Library at 5 p.m. Join the artists and students of Jesi Pace-Berkeley as they unveil their art exhibit.

**Saturday, Sept. 4:**

*PAWS to Read - Dog Edition* - At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Participants are invited to come read to Derek the therapy dog. Registration is required.

**Saturday, Sept. 4 – Monday, Sept. 6:**

*Radford Public Library Closed* - RPL will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Sept. 4 - 6.

**Sunday, Sept. 5:**

*Local chorus to perform at Blacksburg Farmers Market* - A local chorus based in Blacksburg, Blue Ridge Vocal Connection will perform a free concert titled "Magical Movie Music" at the Blacksburg Farmers Market at 4 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 6:**

*Montgomery-Floyd Regional Libraries closed* - All MFRL Libraries will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Also, the Libraries will be open on Sundays beginning Sunday, Sept. 12.

**Tuesday, Sept. 7:**

*DMV Connect* - DMV will be at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library at 10 a.m. providing access to most of its services. By appointment only. To make an appointment go to [www.DMVNOW.com](http://www.DMVNOW.com).

**Tuesday, Sept. 7:**

*Rent Relief Workshop* - Virginia's Rent Relief Program can provide funds to assist in paying rent, late fees, and other lease-related costs back to April 2020 for those impacted by COVID-19. Learn about the requirements and get help completing online applications from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Montgomery Floyd Regional Library. Workshop presented by Laurie Saltee, Rent Relief Program Application Manager at the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. Register by calling the library or filling out the form online. Space is limited to 10 attendees, who should bring a signed, current lease agreement.

**Wednesday, Sept. 8:**

*Rent Relief Workshop* - Virginia's Rent Relief Program (see details above) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Montgomery Floyd Regional Library. Register by calling the library (540-552-8246) or filling out the form online. Space is limited to 10 attendees, who should bring a signed, current lease agreement.

*Brown Bag Book Club* - At the Radford Public Library at noon and 6 p.m. The club will be meeting twice to discuss Kate Moore's "Radium Girls." In keeping with the book's theme, the club will offer refreshments in the form of homemade vanilla cupcakes with glow-in-the-dark buttercream frosting. Next month the club will discuss the classic Halloween book, "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley.

**Saturday, Sept. 11:**

*Long Way Brewing Benefit for Radford's First Responders* - On Sept. 11, 2001, America watched as firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers ran INTO the flames, smoke, and destruction. The bravery exhibited that fateful day by all first responders was a shining example of selflessness that helped us heal, gave us hope, and fortified our nation's resolve. This September 11 is First Responders' Day, marking the 20th anniversary of the great sacrifice made by those who took an oath to serve and protect.

Long Way Brewing is honored to hold its first annual benefit for Radford's First Responders. On Saturday, Sept. 11, Long Way Brewing will make a donation to the Radford City Fire and Police departments. Several events are planned to mark the remembrance. Long Way invites everyone to come together, raise a pint, and salute our First Responders, those that served and those who continue to keep us safe.

*NRV Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Document Shredding* - Residents served by the New River Resource Authority are invited to participate in the region's Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Document Shredding Event. Interested residents should call the New River Resource Authority at 540-674-1677 to schedule an appointment. The event will be held at 7100 Cloyd's Mountain Road, Dublin from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. No commercial waste or commercial vehicles will be accepted.

**Tuesday, Sept. 14:**

*The Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting* - The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of

the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend this meeting. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

*Radford City Police Department Civilian Response and Casualty Care course* - The Radford City Police Department is offering a free course to the public designed to give life-saving skills. This in-person course of Civilian Response and Casualty Care (CRCC) provides a coordinated effort through a 'whole community approach' to establish stakeholders within the community to empower citizens to become 'Immediate Responders' who do what they can where they are with what they have to work with until first responders arrive. Persons interested in taking the course can sign up at [www.radford.va.us](http://www.radford.va.us) with the choice of a morning session (8 a.m. until noon) or an afternoon session (1 to 5 p.m.).

**Wednesday, Sept. 15:**

*Virginia Tech Women's Club Annual Welcome Reception* - The Virginia Tech Women's Club (VTWC) will host its annual welcome reception at the Holtzman Alumni Center from 4 -5:30 p.m. Please wear a mask. The club's honorary president, Dr. Laura Sands, and club president Dr. Debra Call will host the event, which includes refreshments.

The reception is free and open to the public. All women who are interested in supporting the women at VT by awarding scholarships, serving the community, enjoying a multitude of interest groups, traveling to local sights, and listening to engaging community speakers are invited to attend. For more information, or to join this group, contact VTWC65@gmail.com.

**Thursday, Sept. 23:**

*What Isn't Remembered* - At the Radford Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. Kristina Gorcheva-

Newberry, winner of the 2021 Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, is a Russian-Armenian emigre who moved to the U.S. in 1995 after witnessing perestroika and the collapse of the Soviet Empire. She graduated from both Radford and Hollins Universities. She has published over 50 stories and received eight Pushcart nominations.

**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) continues through September.

*Take & Make Crafts* - All Month at the Blacksburg Library.

Craft kits are available all month long with new craft kits each week for the kids to take home.

*Interactive Movie Kits* - All Month at the Christiansburg Library and the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Each kit contains popcorn and props for four individuals to participate and make their movie interactive. The movie is not included, and supplies are limited.

*Crafts to Go* - All Month at the Meadowbrook Public Library.

Drop by the Meadowbrook Public Library for Take & Make Craft Kits. Available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited.

**Through October:**

*Radford Farmers Market* - The Radford Farmers Market continues each Saturday through Oct. 30 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the New River Valley Community Service park-

ing lot (the old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

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

**Ongoing:**

*Free GED preparation classes with NRCC available throughout the NRV* - Free GED preparation classes are being offered through New River Community College's Office of Transitional Programs in Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski counties and the City of Radford. The classes run through Dec. 17. Students will prepare to take the GED/high school equivalency exam, prepare for the Virginia Placement Test, and learn employability skills.

The class schedules are Floyd County: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon at New River Community Action, 120 Epperly Mill Road SW, Floyd; Giles County: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Pearisburg Community Center, 1410 Weldon Ave., Pearisburg; Montgomery County: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon at New River Community College's Christiansburg site, 782 New River Road, Suite 400, Christiansburg; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the same NRCC site; Pulaski County: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New River Community College, 234 Edwards Hall, 5251 College Drive, Dublin; and Radford City: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Radford Public Library, 30 West Main St., Radford

Those interested in registering or with questions may contact the NRCC Office of Transitional Programs at 540-674-3682 or [adultbased@nr.edu](mailto:adultbased@nr.edu).

## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Investment Properties for Sale in Pulaski VA



**Ends Tuesday September 7th at 4 PM**  
**919 & 929 Newbern Rd Pulaski VA 24301**  
**Bid Now At VaAuctionPro.com**

Features +/- 1.29 acres with a 1,084 sq. ft. salon, a 2 bay car wash, a singlewide mobile home and an additional mobile home space currently rented. All properties have public water and sewer. Properties are on same survey and being sold together.

919 Newbern Rd - This property consists of +/- .398 acres with an owned 2 bedroom, 2 bath 1991 singlewide mobile home which is rented for \$350 / mo. There is space for another mobile home on the lot in which renter pays \$175 / mo. for lot rent only. (2nd mobile home is not included in the sale)

929 Newbern Rd - This property consists of a 1,084 sq. ft. salon, a separate carwash and +/- .9 acres. The salon has 1 bath, shampoo area and plenty of storage space. Has a covered porch area, gas furnace and electric wall heater. The car wash has 2 bays and according to owner, brings in around \$800 / mo.

**Preview Date - Thursday August 26th @ 4 PM**

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$2,500 required on day of sale. Close on or before October 25th 2021. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 7th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Download Bidder Information Pack at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)

Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585 or email [Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com](mailto:Gallimore.Matt@gmail.com); or Mauyer Gallimore at 540-250-5051

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



Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

## Warm Hearth Village resident to celebrate 100th birthday with party



As a young man, Mirto Corte boasted piercing blue eyes and a charming smile that gave him a reputation as something of a rascal.



100-year-old Mirto Conte will be feted with a birthday party at Warm Hearth Village today, Sept. 1, 2021.

Longtime Warm Hearth Village resident Mirto Conte will be feted with a party on the occasion of his 100th birthday today, Wednesday,

Sept. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Karr Activity Center.

The party will feature music from the Aloha Eddies, a photo booth,

and games.

Born on Sept. 1, 1921, Corte attended Tri-State College (now Trine University) in Angola, Ind., and worked with Curtis-Wright in Columbus, Ohio, as an aeronautical engineer. His wife, Dorothy (who died in 2012) and he have one daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Corte enjoys fishing, wood chip carving, and socializing. He says he owes his longevity to never meeting a stranger, keeping a positive attitude, and staying in motion through walking, dancing, and the like.

## PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each week the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). Those interested in adopting a pet can call 382-5795 or visit [www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/acac). Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Walk-ins are welcome.



Sweet Strawberry is a gentle older kitten. She can be a little shy but will happily purr when she feels content and comfortable. She likes affection and getting cozy in a blanket. She currently shares a space at the Animal Care and Adoption Center with her littermate Raspberry.



Carson is full of puppy energy and he'll gladly shout it from the rooftops—literally. He's a lovable beagle who enjoys belting out some tunes so he will need a home that doesn't share walls with neighbors. Carson will need patient humans to teach him basic doggie manners. In a previous home, he got along with other pets.

# Virginia Tech Women's Club to hold welcoming reception



The Virginia Tech Women's Club board members met recently to plan the organization's activities for 2021-2022. Photo by Therese Walters.

Because of safety concerns about COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, the annual welcome reception hosted by the Virginia Tech Women's

Club (VTWC) will be held at The Holtzman Alumni Center this year on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. In the past, the Grove

has hosted the annual event, but Dr. Laura Sands, the club's honorary president, expressed concern about the possible spread of the delta variant,

and the decision was made to move the event to the alumni center.

Dr. Sands and the women's club president, Dr. Debra Call, will host the reception.

"The food and company will be worth the visit," said Dr. Call. "The center has an outside patio with large doors that lead to a lovely inside facility, so members and guests will be able to meet safely in an indoor/outdoor facility. Guidelines from CDC and VT will be followed to ensure the safety of all who attend. Please wear a mask."

Last year, the welcome reception was not held because of the pandemic. This year, however, the club's board invites all women who are interested in enjoying the many ac-

tivities offered by VTWC to attend the reception. Members will be available to talk about what the organization offers. Among its major missions is raising money throughout the year for the scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to female students at Virginia Tech. In 2020-2021, the VTWC awarded \$24,000 in scholarships to 12 outstanding VT undergraduates.

In addition, VTWC provides the opportunity for women to meet in interest groups and socialize. Bridge, Canasta, Canoeing, Hiking/Walking, Ladies Who Lunch, and Serving Our Community and VT are among the groups that meet each month. Travel and Tours offers all-day trips by bus to areas all around Blacks-

burg. Several luncheons are held each year. In October, the annual fall luncheon will be at The Inn at VT and will feature well-known American poet and activist Nikki Giovanni. Friday Forums are held on the first Fridays in October, November, December, February, and April and feature talks and performances from a variety of disciplines.

All women who are interested in supporting women at VT and serving the community are invited to attend the welcome reception and become involved in VTWC's activities. The event is free and is open to the public. For more information, or to join this group of women, contact VTWC65@gmail.com.

# Food City kicks off School Bucks Challenge, to award \$700,000 to local schools

Food City kicks off its 2021-2022 School Bucks Challenge today, Sept. 1, with a pledge to contribute \$700,000 to local schools.

For every \$1 customers spend at Food City using their Food City ValuCard, they will receive one point.

"Our Food City School Bucks Program has provided much-needed support for thousands of schools throughout our market area, and our School Bucks Challenge makes points collection easy and efficient," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

The 2021-2022 School Bucks Challenge continues through May 10, 2022. Food City customers may ensure their points are credited to the school of their choice by going online to <https://www.foodcity.com/schoolbucks> to link their Food City ValuCard to their preferred school.

School allocations for Food City's

\$700,000 pledge are based upon the percentage of customer purchases assigned to each school. Schools can monitor their progress biannually online at [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com).

"Food City is committed to supporting the education of our youth," said Smith. "Since the program's inception, we've awarded over \$20,700,000 in much-needed educational equipment and tools to more than 1,000 participating area schools."

For more information about the new Food City School Bucks Challenge, customers may contact their local school, visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com), or contact the Food City School Bucks Coordinator, Lisa Johnson at 1-800-232-0174.

Headquartered in Abingdon, Va., K-VA-T Food Stores (Food City's parent company) operates 137 retail outlets throughout Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, North Georgia, and Alabama.



Food City has a local presence at 1701 Tyler Avenue in Radford.

# Virginia Cooperative Extension Director, VT dean, receives Distinguished Service Ruby Award

Virginia Cooperative Extension Director Ed Jones has recently received the 2021 Distinguished Service Ruby Award, the most prestigious level of recognition from Epsilon Sigma Phi, one of the oldest organizations of Extension professionals.

The award is a reflection of Jones's dedication to and focus on the land-grant model, which in Virginia delivers the resources and knowledge of the commonwealth's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University.

"I am extremely hum-

bled to receive this honor," Jones said. "I have believed in the mission of Extension since my first interactions with it as a young boy growing up in Mercer County, Ill. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with so many talented and kind people who share in this belief that we can make a positive impact in our communities. This award is truly a reflection of the incredible members of Cooperative Extension with whom I have worked. Without the dedication of everyone in Extension, we would not be in the strong position we are today."

Jones was an Extension specialist and administrator across the Southeast before he became the director of Virginia Cooperative Extension and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

at Virginia Tech in 2011. During his tenure in Virginia, he has expanded Extension's reach and scope and helped provide its renowned services to the people of the commonwealth when they needed them most.

The Ruby Distinguished Service Award of Epsilon Sigma Phi is reserved for the most accomplished leaders of Cooperative Extension.

Jones forged his leadership style while he worked as the associate director of Extension at North Carolina State University. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd triggered the third-largest weather-related evacuation in the United States at the time, devastating communities along the East Coast. It was then, as he worked with the state of North Carolina to help with recovery, that Jones learned how to lead during major crises.

His leadership abilities

are nationally known and recognized, including his service as chair of the Extension Disaster Education Network from 2004 through 2006; as a member of the Leadership Advisory Council of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy from 2009 to 2010; as a member of the National 4-H Council Board of Trustees from 2017 to 2020; as the chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy 4-H Leadership Committee from 2014 to 2017; and the chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy from 2018 to 2019. His service was recognized with the Excellence in Leadership Award from the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors in 2020.

Jones has been an integral part of authoring or co-authoring publi-

cations, including some 15 peer-reviewed publications and proceedings dealing with wildlife, natural resources management, and leadership. He also helped secure more than \$7 million in grants and awards for research and Extension work over the course of his career.

He has provided leadership to international Extension efforts in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kenya, and Russia.

Jones has a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Washington and a master's and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in fisheries and wildlife science. He has held leadership positions in the Extension Disaster Education Network, the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, and the Southern Region Program Leader Network.



Virginia Cooperative Extension Director Ed Jones, who is also the associate dean of VT's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has received the 2021 Distinguished Service Ruby Award, the most prestigious level of recognition from Extension professionals.

# Christiansburg finance department receives excellence award

The Town of Christiansburg's finance department has received the 2021 Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Certificate of Excellence in Citizen-Centric Reporting (CCR). AGA's CCR initiative is intended to simplify communication between governments and its citizens.

Intended to help citizens better understand the services provided by their governments, the CCRs are visually appealing four-page documents that include community information such as population figures, regional characteristics, and government goals for the community. Additionally, these reports feature detailed cost and

revenue information, performance information for key service areas, and a look at "what's next" in the year ahead.

"In today's era of tight budgets, choices must be made and governments must be transparent to citizens about their decisions. CCRs are a useful tool in helping Americans become more active and better-informed voters," said AGA CEO Ann Ebberts. "AGA applauds The Town of Christiansburg Finance department's commitment to good government and responsible fiscal action reflected in the CCR they produced on behalf of the finance department. CCRs help citizens better understand the services provided by their govern-

ment and at what cost."

The finance department teamed up with the Town of Christiansburg's public relations department to ensure creative,

innovative and comprehensible communication through the CCR. Citizens may pick up a copy of the town's CCR at the town Finance Depart-

ment to check out the town's mission, vision, goals, and financial and

performance metrics for Christiansburg's last fiscal year.

**Kid's Open House  
Bowling Day**  
Sat. September 11th

**KID'S - RESERVE YOUR LANE!!**  
For one hour of free bowling  
**10am-3pm (shoes included)**  
Bring family or friends  
**Up to 8 bowlers per lane**

Limit one hour per person  
**Call 382-5525**  
for more information

**game time**  
AT THE  
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[www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)

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- Right of Way & Land Clearing
- Stream & Pond Services
- Light Excavating/Grading
- Pipe & Culvert Cleaning
- Rock & Stump Removal
- Crane Services
- Bucket Truck Services
- Underground Utilities
- Storm Water Management
- Site Prep • Small Job Specialty



**APX Services LLC**  
540-566-6920

# OPINION

# Buddy King: "Matriculation"

Fifty years ago this month (September of 1971) I "matriculated." That's a word I would normally say I learned after I had done it, but I'm pretty sure that my dad had taught me the word before I actually did it, and he probably had told me that someday I was going to do it. Got that?

Anyway, it's a good time to reflect on that long ago experience. I remember that my mom drove me up I-81 to I-64 and then down Afton Mountain to Charlottesville, C-Ville, the Hook, destination UVA. We were accompanied by my great friend John (about to start his sophomore year at Tech) and his mother, my mom's best friend.

Looking back in my mind for material for this column, I remembered that my dad didn't make the trip with us. I don't have any recollection as to why he didn't, but my guess is that he was playing in a golf tournament at Round Meadow and also wanted to miss my mother's blubbing when she left her only child behind. Wise choice on his part, and he knew he would see plenty of the U and me over the next several years. I will say that I didn't want to miss "move-in day" with either of my girls.

My strongest memory is of carrying bags across the street to my dorm - Tuttle House - in 100-degree heat

(I really don't think you have ever lived on a college campus unless the temperature is 100 degrees the day you move in. I think it's mandated somewhere.) I saw a girl in a halter top, and I heard Maggie May blaring from a speaker on the porch of my future residence, experiencing each for the first time. Each made a lasting impression on me.

I got to repeat this experience with my daughter Beth 30 years later at the U and with my other daughter Laura four years after that at Washington & Lee. Each time the thermometer verified the event, college move-in day, at 100 degrees.

When daughter Beth was accepted and decided to "matriculate" to my alma mater, much to my delight, I asked her if she was going to live in the "new dorms" (Tuttle was a "new dorm") or the old dorms. She said, "Dad, they don't call them that anymore." My first hint that maybe things had changed in 30 years.

A few years ago, I was back on "grounds" (what we call the campus at UVA) with a friend who had never visited. I was doing my tour-guide narrative as we walked towards the football stadium, and I pointed across the street and said, "there's Tuttle House, the place I lived my first year."

Only, it wasn't. Gone. Confused, I crossed the street and tried to orient myself.

The university apparently had decided to take out a few of the "new dorms," including mine, amazingly without consulting with me first, putting in their place what I think is a cafeteria. No more 144 Tuttle, no more post office on the first floor where everyone in the "new dorms" got their mail. No more Glass Hat next door where you could buy lunch and beer.

Just as it should be mandatory that it be 100 degrees the day you move into your first dorm room, it should also be required that your dorm remain intact until you pass away and no longer need to point it out to kids and grandkids and friends.

My roommate my first year was my great friend, Bob, a fellow Christiansburg High alum and pal since grade school. He and I and three other CHS classmates (Spencer, Russell, and Bruce) were the first Christiansburg kids to matriculate to Virginia since Cousin Joe had done so in 1958 with the exception of a nursing student or two.

Over the summer Bob and I had decided on the magazines to which we would subscribe. Probably Bob's idea. He didn't want us to "double up." In keeping with our individual

predilections and interests, Bob subscribed to Time, U.S. News and World Report and Life for our leisure reading, and I subscribed to Sports Illustrated, National Lampoon, and Playboy. Yes, Bob and I were a tad bit different, but we were, and remain to this day, best of friends.

The last publication mentioned above, the one that involved pictures of young ladies, ended up a point of controversy the next summer. I hadn't realized that the university would automatically forward our mail home after the school year had ended. So, my Playboy subscription made the circuitous route from Chicago to 144 Tuttle to 120 Cherry Lane. My mother was "so embarrassed" that our mail man Mr. Brillheart "was forced to see that magazine" that she made me call and cancel the subscription. Personally, I bet Mr. Brillheart was not happy with my mom's decision.

The "new dorms" had a different layout than traditional dorms of that era. Tuttle had suites with small central living areas with five double rooms opening off the living areas. The makeup of the residents of our suite was the quintessential UVA demographic mix of that time. We had two guys from Virginia Beach (John and Thorny, each a

hybrid of surfer dude and aspiring hippy), two guys from Northern Virginia (Dave and Rich, children of federal government workers, aspiring to become the same), two from upstate New York (Larry and Dave, children of parents on the faculty at Colgate, serious students, socially as backwards as Bob and I, one becoming an Air Force pilot after school and the other a member of the original and infamous UVA Pep Band while in school), and Bob and me (public school goobers from the mountains who had always wanted to attend the U and were just darn glad to be there even if we didn't fit in).

The fifth room was occupied by the coolest guy in the history of the University, Jim, a third-year and our R.A. He had a cavalier orange Volkswagen bug, he was also from the beach and he was a frat brother and friend of Barry Parkhill, an All-American basketball player at the U. Our dorm being co-ed, and the floor above us housing women, Jim soon picked the most beautiful girl in the dorm as his roommate, a shocking development to a boy from Christiansburg who didn't really date in high school that cemented Jim's status with me.

Jim went on to marry his

See King, page 5

## News Messenger

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## WalletHub: Virginia is eighth hardest-working state in the country

As the personal finance website WalletHub notes, Americans are hard workers, putting in an average of 1,767 hours per year as of 2021, according to the World Economic Forum. That's 435 hours per year more than Germans work, but 357 fewer than Mexicans do.

To locate the states with the hardest workers, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 10 key indicators. The website then divided the metrics into two dimensions: direct work factors and indirect work factors. WalletHub then determined each state's weighted average across all metrics to calculate its overall score and used the resulting scores to rank the states.

Virginia emerged as the eighth

hardest-working state in the union. Among the factors that played into the commonwealth's high ranking were average workweek hours, 15th; average commute time, 8th; employment rate, 13th; share of workers with multiple jobs, 22nd; annual volunteer hours per resident, 9th; and average leisure time spent per day, 20th.

The metrics used in the direct work factors dimension to determine the states' rankings were average workweek hours, employment rate, the share of households where no adults work, the share of workers using vacation time unused, the share of engaged workers, and idle youth.

The metrics used in the indirect

work factors dimension to determine the states' rankings were average commute time, the share of workers of multiple jobs, the annual volunteer hours per resident, and the average leisure time spent per day.

The seven states that the website determined to work harder than the commonwealth's citizens were 1. Alaska 2. North Dakota. 3. Nebraska 4. South Dakota 5. Texas 6. Wyoming and 7. Oklahoma.

The ten states that wound up at the bottom of the rankings were 41. Massachusetts 42. New Jersey 43. Illinois 44. Oregon 45. Michigan 46. Rhode Island 47. Connecticut 48. New York 49. West Virginia and 50. New Mexico.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

## Financial Focus: Review your IRA, 401(k) beneficiaries

If you've had an IRA and a 401(k) for many years, you may occasionally ask yourself some questions: "Am I contributing enough?" "Am I still funding these accounts with the right mix of investments for my goals and risk tolerance?"

But here's one inquiry you might be overlooking: "Have I used the correct beneficiary designations?" And the answer you get is important.

It wouldn't be surprising if you haven't thought much about the beneficiary designation. After all, it was just something you once signed, possibly a long time ago. Is it really that big a deal?

It could be. For one thing, what if your family circumstances have changed since you named a beneficiary? If you've remarried, you may not want your former spouse to receive your IRA and 401(k) assets or the proceeds of your life insurance policy, for which you also named a beneficiary.

However, upon remarrying, many people do review their estate plans, including their wills, living trusts, durable powers of attorney, and health care directives. If you've revised these documents, do you have to worry about the old beneficiary designations? You might be surprised to learn that these previous designations can supersede what's in your updated will and other documents. The end result could be an "accidental" inheritance in which your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone who is no longer in your life.

Furthermore, your retirement plans and insurance policy may not just require a single beneficiary. You may also be asked to name a contingent beneficiary to whom assets will pass if the primary beneficiary has already died. As you can imagine, the situation could become quite muddled if stepchildren

are involved in a remarriage.

To avoid these potential problems, make sure to review the beneficiary designations on all of your accounts at some point, especially after a significant change in your family situation. If you see something that is outdated or incorrect, contact your retirement account administrator or your insurance representative in the case of life insurance to request a change-of-beneficiary form.

And if you really want to be on the safe side, you may want to enlist a legal professional to help you with this review to make sure the beneficiary designations reflect your current family situation and are consistent with what's in your estate plans.

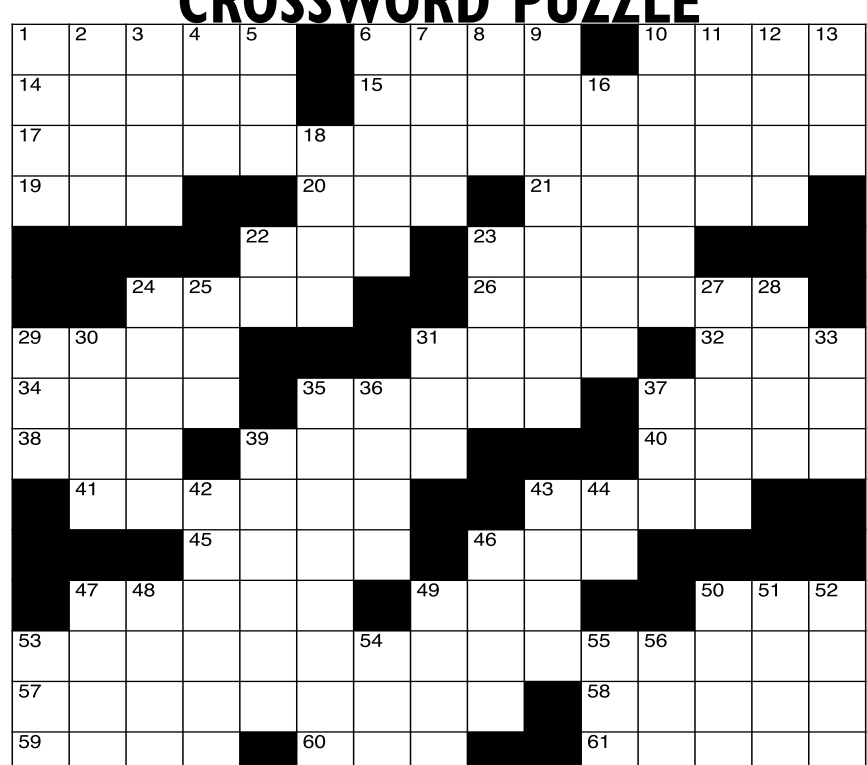
In fact, if you're already working with an experienced estate planning attorney – and you should – you might also pick up some other suggestions for dealing with beneficiaries. Just to name one, it's generally not a good idea to name minor children as beneficiaries. Because children can't control the assets until they become adults, a court would likely have to name a guardian, one that you might not have wanted.

Instead, you could either name your own custodian to manage the assets designated to the minor or establish a trust for the benefit of the minor, which can distribute the money in several disbursements over a period of years, which is often a good move, since young adults aren't always the best at managing large lump sums.

If you're like many people, you have a strong desire to leave something behind. But you'll want to do it in the right way. So pay close attention to your beneficiary designations when you first create them and throughout your life.

-Submitted by Meghan Kuczmariski, Edward Jones Financial Advisor 540-552-1241.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>CLUES ACROSS</p> <p>1. Secret clique</p> <p>6. Earliest in and out</p> <p>10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life</p> <p>14. Olfactory property</p> <p>15. Kidnapping</p> <p>17. Golf prize</p> <p>19. Helps little firms</p> <p>20. Cast a spell on</p> <p>21. Panama is one</p> <p>22. Dishonorable man</p> <p>23. Sea eagle</p> <p>24. Part of the healing process</p> <p>26. Vin's last name</p> <p>29. Wings</p> <p>31. Made older</p> <p>32. Political device</p> <p>34. Looks like a rabbit</p> <p>35. Gurus</p> <p>37. Philippine Island</p> | <p>38. Not or</p> <p>39. Hindu model of ideal man</p> <p>40. Exam</p> <p>41. Making less difficult</p> <p>43. Without</p> <p>45. Dravidian ethnic group</p> <p>46. A baglike structure</p> <p>47. Buenos Aires capital</p> <p>La</p> <p>49. Dab</p> <p>50. Singers who perform together</p> <p>53. Pirates' saying</p> <p>57. OK to allude to</p> <p>58. Somaliland diplomat</p> <p>59. Has to pay back</p> <p>60. Felix is one</p> <p>61. Intestinal pouches</p> <p>CLUES DOWN</p> <p>1. Harsh cries of a crow</p> <p>2. Type of horse</p> <p>3. ___ fide: authentic</p> | <p>4. Doctors' group</p> <p>5. Fugitives are on it</p> <p>6. Forged</p> <p>7. Wild goat</p> <p>8. Influential American president</p> <p>9. Calls for help</p> <p>10. Repents</p> <p>11. Palm tree with creeping roots</p> <p>12. Black powder used in makeup</p> <p>13. Happy New Year</p> <p>16. Stretched out one's neck</p> <p>18. Whale ship captain</p> <p>22. Atomic #20</p> <p>23. Border</p> <p>24. River that borders India and Nepal</p> <p>25. After B</p> <p>27. Fencing swords</p> <p>28. Where researchers work</p> | <p>29. Expression of satisfaction</p> <p>30. Broadway actor Nathan</p> <p>31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove</p> <p>33. A way to eliminate</p> <p>35. Type of tree resin</p> <p>36. Russian river</p> <p>37. Children's TV network</p> <p>39. Troublemaker</p> <p>42. Averts or delays</p> <p>43. Self-immolation by fire ritual</p> <p>44. It cools your home</p> <p>46. Satisfy to the fullest</p> <p>47. Stinks!</p> <p>48. Popular board game</p> <p>49. Attack by hurling</p> <p>50. A vale</p> <p>51. Type of acid</p> <p>52. Tasmania's highest mountain</p> <p>53. No seats available</p> <p>54. Licensed for Wall Street</p> <p>55. Family of genes</p> <p>56. Constrictor snake</p> |
|---|---|---|--|

# OBITUARIES

## Bishop, Vleda Diane McCoy

Vleda Diane McCoy Bishop, 65, passed away Friday, Aug. 27, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Betty McCoy; her husband, James "Jim" Randolph Bishop; and a sister, Sheree McCoy Sartin.

Survivors include her son, Mark Barnes; a daughter, Christina Barnes Shephard; grandchildren



Nathan, Lakin, and Eryn; Aunt Doty; cousins Greg, Rusty, and Vivian; special friends Jill, Becky, and Debbi; and many other relatives and friends.

Per her request, there will be no services.

The Bishop family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Collins, Edna Thomas

Edna Thomas Collins, 93, of Radford, passed away Friday, Aug. 27, 2021.

She was a member of Central United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Charley and Annie Thomas; her husband, William Harold Collins; a son, George E. Collins; and a daughter, Nancy Wallace.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, William Harold, Jr., and Mary Collins of Dublin; daughter-in-law Jennifer Collins of Radford; son-in-law Bill Wallace of Radford; brother and sister-in-law James and Edith Thomas;



four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin with Pastor Don Smith officiating.

The family requested sympathy and love be shown through kind words and eye contact. Social distancing and masks were requested.

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

## Cox, Julie Christian Gusler

Julie Christian Gusler Cox, 53, went to be with Jesus and her daddy on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021.

Julie was the most wonderful mommy, wife, daughter, and sister anyone could hope for. She always put everyone ahead of herself. She truly had a servant's heart. She loved her Jesus.

Julie longed to see her daddy, Allen Gusler, who is already in Heaven.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Anthony Cox; a son Adam Cox; her mother, Claudia Gusler; a sister,



Heather Flynn (Michael); her mother-in-law, Vada H. Cox; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford with Pastor Nathan Williams and Pastor Curtis McKee officiating.

Julie will be placed beside her daddy in the Appalachian Pentecostal Conference Cemetery in Dublin.

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

## Keene, Wanda Faye

Wanda Faye Keene, 70, of Dublin died Friday, Aug. 27, 2021.

She was born on June 26, 1951, to the late Marvin and Helen Duncan Dickerson. She was also preceded in death by her infant son, Douglas Price, Jr.; and a sister, Peggy Crawford.

She is survived by her longtime boyfriend, Doug Price; sons and daughters-in-law, Chris and Lisa Keene, Shawn and Melissa Keene, and Matthew and



Amy Price; grandchildren Abby, Eli, Melanie, Payton, Sophia, Ethan, and Addison; and sisters Phyllis Harless, Janice Hinkley, Carolyn Price, and Sharon Webster.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Aug. 30, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor T. Michael Bond and Mr. Chris Brandow officiating.

Interment followed in the Highland Memory Gardens, Dublin.

## Montgomery, Steven Douglas

Steven Douglas Montgomery, 71, of Dublin, passed away Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021.

He was a member of Little Vine Community Church in Sylvatus and was retired from Lowe's. Steven was a U. S. Air Force veteran.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Deward and Phyllis Montgomery.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Michelle Montgomery; a daughter and son-in-law, Christy Nichole and J. D. Caudill of Hillsville; a son and daughter-in-law, Seth David and Sarah Mont-

gomery of Dublin; grandchildren Jacob Whitaker, Aislinn Grace Montgomery and Skyler Jackson Montgomery; a brother, Gary Montgomery of Hillsville; sisters and brothers-in-law Rebecca and John Carlson of Eagle, Idaho, and Susan and Mitch Dalton of Hillsville; and many other relative and friends.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The Montgomery family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## Phillips, Diane Nester

A wonderful life remembered. Diane Nester Phillips was a wonderful sister, a loving wife, a terrific mother, and caring grandmother. A compassionate woman, she chose a career helping others, becoming an ER nurse and a pediatric nurse and finishing a career in service as a billing specialist with NRV Pediatrics until her retirement.

She recently celebrated her golden anniversary with the love of her life, Johnnie Dean Phillips. She had many great adventures, traveling to New York City, an Alaskan cruise, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Florida.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Johnnie Dean Phillips, her son, Brian James Phillips and his wife Christa Thomas Phillips; her daughter, Deanna Leigh Phillips and her wife Leslie Anne Puntillo; grandchildren Jonathan William Phillips, Matthew Alexander Phillips, Cheyenne Sage Watashe, Carl Gene



Akins, and Casey Lyne Finau; and great-grandchildren Landon Gene Finau, Santino Alexander Akins, Annaliese Malia Finau, and Annabelle Marie Akins; and her loving sister Linda Atkinson. She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and lifelong friends.

Diane was preceded in death by her father, James Milton Nester, and her mother Reva Turpin Nester, and a grandson, Scott Alex Estes.

Services will be private. In the spirit of helping others, in lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please make a small donation in Diane Phillips's name to the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, who were always great to assist when called. Christiansburg Rescue, 100 East Main St, Christiansburg VA 24073.

The Phillips family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia. [www.mullinsfuneralhome.com](http://www.mullinsfuneralhome.com).

## King from page 4

Tuttle House roommate, Susanne, and from what I can tell on Facebook, they have a wonderful, successful family, made up of incredibly good-looking kids and grandkids, including a son who is a television star (The O.C., Nashville, and Grey's Anatomy) and country music singer and resembles both his rents (what the cool kids called their parents in my college days).

Another memory of Jim. He had a car and he was 21, two things lacking among his wards in our suite and the adjoining suite for which he also had responsibility. In keeping with the mores and habits of the time, Jim taped an envelope on the back door of the entrance to our suite for our weekend "alcohol orders." You would write your order down on a slip of paper and insert it and your cash in the envelope. Everyone knew Jim made his liquor run at 3 p.m. every Friday. Standard operating procedure.

Everyone also knew there was a guy in a nearby dorm who sold "lids" - plastic bags full of pot. He left his room unlocked, and his customers were on the honor system, picking up their bags and leaving their cash. As an aspiring law student and also living in mortal fear of my dad's reaction if I had been arrested, I didn't partake myself, but I went to this guy's room a couple of times with friends just to witness the act. Thus were the college

days of the 70's.

Other early memories included a huge "first night" Welcome to Virginia keg party for 2,400 incoming students, hosted by the U, despite the fact that the legal drinking age was 21 and none of us were, sleeping out in the basketball arena, U Hall, to get tickets for the first basketball game of the season, against Maryland and Lefty Driesell and the top recruiting class in the country, (We blew them out!) and pledging a frat and being told I needed to wear a coat and tie to initiation, (I had one coat with me, brown mustard yellow in color, and one tie, five and 1/2 inches wide and striped. The tie doubled as a table cloth in my apartment in future years.), unlimited chocolate milk and potatoes in Newcomb Hall (the cafeteria), and no longer playing sports, leading to the "freshman 20."

Some memories stick with you for 50 years. Good luck to those HOO who are matriculating this year. Make great memories, but be safer than we were back in the day.

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

## Cohort from page 1

ter Exley. "When architects work alongside city leaders to solve a reuse or retrofit challenge, the result can not only reduce environmental impact but equitably serve the surrounding community."

The Town of Blacksburg will receive technical assistance with final written recommendations from an architect and up to \$5,000 to cover necessary city staff time, inclusive engagement tools, and supplies. The project will kick off in September and last approximately six months.

"Mayors and their cities are on the front lines of many of today's most pressing challenges," said Katya


Spear, Managing Director of the Mayors Innovation Project. "We're delighted for this opportunity to support these cities around green design. Every city has vacant and underused spaces like the ones being featured in this project, and this effort will offer models that cities across the country can use."

"The fact is, buildings create about 40% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, but architects can design them not to," Exley said. "By reimagining an underused, vacant, or deteriorating building, these projects will help these cities address the urgent needs climate change presents."

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

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**Terms** - Bidding opens on August 26th. 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Buyers are expected to complete due diligence prior to bidding. Earnest Money Deposit of \$150,000 required on day of sale. Close in 60 Days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is where is any and all faults. Auction starts ending at 4 PM on September 9th 2021. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes.

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**General Information**

**Notice**  
563 Bobblets Gap Rd., Botetourt County is Posted. Owner.

**ADVERTISE!**

**Help Wanted - Clerical**

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The Administrative Assistant is responsible for performing a variety of secretarial and administrative duties in support of the efficient and effective operation of the TAP Early Head Start Program. This person staffs the front office and serves as one of the first contacts for clients and visitors that seek program services.

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**Help Wanted - Clerical**

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□ Ability to plan and prioritize tasks in order to meet deadlines.  
□ Demonstrated skill in oral and written communication given in the English Language.  
□ Learn job related materials primarily through oral instruction and observation. This learning takes place mainly in an on the job training setting.  
□ Must be a good team player.  
□ Two years of college coursework or business related curriculum  
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For a full job description please visit Indeed.com or at our website [www.tapintohope.org](http://www.tapintohope.org)

Must be able to adjust work schedule as needed. Complete background required. Salary: \$15.00-\$21.68 per Hour. Submit cover letter and resume

**Help Wanted - Clerical**

to: TAP, Human Resources, Job Code: TAA-EHS/HS, PO Box 2868, 302 2nd St., Roanoke, VA 24001-2868 or fax to 540-345-1944

Applicant email address is required for response concerning this job. For more information about this job and to apply online: See our website: [www.tapintohope.org](http://www.tapintohope.org) TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilinguals encouraged to apply.

**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)

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Design, develop, & document board level hardware design from proof-of-concept through to production. MS+2 yrs exp req'd. Mail resumes to Intuitive Surgical Operations, Attn: Hien Nguyen, 1020 Kifer Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Must reference job title & job code.

**Legals - City of Radford**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION TO VACATE A PORTION OF UNIMPROVED HARVEY STREET IN THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2006, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on September 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment regarding an application filed by Michael "Kevin" and Molly Entekin to vacate a portion of the unimproved Harvey Street right-of-way located at the intersection of Ninth Street. The vacation request concerns a total area of approximately .204 acres.

Any person affected by the proposed vacation may appear and be heard at the public hearing. Copies of the application, together with the plat of the proposed vacation, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia.

**VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF RADFORD**

THE CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-6456** Plaintiff, V. COLE-PHILLIPS BUILDING CO., and MICHAEL H. COLE and PARTIES UNKNOWN, any heirs, devisees, and successors in title, including Successors in interest of Cole Phillips Building Co., A General Partnership collectively made Defendants, Defendant(s).

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
The object of this suit is to order abatement of nuisance or allow for razing

**Legals - City of Radford**

of a structure owned by Cole Phillips Building Co., and located at 103 Polk Street in the City of Radford, Virginia, and enforce a lien for the costs of the same. An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named partnership, made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before September 24, 2021, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered: 7/22/2021  
Melissa White  
Circuit Court Clerk/Judge  
City of Radford, Virginia

I Ask For This:  
Michael R. Bedsaul, Esq. (WSB # 41273)  
Mary Foil Russell (VSB No. 46440)  
Sands Anderson PC  
P.O. Box 2009  
Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009  
540-260-9011 (phone)  
540-260-0022 (facsimile)

**Legals - City of Salem**

**Pursuant to the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act**

of 1994, 12 U.S.C. Chapter 38A and the Secretary's Foreclosure Commissioner designation, a COMMISSIONER'S SALE of 1407 Longview Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 (Short Legal Description: LT 6 BLK 3 SEC 1 MIDDLETON GARDENS) will occur at public auction outside the main entrance to the building of the Circuit Court of Salem, VA located at 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153-7933 on September 9, 2021 at 11:00 AM, pursuant to a default of a note secured by a deed of trust executed by Calvin C. Overstreet by Nellie C. Overstreet, his attorney in fact, and Nellie C. Overstreet recorded 2/10/2012, in the Circuit Court for Salem, VA, as Instrument No. 120000317, and the Assignment in favor of the Secretary of HUD recorded 1/18/2018, in the Circuit Court for Salem, VA as Instrument No. 180000119. TERMS OF SALE can be reviewed by the recorded notice of default on file with the Salem Circuit Court for which all terms are incorporated herein into this notice. A 10% deposit is immediately required for winning bidder in certified funds. Anderson Law, 2492 N. Landing Rd, #104, Va Beach, VA 23456, <http://www.virginialawoffice.com/hud> Run date 8/19/2021, 8/26/2021, and 9/2/2021

**Public Notice Environmental Permit**

CORRECTION TO PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notice was published on August 26, 2021, seeking public comment and announcing two public hearings on (1) a draft permit (VWPP No. 21-0416) from the State Water Control Board that would allow Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC to fill wetlands and streams in Giles, Craig, Montgomery, Roanoke, Franklin, and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia and (2) the Board's intent to provide Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the activities authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That notice erroneously stated the public comment period would end October 13, 2021. The correct public comment period is from August 28, 2021 to October 27, 2021. CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Steve Hardwick; Central Office, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218; Phone: 804-698-4168; E-mail: [MVP@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:MVP@deq.virginia.gov); Fax: (804) 698-4032. The public may review the draft permit and application on

**Legals - City of Salem**

the DEQ website at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/get-involved/topics-of-interest/mountain-valley-pipeline/fsiste-1>. The public may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to Section 22.1-29.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended to date, notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Salem will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m., September 13, 2021, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia, to receive views of citizens within the Salem School District regarding appointments to fill the expiring terms ending 12/31/2021 of two members on the City of Salem School Board. All candidates seeking appointment must submit a letter of interest and resumé to the Deputy Clerk of Council. Submissions are requested by noon on Friday, September 10, 2021, however in all cases must be submitted prior to the closing of this public hearing. Candidates may be interviewed individually by City Council.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
H. Robert Light  
Clerk of Salem City Council

**Notice is hereby given to**

all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on September 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Salem Building Supply, Inc., contract purchaser, and PHC of Virginia, Inc., property owner, for rezoning the property located at 405 Kimball Avenue (Tax Map # 235-1-2) from RMF Residential Multi-Family District with proffered condition to RMF Residential Multi-Family District without conditions.

2. Hold public hearing to consider the request of Salem Ministers Conference Community Food Pantry, contract purchaser, and Trustees God's Church of Deliverance and Power, property owner, for the issuance of a Use Not Provided For Permit to allow the relocation of the Salem Food Pantry to the property located at 829 Indiana Street (Tax Map # 186-1-5).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of the City Planner, Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia.

At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA  
BY  
James E. Taliaferro, II  
Executive Secretary

**Legals - Craig County**

**Notice of Public Sale**

Notice is hereby given that Storage Kind USA 201 Berkley Rd.NE. Roanoke VA 24012 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (Virginia Statute 55). The sell will take place at the website Storage Treasures.com on 09/14/2021 at 9:00 am. The sale will be conducted on Storage Treasures.com, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (2907004316) on the behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on Storage Treasures.com. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 15% buyer's premium will be charged as well as a \$ 100

**Legals - Craig County**

cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. 308-Robert Newman-Household goods: 068-Enchante Cruse-household goods: 253-Ashley Wright-household goods: 240-Stephanie Camer-household good: 239-Carlisha Eloi-household goods: 069,029-Katheryn Ferrell-household goods: 081-Cara Thomas-household goods: 251-Jeremy Hayes-household goods: 222-RobertAmes-household goods: 261-Dorothy Wimmer-household goods: 185-Jeremy Meador-household goods: 011-Amy Gear-household goods: 223-Christen Tuckwiller-household goods.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 14, 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. 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.

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) townhouse 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. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at [www.christiansburg.org/you tube](http://www.christiansburg.org/you tube) 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 applications, 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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Virginia Department of Transportation

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Salem Residency which includes the counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig during the winter of 2021-2022. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment.

Contractors must submit their application on the electronic M7B bidding site at <https://www.plow4va.com/>. All new and returning Contractors must be active in the Virginia eProcurement Portal (eVA) in order to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://eva.virginia.gov>).

Applications received by 7:00 PM on Friday September 24, 2021 may be eligible for a mobilization bonus. See the EVA posting for additional information, including contract requirements.

Questions can be directed to the Salem Residency from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday. Phone: 540-387-5497. Email: [SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:SalemDistrictSnow@vdot.virginia.gov)

EEO/AA Employer

**VDOT**  
Virginia Department of Transportation

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES WITH OPERATOR SIGNUP**

The Virginia Department of Transportation invites heavy equipment owners to sign up for the rental of their equipment with operators for SNOW & ICE REMOVAL purposes in Christiansburg Residency which includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski during the winter of 2021-2022. Price per hour shall include operators, fuel, tire chains, supplies and required insurance. VDOT will need dump trucks, pickups with plows, motorgraders, backhoes, dozers, track loaders, tractors, rubber-tire loaders and farm tractors. All equipment shall be equipped for night work and be in good mechanical condition to ensure a safe and dependable 24/7 operation. VDOT reserves the right to determine acceptability of equipment size and condition for the task. Contractors submitting prices meeting the requirements of the Agreement may be contracted with and may be eligible to receive a mobilization payment.

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EEO/AA Employer

# Warm Hearth Foundation's cheeseburger event raised more than \$34,000 for seniors in need

The recent Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise event, a joint project of Warm Hearth Village (WHV) and the Warm Hearth Foundation raised more than \$34,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, and a silent auction. The money went to help seniors on the Warm Hearth Village campus who needed help with housing and medical costs.

The ToneZ, a beach music band out of North Carolina, set the tone with beach music and classic favorites while guests enjoyed a cheeseburger throwdown competition with Hethwood Market, Holiday Inn New River Valley Mall, and Red Robin. This year's

event was redesigned so that supporters could join in the fun while keeping their distance and staying safe. It featured two separate seatings and plenty of room outdoors to spread out.

Hethwood Market, participating for the eighth year, won the People's Choice Award for the fifth time for best cheeseburger with their signature Southern Market Burger: a perfectly cooked beef patty, fried pickles, and pimiento cheese on a soft slider bun with a sweet and spicy aioli.

Hannah Close received the award on behalf of Hethwood Market and owner Scott Sink.

"It was an honor to be chosen this year's win-

ner," Sink said. "It is a credit to our staff and to the community support we are fortunate to have. Working with events and groups like Warm Hearth is important to our business and we look forward to continuing the relationship in the future."

Local businesses, community supporters, and WHV residents donated 61 packages to the silent auction that included works by local and resident artisans. The auction alone raised more than \$6,000.

Warm Hearth Village residents Mike and Martha Jobst attended the event for the first time. "We'd heard about this for years, but this was the first year we were here to attend," Martha

said. "It was wonderful for people to be together and feel the camaraderie. The band was superb and many people enjoyed dancing. The silent auction was great. It was fun to have it online and see what you wanted ahead of time. Then we saw the items on site and competed for them. Drama to the end and all for the common purpose of supporting seniors in need."

"We had a record year and thanks to our fantastic community we will be able to support the seniors on our campus who need help with housing and medical costs. It was rewarding to see everyone having such a good time together," said Amy Slone, Associate Direc-

tor of Development. Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in

Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.



Hannah Close with Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise's People's Choice Award on behalf of Hethwood Market and owner Scott Sink. The event was held at Warm Hearth Village.

## Marston from page 1

long after graduating from high school in his native Lynchburg and after graduating from Virginia Tech.

In 2016, while watching the Paralympics on television, he learned that athletes with cerebral palsy were eligible for competition. Intrigued, he started researching the topic in depth and submitted a form to USA Paratriathlon for more information.

"I didn't hear anything, so I didn't think anything of it," Marston said.

In June of 2019 — three years later — he received a call from Gavin Shulock, an event services coordinator for USA Triathlon. Shulock invited Marston to a Paratriathlon Talent Identification Camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., that August. He was unable to explain the three-year delay in responding to Marston's initial inquiry.

Marston accepted the invitation. He wanted to be able to say that he had competed in a triathlon before going to the camp, so he signed up for one in Colonial Beach, Va., that July after receiving Shulock's invitation. He finished second in his classification, and it unleashed a transformation within him. He was hooked.

"I enjoyed doing it and enjoyed the overall aspect of all of it," Marston said. "It was an experience that I will never forget because it was not for the racing and seeing how fast I could go. It was for the pure pleasure of finding out if I could finish it and what it would be like if I could do it."

Marston attended the camp in Colorado Springs and fared well, but while undergoing a physical to pre-

pare, he learned from his physician about hemiplegia, a form of cerebral palsy. People with hemiplegia have limited use of one side of their bodies.

During this appointment, he heard the words "cerebral palsy" associated with himself for the first time.

"I was diagnosed at 9 months old that I had had a stroke at birth," Marston said. "So, that's what my mom and dad and everyone whom I talked to growing up knew. I had a stroke at birth, and that's why I am the way I am. I know what happened. I just never knew what the condition was."

According to DeLuca, doctors often refer to this condition as a stroke.

"Sometimes doctors are hesitant to use the term, 'cerebral palsy,'" she said. "They think there might be less of a stigma with the term 'stroke.'"

Regardless, Marston, who will be 41 in November, has refused to use his condition as an excuse not to strive for success in the athletics realm. Instead, cerebral palsy serves as additional motivation for him.

He strikes a balance as the assistant bridge engineer in Virginia for the Federal Highway Administration and his workouts. He trains daily, and typically, he does two events on the same day twice a week. He rides a specially modified bike, with the shifters and brakes on the left side as an accommodation for his weakened right side.

The constant training not only keeps him in good health, but also strengthens the weaker parts of his right side. His training serves as the intense physical therapy that doctors often prescribe for those with cerebral palsy.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Friday previews: Radford, Christiansburg pick up opening wins

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

What did we learn in the first week of high school football?

Well, Christiansburg's defense is tough to score on and will dictate the number of wins the team picks up this season. Blacksburg can run the ball and will have a chance for a win in at least half of its schedule. Auburn is young and will have to have a lot of players grow up quickly because the Mt. Empire District schedule has at least four possible playoff teams. Radford has reloaded for new coach Michael Crist, and Eastern Montgomery is looking for a leader to push them over the peak of the mountain.

A side note on a former Christiansburg standout: Matson Stanley has left Emory and Henry and is looking for a new football home.

This week's schedule:

Auburn (0-1) at Craig (0-1)

Craig took an 8-6 loss to Bland to open the season and its first game since 2019.

Auburn ran into a wall in a 26-0 loss to Narrows, the defending Pioneer District champ. Isaiah Keith and John Keith combined for 89 yards rushing in the loss.

Prediction: Auburn 12, Craig 10

Lord Botetourt (0-1) at Blacksburg (0-1)

Botetourt is going to be upset after a convincing loss last week to E.C. Glass, and Blacksburg might not be ready for what that means for their second game of the season.

The two schools agreed to move the game to Thursday night because of a rare Virginia Tech Friday game.

Blacksburg had a 21-7 lead going into the second half in last week's game with Giles, who rallied for a 28-21 win. Bryce Ferguson rushed 10 times for 93 yards with two touchdowns for the Bruins.

Prediction: Lord Botetourt 30, Blacksburg 7

Christiansburg (1-0) at Abingdon (1-0)

Two regional mates will find out who's the real bad dog. Abingdon would not move the Friday contest despite the fact of a Virginia Tech-North Carolina game on the same night.

Abingdon rolled in a 41-0 win over John Battle. Despite the loss of its senior quarterback to a broken leg, Abingdon took to the air for 197 and rushed for 149 yards. Senior running back Malique Hounshell tallied

scoring runs of 51 and six yards. 6-3 sophomore quarterback Lucas Brooks picked up the slack and hit 6-3 receiver Peyton McClanahan for a 20-yard score. 6-1 Haynes Carter and 5-11 Braiden Mock also had scoring catches. Hounshell finished with 93 yards in the win.

Christiansburg was sluggish in the first half but managed a 33-0 win over Floyd to start the 2021 season. The Blue Demons held Floyd to 52 yards rushing and picked off two passes enroute to the opening weekend win that was played on Saturday. Brady Gordon stripped the Floyd quarterback of a handout and ran it in from 21 yards as Christiansburg pulled away in the third quarter.

Kenyan Johnson-Buchannon scored twice and rushed 10 times for 80 yards. Travis Altizer added a touchdown reception from Casey Graham. Tanner Evans also picked up a score in the fourth quarter for the final margin.

Floyd was limited to 74 yards through the air.

Broadcast: 100.7 FM

Prediction: Christiansburg 28, Abingdon 10

Radford (1-0) at Gate City (0-1)

The two schools also moved their game because of Friday's Virginia Tech game. Radford will travel to Gate City on Saturday.

Gate City fell in their season opener 38-13 to Richlands after finishing the spring 2-5. The team returns only eight starters across both sides of the ball.

First-year Radford coach Michael Crist is no stranger to Gate City after spending the past five years at nearby Virginia High.

This past week, Radford's Marcell Baylor rushed eight times for 104 yards with two scores as the Bobcats beat Wyrthe 35-6. Tyrel Dobson added 66 yards on the ground.

Broadcast: 101.7 FM.

Prediction: Radford 30, Gate City 10

Rural Retreat (1-0) at Eastern Montgomery (0-1)

Rural Retreat outslugged county-rival Ft. Chiswell 12-7. Sophomore QB Caleb Roberts leads the Indians into this battle down US460.

Eastern Montgomery took a long trip to deep southwest Virginia and lost 38-0 to Holston. The Mustangs managed only 108 yards in total offense. The defense gave up 274 yards to the Holston rushing attack.

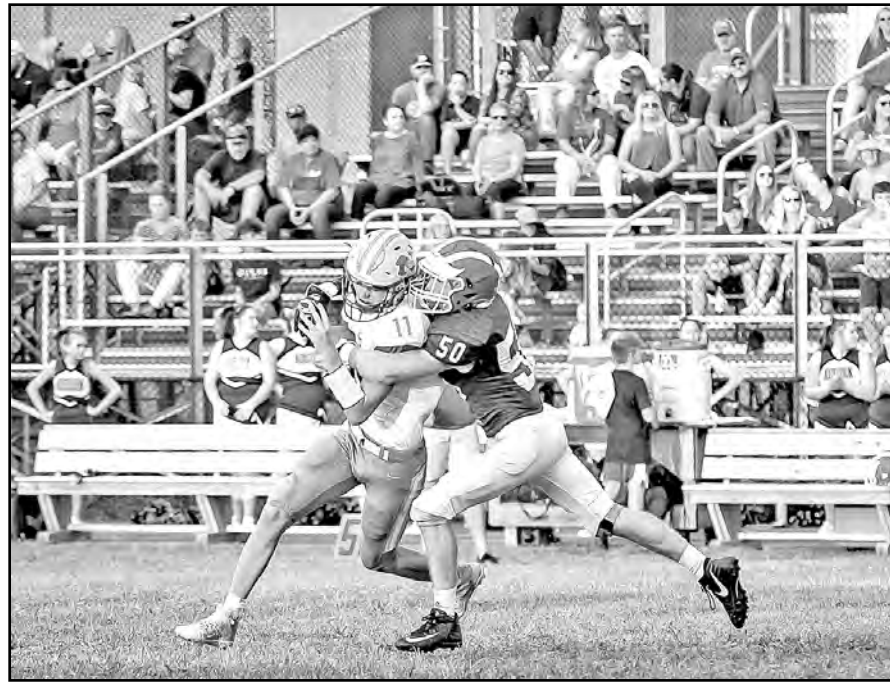
Prediction: Rural Retreat 40, Eastern Montgomery 6

## Auburn falls in opener

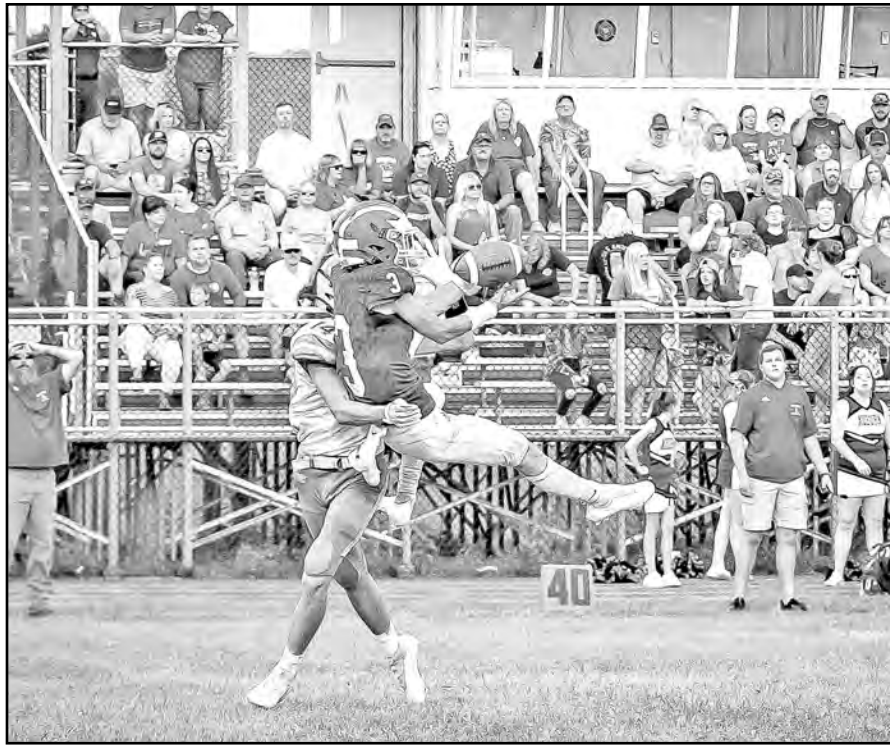


PHOTOS BY JAMES PERKINS

Auburn quarterback Landen Marrs fires the ball downfield in Friday's contest against Narrows. Auburn took the 26-0 loss to start the 2021 season.



Defensive end Jackson Brockman chases the Narrows quarterback out of the pocket for a rare sack in the opener in Riner.



Jackson Bain makes the leaping grab for Auburn for a big gain. Isaiah Keith and John Keith combined for 89 yards rushing in the loss.

## Hokies open Friday night against UNC



The countdown is two days left until Virginia Tech opens its 2021 football season.

The Hokie defense will be front and center in trying to stop North Carolina quarterback Sam Howell, who begins his third season at the controls of UNC's Air Raid attack, which set school records for total offense (537.2 yards per game) and points per game (41.7) in 2020. He has 68 career touchdown passes, more than any player in ACC history through two seasons, and is projected to be a first-round pick in next year's NFL draft.

Graduate transfer Ty Chandler, who rushed for 2,046 yards during four seasons at Tennessee, leads the Carolina running back room.

Carolina is predicted to win the Coastal Division over the Hokies and

face Clemson in the ACC championship game at the end of the season.

The Tar Heels are celebrating a commitment this past week from five-star defensive tackle Travis Shaw, the school's second-highest rated prospect in the history of the program. The 6-5, 310-pound Shaw from Greensboro, N.C., now moves the school's 2022 recruiting numbers from #13 in the ACC to third, behind only Florida State and Clemson.

Over his first three prep seasons Shaw has registered 57 stops behind the line of scrimmage and 17 sacks.

Notes on Friday's VT game:

Fans are encouraged to wear orange for the annual Orange Effect game.

The official Orange Effect shirt can be purchased online or at any Hokie Shop

location on game day.

As previously announced, all concession stands will move to cashless payment this year and will require a debit or credit card for purchase. Fans who do not have access to a card should consider buying a prepaid credit card at Kroger in advance of the game. On game day, there will be a limited number of prepaid credit cards available

See **Hokies**, page 10

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																
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# Hokie quarterbacks are thin on experience

## PLAYER TO WATCH

Braxton Burmeister is the only quarterback on the roster who started for the Hokies in 2020, posting a 3-1 record in those four games.

Burmeister's return sets up a rare situation during the Justin Fuente era where Tech presumably knows its projected 2021 starter heading into a preseason game. The Oregon transfer ended last season on a positive note, leading the Hokies to 33-15 victory over Virginia to reclaim the Commonwealth Cup. He threw for a career-high 212 yards in the win, completing 15 of 22 throws with a touchdown.

The La Jolla, Calif., native

also guided Tech to victories against NC State and Duke a year ago. With two years of experience in Tech's offense and a larger leadership role inside the locker room, Burmeister will look to continue the momentum from last season's finale into 2021.

## OTHERS IN THE MIX

Redshirt freshman Knox Kadum is the only other quarterback on the roster who has played in a game for the Hokies, doing so vs. Clemson last season. Kadum didn't blink when thrown into the fray against the eventual ACC champions. The Rome, Ga., native completed four of his six attempts for 68 yards and also

rushed for 24 yards.

Connor Blumrick was recommended to Tech's staff by Fuente's former offensive coordinator at Memphis and current Texas A&M offensive coordinator, Darrell Dickey. Blumrick was listed as a running back and also made a move to tight end his sophomore season for Jimbo Fisher, in addition to working on special teams. A prolific passer in high school, Blumrick's experience and versatility should be a plus for Tech's quarterback room. And of course, Tech's coaching staff is anxious to see highly-touted Tahj Bullock get on the field.

## POSITION NOTES

Burmeister completed the Hokies' longest pass of the 2020 season, a 60-yard touchdown to wide receiver Tayvion Robinson versus Virginia.

The Hokies had their most productive offensive outings in 2020 in the two games Burmeister started, racking up 495 yards in both the season opener vs. NC State and at North Carolina.

Burmeister led Tech to a season-high 8.5 yards per play average vs. NC State.

Burmeister accounted for the most yards of total offense of any returning Tech player after throwing for 687 yards and rushing for 182 more in 2020.

## POSITION OUTLOOK

All signs point to Burmeister being the Hokies starter vs. North Carolina on Sept. 3 in Lane Stadium, which will be the second straight season the Hokies turn to the California native to begin the season, just the second time in the Fuente era a quarterback has started back-to-back seasons (Josh Jackson, 2017-18).

Burmeister showed flashes of his potential and big play capability last season, and a full complement of spring practices working with offensive coordinator Brad Cornelsen has been beneficial. Kadum and Blumrick will be the top candidates to compete for the back-up role.

# Hokies

from page 9

in the Hokie Shop in the West concourse.

In adherence to Virginia Tech's current policy, masks are required, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor common areas, except for when fans are eating/

drinking. This specifically applies to hallways between suites and club spaces.

Gate 7 (behind the Beamer-Lawson Indoor Practice Facility) will now be a STUDENT-ONLY gate. Students who wish

to sit in the North end zone will need to get a wristband upon entry and these wristbands will be distributed only at Gate 7 until the area is at capacity. All other fans should make plans to enter Lane Stadium through a different gate.

In accordance with policies and the Virginia Tech campus plan to close the school at 2 p.m. on Friday, parking lots will not officially open until 3 p.m. that afternoon. Fans are encouraged not to arrive before noon on game day.

From 2-3 p.m., any car in gameday lots without a parking permit for game day will be towed.

If you arrive in the lot earlier in the day and your reserved space is open, feel free to park there immediately. No further action is required.

If you arrive in the lot earlier in the day and your reserved space is not open, park in an open spot in your assigned lot and move your car when your reserved space becomes available, but not after 3 p.m.

If you arrive after 3 p.m., you should not have any problem accessing your reserved space.

In the event that you do, a member of the guest services team in the parking lot will be available to assist you. Cars will be moved into the lots as quickly as possible, but expect delays on game day.

Public parking is available on game day for \$20 beginning at 3 p.m. in designated parking lots on campus. These include the Prices Fork Parking Garage, the North End Center Parking Garage, the Ag Quad Lot, and the Squires Lot.

Hokie Village returns in 2021 with a renewed commitment to Hokie Nation. Live music is planned for four games this season (9/3 vs. UNC, 10/9 vs. Notre Dame, 10/16 vs. Pitt, 10/23 vs. Syracuse). Fans can enjoy food trucks and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) all season long with some additional options available in the circle drive on the West Side of Cassell Coliseum. At various games throughout the season, fans will find a rock-climbing wall, a petting zoo, and a bungee trampoline.

Hokie Nation will be able to welcome the Hokies football team as they

arrive in Blacksburg once again this year. The buses will arrive on Beamer Way outside of Lane Stadium approximately 2.5 hours prior to kickoff.

The Marching Virginians will lead the March to Victory from the Marching Virginians Center to Lane Stadium approximately 75 minutes prior to kickoff. Joined by members of the HighTechs, the Corps of Cadets, and Skipper, the march will leave the Marching Virginians Center at the top of Chicken Hill and will wind through Lot 5 on to Sterrett Drive between Lots 2 and 3 and along the sidewalk outside of the South End Zone into Lane.

Also, a note on the Commonwealth Cup with the University of Virginia:

The rivalry between Virginia Tech Athletics and Virginia Athletics has a long and storied history dating back more than 125 years within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Hokies and Cavaliers first faced off on the gridiron in Charlottesville in 1895. First coined the Commonwealth Clash during the 2014-2015 season, the

rivalry has expanded and intensified across the 22 sports in which the two institutions face off in head-to-head competition.

Both institutions have announced the next era of the Commonwealth Clash through an expansive relationship with Smithfield Foods that will act as the presenting sponsor of the platform. With a fresh and redesigned trophy, both schools will seek to earn the distinction as Commonwealth Clash Champions.

"Virginia Tech is proud to align with the Smithfield brand as the Hokies and Cavaliers battle for overall sports supremacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Tech Director of Athletics Whit Babcock said. "The fan bases of both Tech and UVA are unquestionably passionate about these schools. Smithfield will serve as a great partner to further amplify the rich history of competition, sportsmanship, and tradition that has marked this rivalry for so many decades. We are excited to present the Commonwealth Clash in a fresh and exciting way thanks to Smithfield."

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