



## Christiansburg man convicted of murder denied parole; board cites reason for refusing Stephen Epperly's petition

The Virginia Parole Board announced Monday the denial of parole for 72-year-old William Michael Knowles, who is serving life plus 81 years.

Knowles was convicted in 1996 of first-degree murder, robbery and attempted aggravated murder of his daughter.

The board's decision stated: "Release at this time would diminish the seriousness of the crime" and concluded he should

serve "more of his sentence."

Knowles told the Montgomery County court he talked with angels who said for him to kill his wife, Angie. At the time, his attorneys argued he was mentally ill and should be convicted of a lesser charge. A circuit court jury didn't agree.

On the day of his sentencing, Knowles tried to cut his own throat with a disposable razor he had slipped into the courtroom.

Deputies were able to take the razor from him before he was able to do any damage. He later tried a similar incident with a pencil.

Details about the shooting were played out over a three-day trial. His daughter attempted to block the shotgun blast during the initial incident and suffered a gunshot wound.

Knowles had traveled out of the country and spent time in

Israel sending handwritten letters to the editor of several local newspapers.

Knowles testified that he had a religious conversion at age 16 and had conversed with angels at times since then. It was an angel, according to Knowles, that told him to make the Middle East trip. When he returned, he discovered his wife and children had moved out of his Christiansburg home.

Following the incident, Knowles even wrote a letter to then-newspaper columnist Ann Landers admitting to the killing. He later filed a suit against the columnist in federal court, saying she changed his words in the letter.

The former postal worker had pleaded not guilty but admitted to police that he shot his

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The Virginia Tech Helmet Ratings have helped protect millions of athletes and reshaped the football helmet industry in the process.

## Ten years of five-STAR ratings

Stefan Duma has told the story of Lester Karlin's phone call before. One day in 2009, Karlin — then the equipment manager for Virginia Tech Athletics — called him up "and asked what helmets I would recommend that he buy for the football team."

Two years later, Duma's lab published the first independent safety ratings for varsity football helmets. Ten years after that, what became the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab has rated protective headgear for six sports, and more are in the works. The ratings initiated a sea change in how sports equipment is designed and marketed, driving the development of better equipment by shifting the balance of information from companies to consumers.

Duma, the Harry Wyatt Professor of Engineering, had

already earned national recognition for his work in injury biomechanics. But he was the one Karlin called for helmet advice that day because, since 2003, the researcher had been working with football team physician Gunnar Broolinson, associate athletics director Mike Goforth, and then-head coach Frank Beamer to study head impacts in college football using a new kind of sensor that could be embedded directly in the players' helmets.

At a time when awareness of concussion was just surfacing as a serious problem in contact sports, these sensors gave researchers the first direct access to quantitative data about the forces players' heads were subjected to on the field. Duma had never evaluated the helmets themselves, though, and wasn't sure what

to tell Karlin.

But he was curious. So he went out and bought every model of varsity football helmet on the market and carted them back to the basement lab, then mostly devoted to Duma's auto safety research. Much of the floor space was occupied by a sled designed to simulate car crashes, but Duma and his team carved out space along the back wall for a drop tower that could reproduce football-style impacts with a dummy headform that plummeted like the blade of a guillotine down cables onto an anvil. Sensors hidden inside the head's rubbery blue casing recorded the hit.

Using the thousands of impacts they'd recorded on the field, Duma and a team of graduate students — led by

See Ratings, page 4

## During meeting, VT Board of Visitors approves design of Hitt Hall, discusses pandemic's impact and lessons learned

Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors concluded a three-day meeting Tuesday, Aug. 31, in which they engaged in discussions focused on current campus issues as well as setting a path for the future of the university.

During the meetings, board members approved the design preview and review of Hitt Hall, to be located in the North Academic District near West Campus Drive. The approximately 100,000-gross-square-foot, three-story facility will provide additional space for the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, add critical dining capacity, and include general assignment academic classroom, and collaboration space. The \$85 million project will be funded with \$25 million in gifts, \$13 million in internal lease funding, and \$47 million from auxiliary budgets.

Board members also received several reports and updates on the university's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monday, Navid Ghaffarzadegan, associate professor of industrial and systems engineering in the College of Engineering, presented his COVID-19 modeling work to the board and showed how mitigation strategies can impact the spread of the virus. He demonstrated how policy decisions such as vaccination or mask mandates could affect the transmission of the virus within the Virginia Tech community.

The board also approved naming the Blackwood Program in Real Estate in recognition of giving to the program by one of the university's most generous and involved families, which includes alumni couple Willis Blackwood '72 and Mary Nolen Blackwood '73 and their children, Morgan Blackwood Patel '02 and Nolen Blackwood '10. The Blackwood endowment will be used to enhance resources, including the recruitment of top faculty, supporting student experiential learning, bringing experts to campus for enhanced learning, and for diversity scholarships.

On Tuesday, board members received a report of the total financial impact on auxiliary services the pandemic caused last fiscal year. It was

noted that \$50.2 million in net loss occurred during the 2020-21 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) because of the pandemic. Despite the financial impact, the university budget was balanced through a variety of strategies, including one-time revenue savings, relief from indirect cost assessments, and relief from state and federal support.

Virginia Tech was able to distribute more than \$19.5 million in one-time federal student financial aid to university students last fiscal year.

Also on Tuesday, the board heard a report that 95 percent of all students and 88 percent of all employees have received a COVID-19 vaccine, and that of the initial 2,076 COVID-19 tests taken since Aug. 2, 31 students and one employee had positive tests.

Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke reported that this fall 81 percent of all undergraduate courses are fully in-person versus six percent last year. For those courses this fall not fully in-person, five percent are hybrid and the balance are approximately evenly split between online synchronous and online asynchronous.

Virginia Tech Innovation Campus Vice President and Executive Director Lance Collins updated the board on progress hiring faculty, growing student enrollment, and transitioning to a project-based learning curriculum. He also noted the Innovation Campus Strategic Plan and invited board members to attend the Sept. 14 groundbreaking of the first campus academic building in North Potomac Yard.

Over the three-day meeting, board members toured the recently renovated President's Suite in Lane Stadium, the recently completed Creativity and Innovation District Living-Learning Center, the Holden Hall construction site, and Randolph Hall.

The board also approved resolutions honoring seven emerita or emeritus faculty members and appointed two faculty members to an endowed professorship or fellowships.

The next full Virginia Tech Board of Visitors meeting will be held Nov. 7-8 in Blacksburg.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FRANUSICH FOR VIRGINIA TECH. Virginia Tech administrators and members of the board of visitors watched a series of presentations during their recent three-day meeting.

## News Brief: Christiansburg man identified as New River victim

Pulaski County authorities say a body found in the New River by two fishermen earlier this week is that of 45-year-old Vance Austin Eubank of Christiansburg.

He was identified after the sheriff's department released a sketch of the man and several of his tattoos.

Foul play is not suspected, and

the investigation is still ongoing at this time. Anyone with information should call 980-7800.

The body was discovered on Aug. 29 in the area of Viscoe Road. The Pulaski County Sheriff's Department and the Radford City Police and Radford City Fire departments responded to a call.

## NRCC welcomes new board members, elects officers

New River Community College recently welcomed Eric Johnsen of Blacksburg and Tosha Mosier of Radford to its college board, and the board elected new officers.

Bill Cunningham of Pulaski County was appointed to serve as chair, and James "Jim" Wheeler of Giles County was reappointed to serve as vice chair. NRCC President Pat Huber will continue to serve as secretary.

Johnsen is the owner of Eric Johnsen State Farm Agency in Christiansburg and is also an adjunct instructor in the finance department at Virginia Tech. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech. He and his wife, Dr. Jennifer Johnsen, and their two children live in Blacksburg.

Mosier is a supervisor at the medical transportation company Medical Transportation Management (MTM). She is

a graduate of Radford University. She and her husband, Jermere Mosier, and their three children live in Radford.

Other current board members are Christopher Calfee, Craig Chancellor, Richard Chidester, Dr. Margaret Dewald-Link, Jessica Littlejohn, Cameron Peel, Bobbie Potter, and Jonathan Sweet.

Each of Virginia's 23 community colleges has a local college board, the purpose of which is to keep the community college responsive to the needs of its service area. Local college boards are not governing boards, but advisory boards and typically meet quarterly.

These boards also monitor college programs, policies, and actions to ensure that they are within statewide policies. Local board members also serve as advocates for the college throughout its service region and assist the college in fundraising efforts.

Board members serve a four-year term and may continue for two consecutive terms. Each local political subdivision sponsoring the college appoints board members to serve in this capacity.



Eric Johnsen of Blacksburg, an adjunct instructor at VT, is one of two new board members for New River Community College.



New NRCC board member Tosha Mosier, a Radford University graduate, is a supervisor at the medical transportation company Medical Transportation Management who lives in Radford.







# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 4:

### PAWS to Read - Dog Edition

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. 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, Blue Ridge Vocal Connection, based in Blacksburg, 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 Sun., Sept. 12.

### Town of Blacksburg Administrative Offices Closed

All Town of Blacksburg administrative offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday. The Blacksburg Community Center will also be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center will be open from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Refuse and recycling pickup in the SE quadrant will be on Wed., Sept. 8. Blacksburg Transit will be operating on an intermediate service schedule.

## Tuesday, Sept. 7:

### Department of Motor Vehicles Connect

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library at 10 a.m. DMV will be at the library providing most of its services. By appointment only. To make an appointment, visit [www.DMVNOW.com](http://www.DMVNOW.com).

### 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. The workshop is presented by Laurie Sallee, Rent Relief Program Application Manager at 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 at 6 p.m., the Brown Bag Book Club will discuss Kate Moore's “Radium Girls.” In keeping with the theme, refreshments will be homemade vanilla cupcakes with glow-in-the-dark buttercream frosting. Looking ahead, in October and in keeping with Halloween, the club will discuss Mary Shelley's horror classic, “Frankenstein.”

### Loops Group with New River Art & Fiber

At 2 p.m., New River Art & Fiber is joining the Blacksburg Library in hosting a weekly loops group. Participants are invited to bring their fiber arts projects. The group will meet every Wednesday.

### STEM Club: pH Test

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. The club will be using cabbage to test the pH of various household liquids. All materials will be provided. Email [mroach@mfml.org](mailto:mroach@mfml.org) for more information.

## Thursday, Sept. 9:

### Talking About Books

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is “Caste” by Isabel Wilkerson. Call the library at 268-1964 to reserve a copy.

### Family READS

At the Blacksburg Library; at 5:30 p.m. Family READS is an English learning program for families. Parents will learn and practice English and learn how to read with their children. Children ages 3-8 will do fun education activities. Families will be provided a free dinner. Pre-registration is required. The program runs for seven sessions. To register, contact 540-382-7262, or email Anne Abbott at [aabbott@lvnrv.org](mailto:aabbott@lvnrv.org).

## Friday, Sept. 10:

### Virginia Tech Corps' Cannon to fire

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will hold a formal retreat ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, on Upper Quad to honor returning alumni. The Color Guard will lower the flag, and the regimental band, the Highty-Tighties, will play. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire once.

## 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 Sept. 11 is First Responders Day and marks 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 Brewing invites everyone to come together, raise a pint, and salute our First Responders, those who 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. Residents interested in this event will need to 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, Va.; 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 on 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 present 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. Participants can sign up for the course 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 p.m. until 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 to 5:30 p.m. Please wear a mask. Honorary president Dr. Laura Sands, and club president Dr. Debra Call will host the event, which includes refreshments. The reception is free and is open to the public.

All women who are interested in supporting 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 the reception. For more information, or to join the Virginia Tech Women's Club, contact [VTWC65@gmail.com](mailto:VTWC65@gmail.com).

### Loops Group with New River Art & Fiber

At 2 p.m., New River Art & Fiber is joining the Blacksburg Library in hosting a weekly loops group. Participants are invited to bring their fiber arts projects. The group will meet every Wednesday.

## Sunday, Sept. 19; Sunday, Sept. 26

### Fall Forum: Building Economic Justice in Our Community

All are invited to learn about economic justice issues facing members of our local community during a two-part series sponsored by Blacksburg United Methodist Church's Church and Society Committee.

On Sept. 19: Join a panel discussion with representatives from local organizations about the underlying issues that cause people in our community to need economic assistance. Participating organizations include the Community Health Center, Habitat for Humanity, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, and Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sept. 26: Continue the discussion with a focus on ways to take action.

Participants will gather in person in the Whisner Building at the Church Street campus at BUMC (masks and social distancing required), 111 Church St., Blacksburg, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. both evenings. A Zoom option is available by request. Contact Tindal Snider at [tindalsnider@yahoo.com](mailto:tindalsnider@yahoo.com) for more information.

## 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-Armerian 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 through September from 7 to 9 p.m. at Market Square Park.

### Simply Elemental Art Exhibit

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

### Take & Make Crafts All Month at the Blacksburg Library

Craft kits are available all month long. Each week the library will offer a new craft for kids to take home.

### Interactive Movie Kits

All Month at the Christiansburg Library and the Meadowbrook Public Library

Pick up a kit to make movie night interactive. Each kit contains popcorn and props for four individuals to participate. 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. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited.

## Through October:

### Radford Farmers Market

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

### Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg

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

## Ongoing:

### Free GED preparation classes throughout NRV

Free GED preparation classes through New River Community College's Office of Transitional Programs are going on now in Montgomery Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski Counties and the City of Radford. The classes run until Dec. 17. 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 Wenonah Ave., Pearisburg; Montgomery County: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at New River Community College Christiansburg site, 782 New River Rd., Suite 400, Christiansburg; Pulaski County: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., 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, contact NRCC Office of Transitional Programs at 540-674-3682 or [adultbased@nr.edu](mailto:adultbased@nr.edu).



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OPINION

# COVID update: Health director says COVID-19 cases may peak in region soon

Cases of COVID-19 continue to spread throughout the New River Health District as a result of the delta variant. But they may have hit a peak, said Noelle Bissell, the district's health director.

During a recent meeting with news media, Bissell said she expects that cases soon will decline as has happened in some other parts of the country with surging infections.

Late in August, there were about 180 positive COVID-19 cases in the health district, according to district reports.

Also, during the week of Aug. 22 - 29, there were

47 COVID-19 cases in the district's K-12 schools, out of about 20,000 students total. Montgomery County schools had the most cases at 15.

There is not a magic threshold for deciding when to close public schools due to an outbreak, Bissell said. The district looks at various situations differently, such as if there was in-school transmission of the infection and if students or staff were infected.

"With the cases that we're seeing, there is nothing that has started to suggest to us that we would need to work

with any of our schools to shut down at all," she said.

As of Aug. 30, there were 42 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the region. Still, hospitalizations are not likely to decrease even if cases decline, Bissell said. That's because there typically is a lag between the time that people test positive for the coronavirus and the time that they enter the hospital.

Currently, less than 50 percent of the New River Health District is fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

"We still have a significant portion of our population

that is at risk," Bissell said. "The best way to get out of this is for everyone who is eligible to go ahead and get vaccinated and for everybody to be vigilant with those public health precautions that layer mitigation."

The health district has seen an increase in people who are interested in receiving a vaccine since last week's approval of the Pfizer vaccine by the Federal Drug Administration, the district director told the media. The district also is working with health care providers to offer third vaccine doses to individuals who are

immunocompromised, Dr. Bissell said.

In general, Bissell encouraged everyone to wear a mask when they are indoors. She referred to this idea as smart masking.

Even so, "we don't want to get into the blaming and shaming of people who are not masking," Bissell said. "People need to do what works for them and their family. We need to get past the judgment. It really is us collectively versus the virus."

— Written by Jenny Kincaid Boone

# Virginia Department of Health: COVID-19 testing is readily available

CHRISTIANSBURG, Va. -- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reminds everyone that many locations are available

throughout the region and across the Commonwealth for individuals seeking COVID-19 testing. Testing demand has recently increased

across the western region as cases of COVID-19 are rising due to the more contagious Delta variant.

While vaccination is the most effective strategy to protect individuals, families and communities, testing remains an important tool to help identify individuals with illness, protect those around them, and monitor trends in COVID-19 infections.

"It's critical that we reserve our hospital emergency rooms and rescue squads for medical emergencies, so if you're seeking a COVID test and it is not an emergency, please utilize other testing locations," said Laurie Forlano, deputy director of the VDH Office of Epidemiology.

VDH recommends that the following people be tested for COVID-19: those with symptoms or signs of COVID-19, regardless of

vaccination status, those who have had close contact with someone known or suspected to have COVID-19, those who participate in activities that are higher risk for COVID-19 exposure (e.g. travel, attending large events where social distancing is not possible, or being in crowded indoor settings), those who have been referred for COVID-19 testing by their healthcare provider or the health department, those who plan to travel or who have recently returned from travel with some exceptions for fully vaccinated people, and those who are not fully vaccinated and who plan to visit people at high risk of developing severe COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated people should be tested three to five days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed

COVID-19.

People who are not fully vaccinated should be tested immediately after an exposure and again five to seven days following exposure if the first test is negative.

Those who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not need to get tested after exposure as long as they do not have symptoms.

VDH has partnered with Walgreens to provide Abbott BinaxNow Rapid antigen testing at no cost at selected locations. Walgreens pharmacy team members will help individuals self-administer their COVID-19 test. Test results will be processed at the pharmacy and provided to patients within 24 hours.

COVID-19 testing is available by appointment to adults and children ages 2 and older who meet screen-

ing criteria for testing. An appointment can be made at Walgreens.com/COVID19Testing.

Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases, some testing locations may prioritize tests for symptomatic persons or persons with known close contact to a person with COVID-19.

For questions about COVID-19 testing or a list of testing locations, visit the VDH website or call 877-VAX-IN-VA (877-829-4682), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To schedule a vaccination, request a vaccination record, or for more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.vaccinate.virginia.gov.

In the New River Health District, visit www.nrvroad-towellness.com/when-how-to-get-tested for additional testing locations.

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## Ratings

from page 1

Steve Rowson, who now directs the lab — developed a system of impact tests at different forces and angles that reflected how players actually hit their heads. The system, which they called Summation of Tests for the Analysis of Risk — STAR — generated a numerical value that described how effectively each helmet reduced the

force on the head, compared to wearing no helmet at all. The scores were plotted on a scale from zero to five stars.

"What we were doing was totally different than anything else that was available at the time," Duma said.

Since the 1970s, all football helmets sold in the U.S. have had to clear a pass-fail standard established by the National Operating Committee for Standards on Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) certifying they could keep forces on a player's head below a threshold associated with catastrophic injuries like skull fractures. But those test results weren't public, and Duma and Rowson's data showed that that simple threshold was obscuring huge variations in performance.

"We were really surprised," said Rowson, an associate professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics. "And we realized that no one was putting any of this information out there."

NOCSAE's standard also didn't address forces below that catastrophic threshold.

Duma and Rowson's

rating system was the first to account for these concussion-level forces. When they released their results, Duma said, "It was like a light-switch change in the sport." Colleges collectively ditched their poorly performing helmets (which were a lot of them: about half of varsity squads were playing in a popular helmet that managed only one star) and shelled out for more protective ones.

Once we started talking to parents and coaches, it was obvious that there was an extraordinary demand for this information," Duma said. "Helmets are heavily marketed, and people are used to hearing everyone say, 'our helmet's the best.' The independence and the science behind our research really resonated with people."

The lab made a point of not accepting funding from helmet companies, and the researchers, invited all over the country to give talks on the STAR system, donated their speaking fees to buy new helmets for local youth teams.

The ratings are all available publicly, on a website that has racked up more than a million unique visitors at a rate of about

1,000 a day. The lab's work has been covered in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, WIRED, and on hundreds of broadcast channels and ESPN. Major manufacturers use the lab's logo as a point of pride for high-performing products, and a flag football league in Texas mandates headgear that earns at least four stars in the lab's ratings.

Over the next few years, Duma and Rowson hope to extend the ratings to all major helmeted sports; testing is underway for baseball, softball, whitewater, and equestrian helmets. The equestrian project, part of a collaboration with the US Equestrian Foundation and the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association, has already attracted more than \$425,000 in private funding.

"When we started we had no idea that helmet research would become as big as it has," Duma said. "We just thought we would help the football team figure out which helmets were better."

Hundreds of thousands of impacts later, it's safe to say they did.

CROSSWORD

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		31				32				33	34
	35								36		37
40				41					42		
43			44						45		
46		47							48		
49									50		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sustained dull pain

5. Hoover Dam Lake

9. An earnest appeal

10. Tree trunk used in sport

11. Close by

12. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)

13. Delaware

14. Makes in salary

16. Fringe-toed lizard

17. Two-year-old sheep

18. = to 198 liters in Egypt

19. Barnum & Bailey

21. Destruction

25. Shock treatment

26. A priest's linen vestment

27. Consumed

28. Etymology (abbr.)

29. Doctors' group

30. Tsetung or Zedong

31. Subroutines

35. Maintenance

36. Sacred shrine in Mecca

40. Mutual savings bank

41. The cry made by sheep

42. Fell back from flooding

43. Farm state

44. British Isle in the Irish Sea

45. Georgian monetary unit

46. Turkish rulers

48. Utter sounds

49. Mains

50. Fashionable water

resorts

CLUES DOWN

1. Temporary cessation of breathing

2. Not cloudy

3. Listened

4. Acquired by effort

5. Chart of the Earth's surface

6. Eastbound

7. Yellow-fever mosquitos

8. Small amount of residue

10. With great caution,

12. One who copies

15. One point E of due S

16. Fiddler crabs

17. A large cask

20. Adult male swan

22. Of the whale & dolphin

order

23. Frozen water

24. Metric ton

27. Marine or parasitic protozoas

28. Cologne

29. Built by Noah

30. Indicates physician

31. Parts per billion (abbr.)

32. Environmental Protection Agency

33. Supplement with difficulty

34. Dark fur coat animals

35. Utilization

37. Unit = to 10 amperes

38. Stalin's police chief

39. Almost horizontal mine entrances

40. Missing soldiers

44. More (Spanish)

47. Express surprise

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



# MFRL announces fall 2021 mobile library schedule

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has announced its fall 2021 mobile library schedule.

Equipped with a variety of materials for checkout, public Wi-Fi, a laptop for patron use, a printer, and the neighborhood library staff, the mobile library will be visiting 18 different locations throughout Montgomery and Floyd County.

The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. until noon and 1:30 p.m.

until 2:30 p.m. Plenty! On Alum Ridge; 192 Elephant Curve Rd NW, Floyd, Va.

Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Floyd Eco Village, 188 Eco Village Trail, Floyd, Va.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oak Forest Mobile Home Community (Merrimac).

Wednesday, Sept. 8, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hollins Estates.

Thursday, Sept. 9, from 1:30

p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Uptown Christiansburg/ NRV Mall.

Thursday, Sept. 9, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Christiansburg Bluff Apartments.

Friday, Sept. 10, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Riner Post Office.

Friday, Sept. 10, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Creek Community, 302 Crest Mountain Cir, Elliston, Va.

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Floyd Livestock and County Fair,

Chantilly Farm, 2697 Franklin Pike SE Floyd.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Twin Creek Mobile Home Estates.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Linden Green Apartments.

Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Wilderness Trail Festival, downtown Christiansburg, West Main Street.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Dale's

Place Food Pantry, 1870 Big Spring Dr., Elliston, Va. 24087.

Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dollar General Elliston.

Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Gobble Stop - Prices Fork, 4338 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg, Va. 24060.

Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lusters Gate Deli Mart #24, 900 Lusters Gate Rd, Christiansburg, Va. 24073.

## Celebrate agriculture with creative hay bale displays

The Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee is welcoming individuals and organizations to take part in its annual Hay Bale Decorating Contest.

For seven years, the committee has en-

couraged Virginians to highlight their love for agriculture through imaginative and innovative hay bale displays.

"It's great to get people together and have fun with it," said Julia Stephens, New River

district leader for the VFBB Women's Leadership Committee. "Hay is a major commodity here, and it gets people in a conversation who might otherwise not think about farming or how prevalent it is. They'll

see one and realize, 'Oh, we're in farm country.'"

Applications are being accepted through Nov. 1. The contest is open to anyone, including county Farm Bureaus, farmers markets, farm supply businesses, student groups, community associations, and individuals.

Entrants can showcase their ingenuity by converting round or square bales into animals, structures, shapes, and farmscapes. Other items such as corn stalks, pallets, and pumpkins can be used alongside bales to create various scenes.

Guidelines and an entry form are available at [bit.ly/3icRJqx](http://bit.ly/3icRJqx). Participants are required to include a photograph of the decorated hay bale display with an application.

There are five classes: best promotional display for agriculture business or commodity; best promotional display for community spirit; most creative; best agricultural theme; and best agribusiness, FFA, 4-H or school display. Winners will be selected in each category and receive a cash award.

Winners will be notified by mail, and hay bale photo entries will be displayed at the 2021 VFBB Annual Convention in Williamsburg Nov. 30 through Dec. 2.

Last year's contest received 40 submissions. Winning entries included a hay bale honeybee encouraging people to "Bee a friend to pollinators"; a scene celebrating community spirit by honoring first responders; a tractor made of hay

bales; and two creative 4-H displays featuring a hay bale cow and a farmer made of straw.

The displays are meant to create a lasting impression and typically are placed near schools, outside of banks, at county Farm Bureau offices, and in people's yards.

"We've had people stop by and say, 'We can't wait to see what you're going to put up this year,'" said Joan Talley, a member of the Fluvanna County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, which participates in the contest every year. "We strive to bring awareness by promoting community service, agriculture, and Farm Bureau. It lets people know that we're not just another business along the road."

## RUC biomedical science student aims to alleviate human suffering

Radford University Carilion (RUC) biomedical science student Binuk Samarasinghe hopes to one day become a physician, but that wasn't always the path he saw himself following.

Samarasinghe moved to the United States with his family from Sri Lanka when he was 12 years old. As he grew older, he thought that a career as an engineer would be best for him, knowing it could lead to lucrative and stable employment. While those goals were still important to Samarasinghe, as they are to many college students, he soon realized that his destiny lay in healthcare.

"As someone who once lived in a poverty-stricken country," Samarasinghe said, "I am

truly blessed to be living in America, the land of ample opportunity. But the qualities that I admire the most about myself, like empathy and the desire to help others be well, were instilled in me by a culture 10,000 miles away."

Samarasinghe said those qualities were the driving force in his decision to change majors and focus on developing a career in medicine. He not only changed majors; he left the school where he was studying engineering and enrolled at RUC. Several factors drew him to the small campus in downtown Roanoke.

"I see myself as a native Roanoker, since I have lived here since I was young," Samarasing-

he said. "Transferring to RUC gave me the chance to be closer to family, which is important to me."

Once enrolled, Samarasinghe found another bonus in the smaller size of RUC. It allowed him to bond more closely with his professors, giving him a chance to absorb a deeper understanding of the material he was studying and researching.

"RUC has allowed me to benefit from the wisdom and life experiences of my professors," he said, "many of whom not only care about my academic success but are also interested in my personal well-being. You can't find that kind of personal investment at many larger colleges and

universities."

Samarasinghe said the RUC biomedical science program also offers him versatility. As he works toward his goal of becoming a physician, the program gives him the opportunity to conduct important healthcare-related research that can improve the lives of patients around the world.

"As a physician, I hope one day to alleviate the suffering of the sick, one patient at a time,"

Samarasinghe said. "We are all preoccupied with seeking happiness for ourselves, but rarely do we stop and think about the happiness of others. For myself, I've come to see that true fulfillment can only be achieved by helping others."

At the moment, Samarasinghe is conducting two research projects. The first focuses on investigating a multi-drug resistant bacterium associated with both

recurrent chronic infections and severe acute infections in immunocompromised patients. The bacterium is one of the major causes of hospital-acquired infections, resulting in high morbidity and mortality rates.

The second project has Samarasinghe investigating the presence of parasitism in the local bumblebee population, leading to a decline of the species.



**Radford University Carilion (RUC) biomedical science student Binuk Samarasinghe started out wanting a career in engineering, but his years in the United States and his background from poverty-stricken Sri Lanka led him ultimately to decide to become a physician to help others stay well.**

### 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](http://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](http://VaAuctionPro.com)  
Lic# 2907004059**



**Blue Ridge Land  
& Auction Co., Inc**



# Virginia Cattlemen's Association launches Virginia Cattlemen's Insurance Agency

The Virginia Cattlemen's Association (VCA) has launched the Virginia Cattlemen's Insurance Agency LLC (VCIA), a wholly owned subsidiary



**The Virginia Cattlemen's Association has announced the launch of the Virginia Cattlemen's Insurance Agency as a way to provide the commonwealth's cattle producers with a simple and efficient way to purchase risk management protection.**

of VCA. The agency was formed to continue advancing the association's purpose of improving the conditions and efficiency of farmers and ranchers involved in cattle production.

By focusing on cattle-related insurance products, VCA believes that the agency will provide the association with a way to educate cattle producers and provide them with a simple, efficient way to purchase risk management protection.

Virginia Cattlemen's Insurance Agency will focus primarily on offering Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) and Pasture, Range and Forage (PRF) insurance. LRP provides price protection by allowing

cattle producers to protect against unexpected market declines. PRF insurance provides protection against the lack of rainfall for land that is grazed or used to make hay. Information about LRP and PRF will be made available to VCA members on the VCA website, through email, and through handouts. LRP policies are made available every day after markets close. PRF policies were offered beginning Sept. 1 and will be offered through the sales closing date on Dec. 1.

When VCA began to develop the idea of offering insurance as a risk protection tool for producers, the board consulted with former Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA)

Administrator Brandon Willis to help guide them through the process of establishing an agency. Willis, who now runs his own livestock insurance business in Utah, continues to help advise and consult with VCA.

Currently, Brandon Reeves, the Executive Director of VCA, is the sole insurance agent for VCIA, but VCIA will be exploring the possibility of bringing on additional agents in the future. The agency has been approved to begin writing policies under Rain & Hail's Atlantic Coast Division.

VCA President Jason Pratt said, "VCA continues to look for ways that we can better serve our membership and all

Virginia cattle producers. We see risk protection as an incredibly important tool producers should consider to hedge against a volatile market, and I am excited that we are now able to offer these products to help our producers."

Anyone interested in learning more about Virginia Cattlemen's Insurance Agency LLC can visit the VCA website at [www.vacattlemen.org](http://www.vacattlemen.org) or contact Brandon Reeves by email at [breeves@vacattlemen.org](mailto:breeves@vacattlemen.org) or by phone at 540.280.8805.

The Virginia Cattlemen's Association was organized in 1944 and chartered in 1953 to promote the profit potential of Virginia's cattle industry.

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

## BAPTIST

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

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

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

## CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

## ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org) for program listings, [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group), or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org) for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

## LUTHERAN

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

## MULTI-CULTURAL

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer,

10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

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

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

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

**UNITED METHODIST Asbury United Methodist**

**Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

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

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc) **Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

## WESLEYAN

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

# Montgomery County

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### God Repays

Read Ezekiel 24:1 through 27:36

Why do people sometimes seem to get away with sinning? Does God look away when these evils come against His children?

In time, Israel's enemies lost wealth, status, and strength. Some even disappeared from the world altogether.

""Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck"" (Ezekiel 27:27).

When trials come, Christians should not presume that God is unconcerned with their struggles. He sometimes uses difficulties to discipline and train them for righteousness. As His people wait upon Him, their faith grows.

When Israel turned away from the Lord, the people became prey for the enemies of God. The nations that attacked Israel assumed God would not judge their sin, but they were mistaken. God watched and recorded every evil deed. A day of accounting was decreed.

One day you will be lifted above your trials, and retribution will be given to those who would plunder you.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I trust You even now.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 27:26-31

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



# OBITUARIES

## Agee, Vera Pugh

Vera Pugh Agee, 98, of Radford, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

Vera was born on Easter Creek on Easter Sunday in Floyd County on April 1, 1923. Just six weeks after her birth, her family moved to Radford City, which remained her home for the rest of her life. She was a lifelong member of Carter Street United Methodist Church where she was active in the Women's Circle.

Vera lived a full life as a loving wife, mother, and nannie to her grandsons and great-grandchildren. She was an exceptional homemaker, seamstress, and cook. She enjoyed trips with her family to Myrtle Beach and excursions on the Blue Ridge Parkway. She also enjoyed a good game of bridge over the years with her many friends.

Vera had a servant's heart and lovingly took care of her husband when he was terminally ill. She will be dearly missed



and will be forever in our hearts.

Vera was preceded in death by her parents, Winfred and India Pugh; her husband of 57 years, Fleetwood Agee; and her sister, Madaline Pugh Fulbright.

Survivors include her daughters and son-in-law, Bonnie and John Millard of Salem and Beverly Singleton of Radford;

grandsons Eric Rush Millard (Melissa) of Harrisonburg and Ryan Agee Millard (Lindsey) of Salem; great-grandchildren Thomas, Ethan, Ainsley, Claire, and Sadie; and many friends.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, in the West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Carter St. UMC, 1219 Second St., Radford, VA 24141.

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

## Price, Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers Price, 74, passed away on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Lessie Price; a sister, Paula Lester; an uncle, George Price; a daughter, Karen Jeffrey; and his granddaughter, Christin Jeffrey.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Katherine Price; a son and daughter-in-law, Troy and Amy Price; a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Allen Redden; a son-in-law, Gary Jeffrey; grandchildren and their spouses Rebecca and Brian Ramsey, Layla and Ryan Johnson, Emma Redden, Jacob Redden, Anna Redden, Abigail Redden, and So-



phie Redden; great-grandchildren Zachary Ramsey, Gauge Ramsey, and Rhett Johnson; a brother and sister-in-law, Herman (Joe) and Faye Price; sisters and brother-in-law, Judy and Don Steward, and Mary Baldwin; and many other family members and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, at

Lighthouse Family Ministries in Riner.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Lighthouse Family Ministries, 365 Union Valley Road, Riner, VA, 24149.

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

## Surface, George Hubert

George Hubert Surface, 78, of Blacksburg, passed peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021.

He was born Oct. 27, 1942, in Tom's Creek to the late Hubert V. and Christine Orange Surface. He was preceded in death by his sister Joe Ann Criner of Christiansburg.

He is survived by his devoted wife of almost 60 years, Peggy C. Surface; a daughter, Christine Elizabeth Surface of Blacksburg; sons Jim (JoEllen) Surface of Christiansburg and John Surface, of Lewisburg, W.Va.; four grandchildren, Crystal Irwin of Portland, Ore., Amber Surface of Radford, John Surface of Blacksburg, and Jaymes Gage Surface of Christiansburg; three great-grandchildren;



a sister, Janice Cochran of Eggleston; a brother, Benny (Reba) Surface of Christiansburg; a sister-in-law, Rita (Lynn) Boland of Radford, and many nieces and nephews.

George worked for many years at Corning and then at Federal Mogul in Blacksburg until his retirement in 2005. His favorite pastimes were hunting and fishing.

A memorial service was held Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Randy Jarrells officiating. The family received friends in the chapel prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your favorite charity.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Long, Melba Bowling

Melba Bowling Long, 88, of Radford, went home to take her place in the body of Christ Jesus her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

She was born Aug. 12, 1933, in Smyth Co., Chatham Hill, Va., to Wylie and Thurman Webb Bowling. She was born again in November 1961 and joined the Snowville Baptist Church in June 1962.

Twenty years later she moved her membership to Gethsemane Baptist Church in Radford. She married Nathan Abraham Long on Dec. 16, 1954. He departed this life on Sept. 17, 1964.

Melba is survived by a daughter, Peggy Long Collins, and her husband, Pastor



James Collins of Jupiter, Fla.; a son, Charles Edgar Long, and his wife, Catherine Crute Long of Radford; two grandsons, Derek Nathan Long and Cooper Edward Long of Radford; a great-grandson, Riley Long; a sister, Wanda Bowling Webb of Radford; a sister-in-law, Roxie Long Dishon of Radford; a brother-in-law, Harrison Long of Radford; nieces

Donna Long Conklin (Mike), Nancy Young Newton, and Betty Kaye Young Smith (Curtis), all of Pulaski County.

Services will be private.

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

## Parcell, Jr., Clayton Eldridge

It is with bittersweet sorrow that I write that my brother, Clayton Eldridge Parcell, Jr., known throughout his life as "Corky," passed through the veil of this world into a place of peace, happiness and learning, on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2021 in Wichita, Kansas. He and our parents are reunited in spirit and just how glorious is this.

He was preceded in death by his son, Shane Shafer, and our parents, Clayton E. Parcell, Sr., and Evelyn "Pat" Parcell.

Corky is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Olivia and Darrell Reed; a daughter, Deidre Shawn Parcell Capozzi (Lee); grandchildren Isabella Capozzi, and Vincent and Brayden Shafer; a daughter-in-law, Jenny F. Shaffer; nieces and nephews Corey Shannon and Tanoe Reed, Natasha Pierson, and Chelsey and Zayne Hamm; and numerous grand-nieces and grand-nephews; and many friends.

Corky was born in Pearisburg and lived his childhood in Staffordville. He was an exceptional woodworker and sign writer. He was a history buff, especially Virginia history. He has a book published called



"Wabash."

Corky's heart was larger than he was, wanting and trying to help and give to anyone who seemed to need a hand. He had a loud infectious laugh that I, his sister, will long to hear until we meet again.

He was a USMC veteran having served in Vietnam. Corky was a soldier at heart, helping and working at the VFW and American Legion in Giles and when he was in Wichita.

I want to take the opportunity to express my love and deepest thank you to the excellent nurses, aides, and Dr. Martinez for the care given Corky in his short last days. Some I remember well are Mary, Pauline, Kim, and Ian.

The family received friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. today, Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021 at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 1 p.m. Interment with full military honors followed in the Staffordville Community Cemetery in Staffordville.

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

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS



Virginia Tech’s Sivert Haugli, the team captain, was named the United Soccer Coaches Player of the Week Wednesday afternoon in the wake of his two-goal effort in the 3-2 defeat Sunday of top-ranked Marshall.

## VT’s Haugli named United Soccer Coaches Player of the Week

Hokie defender and team captain Sivert Haugli was named the United Soccer Coaches Player of the Week Wednesday afternoon.

From Oslo, Norway, Haugli recorded his second and third career goals in quick succession on Sunday in the Hokies 3-2 victory over then-No. 1 Marshall.

Standing firm in the back, the captain also oversaw the defense that limited the Thundering Herd to only two shots in the second half.

Tech trailed by two goals at halftime despite outshooting the defending national champions, 7-5 in the first period. That pressure continued into the second half, eventually leading

to a breakthrough for the Hokies.

Danny Flores whipped in a corner in the 64th minute that found Haugli’s head for his first goal of the season, giving Virginia Tech a lifeline. Just two minutes later, Tech’s press resulted in a handball inside the box. Haugli stepped up to the penalty spot and tied up the match.

The Hokies converted again from the spot in the 73rd minute and saw the game out, giving the program its first win against a No. 1 team since defeating Notre Dame on Sept. 22, 2017.

Earlier this season, Haugli was named to the ACC Preseason Watch List.

## Tech cross-country dominates in season-opening VT Invitational



The Virginia Tech women’s cross-country team started strong, placing eight runners in the top 10 finishers in the Virginia Tech Invitational, the season opener.

BLACKSBURG – Cross country returned to Blacksburg Wednesday night as the Hokies hosted their season opener at the Buford Meredith Cross Country Course. Both the men’s and women’s teams dominated the top ten in the Virginia Tech Invitational.

In the women’s 4k race, eight Hokies finished in the top ten, led by junior Lindsey Butler who clocked a time of 14:18.70 to take second place, followed by Grace Boone in third and Ashley Smith in fourth.

After the women’s race, the men took to the course for the 6k. Hokies went four-wide at the finish line as Ben Fleming crossed first in 19:07.30, with Antonio Lopez Segura, Tyler Leeser, and Dave Whitfield all finishing within a second of the leader.

“I think it was a good, collective effort, and certainly some people showed some improvement from years past which is great,” Head Cross Country and Distance Coach Eric Johannigmeier said. “We just have to keep moving up as a whole because that will be our strength if we can move up as a pack.”

A strong start to the season is a promising sign for the Hokies, as competition will toughen and the pace will quicken heading towards the postseason.

The Hokies will stay in Blacksburg for their next race, hosting the Virginia Tech Alumni Invitational Friday, Sept. 10. An open community and alumni 4k is set for 5:30 p.m. followed by men’s and women’s competition starting at 6 p.m.

Hokies in the Top Ten in the VT Invitational

Women’s 4k

2. Lindsey Butler – 14:18.70 3. Grace Boone – 14:21.20 4. Ashley Smith – 14:22.20 5. Hannah Ballowe – 14:23.90 7. Leigha Torino – 14:28.70 8. Nicole Re – 14:33.21 9. Lauren Petranek (unattached) – 14:36.71 10. Ellie Brush – 14:38.30.

Men’s 6k

1. Ben Fleming – 19:07.30 2. Antonio Lopez Segura – 19:07.70 3. Tyler Leeser – 19:07.70 4. Dave Whitfield – 19:08.20 5. Colby Burcham – 19:14.00 6. Will Mackenzie – 19:14.70 8. Arnav Tikhe (unattached) – 19:24.90 9. Declan Rymer (unattached) – 19:25.20 10. Clint Gault – 19:34.30.

# Tri-Wizard Tri-Mile race results

Daniel Kolsa was the overall male winner of the Tri-Wizard Tri-Mile race held Aug. 28 at Radford’s Bisset Park. Jamie Bunker was the overall female winner.

The top finishers by age grouping were as follows:

Male age 3-5: 1) Jonathan Low 2) Noam Hersch; Female age 3-5: Hazel Rottkamp.

Male age 6-9: 1) Charlie Low 2) Jace Vandergrift 3) Dean Leonard 4) Jackson Caldwell.

Female 6-9: 1) Marie Quintin 2) Zoe Mecham 3) Lily Golusky 4) Campbell

Ferrell.

Male 10-12: 1) Everett Vandergrift 2) Aiden Altizer 3) Noah Petry 4) Grady Leonard.

Female 10-12: 1) Abigail Castleberry 2) Abby Mallory 3) Olivia Close 4) Ana Rabi.

Female 13-18: 1) Isabelle Petry 2) Laruren Kubecki 3) Sofia Caldwell 4) Lyra Piche.

Female 16-19: 1) Reese Kunkrel 2) Madison Altizer 3) Ellie Caldwell.

Male 20-29: 1) Tyler McReynolds 2) Jonathan Roberts 3) Matt Rinion 4) An-

drew Doney.

Female 20-29: 1) Anna Bosco 2) Samantha Lane 3) Kira Quintin 4) Abby Barnett.

Male 30-39: 1) Patrick Feucht 2) Jared Davis 3) Daniel Williams 4) Quentin Petry.

Female 30-39: 1) Cassy Davis 2) Emily Close 3) Emma Rifai 4) Kim Feucht.

Male 40-49: 1) Carmen Dunfeed 2) Jeff Meadows 3) Billy Turner 4) Carey Caldwell.

Female 40-49: 1) Carrie Braun 2) Kim Kitts 3) Robin Jones 4) Gentian

Bridgeman.

Male 50-59: 1) Ross Mecham 2) Donald Thomas 3) Timothy Kitts 4) David Horton.

Female 50-59: 1) Lisa Abbott 2) Lorraine Proska 3) Lynn Rogers 4) Tracy Kwock.

Male 60-69: 1) Jay Abbott 2) Doug Booth 3) Ed Tuchler.

Female 60-69: 1) Diane McRorie 2) Lynn Henderson 3) Kim Gainer 4) Debbie Graves.

Female 70 and over: 1) Dottie Rottekamp 2) Beth Obenshain.

# Outdoor report: How to see Virginia’s elk population

Yes, Virginia, there are elk in the commonwealth. The trick is how to see them.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) worked with partners to restore elk to Southwest Virginia between 2012 and 2014. Elk historically roamed through Virginia, but by the late 1800s they had gone extinct due to overhunting and loss of habitat.

During the restoration, 71 adult elk and four calves (born during that time frame) were relocated into Buchanan County, Va., from Southeast Kentucky. By September 2020, Virginia’s restored elk herd was thriving with more than 250 animals.

The restoration of elk to Virginia brought with it a new and exciting opportunity to observe these large, charismatic mammals in the commonwealth. Elk provide awe-inspiring experiences for both the eyes and the ears. The majestic image of a male elk, or bull, sporting his large impressive antlers backdropped by rolling green hills can be outdone

only by the experience of hearing that same bull let out a loud and long bugle, the elk’s unique bellowing call. Because of their herding mentality, the opportunity to watch a group of 50-plus elk is not uncommon in areas that provide cool temperatures and quality habitat.

Here are the best ways to watch them.

Elk Cam

Since 2018, DWR has worked with local partners Southwest Virginia Sportsmen, iGo Technologies, CNX Gas, Vansant Lumber, and Appalachian Power in Buchanan County to operate Elk Cam, a livestreaming webcam that provides a virtual experience to view elk and other wildlife on private property near Grundy, Va. These webcams have attracted over 50,000 views per year and enable people living in other parts of the commonwealth, other states, and even other countries the chance to view elk and other wildlife from the comfort of their home.

The elk cam usually broadcasts from late Au-

gust through November. This time frame provides a look at the female elk, or cows, returning from their calving areas with their young all the way through the peak breeding activity later in the fall. The DWR Elk Cam went live this year the week of Aug. 23. During most of September, the prime hours to tune into the elk cam and see wildlife activity will be early in the morning during the first couple hours after sunrise and at dusk, the last couple hours prior to sunset. As the daytime temperatures turn cooler, that prime time window will expand.

Elk Viewing Area

To provide an in-person elk viewing opportunity, the DWR worked with many of the same partners as the Elk Cam to help provide an Elk Viewing Area, which contains multiple elk viewing platforms on a Buchanan County property in Vansant, accessible from the Southern Gap Outdoor Adventure Center. A designated site on the Virginia Bird & Wildlife Trail, these three sheltered platforms have bench seating, they



PHOTO BY BESS THOMPSON

One of nature’s most impressive sights and sounds: a male elk bugling, which is his unique bellowing call.

are accessible, and they overlook managed wildlife habitat areas that provide visitors the opportunity to view elk, white-tailed deer, turkey, grassland birds, butterflies, and the occasional black bear. An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 visitors frequent this area every year to view elk and other wildlife, a number that is sure to grow.

Because elk are large animals and need shaded areas to maintain their body temperature, viewers won’t often catch a glimpse of an elk in the

open during the middle hours of the day, especially during the summer months. Similar to the Elk Cam, the prime hours to observe elk in the viewing area are early morning during the first couple hours after sunrise and at dusk, the last couple hours prior to sunset.

Again, as the daytime temperatures turn cooler, that time window will expand.

Guided elk tours

DWR is also offering a new opportunity to view elk this fall, guided elk

tours that will be hosted by DWR and other partners in Buchanan County. These elk tours will be offered on Thursday evenings starting in mid-September and will continue through October. Tours will be limited in capacity, and participants will be required to pre-register through the DWR website. Tour registration will be closed 24 hours prior to any tour date.

By Shannon Bowling,  
Virginia Department of  
Wildlife Resources



Rachel Werking was the next Highlander to finish, making it to the line with a time of 14:40.5 for 11th place. Rachel Millirons posted a personal-best 14:45.0 to take 14th, and MacKenzie Gardner shaved more than 40 seconds off her previous best for a new personal record and a

Sam Sikora was next to cross the finish line, placing 11th with a time of 19:53.10 which now stands as the eighth-fastest time in school history. Joshua Daggett took 12th by running a 20:00.70, the 10th-fastest time in the history of the program.



took second overall in the invitational, scoring 54 points with an average time of 20:11.

The second half was foot to the pedal as the Highlanders ran away with

Radford finished the night with 13 corner kicks to Concord's two.

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