

# News Messenger

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Saturday, September 11, 2021

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After a national search, Zachary Doerzaph has been appointed executive director of the nation's second largest transportation institute, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTI). Among his research projects, he mentors 13 VT graduate students and provides hands-on learning opportunities to Tech undergraduate students.

## Zachary Doerzaph appointed Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's executive director

Zachary Doerzaph has been appointed the executive director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTI) effective Oct. 1.

He follows the legacy of Tom Dings, the Newport News Shipbuilding Professor of Biomedical Engineering and

Mechanics, who was VTI's director for 25 years and stepped down Aug. 1.

"Zac Doerzaph is a nationally recognized transportation researcher with extensive leadership experience in large team projects from different sponsors," said Dan Sui, vice presi-

dent for research and innovation at Virginia Tech. "His intimate knowledge about Virginia Tech's institutional culture made him the ideal candidate to lead the university's largest research institute at this critical time."

See Doerzaph, page 4

## Parks and Recreation to present 8-mile bridge challenge walk Sept. 18

The Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department will offer a special event, the 8-Mile Bridge Challenge Walk, on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Check-in will begin at 8 a.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. Participants should be on-site by 8:15 a.m. A shuttle bus will depart for the Blacksburg Library at 8:30 a.m.

The first 60 participants will receive a complimentary T-shirt.

The walk on the Huckleberry Trail will begin at the Blacksburg Library and end at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The course description is available at [www.christiansburg.org/1099/The-8-Mile-Bridge-Challenge](http://www.christiansburg.org/1099/The-8-Mile-Bridge-Challenge).

The walk length will be approximately 8.3 miles and will take from 2.5 to 3 hours to complete.

Any participant 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Proper hydration will be the responsibility of the participants, who should bring their



own water in their personal water bottle. Water stations will be located at the Warm Hearth road crossing and the Renva W. Knowles Bridge.

Free beverages will be available for walkers at the completion of the walk at event headquarters at the recreation center. Restrooms will be available at the event headquarters, but no showers will be available.

Anyone seeking more information can contact the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department at 540-382-2349 or go online at [www.christiansburg.org/recreation](http://www.christiansburg.org/recreation).

## C-130J-30 Super Hercules to fly over Lane Stadium during today's football game

The U.S. Air Force will send a C-130J-30 Super Hercules aircraft to the start of today's football game (Saturday, Sept. 11) against Middle Tennessee State, which is also Military Appreciation Day in Lane Stadium and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' reunion.

Coordinated by Virginia Tech's Air Force ROTC, the flyover is subject to change based on weather and operational requirements. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

The C-130J-30 Super Hercules is the "stretch" version of the transport aircraft, measuring 112 feet long (a third of the length of Worsham Field) with a wingspan of 132 feet, according to the Air

Force. It can carry a variety of oversized cargo, including everything from utility helicopters and six-wheeled armored vehicles to standard palletized cargo and military personnel.

Basic and specialized versions of the aircraft perform diverse roles, including airlift support, aeromedical missions, weather reconnaissance, firefighting duties for the U.S. Forest Service, and natural disaster relief missions.

Saturday's flight crew will include Air Force Capt. David "Brick" Jacobs, a C-130J instructor pilot at the 62nd Airlift Squadron and a 2011 Corps of Cadets graduate who earned a degree in computer science from the Col-

lege of Engineering with minors in leadership studies and mathematics.

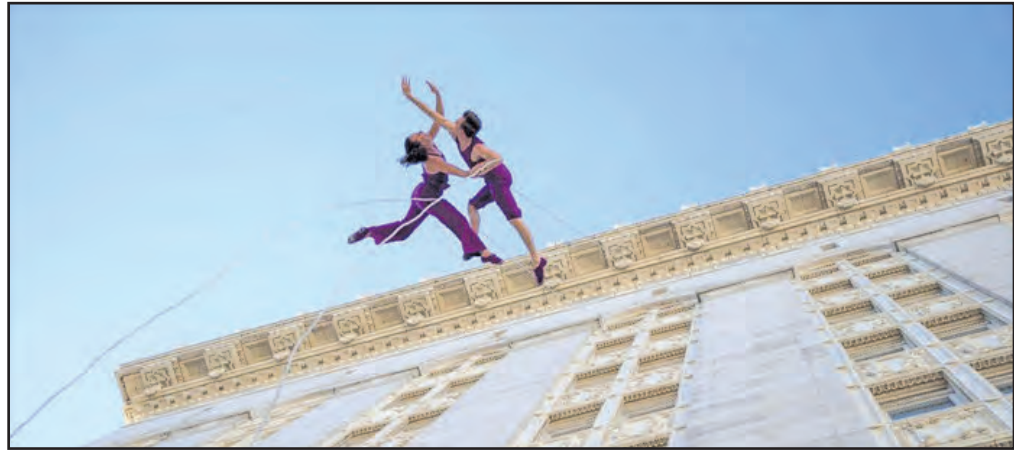
The 62nd Airlift Squadron is part of the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

Also during the game, cadets will be collecting donations for the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., at all gates before kickoff. Since 2001, the corps has collected more than \$200,000 for the memorial and is the largest, non-corporate sponsor of the D-Day memorial.

And more than 200 Corps of Cadets alumni will march onto the field during the pregame ceremonies to honor our flag during the National Anthem.



An Air Force C-130J Super Hercules in flight. U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe.



BANDALOOP at Oakland City Hall.

PHOTO BY JESSICA SWANSON.

## BANDALOOP dancers will soar from the exterior walls of the Moss Arts Center in outdoor performances

The Moss Arts Center presents performances of BANDALOOP on Friday, Sept. 17, at 5 and 6 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 18, at 1 and 2 p.m.

The side of the center will be transformed into a dance floor for a series of free outdoor performances by these wonder-inspiring performers who use dynamic physicality and intricate choreography to re-imagine dance and activate public spaces.

Performances will take place on the eastern facing exterior wall of the Moss Arts Center. Best viewed from the lawn between the center and Main Street, visitors are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets for an even more comfortable viewing experience. Masks are welcomed.

Each performance lasts approximately 15 minutes. In the event of inclement weather, check the Moss Arts Center website.

"After two years of planning, we're thrilled to celebrate our new season's theme, 'gathering,' with dancers who literally gather momentum joyously and without boundaries," said Margaret Lawrence, Moss Arts Center's director of programming.

BANDALOOP uses climbing technology to expand and challenge what is possible. Founded by Amelia Rudolph and under the artistic direction of Melecio Estrella, the company fuels the imagination of people across the globe, having performed live for millions of people in over 20 countries as

well as on screens in films and digital media.

BANDALOOP has performed on architectural landmarks and skyscrapers around the world, including sites in Brazil, Korea, South Africa, Italy, Portugal, Muscat, and Oman. The company has completed tours of China, Mexico, and India sponsored by the U.S. State Department, which included performances on the historic Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, India, and the Grand Cathedral in Puebla, Mexico. The video "Waltz on the Walls of City Hall," which features BANDALOOP performers dancing on the walls of Oakland, California's city hall building, has received millions of views on YouTube.

## Salem man in custody after firing shots at police

A suspect identified as Michael B. Lilly, age 39 of Salem, is in custody after a vehicle chase on Wednesday, Sept. 8, that included shots being fired at police officers and units in pursuit from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Christiansburg Police Department, the Salem Police Department, and the Virginia State Police.

The pursuit ended when Lilly crashed his vehicle and was transported to LewisGale Medical Center in Salem for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash.

Law enforcement accompanied EMS to the hospital due to the danger Lilly posed to the community and have been sitting with him at the hospital since. Given that Lilly's medical condition prohibits transporting him to a magistrate's office, warrants have been obtained but have not yet been served for the following charges: \$18.2-25/18.2-31 Attempted Aggravated Murder of Police Officer—6 counts (Class 2 Felony); \$46.2-817 Elude Police—1 count (Class 6 Felony); \$18.2-382 Brandishing a Firearm—1 count (Class 1 Misdemeanor) and \$46.2-862 Reckless Driving—1 count (Class 1 Misdemeanor).

No officers fired their weapons, and no officers were hit by Lilly's gunfire.

Wednesday's pursuit began at approximately 2:36 p.m., and Lilly was taken into custody at

the conclusion of pursuit around 2:58 p.m.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call Wednesday at about 2:25 p.m. from the Elliston Food Mart at 9311 Roanoke Road reporting a suspect brandishing a firearm at employees. The office then alerted the Christiansburg Police Department of the incident.

According to police reports, Lilly drove away from the scene into the Town of Christiansburg in a small silver SUV where Christiansburg police attempted to stop the vehicle. He brandished a firearm at the officer and fled in the vehicle. Officers pursued Lilly's vehicle across the bypass to the Spradlin Farms area where he turned around and drove back across the bypass to I-81.

The pursuit eventually exited I-81 at exit 137 in Salem and continued toward downtown Salem before turning onto Mill Lane and then Riverside Drive where Lilly crashed. At several points during the pursuit, Lilly fired multiple shots out of his vehicle window toward officers.

The Christiansburg Police Department may place additional charges after the investigation is concluded. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Salem Police Department are investigating and may place additional charges in their respective jurisdictions as well.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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.

Today, Saturday, Sept. 11, is First Responder's 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 today, Sept. 11, by making a donation to the Radford City Fire and Police departments. Several events are planned to mark the remembrance. Long Way Brewing says let's 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 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 for HHW Day.

### Meadowbrook Quilters Marathon

Hosted by the Meadowbrook Quilters at the Meadowbrook Public Library from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The public is invited to see these skilled individuals demonstrate their talents. This event is open to anyone of any skill level. Come and quilt/sew, ask questions, and get ideas.

### International Welcoming Week Multi-lingual Storytime and Resource session

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Join in a celebration of the community's international neighbors. Stories will be read in

Russian, Chinese, Spanish, and Hindi. A table will be set up to provide local information about community resources.

## Monday, Sept. 13:

### Tots Storytime

At the Christiansburg Library at 10 a.m. Share stories, rhymes, music and movement aimed especially at developing early literacy skills and encouraging a love of reading. For ages 0-2.

### Homeschool STEM Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. The homeschool STEM club will explore science, technology, engineering, or math. Ages 8 and up.

### Radford City Council meeting

The regular meeting of the Radford City Council will be held at 7 p.m. in the city council chambers, 10 Robertson St., Radford.

## Tuesday, Sept. 14:

### Toddler Storytime

At the Blacksburg Library at 10 a.m. For ages 2-3.

### Essential Oils

At the Christiansburg Library at 7 p.m. Learn more about essential oils. A different topic is featured every month.

### Tot Storytime

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. For ages 0-2.

### 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 at 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 and 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. Those interested can sign up for the course at [www.radford.va.us](http://www.radford.va.us). choice of a morning session (8 a.m. until noon) or an afternoon session (1 p.m. 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 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 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. For more information or to join the women's club, contact VTWC65@gmail.com.

### Loops Group with New River Art & Fiber

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. New River Art & Fiber is joining the Blacksburg Library in hosting a weekly loops group. Everyone -- e.g. knitters and crocheters -- is invited to bring a fiber arts project and join in. Spend some relaxing time with fellow fiber artists while making progress on your projects. The group will meet every Wednesday.

## Sunday, Sept. 19:

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

Everyone is 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 & 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, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, and Montgomery County Public Schools.

## Sunday, Sept. 26:

### Continue the discussion focusing on ways to take action.

Forum participants will gather in person in the Whisner Building at the Church Street campus of BUMC (masks and social distancing required), 111 Church St., Blacksburg, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. each evening. A Zoom option is also available by request.

Contact Tindal Snider at [tindalsnider@yahoo.com](mailto:tindalsnider@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Wednesday, Sept. 22:

### Radford Ammunition Plant community meeting

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) will hold its next community meeting at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. The event will be broadcast on Facebook Live from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant Facebook page. These meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity to learn about RFAAP modernization and environmental projects. Interested persons may reach out to RFAAP with questions or to conduct research on their own through the following resources: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>; Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>; and Email: [usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil).

## 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 Universi-

ties. She has published over 50 stories and has received eight Pushcart nominations.

## Through September:

### Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

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

### Simply Elemental Art Exhibit

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

### Take & Make Crafts

All Month at the Blacksburg Library  
Craft kits will be available all month long. Each week a new craft will be available for 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 make movie night 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. 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 continues 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 will be held every Thursday through October from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center.

**ONLINE ONLY AUCTION**  
**Wednesday September 22nd at 4 PM**  
**Land for Sale at Auction in Pearisburg VA!**  
**Henson Ave Pearisburg VA 24134**  
**Bid online now at VaAuctionPro.com**



A large tract of land located in Pearisburg VA! This property has frontage on Henson Ave. and S. Main St. / Route 100. The property consists of 25.443 acres of undeveloped land. The land is mostly open with some wooded areas. Zoned AR-1. Great building land! Property does have public water and sewer.

This property is located in Pearisburg VA, across from Macy McClaugherty Elementary School. Right down the road from Carilion Giles Memorial Hospital, local shops and more. You are also just a short drive away from the New River.

Directions - From Giles County Courthouse in Pearisburg VA, South Main Street, take a left on Henson Avenue. Property on the right across from Macy McClaugherty Elementary School. Property has a small portion of frontage on South Main Street but not accessed from South Main. You can access property from Henson Avenue.

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 on day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

Contact - Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)

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

# United Way NRV to kick off 2021 workplace campaign



Carter Bank & Trust presents a check to the United Way NRV for its Carter Cares program. United Way will kick off its 2021 workplace campaign virtually on Sept. 23.

United Way NRV will kick off its 2021 workplace fundraising campaign virtually on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

All attendees will be entered into a raffle drawing for prizes from area businesses.

The mission of the United Way NRV is to

unite local people and resources to improve lives in the New River Valley. All money raised during the workplace campaign stays in the New River Valley, funding the United Way's direct service programs and 22 partner agencies.

These programs include Stuff the Bus, the diaper pantry, holiday meal boxes, Toys from the Heart, Elves United, and Volunteer NRV.

In 2020, United Way NRV assisted over 2,000 community members.

Any company or business interested in partnering with United Way to improve lives in the New River Valley can email [info@unitedway-nrv.org](mailto:info@unitedway-nrv.org).



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# Food City pharmacies to offer flu vaccine

Food City, which has a store locally at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford, will once again be providing the flu vaccine this immunization season through its pharmacies.

"Food City's immunizing pharmacists are certified to administer vaccinations in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Pharmacists Association and the corresponding state pharmacy associations," said Mickey Blazer, Food City executive vice president of pharmacy operations. "Food City Pharmacy

offers the added convenience of a number of affordable preventative health care options, including the COVID-19 vaccine."

Seasonal flu vaccine provides protection against the most common strains of influenza. Vaccinations are available on a walk-up basis at Food City immunizing pharmacies and will continue throughout flu season based upon vaccine availability. Visit [foodcity.com](http://foodcity.com) for a complete list of immunizing locations.

Food City Pharmacy will

be following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, including guidance to minimize the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and to reduce the risk for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. While all individuals are encouraged to receive a flu shot, the CDC strongly recommends vaccination for individuals considered high risk. High-risk individuals include persons 65 or older, residents of long-term care facilities, persons 2-64 years of age with comorbid (more than

one) conditions, and pregnant women. The CDC also recommends the flu shot for health-care personnel who provide direct patient care and household contacts or caregivers of children under six months of age. Food City pharmacists can immunize individuals 12 years and older.

Flu vaccines are available in Quadrivalent or High Dose. Insurance, including Medicare Part B will be accepted, many with a zero copay. Other vaccines, including COVID, pneumonia, and shingles

shots, will be available as well.

Flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October and November. Most of the time, flu activity peaks between December and February and can last as late as May.

"Food City takes pride in serving our community and we're proud to once again offer our loyal customers the added convenience of flu vaccinations," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

## Back-to-school CARE kits available for Virginia educators

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is offering free activity resource kits to educators as they begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Creative Agriculture Resources for Education kits were developed by Virginia AITC in partnership with several agriculture commodity boards, such as those representing cotton, peanut, and dairy farmers. The kits' variety of books, lesson plans, and activities was assembled to help educators teach about Virginia agriculture and farming in fun and creative ways.

"Providing educators with resources that give accurate information about agriculture adds to

their toolbox of items for the year," said Tammy Maxey, AITC program director. "For example, a poster hanging in the cafeteria illustrating how Virginia farms produce the essentials of a school breakfast or lunch will create a daily connection for students."

The CARE kits will equip teachers with coloring books, puzzle books, easy-to-follow recipes, and examples of commodities produced in Virginia. The kits even include a wildflower seed packet that teachers and students can plant.

"The materials for this year are super awesome," said Beth Davis, a special education teacher

at Chesterfield County's Alberta Smith Elementary School who received one of the CARE kits. "We use the state map to locate regions where the crops are grown. I appreciate all materials that have been provided and will continue to use them in my classroom. Hands-on learning is how my students learn best, and having actual materials makes such a difference."

Maxey explained that AITC partners with agriculture groups each year to develop activities and resources related to Virginia's No. 1 industry. The projects aim to inform students about the plants and animals grown and raised in the



state and their uses, career opportunities in agriculture, and agriculture's value to the state economy.

"AITC has great partnerships with agriculture producers including a

number of the commodity boards," Maxey said. "They value opportunities to connect consumers with facts about their products."

The free kits are available to public, private,

and homeschool educators, who can register to receive a kit at [bit.ly/3tal2PO](http://bit.ly/3tal2PO). A link to the registration page also is available on the AITC website and Facebook page.

## Public asked to report pinesnake sightings in Virginia

The Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation is collaborating with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Forest Service to collect data on the status of the nonvenomous pinesnake in Virginia.

Anyone spotting a pinesnake is asked to contact Collegiate Assistant Professor Kevin Hamed (540-231-1887 or [khamed@vt.edu](mailto:khamed@vt.edu)). If possible and safe, take a photograph of the snake and record the details of the area where the snake was. Pinesnakes can be found in areas with sandy, well-drained soils or dry rock ridges.

The last known sighting of the pinesnake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) in Virginia was over 30 years ago. Northern populations of the

pinesnake are found in disjunct locations in New Jersey, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. Southern pinesnake populations are found in Georgia, Florida, and coastal regions in Mississippi and Alabama.

Pinesnakes (aka bull snakes) provide ecosystem services to humans by preying on many creatures that cause homeowners problems, such as small mammals. A better understanding of their current distribution in Virginia is needed to manage and conserve these amazing reptiles. Several areas of Virginia have ideal habitats that could support pinesnakes.

The pinesnake averages about 50 inches in length and often has black blotches on a white background or brown blotches on a tan

or yellowish background. When threatened, it will expel air quickly, producing a loud hiss, which can be intimidating but poses no danger.

Two other nonvenomous snakes present in Virginia may be confused with the pinesnake. The eastern hog-nosed snake, which averages about 25 inches in length, has dark blotches with red, orange, yellow, gray, olive, brown, or black background colors. The juvenile eastern ratsnake is heavily patterned, with a light color underneath and patches of darker reddish brown or rusty black overlaying the lighter base. Most also have a distinct eye stripe that extends from eye to eye across the top of the skull.



PHOTO BY JEFF DRAGON.

**Nonvenomous pinesnakes (aka bull snakes) provide ecosystem services to humans by preying on many creatures that cause homeowners problems, such as small mammals. The last known sighting of the pinesnake in Virginia was more than 30 years ago.**

## Virginia Tech researchers discover potential method to convert food waste into batteries



**VT associate professors Haibo Huang and Feng Lin have discovered that removing certain specific compounds from food waste left essential compounds behind that could sufficiently work for a battery.**

What do apple cores, spent grain, and walnut shells have in common? They could one day be used to power a data center.

As the world works toward economically and environmentally friendly ways to power these devices, two Virginia Tech researchers investigate how food waste and its associated biomass can be converted into rechargeable batteries.

"This research could be a piece of the puzzle in solving the sustainable energy problems for rechargeable batteries," said project co-lead Haibo Huang, an associate

professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Demand for these reusable batteries has skyrocketed, and we need to find a way to reduce the environmental impacts of batteries."

The research is funded through a three-year, \$450,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Foundational and Applied Science Program with the priority area of bioprocessing and bioengineering. The grant runs through April 2023.

Based on the prelimi-

nary results, the researchers found that the fiber component in food waste was the key to developing advanced carbon materials that could be used as a battery anode, the negative terminal on a battery.

"Our unique approach of using agricultural waste-derived carbon materials to host alkali metal, such as lithium and sodium, will bring major advances to agricultural waste processing and battery technology," said Feng Lin, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and the project's principal investigator.

The team uses highly tunable, abundant, and cost-effective raw materials to address the need in the energy storage field. Using waste-derived carbon materials as the host for metal anodes could significantly reduce alkali metal usage per battery.

Not long ago, Huang and Lin played a game of pickup basketball when the idea struck them.

"We thought why not convert food waste into battery materials because of how much food waste there is across the globe," Huang said. "Most of these wastes are put into garbage and then sent to landfills. We just need to solve the battery side."

There's a heavy reliance on graphite – a limited resource – to make battery anodes.

The researchers first tested different types of food waste material to see if any could be used to make batteries.

"As a food processing engineer, I can modify the composition of the food," Huang said. "I could take the proteins and lipids out, along with some of the minerals, to see how it impacts battery performance."

In the upcoming final two years of the project, the researchers will further test the food-waste-turned-carbon with feedback from the lab to optimize the battery sci-

ence. The final step will be an economic analysis on the feasibility of implementing this technology to ensure usage when pushed to the market.

The anticipated initial uses of the technology are for affordable energy storage solutions for data centers or other large energy storage facilities where the size of the battery is not a factor. As they progress, the researchers hope to be able to turn food waste into a carbon that lacks the impurities experienced today.

"We have the opportunity to solve two urgent issues in two different industries," Huang said. "A

lot of energy is already put into the production and transportation of food in the food supply chain. We must recover the value from food waste. This is the perfect opportunity, as battery production looks for different materials than the traditional carbon."

While they may not solve the problem of having to replace batteries in the TV remote just yet, the team is helping the technology get closer to having food waste power the devices people use daily.

Just don't underestimate the power of apple waste, spent grain, and walnut shells.



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# OPINION

## COVID-19 update: Delta surge is peaking, case counts should decline

According to Dr. Noelle Bissell, director of the New River Public Health District, in her weekly interview Tuesday with the media, "It is likely that we are peaking with this Delta surge and expect to start seeing new case counts declining in future weeks."

She cautioned, however, that hospitalizations and deaths lag new case numbers by several weeks, so the district's healthcare resources will continue to be under strain.

Dr. Bissell said that some people are confused by the descriptions of different levels of the disease. So, to provide some clarity, she presented the press with a brief overview:

**MILD COVID-19**, which is the situation with most individuals. One might feel really bad, but doesn't develop pneumonia or low blood oxygen levels, and doesn't require medical attention.

**MODERATE COVID-19**:

One may have evidence of pneumonia and may present with shortness of breath, but individuals don't require hospitalization or supplemental oxygen.

**SEVERE COVID-19**: One has much worse symptoms of pneumonia, including shortness of breath and low blood oxygen levels requiring hospitalization; progression to some lung damage can often be seen on chest imaging.

**CRITICAL COVID-19**: These cases are those who develop respiratory failure, shock, multiple organ dysfunction and have a high chance of death.

"Though we are optimistic that the Delta surge is peaking, that doesn't mean the pandemic is over," the health district director warned. "There is still a lot of sickness and loss that our community will experience. The Delta variant is highly contagious, and we should

expect it to take time for cases to decrease significantly.

"We have several tools to fight this pandemic, what we call layered mitigation, including vaccines, masks, ventilation, hand washing, and distancing. All of these make a difference, but vaccines are the most powerful tool we have. In Virginia, unvaccinated people get COVID 9.2 times more often than fully vaccinated people and 2.5 times more often than partially vaccinated people.

"I'm happy to report that more and more of our residents are getting vaccinated for the first time, but we still have a way to go," Dr. Bissell said.

"It's very important to mask indoors when with people outside of one's household and to meet with people in the highly ventilated outdoors as much as possible," she told the media. "These practices are critical to stopping the spread of the dis-

ease. We know that people can spread COVID before they get symptoms as well as while they have symptoms. We know that some people – about 1 in 5 – don't get symptoms, but can still spread the disease. We also know that vaccinated people can get COVID, but the vast majority have milder disease and are contagious for a shorter time.

"We have been battling this pandemic for at least a year and a half," Dr. Bissell said. "This is not a time for COVID absolutism or moral outrage. We all need to take responsibility for protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. We know what to do. Lockdowns and mandates are not good strategies.

"We are hearing that some of our business leaders have been waiting for mask mandates or vaccine mandates from government authorities, believing that if there is no mandate, it's

not a serious surge. Businesses and employers need to make decisions based on their own situation.

"We do offer assistance through the New River Business Continuity Team. Please contact Ashley Briggs, abriggs@nrvc.org if you are looking for information, advice, or would like a representative to chat with your team.

"I'd also like to remind everyone that flu season is approaching, and encourage all to get a flu shot," Dr. Bissell said. "We were able to keep flu to a minimum last year, mostly through distancing, masking and handwashing.

"With the strain that COVID is putting on our healthcare system, it's important again this year to keep flu to a minimum. We'll be announcing flu vaccine clinics in the coming weeks and will have COVID vaccines at the same time."

## WalletHub: Virginia is fourth-best state in which to retire

As the personal finance website WalletHub noted, not all Americans can look forward to a relaxing retirement. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2021 Retirement Confidence Survey, 7 in 10 workers reported feeling at least somewhat confident that they will have enough money to retire comfortably, but only 3 in 10 said they were "very confident."

To help Americans plan an affordable retire-

ment while maintaining the best quality of life, WalletHub compared the retiree-friendliness of the 50 states and then ranked them in order of the best states to retire in.

Virginia did well in the rankings, landing in the number-four spot.

The only states considered by WalletHub to be better places in which to retire were Florida, Colorado, and Delaware.

The ten states the website determined to be the worst places for

retirees were 41. Illinois 42. Texas 43. Connecticut 44. West Virginia 45. Kentucky 46. Rhode Island 47. New Mexico 48. Mississippi 49. New York and 50. New Jersey.

Among the metrics WalletHub used to determine its rankings were the adjusted cost of living, the general tax friendliness, the retired taxpayer friendliness, the tax friendliness on estate or inheritance tax, the share of the population aged 65 and older, the risk of social isolation,

the elderly-friendly labor market, the share of the population aged 65 and older in poverty, the access to public transportation, the mildness of the weather, the golf courses per capita, the access to adult volunteer activities, the family medicine physicians per capita, the quality of the public hospitals, the share of the population aged 65 and older with good or better health, and the share of the population aged 65 and older who are physically active.

## WalletHub survey shows Virginia has tenth-biggest increase in credit-card debt

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, Americans' situation with credit-card debt is not good. Neither is Virginia's in particular as a survey of the states' increase in credit-card debt revealed the commonwealth to be among the country's leaders in the amount of the increase in credit-card debt, landing in the number-10 spot among the 50 states with a total credit-card

debt at the end of the second quarter of 2021 of \$28,265,038,801 with an increase in that debt during the quarter of \$1,384,111,053.

U.S. consumers have started to return to bad habits when it comes to credit card debt, the website says, following a record-setting reduction in 2020 that continued into the first quarter of 2021. During Q2 2021, consumers added \$45.7 billion to their tab, an all-time

record that nearly wiped out the first-quarter paydown. Furthermore, WalletHub now projects that consumers will end the year with a net addition of \$100 billion in credit card debt, which far exceeds the 10-year average of \$45.6 billion.

According to WalletHub's survey, California is the state with the largest increase in card debt during 2021's second quarter. After that come 2. Texas 3. Florida

4. New York 5. Illinois 6. Pennsylvania 7. Georgia 8. Ohio 9. North Carolina and 10. Virginia.

The states with the smallest increase in credit-card debt during the quarter, according to the website, were 41. New Hampshire 42. Maine 43. Rhode Island 44. Montana 45. Delaware 46. Alaska 47. South Dakota 48. North Dakota 49. Wyoming and 50. Vermont.

### News Messenger

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Feel pain, 5. Interest rate, 8. Long narrative poem, 12. Sedimentary rock, 14. No (Scottish), 15. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid, 16. Sleep gear, 18. One who buys and sells securities, 19. Cincinnati ballplayers, 20. Of the backbone, 21. Car mechanics group, 22. Iranian village, 23. Canadian peninsula, 26. For all ills or diseases, 30. Known for his "razor", 31. One who plays the viola, 32. Resinlike substance, 33. Educational association, 34. Inappropriate, 39. A team's best pitcher, 42. The cost of bus travel, 46. Badgerlike mammal, 44. Popular sport in Ireland, 47. Written works, 49. Pop, 50. Consumed, 51. Something comparable to another, 56. Wild goat, 57. One-time space station, 58. Outline of a plan, 59. Actress Petty, 60. An electrically charged atom, 61. Chewed and swallowed, 62. Bones (Latin), 63. Central nervous system, 64. Type of pipe, CLUES DOWN: 1. Vipers, 2. Pal, 3. One who has been to Mecca, 4. Energy and enthusiasm, 5. Leaf-footed bug genus, 6. Southern belle accessory, 7. \_\_\_ de Mornay, actress, 8. Print errors, 9. Preceding, 10. Asian nation, 11. The people in a movie, 13. Liberate, 17. Strong laxatives, 24. Tub, 25. Happening, 26. Polyvinyl acetate, 27. Small island (British), 28. Neither, 29. The G.O.A.T., 35. What Goodell oversees, 36. One who engages in Dawah, 37. Tall, rounded vase, 38. Electroencephalograph, 40. Made of clay and hardened by heat, 41. Great happiness, 42. Chinese surname, 43. Supposed emanations, 44. Travelers, 45. Loss of bodily movements, 47. Los \_\_\_, rock group, 48. Seabirds, 49. Used to store grain, 52. Whale ship captain, 53. "Joker" actor, 54. Portends good or evil, 55. Organized group of criminals

## Doerzaph from page 1

In addition to leading the largest group of driving safety researchers in the world, Doerzaph will also take on the role of president of VTT LLC, a nonprofit, university-affiliated corporation of the Virginia Tech Foundation that operates the Global Center for Automotive Performance Simulation in Halifax County, Va.

Doerzaph, who is also an associate professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics, will oversee the university's largest research institute, which conducts more than 300 research projects in partnership with more than 100 public and private organizations to improve transportation safety nationally and globally. The institute historically has approached \$50 million in externally sponsored awards and accounts for 12 to 15 percent of sponsored research at Virginia Tech.

Over Doerzaph's professional career, his research focus has been on measuring and improving the performance of next generation vehicle systems. His research projects emphasize safety as it relates to the interactions between the driver, vehicle, and infrastructure with local, state, national, and global implications.

Doerzaph's nationally recognized research portfolio has resulted in extensive collaborations with policymakers, infrastructure owner operators, and the automotive and transportation industry. His team often works with public private partnerships, including a portfolio of connected vehicle studies dating back well over a decade with the Crash Avoidance Metrics Partnership, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the United States Department of Transportation. He also works alongside numerous automotive manufacturers and a broad array of suppliers to develop and evaluate their prototype technologies prior to public announcement or production release.

In his prior position as the director of

VTTI's Division of Vehicle, Driver, and System Safety, Doerzaph guided a team of 62 faculty, staff, and student researchers who apply cutting-edge scientific methods to design, develop, refine, and evaluate solutions to complex transportation challenge, focusing on applications to improve the safety and effectiveness of transportation systems for the broad range of users.

Doerzaph testified to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on the effects of automated technology on the nation's roads and bridges, informing policymakers. In a June 2018 testimony, he shared that large-scale deployment of automated vehicles will take decades to achieve with a significant percentage of manually driven vehicles on the roads for the foreseeable future. Doerzaph said that recognizing and designing for these mixed fleets is critical to ensuring safe and effective transportation in the future.

Doerzaph's research also engages Virginia Tech students. He mentors 13 graduate students on advanced research projects and provides hands-on learning opportunities to undergraduate students through capstone design projects. With Doerzaph's guidance, a group of grad students voluntarily expanded their semester project by developing a novel vehicle safety system. In 2019, they submitted their concept to the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles Student Competition, taking first prize and earning the title of international champions.

Today, VTTI is a top three transportation institute globally. Institute faculty members currently publish about 150 journal articles per year, including high impact-journals like the New England Journal of Medicine, The Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences, JAMA Pediatrics, the International Journal of Epidemiology, and the Journal of Public Health in addition to transportation and safety specific journals.



# With support from VT researchers and students, ocean engineers continue to optimize design and performance of autonomous underwater vehicle

**Jama Green**  
Contributing writer

Almost two years ago, Dive Technologies Inc., a subsea robotics designer and manufacturer based in Boston, began a multiyear partnership with researchers and students at the Center for Marine Autonomy and Robotics to develop a novel commercial autonomous underwater vehicle.

In April 2021, Dive Technologies delivered the DIVE-LD to market, a design they see as the most capable large-displacement autonomous underwater vehicle, in terms of the reliability, endurance, and navigational accuracy it brings to global commercial and defense customers.

With the first round of sea trials of their craft complete, the DIVE-LD's performance has already exceeded expectations, but the team behind the self-propelled, unmanned, untethered underwater vehicle is driven to take it even further. They're now back in the lab, working diligently to refine the vehicle's software systems and optimize hydrodynamic performance.

Virginia Tech ocean engineering researchers and stu-

dents have supported the mission of Dive Technologies through development and testing of the vehicle's innovative hydrodynamic design, control, and autonomy subsystems, and a complete software framework for fully autonomous subsea operation. The team at Virginia Tech is led by Daniel Stilwell, professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Stefano Brizzolara, associate professor in the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

The team conducted sea trials of the DIVE-LD in the waters of Cape Cod Bay and Buzzards Bay, an hour south of Boston. Throughout August to December 2020, Dive Technologies ran more than 250 missions and put a significant number of hours on the test vehicle. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Stilwell, Brizzolara, and their students were unable to travel to the sites for offshore testing. Both groups stayed connected throughout the trials through email, virtual meetings, and the occasional offshore phone call in order to quickly analyze test results and make rapid corrections along the way.



Virginia Tech ocean engineering researchers and students have supported the mission of Dive Technologies through development and testing of the DIVE-LD autonomous underwater vehicle, pictured above, which exceeded performance expectations at the first round of sea trials in Massachusetts in late 2020. Photo courtesy of Dive Technologies Inc.

The vehicle performed better than the team anticipated. "We assumed months of control loop tuning and down time for the DIVE-LD, but the model had us running with very stable platform control within the first month," Russo said. "We were able to show stability data to sensor providers that often takes many months or more to achieve for a new commercial

vehicle offering. Furthermore, it's credit to Virginia Tech, Dive's overall system design, and Dive's proprietary casualty monitoring and emergency logic failsafe that we experienced zero mission aborts during sea trials, a true testament to the engineering rigor behind the design of the DIVE-LD."

Back at Virginia Tech, Brizzolara and his students cel-

brated the initial success of their hydrodynamic design for the vehicle — then quickly got back to work. According to Brizzolara, a benefit to partnerships with industry is the invaluable feedback these collaborators provide, as the team is using the data from the sea trials for further refinement of the numerical models and theoretical ideas.

## Geologists look to past for answers on future tsunami threats

Multiple large and destructive tsunamis in the past few decades in the Indian Ocean (2004), Chile (2010), and Japan (2011) have underscored the threat that tsunamis pose to coastal regions, ushering in a new era of research aimed at better predicting areas threatened by the fast-developing natural disasters.

But documenting and examining recent events does not provide enough information to fully characterize coastal hazards, said Tina Dura, an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Geosciences. Dura is taking a new approach to help overcome that information deficit. She's looking at the past with an aim to understand what may lie ahead.

"It is still too difficult

to predict when a tsunami may strike if we only consider the recent past," Dura said. "Some coastlines have not experienced a recent large tsunami, so we may underestimate the potential for infrequent, but large and destructive tsunami events," Dura said. "We hope to change that by using geological history as our guide."

Dura's Coastal Hazards Lab uses sand beds deposited by tsunamis and preserved in coastal environments to reconstruct past tsunami inundation over hundreds to thousands of years, helping better define coastal hazards in a region.

Dura was part of research that appeared in Nature Geoscience Thursday examining the seismic risk of earthquakes and associated

tsunamis in the Tokyo region. The work revealed that earthquakes along a previously unconsidered plate boundaries have produced significant tsunami inundation in the past, adding another possible source for earthquakes in the Tokyo region and tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean.

"This study describes the first geologic evidence of past tsunami inundation along the north-central Chile coast," said Dura, who is an affiliated member of the Center for Coastal Studies, an arm of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech. "Every new tsunami deposit we describe helps paint a more complete picture of how tsunamis have behaved in the past and what we can expect in the future."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA DURA

Virginia Tech and Japanese researchers extract sediment core from the Kujukuri coastal plain in Japan.

"Visiting north-central Chile and seeing the tsunami evidence firsthand really drove home the power of this hands-on geologic effort to

better understand tsunami hazards," said Jessica DePaolis, a Ph.D. student in the Coastal Hazards Lab. "Leading the data collection and

writing of the study was a big challenge but it was made possible by a great group of collaborators from Chile and the U.S."

## OBITUARY

### White, Alan Richard

Alan Richard White of Radford, devoted husband and father, passed away from cancer on Aug. 25, 2021. He was 73.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Carol B. White; three children, David White of New York, N.Y., Jennifer White of Savannah, Ga., and Erin White of Greensboro, N.C.; a beautiful granddaughter; three siblings, Patricia Zimmerman of Buffalo, N.Y., Michele White of Clearwater, Fla., and Steven White of New York, N.Y.; their families; and extended family throughout the East Coast.

Born in 1948 to Richard and Margaret White, Alan grew up in upstate New York. He graduated as valedictorian from Horseheads High School in 1966 and maintained several close friendships from those years throughout the rest of his life.

Alan earned his B.S. in engineering from Princeton University in 1970 and upon graduation enlisted in the U.S. Army. When his service ended, he embarked on a career in mechanical engineering that would last more than 40 years.

He worked nearly two decades for Gardner Denver (formerly Hoffman Air & Filtration) in Syracuse, N.Y., and more than 10 years with Carrington Engineering in Charlotte, N.C., before founding Mark Ten Equipment in Wynne, Ark.

Upon retirement in 2015, Alan and Carol moved to the Virginia mountains, which they had come to love from their travels back north to visit family.

Alan was a dedicated lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church USA where

he served in a wide variety of roles for the congregations in which he worshiped, including elder, deacon, as a member of the stewardship committee and the pastoral search committee. He was also active in youth fellowship, a basketball rec league, and international and local missions work. He served with the Gideons for many years.

Alan was an avid hiker and runner and lover of the natural world. He was an Eagle Scout and could always surprise everyone with his knowledge in many fields. He was known to travel far and wide to participate in whichever road races he took a particular liking to. Even in recent years when dog-walking was more his pace, he still enjoyed following scholastic and collegiate cross-country racing.

Alan strongly believed in America and took great pride in the communities in which he lived, contributing to each in numerous ways. Many people knew him as a fellow volunteer, fan, leader, coach, director, or simply for his friendliness, sense of humor, and positive attitude. On a daily basis, he made this world a better place, and he will be missed greatly.

A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Radford in November. Plans and online condolences can be viewed/shared via Mullins Funeral Home, Radford. (www.mullinsfuneralhome.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread, which provides meals to those in need in the Radford area. (www.radfordfairlawnailybread.org)

### ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Wednesday September 22nd at 3 PM

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Bid online now at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)



Beautiful one level, brick ranch home in Floyd County VA. Features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths and tons of space! The main level holds +/- 1,715 sq. ft. with 2 BR, 2 BA, a beautiful great room, custom kitchen, carport and more! The basement has +/- 1,215 sq. ft. with 1 BR and 1 full BA. Has central vacuum, double convection oven, skylights, water softener system and new whole house generator. The home has plenty of living space for you and your loved ones! Kick back and relax with your family on the deck out back or on the nice covered front porch. This sweet home is settled on 1.43 acres and is located just minutes from the Town of Floyd!

Preview- Saturday September 4th at 10 AM

**Terms and Conditions** – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. 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 3 PM on September 22nd 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 for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

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# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Shelby is a young momma cat whose kittens have found homes. Now it's her turn to be loved and nurtured. Shelby is a sweet gal. She enjoys receiving affection and will happily roll over for a nuzzle.**



**Bubba loves the great outdoors where he can put his sniffer to good use. He can be a playful pup, too. Bubba's future home will need to provide him with some basic doggie manners and training.**

## 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, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**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

# Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## Holy or Common

Read Ezekiel 44:1 through 46:24

At a church harvest festival, rain chased the activities into the building. Games, food, and a petting zoo found new locations throughout the church's hallways and rooms. During the evening, some of the animals soiled the floor.

Training the animals to respect the church property takes time and effort. For a believer, growing in holiness takes time and effort as well.

"They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and

the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23).

The Holy Spirit gives Christians the ability to determine what is holy. This is a process. God does not download every life situation and its proper response into a believer's mind. Through godly teaching and a searching of the Word, understanding grows. An important step in this process is identity. A believer must recognize that he or she is Christ's holy dwelling place and live accordingly.

Thought for Today: Discern what is holy. Send the common out to the barn.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 44:15-23

**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)**

[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.

## EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and [www.graceradford.org](http://www.graceradford.org).

## 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 [luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com](mailto:luthermemorialblacksburg@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.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.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: [christwesleyanchurch.org](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)



# OBITUARIES

## McKinney, Doris Marie (Mickie) Matherly

Doris Marie (Mickie) Matherly McKinney, a longtime resident of Treasure Island, Fla., died peacefully in her home on Aug. 26, 2021, at the age of 86.

Doris was born on June 15, 1935. She was raised in Christiansburg and Blacksburg, as an adopted daughter of the Matherly family. She graduated from Blacksburg High School, later married Lowell McKinney, and then traveled with him around the world as he served our country as part of the Air Force.

During her younger years, Doris raised two daughters, ensuring they had college educations, volunteered with the American Red Cross and worked as a church secretary at Balboa Union Church, Panama City, Panama Canal Zone. In her 60's she worked as an administrative assistant at Smith-



Kline Beecham in Pennsylvania.

After retiring, she traveled the world, visiting over 80 countries. During her senior years, she settled in Treasure Island where she enjoyed walking on the beach with her girlfriends, writing short stories and poems, crocheting, and cooking.

Doris was predeceased by her parents, Mary Anna and Jahue Matherly of Blacksburg; three brothers, Carrol Matherly, Guy Matherly, and Rudolph Matherly; and two sisters, Ruth Sowers and Reba Fleshman.

Doris is survived by her husband, Lowell; her daughters Suzanne McKinney and Catherine Cox; her son-in-law Thomas Cox; and her grandsons Ian Crawford, John Cox, and Daniel Cox.

A private memorial service will be held to celebrate her life.

## Mottesheard, Geneva L.

Geneva L. Mottesheard, 93, passed away at Radford Health and Rehab Center in Radford on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021.

She was born a namesake of her mother's two sisters on Aug. 24, 1928.

Geneva was a member of First Christian Church, now known as Unity Christian Church. She graduated from Radford High School, then worked at the Radford Theatre and Whitehead's Pharmacy for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence Ray and Allie Hurst Mottesheard; a sister, Helen Augusta Mottesheard; brothers Clifton Hurst Mottesheard and Samuel Ray Mottesheard; and a nephew, Gary Noel Mottesheard.



Survivors include her two brothers, Donald Gray and Max Garland Mottesheard; nieces Candace Mottesheard Smith (Lenny) and Donna Jean Laux (Richard Slagter); nephews Jerry Wayne Mottesheard, Jeffery Mottesheard (Linda), and Phillip Mottesheard (Jenny); and many other family members and special friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at the Unity Christian Church in Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Wendy Wilson and Dr. Rev. Gina Rhea officiating. Interment followed in the West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

## Elliott, Phyllis Hungate

Phyllis Hungate Elliott, 82, of McCoy, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

She was born on May 24, 1939, to the late David and Verna Goad Hungate. She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane Elliott; brothers Nelson Hungate and Eugene (Pooch) Hungate; and a great-grandchild, Maryn McCoy.

Phyllis retired from Electro Tech after over 40 years of service. She attended Community Christian Church, McCoy, and Faith Christian Church, Christiansburg, as she continued her faith in Christ.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Robin McCoy; grandchildren Luke McCoy, Corey

McCoy (Alicia), and Morgan Coartney (Nathan); great-grandchildren Tommy, Marlee, Hattee, and Everleigh; special great-nieces Emilie and Brianna Bradbury; several other nieces and nephews; and special friend and caregiver Samantha Dalton.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Christian Church, McCoy, with Mr. Chris Brandow and the Rev. Scott Obenchain officiating. Interment will follow in the Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Perdue, Dennis

Dennis Perdue, 81, of Christiansburg, died Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021, at his home. He was born in Blacksburg on July 23, 1940.

He was preceded in death by his father, Carl Perdue, and his mother, Becky Ricketts.

He served in the National Guard in the U. S. Army. Dennis owned and operated Blacksburg Guttering for many years until his retirement in September 2019.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Perdue; a son and daughter-in-law, Rusty and Jennifer Carter; a daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and John Tamminen; grandchildren Adrianna Phillips, Tyler Bray, Savannah Gautier, and Isaac Carter, who were the



light of his life; great-grandchildren Elizabeth Gautier, Tristan Phillips, and Camden Phillips, brothers and sister-in-law, Carl and Nancy Oliver, Rickey Ricketts, and Larry Ray Ricketts; a sister, Susan Forsyth; lifelong special friends, Dennis (Red-eye) Moore and Bill Pack; and special pets Brandy, Cookie, and Sammie.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Paul Stover officiating. Interment followed in the Birchlawn Burial Park, Pearisburg. The family received friends Wednesday evening at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

## Morrison, Erline Cox

Erline Cox Morrison, 84, loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

She was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church.

Erline was preceded in death by her parents, Thornton and Ola Cox; and her daughter, Karen Adkins.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Jim Morrison; a son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Vanessa Morrison; a daughter and son-in-law,

Tracey and Terry Cater; five grandchildren, Nikki Gearheart (Jeremiah), Chris Morrison, James Morrison (Chassidy), Matt Morrison, and Katie Cater; four great-grandchildren, Grayson, Caleb, Cara, and Kingston; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Shriners Hospital.

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

# Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in

effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: Through Friday, Sept. 10, alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile marker 104-106 during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**  
616 West Main Street, Radford, VA  
\$1,250 per month. McCraw Building. Brick Exterior. Off Street Paved Parking. 4 Rest Rooms. Heat Pump. Smaller spaces also available. Agent owned. High traffic count. Near city hall, police station and municipal building.  
**McCRAW REAL ESTATE**  
Call Terry McCraw at 320-5200 to view

**Marketplace** ourvalley.org

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

**Yard Sales - Montgomery County**

**Garage Sale**  
Saturday, September 11th 8am-2pm  
50 Alder lane  
Christiansburg  
Women's clothing 1x and up, Craft items, cookbooks  
Rain or shine

**Auctions**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction September 17, 2021 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage  
5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D61, D68, E71, F18, F41  
1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE.

**For Rent - Apartments**

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

**For Sale - Misc**

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

**Help Wanted - General**

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

**MAKE AN "A" IN ADVERTISING!**  
To place your ad, call 389-9355

**Help Wanted - General**

**Senior Learning Data Analyst**  
VT seeks candidate to coordinate investigation & development of data-informed, innovative tools to enhance & extend technology platforms provided by TLOS Learning Systems. Must have (i)MS in Instruction Design & Technology (ii)8yr exp in job offered or related exp including the following elements: 5 yr exp teaching in higher ed; 2 yr exp working w/educational technologies (existing/emerging); 2 yr exp analyzing large data sets & creating customized data visualizations, static/interactive; 2 yr software dev exp in higher ed environment, using one of following: Python, Node/JS, C/C++, Java; 2 yr exp supporting faculty/student projects in

**Help Wanted - General**

educ technology; 2 yr exp creating/maintaining relational databases in web-based applications; 1 yr exp in product research/selection methodologies; 5 yr exp w/learning management sys, online collaboration sys, & source code management sys, (iii)Able to deliver professional presentations & develop oral, print, digital & web-based materials to communicate technical concepts to diverse/nontechnical audience. Pre-hire background check (w/fingerprinting)/credit check/drug-testing. Job in Blacksburg, VA. FT/M-F. Apply at https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/517283/senior-learning-data-analyst Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

**Legals - Montgomery County**

**ABC NOTICE**  
Ghanshyam Enterprise INC, trading as Garry's, 3631 Radford Rd, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073-6147.  
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Sureshbhai P Patel, Owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

**Classified Advertising Drivers**

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## High school football games taking a hit with cancellations

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

High school football programs in our area took a hit last night and next Friday as the Auburn-Floyd game scheduled for Friday night was cancelled because of the Eagles' lack of depth after they sustained several injuries this week, the Eastern Montgomery-North Cross game also scheduled for Friday night was scratched because of COVID-related issues, Pulaski County's game was cancelled, and Christiansburg's game of Sept. 17 against William Byrd was shut down after Roanoke

County officials faced a rise in positive COVID cases.

Floyd did manage to pick up a replacement in Grayson County, which had its game with Rural Retreat cancelled. Pulaski County also managed to find a new opponent in James Wood.

Christiansburg Athletic Director Tim Cromer said about the Byrd cancellation, "I am sorry to say that due to COVID issues, William Byrd is being shut down by Roanoke County Public Schools."

Overall, 14 games across Western Virginia were cancelled.

Auburn Athletic Director Paul Dominy is optimistic that his school's rash of injuries will not be a long-term problem and will allow them to play next week.

"Numbers throughout the country have been decreasing for several years, and the COVID effect is decreasing the roster numbers throughout sports in high school," Dominy said.

Similar small schools like Craig and Bland have literally shut down their football programs in the past two years because of the lack of numbers.

"At Auburn, we have seen our numbers as a percentage of

the student body decrease over the last seven years," Dominy said. "When our overall numbers of students were rising, this was not a problem, but now that our numbers have leveled off and begun to dip, it has created roster issues. Over the past 10 years we have watched colleges change their style of offense and defense to become more attractive to student-athletes, and we have reached a point where we see an advantage in doing the same."

"We believe that the changes we have made are movements in the right direction and fully expect to be moving

in a better direction once David Seabaugh has had a chance to fully implement his offense and defense," the Eagle athletic director said.

Dominy remained optimistic about the school's football future. "Auburn expects to have a bright future on the football field," he said. "With our new coach and innovative offense, we believe that what we have to offer our student-athletes is more attractive than ever before. We are largely behind on roster numbers due to diminishing numbers over the last few years and the July departure of our last head coach."

## Takeaways from first weekend of college football

College football is back. If there were some things to take away from the first full weekend of college football, we might be expecting too much from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Almost every conference team took it on the chin.

Florida State might be close to being back as one of the top teams in the ACC. The Seminoles put together a great game plan and almost took down a nationally-ranked Notre Dame team. Now can they do the same on the national scale?

Clemson is no longer the dominant team it has been. In the loss to Georgia, the Tigers showed they are a different team without Trevor Lawrence. This is bad for the ACC and bad for Clemson. They probably still are a top-10 team

nationally but will have to regroup after a horrible opening weekend.

The Atlantic Division still runs through Clemson, and they might have a chance to take one loss back into the top five and a possible playoff run. The competition also might have a say in the Tigers' success the rest of the season.

While Virginia Tech picked up a good win over North Carolina, several questions remain as to what their season will look like. The Hokies have "showed up" over the years, but they have also fallen to the likes of James Madison after picking up a big win like this one. They must beat teams they are supposed to beat, so the Hokies will have to prove themselves.

Off the field in Blacksburg on Friday night, a lot of things



**From the Sidelines**

Marty Gordon

must be cleaned up. Eliminating entrances was a great idea on paper, but it did not work. People were waiting in line too long. Tech students were climbing over fences to get into the game.

The wait was also too long in the concession and beer lines. The game-day experience has to be tightened up. Unruly fans did act poorly, and that has to change also if Lane Stadium is to be a great experience for the typical Hokie fan. Security did not have enough personnel to deal with everything, so there

has to be another solution.

The positive was the fact that after COVID-19 forced last season to mainly be to empty stadiums, the crowd is back in Lane Stadium. Players admitted they used the roar of the crowd to play at a high-level. "Enter Sandman" had a sold-out crowd jumping for the sky.

Alabama remains the top college program in the entire land. Their recruiting and coaching are the best, and they proved it in an easy win over Miami. Everyone else is chasing them and will be for a long time.

Georgia's play in the win over Clemson also means the Southeastern Conference could get two teams into the college football playoffs.

Virginia Tech's play on Saturday means they could crash

the party. Don't be surprised if the Hokies are playing for the ACC title later this year. A win over Carolina gives them the tie-breaker in the head-to-head with the Heels.

Some takeaways that should not have been:

Florida State University playing "Enter Sandman" during their Sunday night game against Notre Dame. Some things are just meant to stay in Blacksburg.

Notre Dame's "Rudy" running the Brigham Young University flag out onto the field during their pregame with Arizona. He is an Irish icon who needs to stick to his alma mater.

My top five college football teams: 1) Alabama, 2) Georgia, 3) Texas A&M, 4) Ohio State, 5) Notre Dame.

## Kastrat, Cousin Join RU men's basketball staff

Safet Kastrat and Justin Cousin have joined the staff of the Radford University men's basketball team as announced Wednesday by RU men's basketball head coach Darris Nichols.

Kastrat has been named Director of Player Development, and Justin Cousin has returned as a graduate assistant.

A native of Trenton, N.J., Kastrat comes to Radford from Rider University where he served as a special assistant to Head Coach Kevin Baggett for two seasons. He was involved in nearly every aspect of the program from working on scouting reports with assistant coaches to helping evaluate prospective recruits to handling day-to-day operations duties.

Kastrat also co-directed one of the best high school team camps in the country during his time at Rider. He led efforts to organize a 72-team event on campus that hosted teams from all over the East Coast. More than 25 national talent evaluators/scouts were in attendance including outlets such as ESPN, 24/7 Sports, and Phenom Hoops Report.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kastrat orchestrated the Who Knows You and Two Sides to the Game networking platform which served as a zoom seminar for college, high school, and AAU basketball coaches. The event involved over 1,000 coaches from all over the country.

Prior to his time at Rider, Kastrat was a member of the Hun School of Princeton's boys' varsity basketball coaching staff. His duties included on-court coaching, preparing film and scouting reports, serving as an assistant liaison between student-athletes and college coaches, working as a study hall monitor, assisting in practice planning, and coordinating summer camps.

While at Hun, Kastrat traveled all over the country to work summer basketball camps at universities such as Duke, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Texas A&M, Seton Hall, Rider, and Columbia. He was also the lead skills instructor and one of the all-star game coaches at the prestigious Jim Couch National Training

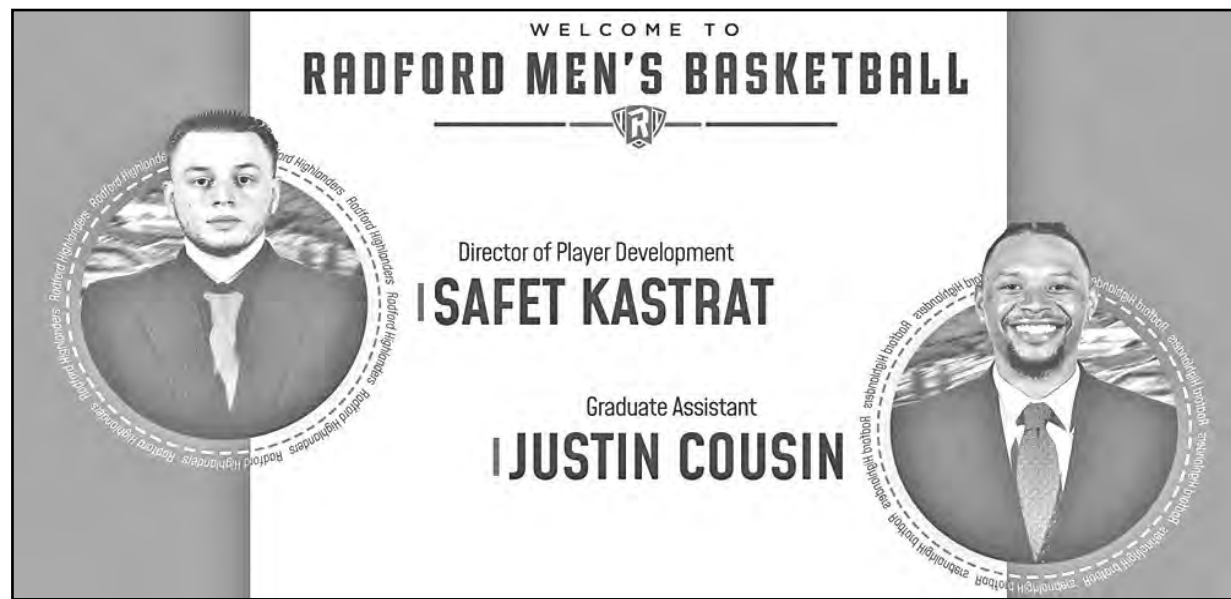


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

Showcase in the Bronx with more than 65 Division I prospects from across the nation.

Kastrat graduated from Rider in December of 2020 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a concentration in sports management and leadership. He is of Albanian and Bosnian descent with strong roots to Eastern Europe.

Cousin returns to his alma mater where he was a member of the Radford men's basketball team from 2013-2018. He currently ranks seventh

in program history for games played with 127 and was a key piece of the 2017-18 Big South championship squad that topped LIU Brooklyn for the first NCAA Tournament victory in school history.

The son of former Highlander standout Rod Cousin, he averaged 4.9 points, 1.3 rebounds, and one assist per game for his career. His best season came as a junior in 2016-17 when he contributed 11 points, 2.5 rebounds, and two assists per game.

After graduating from

Radford in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in business management, Cousin played professionally in New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand. There, he averaged 11.3 points per game and was named the Team Man of the Year, an award voted on by coaches and teammates for exemplifying many of the qualities of a team leader. While in New Zealand, he also served as a volunteer youth coach at Stratford Primary School.

Following his playing career, Cousin returned to his hometown of Bur-

lington, N.C., to work as a counselor for at-risk youth in the area. He made a living as a fifth-grade teacher and middle school basketball coach at Positive Day School while applying his basketball knowledge as a trainer for kids 5-18 years of age.

The Highlanders kick off the 2021-22 season on Monday, Nov. 1, when they host Eastern Menonite for an exhibition contest at the Dedmon Center. Then, on Nov. 9, the regular season officially begins with a game against Emory & Henry.

## Tech turns attention to Middle Tennessee

Coming off a 17-10 victory over No. 10 North Carolina to start the year, Virginia Tech football welcomes Middle Tennessee State to Lane Stadium today, Sept. 11, for a 2 p.m. kickoff on ACC Network Extra.

The Hokies (1-0, 1-0 ACC) registered a pivotal victory Friday night, their first win over a top-10 opponent since Sept.

6, 2014, when Tech took down eventual national champion and then-No. 8 Ohio State on the road. The Hokies defense swarmed Heisman-hopeful quarterback Sam Howell, forcing three interceptions and six sacks. Tech is now 28-0 under Justin Fuente when holding opponents to 20 points or fewer.

Hokies defensive back Chamarrri Conner led the team

with eight tackles and recorded the game-clinching interception with less than a minute left. Quarterback Braxton Burmeister moved to 4-1 as Tech's starting quarterback. He connected with tight end James Mitchell for an 11-yard touchdown pass and ran for another touchdown from four yards out.

The Blue Raiders (1-0) come to Blacksburg for the first

meeting between the teams following a 50-15 win over Monmouth. MTSU quarterback Bailey Hockman threw for 215 yards and three touchdowns while the Blue-Raider defense forced four turnovers.

**GAMEDAY INFORMATION**

Saturday, Sept. 11 – 2 p.m.; Lane Stadium; Blacksburg; vs. Middle Tennessee State (1-0).

Head coach: Rick Stockstill (16th season); record at MTSU: 95-92; career record: 95-92 (16th season); series record: first meeting; TV broadcast: ACC Network Extra; Play-by-play: Bill Roth; Analyst: Eddie Royal; local radio: Virginia Tech Sports Properties; Play-by-play: Jon Laaser; analyst: Mike Burnop; sideline: Wes McElroy.

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



# Virginia Tech adjusts football game day to improve fan experience at Lane Stadium

In the wake of some issues and concerns at the North Carolina game Friday, Virginia Tech athletic officials have released an open letter to Hokie fans discussing changes to improve the fan experience at Lane Stadium prior to today's Sept. 11 game against Middle Tennessee State.

In the letter, Virginia Tech officials said the following:

Dear Hokie Nation,  
Our department has been diligent about reviewing areas for improvement from Friday night's victory over the North Carolina Tar Heels in conjunction with all of the staff responsible for making Lane Stadium come to life. On any given night, operating Lane Stadium requires over 1,000 people. We appreciate their work and their commitment to continuous improvement.

We also acknowledge that not everything worked as perfectly as we had anticipated. There are areas we will continue to refine and improve. Some of these issues were visible (for example, the challenges of separating students/general public and the long concession lines), while other issues occurred behind the scenes. Regardless, our only objective is to provide a wonderful experience for our guests.

When we say "This is Home," we mean it, and we take that responsibility seriously. Our commitment to a first-class experience defines what we do and how we prepare. We apologize to anyone who did not have a tremendous experience. We've heard you, we witnessed much of it first-hand, and we are working diligently to rectify it. Thank you for your support as we continue to improve.

We appreciate that our fans come to impact the game, and we want you to continue to play a role. We do ask that all fans keep it respectful. We want to create an amazing home-field advantage, but not at the expense of any of our guests.

We are listing a myriad of items below that will be employed on Saturday and moving forward to help improve the game-day experience. When possible, we have attempted to provide context in order to help others understand why we are making certain decisions. As many businesses are currently experiencing, being fully staffed with some of our part-time roles is challenging. We are working with countless groups and staffing agencies to find talented teammates. Some of the changes below reflect the reality of the staffing situation many organizations are current-



ly facing.

**Student Section**  
Students, we need you to impact our game on the field, not in the stands. In an effort to continue to clearly define the areas assigned to students and the areas assigned to season-ticket holders and the general public - in addition to assisting with crowd control - the following measures will be put into place:

A completely reworked gate entrance at Gate 7 will still allow the first 5,000 students to enter the North End Zone stands and the remaining students to move to the East stands. This route will go up the ramp all the way to the top of Section 21, and then students will move into their assigned

areas from there.

Students, your seats are general admission within your assigned areas (North End Zone, Sections 1 and 3 above the portals, and Sections 21, 23, 25, and to the middle of Section 27 where the aisle splits), not anywhere else in the stadium.

We are installing seat tarps at the bottom of the student section below Sections 25 and 27 to clearly define where students can and cannot sit. Students can sit above the tarp that says "Welcome to the Terror Dome."

Wristbands will still be utilized for entry into the North End Zone, so students are encouraged to come early in order to be one of the first 5,000 students inside.

**Concessions**

We will be reducing some of the menu options so that we can focus on reducing wait times caused by staffing challenges. We will focus on providing standard concessions items in order to expedite the lines, including hot dogs, popcorn, nachos, and pretzels.

We will add and adjust 15 total beverage-only concessions stands (serving water, soda, and beer) within the concourses.

**Entry Gates/Ticketing**

Gates open at noon, two hours before the game on Saturday, but we ask you to download your mobile tickets by Friday or earlier. For the home opener, over 85% of fans downloaded their ticket before they set foot on

campus on Friday.

Having the Hokiesports App on your mobile device and being able to see your tickets at your house or from your hotel room is not the same as having added your tickets to your Apple wallet or to Google Pay. The Hokiesports App requires the Internet to access your ticket account, but once you add your tickets from the App to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay, they live on your phone. No Internet is necessary to access your mobile ticket once it's in your Wallet or Google Pay.

There will be customer service locations at Gate 4 and Gate 2 to help with any game day ticket needs. Both locations open three hours prior to kickoff.

## Virginia Tech moves into AP poll at No. 19

After their 17-10 defeat of tenth-ranked North Carolina over the weekend, the Hokies moved into the No.-19 spot in this week's AP Top 25 poll released Wednesday.

Georgia received four first-place votes after beating Clemson 10-3 in the opening weekend's biggest game and jumped three spots to No. 2 behind Alabama, giving the Southeastern Conference the top two teams in the country for the 30th time in the 85-year history of the college football poll.

It is the second time in the last three seasons and the third in the last five that the SEC is sitting 1-2 in the AP Top 25, which is presented by Regions Bank. Alabama and LSU had a four-week run as Nos. 1 and 2 in the 2019 season before they played each other.

The Crimson Tide strengthened its hold on No. 1 after it throttled Miami in the first full week of the regular season. Alabama received 59 first-place votes, up from the 47 it had in the preseason poll.

Ohio State moved up to No. 3 and Oklahoma dropped two spots to No. 4. Texas A&M is fifth, giving the SEC three teams in the top five.

Clemson fell three spots to sixth, marking the first time the Tigers have been out of the top four since 2017. Clemson dropped as low as No. 7 that season before finishing fourth.

No. 7 Cincinnati and No. 8 Notre Dame moved up one spot each. Iowa State dropped two places to No. 9, one spot ahead of No. 10 Iowa, heading into their rivalry game on Saturday.

Alabama and Georgia finished 1-2 in the Top 25 in 2017 when the Tide beat the Bulldogs in overtime in an all-SEC College Football Playoff game. Alabama and Georgia also spent two weeks in that regular season at Nos. 1-2.

the top two spots 76 times since the AP poll started in 1936, none more than the SEC. The now-defunct Big Eight is next with 23.

**IN**  
No. 16 UCLA is ranked for the first time since a brief stay at No. 25 in 2017, Jim Mora's last season as coach of the Bruins. It has been a slow climb back for UCLA under Chip Kelly, but a 2-0 start and a 38-27 victory against LSU pushed the Bruins into the rankings. LSU dropped out of the rankings from No. 16.

No. 19 Virginia Tech moved into the rankings after beating Atlantic Coast Conference rival North Carolina. This is the sixth straight season the Hokies have been ranked for at least one week, though Virginia Tech has not finished in the Top 25 since 2017. The Tar Heels fell 14 spots to No. 24.

No. 20 Mississippi was not far outside of the rankings to start the season and earned their first poll appearance since early in the 2016 season by beating Louisville.

No. 25 Auburn grabbed the final spot and has now been ranked for at least one week in nine straight seasons.

**OUT**  
Eight Top-25 teams lost over the holiday weekend, though five were beaten by another ranked team.

LSU dropped out of the rankings from No. 16 after the loss to UCLA.

Indiana, ranked in the preseason for the first time since 1969, is unranked after getting blown out at Iowa.

Washington dropped out after a 13-7 loss to FCS power Montana. The Huskies became just the fifth ranked team to lose to an FCS team in the history of the AP Top 25.

Louisiana-Lafayette received its first preseason ranking in school history, but dropped out after losing decisively at Texas.

SEC — 6 (Nos. 1, 2, 5, 13, 20, 25).

Pac-12 — 5 (Nos. 12, 14, 16, 21, 23).

ACC — 4 (Nos. 6, 19, 22, 24).

Big Ten — 4 (Nos. 3, 10, 11, 18).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 4, 9, 15).

American — 1 (No. 7).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 17).

Independent — 1 (No. 8).

**RANKED vs. RANKED**  
No. 12 Oregon at No. 3 Ohio State. The pandemic cost the Ducks their home game in this series last year. It's the teams' first regular-season meeting since 1987.

No. 10 Iowa at No. 9 Iowa State. The biggest Cy-Hawk game ever. No doubt.

The AP Top 25: 1. Alabama 2. Georgia 3. Ohio State 4. Oklahoma 5. Texas A&M 6. Clemson 7. Cincinnati 8. Notre Dame 9. Iowa State 10. Iowa 11. Penn State 12. Oregon 13. Florida 14. Southern Cal 15. Texas 16. UCLA 17. Coastal Carolina 18. Wisconsin 19. Virginia Tech 20. Ole Miss 21. Utah 22. Miami (Fla.) 23. Arizona State 24. North Carolina 25. Auburn.

Others receiving votes with their points total: TCU 80, North Carolina State 69, UCF 61, Liberty 57, LSU 57, Michigan 52, Oklahoma State 39, Indiana 37, Michigan State 28, Nevada 23, Kansas State 13, Louisiana-Lafayette 12, Brigham Young 10, Boston College 8, Ball State 7, Maryland 6, UAB 5, Arizona 5, Florida State 4, Kentucky 3, Army 2, Texas Tech 2, Appalachian State 1.

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

## NRV Thunder wins softball tourney



The New River Valley Thunder girls' softball team won the 12U National Softball Association's Fall Classic at Randolph Park in Dublin this past week. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Taya Hall, Alliyah Akers, Ali Taylor, Ava Hiatt and Hayden Reynolds; (back row, left to right) Keely Semtner, Maddie DeJesus, Audrey Barrow, Ariel Mullins, Abby Neel and Sullivan Shealor.

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