



## Pilot Community Center hosts music festival today



Pilot residents are hosting a music festival today, Sept. 25, to raise money to preserve the Pilot School and Community Center, pictured here.

Pilot residents are hosting a music festival today, Sept. 25, to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Pilot School and Community Center and to raise

money to continue the preservation of the building.

The festival will feature an afternoon of gospel music from Dale Buckner and Voices of Faith

today at the historic center from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 with ages 12 and under admitted free. The event also offers concessions (hot dogs, barbecue, and drinks), corn hole, cakes, and prizes for auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Pilot School was built in 1921 and served as an elementary school for over 40 years. Four such schools were built in Montgomery County, but Pilot is the only one still standing. When the county built a new school in the 1960s, local residents bought the building and donated it to serve as a community center.

Since then, locals have used

See Music festival, page 4

## Montgomery Chamber's annual awards nominations close Sept. 30



Nominations for the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's annual awards close Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

Nominations may be made in one or several of the following categories for 2021: Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Non-Profit of the Year (large), Green Organization/Company of the Year, Technology Company of the Year, Distinguished Government Leader of the Year, Distinguished Business Leader

of the Year, Distinguished Non-Profit Leader of the Year, Outstanding Community Service Award: Individual; Outstanding Community Service Award: Organization, and Minority Business of the Year (a new category).

The chamber's 2021 annual meeting will be held at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

Last year's 2020 Business of the Year was LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

## First-year cadets chosen to highlight the colors at today's Richmond game

First-year cadets Ainsley Brewer, Dom Meoli, and Victor Mou will receive the flags at today's football game against Richmond.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Virginia Tech football team continue their proud partnership to highlight the colors during the pre-game ceremony at every football game.

Three football players, chosen because of their performance in the last game or at practice, carry the American flag, the state flag, and the team's spirit flag and lead the team onto the field. They deliver the flags to cadets at the south end of the field.

The cadets, selected based on their performance in the corps, render honor to the flags and carry them off the field. At home games, three first-year cadets are selected, and one or two upper-class cadets travel with the team and receive the flags at away games.

Brewer is majoring in biological sciences in the College of Sci-



First-year cadets (left to right) Ainsley Brewer, Dom Meoli, and Victor Mou.

ence. She is the recipient of a corps' Emerging Leader Scholarship and is in Navy ROTC.

Meoli is majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship and also is in Navy ROTC. He volunteers with

Best Buddies in his free time.

Mou is majoring in economics in the College of Science. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship and is in Air Force ROTC.

-By Shay Barnhart

## News Brief: Montgomery among state leaders in incoming investment

Financial technology company SmartAsset recently released its sixth study on the places receiving the most incoming investment, and Montgomery County ranked as the place in Virginia with the third-most incoming investment.

The study measures growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), new business launches, and new building permits to determine the places receiving the most investment locally.

According to the study, the ten places in Virginia with the most incoming investment and each place's incoming investment index are 1. New Kent County 64.53 2. Louisa County 58.34 3. Montgomery County 56.87 4. Goochland County 56.50 5. Suffolk County 54.17 6. Bedford County 53.70 7. Spotsylvania County 52.05 8. King William County 51.88 9. Greene County 50.88 10. Loudoun County 50.73.

## VT's John Seiler: Virginia's vibrant autumn colors could be early this year



Virginia Tech tree physiology expert John Seiler says Virginia never really has a poor or average year for fall colors. It's either good, better or best, and this year's fall foliage colors may peak by the third week of October this year, about a week ahead of normal, according to Seiler.

"I'm seeing some signs of things being a little early this year," Seiler said. "A couple of particular 'go to trees' I monitor, they've already got some yellow in them. We may be a week early, in part because of the lack of long-term rain. Before the recent storms, we were drying out a bit. But that slow, steady drizzle should really help. Decent amounts of precipitation keep the leaves from dropping too soon. And because those vivid reds form in the fall, rain improves the outlook they'll be bright and colorful."

Seiler said Virginia never has poor fall foliage because of "the diversity and wide varieties of tree species here in Virginia. If one tree gets hurt by a hot dry August, there's another species that didn't. It buffers the bad weather like that. Our mountains

offer constantly changing elevations and aspects, which lead to a higher biodiversity, which leads to a greater mixture of fall color.

"People should be looking at their calendars, picking a good Saturday or Sunday," Seiler said. "Shoot for the time period starting around October 23 on through the end of the month. Plan your trip accordingly, check the weather and pick a good day when the sun is out. The colors look a lot better when there's sunshine."

Professor Seiler specializes in environmental stress effects on woody plant physiology, including water and pollutant stresses. He is quoted regularly in broadcast and print publications due to his expertise in tree physiology. Seiler is the Honorable and Mrs. Shelton H. Short Professor of Forestry at Virginia Tech, and was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor in recognition of his extraordinary academic citizenship and distinguished service within the Virginia Tech community. Seiler teaches in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

## Jazz legends Chucho Valdés, Dianne Reeves, and Joe Lovano unite for evening of duets at Moss Arts Center

With a combined 12 Grammy Awards, jazz legends Chucho Valdés, Dianne Reeves, and Joe Lovano take the Moss Arts Center stage for "Duets" on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

In accordance with current university policy for indoor events, all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the Moss Arts Center are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

This all-star performance features one of the most influential figures in modern Afro-Cuban jazz, pianist Chucho Valdés, sharing the stage with preeminent jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves and celebrated saxophonist Joe Lovano. Launching their U.S. tour at the Moss, the project unites the artists for classics such as a breathtaking, spacious duet of "My Foolish

Heart," featuring Valdés and Reeves.

Winner of six Grammy and three Latin Grammy Awards, Cuban pianist, composer, and arranger Chucho Valdés has pushed boundaries in pursuit of new expressions in Afro-Cuban music throughout his rich career spanning 60 years. His musical education includes formal studies and countless nights on the best stages in Cuba as the pianist with his father, Bebo Valdés, and his orchestra, Sabor de Cuba. Valdés is perhaps best known as the founder, pianist, and main composer and arranger of Irakere, a landmark ensemble in Cuban music.

Valdés is celebrating his 80th birthday in 2021, and his technique and creative output are as prodigious as ever. He is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, has been inducted into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame, and received a DC Jazz Festival Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dianne Reeves has virtuosity, improvisational prowess, and unique jazz and R&B stylings that have garnered her five Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album, an honorary doctorate of music from Juilliard, and the honor of being named a 2018 National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Master. According to Wynton Marsalis, "She has one of the most powerful, purposeful, and accurate voices of this or any time." Reeves's Grammy Award-winning album "Beautiful Life" epitomizes the spirit of her storied and extraordinary career, traversing many genres and collaborating with a diverse collection of artists.

Joe Lovano is a Grammy-winning saxophonist, composer, and arranger. DownBeat magazine has twice named him Jazz Artist of the Year, and he scored a prestigious trifecta in 1998: nominations for Musician of the Year, Improviser of the Year, and Best Tenor Saxophonist in the New York Jazz Awards. Lovano attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston in the early 1970s and received an honorary doctor of music degree from the college in 1998. In the fall of 2001 he began a prestigious teaching residency in the Berklee Ensemble Department, known as the Gary Burton Chair in Jazz Performance. Lovano has released nearly 40 albums as leader or co-leader and has collaborated with many legendary musicians, including McCoy Tyner, Hank Jones, Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, Branford Marsalis, Jim Hall, and Paul Motian.

"Duets" is presented in partnership with the Black Cultural Center, Ujima, and the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy and is supported in part by gifts from Don and Libby Drapeau, Dr. James M. Shuler and Ms. Margaret F. Shuler, and Mr. Edwin H. Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.



Pianist Chucho Valdés (left), jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves (center), and saxophonist Joe Lovano (right) will perform a magical evening of jazz standards on Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Moss Arts Center.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, Sept. 25:**  
**Galaxy Jars** - At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Teens and tweens, join in learning how to make galaxy jars. All supplies will be provided. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.  
**Candle Making Workshop** - At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Celebrate fall with cozy homemade scented candles. All supplies will be provided. Registration is requested. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for more details and to register.

**Monday, Sept. 27:**  
**Tots Storytime** - At the Christiansburg Library; at 10 a.m. Ages 0-2 will share stories, rhymes, music and movement and develop early literacy skills and a love of reading.  
**Talking About Books: Shadow of the Wind** - At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 28:**  
**Blacksburg Town Council Meeting** - The agenda for the Blacksburg Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers can be found at [https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=20&event\\_id=5674](https://blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=20&event_id=5674).

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club: By Force Alone** - At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m.  
**Wellness Book Club: Braving the Wilderness** - At the Christiansburg Library at 6:30 p.m. To be discussed this month is "Braving the Wilderness" by Brené Brown. Pre-register with the Town of Christiansburg Recreation Department at 540-382-2349.

**Wednesday, Sept. 29:**  
**Toddler Storytime** - For ages 2 and 3 at the Blacksburg Library at 10 a.m. A chance to share stories, rhymes, music, and movement and to develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.  
**Pre-K Storytime** - At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. for ages 3-5.

**Teen Book Club: Fablehaven** - At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 4 p.m. Each month the teen book club reads a different book and meets on the last Wednesday of every month to chat about it. This month the club is reading "Stardust" by Neil Gaiman. Join in at: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MFRL/programs>. Email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.  
**Saturday, Oct. 2:**  
 Tony L. Huddleston

**Trout Rodeo** - This event will test your child's fishing ability. More than 300 fish will be stocked in the local Izaak Walton pond for this rodeo. Each kid will be allowed to catch up to four fish in the allotted two-hour time frame. Goodie bags and T-shirts will be given to the first 100 pre-registered participants. A hot dog lunch will be provided as well. The event will also feature giveaways and potential raffles. Check-in begins at noon; fishing starts at 2 p.m. All information is subject to change based on COVID-19 restrictions. Call 540-382-2349 before Oct. 1 to pre-register. The event is free for ages 4-15.

**Thursday, Oct. 7:**  
**American Legion meeting** - American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

**Saturday, Oct. 9:**  
**Radford Highlanders Festival 2021** - The festival will feature the famed heavyweight games, sheepherding, live entertainment, food, vendors, and festivities for all ages. Held on the campus of Radford University, the festival is a partnership between Radford University and the City of Radford and is open to the general public with

free admission.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12:**  
**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 Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to the meeting. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

**Wednesday, Oct. 20:**  
**Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting** - The (RFAAP) Community Meeting has been rescheduled to Wed., Oct. 20, 2021 at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library to allow RFAAP to provide the most current updates on environmental and modernization projects. 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. The public can reach out with questions, or to conduct research on their own through several resources, including:  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>  
 Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>.

**Through September:**  
**Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021** - The final Blacksburg's Market Square Jam of the season will be held Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Market Square Park.  
**Simply Elemental Art Exhibit** - The Simply Elemental art display in the Hahn Horticultural Garden (on the Virginia Tech campus) will be on display through Sept. 30.  
**Take-and-Make Crafts** - All month at the Blacksburg Library. Each week will feature a new craft 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 participate 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-and-make craft kits. They are available at the library or with curbside pickup. They are free but supplies are limited.

**Through Oct. 1:**  
**Noise Alerts: Propulsion Testing** - Testing coordinated by the Virginia Tech Advanced Propulsion and Power Lab will continue through Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. near the northwest end of the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport. For more information, visit <https://vtx.vt.edu/notices/adm-evergreens/police-noise-propulsion.html>.

**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 continues every Thursday through October at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

**Ongoing:**  
**Get your passport at the Radford Public Library** - The Radford Public Library is a Passport Acceptance Office. Call (540) 731-3621 to set up an appointment time. Those traveling overseas should be aware how important it is to get a passport as early as possible because the current wait list is 18 weeks.

## Cherokee actor, writer, and activist DeLanna Studi recounts her life-changing journey along the Trail of Tears

Cherokee actor, writer, and activist DeLanna Studi leads audiences on an incredible adventure as she recounts her journey tracing the path of her ancestors through a 900-mile trek she took along the Trail of Tears. The Moss Arts Center presents four evening performances of Studi's powerful one-woman show "And So We Walked" — on Monday, Oct. 11, through Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7:30

p.m. — seated onstage of the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. Studi dreamed of following the footsteps her ancestors were forced to travel along the Trail of Tears. In 2015 she embarked on a six-week journey along the route her great-great-grandparents took in the 1830s when they were forced to relocate from

their homelands with more than 17,000 Cherokee people. A powerful show honoring Indigenous people everywhere, "And So We Walked" recounts her incredible journey to truly understand her own identity and the conflicts of her nation. Studi performed excerpts of the piece last fall during a virtual performance for the Moss Arts Center's "HomeStage" series, which included a conversation with Mae Hey, assistant professor of American Indian Studies at Virginia Tech. She also participated in virtual discussions with Native students at Virginia Tech.

Now Studi performs the full play live for an audience seated on the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre stage, with four performances presented in celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day. Portraying multiple characters and incorporating humor and emotional touchpoints, Studi blazes



DeLanna Studi in "And So We Walked." Photo by Patrick Weishampel/blankeye.tv. Courtesy of Portland Center Stage at The Armory.

a path squarely into the heart of the audience member. "It isn't just my story about my journey," said Studi. "It is a Cherokee story, one that transcends my own personal identity and experiences. It belongs to the Cherokee people, past and present; to the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina; and to the dozens of people across the

country who helped me complete this project." Studi has originated roles in more than 18 world premieres, including 14 native productions, and she has received numerous awards for her performances in the Hallmark/ABC mini-series "Dreamkeeper" and Chris Eyre's "Edge of America." She is co-artistic director of America's only equity Native American theatre company, Native Voices

at the Autry, and serves as chair of SAG-AFTRA's National Native Committee. "And So We Walked" will run off-Broadway in New York City later in October. This engagement is presented in partnership with the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center and supported in part by gifts from Mr. Bruce Prichard and Mrs. Nancy Beville Prichard and Larry and Lindsay Bowman.

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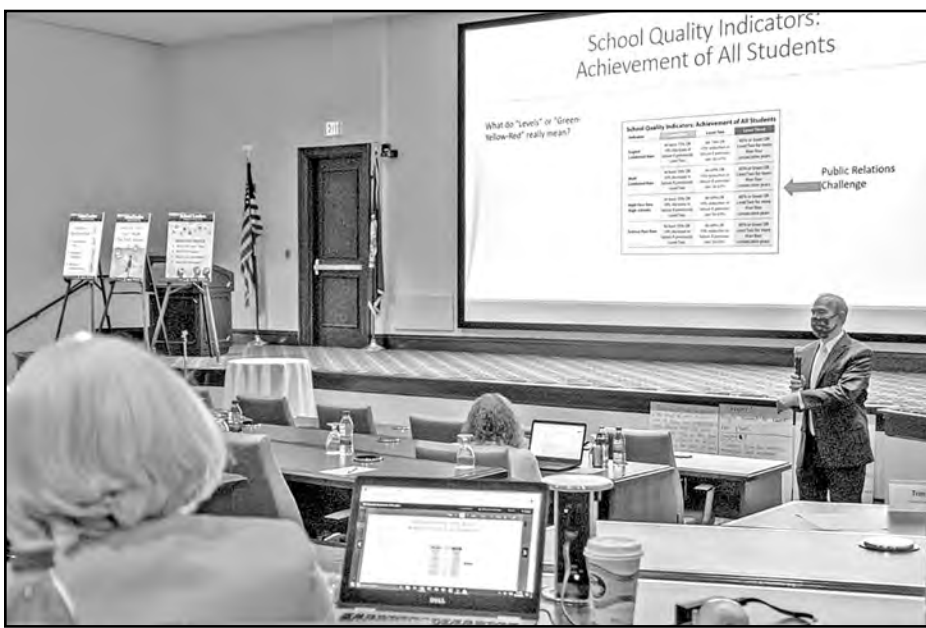
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# Local school administrators go back to class at School Leaders Institute



**Steve Staples, former Virginia superintendent of public instruction, was one of several guest presenters during the recent School Leaders Institute attended by, among others, Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Mark Mear.**

As another school year begins under the uneasy cloud of COVID-19, Montgomery County Public Schools Superin-

tendent Mark Mear is drawing on the lessons he learned and the network of peers he developed at the School Leaders

ers Institute.

Run by Virginia Tech's Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA), the

institute teaches administrators like Mear how to lead during change. The faculty members — four COTA Fellows who are all former school administrators — share hard-earned wisdom that comes from decades of experience.

"There are a set of predictable challenges that every new administrator is going to face," said E. Wayne Harris, a COTA Fellow and former superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools. "By sharing some of our experiences, we help people avoid the same potholes."

That practical approach, Mear said, provides a perspective that most courses do not offer.

Interactive in-person sessions held at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center cover a wide range

of topics, from everyday administrative burdens such as budgeting to trickier real-world dilemmas like working with a school board or communicating effectively with the community on contentious subjects.

To ensure the institute addresses those contemporary issues as well as perennial challenges, guest presentations from current superintendents, administrators, and teachers offer a view from inside the schools.

"We're in the age of rapid change," said Lois Graham, a former deputy superintendent and principal at Montgomery County Public Schools. "COVID and the way it affected schools — I don't think education will ever be the same. There's going to be a lot of catch-up."

About 70 percent of Virginia's public school divisions have sent administrators to the institute's two programs since they began in 2005. More than 500 participants have taken part in the Recently Appointed Administrators Program, and nearly 200 more have attended the Aspiring Superintendents Program.

Mear said his school division has sent several administrators to the institute. "Their participation not only benefits them when they become superintendents, but it benefits them in their current roles and helps them understand the superintendent's role better on a daily basis," Mear said.

-Written by Diane Deffenbaugh

## Experts urge safe handling as backyard poultry salmonella cases spike

An outbreak of salmonella cases among backyard poultry flocks has experts urging owners to practice safe handling and proper hygiene when working with birds, eggs and meat.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. salmonella cases for 2021 had risen to 863 as of Aug. 31. That's 191 new cases since the previous report on July 23, with 209 hospitalizations and two deaths among 47 states. Of those, 32 cases have been reported in Virginia, and one person has died.

"Salmonella bacteria may be found in poultry manure and may not make the bird sick," said Dr. Charles Broaddus, state veterinarian and director of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Food Industry Services. "The most effective way to prevent people who are handling chicks and chickens from getting sick is for them to wash their hands well after handling."

Broaddus and other experts are asking parents to be especially vigilant when it comes to children as one in four salmonella cases involve children under 5.

"Since small children are often not as aware of not putting their hands in their mouths or washing them well, we recommend that small children not handle poultry until they are of the age that their parents can trust them to wash their hands well and not put their hands in their mouths after handling chicks and chickens," Broaddus said.

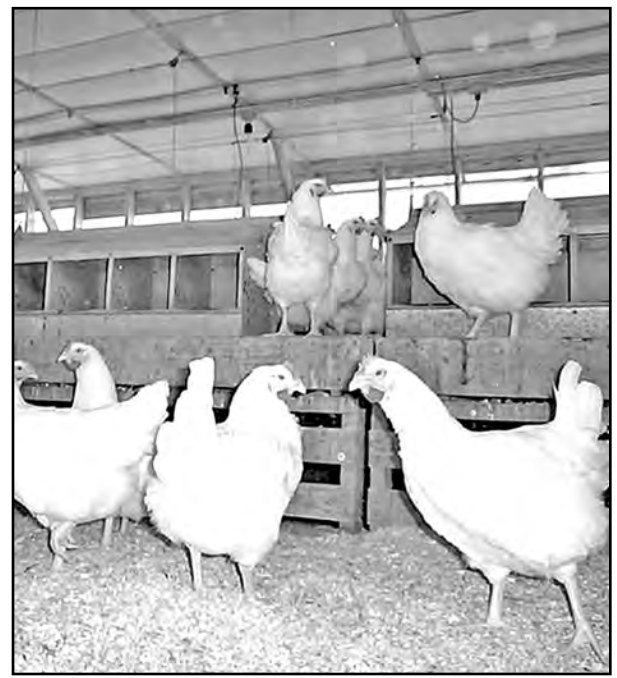
Even if they look clean and healthy, backyard birds still can carry salmonella germs. Never kiss or cuddle poultry, and don't eat or drink around them. When collecting eggs, use fine sandpaper, a brush, or cloth to clear off dirt. Don't rinse or wash them because cooler water can pull germs into the egg through the porous shell.

"It's very important that ev-

eryone practice biosecurity and proper personal hygiene to limit exposure," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "This is especially true for owners of backyard poultry and small commercial flocks. These individuals may not be aware of the potential hazard or may not wear dedicated clothing and footwear to reduce their potential exposure when working with their fowl."

According to the CDC, severe symptoms of salmonella include a fever higher than 102 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, and signs of dehydration such as dry mouth and throat and dizziness. Persons experiencing any of these symptoms should seek medical attention right away.

For more information about the salmonella outbreak and safe handling practices, visit <https://bit.ly/3AboXOW>.



**With 32 cases and one death in Virginia from salmonella among backyard poultry flocks, experts are urging safe handling and proper hygiene when working with birds, eggs, and meat.**

## Locally harvested honey reflects Virginia's varied landscape

Between its coastline, mountains, rivers and valleys, Virginia's diverse landscape makes the Old Dominion an ideal place for humans, animals and plants to live harmoniously.

Among the greatest beneficiaries of Virginia's natural splendor is the western honeybee, which was first introduced to the New World in 1622 to help Jamestown colonists improve their crop cultivation. Nearly 400 years later, the species is still busy producing unique honeys that are coveted by local consumers.

The process begins each spring when foraging honeybees collect nectar from flowering plants and use the syrup to produce honey in their hives. The nectar source determines the honey's flavor, and the wide range of honey varieties produced in Virginia is a product of the state's floral diversity.

"There are a lot of nectar sources out there. Every plant is going to have a different concentration of sugars and flavors, so

each will produce a honey with its own unique tastes and colors," said Keith Tignor, state apiarist for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "And because bees are generalist pollinators, they're usually visiting multiple plant species and are likely to bring back lots of different nectars to combine in the hive."

Tignor said beekeepers manage their harvests to determine whether their honeys will have a plant-specific flavor or a culmination of flavors from several different plants. To influence their colonies' pollination practices, beekeepers often place their hives in locations where certain plants are in full bloom. This encourages bees to feed on that plant's nectar.

"Once that plant's bloom is over, beekeepers will take the honey that was produced during that time, extract it and bottle it," Tignor said. "They'll label their honey things like clover, thistle, and tulip poplar because that's where most of the nectar came from that's

in that jar of honey."

Buckwheat, clover, and wildflower are among the most common honey varieties produced in Virginia though the commonwealth is known for its production of sourwood honey. Named after the species of trees that are found in southern and western parts of the state, its nectar is available to honeybees in June and July.

The honey, revered for its sweet, buttery taste resembling caramel, typically makes its way to consumers in early August.

"It's what we call 'the Cadillac of the honeys,'" said Glenn Clayton, who produces sourwood and wildflower honey at Hungry Hill Farm in Nelson County. "You have all kinds of honey, but sourwood has its own special flavor."

Bob Wellemeyer, a Rappahannock County beekeeper who produces goldenrod and wildflower honey at Windsong Apiaries, noted locally produced honey is becoming popular with consumers for culinary and medici-

nal purposes.

Honey is a trendy yeast source and ingredient at Virginia breweries, distilleries, and meaderies as well. Darker honey varieties are sometimes favored for their nutritional value. Raw honey is finding increased applications in medical settings because of its wound-healing properties.

"The thing you've got to remember about honey is that it's pretty much perfect in the hive," Wellemeyer said. "The honey that smaller

producers are selling is strained, not filtered, and still has all the pollen grains and particles that make it the prod-

uct people want to buy. Raw honey is one thing smaller producers can offer that the big packing companies can't."

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**Pick up will be held at 5188 Kilgore Drive, Mendota, VA 24270  
on Friday, October 1st from 5 - 7 PM**

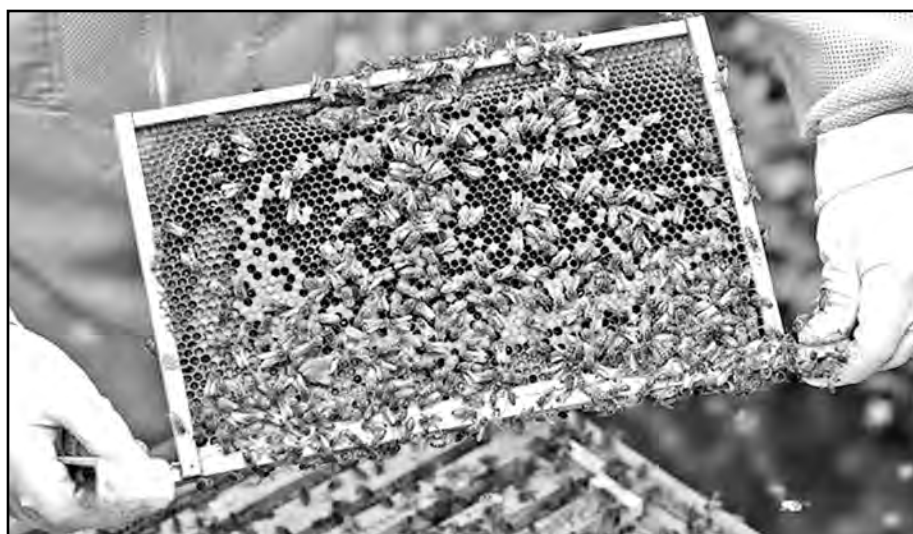
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# OPINION

# Home Country by Slim Randles

You have to know Bert really well before he'll share his secret with you, but if he does, it's as though he's revealed the reason for life and sunshine and the main reason our dogs think we're smart.

Oh, Bert gets down in the dumps just like the rest of us, but he has discovered a way to jerk himself out of the bar ditch by his own belt loops, and he finally broke down and explained how he could re-

main so cheerful during a year and a half of basic house arrest during the pandemic.

He looked up from his coffee and whispered, "mail order madness."

What? "What you do is buy stupid stuff. Cheap stuff. Maybe even stuff you'll never use, but maybe it's a pleasant color, or leads you to daydreams where you become dang near adequate."

"For example?" asked Doc.

"Okay," Bert said, "ask yourself this ... what's the very best part of ordering something through the mail?"

Our mouths still hung open. "Anticipation," Bert said. "I love it. You can do it with a computer, or just send off for a catalog. The simplest way to get anticipation kinda mail is to get those catalogues. List your address and name, of course, but it doesn't hurt to add the title 'Purchasing Coor-

dinator' below your name.

"Then you add a note telling the catalog folks not to give your name out to anyone else or little old ladies will pull out their whiskers, one at a time. It doesn't hurt to add that the chairman of the board mustn't find out what has been ordered.

"Then be sure the item you order is really cheap and makes no earthly sense at all. Hey, why waste money? Think por-

celain frog soap dish here.

"This will immediately start a flood of catalogs coming your way. You have now broken once and for all the evil shadow of boredom. Besides, you know you've secretly wanted a porcelain frog soap dish anyway."

*Pick up "Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland" www.lpdpress.com.*

# WalletHub ranks Virginia among safer states to live in during pandemic

The personal finance website WalletHub Thursday released its survey of the safest states to live in during the COVID-19 pandemic and ranked Virginia among the safer places. The commonwealth wound up in the number-20 slot among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

As the website pointed out, some states are safer than others based on how well they have kept the pan-

demic under control and how much they are vaccinating. To find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics.

The metrics WalletHub used to determine the states' rankings were the vaccination rate, the positive testing rate, the hospitalization rate, the death rate, and the estimated COVID transmission rate.

The website noted that as the U.S. continues its efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic amid a surge in cases caused by variant strains, staying safe is one of Americans' top concerns. Safety is also essential for getting the economy back on track as the lower COVID-19 transmission and deaths are in a state, the fewer restrictions there will be and the more confidence people will have to shop in person.

While almost all states have fully reopened, the website notes, the country will be able to completely get back to life as normal only when most of the population is fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. The good news is that the U.S. is picking up speed with vaccination as almost 55% of the population had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Tuesday, Sept. 21.

According to WalletHub's rankings of the states the 10

safest places during the pandemic are 1. Massachusetts 2. Vermont 3. Connecticut 4. California 5. Rhode Island 6. New Jersey 7. New York 8. The District of Columbia 9. Maine and 10. Maryland.

Winding up at the bottom of the rankings as the least safe states are 42. Mississippi 43. Montana 44. Kentucky 45. Oklahoma 46. South Carolina 47. Wyoming 48. Georgia 49. West Virginia 50. Idaho and 51. Alabama.

## 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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# Most recent figures show Virginia trails neighboring states and U.S. average in per-student investment in higher ed

RICHMOND, VA — The Virginia Business Higher Education Council (VBHEC) and Growth4VA Tuesday released a chart that details Virginia's per-student state support of higher education in 2020 compared to neighboring states Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee and the United States average. The commonwealth trailed all four states and the U.S. average

In 2020, Virginia spent \$6,519 per student on higher education compared to \$10,742 in North Carolina, \$10,969 in Tennessee, and \$8,800 in Maryland. The U.S. average was \$8,636.

Thus, Virginia leaves it to students and families in the commonwealth to cover a larger share through tuition and fees than do its neighbors and the country at large.

VBHEC chair Dennis H. Treacy, said, "Virginia's top-notch higher education system sets us apart, but

we will not maintain that advantage or keep our best-state-for-business ranking unless we meet the competitive challenge by making critical investments. Affordable access to higher education is the key to better jobs for Virginians and a world-class workforce.

"With the \$2.6 billion budget surplus [as reported by the Northam Administration in July] and other resources, we have a once-in-generations chance to invest in opportunity for all our students and to make Virginia the top state for talent. We believe there's no better investment right now than higher education."

A recent statewide survey released by Growth4VA indicated that 90% of Virginians in both parties agree that providing Virginians with degrees and credentials that lead to good jobs in the new economy is the most important investment the state can make.

VBHEC has applauded recent bipartisan efforts in Virginia to reinvest in higher education and has expressed appreciation to the governor and the general assembly. But a large gap remains, and the current level of state funding falls far short of the commonwealth's own declared goal.

"Ten years ago, the governor's higher ed commission and General Assembly set a goal that students and their families should only have to pay one-third of college costs, said Todd A. Stottleyer, VBHEC's treasurer and CEO of IT service management company Client Network Services, Inc. (CNSI), based in Maryland. "Despite a lot of good efforts, the state still is not paying two-thirds. It's paying about half. Now is the time to meet that two-thirds goal and, in the process, answer the competitive challenge posed by neighboring states."

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

# WalletHub survey shows Virginia among nation's most diverse states

The personal finance website WalletHub declares that the American narrative is a story of diversity. Our history tells of many different peoples coming together from every walk of life to form what is today a complex tapestry of backgrounds, the website notes. WalletHub also asserts that our story will continue to advance that narrative in the decades to come.

According to the website, the U.S. Census Bureau predicts that by 2045 the U.S. will no longer have a single ethnic majority, currently non-Hispanic whites, and will grow increasingly more diverse in the years to follow.

Some U.S. states promote diversity more than others. To determine where idea and identity exchanges have occurred at the highest level and where the population is relatively more homogeneous, WalletHub compared the 50 states across six key diversity categories and then ranked them from

most diverse to least diverse.

Virginia emerged as one of the country's most diverse states, coming in as the nation's 12th-most diverse state.

The six key diversity categories WalletHub used to determine its rankings were socioeconomic diversity, cultural diversity, economic diversity, household diversity, religious diversity, and political diversity.

The states WalletHub determined to be more diverse than Virginia were (in order from most diverse to less diverse) 1. California 2. Texas 3. Hawaii 4. New Jersey 5. New York 6. New Mexico 7. Maryland 8. Florida 9. Nevada 10. Arizona 11. Illinois.

The states WalletHub determined to be the least diverse were 41. Ohio 42. Iowa 43. Utah 44. Wyoming 45. Kentucky 46. Montana 47. New Hampshire 8. Vermont 49. Maine 50. West Virginia.

## Music festival

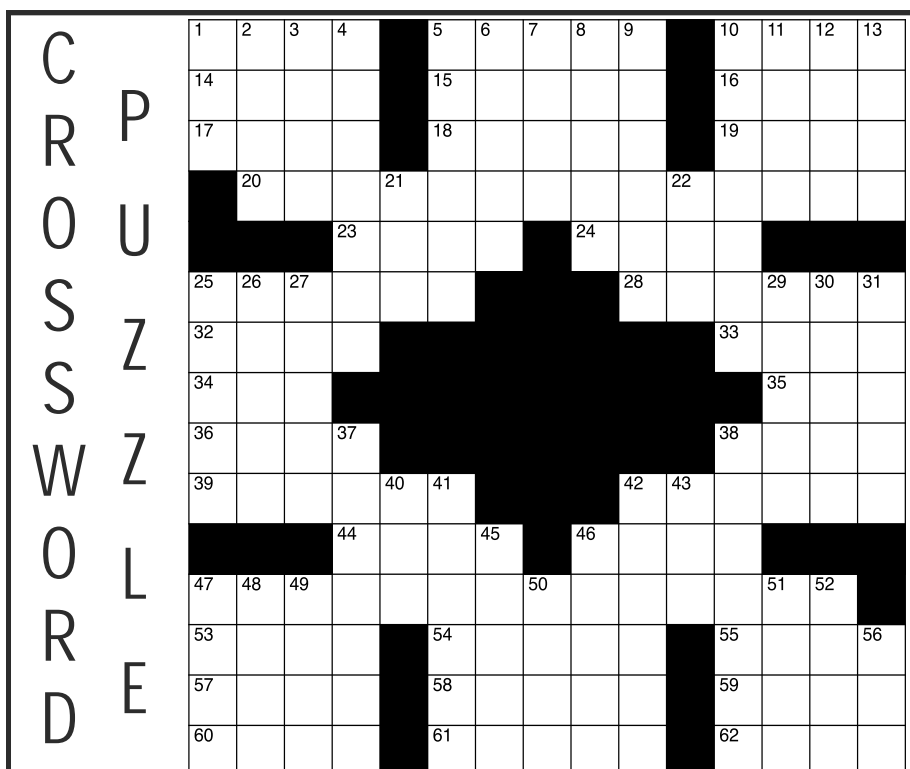
from page 1

the Pilot Community Center for their family reunions, wedding receptions, chicken fries, pancake suppers, and little-league games. The landmark building has qualified to be placed on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places.

Local residents are raising the money to pay for a new metal roof and much-needed repairs and upgrades to

the kitchen, bathrooms, and meeting rooms, all while preserving the historical integrity of the structure.

The Pilot Community Center is a certified 501(c)3 non-profit charity, and donations will help preserve local history and culture in rural Appalachia. The school and community center is located at 4449 Brush Creek Rd., Pilot, Va. 24149.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Auricles
- 5. Sharpening strap
- 10. Supplemented with difficulty
- 14. Jaguarundi
- 15. "7 Year Itch" Tom
- 16. European defense organization
- 17. Camber
- 18. Kittiwake genus
- 19. 3rd largest French city
- 20. Used for instant long locks
- 23. Harangue
- 24. Grabs
- 25. Formally withdraw membership
- 28. Magnitude relations
- 32. El Dorado High School

- 33. Porzana carolina
- 34. Earl Grey or green
- 35. Dog's tail action
- 36. Friends (French)
- 38. Lessen the force of
- 39. Dermaptera
- 42. Views
- 44. From a distance
- 46. Bleats
- 47. London Games 2012
- 53. Let the body fall heavily
- 54. Collect a large group
- 55. ABA \_\_\_ Honeymoon
- 57. Give over
- 58. Glue & plaster painting prep
- 59. Middle East chieftain
- 60. Removed ruthlessly
- 61. AKA bromelain
- 62. A dissenting clique

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Formerly the ECM
- 2. A native nursemaid in India
- 3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 4. Ironies
- 5. Peaceable
- 6. Between
- 7. Cessation of activity
- 8. "Little House" actor Merlin
- 9. Lying in one plane
- 10. Joins the military
- 11. Knock out
- 12. British School
- 13. Puts on clothing
- 21. Radioactivity unit
- 22. Helps little firms
- 25. Podetium
- 26. Fluid accumulation in tissues

- 27. Backed seat for one
- 29. From farm slate
- 30. Speak
- 31. Gurus
- 37. Deluged
- 38. In addition to
- 40. Oldest Yoruba town
- 41. A place to shelter cars
- 42. \_\_\_ and Dallah
- 43. Toothpaste tube cover
- 45. \_\_\_ and Juliet
- 46. Mussel beards
- 47. Prevents harm to creatures
- 48. Gorse genus
- 49. A method of doing
- 50. Young Scottish woman
- 51. Latticework lead bar
- 52. Invests in little enterprises
- 56. The products of human creativity



# OBITUARIES

## Bowling, Patsy "Pat" James

Patsy "Pat" James Bowling, 75, passed away at her home in Hiwassee on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021.

She worked 27 years on the farm, but she was best known for her artistic abilities. She worked with crafts and was able to turn anything into a piece of art. She loved crocheting blankets, hats, socks and sweaters; painting pictures of horses, farms, and nature; and making jewelry and wreaths. She had so much talent and usually gave away her creations to family just to see them smile.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Wilson James and Martha Ellen Underwood James; and her brother,



Frank James, Jr.

Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Douglas "Doug" Edward Bowling; sons and daughters-in-law, Chris and Felecia Altizer, and Michael and Crystal Altizer; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; sisters and brothers-in-law Helen and Danny Wolfe, Linda and John Bowls, and Kathy James; brother and sister-in-law Joe and Brenda

James; and many other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be private and her ashes will be spread on the family farm.

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

## Bruce, Shirley Anne

Shirley Anne Bruce passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, at Kroontje Health Care Center in Blacksburg.

Born on Feb. 6, 1932, she was known by family and friends as "Shirl." She was a graduate and member of the Beta Club of Dublin High School, Class of 1949. She attended Stratford College in Danville and graduated with a BA degree in English from Radford College in 1953.

Shirl taught school at Floyd High School from 1953 to 1958.

She toured extensively in Europe, including London, Ireland, Denmark, and Switzerland. Shirl was a lifelong member, Sunday school teacher and church historian at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Radford.

Shirley Anne was preceded in death by her parents, the late Robert H. Bruce, Sr. and Gertrude Hutchinson Bruce; and a sister, Mary Evelyn Bruce.

She is survived by her brother, Robert H. Bruce, Jr., and his wife Patsy Harless Bruce;



nephew Mark Sheridan Bruce and his wife Kimberly Linkous Bruce and their children Jared L. Bruce, Kevin Martin, and Allyson Martin; nephew Gary Allen Bruce and his wife Nicole Amos Bruce, and their children, Cody Allen Bruce of the U. S. Marines, stationed in Okinawa, Japan; Rachael, Landon, and Leighann Bruce; and many other relatives and friends.

The Bruce family would like to thank the staff and all employees of Kroontje Health Care Center in Blacksburg for Shirley Anne's loving care.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. in Highland Memory Gardens with Pastor Laura Beth Gillespie Howell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to your favorite charity.

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

## Cromer, Michael Timothy

Michael Timothy Cromer, 73, was called home to our Lord on Sept. 17, 2021, at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

Tim was born on May 18, 1948, in Blacksburg, to John Houston Cromer and Louise Graves Cromer. Both parents preceded him in death.

He grew up in Blacksburg with siblings Carolyn Wimmer, Larry Cromer, Charlie Cromer, John Cromer, Barbara Cromer, Kathy Sage, and Stephen Cromer. Several siblings preceded Tim in death. He attended Blacksburg High School.

Tim and his sons moved to Rocky Gap, Va., and he worked for several companies before joining Frito-Lay as a route salesman. Tim retired from Frito-Lay as a distinguished employee after more than 30 years with the company.

He was a loving son, brother, father,



grandfather, and a kind human being. He is survived by his sons, Tompall Cromer of Paso Robles, Calif. and Joseph Cromer, of Christiansburg; grandchildren Jason Cromer of San Francisco, Calif., Kenneth Cromer of Prague, Czech Republic, Isabelle Cromer of Christiansburg, Cecillia Cromer of Christiansburg, Chance Cromer of Paso Robles, Calif., and Ellana Cromer of Christiansburg.

Tim was a character. He liked to tell stories and get into a good debate. He loved to sing bluegrass and gospel music. He lived his life with the utmost morals and values. Tim loved all children and they all knew him as Pawpaw or Granddaddy.

A small graveside service will be held at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg on Sunday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m.

## Graham, Timothy Wayne

Timothy Wayne Graham, 55, of Newport, went to his heavenly home on Sept. 20, 2021, after a long 20-year battle with multiple health complications.

Timmy was born on Nov. 16, 1965, to Harry Kawood Graham and Nancy Ellen Graham. He was a graduate of Blacksburg High School class of 1984. Soon after, he wed Tammy Reynolds Graham in 1987, and they had three children: Dalton Reynolds Graham, Dillon Keister Graham, and Drew Madison Graham.

Timmy was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he often mentioned. He was undeniably proud of Dalton, Dillon, and Drew and always supported them each and every day.

Anyone who knew Timmy knew that he was the most loving father and husband a family could ever ask for. Timmy was predeceased by his mother, Nancy Ellen Graham, and his in-laws, William Osborne Reynolds and Grace Keister Reynolds.

He is survived by his father, Harry Ka-



wood Graham; his wife; Tammy Reynolds Graham; his children, Dalton Reynolds Graham, Dillon Keister Graham (Alyssa Page), and Drew Madison Graham; siblings Tina Graham Carroll, Ford Graham (Pam Graham), Michael Graham, and Scottie Graham (Donna Graham); in-laws Robin Reynolds and Jan Gilbertson (Phil Gilbertson); nieces and nephews Jamie McGuire, Joey Carroll, Candace Keene, Kelley Graham, Whitney Akers (Justin Akers), Justin Graham, and Lucas Graham (Deidre Graham); several great-nephews whom he adored; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins; and his Myrtle Beach family and "chosen family," you know who you are.

The family sends a special shout-out to all of the doctors, nurses, and staff members at Fresenius Medical Care who were such a big part of his life; we can't thank you enough.

A celebration of Timmy's life will be held on Monday Sept. 27, 2021, at McCoy Funeral Home from noon to 2 p.m. Visitation with service and graveside will follow at the Newport Cemetery on Winding Way Drive in Newport, Va.

## Hudgins, Julius B. "Joe"

Julius B. "Joe" Hudgins, 61, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021.

Survivors include his sister and brother-in-law, Elaine and Ronnie Meredith; a son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Amanda Hudgins; a special niece, Shelley Dowdy and Austin Mul-



lins; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren; two special nephews; and many other family members and friends.

Per his request, no services will be held at this time. The Hudgins family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

## King, Elaine McKee

Elaine McKee King, 91, formerly of Radford, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, at Salem Terrace Assisted Living Facility, Salem, Va.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, the late Edd and Reba McKee of Johnson City, Tenn., where Elaine grew up; brothers Robert McKee, Gene McKee, and Ralph McKee; sisters-in-law Jimmie McKee and Myrtle McKee; and brothers-in-law, Richard Rahm and Jack King.

Survivors include her devoted husband of 63 years, Thomas (Tom) King of Salem Terrace, Salem.; daughter Susan King of Roanoke; a son, Nathaniel King of Charleston, S.C.; daughter Lillian King of Radford; sisters Louise Rahm of Atlanta and Shirley Budlong (Don) of Richmond.; sisters-in-law, Sarah McKee of Kingsport, Tenn., and Lonette King of Bristol, Va.; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

Elaine attended East Tennessee State University. She taught School in Tennessee, Florida, and Virginia. After teaching, while rearing her family, she was an active



member and leader in numerous organizations including the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Radford Hospital Auxiliary, the National PTA, Girl Scouts of the USA, Blacksburg First Church of God, Radford First Church of God, Triedstone Christian Fellowship, and was a former member of PEO Chapter AB.

The family extends a heartfelt thank-you to Good Samaritan Hospice with very special gratitude to Venessa Stosser.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 5 p.m. with the Rev. Gina Rhea and the Rev. Liz Dowdy officiating.

A private interment will be in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to The American Red Cross.

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

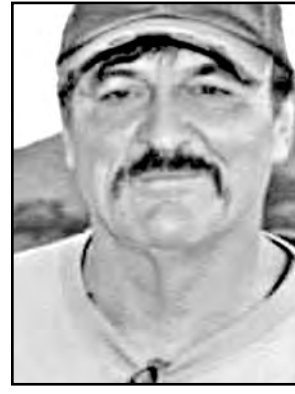
## Kinser, Danny Lee

Danny Lee Kinser, 73, passed away on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Duran Kinser and Tokie Kinser, and his sister, Judy Schoonover.

He loved spending time at the beach and enjoying beach music, fishing, and the UVA Cavaliers. WAHOOWA!

Survivors include his sons and daughter-in-law, Josh and Casey Kinser and John



Kinser; granddaughters Hartie, Riley and Josey; brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Stephanie Kinser; nephews Darryl Schoonover and Aubrey Kinser; special friend Jim Wheeler; and many other family members and friends.

Per his request, no services will be held at this time.

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

## Witten, Barbara Ann Epling

Barbara Ann Epling Witten, 76, of Christiansburg, passed away at her home on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.

Barbara was born in Norfolk on June 15, 1945, to the late Arnold Eugene "Jack" Epling and Bessie Florence Blevins Lytle. She was raised by her late aunt and uncle, Beulah and Crocket Sarver, in Newport, Va., on their farm in Clover Hollow. Her love and admiration for them was immense.

Barbara was preceded in death by her high school sweetheart and husband of 43-and-a-half years, George Thomas Witten; her brother Eddie Egbert Eugene Epling; a sister, Ermadean Epling Caldwell; and her beloved kitties, Mia, Tommy, and Max.

While working full time and being a mother of two small children, Barbara graduated from Radford University. After a long career as a kindergarten teacher at Riverlawn Elementary School, she retired in 2001 from the Pulaski County School System. She loved her students and felt it was important for a child's first experiences in the classroom to be kind and loving. She devoted herself to instilling in the children a passion for learning and school. Mrs. Witten was loved by all her students and recognized long after retirement as a special lady.

Mom was the strongest woman we have ever known. Cherished lifelong friends Shannon Turner and Denise Bishop were an eternal presence in her life. Together they were teachers, raised their children, enjoyed their grandchildren, and spent countless hours after retirement together



shopping and talking over lunch and dinners.

Barbara conquered many obstacles in life. Her strength and faith in God carried her and enabled her to survive multiple cancers, including breast cancer. Her husband George was her rock, and her children and grandchildren were her reason for living.

She is survived by her son, George Thomas

"Tommy" Witten, Jr., and his wife, Pam Hixon Witten; and a daughter, Sheri Annette Witten Light, all of Fairlawn. Barbara is also survived by four grandchildren whom she cherished beyond words: Justin Scott Witten, owner of Ambush Sport Fishing in Murrells Inlet, S.C.; Justin Charles Light, a recent graduate of Iowa State University and employed by Deloitte in Charlotte, N.C.; Nicholas Whitman Light, a freshman at Auburn High School, and his sister, Mackenzie Grace Light, who is in the seventh grade at Auburn Middle School. They were what she cherished most and loved to spoil.

Also surviving are sister-in-law Beulah Link Epling of Newport; half-brother Harold N. Moore, Jr., of El Centro, Calif.; half-sister Michelle Diane Lytle Ruggles and her husband Scott of Hunting, W.Va.; and a cousin, Crocket Deanita Sarver Verbeck and her husband, retired Brigadier General Tom Verbeck of Burke, Va.

The family will receive friends from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive, Blacksburg. A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in the Newport Cemetery.

More Obituaries, page 6

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# OBITUARIES continued from page 5

## Shaver, Ralph Curtis

Ralph Curtis Shaver, 77, of Narrows, died Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Montgomery County on Aug. 5, 1944, to the late Sidney Roop and Anna Lee Dowdy Shaver. He was also preceded in death by his son-in-law, Wally Lawson; brothers Dick Shaver and Billy Shaver; and a sister-in-law, Shirley.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Shaver; daughters and son-in-law, Lavonda Lawson, Angie Frazier and Greg; grandchildren Levi and Ella; step-granddaughter Devon Frazier; brother and sister-in-law, Melvin and Melinda Shaver; sisters-in-law Jeanne

Davis, Janie Moss, and Yvonne Shaver; brother-in-law Jackie Vaught; and numerous nieces and nephews

One of his greatest joys was being "Papa" to Levi and Ella, playing and laughing with them after school and during the summer, and enjoying walks through the neighborhood.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Eddie Kendall officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Willard, Anthony (Tony)

Anthony (Tony) Willard, 60, of Blacksburg, passed away peacefully on Sept. 20, 2021, from his short battle with esophageal cancer.

Anthony was predeceased by his parents, James and Juanita Willard; and his brother, Dean.

He leaves to cherish his memory his two

sons, Anthony (AJ) Willard and Jacob; three grandchildren, Travis, McKinley, and Levi; a sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Ricky Huff; and a special niece, Kaidin Huff.

As per Tony's request, there will be no services. Fly high Tony, you will be missed here on earth. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

## Governor: All Virginia school divisions are open for full in-person instruction

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced Thursday that as of this week, all of Virginia's 132 school divisions are open for full-time, in-person learning.

The announcement came as First Lady Pamela Northam concluded her annual Back to School Tour, during which she visited 28 schools, 26 school divisions, and all eight superintendent regions.

"Students learn best when they are in their classroom, and I am proud that all of Virginia's school divisions are now providing safe, in-person instruction," said the governor. "The commonwealth's teachers and families have worked hard to adjust to virtual and hybrid learning during the pandemic. Because of their continued work, Virginia's children are now safely back in school."

Since the inauguration, First Lady Northam has covered over 10,000 miles and visited over 200 schools to celebrate the start of the school year. Due to her advocacy on behalf of the Northam administration, a record 25,000 3- and 4-year-olds in Virginia now have access to early childhood learning.

"After four years on the road at over

200 schools and programs, we have never seen students so excited to be back in the classroom totally engaged in learning with their peers," the first lady said. "Thanks to superhero educators, Virginia's children will emerge from this pandemic stronger and more resilient than ever before."

"I have been traveling across Virginia and welcoming students back to in-person learning since July when Hopewell Public Schools reopened under their new year-round calendar," said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. "At every school I visit, I am impressed by the determination of principals, teachers, and support staff to overcome all of the challenges they face and maintain safe, in-person learning for their students."

Schools are collaborating with local health departments and working to implement recommended mitigation strategies while also navigating quarantine protocols following positive cases among school members. Last week the Virginia Department of Health issued guidance on "close contacts" for K-12 settings that is expected to result in fewer and shorter disruptions to in-

See Northam, page 7

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, 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. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### Time Well Spent

Read Habakkuk 1:1 thru 3:19

See the Creator's magnificence in a fiery sunset glinting off the ocean. Fill your senses with His beauty flowing from a meadow alive in spring flowers. Recognize His splendor as stars light the night sky.

Precious time spent resting in the presence of the all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present God strengthens a person's soul. Filling mind, soul, and spirit with His goodness and grace calms the spirit. Contemplating His protection and provision, remembering His love and sacrifice, and resting in His mercy refreshes the mind.

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him (Habakkuk 2:20).

Many look to government, possessions, or other people for security. They are reminiscent of those who carved impotent gods from idols of wood and stone—worshiping created things and ignoring their Creator. But nothing substitutes for God's wise care.

Take the time to sit quietly and remember who God is and what He has done. Bask in His presence. Be wrapped in the security of His perfect love.

Thought for Today: Be still and know that He is God.

Quicklook: Habakkuk 2:18-20

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

meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www.eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

### 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.

### LUTHERAN

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

**MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center**, 1850

Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

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

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

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

### UNITED METHODIST

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

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

**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 **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



# Northam from page 6

person learning for students and staff.

“Vaccines play a critical role in keeping students and staff safe, and our schools open for in-person learning,” said Superintendent of

Public Instruction Dr. James Lane. “Parents and caregivers can play a significant role in keeping our schools open and safe by getting vaccinated and making sure that their children who are 12 and older are

vaccinated.”

School divisions are receiving a total of \$3.6 billion in federal support for recovery and reopening under three federal pandemic relief acts: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief

and Economic Security Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

In addition, school divi-

sions received \$205.8 million in state funding this year to mitigate the impact of declines in per-pupil funding due to the pandemic, and \$40 million in state funding to address unfinished learning.

# 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. New information is noted by "NEW" and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. 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 through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES: Alternating lane closures** may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 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.

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

**LANE CLOSURES: Alternating lane closures** may be in place through Sept. 23 for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning.

Nighttime lane closures may be in place periodically on I-81 southbound from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**DMV Notice:** The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

**ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT** - Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

**LANE CLOSURES: Intermittent single lane closures** utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

**ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT** - Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route Route 11 south traffic through the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

**TRAFFIC SWITCH:** A new traffic pattern is in place detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound between the intersections above, limiting each direction to a single lane.

**ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW** - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. A road closure with a detour is in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Sen-

eca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2021.

**UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 - MMI** will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

**VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK** - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be impacted by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last until fall 2021.

**INTERSTATE 81 INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143** – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

Drivers should expect delays. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are brought into and out of the median. Message boards will alert drivers.

Daytime lane closures with flagging operations may be in place on Green Ridge Road due to installation of shoulder stone.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on

various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**Botetourt County: Alternating lane closures** will be in place between mile marker 167 and 169 on northbound I-81 between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following morning, Sunday night to Friday morning.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 141 and 143, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 POT HOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will patch potholes along southbound and northbound Interstate 81. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD** – Work is underway to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to

be complete at the end of 2021.

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

**I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY**– Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

## INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

**I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound

and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

**I-77 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures may be in place northbound or southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-77 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN CARROLL COUNTY**– Weather permitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**I-77 BRUSH REMOVAL & SHOULDER WORK** – Weather permitting, crews will remove and clear brush and work on shoulders and slopes along I-77 northbound and southbound from mile marker 17 to 14 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following morning. A left lane closure will be in place.



## 903 Walker Drive, Radford OPEN HOUSE

Agents and Public Invited

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2021, 2 - 4 PM**

Brick Home. Prestigious Neighborhood. 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths. Heat Pump. Covered parking for two vehicles. Fireplace. Formal Dining Room. Host, Kem Darden.

Directions: From W. Main Street in Radford, go South on Walker Street. Turn Left on Walker Drive. Home on the right.

**MCCRAW REAL ESTATE**  
Terry McCraw - 639-4566

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND USE ASSESSMENT

In accordance with an ordinance providing for special assessments for Agricultural, Horticultural and Forest real estate in Montgomery County, Virginia, your land may be eligible for special valuation and assessments for the tax year 2022 providing it meets certain criteria. **Applications will be accepted October 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2021.** Information and applications for the taxable year 2022 may be obtained at the Montgomery County Commissioner of the Revenue office.

Location:

Montgomery County Government Center

755 Roanoke St suite 1-A

Christiansburg, VA 24073

Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. M-F

Phone 540-382-5717

**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 Times-Register 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*

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Richmond interesting opponent for Hokies

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

On paper, this week's Virginia Tech opponent, the Richmond Spiders, is not in the same league or in this case division as the Hokies. The question is whether the Hokies can rebound from a late-game loss to West Virginia.

Head coach Justin Fuente said Richmond provides his team with a tremendous challenge this week to come back home to play a team that was really close to being undefeated coming into this game.

"They were like two minutes away in the Villanova game from being undefeated," Fuente said at his press conference. "A veteran football team coming into our place that's very well-coached on both sides of the ball and special teams. They have four or five defensive linemen that would play for us. They have skill players.

We'll get some guys healthy to be back to full strength there because we're going to need that this week."

Richmond did pull off a rare 24-14 win in Blacksburg on Sept. 7, 1985, the first time they had defeated Tech. They were coming off play in the 1984 I-Double-A 12-team national playoffs. The win over the Hokies pushed the Spiders into the number-1 ranking in '85, and they reeled off six straight wins after the Blacksburg win.

The school has been successful in the lower division and was the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision champion for the 2008 season.

Saturday's game marks the 51st meeting between the two teams but the first meeting since 1986. They first met back on Nov. 13, 1897, when Virginia Tech posted a 26-0 victory. The Spiders trail the all-time series by an 10-37-4 margin, but their 10 victories are the

most for Richmond against a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference in program history.

Richmond is 2-24-1 all-time in Blacksburg and is coming off that loss to Villanova and is 2-1 after wins over Howard and Lehigh.

The Spiders remain ranked in both the national polls again this week, entering today's game at No. 21 in the American Football Coaches' Association (AFCA) poll, dropping three spots from last week. The Spiders fell to No. 24 in the Stats Perform FCS poll this week, again dropping three spots.

Richmond players to watch include redshirt junior Aaron Dykes, who has been one of the top kickoff return specialists in the country during his Spider career as well as being the Spiders' starting running back for 17 games in his career. Dykes returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown last week against Villanova, his third career kick-

off return for a touchdown. He leads the Colonial Athletic Association with five touchdowns in three games.

Linebackers Tyler Dressler and Tristan Wheeler have been a force together on the inside over the past two seasons. They became the first Spider linebacker duo to each record 100 or more tackles in the same season since 2008 when they accomplished the feat in 2019.

Redshirt senior quarterback Joe Mancuso has played in 38 games in his career at quarterback, making 20 starts. He ranks seventh all-time in program history with 6,009 yards of total offense, passing for 4,687 yards and rushing for 1,322 yards in his career. He ranked second in the Colonial Athletic Association in total offense from a quarterback in 2019, trailing only Villanova's Daniel Smith.

Mancuso's 4,687 yards passing ranks eighth while his 360

completions rank seventh all-time in Spider history. He is currently tied for eighth all-time with 34 passing touchdowns. During his career, he has accounted for 50 career touchdowns, 34 passing and 16 rushing and receiving.

Redshirt junior wide receiver Isaac Brown enters today's game leading the Spiders with 12 receptions for 193 yards and two scores in the first three games.

Redshirt senior defensive lineman Kobie Turner was named to the 2022 Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List and is one of just 35 members from the NCAA FCS level selected to that list and one of only three from the Colonial Athletic Association, being joined by Mike Greene from James Madison and Andre Miller from Maine.

The Spiders did play a short-spring season, going 3-1.

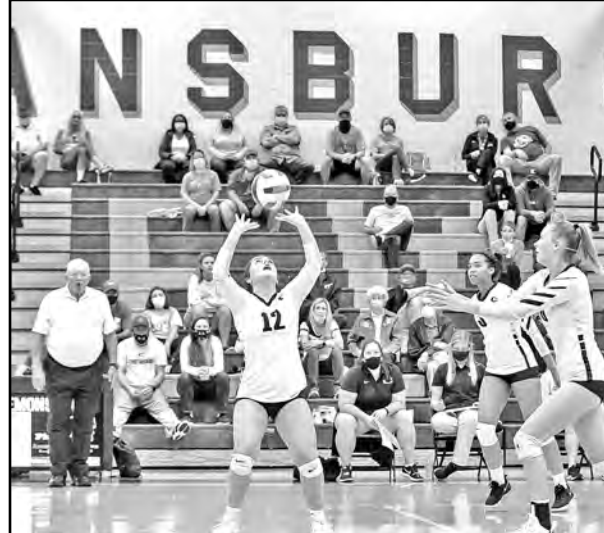
Predicted score: Virginia Tech 38, Richmond 28.

## Christiansburg volleyball falls to Patrick Henry

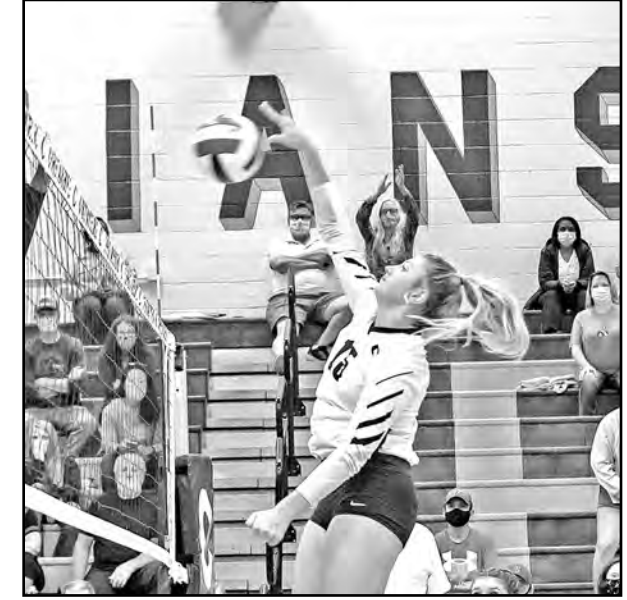


PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

**Cristen Semones has the first touch returning a serve from Patrick Henry in Christiansburg's 16-25, 25-22, 25-23, 16-25 loss to Patrick Henry Tuesday. Semones had 13 digs and five kills in the contest.**



**Christiansburg's Kyleigh Phillips sets the ball for teammate Braelynn Williams. Christiansburg is now 7-3 on the season. Phillips finished with 21 assists and seven digs.**



**Addison Reazor slams a volley back to Patrick Henry. Reazor had 11 kills, three blocks, and 11 digs in the loss.**

## Former walk-on continues long-standing Hokie tradition

Virginia Tech football has a long history of developing walk-ons into elite performers on the field. Wide receiver Kaleb Smith, a redshirt sophomore, is on his way to being part of that tradition.

Smith joined the Hokies in 2018 but didn't see any game action and redshirted. The following season, he was rewarded with a scholarship and played in his first game in the season opener at Boston College, a game that saw him grab four receptions for 64 yards with an 11-yard touchdown.

After COVID-19 turned normalcy into

a thing of the past in 2020, Smith is enjoying his role for Tech both on and off the field here in 2021. Prior to the season, Smith was elected to the team's Leadership Council as the wide receivers' representative, a position he does not take lightly.

The larger role seems to be suiting Smith as he has nine receptions for 83 yards through the season's first three games. He has already tied his career-high for receptions in a season from 2019 and is only five yards away from matching last season's receiving

See Smith, page 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

**Former walk-on Kaleb Smith led Tech with six receptions for 58 yards last week against West Virginia.**

## Tech looks to bounce back at home versus Richmond

After its first road trip of the year, Virginia Tech returns home to Lane Stadium for an in-state matchup with Richmond today, Sept. 25, at noon on the ACC

Network.

The Hokies (2-1) suffered their first defeat of the season after a furious comeback attempt fell short in Morgantown. Despite the loss,

quarterback Braxton Burmeister had a career day, completing 19 of 31 passes for a career-high 223 yards and two touchdowns. The speedster from La Jolla,

Calif., also had a career-long 25-yard rush. Wide receiver Kaleb Smith, whose father played for Richmond from 1988-90, had a career-high six receptions for 58 yards

against the Mountaineers

Defensive captain linebacker Dax Hollifield led the team with 10 tackles (8 solo) to reach the career 200-tackle mark, joining his linebacker coach Jack Tyler and current Tech staffers Pierson Prioleau and Kyshoen Jarrett on the prestigious list.

Cornerback Jermaine Waller had an interception in his third straight game, the first Tech player to accomplish that feat since Hollifield in 2019. Waller is now tied for the FBS lead with three interceptions and is the only FBS player with an interception in all three games this season.

Richmond (2-1) is also coming off its first loss of the season after the Spiders suffered a 34-27 defeat at the hands of Villanova on Saturday. Quarterback

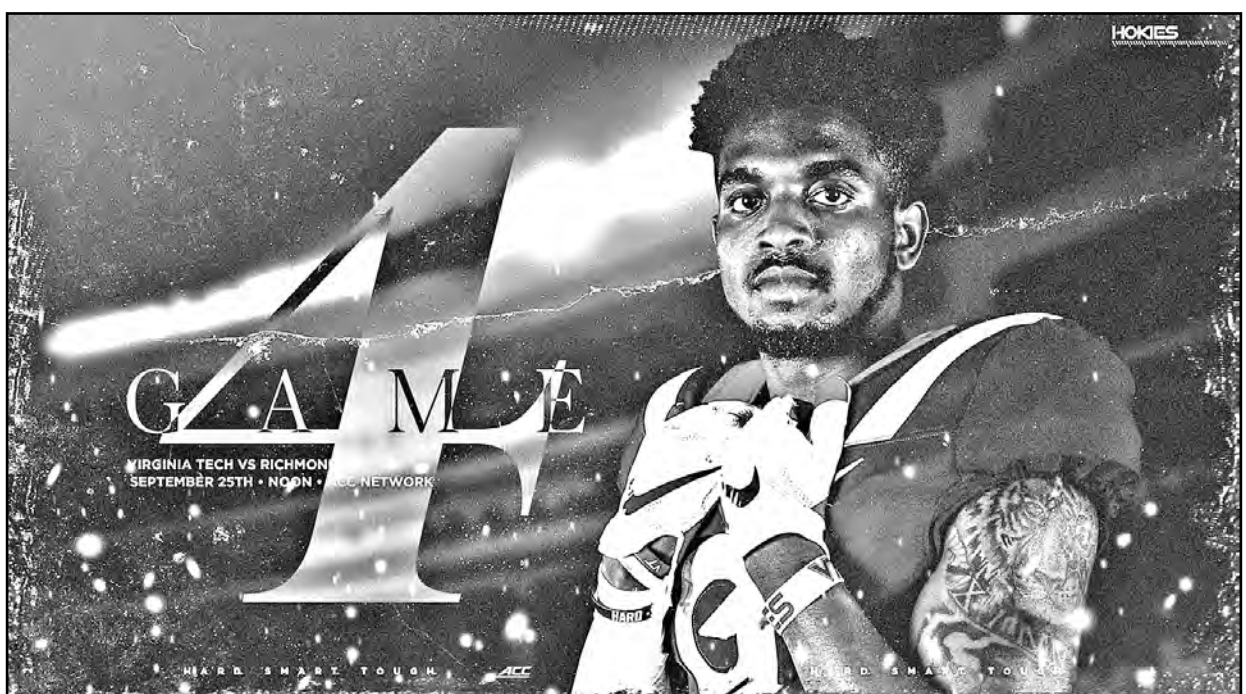
Joe Mancuso completed 18 passes on 32 attempts for 244 yards and two touchdowns in the loss while running back Aaron Dykes recorded 10 carries for 30 yards and had a 98-yard kickoff return touchdown against the Wildcats.

**GAMEDAY INFORMATION**

Saturday, September 25 - noon vs. Richmond (2-1); Lane Stadium; head coach: Russ Huesman (fifth season); record at Richmond: 20-21; Career: 79-58 (13th season); Series: VT leads 37-10-4

TV Broadcast  
ACC Network; Play-by-Play: Wes Durham; Analyst: Roddy Jones; Sideline: Lericia Harris.

Local Radio  
Virginia Tech Sports Network; Play-by-Play: Jon Laaser; Analyst: Mike Burnop; Sideline: Wes McElroy.





# Smith from page 8

yardage total (88 yards). He attributes his uptick in production to the work he put in prior to the year.

"Just the off-season work with [quarterback] Braxton [Burmeister] and the offense in general," Smith said. "He knows what I can do, I know what he can do, and now the coaches know what we can do together."

Another reason for his productive first quarter of the season could stem from the time he missed at the end of 2020. After playing in eight games, Smith underwent season-ending surgery prior to the team's final two games versus Clem-

son and Virginia.

"It was tough having to deal with that, but it wasn't anything that I wasn't used to," Smith said, who also missed his senior season in high school due to injury. "It gave me an opportunity to look at a game from a different perspective. I wasn't out there playing anymore but I got to see how I could help my teammates, how I could reflect on my old clips and see what I could have done here or there. It's more the mental part of the game, and that helped me out a lot."

Smith is coming off one of the best games he's played in

maroon and orange, recording a career-high six receptions for 58 yards while wearing the No. 25 jersey for the first time in his career at West Virginia. Despite the loss to the Mountaineers, Smith's message to his room is to prepare for Richmond on Saturday.

"We're just trying to refocus, treat it as a normal game," Smith said. "It doesn't matter who we go up against, we're preparing to play the best we can."

Richmond is not, however, just any other opponent to Kaleb Smith and his family. Smith's father, James, was a standout safety for the Spi-

ders from 1987-91 and was drafted by the Houston Oilers, while his mother, Kimberly, also played basketball at Richmond. Smith's cousin, Kerry Wynn, played defensive end at Richmond and earned All-CAA honors his senior year in 2013.

"It's going to be a fun one," Smith said. "Obviously, growing up with my dad and my cousin playing there and having great careers there, that was the school for me. I went there every weekend to watch the game."

When an offer didn't come after his junior season, Smith decided he would have to make a name for himself at a

different school and opted to walk on in Blacksburg. Now on full scholarship with the Hokies, Smith is looking forward to playing the team he adored as a kid.

"Obviously, I'm going to have a chip on my shoulder and show them what I can do," Smith said. "I'm pretty excited."

James and Kimberly will both be in attendance today in Lane Stadium and Smith says they support him first despite Richmond's being their alma mater. "Kerry might be in my ear a bit talking that Spider talk," Smith said with a laugh "but we'll see how it goes."

# New coaches at Virginia Tech, RU

Virginia Tech Athletics announced Monday that Mason Revis, a former NC State swimmer, will be joining the program's swimming and diving staff as a volunteer assistant coach, and Radford University head softball coach Alisa Tasler announced Monday that the program has hired Joe DiPietro as an assistant coach.

"I am extremely thankful to Sergio and the rest of the coaching staff for the opportunity to join the Hokie family for the 2021-22 season," said Revis. "I look forward to learning and contributing all that I can to help make this Virginia Tech's best combined season in program history."

During his four years in Raleigh, Revis was a member of the NC State Men's Swim and Dive team. He contributed to four top-four finishes at the NCAA Championships and helped his team earn four consecutive ACC championships.

"I am truly excited to have

Mason here working with us," said head swimming and diving coach Sergio Lopez Miro. "I did not know much about him before the interview process, but his enthusiasm for the sport and his genuine desire to work at Virginia Tech made me feel and believe that he is going to be a great asset for our Virginia Tech Swimming and Diving team."

Revis graduated from NC State with a Bachelor's in Business Administration in 2019.

Before arriving in Blacksburg, he worked for a pharmaceutical research firm, PRA Health Sciences, as an accounting specialist.

At RU, Tasler said, "Coach Joe will be a great addition to this program; he has a wealth of Division I knowledge. He has many years of successful coaching stops along the way, and I am very excited to start working with him. I feel our coaching styles complement each other very well. We have a

lot to accomplish this year, and Joe will definitely help us reach our goals."

DiPietro comes to Radford with over 18 years of division-one head coaching experience. His head coaching stops include La Salle, Temple, Hampton, and Incarnate Word. He also spent time as an assistant with Drexel and the Philadelphia Force (a former women's professional softball team in the National Pro Fastpitch League).

"I am very grateful that Coach Tasler has given me the opportunity to continue doing what I love," said DiPietro. "I'm hopeful that my D-1 experience as well as coaching in the NPF will allow me to help grow the Radford Softball program. I will give the players every piece of knowledge that I've acquired over the years, and I am looking forward to the team doing very well."

While at Incarnate Word, DiPietro won 47 games over four years while his teams hit

55 home runs. His team recorded one of their best seasons during his tenure in 2021, narrowly missing the Southland Conference tournament.

Before his time at Incarnate Word, DiPietro spent two years at the helm of Hampton's softball program. In his first season with the Lady Pirates, he won 22 games and led Hampton to an 11-6 mark in conference play. The Lady Pirates were the Northern Division's No. 3 seed in the MEAC Tournament, and they advanced to the far end of the consolation bracket, falling one game shy of the championship game. In his second season the team won 20 games with an 11-7 mark in conference play.

At Temple, he spent five seasons with the softball program until it was terminated following the 2014 season. The 2013 season was a memorable one for the Owls as they set a program record with 32 wins and finished third in the Atlantic-10 Confer-

ence. That team also slugged an NCAA-best 94 home runs while allowing only 48.

In his six seasons with La Salle, DiPietro guided the Explorers to 77 wins with the 2008 squad posting the most victories (22) since 1997. Prior to La Salle, DiPietro served 25 seasons as softball coach at Camden Catholic High School, spending the last 15 seasons as the head coach. During his tenure, DiPietro amassed a 274-98 record, and led the Irish to three New Jersey State Championships (1991, 1992, 1993). His 1991 and 1992 squads were voted the area's top-ranked team by both the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Courier-Post. The winningest coach in Camden Catholic softball history, DiPietro was tabbed the South Jersey Softball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1991. He was inducted into the Camden Catholic Hall of Fame in April of 2014.

# RU track and field hosts first Dedmon Dash Sept. 30

The Radford University track and field program will host the inaugural Dedmon Dash, a downhill 1-mile road race that is open to the public and includes cash prizes, on Thursday, Sept. 30.

Taking place on the same weekend as Radford University's homecoming celebration, festivities are set to begin at 6 p.m. and finish around 7 p.m. Any and all runners are welcome to register for the dash, either as individuals or as part of a group.

More than \$800 dollars of prize money will be up for grabs: \$75 each for first-place male and female finishers, \$50 each for second place, and \$25 each for third-place finishers. The

winner of the fraternity/sorority races will take home a \$250 prize.

The starting line will be located at the intersection of Main Street and University Drive, and the course will weave its way through campus, into the athletics complex, down the home-stretch of the Cupp Stadium track, and finish at the Dedmon Center. Results will be provided by SnapTiming immediately after the race is completed.

The dash is sponsored by Radford Coffee Company and Thai This.

For more information or to sign up for the dash go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Radford/Dedmon-Dash2021>.

# 2022 ACC baseball championship remains in Charlotte

Together with the Charlotte Knights, the ACC announced Wednesday that the 2022 ACC Baseball Championship will remain at Truist Field in Charlotte, May 24-May 29.

Virginia Tech made its return to the ACC Baseball Championship in 2021 at the same ballpark where close to 59,000 fans passed through the gates, setting the event's fifth highest attendance on record. The 2022 tournament will mark the event's fourth year in the Charlotte area, including its history in Fort Mill, S.C., during the 2000 and 2001 seasons.

"We're excited to have the ACC Baseball Championship return to the city of Charlotte for the second consecutive year," said ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips. "The Charlotte Knights, in conjunction with the Charlotte Sports Foundation, the Charlotte Regional Visi-

tors Authority and Visit Charlotte, continue to be outstanding partners. Our student-athletes, coaches, staff, and fans enjoyed a tremendous experience in Charlotte during the 2021 event, and we know that will only continue as we look forward to our 2022 ACC Baseball Championship."

Truist Field opened in 2014 as the home for the Charlotte Knights, the Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. Listed with a stadium capacity of 10,200 fans, the ballpark was the site of the 2016 Triple-A All-Star Game and has hosted more than 25 college baseball games.

The Hokies squared off there in 2021 against to-be College World Series participant Virginia and No. 7 Notre Dame in front of more than 5,000 fans.

Eight teams that made appearances at the 2021 ACC Baseball Championship went on to earn

2021 NCAA tournament berths. Among the elite conferences in college baseball, the ACC has yielded six or more NCAA tournament participants for 17 consecutive seasons.

Virginia Tech has made five all-time appearances at the ACC Baseball Championship: 2005, 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2021. The Hokies reached the league championship game in 2013 after sweeping No. 7 Virginia, No. 9 Florida State and Georgia Tech within Pool B and finished as the runners-up at week's end to No.-2 North Carolina.

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## ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

**Ends Thursday September 30th @ 4 PM**  
**Land & Home for Sale at Auction in Floyd VA!**  
**4643 Webbs Mill Rd, Riner VA 24149**  
**Grace Lane, Riner VA 24149**

**Bid Online Now at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)**



+/- 137.81 acres of land for sale, being offered in 3 tracts. The properties consist of wooded acreage, farmland, fenced pastures, Little River frontage, a spring branch, small ponds, a singlewide mobile home, and another home. Enjoy the convenient location in Riner between Floyd and Christiansburg. All three offerings will be offered individually with online bidding. Bidders wanting to purchase more than one offering will need to be the high bidder on all offerings desired. Each offering will remain open and displayed until bidding is complete on all 3 offerings. For example, if a bid is made on offering # 1, all offerings will be extended. Refer to information in bidder pack.

**Preview Date – Saturday September 18th @ 10 AM**

**Offering # 1** – This property features +/- 19.23 Acres along with a +/- 2,120 sq. ft. home with 3 BR and 1 BA. Home has as shingle roof, vinyl siding, heat pump, and basement. Home was built in 1933. There is also a single wide mobile located on property. Home is located at 4643 Webbs Mill Road, Riner VA 24149. Back (eastern) boundary adjoins Offering # 2 and # 3. Refer to bidder pack for property maps. Earnest money deposit for offering # 1 is \$5,000.

**Offering # 2** – +/- 19.02 Acres located on Grace Lane. The property has fencing and good building sites. Property would be good for farming or a country home with acreage with a short commute to Floyd, Christiansburg, I-81, Radford, and Blacksburg VA. There are a couple of small sheds and small pond on property. The single wide located at 233 Grace Lane, Riner VA is not for sale. Address could be helpful to locate this property because it is located on Offering # 2 and Offering # 3 border. Refer to maps for illustration. Offering # 2 western border adjoins Offering # 1 eastern border. Offering # 2 also adjoins Offering # 3. Earnest Money Deposit for Offering # 2 is \$10,000.

**Offering # 3** – +/- 99.56 Acres located on Grace Lane. The property is mostly open has fencing and joins Little River. Access road is a shared road to single wide mobile home located at 233 Grace Lane, Riner VA not included in this sale. Single wide mobile has right of way access along western boundary of this tract. This land is mostly open, has a couple of sheds, small pond, and just under 1,800 feet of Little River Frontage. Property has been used for grazing and is great land for farming, and livestock. There are good building sites for anyone wanting a country home with farmland near Floyd VA, Christiansburg, Radford, Riner, Radford, and I-81. Offering # 3 western border adjoins Offering # 1 eastern border. Offering # 3 also adjoins offering # 2. Earnest Money Deposit for Offering # 3 is \$10,000.

**Offering # 1** is a different owner from **Offering # 2** and **# 3**. In the event a bidder is purchasing multiple offerings, a separate contract will be required for Offering # 1.

**Terms** – 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Winning and confirmed bidder will be expected to pay Earnest Money Deposit and sign the real estate purchase contract on the day of sale. Close on or before November 15th 2021. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence and have the responsibility to review the contract prior to bidding. Download Bidder Information Pack at [VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)

**Contact Matt Gallimore, Broker/Auctioneer at 540-239-2585**  
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