



Christiansburg Kiwanis Club member Ernie Wade (left) presents a gift card to CHS Principal Tony Deibler (center). At the right is club member Dubby Charlton.

Christiansburg Kiwanis Club presents gift card to CHS

As a part of the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg's continuation of the Clothier a Child and School Supplies programs, Dubby Charlton and Ernie Wade, Kiwanis members, recently presented a \$550 Walmart gift card to Christiansburg High School Principal Tony Deibler.

The club started the two programs several years ago at all the Christiansburg

schools to serve those in need. Once the schools use up the funds on the cards, they let the Kiwanis Club know and the cards are replaced. Kiwanis funds the card for \$500 and Walmart adds \$50. These cards are used to purchase much-needed school supplies or clothing for students who cannot afford to buy their own.

Funding for service projects

such as these are generated by fundraising events such as the Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival, held the third Saturday of September each year. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided support to the local community since 1949.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

Downtown Christiansburg project to present storyboards illustrating African-American history



When completed, the project at the post office quadrant in downtown Christiansburg will feature three historical and educational storyboards to illustrate African-American history. The themes for the three signs will be "Community Life," "Education," and "Slavery in Montgomery County."

Christiansburg Institute, Inc., and the Montgomery Museum of Art & History have launched a fundraising campaign to erect three interpretive storyboards in the town-owned quadrant in front of the downtown post office.

Beginning in 2018, the staff of the institute and the museum, their board members, and local community members set about organizing and taking meaningful action to preserve and increase awareness about Montgomery County's deeply rich African-American history and culture.

The groups first determined a set of shared values that would guide the project and decided on truth-telling, honesty, and reconciliation, specifically around challenging and contested histories

where generational harm and racial trauma are ongoing and narratives are competing.

Together, the Christiansburg Institute and the Montgomery Museum received town approval to cultivate the public space at the post office by erecting interpretive storyboards and an art installation to creatively illustrate African American history. When completed, the signs will be themed "Community Life," "Education," and "Slavery in Montgomery County."

The two organizations are seeking to raise \$7,000 to pay for the storyboards and complete the project. The Town of Christiansburg has contributed to the project by paying for the installation of the sidewalks on the quadrant.

Virginia Tech cadets collect 15,000 canned food items for local pantry

A week-long competition among the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets' 14 companies netted more than 15,000 canned food items and a \$3,600 cash donation for the Agape Center NRV's food pantry in Christiansburg.

The cash donation was the largest one-time contribution ever received by the food pantry.

Organized by Cadets for a Cause, a corps organization that supports the wellbeing of the local community through service projects, the competition among the corps' 14 companies awarded one point for each canned food item and one point for each dollar donated, said cadet Prabhav Bhaumik, a junior in the corps' Citizen-Leader Track majoring in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering.

Bhaumik had previously volunteered at the pantry and was one of the three project managers for the effort from Cadets for a Cause. The Agape Center, formerly known as the Giving Tree, is an outreach ministry that partners with several churches in the surrounding community.

"The food drive was a direct means to provide to the community and those with food insecurities within it," Bhaumik said. "Organizing, delivering, and distributing food items gave cadets the opportunity to grow, learn and serve, while also continuing to help the corps carry out its core mission of developing global, ethical leaders."



Cadet William Connolley, a sophomore in Navy ROTC majoring in aerospace engineering and a member of Cadets for a Cause, packs up canned items collected in a study lounge in Pearson Hall West. Photo by Shay Barnhart for Virginia Tech.

The cadets' donation will feed about 2,500 families and is the largest collection of donations received since the pantry opened more than a decade ago, said Dave McEwen, food pantry manager. The cash donation will allow the pantry to buy even more food, he said.

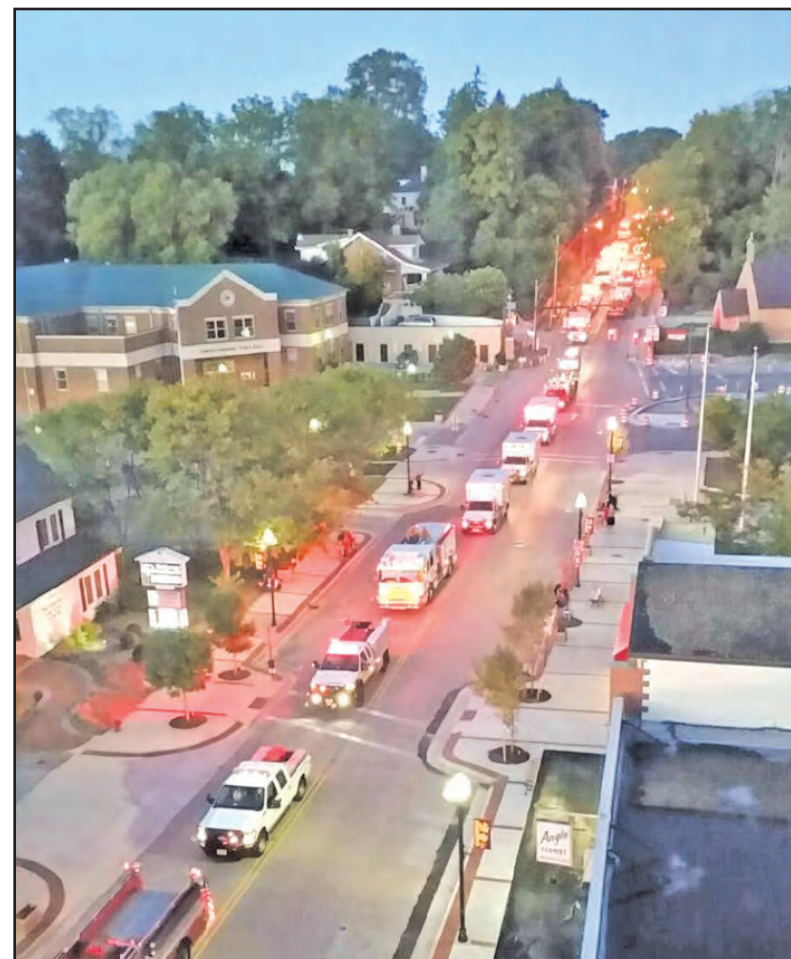
The winning corps company was Band Company. Members of the High-Tighties donated 7,000 items themselves, rallied by sophomore cadets Samuel Stashenko, who is in Air Force ROTC and is majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering, and Grace Shimkus, who is in Army

ROTC and is majoring in English in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

"This service to our community was accomplished by motivated cadets living out the Highly-Tighty motto, Facta non Verba: Deeds not Words," said Band Company Commander Skyler Powell, a senior in Air Force ROTC majoring in philosophy, politics, and economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Band Company's effort won its cadets the privilege of wearing their camouflage uniform for two weeks while other cadets are wearing whatever the corps' uniform of the day is. The camouflage uniform is the most relaxed and most comfortable uniform issued by the corps.

Christiansburg holds annual fire prevention parade



The Town of Christiansburg held its annual fire prevention parade Tuesday at 7 p.m. on Main Street. Sixty-three trucks and apparatus from 15 districts entertained parade watchers with loud noise and bright lights as they drove through downtown in celebration of Fire Prevention Week.

Children, Halloween, and COVID-19: Advice for families from VT child psychologist

Even in the age of COVID, parents should find safe ways to allow kids to return to the tradition of trick-or-

treating this Halloween, says Virginia Tech professor of psychology and clinical child psychologist Tom Ollendick.

"It's almost like going back to school, church, or the movies, or to visit family. It is another event-marker. For Halloween, it's a milestone, almost literally because kids so look forward to trick-or-treating each year. It's an event, a happy holiday for most kids," said Ollendick.

"There is no doubt, last year youngsters missed out on something that they look forward to. We've done studies on how anxiety and stress is mounting in kids. Things that are fun like this can help in so many ways," he said.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director

Rochelle Walensky said trick-or-treating in small groups is a good option for kids. "I wouldn't necessarily go to a crowded Halloween party," she said.

Ollendick offers the following advice for parents who wonder whether it's safe to trick or treat this year.

"First, go a little bit earlier than usual, say 5 or 6 o'clock when there's still some daylight. Go with another child or two or with adults. As much as possible, make it a family activity and do it in a way the youngsters and the whole family can have fun.

"The main point is this is an

important time for children, and it's important that we do as much as we can to make it as normal as we can. And to not steer away from it and not be stuck at home – and thinking they can't go out, when they really can under safe conditions. Try to make it as normal and as much fun as possible."

Professor Tom Ollendick is an expert in clinical child and adolescent psychology, developmental psychopathology, cognitive behavior therapy, and social cognitive learning theory. He is the former director of the Virginia Tech Child Study Center. He teaches in the College of Science.



Christiansburg Kiwanis Club installs 2021-22 officers, board members



The officers and board members of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club for 2021-22 were installed at the club's recent annual meeting. Serving in leadership positions (left to right) will be board members Ernie Wade and Fernando Vissani, President Kelley Olson, President-elect Gary Morris, Past President Glenn Wilson, Treasurer Mark Cox, Board Member Blaine Keesee, Assistant Secretary Bruce Board, and Assistant Treasurer Steve Simmons.

At Thursday's annual meeting, Christiansburg Kiwanian Bob Lewit, the Lt. Governor for the 16th Division of the Capital District, installed the 2021-2022 fiscal year's officers and directors for the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg.

Installed were President Kelley Olson, Vice president Gary Morris; Secretary Teddy McCracken, Assistant Secretary Bruce Board, Treasurer Mark Cox, Assistant Treasurer Steve Simmons, and Immediate Past President Glenn Wilson.

Board of Director members installed through 2023 are Blaine Keesee, Fernando Vissani, Alison Gordon and Bruce Board. Other directors remaining on the Board through 2022 are Dubby Charlton, Marlin Reeves,

Ernie Wade, and Alicia Glynn.

Bob Lewit was installed as the Trustee of the Capital District Southwest Virginia Region by John Montgomery, the outgoing Trustee from the Roanoke Kiwanis Club.

Steve Simmons was



Club President Kelley Olson presents Steve Simmons with the Kiwanian-of-the-Year award.

elected as the Kiwanian of the year. This award is granted to the club member who demonstrates outstanding service during the year. Steve headed up the Head Start backpack program, led the effort supporting the Christiansburg High

School football program, was an active member of the Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival Committee, and supported other club activities.

The club meets each Thursday evening at 6:30 at the Holiday Inn in Christiansburg.

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Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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

LANE CLOSURES: From Sunday, October 10 through Friday, October 16, alternating lane closures may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following

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

See VDOT, page 8

Remember:

- ★ December 7: Pearl Harbor Day
- ★ January 6: U.S. Capitol Day

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 9:

Radford Highlanders Festival 2021
The festival features the famed heavyweight games, sheepherding, live entertainment, food, vendors, and festivities for all ages. The festival is a partnership between Radford University and the City of Radford. Held on the campus of Radford University, the festival is open to the general public with free admission.

Monday, Oct. 11:

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

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 on 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.

Talking about Books Non-fiction
At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Bringing up Bebe" by Pamela Druckerman. Call ahead to reserve a copy.

Youth Craft Night
At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. This is a fun and creative afternoon painting with stencils to create artwork. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 12;

Wednesday, Oct.

13, Thursday, Oct.

14; Tuesday, Oct.

19

Chamber sets 2022 legislative agenda

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has set its 2022 legislative agenda and will be seeking support in five areas from the state senators and delegates who represent this area.

I. Invest in a Well-Trained Talent Supply Pipeline (Talent Committee)

Montgomery County continues to grow faster than any other county in Southwest Virginia and the commonwealth. More and more technology-based businesses are choosing to start and grow their businesses in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County and the chamber supports the growth of this sector. It also supports all sectors of business and industry with respect to job growth through establishing and pursuing the following legislative goals.

1. Increase support for higher education in fields where future job growth is predicted.
2. Increase support for community colleges in workforce development and credentialing; especially in-demand career fields. The chamber asks that the state allow flexibility for regional and local adaptation based upon the needs of businesses.
3. Increase support for public education in areas that support the local talent needs such as STEM,

Career and Technical, and the Trades and allow flexibility for regional and local adaptation based upon industry needs.

4. Increase opportunities for youth to learn about entrepreneurship.

5. Improve support for early childhood education platforms across the commonwealth and expansion for Pre-K so parents can comfortably work knowing their children are not only safe but in a proactive educational environment.

6. Increase initiatives that strengthen connections among students, parents, educators, and guidance counselors of career and technical education opportunities locally and regionally.

II. Improve the Capacity for Economic Development (Infrastructure & Business Resource Committees)

Our community's economic base depends on a sound infrastructure necessary for economic activity such as transportation, utilities, and telecommunications, including broadband. The ongoing pandemic further emphasized the need for expanded broadband service to rural areas of our community and areas that have underrepresented populations. Urban dwellers are now seeing the value of living in a less populated area. Their decisions to move here with their

businesses will be dictated by broadband access. Our connection with Northern Virginia is even more critical with the Innovation Campus through Virginia Tech.

Our community has many manufacturers and businesses that depend on good roads and efficient rail to meet their customers' demands. A significant amount of the \$321 billion in goods shipped on I-81 is created or necessary to produce finished goods by our manufacturers. It is our request that our elected officials

1. Protect Virginia's existing Right-to-Work laws.

2. Create a strategic plan for additional Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) to expand affordable broadband and telecommunications services especially in underserved areas of our community. This could be public-private partnerships to expand affordable broadband. This need is related to tele-medicine, telework, tele-education, and economic development for a modern workforce.

3. Continue to explore creative and sustainable funding in addition to smart scale to meet local transportation needs.

4. Continue to fund support for Passenger Rail to the NRV (Christiansburg) by 2025.

5. Continue to support funding for the improve-

ment (safety and access) of I-81.

6. Support the creation of tax credits and other

financial incentives to encourage businesses to invest in, develop and/or implement effective tech-

nologies for capturing and utilizing renewable

See Chamber, page 5

Virginia's Rent Relief Program Workshop

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Blacksburg Library at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Blacksburg Library, on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library; and on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library.

Virginia's Rent Relief Program (RRP) can provide funds to assist in paying rent, late fees, and other lease-based costs back to April 2020 for those impacted by COVID-19. Join Virginia's Rent Relief Program for information about the requirements and help in completing the online application. Attendees should bring a signed, current lease agreement.

Thursday, Oct. 14:

Cybersecurity Awareness Month at Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

At 11 a.m. Virtual/Online. October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia wants to educate members of the community about the importance of cybersecurity and to provide tips and resources needed to be safe and more secure online. Connect at: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MFRL/programs>.

Author Talk at the Radford Public Library

Author Willa Reece will talk about her book "Wildwood Whispers" in the Radford Public Library community room on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. This adult fiction is "a heartwarming tale of hope, fate, and folk magic that unfolds in a sleepy town nestled in the Appalachian mountains." Author Reece will have some giveaways and swag for the audience with one copy of the book to give to a lucky winner. This event is free, is open to the public, and will be streamed live to Facebook on the Radford Public Library page.

Friday, Oct. 15:

Cannon Firing for Homecoming Parade

The Virginia Tech Corps of

Cadets cannon will be fired twice the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 15, as cadets pass in review on the Drillfield in honor of Virginia Tech's homecoming. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. Skipper will be fired at the first note of the National Anthem and the first note of "Tech Triumph." There will be two shots total.

Noise Alert: Fireworks

A fireworks event at 8:45 p.m. on the west side of the Drillfield on the Virginia Tech campus will be part of the VT homecoming celebration. All the appropriate cautions will be in place. VT Rescue will provide EMT standby. VT Health and Safety has requested that standby coverage begin 30 minutes prior to the schedule shoot time.

Wednesday, Oct. 20:

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) Community Meeting

The RFAAP community meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. The rescheduling of this meeting will allow RFAAP to provide the most current updates on environmental and modernization projects. The meeting will be broadcast on Facebook Live from the RFAAP 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 can conduct individual research through several resources:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RadfordArmyAmmunitionPlant/>.

Homepage: <http://www.jmc.army.mil/Radford/RadfordDefault.aspx>.

Email: usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil.

In-Person Learn at Lunch at Hahn Horticulture Garden

"Crafting a Garden Vision" with Steve Hale

Gardening and landscape appreciation are lifetime endeavors for many. This presentation is designed to give participants new perspectives

on their own gardens no matter how large or small. The program will last from noon to 1 p.m. at the Hahn Horticulture Garden. Parking passes will be provided to attendees.

Friday, Oct. 22:

VT Corp of Cadets Formal Retreat

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will hold a formal retreat ceremony at 4:15 p.m. on Upper Quad. The Color Guard will lower the flag, and the regimental band, the Highty-Tighties, will play. Skipper, the corps cannon, will fire once.

Sunday, Oct. 31:

Grove United Methodist Church Trunk-or-Treat

This is an afternoon of safe fun trunk or treating. Trunks filled with treats will be provided by Grove UMC members and students from the Wesley Student Center at Radford University. The event is free. For more information, call 540-639-2807.

Through Oct. 19:

Crafts-to-Go

At the Meadowbrook Library. Drop by the library for Halloween and autumn Take and Make craft kits. They will be available at the library or with curbside pickup. The kits are free but supplies are limited.

Diaper Drive benefiting Montgomery County Christmas Store

At the Blacksburg Library. Blacksburg Junior's Club and the Blacksburg Library are hosting a diaper drive benefiting the Montgomery County Christmas Store. All sizes of diapers are needed and are welcomed.

Through Oct. 20:

Halloween Costume Drive

At the Meadowbrook Library. The library is looking for gently used costumes in all sizes. Drop off the costumes during library hours through Oct. 20. Come to the Halloween Costume Mania and select a costume for children or adults while costumes last.

All the month of October:

Halloween-Sidewalk Obstacle Course

At the Meadowbrook Library courtyard. Can you make it through the library's Halloween-themed obstacle course? And don't forget to count the candy corn throughout the course to win a prize. This event is for all ages and abilities. Those who complete the course can enter for a special prize drawing that will be held on Oct. 25.

Passionate Painters

At the Blacksburg Library. Come check out the beautiful works by the students and friends of the VT Lifelong Learning Institute.

Grab-and-Go Meals

The Meadowbrook Public Library is offering free grab-and-go meals and snacks. Children 18 years and younger can come and get a week's worth of meals and snacks. Each box contains a five-day supply. This is free to all children and teens during library hours. It is sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia, which is an equal opportunity provider.

Radford Farmers Market

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

Christiansburg Farmers Market

The Christiansburg Farmers Market is being held every Thursday through Oct. 28 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3 to 7 p.m.

Ongoing:

Passports 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 planning overseas travel should get their passports as early as possible as the current wait time is up to 18 weeks.

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OPINION

WalletHub: Virginia's recovery from unemployment claims is slowest in nation

Virginia's rate of recovery from unemployment claims is the slowest among the 50 states, according to a report released Thursday by the personal finance website WalletHub.

Only Washington, D.C., is recovering at a slower rate than the commonwealth.

While the number of unemployment claims nationally decreased in the week ending Sept. 27, according to WalletHub, 8.4

million Americans remain unemployed due to the pandemic.

The website reports that in the latest week, 326,000 new unemployment claims were filed nationwide, far fewer than the 6.1 million during the peak of the pandemic.

According to WalletHub's survey of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 18 states had unemployment claims last week that were lower

than before the pandemic: South Carolina, Arkansas, West Virginia, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nevada, Illinois, Washington, New Hampshire, Arizona, North Dakota, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey.

On the other hand, Washington, D.C., had unemployment claims last week that were worse than the same week last year.

WalletHub cited three

key statistics that largely account for Virginia's rank ahead of only D.C.

In the last week, weekly unemployment claims in Virginia increased by 316.58% compared to the same week in 2019, the second biggest increase in the U.S.

Weekly unemployment claims in Virginia increased by 205.77% compared to the start of 2020, the second biggest increase in the U.S.

WalletHub did report one bright spot for the commonwealth. In the most recent week, weekly unemployment claims in Virginia decreased by 10.10% compared to the same week last year. The bad news was that this represented the third smallest decrease in the country.

The ten places in the country with the slowest rate of recovery from unemployment, according to WalletHub's ranking, are

42. Oregon 43. Alabama 44. Tennessee 45. New Mexico 46. Hawaii 47. California 48. Nebraska 49. Michigan 50. Virginia 51. District of Columbia.

WalletHub's ranking of the ten states recovering the fastest from unemployment claims are 1. South Carolina 2. Arkansas 3. Kansas 4. South Dakota 5. West Virginia 6. Montana 7. New Hampshire 8. Missouri 9. Illinois 10. Washington.

National report names Virginia as a top state in preparedness amid pandemic

Virginia has emerged as tied for first place among states in a new national report that measures state readiness to respond to public health threats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report, the 2021 National Health Security Preparedness Index, assesses emergency planning and preparation. It was compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the University of Colorado School of Public Health, and the University of Kentucky Center for Business and

Economic Research.

Virginia earned a score of 7.4 on a 10-point scale, representing the top mark among states alongside Maryland, Massachusetts, and Nebraska.

"Our hospital and health system members and their teams of dedicated caregivers and support personnel have been tested like never before while treating patients and protecting public health from the moment the COVID-19 pandemic reached Virginia in March 2020," said

Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton.

"They have responded to this unprecedented global health emergency with skill, determination, and great courage," Connaughton said. "In the process, they have participated in a large-scale response effort that includes providing direct care to nearly 70,000 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 who were later discharged and administering more than 2 million vaccine doses. Vir-

ginia's ranking as a top state for public health emergency readiness is a testament to the work of many people and organizations, including our hospitals and their employees."

The National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSPI) is a national tool that measures existing capabilities to protect the public from the health consequences of disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other large-scale hazardous events. Its assessments are based on data drawn from 64

sources, and it represents one of the most comprehensive evaluations of state-by-state emergency preparedness infrastructure.

The NHSPI assessment methodology incorporates several years of data to measure state performance across six domains: health security surveillance, community planning and engagement, incident and information management, healthcare delivery, countermeasure management, and environmental and occupational health.

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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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Financial Focus: Plan ahead before joining the "Great Resignation"

It's been called the "Great Resignation," the large number of Americans voluntarily leaving their jobs. If you plan to be part of it (ideally with another source of employment lined up), you'll need to make the financial moves necessary to keep making progress toward your long-term goals.

Here's some background: After a year in which the pandemic caused so many people to lose their jobs, the economy is opening back up, but the "quit rate" — the number of jobs people have voluntarily left — has been breaking records. Some economists say this high quit rate is because people are confident of getting better jobs with higher pay and more flexibility to work at home, or because they are preparing to start their own business or join the gig economy.

If you're thinking of join-

ing this temporary migration from the workforce, how can you help ensure that you'll be financially stable and can continue to make progress toward your long-term goals?

Your first move is to look clearly at your financial situation. As mentioned above, it's best to have new employment in hand before you quit your job. Alternatively, perhaps you have a spouse or life partner who earns enough to sustain the two of you, or you've built up an emergency fund that gives you a cushion.

However, if your short-term income is less than you previously earned or you need to go without a paycheck for a while, could you still pay your bills? If you are strapped for cash, you might be tempted to tap into your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But this move will generally result in taxes and, if you

are younger than 59 1/2, a 10 percent penalty as well. Because of this and because your retirement accounts are designed to be a financial resource after you retire, think twice before dipping into these funds if you leave your current employer.

If your employer allows it, you can leave your money in the 401(k) so you'll still be accumulating resources for retirement. You also have the option to roll those funds into an individual retirement account (IRA) or a new employer's retirement plan.

And if you plan to work for yourself as a freelancer, consultant or business owner, you'll still want to save toward retirement. Possible retirement plans for the self-employed include an "owner-only" 401(k), a SEP-IRA or a SIMPLE IRA, all of which may be relatively easy to establish and offer tax benefits. A financial advisor

can help you find a retirement plan that's appropriate for your needs.

Here's something else to keep in mind: an emergency fund. As mentioned above, if you already have one, you'll have some breathing room if you're thinking of leaving your job and might have a temporary gap in income. But as the name suggests, an emergency fund is there to help cover unexpected costs, such as a major home repair, without forcing you to take out a loan or cash out part of your longer-term investments. So if you are planning to tap your emergency fund, work to restock it as soon as possible.

If you're participating in the "Great Resignation," it means you're feeling positive about your future employment prospects, which is great. But you'll want to support that optimism with a strong financial foundation.

Cadets chosen to highlight the colors at the Notre Dame game



From left are first-year cadets Kyle Sullivan, Antwone Callender, and Mikey Nicpon, who have been selected to receive the flags at today's Notre Dame football game. Sullivan is in Army ROTC, Callender is in Air Force ROTC, and Nicpon is in Naval ROTC. Photo by Shay Barnhart for Virginia Tech.

First-year cadets Antwone Callender, Mikey Nicpon, and Kyle Sullivan will receive the flags at today's football game against Notre Dame.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and the Virginia Tech football team continue their proud partnership of highlighting 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, also 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.

Callender is in Air Force ROTC and is majoring in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. He is the recipient of an Emerging Leader Scholarship from the

corps.

Nicpon is in Naval ROTC and is majoring in criminology in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. He was chosen for his willingness to put others before himself. He volunteers to attend the corps' playing of Taps every Thursday evening.

Sullivan is in Army ROTC and is majoring in management in the Pamplin College of Business. He is credited with consistently performing as a top freshman in his unit and motivating others to perform to the best of their abilities.

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-67 and letters C, R, O, S, S, W, O, R, D.

- CLUES ACROSS: 1. Droop, 4. Rested in a chair, 7. Thai (var.), 10. Draw out wool, 12. Coatis genus, 14. Taxis, 15. Beige, 16. Supplementing with difficulty, 17. Capital of Norway, 18. A personal written history, 21. Cologne, 22. Australian flightless bird, 23. Lowest freeman; early Eng., 25. 18th C. mathematician Leonhard, 28. Cabinet Dept. for homes, 29. Languages of Sulu islands, 33. More scarce, 35. Before, 36. Swiss river, 37. Actress & director Lupino, 38. Edges, 41. Thousand Leaves prefecture, 44. Soldier hero of Spain, 45. Gains through work, 47. To the front, 49. I (German), 50. Price label, 51. Barack's 1st lady, 58. Drench with liquid, 59. Child (scot.), 60. "Aba ___ Honeymoon", 62. Disappearing shade trees, 63. Cricket frog genus, 64. Union busting worker, 65. A priest's liturgical vestment, 66. Previously The Common Market, 67. Upper left keyboard key in tissues, CLUES DOWN: 1. Point midway between S and SE, 2. Genus of birds, 3. Personal spiritual leader, 4. Japanese rice beverage, 5. Eared owl genus, 6. Wood oil finish, 7. Hyphen, 8. Competently, 9. Equal, prefix, 11. Broad-winged soaring hawk, 12. A collection of star systems, 13. Be in accord, 14. Links subject & predicate (linguistics), 19. Paddles, 20. Asian river between China and Russia, 23. Physicists Marie or Pierre, 24. Excessive fluid accumulation, 26. ___ Dunlap, pageant titleholder, 27. Made again, 28. Norse goddess of death, 30. A waterproof raincoat, 31. Express pleasure, 32. ___ Lanka, 34. Radioactivity unit, 39. Clay blocks for building, 40. Linear unit, 42. Conductor tools, 43. Whale ship captain, 46. Queen who tested Solomon, 48. Good Gosh!, 51. A gangster's girlfriend, 52. Unstressed-stressed, 53. Draw through holes, 54. Old Italian monetary units, 55. Musician Clapton, 56. Ceremonial staff of authority, 57. Fabrics of camels or goats, 58. A very large body of water, 61. Basics

Chamber

from page 3

energy sources to meet the needs of business.

7. Continue to support initiatives to expand air service at our Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.

8. Support funding for economic development programs available through Virginia Economic Development Partnership and GO Virginia.

9. Support expanded incentives for angel and venture capital investments in Virginia businesses and increased funding to commercialize regional research spinoff.

10. Reduce the current disparate impact of minimum wage increases on small businesses, especially in retail and hospitality.

11. Reconsideration of a regional intermodal freight facility.

III. Access to and Improvement in Healthcare
Montgomery County is fortunate to have access

to two hospitals, which makes our community more attractive for business and industry recruitment, retention and entrepreneurs. The chamber asks that legislators seek ways to limit the shift of uncompensated care onto the business community and other unsubsidized users of Virginia's hospitals and health care providers.

1. Strongly consider legislation that will allow the creation of Multiple Employer Wellness Arrangements, which offer health plans to support health care affordability and accessibility for employers and employees.

2. Continue to support initiatives and resources to address the future of mental and behavioral health treatment in the commonwealth.

IV. Public Health Issues Affecting the Business Community
The chamber supports

the expansion of services related to the continuing aftermath of the pandemic and the future and realizes how fortunate the community is to have many resources and leaders who were creative and innovative on this area's behalf. The chamber asks that legislators support:

1. Incentivizing domestic manufacturing of critical medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to prevent future supply chain disruptions.

2. Legal liability protection for businesses that follow appropriate health protocols.

3. Recognizing regional differences related to outbreaks and strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 or any disease.

4. Continued support for the alignment of emergency declarations from the state and federal government with streamlined and consistent directives to ensure consis-

tent, clear, and fair rules that business owners and employees are obligated to follow without jeopardizing their businesses.

5. Responsible and safe implementation of recreational marijuana regulations that will include "lessons learned" from other states and how to mitigate corresponding implications for the business community.

V. Community Quality of Life

Businesses examine the quality of life in communities before they locate, expand, or remain in a community. Although this area does not have the challenges of more dense, urban areas, the chamber is mindful of the need to support local law enforcement agencies and the men and women who serve local communities. The chamber asks that our legislators:

1. Establish statewide minimum standards

and best practices of law enforcement training through close coordination with law enforcement associations such as the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Sheriff's Association and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies on minimum standards of training.

2. Adequately fund the training of law enforcement officers across all units within the Commonwealth of Virginia and consider funding support for towns and cities to match the recent

bonus provided to state law enforcement agencies.

3. Closely coordinate with law enforcement associations such as the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Sheriff's Association, and the Virginia Sheriff's Association to request input on pending legislation that may impact the effectiveness of recruitment and retention of officers and performance of their duties.

4. Continue to support qualified immunity across all law enforcement agencies.



ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

The Spirit of Truth

Whenever Jesus Christ is exalted the Third Person of the Trinity is at work. The Bible emphasizes different activities for each of the three members of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and He always points us in the direction of the way, and the truth, and the life.

Jesus told His disciples, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you" (John 14:16-17).

It is through the person and work of Jesus Christ that we know the truth and are set free (John 8:32). Jesus declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (14:6). A couple of verses later He said to Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (v. 9).

Moreover, the Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of truth." He is the Spirit of Christ who is the truth. He exalts the truth and glorifies Christ.

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

OBITUARIES

Irwin, Evalene Nelda Bolt Wheeler

Evalene Nelda Bolt Wheeler Irwin, 95, of Radford, passed away peacefully on Oct. 2, 2021.

She was born on December 22, 1925, to the late Clark and Ava Bolt. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Linda Collins; sisters Adele Thornton, Ethel McAlexander and Carolyn Brewster; and a brother, Marvin Bolt.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Earl George Irwin; a sister, Delora (Roop) Black; a step-daughter, Earle Irwin and Bob Lineberry; a stepson, Dwight Irwin and Stacy Lempka; a son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Irene Wheeler; grandchildren Shaun Jenks and Erika, Richard Irwin-Miller, Chauncey,



Eli and Carson Irwin, Kyle and Nick Wheeler; great-grandchildren Hailey Jenks, Hunter Jenks and Makynzee; a niece and her husband, Joyce and Rickey Sims; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family received friends from 10 until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 11 a.m. with Robbie Vance, chaplain with Medi-Home Hospice, officiating. Interment was Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

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

Linkous, Shirley Jean

Shirley Jean Linkous, 83, of Christiansburg, departed this earth to join her heavenly father on Sept. 25, 2021.

A very selfless woman, she lived her life for the Lord. Loved by so many, she left a lasting impression on all that she met. She was born in Blacksburg on Feb. 18, 1938, to the late Evans and Ella Linkous. She was the youngest of four children. Shirley was married to the love of her life for 53 years and had five children. She was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Penny; her husband, Windell Wade Linkous; and a sister Betty Jo Dowdy.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law: Donnie and Belle Linkous, Danny and Patricia Linkous, and David and Tammie Linkous; a daughter and son-in-law, Drema and Chris Gib-



son; grandchildren Xylene Browne (Ric), Donnie Linkous, Jr. (Michelle), Tabatha Porter (Rick), Darrell Waugh, Jr., Dylan Price, Brittany Linkous, J.D. Linkous (Morgan), Ashley Linkous, Wayne Linkous (Sabrina); Tori, Nathan, Brooke, and Logan Slate, and Hunter Lang; a sister, Marie Woolwine; a brother, Basil Linkous; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Shirley will be most remembered for her love of the Lord our father.

A funeral service was held on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, in the McCoy Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Buford Linkous officiating. Interment followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family received friends prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

McGuire, Beverly Meredith

Beverly Meredith McGuire, 59, of Pulaski, died Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, at her home. She was born in Christiansburg on Oct. 26, 1961.

Beverly is rejoicing in Heaven, again with her parents, Reba and Cecil Meredith, and her sister, Diane Dove.

She is survived by her son, Cecil "Buddy" McGuire; brothers and sisters-in-law Eldon and Michelle Meredith and Jason and Erica Meredith; sisters and brothers-in-law Terry and David Light, Darlene and John Wirt, and Debra and



Sam Kittinger; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; a special family friend, Jesse Wilmoth; and a special grand-dog, Bandit Wayne.

A funeral service was held on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Riverview Holiness Church with Pastor Jason Meredith officiating. Interment followed at Akers Family Cemetery in Christiansburg. The family received friends from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the service at the church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

VT's communication school to hold job fair Friday in Moss Arts Center



Virginia Tech's School of Communication will hold its fourth annual multimedia journalism career and internship fair Friday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center. This career fair is an opportunity for students to network with professionals. They will be looking for advice about their career goals and information about internships and entry-level jobs.

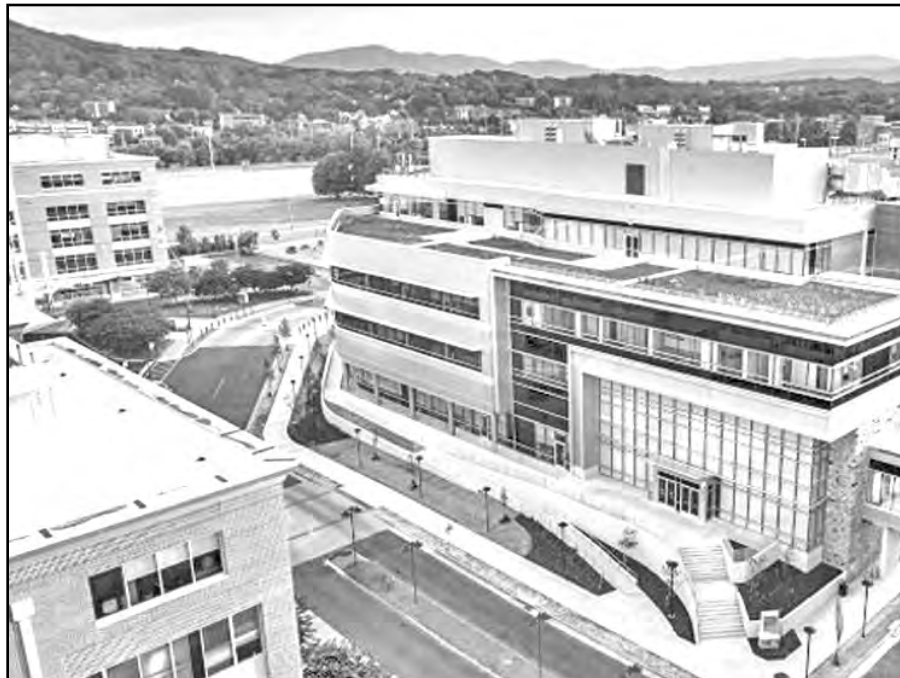
Grand opening, ribbon cutting Tuesday at VT's Fralin Biomedical Research Institute

A ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC Addition will take place Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at 4 Riverside Circle on the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke.

The state-of-the-art, 139,000-square-foot facility is currently occupied by six Fralin Biomedical Research Institute faculty-led teams studying new approaches to treat cardiovascular disease,

cancer, and neurological disorders, leading causes of death in the U.S. When fully occupied, the building will house approximately 20 additional scientific teams.

The \$90-million expansion features labs, meeting spaces, and offices to accommodate 400+ additional Virginia Tech researchers, students, and staff in Roanoke and highly specialized equipment and research facilities.



The Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC Addition, 4 Riverside Circle on the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke. Image credit: Virginia Tech

Pumpkin growers gearing up for a robust season

WYTHEVILLE—Pumpkin season is here, and farmers are welcoming the public to their U-pick pumpkin patches.

At Williams Orchard in Wythe County, Bobby Williams grows multiple varieties of pumpkins and gourds on 40 acres. He said they've had a decent growing season with plenty of pumpkins ready for people to pick.

"We had some dry weather in the summertime, and they didn't get quite the size, but they're good Halloween pumpkins. I just don't have many of the really big ones this year," Williams said. "We had some rain that hit just right. There's a lot of production per acre this year."

Williams Orchard's U-pick patch is open through the end of Oc-

tober, and Williams said he's hoping to recoup some business lost last year because of the pandemic. In addition to a farm stand and maze, "We have a pumpkin chucker that shoots pumpkins a quarter-mile," he said.

A member of the Virginia Pumpkin Growers Association, Williams noted that while he's had a good crop, overall "pumpkins are a little bit short this year," and the wholesale price for pumpkins is up.

"Some people had an excellent crop, and some had a failure, but overall I think when you plant, lots of times you don't get a full stand, and plants are not as populated as they should be," he said.

At their peak during September and Octo-

ber, pumpkins are a big business in the commonwealth. The 2020 U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service reports pumpkins account for a whopping \$17.5 million in cash receipts, ranking 18th among the state's top agricultural commodities.

According to a survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, 5,400 acres of pumpkins were harvested in 2020, down slightly from 5,600 acres in 2019.

Carter Harvie, who operates a U-pick pumpkin patch at Coverly Farm in Amelia County, echoed Williams's sentiments, saying he's also had a good season.

"It's been a good year," said Harvie, an Amelia



In Virginia, pumpkins are big business. The 2020 U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service reports pumpkins account for \$17.5 million in cash receipts in the commonwealth.

County Farm Bureau member. "The rain came at the right time, and it looks like we've got a good stand of pumpkins this year."

Harvie grows about

nine different types of pumpkins on four acres, including the popular Jack-O-Lantern variety. He also grows unique all-white pumpkins, gourds, and smaller orange and

white pumpkin varieties. He said this is the fifth year his farm has had a U-pick patch. He also operates a corn maze and offers hay rides and other activities for families.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Tech welcomes No. 14 Notre Dame for primetime matchup

Virginia Tech football returns to action today, Saturday, Oct. 9, with a ranked opponent as it hosts No. 14 Notre Dame at 7:30 p.m. on the ACC Network.

The Hokies (3-1) are set for their final non-conference game of the season before playing seven straight ACC games to close the regular season. Tech enters the game with a four-game home winning streak dating back to 2020.

Notre Dame has won 35 straight games against unranked opponents with their last loss in such a game coming vs. Virginia Tech in 2016. The Hokies are seeking to knock off a pair of AP Top 25 foes at Lane Stadium in the same season for the first time since 2009 after opening the season with a victory over No. 10 North Carolina.

QB Braxton Burmeister owns a 6-2 career record as Tech's starting quarterback including a 5-0 mark at Lane Stadium. The Hokies' offense has also been led by running backs Jalen Holston and Raheem Blackshear, who have rushed for 159 and 148 yards, respectively. Wide receiver Tré Turner

leads the receivers through four games with 16 receptions for 250 yards and a touchdown.

Tech's defense is allowing 15.3 points per game, which ranks seventh among Power Five squads and 11th in the FBS. The Hokies have also given up an ACC-low 71 first downs. Linebackers Alan Tisdale (33 total tackles) and Dax Hollifield (30 total tackles) lead the team in that department.

Cornerback Jermaine Waller is tied for the ACC lead with three interceptions after starting the season with picks in three straight games. Defensive linemen Tyjuan Garbutt and Hollifield are tied for the team lead with three sacks each. Hollifield also has a team-high 4.5 tackles for loss. Wide receiver Tayvion Robinson leads the ACC with a 15.0-yard punt-return average, a mark that ranks fourth among Power Five players.

The Fighting Irish (4-1) come to Blacksburg for the second time in their history following their first loss of the season last weekend to No. 7 Cincinnati (4-0). Irish quarterbacks Jack Coan and Drew Pyne each threw for over 100 yards against the Bearcats, and



tight end Michael Mayer led the team with eight receptions for 93 yards.

Defensive lineman Isaiah Foskey forced the lone turnover for the Irish when he recorded a 10-yard strip sack that linebacker Drew White recovered and returned for 28 yards.

GAMEDAY INFORMATION

Saturday, October 9 – 7:30 p.m. ET; Lane Stadium vs. No. 14 Notre Dame (4-1); ND head coach: Brian Kelly (11th season); record at ND: 96-38; Career: 267-95-2 (28th season);

Notre Dame leads series 2-1.

TV Broadcast: ACC Network, Play-by-Play: Dave O'Brien, Analyst: Tim Hasselbeck, Sideline: Kelsey Riggis.

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

GAME NOTES

No FBS team has committed fewer penalties than Tech (15), and only Louisiana-Monroe (125) has been assessed fewer penalty yards than VT (136).

ND has been flagged

35 times for 285 yards.

VT is converting at 45.3% (24-53) on third down while ND is at 35.8% (29-81).

ND is 3-0 when leading at the half in 2021 and 1-1 when trailing after two quarters.

Tech ranks second in the ACC with a 41.3-yard kickoff-return average, trailing only Syracuse (43.0). Running backs Raheem Blackshear (78 yards) and Keshawn King (56) both have a kickoff return of 50+ yards.

Cornerback Jermaine Waller is tied for fourth in the nation with three in-

terceptions this season. In 2021. He is the only FBS player to have an interception in each of 2021's first three games.

Wide receiver Tré Turner posted his third career 100-yard receiving game with 6 catches for 102 yards and a touchdown vs. Richmond.

Linebacker Alan Tisdale ranks seventh in the ACC, averaging 8.3 tackles per game (33 total/16 solo).

Punter Peter Moore ranks third in the ACC with seven punts of 50+ yards and owns eight inside the 20.



VT men's basketball head coach Mike Young, along with seniors (from left) Storm Murphy, Keve Aluma and Justin Mutts, addressed the media on Monday ahead of the 2021-22 season

Hokie men ready for 2021-22 basketball season

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech's men's basketball team is coming off a season that featured nine conference wins and an NCAA tournament appearance. Now they are ready to prove they belong in the top echelon of the ACC as they begin the 2021-22 season.

Head coach Mike Young returns an experienced team and has added a few new keys like Wofford transfer Storm Murphy. Monday the head coach and several players met with the media, following practice number five of the 2021-22 season. Young is entering his 20th season of coaching, his third with the Hokies.

Murphy played under Young for three seasons at Wofford before Young took the job in Blacksburg. Murphy started all 24 games last season, was named All-Southern Conference, and was added to the All-Tournament team when he averaged 17.8 points, 3.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. He also shot over 40 percent from behind the arc.

Murphy thinks he has improved his game in several ways since coming to Blacksburg. "It's a tough situation for me coming in as a newcomer to a whole new place, but also being given all this responsibility to be a leader and be a point guard," Murphy said in his meeting with the media. "I think just going through all that I've learned a lot about how to work with people, how to work with my teammates, and how to gain leadership skills. I think that's been huge for me and hopefully will really pay off with our chemistry on the team and the culture that we're building."

Murphy joins a roster that includes Nahiem Alleyne, Hunter Cattoor, and John

Ojiako, who Young said have progressed nicely during the off-season.

"Tremendously. Alleyne and Cattoor came here at a time when I had no choice but to play them," said Young. "Now as third-year guys, they have played a lot of ball. Ojiako is healthy and is as fit as he's been. I think [I] maybe made a bit of a mistake with him last season. I thought he was a little heavy, and he battled through a couple of injuries. This season John is going to help our team and is doing very well. To your point, it was painful at times going through it, but the experience and the reps that those guys had as young people and now to see them as third-year guys, they're doing really, really well."

Young said if the season started tomorrow, he could start three fifth-year seniors in Murphy, Justyn Mutts and Keve Aluma along with two juniors, Hunter Cattoor and Nahiem Alleyne.

Already the Hokies program is seeing a plus with the addition of Associate Head Coach Mike Jones, who spent almost a decade at DeMatha (Md.) High School and the commitment earlier this week of Top-50 nationally ranked guard Rodney Rice.

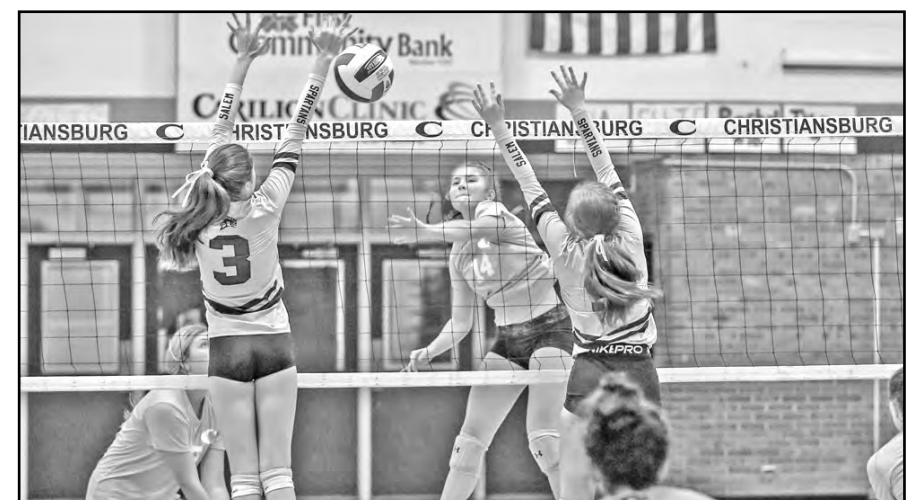
"He (Jones) has been nothing short of exceptional, and I had a gut feeling," Young said. "He's got presence, he's coached a lot of basketball games. He's bright and just a great resource. I think everything that I had hoped to have from Mike, I've gotten that and more. But I know he's not going to be around here very long. He'll be a head coach because he's that good, and I am delighted to have him in Blacksburg. His wife, Stayce, and he have added a lot to this community. He is a champion through and through."

See Hokie Men, page 8

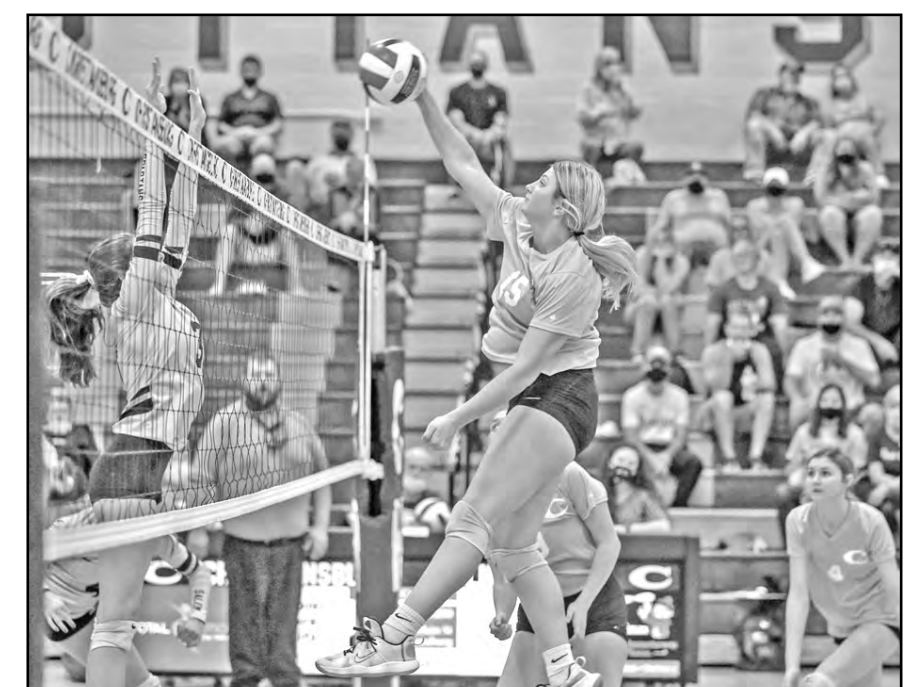
Christiansburg downs Salem in volleyball



Braelynn Williams had eight kills and three blocks for Christiansburg in the 25-20, 25-15, 28-26 defeat of Salem Tuesday night.



Baylee Reazor splits the defenders with the hit for one of her 12 kills and nine digs. Kyleigh Phipps added 21 assists and eight digs, and Braelyn Williams had eight kills and three blocks in the CHS win.



Christiansburg's Addison Reazor finished the night with six kills and two blocks as the Blue Demons are now 10-6 on the season after the defeat of the Spartans.

Hokie Men from page 7

Young would like to rein in some of the expectations that Tech is a challenger to the top brands of the ACC.

"We'll try to temper those expectations," the head coach said. "We're going to be pretty good. We're a long way from being very good right now, five practices in. I do feel good about the progress, but there is more progress to be made. We're excited about it," he said.

The Radford native and longtime coach said there are several newcomers ready to make an impact on this program. Murphy, of course, is one of those, and Young said it was like going back in time as he remembered coaching him at Wofford.

"He does some things in practice and I'm like, holy cow, I forgot that guy could do that sort of thing," Young said. "He's a terrific shooter, he's a consummate point guard and doesn't want to turn the ball over. I'm just thrilled to have the chance to coach him one more year."

Murphy's presence probably makes this year's squad one of the best shooting

teams Young has ever had. "Collectively, maybe. I don't recall ever having a team where I was completely comfortable with all five guys shooting it," the head Hokie said. "I typically have three, maybe four on the floor at the same time, but to have five? I'm really excited about the different things that we can do to exploit that."

Questions remain as to how this team and its head coach will define "success."

"The goal is, always has been, and will continue to be as long as I'm doing this for this team to be as good as it can possibly be. I thought through our first two years that we probably came pretty close to that," Young said.

"If we can become as good as we think we can be - and I think that's pretty darn good - if we can do that, that will be a real success for me, and I'll get back to the mountains of North Carolina and fish this spring with a big smile on my face."

The Hokies' season opener is set for Tuesday, Nov. 9, against Maine.

RU takes own Highlander Invitational

The Radford University men's golf team collectively shot 7 under par and took home the title at the Highlander Invitational at the Pete Dye River Course Monday.

The Highlanders dominated the top five spots on the individual leaderboard, led by Hayden Miller who shot 69-69 for a -6 as an individual. He finished as the runner-up behind Appalachian State's Jake Lane (-7).

Bryce Corbett and Tyler Hull each tied for third at -3, shooting an identical 70-71 on the day. Hunter Duncan joined them under par with a -2. Ryan Neil (+1, T-12th) and Nicholas Taliaferro (+6, T-23rd) rounded out the

scoring for the champs.

Like Miller, Patrick Gareiss played an excellent two rounds as an individual, shooting 72-71 for a -1. Bobby Dudeck (E, T-10th), Andrew Kennedy (+4, T-15th), Channing Blevins (+6, T-23rd), and Daniel Goode (+9, T-33rd) all competed as individuals as well.

Dudeck led all players with nine birdies while Corbett and Miller were right behind with eight each. Hull and Kennedy both sank Eagles, tying them for the best results on Par-5 holes with a combined -6.

Miller's secret weapon was par 4 holes where he easily led all players with a -4.

Eastern Montgomery volleyball downs Craig



Eastern Montgomery's Morgan Bahnken goes up for a spike against Craig County. Bahnken finished with 12 digs and seven kills as the Mustangs swept the visiting Rockets Monday 25-8, 25-8, 25-21.



Laken Smith goes up high for a Mustang kill in a three-game sweep of Craig County. Smith had 10 digs in the win as the Mustangs are now 11-3 on the season.



Lilly Underwood gets the tip and the score for the Mustangs against Craig County. She had 22 assists and seven aces in the match.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

VDOT from page 2

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 for milling and paving on I-81 southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

the next morning. **RAMP CLOSURES:** Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during the nighttime hours for milling and paving from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Message boards will update drivers. Only one ramp will be closed at a time.

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 (Yel-

low 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 Seneca 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.



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