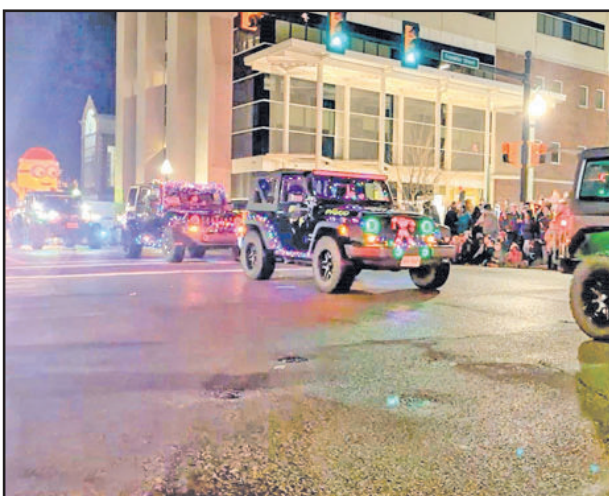




## Christiansburg Christmas Parade float winners



Christiansburg Public Works entered the “Best Float” in the Christiansburg Christmas Parade.



The award for the “Best Non-Float” in the town’s Christmas Parade was claimed by the NRV Jeep Club for this decked-out Jeep.



The “Best Overall Float” in the Christmas Parade was won by Life Changers Christian Center.



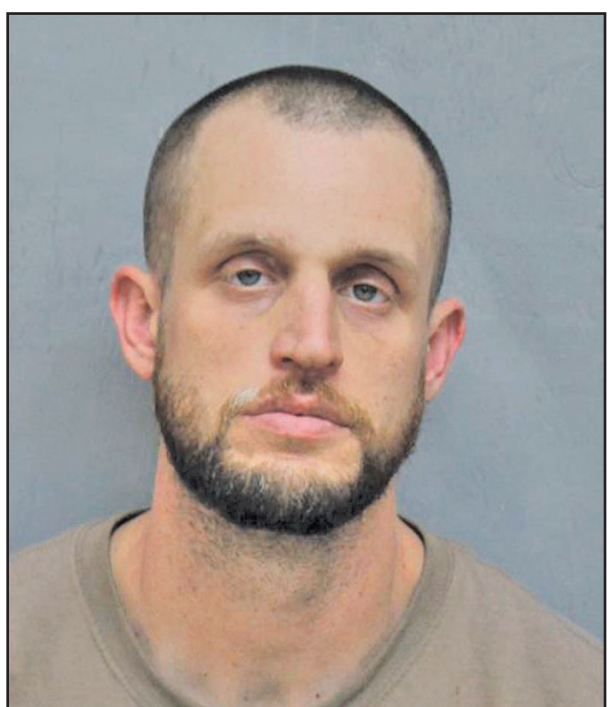
The new Blacksburg police station at 200 Clay St. will be named in honor of former Police Chief William H. (Bill) Brown, who retired in 2006 after 35 years with the Blacksburg Police Department.

## Blacksburg Town Council names police station after former police Chief William H. Brown

On Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m., the Blacksburg Town Council announced the naming of the new police station building at 200 Clay St., in honor of retired Chief of Police William H. (Bill) Brown.

Brown served 35 years

with the Blacksburg Police Department, twelve as chief, before retiring in 2006. His family joined him at the meeting, which included a special presentation by current Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson.



Adam Nunnally has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with the stabbing death of Robert Custer.

## Adam Nunnally charged with second-degree murder

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, shortly after 3 p.m., deputies from the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office responded to Roman Drive in Blacksburg and arrested Adam Nunnally in connection with the stabbing death of a victim identified as Robert Custer.

Nunnally was taken to

the Montgomery County Jail where he is being held without bond after units from Blacksburg Rescue failed to resuscitate the victim.

After consultation with the Montgomery County Commonwealth’s Attorney, Nunnally was charged with second-degree murder.



Montgomery County-Blacksburg Kiwanians deliver gifts to the Salvation Army Christmas Angels.

## Montgomery-Blacksburg Kiwanis Club busy volunteering for Christmas

The members of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg are busier than ever this Christmas season.

During 24 shifts of 1 to 3.5 hours, 17 Kiwanians volunteered more than 85 hours at the Montgomery County Christmas Store, and the club donated \$500. On Fridays and Saturdays since Thanksgiving and until Christmas, 15 members will serve 40 two-hour shifts ringing the Salvation Army bell at the Christiansburg Walmart, and the club contributed \$500 to the Salvation Army. In addition, club members purchased gifts for 40 Salvation Army Christmas Angels that were delivered at a dinner on Thursday, Dec. 9, for club members and guests at Warm Hearth Village’s Huckleberry Café.

Kiwanian Amy Slone was recently honored by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for outstanding community service. On Dec. 9, the club honored Paul Mele as the 2021 recipient of the Gunnar Teilmann Youth Services Award.

Mele coordinates the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace youth beds program. In conjunction with the award, the club presented a \$270 check that was donated by Kiwanian spouse Dori Marriott. The award was presented by Evalin Trice, Gunnar Teilmann’s daughter.

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery County-Blacksburg has presented the Teilmann Award for 30 years, given in memory of Gunnar Teilmann, a former member. This award aligns perfectly with the Kiwanis mission of “serving the children of the world.”

Gunnar Teilmann was an Eagle Scout, a Methodist minister, an Army Chaplain, a D-Day veteran, a Silver Star recipient, a Prisoner-of-War survivor, a missionary, a mental health care worker, a Kiwanian, and family man.

Teilmann spent more than 30 years as a missionary in Malaysia and Singapore. The Teilmanns came to Blacksburg where he served as Associate Pastor of the Blacksburg

United Methodist Church until 1987 when he passed away. His daughter, Evalin, told the club how appropriate the presentation to Mele was since when she was six years old her father had made her a bed, and she claimed that her father was a better carpenter than a preacher.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, Mele founded the New River Valley Virginia Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nation-

wide non-profit organization that provides hand-built, sleep-ready twin beds to kids in need.

The recipients of the Teilmann Award over the past 10 years for their service to children in the community were Cindy Minnick, George “Bo” Newcomb, John Wentz, Stephan and Ashlee Wildish, Dollie Cottrill, Ben Crawford, Amy Ruppert, Jeanne Roper, Jennie Hodge, and Rador Vaden.



Kiwanian Amy Slone rings the Salvation Army bell at the Christiansburg Walmart.

## More than 2,800 Hokies to graduate at fall commencement on Dec. 17

More than 2,800 Hokies will graduate Friday, Dec. 17, during Virginia Tech’s fall commencement ceremonies, which return to in-person celebrations in Cassell Coliseum.

The University Commencement Ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. The Graduate School Ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m. Both events will be available via livestream video from the university homepage for those unable to attend in person. Doors will open at 9 a.m. for the university ceremony and 1 p.m. for the graduate ceremony.

The events will honor approximately 2,827 students who completed their academic degrees during the summer and fall terms.

In keeping with current guidelines related to wearing masks at university events, Virginia Tech will require

masks — regardless of vaccination status — for both ceremonies inside Cassell Coliseum.

Virginia Tech alumnus Dan Maguire, entrepreneur and chief executive officer, will deliver the keynote address at the university ceremony. Three graduate students will share their experiences and education journeys during the graduate ceremony.

During the ceremony, 1,494 undergraduates will be recognized for earning bachelor’s degrees. Of the graduates, 462 earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Computer science is the most popular major, followed by business information technology and human development. The College of Engineering will feature the most undergraduates

receiving degrees with a total of 332.

Virginia Tech’s six other colleges will award the following bachelor’s degrees to summer and fall graduates: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: 129; College of Architecture and Urban Studies: 66; Pamplin College of Business: 275; College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: 307; College of Natural Resources and Environment: 67; College of Science: 318.

Virginia Tech will recognize 1,333 summer and fall graduates who will receive an advanced, masters, or doctoral degree.

The graduate degree candidates include 733 master’s degrees, 12 education specialist degrees, 256 Ph.D.’s, and 19 doctors of education.

313 students will receive advanced graduate certificates.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Dec. 15:

**United Way Festival of Trees**  
At the Old Town Mall in Downtown Christiansburg. Visitors may see the trees and then vote for their favorites. Voting ends at 9 p.m. this evening, Dec. 15, but the trees will be on display until Jan. 3, 2022. Visit <https://UWTrees.givesmart.com> to vote. Votes are \$1 with no limit on the number of votes that may be cast. All proceeds stay local, supporting the United Way NRV and its 22 partner agencies.

**Lunch and Learn: Sustainability through the Holidays**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. This Lunch and Learn will discuss ways to make the holidays more sustainable while still enjoying the festivities. In person or online. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/87kcsaw>.

**Art Club**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. This month the club will learn about Ming vases and will paint a 2D vase. Registration is required. For ages 6 and up.

## Thursday, Dec. 16:

**Dungeons and Dragons**  
At the Radford Public Library at 4:30 p.m. Email [duncan.hall@radfordva.gov](mailto:duncan.hall@radfordva.gov) and the library staff will set up everything needed to build a Level 2 hero. This is an in-person event, but hybrid virtual attendance op-

tions will be available for those interested.

**DIY Snowglobes**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Come and create your own winter scene in a homemade snow globe. Contact [shodges@mfri.org](mailto:shodges@mfri.org) for more information.

## Through Friday, Dec. 17:

**Holiday Trees and Gingerbread Houses on Display in Kent Square Lobby**  
Vote for your favorites. Voting ends Friday, Dec. 17. The display will be up until Jan. 3.

## Saturday, Dec. 18:

An Extra Special Elfish ‘Cooking with Dave’ and a Movie at the Radford Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy an Extra Special Cooking with Dave, live and in-person and also livestreamed to Facebook. Dave will make his famous breakfast dessert pasta from the movie “Elf,” then those attending may stick around for the movie. “Elf” is rated PG for mild rude humor and language and runs for 97 minutes. Dave’s recipe is in the book “Eat What You Watch: A Cookbook for Movie Lovers.”

**Caturday**  
At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read

to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email [shodges@mfri.org](mailto:shodges@mfri.org) for more information.

**Gingerbread Houses**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Build a personalized gingerbread house for the holidays. Registration is required. Sign up by calling the branch at 540-382-6965.

**Teen Dungeons and Dragons**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Teens. Dungeons. Dragons.

## Through Sunday, Dec. 19

**Va. State Police Operation Christmas 2021**  
The Virginia State Police are accepting donated items for Home Instead Senior Care and Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter through Dec. 19 at the state police Division VI headquarters at 3775 W. Main St. in Salem. Items being accepted are blankets, sheets, white towels, white wash cloths, canned vegetables, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, deodorant, baby wipes, size 5 and 6 baby diapers, word-search books, adult coloring books, crayons, and colored pencils.

## Sunday, Dec. 19

**Chess Club**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Kids and teens ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

## Monday, Dec. 20:

**Crafternoon for Adults**  
Come craft with Radford Public Library staff including Monika and Morgan from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Participants are welcome to work on any art project they’d like, and past projects have included painting, spinning yarn, and embroidery.

**Pokémon Club**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans bring your DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

## Tuesday, Dec. 21:

**Movie at the Library: “Elf”**  
at the Christiansburg Library at 3:30 p.m. Watch the 2003 movie “Elf” with friends and make crafts like Buddy. Rated PG.

**Salt Dough Ornaments Workshop**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. A holiday crafting day. Participants will mix up simple ingredients and create salt-dough ornaments. Open to school-age and up with all supplies provided. Registration is encouraged. Call (540) 552-8246.

## Wednesday, Dec. 22:

**Movie Matinee**  
Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. When the evil spirit Pitch launches an assault on the Earth, the Immortal Guardians team up to protect the innocence of children around the world. Rated PG. Meltfree snowball sensory craft will be provided.

## Through Wednesday, Dec. 22:

**Public voting for Radford holiday display contest**  
The Radford Chamber of Commerce’s second annual holiday display contest is underway and public voting is through Dec. 22. Vote at [www.radfordchamber.com](http://www.radfordchamber.com).

## Ongoing

**Free COVID-19 Test Kits**  
Now available at all branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the Radford Public Library, curbside only: free, rapid at-home COVID-19 antigen test kits. The easy-to-use kits can be gotten through the libraries’ curbside pickup service. Tests are available at no cost; no library card is needed. This pilot program is made possible by a partnership with the Virginia Department of Health. Users will need a Wi-Fi connection, a form of ID, and a mobile device or computer to complete the test.

# Meagan Arthur joins Community Health Center of the New River Valley



**Meagan Arthur has joined the Community Health Center of the New River Valley as Director of Nursing, Quality Improvement, and Patient Safety.**

Meagan A. Arthur has joined the Community Health Center of the New River Valley as Director of Nursing, Quality Improvement, and Patient Safety.

In her new role, she will assist medical staff through

developing and monitoring processes to ensure the safety of patient-centered care while enhancing the effectiveness of the services provided.

“We are proud of our staff’s efforts which have been recognized through national

awards for quality, which is at the core of our mission,” said Michelle Brauns, the health center’s CEO. “We are pleased Meagan has joined our staff to focus on continuing to deliver quality services every day.”

Arthur has more than 10 years of nursing experience working in the Roanoke and New River valleys. She received her bachelor’s degree from Concord College, an associate degree in nursing from Bluefield State College, a bachelor of science and master of science in nursing from West Virginia University, and is currently completing her doctor of nursing practice at Radford University.

She holds multistate privileges as a registered nurse and is licensed as a nurse practitioner in Virginia. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She has also served as a faculty member for nursing instruction at Radford University School of Nursing.

The Community Health Center operates four locations in Christiansburg, Dublin, Pearisburg, and Giles High School.

# Carilion child, adolescent psychiatry conducting toy, clothing drive for patients

This holiday season, Carilion Child & Adolescent Psychiatry providers are collecting needed toys and clothing for child and adolescent psychiatry and behavioral medicine patients.

Items can be dropped off through Christmas Eve in the main lobby of 2017 S. Jefferson St. weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This facility is across the street from Roanoke Memorial Hospital at the corner of Jefferson Street and McClanahan. Parking can be found on McClanahan Street or in the Crystal Spring

Parking Garage. Masks are required to come into the building.

The unit is asking for the following items (new items are preferred, gently used are accepted):

board games (ages 9 and up); UNO cards; playing cards; adult coloring books; books for reading (ages 9 and up); Nintendo DS consoles, games, and chargers; wireless speakers; wireless radios; headphones (wireless preferred); fidget toys; stress balls; wii games/controllers/console; DVD movies (ages 9 and up); Underwear,

socks, bras for male/teen male (ages 9 and up, teen and adult sizes needed most); Pants (ages 9 and up, teen and adult sizes needed most); and stocking caps and gloves for male/female (ages 9 and up, teen and adult sizes needed most).

“Kids in our unit hugely benefit from donated items,” said Lisa Dishner, RN, senior director of Nursing for the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine. “In addition to using toys as rewards for positive reinforcement, many of the kids simply don’t have access to needed clothing or comfort items that many think of as basics.”

Typically, Carilion’s Child & Adolescent Psychiatry unit treats around 500 kids per year. Patients are 9 years and older.

Right now, according to Dishner, the game/clothing closet is depleted. The goal of this drive is to ensure that children and teens admitted during the holidays and throughout the year have access to items that help them during their stay and beyond.

“Providing any of the items on our wishlist makes a huge difference for kids who can sometimes feel forgotten,” said Dishner.

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# Will play for food donations: Marching Virginians perform for tailgaters as part of annual food drive

Brandon Teague, a member of the Marching Virginians, typically plays his trumpet for the approximately 66,000 people who crowd into Lane Stadium in the fall to watch the Hokies.

However, at the Duke game, before heading inside the stadium, he played some familiar Virginia Tech tunes, such as “HandClap” by Fitz and the Tantrums and “Up-town Funk” by Bruno Mars, for tailgaters.

He performed, alongside fellow band members, in exchange for canned food or monetary donations for the annual Hokies for the Hungry food drive.

“We’re performing as an incentive to give,” said Teague. “We’re also just wanting to make a difference as best we can, so we’re really excited to see what we can accomplish.”

Hokies for the Hungry has been a tradition for more than 25 years. The Marching Virginians partner with organizations throughout the New River Valley, including New Life Christian Fellowship and the Montgomery County

Christmas Store, to provide a variety of donations for those in need.

This year, the band topped its collection efforts, raising approximately \$20,000 and gathering more than 20,000 food items, the highest totals in the event’s history.

“It started out as a pretty simple canned food drive,” said Polly Middleton, director of the Marching Virginians. “It still is a simple food drive, too. However, we also take donations of cash and donations from Venmo or PayPal, so people are able to give in that way as well.

“It’s a great service to the community,” she said. “It also focuses right here on Southwest Virginia, which I think is important.”

All food and monetary donations from Hokies for the Hungry go to the Montgomery County Christmas Store, located in Christiansburg. The store takes donations and purchases new items, such as clothes, toiletries, and toys, and sells them at discounted prices.

Hokies for the Hungry originated from Tau Beta

Sigma, a band service sorority, and has evolved over time to include the Marching Virginians.

“This year we decided that since [Tau Beta Sigma] started Hokies for the Hungry, we should be a lot more involved,” said Callie Ayala, head manager for the Marching Virginians and president and public relations representative for Tau Beta Sigma. “So, we kind of took over the event.”

An hour or two before the game, the Marching Virginians split up into eight groups and dispersed to different tailgates located around Lane Stadium. At each tailgate, they asked if tailgaters would like for them to play a favorite song. Once they played the song, the band members collected the canned food or monetary donations.

The Virginia Tech versus Duke contest was the last home game of the season. It was also one of the coldest games this year, at about 40 degrees. The cold didn’t stop the Marching Virginians from performing for the fans at the tailgates.

Hokies for the Hungry took place last year during COVID-19, but since tailgating was not allowed, the food drive was executed differently. Last year, the band members collected about 6,000 cans of food independently.

This year, the band was determined to outshine previous years and collected 17,541 cans of food before the kickoff of the Duke game.

“We were able to collect more than double the cans we have ever collect-

ed,” said Gillian Murphy, manager for the Marching Virginians and vice president for service for Tau Beta Sigma.

*Written by Gabby Taylor '22, University Relations intern*



**The Marching Virginians split into small groups and performed for football game tailgaters at the Duke game, raising money for the annual Hokies for the Hungry food drive. Photo by Thomas Miller.**

# Keep fire prevention in mind throughout the winter

During the holiday season, many homeowners try to provide a warm, inviting environment for family and friends. But homeowners need to remember

that warming a home means the risk of house fires spikes during the winter months.

Fire prevention thus becomes especially crucial to the safety of a

family.

The place to start with any fire prevention plan is making sure the home’s smoke alarms are in working order. The U.S. Fire Administration

recommends that alarms be tested monthly, and that batteries changed every six months. Statistics show functioning smoke alarms can cut the risk of house fire fatalities in half.

“Those smoke alarms located around your home are going to be the first indicator of a house fire,” said Scott DeNoon, senior farm product and underwriting manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. “Fires don’t always start in conspicuous areas like the kitchen or living room, which is why you need to make sure every alarm in your home is tested regularly and is equipped with fresh batteries.”

As effective as smoke alarms are in alerting homeowners to house fires, they won’t stop them from occurring. This is what makes fire prevention key, DeNoon said.

The National Fire Protection Association reported cooking was the leading cause of

house fires from 2014-2018, contributing to an average of 172,900 fires and \$1 billion in property damage annually.

Unattended cooking increases fire risks, and DeNoon recommends individuals never leave the kitchen when cooking. He added that if a person must leave the kitchen, they should turn off their stove, no matter how long they intend to be gone.

Cooktops should remain unobstructed by flammable objects such as food wrapping, pot-holders or towels, and food should be checked regularly as it’s cooking.

Winter weather also leads to increased use of home heating systems, fireplaces, and stoves, which also create fire risks. Regular maintenance and inspections of heating systems can mitigate these risks, and annual chimney inspections conducted by certified technicians will help ensure fireplaces and wood-burning stoves are safe.

Chimneys should be cleared of combustible buildup or debris before use, and fireplace hearths should be kept free of flammable materials such as holiday decorations. Heating vents in the home also should not be covered by flammable materials or furniture.

When using fireplaces or wood stoves, make sure there’s enough clearance between the flame and combustible materials, as well as ceilings, floors, and walls, to prevent combustion.

And, in case of emergency, it’s always a good idea to have a fire extinguisher on hand.

“Some folks wait all year to sit by a fire or enjoy the warmth of their home during the holidays,” DeNoon said. “We want everyone to be able to do that safely, so it’s important to make sure your home’s heating systems are in order and you’re taking every precaution to keep those flammable items in your home from catching.”



**The National Fire Prevention Association reports that the leading cause of house fires is cooking with an average of 172,900 fires and \$1 billion in property damage annually from 2014-2018.**

# VDOT road watch Dec. 15

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

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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

main in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by late 2022.

## LANE CLOSURES:

Right lane closures may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-105 during nighttime hours, 7 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 late 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. Expect

lane closures on Route 8 between the on and off ramps of I-81.

**RAMP CLOSURES:** Weather permitting, the I-81 southbound exit 114 on and off ramps may be closed during 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.

## 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 been underway. One new lane in each direction of I-81 and two lanes northbound on to I-581 at exit 143 opened just before Thanksgiving between mile markers 141

and 143. All lanes will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume with the next paving season in spring 2022. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

## INTERSTATE 581

**ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILIAMSON ROAD** – Work is underway to rehab the bridge on I-581

See VDOT, page 4

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# OPINION

## Buddy King: Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army

I stood in front of Sam’s Club for three hours recently and rang a bell for the Salvation Army. I have done this many years in the past, usually as a project with my fellow Clarksburg Kiwanians, sometimes with other groups or just volunteering with friends.

Some of the wisenheimers passing by who know me personally will stop and ask if this is part of a community service obligation I am required to work off because of some suspended jail sentence or other transgression. I’m a lawyer, so they figure I got caught at something. I laugh heartily (and falsely) as if this is the first time I’ve ever heard that line. Ha ha.

My law firm has a litany of funny stories, some embellished, some created from whole cloth and some even true, relating to times and people past. One of my favorites predates my time at the firm by many years and involves a lawyer I never met. It also involves the Salvation Army and bell-ringing, and I am reminded of it every year I strap on the red apron and pick up my tinny little bell. The story is also worthy of telling and preserving.

The particular barrister to whom this story is credited, I’ll call him Chesney, was known to be quite crusty. The account I have heard is consistent with that narrative. He once reportedly told a young lawyer in the firm who wanted to buy a treatise on bankruptcy law to help expand the firm’s expertise in that area, that, and I quote, ”Harrumph, I’ve done bankruptcy law for 30 years and never needed a damn book yet.” No books were bought.

This Christmas story (of sorts) probably occurred in the 1950’s or 1960’s, when our firm was located in a tall bank building at the corner of Third and Main in what was then a very bustling downtown Clarksburg. Union Bank. For several blocks, there were department stores and small retailers and restaurants, and foot traffic was majority like. Picture the small city of Hohman, Ind., in the movie “A Christmas Story.”

The Salvation Army had picked the particular corner next to our office building to locate one of its bell ringers, directly beneath Chesney’s window on the 10th floor, probably the busiest intersection in town.

As legend has it, Chesney had a particularly important brief or contract to get out the door this day, and the bell ringing, even 10 floors up and with his windows closed, was piercingly irritating. It had begun early in the morning and had gone on for several hours when Chesney must have had enough. He called his secretary into his office and said, “How much you figure that guy collects in a given day?” His assistant supposedly answered, “Oh, I guess around \$50,” whereupon Chesney reached in his pocket, pulled out his wallet and grabbed a fifty-dollar bill. He handed the bill to his secretary and said, “Go down there and buy that damn bell.” Again, as legend has it, she bought the bell and brought it up and placed it on Chesney’s desk.

My stint as a Walmart bell ringer added to the lore of this part of our law firm’s oral history. Important background is that I had been coaxed into spending those three hours of my life that I’ll never get back (with Kiwanis I only did 1-hour shifts) with a young lawyer in our firm who makes community service his off-hours hobby. He is on the Board of the local

whatever of the Salvation Army, as well as the boards of many other charitable organizations and causes. In fact, he is on so darned many of them that he was given the award by the West Virginia State Bar this past April as “Young Lawyer of the Year.” So the context here is two of the more established lawyers in our county standing in front of Sam’s ringing bells, smiling and saying “Merry Christmas” to everyone who goes in and out of the store.

As luck would have it, one particular gentleman walks by, more or less snarls and says to us, “I remember the day when the doctors and lawyers in this town used to volunteer to do this instead of the Salvation Army hiring a couple of jokers like you two.” Guess we didn’t look the part. After we got up off the ground from laughing and rolling around, my colleague informed me that the Army does in fact pay about 80% of its bell ringers, reflecting, sadly, on current mores regarding community service I guess.

Despite this disparagement of what we considered a nice Saturday morning of civic duty, and despite temperatures and

rain and breeze that made it feel more like late afternoon in tropical Florida than Hohman, Ind., at Christmas time in the movie, I did feel the holiday spirit. It was truly heartwarming to see folks who looked like they had little change to spare crumfives and tens and twenties in our bucket, and little children truly excited to ask their parents for loose change to drop in. The smiles on their faces when we thanked them and told the kids that we hoped Santa would be good to them more than made up for the occasional insult tossed our way.

PS: Ironically, and fittingly, the first history of our firm, written by Bill “Smoky” Miller in 1981, was titled “You Can’t Tell by Looking at ‘Em.” Mr. Miller was with the firm for 50 years and was managing partner of the Washington, D.C., office for many years.

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

### News Messenger

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Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

## Late fall in the valley

“Where are the songs of spring?  
Aye, where are they?  
Think not of them, those hast  
thy music too...” From “To  
Autumn,” by John Keats

Recently, at Dublin’s Randolph Park, we decided to try a bit of frisbee (disc) golf. It was cloudy and a bit cold, but with the wind dying down, the branches on the mostly bare trees shielded us from the coolness of the season.

I never used to think this, but fall is a celebration of sorts. This autumn for some reason (climate change?) greatly extended itself in the color department with the different kinds of trees and the different shaped leaves taking their time to be removed from view, taking precious moments to finally float down into a pile.

Late fall is as special as early fall -- whoo-wee, all the piles and bunches of crinkly leaves to jump in -- such fun, doing a slush-rush-crunch slog, ankle deep in light brown or yellowish-a-bit-reddish leaf litter.

Keats, Rachel Carson, and Henry David Thoreau all wrote fondly of the great outdoors, probably loving this avalanche of “tree shed” the spouse and I experienced most intimately at the park.

So we were tossing frisbees and noticed there is now a second course with white frisbee goals that look a bit like a sideways, metal basketball net, alongside the old yellow ones. The course for either is not easy to follow in the quiet little woods, and it stymied a father and son duo trying to play through. They were near our goal and stayed close by; the dad couldn’t find his red frisbee, something actually easy to lose in all these piles of dry leaves. He said the frisbee was hopelessly lost.

So we spent a little time being Good Samaritans and looking around, swishing our feet through the leaf litter, hoping for a flash of red somewhere. After several minutes, my husband Frank suggested, since the dad had an extra frisbee on him, to go back to his old spot and toss it from there. He tried it and

wouldn’t you know it, the red one was only six inches from the most recent throw. Amazing.

Amazing things happen when you are out in nature. You find another way to relax, you breathe in fresh air, you get in touch with your outer, wild self, which is really worth it if you think about it. Sometimes you even find a moment when you get a chance to interact with others in a natural setting.

We surely don’t spend enough time outdoors nowadays, too much of it glued to an electronic device inside, communicating in a virtual, mechanical fashion. But late fall and even into winter can be times to get away from all that worry we see online, away from certain responsibilities. So try your local park sometime and commune with nature. Even a short walk through your local neighborhood can be nice.

*Ms. D. J. Mathews is a Master naturalist member and author of the young-adult oriented book, “Great American Women in Science and Environment,” available at [www.greatamericanidea.com/books/](http://www.greatamericanidea.com/books/).*

## Virginia gas prices continue their fall for another week

Virginia gas prices fell 2.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.20/g on Monday, Dec. 13, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 4,081 stations in the commonwealth. Gas prices in Virginia are 9.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but are still \$1.11/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.79/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.89/g, a difference of \$1.10/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 2.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.32/g Monday. The national average is down 9.0 cents per gallon from a month ago but nevertheless is \$1.18/g higher than a year ago.

“With the price of crude oil remaining some \$13 per barrel below its 2021 peak, we have continued to see gas prices decline in nearly every city coast to coast, a trend that will likely continue into yet another week,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

“Omicron concerns continue to be

the primary catalyst for the drop in gas prices across much of the country,” De Haan said. “While we’ve seen some anecdotal reports about the new variant, vaccine producers have yet to definitively state if current vaccines will still bring adequate protection against omicron, something that might be critical to limit severity and to avoid new shutdowns.

“With OPEC+ members still planning to boost oil production in January, we continue to see global oil production slowly rising,” De Haan said. “In addition, U.S. gasoline demand last week fell to the lowest level since October, which may limit oil’s recent rebound and keep gas prices declining through the end of the year.”

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.*

## VDOT

from page 3

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.  
LANE CLOSURES:  
A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.  
A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m.

through Saturday at 7 p.m.  
A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.  
A right lane closure may be in place on Route  
See VDOT, page 6

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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42										43	

CLUES ACROSS

1. You fry food in it

4. Pesky insect

8. Gets older

10. \_\_\_ Dern, actress

11. Uncouth man

12. One who sulks

13. Napoleon’s king of Naples

15. One who swims underwater

16. Make amends

17. Expressions

18. Document format

21. What a beaver makes

22. Limb

23. Photograph

24. Golf score

25. Moroccan mountain range

26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar \_\_\_

27. 20th century sex symbol

34. Remedy for all diseases

35. Bluish greens

36. Moved swiftly

37. Type of units

38. Madames

39. Indian religious god

40. Potentially hazardous asteroids

41. Leak slowly through

42. An association of criminals

43. A way to push content (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Town in central Brazil

2. Large burrowing rodent

3. Nerve cell

4. Estimating

5. Bakers use it

6. Regions

7. Small lake

9. Environmentalist nun

10. More kookie

12. Announce officially

14. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv

15. Title given to friar (abbr.)

19. Buildings

20. Pouch

23. They steal on the high seas

24. It’s mightier than the sword

25. Going off on a tangent

26. Monetary unit

27. Young woman

28. Type of bulb

29. Type of drug (abbr.)

30. City opposite Dusseldorf

31. Animal disease

32. Martini necessities

33. Elude

34. La \_\_\_: Buenos Aires capital

36. An oft-enduring symbol



# Youth can apply for 2021 State Fair exhibitor scholarships

DOSWELL—The State Fair of Virginia has announced details for the 2021 applied scholarship program.

Youth who exhibited beef cattle, sheep, meat goats or swine in the Youth Livestock Show at the 2021 State Fair are eligible to apply for 15 scholarships.

Additionally, a \$1,000 scholarship from the Gate-wood Holland Stoneman Endowment, a \$1,000 Farm Credit Scholarship, and two youth develop-ment scholarship opportu-nities, each worth \$2,000, are open to youth who participated in the 2021 livestock shows or 2021 non-livestock youth com-petitions.

Funds allocated for the scholarships represent a portion of the proceeds from the seventh an-nual Youth Livestock Sale of Champions auction, which was held Oct. 2, the annual Black Tie & Boots Gala held on Sept. 10, and general donations to the scholarship program.

The 12 scholarships for 2022 livestock exhibitors, totaling \$23,000, will be offered in three age groups: juniors (9-12); intermedi-

ate (13-15); and seniors (16 and older). Groups are based on exhibitors’ ages as of Sept. 30, 2021.

Details and applications are available in the “Schol-arship” section of the fair’s website at StateFairVa.org. Applications must be com-pleted electronically and received by 5 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2022.

Since 2013 the State Fair has awarded 1,854 scholarships and has given over \$640,000 to support youth education. The fair offers youth more than \$100,000 each year in scholarship funds through 4-H, FFA, and vocational competitions and specific equine, fine arts, and hor-ticulture competitions.

The 2022 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 23 through Oct. 2.

The State Fair is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caro-line County and attracts 250,000 fairgoers. The event celebrates the best of Virginia’s past, present, and future through schol-arship initiatives, creative programming, and a focus on the commonwealth’s agriculture and natural re-sources industries.



## OBITUARIES

### Laskowski, Henry Casimer

Henry Casimer Las-kowski, 81, of Blacksburg, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery.

He was born in Water-bury, Conn., on Dec. 21, 1939, to the late Casimer P. and Helen H. Laskows-ki. He was preceded in death by a sister, Barbara Sullivan.

Hank retired from Eversource-Energy with over 30 years of service. He was a loyal member of Polish Falcons of America Nest #307 of Southington, Conn.

He is survived by his



wife of 55 years, Christine Lagosz Laskowski; a daughter and son-in-law, Kathleen Laskowski and George T. Davis; a son and daugh-ter-in-law, Philip A. and Heather Laskowski; grandsons Alexander and Zachary Davis; and a sis-ter and brother-in-law, Pauline and Robert Ouel-lette.

A memorial mass was conducted Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cath-olic Church with Father John Asare of-ficiating. Arrangements by McCoy Fu-neral Home, Blacksburg.

### Kittinger, the Rev. James Richard

The Rev. James Rich-ard Kittinger, 81, of Pi-lot, passed away on Sun-day, Dec. 12, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Rad-ford, on May 2, 1940, to the late Shirley Shelton and Jean Goff Kittinger.

He was also preceded in death by his sister, Jeanette Kittinger; and a brother, Samuel Kit-tinger. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was retired from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Coleen Mize Kittinger; a broth-er and sister-in-law, Robert and Faye Kittinger; a special nephew, David



Mize and his family; numerous nieces and nephews; special friends, Charles Lutz and family, Earl (Buddy) and Shirley Sanson, and all the min-isters he had associated with.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Charles Lutz and

the Rev. T. Michael Bond officiating. Burial will follow in Roselawn Me-morial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family will receive friends Thursday from 10 a.m. until service time at Mc-Coy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

### Ritter, Steven Anthony

Steven Anthony Ritter, 41, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Floyd on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021.

He was a proud U. S. Marines veteran having served during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Steve was a beloved husband, father, son, and brother. We were blessed to have this time on Earth with our gentle giant to love us, protect us, and make us laugh. He will be missed more than words can say.

Survivors include his wife, Kira S. Rit-ter; a daughter, Madelyn Ritter; a son, Henry Ritter; his parents, Darrell and Nancy Ritter; a paternal grandmother, JoAnn Crawford; a sister and brother-

in-law, Megan and Phillip Lineberry; a nephew, Ricky Thornton; his mother-in-law, Nanette Showalter; a sister-in-law, Sarah Show-alter; and many friends.



The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Rad-ford. Memorial services will begin at 2 p.m. with Tom Williams officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Wounded Warrior Project

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>.

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

### Viers, Pierce Lee

Pierce Lee Viers, “Gramps,” 60, of Pulaski, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021.

He was a member of Abundant Life Ministries, an employee of Kollmor-gen and a former employee of Xaloy, Inc., for over 30 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Don-ald Lee and Peggy Moore Viers.

As an avid sports fan, he was a dedicated coach and volunteer in Pulaski County Schools and rec league sports for many years. He enjoyed outdoor sports of all kinds: camping, fishing, hunt-ing, boating, and especially spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Jennifer H. Viers; sons and daughters-in-law Jamie and Courtney Viers of



Blacksburg, and Tony and Katy Viers of Pu-laski; a grandson Walter Viers; a granddaughter, Annistyn Viers; brothers and sisters-in-law, Wayne and Angela Viers of Max Meadows, and Robert and Laurie Viers of Madison, Ala.; and many other rela-tives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, at Abundant Life Ministries in Pulaski. Funeral ser-vices will be held today, Dec. 15, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the church with the Rev. Randall Lawrence and Randall Law-rence, Jr., officiating. Interment will fol-low in Thornspring Cemetery in Pulaski.

The Viers family is in the care of Mul-lins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

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# Virginia Farm Bureau recognized for longtime support of timberlands reforestation

In a special presentation, the Virginia Department of Forestry recognized Virginia Farm Bureau at the organization's annual convention for its longtime support of the department's pine reforestation program that was begun 50 years ago.

Virginia Farm Bureau President Wayne F. Pryor and Forestry Advisory Committee Chair Bill Osl accepted the award.

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation was recognized for decades of effort to make timberland owners aware of reforestation incentives and for advocating for matching funding from the state. Beyond timber's value as a commodity, forestland protects the soil, yields fresh air, provides animal habitat, and beautifies landscapes.

"As a grassroots organization, we see the importance of providing landowners with assistance in planting trees and supporting the overall forestry industry," Pryor said. "The state has the goal to make sure we are planting more trees than we are harvesting. Over a period of time, these practices maintain a supply to support the industry."

Martha Moore, vice president of Virginia Farm

Bureau's governmental relations, educates lawmakers about the value of reforestation incentives. The reforestation program helps ensure a stable supply of pine for the forestry companies that utilize it, supports jobs in rural areas, and helps the commonwealth's overall economy.

"When trees are harvested, landowners have an option to replant," Moore said. "The Department of Forestry offers various types of cost assistance with that replanting, which incentivizes landowners to participate."

State forester Rob Farrell said that "stable, sustainable, well-managed forests provide natural, economic and health benefits for all Virginians. The ongoing support from partners like Virginia Farm Bureau is at the heart of the program's longevity and is a testament to the program's achievements in sustainability."

The Reforestation of Timberlands program was adopted by the state legislature following the 1967 U.S. Forest Service Virginia Timber Survey, which found the cutting of pine timber exceeded growth by 15%. The report said pines were in danger of

continuous depletion in volume, growth, and area unless positive steps altered the trends.

The program provides incentive by sharing the cost of pine reforestation with private landowners. The current cost-share rate is between 35% and 50%.

Since 1971, cost-share assistance has been provided on 52,346 projects covering over 2 million acres with \$66 million in incentive payments.

Now, new pine growth outpaces removals by 25% or more.

Farrell said the program

is a long-term success story that has served as a model for similar cost-share programs across the nation.

"These are successes that we seek to repeat with our new Hardwood Incentive Program," he said.

In 2020, Gov. Ralph Northam's budget includ-

ed \$350,000 in funding for a statewide hardwood incentive program and a hardwood coordinator position at VDOF, Farrell said. "They recognized the importance of the hardwood forest resource and the need to take action to safeguard and grow it."



Virginia Farm Bureau was recognized at the organization's annual convention for its decades of support for the timberlands reforestation program that was launched 50 years ago.

VDOT from page 4

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

P	A	N				G	N	A	T
A	G	E	S			L	A	U	R
L	O	U	T			P	O	U	T
M	U	R	A	T		F	R	O	G
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						G	A	N	G

11 northbound between the intersections of Ruth-erford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

Nighttime left lane closures for both the north-bound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the inter-sections referenced above.

I-581/220 EXPRESS-WAY PAVING OPERA-TIONS – Weather per-

mitting, 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 fol-lowing morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAIN-TENANCE OPERA-

TIONS 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 pos-sible delays.

I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather per-

mitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during night-time hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morn-ing. Drivers should watch for signs and expect pos-sible delays.

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 dur-ing nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the follow-ing morning. A left lane closure will be in place.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF  
A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,  
FOR A PRUDENCY REVIEW PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:4 H  
OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA WITH RESPECT TO  
THE PURCHASE OF THE AMHERST SOLAR FACILITY  
CASE NO. PUR-2021-00066

On November 18, 2021, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:4 H of the Code of Virginia, filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a prudency determination with respect to the Company's proposed purchase and sale agreement with SAE Solar LLC ("SAE Solar") (a project company that is a subsidiary of SolAmerica Energy, LLC ("SolAmerica")) for a 4.875 megawatt ("MW") solar facility to be located in Amherst County, Virginia ("Facility").

The Company states that to comply with the Grid Transformation and Security Act ("GTSA") and the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA") the Company must construct or acquire generating capacity utilizing energy from sunlight or onshore wind. The Company further states that it issued a request for proposals, and as a result the Company pursued the Facility, which is a 4.875 MW, fixed tilt design, photovoltaic solar facility in Amherst County, Virginia. The Company states the Facility will be located in a sparsely populated, wooded area, and the panels will largely be obscured by vegetation on all sides. The Company further states the Facility will be interconnected to the Company's distribution system at 12.4 kilovolts.

According to the Petition, the developer of the Facility submitted its notice of intent to construct the Facility with the Depart-ment of Environmental Quality on January 26, 2021, and its notice of intent to construct the Facility with the Commission on September 29, 2021. APCo states that should the Commission grant this Petition and the subsequent request to purchase and operate the Facility, it is expected to be operational by 2023. The Company further states that it will acquire SAE Solar from SolAmerica when the Facility is at the point of mechanical completion, thereby preserving tax benefits for APCo's use.

The Company asserts that purchase of the Facility will help comply with the GTSA, the VCEA, and renewable energy portfolio standards requirements by producing over 10,000 renewable energy certificates annually at a reasonable cost. According to the Petition, the net present value analysis demonstrates that the cost of the Facility is competitive with market costs and that the benefits of APCo owning the Facility over its 35-year useful life are greater than the costs of purchasing similar products in the market. The Company further asserts that the Facility, among other things, will reduce the Company's load during PJM Intercon-nection, L.L.C.'s ("PJM") five coincident peak hours; reduce the amount of load based ancillary service charges and PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff charges billed to the Company by PJM; and advance the Commonwealth Energy Policy.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for further details of the Company's propos-als.

Copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 E. Cary St, Suite 1100, [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com).

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Petition.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

On or before January 21, 2022, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](https://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066.

On or before January 14, 2022, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation elec-tronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of partici-pation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as re-quired by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before January 14, 2022, any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), a request for hearing on the Petition. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066, shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any request for hearing and any notice of participation simultaneously shall be sent to counsel for the Company elec-tronically at the email address set forth above.

The public versions of the Petition and related documents, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

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A PETITION BY APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY,  
FOR A PRUDENCY REVIEW PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1:4 H  
OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA WITH RESPECT TO  
THE PURCHASE OF THE AMHERST SOLAR FACILITY  
CASE NO. PUR-2021-00066

On November 18, 2021, Appalachian Power Company ("APCo" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1:4 H of the Code of Virginia, filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a prudency determination with respect to the Company's proposed purchase and sale agreement with SAE Solar LLC ("SAE Solar") (a project company that is a subsidiary of SolAmerica Energy, LLC ("SolAmerica")) for a 4.875 megawatt ("MW") solar facility to be located in Amherst County, Virginia ("Facility").

The Company states that to comply with the Grid Transformation and Security Act ("GTSA") and the Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA") the Company must construct or acquire generating capacity utilizing energy from sunlight or onshore wind. The Company further states that it issued a request for proposals, and as a result the Company pursued the Facility, which is a 4.875 MW, fixed tilt design, photovoltaic solar facility in Amherst County, Virginia. The Company states the Facility will be located in a sparsely populated, wooded area, and the panels will largely be obscured by vegetation on all sides. The Company further states the Facility will be interconnected to the Company's distribution system at 12.4 kilovolts.

According to the Petition, the developer of the Facility submitted its notice of intent to construct the Facility with the Depart-ment of Environmental Quality on January 26, 2021, and its notice of intent to construct the Facility with the Commission on September 29, 2021. APCo states that should the Commission grant this Petition and the subsequent request to purchase and operate the Facility, it is expected to be operational by 2023. The Company further states that it will acquire SAE Solar from SolAmerica when the Facility is at the point of mechanical completion, thereby preserving tax benefits for APCo's use.

The Company asserts that purchase of the Facility will help comply with the GTSA, the VCEA, and renewable energy portfolio standards requirements by producing over 10,000 renewable energy certificates annually at a reasonable cost. According to the Petition, the net present value analysis demonstrates that the cost of the Facility is competitive with market costs and that the benefits of APCo owning the Facility over its 35-year useful life are greater than the costs of purchasing similar products in the market. The Company further asserts that the Facility, among other things, will reduce the Company's load during PJM Intercon-nection, L.L.C.'s ("PJM") five coincident peak hours; reduce the amount of load based ancillary service charges and PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff charges billed to the Company by PJM; and advance the Commonwealth Energy Policy.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for further details of the Company's propos-als.

Copies of the public version of the Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Noelle J. Coates, Esquire, American Electric Power Service Corporation, 3 James Center, 1051 E. Cary St, Suite 1100, [njcoates@aep.com](mailto:njcoates@aep.com).

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Petition.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission's Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

On or before January 21, 2022, any interested person may submit written comments on the Petition by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](https://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066.

On or before January 14, 2022, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation elec-tronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of partici-pation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as re-quired by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before January 14, 2022, any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling), a request for hearing on the Petition. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00066, shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any request for hearing and any notice of participation simultaneously shall be sent to counsel for the Company elec-tronically at the email address set forth above.

The public versions of the Petition and related documents, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).

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In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 5, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$128,600.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 070004336. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 10, 2022, at 1:30 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BOTETOURT, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT AN OLD IRON PIPE ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 220; THENCE LEAVING SAID HIGHWAY N. 61° 43' W. 279.10 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N. 28° 47' 46" E. 247.0 FEET TO AN 18 INCH TALL PIPE; THENCE N. 54° 33' W. 274.96 FEET TO AN OLD PIPE; THENCE N. 41° 24' 54" E. 227.63 FEET TO AN OLD 3 FOOT TALL IRON PIPE; THENCE S. 64° 13' 24" E. 485.24 FEET TO AN OLD ROD ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 220; THENCE ALONG SAID HIGHWAY S. 26° 50' W. 524.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AND BEING

### Legals - Botetourt County

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### Legals - City of Salem

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION**  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104  
**Case No. CL21000359-00**  
City Of Salem Circuit Court 2 East Calhoun Street, Salem, VA 24153  
DANA LYNN FRANCISCO MEADOR v. PAUL CLINTON MEADOR  
The object of this suit is to: FOR ENTRY OF DIVORCE  
It is ORDERED that PAUL CLINTON appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on

or before JANUARY 20, 2022.  
November 19, 2021  
Stacy L. Owen

### Legals - Town of Vinton

#### ABC NOTICE

Dahal Brothers LLC, trading as Be Quick Market 2, 210 W Virginia Ave, Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia 24179-3318.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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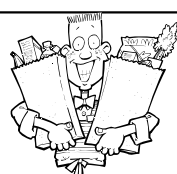
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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Pinstripe Bowl, Yankee Stadium and a Hokie connection



### From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

On Dec. 29 in Yankee Stadium, Virginia Tech is going to the home of the New York Yankees to play Maryland in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl. The connections between the Yanks and the school in Blacksburg run deep.

Let's remind you.

Following the tragic day of April 16, 2007, the Yankees reached out to Virginia Tech about playing a baseball game, and the two have been united ever since that phone call.

The book on the relationship between the Yankees and the Hokies will have a new chapter with the bowl game of Dec. 29.

Earlier this week, the Yankees, the Hokies, and the Terrapins held a press conference for the announcement of this year's Pinstripe Bowl.

During the press conference, the president of the Yankees, Randy Levine, and YES Network's studio host, Bob Lorenz, spoke about how the Yankees wanted to be there for the Hokies and their mourning and touched on how special it was when the Yankees went to the VT campus on March 18, 2008, to visit the April 16 Memorial and play a baseball game versus Tech.

The Yankees also made a \$1 million contribution to the Virginia Tech "Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund," established to aid in the healing process following the tragic events that took place in Blacksburg.

The Yankees honored the memory of the victims by wearing the Virginia Tech logo on their caps and by painting a special Virginia Tech logo on the field.

Virginia Tech was represented in New York during that special honor by VT President Dr. Charles Steger, who threw out the game's ceremonial first pitch. In addition to the donation, the Yankees announced a commitment to play in an exhibition game on the Virginia Tech campus.

"The events that took place this spring in Virginia have deeply affected us all," said New York Yankees Principal Owner George Steinbrenner. "But the Virginia Tech community has shown great spirit and resolve during this difficult time, and the New York Yankees are proud to join so many others in supporting the healing process."

Steger said, "On behalf of everyone associated with Virginia Tech, includ-



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

**The combination of the New York Yankees and the Virginia Tech colors is remembered in a special hat created shortly after the tragic events in Blacksburg in 2007.**

ing the families of the victims of our recent tragedy, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the New York Yankees organization for this wonderful contribution to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund."

The Yankees took a pause during spring training that year and came to Blacksburg to see the April 16 Memorial and play the Hokies baseball team on March 18.

As Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter stood at the April 16 memorial in front of Burruss Hall, looking at the 32 stones that honor the victims of those who lost their lives and contemplating the tragedy that took place, he found himself approached by a young student who lost her fiancé on that fateful and regrettable day.

The young woman simply wanted to take a picture of Jeter at her fiancé's stone, and she quietly and politely made her request of the Yankees superstar.

Rather than offer some words of condolence, or stumble over trying to find just the exact right words to say to her, Jeter - in perhaps a way that only he could - made a rather bold stipulation of her request considering the circumstances.

"Only if you smile," he said.

She, indeed, smiled. And that was the theme of the day.

So as many Hokie fans plan a trip to the Pinstripe Bowl, we need to say thank you to the Bronx Bombers for the connection we have in a Hokie uniform. At least one day, I might be a Yankee fan.

I know I was in 2008, and I have one of those hats to remember the special day by.

## Blacksburg boys defeat Lord Botetourt in 60-59 thriller



**Blacksburg's Tucker Halsey drives along the baseline against Lord Botetourt defender Jackson Crawford. In a close game throughout, Blacksburg finished on top with a 60-59 win.**



**Blacksburg's Matthew Joyce scored 11 points in the defeat of Lord Botetourt.**



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

**Blacksburg's Owen Walters scored 20 points, including this game-winning basket with less than 10 seconds remaining in the game.**

## VT club rugby team wins national championship

The Virginia Tech club rugby team won the national championship Saturday with a 34-22 defeat of West Chester University in Houston.

The Hokies defeated clubs from Salisbury University and Boise State to land a spot in the tournament finals against the West Chester Golden Rams, champions of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. Having finished fifth in the Chesapeake Conference, VT entered the championship game as an underdog.

From the start, the VT club put West Chester on their heels with lock Hunter Danesi tough to bring down and hooker Rocco Munna also a power runner. Scrumhalf Brandon Eng pulled the strings. But West Chester's defense got big tackles from flyhalf Nick D'Angelo and flanker Cam McIlrath and held on.

Despite a yellow card, Virginia Tech stayed on the front foot, and a penalty in the middle of the field allowed Eng to tap quickly and go virtually untouched 50 meters to score. He converted and it was 12-0. West Chester answered, with a couple of penalties allowing the Rams to put hooker Brendan Keane over.

With the score now 12-7, Tech tapped on another penalty — neither team wanted to risk the wind on kicking for touch or the lineout s— and after a big run from Munna, second row Gavin Lockwood fended off one tackler and galloped around the edge to run in like a big, lanky winger.

That made it 17-7. West Chester had a break from prop Kyle Benick but couldn't capitalize, and in the end the half was capped off with Rams lock Matt Laudien getting a yellow card.

That yellow card was punished in the second half when consistent pressure from the Hokies led to a penalty, another quick tap, and a smart pass from Eng to flanker Jack Murphy for the try. West Chester had trouble making good decisions getting out of their 22 and a poor kick, a poor tackle, and good forwards work from Tech led to Murphy's second try. That made it 29-7.

West Chester finally got going, and after a yellow card to Munna, flanker Ewan Hagen dove over from short range. Eng replied almost immediately, scampering around the edge of a ruck in beating a couple of defenders. Up 34-14 now, Virginia Tech was in control.

West Chester kept coming, and they started again to move the ball wide and play a little looser with the ball, but the Rams were too far behind to catch up.

Eng was the player of the game.

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# Radford women fall to Virginia Tech 89-40

The Radford University women's basketball team played tough against Virginia Tech Sunday, reducing their deficit to as little as two points in the first two quarters before falling late in the last half 89-40.

Bridget Birkhead's first quarter kept Radford in the game early. Virginia Tech opened the game with a 9-0 run before Ashley Tudor broke the cold spell with a pair of free throws. Birkhead then hit four straight three-pointers, a jumper, and a free throw that pulled the Highlanders to within 19-17. Bryonna McClean added a bucket before the quarter ended with Virginia Tech leading 25-19.

The relentless Virginia Tech assault continued into the second quarter as the Hokies hit each of their first four shots

to take a 15-point lead. Radford responded again, though, as Jackie Christ and Kyanna Morgan scored their first points of the day. Rachel LaLonde had the big shot of the quarter knocking down a three-pointer. LaLonde was fouled on the play and converted the and-one to pull Radford within 11 at the break.

Virginia Tech pulled away in the second half, shooting 53% to Radford's 15%. The Highlanders got four straight points from Kyanna Morgan and a layup from McClean in the second half, but the team went cold after that allowing Virginia Tech to move ahead 60-35 at the end of the third quarter. Tudor and Carmen Williams scored in the final quarter of the game, but Virginia Tech continued its hot shooting to win 89-40.



Bridget Birkhead had 16 points for Radford University in this past weekend's loss to Virginia Tech.

Birkhead finished the game with a team-best 16 points. LaLonde and Morgan were the next highest-scoring Highlanders as they combined for 11 points. That same duo also led the team in rebounding as Morgan had six and LaLonde five

on the day. The Highlanders shot decently from the free-throw line and from three-point range, shooting 75% on 12 attempts at the charity stripe and 56% on nine attempts from beyond the arc.

"For the first half we

battled, and when Bridget got hot that definitely helped things a bit," said Radford Head Coach Mike McGuire. "The pace of our offense got too slow in the second half. We didn't cut and move the way we're capable of. We tried to do too

much individually, and that's something we've really got to work on this week before going down to Myrtle Beach. We had a lot of adversity faced today with players being out, so for us to be in the mix for a while was good on our part."

## RU releases non-conference softball schedule

The Radford University softball program announced its 2022 non-conference slate Friday. The schedule features 13 unique opponents spread out across three months.

Radford's home non-conference schedule is highlighted by two home games against programs that advanced to the super regionals in last season's NCAA Tournament: Virginia Tech on Feb. 23 and James Madison University on March 16. JMU competed in the World Series before coming up just one win short of the finals.

The season opens on Feb. 11 as the Highlanders travel to Statesboro, Ga., to compete in a tournament against opponents not yet determined. This will mark Coach Alisa Tasler's first official games at the helm for

the Highlanders.

Radford will then set its sights the following week on Chattanooga where the Highlanders are set to face SIU Edwardsville, Indiana State, Purdue Fort Wayne, Chattanooga, and Tennessee Tech. The opening days of the tournament will feature three teams the Highlanders have not played. The Highlanders and Sycamores of Indiana State have not met since 2013.

The team returns to the New River Valley on Feb. 23 for its lone home non-conference game against Virginia Tech. The two schools have a deep history against each other spanning back to 1996. After that, it's back to the road for RU for a three-game series at East Tennessee State University. The Highlanders and Buccaneers have faced each other 32 times

with Radford owning the series edge, 20-12.

Madeira Beach, Fla., will play host to the Highlanders' spring break tournament this season starting on March 4. On the first day of competition, Radford is set to play Rhode Island and Southern Miss with Southern Miss being another first-time opponent for the program. Day two features yet another first meeting between two programs as Radford will face Omaha (Nebraska). The Highlanders will finish up their trip on March 6 against Middle Tennessee State University and Long Island University. Radford then returns home a week later for one of their biggest non-conference matches of the season when they host James Madison on March 16.

Radford will delve into



RADFORD SOFTBALL 2022 SCHEDULE				
2.11-13*	2.18	2.18	2.19	2.19
2.20	2.23	2.26-27	3.4	3.4
3.5	3.6	3.6	3.16	3.30
5.4				

PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

The Radford University non-conference softball schedule features games against 13 opponents, including a pair of match-ups at home against Virginia Tech.

conference play after their spring break travel. The Highlanders will renew an old Big South match-up with UNC Greensboro in a doubleheader on March 30 before closing out their non-

conference slate at Virginia Tech on May 4.

"We had a very productive fall," said Tasler. "I felt like we improved a lot. We will be very young this year, but I think we will be ready

to go out and really compete hard in this upcoming preseason. This is where we make those final decisions on what we will look like when we hit the field during conference play."



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