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# News Messenger

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Saturday, July 23, 2022

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## Mary Draper Ingles Festival to feature renowned authors

RADFORD, VA—New York Times bestselling author, James Alexander Thom, and author Eleanor Lahr will be part of the Mary Draper Ingles Festival, which runs from July 29 through 31.

Thom, who wrote, "Follow the River," says Mary's daring escape from a Native American Shawnee tribe during the French and Indian War and her 42-day odyssey became the literary seed for his national bestseller.

Much of the power of Mary's story comes from the power of her antagonist, the wilderness, says Thom. "Europeans were afraid of nature and uncomfortable in it." Amazing as the story was, it took a second element to convince Thom he had enough material for a novel. Joining Mary in the escape was an Old Dutch woman from western Pennsylvania, and together they faced the great power of the wilderness. On top of that, Mary soon grappled with the Old Dutch woman's breakdown, which gave Thom the extra tension and danger he wanted for his 1981 novel.

ABC liked the concept, too, and in 1995 produced a made-for-television movie. Thom's book still sells thousands of copies annually, proving its drawing power.

Thom will speak at the dedication of the Mary Draper Ingles Cultural Heritage Park on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery at 5 p.m. Friday, July 29. Following the ceremonies, the author will sign copies of "Follow the River," which will be available for sale.



Eleanor Lahr



James Alexander Thom

Joining Thom on Saturday, July 30, from noon to 2 p.m. for a book signing at Glencoe Mansion will be Eleanor Lahr, who wrote "Angels Along the River: Retracing the Escape Route of Mary Draper Ingles." The book has been described as an "inspirational story of hope, fear, joy, and accomplishment that is a testament to the in-

See Festival, page 4

## From fighting fires to chasing local news, this VT alumnus thrives on helping his community

A tree fell on top of a powerline and sparked a wildfire just 50 feet from a man's house. His small rake stood no chance against the giant flame that erupted.

The Breitung Township Fire Department came to the rescue, extinguishing the fire in mere minutes. One

of those firefighters, Clint McLeod, woke up the next day and spent the morning finding a news story to report for WLUC-TV about the local Iron Mountain, Michigan, community.

Full-time bureau television reporter and

See McLeod, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLINT MCLEOD

When he's not chasing down the latest news story, Clint McLeod is fighting fires for the Breitung Township Fire Department.

## Appointments made to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clockwise from top left: Edward Baine, David Calhoun, Charles "Brad" Hobbs, and Sandy Cupp Davis were appointed to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Each will serve a four-year term.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently appointed three new members and reappointed one member to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

The new appointees are David Calhoun of Sunapee, New Hampshire; Sandy Cupp Davis of Blacksburg, and Charles "Brad" Hobbs of Virginia Beach. Each will serve a four-year term.

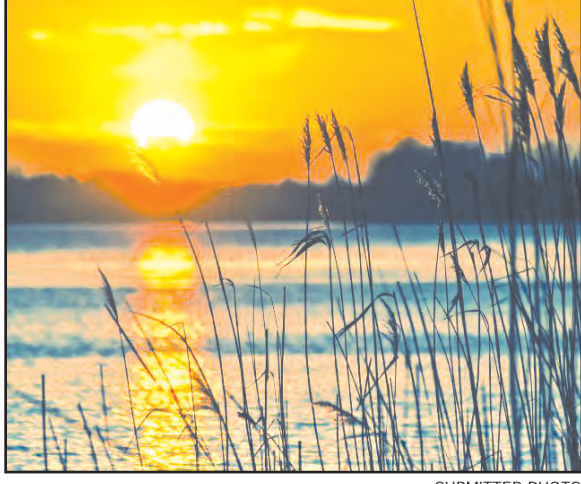
Edward Baine of Moseley, Virginia, was reappointed to a second consecutive four-year term.

Calhoun, a member of the Class of 1979 and a graduate of what is now the Pamplin College of Business, is president and CEO of The Boeing Company. Calhoun's previous involvement on behalf of Virginia Tech includes transformative philanthropy, serving on the Innovation Campus Advisory Board, and chairing The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future, which ran from 2003 to 2011.

Davis is the retired owner of BCR Real Estate and Property Management. She has been deeply involved in the life of Virginia Tech for many years, is a namesake of the Street and Davis Performance Hall within the Moss Arts Center, and is a past chair of the Virginia Tech Foundation Board. Davis has also served on the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund Executive Commit-

See Appointments, page 4

## Extreme heat waves expected to intensify as global temperatures rise, says expert



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Record high temperatures and extreme weather patterns, like those happening now throughout Europe and the U.S., are predicted to increase in frequency and intensity in the future, says Craig Ramseyer, an assistant professor who studies climate modeling in the department of geography at Virginia Tech.

"Climate change is here and it's already changing human behavior and causing significant societal impacts," he said. "As global temperatures rise, historically excessive temperatures are more likely to occur."

Ramseyer says heat waves are the most concerning because of the lack of attention they normally receive.

"Hurricanes, tornadoes, and flash floods drive more media attention because of the innate fascination with the visual intensity of those types of hazards. However, heat does not tend to be as fascinating and it becomes very difficult to communicate the danger to the public," said Ramseyer. "Around the world, more fatalities occur due to extreme heat than from hurricanes, flooding, and drought combined. It disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable of our citizens who do not have adequate access to air conditioning, water, and other important resources."

Since the Earth is running warmer than it used to, Ramseyer says that when these heat wave related weather patterns are in place, it results in higher extreme temperatures than we used to experience 30 years ago.

"As a global community, we need to prioritize decreasing carbon emissions. We have rapidly evolving technologies that are going to help expedite the process, but the faster the better, there is no time to waste."

## Arabica Cafe celebrates grand opening in downtown Radford

City officials and Radford Chamber of Commerce representatives gather with the owners and employees of Arabica Cafe for their recent ribbon cutting. Arabica Cafe is located at 1158 East Main St. in Radford and is described as a "cozy, relaxed cafe serving brunch, lunch, baked goods, desserts and coffee drinks." It is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, July 23:

### Animal Care and Adoption Center 5-Year anniversary

Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center is celebrating its five-year anniversary today, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festivities include Nana's Sweets and Treats Food Truck, a petting zoo, facility tours, giveaways, and of course, adoptable cats and dogs. For more information about the adoption center, visit [www.montva.com/acac](http://www.montva.com/acac).

### City of Radford concert series

1980s band Cassette Rewind will perform on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. Gates open at 6 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Concertgoers are urged to bring a chair or a blanket. Food and beverages will be available for sale. \$5 per person. Children under 12 are free.

### Fish fry

At New Mount Olive United Methodist Church, 309 Russell Ave., Radford 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Dinners are \$10; fish sandwiches are \$6; an extra piece of fish is \$3. For call-in orders call the church 540-639-6425. Delivery in the Radford area only or come by and pick-up call-in order. The fish fry is sponsored by the United Methodist Men.

### Adult yoga

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Follow along with a video from Yoga with Adriene. Adults of all fitness levels and experience are welcome to participate in this judgment-free, no-stress event. Participants should bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. Registration is recommended. Call or stop by the library's circulation desk to register.

### Music on the Lawn: Andy & Judy Daigle

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is the third show in the library's Music on the Lawn concert series. This free concert will go on rain or shine. Attendees should bring a chair and a blanket.

### Seashell bath bursts - DIY

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to make a bath burst in a seashell mold. Registration is required for this free event. All supplies will be provided.

### Eight Point Star

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5 p.m. Eight Point Star features Mike Gangloff and Matt Peyton as songwriters. Mike plays fiddle and banjo and an eight-string, Norwegian Hardanger-style fiddle. Matt plays guitar, dulcimer, and sometimes theremin. Isak Howell plays banjo, guitar, and harmonica. Tim Thornton plays bass, dulcimer, and sometimes guitar.

### Cooking with Dave . . . and a movie

At the Radford Public library from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Watch Dave make a tasty treat. Then stay for some Yoda Soda and to watch 'Star Wars: Return of the Jedi' on the library's big projection screen. This program is possible thanks to the library Lamplighters.

## Sunday, July 24:

### Free Sustainable Garden Tour

Free tours of Blacksburg sustainable gardens featuring native plants, wildlife-friendly plantings, edible landscaping and beauty will be hosted by the Sustainable Blacksburg nonprofit community organization on fourth Sunday afternoons through September. Light refreshments will be served at these drop-in tours.

The July 24 tour is from 6 to 8 p.m. at Arlean Lam-

bert's garden and the Hale Community Garden at 215 Maywood St. Lambert's garden highlights edible landscaping and vegetable gardening. Lambert enjoys figs, strawberries, kiwis, nuts, greens, and other edibles, including edible flowers, at her north Blacksburg home.

## Monday, July 25:

### Talking about books

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "All the Ways We Said Goodbye" by Beatriz Williams. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

### Crafternoon delight for adults only

At the Radford Public Library from 1 to 2 p.m. Bring supplies and knit, crochet, and needlepoint at the library. Some crafting supplies will be provided.

### Mother and daughter book club

At the Radford Public Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This fun book club is for mothers and for daughters ages 8 through 12. Discussed this month is "The Penderwicks" by Jeanne Birdsall. Registration is not required.

## Tuesday, July 26:

### Chess club

For teens and pre-teens at the Radford Public Library from 6 to 7 p.m. Join Youth Services Specialist Dave in the community room for some chess.

## Wednesday, July 27:

### 'Wizard of Oz' puppet show with Stevens Puppets

At the Radford Public Library from 11 a.m. until noon. Lions and tigers and puppets, Come to the library for a full-stage production marionette puppet show performance of "The Wizard of Oz."

### Sustainable Blacksburg Lunch and Learn: Low-waste kids

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Bring the family and learn about a variety of ways to reduce waste in your home and life.

### Teen book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. To be read and discussed this month is "How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe" by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland. Snacks will be provided.

## Thursday, July 28:

### Lunch and Learn: Adverse Childhood Experiences

At the Christiansburg Library at noon. Bring a lunch and learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences with New River Valley Community Services. ACE's are traumatic experiences in childhood and the teenage years that may put children at risk for violence, chronic health problems, and mental health/substance use disorders. Youth-serving organizations, coaches, caregivers, and community members who gain awareness of ACE's can also help prevent them, giving children a better opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe and stable environment.

### "You Can Never Tell" with Sarah Warburton

At the Radford Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. Local author Sarah Warburton will visit the library to talk about her second novel, "You Can Never Tell," a chilling thriller inspired by the Moors Murders that explores the twisted side of suburbia.

## Saturday July 30:

### Cooking with Dave . . . at Bisset Park

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Bisset Park Shelter 1. Learn the recipe for Sand Dollar Cookies and watch Librarian Dave show you how these cookies are made. Then stick around to sample a cookie, make a craft, and play some games.

### Kids' Stuff Swap

At the Blacksburg Library at 12:35 p.m. Bring old kids' stuff no longer needed and swap it for items that are needed. Items allowed include, clothes and shoes, sports gear, school and art supplies, homeschool curriculum and supplies, backpacks and lunch gear, and books. Good quality items only please. Donations are not required to participate, and donations will be accepted as early as July 25. Email [mhall@mfrl.org](mailto:mhall@mfrl.org) for additional information.

### Quilting marathon/make a quilt bookmark

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 8 a.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters are hosting a quilting marathon, and the public is invited to watch these skilled individuals quilting. The group will be working on individual projects and will also have supplies to make a quilt bookmark for all ages. Attendees may bring their quilting projects or questions and the quilters will help. This program is open to all ages.

## Thursday, Aug. 4:

### American Legion meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post home at 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

## Friday, Aug. 5 and Saturday, Aug. 6:

### Book sale

Book sale at the Radford Public Library from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of books for all ages at reasonable prices will be for sale.

## Tuesday, Aug. 9:

### Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## Ongoing:

## Wednesdays, Sept. 7 through Oct. 26

### Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy registration now open


Registration for the 2022 Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy is now open. The deadline for Christiansburg and Montgomery County residents to register for this free, eight-week course is Aug. 15. Citizens Academy provides hands-on experience for participants, covering a wide variety of local government functions including fire and rescue, libraries, animal care, and public works. Classes are Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning Sept. 7 and ending on Oct. 26.

### United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need


The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate pantry items may drop them off at the United Way office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

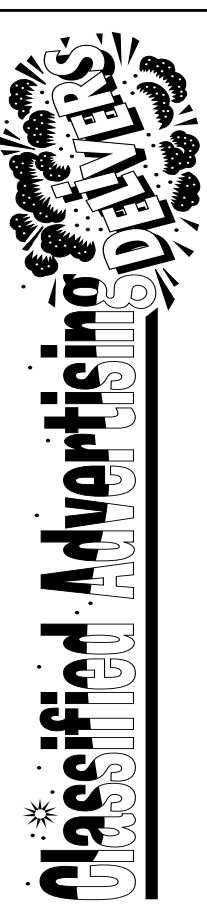
### Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation presents an ongoing exhibit through Aug. 18, "Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now" in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission is free, hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. A reception open to the public will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th Century and brings agriculture to the present-day local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. For more information, visit [blacksburgmuseum.org](http://blacksburgmuseum.org).



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legals - City of Radford</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</b></p> <p>ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN POLLING PLACE FOR THE WEST PRECINCT</p> <p>Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 24.2-306 and 24.2-129, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on July 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on an ordinance to amend Section 27-32 of the Radford City Code to change the polling place for the West Precinct from Carter Street United Methodist Church, 1223 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 to Compassion Church, 1820 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia 24141. Copies of the proposed ordinance, a map of the West Precinct's boundaries, and a description of the polling place change may be obtained or inspected by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legals - City of Radford</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <p>It appearing to the Court that a report of the accounts of Penna Rogers, Executor of the Estate of Margaret B. Plymire, deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate, have been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that 6 months have elapsed since the qualification of the Executor, on motion of the Executor it is ordered that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the estate do show cause, if any they can, at 8:45 a.m. on August 5, 2022, before this Court at the Radford Circuit Court against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Margaret B. Plymire, deceased,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legals - City of Radford</b></p> <p>to the beneficiaries, without requiring refunding bonds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For Sale - Misc</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing &amp; shipping, moving &amp; storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Help Wanted</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Part Time Newspaper Production Help</b></p> <p>Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email <a href="mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org">lhurst@ourvalley.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hill Turner Landscaping, Inc</b></p> <p>Power washing, Driveway sealing, Mowing, Mulching, Hedge &amp; bush trimming, Brush removal, etc. Radford, Dublin, Christiansburg. Reasonable prices. Call (540) 392 - 4447.</p>
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# Virginia's traffic fatalities have increased due to riskier driving

If work commutes seem more perilous in recent years, it's because dangerous driving habits established during the pandemic have not abated.

Motorists engaged in riskier driving habits during the COVID-19 pandemic while fewer cars were on the road. Although the disease is now in its endemic phase and Virginians are resuming regular activities, dangerous driving habits have continued.

In just 24 months, Virginia's traffic fatalities increased 17%, according to Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles data—from 827 fatalities in 2019 to 968 fatalities in 2021.

"So far, the trend continues in 2022," said David Tenenbaum, senior actuarial manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. and DriveSMART Virginia board member.

"These deaths and injuries are especially tragic because they were easily preventable," he continued. "Sharing the road, obeying speed limits, and buckling up are basic driving skills."

Virginia motorists were 50% more likely to speed at least 10 mph over

the speed limit from March to June 2020, compared with the same period in 2019, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) reports. And drivers haven't slowed down since.

"The empty roads probably tempted pandemic-stressed drivers to put the pedal down," says Jessica Cicchino, vice president of research at IIHS. "But information collected since the lockdowns ended and the roads filled back up suggests that risky driving has become the new normal."

Overall, traffic volumes at study sites fell by a quarter during Virginia's lockdown. Those numbers suggest that the absence of rush-hour traffic prompted motorists to drive faster than usual.

The 2021 Virginia DMV crash statistics report indicated there was one crash every 4.4 minutes, resulting in 2.7 lives lost and 161 injuries on Virginia roadways every day.

Nationwide, crash deaths jumped 7% in 2020 despite a dramatic decrease in the number of miles Americans drove. Fatal crashes involving speeding or alcohol and deaths of unbelted vehicle occupants saw especially large increases, according to National Highway Traffic Administration



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Drivers' dangerous driving habits established while fewer cars were on the road during the COVID-19 pandemic have not abated. In the 24 months from 2019 to 2021, for instance, Virginia's traffic fatalities increased from 827 to 968, a 17% increase. Speed seems to be a major factor in the increase.**

figures.

As drivers logged more miles in 2021, the pattern continued.

"With nearly 43,000 lives lost on U.S. roadways last year, we can't accept this increase in dangerous

driving behaviors," said Cicchino. "We need to double down on implementing proven solutions that have been shown to prevent speeding, like automated speed enforcement and road designs that slow traffic."

## Publication by Virginia Tech team sheds light on preventing athletes' re-injury



PHOTO BY EMILY ROEDIGER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**An example of the jump tests used to collect data on re-injury. Clinical trials for this study were conducted in Robin Queen's research lab, the Granata Biomechanics Lab.**

By Laura McWhinney

The excitement watching a basketball player sprint down the court, leap into the air, and slam dunk the ball is like no other. But from the athlete's point of view, especially those who just returned from an injury, the ques-

tion is often how might this damage their knee? How likely is it that they are going to tear their anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) again?

These types of questions are addressed in a recent publication by Robin Queen, the Kevin P. Granata Faculty Fellow and a professor in

biomedical engineering and mechanics, in the journal *Physical Therapy in Sport*. Queen, alongside Virginia Tech colleagues and in collaboration with Carilion Clinic Orthopedic Surgery, looked at the effectiveness of a novel biofeedback intervention to improve landing mechanics in patients following ACL reconstruction.

A member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 2015, Queen pursues an interdisciplinary approach that integrates foundational engineering, patient care, and the development of novel tools. Through therapeutic interventions, her research identifies movement and load asymmetries to prevent overuse and degenerative injuries of the lower extremity.

The study's novel biofeedback intervention incorporated visual feedback — such as seeing the real-time graph of the force under the athlete's feet — and tactile feedback — such as placing a resistance band around one's knee while doing squats. To assess the effectiveness of the biofeedback intervention, researchers worked with participants in a 12-week clinical trial. All participants had injured their ACL previously and were intending to resume their sport activity.

The goal of the intervention was to heighten awareness of asymmetrical limb loading during squatting. By utilizing visual and tactile feedback, physical therapists can retrain an athlete to move more symmetrically during squatting, which could improve how they move during more dynamic tasks such as landing, Queen said. For comparison, researchers had a second group of participants (the control

group) receive educational lessons on risk factors for second ACL injuries and what to expect when they return to their sport. They were given quizzes to ensure they understood the lesson content.

At the completion of the clinical trial, researchers found that those who used the biofeedback intervention had more symmetrical movement in certain outcome measures, a significant factor in injury prevention. Symmetrical movement means that one limb isn't bearing more of the load, or weight, than the other. One of the main factors in re-injury of an ACL after rehabilitation is movement deficits, or asymmetrical movement, during activities such as running or jumping. These deficits can last for years after rehabilitation from a previous injury, increasing re-injury risk.

Queen's results are promising to help athletes decrease their risk of re-injury.

"These results have provided us with insights into how to alter rehabilitation programs for athletes interested in returning to high-level sports, while decreasing the risk of them sustaining a second ACL injury," said Queen.

The next phase of this research will focus on translating these results from the laboratory to the clinic setting using load sensors within the shoe instead of force plates. Research team members will continue to collaborate in a recently funded grant from the National Institutes of Health to determine risk factors for second ACL injuries that can be collected in non-laboratory environments.

## Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, Cooperative Extension help VT showcase its land-grant mission at Ag Expo

By Max Esterhuizen

The members of Virginia's largest private industry will gather at the 2022 Virginia Ag Expo on Aug. 4 to examine the latest trends, technologies, and research in agriculture that will help shape the agricultural future.

This year's Ag Expo theme, "Precision for Profits," is exemplified by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' research, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the education land-grant mission.

For the second year in a row, Virginia Tech's Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture will co-host an exhibition tent at the event, where producers will learn about not only the current technologies available to them, but also emerging technologies that may strengthen agricultural efficiencies and economies. To strengthen partnerships and share the science-based techniques, Extension specialists also will be part of the field demonstrations that help producers solve problems and put knowledge into action.

The Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture is hosting the tent along with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

Producers, industry members, and all other attendees at the Ag Expo

event are invited to stop by the tent to learn from leading agricultural experts. The partnerships help Virginia Tech scientists and engineers design improved, secure, and economically valuable agricultural technologies and translate the science to help increase production yields, efficiencies, and economic value.

The Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, in partnership with the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative in Southwest Virginia, will feature the importance of securing technologies and the increasing use of internet of things in agriculture while protecting agricultural data and decisions. Faculty and graduate students will be available to talk with visitors about drones, sensors, mobile applications, and security and the analytical approaches that provide real-time or rapid information for making informed decisions for both plant and animal agriculture.

As global populations swell, the climate shifts, and technologies evolve, today's agricultural innovation is a critical part of producing enough food for the future. This is one reason why the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences created the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, of which the Virginia Tech Smart-Farm Innovation Network is part.



PHOTO BY MAX ESTERHUIZEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

**For the second year in a row, Virginia Tech's Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture will co-host an exhibition tent at Ag Expo, where producers will learn about not only the current technologies available to them, but also emerging technologies that may strengthen agricultural efficiencies and economies. At the 2021 Ag Expo, David Holshouser shows off soybeans.**

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# PETS OF THE WEEK



## Bev

Bev is one laid back pup. She loves attention and, of course, a good treat. A patient girl with a gentle heart, she would be a pawsome playmate for any child. Come to the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet Bev.



## Cindy Biscuit

This mamma cat has seen her babies go to loving homes and is ready to find her own. Cindy Biscuit is playful and affectionate. If you have lots of love to give and need a loyal companion, Cindy Biscuit may be your purrfect match. Meet her at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## McLeod

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volunteer firefighter: This is the life of McLeod, a 2021 Virginia Tech alumnus.

McLeod graduated from the School of Communication, majoring in sports media and analytics. While he was a student, he worked for HokieVision as a production assistant editor and broadcaster for

3304 Sports, the multimedia online platform for student sports journalism at Virginia Tech.

However, the pandemic wiped out two internships that he had planned in video production with NBA 2K and broadcasting with the Hudson Valley Renegades of minor league baseball. McLeod began looking for positions during his senior year as a Hokie, outside of sports. Before he knew it, McLeod had an interview with WLUC-TV (TV6) in Marquette, Michigan.

“I looked at Marquette, Michigan, thinking, ‘Why the heck did I apply to a job in Marquette, Michigan?’ thinking that’s where the Marquette Golden Eagles play,” McLeod said. “That’s the wrong Marquette.”

Still, McLeod had noticed the strong pipeline of recent School of Communication graduates thriving at small-market TV stations across the country. He was offered the job as news reporter, took a chance, and moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to begin a new chapter in his life.

“It was one of those things where I really took a chance on myself,” McLeod said. “It fell into place. I stepped out of my comfort zone in sports media and tried some news. I don’t regret it one bit.”

It was tough sledding for McLeod to get acclimated to life in Michigan at first. His position

as a bureau reporter requires him to become entrenched in the local community and build trust. Two co-workers suggested that he volunteer for the local fire department to meet people and give back to the community in the process. Before he knew it, McLeod started taking night classes and passed his certification test to become a firefighter.

“Just thinking back to all the times at Virginia Tech where they pushed you to give back one way or another, I felt that this was my way of giving back,” McLeod said. “Part of how I identify with my community is through the fire department. It’s a great way to not only show my face as a news reporter, but to feel like I belong here in an area where I did not belong.”

Now, McLeod carries a pager around with him everywhere he goes, ready for action. He volunteers to show Boy Scout troops around the firehall. And he’s formed a brotherhood with other firefighters who have accepted the same call of duty.

“It’s exciting and exhilarating to learn new things and look to your left and look to your right and know that both of those firefighters are there with you,” McLeod said. “They believe in the same cause you do. It’s really empowering to know I’ll charge into this burning building and I’ll come out with some stranger that I don’t know.”

## News Messenger

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### Give us your view:

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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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## Appointments

from page 1

tee and the W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Lake board of directors.

Hobbs, a member of the Class of 1990 and a graduate of the Pamplin College of Business, is president and CEO of the commercial and industrial HVAC contracting firm Hobbs & Associates as well as managing director and chair of the commercial HVAC network Insight Partners. His previous service on Virginia Tech’s behalf includes being a member of the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund board of directors and the Hampton Roads Regional Committee for

The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future.

Baine is president of Dominion Energy Virginia and was reappointed to a second four-year term on the Board of Visitors on which he has served since July 2018. He served as the board’s vice rector last year, and with his reappointment will again serve in that role in 2022-23. Baine is a member of the Class of 1995 and is a graduate of the College of Engineering. Along with being on the Board of Visitors, he has served on the 4-H Blue Ribbon Committee and the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund board of directors.

## Festival

from page 1

credible tenacity and spirit of ordinary people everywhere.”

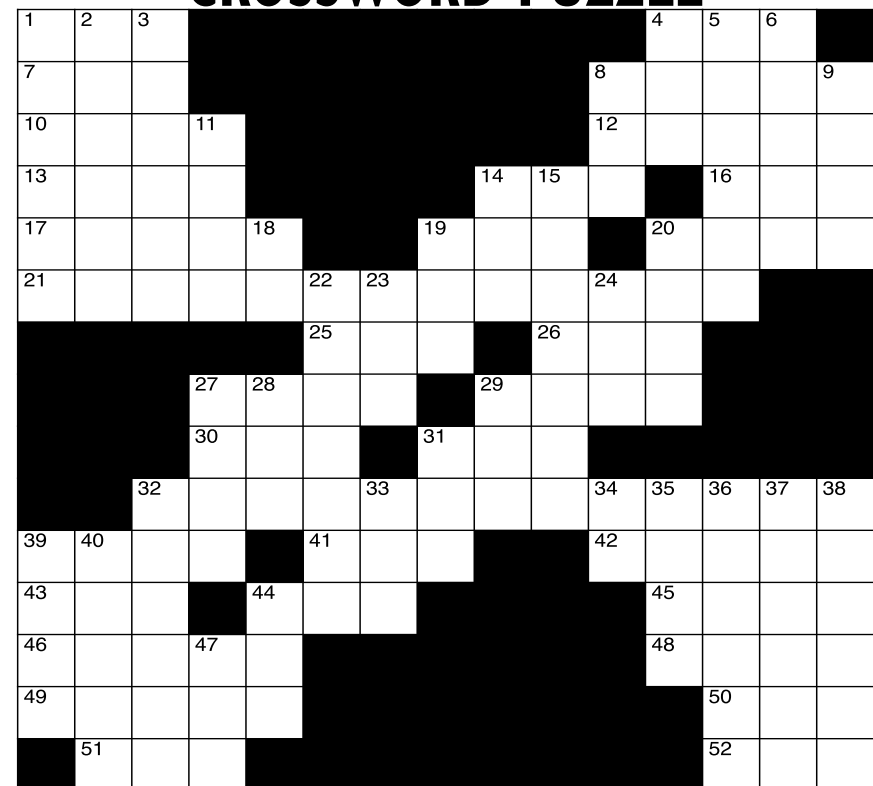
When Lahr read Thom’s novel, “Follow the River,” it changed her life, and she felt compelled to retrace the heroine’s route. Although Lahr enjoyed the outdoors as a child and worked as

a naturalist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, her first serious hike was retracing Mary’s steps along the Ohio, Kanawha and New rivers from Kentucky to Virginia. She says her physical journey became a “transformative personal journey

that redefined her as a capable, strong and independent woman.”

Both books will be available for sale. For more information about the festival, contact Glencoe Mansion at (540) 731-5031 or visit the website at www.glencoemansion.org.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rated horsepower (abbr.)</li> <li>4. What a cow says</li> <li>7. Snake-like fish</li> <li>8. Spiritual leader</li> <li>10. Catch</li> <li>12. Car part</li> <li>13. Extremely small amount</li> <li>14. Nucleic acid</li> <li>16. The Greatest of All Time</li> <li>17. Lustrous</li> <li>19. India’s least populated district</li> <li>20. Muckraking journalist Jacob</li> <li>21. Medicine</li> <li>25. S. American plant</li> <li>26. Small amount</li> <li>27. Dry or withered</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Where construction takes place</li> <li>30. Russian river</li> <li>31. Supervises flying</li> <li>32. “City of Brotherly Love” native</li> <li>39. Greeting at meeting</li> <li>41. Common gibbon</li> <li>42. Type of TV</li> <li>43. Corpuscle count (abbr.)</li> <li>44. Scottish port</li> <li>45. Computer company</li> <li>46. One from Asia</li> <li>48. Former significant others</li> <li>49. Woven fabrics or garments</li> <li>50. One’s sense of self-esteem</li> <li>51. The Science Guy</li> <li>52. Monetary unit</li> </ul> | <p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “The Leftovers” actress King</li> <li>2. Epic</li> <li>3. Missouri county</li> <li>4. Chinese revolutionary</li> <li>5. Get</li> <li>6. Ancient Greek coin</li> <li>8. Returned material authorization (abbr.)</li> <li>9. Part of the human eye</li> <li>11. A fisherman’s accessory</li> <li>14. Brazilian state</li> <li>15. Of a wedding</li> <li>18. Prosecutor</li> <li>19. The main constituent of chromosomes</li> <li>20. Advice</li> <li>22. Principles of right and wrong</li> <li>23. Decorate a cake with frosting</li> <li>24. Headgear</li> <li>27. New York art district</li> <li>28. ___ Lilly, drug company</li> <li>29. Car mechanics group</li> <li>31. Influential U.S. president</li> <li>32. Quell the anger</li> <li>33. Swiss river</li> <li>34. Personal computer</li> <li>35. Incline from the vertical</li> <li>36. Wild goats</li> <li>37. Assert that someone has done wrong</li> <li>38. Anti-apartheid leader ___ Mandela</li> <li>39. Crop of a bird</li> <li>40. “A Doll’s House” playwright</li> <li>44. Autonomic nervous system</li> <li>47. Consumed</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

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# OBITUARIES

## Gilmore, Mary Susanna

Mary Susanna Gilmore, known appropriately to everyone as Sweetsie, died July 16, 2022.

She was born in Radford on Sept. 23, 1954, the daughter of the late William and Mary Susan Goodykoontz.

Sweetsie graduated from Radford High School and worked for years at Radford University. But she put much of her heart and efforts into her home, alongside her husband, Ronnie. Together they brought up four daughters: Mary Madeline, Susanna, Lucy, and Bridget, with a sense of purpose, a passion for music and a whole lot of fun.

She was a member of St. Jude

Catholic Church in Radford and a fierce advocate for disability rights. She devoted a lot of her time to supporting swimming and was an especially strong champion of Lucy, both in the pool and out.

Sweetsie was preceded in death by her brother, Samuel Vincent Brock, and her parents.

Surviving are her husband Ronald Wayne (Ronnie), of Radford; daughter Mary Madeline Webster and her husband,



Christopher, of Radford; daughter Susanna Elizabeth Gilmore, of Radford; daughter Lucy Grace Gilmore, of Radford; and daughter Anne Bridget Smith and her husband, Chris of Mesa, Az., her brothers, Matthew David Brock and his wife, Meg, of Melbourne, Fla.; Cleg (Butter) Brock and his wife, Mary Ann, of Richmond; and William Oakey (Billy) Goodykoontz, Jr., and his wife, Susan, of Chandler, Az.; and five grandchildren: Sterling Louis Webster, Mary Eleanora (Nora) Webster, Thomas

Fredrick Smith, Charles Wayne Smith, and Andres Alejandro Trujillo-Gilmore.

Visitation will be held from 1 until 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. A funeral mass will be held at St. Jude Catholic Church at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022, at St. Jude Catholic Church with Father Cassidy officiating. Interment will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Saint Francis Service Dogs in Roanoke at [www.saintfrancisdogs.org](http://www.saintfrancisdogs.org). The Gilmore family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

See Obituaries, page 6

### 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 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: [www.stpetersacc.org](http://www.stpetersacc.org). Follow us on Facebook

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

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

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and 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: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.org) 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

### CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: [www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto:office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com), Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### ECKANKAR

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

### EPISCOPAL

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

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### We Forget; God Remembers

Read Isaiah 14:1 through 18:7

Forgetting things causes problems. People who forget where they put their car keys will be late for an appointment. Those who forget a birthday or anniversary will find their relationship with the other person suffers. Those who forget God will find things will not go well in the long run.

You have forgotten God your Savior; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress (Isaiah 17:10).

In this section, Isaiah predicted several gloom-and-doom scenarios for the nations who chose not to honor God—who forgot God. These nations had historically bullied God's people and were sometimes

unwittingly God's instrument to bring His people back to Him.

But God remembered His own, promising to show compassion to them and turn the tables on the nations that had been the oppressors: "The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land" (Isaiah 14:1).

God always remembers us and waits for us to remember Him.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, I want to remember You in all things.

Quicklook: Isaiah 17:7-14

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

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

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at [www.oslc-cburg.org](http://www.oslc-cburg.org) and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg> to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also,

partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email [hope@stmhc.us](mailto:hope@stmhc.us) or visit our Website [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

### MULTI-CULTURAL

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

**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](http://www.centralmethodist-church.com).

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

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

### WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: [christwesleyanchurch.org](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)

# Obituaries from page 5

## Brown, Larry Arnold

Larry Arnold Brown, 78, of Christiansburg, died Friday, July 15, 2022, at New River Valley Medical Center.

He was born in Montgomery County on Sept. 7, 1943, to the late Frank Edward and Revellae Jane Alls Brown. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Rebecca Campbell.

He is survived by his common-

law wife, Janice R. Tuenneman; sisters Judy Brown, Arleen Brown, Joyce Snider, Barbara Brown, and Bonnie Sage; and a brother, Lee Brown, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at the Brown Family Cemetery, Christiansburg. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home Blacksburg.

## Simpson, Jr., Russell Thomas

Russell Thomas Simpson, Jr., 82, many other relatives and friends. of Radford, passed away Saturday, July 16, 2022.

He was a U. S. Army veteran and retired from Lynchburg Foundry.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell Thomas, Sr., and Mary Ritter Simpson; his wife, Diane Dillon Simpson; and his brothers, Bobby and Dickie Simpson.



Survivors include his son, Russell Thomas "Trey" Simpson III, and Brandy McCoy; granddaughter Jade Simpson; sister, Maryann Phillips; sister-in-law, Linda Simpson; and

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services with full military honors will follow at 2:30 p.m. in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery with Pastor Craig Reed officiating.

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

## LewisGale Hospital Montgomery physician receives regional EMS award

BLACKSBURG — Brian Ekey, Emergency Medicine Specialist with LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, was recently honored with the Dr. Cheryl B. Haas Award for Outstanding EMS Physician by the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council.

The Haas Award is presented to an EMS physician who exemplifies outstanding leadership and dedication in the exercise of prehospital care.

Ekey, who also serves as the Operational Medical Director for the Blacks-

burg Volunteer Rescue Squad, was presented the award during the Western Virginia EMS Council 2022 regional recognition ceremony.

"It's a privilege to serve the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad as well as practice at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery" said Ekey. "I humbly accept this award on behalf of my fellow providers as well as the 200 members who volunteer their time and proudly serve the Town of Blacksburg and parts of Montgomery County with emergency medical and rescue services."



Dr. Brian Ekey and members of the LewisGale Hospital Montgomery staff. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# VDOT ROAD WATCH

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

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY** – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. 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 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT** – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Lane closures on Route 615 maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

**ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION** - Road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) have begun for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging forces. Work is expected to last until August 2022.

**PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

Route 765, both east and west lanes, will have a flagging operation in place for paving from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

## INTERSTATE 81

**INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141** – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

**ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE** – As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) is closed where it runs underneath I-81. It will be closed for approximately 30 days for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time.

**BARRIER WALLS:** Barrier wall installation is in process. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.

- Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
- Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

**I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE** - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed until September 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been

posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

**REST AREA OPTIONS:** While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

**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 is underway. All lanes are open and will remain open through the winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound traffic will resume this summer. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

**I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS** – Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

**I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS** – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 138 to 152, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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

See VDOT, page 8



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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Auburn wins fourth straight National Guard Cup

Auburn High School has won the Virginia High School League's Class 1 2021-22 National Guard Cup for year-long athletic success for the fourth straight year.

Claiming the cup for the first time were Glenvar in Class 2 and Battlefield in Class 3.

Auburn's win was its fifth championship in the last six years, missing 2019-20 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Maggie Walked claimed its seventh cup overall, after winning six in a row in Class 2 from 2014-19. In class 4, Western Albemarle won its fourth straight cup and seventh overall after win-

ning the past three in Class 3.

In Class 5, Deep Run won its fourth cup since 2017.

First awarded in 1990, the National Guard Cup represents 33 seasons of excellence with six cups awarded for academic activities and athletics in each of the VHSL's six enrollment classifications.

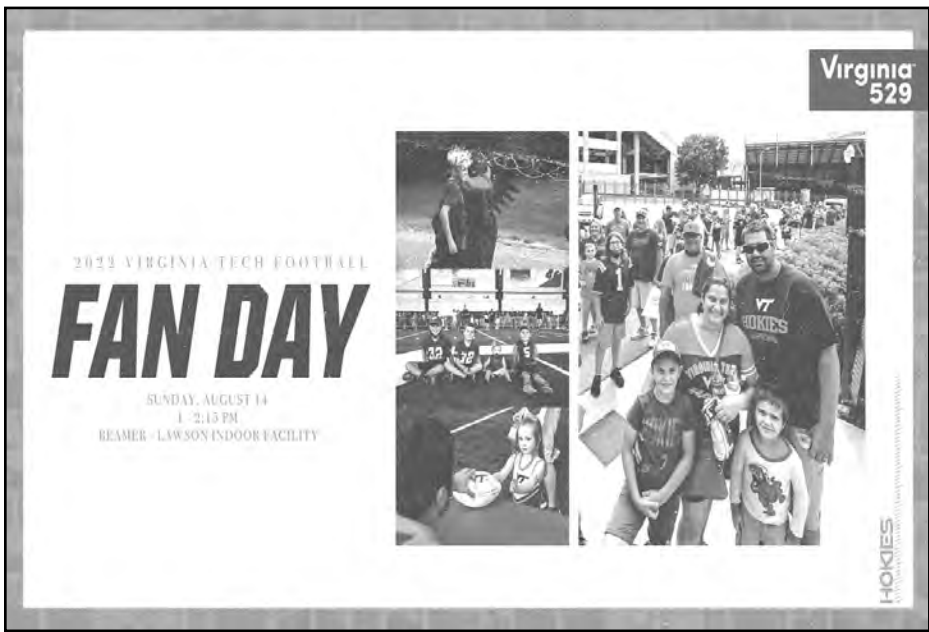
A point system determines the winners based on overall performance in the VHSL state championship competitions. Fifty points are awarded for first place; 45 for second place; 40 for third place; 35 for fourth place; 30 for fifth place; 25

for sixth place; 20 for seventh place; and 15 for eighth place.

In the event of a tie, the schools receive an equal number of points based on the number of schools that tie and the number of school that finish higher in the standings. For example, semifinal losers split third and fourth place points (37.5 points each).

Schools earning the League's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award earn 50 points each.

Auburn totaled 577.5 points, scoring 115 in the fall, 102.5 in the winter and 360 during the spring.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Dates announced for 2022 VT Football Fan Day, first Hokie Club Trivia Night

As kickoff for the 2022 football season draws closer, the Virginia Tech athletics department has announced Saturday, Aug. 13, as the date for the inaugural Hokie Club Trivia Night event and Sunday, Aug. 14, as the date for the 2022 edition of Football Fan Day.

Presented by Virginia 529, Football Fan Day presents Hokie Nation with the opportunity to interact with new head coach Brent Pry and the rest of the Hokies gridiron

squad inside the Beamer-Lawson practice facility. The event is free and open to the public.

Current Hokie Kids' Club members will receive exclusive early access to Fan Day at 1 p.m. before the general public enters 15 minutes later. The Fan Day festivities will conclude at 2:15 p.m.

Hokie Kids' Club memberships are still available for the upcoming season. Those who secure Maroon mem-

berships by August 19 can take advantage of an exclusive ticket offer for Tech's home games against Boston College and Wofford this fall.

New this year is the Hokie Club's first-ever Trivia Night, set for Saturday evening, Aug. 13, in the Hahn-Hurst Basketball Practice Center. Attendees can put their knowledge to the test while supporting Virginia Tech Athletics with a fun night of trivia questions, snacks, and drinks.

## ACCN Football Road Trip to visit Blacksburg Aug. 5; ACC Huddle in town for BC game Sept. 10

ACC Network announced on Wednesday that its preseason ACC Football Road Trip show will visit Virginia Tech's campus on Aug. 5 and its ACC Huddle on the Road show will make it to Blacksburg for the Boston College game on Sept. 10.

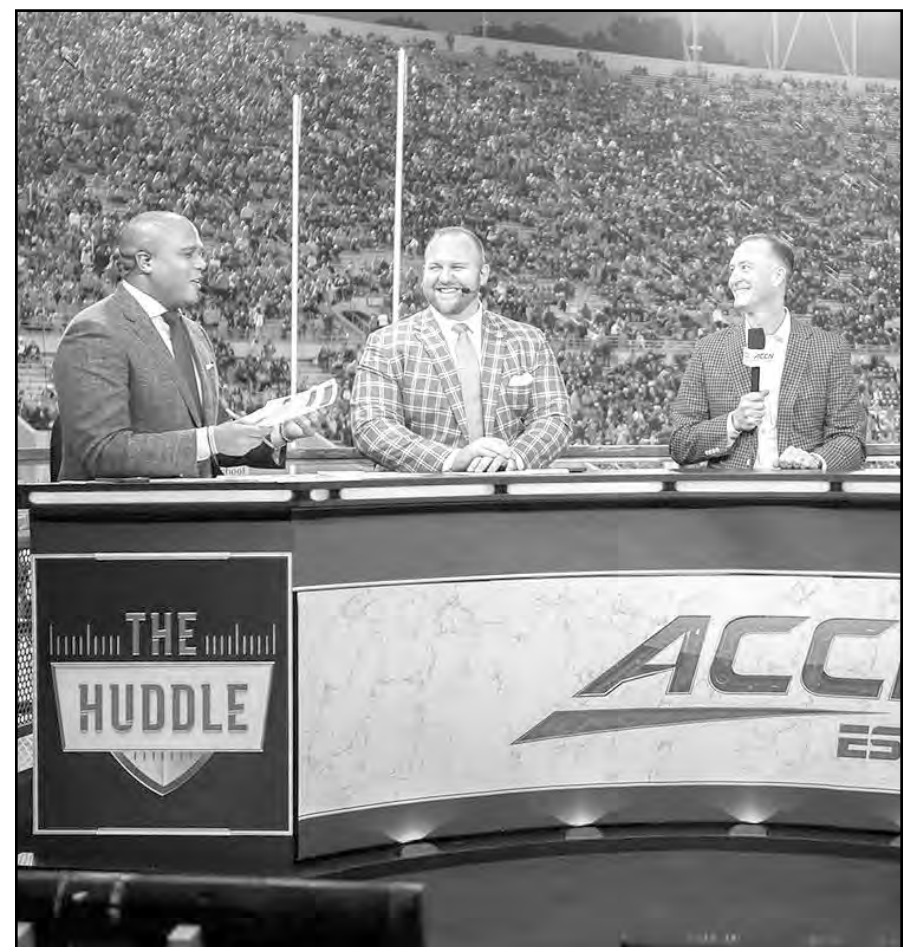
ACCN will take its signature football program The ACC Huddle on the road again this season and will originate live from ACC campuses six times throughout the regular season in addition to the Subway ACC Football Championship Game in Charlotte and select games during bowl season.

The ACC Huddle, with host Jordan Cornette and analysts Eric Mac Lain, EJ Manuel and Mark Richt, will be live from 11 a.m. to noon

each Saturday continuing with wall-to-wall coverage throughout the day featuring halftime reports, a prime-time show from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and a one-hour show at the end of the day recapping all of the ACC football action.

As kickoff to the 2022 football season approaches, ACCN will embark on a three-week, 14-school preseason road trip beginning on Monday, Aug. 1. ACC Football Road Trip will include a series of 14 one-hour shows airing at 7 p.m. each night from campuses across the conference.

ACC Football Road Trip will preview each team's upcoming season and include exclusive interviews with head coaches and student-athletes while showcasing unique aspects of those 14 football programs.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACC Network's Huddle on the Road show will originate live from ACC campuses six times throughout the 2022 regular season.

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# Radford rec softball winners

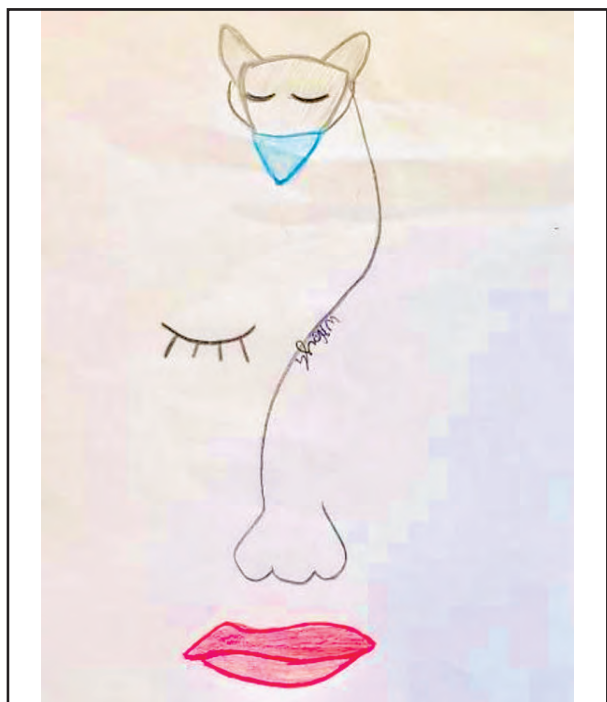


Valley Baptist Church is the winner of this summer's Radford Parks & Recreation Church League Softball Tournament. On the team are Mark Edwards, Scott Edmiston, Matt Reppert, Dylan Donley, Isaac Martin, Bret Johnson, Jake Edwards, Ryan Webb, Ben Sears, Becca Reppert, Kelsey Donley, Cameron Harrison and Noah Lauridson.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Trinity Baptist was the runners up of this summer's Radford Parks & Recreation Church League Softball Tournament. On the team are Mike Hudson, Jonathan Howlett, Jamie Brown, Eric Martin, RJ Blevins, Shawn Dalton, Bethany Anderson, Thomas Anderson, Conner Compton, Jay Sayers, Snuffy Smith, Shea Hudson, Evan Danner and Chandler Dishon.



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## VDOT from page 6

### INTERSTATE 581

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILIAMSON ROAD –On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete in the fall of 2022.

#### LANE CLOSURES:

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.
- o Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

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

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

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

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.