

**VESTED PARTNERS**  
A MULTI-FAMILY OFFICE

LEGAL  
FINANCIAL  
FIDUCIARY  
INSURANCE

Robyn Smith Ellis, Attorney

[www.vestedmfo.com](http://www.vestedmfo.com)  
540.389.6060

## Local NAACP branch organizes African American history collection for donation to Montgomery Museum

The Education Committee of the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP (MRF Branch) has organized a collection of black history books and pamphlets that it will donate to the Montgomery Museum of Art and History on Thursday, Aug. 11.

The purpose of the collection and donation is to make local African American history more accessible to the community by providing resources to local museums. The public, students, and community groups can gather to research and experience local history through this robust collection.

The collection consists of 25 books that tell the history of African Americans in the New River Valley and the greater region of Appalachia and eight booklets that focus more narrowly on the New River Valley and the lived experiences of African Americans in Montgomery, Floyd, and Pulaski counties and Radford City.

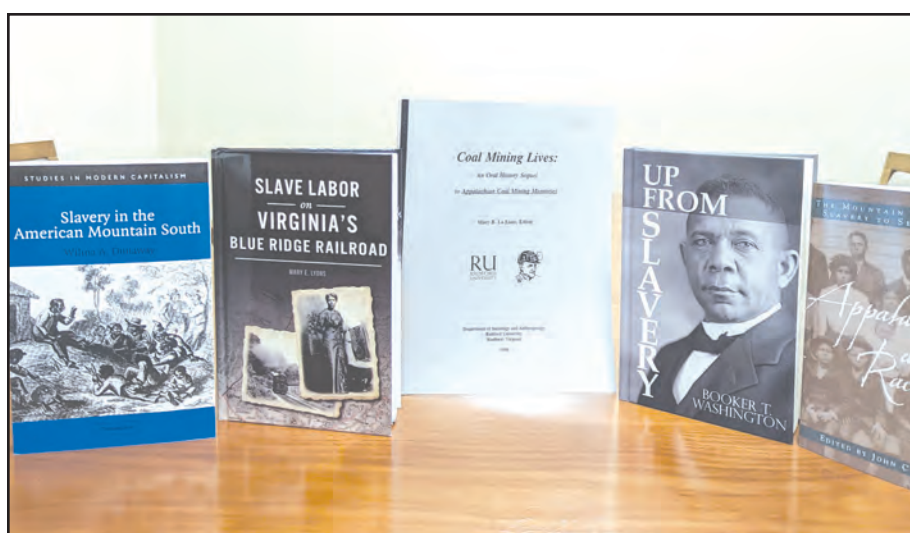
On Thursday, Aug. 11, from 5 to 7

p.m., the Montgomery Museum of Art and History will have an open house in conjunction with its summer Membership Mingle. At 6 p.m. the local NAACP branch will formally present its Black History Collection to the museum, including the newly created history booklets. The event will take place at the museum's new location, 4 East Main St., in Christiansburg. Everyone is welcome to take part in this historic community event.

"We are honored to partner with the Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County Branch of the NAACP to make African American history and culture more accessible to all within the New River Valley," said Casey Jenkins, the museum's executive director.

Deborah Travis, President of the NAACP Branch, said, "This project would not have been possible without the support of the community. We are excited to make these materials available through the museum and embrace the value it will

See **Donation**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**The Montgomery-Floyd-Radford branch of the NAACP has organized an NRV black history book collection that will be presented to the Montgomery Museum of Art and History on Aug. 11. The collection has two parts: 25 books that tell the history of African Americans in the NRV and eight pamphlets that focus more narrowly on the lived experiences of African Americans in Montgomery, Floyd, and Pulaski counties and Radford City.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Artists and garden staff work to place 27 pieces of art in the Hahn Garden Pavilion.**

## Simply Elemental art installation opens Sunday with reception

The seventh-annual Simply Elemental art installation at the Hahn Garden Pavilion will open Sunday, Aug. 7, with a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. and will run through the end of September.

Light refreshments will be provided, sponsored by The Matrix Gallery, Fine American Arts and Crafts. Beer and wine will be available for purchase with cash or card. Cash is preferred.

The opening ceremony begins with remarks and the presentation of awards. At 4:30 p.m., high school and middle school students will offer poetry readings. Robert Filippi will present music at 5 p.m.

The following awards will be presented during the ceremonies thanks to sponsor-

ships from local businesses.

Most Whimsical: sponsored by Original Frameworks; \$200 gift certificate for framing.

Most Creative Use of Materials: sponsored by Miller Off Main St. Galleries; \$200 gift certificate for framing.

Hahn Garden Staff Choice: sponsored by New River Arts and Fiber; \$200 gift certificate.

People's Choice Award: co-sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association; \$100; and by New River Arts and Fiber, \$100 gift certificate. This award will be presented on Sept. 14 at noon at the pavilion in conjunction with David Ferrell's presentation of his art.

## Study: Two million Virginians skip meals or eat less due to unaffordable food prices

CouponBirds recently conducted a survey of 3,500 adults in Virginia ages 18+ to find out how many have skipped meals entirely or cut down on their food portions due to unaffordable food prices. The study found that overall, 31% of adults in Virginia said they have eaten less food as a result of inflated, unaffordable food prices in 2022 (compared to a national average of 42%). This equates to 2,053,745 people across the Old Dominion.

When these figures were compared across states, West Virginia had the greatest percentage (75%) of respondents who said they have eaten less due to unaffordable food costs (1,074,435 people when compared against population data). Comparatively, this figure was lowest in South Dakota and Wyoming (22% of respondents respectively).

Inflation has peaked to a 40-year high, leading to an overall 12% surge in the cost of groceries in the food-at-home sector, as compared to May of last year. From May 2021 to May 2022, this includes a 32.2% increase in the price of eggs; a 14.2% increase in meat, poultry, and fish prices; and an 11.8% increase in the price of dairy products.

Alongside an escalating inflation rate and consumer price increases at the fastest pace since 1981, many people's salaries are not keeping pace with rising costs of living. When it comes to emergency savings and 'rainy day' funds, many Virginians have found that 'rainy day' to be right now, instead of a future financial foresight, due to having to keep households fed, afloat, and secure in a time of economic uncertainty.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Volunteers from Radford will be among those participating in the seventh annual "ReNew the New" regional cleanup effort on Aug. 27. They will meet at Bisset Park, one of five locations for the event.**

## Radford volunteers to meet at Bisset Park for New River cleanup

Volunteers from Radford are among those taking part in the seventh annual "ReNew the New," an annual regional event on Aug. 27 to help keep the New River clean.

They will meet at Bisset Park, one of five locations for the event.

Giles County volunteers will meet at Camp Success in Narrows; Montgomery County volunteers will meet at Whitethorne Boat Launch in McCoy; Pulaski County volunteers will meet at Sheffey Park, in Fairlawn; City of Radford volunteers will meet at Bisset Park, Shelter 3; and Floyd County volunteers will meet at On the Water in Floyd.

Registration for these events is still available at [www.renewthenew.org/projects/](http://www.renewthenew.org/projects/).

Since 2016, the regional ReNew the New Cleanup events have made a significant impact on the watershed. To date, more than 2,500 people have removed more than 32 tons of trash and 1,000 tires from 60 miles of the New River.

The success of these events comes in large part from active support of public and private partnerships across the region. Representatives from local governments, local businesses, advocacy groups,

See **Cleanup**, page 4

## State Fair of Virginia to have more than 350 hours of live entertainment this fall; online ticket sales begin Sept. 1

DOSWELL—This year's State Fair of Virginia will host new acts and returning fan favorites, showcasing more grounds attractions than ever before.

A plethora of musical performances will set the stage during the fair's 7:30 p.m. live concert series. All are included in the cost of fair admission.

Kicking off the State Fair music series on Sept. 23 will be The BRENCORE Allstars Band, an ensemble from Washington, D.C., that will pump up the crowd with an energetic performance of Motown's greatest hits.

On Sept. 24, The Frontmen, consisting of Larry Stewart (Restless Heart), Richie McDonald (Lonestar) and Tim Rushlow (Little Texas), will entertain fairgoers with new and original country music hits.

Country artist Priscilla Block will take the stage on Sept. 25 with her catchy melodies and hit songs, including "Just About Over You."

Sept. 26 will feature Blake Guyre as "The Entertainer," performing a tribute to piano legends Elton John and Billy

Joel, including iconic costumes and visual effects.

Billboard-topping bluegrass/Americana act Nu-Blu will perform their popular hit, Horse Thieves and Moonshiners, on Sept. 27. Tribute band EagleMania will dazzle audiences with the Eagles' greatest hits on Sept. 29.

Rising star and chart-topping songwriter Ernest will take the stage on Sept. 30, and the Junior Sisk Band will perform traditional bluegrass on Oct. 1. Rounding out the fair's concert series on Oct. 2 are The Spinners, one of the most iconic and enduring R&B groups, with well-loved hits like, "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love?" and "Rubberband Man."

The Crooked Road series also returns for another year, featuring musicians from the commonwealth's Heritage Music Trail in Southwest Virginia. On Sept. 23 and 24, Crooked Road artists Erynn Marshall and Carl Jones will perform; Sept. 25, Jackson Cunningham; Sept. 26 and 27, the JAM Band;

See **Fair**, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Aug. 6:

**Book Sale**  
Book sale at the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of books for all ages at reasonable prices.

**PAWS to Read with Derek**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Sign up for a 10-minute time slot to read with a therapy dog. Call the library at 540-552-8246.

**Music on the Lawn: Haze & Dacey**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is the fourth show in the library's Music on the Lawn concert series. Concertgoers can bring chairs and blankets for this free concert that will go on rain or shine.

**Steppin' Out downtown street closures**  
Due to the Steppin' Out street festival in Downtown Blacksburg, the following road closures will be in place until Saturday, Aug. 6 at 11 pm. South Main Street will be closed beginning at the South Main and Washington Street intersection. All northbound traffic will be detoured onto Washington Street. North Main Street will be closed at the entrance to Alumni Mall. All southbound traffic will be detoured onto Turner Street. Draper Road will be closed just past the entrance to the Kent Square parking garage. The garage will be open and available for parking.

## Monday, Aug. 8:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
Regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. at the Radford City Administration Building, 10 Robertson St.

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

## 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 Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

**Talking about Books**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "Whispers from the Steppe" by local author Mary Jacobowski. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

**Homeschool creative writing group**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Teens and tweens can join this new creative writing club to practice their writing and share it with others. The club will practice writing skills with fun and creative prompts, learn about constructive criticism by working with peers, and talk about stories. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

**Radford City School Board meeting**  
The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting and board treat on Aug. 9 at 1 p.m., at the School Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at [www.rcps.org](http://www.rcps.org).

**Summer Food Backpack Program**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Drive-through only at the curb side of the library. The Summer Backpack Program is intended to help families with children and teens stretch their grocery budget. Bags will be filled with nutritious food with one bag per child per week. Funding has been provided by local agencies/churches/civic groups and private donors. This is a drop-in program that each week will feature crafts for the kids in addition to the bag of food. This program is open to residents of Eastern Montgomery County only. For more information call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

## Wednesday, Aug. 10:

**Loops Group**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants should bring their project and join the Loops Group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

**Brown Bag Book Club**  
At the Radford Public Library at noon. Book lovers will discuss the non-

fiction book "Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law" by Mary Roach. September's book selection will be "The Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis.

**Evening book talk**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 6:30 p.m. To be discussed this month is "Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law" by Mary Roach, in-person and virtually.

## Thursday, Aug. 11:

**Montgomery Museum of Art and History open house**  
At the Montgomery Museum of Art and History, 5 to 7 p.m. The open house is in conjunction with the summer membership mingle. At 6 p.m. the Montgomery-Radford-Floyd Branch of the NAACP will formally present its Black History Collection to the museum, including newly created history booklets. The museum's new location is 4 East Main St., Christiansburg. Everyone is welcome.

**Talking about books**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "This is your Mind on Plants" by Michael Pollan. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

**Mario Kart tournament**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Participants will rev up their engines and race while enjoying snacks, activities, and trophies. Call (540) 552-8246 or stop by the desk to register. For racers ages 7-11. Send questions to Racer Sally at [sstauffer@mfrl.org](mailto:sstauffer@mfrl.org).

**Author talk with D.J. Mathews**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 6:30 p.m. Local author D.J. Mathews will talk about her Young Adult book, "Great American Women in Science and Environment." She will also have books for sale.

**Free movie: The Lost City**  
At the Radford Public Library from 6 to 8 p.m. A kidnapped novelist finds herself in an ancient city. Rated PG-13; 92 minutes

## Friday, Aug. 12:

**Potato chip taste test**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 1 p.m. The challenge is to identify flavors or brands of potato chips. Supplies are limited. Best for ages 8 and up.

**Left-handed challenges**  
At the Blacksburg Library at noon. On National Left Handers Day, the challenges include using scissors and painting a picture left-handed. Participants celebrate by using their non-dominant hand.

**Library staff "Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Bean Challenge"**  
Join the Radford Public Library on Facebook Live from 9 to 9:15 a.m. to watch library staff take the Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Bean challenge in preparation for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley's TriWizard Tri-Mile Race. Check out [lvnr.org](http://lvnr.org) for more info.

## Saturday, Aug. 13:

**Mt. Tabor Ruritan fish fry:**  
The Mount Tabor Ruritan Club will hold its August Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m. at Slusser's Chapel Picnic Shelter, 1543 Mount Tabor Rd, Blacksburg. A serving will include fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$12 for carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12, children under 3, free. The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing, and the fish fry will be held rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

**Gathering at the Grange**  
At the Prices Fork Grange Hall, 4248 Price's Fork Rd., from 4 to 8 p.m. The fun will include Food, a 50-50 raffle, musical entertainment (Oldtime, Country and Gospel) from Bob Chew, the Black Twig Pickers, and the New River Valley Boys, and clogging from Appalachian AfterShock. The event is free, but donations to the Grange will be appreciated.

**Movie and a craft**  
At the Christiansburg Library at 10:30 a.m. Join a girl who hears the ocean and a demi-god on an adventure to save the seas all while making a craft.

**Author Event with Ally Shaw**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Ally Shaw, author of "Chasing Tigers in the Dark: Life Lessons of a Fierce Survivor" will discuss how she overcame life's battles to become an author, a motivational speaker, and a fierce survivor. Copies of her book will be available to purchase at the event.

## Saturday, Aug. 13 - Sunday, Aug. 21:

**Marching Virginians band camp**  
The Virginia Tech Marching Virginians will hold their annual band camp from August 13-21 at the Marching Virginians Field on the Virginia Tech Campus. Adjoining neighborhoods may be able to hear the band rehearsals from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on those days. The Blacksburg community is welcome to come out and watch the rehearsals as well.

## Wednesday, Aug. 17:

**American Business Women's Association August luncheon meeting**  
The American Business Women's Association will hold its August luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Drive. Cost is \$14.25. The luncheon will feature the installation of the association's new officers for the 2022-23 year. RSVP by Aug. 15 by contacting Terri Welch at [christiansburg@wineanddesign.com](mailto:christiansburg@wineanddesign.com).

## Ongoing:

**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 a hands-on experience for participants, covering a wide variety of local government functions ranging from fire and rescue to 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 some pantry items is asked to drop them off at the United Way office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

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

### ONLINE AUCTION

**Ends on Thursday August 18th at 4 PM**  
**Building Land for Sale with Mountain Views!**  
**Five Mile Mountain Rd Callaway VA 24067**

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



You have the opportunity to purchase some beautiful land for sale in Callaway VA! There are 2 offerings available - a 22 acre tract and a 15 acre tract. Both have cleared building sites, easy access with driveways in place and gorgeous views. Both tracts are a mix of wooded and cleared land and are in a peaceful, private setting. There is an option to place in forestry land use. Imagine building your dream home with views like these! You can kick back and enjoy the stunning sunrises and sunsets each day. These properties would also be great for recreational use! Very convenient to Floyd, Franklin County, Roanoke, Christiansburg & Blacksburg VA.

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering required on day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase both tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Download Bidder Pack for complete details at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)

**Contact Broker/Auctioneer Matt Gallimore**  
**at 540-239-2585 or [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com);**  
**Or contact Levi Cox Realtor at 540-230-7162 or**  
**[LeviCox87@gmail.com](mailto:LeviCox87@gmail.com)**

**102 S. Locust Street,**  
**Floyd, VA 24091**  
**(540) 745-2005**  
**[VaAuctionPro.com](http://VaAuctionPro.com)**  
**Lic# 2907004059**



**Blue Ridge Land**  
**& Auction Co., Inc**

# New budget gives Virginia's farmers record funding for soil and water conservation

Never-before-seen levels of conservation funding for Virginia's farmers are included in the new state budget. Producers throughout the commonwealth will benefit from expanded cost-share and tax credit opportunities.

Changes to the application for much of this support will also streamline the process for many farmers.

"We are very excited about the historic level of cost-share funding for farmers in the new budget, and grateful to the General Assembly for providing it," said Matt Wells, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. "The governor has prioritized meeting Virginia's Bay water quality goals, and with this money comes the responsibility to provide mean-

ingful results.

"We also know that we cannot meet our goals without true partnerships with our Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the agricultural community. This includes engagement, open lines of communication and mutual trust. We look forward to working with all of our partners to support agricultural best management practices across the commonwealth."

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, or VACS, is funded at a record high for the 2022-2023 program year with \$123 million.

VACS is the state program that helps farms implement a range of conservation practices that protect water quality. By improving animal and soil

health and reducing nutrient waste, these practices also help increase farm profitability — a key issue for producers as inflation rises.

DCR administers the state cost-share program in partnership with Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts.

"Virginia's soil and water conservation districts are the one-stop shops for state cost-share sign-up and practice implementation," said Dr. Kendall Tyree, executive director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. "We applaud the governor and the General Assembly for this record show of support for voluntary conservation efforts and look forward to serving Virginia's agricultural community in our district offices."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**A Virginia farmer plants crops using a no-till drill. No-till farming is one of many practices for which producers can receive cost-share funding. (Photo courtesy of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.)**

Farmers may receive up to \$300,000 in state cost-share reimbursement for more than 70 best management practices including cover crops, nutrient management plans, forested or herbaceous buffers, animal waste systems, and livestock stream-exclusion systems

Many of these practices can often be funded through a combination of state and federal funds, reducing the farmer's expense to less than 25% of

the total cost.

Also available to Virginia's farmers this year are up to \$25,000 in state tax credits for fully implemented agricultural best management practices and up to \$50,000 in tax credits for best management practices on lands with an approved resource management plan.

To apply for funding or tax credits, farmers should contact their local soil and water conservation districts.

Farmers in many localities will now find it simpler to apply for funding to support multiple nutrient management and/or cover crop best practices.

Under what is sometimes called a "whole farm approach," a producer only has to submit one cost-share application to cover all of the nutrient management practices, or all the cover crop practices, established on as much acreage as desired.

## Radford's Hannah Ruth Miller graduates from NRCC practical nursing program

Radford resident Hannah Ruth Miller was among the New River Community College students who graduated from the practical nursing program on August 1.

Dr. Peter Anderson, NRCC Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, addressed graduates at the ceremony. Christiansburg's Stacey Crowder and Daniel Longoria were chosen by their peers to give the student address.

NRCC's certificate program prepares students to qualify as contributing members of a health care team, rendering patient care in a variety of health service facilities. These students are now eligible to take the Virginia Board of Nursing examination leading to licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Hannah Ruth Miller**

# Warm Hearth Foundation's employee development fund awards scholarships to employees

By Ed McMinn  
Editor, News Messenger

BLACKSBURG — Warm Hearth Foundation's Employee Growth and Development fund has awarded a total of \$8,500 in scholarships to four Warm Hearth employees for fall 2022.

Receiving the scholarships, which ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,500, were Megan Harrell (Showalter Center dining): \$2,500, pursuing her Master's Degree in marketing and Spanish at Virginia Tech;

Brent Sears (Showalter Center life enrichment): \$1,000, growing/improving his skills in his career path in life enrichment by taking the National Activity Professional Training Course through Activity Director University, which includes a 75-hour training

course, a 12-hour CE course, and a Certification Exam; Jonathan Tate (Human Resources): \$2,500, pursuing his B.S. in business administration at Liberty University; and Brandon Wells (Kroontje Health Care Center Dining): \$2,500, pursuing his B.S. in physics at Virginia Tech.

This is the third year the foundation has been able to help fund employees' academic and professional goals and to date it has provided \$29,000 to 19 employees.

Warm Hearth Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Tom Pierce said, "We were very impressed by the educational programs the applicants are pursuing, and we wish each of them the best with their studies and endeavors. The foundation is proud to support village employees and let them

know just how important they are to our success."

"I am very thankful for the opportunity to further my education," said Jonathan Tate, who was recently promoted as a human resources generalist from his former position as activity director.

Brent Sears, Life Enrichment Associate in Showalter Center (SC), (pictured), said he was very excited that his employer is so generous. "I didn't know how I was going to be able to pay for this certification, and these funds helped tremendously," he said.

*Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.*

## Christiansburg's Stacey Lynn Crowder graduates from NRCC practical nursing program

Christiansburg resident Stacey Lynn Crowder was among the New River Community College students who graduated from the practical nursing program on August 1.

Along with Daniel Longoria, Crowder was chosen by her peers to give the student address.

Dr. Peter Anderson, NRCC Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, addressed graduates at the ceremony.

NRCC's certificate program prepares students to qualify as contributing members of a health care team, rendering patient care in a variety of health service facilities. These



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Stacey Lynn Crowder**

students are now eligible to take the Virginia Board of Nursing examination leading to licensing as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Left to right, Alia Zaro, life enrichment manager; Brett Sears, life enrichment associate and scholarship recipient; and Alison Trigg, administrator, all of Showalter Center.**

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

# Marketplace

[ourvalley.org](http://ourvalley.org)

**For Sale - Misc**

**FOR SALE**

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

**Help Wanted**

**Part Time Newspaper Production Help**

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 [lhurst@ourvalley.org](mailto:lhurst@ourvalley.org)

**CEMETERY MAINTENANCE POSTIONS DUE TO PROMOTIONS, 2 POSTIONS AVAILABLE**

- Full time position
- Comprehensive Benefits Package, Health Insurance, Dental, Vision plus more,
- Great 401K Retirement plan
- Uniforms Furnished
- Work Year Around No Layoffs
- Local Work, Home Every Night
- Will Train
- Starting Pay \$13.00 Hr.
- Yearly Merit Raises
- Paid Vacation
- Advancement
- Have A Career Not Just A Job

CALL PAUL SURRETT FOR CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEW  
540-674-5231 Office, Cell 540-818-0837

A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

To place your ad, call 389-9355

SELL IT FAST

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

# VT wildlife conservation students make an impact in their field

Maggie Thomas and Gil Houston are scouring the backwoods of Southwest Virginia for an elusive and helpful predator that hasn't been seen in the state for over 30 years. Julia Coan is discovering that the uncommon green salamander exists farther to the east in Virginia than previously known. And Nathan Ferguson is finding more efficient ways to collect fish for experiments.

For students in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment, summer field research is not only about hands-on learning, it's also about making a contribution to conservation knowledge. With their investigations of pine snakes, green salamanders, and minnows, these undergraduate students in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation are already making an impact in their field.

"The animals are cool and we want to learn about their natural history, but the main benefit is seeing what we're doing for the students and their career preparation," said Assistant Professor Kevin Hamed, who is directing the students' research. "Whatever your interest — fish, snakes, amphibians — our department can offer opportunities for students to research something they care about."

The pine snake (aka bullsnake) is a non-venomous ground-dweller that helps control rodent populations and small animals that carry tick-borne disease. The last time it was spotted in Virginia was in 1989. But seniors Maggie Thomas and Gil Houston believe they can change that.

"Finding this snake would be a breakthrough," said Houston, a wildlife conservation major from Salem. "If we can find their habitats and under-

stand their distribution and behavior, we can help conserve them as important natural predators of rodents and other small animals."

Their work, funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, is providing an intensive — and sometimes grueling — exposure to field research. After identifying the best potential habitats for pinesnakes using satellite imagery, Houston and Thomas hike for hours into the woods of Roanoke and Craig counties, where they set up and check elaborate, non-invasive traps designed to photograph the snakes.

The contraptions consist of a series of drift fences that guide the snakes toward 5-gallon buckets affixed with motion sensor cameras. As the snake passes through holes in the bucket, a motion sensor camera snaps its photo. The students have also placed cover boards in prime spots, with the hope that pinesnakes will seek shelter beneath them.

"I have always had an interest in reptiles, es-

pecially snakes, since I was very young," said Thomas, a wildlife conservation major from Frederick, Maryland. "Snakes often get a bad rap, and through this project we can spread awareness of the importance of this particular snake and encourage more people to view these creatures in a positive light."

The students are also spreading awareness with flyers and a website that explain their research and encourage people to report pine snake sightings.

Only weeks into their research, their efforts have attracted many timber rattlesnakes, copperheads, lizards, chipmunks, skunks, rabbits, and a few curious black bears who stuck their paws into the buckets.

"Each day we have the motto, 'Today's the day,'" said Hamed. "We just have to be patient. We are sampling in great habitats and tracking down public leads. These snakes are incredible members of our ecosystem and I would like to think that they still exist in Virginia."

## Fair

from page 1

Sept. 28 and 29, Jim Oct. 1, Mac Traynham. Lloyd; and Sept. 30 and "We're excited to offer

## News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355  
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

### Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

over 350 hours of live entertainment in 2022," said Marlene Jolliffe, the fair's executive director. "All attractions are free with a paid gate admission. The variety of music, shows, rides, and animal attractions will provide nonstop fun for fairgoers."

New attractions include The FireGuy, who was recognized by the Guinness World Records for the most torches extinguished by fire-eating in 60 seconds. He'll light things up with fire breathing and eye-catching tricks Sept. 23-27. Also slated to perform is the Funny Waiter, who will amuse guests with his humorous show featuring quick-paced plate spin-

ning, unicycling, and fire juggling Sept. 28 through Oct. 2.

The Triple Crown Circus will showcase three daily performances featuring jaw-dropping aerial stunts, and fairgoers can visit the new Otter Adventure attraction, an interactive water show featuring curious, playful otters.

Returning crowd-pleasers include the racing pigs of Rosaire's Royal Racers, master chainsaw carver Ben Risney, and two nights of Revenge Roustabout Rodeo's professional bull riding, bronc riding, and barrel racing on Sept. 26 and 27 at 7 p.m.

And, as always, guests can feast their eyes on

scale-busting produce. The giant pumpkin and watermelon weigh-ins will begin at noon on Saturday, Sept. 24, in the Blue Ribbon Tent. Seating will be available for those who want to see if this year's growers can break state records.

General parking is free. Premium parking on the paved lot behind the Farm Bureau Center is available for advance online purchase. The parking passes are valid only for the day of purchase.

Online ticket sales begin Sept. 1. Visit StateFairVa.org to purchase tickets and to view updates on the fair schedule, concert series and free entertainment. Fair in-

formation is also available on Facebook at Facebook.com/StateFairVa and Instagram at statefairva.

The 2022 State Fair of Virginia will run from Sept. 23 through Oct. 2. The fair is held each fall at its permanent home at The Meadow Event Park in Caroline County.

The event celebrates the best of Virginia's past, present and future through scholarship initiatives, creative programming, and a focus on the commonwealth's agriculture and natural resources industries. Virginia Farm Bureau Holding Corp. operates the fair and is a subsidiary of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

## Cleanup

from page 1

student organizations, and citizens meet quarterly as part of the New River Watershed Roundtable. The roundtable helps to coordinate and

plan for these events, along with discussion and coordination of other regional watershed priorities and initiatives.

The public is always welcome to attend Watershed Roundtable meetings to become more engaged in the region's water quality.

## Donation

from page 1

bring to our community."

The collection was curated by the Education Committee in consultation with curators of local history museums and with history and sociology professors from Virginia Tech and Radford University. This collection has come to life through the generous contributions of community members who purchased and donated books from a designated book list. Generous support from these donors also allowed the Education Committee to purchase and acquire rare literature and cover the cost of printing and binding of certain booklets.

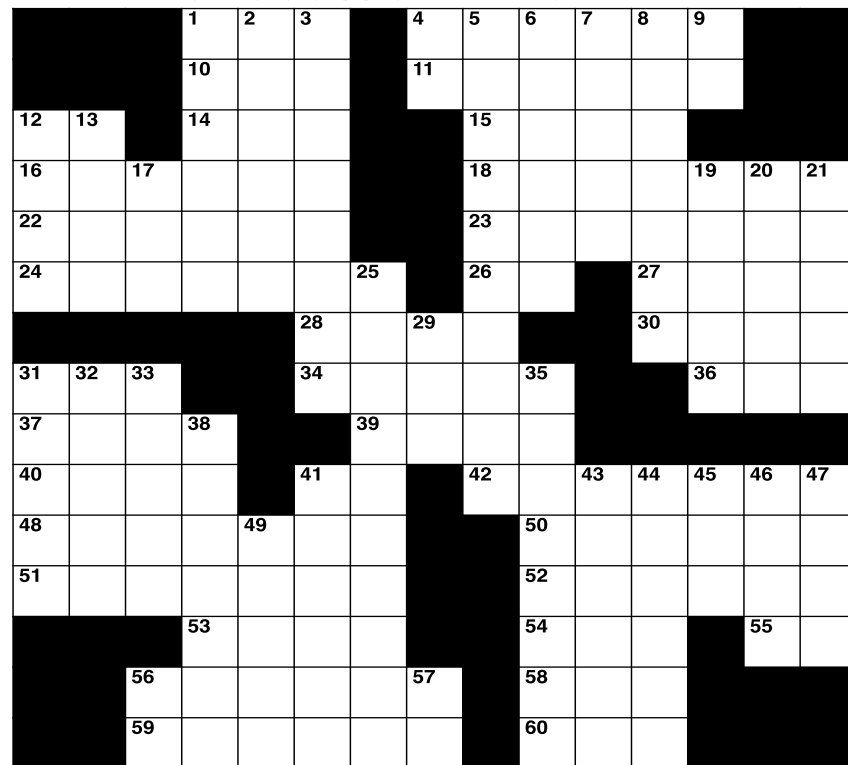
The subjects of the collection of 25 books include coal mining, local education, slavery and segregation, mas-

sive resistance, and reconciliation within the region. In addition to printed material there will be QR codes to access documented oral histories.

The collection of eight booklets focuses more narrowly on the African-American experience in Montgomery, Floyd, and Pulaski counties and Radford City.

The following quotation from Lonnie Brown, founding director of the National Museum of African History and Culture, is printed on the bookplate inside each book: "There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Opposite of on
  - 4. Creator
  - 10. No seats available
  - 11. About springtime
  - 12. Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
  - 14. Automobile
  - 15. A matchup
  - 16. Porous volcanic rock
  - 18. Utter repeatedly
  - 22. Not written in any key
  - 23. Revolved
  - 24. Archival
  - 26. Within
  - 27. Smoker's accessory
  - 28. Disfigure
  - 30. Primordial matter
  - 31. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
  - 34. Kisses
  - 36. Some is iced
  - 37. A way to derive
  - 39. Unaccompanied by others
  - 40. Discontinued Google app
  - 41. Tony B. left his heart there
  - 42. Condiment
  - 48. Ancient Italian city
  - 50. One who distributes payoff money
  - 51. Guarantees
  - 52. Highly decorative
  - 53. Strike with a stick
  - 54. Pie \_\_\_ mode
  - 55. Spanish be
  - 56. Glued
  - 58. A way to drench
  - 59. Part of the body
  - 60. Changes the color
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Passerine birds
  - 2. Noisy quarrel
  - 3. The front arm or leg of an animal
  - 4. Early multimedia
  - 5. Golden years
  - 6. Large mollusk
  - 7. Small arm of the sea
  - 8. Persian jurisdiction
  - 9. Atomic #81
  - 12. From end to end
  - 13. Adorable
  - 17. Ma
  - 19. Nearly falling
  - 20. Portable conical tent
  - 21. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
  - 25. Fish with high dorsal fins
  - 29. Equal (prefix)
  - 31. Aquatic plant genus
  - 32. Choppers
  - 33. Hand parts
  - 35. Region bordering the sea
  - 38. Well-liked
  - 41. Nap
  - 43. It's used to make beer
  - 44. Related on the father's side
  - 45. Senior officer
  - 46. Delicacy (archaic)
  - 47. Figures
  - 49. A way to take away
  - 56. Beloved sandwich \_\_\_ & J
  - 57. Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

# YOUR LOCAL NEWS

## JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

# News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

**DIGITAL ONLY**

One Year Digital Subscription \$29.00

**DIGITAL & PRINT**

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription \$72.00

**PRINT ONLY**

Yearly Print Only Subscription \$45.00 Radford \$54.00 Virginia \$58.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at [montcova.com](http://montcova.com) or mail to address below

### SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER, P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

## OBITUARIES

## White, Dana McCoy

Dana McCoy White, 91, of McCoy, died on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at her home.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1930, to the late William Everett and Minnie Sue Gertrude Albert McCoy.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Ellwood Stewart White, Jr.; five brothers, Donald E., Douglas E., Aubrey C., Arnold A., and Jessie L. McCoy; and a

sister, Reba M. Porterfield. She was a founding member of Community Christian Church.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Rita W. and Steve Lay of Kingsport, Tenn., Rose W. and Frayne Bentley of Auburn, Ga.; sons and daughters-in-law, Rodney K. and Linda White, of Blountville, Tenn., Roger N. and Penny White, of Blacksburg; grandchildren Matthew

(Stephanie) Lay, Travis (Jodie) White, Jessica (Jason) Brickey, Brandon (Jess) White, and Parker White; seven great-grandchildren, Straley, Isabelle, Colby, Reed, Eli, Hannah, and Caleb; a brother-in-law, Charles White; special nieces Delores Spencer and Linda Scott; as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to the best

neighbors, Gail and Doug Williams, and to her many caregivers.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, at Community Christian Church with Mr. Chris Brandow and Mr. Chris Keene officiating. Interment followed at Harless Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blue Ridge Christian Camp, P.O. Box 428, McCoy, VA 24111.

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We 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: fbradford.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

## 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 Sonaf Frank, 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. 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 (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: 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 for program listings, 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 for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

## EPISCOPAL

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

## LUTHERAN

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

## Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## From Violence to Victory

Read Revelation 15:1 through 18:24

When our daughters were small, they enjoyed watching cartoons at their grandparents' house since we didn't have a TV. We noticed the girls' behavior would worsen after such sessions. They would fight and hit each other.

Violence portrayed in all forms of media—TV programs, movies, video games, the news—has dramatically increased in the past twenty years. Watching combat and killing desensitizes viewers. Violent crimes have risen.

John's visions must have been like watching a wild movie, which might have overwhelmed this first-century saint. But the "violence" he recorded had a divine

purpose: to carry out God's just judgment of sin and Satan.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (Revelation 16:17).

The end times will be devastating for the wicked. We must continue to be overcomers. Our personal battles and victories foreshadow God's final one. Look to Him for deliverance. When Jesus returns, He will usher in peace.

Prayer Suggestion: Lord, help us stand strong and stay true to You.

Quicklook: Revelation 16:9-21

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

Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email lutherememorialblacksburg@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.oslccburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslccchristiansburg 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@stmlc.us or visit our Website 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. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

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

## UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

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

## WESLEYAN

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

# 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 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.

**PATTERSON DRIVE BRIDGE WORK IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO DETOUR TRAFFIC NEAR ROANOKE COUNTY LINE** – Through Sept. 2, Route 669 (Patterson Drive) will be closed to through traffic due to work on the bridge over Bottom Creek. The bridge is located about 0.1 mile west of the Roanoke County line near Route 669's intersection with Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Traffic can detour around the closure using Route 607 (Bottom Creek Road) and Route 637 (Bottom Creek Lane). Electronic

message boards will be in place to alert drivers to the upcoming bridge closure.

**ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION** – Road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School are underway. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flagging forces.

## 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 in progress. 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 a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The 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 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. Estimated to reopen August 11.

**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 Sept. 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 has been underway. All lanes now open and will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound is underway this summer during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers can expect rough pavement. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

## Virginia Tech chosen as one of the leading institutions of new Build America Center

By Courtney Sakry

Virginia Tech has been chosen as one of five institutions to lead the new Build America Center.

Funded by a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the center will offer educational programs, information, and resources for transportation agencies in all areas of alternative and innovative project financing and delivery.

The University of Maryland will serve as national lead of the center while Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Purdue, and Stanford contribute as regional partners. Virginia Tech will oversee the eastern regional center with Michael Garvin, professor of civil and environmental engineering, acting as its director.

“Quite simply, the status quo is not getting it done,” Garvin said. “We must employ more effective delivery, procurement, and financing strategies to rebuild and expand our nation’s transportation infrastructure. The Build America Center’s overall mission is to do just this through education, training, and research.

“Its regional structure enhances our accessibility to public agencies, and it allows us to tailor programming based on regional needs and characteristics. Yet we still maintain synergy among all of the regions to share insights and disseminate new knowledge and practices.”

The center will act as a knowledge hub and go-to resource for state departments of transportation and other public agencies seeking alternative financing and so-

lutions for transportation infrastructure projects. It also will be a valuable resource for transportation officials to access training for financing and project delivery. The center plans to provide cutting-edge research tools and serve as a collaborative environment to further guide advances in these areas.

Garvin explained that the eastern regional center will coordinate forums such as webinars and peer exchanges as well as offer technical assistance for transportation officials during project planning and procurement. The center’s research also will focus on supporting public agency decision-making through projects that identify best practices or develop specific guidance or tools.

“For instance, if any agency seeks support about risk assessment and allocation in a public-private partnership project, then the center ultimately should be able to meet this need either through training, advisory services, or a decision-support tool,” said Garvin.

The center held a kickoff meeting in April that highlighted its vision and current initiatives. This meeting provided the opportunity for stakeholders to build strong partnerships and for transportation officials to discuss implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to deliver crucial transportation projects. The \$1.2 trillion law includes unprecedented funding for infrastructure projects and grant programs to support project sponsors seeking to explore alternative project delivery and financing.



## Virginia blacksmiths call on past traditions to keep the art alive

For more than three millennia, blacksmiths were virtually indispensable.

As masters of fire, iron and steel, blacksmiths were responsible for crafting and repairing everyday items essential for life in ancient times through the Great Depression. These items included hand tools; bolts, nails and screws, and household items such as cutlery, furniture, lighting fixtures and tableware, and agricultural tools such as axes, hoes and plows.

But as is the case with many historical occupations, man was replaced by machine during the Industrial Revolution. With factories pumping out mass-produced iron- and steel-based products midway through the 18th century, the need for blacksmiths virtually disappeared.

Today, blacksmiths in Virginia and across the U.S. primarily are hobbyists.

Where the trade used to require blacksmiths to make a wide variety of goods, most full-time professionals now specialize in creating items within a single category. Farriers are the most common example of a modern specialist, using blacksmithing techniques to make horseshoes.

Other professional blacksmiths, explained Jay Hatfield and Kevin Clark, president and vice president of the Old Dominion Blacksmithing Association, specialize in creating decorative and ornamental pieces or repairing them. Items in this category often include home decor and kitchenware, wares for Renaissance fairs and Revolutionary War and Civil War reenactments, and custom fencing and gates.

The number of professional smiths in Virginia is slight, and that is reflected in the membership of the commonwealth’s blacksmithing association. Just 2% of the association’s members are professionals, and the remainder are hobbyists, including Hatfield and Clark.

Blacksmithing can be learned at trade

schools, but associations and guilds also play a critical role in keeping the craft and its traditions alive.

The Old Dominion Blacksmithing Association emphasizes education, and members learn how to smith through monthly demonstrations and hands-on training events. The association also fosters collaboration with members collectively sharing their knowledge to help others hone their skills.

Hatfield said that blacksmithing skills combined with a do-it-yourself attitude are extremely valuable, especially in rural communities such as his own in Pittsylvania County.

He said that as agricultural equipment and implements get older, parts become harder to find. Often blacksmiths are the only individuals skilled enough to repair the parts or make new ones.

“I think blacksmiths will always have a place in the future,” Hatfield said.

With origins dating back to roughly 1500 B.C., the blacksmithing process can be made as easy as a smith wants it to be.

“There are many smiths around the world whose forges consist of a hole in the ground that contains their charcoal and a tube that goes under the fire or to the side ... and two rocks,” Clark said. “The rocks just have to be harder than the metal.”

To create a functional forge, blacksmiths simply need a fuel container and a way to cycle air into the bottom or sides of the container to produce a hotter flame. Smiths also need something to hammer on, something to hammer with, and an instrument to hold hot metals.

Forges usually utilize coal, charcoal or propane, and since each produces carbon monoxide, forges should be set up in a well-ventilated area.

Beginner forge kits typically start around \$100 while more sophisticated configurations can cost thousands.

Submit letters  
to the editor to  
[editor@ourvalley.org](mailto:editor@ourvalley.org)

[www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)

# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Big South Conference losing Campbell

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

The college sports landscape keeps changing, and Wednesday, Campbell University announced it was leaving the Big South Conference to join the Colonial Athletic Conference, effective July 1, 2023.

Radford University remains a Big South member. The Big South Conference Council of Chief Executive Officers issued the following statement following the announcement of Campbell's decision to leave the conference.

"Today, the members of the Council of Chief Executive Officers unanimously reaffirmed and reasserted their commitment to the Big South and the values that since 1983 have formed the foundation of one of America's most storied athletic conferences," the statement read. "While change presently seems to be the one constant in collegiate sports, the Big South Conference members stand firm in their continued support of individual and institutional integrity, devotion to team, and top-level amateur competition. Grit, relentless tenacity, sportsmanship, and academic success for all student-athletes undergird our traditional vision of winning, and that vision will carry our conference forward deep into the future."

"The Big South Conference membership is united by a desire to work together closely during this era of NCAA transformation. We will make each other better in the process and, most importantly, we will provide our most precious constituents — our student-athletes — with outstanding educational and athletic opportu-

nities that will benefit them for a lifetime."

This comes less than eight months after Hampton University also announced it was leaving the Big South for the Colonial Athletic Conference.

Campbell will remain a member of the Big South Conference for the 2022-2023 season before making the move. Campbell's wrestling program will remain a member of the Southern Conference.

The addition of Campbell in 2023 will increase CAA's membership to 14 schools, joining new members North Carolina A&T, Hampton, Monmouth, and Stony Brook as schools that have all joined in the last year. CAA Football will consist of 15 teams beginning in 2023.

The conference encompasses many of the nation's largest metropolitan areas with a geographic footprint that stretches from Boston to Charleston. The conference has produced 18 national team champions in five different sports and 33 individual national champions.

Acting Campbell University Director of Athletics Hannah Bazemore called the move "one that will be exceptional for our institution. I would like to thank Commissioner Joe D'Antonio and the board of directors in the CAA for extending this invitation and giving Campbell University, our student-athletes, coaches, and staff this tremendous opportunity. It's an exciting time to be at Campbell," Bazemore said. "It's our goal to give our student-athletes and coaches an opportunity to compete among the nation's leaders, and joining the CAA at this time affords us this opportunity."

Campbell University Athletics is home to more than 600 student-athletes competing in 21 Division I sports.

Campbell joined NCAA Division I in 1977 and became a charter member when the Big South Conference was formed in 1983. Campbell joined the Atlantic Sun Conference in the summer of 1994 and competed in the ASUN 17 years before returning to the Big South in the summer of 2011.

After a five-decade absence, Campbell resumed football competition in 2008 as a member of the Pioneer Football League. Campbell moved up to competition in Big South football in 2018.

"We are excited to welcome Campbell University as the newest member of the Colonial Athletic Association," CAA Commissioner Joe D'Antonio said. "Campbell is an outstanding academic institution that features a successful and competitive athletic program. Both of these attributes fit perfectly into the conference's vision that calls for our membership to work together to advance nationally competitive athletic programs — coupled with outstanding academic programs — that empower student-athletes as whole persons to strive at the highest level in every aspect of their lives."

In the CAA are the College of Charleston, the University of Delaware, Drexel University, Elon University, Hampton University, Hofstra University, Monmouth University, North Carolina A&T University, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Northeastern University, Stony Brook University, Towson University, and William & Mary University.

Football-only programs in the conference are the University of Albany, Villanova University, the University of Richmond, and the University of Rhode Island.

## Former Christiansburg runner Bailey Knowles to coach cross country at her alma mater

Bailey Knowles was a two-time state qualifier in cross country at Christiansburg High School and then set several school records at Concord University. This week, she was hired to be the new girls cross-country coach at her alma mater.

She applied for the position because of her immense passion for running and the sport.

"I started running when I was in fourth grade and have loved it ever since. Succeeding at the high school and collegiate levels, I know what it takes and understand the position the runners are in. I can then relate to my runners and coach them the best I can," she said.

In 2019, her senior year at Concord, Knowles was Honorable Mention All-Mountain East Conference in the 10,000-meter run and placed third at the MEC championships with a personal-record time of 40:07.

She is also Concord's indoor school record holder in the 3,000-meter run (10:36.82) and the 5,000-meter run (18:36.88). She set the school 3,000-meter record at the VT Challenge and broke Concord's 5,000-meter record at the VMI Winter Relays. She placed fifth in the 5,000-meters at the MEC Championships.

As a coach, she hopes to bring some of that past inspiration, excitement, and positive atmosphere to the kids and the job.

"Coaches can impact a team in so many ways, especially female coaches," Knowles said. "I'm excited to be a female head coach, allowing me to relate to being a girl runner and everything that comes with it. I've had the opportunity to be coached by great people, and I can't wait to emulate their qualities plus adding my own personality," she said.

Returning to Christiansburg to coach, Knowles said, will allow her to give back

to the program that contributed to her success in running.

"I have so much pride in my career as a Blue Demon and realize just how well this program prepared me to take my running to the collegiate level at Concord University," she said. "This program helped to instill the qualities of hard work, building a team atmosphere, overcoming hardships, dedication, and time management. It gave me what I needed to have fun while also being competitive."

As with any sports program, there's always an adjustment when a new coach joins. Knowles has kept up with the program and some of the runners.

"We have some veterans who will be a great influence on their younger teammates," she said. "Overall, all our runners are creating a great, supportive team atmosphere to encourage success among everyone. Knowles had been teaching at Christiansburg Elementary but will concentrate this year on cross country."



FILE PHOTO

Bailey Knowles excelled in running at Christiansburg High School and then at Concord University. Now, she will coach the cross-country program at CHS.

**game time**  
 ALL TIME SUPERBOWL

**ATTENTION:**  
**ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS**

Kids Bowl 2 games a Day Free this Summer

Go To [www.KidsBowlFree.com/NRV](http://www.KidsBowlFree.com/NRV)

1. Go to the Website above to register each child
2. Receive the FREE Bowling Passes each week by email
3. Come and Enjoy Bowling This Summer in Air Conditioned Comfort

Registered children receive Certificates to Bowl 2 Games a Day this Summer

575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg  
 540-382-5525 • [www.nrvsuperbowl.biz](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.biz)

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

OFF	ARTIST	
SRO	VERNAL	
SC	CAR	TILT
PUMICE	ITERATE	
ATONAL	ROTATED	
NEMESIS	EN	PIPE
	MAIM	YLEM
THP	BISES	TEA
REAP	LONE	
ALLO	SPT	TABASCO
POMPEII	BAGMAN	
ASSURES	ORNATE	
LASH	ALAE	ES
PASTED	RET	
BREAST	DYE	

**ADVERTISE!**

Send community news and photos to community news @ourvalley.org

Want to stay up to date on local sports?

[www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)

# Christiansburg's Self commits to RU

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Mason Self had just won the Roanoke-Salem Baseball Hall of Fame High School baseball player of the year award when he decided to give Radford University coach Alex Guerra a phone call.

A junior first baseman, Self announced his intentions to play for RU following his graduation.

Guerra was familiar with Self after recruiting him earlier this year as an assistant at James Madison University. This past June, Guerra was named RU's seventh head coach in program history after spending seven seasons in Harrisonburg.

Before his time at JMU, Guerra was a part of Joe Raccuia's staff at Radford where he had served the Highlanders as an assistant coach since 2013. At Radford, he was the team's lead hitting coach and recruiting coordinator while working closely with the catchers on a day-to-day basis.

The Wantagh, N.Y. native oversaw the development of six all-conference position players, including a pair of selections in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft and Radford's first-ever nominee for the Johnny Bench Award, given annually to the top catcher in Division I.

Self chose RU over JMU and Longwood.

The past month has been a whirlwind for the rising senior who finished the year with a .569 batting average with nine home runs, 49 RBI's and nine steals. On the mound, he also recorded a 2-0 record with 39 strikeouts.

He was named all-state on a team that was unbeaten in River Ridge District play and marched into the state playoffs before losing to Liberty Christian Academy. Then late last week, Self was named the 2022 all-county/all-city baseball player of the year.

# Radford University basketball releases non-conference schedules

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

The Radford University men and women's basketball teams will face several top programs out of the conference this coming season.

With 13 new players on the roster, the men will have a preseason exhibition against Mary Baldwin on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at the Carilion Clinic Court inside the Dedmon Center. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

The squad will then kick off the regular season with back-to-back litmus tests on the road at Marquette (Nov. 7) and Notre Dame (Nov. 10). The Highlanders have never played Marquette, but they did earn a 63-60 victory over the Fighting Irish in their lone meeting on Nov. 14, 2018.

Radford returns to the NRV for home games against Bridgewater State University (Nov. 14) and Averett University (Nov. 16) before heading to Williamsburg for a tournament that includes clashes with Army (Nov. 20) and William & Mary (Nov. 23).

Radford will then play a third straight road game, taking on Elon on their court for the first time since the 2017-18 season.

Two of the season's most anticipated home contests arrive in December as Radford hosts N.C. Central on Thursday, Dec. 1, and George Washington on Sunday, Dec. 4.

A four-game road swing begins on Dec. 10 at VMI, followed by a Dec. 14 showdown with Virginia Commonwealth University. The trip continues at Eastern Kentucky

on Dec. 17 to complete a home-and-home with the Colonels, and then non-conference play comes to a close at Kansas State on Dec. 21.

The Lady Highlanders' 12-game non-conference slate includes one preseason exhibition, five regular season home games to be played on the Carilion Clinic Court at the Dedmon Center as well as six road matchups.

"We are really excited to release our non-conference schedule," said women's head coach Mike McGuire. "We believe this year's schedule will prepare us for Big South Conference play in a lot of ways. We are excited to open the season at Kentucky as well as competing against Power 5 opponents in Cincinnati and Clemson. We have more non-conference home games than in years past and will play some great opponents in UNC Wilmington, the College of Charleston, and Liberty."

Radford fans will get their first look at the Lady Highlanders on Wednesday, Nov. 2, when the team hosts Roanoke College for an exhibition. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

The regular season begins with a huge test on the road for Radford on Monday, Nov. 7, when the Lady Highlanders travel to Lexington, Ky. to face the reigning SEC Tournament champions Kentucky Wildcats. Just a couple days later the Lady Highlanders return home to host Emory & Henry on Thursday, Nov. 10.

From there, the RU women have two more road trips before an extended stay in the Dedmon Center. The first trip will be to Cincin-

nati on Sunday, Nov. 13. The Lady Highlanders and the Bearcats last met back in 2000, the only meeting between the two squads.

The Radford women will then make a trip to UNC Greensboro on Wednesday, Nov. 16. The historic series between the Highlanders and Spartans dates back all the way to when the two teams were both in the Big South in 1993.

Once the team returns from Greensboro, N.C., the Lady Highlanders will have four straight games on the home court. On Tuesday, Nov. 22, they host Bluefield State for their second home game of the season. At the end of that week on Sunday, Nov. 27, they will face UNC Wilmington in a rematch of last season's exciting 51-50 Highlanders' victory over the Seahawks.

As the calendar flips from November to December, the Radford women will play host to a pair of games on their home court. On Wednesday, Nov. 30, they will face the high-octane offense of College of Charleston.

Then, on Sunday, Dec. 4, a former Big South rivalry is renewed as Radford and Liberty meet for the 71st time in program history. The Dec. 4 game will be part of a doubleheader with the Radford men's basketball program.

The Lady Highlanders will finish off the non-conference slate with three straight games on the road. On Thursday, Dec. 15, Radford will head to a brand-new Division I member in Queens (NC).

Radford will then head to Greenville, S.C., for a rematch with Furman on Dec. 18. The team's final tune-up before Big South play comes at ACC opponent Clemson on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

# CHS pitcher Nate Hall wins Hall of Fame scholarship



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

This past week, Christiansburg pitcher Nate Hall (right) received the Posey Oyler scholarship from Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame vice president Gary Walthall. Oyler was the first president of the baseball Hall of Fame in 1991 and served until his death in 2008.

# Hollifield cooking at backer for Hokies

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Dax Hollifield admits he came back to Blacksburg this season because of unfinished business, but it was his culinary skills that took center stage during the ACC media days last month.

The 6-1, 219-pound senior from Shelby N.C., said his go-to-dish is chicken parm. "Honestly, to make anything good, you just add a bunch of butter," he laughed.

The follow-up question: "Is it harder to bake a multi-layer cake or read a triple-option flex?"

"Oh, definitely the cake, honestly," he said. "If you don't cook it long enough, it won't be cooked through the middle, and then it will just fall apart. With a triple option, there are only so many

things you can do. When it comes to a cake, there's a bunch of outcomes that can go wrong. Definitely. If you don't whip the batter enough, if you don't. I don't know. If the oven isn't cooked at the right temperature, there's a lot of things that can go wrong."

Last season, Hollifield played in all 13 games, starting 12 at middle linebacker, leading the team with 92 tackles including 44 solos, nine tackles for loss, and 4.5 sacks.

He reached the career 200-tackle mark after leading the team with 10 tackles including a sack (-7.0 yards) at West Virginia (9/18).

But seriously, Hollifield has used the term "unfinished" several times. "I came here to win, and I feel like I haven't done that yet here," he said. "I

want to set this place, this new regime, this program in the right direction with my last year and set my legacy off right. I want to go out on a good note and have a great season this year."

Hollifield has been called the leader of the Hokie defenses, which was one of the best defenses in the league last year. That defensive way of thinking was what fired him up when Virginia Tech hired Brent Pry, a defensive mind.

"It was really exciting. Coach Pry recruited me a little at Penn State, so I knew of him before," Hollifield said. "It was exciting to get a guy that knew the standard that was in Blacksburg back."

The key, according to the linebacker, is the fact Pry learned from Tech's Bud Foster while a gradu-

ate assistant. "It was really exciting to get that back," Hollifield said. "Everything he stands for I have learned from him over the past seven months stands true to that. He is an excellent man. He treats people right. It's going to be an exciting season with him."

Pry admits he has a good group on the defensive side of the ball. "Obviously, as a coach you always -- you love the strengths, but it's our job to identify weaknesses and improve on those," the head Hokie said. "We've done a good job of that this winter and spring. The guys are working their tails off to eliminate weaknesses or improve them. I like the guys that are returning on defense."

Of course, if the coach needs some chicken parm or a three-layered cake, Hollifield is also his man.

**BONOMOS**  
 Women's Clothier Since 1973

ENJOY *Playful Prices*

**1/2 to 1/3 off**  
**\$12 Rack**

**(540) 951-8102**  
 860 University City Blvd,  
 Blacksburg  
 11am-5pm | Monday-Saturday



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

New Virginia Tech coach Brent Pry (left) will be depending on senior linebacker Dax Hollifield (right) to make some big plays this coming season.

**NEW RIVER**  
 Community College

**Fall Classes Begin**  
**August 22**

**Registration Now Open**  
[www.nr.edu/register](http://www.nr.edu/register)

Want to stay up to date on local sports?

[www.montcova.com](http://www.montcova.com)