



## Aquaculture census: Virginia sells most seafood on East Coast

According to the latest Census of Aquaculture, sales of Virginia aquacultural products totaled \$113 million, the largest amount on the East Coast and the fifth largest in the U.S.

The bounty of seafood produced by Virginia aquaculturists and fisherman is the topic of an ongoing webinar series titled "Eat More Fish."

The goal of the series is to present information about the status of Virginia's seafood sector, offer insight on how eating fish supports healthy lifestyles, and provide food preparation tips.

The free webinars are co-hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and the Virginia Seafood and Virginia Marine Products Board.

"This series we've developed is

designed to help (consumers) understand why we should eat more fish, why fish is good for you and the science behind it," said David Crosby, a fish health specialist for VSU's aquaculture program.

"We're going to talk about aquaculture and fisheries development in Virginia and how it relates to aquaculture, which is important," he said. "That's the reason we're

doing this. We want folks to eat more fish, and we want them to eat fish that's grown in Virginia."

The first installment of the four-part series, "Know Your Virginia Seafood," was held June 29 and featured a panel discussion led by Crosby.

Susan Prillaman, a Bedford

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The latest Census of Aquaculture figures showed that sales of Virginia aquaculture products totaled \$113 million, the most of any state on the East Coast.



PICTURE SUBMITTED BY GLENN COCHRAN.

## Brugh Coffee suffers smoke damage

About 6:55 PM on August 7, 2022 smoke rolled out of Brugh Coffee at 407 Roanoke St. Christiansburg, Virginia. No one was in the building at the time and none

of the firemen were injured putting out the source of the smoke. The Christiansburg Fire Department was there within minutes of the first sight of smoke.

## Virginia Tech's Chiller Plant Phase II saves millions in energy costs as construction completes

Virginia Tech's chilled water infrastructure capital construction project – aimed at improving the energy and operational efficiency of facilities across the Blacksburg campus – is essentially complete.

The Chiller Plant Phase II project included:

Addition of a new chiller and cooling tower within the southwest chiller plant

Replacement of two of five existing chillers and cooling towers within the north chiller plant

Installation of more than 4 miles of new underground chilled water supply/return piping across campus to connect both plants

Most of the new underground piping was extremely large – much of it with a diameter of 30 inches. Additionally, direct chilled water connections to several essential buildings on the Blacksburg campus were included within the scope of this nearly five-year capital project.

While the finished product is mostly unseen, it certainly is felt by most of the university community. The Chiller Plant Phase II has improved air conditioning systems for many buildings on campus. The chilled water network provides cold water to air handling units in buildings across campus to provide air conditioning. After passing through these air handling units, the now warmer water is recycled back across campus and to the chiller plants for re-cooling and recirculation again back to the buildings.

As part of the project, buildings originally constructed with independent chillers were connected to the chilled water loop and those independent chillers shut down – saving operations and maintenance costs.

Nearly 40 percent of the air conditioned buildings on the Blacksburg campus now are part of the same continuous loop serviced by two

chiller plants, providing redundancy.

"The Chiller Plant Phase II project has significantly improved our chilled water infrastructure on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus," said Dwyn Taylor, assistant vice president for capital construction. "Through the interconnection of the chilled water plants, future maintenance events that require total shutdown of the chilled water network will be substantially decreased, if not entirely eliminated."

"When buildings intended for different purposes are connected to the same loop, you're able to provide the same cooling to all buildings, with less total energy," said Paul Ely, associate director of capital construction. "Academic and residential buildings need air conditioning at different times of the day, which means when the coldest level of air conditioning isn't necessary for one, that energy can be put toward cooling the other."

Since the Chiller Plant Phase II project began in 2019, electricity consumption for chilled-water generation in fiscal year 2022 has fallen by 54 percent, when compared to the pre-construction five-year average annual consumption, for a cumulative reduction of 19.6 million kWh. This equates to an energy cost avoidance of approximately \$1.8 million.

"The environmental impact avoidances as a result of the Chiller Plant Phase II's near completion are substantial. Since construction began, it has reduced the output of 8,479 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent or 21,046,244 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle," said Steve Durfee, campus energy manager. "The Office of Energy Management is operating and monitoring the chilled water system performance to maintain a sustainable, efficient, and effective energy supply for campus customers."

## Virginia Tech to livestream full Board of Visitors meetings beginning this fall

Beginning with the first full board meeting of the 2022-23 academic year – which will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 23 in Newport News – Virginia Tech will livestream all full board sessions held in open session, including information sessions for the full board.

Access to the livestream will be available on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.

This service will provide greater accessibility to these meetings to all members of the university community located across the commonwealth as well as the general public.

"Our commitment to open and transparent governance is absolute," said Kim O'Rourke, vice president for policy and governance and secretary to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. "This is a duty and responsibility the university has to the citizens of the

commonwealth. We are pleased to provide this new resource."

In full compliance with Virginia law, Virginia Tech will continue to provide public notice of all board meetings that involve three or more board members at least three days prior to the meeting. Meetings of the full board held in open session will be livestreamed; board committee meetings and any meeting held in closed session will not be livestreamed. Written minutes and corresponding presentations will continue to be archived and will continue to be the official record of all board meetings.

Board minutes and corresponding materials can be found on the university's website, as well as information on the board's code of ethics, bylaws, members, committee structure and recent news stories on board actions published by the university.



PHOTO BY SARAH MYERS FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

Since Virginia Tech's Chiller Plant Phase II project began in 2019, electricity consumption for chilled-water generation in fiscal year 2022 has fallen by 54 percent, saving some \$1.8 million in energy costs.

## Summer camp students build drones, explore STEM careers

The 40 campers came from as far away as Wisconsin. Split into two teams, they waited with their flight controllers in hand at either end of Virginia Tech's 300-foot-long drone park.

One by one, each camper walked to the edge of the net, aimed the controller at the drone on the other side of the net, and pushed the throttle forward. The drone hummed and floated off a wooden starting block, its four tiny propellers spinning furiously. The students pushed the joysticks up, down, right, left, trying to maneuver the drone toward an orange landing pad. The closer they got, the more points they earned.

The little quadcopters, just 150 grams each, swooped

upward and swerved from side to side before touching down on the grass. A few crashed into the netting. One camper zoomed straight to the target, landed, then took off again and dropped the drone gracefully back onto the starting block.

The contest was the culmination of Virginia Tech's very first drone camp. Every drone had been built by the campers themselves over the preceding week. Now, with their families — and a few family dogs — looking on, the rising seventh through ninth graders got to show off their handiwork.

The camp was part of the Imagination series developed by the Center for the Enhancement of

Engineering Diversity in the College of Engineering to give underserved students an entry point into STEM fields.

Kim Lester, the center's director of pre-college programs, said drones are a natural fit for Imagination.

"Sometimes technology is so abstract that it's hard for kids to really connect with it," she said. "Drones are engaging. They're in the news. Middle school students know what they are, and the technology can be very accessible and hands on."

The center developed the drone camp curriculum in collaboration with the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership



PHOTO BY PETER MEANS FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

A camper gets some pointers on handling a flight controller from Christopher Stewart, a drone pilot at the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Partnership.

See **STEM Careers**, page 2



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesday, Aug. 10:

**Loops Group**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can bring their project and join the loops group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

**Brown Bag book club**  
At the Radford Public Library; noon. To be discussed is the non-fiction book "Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law" by Mary Roach.

**Evening book talk**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Discussed 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 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; 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; 2 p.m. Participants can enjoy snacks, activities, and trophies as they rev up their engines and race. 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.

**Author talk with D.J. Mathews**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 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; 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; 1 p.m. Participants will put their taste buds to the test to identify flavors and brands. Supplies are limited. Best for ages 8 and up.

**Left-handed challenges**  
At the Blacksburg Library; noon. Participants will be challenged to use scissors and paint a picture with their non-dominant left hand on National Left-Handers Day. Do you think you can use scissors with your left hand? Paint a picture? Come celebrate by participating in some challenges with your non-dominant hand!

**Library staff "Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Bean Challenge"**  
From the Radford Public Library on Facebook Live from 9 to 9:15 a.m. 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.

## Saturday, Aug. 13:

**Mt. Tabor Ruritan Club 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. The club will serve up fish, fries and slaw; homemade desserts; and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults and carry-outs, \$6 for children under 12, and children under 3 eat free.(under 3)-free, carry-outs-\$12. The Panjammers Steel Drum Orchestra will be playing. Fish will be fried rain or shine. Call or text 540-449-6178 for further information. On Facebook at MtTaborRuritan.

**Gathering at the Grange**  
Fun and fellowship at the Gathering at the Grange, held 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, and 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 are appreciated.

**Movie and a craft**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 10:30 a.m. Participants will make a craft while they watch a girl, who hears the

ocean and a demi-god who goes on an adventure to save the seas.

**Author event with Ally Shaw**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 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 through Sunday, Aug. 21:

**Marching Virginians band camp**  
The Virginia Tech Marching Virginians will hold their annual band camp from Aug.13 through Aug. 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.

## Monday, Aug. 15:

**Sourdough workshop**  
At the Blacksburg Library; noon. This is a beginner sourdough starter workshop. Ingredients will be provided. Participants should bring a glass jar (mason or pickling size) to create their starter in. All ages are welcome. Registration is encouraged.

**Pokémon Club**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages are welcome.

**Crafternoon for Adults Only**  
At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Participants can bring their crafting supplies and knit, crochet, and/or needlepoint at the library! Some crafting supplies will be provided. Participants can also make a blanket for donation to the Linus Project blanket. Supplies will be available. All crafters are welcome from painting and writing to knitting and more.

## Tuesday, Aug. 16:

**Back to school bash**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 1 p.m. Participants can stop by

the library for a back-to-school bash full of games and crafts. Registration is recommended. Registrants will be automatically entered into a drawing for a back-to-school prize. Call 540-552-8246 or stop by the desk to register.

## 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

**Montgomery Floyd Regional library board of trustees meeting**  
At the Blacksburg Library at 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Aug. 18:

**Talking about books non-fiction**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Discussed this month is "Where the water goes: life and death along the Colorado River" by David Owen, in-person and virtually.

**Bad poetry**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. This is Bad Poetry Day. Join in to follow some silly prompts and write some terrible poetry.

## Saturday, Aug. 20:

**EastMont Tomato Festival**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 10 a.m. This festival in the courtyard presented by the EastMont Community Foundation has music, food, contests, children's activities, and more. For more information check out www.eastmontcf.com/tomato-festival.

**Magic show with Mark Fuller at the Tomato Festival**  
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 11:15 a.m. Magician Mark Fuller will dazzle with his magic in the Meadowbrook Courtyard at the Tomato Festival. Sponsored by the Meadowbrook Public Library.

**Tomato sidewalk obstacle course**  
At the Meadowbrook Public

Library; 10 a.m. Try the sidewalk obstacle course at this year's Tomato Festival. On the curbside pickup area on the side of the building, Enter for a chance to win a prize.

## Tuesday, August 23:

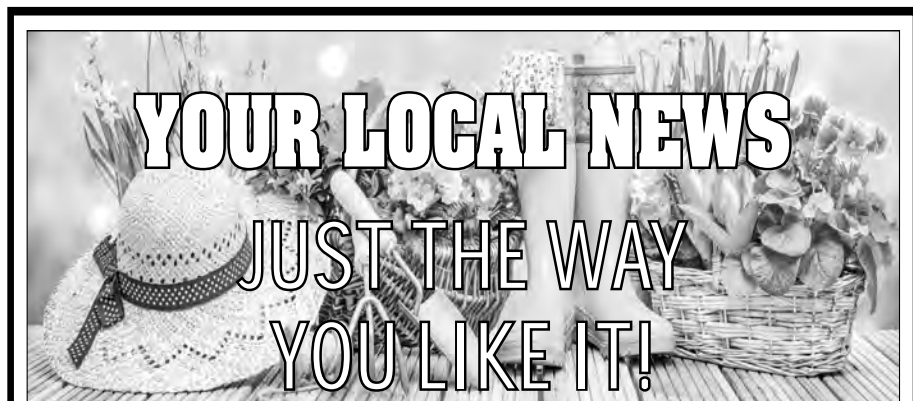
**American Red Cross blood drive**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 12:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome or sign up at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

## Ongoing:

**Montgomery-Christiansburg Citizens Academy Registration now open**  
The 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 NRW Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate any pantry items is asked to drop them off at United Way's office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

**Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit**  
Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces "Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now," an exhibit through August 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. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwest 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.



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## Aquaculture

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County-based Extension family and consumer sciences agent, started the discussion by highlighting the nutritional benefits of eating fish.

Prillaman explained that fish are high in omega-3 fatty acids, which help improve heart health. Fish also are low in cholesterol and saturated fat, and are high in calcium, iron, zinc and vitamins B and D, among other vitamins and minerals.

Mike Hutt, executive director of the Virginia Marine Products Board, provided industry details about Virginia's blue catfish population. Jonathan van Senten, an Extension specialist at the Virginia Seafood AREC in Hampton, concluded the webinar with market updates. "Seafood is experiencing an increase in consumption or preparation at home, which is a really

positive trend for the industry," van Senten said, citing a National Institute of Food and Agriculture study that monitored seafood-related consumer behavior throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're seeing some encouraging trends emerging from the data, and also seeing a return to seafood being eaten away from home now that many closures have passed."

## STEM Careers

from page 1

(MAAP), the university's Federal Aviation Administration-designated drone test site, and Wing, the Google sister company that launched the country's first residential drone delivery service in Christiansburg in 2019.

Lester works with nonprofits, communities, and other partners to reach kids beyond the typical cohort that flocks to STEM camps. More than 60 percent of the students at the drone camp identified as Black or Hispanic. For more than 40 percent of them, neither parent had a four-year college degree.

"The families of the kids that we try to recruit for the Imagination camps are often not aware of what's possible," she said. "The technology to fill out an online application can be daunting. Transportation is a barrier. There are so many barriers that can keep families from pursuing an experience like this."

Lester's group tries to remove as many of those roadblocks as possible. All expenses for the six-day residential camp were covered, thanks to funding from Wing, MAAP, the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, and the Kevin T. Crofton

Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

Building the drones was the main attraction. Over the course of a few days, piles of circuit boards, tiny bolts, lightweight black frames, and clear plastic propellers became a fleet of 40 nimble racing drones. Each drone's quartet of motors had to be placed in the correct positions; each flight controller had to be oriented the same way as the drone it was paired with. Engineers and pilots from MAAP and Virginia K-12 teachers looked on, guiding the campers through the process and helping them troubleshoot snags.

Toby Tracy, the MAAP engineer who led the build, said he could see the sense of accomplishment on the campers' faces when they brought up their finished drones to plug them in for the first time.

"This was the make-or-break moment," he said. "You check for the colored lights that tell you the receiver is talking to the transmitter. You flip the drone on and make sure all the motors are spinning. I taught them why I was using a multimeter. It was really an 'aha' moment. Being able to teach them something I love was just great."

# Touch-a-Truck NRV lets the kids climb on some big rigs

CHRISTIANSBURG – The New River Valley Home Builders Association presented the seventh annual Touch-A-Truck NRV event Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Uptown Christiansburg, 782 New River Road, in the back parking lot.

For those with sensitive ears, the event was horn- and siren-free from 10 a.m. to noon.

Children had a safe and hands-on learning experience, climbing into the driver's seat and exploring vehicles such as squad cars, dump trucks, bucket trucks, and construction vehicles.

Local food trucks were on hand, and kids had the chance to build their own bluebird house. A raffle for a backyard swing set was

held. Overall, the day was filled with giant trucks, tires, fun, and lots of noise from horns and sirens.

Touch-a-Truck NRV is a family event open to all. Tickets were \$2 each or \$5 per family ticket (valid for up to four attendees.) Children two and under were free.

Proceeds from the event went toward the New River Valley Home Builders Association and its Builders Care Fund, which provides scholarships and funds for future construction and trade students, community charitable contributions, and future workforce development initiatives.

The event sponsors were Big Rig: 84 Lumber Snowplow: Eagle Con-

struction, JWB Construction, and Shelter Alternatives, Inc.

Bucket Truck: Beverage Tractor and Equipment, Chandler Concrete, Foresight Design Services, Summit Community Bank, and SAS Builders

Supporting Sponsors: Affordable Portables, Christiansburg Pharmacy, NRV Macaroni Kid, Town of Christiansburg, Uptown Christiansburg

*The New River Valley Home Builders Association is a professional trade organization serving the residential and commercial building industry of the New River Valley since 1976. As the voice of the building community, the NRVHBA advocates, educates and gives back to better homeownership for all.*



Saturday, Aug. 13, Touch-a-Truck NRV let the kids see and climb on some vehicles such as tractors, bucket trucks, and police squad cars, that are big and/or noisy.

# United Way holds Stuff the Bus drive for school children's supplies



Volunteers from the Radford softball team helped pack backpacks for Stuff the Bus.



Volunteers from Warm Hearth Village pitched in to help United Way stuff the bus.

In July, the United Way of the New River Valley held its annual Stuff the Bus drive to collect school supplies for children in the NRV.

With the help of generous donors, volunteers, and local businesses, the United Way was able

to fill 775 backpacks with school supplies to donate to area teachers.

Three hundred backpacks were supplied to the Floyd County School Board. Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program received 190 Backpacks. Two hundred and sixty-five back-

packs were handed over to the Radford Clothing Bank, and United Way volunteers took 15 backpacks to Riverlawn Elementary School.

Stuff the Bus events were held at Walmart in Christiansburg and Walmart in Fairlawn. The follow-

ing businesses served as drop-off points.

Blacksburg Boxing & Fitness, Coldwell Banker, Ed & Ethel's Jewelry, Exper-Ts, Hurt & Profitt, J & K Realty, Studio Blush, Taylor Office Supply, and Texas Roadhouse.

As a result of the Stuff the Bus drive, area children will return to school prepared to learn. The staff and board members of the United Way extend special thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped make this year's drive a success.

# OBITUARIES

## Jones, Michael David

Michael David Jones, 68, of Dublin, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022.

He was an avid trout fisherman who loved all things involving the outdoors.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie Mack and Lou Emma Jones.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Ben Jones Phillips and Tiffany; a daughter and son-in-law, Michelle Jones Watts and Steve; grandchildren



Charlie, Oliver, Catalina, and Isabella; brothers and sisters-in-law Jerry and Nellie Jones and Gary and Jeanne Jones; a sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Benny Hudson; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

The Jones family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Abbott, Tamy Arlene

Tamy Arlene Abbott, 60, of Pulaski, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George Joseph and Mary Emmaline Shelton; and her brothers, Ronnie Ray Shelton and Rex Douglas Shelton.

Survivors include her sister, Joyce Wyatt; a brother, Gary Shelton; and many other relatives and friends.

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

The Abbott family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Brockenbrough, Ann Bowyer

Ann Bowyer Brockenbrough, 92, passed away Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, at her home in Dublin.

Service information will follow.


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



### 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**




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

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# OPINION

## Buddy King: Recalling some good times with my old friend Pete

My friend Pat Kelly (aka the “World’s greatest Irish bartender”) and I had lunch last week with our old friend Pete. And when I say “old” I don’t mean “ole,” I mean “old.” Pete is 99, steaming along towards 100 in December. For perspective, he graduated from high school in 1940.

Pete’s parents were Greek immigrants, moving to Clarksburg in the early part of the 20th century to work in the zinc industry like many others from their native land. Clarksburg of that era was the proverbial melting pot with Italians coming to work in the coal mines and steel plants, the Spanish in the zinc mines, the French and Belgians in the many glass plants for which the area was mainly known, joining with original settlers from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany.

The downtown was dominated by several wonderful stores run by a sizable Jewish merchant community. Old world diversity. This was the world Pete grew up in. Without a trace of bit-

terness, he told me once that he didn’t understand why he was not welcomed into the “Greek system” at his alma mater, West Virginia University, with all that “Greek blood coursing through my veins.” Greek, but not “Greek.”

Norwithstanding, Pete was and remains a proud alumnus of the state university just down the road from Clarksburg. He loves to reminisce about his student days there when all the guys wore blue blazers, yellow Brooks Brothers Oxford cloth shirts, and blue and gold ties to the football games and walked to the old Mountaineer Field from downtown bars. All the females wore dresses and sported mums. After college, Pete joined the Army Air Corps and was trained as a navigator near the end of WW II.

To round out your mental image of Pete, picture him as 5’ 4” tall (giving him 2 probably, like he always wanted on the golf course) and very fit even now for a man of his age (not a lot to be compared to). And

“dapper.” One word that comes to mind when I think of Pete is “dapper.”

For over 30 years he owned and ran a men’s clothing store in downtown Clarksburg. He had been a sales rep for a very well-known traditional men’s suit manufacturer and eventually fulfilled his dream of owning his own “men’s shop.”

Pete told me that in his travels and sales calls as a rep, he had been impressed with a shop in Virginia known as Beecroft & Bull, which at the time had locations in Charlottesville and Williamsburg, the haunts of the higher education part of my life. I was familiar with both stores of course and, if you know anything about men’s fashion from that era, you know that Pete’s shop, for many years on Third Street in Clarksburg, one block from my office, was “traditional,” following in the vein of Beecroft, and Eljo’s and Ed Michtom’s in Charlottesville, other stores Pete admired.

No polyester to be found, the types of stores where, when a perusing mother would bring a young son in to look for a suit and ask a clerk “what’s in fashion this year” the answer would be a polite but firm “I have no idea, madam.” Good fashion didn’t change.

Not surprisingly, as a student in Charlottesville and Williamsburg, I did not exactly frequent the clothing stores discussed above. In fact, I didn’t give my dress much thought until I started interviewing for jobs my last year of law school. So when I arrived at my “legal job,” I had a couple of new suits I had purchased at a Jos. A. Bank warehouse in

Baltimore, a sports coat or two, and a couple of pairs of khakis.

Once, after I had met Pete and gotten to know him a little, I went into his store on my lunch break (from the state’s best known law firm). I was wearing a pair of khakis and a blazer, and Pete asked (sincerely) “does S & J allow its lawyers to wear jeans to work now?” In Pete’s world khakis WERE jeans. And don’t get him started on double-vented suits (a prejudice I share. I once told one of my law partners that there was only one acceptable number of vents in a jacket and that it was between zero and two.)

These were the “good old days” of course of business dress. Both men and women in the business and professional worlds dressed mainly in suits or “acceptable” sports coats and slacks or dresses.. With three large banks, a half dozen law firms, a thriving retail community, several working glass plants, and the headquarters of a large interstate gas company all in our little downtown, Pete’s business flourished in the 70’s and 80’s. The beginning of the end for his store Pete always says was “when the gas company went full time casual.” Sacrilege!

Back to my early days in Pete’s shop. For context, business was good enough that his place, like most of the rest of the downtown retail community, remained open till 9 o’clock on Mondays and Fridays. In recent years, only the brave venture to downtown Clarksburg after dark. On the mezzanine level, Pete had a full time Greek tailor who spoke no English. Eventu-

ally, malls invaded the area and forced most local merchants out of business, my law firm relocated its offices to an office park along the interstate, and the vibrant downtown of my early years is now a distant memory.

In the day, I would go into Pete’s shop on my lunch hour and “browse,” and he and I would talk sports and exchange local gossip while I looked at the racks. On a few of my first visits, Pete noticed my infatuation with an Irish tweed sports coat – price tag \$180. One day Pete said, “Are you ever going to buy that jacket?” I said that it was beyond my price range. Pete then said, “Take it, pay me \$10 a month, no interest.” I did. Many of our lawyers had similar experiences. The cynical among us would say that Pete “got us hooked” this way. I see it as a sign of the kind gentleman he was and remains to this day, four months before hitting the century mark.

A couple of great Pete stories. An avid golfer and original member of the nearby Pete Dye Golf Club, our Pete shot his age at least once on this very difficult course, at age 86 as I recall. A few years earlier, he went to the tee on number 18 needing just a bogey to shoot 82, at age 82. One of his longtime golf partners started giving him the proverbial needle, and Pete ended up three-putting, getting a double bogey, and missing the target by one stroke. Pete took it in good spirits as he has everything in life.

One final wonderful story. In 2006 or so, our mutual friend bartender Pat, Doggie (veterinarian of

choice for years in the area), and I took Pete to a Pittsburgh Pirates game at the then new ballpark. If there is one thing that Pete loves more than WVU football and basketball, it is the Pirates. Even now, at age 99, he watches every game he can from his assisted living facility and knows the lineup better than anyone around. Pete told us the last time he had been to a Pirates game was in the early 90’s, when the team was in the playoffs.

Pat had been with Pete at the playoff game in the 90’s and asked Pete to tell a story from that trip to Three Rivers Stadium. While standing in a long line to get in the gate, circa 1990, Pat or one of the guys asked Pete, then in his late 60’s, “When was the last time you were at a Buc game in person Pete?” Pete gave it some thought and then answered, “1938. My Dad brought me to a game in 1938.” The entire line exploded.

Before writing this last paragraph, I checked my closet. I rarely if ever wear a suit or a tie to work these days, but I wanted to confirm my recollection. My Kaites (Pete’s shop) suits and sport coats have largely gone the route of thrift stores in recent years, oddly having shrunk dramatically with the passage of time. But I still have my Kaites ties. They are among my proudest possessions.

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

## News Messenger

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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## Average Virginia gas prices drop below \$4/gallon

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 13.4 cents per gallon in the last week to an average of \$3.84/g Monday, Aug. 8, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 66.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but are still 84.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined 13.1 cents in the last week to an average of \$5.14 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$3.09/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.69/g, a difference of \$2.60/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 15.8 cents per gallon last

week, averaging \$4.01/g as of Monday, Aug. 8. The national average is down 68.7 cents per gallon from a month ago but is still 83.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

“By the end of the week, one hundred thousand stations will be at \$3.99 or less,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “Diesel continues to decline as well and will likely soon fall under \$5 per gallon. We’ve even seen nearly a dozen stations in low-priced states fall under \$2.99, a welcome return to some lucky motorists in areas of Tex-

as, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa,” De Haan said. “The groundwork is laid for a ninth week of decline with areas of the West Coast soon ditching the \$5 per gallon average. While I’m upbeat the drop can continue for another couple of weeks, we’re starting to see some activity in the tropics, which may increase risk of potential disruption.”

*GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country.*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
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	45	46	47										
48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56					57			58
59					60					61			
62					63					64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Breezed through
  - Time units (abbr.)
  - Pigeon’s murmur
  - Moves aside in fright
  - Partner to “ahh”
  - Taxis
  - Monetary units of Turkey
  - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
  - Prolific Italian opera composer
  - Restaurants
  - One’s grandmother
  - Ancient Greek City
  - Italian mountain ranges
  - Data
  - Acted in an obedient way
  - Autonomic nervous system
  - Not on the up-and-up
  - Mock lightly
  - Mimic
  - Built
  - A neighborhood
  - Inflammation of the kidneys
  - Semitic fertility god
  - Temporary name of Seaborgium
  - Wise people
  - Tear down
  - fi (slang)
  - Diamond weight
  - Frosted
  - Predecessor to EU
  - Makes changes to
  - Some are secret
  - Tooth caregiver
  - Old English poet
  - Large stinging paper wasp
  - Bucharest is its capital
  - River in Ireland
  - Type of TV
  - Double-reed instruments
  - Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
  - Midway between south and southeast
  - French commune
  - Alike
  - A bachelor’s apartment
  - Foot part between the ball and ankle
  - Belonging to a thing
  - Japanese classical theater
  - Supervises flying
  - Not even
  - Capital of Saudi Arabia
  - Electronic counter-
  - measure
  - Consumed
  - American politician (abbr.)
  - Sun up in New York
  - Casually looked through
  - Revealed the presence of
  - Peyton’s little brother
  - Diana \_\_, singer
  - Study of moral values and rules
  - Civil Rights group
  - Makes less severe
  - Made an emotional appeal
  - Vivacity of style
  - One who is highly skilled
  - Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
  - Famed guitarist Clapton
  - Most common Japanese surname
  - Recipe abbreviation
- CLUES DOWN**
- Sign language
  - In style
  - Norwegian river
  - People with impaired hearing

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

### Christiansburg’s Walter Wouvala named to dean’s list at University of Maryland Global Campus

Walter Wouvala of Christiansburg was named to the dean’s list for the spring semester at the University of Maryland Global Campus.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and must have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, University of Maryland Global Cam-

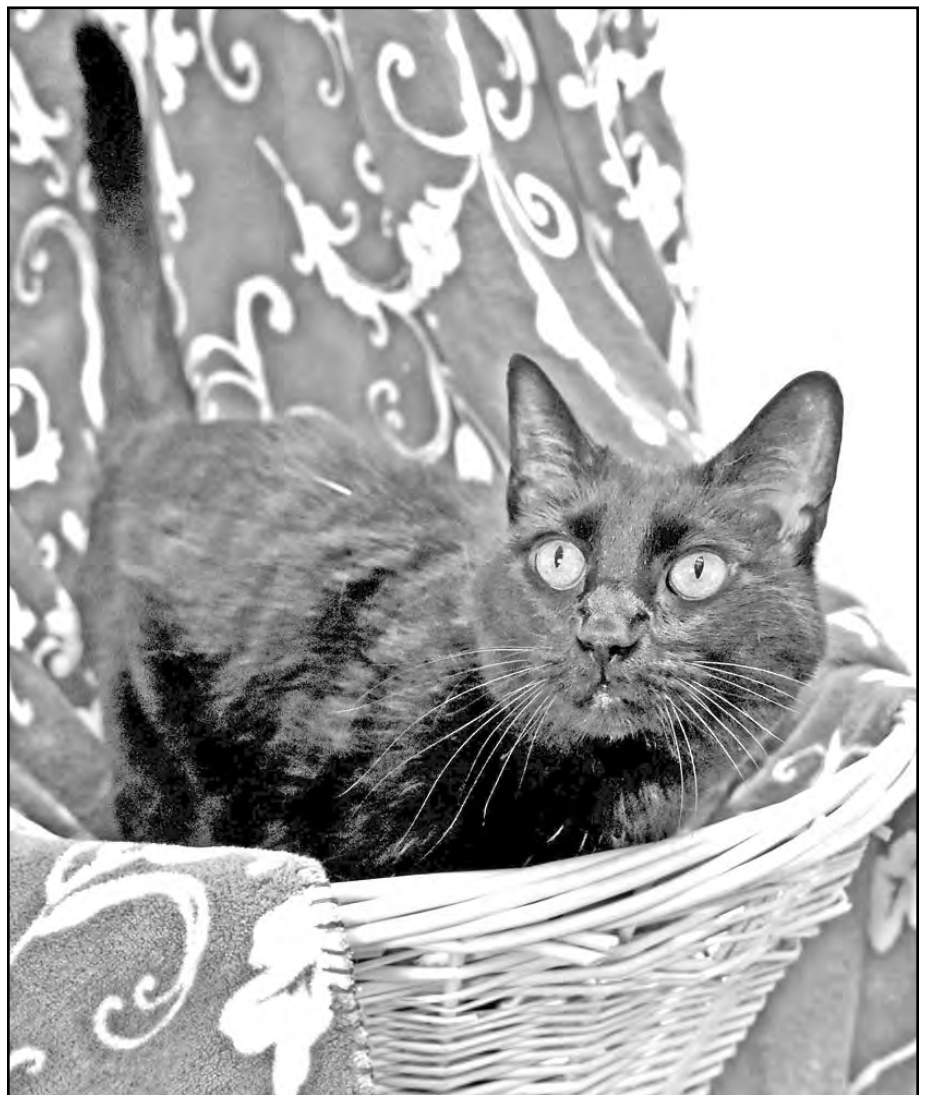
pus was established in 1947 to serve adults in the workforce. Today, the university enrolls some 90,000 students annually, offering bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs, as well as certificates in more than 125 fully online, hybrid and face-to-face programs and specializations.

Submit letters  
to the editor to  
editor@ourvalley.org

# PETS-OF-THE-WEEK



**Sofia is a happy girl looking for her furever home. She would do best in a home where she can get out some energy with active humans and learn basic doggie manners. She has lived with other dogs in the past but would require a meet-and-greet at the Animal Care and Adoption Center with any prospective dog friends.**



**Sweet Keke is friendly, outgoing, and enjoys a good snuggle. She is an older cat who likes to explore inside as well as the great outdoors. In a previous home, she happily lived with a small dog. Keke's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.**

## Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. 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. The old bridge is being demolished. 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 though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

**LANE CLOSURES:** Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning.

**SLOW ROLLS:** Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

**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 are maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals that 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.

**PATTERSON DRIVE BRIDGE WORK IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO DETOUR TRAFFIC NEAR ROANOKE COUNTY LINE** – Through Sept. 2, Route 669 (Patterson Drive) is 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. Work is expected to last through August 2022.

### 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 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 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. 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 from late May 31, 2022 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 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.

**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.

**INTERSTATE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON 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:**

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

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

A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

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

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 81.

See VDOT, page 6

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**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.

**INTERSTATE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON 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.

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See VDOT, page 6



**DELMARVA VS. SALEM**

**AUG 16 7:05**  
SERIES OPENER - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**AUG 17 7:05**  
GAME TWO - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**AUG 18 7:05**  
COLLEGE NIGHT, BARK IN THE PARK & THIRSTY THURSDAY - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**AUG 19 7:05**  
ELEVATION NIGHT & FIREWORKS - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

**AUG 20 6:05**  
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT - GATES OPEN 5:00 PM

**AUG 21 5:05**  
KIDS RUN THE BASES - GATES OPEN 4:00 PM



# Moss Arts Center launches its 2022-23 season

Tickets are now on sale for the Moss Arts Center's 2022-23 season of performances with artists representing 13 countries and four continents across the fields of music, dance, theater, literary arts, and visual arts.

The MAC season offers a dynamic lineup of jazz and global beats, classical music favorites, family-friendly cirque selections, transformative dance and theater works, and spectacular Broadway productions.

Complementing the center's performances and exhibitions is a collection of experiences offering deeper connections with artists, ideas, and community members, including pre- and post-performance talks with artists and Virginia Tech faculty members on timely topics.

Virginia Tech students will have exclusive access to master classes and other special on-campus engagement events with renowned artists and ensembles, and area school-aged students will be treated to special matinee performances and in-school workshops with artists.

Moss Arts Center 2022-23 performances CimaFunk

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m.

This free outdoor dance concert is led by one of the most exciting new performers in the Latin music space. Young Cuban sensation CimaFunk — think Cuban Bruno Mars — offers a bold mix of funk, Cuban music, and African rhythms.

Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots

Friday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Nine-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion Eileen Ivers and her band open the season with an upbeat evening celebrating the influences of Celtic tradi-

tion. Redman · Mehldau · McBride · Blade A MoodSwing Reunion Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrated jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman introduced his first permanent band with his 1994 album, "MoodSwing." The original group reunites for an unforgettable performance.

Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Grammy-winner Rhiannon Giddens collaborates with Italian multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi, sharing lullabies, ballads, and folk songs of their native and adoptive countries of America, Italy, and Ireland.

Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral "Andares" Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

With live music and three inspired actors, this profound play from Mexico shines a light on a range of realities — land usurpation, widespread violence, community resistance — that Indigenous people face. Audience members are seated onstage for this intimate performance.

Acrobuffos "Air Play" Sunday, Oct. 23, 2 p.m.

Circus meets science — umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and the whole stage turns into a snow globe. Perfect for even young children, "Air Play" is part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater.

Farruquito "Íntimo" Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Farruquito is hailed



by The New York Times as "the greatest flamenco dancer of this new century." With a stellar cadre of dancers, musicians, and vocalists, his performances are true expressions of pure flamenco.

Danish String Quartet Friday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.

The Grammy-nominated Danish String Quartet makes its in-person Moss debut with a performance that includes Haydn and Schubert quartets and folk music selections.

"Broadway in Blacksbury" "Anastasia" Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are now available for the romantic and adventure-filled new musical that transports audiences from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s. A brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help

her find home, love, and family.

"Ähuti" Nriyagram Dance Ensemble Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Nriyagram Dance Ensemble and Chitrasena Dance Company collaborate in a vibrant fusion of Odissi classical dance from India and traditional Kandyan dance from Sri Lanka.

Soweto Gospel Choir "Hope: It's Been a Long Time Coming" Thursday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Three-time Grammy-winning Soweto Gospel Choir celebrates artists associated with struggles for social justice, from Mahalia Jackson to Harry Belafonte.

Roanoke Symphony Orchestra "Holiday Pops Spectacular"

David Stewart Wiley, conductor Saturday, Dec. 3, 4 p.m.

Friends and family gather to savor the spirit of the holidays as the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra fills the theater with music and cheer with its "Holiday Pops Spectacular" program for audiences of all ages.

Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra András Keller, chief conductor

Zoltan Fejérvári, piano Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra is one of Hungary's leading orchestras. This performance showcases Hungary's most beloved composers — Dvořák, Liszt, and Bartók — and features Hungarian pianist Zoltan Fejérvári.

"An Evening with Kevin Young" Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Poet Kevin Young is a groundbreaking voice of his generation. A Na-

tional Book Award finalist and Guggenheim fellowship recipient, he also won the PEN Open Award, whose judge remarked that Young shows "how Black identity is indispensable to American culture."

Machine de Cirque "La Galerie" Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Seven zany acrobats and an eccentric musician in a monochrome exhibit. Dizzying feats, astonishing discoveries, poetic liberties, and a serious dose of some silly good fun come together to fuel this sophisticated ode to creativity.

PUBLIQuartet Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Grammy-nominated PUBLIQuartet is changing the perception of string quartets, digging into utterly fresh music, from classical to jazz to improvisation — and creating an American original style all its own.

"Akutagawa" Co-created by Koryū Nishikawa V and Tom Lee

Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Created by Japanese master puppeteer Koryū Nishikawa V and American puppet artist Tom Lee, this new stage work uses bunraku puppets, video projection, and live music to illuminate the wild imagination of Japan's most famed short story writer. Audience members are seated onstage.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate over 60 years of unparalleled artistry when the groundbreaking Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's premiere ensemble comes to Southwest Virginia for the first time. Two evening performances offer

different works, and each includes founder Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, "Revelations."

"An Evening with Viet Thanh Nguyen" Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Viet Thanh Nguyen's Pulitzer-winning novel "The Sympathizer" globally reimagines what people thought they knew about the Vietnam War, urging readers to examine the legacy of that tumultuous time and its aftermath from a new perspective.

"Book of Mountains and Seas"

Composer and librettist: Huang Ruo Director and production design: Basil Twist Friday, March 24, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Commissioned in part by the Moss, this daring new music theater work is a modern take on ancient Chinese creation myths, featuring the chorus of Ars Nova Copenhagen alongside mas-sive puppets and striking lanterns.

Opera Roanoke and Blacksburg Master Chorale

Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem"

Steven White, conductor Sunday, April 23, 2023, 4 p.m.

Opera Roanoke, the Blacksburg Master Chorale, Virginia Tech Choirs, and the Georgia Boy Choir come together for Benjamin Britten's monumental "War Requiem," a timeless work symbolizing the senselessness of war.

Cécile McLorin Salvant Saturday, April 29, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Three-time Grammy winner Cécile McLorin Salvant brings historical perspective on jazz standards and her own compositions, embracing wide-ranging repertoire with her rich, powerful voice.

## VDOT from page 5

state 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.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS – Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

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

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

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

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**Furniture and personal property will be offered at the tag sale during preview times on Friday August 12th and 19th at 4PM. Items included in tag sale are furniture, picture frames, lamps, dishes, and miscellaneous household items.)**

Property is subject to by-laws and restrictive covenants for Windsong Heights (see bidder pack). Bidders are expected to review those documents prior to bidding. Monthly dues \$85.

**Preview: Friday August 12th @ 4 PM  
and Friday August 19th at 4 PM**

**Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale (August 24th 2022). Close on or before October 10th, 2022. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at VAAuctionPro.com**

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Defensive backs important position to watch for Hokies

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

With fall camp for Virginia Tech football well underway, it's a good time to take a look at the de-

fensive backs under the direction of cornerbacks coach Derek Jones and safeties coach Pierson Prioleau.

Chamarri Conner has proven to be a must-

watch player during his time at Virginia Tech. He has shown himself to be a hard-hitting machine, a physical tackler, and a dynamic athlete who can fly around the field.

The fifth-year senior returns to the field in Blacksburg fresh off a season in which he finished third on the team with 85 tackles, including 5.5 tackles for loss, two sacks,

five pass breakups, two forced fumbles, and one interception. He earned an All-ACC Honorable Mention nod and was named ACC Defensive Back of the Week following his game-sealing interception that capped the Hokies' 17-10 upset of then-No. 10 North Carolina at Lane Stadium.

Cornerbacks Dorian Strong and Armani Chatman also return in search of another big year in 2022. An upper Marlboro, Md., product, Strong, totaled 23 tackles (20 solo), an interception, and six pass breakups a year ago while Chatman, a redshirt junior out of Virginia Beach, is looking for a breakthrough season after showing some flashes in 2021. The 5-foot-11, 205-pounder tallied 13 tackles (eight solo), an interception, and a team-high seven pass breakups.

Brion Murray is someone who can contribute at corner. A junior college product out of Milford, Del., Murray has been around for some big moments during his time at

Virginia Tech. The sixth-year senior totaled eight tackles (five solo) with four pass breakups back in 2021.

Nasir Peoples is also expected to contribute heavily at safety for the Hokies. Another fifth-year junior, Peoples earned All-ACC Honorable Mention a season ago after starting all 13 games. He finished second on the team with tackles (51.0 solo) while also recording an interception and three pass breakups.

**NOTES**

- Chamarri Conner has started each of the last 37 games for Virginia Tech.

- The Hokies retain 78.6 percent of their total pass breakup production from 2021.

The position outlook is simple.

The Hokies will have a talented returning group at the top of the depth chart as they did a season ago. Though Tech will lose Jermaine Waller and Tae Daley, plenty of experience still resides in the secondary room for the Hokies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Chamarri Conner looks to lead a talented room this year for Virginia Tech's defensive back unit.

## Youth football camp at CHS



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Over 63 youngsters attended this past week's Christiansburg Recreation Department and Christiansburg High School football camp. Total Car Care provided funding for the campers' T-shirts.

## Race results Steppin- Out Festival's Draper Mile (Top 50)



Former Christiansburg High School runner Alex Watty was the overall second place finisher in this past week's Draper Mile held in conjunction with the Steppin' Out Festival.

Photos courtesy of Runabout Sports  
 Willy Fink was the overall winner of the Draper Mile in Blacksburg with a time of 3:59.17.

- |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1) Willy Fink, 3:59.17; 2) Alex Watty; 3) Spencer McGhee, 4) Matthew Denlinger, 5) Jonathan Goerlich, 6) Quinn Thomas, 7) Konnor Rafferty, 8) Frank Locascio, 9) Conner Rutherford, | 10) Lawson Mecum<br>11) Caleb Hatcher, 12) Anderson Norton, 13) Thomas Fulcher, 14) Louis Semtner, 15) Harrison Whitfield, 16) Harrison Tracy, 17) Miles Carrier, 18) Tyler Miletta, 19) Anthony Du, | 20) Nate Lehman<br>21) Kevin McGuire, 22) Bryce Cannon, 23) Elliot Howard, 24) Aiden Carrier, 25) Evan Spaulding, 26) Noah Jones, 27) Kevin Byrd, 28) Zachary Swartzwelder, 29) Miles Ermann, 30) Cristoir | Neal<br>31) Fletcher Meadema, 32) Ignacio Moore, 33) Bennett Hunter, 34) Glen McGuire, 35) Arrian Deboer, 36) Katie Wardinski, 37) Zande Kirsch, 38) Ryan Bagchi, 39) Daniel Kolasa, | 40) Brennan Durbin<br>41) Tay Shen, 43) Hannah Altizer, 44) Keldon Warner, 45) William Jenkins, 46) Chase Fisher, 47) Summer Hamlin, 48) James Wallace, 49) Tyler Warren, 50) Robert Crnkovich. |
|---|--|--|--|---|



# Outdoor report: Organization, preparation is key for fall hunting



Having everything at hand is important when going out into the woods this fall. PHOTO BY JAMES MOFFITT

If you're anything like me, you're probably starting to bring your gear out of storage and making checklists in preparation for the upcoming season. I've come to rely on these yearly audits, using this time to make considerations about what I should replace soon, what I need to replace now, and what I want to replace based on new preferences.

Like everyone else, my schedule in the fall tends to fill up quickly. Having all of my gear in one place and knowing that I can just grab my pack and head out the door has helped me become a more effective hunter and spend

more time in the woods because I'm not wasting precious time searching for my missing headlamp or cursing myself when I'm sitting in the stand and realize that my grunt tube is on the kitchen table.

As I start to prepare for fall, I've made a top-to-bottom list of the things that live in my pack all season, along with a couple of insights as to why I carry them. Just like packing for a backpacking trip, this list is organized from things I need most readily, down to things I can stop to retrieve from the pack without jeopardizing my hunt.

- Top of Pack & Hip Strap Pockets**
- Rain fly & poncho** – This goes without saying. Being wet is no fun; being wet and cold is even worse.
- Headlamp** – A couple of years ago, I started carrying a coyote hunting headlamp with a battery pack instead of the smaller version you can get at a big box store. I love it, and I don't think I'll ever go back to something smaller.
- Face camo** – Whether you believe in woodland makeup or not, I keep this in a spot I can reach easily for tree-stand application.
- Calls** – Depending on a dozen

- variables, like the time of the season and what I'm hunting, my calls are always in an easy-to-access spot.**
- Range finder** – If I'm archery hunting, my range finder stays on my binocular harness or in the top of my pack for easy access.
- Hearing protection** – I use electronic in-ear hearing protection, and it's always in my left hip strap pocket to keep me from having to search for it.
- Extra ammo** – Having a spare magazine with rounds loaded is a great way to not have to climb down out of your stand to get the magazine you left in your gun case.
- Mid Pack, Main Pockets**
- Extra layers** – Again, this is season dependent, but I often get sweaty on the hike in and then find myself getting chilly once I'm set up, so I always bring an extra top layer.
- Tree saddle & accessories** – This gets packed on top of my extra layers so it's the first thing out of my pack when I get to my selected tree. Because of its size, it doesn't get carried externally on my pack.
- Odor killers** – I usually give myself a spray down once I'm in my tree and have put on my extra warming layer.
- Pull rope** – This comes out at the same time as my saddle and lets me get up the tree safely and then retrieve my rifle or bow.
- Bottom Pockets, Deep Storage**
- Cleaning kit** – This includes my knife, gloves, and a couple of other things I use to process a harvest.

Flagger's tape – I use this to mark blood trails if needed. Since this is rare, it tends to stay stuffed in my pack, and I use a Ziploc bag to pack it all back up after retrieving my harvest.

First aid kit – I always carry a first aid kit, tourniquet, lighter, and some duct tape with me for one reason. It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.

Notebook and pen – Typically after every hunt, I record details including stand position, weather conditions, and any notable events into a diary to help myself keep track of exactly how my season is going. I use this data to help inform next year's hunting strategy.

To some, the amount of gear I carry may seem like overkill. To others, you may be wondering why I'm not also carrying X, Y, or Z thing. I've learned that each season is a process of trial and error, and by using this pre-season time to revise my load-out, I go into the season better prepared. It's all about the process and testing to dial in what really works.

So, pull out your pack, lay out your gear, and think a little about what you'd want to do differently this year.

*by James Moffitt*

– James Moffitt is the founder of TrailHead Creative, a branding and content agency based in Richmond. He's an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and angler and takes any opportunity he can to spend time outdoors with his wife and Labrador retriever, Huxley.

## Sports notes: Two New RU assistant baseball coaches, volunteer assistant; VT lands baseball commit, VT's NIL launches

Radford University Baseball Head Coach Alex Guerra has announced the hiring of Christian Bourne and Billy Funk as assistant coaches. Seth Lancaster will serve as a volunteer assistant. Bourne will focus on pitching, and Funk will focus on hitting.

Bourne joins the Highlanders from Georgia Southern where he was the Director of Baseball Operations and Player Development for coach Rodney Hennon last season. Prior to joining the Eagles, Bourne was with his alma mater JMU as the Di-

rector of Pitching Development alongside Guerra. Funk joins the Highlanders following multiple years as a member of the coaching staff at NJCAA Louisburg College where he led recruiting efforts and coached infield players. He gained valuable experience at Wingate during the 2016 and 2017 seasons, serving as the outfield coach and assisting with the offense. He also supervised academic affairs and recruiting.

Lancaster comes to the New River Valley from Longwood where he served as a graduate assistant and hitting coach. Prior to that, he worked at Georgia Southern as a volunteer assistant coach for one season. He helped the Eagles to a 34-23 record in 2021 and then capped his tenure in Statesboro with a 41-20 season that resulted in the hosting of an NCAA Tournament regional.

He gained valuable experience at Wingate during the 2016 and 2017 seasons, serving as the outfield coach and assisting with the offense. He also supervised academic affairs and recruiting.

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Tommy Szczepanski, a recent high school graduate who was drafted by the Kansas City Royals last month, tweeted Monday that he has committed to the Virginia Tech baseball program.

Szczepanski was a standout pitcher at Garber High School in Essexville, Mich. He was chosen by the Royals in the 19th round of the Major League Baseball amateur draft.

VT launches NIL

The Hokie Way, an independent nonprofit organization that will create active engagements for Virginia Tech student-athletes with charitable goals, has launched.

The Hokie Way will raise funds to support charitable organizations across the commonwealth through the active engagement of Virginia Tech student athletes who wish to use their names, image, and likenesses (NIL) to advance the work of charitable organizations. With the help of aligned collectives focused on NIL opportunities, The Hokie Way will assist in building cause-marketing partnerships.

Former Highlander to coach

Arkansas State Head Volleyball Coach Brian Gerwig completed his 2022 coaching staff, announcing the hiring of Jordan Coomes as assistant coach.

Coomes joins Gerwig's staff after spending the 2021 season at Jacksonville State, fresh off her playing career at Radford University. Bryant Stith hired at UNC-G

UNC-G Head Coach Mike Jones has announced the hiring of Bryant Stith as an assistant coach.

Bryant comes to Greensboro from Norfolk, VA where he served the previous nine years as an assistant coach at Old Dominion University. Stith, a 10-year NBA veteran, brings a wealth of experience to UNCG, as he will assist with player development, on-court coaching, recruiting, and opponent scouting.

During his time at ODU, Stith was influential in guiding the Monarchs to a Conference USA Regular Season Championship, a Conference USA Tournament Championship, a NCAA Tournament appearance, making it to the NIT semi-final round, a first-ever Top 25 ranking, and a Vegas 16 Championship.

Before joining the staff at ODU, Stith was a successful high school coach and administrator at Brunswick High School in Virginia. His teams won state championships in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and advanced to the state title game seven straight years. While at Brunswick, Coach Stith coached Javonte Green who went on to play for Coach Jones at Radford. Javonte later went on to become the first NBA player Coach Jones helped to develop as a head coach, making his NBA debut with the Celtics in 2019.

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