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PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

**The longest-reigning monarch in Britain's history, Queen Elizabeth II died Thursday.**

## Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96

By *Brendan Morrow news.yahoo.com*

Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in Britain's history, has died, Buckingham Palace confirmed Thursday. She was 96.

The palace in a statement said the queen "died peacefully" at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. The news came just hours after Buckingham Palace released an alarming statement that doctors were "concerned for Her Majesty's health" and that she would remain under medical supervision. Members of the British royal family, including Prince Charles, were reportedly rushing to be by her side.

Elizabeth served on the throne for seven decades, during which time the United States had 14 presidents.

She was crowned in 1953 after succeeding her father, George VI. Concerns over the queen's health grew in the past year as she adjusted travel plans numerous times, and she recently did not travel to Buckingham Palace to receive the new British prime minister.

The queen's death means her son, Charles, immediately becomes king, and his wife, Camilla, will serve as queen consort. "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow," Buckingham Palace said.

In a statement from "His Majesty The King," Charles said the "death of my beloved mother" is a "moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family."

"I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realm and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world," Charles continued. "During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held."

British Prime Minister Liz Truss also described the queen's death as a "huge shock to the nation and to the world," adding, "Britain is the great country it is today because of her." U.S. Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "Our hearts and our thoughts go to the family members of the queen" and "to the people of the United Kingdom."

## Virginia Tech's efforts to help service members and veterans lead to national acclaim

Earlier this summer, Virginia Tech received national recognition for its role in helping to improve the lives of United States veterans when Operation Hat Trick (OHT), a nonprofit organization that supports the recovery of wounded service members and veterans, named the university a finalist for its 2022 Excellence in Service Award.

Virginia Tech was one of five finalists, joining Western Michigan, Arizona, Texas A&M, and Clemson. Arizona and Clemson were co-winners of the award.

Given the university's military tradition as one of two schools nationally with a corps of cadets (Texas A&M is the other), the Operation Hat Trick partnership is just one of many ways the university continues to honor its roots as a military institution.

"We in the university

See **Virginia Tech**, page 3



CUTLINE VIRGINIA TECH PHOTO

**Fans enjoyed the co-branded merchandise between Virginia Tech and Operation Hat Trick last year, putting the apparel on full display during the football team's annual Military Appreciation Game.**



**As part of the New River Community College 2022-23 concert series, country band Crawford & Power will perform on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 at the college in Dublin.**

## Crawford & Power coming to NRCC later this month

Country band Crawford & Power will perform Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at New River Community College in Dublin. The event is part

of the NRCC 2022-2023 Concert Series.

Tickets for the show are on sale now. Reserved seating tickets are \$20 in advance and are avail-

See **Crawford & Power**, page 5



The staff of Radford University's conference services.

## For first time, Radford University ranked among top National Universities by U.S. News

For the first time, Radford University was recognized among the top National Universi-

ties in the U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best Colleges report, a category which ranks

schools that offer a range of doctoral programs in

See **Radford**, page 4

## Virginia Tech receives several top-30 rankings in latest report

By *Jimmy Robertson*

Virginia Tech received top-30 rankings in the areas of engineering, learning communities, and computer science in the U.S. News & World Report 2022-23 Best Colleges rankings released Monday, Sept. 12.

U.S. News & World Report ranks bachelor's degree-granting institutions in the United States annually to help prospective high school students find their best fits for college.

All rankings consider 17 measures of academic quality, including items such as graduation rates,

retention rates, social mobility (how well schools graduated students receiving federal

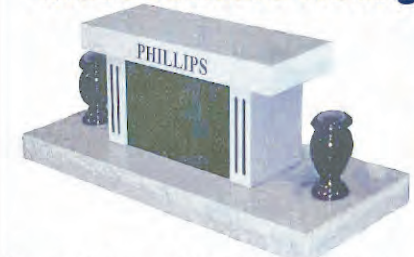
See **Rankings**, page 5



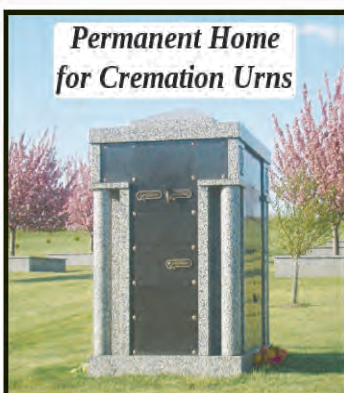
PHOTO BY RYAN YOUNG FOR VIRGINIA TECH.

**Virginia Tech's aerospace engineering program was ranked No. 12 nationally in the latest U.S. World News & Report 2022-23 Best Colleges rankings.**

### Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



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# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Amaika is a fun-loving gal in search of her furever home. She's friendly and energetic. Amaika also loves to play with stuffed toys and tennis balls. As a younger pup, she will need some humans who can help her master doggie manners.**



**Holstein loves people. He enjoys getting pets, nuzzling, and receiving affection. He's a sweet boy who will likely be a shadow to his favorite human. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see if Holstein is your purrfect match.**

## Warm Hearth Foundation's cheeseburger event kicks off fund drive that raises record funds for seniors

BLACKSBURG – Warm Hearth Foundation recently held its ninth annual Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise fundraising event that kicked off its annual fund drive.

This year's event raised more than \$43,000 with the support of sponsors, local businesses, volunteers and attendees. Those funds will be used to support the Neighbors In Need fund for seniors on the campus of Warm Hearth Village (WHV). The Foundation works to help Village seniors who need support with basic necessities such as housing, food, personal care, household cleaning items, pet supplies, and health care services.

The record funds raised will help provide continued assistance to approximately 178 residents on campus through a variety of programs.

The event included a silent auction made possible by donors and local businesses and live entertainment by the Randy Clay Band from North Carolina. Nearly 250 guests enjoyed cheeseburgers and side dishes provided by The Corner at Clay Street, Hethwood Market, Holiday Inn New River Valley Mall, The Fireside Grill, and The Village Gourmet.

Jack and Betty Onufrak, new residents at Warm Hearth Village, came for the first time. "This was a great introduction to the spirit of this community," Jack Onufrak said. "It was so fun, friendly and colorful, with some of the best burgers. The pirate costumes were amazing. Betty and I will definitely come again."

"One of our attendees shared with me that they have been to many fundraising events over the years and the Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise event is by far the best from planning and execution to most importantly knowing that you are helping a great cause," said Karen Nelson, Associate Director of Development. "Next year is the tenth anniversary of the event, and plans have already begun to make it the best ever."

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. Warm Hearth Village is composed of a group of affiliated corporations that work in partnership by exchanging medical and financial information to meet the changing needs of the village's residents and clients.



**The Randy Clay Band was featured at Warm Hearth Foundation's Cheeseburger in Parrot-dise fundraising event.**

## NAACP to hold general body meeting Sunday, Sept. 25

The local branch of the NAACP will hold its regularly scheduled general body meeting on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The guest speaker for CRE-

DO (Civil Rights Educational Development Opportunity) will be Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity, and professor of education at

Virginia Tech.

This year is branch elections for all officers and four members-at-large for the 2023-24 term. To be eligible to run for office, persons must have been a member of the lo-

cal branch on May 1.

Also at the Sept. 25 meeting, the branch will elect a nominating committee with a minimum of five members. To be eligible to serve on the committee, persons must have

been a member of the local branch as of Aug. 25. The nominating committee will interview and assemble a slate of candidates from eligible members for the various positions.

## Local college students graduate, earn awards

Abiokpoyanam Batubo of Blacksburg has graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Master of Arts in economics.

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research

university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law.

In addition, the fol-

lowing local residents have earned awards of excellence at Western Governors University. The awards are given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

From Christiansburg:

Anna Penland, WGU College of Health Professions

Michelle Keister, WGU College of Health Professions

From Dublin:

Qnyjah Britton, WGU College of Health

Professions  
From Fairlawn:  
Eric Pannell, WGU College of Information Technology

From Radford:

Olivia Lawson, WGU College of Business

Established in 1997 by

19 U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online, nonprofit WGU now serves more than 131,000 students nationwide and has more than 288,000 graduates in all 50 states.

## Virginia Tech from page 1

licensing and trademarks office were pleased to offer a line of co-branded Virginia Tech/Operation Hat Trick merchandise," said Jessica Hotter, director of brand development and trademark licensing in Virginia Tech's Office of Licensing and Trademarks. "The proceeds from the sale of those items not only helped support student scholarships and other student initiatives, but also an additional portion of the sales supported wounded service members and veterans through Richmond Fisher House, which serves as a home away from home for

the families of veterans receiving care at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"It was the combination of the co-branded merchandise, focus on veterans' causes, and events surrounding the military appreciation celebrations — in collaboration with Athletics, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, and the Pamplin College of Business — that led to the distinction from Operation Hat Trick (OHT)."

For the first time, Virginia Tech's Office of Licensing and Trademarks and Virginia

Tech Athletics offered an OHT co-branded shirt as the official White Effect T-shirt for the Military Appreciation Game between the Hokies' football team and Middle Tennessee State on Sept. 11 of last year. The White Effect shirt sold more than 6,300 units, making it the best-selling item on the athletics' team store site in 2021.

Richmond Fisher House actually consists of two facilities, with suites that include private bedrooms and baths. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is no fee to stay in either dwelling.

"The two homes in

temporary lodging so military and veteran families who live 50 miles or farther from the treating facility can be close to their loved one during a medical crisis," said Wayne Walker, director of Richmond Fisher House. "Since the first home opening in 2008, the Richmond Fisher House staff has provided free lodging to more than 12,000 families. We are truly grateful for our community partners like Virginia Tech to assist us in our mission to take care of our nation's heroes."

Virginia Tech Athletics' Military Appreciation Game will be another co-branded OHT White

Effect game and will take place when the Hokies face Wofford on Sept.

17 at Lane Stadium. The kickoff is slated for 11 a.m.

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# OBITUARIES

## Carrico, Tara Christine Nicole

Tara Christine Nicole Carrico, beloved mother, daughter, and sister died Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022.

She is survived by her three children; Christian McClellan (age 24), Ethan McClellan (age 21), and Alli Moore (age 13); her mother, Kathy Carrico; and a sister, Amber Carrico Wilson (Randy).

A special thank-you goes from the family to Medi Hospice, which took

such loving care of Tara, and the friends who helped care for her.

Friends wishing to honor Tara are invited to make a contribution to her children through GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/ae456685>.

Per Tara and the children's wishes, no service is planned.

The Carrico family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Kosztarab, Dr. Michael

Dr. Michael Kosztarab, 95, Professor Emeritus of Entomology, died on Sept. 6, 2022, in Blacksburg.

Dr. Kosztarab was born in 1927 in Bucharest, Romania, grew up in the Transylvanian portion of what was then Hungary, and later resided in Budapest. In 1944 at the age of 17 he helped hide 30 Jews from the Nazis, which resulted in his arrest until the Allied Forces pushed the Nazis out of Hungary.

In 1956, he was an associate professor of entomology in Budapest when the Hungarian Revolution occurred. As the Soviets were brutally suppressing the uprising and began to close the Hungarian border, he escaped into Austria with his wife Matilda, a dangerous journey made mostly on foot, culminating in crossing a frigid river into Austrian territory. It was too risky to take their six-month old daughter, Eva, across the guarded border, so instead they devised a plan to retrieve her.

Each day for nine days he traveled on an Austrian train that crossed into a small portion of Hungary. On the ninth day, in a pre-arranged covert transfer, his daughter was passed to him through an open window of the train as it was leaving the Hungarian station while the armed guards were not looking.

In 1957, the now-united family immigrated to America with sponsorship by Catholic Charities. These exciting adventures, as well as his time thereafter in the US and his many travels around the world are captured in his autobiography "Transylvanian Roots."

After arriving in the U.S. and completing his PhD at Ohio State, Dr. Kosztarab became a professor of entomology at Virginia Tech from 1962 until his retirement in 1992. During his tenure at Virginia Tech, he authored or co-authored six books, 170 research publications, 34 research bulletins, and discovered several new insect species. Dr. Kosztarab loved to teach and advised many doctoral and masters candidates at Virginia Tech. His teaching skills were recognized with the W. E. Wine Award for Excellence of Teaching (1968).

He also served as the curator until 2003 of the largest and oldest insect collection in Virginia containing over 1.1 million specimens. Dr. Kosztarab



was a founding director of the Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History established in 1990, and was the founding president of the Virginia Natural History Society (1993-94). With the aid of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, he led the effort that resulted in the adoption of the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly as the Virginia State Insect.

The Association of Systematics Collections' Annual Recognition Award was given to Dr. Kosztarab in 1994 for his successful ten-year-long effort toward the initiation of the U.S. National Biological Survey/Service. He received the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation in 1998 and the L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award of the Eastern Branch, Entomological Society of America in 2001. He was honored with membership in Washington D.C.'s Cosmos Club in 1970 and a fellowship in the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1989.

Dr. Kosztarab had been a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Blacksburg since 1965. He loved to travel around the world, often to research stations where he collected insects with his wife Matilda who assisted his efforts. With an undergraduate degree in horticulture, he was an avid gardener and even grew grapes in his backyard from which he made homemade wine.

He was the only child of Mihaly Kosztarab and Berta Albert, both of whom are deceased. His wife, Matilda Kosztarab, predeceased him in 2013.

He is survived by his daughter Eva Kosztarab and his son-in-law Kenneth Kastner; grandsons Gregory and Matthew Kastner; granddaughter-in-law Katharine Hagen, and great-granddaughters Lia and Abigail Kastner.

A memorial service will be held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Blacksburg at 1205 Old Mill Road at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, followed by a reception. His ashes will be interred at the Westview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Virginia Tech Foundation for the Michael Kosztarab Entomology Scholarship Endowment Fund (#883546) and sent to 902 Prices Fork Road, Suite 4500, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

## Childress, James

James Childress of Belspring, passed away at home Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, after a long battle with emphysema. He was 83.

James was born April 3, 1939 in the tiny community of Swords Creek, in Russell County, Va. to Nora Stacy Childress, a talented seamstress, and James Arvil Childress, a mechanic and bus driver. As a boy he worked on the family farm and helped to take care of his many younger siblings. As a young man he worked in Chicago for a time before settling in Roanoke to operate Shenandoah Office Supply.

While in Roanoke he met and married Darryll Duncan. They soon moved to Christiansburg where he ran Snapps Business Machines through the 1980's. As typewriters and office equipment were replaced by computers, he worked various jobs using his tinkering and repair skills until retiring to a hilltop home overlooking the mountains in Belspring.

After retirement James could often be found in the garage turning an old lawnmower into a functional machine and keeping a small garden. In his later years he



enjoyed watching old West-erns and teasing the multitude of grandchildren, nieces and nephews that would come to visit, giving them each a nickname and eating plenty of sweets.

James was preceded in death by two sisters, Nora Bostic and Gay Edgin; and one brother, Ramon Childress. He is survived by his wife Darryll; stepchildren Greg Smith of Pulaski, Jennifer Smith of Pinehurst, N.C., and Lisa Tzavlas of Belspring; and granddaughter Misty Sexton of Baltimore, Md. whom he raised as his own.

No formal services will be held. The Childress family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Simpkins, Dorothy "Dot" Imogene Morris

Dorothy "Dot" Imogene Morris Simpkins, of Christiansburg went to her heavenly home on Sept. 9, 2022, at Highland Ridge Rehab Center at the age of 93.

Dot was born to Franklin and Sarah Morris in Carroll County, Va., on Sept. 24, 1928, the sixth of their 11 children. She met Osgood Simpkins when he would carry milk across the river near her childhood home. She ran away with him to get married at the young age of 15 on Jan. 31, 1944. Dot and Osgood led a simple life on a small dairy farm in Snowville, Va. She also worked outside the home at several factories until she retired in 1994 from Poly-Scientific. They raised their three children, Osgood Joshua "Josh", Katie Sue, and James Russell "Rusty" on the farm until they moved to Radford, Va. in 1981. After Osgood passed away in 1983, Dot never remarried but enjoyed spending her time with her children and grandchildren. She could often be found in the kitchen, cooking family meals including her well-loved biscuits and delicious desserts or at the dining room table engrossed in card games. She was a long-time member of Gethsemane Baptist Church. She also enjoyed fishing, reading, word search puzzles and watching the Atlanta Braves. Dot was fiercely independent and took care of herself as long as she could. When she was no longer able to be alone, she shared her time between the homes of Josh and Katie until she moved in fully with Katie and her husband Allen in 2018. They cared for Dot until she had to be placed in a permanent care facility in July 2022. She can be fondly remembered by her smiling face, stories from the old days, and competitive nature. Dot was loved deeply by her family, and she will be greatly missed.

Dot was preceded in death by her par-



ents, her husband, her youngest son, Rusty, granddaughter Catherine, along with five sisters and four brothers.

She is survived by her brother, Marvin Morris and wife Peggy; her sisters-in-law, Margie, Ruby and Becky Morris; her son, Josh Simpkins and wife Judi and their children: Gerald, Walt and Nick Simpkins (and girlfriend Mary Elmore), Lew Yon (and wife Barbara) and Chris Yon (and wife April); her daughter, Katie Pelkey and husband Allen and their children: Greg Pelkey (and wife Jennifer) and Sara Rogers (and husband Shawn); great-grandchildren, Kristin (and husband Roger), Carrie, Kaylee, Dylan, Harley, Nathan, Blaine, Ava, Kayson, and Brantley; and great-great grandchildren, Little Roger, Christopher and Seilah. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

The family wants to extend a special thank you to: Intrepid Healthcare Hospice for their love, support and care for Dot over the last year; Hope Roop for providing respite and friendship to us; Highland Ridge Rehab Center nurses and staff for their attentiveness and compassion; and Mullins Funeral Home for their care and services.

There will be a Celebration of Life visitation on what would have been Dot's 94th birthday, Sept. 24, 2022, from 10-11 a.m. at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, Va. There will be a private burial at the Simpkins Family Cemetery at a later date.

John 16:22 – And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

The Simpkins family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

## Rankings

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Pell Grants), affordability, value of the degree after graduation, faculty resources, opinion of experts (presidents, provosts, etc.), financial resources, and test scores.

Virginia Tech also scored highly in several categories, including a No. 23 ranking in the National Universities class for Top Public Schools, a jump of seven spots from last year's ratings.

U.S. News & World Report divided its rankings of more than 1,400 schools into divisions of national universities, liberal arts colleges, regional universities, and regional colleges. Schools in the National Universities category offer a full range of undergraduate

majors, plus master's and Ph.D. programs.

The ratings reflected well on Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. The university's engineering program ranked No. 16 in the Best Undergraduate Engineering (doctorate) category.

Various programs within the College of Engineering also scored well: industrial engineering (No. 4), environmental engineering (No. 8), civil engineering (No. 11), aerospace engineering (No. 12), electrical engineering (tie No. 15), computer engineering (No. 25), and computer science (tie No. 29).

The university came in at No. 22 in the Learning Communities

division that focuses on students who typically take two or more linked courses as a group and get to know each other and their professors especially well. College presidents, chief academic officers, deans of students and deans of admissions from more than 1,500 schools each nominate up to 15 institutions with stellar examples of learning communities.

In addition, the university scored highly in the following areas: Best Colleges for Veterans (No. 34), Best Undergraduate Business (No. 39), Most Innovative Schools: National Universities (No. 41), and Overall National Universities (No. 62).

## Crawford & Power

from page 1

able for purchase online only at [www.nr.edu/fiddle](http://www.nr.edu/fiddle).

General seating tickets are \$10 in advance and are available online or in-person at the NRCC Business Office, 23 Godbey Hall, Dublin and Pulaski County Visitor Center (cash and checks only for in-person sales). General seating tickets will be \$15 and reserved seating tickets will be \$25 when purchased at the door.

With roots in country, Americana, and southern rock, Crawford & Power seek to put their twist toward a classic country music revival. Their unique brand of country has been lauded as a breath of fresh air to the genre.

The duo has already opened for a variety of artists including The Marshall Tucker Band, Willie Nelson, Travis Tritt, The Charlie Daniels Band, Cody

Johnson, Luke Combs, 38 Special, Gary Allan, and Jerry Douglas.

With the help of their debut EP, "Play a Hank Jr. Song," the duo has quickly eclipsed more than 2.5 million on-demand streams. The duo followed up their debut release with two singles, "She Liked to Get High" and "Dancing Alone."

Newly signed to Vere Music, Crawford & Power released "What I've Been Missin'," on Aug. 20, 2021, which will be the first single off their new self-titled EP.

NRCC is a Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail, affiliated venue. Doors will open for the show at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.nr.edu/fiddle](http://www.nr.edu/fiddle). Questions may be directed to Tim Jones at 540-674-3625.

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

# Blacksburg's Hope to Walk to host 5K fundraiser

Blacksburg-based non-profit, Hope to Walk, is hosting its third annual virtual 5K on October 1-2, 2022.

All proceeds will go toward helping Hope to Walk achieve its goal of providing amputees with a fresh restart on life with the gift of a new leg and renewed hope. Participants can run, walk, or

roll 3.1 miles anytime over the course of two days, anywhere in the world.

Participants can compete as an individual or create a team. The organization will distribute event merchandise for specific fund goals. Those who raise \$50 will earn a special edition Hope to Walk Virtual 5K T-shirt. Rais-

ing \$250 will include a t-shirt, a Hope-to-Walk hat, and the chance to name a leg in honor of a loved one. The individual who raises the most money will receive an honorable Hope-to-walk "Golden Leg" trophy.

To register or to learn more information about the event, go to [hopetowalk.donordrive.com](http://hopetowalk.donordrive.com).

Participants are encouraged to track their progress by taking a selfie and sharing the event online with the hashtags #htwvirtual5k and #newwalksotheycan on social media.

Hope-to-Walk provides low-cost prosthetic legs to the world's poorest amputees free of charge. Currently, Hope to Walk serves

amputees in Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Vietnam, Belize, and Tanzania with dozens of other countries waiting. Not only does Hope to Walk donate low-cost, innovative prosthetic legs to amputees, but the organization also trains locals to build them and helps them organize a clinic to eventually become self-sufficient.

# Survey: Virginians have nation's third best access to 'Grade A' hospitals

Duffy & Duffy, a medical malpractice law firm, used the 'Hospital Safety Grade,' along with state population data, to determine a state ranking of where Americans have the best access to 'Grade A' level hospitals in terms of medical safety.

The Safety Grade allocates a safety score (with A being the highest possible score and F the lowest) for hospitals in each state,

which provides information on how likely patients are to experience injuries, accidents, harm, or error during hospitalization. Combined with state population figures, the data analysis compiled a ranking from 1 to 50, indicating which states have the greatest access to top grade healthcare.

It emerged that Virginians have among the best access to 'Grade A' hospitals

in the country. Old Dominion emerged in third position overall with a rate of 199,885 people per 'Grade A' hospital. Virginia has 73 hospitals in the state, of which a significant 59.2% (43 hospitals) scored 'Grade A' in terms of safety.

An unfortunate statistic is that more than 22,000 deaths in the U.S. each year are a result of preventable deaths during patient hos-

pitalization. Medical error often involves factors such as poor management or monitoring of medical conditions, errors linked to surgery and other procedures, and diagnostic errors. While healthcare workers are dedicated to their medical duties, these errors may also be related to factors such as short-staffing, system defects, or errors in judgment.

According to the sur-

vey, the top five states with the greatest accessibility to 'Grade A' level hospitals are 1. Mississippi 192,308 people per top-grade hospital 2. Maine 194,018 people per top-grade hospital 3. Virginia 199,885 people per top-grade hospital 4. North Carolina: 203,064 people per top-grade hospital 5. Pennsylvania: 206,652 people per top-grade hospital.

The five states with

the lowest accessibility to 'Grade A' level hospitals, according to the Duffy & Duffy survey, are 46. Delaware: 997,621 people per top-grade hospital 47. Iowa: 3,011,789 people per top-grade hospital. 48. North Dakota: no top-grade hospitals in the state. 49. Wyoming: no top-grade hospitals in the state. 50. West Virginia: no top-grade hospitals in the state.

# V DOT ROADWATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county 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.

## 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.

**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. Road is now open. Flagging operations may continue to be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10 foot lane. Expected completion is October 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. Starting in February and 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. Barrier walls 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:

· Nighttime lane closures may 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 later in the month of September. Supply chain issues have delayed manufacture and delivery of metal bases for the new lighting poles that must be installed before the facility can be reopened. The Virginia Department of Transportation's contractor Branch Civil Inc. will need additional time to install the lighting so reopening the facility needs to be postponed.

Signage indicating the closure is posted in the rest area. A temporary concrete barrier wall will remain in place in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot are 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 are 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.

## INTERSTATE 581

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

## LANE CLOSURES:

· 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 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**

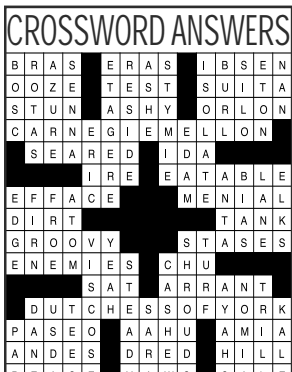
**MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN CARROLL COUNTY** - Weather permitting, crews will be milling, paving and performing maintenance along Interstate 77. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

**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.

## ROANOKE CITY

**13th STREET SE IMPROVEMENTS WITH DETOUR** - A project to improve a portion of 13th Street SE in Roanoke is underway. Located in a residential neighborhood just east of downtown Roanoke, this project will improve traffic flow and connectivity along 13th Street SE from Tazewell Avenue to Norfolk Avenue. The project entails reconstructing about 0.2-mile of 13th Street as an improved, two-lane roadway with 10.5-foot-wide travel lane and a raised median. A new roadway will extend 13th Street to Norfolk Avenue and the intersection at 13th Street and Wise Avenue will be reconfigured to include a roundabout. Bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks and curb and gutter will also be added. Southbound 13th Street traffic has a detour in place using Norfolk Avenue onto 12th Street to Tazewell Avenue. This detour will be in place throughout the duration of this project. Signs will be posted to designate the detour route. Northbound 13th Street will remain open to traffic. Flaggers may be possible and the speed limit through the work zone is 25 mph. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2023.

**SURFACE TREATMENT OPERATIONS** - Weather permitting, crews will begin surface treatment operations on various routes. Lane closures may be in place and flaggers may control traffic at times during daylight hours. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. The road surface may be rough for several weeks after surface treatment is applied. Once it packs down, the road surface will be brushed and return to a more smooth surface.



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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Week 4 previews: Christiansburg, Blacksburg sit out, Radford faces big test against Galax

**Marty Gordon**

*NRVsports@ourvalley.org*

Radford took care of Ft. Chiswell this past week while Christiansburg moved to 3-0 with a big win over William Byrd. The two schools will meet in two weeks in what could be the game of the year.

Christiansburg will join Blacksburg on the sidelines this week with an open date. Rad-

ford will welcome state power Galax to town in their toughest test of the season.

Just down the road, Auburn and Eastern Montgomery will square off for the "Golden Helmet" in the battle of two county schools.

This past week, Radford shut out Ft. Chiswell 48-0 and Christiansburg rolled in a 41-0 win over William Byrd. Blacksburg remained winless, taking it

on the chin against Amherst.

Also, Eastern Montgomery ran into a buzz saw in North Cross.

The numbers game took another toll this past week on a school in Southwest Virginia.

The Twin Valley Panthers defied the odds in the fall of 2021, earning a share of the Black Diamond District football championship and reaching the playoffs with a roster of just 16 players at

season's end.

Now, a numbers crunch and other circumstances have proved too much for Twin Valley to overcome with the season prematurely coming to a close for the Panthers.

Officials from the small Buchanan County school announced Tuesday morning that the varsity program had been suspended for the remainder of the 2022 season.

Twin Valley suffered a 48-14 season-opening loss at Montcalm (West Virginia) on Friday. The Panthers began that game with 18 healthy players and the roster had dwindled to 16 by the time the final buzzer sounded.

Area Super 5: 1) Christiansburg, 2) Salem, 3) Narrows, 4) Galax, 5) Glenvar.

Predictions this week: Galax 32, Radford 30; Eastern Montgomery 27, Auburn 7.

## Radford defeats Fort Chiswell



David Woodward breaks a tackle to pick up rushing yards against Fort Chiswell. Radford rolled to a 48-0 win. On offense, Woodward rushed five times for 30 yards with a touchdown.



Quarterback Landen Clark uses a stiff arm to avoid a Pioneer defender as he had a 10-for-10 night passing with 299 yards and five touchdowns in the win over Fort Chiswell.



Max Kanipe (18) and Dawson Martin gang tackle the Fort Chiswell running back.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Parker Prioleau gets a block from Couper Doyle to pick up yards along the sideline in the Bobcats' 48-0 defeat of Fort Chiswell. Prioleau caught four passes for 109 yards with two touchdowns.

## Pry gets first win at Virginia Tech; Hokies beat BC 27-10

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Grant Wells threw for 140 yards and a touchdown to lift Virginia Tech to a 27-10 victory over Boston College on Saturday.

The Hokies (1-1, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) also got a strong performance from their defense, holding the Eagles (0-2, 0-1 ACC) to 155 yards and sacking BC quarterback Phil Jurkovec six times.

The win marked the first for first-year Virginia Tech head coach Brent Pry, a former Hokie graduate assistant in the mid-1990s.

Virginia Tech cornerback Armani Chatman intercepted Jurkovec on the second play of the game to set up Jalen Holston's 1-yard run that gave the Hokies a lead they would not relinquish.

BC cut Virginia Tech's lead to 17-10 in the third quarter on a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jurkovec to Jaden Williams, but the Hokies immediately answered, scoring on a 2-yard pass from Wells to Kaleb Smith for a two-touchdown advantage.

Jurkovec finished with 135 yards passing to lead BC.



# Blacksburg boys win Knights Crossing Invitational cross-country race



Finishing first in a field of almost 300 runners, Christiansburg's Mariah Reed won the girls middle school 4k at Knights Crossing Saturday (15:58.4).



Blacksburg's Conner Rutherford won the Knights Crossing Invitational Red race Saturday at Green Hill Park with a time of 15:08.7, pacing the Bruin boys to the team win in the prestigious meet. The Blacksburg girls placed second in the team competition.



Radford's Kyle Martin nears the finish line in the Knights Crossing Red race Saturday at Green Hill Park.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

# Eastern Montgomery falls to North Cross 49-0



East Mont quarterback Gage Akers hands off to Mustang running back Matthew Betz.



Mustang Xavier Brown bulls ahead for additional yardage.

# Radford University athletes lead Big South Conference Presidential Honor Roll

RADFORD – The Big South Conference announced Monday that 59.92 percent of eligible student-athletes earned Presidential Honor Roll status for their work in the classroom in 2021-22, the third-highest percentage since 2004. To be named to the Presidential Honor Roll, student-athletes must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better for the recently-completed academic year, and this past season, 2,441 out of 4,074 eligible student-athletes achieved the benchmark.

Radford University led all Big South institutions for the first time since 2012-13, as RU had 77.83 percent of its 230 eligible student-athletes on the Presidential Honor Roll, one of five members to have at least 70 percent of 3.0 students.

Radford student-athletes named to the 2021-22 Big South Conference Presidential Honor Roll are:

- Tyler Burton, baseball, 3.17 GPA
- Luke Vongoedert, baseball, 3.53 GPA
- Shaquan Jules, men's basketball, 3.3 GPA
- William Crane, men's tennis, 3.32

GPA  
Konstantinos Raptis, men's tennis, 3.07 GPA

Dimosthenis Taramonlis, men's tennis, 3.54 GPA

Manfredi Vergine, men's tennis, 3.2 GPA

Leisa Dudley, women's golf, 3.52 GPA

Jimenna Ramirez Gudino, women's golf, 3.33 GPA

Malin Linnea Falk, women's tennis, 3.97 GPA

Mackenzie Gardner, women's cross country, 3.9 GPA

Maddie Wright, women's track, 3.58 GPA

The Big South had 207 student-athletes receive Commissioner's Award distinction in 2021-22 for having a 4.0 GPA. Gold Award scholars (3.75-3.99) totaled 559 while another 570 received Silver Award (3.50-3.74) accolades in 2021-22 for a combined total of 1,336 student-athletes with at least a 3.50 GPA last year, 54.73 percent of all Presidential Honor Roll members at or above that threshold.

# East Mont's golf team wins Pioneer District match



Mustang Hunter Howard won the Pioneer District golf match played Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the Blacksburg Municipal Golf Course.



East Mont's Drew Smith came in second at the Pioneer District golf match.

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