

In memoriam: Lesley “Sue” Ratcliff, dining services

Lesley “Sue” Ratcliff, age 50, of Hiwassee in Pulaski County, passed away on Friday, July 6, 2018.

Lesley was born on June 23, 1968 and was employed with Virginia Tech for more than 10 years. She most recently served as a service leader in the West End Market. She was a 1987 graduate of Pulaski County High School.

Lesley was the daughter of Ruby Ellen Goad Ratcliff and the late Walter Turner Ratcliff Jr. Her brother, James Darryl “JD” Ratcliff also preceded her in death. She is survived by her mother; sisters Sharon (Thomas) Markey and Debbie Ratcliff; nieces Allison (Mike) Leonard, Ashley Markey, and Amber Markey; nephews Alex Markey, Jeb Ratcliff, and Jake Ratcliff; great nephew Brian Leonard; and great niece Maggie Leonard.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. today, July 11, 2018 at the Bower Funeral Home-Pulaski with Pastor Mike Coleman officiating. Interment will follow at the Goad Family Cemetery (Hiwassee). The family will receive friends one hour before service time. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.bowerfuneralhome.com.

Those in the Virginia Tech community who may wish assistance or desire counseling support may contact:

- Cook Counseling Center at 540-231-6557
- Dean of Students Office at 540-231-3787
- Office of Housing and Residence Life at 540-231-6205
- Hokie Wellness at 540-231-2233 (students) or 540-231-8878 (employees)
- Employee Assistance Program
 - Anthem at 1-855-223-9277
 - Aetna at 1-888-238-6232 (company name: Commonwealth of Virginia, username: COVA, password: COVA)
 - Kaiser Permanente at 1-866-517-7042

Referrals to a campus cleric may be done through the Dean of Students Office at 540-231-3787.

- *Courtesy of Bower Funeral Chapels*

Payroll deduction for employee parking fees moving from pre-tax to post-tax basis

The passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which became effective Jan. 1, 2018, held wide-reaching implications for individuals and employers across the country.

While the legislation did reduce tax rates that resulted in an increase in most employees’ take-home pay, it also eliminated or altered certain deductions that previously benefited employees. The university’s pre-tax parking permit program for employees is the most significant university program impacted by the legislation.

As a result of its assessment of the law’s changes and impact on university employees and operations, Virginia Tech will no longer offer pre-tax payment of parking fees through payroll deduction.

Effective with the July 16, 2018 pay date, all parking fees previously paid through pre-tax payroll deduction will be withheld on a post-tax basis. These changes also include employees in the National Capital Region who use pre-tax deduction to pay for third-party parking.

The final pre-tax payroll deduction for parking permits occurred on the July 2, 2018, pay date.

While the increase in the amount of tax withholdings due to this change will be nominal, employees are encouraged to review their pay stubs and contact the Payroll Office at (540) 231-5201 or payroll@vt.edu if they have any questions or concerns. Additional information on the changes can be found on this page: vtnews.vt.edu/notices/vpf-pretaxparking-elimination.

New 2018-19 benefits deductions effective with July 16 pay date

Effective with the July 16, 2018 pay date, insurance premium deduction changes and FSA elections for the 2018-2019 plan year will begin and will be deducted pre-tax.

Please review your July 16 pay statement to confirm the new benefits deductions. If you believe new deductions are incorrect, please contact the HR Service Center at 540-231-9331 or hrrservicecenter@vt.edu. Monthly insurance

premiums can be found on this page: www.hr.vt.edu/content/dam/hr_vt_edu/benefits-perks/insurance/health-care-premiums.pdf (please divide by 2 to receive the per pay check premium deduction).

Shingles vaccine shortage affects Hokie Wellness shingles vaccine clinic

The Hokie Wellness shingles and other vaccines clinic set for July 17 had an overwhelming response; however, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta has issued a statement regarding the new shingles vaccine, Shingrix.

Per the CDC, due to high levels of demand for Glaxo Smith Kline's Shingrix vaccine, Glaxo Smith Kline has implemented order limits and providers have experienced shipping delays. It is anticipated these order limits and shipping delays will continue throughout 2018.

Because of this, Kroger, who is providing the vaccines for the clinic, is prioritizing second doses over initial doses. This is to ensure those who received the first dose, get the second dose within the specified time frame. Also, this strategy is to ensure that Kroger does not over extend initial immunizations of Shingrix and potentially become unable to fulfill second doses for those patients during the shortage.

As a result, please consider postponing your first dose if your age is at the lower end of the recommended age range, currently 50-59 years old, or if the previous shingles vaccine, Zostavax, was received within the last 3-5 years. Kroger will still administer initial doses to those who want it now; however, wanted to provide information on the current product shortage.

The pneumonia and tDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccines will be available, and future clinics are planned. For more information or to cancel your registration no later than Wednesday, July 11, please contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or by calling 540-231-8878.

Faculty-Staff Planning Calendar discontinued effective 2018-19 academic year

In order to streamline and consolidate information sources for the university, the Faculty-Staff Planning Calendar will no longer be published, effective with the 2018-19 academic year.

We are notifying employees and contributing departments and divisions now in advance of the academic year starting.

The following resources are available where employees can find key university dates and events:

Search the university event calendar (www.calendar.vt.edu) using keywords (exs. pay day, holiday, football) to find specific dates.

- Users can download a specific event or calendar in order to add those events to their personal calendar.
- Users may also subscribe to specific calendars such as the administrative, academic, athletics, or holiday and events calendars to receive updates when new events are entered on that calendar. There are 20 separate calendars that users can download from the university event calendar.

Visit the Virginia Tech calendars (www.vtnews.vt.edu/calendars) for one-stop access to the university event calendar, academic calendar, Hokie sports calendar, holiday and winter closing schedule, and payroll calendar.

For questions about this change or help adding an event to the university event calendar, please contact VT News at vtnews@vt.edu.

Campus community invited to discuss Virginia Tech web design project

All members of the Virginia Tech community are invited to a town hall to learn about the strategy for a redesigned Virginia Tech website (www.vt.edu). The town hall will be held on Friday, July 13, at 10 a.m. in Assembly Hall at the Holtzman Alumni Center.

During the presentation, the University Relations team will review the research and process on developing the redesign, share the content strategy, and provide an overview of the new homepage design. The town hall will be available online using these credentials:

- From PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/258950685>
- Or iPhone one-tap:
US: +19294362866,,258950685# or
+16699006833,,258950685#
- Or Telephone:
Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: 1-929-436-2866 or 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 258 950 685

An additional town hall will be held in August. Details on a date, time, location, and Zoom credentials will be made available. For more information, contact John Jackson at 540-231-8508 or johnj1@vt.edu.

Virginia Tech News is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Division of Human Resources and the Office of University Relations as a service to university employees who do not have computer access on campus. For more information, or to discuss submission of items call 540-231-4387.