

Central Virginia Welding Wars Event at CVCC Spotlights Valuable Local Vocational Workforce Development Programs

In support of developing a skilled workforce to meet the needs of Campbell County's largest manufacturing sectors, the Department of Economic Development was pleased to be the presenting sponsor of the 2022 Central Virginia Welding Wars competition: a day of hands-on competition held at Central Virginia Community College on April 29. The competition showcased a variety of local welding vocational training students, including those enrolled in Campbell County-based programs at the Campbell County Technical Center and VTI in Altavista.

Central Virginia Welding Wars provided competitors with an opportunity to demonstrate their skills while connecting with local employers. Representatives from 12 local employers were also on hand to meet and network with event participants. Professional welders participating in the competition represented companies such as Southern Air, C&C Piping and Fabrication, Moore's Electric & Mechanical, and BWX Technologies.

With over \$1.2 billion in exports, the Lynchburg Region has a strong foundation for continued success in metals manufacturing. Employees in metalworking sectors make an average of \$21.39 per hour in the region. Experienced welders make an average of \$33 per hour. With 57 companies employing over 3,500 people in steel and metals, the region has an abundance of jobs available in welding, machining, industrial maintenance, and production.



After viewing the work of 40 competitors, the following individuals were selected by judges as the top welders in their respective categories:

High School Level I –

- 1st Place: Jonah Cunningham, Amherst County High School
- 2nd Place: Lucas Young, Altavista High School & Campbell County Technical Center
- 3rd Place: Charles Drinkard, Appomattox County High School

High School Level II –

- 1st Place: Landon Coffey, Amherst County High School
- 2nd Place: Chase Massie, Amherst County High School
- 3rd Place: Wickline Wade, Staunton River High School

College Level

- 1st Place: Caitlyn Six, CVCC
- 2nd Place: Dakota Walkup, CVCC
- 3rd place: Luke Foreman, VTI

Professional Level

- Winner: Robert Harris, Southern Air

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Pick-Your-Own Strawberry Season Begins at Yoders' Farms



The most delightfully delicious time of the year has arrived! The temperate days preceding this week have ripened the first batches of strawberries, meaning it is time to pick your own at the four-generation, family-owned and operated Yoders' Farm.

The owner, Delvin Yoder, inherited the farm from his father and has been producing since 1989. Along with his wife Barbara, his son Lowell, and Lowell's wife Juanita, Delvin has been providing high-quality produce grown right here in Campbell County.

Being the first of the berries to bear fruit, strawberries herald the beginning of the produce season and act as an open invitation to turn these gifts scattered at our feet into jams, jellies, pies, cereal or salad toppings, or simply treats to be savored on their own. There are many varieties found in these patches from Ruby Junes, Albion, Roseanne, and the Chandler berry, which is recognized as one of the best berries available.

"We believe our strawberries will be the best you've ever tasted," Delvin says.

Yoders' not only serves as a place to snag your seasonal produce, but also as a venue to commune with friends and family. Many customers take advantage of the conveniently-located tables to enjoy treats from the Snack Shack. You can also find California citrus, New Jersey blueberries, jams, and jellies, some of which are made locally, and their famous hydroponic tomatoes at the farm store, open year-round.

"Whether you want a quick bucket for fresh eating or want to bring your kids picking for the afternoon" says Delvin "we'll strive to make your visit enjoyable." Convenient parking and easy row access, as well as spacious, well-strawed row middles, make picking strawberries as easy and user-friendly as possible.

To stay up to date with events, hours of operation, and seasonal offerings please visit yodersfarm.com

Open Spots Still Available for CSA Produce Subscription Program

With the first boxes of produce scheduled to begin in June, the Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA) still has around 50 spots open for this summer's subscriptions.

As a CSA subscriber, you will ensure having a variety of fresh produce, picked at its prime, on a weekly basis with pick-up stations conveniently located throughout Campbell County while supporting Puckette Farms of Gladys, Virginia.

Your subscription includes 12 weeks of seasonal fruits and vegetables, approximately 20 items each week distributed from June through September. Begin by applying to [become a member online](#). Visit the [Puckette Farms Facebook](#) for updates on the program.

Enjoy Your Freshly-Picked Strawberries With a Salad

Looking for a way to use those freshly-picked strawberries from Yoders' Farm?



Layer a couple of sliced strawberries on top of spinach leaves along with sliced avocado, red onion, feta cheese, toasted

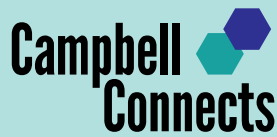
almonds, and chopped pistachios for a healthy meal.

Top off your salad with a light strawberry vinaigrette dressing. In a large bowl, mix well to combine the following ingredients:

- 3 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, grated or finely minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dijon mustard
- 1/2 tablespoon strawberry jam
- Freshly ground salt and pepper, to taste



Campbell Connects Heading to Brookneal June 9



[RSVP now](#) and save the date for the next Campbell Connects event, heading to Brookneal's Drug Store Grill on June 9 at 6:00pm. Campbell

Connects is a great time to network with others in the Campbell County business community while also learning about programming from our regional partners.

Guest speaker for the June meeting will be Stephanie Keener, the Executive Director of the Lynchburg Region Small Business Development Center. Stephanie develops training programs and conferences for small businesses in our region. As an advisor, she often consults with clients who are working to expand their markets, get started in government contracting or exporting, and understand customers. She also coaches on business plan development and digital marketing.

Honor the Military on Memorial Day with a Flag Display



If you plan to display the American flag this Memorial Day, May 30, it may be helpful to brush up on the flag etiquette involved on this particular holiday.

Guidance on the proper display of the American flag is provided by the US Flag Code. On the morning of Memorial Day, the flag should be briskly raised to the peak and remain there for an instant before

it is slowly lowered to the half-staff position, where it should remain until noon. At noon, the flag should be briskly hoisted to the peak again, where it remains until sunset, when it is slowly lowered. Until noon, the flag flies at half-staff as a memorial for the nation's military war dead; for the rest of the day, it flies full and high in a salute to living veterans. The noon flag-raising symbolizes the perseverance of the nation in the face of loss.

For flags that cannot be lowered to half-staff, such as those that are mounted from a staff projecting from a building, a memorial streamer of black crepe no wider than one foot for standard size flags can be affixed to

Upcoming Events

6-7
MAY

Central Virginia Livestock Show
Friday-3:00pm-8:00pm, all day Saturday

7
MAY

Altavista Trade Lot
6:30am

7
MAY

Derby Day at Avoca
4:00pm

8
MAY

Mother's Day Tea
1:00pm

10
MAY

Friends of the Rustburg Library Meeting
6:30pm

14
MAY

Brookneal Farmers' Market
7:00am

20
MAY

Naturalization Ceremony at Red Hill
11:00am

22
MAY

Starry Night with Crewe Astronomy Club at Red Hill 8:00pm

25
MAY

Brookneal Campbell County Airport Authority Meeting

29
MAY

Patrick Henry Birthday Celebration at Red Hill 1:00pm

9
JUN

Campbell Connects in Brookneal
6:00pm

Deadline for Next Cycle of Start Small Campbell Grant Applications on July 1

Check out the [Start Small Campbell Grant](#) page on campbellvirginia.com for details on eligibility and get your application in for the next \$5,000 grant to be awarded in August.



Take a Look at Who's New in the Business Directory

[Lynchburg Pro Wash](#)
[Kubota of Lynchburg](#)
[Your Nutrition Condition](#)

Request an access account to add your business to the directory [here](#). Use the directory to support your local business community.