



Radford celebrating holidays with Winterfest



The New River City will be celebrating the holidays this year with Winterfest, which begins Dec. 6. Winterfest in Radford will include numerous events that will be held both virtually and in-person throughout the month of December

with a special holiday exhibit at the Glencoe Mansion continuing into February. Out of an abundance of caution for the safety of Radford's citizens and visitors, many of the annual traditions and special events have been reimagined so that every-

one can celebrate the season as safely as possible.

Due to the changing climate of the COVID pandemic, attendees are encouraged to confirm dates and times prior to the event, and masks will be required at the in-person events.

Scheduled Winterfest activities include:

December 6: Holiday Pop-Up Market at the New River Valley Community Services lot, 401 W. Main St., from noon until 4 p.m. Noon-4 p.m., 401 W. Main St. Local craft vendors and carolers will set up outside in socially distant spaces, sponsored by MountainTrotter Arts.

December 8: Virtual tree lighting, 6:30 p.m., Facebook Live/at the

See Winterfest, page 3

Moss Arts Center to present an inspired take on a cherished Christmas classic



IMAGE COURTESY OF MANUAL CINEMA

The Ghost of Christmas Present stands with Scrooge in this scene from Manual Cinema's "A Christmas Carol."

The Moss Arts Center invites everyone to experience an unforgettable take on a holiday favorite, told through the colorful and wildly creative lens of innovative puppet company Manual Cinema's two livestreamed performances of Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol" on Friday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m.

A world-premiere online event created for audiences of all ages specifically for the 2020 holiday season, each show will be livestreamed from Manual Cinema's Chicago studio. In the company's signature fashion, hundreds of paper puppets, miniatures and silhouettes come together with a live original score to imaginatively reinvent this cherished holiday classic.

An avowed holiday skeptic, Aunt Trudy has been recruited to channel her late husband Joe's famous Christmas cheer. From the isolation of her studio apartment, she reconstructs his annual "A Christmas Carol" puppet show over a Zoom call while the family celebrates Christmas Eve confined apart. But as Trudy becomes more absorbed in her own version of the story, the puppets take on a life of their own, and the family's call transforms into a stunning cinematic adaptation of Dickens' classic ghost story.

An Emmy Award-winning performance collective, design studio, and film and video production company, Manual Cinema brings liveliness,

See Dickens, page 3

Virginia Tech brews up new partnership with Hardywood to produce Hokie beer

Virginia Tech's roots in agricultural research have sparked a new partnership with Hardywood Park Craft Brewery in Richmond, resulting in a licensed Virginia Tech beer: Fightin' Hokies Lager.

This unique collaboration reaffirms Virginia Tech's land-grant mission to transition world-class faculty-led research and development to market and provide economic benefits to the commonwealth. In this case, the result is a proprietary craft beer recipe developed by Virginia Tech researchers that will be produced and marketed by Hardywood starting next spring.

"We are excited that research developed on Virginia Tech soil will be brought to market with proceeds providing scholarships for our students, enabling the expansion of research programs in our highly regarded food science program and fueling Virginia's local economy," said Dan Sui, vice president for research and innovation for VT. "Hardywood is an ideal partner based in Virginia that has values mirroring those of the Hokie nation. We are confident this partnership will brew innovative ideas that excite generations to come."

Fightin' Hokies Lager is described as a classic Munich-style Hells lager with balance between pleasant malt sweetness and herbal noble hop character. At 5 percent alcohol by volume, it is clean, crisp and refreshing.



The Hokie beer label design features university trademarks including the word Hokies and the vintage Fightin' Gobblers bird. Use of the vintage mark is a nod to nostalgia as the university approaches its sesquicentennial celebration in 2022. The design incorporates a Hokie stone motif in tribute to the locally sourced limestone from which many Blacksburg campus buildings are constructed.

The bright golden beer will be distributed to better beer retailers, including restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores by Hardywood's network of wholesalers throughout Virginia and Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2021.

Earlier in the year, Virginia Tech started the processes to identify a brewery that had strong brand recognition, a history of quality, a collaborative approach to research and

development, a record of sustainability, and the ability to produce a high-quality product to bring to market and meet consumer demand.

As a result, Virginia Tech received interest from several top brewing firms in the country. Hardywood's reputation for quality beer and commitment to serving the com-

See Hokie beer, page 3

VT alum's dance parties have raised nearly \$1.5 million for charities, first responders

During the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chris Kopec threw a little basement dance party to cheer up his family.

The 2000 graduate of Virginia Tech and part-time DJ ended up lifting the spirits of millions around the globe and is now nearing \$1.5 million in funds and resources raised for charities.

"We were pretty stressed out as a family that first week when the kids were out of school, so I decided to fire up the DJ gear and head down to the basement for a dance party," said

Kopec, who lives just southwest of Baltimore. "I jumped on my personal Facebook page, figured we would have 50, maybe 100 people max join us. We had over 26,000 in two hours."

The viral event on March 21 led Kopec to plan more online dance parties that have been viewed by millions across the United States and around the world. The success of the parties also prompted Kopec to use the events as fundraising tools, which have raised money and other resources for a long list of charities since March.

To cap the year's philanthropic efforts, Kopec has partnered with the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore for the "Stuff the Train" hybrid in-person and virtual toy drive. Donors can drop off new, unopened toys at the museum, located at 900 West Pratt St. in Baltimore or shop online via an Amazon wish list. Today, Dec. 5, Kopec will livestream a holiday-themed dance party from the museum, while accepting monetary donations to support buying additional toys, as the museum's "Reindeer Railway" train is packed with toys.

"Music has always brought people together for great causes. I've never danced and left an event without a huge smile on my face," said Kopec. "Stuff the Train offers an opportunity for 20,000 Maryland children to wake up Christmas morning with a smile on their faces as well."

Gifts collected through Stuff the Train will be distributed to children across the state of Maryland through partner organizations including the United Way of Central Maryland, the Greater Chesapeake Charitable Foundation, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, and a number of shelters and emergency housing centers.

See Dance party, page 3



Chris Kopec's virtual dance parties have gone viral and lifted the spirits of millions around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Radford chamber participating in 2021 Go Local campaign



The Radford Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Homegrown Business Alliance is participating in the 2021 Go Local campaign, which offers discounts at more than 300 local businesses in Floyd, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Radford, Pulaski, Giles and surrounding counties.

The 2021 discount cards may be purchased at the Radford Chamber of Commerce or at any of the area businesses taking part in the campaign. Cards are \$20 each, and they will remain on sale through the end of December.

The Homegrown Business Alliance supports,

promotes and strengthens independent locally owned businesses by educating local communities about the importance of shopping locally and creating visibility through the Go Local Card discount program. The alliance encourages a culture of consciously shopping locally by demonstrating how accessible, affordable and beneficial local business is to our unique community.

Each 2021 discount card comes with a catalog so the purchasers may know who is offering deals.

One half of each card purchase goes directly to support the Radford chamber.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 6:
Radford Holiday Pop Up Market: New Location and date - The market will be held at the New River Valley Community Services Lot (Old Wade's location), 401 W. Main St., from noon - 4 p.m. Local craft vendors and carolers will set up outside in socially distant spaces, sponsored by MountainTrotter Arts.

Monday, Dec. 7-Thursday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 12:

Santa's Coming to Christiansburg - Santa's sleigh is in the shop, getting fixed up before his big night. In the meantime, he's borrowing one of Christiansburg Fire Department's trucks to visit. Santa will start cruising through Christiansburg at 6:30 p.m. each night from Dec. 7-10 and on Dec. 12 and will drive until the route is complete. Residents may step outside their home to give him a wave as he drives by.

Remember Santa is very busy, and though he'd love to travel down every road in town, he just can't make it fit into his schedule. He tried to incorporate as many areas of town as he could, taking into consideration his very large firetruck sleigh and making sure he could easily navigate down each street. He encourages families to find the nearest street to them that he will be riding down and walk over to wave hello. He'll be driving very slowly through these neighborhoods, and sirens will announce he's making his way through. Santa would like to remind everyone to watch their distance and wear a mask if needed when walking over to see him or if coming into contact with other groups. For a map of his route each night and for more information,

visit www.christiansburg.org/homefortheholidays.

Monday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14:

Puppy Kindergarten Mini Course - This class is for puppies 10 to 17 weeks of age. The class is designed to get the puppy off to the right start. The puppy will learn how to interact with people by sitting to greet and how to bite nicely. The class lessons cover how to teach sit, down and come.

Owners will learn how to teach their puppy in a positive and proactive manner. They will learn how to deal with the typical puppy problems such as chewing, barking, mouthing and jumping up. The puppy comes to all classes. Please bring a chair. The class is taught outside at 4 p.m. as course #312230-D5. The cost is \$60 refundable and \$70 non-refundable.

To register, visit www.blacksburg.gov/recreation or call 540-443-1100.

Tuesday, Dec. 8:

Radford Tree Lighting and Santa's Seven - Formerly known as Santa's Ukulele Band, Santa's Seven is comprised of new members and a more varied array of instruments. Santa's Seven will perform at this year's Tree Lighting Facebook Live event at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 9 - Dec. 22: - **Radford Business window and residential decorating contest**

The contest gives everyone a chance to tour both the commercial districts and neighborhoods in the safety of a vehicle and then vote for the favorite. A map is available on RadfordChamber.com.

Friday, Dec. 11:

Christiansburg Reverse

Christmas Parade - This year, in place of its traditional Christmas Parade, the town will be offering a reverse parade at Uptown Christiansburg (formerly NRV Mall) on Dec. 11 from 7-9 p.m. Floats will be stationary (parked) in the New River Community College (NRCC) section of the Uptown Christiansburg parking lot while spectators slowly drive through on New River Road. This year's parade theme is "Light up the tree, it's Christmas you see." Floats will be spaced to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and there is a limit to the number of participants on each float dependent on its size. The inclement weather date is Dec. 14.

Sunday, Dec. 13:

Radford Police Santa Cruise - Sponsored by the City of Radford Police Department, the cruise begins at 3 p.m. with Santa cruising throughout Radford neighborhoods. A map of Santa's route is on RadfordVA.gov.

Monday, Dec. 14:

Radford Handcrafted Holiday Night Market - The market will take place at the Triangle Lot, W. Main Street, from 5 to 8 p.m. and will feature the Java Brothers and local vendors. The event is sponsored by MountainTrotter Arts and the Radford Information and Welcome Center.

Wednesday, Dec. 16-Monday, Dec. 21

Christiansburg residential decorating contest. - The Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a residential holiday decorating contest. Department staff will visit each destination to determine the top 10 entries. Top 10 entries go on the town's Face-

book page (www.facebook.com/cburgvagov) for voting by the community.

Voting begins on Friday, Dec. 18, and runs through 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 21. Once all applications are received, decorated homes who give permission will be included in a map for others to visit on a self-guided light tour.

Thursday, Dec. 17:

Radford Christmas Cruise-Thru - At the Radford Recreation Center, 200 George St., from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a car decorating contest and holiday treats. Applications can be found on RadfordVA.gov.

Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday Dec. 25 and Friday Jan. 1

Christiansburg closings for Christmas, New Year's - The town's facilities will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas day on Dec. 24-25.

Solid waste normally scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 24, will be collected on Tuesday, Dec. 22, along with Tuesday's regular collection.

Solid waste normally scheduled for Friday, Dec. 25, will be collected on Wednesday, Dec. 23, along with Wednesday's regular collection.

The town's facilities will be closed for New Year's Day on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. Solid waste normally scheduled for Fridays will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 31, along with Thursday's regular collection.

Ongoing:

Wrapping for a Reason - A holiday wrapping booth to raise money for local emergency assistance is now underway in Uptown Christiansburg (formerly NRV Mall), near Bath & Body Works. The booth is open

on weekends through Dec. 16 and then daily through Christmas Eve.

Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts in a sanitary, socially distanced environment. All proceeds benefit the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, commonly known as MCEAP, which provides emergency food, clothing, utility, rent and mortgage assistance to Montgomery County residents year-round. The sign-up link is <https://tinyurl.com/w4r2020>.

Persons unable to volunteer their time and talents this year can consider donating supplies such as hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray/wipes, so all proceeds can go directly to help community members in need. Monetary, tax-deductible, year-end donations to MCEAP are welcomed. Details are at mceap.com or 540-260-3173. For more information, email w4reason@gmail.com or text/call 540-239-1093.

Aquatic, Rec Center hours for appointments

The Christiansburg Aquatic Center is open by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. To make a reservation, visit www.cacpool.com

The Christiansburg Recreation Center is open by appointment only Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m., on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. To make a reservation, visit www.christiansburg.org/recreation.

Through Dec. 31:

Christiansburg Leaf Collection - The Town of Christiansburg's annual free leaf

collection is underway and runs through Dec. 31, weather permitting. Public Works crews use a special truck that vacuums the leaves. Therefore, they will collect only piles of loose leaves; leaves placed in bags will not be accepted. Please do not place your pile of loose leaves in a way that blocks sidewalks, sanitary sewers, solid waste carts, drainage ditches or utility meter boxes. If you are concerned your leaves may blow away prior to pick-up, please place a tarp on top of your pile. Crews will remove the tarp when they get there, collect your leaves and leave your tarp behind.

Montgomery-Floyd Library Curbside only

All branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library are offering only curbside pickup service (including remote printing). In-branch services are not currently available. Curbside hours are: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please return all library items in the outside Book Drop. Visit <https://www.mfml.org> for more information.

Radford Public Library Resumes In-Library Appointments

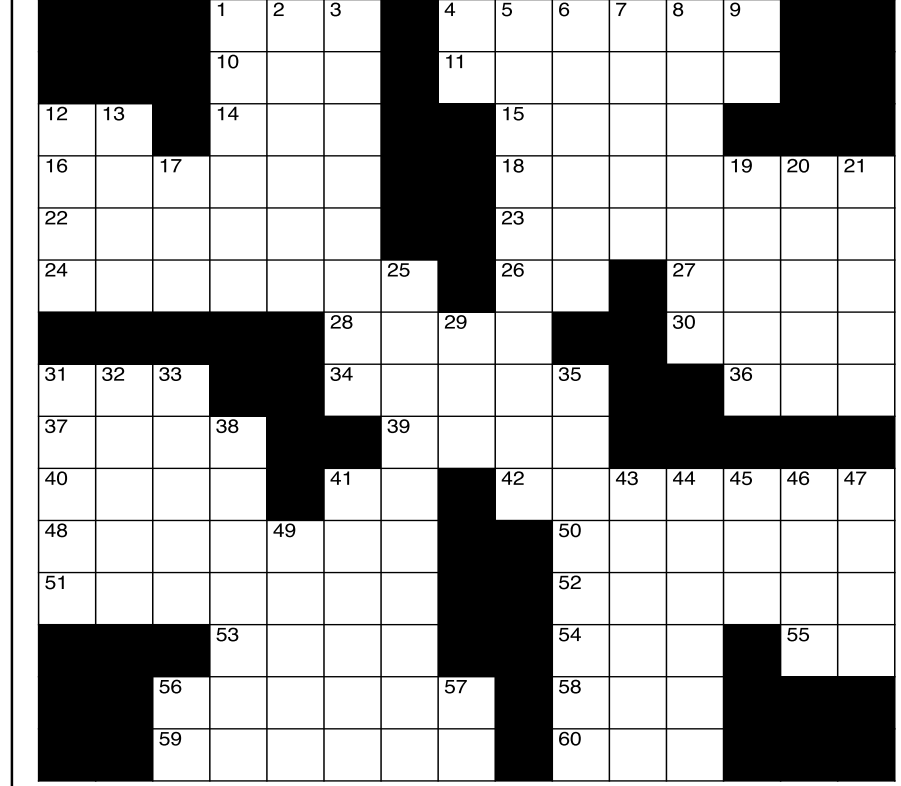
Same-day in-house browsing and computer use appointments can be made Monday through Saturday on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staff will continue to ask screening health questions, take temperatures and require masks be worn as part of the ongoing process of in-library browsing. Children/youth under 18 are welcome to browse when accompanied by an adult. Please call (540) 731-3621 to schedule an appointment to browse or use the computers on Thursday through Saturday.

Historic Montgomery



This group of Auburn High School students was probably the newspaper or yearbook staff in 1953. (This image is from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Neither
 - 4. Edema (archaic)
 - 10. Geological time
 - 11. Confidence
 - 12. Cerium
 - 14. Virtual audio cable
 - 15. World's longest river
 - 16. A way to inform
 - 18. Agents of one's downfall
 - 22. Secretly follow
 - 23. Put into a position
 - 24. Of the desert
 - 26. And (Latin)
 - 27. Spanish city
 - 28. Over there (archaic)
 - 30. Regard
 - 31. Midway between south
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. American state
 - 2. Speaker
 - 3. Courses for cars
 - 4. Deutschmark
 - 5. Beloved "Dubliner"
 - 6. Countries of Asia
 - 7. Hands have them
 - 8. Came down as ice pellets
 - 9. Thou
 - 12. Utter obscenities
 - 13. Hebrew unit of measurement
 - 17. Morse code term
 - 19. Home to the witch trials
 - 20. One who is older
 - 21. Closes violently
 - 25. Unaffiliated
 - 29. Tag the runner
 - 31. Trickeries
 - 32. Polynesian island group
 - 33. Immoralities
 - 35. Extremely delicate
 - 38. Gradual destruction
 - 41. North American country
 - 43. Provide the means to do
 - 44. Fell down on
 - 45. Emergency medical services
 - 46. ___ the line
 - 47. Church booklet
 - 49. Russian ballet
 - 56. Hello
 - 57. Delaware
- and southeast
 34. Entrap
 36. Married woman
 37. A place to explore
 39. Assist, usually in some wrongdoing
 40. Arab ruler
 41. Centiliter
 42. To which
 48. "The Friendly Island"
 50. Inspire with love
 51. Being cheeky to
 52. Up
 53. Middle Eastern country
 54. Compass point that is one point north of due east
 55. Thus
 56. Covered

Since September, Carilion locations have vaccinated more than 40,000 persons for flu

Carilion Clinic's Family Medicine, VelocityCare and Pharmacy locations have administered the flu vaccine to more than 40,000 patients since September, an 18 percent increase over the same time period in 2019.

Thanks to collaboration with community partners, including the Virginia Department of Health, Kroger, LewisGale, Roanoke City

Public Schools, and the Salem VA. Carilion's Community Health and Outreach team has also completed 30 flu clinics, vaccinating more than 1,200 people, four times more free community flu vaccinations than were administered by clinics in 2019.

"Each community partner wanted to work together toward a shared goal of keeping our communi-

ties healthy and safe," said Cris Sheffield, community health workforce supervisor for Carilion. "These collaborations led to great conversations, a sharing of ideas and sparks of hope during a time when most everyone is feeling overwhelmed."

Flu vaccinations are still being administered. Patients wishing to be vaccinated should talk to their primary care provider or visit any Carilion VelocityCare or Pharmacy location.

"The push to distribute this year's flu vaccine has been critical," said Dr. Anthony Baffoe-Bonnie, medical director for Carilion Infection Prevention and Control. "Flu and COVID-19 share many of the same symptoms. While we look forward to a COVID-19 vaccine, we already have one for the flu. Proactively getting vaccinated ahead of the most intense months for these viruses will save lives."

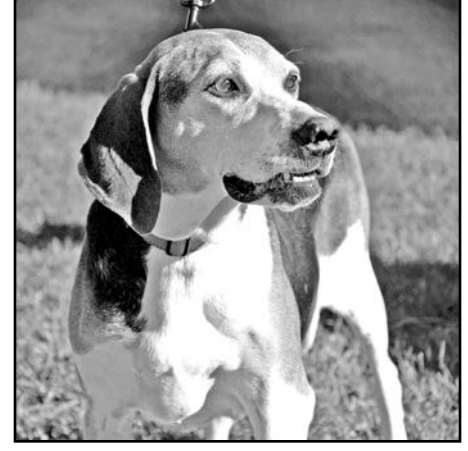


PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

Each Saturday the paper features pets from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg). At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



Sweet and lovable. Those are just two words to describe Vamp. She has been a resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center since late October, and this young gal is ready to find her forever home. She loves to get chin scratches and head rubs from anyone willing to give her some affection. Sometimes she'll even let you know of her joy with some kitty chit-chat.



A sniff here, a sniff there. It's what hounds like Star enjoy doing. She may take a minute to warm up, but once Star sniffs out her favorite human, she prefers to stay close. Star does well with children as well as other dogs. Her adoption fee is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.

Virginia Tech launches program for Farm Credit Administration employees



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA TECH

Farm Credit Administration employees will broaden their skills and understanding of applied microeconomic concepts regarding food and agricultural products through a program with agricultural and applied economics and Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech.

Continuing and Professional Education and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech have launched a program to deepen the skills of Farm Credit Administration employees. The \$1.3 million deal with the federal agency includes graduate-level courses and non-credit graduate certificate programs.

The Farm Credit Administration is an independent federal agency that regulates the financial institutions that provide credit to people working in agriculture and living in rural America.

"This project is a great example of a partnership that is truly mutually beneficial in that the Farm Credit Administration will gain access to the high-quality educational programs needed by their employees and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics will have an opportunity to learn more about the needs within the lending industry and how best to address and serve those needs," said Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "This project portrays another way that Virginia Tech car-

ries out its land-grant mission."

The first cohort of employees started classes this fall. Cohorts will stretch over two academic years plus two summers with 12 to 18 students from across the nation expected to participate in each.

Participants will broaden their skills and understanding of applied microeconomic concepts as they pertain to markets and individual choices regarding food and agricultural products. They will also increase their knowledge regarding the role of global trade in food and agricultural products and the factors impacting trade.

"Our program already emphasizes the development of strong analytical skills to address real-world economic policy issues impacting our food supply chains. This approach will continue to be emphasized in our program with FCA," said Matthew Holt, head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. "In addition, students will obtain training in quantitative financial risk management, agribusiness management and marketing, and agricultural and food policy."

The certificate programs may be customized to meet the administration's needs. The programs will be delivered online but may also include short retreats where faculty can work with employees.

The master's courses will not be explicitly tailored, but Holt said his department will continue to engage in conversations about what the participants find most useful.

"This program provides us with the opportunity to grow our graduate program, which has been a long-standing departmental and college goal," Holt said.

Continuing and Professional Education, part of Outreach and International Affairs, will help shepherd participants through the application process, handle tuition payments, and serve as a liaison between participants and faculty members.

"We make sure all the administrative logistics are covered so faculty members can fully concentrate on course content and instruction," Director Shelly Jobst said. "This program is a fantastic example of how Continuing and Professional Education connects the expertise of university faculty to the needs of communities across the commonwealth and beyond. Through contract programs like this one, we not only deepen the skills of the workforce, but we also help boost interest in excellent programs already available here at Virginia Tech."

Holt said that with all of the potential options at the administration's disposal for partnering, "that they picked Virginia Tech speaks volumes about the quality of our educational programs and the faculty who develop and deliver them."

— Written by Diane Deffenbaugh

Food City donates to Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread



Brooks Dawson, store manager for the Food City supermarket on Tyler Avenue, presents \$2,000 in gift cards to Dora Butler, program manager for Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread. The money was raised through Food City's Race against Hunger campaign. The gift cards will be used to offset the increased costs for the purchase of fresh food items, non-perishable canned items and packaged items during the continuing reduction in food donations due to COVID shut-downs. The purchased items will then fill Daily Bread's shelf-ready emergency food boxes that are distributed to people in need for use on days that Daily Bread's kitchen is closed due to emergencies or hazardous weather.

Dickens

from page 1

ingenuity and theatricality as it combines handmade shadow puppetry, film and innovative sound and music to create immersive visual stories for stage

and screen. The collective also appeared at the Moss Arts Center in 2018.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public and free for Virginia

Tech students. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; or by calling 540-231-

5300 during box office hours.

This unique showing will also offer an all-ages exclusive and behind-the-scenes peek at and with company members,

who reveal how they build and bring to life their new masterpiece. This free event will be held at the Moss Arts Center on Thursday, Dec. 11 at noon.

Winterfest

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Radford Public Library.

December 9-22: Business window and residential decorating contest throughout the city. Entry fees do apply. Grab dinner at a local restaurant, tour the commercial districts and neighborhoods in the car and then vote for your favorites. A map is available on RadfordChamber.com

December 13: Santa's police cruise beginning at 3 p.m.

Santa will cruise through Radford's neighborhoods. A map of the tour route is available on RadfordVA.gov. Santa's cruise is sponsored by the City of Radford Police Department.

December 14: Handcrafted holiday night market in the Triangle Lot on W. Main St. from 5 to 8 p.m., featuring the Java Brothers and local vendors, sponsored by MountainTrotter

Arts and the Radford Information and Welcome Center.

December 17: Christmas cruise-thru, from 6-8 p.m. at the Radford Recreation Center, 200 George St., featuring a car decorating contest and holiday treats. Applications can be found on RadfordVA.gov.

Now ongoing through February 5: Exhibit at the Glencoe Mansion, "Misfits, Ghosts and

Goblins," Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Sundays from 1-4 p.m., 600 Unruh Drive, free admission

Now through Christmas Eve: Grab and Go crafts and virtual holiday story times at the Radford Public Library with various dates and times. Call 540-731-3621 to schedule an appointment or use My Library app.

Information about restaurants

and shops in Radford and the full calendar of events can be found on VisitRadford.com under "things to do." Maps and event information are available at the Radford Information and Welcome Center at their new location, 701A W. Main St. The current hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The welcome center can also be reached at Info@VisitRadford.com for questions.

Hokie beer

from page 1

monwealth through implementing sustainable practices and sourcing ingredients locally made them an ideal partner for Virginia Tech.

"The desire from the beginning was to partner with a premium brewing firm with solid ties within Virginia to produce proprietary recipes that could work hand-in-hand with our faculty to develop and produce the best beer possible," said Brandy Salmon, VT's associate vice president for innovation and partnerships. "This unique partnership goes beyond a traditional trademark license agreement and supports a campus-wide initiative to take research inventions, and, in this case, a beer recipe, from discovery to market."

"As one of America's leading academic institutions in disciplines vital

to the craft brewing industry from food science to mechanical engineering to hospitality management, Virginia Tech is an ideal, philosophically aligned collaborative partner for Hardywood," said Eric McKay, Hardywood's president and co-founder. "The opportunity to help create an official beer of the Hokies is surreal, and certainly a career highlight for Hardywood," said Vice President of Production and Head Brewer Brian Nelson, a 2001 graduate of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering.

Virginia Tech's own brewhouse is just one way that Virginia Tech is helping the commonwealth's beer industry, which has a more than \$8 billion annual economic impact and contributes \$2.9 billion in annual total tax contributions, according to the Beer Institute.

The brewhouse and malting system are cornerstones of the Department of Food Science and Technology's Innovation Collaboratory, a space where industry meets research. Scientists in the department, which is ranked in the top 10 of its kind in the country, have worked with household names, such as Dupont Teijin Films and Tyson Foods, on food safety, packaging, and product development in the pilot plant.

"Our department is big on hands-on learning," said Brian Wiersema, the plant manager at the Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building 1, where the brewhouse is located. "We had the company pull out some of the automation, yet the system mimics a craft brewing system."

— Written by Lindsey Haugh



SAM DEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Wiersema joined the professional Virginia Tech community in 2013 and says his interest in brewing has expanded into malting and hop production, processing, packaging and developing Extension courses for the department.

Dance party

from page 1

Kopec is no stranger to giving back to his community. In fact it's part of what drew him to Virginia Tech.

"You know, Ut Prosim, that was really the way I was brought up. I think that's part of why I loved Virginia Tech so much while I was there," Kopec said. "For a while, I wasn't even going to go to college, but once I got there, I fell in love with the school. Virginia Tech changed my life."

While at Tech, Kopec was not only a member of the Hokies track and field and cross-country teams, but was also a member of the Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department.

When he began to notice the online tip jar filling up during that first dance party, he immediately thought of paying it forward to first responders. Along with raising hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of resources for a

variety of charities, proceeds from the virtual dance parties have also fed hundreds of firefighters, 9-1-1 center operators and law enforcement members in Howard County, the area where Kopec lives with his wife, April, and their children, Logan, Maddie, and Declan.

"Helping people is what we started this for, and it's been a great stress reliever for our family. We've felt like it was our duty to keep that going the whole time we're quarantined," Kopec said.

— Written by Travis Williams



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go to www.xtremespringz.com**

HOLIDAY ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Our offices will be closed on Friday, December 25 for Christmas. The deadline for ALL ADVERTISING running in the Saturday 12/26 issue of the News Messenger/Radford News Journal will be Wed., December 23 at noon. We will also be closed on Friday, January 1 for New Years. The deadline for ALL ADVERTISING running in the Saturday 1/2 issue of the News Messenger/Radford News Journal will be Wed., December 30 at noon.



OPINION

December traveling schedule for Cong. Morgan Griffith's staff

Congressman Griffith's Ninth District staff will be available at the following locations during the month of December. Traveling office hours follow the status of local government offices, which vary across the 22 counties and nine independent cities of the Ninth District.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a county's or city's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Please contact the Christiansburg Office at 540-381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at 276-525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment

time in the event of office hour closure.

Dec. 8, 2020
Craig County: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; Craig County Administration Building, 108 Court St., New Castle.

Alleghany County: noon – 1:30 p.m.; Clifton Forge Library Conference Room, 535 Church St., Clifton Forge.

Dec. 9, 2020
Scott County: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; Community Services Building, Board of Supervisors Room, 190 Beech St., Gate City.

Lee County: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Lee County Sheriff's Office Conference Room; 33640 Main Street – Suite U101, Jonesville.

Wise County: 3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.; Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse, Third

Floor Room 303, 322 Wood Ave. E, Big Stone Gap.

Dec. 10, 2020
Giles County: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Town of Pearisburg Offices, 112 Tazewell St., Pearisburg.

Dec. 15, 2020
Tazewell County (Richlands): 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Town of Richlands Offices, 200 Washington Square, Richlands.

Buchanan County: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Town of Grundy Offices, 1185 Plaza Dr., Grundy.

Dec. 16, 2020
Carroll County: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; Carroll County Administration Building Board of Supervisors Room 605, 1 Pine St., Hillsville.

Galax: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Municipal Building

Conference Room, 111 E. Grayson St., Galax.

Dec. 17, 2020
Tazewell County (Tazewell): 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; American Legion Building, 226 Central Ave., Tazewell.

Russell County: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Community Center, 72 Gibson St., Lebanon.

Dec. 18, 2020
Floyd County: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; Town of Floyd Offices, 134 Wilson St. SE, Floyd.

Patrick County: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Patrick County

Administration Building Conference Room, 106 Rucker St., Stuart.

Dec. 22, 2020
Norton: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.; City Council Chambers, 618 Virginia Ave. NW, Norton.

Wise County: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Big Stone Gap Federal Courthouse, Third Floor Room 303, 322 Wood Ave. E, Big Stone Gap.

Dickenson County: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Dickenson Center for Education and Research, 818 Happy Valley Drive, Clintwood.

WalletHub survey: Virginia among best at protecting its elderly

The personal finance website WalletHub turned its spotlight on abuse of the elderly with a report Wednesday that said the commonwealth is among the best in the country at protecting its elderly citizens, rank-

ing sixth among the 50 states. Abuse happens every day and takes many forms. But vulnerable older Americans are among the easiest targets for this misconduct, especially those who are women, have dis-

abilities and rely on others for care. Unless states take action to prevent further abuse, the problem will grow as America becomes an increasingly aging nation. The U.S. Census Bureau expects the population aged 65 and older to nearly double from 43.1 million in 2012 to 85.7 million in 2050, much to the credit of aging Baby Boomers who began turning 65 in

2011. And by just 2030, one in five U.S. residents will be retirement age. With as many as 13 out of every 14 elder-abuse cases going unreported and seniors especially vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub Wednesday released its report on 2020's States with the Best Elder-Abuse Protections.

To determine which states fight the hardest against elder abuse, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key metrics. The data set ranged from "elder-abuse, gross-neglect and exploitation complaints" to "financial elder-abuse laws."

Among the key metrics and Virginia's ranking are 1) elder abuse, gross neglect and exploitation complaints (per residents aged 65+), 17;

2) total expenditures on legal-assistance development, 6; 3) financial elder-abuse laws, 1; 4) presence of elder-abuse forensic centers, 5; and 5) frequency of assisted-living facilities inspections.

The five states doing a better job than Virginia of protecting their elderly (in order from best) were Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Vermont, Michigan and West Virginia.

News Messenger

Established 1869

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P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$41 a year in Montgomery County, \$50 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lights for Christmas

I was somewhat surprised when the day after Thanksgiving people started putting up their Christmas lights.

That is not that unusual. Christmas lights have been going up every Christmas since Edward Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison's, started the tradition in 1882 to honor Jesus as the "Light of the World."

But I was surprised when my neighbors were putting up lights before the beginning of December. I also noticed that homes that normally did not put up decorations were involved in the string-

ing of lights, and people who usually put up lights were putting up more illumination than usual.

I feel the reason for the timing and the additional lights are for people to say how pleased they are to see the holidays and to say good-bye to 2020.

With the type of year we have all experienced in 2020, this is certainly a time to feel good about something. The decorations and lights of Christmas are just what we need.

So as you drive around town in the coming weeks and observe the "Light of Christmas," consider

them a way of saying we are in this together and we are going to get out of this together.

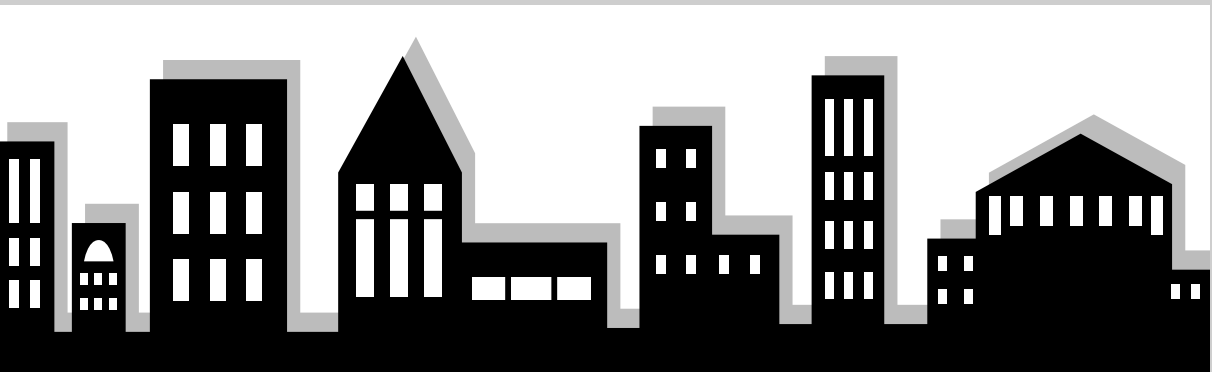
On behalf of the employees of the Town of Christiansburg and the Christiansburg Town Council we wish you happy holidays and a super new year

-Steve Huppert
Christiansburg
Town Council

(The comments enclosed are mine and they do not represent to opinions of the Town of Christiansburg or the Christiansburg Town Council)

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org


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OBITUARIES

Alls, Thomas Leroy

Thomas Leroy Alls, 71, of Blacksburg, died, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020, at his home.

He was born in Montgomery County on May 8, 1949, to the late Russell and Pauline Hale Alls. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Judy Hunter Alls.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Kevin Alls and Vera Caldwell, Jason and Angela Alls; grandchildren Justin and Is-



sac Buckner, Hayden and Evann Alls, Kasey Caldwell; brothers and sister-in-law, Basil Alls, Russell, Jr. "Butch" Alls and wife, Carolyn; special niece Alex Hunter; nephews, Neil, Brent, and Todd Alls; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Wayne and Sherry Hunter.

There will be a private memorial service. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Bennett, Alfred Herbert

Alfred Herbert Bennett, 77, of Riner, Virginia, passed away on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

Herb gained his heavenly wings and now joins his parents, Dallas Ford Sr. and Lilly Dale Alfred Bennett, and sisters Joy Kanode and Ruby Agee.

Herb was born in Aust-ville, Va. As a minister's son, the family moved frequently across South-west Virginia before eventually settling in Christiansburg. He graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1961, where he discovered a passion for baseball. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves and earned the rank of staff sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1971. He worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation, Homer Cox Ford, and Marks and Associates



before partnering with his cousin Dale Byer to establish the survey company Byer, Bennett, and Associates. He was a member of Harbor of Hope Church, where he sang in the choir. He had an affinity for dogs including his beloved Labradors Bear and Jake and border collie Oakley.

He is survived by his wife Julia Young Bennett; sons Eric Z. Bennett and wife Peggy, and John H. King and wife Mindy; and grandchildren Darian Bennett, Alex Adams, Emily Graham, and Tyler Harrison.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be given to Harbor of Hope Church, P.O. Box 6264, Christiansburg, VA 24068.

Dowdy, Michael Thomas

Michael Thomas Dowdy, 55, of Blacksburg, died Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Montgomery County on July 12, 1965.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Thomas "Tommy" Dowdy. He is survived by his mother, Mary Smith



Dowdy; a sister, Carolyn Hughett; a niece, Dana Draughn; and several great nieces.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, at 1 p.m. in the Smith Family Cemetery with the Rev. Jimmie Lee Price officiating.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Jones, Teresa Compton

Teresa Compton Jones, 53, of Ellett Valley died Monday, Nov. 23, 2020.

She was born in Radford on Aug. 21, 1967, to the late Jessie and Essie Mae Dove Compton. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Hazel McLean.

She had been employed at MOOG for many years. She is survived by her husband, Larry W. Jones; daughter Lindsey Jones and Michael Woolwine; son, Todd Jones; a grand-



dog, Penny; sisters Juanita Martin, Zana Nester, Rebekah Bradford, Linda Lane, Nancy Nester, Mary Thornton and Velma Shupe; brothers Sherman Compton, Phillip Compton and Clinton Compton; numerous nieces and nephews and special friends Kayla Lucas and Cindy Crockett.

Memorial services will be held privately.

Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Moore, Lillian Haldeman "Peg"

Lillian Haldeman "Peg" Moore went to be with the Lord on Nov. 21, 2020.

Peg was born in Moberly, Mo. in 1929. She grew up on her father's farm and, as a young girl, she honed her work ethic by helping take care of the farm's chickens. She took music (piano) lessons in the summer and played in the school band. Her family moved to Tampa, Fla., in 1944 where Peg graduated valedictorian of Plant High School.

Peg studied zoology at Duke University with an eye on attending medical school, and pledged Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She graduated from Duke University in 1951. She was then employed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, working various lab positions and learning bacteriology on the job, while working toward a professional rating taking night classes at the University of Georgia.

Eventually she began working with Diagnostic Reagents, which entailed making standard reagents for use by the State Health Departments. She graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont., with a Ph.D. in 1964. After working for 15 years with the U.S. Public Health Ser-



vice's Communicable Disease Control Laboratory in Atlanta, Peg was employed by Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now Virginia Tech) in 1966 as a professor of bacteriology. She served as the associate director of the university's Anaerobic Bacteriology Laboratory, and was an authority in the field of anaerobic bacteriology and food poisoning.

Peg was awarded the title of University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech for contributions to anaerobic bacteriology research worldwide. She was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg, was an active member of Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), was generous to the community and is remembered by many friends and family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W.E.C. Moore, of Blacksburg. She is survived by three stepsons: Howard Moore of Stanardsville, Va., Jed Moore of Mesa, Ariz., and David Moore of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and their families.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Christ Episcopal Church of Blacksburg. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Bishop, Sally Tolbert

Sally Tolbert Bishop, 88, passed away Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, at her home in Radford.

She was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church. Sally was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Daisy Tolbert; her husband, James Howard Bishop; a daughter, Billie Cox; her ex-husband, Robert I. Bishop; two brothers, a sister and a grandson.

Survivors include daughters Becky B. Johnson of Dublin, Bea Bishop of Radford and Bobbie Simpkins (Richard) of Christiansburg; a son Robby Bishop (Kara) of Blacksburg; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and four great-



great-grandchildren; a special friend, Jean Cook of Radford; and many other relatives and friends.

Special thanks to Good Samaritan Hospice caregivers Brittney, Brooke, Denise and Tammy.

The family received friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Randy Morris and the Rev. Teresa Tolbert officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

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

Benoit, Robert E., Ph. D.

Robert E. Benoit (Bob) of Blacksburg, 86, passed away on Nov. 18 from complications of diabetes.

Bob was born in Enosburg Falls, Vt., to the late Harland and Elma Myott Benoit and raised on the family dairy farm. The first in his family to go to college, he earned his B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Vermont. After active duty in the Army, he earned an MS and Ph.D. in microbiology from Rutgers University.

Bob joined the faculty of the Virginia Tech Biology Department in the microbiology section, teaching thousands of students over 40 years. He enjoyed advising the Lambda Chi fraternity. Even in retirement, he was an active member of the American Society of Microbiology. He conducted research in Antarctica and Alaska, but teaching was his passion. He taught biomedical ethics until just before his death.

Bob was active in Rotary and served as a Montgomery-Floyd Library trustee. He loved music, especially opera, and sang in the



Blacksburg Masterchorale. For 27 years, he read comics for the blind. He loved a competitive game of handball, and once ran the Richmond Marathon in three hours and 21 minutes.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean; his children, Beth Benoit of Chelmsford Mass., Paul Benoit of Lyman N.H., and Denise Benoit-Turner of Middletown Md.; his grandchildren Ethan,

John Robert, Bryce, David and James; his brothers, Paul of East Hartford, Conn., and Larry of Enosburg Falls, Vt., and nieces Betsy, Nickelle, Carmen and Megan.

A celebration of life will happen post-pandemic. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Blacksburg Masterchorale (BMC P.O. Box 11852 Blacksburg, VA 24060) or to the Robert E. and Jean L. Benoit Scholarship (c/o University of Vermont Foundation, 411 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401).


Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

More Obituaries, page 7

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The Inn at Virginia Tech celebrates 15 years of Hokie Stone and hospitality

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center is young when compared with Virginia Tech's nearly 150-year legacy. Yet, as the hotel celebrates its 15th year, its popularity — and adaptability in one of its most challenging times — intrinsically links and further strengthens the bond between the two institutions.

Opened in 2005 and built to be the “living room” of the university, the inn has long been a favorite of faculty, alumni and visitors to Blacksburg. Its short history is rich from hosting countless storied guests and being the venue for many momentous occasions, including alumni weddings, Hokie tailgates and hundreds of meetings and conferences.

“Over the past 15 years, we’re proud to have become the heart of hospitality for our community and region,” managing director Tom Cupo said. “We love opening our doors and welcoming our family of guests.”

Along with such notable names as Maya Angelou and alumna Hoda Korb, numerous well-known

coaches, political figures, television personalities and university guest speakers have visited the inn throughout its history. Within a year of opening, for example, the inn hosted Ty Pennington while he was filming an episode of the ABC show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.”

Another well-known guest was Stone Phillips. The former “Dateline NBC” newsman stayed at the inn while working on a report about the findings from a head impact study in 2012. In 2017, the inn hosted Grammy-winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma when he performed to a sold-out crowd at the Moss Arts Center and gave a special master class to students.

Through the years, the inn has been the venue for many occasions and events, such as ZFEST in 2019. BMW Z-Series car enthusiasts from around the country came for a weeklong celebration and used the inn as their home base as they explored drives in the area. The group also took advantage of the inn's conference space to hold a silent auction and awards gala.

Many alumni host their weddings on campus and choose to stay at the inn. Roughly 90 percent of the approximately 600 weddings or wedding-related events the inn has hosted have been for couples who met on campus or connected in some way through Virginia Tech.

“Blacksburg and Virginia Tech play such an important part in so many couples’ histories. We love welcoming them home to campus and being a part of their special day,” director of catering Bianca Norton said. “Whether it’s a special appearance of the HokieBird or entering the reception to ‘Enter Sandman,’ the Hokie spirit always shines, and we love getting to see it.”

The inn, part of Outreach and International Affairs, operates with three goals in mind: encouraging the exchange of ideas, enabling the public to benefit from the university's knowledge resources through conferences, workshops and courses, and stimulating the regional economy.

“The inn has certainly provided the university, the community and the region with the desired level

of hospitality envisioned when it opened,” said Virginia Tech Foundation CEO John Dooley, who led the launch. “It has been a vital resource and asset in building the brand of Virginia Tech over the past 15 years. There have been exceptional times when the inn and its staff have gone well above and beyond.

“Undoubtedly, one of those occasions was April 16, 2007, and the days following the tragic shootings on campus,” Dooley said. “The inn served as the center of operations for the university's media response, as well as where the families of victims were received and hosted. It was a very difficult time, but the inn responded with grace and dignity to make sure the families were provided the necessary accommodations and support.”

The Skelton Conference Center at the inn aims to honor the spirit of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) that were hallmarks of its namesakes, William E. Skelton, a former dean of the Extension division, and his wife, associate professor emerita Margaret Groseclose “Peggy” Skel-

ton, an avid supporter of the university and community advocate.

“My father always lived by that motto,” son John Skelton said. “He felt strongly that alumni and friends of the university needed a permanent place where they could come and gather. He felt if you provided a place on campus they could call home, they would visit and remain engaged with all the good work going on at Virginia Tech and continue to support that work. He was a very wise person.”

This year, the conference center redesigned more than 5,000 square feet of meeting space to allow for both socially distanced on-site and hybrid meetings.

“Since we opened our doors 15 years ago, The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center has epitomized the university's commitment to outreach and engagement,” Cupo said. “We look forward to providing many more memorable experiences for visitors to our Blacksburg campus.”

-Written by Isaac Rife

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Sunday Morning Prayer 9:45 AM, Sunday Morning Eucharist 10:30 AM, Traditional Anglican Worship using the King James Bible, 1928 Book of Common Prayer, And the 1940 Hymnal.

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

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave. at the corner with Downey St. We are committed to personal spiritual growth and to providing leadership in community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: www.fbcradford.org, 540-639-4419. Worship is broadcast live on JOY radio, 93.1 FM and 890 AM.

Trinity Community Church, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blacksburg Church of Christ, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Campus Minister, Deonté Watkins.

Faith Christian Church of Christ, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

CHURCH OF GOD

New Hope Church of God, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study

Montgomery County

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No Longer a Stranger

Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

Being a stranger in a new setting always causes a little anxiety. There are new faces and places. There are strange smells and sounds. There are new sights. The more foreign the land, the more intense these differences seem. Having a guide, someone who is familiar with the place and who can introduce us to new people, is very helpful.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).

At one time, we were all strangers to God's kingdom and to His promises. But in Christ,

we find our way. He has “brought us near” when once we were “far off.” It is through His blood that He has brought us into the Kingdom. Because of Him we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellow citizens in God's house.

Like a guide, Jesus is the one who has bought our passage and shown us the way. Because of Him, we can claim the status of being part of God's household.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22 13

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

LUTHERAN

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service *Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Radford Worship Center, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Hal Adams brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services, join us as Love, Grow, Serve, find us on facebook and Instagram

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

UNITED METHODIST

Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memo-

rial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mooncup “Paul” Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

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

WESLEYAN

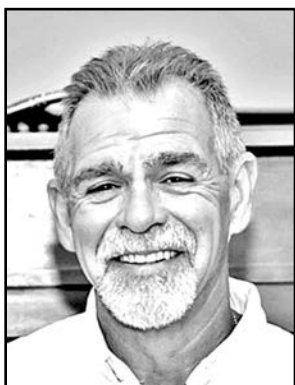
Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, C'burg. Facebook LIVE service Sundays at 9:00 AM., Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christwesleyan-church.org

OBITUARIES Continued from page 5

McCray, Christopher Clarence, Sr.

Christopher Clarence McCray, Sr., 60, of Pearisburg, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Hiram McCray; his stepfather, Sean Brackney; and his best friends, Mark Russow and Randy Pollack.

Survivors include his wife, Daryl Giles; sons and daughter-in-law, Chris McCray, Jr., and Danielle, and Austin McCray; daughter Amanda in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford; McCray; stepchildren, Michelle Norford,



Jacob Giles and Michaela Giles; grandchildren Briana, Benjamin, Dylan and Carter; his mother, Charlotte Kiser Brackney; brothers and sister-in-law, Jessie Claudio and Stephanie, and Tim McCray; sister and brother-in-law, Kathy McCray and Glen; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private.

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

Mills, Clarence Allen

Clarence Allen Mills, 90, passed away Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, at his home in Fairlawn.

He was a U. S. Army veteran having served during the Korean War and was a member of Va. May Lodge #38.

Clarence was retired after 43 years from Radford Army Ammunitions Plant where he was a mechanic. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Virgie Mills; a brother, Nelson Mills; and sisters Helen Pritchett and Carolyn Mills.

Survivors include his sons, Gary Mills (Susan), Gregory Mills, Mark Mills (Cassey); daughter Cynthia Mills Bain (Ronnie); special granddaughters Carolyn and Monica Mills; the mother of his children, Deloris Q. Mills; brother Jessee Mills; sisters Kathleen



Viers, Marjorie Keister and Barbara Dudley; special friend Greta Boyles; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family would like to give special thanks to Medi Hospice for their loving kindness and care.

The family received friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 1 p.m. with Pastor Bobby Lorton officiating. Interment followed in Rockford Cemetery in Fairlawn.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Rockford UMC, 6867 Viscoe Road, Fairlawn, VA 24141.

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

Pierce, Angela Renee Smith

Angela Renee Smith Pierce, 47, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Radford on Dec. 2, 1972. She was preceded in death by her father, Leon R. Smith. She is survived by her daughters, Tiffany Yelton and Kristin Pierce;



a son, Neil Sheppard and his wife, Kerri; her mother, Linda M. Smith; grandchildren Marleigh, Makaela and Sterling; a brother, Randy Smith and his wife, Margaret.

Memorial services will be held privately. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Naff, Brenda Dobbins

Brenda Dobbins Naff, 75, of Pilot, went to be with the Lord on Nov. 19, 2020.

She retired from the Arsenal Union Hall after 52 years of service. She was the most loving, kind-hearted Momma, Nana and friend to everyone she knew. She loved nothing more than her children and grandchildren.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents Archie and Mary Dobbins; two sisters, Eulalia Kirtner and Geneva Duncan; and one brother, Tommy Dobbins.

She is survived by her loving children, Todd Naff (Allison), Amy Goodman (David), and Eric Naff (Teresa);



grandchildren Jordan, Madison, Charley, Laine, Ayden, Devin, Heather and JJ; many nieces and nephews; and so many others that she called hers over the years.

The family received friends from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at noon with Pastor Terry Phillips officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg.

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

Turner, Vanessa Price Eaves

"God saw you getting tired; and a cure was not to be; so He put His arm around you and said, 'Come to Me.'"

On Nov. 10, 2020, Vanessa Price Eaves Turner left this earthly life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Christine Price; her daughter, DeShea Hubbard, and her brothers, James Price, Allan Price, and Clarence Price.

She leaves to mourn her fiance Ricky Shepherd; her daughters, Khristi Eaves Turner, Shana Eaves, Alysia and John Dobbins and Erica Stuart; stepsons and daughters Ben Rowland, Phillip Mickens, Tomica Hubbard and Tammy James; brothers and sister Randolph (Hazel) Price, Phillip (Carrie) Price, Kaywood



(Cathy) Price, Anna Price and Thomas (Brenda) Price

Her sisters by heart were Mamie Broom, Tina Grimshaw, Dorothy Hendricks and Jeanie Travis. Grandchildren include Manuel Carter, Isaiah Brown, Malik Eaves, Anya Crocket, Jolysia King, Zante' Turner, John Dobbins III, Jeremiah Eaves, Jordan Moore, Adrianah Dobbins, Tatyana Turner, Aaliyah Perez, Aundrea Perez and Ameania Banks. She is also survived by a host of great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, god-children and even more friends and those who loved her.

Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hardworking hands rested. God broke our hearts to prove to us that He only takes the best.

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THE FINCASTLE HERALD
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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Auctions</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Affordable Mini Storage, LLC</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1250 Lee Highway Roanoke, VA 24019 Date: Saturday, December 5, 2020 Time: 2:00 PM Items: 1986 Ford F150 XLT Lariat Odometer: 183,464.8 Units: H30, F27, B01, A09, E02, A34 Cash only. Buyer has 24 hours to remove all property. Seller will provide proper DMV documentation to enable buyer to title vehicle. Ken Stanley, Auctioneer VAL #1446 Troutville</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Help Wanted - General</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Part Time Newspaper Production Help</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The Salem TimesRegister has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Help Wanted - Health Care</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Please contact Whitney Shell at wshell@carilionclinic.org for questions or by phone at (540) 983-4036.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">To view these opportunities, please visit our website at www.carilionclinic.org/careers. An online application is required for all positions of interest.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Equal Opportunity Employer Minorities/Females/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Auburn) Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and about one-fourth of a mile south of Vicker Station, and more fully described and designated as follows, to-wit: Parcel No. 1. All of that certain lot or parcel of land lying in the Riner, formerly Auburn, Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, and about one-fourth of a mile south of Vicker Station, and is a part of the land conveyed to John Hamblin and wife by W. A. Overstreet and others, and more particularly described as that part of land that lies east of and adjoining the Vicker Switch road and in the hair-pin bend of the same, and is estimated to contain 1/4 of an acre, more or less.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">wife by Deed dated January 6, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book 331 Page 141.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">And being the same properties conveyed to Merle Allen Martin and Ruby Fizer Martin, husband and wife of each other, respectively, as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship from M. A. Martin (a.k.a Merle Allen Martin) and Ruby Fizer Martin, his wife, by Deed dated January 6, 1973 and recorded on June 1, 1982 in the Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Deed Book 456 at Page 301.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Phyllis M. Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3050 Glasgow Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Stephen G. Martin, whose last known address is 3056 Glasgow Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before January 4, 2021 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Entered on the 20th day of November, 2020.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Erica W. Conner Clerk Ashley D. Smith</p>	
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">For Rent - Apartments</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">2, 3, 4 BR Townhouse Style</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">accepting applications. Short waiting list, HUD subsidized, W/D hookups, private patio, water & trash incl. Fairfax Village Apts. 332 Fairfax St., Radford Cambridge Square 1805 Whipple Dr. NW Blacksburg 540-731-1786 EHO TDD #800-828-1120</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Help Wanted - Health Care</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Hospice & Home Health RN Nurse Openings</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">New River Valley</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Use your clinical skills in an independent and autonomous setting! We invite you to join our Home Care team, where compassion, technology, flexibility, and an interdisciplinary team help you thrive. Carilion New River Valley Hospice and Home Care are currently seeking the following positions: Full time, Hospice RN Case Manager Full time, Home Health RN Case Manager Full time, Home Health RN Case Manager Flex Time, Home Health RN Nurse (Per Visit positions)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Complainant, v. MALENA ANN MARTIN, ET AL., Respondent(s).</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Case No. CL20001813-00</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ORDER OF PUBLICATION</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 077-A 44.45 Account No. 011904</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Parcel No. 2 One-half acre of land off of that certain property conveyed to J. F. Martin and Maud V. Martin, his wife, by Homer Jamison and others, by deed dated April 1, 1930, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book No. 91 at page 358; the said lot or parcel running the entire length of the tract of land described in Parcel No. 1, hereinabove, and generally referred to as the John Hamblin property which was conveyed to James Martin and wife by John Hamblin and wife by deed dated June 1, 1938, and of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, in Deed Book No. 113, at page 54, and being of sufficient uniform width for the entire length as to make a lot or parcel of land containing one-half acre.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Instrument Number 07009649, Instrument Number 09004780 and Instrument Number 09011838.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Malena Ann Martin, whose last known address is 3056 Glasgow Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Joyce Ann Martin Barnett aka Joyce Ann M. Barnett, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 485 Starlight Drive, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Merle Stephen Martin, who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 3050 Glasgow Road, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Phyllis Martin aka</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">I Ask For This: John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 545-2500 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378 TACS No.: 496243</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">For Sale - Firewood</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">FIREWOOD</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Mixed Hardwood. Call 540-529-2745. Delivery in Botetourt only</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">For Sale - Misc</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">FOR SALE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.</p>

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Recharged after off week, Virginia Tech football focuses on Clemson

The Virginia Tech football team returned to the practice field Sunday afternoon after taking several days off during an off week, and the Hokies began preparations for their biggest challenge of the season: tonight's game against No. 4 Clemson.

The Hokies are in the throes of a three-game losing streak, including heartbreaking losses by three points to Liberty and by a point to Miami. A beat-up Tech squad fell 47-14 at Pittsburgh on Nov. 21, so the off weekend came at a good time.

Tech coach Justin Fuente allowed the players to take Thursday, Friday and Saturday off to celebrate Thanksgiving at their homes, if they so chose. He required them to return to Blacksburg Saturday evening in keeping with the program's timeline for COVID-19 testing. He said at his weekly news conference with the media Monday that his team had a "great" practice Sunday.

"Obviously I felt that was more important than anything else we could do," Fuente said of the time off. "We set pretty simple goals for last week on Tuesday and Wednesday: to get older guys feeling better and younger guys a little bit of work. Then on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, I wanted guys refreshed."

"We had a great workout yesterday, so if that's any indication, I think our guys feel much better," the boss Hokie said. "I thought it [take some time off] was the most important thing we could do

in the bye week. Certainly, we need practice and we need to improve and all those sorts of things, but you get to the point where the law of diminishing returns comes into effect.

"That's [the time off] exactly what we needed both mentally and physically," the VT head coach said. "It's not just nine games in a row. And not to keep harping on this, but the mental strain of everything that is going on through this has been pretty difficult. I think our guys needed a little breath of fresh air and a chance to catch their breath for a couple of days."

Tech needed that rest and will need to be at its best Saturday when the Tigers roll into town. Clemson destroyed Pittsburgh 52-17 this past Saturday.

Here are some other takeaways from Fuente's news conference:

- Fuente opened his news conference by revealing that quarterback Quincy Patterson II and receiver Darryle Simmons had decided to transfer because both wanted to pursue opportunities for more playing time elsewhere. Patterson played in 13 games at Tech, including three this season, and he completed 22 of 52 passes for 359 yards and four touchdowns in his career. According to Fuente, he and Patterson met several times before Patterson came to his decision.

"I just want to publicly thank Quincy for his time here," Fuente said. "Just a fantastic young man. Played a vital role on our football team. Quincy knows how I feel about

him and his folks, and we stand ready to help him in any way we can moving forward. I'm sure when the news hits, his phone will blow up with a lot of people trying to find out about him and our phones will be blowing up, too. We'll have nothing but great things to say about him moving forward. I look forward to watching him play and getting on the field on a more consistent basis."

- Fuente said that Patterson unfortunately had suffered a badly bruised thumb in Tech's loss at Pittsburgh and probably wouldn't have been available to play the rest of this season. Yet the quarterback position received some good news with Braxton Burmeister's recent return to the field. Burmeister suffered three broken toes in a practice a couple of weeks ago, and while he never missed a practice, he was limited. Now, he'll be Hendon Hooker's backup, with Knox Kadum as the No. 3 quarterback.

"Braxton's been feeling good for over a week now," Fuente said. "I feel good about him."

- Fuente and the staff spent the early part of last week going through every one of the Hokies' football games this season and evaluating both schemes and personnel, and the coaches hope that the Hokies can improve their conversion rate on third downs in these final two regular-season games. Tech is converting at a 35.5% clip on third downs, which ranks 14th in the ACC, and the Hokies too often find themselves in third-and-long situations.

"I like philosophically how



we're trying to handle those things," Fuente said. "We need to do a better job of cutting those down, either through scheme or better execution, to get into a little bit more manageable situation, and that was certainly one of the things we worked on during our couple of days of practice last week."

- Fuente and the staff hope to see more production from several players over the course of these final two regular-season games, and Fuente was asked specifically which players. The coach singled out receiver Changa Hodge and tailback Raheem Blackshear as two players with the ability to do more, but also two who have been hurt by the pandemic. Hodge arrived on campus in August after transferring from Villanova and then missed time while going through protocols, so he wasn't able to get the reps and one-on-one instruction needed to master the offense during that time. Because of COVID-19 and Khalil Herbert's start, Fuente has played Blackshear at multiple

positions to create added depth.

"Changa Hodge has been hurt the most by this," Fuente said. "The way the schedule fell, the time that he missed in fall camp, the way we played game after game after game - I hope that we can continue to bring him along. I've said that for many weeks now. We just haven't been able to. It's just been one week after another of just playing, and he's kind of been drinking water through a firehose."

"I think Raheem Blackshear has been hurt by it, too," Fuente said. "He's worked so much at running back, and then Khalil goes off and has such a productive, particularly early, part of the season. Then Khalil is out and so on and so forth."

"So getting Raheem and Changa, and I'm sure there are some others that I'm missing, but those two have been hurt the most by the circumstances through their development of being versatile and picking up what's been going on and helping this team more on the stat sheet than they are currently," Fuente said.

Radford's Rupe to play college football at Emory & Henry

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Zane Rupe's 2020 fall football season at Radford High School might have been derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Wednesday he announced his commitment to play college ball next year.

"I chose Emory because not only do they have a

great football program, they have a great school and it is a great place for me to further my education," Rupe said.

In 2019, Rupe was 59 of 128 passing for 878 yards with nine touchdowns. He also rushed for 953 yards on 132 carries with 16 touchdowns.

Like so many other student-athletes, the pandemic has turned

Rupe's playing career upside down.

"COVID has certainly put a setback on not only me but all of 2021 recruits. It has pushed back our senior season and has put us at a disadvantage from other high schools in other states that played in the fall," Rupe said.

E&H recruited Rupe as a quarterback, and

he expects to play that position in college. The school recently announced a move to the Division II football ranks, joining the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) in all of its NCAA-sanctioned sports. If the move from Division III to Division II is approved, the Wasps would earn provisional status in the fall of 2021 with plans to play a full conference schedule for the 2022 season.

The addition of Emory Henry will increase the number of SAC members to 14. The SAC currently consists of teams from South Carolina (Anderson, Coker, Newberry, Limestone), North Carolina (Catawba, Lenoir-Rhyne, Mars Hill, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate), Tennessee (Carson-Newman, Lincoln Memorial, Tusculum), and Virginia (The University of Vir-

ginia's College at Wise).

A move to the SAC will create drastically shorter travel distances for road competitions that translate into less time that student-athletes will miss in the classroom. In the Old Dominion Athletic Conference, of which E&H was a member, the closest conference road competition for the Wasps was Roanoke College, which is one hour and 45 minutes from the Emory campus. The most distant was Virginia Wesleyan University at nearly six hours. In the SAC, the Wasps will have to travel just over an hour to UVA-Wise, with Coker University being the farthest at four hours and 30 minutes.

Curt Newsome is entering his seventh year as the head football coach at Emory & Henry. A 1982 E&H graduate, Newsome returned to his alma mater in January of 2014 with 15 years of

NCAA Division I coaching experience to become the program's 20th head coach. He has also served as an assistant coach at Virginia Tech.

This past season, the Wasps finished 7-3.

Rupe, who was the 2019 All-county/All-city player offensive player of the year as a junior, was named the All-county/All-city preseason player of the year for the missing season which will now be played in the spring. Last year, he was also named the All-purpose player on the Three Rivers District first-team.

The Bobcats finished 8-2 in the regular season as Rupe helped lead the team to another state playoff run.

His goal is to become an athletic trainer. At E&H, he will join former Christiansburg running back and linebacker Matson Stanley and former Hidden Valley quarterback Grayson Carroll.



FILE PHOTO

Zane Rupe was a consistent performer at quarterback for Radford High School, throwing for over 2,000 yards in the past three seasons. Now, he will take his talent to Emory & Henry College.

RU golf team lands commitment

Radford University head men's golf coach Mike Grant has announced a commitment from Wytheville's Daniel Goode.

Goode has signed his

national letter of intent, has submitted all the necessary paperwork and will have four years of eligibility with the Highlanders, beginning with

the 2021-22 season.

A native of Wytheville, Goode played at George Wythe High School where he was a part of back-to-back VHSL Class 1 state champions and was one of four maroons to finish in the top 10 of the state championship tournament on the individual side. Goode was also a first team all-district, all-region and all-state selection in 2020, was a member of the All-Virginia Junior Team and was ranked as the fifth-best prospect in Virginia by Junior Golf Scoreboard.

"We are very excited to have Daniel join our program," Grant said. "He had a breakout summer and showed that he has the game and athletic ability to play Division I golf.

Daniel has a great work ethic and a competitive mindset."

Among his major accomplishments are winning the 2020 RBC Greensboro Junior Amateur, a runner-up finish in both the American Junior Golf Association's Sanford Preview and the National Junior Golf Association's national championship in 2020. Goode also finished third in the 2020 Middle Atlantic Junior and sixth at the 2020 Virginia State Golfers Association junior championship.

Goode will join a Highlander program that went 14-6 against Big South competition in 2019-20 and has four of its five starters coming back.

--RU Athletics

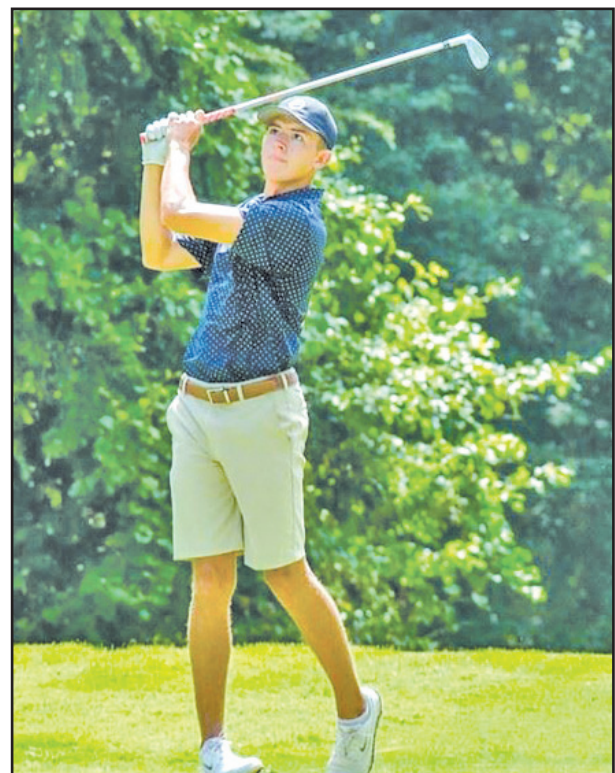


PHOTO COURTESY OF RU ATHLETICS

The Radford University golf team has received a commitment from Daniel Goode, who played for two state champions at George Wythe High School.

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