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Saturday, February 13, 2021

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COVID-19 vaccinations available now at CVS Pharmacy

On Friday, Feb. 12, CVS Pharmacy began administering COVID-19 vac-

That came after CVS began on Tuesday, Feb. 9, to register Virginians age 65 and older who are within the Phase 1b eligibility guidelines for vaccinations as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination.

Eligible individuals can register at https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/ covid-19-vaccine.

The Virginia Department of Health has worked closely with CVS to ensure that the CVS system follows Virginia's priority guidelines and to provide an advance opportunity for eligible individuals already registered on

VDH waiting lists. Because of technological limitations with their national appointment system, however, CVS is unable to reserve appointments for pre-registered individuals. Virginia will continue to work towards a solution in partnership with other participating states and the federal govern-

The federal program will supplement existing vaccination programs by providing 26,000 more vaccines to Virginians. CVS is the first of Virginia's pharmacy partners in the federal pharmacy partnership to move forward with vaccinations. More pharmacies and more locations are expected to start vaccinating patients in the future.

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Pro-

gram for COVID-19 Vaccination is a public-private partnership between pharmacy companies and the federal government. Pharmacy companies receive vaccines directly from the federal government through the partnership program. Initially, the federal government asked states to limit distribution to one pharmacy chain partner. CVS Health is the initial pharmacy partner for the program in Virginia.

The appointment for the second vaccination will be made when the first vaccination appointment is scheduled. Those without online access can contact CVS Customer Service at (800) 746-7287. Walk-in vaccinations without an appointment will not be



Businessman Larry Linkous is challenging Democrat Christ Hurst for the House seat in Virginia's 12th

Blacksburg businessman Larry Linkous enters race for Virginia House **District 12 seat**

Larry Linkous, a Blacksburg native and longtime businessman, is throwing his hat into the ring for the 12th District Virginia General Assembly House seat currently held by Democrat Chris Hurst. Linkous is running as a Republican.

Hurst has held the seat the past three years after defeating Republican Joseph Yost in the 2018 election cycle. His current term ends on January 12, 2022.

The 12th district represents the city of Radford, Giles County, and portions of Montgomery County and Pulaski County.

Linkous decided to run after being approached by a number of people over the past few months. "I am displeased with the current political climate here and want to change it," he said.

Linkous made his announcement Thursday in the parking lot of the Hilton Garden in Blacksburg. Supporters gathered with masks and sat in the cars, tooting their horns after the candidate made a few remarks.

Linkous is no stranger to the region, having served as the past chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, the New River Community College Board and the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority. He ran unsuccessfully for the House seat in the early 90's.

He is an auctioneer by trade and has served as the past chairman of the Virginia Auctioneers Regulatory Board and president of the Virginia Auctioneers Association. He was named the 2000 Virginia Auctioneer of the Year and remains active in the state group.

Linkous was also one of the first auctioneers certified in the commonwealth with license number three. In 1989, he was named the businessperson of the year by the Greater Blacksburg

Chamber of Commerce. In 2001, he was named chamber's Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

He has been active in the

See **Linkous**, page 3

Civil War-era love letter remains a mystery

On July 12, 1863, a young Virginia Cross picked up a pen and ink, several sheets of precious paper, and wrote to her sweetheart, a discharged Civil War soldier. She used a small blade to cut an intricate and delicate white heart to enclose with her words.

"Dear Sir, I received your letter and was glad to hear that you were well and it found me enjoying the same feeling also and was very glad to hear that you had got your discharge from service," wrote Cross. "I would be very glad to see you as soon as you can make it convenient to come down."

The letter continued with coyness and humor as Cross described a sweetheart she picked out for him. "I want you to come and see her and see if she will soot you," wrote Cross. "I have picked one out as near like myself as

I could find her so you will come and look at her and see if you like her."

She then ended the letter with words of love: "Remember well and bear in mind that a faithful friend is hard to find and when you find one that is write just and true never slight the old for the new. My pen is bad my ink is pale my love for you will never

More than 150 years after Cross put pen to paper, Kira Dietz, Virginia Tech University Libraries assistant director of Special Collections and University Archives, said the flowing cursive handwriting, lack of punctuation and irregular spelling are common for letters of that time. The enclosed romance-inspired artwork, called Scherenschnitte or "scissor cuts," is not.

"We purchased the letter from a

Pennsylvania bookseller and gallery owner," said Dietz. "This is a classic letter for scholars interested in the homefront, relationships and history of language during the Civil War. What makes this letter unique is the enclosed folk art. She folded the heart in half and used the blade to carve out the pattern so the design can be consistent."

Special Collections and University Archives has one other letter carved in this way, but the carving was done inside the letter with the Civil War soldier author writing around the cuts. The Virginia Cross heart was an enclosure. Researchers can infer special meaning for using a separate piece of paper to make this gift.

In 1863, during wartime, people were conservative about paper use," said Deitz. "She used this extra piece of paper to create the art and it survived, still in one piece. It's a heart detached at the bottom; it's intricate

Was her family well-to-do and able to afford the extra expense or was her love that strong for her sweetheart? We may never know.

"We don't know if Union or Confederate soldier," said Dietz. "The header says Manchester, but there are Manchesters in the North and South.'

Dietz has looked for Virginia Cross in the 1860 census and in marriage records around that time. She said finding anything about unmarried women can be tricky.

See **Love Letter**, page 2



In 1863, Virginia Cross penned a letter to her sweetheart and enclosed an intricate piece of folk art. The letter and art are now housed in the Virginia Tech University Libraries' Special Collections and University

Survey: Americans to spend less this Valentine's Day; candy remains the favorite purchase

According to a Valentine's Day spending survey conducted by the personal finance website WalletHub, Americans have lowered their expectations for Valentine's Day 2021. With many Americans facing budget constraints because of COVID-19, the survey revealed that 98 million Americans expect their significant other to spend less on Valentine's

Day this year than they did last year. The survey uncovered just how dire those financial restraints might be, showing that 59 percent of those surveyed expect their valentine to spend \$50 or less this Valentine's Day. Twenty-eight percent of the survey respondents don't expect their valentine to spend anything at all on them. Another 31 percent expect their significant other to spend only between \$1 and \$49. Thirtyfour percent of those answering the

survey questions said they expect to have between \$50 and \$100 spent on them for Valentine's Day. Only seven percent said they expected their loved one to spend more than \$100 on them.

Candy remains the Valentine's Day gift of choice for 54 percent of the population surveyed. Other gifts are greeting cards 44%, flowers 36%, an evening out 24%, a gift card 21%, clothing 20% and jewelry

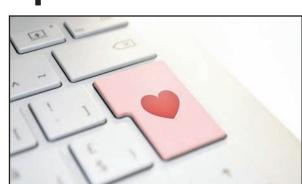
But COVID-19 has indeed forced some changes in Americans' love life. Seventy-two percent of the people surveyed said they've spent less money on dating since COVID-19

It turns out men may be more romantic than the distaff side. Twentyone percent of the men questioned said they think a Valentine's Day gift is worth going into credit card debt

See **Survey**, page 2



Tips for celebrating Valentine's Day and dating online during a pandemic



COVID-19 has reshaped our lives and the many ways in which we navigate and experience human relationships.

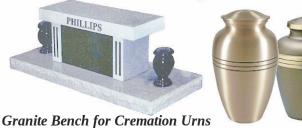
While alternate means of communications such as FaceTime and Zoom are not as authentic as face-to-face interaction, Virginia Tech's Heidi

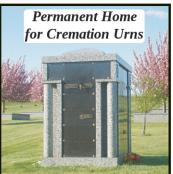
Williams says platforms can provide space to develop meaningful relationships during a pandemic.

'Many people find their romantic or sexual interests online," Williams, an assistant

See **Celebrating**, page 3

Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance





Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley 2551 North Main Street Blacksburg, VA 24060 (540) 552-7800

www.memorialgardensnrv.com cturner@memorialgardensnrv.com

PCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 13:

Backyard Bird Count

Through Monday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Public

Pick up supplies to make a bird feeder. Then count and identify the birds that visit your backyard. Supplies are limited.

Dialogue on Race 2021 Winter Summit

This is a Zoom event from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All Dialogue on Race events will be held online or virtually until further notice. The keynote speakers are Dr. Abraham B. Hardee III, DO/PhD and Dr. Pete Guerra, MDA. Subjects include: The Year in Masks; The COVID Pandemic; Race and Racism; Vaccination and Vaccines: What to Know and What to Do. Register at https:// us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jbi908JMSgq1264c-QKX8Eg.

Craft Supply Swap - Outdoors

3 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library weather permitting. Bring unwanted craft supplies and trade them for new stuff. All unclaimed items will be donated to the library or to the New River Creative Reuse Center. Please bring donations to the library at least four days before the event so items can be quarantined. Call the library ahead to make sure it's happening.

Monday, Feb. 15:

RPL closed for President's

The Radford Public Library

will be closed in observance of President's Day. The library will open again for browsing, computer, and Grab & Go appointments on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 9 a.m. Many options for digital ebooks, audiobooks, movies, television shows and more are available through a variety of free platforms from the Radford Public Library website with your library card.

Town of Christiansburg Clos-

Christiansburg Town Hall will be closed in observance of George Washington Day. The Christiansburg Aquatic Center will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., but the administrative offices will be closed. The Christiansburg Recreation Center will be open regular hours from 6 a.m.–7 p.m., but the administrative offices will be closed.

Tuesday, Feb. 16:

Town Council Work Session

The agenda for the Blacksburg Town Council work session scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Blacksburg Transit Facility located at 2800 Commerce St. can be found at https:// blacksburg.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_ id=22&event_id=2573.

Wednesday, Feb.

City of Radford Planning Commission Meeting

At 5:30 p.m. at 10 Robertson St. The agenda includes 1. A Special Use Permit (SUP) for 1129 East Main St. Ellet Valley. An investor has submitted an application for an SUP to allow residential use on the second floor of the existing building within the B-3 Business District. 2. A Zoning Ordinance Update: Urban Agriculture Ordinance, Mixed Use Zoning, Wireless Communications Requirements within the **Business District**

Thursday, Feb. 18:

Discord Comic Book Club This is an all-ages voice chat discussion of Comic Books via Discord. To be read and discussed this month is Jason Latour's "Spider-Gwen Vol. 1: Greater Power." Check it out on Hoopla at Spider-Gwen https://www.hoopladigital. com/title/12020853. the library a Facebook message or email duncan.hall@ radfordva.gov to sign up. The staff will then send an invi-

tation to the RPL Discord

Saturday, Feb. 20:

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training

This is for ages 11-15 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr. The fee is \$65 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. Participants will learn to take care of children and infants. Included is how to be a good leader and role model, making good decisions, solving problems, and keeping children safe. Participants should bring a snack and lunch. The training includes American Red Cross certifications for babysitting and for pediatric

Sunday, Feb. 28:

Blacksburg Disc Golf Fundraiser

This is a two-division trophy-only event. The course has been modified into a temporary 16-hole tournament layout. Registration is \$30 and will include a twodisc player pack. The money raised will be used to reimburse the cost of the installation of the new tee pads at Blacksburg Municipal Park.

This is a tee-time event. Final tee times will be posted on the event page after registration closes on the evening of Friday, Feb. 26. Arrive at least 15 minutes before your designated tee time to check in. To register, visit https://www.discgolfscene.

com/tournaments/Blacksburg_Municipal_Disc_Golf_ Fundraiser_2021.

Tuesday, Mar. 16:

Radford Reads with Monica Rodden

Join the Radford Public Library for a Zoom conversation with Monica Rodden, author of "Monsters Among Us." Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva. gov for details. The library has a limited number of free

copies of this book, so let them know if you would like a copy (while supplies last); 6:30 p.m.

Ongoing:

StoryWalk

All the Month of February, at the Christiansburg Library Exercise your brain and body as you read and walk the trail. Begin at the library at the College Street entrance of Downtown Park. This month's book is "The Big Red Barn."

Through Friday, Mar. 5:

Glencoe Mansion "2020 in Review" Art Show

The show features the works of artists Cheryl Mackian, the Radford Photo Club, and Teresa Regil, whose works all appeared in the Gallery during 2020. The exhibit is open to the public and is free.

Through Saturday, April 24:

'Unbearable Beauty' Exhibit at Moss Arts Center

The exhibit is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Saturday, April 24. The exhibit is a demonstration of the devastation human activity has wreaked on the environment. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Blacksburg High School 2020-2021 Semester 1 blue honor roll: All A's and B's

Iulie Anderson, Erika Anthony, Thomas Anthony, Shreyas Bera, Mia Betz, Sage Boyer, Wyatt Boyle, Nicholas Broyden, Mariah Burks, Cayden Cash, Oscar Coddington, Lauren Collver, Emmaline Compton, James Cook. Erin Crawford, Julietta Crowder-Parera, Ana Czar, Evelyn Dana, Hannah Deck, Chaney Dupont, Elayna Ealy, Alexander Early, Logan Eberhardt, Jacob Fan, Bradley Finch, Caden Green, Jessica Griffin, Elianna Guerra, Isaac Hadden, Gwendolyn Hawdon, Robert Hedgepeth, Rebecca Helm, Samuel Helton, Katie Highfield, Carter Hill, Scarlett Hurst, Elizabeth Jarrells, Jackson, Katlyn Jones, Amanda Hannah Lowe, Callan Manley, Leila Massjouni, James Mathai, Aidan McComsey, Spencer McGehee, Michael Melton, Graham Merritt, Benjamin Miller, Ella Moeltner, Joseph

Alexis Niemiera, Chidera Nwaihesie, Vansh Parikh, Gabrielle Parton, James Poland, Grace Reynolds, Ivy Robinson, Gretchen Sallee, Audrey Sanborn, Daniel Scarpa-Friedman, Ryan Schultz, Abram Scott, Brianna Smith, Quinton Spencer, Anna Sullivan, William Thomas, Afton Thompson, Isaac Thompson, Delanie Veit, James Wallace, Ying Wang, Claire Wiedmer, Isabelle Wong, Davis Young.

Grade 11

Callia Addikis, Shambhavi Adhikari, Emma An-Gabriela Arms, Owen Badgley, Lily Belleville, Aidan Berger, Cheyenne Bishop, Norin Bortz, Teagan Bowyer, Luke Boyle, Eden Braak, Evan Bradley, Diana Brizzolara, Sthefany Camarena, Jacob Chittenden, Patrick Cooper, Amelia Covey, Roland Crickenberger, Samuel Davis, Thanh

thew Ellis, Yahya Elmon- Reinhardt, Danielle Riley, gui, Charles Epperley, Bryce Jaqueline Rizzi, Alejandro Ferguson, Anna-Linda Fili- Rodriguez-Fernandez, Naiatreau, Helen Fowlkes, Mat-ra thew Franco, Luke Freeman, Peyton Abigail Fritz, James Gibson, Sforza, Catherine Shew-Jonathan Goerlich, Alexis chuk, Gerald Skenderian, Grigg, Aryssa Guerrero, Tucker Halsey, Tate Harrison, Trinity Hawley, Garrett Henderson, Maegen Herring, Siena Hoffmann, Jonathan Howell, Helena Huber, line Thompson, Gabriel Caroline Huff, Brieanna Townsend, Silas Turner, Huffman, Nell Hughes, Emily Venie, Grant Walker, Gretchen Johnson, Mia Abigail-Beatrice Jones, Johanna Kiefer, Eliza- Benjamin Warburton, Kevbeth Laatz, Mason Lattimer, in Wei, Liam Werner, Louisa Iavna Lee, Elise Levison, Eunseob Lim, Josie Long, Manuel Marrufo, Jenna Massie, Mason Matthews, Mason Maykowskyj, Karah McClafferty, Dylan Mc-Donald, John McGee, Kylie Miller, Caitlyn Mullen, Natalie Nichols, Olivia Opazo-Barnhart, Saartje Pandelaere, Gavin Paye, Emma Plafcan,

Duong, Colm Dye, Jaden Joshua Poteet, Albert Rabo-Earley, Kylee Eaves, Matteau, William Racek, Claire Rodriguez-Fernandez, Seeley, Meghan Shane Smith, Kylan Socha, Wen St. Martin, Mason Stewart, Zachary Sudweeks, Zachary Swartzwelder, Kennedy Thomason, Cara-Wallace, Wheeler, Maggi Williams, Kevin Xu.

> Carter Ackerman, Aun Ali, Megan Anderson, Kelly Anton, Elias Babcock, Elise Bailey, Daniel Barnard, Samuel Beard, Rishi Bhojwani, Asa Bossert, Michael Bowen, Gabrielle Brooks, Emma Brumfield, Melayna Bryant, Nora Chase, Malayna Cherbaka, Mallory Cox, Ash Coyle, Emma Davis, Patrick Da-

Farley, Evan Foley, Jacob Fowlkes, Amy Fugate, Laci Gess, Sarah Gilmer, Norah Griggs, Benjamin Hager, Rosaleona Hall-Loar, Anna Hanowski, Jackson Hardy, Yehya Hassouna, Autumn Henshaw, Morgan Holley, Tessa Howard, Nikola Iakimov, Hailey Johnston, Alison Jones, Sophia Krouscas, Reese Kunkel, Jeremy Larkin, Jackson Lawrence, Ethan Lewis, Emma Littlefield, Harrison Lynch, Joshua Maher, Matthieu Mallet, Lindsey Mann, Zeb Martin, Ava Massjouni, Elaina McCoy, James McMichael, Erik Midkiff, Joshua Myers, Alexis Naughton, Jackson Neurauter, Gavin Neysmith, Nevin O'Dowd, Ella Poff, Rowan Porter, Marco Ramirez, Tristan Reichard, Sean Ruan, Conner Rutherford, Jacob Scardo, Charlie Schoenig, Gavin Schuetz, John Schulte, Alden Shadle, Josiah Shres-tha, Rylee Sloss, Zachary Smith, Amanda Sobrado, Rusel Steele, Eli Sterling, Ayden Stosser, Harrison Tracy, Morgan Tully, Logan Turman, Lucas Turman, Sophia Vikesland, Griffin Warren, Hayden Wertalik, Karis White, Bela Williams, Nathan Woolwine, Hen-

Ibraheem Alsmadi, Skye Baker, Emiliano Beardall, Hudson Beeken, Jordan Boffen, Gwyndara Burkett, Katherine Bushey, Braelynn Butler, Connor Catterson, Viveka Christensen, James Copeland, Evelyn Covey, Carson Cross, Austin Davis, Star Dotson, Lane Flynn, Bryson Green, Clinton Grissom, Kobby Gyimah, Hoda Hassouna, Korbinian Huber, Lera Kelly, Poetry Kirk, Samantha Lewis, Jennifer Lin, Jade Long, Brennen Lucia, Hayden Lynch, Gunnarr Martin, Grace Maxwell, Connor McFall, Brayden McGuire, William McWhirt, Samantha Miear, Aidan Miller, Kathryn Miller, Isabelle Mosser, Katelyn Myers, Andrei Onufriev, Maarten Pandelaere, Carlos Perez, Joseph Plummer, Lindsey Polan, John Provo, Samuel Purcell, Ethan Ratcliffe, Nanette Roghair, Elliott Sanborn, Jason Scardo, Haley Sheppard, Kenneth Shirah, Jameson Shortt, Alexis Snider, Erik Snider, Patrick Sprague, Ocean Standley, Aidan Stern, Morgan Taylor, Jake Valatka, Grace Walker, Amelia Webster, Luke West, Katlyn

26 29 32 33 41 49

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Our 10 numerals 33. Talk noisily 35. New Testament Horseshoe cleat

Corp.

56

12. Soprano solo 13. Vestments

11. Ear shell

14. Heart's singer Wilson 41. Act as master of

15. Set of type in one style ceremonies

16. Withdraw from work

18. Ancient Hebrew coin

20. Megacycle 21. 26th British letter 22. Colonnaded Greek

walks 24. Russian sourgrass soupsomething 26. OK Corral's Wyatt 27. Cheremiss

28. Schenectady County Airport 29. Laptop

32. NYSE for Murphy Oil

31. Actress Farrow

49. Eyebath

51. Thick piece of

52. Angry

city 57. Gum arabics

60. Dispatcher

43. Skin lesions 44. Stiff bristle 45. Equally 46. Pool dressing room

36. Tax collector

39. Not in use

37. Mediation council

55. 20th Hebrew letter 56. 3rd largest Colombian

59. A song of praise to God

4. Tropical constrictor Hostelry 6. Examine and expurgate 7. Small restaurants

Word shortening

3. 22nd state (abbr.)

2. Tore down (var. sp.)

8. E. Asian anis liquor 9. Infestation of head louse

10. New Yorker film critic Pauline 11. An orange-red crystalline 46. Hyperbolic cosecant

13. Indicates position 16. Root mean square (abbr.) 17. Electronic counter-coun-

termeasures 19. 12-31 greeting 22. Fastens

23. Himalayan wild goats

38. Older Bridges brother 40. Plays 42. Term denoting psychic

34. China

25. One who overacts

30. Absence of aggression

Facial gesture

15

developer 44. Any habitation at a high 47. Russian mountain range

43. Oral polio vaccine

48. An aromatic salve 50. Venezuelan fashion designer initials 53. Highest card 54. 5th son of Jacob

58. Music storage device

Grade 10

vis, Karissa Deeb, Alexis Deese, Thomas DeMasi, Emily Dickerson, Collin Dickert, Reese Edwards, Wyatt Eschenmann, Mia

to find out if she married

the soldier," added Dietz.

"There aren't a lot of details

about Virginia or her beau."

Love Letter "It would be interesting But who doesn't love a

rick Zhen.

tery?
"Our job is to create access to precious primary

150-year-old romantic mys-

sources, like this love letter, for research," said Dietz. "If we uncover a mystery along the way, that makes our job even more fun."

White, Ryan Woolwine, Eli

Wyatt, Deven Ziegert.

Survey from page 1

for. Only 11 percent of the women questioned agreed. But romance is still alive at least somewhat in that rather get shot by Cupid's 50 percent of the survey respondents said they'd

Hobo Leather Handbags With natural beauty that gets better with age See the selection at its best

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arrow than the COVID vaccine. But that means an equal number would just as soon get vaccinated.

Apparently social disand tancing isolation haven't been as hard on romance as many have said. Forty-eight percent of those surveyed said they have gotten richer in love since Valentine's Day 2020. Certainly the pandemic

has affected the way Americans show their love for each other. It hasn't, however, seemed to wreak too much havoc on that love we feel for each other. In other words, in America, despite the coronavirus, love is alive and well.

This Valentine's Day protect your heart by **learning about Virginia Tech's AED program**

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, heart-shaped decorations pop up, and loved ones are top of mind, it is important to think about the hearts we cannot Heart disease is among

the leading causes of death in the United States. In fact, February is American Heart Health Month. The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad strives to raise awareness of the disease and prevent cardiac-related deaths by administering the university's Public Access automated external defibrillators (AED) program.

An AED is a device that delivers an electric shock to the heart and allows it to reestablish an effective rhythm in the case of sudden cardiac arrest. The goal of the oncampus AED program is to increase the survival rate of individuals who have suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

A person who receives defibrillation, an electric shock aimed at restarting the heart, within minutes has a dramatically greater chance of surviving than someone who does not receive a shock. The only device that can provide this shock is an AED.

There are more than 180 AEDs in place throughout the Blacksburg campus and Virginia Tech greater Washington, D.C., area facilities, most often located in highly visible, high-pedestrian traffic areas. The all-student-run rescue squad leads the operation, maintenance, and inspections of these devices.

The squad appoints an AED coordinator each year to oversee the program. Joe Clift currently serves as AED coordinator. Clift recently graduated from Virginia Tech in December 2020 with his bachelor's in biological sciences and a minor in chemistry.

As AED coordinator, Clift is responsible for the maintenance of all campus AEDs, budget allocation, raising awareness for the AED program, delivering ongoing educational programming for the campus community, and coordinating new requests for AEDs.

To use an AED, individuals should be trained in cardopulmonary resuscita- Environmental Health and AED to be used effectively. Rescue Squad. CPR training can be sched-



AED station located on the first floor of the Public Safety Building.

tion (CPR) in order for the Safety and the Virginia Tech

Many of the AED stations uled through Virginia Tech also have Stop the Bleed Kits

within them. Virginia Tech Emergency Management offers Stop the Bleed training to the university community throughout the year.

History, patron saint of Valentine's Day are shrouded in mystery

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. What is known is that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as Americans know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an

imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl, possibly his jailor's daughter, who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic andmost importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine became one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial, which probably occurred around A.D. 270, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the Ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa.

The priests would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. They would then tear the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat

Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in mar-

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed, as it was deemed "un-Christian," at the end of the fifth century when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love.

During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine's Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Foules," writing, "For this was

sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / to choose his mate."

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the saint of beekeepers and epilep-Middle Ages, though writ- sy, among many other things. ten Valentines didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The skull in Rome (in the Basilica oldest known valentine still of Santa Maria). in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Chaucer may have invented Duke of Orleans, to his wife Valentine's Day (in his poem while he was imprisoned in "Parliament of Foules). the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle tine's Day several times a year of Agincourt. (The greeting (because of the abundance of is now part of the manu- St. Valentines on the Catholic script collection of the British roster). Library in London.) Several years later, it is believed that Valentine who is celebrated, King Henry V hired a writer St. Valentina, a virgin marnamed John Lydgate to com-tyred in Palestine on July 25, pose a valentine note to Cath- Á.D. 308.

Americans probably be- through history gan exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. Circa 1500 B.C. in Vedic In the 1840s, Esther A. How-Sanskrit scriptures, according land began selling the first to research by Vaughn Bryant, mass-produced valentines in an anthropology professor at America. Howland, known as Texas A&M University. the "Mother of the Valentine," ing Card Association, an esti- him. mated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, (1896): The first people to making Valentine's Day the smooch on film were May second largest card-sending Irwin and John C. Rice, holiday of the year (More who appeared in a short film cards are sent at Christmas).

Seven surprising facts about St. Valentine

The St. Valentine who inspired the holiday may have been two different men.

In all, there are about a Whan every foul cometh ther dozen St. Valentines, plus a Valentine is the patron

You can find Valentine's

English poet Geoffrey

You can celebrate Valen-

There is even a female St.

Seven momentous kisses

The first recorded kiss:

The Judas kiss: In the Gosmade elaborate creations with pels of Matthew and Mark, real lace, ribbons and color- Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss ful pictures known as "scrap." so that armed men can take Today, according to the Greet- him away and eventually kill

The first kiss on film

known variously as May Irwin kiss, Kiss or The Kiss.

The first black kiss on film: In 1898, black performers Saint Suttle and Gertie Brown starred in a short film titled Something Good-Negro Kiss, the first film to show black Americans kissing. In 2017, film historians rediscovered the footage, which was filmed by a white man named William Selig in Chicago.

The V-J Day kiss (1945): Captured in the iconic photo of an American sailor clutching a white-uniformed woman in a back-bending, passionate kiss in Times Square to celebrate the long awaitedvictory over Japan. The Navy sailor and the dental assistant parted ways after the kiss.

Star Trek's interracial kiss (1968): Nichelle Nichols as Uhura and William Shatner as Captain James T. Kirk kissed in the Star Trek episode "Plato's Stepchilden," which aired on Nov. 22, 1968. Technically, it was not the first interracial kiss on television, but it was the kiss that seemed to have the most cultural impact.

The Socialist fraternal kiss (1979): Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and East German President Erich Honecker kissed each other on the mouth on the occasion of East Germany's 30th anniver-

Linkous

local business community for 48 years including founding Custom Meats, Custom Catering and Linkous Auc-

In 2019, Hurst narrowly beat Republican Forest Hite with 53 percent of the vote. He has been outspoken about the storming of the capitol shortly after then-President Donald Trump spoke to supporters.

"If you run as a Republican in 2021

and beyond, you must answer for the actions of Trump and the violent insurrection on 1/6. Do you support Trump? Do you support the rioters? Why are you still a Republican?" Hurst said recently on Twitter.

Linkous said there is a big difference between him and the current Democrat. "I've got so much more time invested in this district that I should know it better than him," he said.

He would not speak directly to Hurst's recent criticism of a local businessperson who attended the events at the capitol last month.

The Democrat also received attention last year from a traffic stop when he was pulled over but was not charged with driving under the influence.

The local Republican Party has not announced as of yet how it will choose a candidate for the seat.



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Celebrating from page 1

professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Department Sciences of Sociology at Virginia Tech. "Finding partners through social networks, such as family or church, is overwhelmingly a bygone practice. Instead, people often turn to dating sites or apps, a contemporary process that has become ritualized.

"People carry thousands of prospective mates along with them wherever they go, sifting through sites and apps on their phones as they wait in line for coffee or during any spare moment," says Williams. "What does this tell us? Love is a commodity. Something we browse for, as if sorting through a stack of sweaters. But it also means that love is a pervasive, incessant need, something that we search for in hopes of finding the one that fits just right."

Williams says that regardless of how we approach Valentine's Day, we should take this extraordinary time to get to know our romantic interest. Push texting aside and rekindle the art of talking.

Plan your ideal date

and conduct it virtually.

Use Grubhub or Door-Dash to order food for you and your date(s).

Pick a TV show or movie that you both might enjoy and chat with each other via Zoom or FaceTime during the viewing. If you know in advance what you will watch together, send something related to the show or movie to your love interest.

Send your love interest your favorite t-shirt, you know the one that smells like you and is worn from wear. A piece of you will be with them during your Send a playlist of your

top 10 favorite songs. Plan to discuss why you like the songs and ask them which they enjoyed. Take a free online ori-

gami class together. The next time you see each other you can give them your creation as a souvenir from your date.

Journal about why you are attracted to the other person, physically, emotionally and intellectually, and share your thoughts with them.

Play a video or virtual game together. Capitalize on your in-

telligence and read passages of your favorite books aloud to each other.

The advantages of a virtual date: You will get to see their entire face, mask-free.

You will have an opportunity to get to know a prospective partner, as you will be focused on talking.

If this is a first date and things don't go well, you likely saved some money, whether that means you didn't buy new shoes or you didn't have to pay for drinks or dinner.

If being face-to-face is vital, the following are suggestions:

Get tested. If all parties test negative for CO-VID-19, then plan an inperson rendezvous. If going out, be sure to

adhere to the CDC's mandates: wear a mask and stay at least six feet from others you encounter. Go for a hike on a lo-

cal trail. Rent a bike and explore

your community. Grab food, go to your favorite outdoor spot and have a picnic. If it's snowing, revert to hot chocolate or coffee and stroll through town.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 shots at **Blue Ridge Church**

Since December, I have been watching individuals on television stand in line to be tested or to receive their COV-ID shots. On one station a reporter stated that people had been standing in lines for hours to get tested or to receive a

After I received information concerning when I should go to Blue Ridge Church in Christiansburg, when I got to the church, there was a small line that was moving quickly. I was in and out in 45 minutes. I was so pleased that it went so quickly and easily.

Last Wednesday, I went for the second shot. I could not believe it. No line. Walked in, filled out some papers, got the shot, waited for any reaction and left. I could have done the whole procedure during halftime of the super bowl.

What a great job, so well organized. Maybe it was done so quickly and so much faster than the big cities because there were fewer people. (I have heard they are giving 1400 shots a day at Blue Ridge Church.)

But I think it was because the people were better organized and were ready to help end

terrible situation that the country has been facing for the last year. It is hard to beat the citizens in our town.

As I was leaving the church, I told a lady who had just received her shot that the workers deserved an "A." She said, forget it, they should receive a triple "A."

Another thing I noticed as people were leaving: They were walking a little taller and had smiles on their faces like a burden had been taken from them.

I felt the same way.

As a member of the Christiansburg Town Council, I have not had much to be happy about during the last several months. Getting the two shots certainly made my life better.

With the way everyone is working together, we are going to win this battle and become a stronger, better commu-

> Steve Huppert Christiansburg Town Council

Note: These are my comments and do not represent the opinions of the Christiansburg staff or members of the Christiansburg Town Council.

Water, water everywhere, including on my brain

I mentioned in an earlier column that as I've gotten older, I seem to have fallen victim to a propensity for lapses into what I have labeled time loops: memories from long ago that just show up of their own accord as momentary flashbacks. They're there and then they're gone: snippets of my past I haven't thought of in decades.

Some of those recently have had to do with water and me.

John Denver, whom critics dubbed "a song's best friend," once sang of "the serenity of a clear blue mountain lake." Even for me with my balance-challenged self so that the only time I tried water skiing I dang near did myself some grievous bodily harm, water has always been like a magnet. It wasn't a mountain lake that day I climbed aboard the skis, and I sure didn't find any serenity as I struggled to shore with my body battered by those selfsame unruly skis. But I just couldn't resist the siren call of the water.

Growing up, the highlight of the year was my family's summertime vacations to the beaches of Panama City, Fla. My wife and I have been beach folks, too, taking off for long weekends whenever we can, usually to Mexico Beach, Fla., which tragically was pretty much obliterated in 2018 by Hurricane Michael.

Sadly, beach trips came to an end when we left Georgia and moved to Virginia. The nature of our jobs makes trips to the Virginia coastline impossible. Too far away.

We aren't the only ones, of course, for whom the nearest body of water holds an attraction too compelling to ignore. There's just something primal and primeval about the whole relationship and the need we as humans have to immerse ourselves in and seek solace from the water.

We dive right in even knowing that the deep -- briny or other-

wise -- is the repository of some of the most dangerous and nightmarish creatures on the planet. A special little joy is the Īrukandji or box jellyfish that inhabits the northern waters of Australia. I ran across this delightful little monster on a recent TV show about Australia's deadliest critters. And there's a whole bunch of them.

The box jellyfish is apparently an innocuous little creature. It's a tiny thing, about a cubic centimeter. It is thus the smallest jellyfish in the world, but its size doesn't seem to make it selfconscious at all. It is also one of the world's deadliest jellyfish. Its stings can cause fatal brain hemorrhages and have been characterized as "100 times as potent as that of a cobra and 1,000 times stronger than a tarantula's."

And there they are in that water right off the coast. Thank goodness, I'm about as close to Australia as I ever plan to get.

And don't forget giant squids like that in Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea and Bruce, fictitious but emblematic of a real monster, the great white

A league, by the way, in case vou're interested, is a very inexact unit of nautical measurement. Apparently it varies in different countries and at different time periods. In English-speaking countries, a league has usually been about three miles. Since Jules Verne was French, it seems unlikely he was talking about 60,000 miles.

But nasty creatures -- with or without gills -- don't seem to keep us from diving right in and invading their territory. The truth is that when we're in the water, since we don't have gills, we're somewhere we really don't belong no matter how much we might like it.

To this day, the most achingly beautiful scene I have ever been privileged to see was the Bay of blue and clear it didn't look real, Mt. Vesuvius in the background across the bay. One of those flashbacks I hope comes again.

When I think of bodies of water, particularly those that lend themselves to fishing, I can't help but think of my father and grandfather, dedicated anglers both. I have often thought I let my dad down in the sense that I didn't inherit his love of fishing. Maybe I compensated for it by marrying a fisherwoman. She can bait a hook and work a cane pole with the best of them.

Part of my failure to fish may well come from one of the ironies of my life. Despite my affinity for the water, I don't eat anything that comes from it. I don't like seafood and it's not just fish. If it had to be hauled from the water, I don't want it on my plate or my palate. Picky, picky, picky. But I do like olives, if that's any consolation.

Still caught in my time loop and thinking of fishing, I pause a minute or two to recall Grumpier Old Men in which Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau reel in Catfish Hunter, a beautifully named monster catfish they have been trying to catch for 20 years or so. They admire him for a moment, savor their accomplishment and the challenge he gave them, and then they toss him back into the lake to swim away.

I like that scene. A sort of tribute from two old men who have loved the water and what it has offered them all their lives. Kind of like me.

The author is a man of a certain age who -- in a time loop flashback -- recalls the time a few decades back when the wife and he took a train ride from New Orleans to Atlanta. As they crossed Lake Pontchartrain, in what must surely be a recurring ritual, the fishermen close to the

tracks as a group -- in separate boats, of course -- mooned the passing train.

News Messenger

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USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

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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.

WalletHub: Three Virginia sites rank among 20 best places in which to get married; average wedding costs \$38,000+

With Valentine's Day on Sunday and COVID-19 vaccinations paving the way for safer weddings in the coming months, the personal finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2021's Best Places to Get Married and included three commonwealth locations - Newport News (12), Virginia Beach (15) and Rich-

mond (18) -- among its top

According to the survey, the top five best places to get married in are 1) Orlando, Fla. 2) Fayetteville, N.C. 3) Austin, Texas 4) Portland, Ore. and 5) Charleston W.Va. Couples will want to avoid what WalletHub determined to be the five worst places in which to marry: 182) Providence, R.I. 181) Jersey City, N.J. 180) Newark, N.J. 179) Yonkers, N.Y. and 178) Bridgeport, Conn.

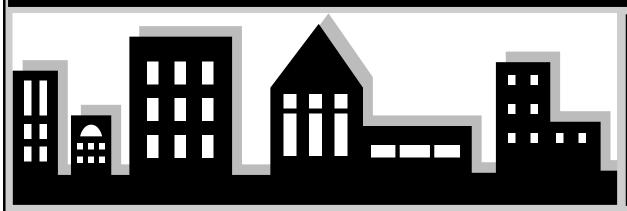
The website noted that the restrictions on large gatherings will eventually be loosened once a significant portion of the U.S. is able to get vaccinated this year. Therefore, engaged couples may want to begin their wedding planning now so that they will have less of a rush when things return to

normal. In the aftermath of COVID-19, the website points out, cost is likely to be an even bigger concern than it usually is for many couples as millions of Americans have been financially impacted by the pandemic and may need to cut back their spending.

Wallet-Hub reports that weddings in the U.S. traditionally have an enormous price tag with the average couple shelling out over \$38,000 for their big day. There are so many things to purchase and organize that many couples hire professional event planners to do the heavy lifting.

Between sending invitations, securing reservations, planning a menu and obsessing over final touches on the cake, it's no wonder weddings are arranged months, even years, in advance. Tying the knot is a huge commitment, and the wedding industry is worth around \$73.3 billion in revenue per year.

To assist with the planning process, WalletHub compared more than 180 U.S. cities to find the cheapest and most convenient wedding destinations that also promise a memorable day. They examined each city across 20 key indicators of wedding-friendliness. Included among those indicators were the average wedding cost, the number of chapels and churches per capita, the number of wedding planners per capita, the number of bridal shops per capita, the number of flower shops per capita and the number of venues and event spaces per capita.



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OBITUARY

Trail, Thomas Emmett "Tom"

Thomas "Tom" Emmett Trail, 78, passed away Monday, Feb. 8, 2021, at his home in Radford.

Born and raised in Radford, he was a Bobcat football star and always attended home games.

He was retired from Lynchburg Foundry where he worked most of his life with stints as an independent contractor and a pattern maker.

After retirement, Tom enjoyed camping with friends and family, going to bluegrass festivals, exploring Radford history, and weekly coffee and conversation with the McDonald's crew. Most of all, he enjoyed the simple things in life: sitting outside feeding the birds; listening to live bluegrass music; sharing stories and jokes with old friends; helping others with construction projects; Bobcat football games; going on drives all around the New River Valley; reading the Bible; serving his church, Carter Street Methodist; and spending time with loved ones.

He was devoted to his grandchildren, Jordan and Madison, whom he helped raise and who loved playing with and talking to their Pawpaw. His beloved wife, Mary, was his partner in all he did and was always by his side.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, James and Jeannie Trail; brothers James, Jr., and Dan Trail; and sisters Eleanor Myers, Nancy Viers, Isabel Simpkins, Jeanette Dickerson,

Frances Harris and Judy Sarver. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Mary Jane Trail; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Jr. and Amy Trail; a daughter, Melissa Naff; grandchildren Jordan and Madison; a brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Lorraine Trail; a sister-in-law, Hattie Ethel Altizer Trail; special friends Kathy and Lauren Young; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The Trail family is in the care of Mull-

ins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

Even During This Pandemic, Everyone Deserves a Burial Service So Their Family and Friends Can Say One Last "Goodbye"

We Offer Graveside Services with Social Distancing, at no additional cost.
• Services can be broadcast to attendees' car radios.

- At the completion of the service, the family will receive visitors via
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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 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. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

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.

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.

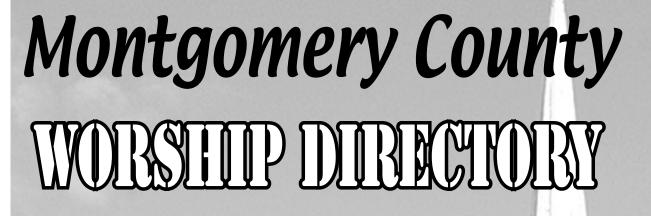
West Radford Church of God, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School— 10:00A.M. Morning Worship—11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening – 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night – 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office – 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

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 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!

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are



Over the Top

Read Numbers 16:1 through 17:13

Gordon trudged into the house after a long day of work on his birthday, a year older and feeling every minute of it. He expected a quiet birthday dinner with his family, so he was stunned when he saw balloons and cake and friends shouting, "Surprise!" He was more than surprised. He was amazed at how much his family and friends clearly loved him.

God vowed to make the staff of his chosen priest miraculously sprout, but He couldn't resist going above and be-

The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented

the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds (Numbers 17:8).

God has a way of amazing His people by meeting their needs in over-the-top ways. There's no better example than Jesus. Sure, God had promised a Messiah, but His own Son? It was stunning, unexpected, and it demonstrated that God was willing to go farther than we could ever imagine to save us.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank You, God, for the miraculous, amazing, over-the-top way You saved me.

Quicklook: Numbers 17:1–12

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currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.meetup. com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group, or call 540-353-5365 and leave a message. We will return your call. Also visit www. eckankar.org for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar lead you to spiritual freedom.

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 luthermemorial-blacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

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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 Wednes-

day 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 Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are wel-

come.

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.centralmethodist-

church.com.

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Moonsup "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: christwesleyanchurch.org

BITUARIES

Ulfers, Helga Sylvia

Helga Sylvia Ulfers, 89, of Blacksburg, passed into eternity peacefully on Feb. 1, 2021, a few days after seeing all seven of her grandchildren and her three sons.

She was born in 1931 in Santiago, Chile, to Erwin and Hermine Sievers. She married Horst Emil Ulfers in April 1960. He preceded her in death in 1997.

She was raised in Chile, the second of three siblings. She received her Christian baptism on Oct. 15, 1932. She grew up as part of the German community in Chile.

After moving to the USA with her beloved Horst, she returned regularly to Chile to visit her parents; her two brothers, Ronald and Gerold, and her dear friends and extended family. She had a very special place in her heart for the wonderful Chilean people, the landscape and the rugged, stunning coastline. She was known as Helga, Ma, Mom, Oma

and Helgita. She lived a healthy and vibrant life to the end, enjoying frequent outdoor She was fluent in three languages (Spanish,

German and English). She always appreciated beauty whether in art, music, or life itself; It wasn't unusual to hear her say "That is a beau-As a young woman, she studied ceramics

abroad in Germany where she first met Horst. She was very creative as evidenced by the artwork hanging in so many of the homes of her extended family and friends, beautiful expressions of who she was. Her faith in Christ expressed itself in her

simple love towards family and strangers. She often volunteered in her community and at her church. People from at least four continents, including Africa, who visited her had very fond memories of her. Her kindness was an expression of God's gift to us all.

When grandchildren visited her in Reston, they enjoyed playing games like Canasta and Mexican train dominoes with her. She enjoyed the guitar and the piano until the end of her days. And she will always be known by those who visited her in Reston for her hospitality. In 2018 she moved to Showalter Center in Blacksburg where she made new friends and continued to enjoy her amazing life.

After their marriage ceremony in Chile, Horst and Helga settled down in the United States to begin their new life together raising a family of three sons: Bernard, Robert and Detlef. In 1970,

they moved the family from New Jersey to Reston, Va. where she and Horst continued to enjoy a happy marriage.

They were founding and active members of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and members of The Reston Chorale. In 1989 they moved to the Netherlands for several years before returning to Virginia. After Horst's passing in 1997, Helga continued to live in Reston with remarkable independence, always ready to welcome family and friends into her condo, where she was very much appreciated as a "great neighbor." In 2014 her older brother Ronald Sievers preceded her in

She is survived by her younger brother, Gerold Sievers, her three sons, and all her grandchildren: Caleb, Nathanael, Carolyn and Jesse, who were born to Bernard and Margaret; and Josiah, Hannah and Bina, who were born to Robert and Yezmin. She also has three great-grandchildren: Peter, Anna and Joshua, who were born to Carolyn and Lance as well as many more of her brothers' children and grandchildren in Chile and Europe.

Burial services shall be limited to immediate family with additional memorial services to be eventually held in Reston and in Blacksburg to celebrate her life with those who knew and loved her.

Memorial services will be open to all friends. Please leave your contact information with Robert "Bob" Ulfers if you are interested in receiving dates, locations and times for Helga's memorial life celebrations which are yet to be scheduled for a safer time. He will contact you when those details are known. You may call him at 540-998-4800.

Please refrain from sending flowers until memorial dates for Helga are announced. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home,

McGinty, Michael John

Michael John McGinty, 69, beloved son and brother, passed away on Feb. 6, 2021, at his home in Blacksburg.

Michael was born on Feb. 16, 1951, in New Orleans, La., to Catherine Chidester McGinty and John Theisman McGinty. He graduated from Mandeville High School in Louisiana and attended Southeastern Louisiana University.

Growing up, Michael developed a love for the outdoors early on. He had great respect for nature and enjoyed sailing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. Golf was, far and away, his passion. As an accomplished golfer, he earned numerous awards and championships throughout his life. Michael ran his own golfing business at one point in his working career, combining his passion for sports with his work life. Michael was very gregarious and

developed countless friendships along the way. He had a great love for animals, owning dogs for most of his adult life. He had a keen

sense in training them, and they were loyal Most of all, Michael cherished his family and was a loving brother and son. He had a

kind and cheerful heart and will be greatly He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Brian J. McGinty and John C. McGinty. He is survived by sisters Patricia A. Jewett (William) and Kathleen A. Stith (Reg);

nephews and nieces. A funeral mass is in the care of the Lake Lawn Funeral Home, New Orleans, La., followed by entombment in the family tomb at the Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, La.

a brother, Ronald J. McGinty (Diane), and

Smith, Easley Stone

Easley Stone Smith, 96, of Blacksburg, died on February 2, 2021.

He was a resident of the Showalter Center of Warm Hearth.

Easley was born May 16, 1924, in Nottoway County, Va., to Clack Stone and Pearl Easley Smith. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Crewe High School. He enrolled at Virginia Tech in 1941 and attended for four quarters prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He commanded a ten-man crew in the 723rd bomber squadron, 450th bomb group of the 15th Air Force on a combat tour based in southern Italy flying daylight bombing missions in support of the Allied war effort. Daylight bombing was exceedingly dangerous work. During the war over 30,000 airmen were killed in combat, over 14,000 were wounded and another 33,000 were shot down and captured. He was always thankful that despite witnessing much death and destruction, none of his crew members were ever injured.

He completed a tour of 25 missions as a 1st Lieutenant and flight commander and volunteered to return to the United States for retraining in B-29s and eventual reassignment to the Pacific theater. He landed back in the United States on his 21st birthday in May of 1945. By that time the war in the Pacific was winding down, and he did not fly in combat again. He completed his enlistment duty stateside in time to be back at Virginia Tech for the winter quarter

Easley graduated from Virginia Tech in 1948 and began his career as a sales representative for a farm machinery manufacturer. He met Helen Mitchell on a blind date in Richmond and married her in Lynchburg in June of 1951. His career eventually brought him back to Blacksburg and the extension service of Virginia Tech.

He joined the faculty of the department of Agricultural Engineering (now Biological Systems Engineering) in 1956 and earned an MS in Agricultural Engineering in 1960. His specialty was farm machinery, and he was instrumental in the development of no-till farming. He always enjoyed working with farmers and students and for years was involved with state and regional 4-H programs. He served as an Associate Professor until his retirement in 1984.

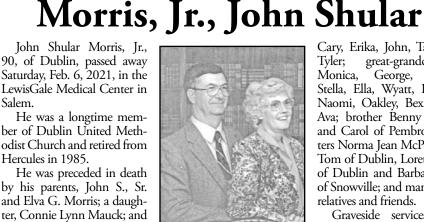
After retirement, Easley read the newspaper thoroughly every day, maintained a prodigious garden and continued to volunteer in the community. At various times he served as a PTA president, a community volunteer on local planning boards, on professional societies, the Lions Club and on the Session and numerous committees of the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

He enjoyed travel when he could persuade Helen to go, including trips to Europe and Australia. He particularly enjoyed a 1996 trip back to Manduria, Italy, to visit the country where he spent one winter 51 years before serving his country.

Easley loved his wife and family, his home and church, his country and, of course, his Hokies. He always aimed to set a good example, and he exemplified being a patriot and an active citizen. In addition to his parents, Easley was predeceased by his wife, Helen; his brothers Randolph W. Smith and R. Lawson Smith; his sister Anne Smith Palazzo; and one grandson, Zachery Smith. He is survived by his three sons: Blair Smith (Debbie) of Jacksonville, Fla., Steve Smith (Jane) of Raleigh, N.C., and Doug Smith of Charlotte, N.C., along with eight grandchildren, 10 nieces and nephews, and a whole town of admirers.

His family would like to give special thanks to the staff of the Showalter Center of Warm Hearth for enriching his life, especially over the last year during the pandemic. He appreciated the efforts of all of them: housekeeping, dietary and especially the nursing staff who gave him care and comfort over his last years.

Anyone considering a memorial contribution to memorialize Easley should consider either the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church or the Warm Hearth Foundation.



Cary, Erika, John, Tara and great-grandchildren George, Monica, Muna, Stella, Ella, Wyatt, Lynnen, Naomi, Oakley, Bexley and Ava; brother Benny Morris and Carol of Pembroke; sisters Norma Jean McPeak and Tom of Dublin, Loretta Pifer of Dublin and Barbara Hall of Snowville; and many other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, in Highland Memory

Gardens in Dublin with the Rev. Don Shelor and the Rev. Don Hanshew officiating.

The Morris family is in the care of Mullins

Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.



two sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include his loving

wife of 73 years, Mary Etta Morris of Dublin;

sons Johnny Morris and Dinah of Roanoke

and Ricky and Regina Morris of Shiloh; son-

in-law David Mauck; grandchildren Amanda,

Help Wanted -

Legals - City of

Radford

conference call or appear at

the hearing and present his

or her views, or submit

written comments prior to

of the Authority in care of

Kim Repass, Economic

the hearing to the attention

Development Director, City

of Radford, 10 Robertson

Street, Radford, Virginia

provide the fullest

opportunity for the

24141. The hearing shall

expression of opinion, for

for the introduction of

documentary evidence

pertinent to the plan of

argument on the merits, and

finance, the issuance of the

proposed Bonds and the

financing of the Project.

RADFORD News Journal

Auctions

PUBLIC NOTICE

The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction February 18, 2021 at 11am at 1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA. D12 1st Security reserves

the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDIT CARD AT SALE

For Rent -**Apartments**

2, 3, 4 BR

Townhouse Style 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-



FOR SALE

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.

General

Part Time Newspaper

Production Help 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

grocery shopper, Prep cook, cook, meal planner, and dietitian. 66 year old bachelor living

Experienced

In efficiency apartment, one block from Radford University. Will employee at \$20 per hour for two days per week for Skilled, efficient trustworthy person. Must have car. Call 540-577-8564 Any time Leave message

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540-389-9355

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PLAN OF FINANCE AND REVENUE **BOND FINANCING BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF** THE CITY OF RADFORD, **BENEFIT OF PROVIDENT** GROUP -**RADFORD** Notice is hereby given that

VIRGINIA FOR THE **PROPERTIES LLC** the Economic Development Authority of the City of Radford, Virginia (the "Authority"), whose address is 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141, will conduct a public hearing on the application of Provident Group - Radford Properties LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, including any subsidiaries, affiliates, successors or assigns thereof (the "Borrower"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Provident Resources Group Inc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation ("PRG"), whose address is 5565 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, for the issuance by the Authority of up to \$40,000,000 of its

revenue bonds (the

finance to assist the

"Bonds") at one time or from

time to time in one or more

series as part of a plan of

Borrower in financing or refinancing certain of the

costs of (a) the acquisition,

construction and equipping

of an approximately 124-key

Legals - City of

Radford hotel consisting of approximately 88,000 gross square feet, including approximately 4,000 gross square feet of conference space: and (b) the funding of any debt service reserve fund, capitalized interest fund, operations reserve fund, working capital fund and costs of issuance fund (collectively, the "Project"). The Project will be located within the 600 block of Tyler Avenue in the City of Radford, Virginia 24141. The Project will be owned operated and principally used by the Borrower for the benefit of Radford University (the "University") and the Radford University Foundation, Incorporated, a Virginia nonstock corporation, or a wholly owned subsidiary thereof (collectively, the "Foundation") and for the purpose of lessening the burdens of the City of Radford, Virginia (the "City"), by fostering economic development and promoting the public good and general welfare of the City. All or a portion of the Bonds are expected to be issued as "qualified 501(c)(3) bonds" as defined in Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Borrower is a disregarded entity for federal tax purposes, and each of PRG and the Foundation is exempt from the payment of federal income tax under Section

501(a) of the Code, as an

entity organized under

Section 501(c)(3) of the

Bonds have been repaid

ownership of the Project will

Foundation for the benefit of

Code. When all of the

be transferred to the

the University.

Legals - City of

Radford The issuance of the Bonds as requested by the Borrower will not constitute a debt or pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Radford, Virginia, or any other political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the Authority, and neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the Commonwealth of Virginia or any political subdivision thereof will be pledged to the payment of the Bonds This notice is intended to comply with the public notice requirements of Section 147(f) of the Code. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Time, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on March 4, 2021 before the Authority, in the Council Chambers of the City Administrative Building located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia 24141. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and in compliance with IRS Rev. Proc. 2020-21, interested persons are also invited to attend the public hearing by publicly available conference call and present comments regarding the plan of finance, the issuance of the Bonds and

the financing of the Project.

To attend via conference

call on March 4, 2021 at

1:00 p.m., Eastern Time,

and when prompted enter

3032927817, passcode

interested in the plan of

Bonds or the location or

nature of the proposed

Project may dial into the

finance, the issuance of the

conference code

3658. Any person

dial 855.588.2540 (toll-free)

Legals -Montgomery County **Public Notice**

The Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public

Hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street.

Pursuant to Va. Code §§ 15.2-1800, 15.2-1813, 15.2-2100(A), and § 15.2-2006, the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments on a request from the Montgomery County School Board to vacate the right of way known as the Christiansburg High School "bus loop" at 100 Independence Boulevard N.W. (Tax Parcel No. 466-2-11A) (.954 acres), and convey the property from the Town of Christiansburg to the School Board to facilitate future development

of the high school.

Legals -Montgomery

County Information on the preceding item, the Town's

Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department, 100 E. Main Street Christiansburg, VA 24073-3029 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information. contact Andrew Warren by phone at (540) 382-6120 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg. Run: Saturday, February

6th and Saturday, February





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Montgomery Sports



Big South changes 2021 basketball tourneys format

be flexible in ensuring

the maximum number of

games would be played.

led the country in the

average number of games

played by institution. That says a lot about the

effort and cooperation

by the Big South mem-

have limited the contact

of teams with possible

positive COVID-19 cas-

es as schedules have been

adjusted several times.

But Kallander admitted

the threat of teams not

being able to participate

in post-season play due

to COVID is still very

ploring appropriate pro-

cedures in the event the

Big South is faced with

that challenge," he said.

The Big South is one of only three confer-

ences nationwide that

approved special sched-

uling in the midst of the

restrictions. The league

schedule was adjusted to

limit travel and help en-

sure the health and safe-

ty of student-athletes,

coaches and staff. In

most cases, teams played

doubleheaders on back-

approved a plan that

would allow teams to

play with seven players

in the first game of the

doubleheader and only

six players on the second

day. So far, that has not

During the season,

both Radford Univer-

sity's men's and women's basketball teams have

had to shut down day-

to-day operations be-

cause of the COVID-19

Other college pro-

grams are also being af-

fected by COVID-19.

Emory & Henry Col-

lege has announced that

its wrestling program

would shut down effec-

tive immediately due to

health and safety con-

cerns stemming from

on the team have made

the difficult decision to

conclude their current

season due to safety con-

cerns," said Pete Hansen,

head coach of the men's

and women's wrestling

teams. "I support their

decision as we continue

to focus on the safety of

our student-athletes dur-

ing this unprecedented

The Wasps competed

in two meets during

their inaugural season,

before pausing wrestling-

related activities in the

middle of January due

to COVID-19 positive

cases and precautionary

contact tracing measures

cials have said the school

will maintain the current

schedule of competi-

tion in other sports and

will continue to observe

thorough health and

safety protocols based

on guidance from lo-

cal, state and national

medical experts, which

includes testing for all

student-athletes prior to

competitions.

Emory & Henry offi-

among individuals.

'The student-athletes

COVID-19.

come into play.

protocol.

The conference also

to-back days.

"We are currently ex-

protocols

bership," he said.

COVID pr

'The Big South has

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to play havoc with sports schedules, the latest of which is an announcement from the Big South Conference that its 2021 Hercules Tires Basketball Championships will not be played at a neutral location but rather at the higher seed locations. That change affects Radford University.

The men's and women's tournaments had been scheduled to be played at Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte.

The decision to adjust the format was made by the Big South's Council of Athletics Directors and is due to the current COVID-19 pandemic environment. Conference Commissioner Kyle Kallander said Wednesday he felt that for the health and safety of the student-athletes and participants, minimizing the number of teams and possible exposures in one location is smart.

"It also provides a reward to those teams with higher seeds for regular season success," he said.

This is the second time the conference has moved the neutral-site plan back another year. İnitially, the 2019-2020 tournament would have been the first in Charlotte. Now, it could be no earlier than 2021-

The men's and women's No. 1 seeds were originally scheduled to host the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds with higher seeds hosting first-round games. The highest remaining seed will still host the championship final.

The dates for the tournaments will be determined later and announced when they are finalized and will follow Big South Conference health and safety protocols and guidelines.

The new 2021 Hercules Tires Men's Basketball Championship Format:

First Round (at No. 6, 7, 8 seeds) – date TBD Quarterfinal Round (at No. 1, 2, 3, 4 seeds)

- date TBD Semifinal Round (at higher seed) - date TBD Championship Final

(at highest remaining seed) – Sunday, March 7 (noon – ESPN)

2021 Hercules Tires Women's Basketball Championship Format:

First Round (at No. 6, 7, 8 seeds) – date TBD Quarterfinal Round (at No. 1, 2, 3, 4 seeds) - date TBD

Semifinal Round (at higher seed) - date TBD

Championship Final (at highest remaining seed) – Sunday, March

Positive test results forcing teams to "pause" their seasons has affected the Big South just like every other conference. Kallander said, however, that proactive scheduling policies put in place prior to the season allowed the Big South Conference to

Shutdown brings New York basketball player to NRV

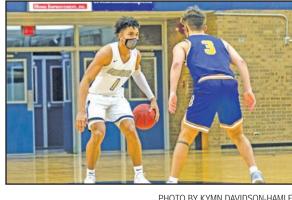


PHOTO BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Matt Simmons (left) became a starter for the Christiansburg High School basketball team after moving here in September.

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The COVID-19 pan-demic has affected high school student-athletes in many different ways. Seasons have been shut down or changed. Teams have faced tighter restrictions, and some players have opted out of this past year's athletic programs.

One high school basketball player wanted to play so badly he took a rather radical action. Matt Simmons, from New Paltz, N.Y., packed up his gym bag and traveled 538 miles to the New River Valley and Christiansburg High School.

Simmons said he felt the change in address might be the only way he could receive attention from recruiters and have a chance at playing basketball in col-

"My sister goes to Virginia Tech and has a home here in Christiansburg, so it was a no-brainer. My

mom and I moved here,"

The 6-0 guard had played at his school in New York, but when it looked like this year's winter season wouldn't happen, he felt the move would be his only chance. He enrolled at Christiansburg High School and almost immediately was hit by the school system's going virtual. Fall sports were shut down, and winter sports were left hanging on the

Simmons spoke at a Montgomery County School Board meeting in November and asked the group to consider allowing athletes to play. "Let them play" became the rallying cry, and it brought a special meaning for him.

"That was the reason I moved here, and then there was a chance we would not play. I was concerned and felt I needed to speak out,"

The school board agreed to let athletes play other county teams while

eliminating junior varsity and middle school winter sports altogether, and the aspiring basketball player had hope.

COVID has affected few students as much as it has Simmons. "But in my case, it's because I left my friends, left my school and left my family to move

But the move has certainly worked out well for him. He had a 4.0 GPA his first semester and moved into the Blue Demons' starting lineup. He spends most of his day at the Christiansburg Recreation Center shooting basketball, then practicing or playing and doing his schoolwork.

"I have had the best school year I have ever had. My new teammates have accepted me, and I love the area," Simmons said.

He hopes the move and the change in environment will lead to a path to playing college basketball and majoring in exercise sci-

RU limits attendance for spring sports

Radford University Athletics announced Tuesday afternoon that because of the COVID-19 pandemic attendance for the events of the 2021 spring season will be restricted to a limited number of family members of the student-athletes and the

Affected by the restrictions are baseball, softball, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's tennis and volleyball.

According to the athletics department, the restrictions were put in place in accordance with the guidelines regarding in-person gatherings of the Commonwealth of Virginia, local health officials and Radford University itself.

Radford Athletics has been working closely with the university, the Big South Conference and the Virginia Department of Health to provide a safe environment for all competitions this season. The health and safety of the student-athletes, coaching staff, community and fans is the top priority. The university will continue to monitor the situation as the spring sports season moves forward with hopes of allowing current RU students to attend the events later in

Fans can watch select Highlander games from home on the ESPN+ platform. Information about whether or not events are streamed are available on the respective schedule pages. Fans can always keep up with events via live stats, which can also be found on the schedule pages.

Radford Athletics is currently offering a fan cutouts program for the spring seasons. To purchase a fan cutout or to get more information, visit radfordathletics.com/fancut-

--RU Athletics

Blacksburg High boys, girls win **Region 4D indoor track titles**

Marty Gordon

NRV sports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School won the championship of both the boys and the girls Region 4D indoor track competitions this week in Amherst.

The BHS girls dominated their region opponents, rolling up 214 points. Finishing a distant second was Amherst with 105 points. Pulaski was third with 82 points.

The boys' competition was closer

with the Bruins easing past Pulaski 182-173. Amherst was third with

For the girls, Blacksburg's Sophia Krouscas won the 300-meter dash while teammate Mari Garza was tops in the 500-meters. Other firstplace winners for BHS were Audrey Link in the 1,000 meters, Annika Griggs in the 1,600-meters, Mia Jones in the 3,200-meter, and Katja Kehlenbeck in the high jump.

The Bruins dominated the relays,

winning the 4X400, the 4X200 and

the 4X800. On the boys' side of the track, Ben Hager won in the 55 meters, Vance Ruiz claimed the 500 meters, Ben Schmitt won the 1,000 meters, Connor Rutherford finished first in the 1,600-meters and Lance Dinkel led the pack in the 3,200-meter

The Blacksburg boys also took gold in the 4X400 and 4X800 relay

Hokies announce baseball schedule

Virginia Tech baseball has released its 2021 schedule of 51 games, which will begin on Friday, Feb. 19, with a three-game series at home against Kent State at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park.

The Hokies then host Radford on Feb. 23 before traveling to Miami (Fla.) for their first ACC weekend on Feb. 26.

Tech will host an eight-game stint Blacksburg against ACC opponents North Carolina (March 5-7) and Florida State (March 12-14), and non-conference opponent Virginia Commonwealth (March 9-10).

The Hokies will be at home for these ACC weekends: Boston College (April 1-3), Georgia Tech (April 16-18), UVA (April 30-May 2) and Notre Dame (May 20-22).

The Hokies will play a home-and-home series against East Tennessee State (A: April 6; H: April 27) and Liberty (A: April 13; H: May 12). Other non-conference

opponents are (April 20), Georgetown (May 4) and Toledo (May 8-9).

Tech goes on the road against ACC opponents Clemson (March 19-21), Pitt (March 26-28), Wake Forest (April 9-11), NC State (April 23-25) and Duke (May 14-16).

Tech is set to return 26 letter winners from last year's squad and will welcome 20 newcomers under head coach John Szefc, who enters his fourth season.

Virginia Tech's 2021 baseball schedule:

Feb. 19-21, State, Home Radford, Feb. 23,

Home Feb. 26-28, Miami at

Coral Gables, Fla. March 5-7, North Carolina, Home

March 9-10, Virginia Commonwealth, Home March 12-14, FSU, Home

March 19-21, Clemson at Clemson, S.C. Pitt (March 26-28) at

Pittsburgh April 1-3, Boston College, Home

April 6, East Tennessee State, at Johnson City, Tenn.

April 9-11, Wake Forest at Winston-Salem,

April 13, Liberty at Lynchburg, Va. April 16-18, Georgia

Tech, Home April 20, VMI, Home April 23-25, N.C.

State at Raleigh, N.C. April 27, East Tennessee State, Home

April 30-May 2, Virginia, Home May 4, Georgetown,

May 8-9, Toledo,

Home May 12, Liberty,

Home May 14-16, Duke at Durham, N.C.

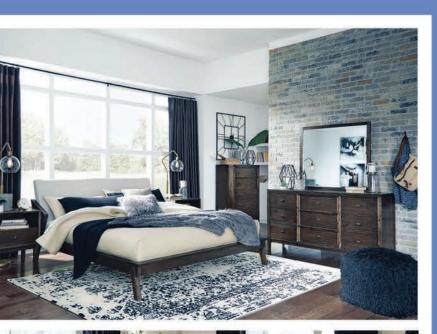
May 20-22, Notre Dame, Home

May 25-30, Championships, Charlotte, N.C.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org



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