



Radford University President Brian Hemphill named president of Old Dominion



Radford University's seventh president, Brian O. Hemphill, will become ODU's ninth president later this year.

Friday afternoon, Radford University acknowledged that the university's president, Brian O. Hemphill, has been selected to serve as the ninth president of Old Dominion University.

ODU was established in 1930 as the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary and is now one of the largest universities in Virginia with an enrollment of more than 24,000 students.

Dr. Carolyn Ringer Lepre, the university's current provost and

vice president for academic affairs, was named as the interim president effective July 1, 2021. She will remain in the interim role until the conclusion of a national search, which is anticipated to begin in the fall.

Dr. Hemphill has served as Radford's seventh president since 2016.

President Hemphill sent a personal message to the Radford family in which he said, "As a dedicated and proud Highlander, I pledge my continued commitment and diligent work over the next five months to ensure the forward momentum and sustained success of Radford University. My wife, Marisela, and I look forward to continuing to engage with each and every one of you as we prepare to bid a fond farewell to this caring community of educators and learners and the broader region of change makers and thought leaders. Please accept our sincere appreciation and everlasting gratitude for the honor and privilege of serving as your president and first lady."

Board of Visitors Rector Robert A. Archer also posted a personal statement thanking the president for his leadership and service. Ar-

cher said, "President Hemphill and his family have been very active on campus and in the community. As Highlanders, they have served with pride and distinction. President Hemphill's tenure has ushered in a new level of achievement and enthusiasm for the Radford family. He has certainly created a strong foundation for limitless opportunities well into the future."

"I am confident that he will be equally successful in leading Old Dominion University and serving the Hampton Roads region," Archer wrote. "On behalf of the board, we express our deep appreciation for a job well done at Radford and best wishes at ODU."

Upon learning of President Hemphill's impending transition, Nancy E. Artis '73 and H. Pat Artis, Ph.D., who are dedicated Highlanders, generous benefactors, and proud namesakes of the Artis College of Science and Technology, said, "Brian O. Hemphill is both a visionary and consensus builder. He can see the future and make it happen. In his time at Radford University, he did just that."

In a statement lauding President

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Blacksburg, Radford, Christiansburg rank among Virginia's 20 safest cities

According to a review by the National Council for Home Safety and Security and reported in the Jan. 27, 2021, edition of the Onward NRV newsletter, Blacksburg, Radford and Christiansburg are some of the safest places in the commonwealth.

To compile the rankings, Alarms.org reviewed the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report Statistics for Virginia cities with populations over 10,000. Blacksburg finished at number five on the list, Radford wound up number 11, and Christiansburg was ranked as the 20th safest place in the state. According to Alarms.org, the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford metropolitan statistical area, better known as the New River Valley, is "one of the fastest growing metropolitan statistical areas in the country with low crime being one of the main draws

for many moving into the area."

According to the survey, Purcellville, a small town of just over 10,000 in Loudoun County, is the safest community in Virginia. The town reported just 59 total crimes for a total crime rate of 5.85 per 1,000 population. The survey reported Blacksburg's crime rate to be 8.09 crimes per 1,000, Radford's crime rate to be 16.24 per thousand, and Christiansburg's crime rate to be 25.62 per 1,000.

Onward NRV is a public/private, regional economic development organization whose mission is to attract and retain world class jobs, investment, and talent in Virginia's New River Valley. It's also a movement where leaders from business, government, and higher education work together to promote the economic vitality of the region.

MAC 'HomeStage' series: Grammy-nominated Danish String Quartet brings love and reverence to classical compositions

Even treasured canon repertoire sounds new when played by the Grammy-nominated Danish String Quartet. The Moss Arts Center presents the world premiere of a newly recorded performance by the ensemble from a rustic church in Copenhagen, on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. The virtual event includes a live post-performance question-and-answer session with quartet members.

A musical journey through profound beauty, darkness, and triumph, the concert features a Bach fugue and chorale prelude, the lyrical Webern String Quartet (1905), and the ensemble's own Nordic folk music. Ticket holders have access to this "HomeStage" series performance as it happens and for seven days following the event.

Danish String Quartet members Frederik Øland (violin),



Danish String Quartet.

PHOTO BY CAROLINE BITTENCOURT

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Angela Hill named county's CFO, assistant administrator; Carol Edmonds retires as deputy administrator

Montgomery County announced Monday that L. Carol Edmonds retired as deputy county administrator on Dec. 31, 2020, and Angela M. Hill has been promoted to the dual positions of assistant county administrator and chief financial officer.

After working in the public sector for 42 years, Edmonds began working for Montgomery County in 1994 as the director of financial and management services. She served as interim county administrator in 2009 and was promoted to deputy county administrator in 2012.

"Carol's strong work ethic, dedication and strategic thinking will be greatly missed," said County Administrator

Craig Meadows. "However, she has worked extremely hard as a public servant for over four decades and leaves a lasting legacy for both the employees and citizens of Montgomery County. We all congratulate Carol on her retirement, and wish her all the best."

Angela M. Hill, who most recently served the county as director of finance and chief financial officer, has been promoted to assistant county administrator/chief financial officer. Hill joined Montgomery County in October 1997 as director of financial and management services. Prior to joining the county, she worked as an auditor at

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VT Black Cadet Organization provides community for all cadets

Friendship. Mentorship. Advocacy. These are just a few of the goals of the Black Cadet Organization, a student group within the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

The organization started in spring 2019 as a way to bring Black cadets together. Today, the Black Cadet Organization (BCO) has grown into a

group that offers support for any cadet who feels in the minority.

"With the rising number of Black cadets and conversations I would frequently have with some other cadets, I realized that there was a safe space and umbrella organization lacking to provide the sense of community and togetherness which many of us were

used to prior" to joining the Corps of Cadets, said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Eleanore Akwe, who graduated in 2019 with a degree in political science from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

About 27 percent of the corps' 1,182 cadets are racially diverse, including the three percent who identify as Black.

That first year, Akwe and co-founder cadet Amoy Jones, now a senior in Army ROTC majoring in property management in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, found support for the Black Cadet Organization throughout the corps from the commandant's staff to non-Black cadets wanting to join.

Today, membership stands at about 80 cadets, said Jones, who will become a transportation officer when she is commissioned into the Army.

Cadet Tymon Wansel, a junior in Air Force ROTC majoring in industrial systems engineering in the College of Engineering, signed up as a freshman and said he hasn't missed a meeting since.

"It was culture shock freshman year, adjusting to engineering, the corps, discipline. The Black Cadet Organization gave me all these friends, exactly the support I needed," said Wansel, whose goal is to become a cyber officer in the U.S. Space Force.

In the last four years, cadets have noticed the corps growing more di-

verse in its enrollment. "You can see diversity efforts moving to the forefront of people's minds," said Cadet Angela Clay, a senior in Air Force ROTC majoring in meteorology in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Currently the regimental executive officer, the second-highest ranking cadet, she expects to start her Air Force career as a weather officer.

Through the Black Cadet Organization, "It's been amazing to see people coming together to celebrate Black culture," she said.

Coronavirus and the resulting limits on gatherings brought new challenges for organizations and slowed the Black Cadet Organization's momentum during the fall semester, Clay said. But cadets have adjusted to the safety protocols and expanded their ideas of what a gathering can look like.

The organization has a slate of activities for Black History Month, including an Embracing Black Stories movie night and kicking off an alumnus speaker

series.

Clay sees the organization growing into a resource for all cadets, "a place to talk, learn different skills, and become a well-rounded human being."

A more formal organizational structure and a focus on mentoring young-er cadets is key to that goal, said Cadet Amanda Wyche, a junior majoring in geology in the College of Science, who plans to become a chaplain in the Army after graduation.

"It's not just about the BCO having a cookout. It's about how are we going to have a positive impact on the community," Wyche said. "How are we going to stand out?"

Wyche was inspired by Jones' confidence and Akwe's kindness (she had the nickname "mom") and wants other cadets to have similar role models.

"After I graduate, I hope the BCO continues to provide a community for all cadets," Jones said. "And I hope they will be more involved in the recruiting process to increase the diversity" of the corps.



PHOTO BY WESLEY YEUNG FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Cadets, from left, Elsie Boateng, a sophomore in Air Force ROTC majoring in biochemistry; Hannah Browne, a junior in the corps' Citizen-Leader Track majoring in applied economic management; and Caylor Scales, a senior in the Citizen-Leader Track majoring in national security and foreign affairs, recruit new members to the cadet corps' Black Cadet Organization.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 17:

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

Art Club: Virtual Meeting - From 2-3 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. Paint a dazzling nature scene in the style of Charles Burchfield, American watercolor artist and designer. Stop by the library for a curated craft kit and catch a video tutorial on the Christiansburg Facebook Page.

Thursday, Feb. 18:

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

will send an invitation to the RPL Discord server.

Talking About Books: Nonfiction Virtual Meeting - 11 a.m. - noon at the Christiansburg Library. This month discussing "The Body: a guide for occupants" by Bill Bryson, virtually.

Knitting 102: virtual - 5 - 6 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Knitting 102 will pick up with ... picking up. Learn how to retrieve dropped stitches, increase and decrease your work, and cast off your finished project. The workshop will take place over go-to-meeting. Call the Blacksburg Library at 540-552-8246 for more information and a workshop link.

Friday, Feb. 19:

American Red Cross Blood Drive - From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.

Saturday, Feb. 20:

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training - 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 baby-sitting and for pediatric care.

Teens Cook - 1 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Learn to make lemon curd by watching the librarians cook. Contact shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Family Game Night - 5:30 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. Join other kids and families for a live, interactive game night online. To be played are jackbox party night games on a family friendly setting. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Monday, Feb. 22:

Talking About Books: Fiction Virtual - 11 a.m. - noon at the Blacksburg Library. Join for a discussion of "The Altruists" by Andrew Ridker. Call ahead to reserve a copy and get the link for virtual participation.

Library Space Camp Kids - 3 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library. Pick up special Library Space Camp kits starting February 22 and make pipe cleaner constellations and moon rocks and learn about our solar system.

Tuesday, Feb. 23:

Virtual Cooking With Your Instant Pot - 5:30 p.m.

at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Did you receive an Instant Pot for a present? Join Angie Helm for a virtual "Instant Pot" session and learn how to use your instant pot to create a quick meal.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club: virtual - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Join for a discussion of "The Poppy War" by R.F. Kuang. Call ahead to get a copy of this month's book and to get the link. The discussion will be held virtually.

Wednesday, Feb. 24:

Introduction to Cross Stitch: Virtual - 2 - 3 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Have you ever wanted to learn how to cross stitch, but weren't sure where to start? This class is perfect for you. This class will go over what is needed to cross stitch, how to create the basic stitches, and how to follow patterns to create beautiful designs. Participants will even learn some history along the way. To make plans to attend this virtual meeting, email Sally at sstauffer@mfrl.org.

Friday, Feb. 26:

Teen Creative: Jewelry Making - 1 p.m. at the MFRL Library Online. This month's Teen Creative video will cover jewelry making. Check out the video, for tips, tricks, and more.

Saturday, Feb. 27:

Outdoor Book Sale - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library weather permitting. \$5 per bag or \$1 for hardbacks and \$.50 for paperbacks. Gift books are available for \$2 each. Call the library for more details and to confirm the sale will take place.

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 two-disc 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 www.discgolfscene.com/tournaments/Blacksburg_Municipal_Disc_Golf_Fundraiser_2021.

Tuesday, Mar. 16:

Radford Reads with Monica Rodden - Join the Radford Public Library at 6:30 p.m. for a Zoom conversation with Monica Rodden, author of "Monsters Among

Us." Email Elizabeth at elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov for details about attending. The library has a limited number of free copies of this book to give away, so please let them know if you'd like a copy (while supplies last).

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's 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 event is free and is open to the public.

Through Saturday, April 24:

'Unbearable Beauty' Exhibit at Moss Arts Center - 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.

Hemphill

from page 1

Hemphill for his accomplishments during his time as RU's head, the university said, "During President Hemphill's tenure, his leadership and vision were instrumental in a number of critical efforts and important initiatives, which generated expanded opportunities for current and future Highlanders.

"Early in his presidency, the university launched IMPACT, a competency-based education, or CBE, program targeting the adult student population with a focus on cybersecurity, geospatial intelligence, and special education. IMPACT, a first of its kind program in the Commonwealth of Virginia, resulted in a \$13.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, representing the largest grant in the history of the University, for CBE delivery to 5,000 teachers in Appalachia over a three-year period.

The statement released by Radford University said, "Radford University also expanded its programmatic and geographic footprint through the merger of Jefferson College of Health Sciences into Radford University with associate, bachelors, masters, and doctoral health sciences programs, thereby establishing Radford University Carilion, or RUC. President Hemphill's collaboration with Carilion Clinic and his leadership of the campus community were pivotal in making the merger a reality. During the president's tenure, the university also secured \$17.3 million through the Tech Talent Investment Program to produce additional graduates in response to Amazon HQ2 and the growing technology needs across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The University's statement

continued, "President Hemphill's vision for Radford University came to life through a comprehensive planning process, resulting in the adoption and implementation of a five-year strategic plan, Embracing the Tradition and Envisioning the Future, as well as a 10-year campus master plan.

"Throughout his presidency, he has led with a student-centered philosophy, which is evident when examining the \$34 million recent renovation of Reed and Curie Halls, as well as \$101 million in secured funding for the Center for Adaptive Innovation and Creativity, representing the largest capital project and academic building in the university's history.

"President Hemphill also led the effort to re-envision the first-year experience and retention model by establishing the Academic Success Cen-

ter through the co-location of Academic Advising; New Student and Family Programs; and Student Success in a dedicated and newly-renovated space, as well as establishing and funding student support through the Highlander Distinction Program."

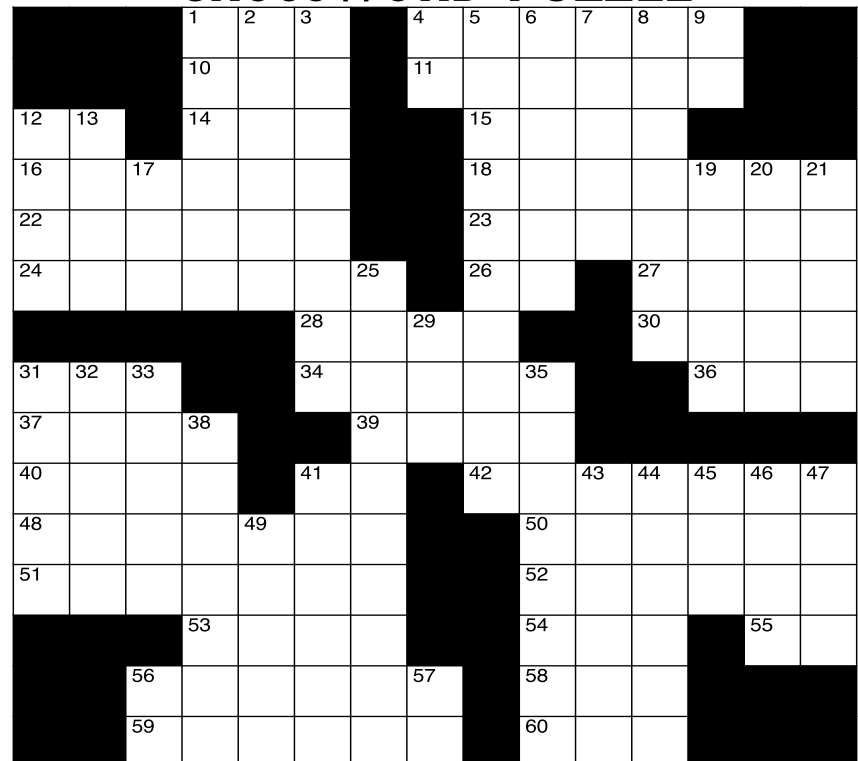
Said the statement, "President Hemphill worked diligently to create new partnerships with Northern Virginia Community College to implement a guaranteed transfer agreement and New River Community College to create the Bridge Program, as well as accelerated graduate program opportunities through George Mason University's Scalia Law School, Appalachian College of Pharmacy, and Emory & Henry College. Another partnership of significance is with the Radford University Foundation to bring a world-class hotel to the

City of Radford in close proximity to the main campus."

The RU statement concluded by saying, "Under President Hemphill's leadership, Radford University drastically increased fundraising, including historic gifts of \$8 million to name the Davis College of Business and Economics, representing the largest gift by an individual in the history of the university, and \$5 million to name the Artis College of Science and Technology, representing the largest gift by an alumna in the history of the university.

"Both gifts provided significant scholarship support for students and were contributing factors in raising the Foundation's total endowment and all investments from \$54.6 million in 2016 to \$77.7 million in 2021, representing an increase of 42.3 percent over a five-year period."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



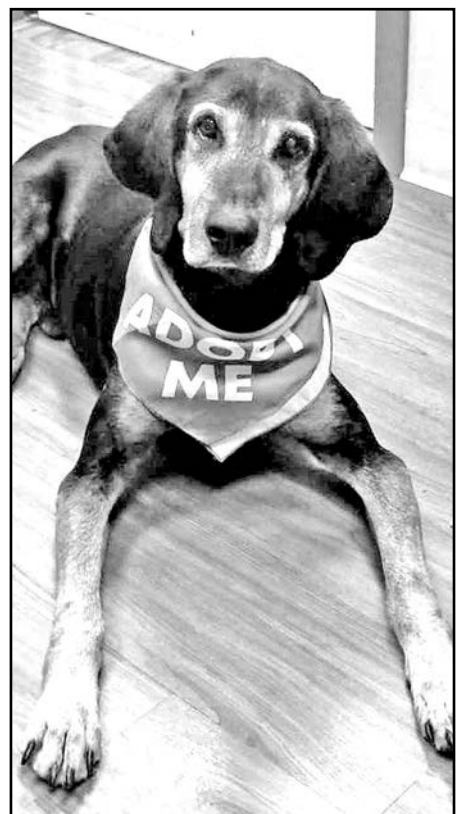
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|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | Republic | CLUES DOWN | 25. Conclusive acts |
| 1. Big tech firm | 37. Assn. of oil-producing countries | 1. Small islands | 29. Inform on |
| 4. Picked | 39. Holy fire | 2. Skullcap | 31. Grinding tooth |
| 10. Type of whale | 40. Emit coherent radiation | 3. Unexplained events | 32. Keep up |
| 11. A woman of refinement | 41. Atomic #81 | 4. One hundredth of a meter | 33. Tablelands |
| 12. New England state | 42. Orthodox Jewish college | 5. Beloved baseball announcer | 35. Raising |
| 14. Common gibbon | 48. Herbs | 6. Repulsive | 38. Mythical creature |
| 15. Tall coniferous tree | 50. Ran after | 7. Northern European languages | 41. Hums |
| 16. State capital | 51. Begin again | 8. Match or surpass | 43. Mountain in Antarctica |
| 18. Making a liquid muddy | 52. Named | 9. Northeast | 44. Neighborhood in Manhattan |
| 22. Vinegary | 53. Barbary sheep | 12. Chew the fat | 45. Distinctive practice |
| 23. Peninsula | 54. Unwell | 13. Innovative industry | 46. Vice president |
| 24. Thee | 55. Postscript | 17. Land to put down to grass | 47. Contributes to |
| 26. Atomic #55 | 56. Drivers | 19. Products | 49. Small bones |
| 27. Used in units of measurement | 58. One point east (clockwise) of due north | 20. Nostril | 56. Oil company |
| 30. Arab ruler title | 59. Prim | 21. Surprise Icelandic politician | 57. Empire State |
| 31. One's mother | 60. A facility equipped for sports or physical training | | |
| 34. Trap | | | |
| 36. Soviet Socialist | | | |

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

At this time, visits to the Montgomery County 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.



Meet Jason. He would be a great addition to a home that already has a cat or might be interested in also adopting one of his buddies from the Animal Care and Adoption Center. He is curious and sweet and sometimes a little shy. Jason is very even-tempered, letting few things bother him.



Nelson is a hound dog that isn't overly hound-like. He would prefer to sniff out a comfy couch and hang out there with his favorite humans rather than find scents outdoors. He loves people and other dogs. A good nuzzle for Nelson could lead to a best friendship for a lifetime. Nelson's adoption is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.

Historic Montgomery



Doug Lester's photographs of the February-March 1960 snow appeared in national and international media. Here a Veteran Cab of Blacksburg gets a push by one of the many bulldozers contracted to clear the roads. (This image from the D. D. Lester Collection and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

Millstone Kitchen receives Community Development Block Grant

On behalf of the Millstone Kitchen Food Program, Montgomery County is among six localities to receive Community Development Block Grants recently.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam made the announcement of the grants, totaling more than \$38 million.

The funding will support projects that rehabilitate housing, improve water and sewer infrastructure, and facilitate COVID-19 recovery and response efforts, benefiting more than 1,400 low- to moderate-income Virginians throughout the six communities.

"Supporting housing, infrastructure, and other immediate needs of our rural communities is more important now than it has ever been," said the governor. "This funding supports projects that will enable these six localities to continue delivering essential services to Virginians during the pandemic and help build a stronger future for our Commonwealth."

Millstone Kitchen's portion of the grants totaled \$135,433.

The federally funded CDBG program has been administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development since 1982 and annually receives approximately \$18.5 million to dis-

tribute to small cities, counties, and towns. Most CDBG grants are awarded through a competitive process with a goal of benefiting low- and moderate-income households, improving housing and infrastructure, and addressing an urgent community need. In 2020, the CDBG program distributed more than \$31.1 million across Virginia.

Montgomery County will receive funding to continue operations of the Millstone Kitchen Food Program through June 2021. The county, in partnership with the local community drive nonprofit Live Work Eat Gather, has been utilizing the Millstone Kitchen to bolster and expand meal delivery services in the community. The Millstone Kitchen is a commercial shared-use kitchen that is a part of the Old School at Prices Fork.

The funding will provide a managing director for this operation, reliable contract work for caterers, and the delivery of meals to vulnerable populations in the area. This program has organized local caterers operating out of the Millstone Kitchen to prepare and deliver at least 600 meals per week, serving approximately 10,000 meals since July 2020. The new funding will provide approximately 10,000 additional meals through June 2021.

Department of Defense awards VT \$1.5 million to prepare students for cybersecurity careers

Virginia Tech has been awarded approximately \$1.5 million to fuel workforce development in cybersecurity and related professional roles as one of six Department of Defense's (DoD) Senior Military Colleges participating in the U.S. Cyber Command Cyber Leadership Development Program (SMC2I).

Nationally, there is a critical shortage of qualified cyber professionals with approximately 500,000 cyber jobs available and more than 58,000 positions open in the Commonwealth of Virginia, according to Cyber Seek.

"The program provides Virginia Tech the opportunity to leverage our strengths and

further expand the depth and breadth of our cybersecurity program to increase the pipeline of future military and civilian cybersecurity experts," said Laura Freeman, principal investigator and research associate professor of statistics in the College of Science. "The program will engage faculty across four colleges and numerous research centers to tap into a wide range of backgrounds and resources critical to help shape the next generation of cyber leaders."

Freeman, who is a faculty member with the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) and director of the Intelligent Systems Laboratory at the Hume Center, said that Virgin-

ia Tech and the five other senior military colleges — the Citadel, the University of North Georgia, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute and Texas A&M — will work collaboratively on this national initiative.

The funds for SMC2I will work to identify and develop a diverse population of Virginia Tech students from various academic disciplines into technical experts and leaders in cybersecurity through five primary program elements:

Pipeline Programs — Virginia Tech will support pipeline programs that include mentoring, scholarships, experiential learning, and internships.

Experiential Learning — Vir-

ginia Tech will develop unique experiential learning opportunities that frame cybersecurity challenges in real world contexts and target programs that address the critical skill gaps identified by the NSA and DoD.

Curriculum Development — Virginia Tech will support curriculum development by mapping knowledge, skills, and abilities critical to the DoD and civilian cybersecurity workforce by working with relevant department heads to strengthen workforce readiness.

Program Development — Virginia Tech will develop a comprehensive student engagement program accessible to qualified students that will include a seminar series, student competitions,

career days, targeted recruiting internship opportunities, summer programs, and cultural and language programs.

Enhancing Cybersecurity Research — Virginia Tech will conduct research in critical skills gaps areas identified by the NSA. Participation in paid experiential learning opportunities and scholarships will be open to students enrolled in a cybersecurity or related discipline who meet the eligibility requirements (U.S. citizen, overall GPA 3.0 or higher). Scholarships will be targeted toward the Corps of Cadets and will encourage participation in a NSA/DoD sponsored (or approved) summer internship program.

Virginia Forestry Department: Spring fire season begins, 4 p.m. burning law in effect

The Virginia Department of Forestry set this past Monday, Feb. 15, as the official beginning of the state's spring fire season and also instituted a ban on burning each day before 4 p.m. effective the same day through April 30.

The burn ban applies to fires in or within 300 feet of woodland, brush or fields containing dry grass or other flammable materials. In addition to being tended at all times, fires started after 4 p.m. should not have additional material added to the burn after midnight. If weather conditions become critical, localities often add further restrictions to outdoor burning at the town, city and county levels.

According to the for-

estry department, 95 percent of wildland fires in Virginia are human-caused. The majority of escaped fires result from people burning debris, such as accumulated brush piles or trash, on dry and windy days. Department officials emphasize that citizens should take extreme caution, even within the bounds of the law, to ensure they are burning safely. Keep piles small, remove anything burnable from within 10 feet of the pile or burn barrel, and have water and a shovel or rake nearby.

Why 4 p.m. and why in the spring? During the spring, burning conditions become incredibly conducive to fire spread due to increased and erratic winds, drying of fu-

els (such as leaf litter) that are dormant this time of year, and lower humidity. As the days start to become warmer, radiant energy from the sun shining down on dry grass, dead leaves and other materials, further dries out existing fuels, making them a tinderbox.

What may start out as a small fire can quickly escape and grow into a wildfire that engulfs hundreds, if not thousands, of acres. After 4 p.m., winds tend to decrease and the moisture in the air and fuels increases, lessening the potential for fires to escape.

VDOF's Assistant Director of Fire and Emergency Response Dave Houttekier said, "The 4 p.m. burning law is

one of the most effective and go in the spring. Just a few days of dry weather can allow light fuels, such as grass, to become receptive even after long periods of wet weather.

The primary prevention message remains consistent throughout the entire season: springtime in Virginia always brings the potential for wildland fires. Although fire officials do what they can to plan for fire while actively promoting prevention and being prepared for suppression, the citizens of the commonwealth

do not predict an intense fire season, especially with the recent snow, the potential for fire can come

Although conditions do not predict an intense fire season, especially with the recent snow, the potential for fire can come



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Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (violin), Asbjørn Nørsgaard (viola), and Fredrik Schøyen Sjölin (cello) bring a rare musical spontaneity to the stage. Exuding a palpable joy and warmth in its music-making that have made the it in demand on concert stages around the world, the quartet is known for impeccable musicianship, sophisticated artistry, exquisite clarity of ensemble, and, above all, an expressive, inextricable bond to the music.

Since its debut in 2002, the quartet has

demonstrated a special affinity for Scandinavian composers, from Carl Nielsen to Hans Abrahamsen, alongside the music of Mozart and Beethoven. The ensemble's musical interests also encompass Nordic folk music, which is the focus of its 2014 album "Wood Works." "Last Leaf," a follow-up album of traditional Scandinavian folk music, was one of the top classical albums of 2017 as chosen by National Public Radio (NPR), Spotify, and the New York Times.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and free for Virginia Tech students. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Also available is the Spring Fan(fare) Pass, which provides access to all "HomeStage" events through May 31, 2021, guaranteeing a minimum of eight performances. While providing added

support for the center, Spring Fan(fare) pass holders also get exclusive information through regular Fan(fare) Insider emails and are the first to know about new events added to the schedule.

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Brown Edwards & Company, LLP, a regional certified public accounting firm, where she specialized in governmental audits.

"Angie will lead the departments formerly managed by Carol prior to her retirement," said Meadows. "Angie brings more than two decades of experience in Montgomery County to her new role.

I am confident she will continue her excellent work for the county and will continue Carol's legacy of fiscal management and planning."

Lisa Rayne, assistant director of finance, will serve as interim financial services director while the county conducts a national recruitment for a new director of finance.




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OPINION

To read or not to read is never an option

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” -- Joseph Addison

Always a woman after my heart, my wife gave me a reading log for Valentine’s Day. It was the highlight of my day.

There are few things and fewer people in this world who will not at some time in our lives disappoint us. There is just not much we can count on. But a good book never fails.

For me, reading is an act of love. Any educational benefits I may receive along the way are totally by accident.

For perhaps the umpteenth time in my life, I spent some time recently cozying up with Jane Austen, which sounds a little macabre since she’s been dead since 1837. Actually, it’s her characters I communed with, all those delightful dunderheads and befuddled young people searching so desperately for happiness and love during a time when marrying for love was an idea that ranked right up there with setting yourself on fire for outrageousness.

I regularly go back and reread Austen’s novels, all six of them: Pride and Prejudice, Sense and

Sensibility, Emma, Persuasion, Mansfield Park, and Northanger Abbey. The pride of the pack, of course, is Pride and Prejudice, which has been made twice into 5-star movie versions. Arts & Entertainment Network produced a six-hour version of P&P in 1995, originally running it over three nights. When Colin Firth came up out of that water, you knew this thing was going to be a massive hit. And it was.

(As an aside, I wonder how many young moviegoers realize that back when they watched the movie Clueless in 1995 starring Alicia Silverstone, they were spending time with a flick that was basically an updated version of Austen’s Emma.)

The second eminently watchable production of Pride and Prejudice is what I refer to as the Keira Knightley version, released in 2005. How good is this thing? Get this. It’s a movie with no sex, no harsh language, no skin, no violence adapted from a novel written in 1813, more than 200 years ago. The budget was \$28 million. And it grossed some \$121.6 million at the box office! Of course, having Keira Knightley around certainly inspired the male population to

spend a couple of hours in a darkened theater.

My point is that good books make good movies, unless Hollywood’s cretinous producers are intent on trashing them, which happens quite often. Every time I ride by an abandoned movie house, I still hold out hope that one of the rare benefits from the COVID-19 pandemic will be the death and destruction of Hollywood, America’s version of Sodom and Gomorrah.

But I rarely went to the movies anyway. The real joy is found in reading the written word, not in watching someone’s twisted version of what was on the page.

I’ve run across a study that decided opposites do not in fact attract when it comes to marriage. Instead, we tend to marry someone like us. Whoever those clowns were, they never met the wife and me. We are so opposite we come from two different generations. I was the first of the Baby Boomers; she was the last of the Baby Boomers. She is such a technological wizard she teaches -- TEACHES -- cybersecurity. I am an analog guy trapped in a digital world. I brag about being able to turn the computer on and knowing where to plug a flash drive in.

Her world is auditory while

mine is visual. I have two degrees in English; she majored in math and has every certificate you can get relating to cybersecurity. She is incredible with numbers, never forgetting a phone number, a social security number, a credit card number, a zip code or a PIN. I can’t even remember my shoe size. I’m not kidding. I have no idea what it is.

We are opposites, and we have been opposites for 37 years now. We must have been doing something right along the way no matter what that survey might have said.

Jane Austen isn’t my lone favorite. There’s always good ole William Shakespeare. I’ve read each and every one of his 37 plays and all of his sonnets, though there’s still some debate raging about exactly how many plays he wrote. It may be as many as 40.

I’ve never tried very hard to get my wife to read Shakespeare, but she has joined me on visits to the Shakespeare Tavern on Peachtree Street in Atlanta and the Georgia Shakespeare Company at Oglethorpe University. The Taming of the Shrew, Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night’s Dream -- the latter had the whole audience roaring with laughter. She loved

it. Plus we watched together the 1993 movie version of Much Ado about Nothing, which she also really liked. I’m convinced she consented to watch it because Denzel Washington was in it.

My point about William Shakespeare is that in his case, everything is lost in translation because Will wrote for the stage, not the written word. And those words and the action spring to life when actors do their thing. And I’m not sure there’s ever been an actor or actress worth their salt who would willingly turn down a part in one of Shakespeare’s plays.

My laborious point is that Jane Austen and William Shakespeare and the like survive and thrive to this day because they offer something of value to us. Whether it be insight or entertainment -- or more likely, both -- their works are simply worthwhile. Spending time with them is time we’ll never regret. We can’t help but come away enriched.

The author is a man of a certain age who, despite his love of Austen and Shakespeare nevertheless stands solidly behind The Great Gatsby, The Sun Also Rises, and Heart of Darkness as his all-time favorite novels in that order.

WalletHub survey: Virginia is 11th most expensive state for car insurance

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, the best way to get cheap car insurance is to compare quotes from different car insurance companies. In order to help drivers nationwide find the cheapest car insurance rates for their needs and circumstances, WalletHub collected quotes from auto insurance companies across all 50 states and determined

that Virginia is the 11th most expensive state for car insurance.

WalletHub compared full coverage rates for policies that include collision and comprehensive coverage with a \$500 deductible, \$100K in bodily injury liability coverage per person (up to \$300K per accident), \$50K of property damage liability coverage per accident, \$100K in

uninsured motorist bodily injury coverage per person (up to \$300K per accident) and \$50K in uninsured motorist property damage coverage per accident. The company used a 45-year-old, single man with a clean driving record and good credit as the policyholder for these sample quotes.

Full coverage refers to a policy that goes beyond the minimum state requirements and includes both collision and comprehensive coverage. Because full

coverage protects drivers in more situations, it costs more than the minimum required coverage.

For Virginia, WalletHub determined that the cheapest insurance companies are 1) ALFA Insurance 2) Travelers 3) Erie 4) State Farm 5) Geico.

Other key findings in the survey included the following facts:

Full coverage car insurance costs 157% more than minimum coverage in Virginia, on average.

16-year-olds pay 394% more for car insurance than 55-year-olds in Virginia, on average.

Drivers with a DUI pay 138% more for car insurance than drivers with a clean record in Virginia, on average.

61 million Americans have reduced their car insurance coverage due to COVID-19.

105 million Americans say they’re not getting their money’s worth from their car insurance.

55 million Americans have second thoughts about owning a car due to COVID-19.

The five states that have the cheapest car insurance rates (with the average annual premium) are 1) Wyoming \$274 2) South Dakota \$326 3) Iowa \$326 4) Vermont \$341 5) North Dakota \$370.

The average annual premium in Virginia under the conditions WalletHub used for the comparisons is \$931.

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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.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

There are contrasting abortion positions

There are contrasting opinions regarding the issue of abortion. This is one. Late in January 2019, Governor Ralph Northam (D) created a firestorm. He defended a bill sponsored by Delegate Kathy Tran (D) that eliminated any restriction on abortion. Northam said that under the bill, if an infant survives an abortion: “If a mother is in labor, I can tell

you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and mother.” The discussion would be whether the baby would be denied basic care and compassion and left to die alone.

These are some other strong supporters of abortion. Congressional Democrats have repeatedly killed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This bill would require abortionists to administer care to newborn babies who survive botched abortions, not cause them to die. Virginia’s U.S. Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, voted to kill the bill. And President Joe Biden

signed executive orders that give much money from taxpayers to abortion providers in our country and in foreign countries.

Tim Tebow is one of the people who are strong opponents of abortion. Speaking at this year’s March for Life, he told this story. “After struggling to conceive, a woman was told her son was a ‘tumor’ that needed to be removed. Then the doctors realized she had a baby in her womb. But the doctors said, ‘You need to have an abortion.’” Tebow said the doctors warned her that she and her baby would probably die if she did not undergo an abortion.

She refused an abortion and put herself and her baby in God’s hands. “There were many setbacks and heartaches,” Tebow said. “But the

whole time, she continued to trust God.”

“The doctor looked at her and said, ‘Of all my years, this is the greatest miracle that I have seen, because I have no idea how he survived. The placenta is not attached, and there were so many different issues, and I don’t know how he had the nourishment and food to be able to survive. This is a miracle baby! Here is your son, Mrs. Tebow.’”

Abortion opponents ask: Abortion practitioners have cut short how many lives that would have benefitted, in many ways, hundreds, thousands or millions of other people?

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OBITUARIES

Alderman, Barbara Johnston

Barbara Johnston Alderman, 80, of Radford, passed away Friday, Feb. 12, 2021.

She was a member of Central United Methodist Church and was a nurse for over 52 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Bobby" Alderman; sons Robert Cameron Alderman and Craig Allen Alderman; and a daughter, Cynthia Dawn Alderman.

Survivors include her daughter, Tina Catron (Timothy Dale) of Wytheville; a daughter-in-law, Angie Roberts (Cam Alderman) of McCoy; a granddaughter, Caysey Laken Catron of Wytheville; grandchildren Wesley Elbert Roberts and Ashley Roberts (Brandon Malcom) of McCoy; step-granddaughter Sarah Elizabeth



Catron (Tyler Buchanan) of Rural Retreat; and many other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021 at the Central United Methodist Church with Pastor Ronnie Duncan and Pastor Don Smith officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Central United Methodist Church Kitchen Angels Ministry, P.O. Box 611, Radford, VA 24143.

The Alderman family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

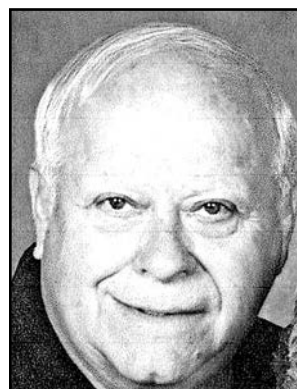
Hite, David Eugene

David Eugene Hite, 74, of Dublin, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021.

He was a member of First Dublin Presbyterian Church. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, and he retired from Verizon after 33 years as an auto mechanic. He was also a former Scout Master for Boy Scout of America Troop #45 in Dublin, Va.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Murle Hite and Irene Childress.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine W. Hite; sons and daughter-in-law Shawn



Hite, Ryan and Emily Hite; grandchildren Justin, Austin, Camden, Hannah, and Mackenzie; a sister, Coni Hite; and a host of other family members and friends.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at Mullins Funeral Home with Pastor Olin Whitener officiating. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Salvation Army or charity of your choice.

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

Andes, Darlene Mann

Darlene Mann Andes, 70, of Sumerduck, Va., passed from this world to her reward on February 1, 2021.

Among her survivors are a son and daughter-in-law, Phillip Andes and his wife, Karen, of Blacksburg.

She was predeceased by her parents, John P. Mann III and Mae D. Mann, and her grandson, Noah Matthew Andes.

Darlene was born on Jan. 22, 1951, and was a 1969 graduate of Brentsville District High School in Nokesville. She also attended Bridgewater College. She was always a homemaker after her children were born. She was a strong woman of Christian faith who loved to organize a gathering or have a family meal. For many years, she volunteered at school, church and the Christian Women's Club. Fellowship and caring were her ministry to others. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren. When the phone rang, a letter came in the mail or a care package was sent, it was always about the grandchildren first.

In addition to her son and daughter-in-law, left to cherish her memory are her husband of 50 years, Roger E. Andes; granddaughters Hope and Hannah; and son Darrell Andes, Sr. (Chanda) of Beale-



ton, Va.; and grandsons Darrell, Jr., Devin, Dustin and Dylan. She always considered Chanda and Karen her own daughters. She also leaves her two brothers, John P. Mann IV and his wife Nancy, and Chuck Mann; special neighbors and in-laws Paul and Carolyn Croushorn and Wayne and Cindy Andes, along with many other extended family members and friends.

We had fun. We talked. We laughed. We cried. We played. We sang. We ate meals. We celebrated. We grieved. We prayed. We sometimes raised the roof. We always loved...together. We miss her...together.

Some of her favorite Bible verses can be reviewed at your leisure: John 3:16, John 14:6, Matthew 19:14; and ours: 2 Timothy 1:12, Revelation 21:4 and Revelation 22:5. She often wrote "Without Christmas, there is no Easter." and "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!"

The Andes family is in the care of Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton, Virginia. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. To make a contribution to help defray the cost of final expenses, send those gifts to Moser Funeral Home, 233 Broadview Ave., Warrenton, Va. 20186.

"Jesus...loves...you."

Coale, Jr., Charles Webster

Charles Webster Coale, Jr., of Blacksburg passed onto glory Feb. 13, 2021.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1935. Most people knew him as Charlie. He never knew a stranger, was always a friend, and was always wanting to help. He served as an excellent role model to all and made a forever impact on our lives.

His passion was his family, friends, and work. He was predeceased by Ellen, his loving wife of 60 years and by his brother, Richard M. Coale.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and relatives as listed: Marjorie (daughter) and Tommy Lawson and children, Thomas, Zachariah, Jeremiah, and Rachel; Roger (son) and Melissa Coale and children, Carson and Taylor; and James (son) and Meaghan Coale and children Jacob and Katie; Cynthia and J. C. Raffety, and their daughter, Jennifer Moss, children Lindsay and Mallory, and son, Robert and Colleen Raffety. He also has extended family in Hartford County, Md.

Charlie was born to Charles Webster Coale, Sr., and Marian Phillips Coale in a farmhouse near Cooptown, Md. He was determined to get a great education. He even walked a mile-and-a-half to catch the school bus each day to go to Jarrettsville Elementary School and then to North Harford High School.

While at North Harford High School, he was a 4-H'er and won a trip to the National 4-H competition. This is where he found his passion for a career in agriculture. With his gift of planning and organization, he received a BS in agriculture education and an MS in agriculture economics from the University of Maryland. After serving in the US Navy, he earned his PhD in agriculture economics at Penn State.

In 1959, a weekend after he was married, Charlie served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy aboard the USS Conway from 1959-1962, during the Bay of Pigs. He was second in command in the beach jumper unit in Little Creek, Va., during critical times. He loved his Conway reunions, even taking on the role of

president. In addition, he reconnected with his ancestry by joining and proudly serving in the Sons of The American Revolution, serving as president once again. He loved the USA and appreciated all who serve.

In 1969, Charlie began his 33-year career at Virginia Tech with a majority of those years serving as a full professor. He enjoyed serving many industries: Agra Business Corps in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic states, the seafood industry, food science, the farm supply industry, the farm equipment industry, and even as far away as Haiti.

In addition, he loved working with graduate students in marketing and research. He served on numerous committees and programs and was the president and chair of various groups. He greatly appreciated each person.

Charlie loved the Lord and joyfully served at Blacksburg United Methodist Church in many capacities. He was Chairman of the Board, served on the finance committee, utilized his strategic planning skills to help the church reach many people locally and abroad, enjoyed helping kids of all ages through VBS and Adopt-a-College Student. He cared for as many people as he could with his wife Ellen by sharing his time, talents, and finances. He loved the church and its people.

A life cannot be expressed by the mere words on a page. It's expressed by how many lives were touched. Charlie's reach was far and wide. We cannot possibly list all the impact he had on this world. His focus was always on relationships and how to help others.

Charlie and Ellen set up endowment funds to help with the education needs of those not in his family at the University of Maryland, Penn State and Virginia Tech. His legacy will live on through his children and grandchildren with integrity and generosity. Charlie will be greatly missed, and we are grateful and thankful for the time we had with him. His favorite passage was Psalm 23. Donations in lieu of flowers can be given to Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

A private service will be held at McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Donathan, Gloria Jean

Gloria Jean Donathan, 71, of Blacksburg, passed away on Feb. 9, 2021.

She was born on August 20, 1949, to the late Herman and Mary Ann Barbour Cupp.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Viola Cupp and April Barbour, and a brother, David Cupp.

She is survived by her children, Jimmy Howard, Victoria Shepherd, Christopher Croft, Matilda Lynn Croft, and Dylan How-



ard; grandchildren Wyatt Price, Jesse Howard, Ricky Caviness, Makayla Shepherd, Michael Shepherd, Christian Croft, Savannah Croft, Brittany Miller, and Hannah Corum; brothers Herman Cupp, Jr. and Terry Cupp; a sister, Doris Evans; and friend Tena Price.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, at 5 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel, Blacksburg.

Periman, Eugene "Gene"

Eugene "Gene" Periman, born Feb. 16, 1933, died peacefully on Feb. 12, 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Periman; a brother, Mickey (Joyce) Periman; children Cathleen (Rick) Tuck and David (Teresa) Periman; eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held on



Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. at Horne Funeral Home, 1300 North Franklin St., Christiansburg.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m. in the Horne Funeral Home chapel. Interment was at Sunset Cemetery.

The live funeral service for Eugene can be viewed on the Horne FH Facebook page.

Schleicher, Janet Alverta Thompson Peters

Janet Alverta Thompson Peters Schleicher, 70, passed away peacefully at home with family by her side on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, after battling idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis for more than four years.

She was the wife of Bruce Anderson Schleicher. They shared nearly 25 years of marriage.

Born in Lynchburg in 1950, Janet was the youngest daughter of Alverta Jane Hill Thompson and Samuel Thornhill Thompson. She graduated from E.C. Glass High School in 1968 and Madison College (now James Madison University) in 1972 with a degree in education.

Janet taught special education for 32 years at Dunbar Elementary School in Lynchburg, Central Elementary School in Amherst, Dublin Elementary School and Pulaski Middle School until her retirement in 2014.

Janet grew up as a devoted member of Centenary United Methodist Church in Lynchburg and later transferred her membership to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Christiansburg. She enjoyed traveling, vacationing at Smith Mountain Lake and Nags Head, N.C., spending time with her friends and family, going on her Friday evening movie dates with her husband, gardening, sewing, drawing, painting, baking (sourdough bread), collecting beautiful artwork, attending concerts (in arenas or in her car) and card games.

Janet will be remembered for her warm and loving spirit; her ability to make friends and family with anyone, anywhere;



her sense of humor; her smile and her consummate tardiness. In her spare time, she enjoyed helping people create wedding invitations and graduation announcements. She was a loving wife, a mom to everyone, grandmother, sister, aunt, teacher, mentor and best friend. Her passing leaves a hole in the lives of everyone who was privileged to be a part of hers.

Janet is survived by her husband Bruce; children Harry Channing Lea (Rachel Ashton), Laurie Jane Tucker (Timothy Tucker), Helen Lindsey Peters and John Michael Peters (Anne Peters); grandchildren Layla Hope Peters, Hayley Noelle Tucker, Owen Samuel Tucker and Erin Autumn Ashton; as well as special friends and family Harriett Darst, Claudia Jutras and Marian Frenk; siblings Samuel Thompson, Martha Anne Coleman, Joyce Funk, Carole Mickle and Wade Thompson; and by the father of her children and her first husband, Ronald Preston Peters.

She was predeceased by her parents, Alverta and Sam Thompson.

The family extends gratitude for her caretakers, Kathy Ayers, Laura Collins, Dr. Brian Southern, husband Bruce, the hospice nurses and aides, and many others.

The family plans to hold a Celebration of Life service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in memory of Janet to Cleveland Clinic.

Gifts can be sent to: Cleveland Clinic Foundation c/o Philanthropy Institute P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, Ohio 44193-1655 or online at my.clevelandclinic.org/giving (Respiratory Institute).

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg boys fall in region finals



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Keegan Appea works in the low post against Halifax County's Kameron Roberts in Sunday afternoon's Class 4D regional title game. Halifax edged the Bruins 51-48.



Blacksburg's Matthew Joyce hits a three-point shot over the Halifax Comets' Kameron Roberts as a late Bruins rally fell short 51-48 in the Region 4D championship game. The loss ended Blacksburg's shortened season as only the region winners advance this year to the state tournament.

At 16-0, Radford boys advance to state semifinals



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Cam Cormany scores in traffic Sunday as Radford grabbed the Region C title with a 62-56 win over Floyd. The win upped the Bobcats' record for the season to 16-0.



Alex Kanipe drives through the paint for a layup as Radford defeated Region-C foe Floyd Sunday. The 16-0 Region C champions advanced to the state final four to play the Region D champion Wednesday.

Radford girls fall to Glenvar in region finals



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Radford's Laney Cline goes up for a layup to pick up two of her 15 points in Friday's 53-43 loss to Glenvar. Radford finished the season 8-3.



Haley Whitt drives to the basket for two of her six points in the Lady Bobcats' loss to Glenvar. With the win, Glenvar advanced to the state final four in Class 2.

Fourth-ranked Virginia Tech wins ACC dual meet championship

For the eighth time in school history, Virginia Tech wrestling is an ACC champion after defeating 16th-ranked Pitt 27-12 in the final dual meet of the

season Friday night to win the ACC Dual Meet Championship outright.

With the win, the No. 4 Hokies (9-0, 5-0 ACC) cap off their seventh undefeated

season in school history, the first since the 1956-57 season. Head coach Tony Robie is the fourth coach in program history to accomplish the feat, and at 9-0,

this is the Hokies' longest undefeated season, topping the 8-0 1954-55 team.

Tech has now won the ACC Dual Meet Title four times, matching its number of ACC Championship titles. The trophy is back in Blacksburg after the Hokies three-peaked as conference regular season champs from the 2014-15 season through 2016-17.

The reigning ACC Wrestler of the Week Sam Latona finished off an undefeated regular season of his own with a 12-3 major decision over Pitt's Colton Camacho. Latona will enter the postseason with an 8-0 record, including two wins over ranked opponents. The fifth-ranked 125-pounder in the country outscored his opponents 29-0, registering four bonus-point wins this season.

Bryce Andonian won his seventh match of the year and picked up bonus points for the fifth time with a 10-1 major decision over Mick Burnett. The 2020 ACC 149-pound runner-up finished the conference season at 4-1 and outscored ACC opponents 17-3.

Connor Brady secured his first win at Cassell Coliseum and did so in convincing fashion with a 12-1 major decision over Tyler Badgett, his first career bonus-point victory in an ACC dual. The redshirt freshman had a four-

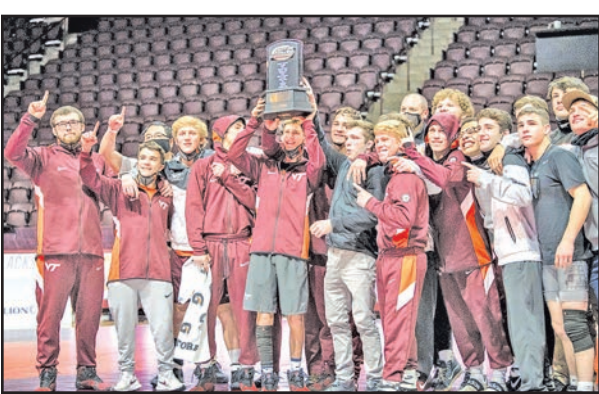


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

point near-fall in the second period to jump himself out to a 9-1 lead and hung on for the win without being brought to the mat.

At 174 pounds, Dakota Howard had the performance of the night with a 21-6 technical fall in 5:05. Howard continuously dropped Jared McGill, racking up six takedowns and two four-point near-falls in just over two periods. The one-time ACC Wrestler of the Week has now secured bonus points in 11 of his 16 career wins.

Sending a message before the postseason was Christiansburg native Hunter Bolen, who came away with a 12-4 major decision over Gregg Harvey. The second-ranked 184-pound wrestler in the nation, Bolen scored five takedowns and controlled Harvey for 2:53 of riding time. Bolen is the only Hokie to complete the 2020-21 season with a 5-0 record

in the ACC.

BOX SCORE

No. 4 Virginia Tech 27,

No. 16 Pitt 12

285: Hunter Catka (VT)

decided Austin Cooley

(PITT) 4-0

125: #5 Sam Latona (VT)

major-decided Colton

Camacho (PITT) 12-3

133: Joey Prata (VT)

decided Louis Newell

(PITT) 3-1

141: #17 Cole Matthews

(PITT) decided Collin

Gerardi (VT) 8-4

149: #10 Bryce Andonian

(VT) major-decided

Mick Burnett (PITT) 10-1

157: Connor Brady (VT)

major-decided Tyler

Badgett (PITT) 12-1

165: #10 Jake Wentzel

(PITT) defeated #1 Mekhi

Lewis (VT) via injury default

174: Dakota Howard

(VT) technical-falled Jared

McGill (PITT) 21-6 (5:05)

184: #2 Hunter Bolen

(VT) major-decided

Gregg Harvey (PITT) 12-4

197: #7 Nino Bonaccorsi

(PITT) decided Andy

Smith (VT) 8-1

Extra Matches

141: Sam Hillegas (VT)

major-decided Ryan

Michaels (PITT) 14-3

157: Clayton Ulrey (VT)

major-decided Antonio

Petrucelli (PITT) 18-6

174: Koltan Clark (VT)

won by fall against Dane

Csencsits (PITT) 1:33

285: Hunter Catka (VT)

major-decided Jake

Slinger (PITT) 12-4

197: Austin Cooley

(PITT) decided Stan

Smeltzer (VT) 10-4

The Hokies get a two-

week break before the 2021

ACC Championships in

Raleigh. The tournament,

hosted by NC State, is set for

Sunday, Feb. 28.

--VT Athletics

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Mission-driven, he volunteers in the community at schools, health fairs and for the Remote Area Medical/Dental events.

An avid hiker, biker, and skier, Dr. Bunn's focus on overall health is what he shares with his patients to help them develop good habits. He enjoys working with patients of all ages with an emphasis on prevention, effective communication, and positive dental outcomes.

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