

News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Christiansburg



Saturday, June 5, 2021

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Virginia Tech football player facing murder charge

Blacksburg police have charged linebacker Isi Etute, a freshmen football player at Virginia Tech, with second-degree murder. Etute had a preliminary hearing Thursday morning by video in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Police were called to an apartment near the 115 block of North Main Street Tuesday for a welfare check on a person who lived there, 40-year-old Jerry Smith. He was dead at the scene. The early investigation pointed to homicide and Etute as a person of interest in the case. He was a Hokie linebacker (6-2, 235 lbs.)

from Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach.

Etute had enrolled early this year at Virginia Tech after his senior football season had been cancelled because of COVID-19. Coming out of high school, he had been heavily recruited by Tech, N.C. State, West Virginia, James Madison, and others.

Police say Etute and the victim were acquaintances but a motive for the killing has not been determined. The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Virginia Tech wasted little time

after the player's arrest in suspending him from both the team and the university.

In a statement, the university said, "The Virginia Tech and Town of Blacksburg communities are united in our shared concern for the welfare of all. Together, we denounce all acts of violence and stand together in support of one another."

Also on Tuesday, the FBI joined in the investigation.

Anyone with information related to this case is asked to contact Lt. Josh Teubert of the Blacksburg Police Department at 540-443-1424



VT linebacker Isi Etute is facing a second-degree murder charge and has been suspended from both the football team and the university.

Typewriter poet offers on-the-spot poetry at Christiansburg Farmers Market

At the Christiansburg Farmers Market in the recreation center parking lot, Mark Peterson will put together a simple poem about individuals while they wait.

The Christiansburg man, who has been an active street poet since 2016, brings his 1941 Royal Aristocrat typewriter to the market where he will be a regular fixture for most of the season.

"I have written poems since I was a child, but probably only began to take it seriously in college," Peterson said. "Before college, the poems I wrote were mostly silly, or cheesy poems for girlfriends, and those skills are still valuable for street

poetry."

Now he uses poetry personally as a way to take a snapshot of a moment, a feeling, or an idea, and condense it as tightly as possible, so that it can be revisited later with just as much clarity and force.

This idea of being a street poet and using a typewriter to do it came to him from watching a Washington, D.C., "typewriter rodeo" in person.

"My first event was a lot of fun, and I surprised myself with the poems I produced so I kept doing it," Peterson said.

He has appeared at numerous events at which

See Poetry, page 2



At the Christiansburg Farmers Market, Mark Peterson will use his 1941 Royal Aristocrat typewriter to create a simple poem about individuals while they wait.

MARKET SQUARE JAM 2021 10TH ANNIVERSARY

MARKET SQUARE PARK
JUNE-SEPTEMBER
WEDNESDAYS
7:00-9:00 PM

Blacksburg TOWN OF VIRGINIA

VT Board of Visitors to hold quarterly board meeting

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on Tuesday, June 8, at 1:15 p.m. in Latham Ballroom A/B at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center (901 Prices Fork Road) on the Blacksburg campus.

On Monday, June 7, the board's Executive Committee will meet in closed session at 12:30 p.m. in Old Guard Salon. At 3:45 p.m., all board members will meet in Latham Ballroom A/B for an open information session, which will be followed by a closed session.

All meetings held during the two-day session will be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech unless otherwise noted.

During the board's two-day session, the following committee meetings will be held:

On Tuesday, June 8, the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will meet jointly with the Finance and Resource Management Committee in closed session at 9 a.m. in Latham Ballroom A/B. The



The VT Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee will then meet in open session at 9:30 a.m. in Latham Ballroom C/D/E/F.

Also on June 8, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will assemble in the lobby of The Inn at 7:50 a.m. to tour athletics facilities. At 8:15 a.m. the committee will meet in open session at the Student Athlete Performance Center, located in the Jamerson Center (21 Beamer Way, Blacksburg). The meeting

will be followed by a tour of the performance center, the ACC Broadcast Studio, and the weight room.

On June 7, the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee will meet in closed session at 9:30 a.m., followed by an open session, in Latham Ballroom A/B.

The Governance and Administration Committee will meet in open session on June 7 at 1:30

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First e-Bikes unveiled at Rec Center

In conjunction with staff from BOLT and RoamNRV, the Town of Christiansburg Thursday displayed the first of its fleet of e-bikes that will eventually replace all of the town's pedal bikes.

Seventy-five of the new e-assist bikes that each feature a motor to help bike riders navigate the area's hills and other stressful terrain will be in operation today, June 5, according to Cat Woodson, the

operations manager for RoamNRV. After that, the rollout to the full fleet of 150 bikes will proceed as hubs become available.

Woodson said Thursday that hubs are already available at the Christiansburg Rec Center and the mall, in Blacksburg, and on the Virginia Tech campus. Future hub sites include the aquatic center and the town hall, Woodson said.



Lawrence Underwood, Director of Operations for BOLT, gives some tips about operating the new e-Bikes to Ashley Briggs, the chair of Christiansburg's Bikeway/Walkway Committee that helped the town secure the electric-assist bikes.

Blacksburg PD finds no evidence to support complaints against Centro Taco Bar

Over the past several months, the Blacksburg Police Department received multiple complaints and social media reports from individuals who believed a substance used to cause cognitive impairment had been added to their drinks while visiting Centro Taco Bar.

According to the department, at this time, investigators have not found any evidence to sup-

port the claims, but the investigation is ongoing. The investigation is being conducted in conjunction with the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) and the Virginia Department of Forensic Science.

Centro Taco Bar is fully cooperating with investigators, allowing full access to their facility, including the high quality surveillance system.

The taco bar was, however, found to be in violation of COVID-19 restrictions. The establishment has been advised of these findings and ABC has issued a warning.

The Blacksburg Police Department will continue to investigate future claims of this nature and encourages individuals to come forward with any information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 5:

Radford Public Library Summer Reading Program kick off

The library's summer reading program kicks off with the first in-person event happening at 11 a.m. The Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke will bring its education ambassadors. Participants might see a red-tailed hawk, an owl, a box turtle, a squirrel, a kestrel or even a black vulture. The Lamplighters, the fundraising volunteers of the Radford Public Library, provided the funding to make programs available to the community.

Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6:

Plein air workshop at Smithfield Plantation

A plein air workshop at Smithfield Plantation from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. will be taught by Matt Gentry and Gerri Young of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. Register through historicsmithfield.org. The cost is a \$15 donation to Smithfield with all proceeds going to support Smithfield Plantation. A supply list will be provided to registrants. Repeat attendees are welcome. The workshop is for ages 15 and up.

Monday, June 7:

2021 Real Estate Taxes due

Town of Blacksburg real estate tax invoices for the first installment of 2021 have been mailed and are due by Monday, June 7, 2021. If you have not yet received a tax statement, call the Department of Financial Services at 540-961-1105. Payment may be mailed, made in person at 300 South Main St., Blacksburg, or paid online at www.blacksburg.gov/payments. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. A 10% penalty will be charged if not paid by June 7, 2021. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning July 1, 2021.

Tuesday, June 8:

The Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant at 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. William Reed will give a talk on the 12th Virginia Infantry. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Radford school board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meet-

ing at 6 p.m. at the School Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

Friday, June 11:

Mobile food distribution
Feeding America and the Blacksburg Police Department will host a community food/pantry distribution at the Blacksburg High School Student Parking lot on Friday June 11, 2021.

Food distribution will begin at 1:00 p.m. Feeding America will also have a mobile marketplace, which is a mobile grocery store, on site. Citizens are asked to enter Bruin Lane off Prices Fork Road and food will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis.

All Virginia residents qualify and clients who participate in SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and/or SSI automatically qualify to receive USDA food. Others may qualify based on income.

For more information contact Rita Pruitt, Director of Agency Partnerships. Phone: (540) 342-3011 ext. 7040, Email: rpruitt@feedingswva.org

Saturday, June 12:

Department of Wildlife Resources Boating Safety Class at Claytor Lake

At the state park's Water's Edge Building, 6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive, Dublin, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Materials and instruction are free of charge. Bring a pencil, a highlighter and lunch. Students may bring food and drink for themselves during the class. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required. By registering for this class, the student agrees to observe all pandemic protocols for this indoor class as required by the governor's most recent executive order. Before entering the class, the student will be asked a short health-related symptom survey and will be asked to affirm that the student will abide by classroom rules.

RSVP at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/167760>. For more information, contact Mendy Harman at 540-494-3569, mendy.harman@dwr.virginia.gov.

Ongoing:

Through August 29

New Glencoe Mansion art exhibit

The Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery is hosting a gallery photography exhibit through Aug. 29, 2021. The exhibit is "Mountain Rail Tails" and features the works of pho-

tographer Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images.

Wednesdays through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021 has begun and will continue each Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. until 9 p.m. through September at Market Square Park. This season marks the jam's 10th anniversary.

Saturdays through October:

Radford Farmers Market

The Radford Farmers Market will be held each Saturday through October 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the New River Valley Community Service parking lot (the Old Wade's parking lot) on West Main Street.

Thursdays through October

Christiansburg Farmers Market

Every Thursday through October, the Christiansburg Farmers Market will be held at the Christiansburg Recreation Center parking lot from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Enjoy the stylishly CROPPED jackets, pants, and tops... shortened for cool comfort



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Poetry

from page 1

individuals have stopped by, answered a few questions, and had a poem produced about them.

"I provide a unique keepsake for you, or a gift for you to give to a friend, which is personalized. Sometimes I can also provide a laugh, or a tear. It depends on the topic you choose and whether inspiration strikes me just right," Peterson said.

The poem is a first draft as he calls it, created on

the spot in mere minutes. Some are brilliant and others are not, but usually he works for tips so if individuals don't like their poems, they don't have to leave a tip. If, however, the poem catches their fancy, they might want to be generous.

Peterson feels it's good to get typewriters out in the public eye for people to enjoy watching and listening to—the tat, tat, tat of the old keys hitting paper.

While he loves his 1941 Royal Aristocrat, it isn't always his go-to tool of choice.

"I use whichever typewriter suits my mood when I am packing up my things the morning of the event," he said.

Typically, he takes at least two and sometimes three machines with him.

"Part of the reason is so I can change machines out to keep myself enter-

tained and feeling fresh, but also it is nice to have back-ups if there is a mechanical issue I can't fix on the spot," Peterson said.

Sometimes he chooses flashy machines for street poetry, ones with fun colors or that have a lot of chrome, or machines with historical significance or cool typefaces.

He has about 140 working typewriters at his house and another 50 or so that are parts or project machines.

The poem he writes goes to the individuals themselves. He will ask one or two questions on a certain topic and then type it out.

"It is hard to write about a person or pet I don't know, but I can write about loss or love or things that we all can relate to," Peterson said. "Art comes with a sense of intimacy, and that's

part of the fun of it, but remember that I am a stranger and I don't have the same friends and family that you do.

"I can write about any topic, and will, but suggest avoiding sex, religion, or politics unless you are a risk taker," Peterson said. "You will get a poem based on my own experience and perspective. The worst thing you can ask me to write about is 'whatever you want.' It's a poem for you about whatever you want, and I need that kernel to build an idea around so I can write you a poem."

Some of his work appears online at: <http://www.totallyyourtype.com>.

For more information about Peterson and his poetry, visit him near the farmers market information tent in the parking lot of the Christiansburg Recreation Center.



Live the Life!

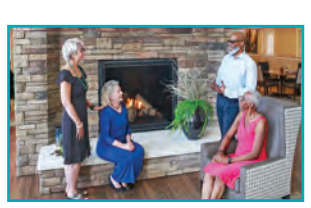
With a focus to encourage vibrant living and individual wellness, 2021 brings exciting new senior apartment options and convenient Town Center amenities catered to those looking for an active, independent lifestyle to Richfield's Salem Campus.



Join our vibrant Independent Living community!

New options at Richfield include The Villas and Lake Retreat apartments, both now leasing! You can put your own sense of style on any of our comfortable, convenient floor plans and enjoy maintenance-free living.

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Add in a convenient, amenities-rich Town Center and a robust Richfield social calendar, and you'll have every opportunity for a joy-filled lifestyle. Additionally, should your health or the health of a loved one change, you'll have access to a full continuum of health care services without leaving the Richfield campus.

Community Highlights

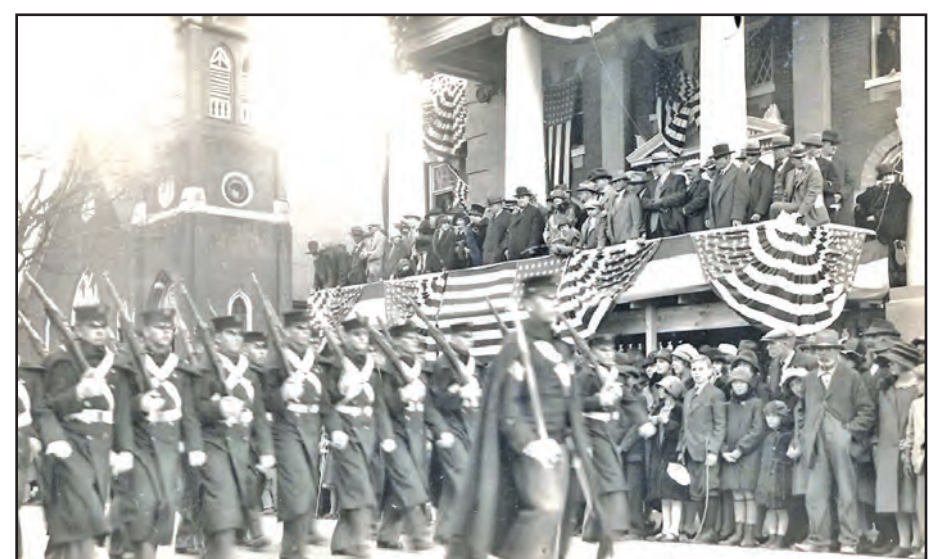
- Town Center
- 24-hour Wellness Studio
- Restaurant-style and casual dining venues
- Salon/Spa
- Community room with scheduled activities
- Chapel
- Outpatient therapy with salt water pool
- Gift shop
- Outdoor walking paths on 52-acre campus
- Underground heated parking
- Retail and restaurants nearby



Richfield Living
RichfieldLiving.com
540.380.4500

YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Historic Montgomery



The Corp of Cadets marches past dignitaries at the 1909 Montgomery County Courthouse during the 1926 celebration that opened Lee Highway, one of the earliest transcontinental automobile roads. The final section was paved here on Nov. 17, 1926. (D. D. Lester Collection, Montgomery Museum)

Board Meeting

from page 1

p.m. in Latham Ballroom A/B.

The Finance and Resource Management Committee will meet June 8 at 9:30 a.m. in open session in Latham Ballroom A/B.

During the two-day meeting, board members will consider resolutions on the 2021-22 university operating and capital budgets, the 2021-22 faculty compensation plan, and the 2020-21

promotion, tenure, and continued appointments program. The board will also consider a resolution to establish a new School of Environmental Security in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

Public comment will not be received at the meeting. Complete information may be found at the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors website.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

WHV's Marcus Burks earns certification to work specifically with residents battling Parkinson's disease

Warm Hearth Village fitness assistant Marcus Burks is now a certified Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) coach. RSB is specifically designed to improve physical skills for those battling Parkinson's disease.

Burks, who has a B.S. in health and human performance from Radford University, recently completed the eight-week RSB Tier 1 affiliate training required to become an RSB coach. He has since been leading participants through jumping, squatting, lunging, and other drills targeted to relieve the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Coworker and lead fitness assistant Jessica Robinson, an exercise physiologist, is also a certified RSB coach, as is WHV fitness director and gerontologist Kenny Harrah, who started the WHV RSB program in 2018.

Burks said he is grateful for the training that gives him the opportunity to help others.

"People sometimes assume those with degenerative diseases can't work out," Burks said. "This training teaches ways to overcome the daily effects of Parkinson's disease. Coming back together in person is

so important, and I can see a real improvement in everyone's balance and self-esteem in a short time. It's a privilege to have this certification and to be able to make such a difference in people's lives."

Burks lives in Pulaski where he runs his own podcast on combat sports in his spare time. He also enjoys boxing and playing basketball.

Warm Hearth Village is a non-profit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.



Marcus Burks's certification as a Rock Steady Boxing coach enables him to work specifically to improve the physical skills of those battling Parkinson's disease.

NRV Community Foundation to hold Giving Day June 23

The Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) is holding its eighth annual Giving Day, GiveLocalNRV on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, to help organizations both big and small raise money in the New River Valley.

The annual online Giving Day began in 2014 in honor of the CFNRV's twentieth anniversary. It aims to encourage charitable giving and to draw attention to the many nonprofit organizations serving the region. Since its inception, GiveLocalNRV, has helped nonprofits in the New River Valley raise over

\$1.6 million, and this year the CFNRV hopes to raise over \$430,000 across the more than 90 participating organizations.

Donors can visit the website give-localnrv.org to make a secure, online gift to their favorite nonprofit organization and help that organization secure grants and prizes from the CFNRV. Leaderboards showing the overall totals and how individual organizations are doing will be posted on June 23, but donors don't have to wait to support their preferred organizations. Any gift made through June 23 will count toward the giving day

total. The donation can be as small as \$5 or as large as a donor's generosity.

GiveLocalNRV has long been an important tool for area nonprofits, but it has been essential to many organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person fundraisers were canceled or moved online.

In 2020, the Boy Scouts of America Blue Ridge Mountain Council utilized the GiveLocalNRV platform to raise over \$60,000 by taking advantage of the "teams" feature. Each scout pack could raise money through a page customized for its mem-

bers and supporters.

Kenneth Lyons, Chief Development Officer with the BSA, Blue Ridge Mountain Council said, "In 2020 with our summer camps closed, we created a camp Olympics as a competition to raise money to support the Boy Scout Program. Following some of the best methods recommended by the CFNRV, we were able to engage new donors. Sixty-five percent of our donors were new supporters, and we reached a demographic of donors we had not been previously able to recruit." The Boy Scouts also won a \$500 power

hour grant from the CFNRV in 2020.

With the help of corporate sponsors, the CFNRV will award \$15,000 in grants and prizes during GiveLocalNRV to further incentive for giving. Grants will be given to organizations that raise the most money that have the greatest number of unique donors overall, and during designated power hours, that produce a GiveLocalNRV video for social media.

More information about the giving day, grants and prizes, and participating organizations is available at give-localnrv.org.

Latest ransomware attack affects supply chain of U.S. meat industry

In the weeks following the Colonial Pipeline hack, another major ransomware attack is now threatening the supply chain of the U.S. meat industry.

Virginia Tech agriculture and cyberbiosecurity expert Susan Duncan says that consumers may feel ripple effects in the weeks ahead as businesses wait for deliveries to restock shelves and have meat available for food service menus.

"Computer systems influence nearly every aspect of the meat and food industry," Duncan says. "However, the meat industry is not the only affected sector. Delayed production influences distribution and availability of meat to retail consumer outlets such as grocery stores, restaurant chains, and large food distribution companies as well as processed food companies relying on these sources as ingredients."

Duncan says such attacks also impact the economy as meat and food processing facilities that have personnel in place are not able to work depending on their role at the facility.

"Many companies typically have supply ready for distribution and it appears that the recent challenge is being addressed quickly," Duncan said. "However there could be some additional supply limitations that will influence filling the demands over the next week or so."

"We could also see ripple effects to the economics, including the management of downstream businesses as they wait for deliveries, supply, affecting trust in suppliers, and retail as they all anticipate filling their orders, deliveries, stocking of retail shelves, or having meat available for food services," Duncan said.

Looking ahead, Duncan says establishing standard cybersecurity strategies are critical to preventing future ransomware attacks to food supply chains. For the food and agriculture system, it is also important for understanding the integration of digital, biological, cyber, and physical systems, which requires cooperation and subject matter experts in a variety of knowledge domains.

"Standard cybersecurity strategies are important," Duncan says. "Most major companies have information technology professionals who monitor these risks and strategize for how to manage the problem. It is beneficial to all sectors of the food and agriculture system, regardless of size, to be aware of the threats that exist, ransomware and others."

Susan Duncan is an associate director of the Virginia Ag-



PHOTO FROM PIXABAY

ricultural Experiment Station and director at the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture at Virginia Tech. Her areas of expertise include sensory response to foods with a focus

on the implications of quality changes affected by processing, storage, and packaging. She also studies the increased technology adoption in the food and agricultural system.

Exhibit celebrates work of renowned architect and educator Leonard Currie

Steve Tatum, who worked at the Art and Architecture Library for 12 years before coming to Newman Library, has been scanning and cataloging the photos of the University Libraries' new Leonard Currie exhibit for 10 years.

With the help of his two metadata student assistants Carolyn Buonforte and Irene Baron, the trio created a historic exhibition about Leonard (Len) Currie (1913-1996) for the Art and Architecture Library, using photos from a slide collection the Currie family donated to the library.

A renowned architect and educator, Currie led the architecture program at Virginia Tech from 1956 to 1962, laying the groundwork for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Before coming to Virginia Tech, he was the founding director of the Inter-American Housing Center (CINVA) in Bogotá, Colombia, an Organization of American States program that addressed the urgent need for low-cost housing in Latin America.

After leaving Virginia Tech, Currie taught at the University of Illinois

in Chicago for 20 years, then returned to Blacksburg to practice architecture. He spent the rest of his life dedicated to helping Habitat for Humanity and provided free architectural consultations for people who couldn't afford an architect.

Currie was an avid world traveler. Wherever he went, he had a camera in his hand. Throughout his life, Currie constantly took photos and captioned the photos on the slide itself. This exhibit is based on these annotated photos, known as the Currie Slides, and also highlights Currie's own architecture by showing the several

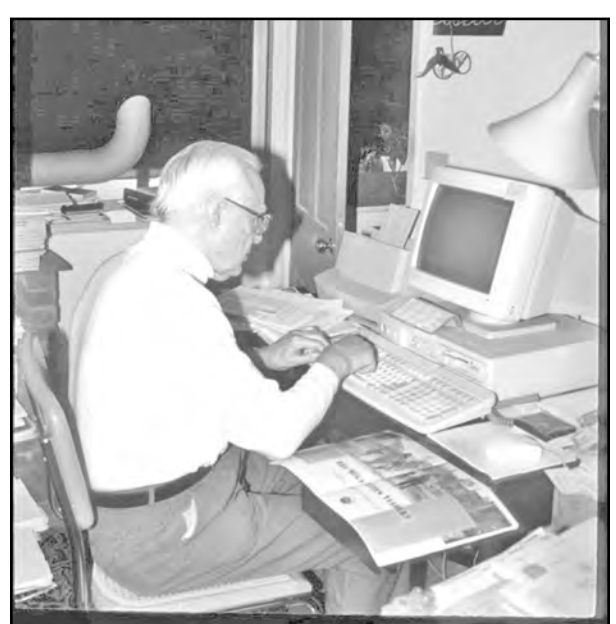
houses that he and his wife, Virginia, built for their family.

The house that Leonard and Virginia Currie built for their family in 1961, locally known as the Pagoda House, is a landmark in Virginia's residential architecture for its modern style.

While this exhibit has an archive in Special Collections and University Archives, visitors can find the Leonard Currie exhibit in three places. There is a physical exhibition in the Art and Architecture Library. A WordPress site was created that expands on the physical exhibit with additional information in-

cluding a bibliography. Lastly, Wen Ng, University Libraries' digital collections, created a Leonard Currie section in Southwest Virginia Digital Archives virtual exhibit.

Leonard Currie is well known to people who have been with Virginia Tech for a long time. This exhibit brings him to life for younger generations and very likely provides a different perspective on his life to older generations.



Leonard Currie, Blacksburg, 1996. Photo courtesy of University Libraries at Virginia Tech, gift of the Leonard J. and Virginia M. Herz Currie Estate.

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OPINION

Nationally recognized STEM company Camp Invention to deliver summer enrichment program to Radford in at-home format

Camp Invention, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is offering Radford area children an all-new, at-home format of the program the week of June 21 - June 25.

Camp Invention at home reaches far beyond what families have come to expect from "virtual" learning, balancing active, independent hands-on exploration with opportunities for socialization from home.

A hybrid program featuring both offline activities and optional online sessions, the at-home Camp Invention format enables hands-on exploration

by delivering an Innovator's Toolkit, packed full of fun materials, directly to each participant.

With four themed activities, step-by-step guides, and an Innovator Workshop, the program brings imagination, creative problem solving and fun to children's living rooms. During the at-home format, local certified instructors take the campers through the day's activities with the children choosing to attend the four daily online collaborative sessions or move at their own pace.

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired

by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors — the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) Inductees. This year's Recharge curriculum encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Open Mic: Campers amplify their creative voice, reverse engineer a wireless microphone, and then develop and promote their own extraordinary invention.

Duck Chuck: Through hands-on experiments with trajectory and velocity, children build their own device to launch

rubber ducks around the world.

Road Rally: Imaginations accelerate as children design nature-inspired vehicles that can zoom across land and prototype elements for moving through air and water.

SolarBot: Campers build and take care of their very own solar-powered robotic cricket, creating protective gear, a customized habitat, and a fun cricket playground.

A NIHF program in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and

use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship, all in a fun and engaging environment.

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by certified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 130,000 students every year and partners with more than 1,800 schools and districts across the nation.

New River Health District COVID-19 update: Fast facts

Vaccines (first and second doses):

People ages 12 to 15 are now eligible for Pfizer. Anyone can walk in at any VDH clinic as appointments are preferred but are not required.

Upcoming vaccine clinics:

Sunday, June 6, 1 to 4 p.m. – Timberlake Building (Pearisburg)
Mon., June 7, 5 to 9 p.m. – Narrows Volunteer Fire

Department

Vaccinations are available each Friday morning at the Giles County Health Dept. Call 540-235-3135 for an appointment. They are also available each Friday morning at the Montgomery County Health Dept. Call 40-585-3300 for an appointment.

Businesses should contact Ashley Briggs at 540-639-9313 or abbriggs@nrvc.org. On-site employee

education events are available by request.

Patient update
As of Thursday, June 3, 12 COVID-19 patients in the New River Health District were hospitalized and 0 people were under investigation. Hospitals are at normal operations.

COVID-19 testing

Testing is available at the Montgomery County Health Dept. in Christiansburg Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. Appointments are required. Call 540-267-8240.

Testing is also available at the Giles Co. Health Dept. in Pearisburg, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. No appointments are required.

Vaccination update
More than 65,000 people or 35.9% of the total population in the NRV have been vaccinated.

More than 41.8% of those aged 16+ in the NRV have been vaccinated.

More than 3.7 million Virginians have been vaccinated.

NRV Health District COVID-19 Statistics since

March 2020

Floyd County:
Total cases 875; total hospitalizations 31; total deaths 23; total vaccines given 10,840; percent fully vaccinated 35.

Giles County:
Total cases 1,300; total hospitalizations 51; total deaths 22; total vaccines given 12,704; percent fully vaccinated 36.1.

Montgomery County:
Total cases 9,411; total hospitalizations 191; total deaths 96; total vaccines given 75,299; percent fully vaccinated 36.6.

Pulaski County:

Total cases 2,682; total hospitalizations 127; total deaths 61; total vaccines given 25,592; percent fully vaccinated 35.1.

Radford City:
Total cases 2,167; total hospitalizations 40; total deaths 18; total vaccines given 12,321; percent fully vaccinated 31.

New River Health District

Total cases: 16,435; total hospitalizations 440; total deaths 220; total vaccines given 136,756; percent fully vaccinated 35.

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355

P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 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: Virginia struggles with unemployment though claims are down 61.85% from last year

According to a study released Thursday by the personal finance website WalletHub, Virginia's unemployment claims have dropped by 61.85 percent compared to the same week a year ago.

Despite that sizable decrease, the commonwealth is still struggling to recover from new unemployment claims as the total number of claims remains higher than it was at the start of 2020.

The survey showed that only three states -- New Mexico, Delaware, and Rhode Island -- are recovering at a slower rate than Virginia.

According to WalletHub, 9.8 million Americans remain unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 385,000 new unemployment claims were filed nationwide the week of the survey, which nevertheless is a lot fewer than the

6.1 million during the peak of the pandemic (a 94% reduction).

Surprisingly, two states -- Rhode Island and Delaware -- had unemployment claims last week that were higher than the same week last year, according to the website.

Only four states -- Wyoming, Arkansas, Vermont, and Arizona -- had unemployment claims last week that were lower than before the pandemic began.

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.

PETS-OF-THE-WEEK

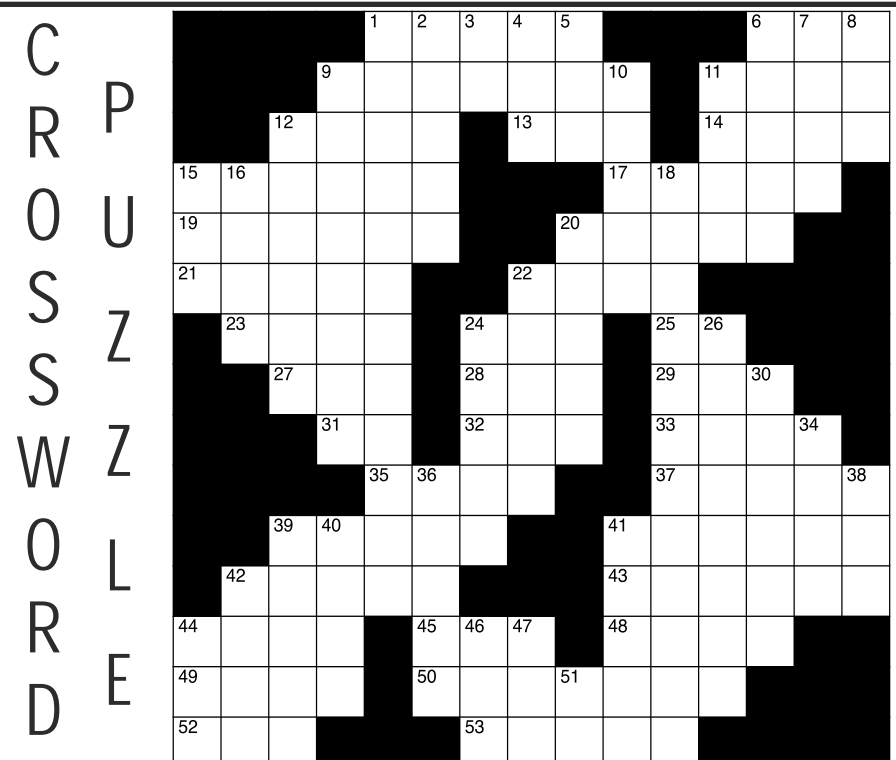
At this time, visits to the Animal Care and Adoption Center are limited to one party at a time in the lobby area. Animal areas are not open to the public. To schedule an appointment to meet a prospective pet, call (540) 382-5795 or email animalcenter@montgomerycountyva.gov.



Happy boy Simba is still a pup at 9-months-old. His future family should be aware that he may still have some growing to do. Simba enjoys the company of other dogs and would likely do well in a home with a canine buddy and a yard to run and play in.



Bowie, left, and Charlie, right, are BFF's (Best Feline Friends). They are an inseparable duo, and they, in fact, look for each other when they are not in the same room together. They are very social, curious, friendly, and affectionate towards all humans. Charlie is hard of hearing.



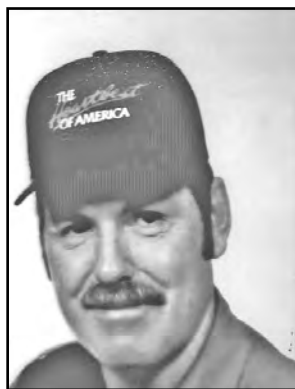
- CLUES ACROSS**
- Light colored cigar
 - A scrap of cloth
 - Fluid used to cool a system
 - Abel's brother (Bible)
 - Prohibitions
 - River in NE Scotland
 - Belge
 - Strongly opposed
 - Shoelace end
 - French caps
 - Sings jazz improvisations
 - Daisylike fall flower
 - Wild Asian goat
 - Beginning to end (abbr.)
 - Tell on
 - Location of White House
 - 1/60 minute (abbr.)
 - Tailless primate
 - Rt. angle building wing
 - Drunks' disease
 - Gallivant about
 - To be necessary
 - Frosts
 - Newman's "Winning" character
 - Dwarf buffaloes
 - Tenant or lessee
 - A citizen of Iran
 - Inner sole of a shoe
 - Tabloid papers
 - Sandhurst abbreviation
 - Egyptian Sun god
 - Give out radiation
 - Gives or contributes
 - Where wine ferments (abbr.)
 - Beaumont, Texas University
- CLUES DOWN**
- The work of building
 - Misplaces
 - Atomic #13
 - Radioactivity unit
 - Smallest whole number
 - Subspecies (pl.)
 - Redirect
 - Wildebeest
 - Moved headlong at high speed
 - Impart knowledge
 - Early people of Britain
 - Moorings
 - Goat and camel hair fabric
 - Part of a three-piece suit
 - Store for lawn & plants
 - Dulled by surfeit
 - Spanish appetizers
 - Acts with violent anger
 - Frees from dirt
 - Tauon
 - Affaire d'honneur
 - Traveling tinker (Scot.)
 - They ___
 - Potters white clay
 - Father of the Am. cartoon, Thomas
 - Lariat or lasso
 - Metric foot of two syllables
 - Confederate soldier
 - Mole's unit symbol
 - Nursing organization
 - Morning time

OBITUARIES

Luckado, Clifford Wayne

Clifford "Cliff" Wayne Luckado, 71, of Radford, left his earthly home to go fishing in Heaven on May 31, 2021.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 42 years, Barbara Harris Luckado; daughters and son-in-law Missy Bratton, Vickie and Jimmy Williams, and Renee Browning; grandchildren Andy, Michael, Reva, Correna, Christy, and Kendra; and four great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his wife's family whom he loved and they loved him, as well as



many special friends that he thought of as family.

He shared his love of fishing and train rides with many friends.

The family received friends on Friday, June 4, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Pastor Mike Pierce and the Rev. Wayne Poston officiating.

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

Crew, Elizabeth Sypniewski

Elizabeth Sypniewski Crew, 38, of Fairlawn passed away on Monday, May 31, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Adam Sypniewski.

Survivors include her beloved children, Madison Gravley, Grayson Gravley, Garrett Gravley, Silas Hodge, Aden Hodge, and Adam Hodge; her mother, Cheryl Ann Sypniewski; a sister and brother-in-

law, Ashley Cunningham and Joshua; a brother and sister-in-law, Ryan Sypniewski and Jamie; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives, and special friends.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Monday, June 7, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

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

Carden, Larry Dean

Larry Dean Carden, 69, of Christiansburg, passed away on Monday, May 31, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stanley and Elizabeth Carden, and his brother, Danny Carden.

Survivors include his special friend, Margaret Ann Hardy.

The family received friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services began at 11 with the Rev. Neal Turner officiating.

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

Johnson, Johnny Alan

Johnny Alan Johnson, 52, of Radford, passed away Monday, May 31, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his stepdad, James Ferguson, and a special aunt, Debbie Ruiz.

Survivors include his mother, Edna Dunford Ferguson; his father, Paul F. Johnson; brothers Robert and Lee; sisters LeAnn and Tracey; a special niece and nephew, Chloe Nicole and Ruger Lee; a special friend, Jennifer Johnston;



and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, June 4, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Funeral services followed with Pastor Randy Baker officiating. Interment followed in the Independent Order of Oddfellows Cemetery in Ivanhoe, Va.

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

VT research reveals active early learning shapes adult brain



A teacher guides a student through a task in this historical photo of the Abecedarian Project, an early education, randomized controlled trial that began at the University of North Carolina and has followed the participants since 1971. Now, Virginia Tech researchers including Craig Ramey, Sharon Landesman Ramey, and Read Montague have revealed discoveries about the lasting effects of that early education on brain structure.

An enhanced learning environment during the first five years of life shapes the brain in ways that are apparent four decades later, say Virginia Tech and University of Pennsylvania scientists writing in the June edition of the Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience.

The researchers used structural brain imaging to detect the developmental effects of linguistic and cognitive stimulation starting at six weeks of age in infants. The influence of an enriched environment on brain structure had formerly been demonstrated in animal studies, but this is the first experimental study to find a similar result in humans.

"Our research shows a relationship between brain structure and five years of high-quality educational and social experiences," said Craig Ramey, professor and distinguished research scholar with the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and the principal investigator of the study. "We have demonstrated that in vulnerable children who received stimulating and emotionally supportive learning experiences, statistically significant changes in brain structure appear in middle age."

The results support the idea that early environment influences the brain structure of individuals growing up with multi-risk socioeconomic challenges, said Martha Farah, director of the Center for Neuroscience & Society at Penn and first author of the study.

"This has exciting impli-

cations for the basic science of brain development, as well as for theories of social stratification and social policy," Farah said.

The study follows children who have continuously participated in the Abecedarian Project, an early intervention program initiated by Ramey in Chapel Hill, N.C., in 1971 to study the effects of educational, social, health, and family support services on high-risk infants.

Both the comparison and treatment groups received extra health care, nutrition, and family support services; however, beginning at six weeks of age, the treatment group also received five years of high quality educational support, five days a week, 50 weeks a year.

When scanned, the Abecedarian study participants were in their late 30s to early 40s, offering the researchers a unique look at how childhood factors affect the adult brain.

"The new results reveal that biological effects accompany the many behavioral, social, health, and economic benefits reported in the Abecedarian Project," said co-author Sharon Landesman Ramey, professor and distinguished research scholar with the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and the Virginia Tech College of Science. "This affirms the idea that positive early life experiences contribute to later positive adjustment through a combination of behavioral, social, and brain pathways."

During follow-up examinations, structural

MRI scans of the brains of 47 study participants were conducted at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute Human Neuroimaging Lab. Of those, 29 individuals had been in the group that received the educational enrichment focused on promoting language, cognition, and interactive learning.

The other 18 individuals received the same robust health, nutritional, and social services supports provided to the educational treatment group, and whatever community childcare or other learning their parents provided. The two groups were well matched on a variety of factors such as maternal education, head circumference at birth, and age at scanning.

Analyzing the scans, the researchers looked at brain size as a whole, including the cortex, the brain's outermost layer, as well as five regions selected for their expected connection to the intervention's stimulation of children's language and cognitive development.

The researchers determined that those in the early education treatment group had increased size of the whole brain, including the cortex.

"We believe that these findings warrant careful consideration and lend further support to the value of ensuring positive learning and social-emotional support for all children, particularly to improve outcomes for children who are vulnerable to inadequate stimulation and care in the early years of life," Craig Ramey said.

VDOT road watch

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place through the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by June 2022.

SLOW ROLLS: Slow rolls may be utilized periodically on both the northbound and southbound lanes from mile marker 98-109 for structural steel deliveries and setting beams.

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY - The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating

lane and shoulder closures, northbound and southbound, from mile marker 114 to 115. Exit 114 ramp shoulder closures will be ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. Route 8 will have alternating northbound and southbound shoulder and lane closures, day or night, as needed between the I-81 on and off ramps. A temporary traffic signal will direct traffic on Route 8 throughout the duration of the project. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Estimated completion is summer 2021.

DMV Notice: The bridge on I-81 northbound at mile marker 114 currently has a restricted width for wide loads of 26 feet or larger.

ROUTE 11 BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT - Work is underway on Route 11 southbound to replace the bridge deck over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The bridge is located .4 miles north of the intersection with Route 748 (Big Spring Drive) and .4 mile south of the intersection with Route 603 (North Fork Road). The left lane of both Route 11 north and south is closed with a detour in place until the completion of the project. Once in place, the detour will re-route the left lane of Route 11 north, limiting each direction to a single lane. The expected completion date is November 2021.

TRAFFIC SWITCH: A new traffic pattern is in place detouring Route 11 southbound traffic through the left lane of Route 11 northbound, is underway. Drivers can expect alternating

direction to a single lane.

ROUTE 636 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT SENECA HOLLOW - Work has begun replacing the bridge on Route 636 over the Roanoke River at Seneca Hollow. Beginning August 3, a road closure will be in place from Echo Hills Road to .36 mile south of Route 460. A detour will be in place. The detour will restrict access to Route 460 at Seneca Hollow and will require travelers to enter/exit Route 460 at Friendship Road near Wheeling Hollow. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2021.

ROUTE 685 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Contractors are constructing several turn lane and road improvements on Route 685 (Prices Fork Road) between Route 1145 (Stratford View Drive) and Route 654 (Brookfield Road). Motorists should expect daily shoulder closures with intermittent lane closures controlled by flagging forces. Current work hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but are subject to change as construction progresses. Work is expected to last through summer 2021.

VARIOUS ROADS FOR UTILITY WORK - Utility crews will be working on overhead lines along a general corridor alignment following Route 114 (Peppers Ferry), Route 460 Business (Franklin Street) and Route 11/460 (Roanoke Road). The work zone will span from the Pulaski/Montgomery county line to the Montgomery/Roanoke county line. In addition, various side roads will be im-

See VDOT, page 7

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

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VT professor using waste byproducts as source for valuable rare-earth elements

Despite their name, rare earth elements are not hard to find. These 17 heavy metals are dispersed in small amounts throughout the earth's crust, with some even more abundant than copper. What is rare, however, are the means to recover them economically, efficiently, and safely.

Rare earths are critical components in cell phones, aircraft, and many advanced electronics, and they're becoming particularly important in emerging green energy technologies, such as electric and hybrid vehicles as well as wind energy. However, with little to no domestic production, the United States has historically relied on China for over 80 percent of its rare earths and is vulnerable to disruptions in the supply chain. That vulnerability led to a White House Executive Order last fall declaring a national emergency on their supply, which prioritized the development of

domestic sources.

In a trio of projects focused on developing new domestic resource streams for these critical materials, Virginia Tech mining and minerals engineering assistant professor Wencai Zhang is looking at waste byproducts as a potential source of rare earths, which he aims to recover using processes that are more cost effective and environmentally safer than traditional methods.

In one project, Zhang is examining the potential of recovering rare earths from residual ash, a byproduct of incinerated municipal solid waste. Each year over 2 million tons of municipal solid waste — ranging from food to plastics and electronic devices — are incinerated in the United States. Incineration reduces a majority of the waste, but leaves behind a small amount of residual ash.

"If we can find a way to recover the rare earths from the ash, it would render the

ash more environmentally benign while adding value through the development of a domestic rare earth supply stream," Zhang says.

In a second project, Zhang is trying to recover rare earths from bauxite residue, or "red mud," a waste byproduct of aluminum mining operations.

Extracting aluminum from bauxite generates about one to two and half tons of bauxite residue for each ton of aluminum produced. This residue often ends up in stockpiles at mining sites or in tailings ponds, large, man-made reservoirs that allow the waterborne waste to settle over time.

With 16 million tons of aluminum produced in the U.S. between 2009 and 2019, there are an estimated 16 million tons of bauxite residue locked up in stockpiles and tailings ponds.

"Bauxite residue consists of up to 1 percent rare earths, such as neodymium, lan-

thanide, and cerium," said Zhang. "So there are an expected 16 thousand tons of rare earths currently sitting in waste stockpiles."

One of these rare earths, neodymium in particular is essential for the production of the strong magnets needed in a variety of growing green energy technologies. Yet it continues to be in short supply and has been deemed critical in the U.S. due to supply risks.

The aim of this project is to develop new technologies and processes that will recover the rare earths from the bauxite residue with a purity of 95 percent or greater.

Normally, recovery of the rare earth elements is carried out through a chemical process whereby the rare earths are leached out of the waste through the addition of mineral acids, such as sulphuric acid, which can be toxic and carry known environmental risks.

But in a third project,



PHOTO BY PETER MEANS FOR VIRGINIA TECH
The members of VT professor Wencai Zhang's rare earth element research team are (clockwise from far left) Wencai Zhang, Seth Holzman, Qi La, Baxter Jones, Bryce McIntire, and Bin Ji.

Zhang and his team are attempting to replace the more harmful mineral acids with safer organic acids that have been derived and microbially converted from food waste.

In this research, funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) program, the novel organic acids, specifically succinic and lactic acid, will be used to leach out the rare earths

from both the incinerated ash and bauxite residue waste.

"We are very excited to be working on these important projects that address real problems surrounding our nation's supply of critical materials," said Zhang. "The work also allows us to train our undergraduate and graduate students to be the next generation of experts who can continue the development of domestic critical elements."

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.sttfc.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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Family Trees

Read 1 Chronicles 1:1 through 5:26

Erin and her mother spent months researching their family tree. The search led them to relatives in Ireland who helped them gather names and stories of deceased family members from the 1600s. They were thrilled to learn their family history.

The writer of Chronicles begins with a record of Adam's family tree through his son Seth.

Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah. The sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth (1 Chronicles 1:1-4).

The chronicle goes on to include historical events and establishes a continuous lineage of God's

chosen people, to whom He made specific promises.

The Book of Revelation tells of a book, the Lamb's Book of Life, which contains another family tree. In it, God records the names of all His children—those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you are a child of God, your name is in the Lamb's book, and the Bible is a history of your spiritual family tree. Read about your predecessors. Get to know them. You will spend eternity together.

Challenge for Today: Experience the joy of discovering your spiritual heritage.

Quicklook: 1 Chronicles 1:1-28

If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at advertise@ourvalley.org

& Sound Services and other ECK programs are 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.

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

the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST
Asbury United Methodist Church, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Ryan Schaeffer. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship,

11:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7pm, alternating month's with Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, Senior Bible Study Thursday, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mooncup "Paul" Song (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

WESLEYAN
Christ Wesleyan Church, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 574-306-7682. Website: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Researchers learn how swimming ducks balance water pressure in their feathers while diving

A team of students working with Jonathan Boreyko, a Virginia Tech associate professor in mechanical engineering, has discovered the method ducks use to suspend water in their feathers while diving, allowing them to shake it out when surfacing. The discovery opens the door for applications in marine technology.

Boreyko has a well-established body of work in the area of fluid mechanics, including the invention of a fog harp and the use of contained, recirculated steam as a cooling device. As his research has progressed throughout the past decade, the mechanics of duck de-wetting has been one of his longest-running projects.

"I got this idea when I was at Duke University," said Boreyko. "I had a really bad parking spot, but my walk took me right through the scenic Duke Gardens. I passed by ponds with lots of ducks, and I noticed that when a duck comes out of the water, they'd shake their feathers and water would

fly off. I realized that what they were doing was a de-wetting transition, releasing water that was partially inside of their feathers. That was the germ of the idea. In my research, purely by coincidence, I was studying the same kind of thing. I realized that these transitions work only if the water isn't allowed to get all the way to the bottom of the porous feather structure."

Boreyko remained intrigued with how the balance was struck, curious about the mechanisms that allow a duck to hold water in its feathers without sinking completely. He brought Farzad Ahmadi into his lab in 2014 as a graduate student, sharing that intrigue in one of their early meetings. Ahmadi picked up the project and dove into the finer details. Their first approach was simple; they attempted to force a single drop of water through a natural duck feather.

"It didn't work," said Ahmadi. "Then we had the idea to build a pressure cham-

ber to force a pool of water through several layers of feathers."

Feathers have micro-sized openings in them, tiny slots that allow pressurized water to pass through. A duck sitting on the surface of a pond isn't encountering any water pressure, so the water penetration is negligible. A duck diving downward, however, encounters a steady increase in hydrostatic pressure, something familiar to anyone taking a dive into the deep end of a pool.

Ahmadi discovered that as the number of feather layers increases, the pressure required to push water through all the layers must also increase. This establishes a kind of baseline, a maximum pressure up to which feathers hold the water entering them, but do not allow the water to reach a duck's skin.

"Our hypothesis was to use multiple layers of feathers so that the water only comes in part way, but there are air pockets under that," Boreyko explained. "As long

as those air pockets are present, it prevents something called irreversible wetting. As long as the wetting is only partial, they can shake it out when they surface."

Ahmadi also discovered that species of ducks tend to have the exact number of feather layers needed to avoid irreversible wetting during their dives. A mallard, for instance, has four layers of feathers. The maximum depth to which a typical mallard dives corresponds to a hydrostatic pressure that invaded a three-feather stack but not four. In this way, at least one layer of feathers remains dry after a dive, allowing the duck to shake out the water when it emerges.

Having established the foundational mechanics of duck de-wetting, Boreyko's team set out to create a synthetic material that works in a similar way. The team made bio-inspired feathers from a thin sheet of aluminum foil, laser cutting an array of slots one-tenth of a millimeter wide to mimic the barboles of a duck



Researcher Jonathan Boreyko looks through a synthetic feather.

feather. They also re-created the hairy nanostructure of feathers by adding an aluminum nanostructure to the aluminum barboles.

The synthetic feathers produced nearly identical results during testing, a credit to the strength of nature's design. Application and scaling of this technology is a logical next step.

Boreyko thinks there is potential for applying layered synthetic feathers to the

exterior of a boat, to make the boat travel more easily through the water and reduce the amount of barnacle-like organisms that cling to the hull.

"If we think of a ship moving over the water as an engineered bird, right now it's swimming naked," Boreyko says. "We wonder if clothing the ship in feathers could impart the same enhancements that waterfowl benefit from."

VDOT from page 5

ected by intermittent closures for crossings. Motorists should expect shoulder closures and lane closures for travel in both directions. Intermittent full closures of the roads will be required for periods lasting no longer than 15 minutes. Work hours are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Advance warning for weekend work involving closures of primary highways on weekend mornings from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be provided via message boards once scheduled. Work is scheduled to last until fall 2021.

INTERSTATE 81 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT S-CURVES IN BOTETOURT COUNTY - A project to improve the S-curves along southbound I-81 in Botetourt County between mile markers 167.4 and 169.5 is underway. This project will enhance safety and improve vehicle traction. Work includes repaving the travel lanes, applying new pavement markers and installing underground pavement drains. Nighttime lane closures will be in place and the speed limit will be

reduced to 60 mph in the work zone. This project also includes permanently closing and removing the southbound off ramp at exit 167 (Buchanan) to reduce speed differentials, conflict points and lane changes associated with exiting vehicles. The estimated completion date is summer 2021.

There will be lane closures between mile marker 168 and 170 between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday night through Friday morning.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 - A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has begun. Work will continue to be conducted within the median and shoulder within the barrier walls. Sound wall installation is underway. Weekday and weekend lane and shoulder closures may be in place. A left lane closure will be in place on I-81 northbound or southbound during nighttime hours from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. while equipment and materials are

brought into and out of the median. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

I-81 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

I-81 POTHOLE PATCHING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, are patching potholes along southbound Interstate 81 in Pulaski and Botetourt Counties. Mobile right and left lane closures will be in place and moving along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 97 and 162, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

INTERSTATE 581 I-581/220 EXPRESSWAY PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will pave, patch and repair pavement on various routes. Lane closures may be in place during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD - Work is underway to rehab the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be complete at the end of 2021.

I-581 BRIDGE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581 between

exit 6 and exit 4W and exit 3C to exit 6, northbound and southbound. Right, center and left lane closures may be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Single lane closures may be in place during daytime hours, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY- Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-581 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.



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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING City of Radford Appropriation Ordinance for School Board Budget Amendment

Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on June 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street for the purpose of receiving public comments on the City's proposed appropriation ordinance of \$4,067,155 to the School Board for the expenditures associated with the virtual school enrollment and cares funding.

BY ORDER OF THE RADFORD CITY COUNCIL

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Rezoning request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73 (4.711 acres) from Agricultural (A) and Two-Family Residential (R-2) to Single Family Residential (R-1) with conditions. The

Legals - Montgomery County

proposal is to construct 24 single-family detached dwellings. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Deerfield Home Estates LLC for a Planned Housing Development to consist of 24 Single-Family Residential dwellings on property located adjacent to Wades Lane and Agee Street, Tax Parcel Nos. 496-A 68 & 496-A 73.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. Additionally, the meeting will be streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's YouTube channel at www.christiansburg.org/youtube and will remain on the Town's YouTube page once the meeting concludes. For information on contactless methods for submitting public comment, please visit www.christiansburg.org/publichearings.

A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1130 or by email at awarren@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

Legals - Montgomery County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA, a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-571** Complainant, CHARLIE B. HALL, JR. ET AL., Respondent(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this suit is to enforce the lien of the Complainant, County of Montgomery, Virginia, for delinquent real estate taxes against certain real property located in the County of Montgomery, Virginia, described as follows: Tax Map No. 090-C 4 3 Account No. 007827

All that certain piece or parcel of real estate with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Riner Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia referred to as Lot Number three (3), as shown on C.L. Gallimore, Map of Lots, dated February 11, 1952, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia in Deed Book 180, Pages 272, 398, to which reference is hereby made for a more particular description together with a one-third (1/3) interest in a well on Lot Number five (5). And being the same real property conveyed to Natalie Ann Lytton and

Legals - Montgomery County

Marvin Duane Lytton as tenants by the entirety with the right of survivorship from Charles B. Hall, Jr. by Deed of Gift dated July 11, 2012 and recorded on March 2, 2020 in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office in Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument Number 2020001548.

This description is made subject to all easements, conditions, agreements, restrictions, and reservations of record which affect the property herein described including but not limited to those recorded in Instrument Number 2020001548; Deed Book 197, Page 253; Deed Book 494, Page 382; Plat Book 189, Page 398; Deed Book 181, Page 107; Instrument Number 12005756.

IT APPEARING that an Affidavit has been made and filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the identity and location of certain parties to be served, that the last known addresses for the Respondents herein are as follows: Charles B. Hall, Jr., who is believed to be deceased and whose last known address is 1563 Gallimore St., Christiansburg, Virginia 24073; Natalie Ann Lytton, whose last known address is 12185 Grapefield Rd., Bastian, Virginia 24314; and that any officers, heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the Respondent named herein are made parties Respondent to this action individually and/or by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is

Legals - Montgomery County

hereby ORDERED that the parties herein and all Parties Unknown and/or whose location cannot be ascertained appear on or before July 6, 2021 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered on the 28 day of May, 2021.

Erica W. Conner Clerk
Amanda Lundberg Deputy Clerk

I Ask For This: John A. Rife, Esq. (VSB No. 45805) Jeffrey A. Scharf, Esq. (VSB No. 30591) Mark K. Ames, Esq. (VSB No. 27409) Andrew M. Neville, Esq. (VSB No. 86372) Paul L. LaBarr, Esq. (VSB No. 91609) Gregory L. Haynes, Esq. (VSB No. 37158) Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC P.O. Box 31800 Henrico, Virginia 23294-1800 Phone: (804) 545-2500 Facsimile: (804) 545-2378 TACS No.: 647082

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Radford's Morton-Robertson to play at Purdue Ft. Wayne



FILE PHOTO

After entering the transfer portal, former RU Highlander Quinton Morton-Robertson has found a new home at Purdue Ft. Wayne University.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Radford High School and Radford University point guard Quinton Morton-Robertson has announced his plans to transfer to Purdue Ft. Wayne University to continue his career.

"We are excited about the addition of Quinton to our program," Purdue Fort Wayne head coach Jon Coffman said. "He is a proven winner at the Division I level as well as in high school where he led Radford High School to a 112-6 record over his four years and three state championships. We love Quinton's ability to shoot the ball and his versatility to play with the ball in his hands or off the ball. He will fit in well with our program. We are excited to get an experienced guard with three years to play."

Morton-Robertson joins the Mastodons after two seasons at Radford University.

As a sophomore last season, he played in 22 games with 11 starts. He averaged 7.4 points and 21.0 minutes per game. He shot 38.0 percent from three, leading the team in made 3-pointers. He had a season-high 18 points at Presbyterian on 6-of-8 shooting. He played in 19 games as a freshman.

At Radford High School, he helped lead his team to a

30-0 record as a senior. His team won the 1A state championship his freshman and sophomore seasons and the 2A state championship his senior season. He was named the Timesland Player of the Year in 2017 and 2018.

Purdue Fort Wayne finished the 2020-21 season at 8-15 in its first season in the Horizon League.

Coffman was hired as the 12th head coach of the men's basketball program in 2014 after serving as an assistant for three seasons. He has a 118-102 record as head coach.

Purdue University Fort Wayne is a public university in Fort Wayne, Ind., with an enrollment of 7,270 students.

The Horizon League features 12 public and private institutions that have impressive academic reputations and a storied tradition of broad-based athletic programs: Cleveland State University, the University of Detroit Mercy, the University of Illinois Chicago, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Northern Kentucky University, Oakland University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Robert Morris University, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.



FILE PHOTO

Christiansburg's Carmen Graves is headed to the U.S. Olympic trials in the steeplechase.

After being sidelined by foot injuries, Christiansburg's Carmen Graves is headed for the Olympic trials

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

For the past five years, Christiansburg native Carmen Graves has battled multiple foot injuries that have kept her away from her event, the steeplechase.

Now, though, she is back after qualifying this past week for the U.S. Olympic trials.

"The biggest factor in getting back to personal best shape is being able to train consistently over the past three years with no major injuries or disruptions," Graves said. "My current coach and I have made it a priority to put my mental and physical health first. Our motto is 80% fit, 100% healthy," she said.

Needless to say, she is excited about qualifying for the trials.

"It's so meaningful because I've worked so hard for the

last year to accomplish this goal, and it's amazing to finally see it through," Graves said. "Qualifying this second time is so much more meaningful because my husband (Sean Stetler) also coaches me now. He has been by my side through all the good and bad days and believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. It feels like we accomplished this goal together," she said by email.

Graves initially met the Olympic qualifying standard of 9:53 in 2016 with a time of 9:52, but subsequently suffered an injury that sat her down.

This year the committee lowered the standard to 9:50, which worried her because she hadn't run under 9:50 in over six years.

"I ended up qualifying with a personal best time of 9:47 at the Portland Track Fest (May 27). It's exciting because I

know that I can run faster. I fell in the water pit and still ran a personal best in Portland so I am excited to see how fast I can run while staying on my feet," Graves said.

Her training regimen has become intense with two track workouts and one long run weekly. She puts in close to 60 miles each week.

A 2009 graduate of Christiansburg High School, Graves now lives in Denver, works as a paraprofessional at High Plains Elementary School, and coaches track and field at Englewood High School.

The Olympic trials are set for Eugene, Ore., later this month, and the summer Olympics are slated to begin July 23 in Tokyo, Japan.

The steeplechase trials will be available for local viewing on June 24 at 9 p.m. on NBC Sports.

Pulaski River Turtles to host Native American National Team

The Pulaski River Turtles will host the Native American National Team in an exhibition game July 10 as part of a tour of Appalachian League communities from July 5-17.

The announcement of the tour was made by Frank Fulton, President of Sophos International and a former head baseball coach at Hampden-Sydney College. Fulton said his Life Warriors program will participate in a series of baseball exhibitions this July. Fulton, President of Sophos International since 2001, has been developing baseball student-athletes and international professional athletes since 1979.

The mission of Sophos International is to create Life Warriors and good citizens via positive sports participation, individual development, team events, collegiate networking and international clubs.

"Our players represent the Spirit of the Life Warrior," Fulton said. "They treat the game, others, and themselves with respect. They enjoy playing the game and they represent their unique heritage of the past by sharing the history of their culture in word and deed."

"When the opportunity was presented to play exhibition games in the ball parks of one of the oldest baseball leagues in America, we did not hesitate to jump on it," said Fulton.

Made up of players who have heritage with one of the 400 Tribal Nations that exist in North America, the Native American National Team will play a team from the Western Hemisphere known as the VNuts in the exhibition games.

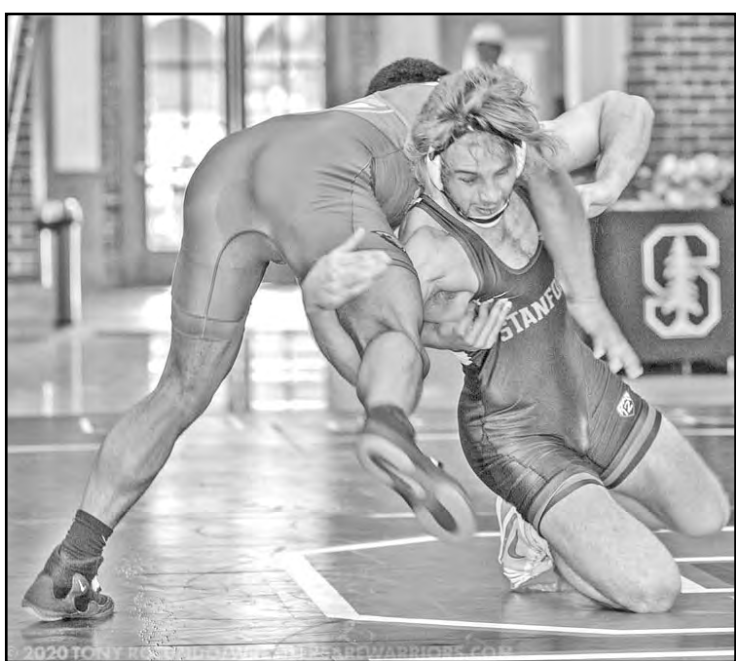
Native American Nations represented on the team include Cherokee, Chickasaw, Comanche, Iroquois, Kickapoo, Lum-

bee, Pascua Yaqui, Piscataway, Conoy, Powhatan, Sioux, and Tuscarora.

The VNuts team consists of players from the USA, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Sweden.

This event is free to the public, and no advance tickets will be offered. Reserved or VIP season tickets will be honored. Game time is slated for 7 p.m.

The tour schedule is as follows: Monday, July 5, at Johnson City, Tenn.; Tuesday, July 6, at Elizabethton, Tenn.; Wednesday, July 7, at Greeneville, Tenn.; Thursday, July 8, at Kingsport, Tenn.; Friday, July 9, at Bristol, Va.; Saturday, July 10, at Pulaski, Va.; Monday, July 12, at Danville, Va.; Thursday, July 15, at Princeton, W.Va.; Friday, July 16, at Bluefield, W.Va.; Saturday, July 17, at Burlington, N.C.



Nathan Traxler, an All-American wrestler at Stanford, is headed to Blacksburg and VT's wrestling team.

Former Stanford All-American wrestler headed to Blacksburg

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech wrestling added an All-American to its lineup Tuesday with the arrival of former Stanford wrestler Nathan Traxler.

Traxler was named a National Wrestling Coaches Association All-American following the cancellation of the 2020 NCAA Championships and was a three-year team american.

The graduate transfer is a four-year qualifier for the NCAA Championships, wrestling at 197 pounds for three years before moving up to heavyweight this past year. The Illinois native won the Pac-12 championship

at 197 pounds in 2019.

"We are very excited to have Nathan joining our program and look forward to helping him accomplish his goals on the mat," Virginia Tech wrestling head coach Tony Robie said. "He will be joining a great room of big guys to learn and train alongside. Ultimately, I think that is what attracted him to Virginia Tech. I can't wait for Nathan to get to Blacksburg and get to work."

After qualifying for the 2021 NCAA Championships as a heavyweight, Traxler will stay at that weight for the Hokies.

Robie added that the team plans to partner Traxler with freshman and 2021 NCAA Qualifier Hunter Catka for the upcoming season.

"I'm excited about all the opportunities Virginia Tech has to offer me in training partners, coaches, and passion for the sport," Traxler said. "I have loved my time at Stanford and will be forever grateful for the opportunities they have given me, but I'm looking forward to the new perspectives and high achieving atmosphere of the Hokie Team. Can't wait to get to work."

VT's Evan Hughes wins award as nation's top collegiate radio/TV sports broadcaster

Evan Hughes, who recently graduated from Virginia Tech's School of Communication has won the Jim Nantz Award, presented to the nation's most outstanding collegiate radio and TV sports broadcaster.

Hughes began his journey to the top of his profession when he was 12 and volunteered as the public address announcer for his sister's all-star softball games.

He went on to create Patriot Talk Live, for radio broadcasts of his high school's sports teams, Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Va. In the tense final moments of the 2014 Tomato Bowl, the epic rivalry between Patrick Henry and Lee-Davis High School (now Mechanicsville High School), the Patriots sealed the win with an interception in the end zone.

On the call, Hughes spontaneously bellowed "Holy Toledo!"

"It was sheer joy that I got to call this awesome moment," Hughes said. "I just knew at that point. Not that

I knew I was good enough to pursue play-by-play broadcasting, but I knew I loved it. I said this is more than just a hobby. I look back on that being the first big moment I got to call, and I remember thinking this is something I really want to do."

"Holy Toledo!" has become synonymous with Hughes's calling games over the past four years at Virginia Tech.

"I'm just at a loss of words, to be honest," Hughes said about the Jim Nantz Award. "I feel lucky to be in this position because there's so many talented people around the country. The reels were so great this year. I'm just excited for Virginia Tech. This is one of the happiest days of my life."

"It's not every day you see your parents cry in front of you. Just a really special day. I feel so lucky I get to experience it with my family."

"This is a landmark day for Evan and for the School of Communication," said Robert E. Denton Jr., the

communication school's director. "When we officially made sports media and analytics a major in 2020, we were excited to see the results it would yield. This is just the first step. Congratulations to Evan, our hard-working faculty in this area led by Bill Roth, all of our students in the sports media and analytics major, and everyone else who has helped the program transform into what it is today."

Hughes's father, Kelly, played soccer for Virginia Tech, so the family has long been Hokie fans. Many Saturdays growing up, Hughes would sneak away from the bleachers at his sister's softball games and find comfort in the car listening on the radio to Roth's "Touchdown Tech!" call, which became iconic over his 27-year career as the Voice of the Hokies.

"I look back on it and think how lucky I am that I not only met my idol, but I got to work with Bill on a daily basis," Hughes said. "I'm in the position I am



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Broadcaster Evan Hughes, right, who recently graduated from VT's School of Communication, interviews Virginia Tech basketball coach Mike Young during a recent game in Blacksburg.

today, the person and the professional, because of the person I admired growing up. That's really special."

Hughes arrived on campus as a freshman in 2017. He has gained valuable experience over the past four years as a play-by-play broadcaster for ACC Network Extra and the St. Cloud Rox of the Northwoods League, as the pod-

cast host for TechSideline.com, and as the sports director for 3304 Sports, the multimedia platform for student sports journalism at Virginia Tech.

"Sports media and analytics, 3304 Sports, Virginia Tech, stand up baby," Hughes said. "This is a win for Virginia Tech and for our program. I'm proud to be a Hokie!"

"Honestly, being a good person and showing kindness and compassion to others is so important," Hughes said. "If you make other people feel like they're important, that's three-fourths of the battle, in my opinion. Then the broadcasting will take care of itself."

— Cory Van Dyke, Virginia Tech

Keely Rochard named All-American



Junior VT pitcher Keely Rochard has been named a first-team All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Virginia Tech softball pitcher Keely Rochard has been named a first-team All-American, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) announced Wednesday.

Rochard, a junior from Williamsburg, Va., thus becomes Virginia Tech's third NFCA All-American in program history and the first since Jenna Rhodes in 2009. Rochard is just the second first-team All-American in school history, joining Angela Tincer as the only two Hokies to receive the honor.

The right-hander currently leads all of NCAA Division I with 348 strikeouts during the 2021 season. Rochard is also in the top three in the country in shutouts with 13 and wins at 29. She leads the ACC in all three categories as well as hits allowed per seven innings (3.76) and strikeouts per seven innings (10.0)

This is hardly Rochard's first award this season as she was named the ACC Pitcher of the Year on May 11. During the season, Rochard was named ACC Pitcher of the Week three times (March 24, March 30 and May 4) and the NFCA Division I Pitcher of the Week twice

(Feb. 23 and March 22). Justin's World of Softball also named Rochard a first-team All-American Tuesday.

Despite the Hokies' exit from the 2021 NCAA Tournament, Rochard leads the tournament with 49 strikeouts. In her six starts in the regional and super regional rounds, Rochard went 4-2, holding opponents to a .196 batting average in 37.0 innings. She also became the first pitcher in Hokies' history to go an undefeated, 3-0 at the NCAA Regionals.

Rochard threw two no-hitters this season, the sixth and seventh of her illustrious career. The first came against Georgia Tech on April 18. The second came on April 30 at Syracuse.

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Previous purchases excluded. Discounts applied to regular MSRP price. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offers are nontransferable and do not apply to sales tax, shipping, mattresses, homestore specials, clearance, manager specials, floor model, Protection Plus plans, warranty and service charges. See store for details. Finance is subject to credit approval. See store for details on all financing offers. Valid through 6/7/21. *Up to an additional 30% off on select items only - see store for details.