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Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library to launch new mobile library with Friday ribbon cutting



Featuring Sock Monkey, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library's new mobile library hit the road Tuesday, June 22, and will officially be launched Friday, June 25, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Christiansburg Library.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has a new mobile library, a Mercedes Sprinter Van that continues the library's legacy of previous bookmobiles and traveling libraries that provided a platform to bring library services to the community.

The mobile library hit the road Tuesday, June 22, 2021, and will officially be launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, June 25, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Christiansburg Library.

For the 2021 summer season, the mobile library will visit 24 lo-

cations throughout Montgomery and Floyd counties, in a three-week cycle. At each stop MFRL will provide books and other material for check-out, Wi-Fi access, and printing from patrons' mobile devices and will assist visitors with their questions. Library staff will demonstrate how to access the eBook and eAudio collections and will help patrons request items that are on the branch shelves.

"Transportation to the four branches of our library can be a challenge for many people whether

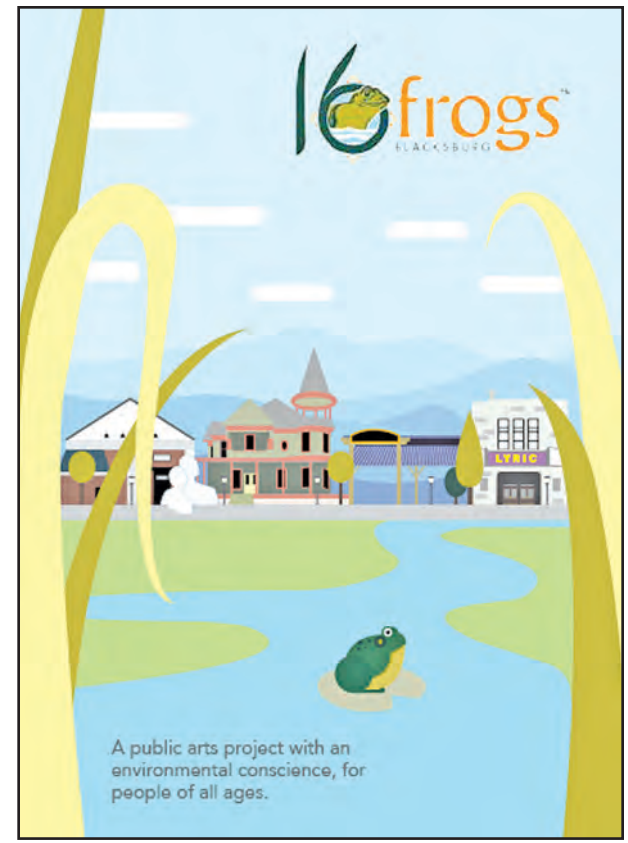
they live further out, don't have a car, or just have tight schedules," said Library Director Karim Khan. "Our mobile library gives the library new ways to reach out with the variety of services we offer, from kids' picture books to help with résumés and job applications. Many people in Montgomery and Floyd remember the bookmobiles that served the community in the past. We have planned routes and services that will build on that history of friendly professional service."

The MFRL mobile library van features Sock Monkey, the star of a series of children's books by Montgomery County author and artist Cece Bell. Sock Monkey has been featured on MFRL's children's library cards for many years. Bell has won the Eisner Award and a Newbery Medal Honor for her book *El Deafo*.

The mobile library was purchased by Montgomery County with funding from the 2020 federal CARES Act. Technology on the mobile library was enhanced by the support of the Floyd Library Endowment. Customization of the van for library use was completed by Mathews Specialty Vehicles of Greensboro.

The public is invited to join the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Keep Virginia Beautiful Awards \$1,000 to Blacksburg 16 Frogs Citizen Panel



Keep Virginia Beautiful has awarded the 16 Frogs Citizens Panel in Blacksburg \$1000 for its recycling program as part of the organization's 30 in 30 Green Grants presented each June.

Sixteen Frogs is a public arts project in which 16 bronze frog statues are placed strategically through the Town of Blacksburg to call attention to the freshwater under and around the streets and buildings. Most are resting above "ghost streams," and each has a story to tell.

The panel will use the grant funds for design work, screen printing, and packaging of branded, reusable flatware packs and reusable produce bags to promote environmentally

healthy habits by reducing the use of disposable products. Every year, government, non-profit, civic, and service organizations in Virginia are invited to apply for 30 in 30 Green Grants.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 are awarded to organizations working to tackle an environmental concern in their community regarding litter prevention, recycling, cigarette litter prevention, and/or community beautification. Since 2011, Keep Virginia Beautiful has provided \$254,500 for 320 different environmental programs and projects all across the commonwealth. More information about Blacksburg's 16 Frogs program is available at <https://16frogs.org/>.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery expands cardiac services

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery recently opened its newly renovated, state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new lab is part of nearly \$35 million in capital improvements the hospital has invested to enhance the delivery of cardiovascular services, advanced medical equipment, new patient safety, and quality efforts.

The renovated lab, which includes upgraded echocardiogram technology for cardiac imaging, will provide advanced system applications that enhance patient care, make complex procedures safer and simpler, and provide physicians with advanced technology to perform a comprehensive range of diagnostic and interventional procedures.

"The renovation of our cardiac catheterization lab reflects our commitment to provide the highest-level cardiac care in the New River Valley," said Chief Execu-



tive Officer Alan Fabian. "The improvements we are making at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery are investments into the health of the patients and communities we serve."

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery serves the cardiovascular needs of patients from West Virginia, through the New River Valley, to the Tennessee and North

Carolina borders. The hospital's cardiology team performs elective and 24/7/365 emergent percutaneous coronary intervention with door-to-balloon times well under the national average. The cardiac catheterization lab provides minimally invasive treatments including angioplasty and stenting to open blocked arteries and pacemakers.

VT class book project celebrates 'nasty women' in American history

In 1986, Janet Jackson's hit song "Nasty" topped music billboard charts with the catchy yet controversial lyrics, "Oh, you nasty boys." Thirty years

later, in 2016, this song made a comeback after former President Donald

Trump's "nasty woman" reference to Hillary Clinton during a presidential debate. Headlines blew up worldwide and the phrase went viral, spiraling into the Nasty Woman feminist movement.

In 2021, Virginia Tech students from Marian Mollin's spring 2020 section of HIST 4914 (History Capstone Research Seminar) published the book "Nasty Women: Transgressive Womanhood in American History" as their primary assignment of the course. This rigorous and demanding class requires students to engage in original historical research and write on a topic of their choice. The students chose "Nasty Women in American History" as their topic, looking at the long view of American women and examining their behavior of protesting societal norms and breaking boundaries through the decades.

See Nasty women, page 6

Virginia Tech professor and Discovery Channel team up on great white shark research expedition



The research team in the Mediterranean Sea is attempting to do something that has never been done before: tag a great white shark, an animal that weighs on average between 1 and 2 tons, features approximately 300 serrated blade-like teeth, and swims at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. Adobe stock photo.

When asked a couple of weeks ago to reveal his summer plans, Francesco Ferretti divulged that he intended to spend nearly three weeks on the Mediterranean Sea.

But the assistant professor in Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment wasn't going to be working on his tan or sampling the region's finest wines. On the contrary, he had something much more adventurous on his itinerary.

Ferretti, a faculty member in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, is the lead investigator and scientific director of an unprecedented expedition to study great white sharks in the Sicilian Channel, a relatively small

waterway between Sicily and the coast of Tunisia.

The primary goal of the expedition? To place a tag on an animal that weighs on average between 1 and 2 tons, features approximately 300 serrated blade-like teeth, and swims at speeds up to 35 miles per hour.

Ferretti notes that no Mediterranean great white shark has ever been tagged, so if successful, he expects to celebrate in a big way.

"I may swim back across the Atlantic," he said, laughing.

This expedition came about largely because of a \$52,000 grant from the Explorers Club Discovery Expedition grant pro-

See Sharks, page 4



Was this "daring" bathing suit too short, too far above the knee to be decently worn in public? Only a careful measurement, by a man of course, could decide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 23:

Party in the Park
Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., presents Party in the Park from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Great Little Park on Main Street. The party is the kick-off for DCI's fundraising campaign with Give Local NR. The special night and fun party will offer food, beer, and wine, yard games, and activities for the whole family. Tickets are \$10 for two drink tickets. Food will be available for purchase from Great Road Coffee.

Thursday, June 24:

Paint Pouring workshop in person and virtual
At 5:30 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library. Registration is required as supplies are limited. The workshop will be both in person and virtual. Email lbrown@mfrl.org for the virtual link. Take and Make kits will be available for virtual participants.

Financial Literacy Class

From 3 to 5 p.m. at Radford New River Community Action, 1093 E. Main St. The class will teach improving financial skills and determining income and debt. Participants will learn to develop a spending and savings plan, to understand credit, and how to develop a strategy for financial success and independence. Participants should pre-register at lhall@nrcaa.org or 540-633-5133, ext. 417.

Friday, June 25:

Family Game Night
At 4 p.m. at the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online. This will be a live, interactive game night. Participants will play jackbox party night games

on a family friendly setting. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Saturday, June 26:

Outdoor Book Sale
At the Blacksburg Library from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. weather permitting \$5 per bag or \$1 for hardbacks, and \$.50 for paperbacks. Gift books will be available for \$2 each. Call the library for more details and to confirm that the sale will happen.

Sunday, June 27:

The Montgomery County-Radford City-Floyd County NAACP meeting

This will be a general body meeting at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome. Dr. Noelle S. Bissell, Director of the New River Health District Virginia Department of Health, will be the guest. Learn about the updates on the COVID-19 vaccination efforts and the status and cases in the New River Valley.

Register in advance for this meeting: <http://bit.ly/MRFNAACPJune>. Please note: July is vacation month so the general body meeting will not be held.

Monday, June 28:

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a special meeting on June 28, 2021, for a tour of McHarg Elementary School. A closed session of the school board will follow at noon in the School Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

Talking About Books: Fiction

At the Blacksburg Library

from 11 a.m. until noon. To be discussed is "My Dark Vanessa" by Kate Elizabeth Russell. Call ahead to reserve a copy and learn more.

Radford City Council meeting

In the Council Chambers, 10 Robertson St., Radford, at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 29:

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

At the Blacksburg Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. To be discussed is "Vita Nostra" by Marina Dyachenko. Call ahead to get a copy of this month's book.

Radford Public Library Book Discussion

Author Sarah Warburton will be giving an author talk in July. Join in on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. for a conversation about her book "Once Two Sisters" before the main event next month. Her second book, "You Never Can Tell," will be published in August. Meeting ID: 820 4960 5504 and Passcode: 612772

Wednesday, June 30:

Teen Book Club

The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library online at 4 p.m. Each month club members will read and discuss a new book. This month's book is "Children of Blood and Bone" by Toni Adeyemi. To join in, email mroach@mfrl.org for more information.

Thursday, July 1:

American Legion meeting

The American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at The VFW Post 776 building on

102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Friday, July 9:

Blood Drive

The bloodmobile will be at Professional Rehab Associates, 1200 Tyler Ave., Radford, from 1 to 6 p.m. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, July 10:

New River Valley Garden Tour

The cost is \$15 with the tour taking place from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. rain or shine. Advance tickets, maps, and brochures are now available at each branch of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Tuesday, July 13:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting:

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. The meeting will include a discussion of the 50th Virginia Infantry Regiment. For further information, call 320-4315 or 239-9864.

Wednesday, July 14:

Radford Library Brown Bag Book Club

The Brown Bag Book Club is getting together again. Participants can read "Follow the River" by James Alexander Thom and then discuss the book on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at noon. No formal com-

mitment is needed; just drop in when the book appeals to you.

Ongoing:

Through June 30:

"Seeing Sound" Art by Lyndsay LaLonde

At the Blacksburg Library. This art display by local artist Lyndsay LaLonde highlights her unique experience with music and sound. "Synesthesia" or "seeing sound" refers to a way that some people interpret music as colors and shapes. Explore her visual playlist through the end of the month.

Through July 17:

MFRL Summer Reading Program

Sign up in person or online for the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's summer reading program. Participants may choose how long they want to read every day. They can then log the days they read and win a free book when they read for 10 days and a raffle ticket for prizes when they read for 15 days. Adults can register online and log their reading to be automatically entered in weekly prize drawings.

Through July 31:

Radford Public Library's Summer Reading Program

Through Saturday, July 31, the library will be running its annual summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults. The program promotes reading daily to earn prizes and to earn entries to win raffle baskets. It also promotes literacy, encourages reading as a healthy habit, and helps

readers experience reading as fun and adventurous.

Through Aug. 29:

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery exhibit "Mountain Rail Trails"

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery is presenting its current art gallery exhibit, "Mountain Rail Trails," featuring photography by Dale R. Carlson of Bluemoonistic Images.

The exhibit will be on display through August 29 and dovetails nicely with the train observatory platform and exhibit found at the edge of the grounds of Glencoe. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum and there is no admission charge. Glencoe is located at 600 Unruh Dr. in Radford.

Through September:

Blacksburg's Market Square Jam 2021

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

Through October:

Radford Farmers Market

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

Christiansburg Farmers Market

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

After almost 40 years, "Chez" hanging up his apron at Blacksburg Macado's

After almost 40 years as a fixture at the Blacksburg Macado's, general manager Jeff Niekirk, AKA Chez, will hang up his apron on July 10.

Enrolled at Virginia Tech, Niekirk started with Macado's in 1982 after one of his friends asked him if he wanted to be a deli cook. Now, a career that might have started out as a summer job is coming to a close.

He acquired his nickname when he returned to

Loudon County, where he went to high school, accompanied by one of the company's original employees, Sam Burns. Burns heard Niekirk's mom call him "her little cheese apple," and the nickname Chez was born, a name that now virtually all of the employees know him as.

After graduating from Tech in 1984 and having trouble landing a job in his field, Niekirk decided on a full-time job with Macado's

as an assistant manager. In 1995, he was promoted to general manager, a position he has maintained for 26 years now.

Niekirk has taken great pride in his former employees, some of who have become doctors and lawyers. One young waitress named Jen Price has gone on to be a general manager at the Macado's in Grand Pavilion. Asked to describe Niekirk, Price said, "I worked with Niekirk for

13 years, and consider him like a second dad and mentor. His patience and calm demeanor are why everyone loves him."

Some of his employees have had their sons and daughters follow in their footsteps and work at the restaurant. That includes Niekirk's own children.

John Doyle, the restaurant's general manager before Niekirk, credits Chez with helping him succeed. Doyle, who is now a vice president with the Fiesta Restaurant Group, said Chez embodies and imparted the greatest lesson of his career: sales and profits cannot be increased without effectively engaging your people. And you cannot engage your people without genuinely caring and consistently acting in their best interest.

Niekirk says he is retiring because it takes a lot of en-



ergy and time to be a good general manager, and now he wants to spend time with his family. Asked about his final thoughts, Chez said, "Man I had a good time and I am a lucky man."

To honor Jeff for all he has done for Macado's Blacksburg, the company will hold a retirement bash July 10 at the restaurant starting at 7 p.m. with music provided by The Kind.

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Virginia Tech names John Dooley as special assistant to the athletic director

Virginia Tech Director of Athletics Whit Babcock announced Thursday that John Dooley is joining the staff as special assistant to the director of athletics.

Dooley, who served as CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation from 2012-21 and possesses an extensive background in fundraising and development, will work with Babcock and the Hokie Club as well as Tech coaches and staff as a resource to support the \$400 million Reach for Excellence campaign launched in April 2021.



Virginia Tech Director of Athletics Whit Babcock has announced that John Dooley is joining the staff as special assistant to the director of athletics.

"John will serve as a valuable asset for us as we seek to reach the lofty objectives set forth in the Reach for Excellence campaign," Babcock said. "John's long history of fostering relationships with alumni, donors, and other key constituents to broaden the impact of Virginia Tech makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this newly created role."

"For nearly 40 years, John has been very personally invested in Virginia Tech's spirit of Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)," Babcock said. "We look forward to his contributions in this latest role at Tech. John has positively impacted generations of Hokies, and this is one more opportunity for him to make a lasting impact on the greater Virginia Tech community."

As part of his work on the Reach for Excellence campaign, Dooley will be charged with assisting Babcock and Tech Athletics with the planned renovations to Cassell Coliseum and helping reach the associated fundraising target of \$75 million for that project. In addition to serving as the arena for Virginia Tech men's and women's basketball, Cassell also hosts home matches for Tech's volleyball

Virginia Tech earns 13th Tree Campus USA recognition



VT students participated in a 2021 Arbor Day planting event in the Old-Growth Forest, commonly known as Stadium Woods. Meghan Marsh for Virginia Tech.

When it comes to maintaining and enhancing an inventory of over 9,849 living trees on the 900-acre Blacksburg campus, being able to "see the forest through the trees" takes on a whole new meaning.

It's Virginia Tech's holistic approach to university forestry — rooted in planning, collaboration, education, and community engagement — that has helped the university earn Tree Campus Higher Education USA recognition for the 13th consecutive year.

Launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Campus Higher Education USA is a national program that honors colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging students, employees, and visitors in conservation goals.

Virginia Tech achieved Tree Campus Higher Education USA recognition by meeting five national standards: maintaining a tree advisory committee, operating a campus tree-care plan, dedicating annual expenditures toward trees, organizing an Arbor Day observance, and delivering ongoing student learning and

engagement opportunities.

Heading up Virginia Tech's urban forestry efforts is University Arborist Jamie King, who joined the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities in 2019.

"Virginia Tech is proud to receive Tree Campus Higher Education USA recognition for the 13th year. Trees play an integral part in maintaining a sustainable campus landscape. They help support air purification, erosion control, and storm water management," King said. "Not to mention the countless recreational, educational, and community-building opportunities they provide. Just like our storied buildings, cutting-edge research labs, and more, trees are significant university assets."

Since 2008, more than a thousand trees have been planted on the Blacksburg campus.

Recent tree plantings in the Old-Growth Forest adjacent to Lane Stadium, commonly known as Stadium Woods, during Earth Week and along Alumni Mall are just two examples of the many reforestation efforts underway.

Governor's Cup Competition's gold medal wines are the toast of Virginia

The only challenge posed by Virginia's new wine trail is having the time to taste each award-winning glass.

As part of the 2021 Virginia Governor's Cup, the state's most rigorous wine competition, judges sampled 544 entries and then awarded 47 wineries, cideries, and meaderies with gold medals. Wine enthusiasts can taste the award-winning libations by following the Virginia Governor's Cup Gold Medal Wine Trail between Northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley and the state's coastal plain region.

"The wines in this year's Governor's Cup are a testament to the passion and

pioneering spirit from which Virginia's wine industry thrives," noted Gov. Ralph Northam in a press release. "As we celebrate these high-quality and distinctive Virginia wines, we also honor the resilience of the farmers and winemakers who grow and craft them across our commonwealth."

Virginia is making its mark in the wine world and is now home to 312 wineries. The state's varied climates and planting zones allow growers to cultivate 28 varieties of grapes on more than 4,000 acres.

The gold medal-winning 2017 Petit Verdot from Lake Anna Winery in Spotsylvania County is one of them. Proprietor

Ann Heidig said the winery's first-ever petit verdot is rich, dark, and full-bodied and expresses blackberry and licorice flavors augmented by two years in French oak barrels.

A previous gold medal winner is Lake Anna Winery's 2018 Barrel Select Chardonnay. It's a classic European-style oak-aged white with hints of English toffee and caramel apples underscored with tropical fruit, containing 5% seyval blanc grapes.

"We've aspired to be recognized for our wines by winning gold in the Governor's Cup," said Heidig, who also serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Specialty Crops Advisory Commit-

tee. "It's really an honor any time you win, and that's a tribute to our winemaker Graham Bell, and our son Eric, our vineyard guy."

Heidig said people tend to think the best grapes and wines come from Europe, California and Australia.

"But we want them to think of Virginia," she said. "It's very important to have these competitions to showcase the fact that both our reds and whites are excellent and recognized nationally. Because we use only Virginia grapes, that exposure highlights the quality of our growers."

The Virginia Governor's Cup is hosted by the Vir-

ginia Wineries Association in partnership with the Virginia Wine Board and the Virginia Vineyards Association. Visitors to the

Gold Medal Wine Trail can utilize a mobile passport on a digital device to access discounts, free tastings, and other perks.



Virginia is now home to 312 wineries that grow 28 varieties of grapes on more than 4,000 acres.

Creative team re-imagines Debussy's opera 'Pelléas et Mélisande' June 25, 26 at Moss Arts Center

Experience an innovative and unexpected take on a classic with "Pelléas et Mélisande," an adaptation of French composer Claude Debussy's poignant symbolist opera created by a team of Virginia Tech faculty and students from across disciplines, along with special guest artists.

The Moss Arts Center will present two performances of the work on Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26, at 7 p.m. The performances are available as streamed and as in-person events. In-person performances will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

"Pelléas et Mélisande" has captivated audiences

since its Paris premiere in 1902. Based on a play by Maurice Maeterlinck, the work is a symbolist psycho-drama that dissolves time and space. Using immersive recordings, projections, and unusual costumes and scenery, the Virginia Tech creative team re-imagines this masterwork, offering a 75-minute English-language version of the opera that pares the story down to its essentials.

The creative team originally intended for the production to be performed in the standard format, which includes singers performing the work live on a set. In order to create a performance that could be attended live, however, the team reimagined its concept to create a COVID-safe performance

space. The singers were recorded in April, and actors will portray the characters on the immersive set while wearing larger-than-life costume masks. The end result will be reminiscent of Kabuki theatre and create a product that completely embraces the symbolist opera.

Prior to the performance on Friday, June 25, Richard Masters, associate professor of piano and collaborative piano in the School of Performing Arts, will deliver a pre-concert lecture in the Moss Arts Center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre at 6 p.m. Using examples from Debussy's piano and vocal repertoire, Masters will discuss the influences of orientalism and exoticism on the music of Debussy. This in-person event is

free, but registration is required.

Tickets for in-person performances are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for Virginia Tech students. Tickets for the streamed performances are \$10 and free for Virginia Tech students. Tickets can be purchased online; at the Moss Arts Center's box office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; or by calling 540-231-5300 during box office hours.

Individuals who need an accommodation may contact Kacy McAllister at 540-231-5300 or email kmcallis@vt.edu during

regular business hours.

Parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street. Virginia Tech faculty and staff possessing a valid Virginia Tech parking permit can enter and exit the garage free of charge. When not staffed for a special event, visitors may park in the garage by taking a ticket at entry and paying with Visa or Mastercard upon exit. In addition, Virginia Tech has partnered with ParkMobile to provide a convenient, contactless electronic payment option for parking, which may be used at or any parking meter, campus parking space,

or lot with standard F/S, C/G, or R parking.

FISH DAY



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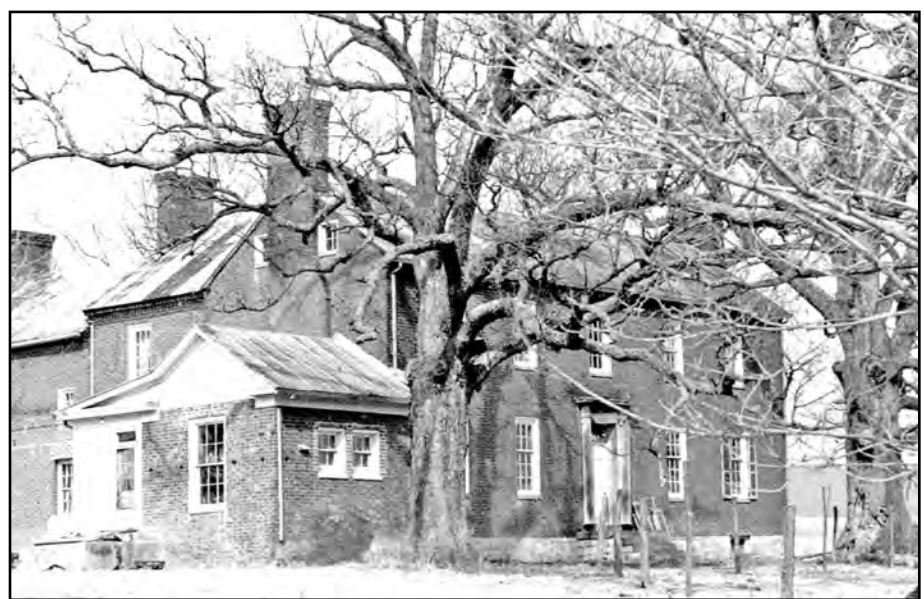
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Historic Montgomery



Kentland, located near Whitethorne and now owned by Virginia Tech, was built in 1833 for James R. Kent. The property included a federal-style brick house (shown here in 1982) and many outbuildings. The nearly 6,000 acres at Kentland were worked by 90 enslaved African Americans in 1840. A noted cattleman from the 1820s through the Civil War, Kent's wealth expanded and in 1860, he owned 122 slaves. After the Civil War, those once enslaved at Kentland founded the community of Wake Forest, located nearby. (This image and many more are available from the Montgomery Museum of Art & History.)

• Life Center of Galax •

Job Fair

Galax Public Library

Many open positions!

June 25 3pm – 7pm	June 26 10am – 3pm	Community Room
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610 W Stuart Drive
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Open Interviews for:
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OPINION

WalletHub ranks Virginia as nation's 10th-most patriotic state

With Fourth of July celebrations able to proceed this year due to the fact that 45% of the population is vaccinated and states have largely reopened, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its report on 2021's Most Patriotic States in America and ranked the commonwealth number 10.

Virginia's ranking among some of the 13 metrics the company used to determine

its rankings included average number of military enlistees per 1,000 civilian adults, eighth; active-duty military personnel per 100,000 civilian adults, first; Peace Corps volunteers per capita, fourth; percentage of adults who voted in the 2020 presidential election, ninth; volunteer rate, 21; veterans per 1,000 civilian adults, second; civics education requirement, 20; and volunteer hours per resi-

dent, ninth.

The company divided those metrics into two dimensions, "military engagement" and "civic engagement."

The metrics used in the military engagement dimension were 1) the average military enlistees per 1,000 civilian adults between 2013 and 2018 2) veterans per 1,000 civilian adults 3) active-duty military personnel per 100,000 civilian adults and

4) the share of the civilian adult population in the military reserves.

The metrics used by the company in the civic engagement dimension were 1) the share of adults who voted in the 2020 presidential election 2) the share of adults who voted in the 2020 primary elections 3) the state's volunteer rate 4) the volunteer hours per resident 5) AmeriCorps volunteers per

capita 6) Peace Corps volunteers per capita 7) trial and grand jury participants per civilian adult population and 8) the share of the residents who participate in groups and organizations.

The states ranked ahead of Virginia in the survey were 1) Montana 2) Alaska 3) Maryland 4) Vermont 5) New Hampshire 6) North Dakota 7) Wyoming 8) Minnesota and 9) Oregon.

GasBuddy: Virginia gas prices remain unchanged

Gasoline prices across the commonwealth remained unchanged this past week, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Gas prices averaged \$2.93 Monday, 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but still 99.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest

station in Virginia is priced at \$2.60/g while the most expensive is \$3.49/g, a difference of 89.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week to an average of \$3.05/g. The national average is up two cents per gallon from a month ago and up 93.5 cents per gallon from a year ago.

"The ferocious rise in gas

prices has finally started to cool as gas prices have eased across a majority of the country for the first time in months," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "There have been some challenges in pockets across the country as demand remains very healthy, and stations in some areas where demand is very high struggle to keep up with

demand thanks to the truck driver shortage. As we head toward the July 4 holiday, I'm optimistic that we'll continue to see prices slowly drift lower before possibly rising in later July or August should we see any disruptions from hurricane season. But for now it seems most Americans are simply happy to be getting outside and back to some sense of normal."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

Governor: 70 percent of adult Virginians have received at Least one COVID-19 vaccine dose

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced Monday that 70 percent of adults 18 years and older in the commonwealth have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In reaching this vaccination milestone two weeks ahead of the nationwide July 4 target, Virginia is the 16th state in the nation to meet this goal set by President Joe Biden in early May. To date, over 8.8 million doses of vaccine have been administered in Virginia, and more than 4.2 million individuals, or 60.3 percent of the population 18 and older, are fully vaccinated.

The governor and state public health officials celebrated Virginia's vaccination milestone during an event at Hope Pharmacy, a small, minority-, woman-owned pharmacy in Richmond.

"Virginia has reached a significant milestone in the fight against COVID-

ID-19," the governor said. "Thanks to the millions of Virginians who have rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated, the virus is in retreat, our economy is growing, and we are closer to putting this pandemic behind us. A statewide effort has brought us to this point, with strong partnerships in our communities, health systems, the private sector, and across all levels of government. Even as we celebrate this tremendous achievement, we will continue working together to vaccinate everyone who is eligible so our commonwealth so can keep moving forward."

Virginia continues to see a significant decline in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. New daily cases exceeded a seven-day moving average of 5,900 in early January and dropped under 250 by June 1.

The number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 peaked in early January with a seven-day moving average above 2,600 and had decreased to nearly 500 by June 1. Deaths from COVID-19 reached a seven-day moving average of 83 in mid-January and fell

below 7 by June 1.

"We are deeply grateful to all those who have been vaccinated and to the vaccinators helping Virginia reach and surpass this milestone," said State Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver. "There are still Virginians we need to reach, and our efforts to make vaccination as accessible and as convenient as possible will continue. Those who have yet to get the vaccine are encouraged to do so to protect themselves and to keep others safe, particularly children under 12, people with weakened immune systems, or individuals who cannot be vaccinated for other reasons."

Federal approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents aged 12 to 15 has made more than 400,000 additional Virginians eligible to get vaccinated, and about 30 percent of individuals in that age group have received the vaccine so far. VDH will continue working with school districts to make the vaccine available to students as the vaccination efforts shift from large-scale vaccination sites to health care

providers, pharmacies, and mobile vaccine clinics.

"Virginia's remarkable progress is a testament to the commitment, coordination, and leadership of our local health districts, community-based organizations, faith leaders, National Guard members, and so many others," said Virginia Vaccination Coordinator Dr. Danny TK Avula. "While there is still work to do in addressing vaccine hesitancy, I remain confident that we can keep this momentum going and defeat this virus."

With increased vaccination rates, public health metrics trending in the right direction, and revised federal guidelines, Virginia ended all COVID-19 mitigation measures on May 28. The state of emergency that Governor Northam declared on March 12, 2020, in response to COVID-19 is set to expire on June 30.

Unvaccinated individuals and those who are not fully vaccinated should continue wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces in accordance with federal CDC guidance.

News Messenger

Established 1869
(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153
USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

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

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$57 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.

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CLUES ACROSS

- College group
- Small morsels of food
- Actress Dunham
- Puts a limit on
- Used for baking or drying
- Commercial
- Zookeeper Bindi
- Walk in one's sleep
- The Great Lakes State
- Winter sport
- A thin layer on something
- Peacock network
- Give birth to a lamb or kid
- "Too Scared to Cry" author of them
- Nose
- Friend
- Country music legend
- Haggard
- Curved
- More deformed
- Bleated
- Set on its end
- An aspect of Ra
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Harsh, grating noise
- ___ Francisco
- Common Japanese surname
- Punish with an arbitrary penalty
- Football position (abbr.)
- Not in the know
- African antelope
- Popular tech (abbr.)
- Baseball teams get three of them
- Make up one's mind
- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Martens
- Susan and Tom are two
- CLUES DOWN
- Excessively showy
- Put an end to
- Blood disorder
- Ingredient in wine
- Shellfish
- Made smaller
- We
- The Treasure State
- ___ Eklund, actress
- Male parent
- One hundredth of a watt (abbr.)
- Dish of minced meat
- Smothered laugh
- Article
- Atomic #12
- Small parrot
- Fictional "Star Wars" planet
- French wine grape
- Football stat (abbr.)
- Sound unit
- Where you sleep
- University of Dayton
- Miller beer offering
- Feel embarrassed
- Able to be estimated
- Commune in NW France
- Adult female chicken
- Intergovernmental organization
- Archaic term for until
- That which is not sacred
- Sound made in speech
- Handgun (slang)
- Fill up again
- Evoke or awaken
- Beam Me Up, ___!
- Spider wasp genus
- Headdress
- Exclamation of surprise
- Of I
- Figures
- Men's fashion accessories
- Indicates position
- Megabyte
- The Prairie State

Sharks

The Explorers Club partners with Discovery Inc. to allot grant money to scientists and researchers who conduct projects that reveal new knowledge about the planet and its inhabitants, including regions undergoing environmental or cultural change.

Crew members from the Discovery Channel are joining Ferretti's team to film footage for a potential documentary, provided the expedition ends in success.

"This is an unprecedented expedition to detect, film, and, for the first time, tag Mediterranean white sharks," Ferretti said. "This is one of the most endangered and least known white shark populations globally that we would like to know better to promote effective conservation and recovery programs."

Ferretti left the U.S. on June 5 to spend 19 days in the Mediterranean with his team headquartered in Marsala, Sicily, a small coastal town on the western end of the island. His colleagues are a team of eight scientists from Beneath the Waves, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting ocean health.

In addition, four graduate and research assistants are part of the expedition, which is using cutting-edge technology to compile data about the Mediterranean population of great white sharks currently considered by many researchers to be endangered.

Count Ferretti among that group. He has been studying sharks since his days as an undergraduate student at Polytechnic University of Marche in his native Italy.

Specifically, in relation to the great white population, he and his team have looked at historical and statistical data for shark sightings and catches in the Mediterranean.

That analysis revealed a population in decline. Ferretti believes that these sharks are unfortunate victims that get caught in the nets of commercial and local fishermen in search of other species of fish.

"From that analysis, we could demonstrate that white sharks have been declining quite substantially in past decades mainly because of industrial fishing, but also because of a lot of coastal fishing," Ferretti said. "The Mediterranean is one of the most exploited regions on the planet. There are a lot of people, there is a lot of fishing, and because of humans' impacts on habitat and fish populations, many shark populations are in decline, particularly the white shark."

The extinction of this population of great white sharks could be devastating to the Mediterranean ecosystem. The removal of an apex predator like the great white shark could create a top-down effect throughout the food chain, resulting in the decline or even extinction of other species.

"It's very exciting, fun, and very important," Ferretti said. "Lots of people will be looking to see what we can do, also because they understand the challenge. This is a high-stakes and high-risk expedition."

-Written by Jimmy Robertson

OBITUARIES

Duncan, Roscoe Marvin

Roscoe Marvin Duncan, 92, of Radford, passed away Thursday, June 10, 2021.

He was a member of Laurel Hill Church of Christ and retired from Inland Motors with 48 years of service. He was a U. S. Navy veteran having served during WWII.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Washington and Tennis Mae Wade Duncan; his wife, Lena Christalene Duncan; a granddaughter, Candy; a brother, Arthur Duncan; and a sister, Icy Woods.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Gene and Tina Duncan, Allen Duncan, and Larry and Tina Duncan, all of

Radford; grandchildren Cory and Tiffany; great-grandchildren Brandon, Brittany, and Gunner; great-great grandchildren Mason, Isaac, Nathan, and Aubrey; a sister Sylvia McDaniel; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Wednesday June 16, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Rudy Shelburne officiating. Interment followed in Big Sand Cemetery in Floyd.

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

Foster, Stella Fox Holbrook

Stella Fox Holbrook Foster, 89, passed away Thursday, June 17, 2021, at her home in Radford. An amazing, loving, sweet, wise and kind true southern lady, Stella was the wife, mother, sister and friend that one could only wish to have in their life.

A coal miner's daughter, she was born on Oct. 15, 1931, in a coal camp in Letcher County, Kent., to George and Delia Fox. She was one of seven children and she loved her parents and siblings dearly. A close family of modest means, but rich with love and togetherness, they moved to a small farm house when Stella was young where she began the daily tasks of gathering eggs, milking cows, feeding chickens, working in the garden, and helping to care for her younger siblings, which continued throughout her adolescence.

Upon graduation from Whitesburg High School, Stella wanted to be a nurse, but her parents didn't have the financial resources to send her to college. So she got a job as a clerk in a large local general store, where she worked 10 hours a day, six days a week for twenty dollars, an amount that she would always say was "good money back then."

After two years at the store and with a desire to do something else, she replied to an ad in a national magazine recruiting for stewardesses. A month later, a representative from Eastern Airlines walked into the store and said he was there to meet and interview her. Upon conclusion of the interview, he told her that she was perfect for the job and that he wanted to hire her. Flattered and tempted, nevertheless, she didn't take the job and chose love instead of flying the skies, a decision which she never regretted.

She married Burnette Holbrook and they moved to Radford where the Radford Army Ammunition plant had just opened and where Burnette had secured a job. Motherhood quickly followed in the years to come with four children over a five-year period. A natural mother, Stella stayed at home to care for her young children and became a favorite neighbor, churchgoer, and friend to the residents of Clement Street on the east end of Radford.

Tragically she lost her first-born child, Jeff, when he was four years old and then her husband less than two years later.

Now a widow with three young children, Stella went to work at Kenrose Manufacturing and then later on at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, where she would regularly receive written commendations for



her work over the next 25 years. There she met Lewis "Red" Foster, who she would marry, have a son by, and to whom she was married for 44 years before his passing on March 21, 2011. Throughout those years Stella worked a physically demanding swing shift job; raised her family; enjoyed her time with her friends, siblings

and relatives; cared for her parents, and loved all. Her sweet personality, positive demeanor, pretty smile, infectious laugh, quick wit, and her famous one-liners/old sayings, made her adored by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Upon retirement, she traveled, gardened, read, mastered crypto quotes, regularly attended Calvary Baptist Church, and babysat her grandchildren. One of a kind, Stella will be missed dearly by all, yet joyously welcomed by all in heaven. An angel on earth has now gone home.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law, Greg and Amy Holbrook, Richard and Anne Holbrook, and David and Jill Foster; daughter Sheila Zellers (Scott Roberts); grandchildren Abby and Luke Turner, Bryan and Stacy Holbrook, Tanner Sutphin (Courtney Marine), Blair Holbrook (Adam Troutman), Bayley Holbrook, Morgan Stokes, and Taylor Foster; great-grandchild, Reid Turner; brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Karen Fox and Doug and Jeanette Fox; sister in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Anne and Jim Pickett; special friends Russell and Evelyn Quisenberry; and many nieces and nephews with whom she had special bonds.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son-in-law, Wayne Zellers; a sister, Mary Craft Everidge; a brother and sister-in-law, Leon and Bernice Fox; and sisters and brother-in-law Maxine and Hobert Deaton, and Pina and Hubert Freeman.

Special thanks to Jearlene Simpkins, Doris Armentrout, and Tammy Reed caregivers at Pulaski Health and Rehabilitation Center and Medi-Home Health and Hospice.

The family received friends on Monday, June 21, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Brian Cockram officiating. Entombment followed in the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates contributions made to either Calvary Baptist Church, 624 Sixth Street, Radford, VA 24141 or to Trinity Community Church, 1505 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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

See more **Obituaries**, page 6

Gordon, Gary Walter

Gary Walter Gordon, 58, of Radford, left this earth unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

His faith in Jesus assures us that he immediately entered the presence of the Lord. The reunions we know he is having with loved ones bring comfort to our hearts.

Gary had such a love for his family and for his wife of 20 years, Alison, and their greatest achievement together, their precious handsome sons, Brady and Noah. They were the light of his life and his world revolved around them.

Gary had a great love for music and was able to express that playing gospel music for his Dad and singing and playing with The Sierra Band. He was employed with Kollmorgen with over 30 years of service.

Gary was preceded in death by his father,

Richard Randle Gordon, Sr.; and a brother, Ryan Gordon.

Left to cherish his memory and miss him terribly are his wife, Alison J. Gordon; sons Brady and Noah Gordon; his mother, Mary Imogene Gordon; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rick and Beth Gordon, and Wayne and Tammy Myers; sister and brother-in-law, Lynne and Jeff Wright; sister-in-law Becky Jones; many nieces and nephews; a special lifelong friend, Mike Johnson; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, June 18, 2021, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services followed with Brandon Craig and Cody Wright officiating.

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

Talbutt, Lou Ella Culler

Lou Ella Culler Talbutt, 81, of Blacksburg, died on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

She was born on Nov. 6, 1939, in Patrick County, Va., the only child of loving parents, the late Eugene and Vergie Rakes Culler.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 47 years, Palmer C. Talbutt, Jr., and is survived by a devoted son, Scott C. Talbutt of Christiansburg. Palmer and Scott were the center of her life while she enjoyed an interesting and varied career in the field of education.

Lou Ella received her undergraduate degree from Longwood College, a master's degree from Ohio University, and an Ed. D. from Virginia Tech. She had a diverse career in public schools and universities in Virginia.

Her career began as a secondary English and drama teacher in Norfolk (now Chesapeake) County; then she taught at Roanoke City and Roanoke County schools where she enjoyed directing plays. At Radford College (now Radford University), she served as Director of Housing and Associate Dean of Students. She was the first director of information for the state Occupational and Career Information System, Virginia VIEW (Vital Information for Education and Work), Va. Tech. Her major area of research and publication dealt with legal and ethical issues in counseling. She wrote, published, edited jour-



nals, and wrote a book with two others, and served on the National Ethical Committee for the American Association for Counseling and Development.

During the last phase of her career, she served as Supervisor of Guidance and Community Services for the Roanoke City School system and ended her career there as the Executive for Student Services. After retirement, she did dramatic presentations, spoke at retirement events for friends, and presented a number of programs on the First Ladies, among other literary and historical figures.

She was a member of The Torch Club of Montgomery County and the Virginia Tech Faculty Women's club. At Warm Hearth Village, she was the first President of the Woods Edge Condominium Association. She enjoyed serving at Blacksburg United Methodist Church and was on boards for the Roanoke District, participating as President of the Roanoke District, United Methodist Women.

For eight years she was on the Board of Trustees for Ferrum College.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 10 a.m. at Blacksburg United Methodist Church. Contributions can be made to Blacksburg United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 931, Blacksburg, VA 24063 or Warm Hearth Foundation, 2603 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Dooley

from page 2

and wrestling programs.

Dooley will also collaborate with men's basketball head coach Mike Young and his staff to develop and engage with top-level boosters of that program. In addition, Dooley will play a role in Tech's community outreach efforts as the Hokies seek to enlist as many individuals as possible to participate in the Reach for Excellence campaign.

"I appreciate Whit and President Sands extending me the opportunity to assist with the Reach for Excellence campaign," Dooley said. "My passion for Virginia Tech, its mission, and its people has never wavered over the years.

"I enthusiastically endorse the vision of excellence outlined in the Reach for Excellence campaign and I'm confident reaching these goals will contribute to future success of Tech Athletics," Dooley said. "I can't wait to engage with my many friends and colleagues across Hokie Nation as we all join together to support this great cause."

Dooley's long association with Virginia Tech began in 1982 and has included many diverse roles and important initiatives over the years. As the CEO of the Virginia Tech Foundation, he was involved in a wide range of projects that continue to make an impact on the economy of the commonwealth, as well as numerous endeavors that have raised the profile of Virginia Tech regionally, nationally, and globally.

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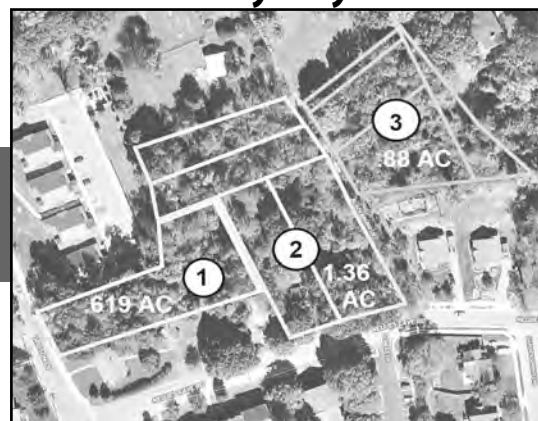
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Goodwill Industries of the Valleys announces organizational changes

Richmond Vincent, Jr., President and CEO for Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, has announced new departments and changes designed to create an updated organizational structure. These changes provide leaders with clear authority, accountability, and responsibility. The new model has four business segment chiefs, each reporting directly to Vincent.

"I am excited about the changes to the organizational structure at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys," Vincent said. "These changes create the right structure to build our business segments over the long term and increase our ability for successful mission integration at our Goodwill. We will continue serving individuals in job training and employment services and the public, working with loyal donors and shoppers, collaborating with community and business partners, and relying on all our dedicated Goodwill employees."

The four business segment chiefs are 1) Jackson Green, who most recently led finance, compliance, and IT, continues to be Chief Financial and Compliance Officer and is now responsible for finance, compliance, IT, real estate and facilities, and business analytics. Green will ensure accounting procedures and record keeping are in compliance with established business practices as well as guiding the IT and real estate and facilities departments.

2) Lori Baker-Lloyd, who most recently led human resources as vice president, transitions to a new role as chief advancement officer with responsibilities over business and community engagement, marketing and communications, and philanthropy. Baker-Lloyd will advance the organization's connections with businesses and community leaders, branding externally and internally, as well as cultivating donors and partners.

3) Mary Ann Gilmer, who most recently led mission services as vice president, transitions to a new role as chief strategy and people officer with responsibilities over mission services, organizational development (human resources and learning and development), and strategy. Gilmer will lead the

organization's long-term strategy, innovation, planning, and strategic partnership efforts to drive innovation and strategic goals for the mission services and organizational development divisions.

4) Mindy Boyd, who most recently led donated goods and business services as vice president, transitions to a new role as chief operations officer with responsibilities over donated goods and retail, business services, and logistics and transportation. Boyd will lead the development of the strategic plan and will implement new processes and approaches to achieve it. She will serve as the operations and service program leader within the organization.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys is also making fundamental changes to the way the organization manages operations. Operational leadership development changes include the following employees and their new roles: Stephanie Smoot, vice president of finance; Michelle Darby, vice president of marketing and communications; Zenith Barrett, vice president of business and community engagement; Stephanie Hoer, and vice president of business services. Additional positions adding to the operational leadership are vice president of IT, vice president of organizational development, and vice president of philanthropy. These additional positions are available to applicants on Goodwill's website.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys serves 35 counties and 14 cities throughout central, southwest, and southside Virginia. Its mission is to empower individuals, strengthen families, and build stronger communities through eliminating poverty. In 2020, Goodwill served 63,078 youth, adults, and seniors who needed assistance getting back to work and gaining greater independence, placed 2,598 people into jobs in communities, and helped individuals attain 6,321 industry recognized credentials that will allow them to be more competitive in their job search and to find higher paying employment. At the end of May, Goodwill had already assisted over 17,400 people in 2021.

Nasty Women

from page 1

Students in the class — Alicia Aucoin, Gillian Barth, Grace Barth, Helen Hickman, Savannah Lawhorne, Kat McGowan, Caroline McLean, Madison Sheehan, Elizabeth Sholtis, Trenton Spillman, Bethany Stewart, Alyssa Thompson, Liv Wisniewski, and Olivia Wood — all had a hand in writing the book.

In the book's 14 chapters, the student authors recount stories of strong historical women, some enslaved, a few engineers, and even early celebrities. Taken together, the chapters demonstrate how there is no such thing as an average woman, as even those ordinary women are found doing extraordinary things.

Led by Mollin, an associate professor of history, in collaboration with Robert Browder, publishing coordinator of Virginia Tech Publishing housed in University Libraries, each student produced a chapter or article-

length essay that resembled the kinds of scholarly papers historians regularly deliver at professional meetings or submit for publication. Then each of these works were combined and published into a book.

"Compiling the essays into a published volume adds a level of seriousness and excitement to the class," said Mollin. "Students universally love that their work will appear in an actual book rather than just submitted as a class assignment that no one except their professor sees. And knowing that their work will be published and available for public consumption pushes students to do their very best work."

"This project is unique because each student gets to write about whatever she wants to under the subject matter," said McLean, a student in the course and a double major in history and international studies with a minor in Spanish. "That means that each author wrote about what she was most interested in and passionate about."

The now successful project encountered some challenges along the way. During the first months of the pandemic in spring 2020, the class shifted to remote learning. This almost derailed the entire book project.

"The students had really just started their research," said Mollin. "Some of their research was with online databases, but more were print library resources that suddenly were inaccessible. The lack of face-to-face contact was difficult as well. The work in this capstone research seminar is intense, and peer support is essential to the students' successful completion of their projects."

The classmates were scattered geographically and met through Zoom, challenging their ability to maintain a sense of connection required to complete the high-level project.

"All of my sources for my chapter were back in my dorm room in Blacksburg," said Liv Wisniewski, one of the class project authors. "I hadn't brought them home with me over spring break, figuring I would only be gone for a week and not intending to work on the paper in that time anyway. I was away from them for a month and had to get special permission to return to campus early to get my things so I could finish my chapter."

The students did not give up, and as a result, they are now proud published authors. The book is available both as a freely downloadable eBook and as an affordable paperback edition.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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OBITUARIES

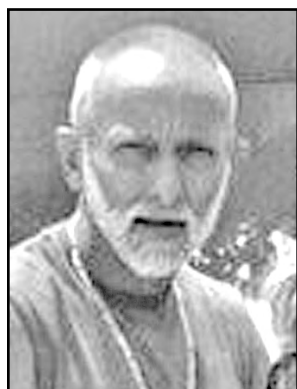
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Sheppard, Tommy Lee

Tommy Lee Sheppard, 58, of Blacksburg, died Sunday, June 13, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Radford on Sept. 20, 1962, to the late Harold James and Jean Price Sheppard. He was preceded in death by his infant brother, James Michael Sheppard.

He is survived by his wife, Debbi Sheppard;



his daughters, Courtney Crigger, Amanda Covey, Ginny Perfater and Ashley Quesenberry; 11 grandchildren; a sister, Rosemary Sheppard; brothers and sisters-in-law Wayne and Sharon Sheppard and Larry and Ruby Sheppard.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Thompson, Jackie Elizabeth McCambridge

Jackie Elizabeth McCambridge Thompson, 68, passed away at her home in Hiwassee on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. She was retired from UPS.

Jackie was preceded in death by her parents, Edmond Leroy and Elizabeth Ellen McCambridge; and a niece, Megan Smythers.

Survivors include her husband of 42 years, Cecil Allen Thompson; her daughter, Amy Carr of Pulaski; her sons, Christopher Thompson of Salt Lake, Utah, and Kelley Riggins and

Cecil Thompson, Jr., and wife Crystal, all of Pulaski; a grandson, Dylan Thompson; sisters and brothers-in-law, Janet and Tim Ramsdell of Parrott, and Karen and Ray Curtis of Oak Hill, W.Va.; brother Kirk McCambridge of Pulaski; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Services will be private.

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

Townsend, Thomas "Tom" Morris

Thomas "Tom" Morris Townsend, 92, passed away on Monday, June 14, 2021, at his home in Radford.

He was born in December 1928 in Memphis, Tenn. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Ellen Townsend; his beloved wife of 63 years, Eva Nell Swaim Townsend; and a daughter, Penny Ann Townsend Hutton.

Survivors include his daughters, Pamela T. Thomas of Georgia and Patsy T. Hosner of Blacksburg; a grandson, Steven Morris Thomas of Georgia; a step-grandson, Jason Hosner of Germany; and a brother, M. Smith Townsend of Texas.

Tom was a military veteran, having served in the U. S. Air Force. He retired



from Hercules, Inc., with 37 years of service and was a member of Unity Christian Church in Radford.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg with the Rev. Gina Rhea officiating.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Unity Christian

Church or the charity of your choice. The family wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Good Samaritan Hospice, especially staff members Sydney, Brittany, Mary Lee, Cherish, Angie, and Kayla, who lovingly shared their care and their concerns for Tom.

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

Trulove, Patrick L.

Patrick L. Trulove passed away Saturday, June 12, 2021, after a painful battle with lung cancer. He would have turned 67 on July 23.

Patrick grew up in Mill Valley, Calif., and loved his hometown. He kept up with the news there and with friends he had had since grade school. After graduation from Tamalpais in 1972, he moved to Oregon with his parents and attended trade school to become a printer-operator. He also studied art and was skilled with pen and ink and oil, although he was never satisfied with his own work.

As an adult, he tried to live in Mill Valley, but it was too expensive, so he moved to Reno, where he worked for Kinkos for years, then moved east to the Charlotte, N.C., area and worked for Regulus as a machine operator and Shutterfly as a press operator. He updated his skills by earning A+ computer certification.

He moved to Radford in 2016 to be closer to family and worked at Spectrum for three years and with Goodwill for the last year until he was too sick to work. He is grateful for the support and friendship of his colleagues at Goodwill, who were able to find a position for him where he would not



have to stand and was still able to be productive, which was important to him.

Patrick enjoyed drinking beer and smoking while listening to blues, jazz, Motown, and early rock, and reading history, especially the period between the wars. He was also a huge fan of movies and collected W.C. Fields and classic war movies, among others.

He was a solitary individual, satisfied with his own company. But he kept up with old friends with colorful, detailed letters, hundreds of emails, and long telephone calls. And he enjoyed time with his favorite new friend, his sister's sister-in-law, Suzanne Bowen of Pulaski.

Patrick is survived by his sister, Susan Trulove of Fairlawn; his brother, Frank True, and sister-in-law LaDonna Sepers of Radford; and many cousins far and wide, including his beloved cousin Dianne Walker of Kannapolis, N.C.

Patrick's family will take his ashes to Mill Valley, the home his heart never left.

If you knew Patrick, give him a thought. And if you smoke, quit!

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

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Applicant email address is required for response concerning this job. For more information about this job and to apply online: See our website: www.tapintohope.org TTY: 540-345-4096 AA/EOE/Drug Free Workplace Bilinguals encouraged to apply.

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Legals - Craig County

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CRAIG

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-112** Plaintiff,

HEIRS OF THOMAS CALLAHAN, DECEASED, HEIRS OF ZELMA CALLAHAN, DECEASED, JUDY C. GRUBER, SARA C. CROUCH, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Parcel No. 27-A-20. An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may

Legals - Craig County

be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before July 16, 2021, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered: 6/7/2021
Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk Circuit Court Clerk/Judge County of Craig, Virginia

I Ask For This:
N. Reid Broughton (VSB No. 38899)
Mary Foil Russell (VSB No. 46440)
Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 (540) 260-9011 (540) 260-0022 (facsimile)

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CRAIG

THE COUNTY OF CRAIG, VIRGINIA, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, **Case No. CL21-111** Plaintiff,

HEIRS OF ORAN GREENWAY, a/k/a OREN GREENWAY, DECEASED, RAYETTE HENDRICK, and PARTIES UNKNOWN, Defendant(s).

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
The object of this suit is to enforce a lien for delinquent real estate taxes against the property known as Parcel No. 60-A-1 (377 Maggie Maw Lane). An Affidavit having been filed stating that due diligence has been used, without effect, to ascertain the location of the named Defendant(s), that the Defendant(s) may be non-residents of Virginia and maintain no domicile within the borders of the Commonwealth, or are deceased, or that there may be parties who have an interest in the property but are unknown, namely, the heirs, devisees, and successors in title of the named Defendant(s), made Defendants by the general description of Parties Unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that the named Defendant(s) and all Parties Unknown appear on or before July 16, 2021, and do what may be necessary to protect their interests in this cause.

Entered: 6/7/2021
Sharon P. Oliver, Clerk Circuit Court Clerk/Judge County of Craig, Virginia

I Ask For This:
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Mary Foil Russell (VSB No. 46440)
Sands Anderson PC P.O. Box 2009 Christiansburg, Virginia 24068-2009 (540) 260-9011 (540) 260-0022 (facsimile)

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **Case No. CL21000845-00** Montgomery County Circuit Court

55 East Main Street Suite 1 CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 MASTROGIOVANNI, JENNIFER v. EVANS, MICHAEL TAHIR The object of this suit is to: NAME CHANGE ON A MINOR It is ORDERED that MICHAEL TAHIR EVANS appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before JULY 20, 2021.

MAY 27, 2021
ERICA W. CONNER CLERK

ORDER OF PUBLICATION COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 **Case No. CL21000748-00** Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street Suite 1 Christiansburg, VA 24073 ARROYO, ESMERALDA RUIZ v. HERNANDEZ, ERNESTO ARROYO

Legals - Montgomery County

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE It is ORDERED that ERNESTO ARROYO HERNANDEZ appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before July 26, 2021.

MAY 27, 2021
ERICA W. CONNER CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of Environmental Document for Public Review Substructure Repairs of the Route 813 Bridge over the Roanoke River Montgomery/Roanoke County line.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing substructure repairs to the existing bridge on Route 813 (Stones Keep Lane) over the Roanoke River at the Montgomery/Roanoke County line. The project limits are from 0.10 miles from the intersection of Route 813 with Route 11/460 to 0.18 miles from the intersection of Route 813 with Route 11/460.

A Categorical Exclusion level NEPA document addressing the project described above was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and FHWA's Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23CFR771). VDOT (on behalf of FHWA) is now making the Categorical Exclusion available for public review.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed substructure repairs on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also available for public review.

The Categorical Exclusion along with supporting study reports will be available for review for 15 calendar days following the date of this public notice. Paper copies of the documents will be available at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave., Salem Virginia, 24153. Please contact Don DeBerry, VDOT Salem District Environmental Manager, at 540-387-5432 or by email at Donald.deberry@vdot.virginia.gov, to schedule a time to review the documentation or to request electronic copies. Comments must be posted or delivered to the address above within 15 calendar days of the date this public notice is published.

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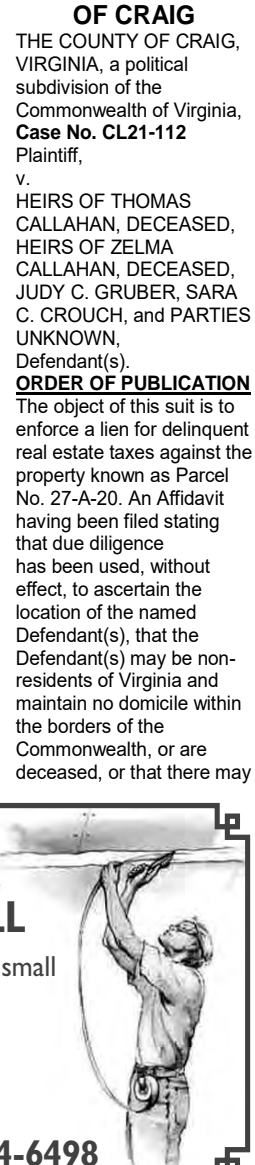
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

High school playoff update: Auburn boys win Class 1 track title

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Auburn High School won the Class 1 boys track title this weekend, thanks to the final event of the day, the 1,600 meters relay. The team's third-place finish allowed the Eagles to edge George Wythe 61-55 for the championship.

Daniel Graham was the Eagles' lone state champ. He took the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.81. Eastern Montgomery's Cody Roupe won the high jump at 6-2.

The Auburn girls team finished in third place behind PH-Glade Spring and Riverheads.

Christiansburg's Tyrique Taylor finished third in the boys discus at the state Class 3 meet while Kaylee Sloss was third in the same event on the girls side of the track. Both teams finished out of the top five team standings.

Blacksburg's boys and girls teams finished fifth and ninth respectively in this past weekend's State Class 4 meet.

Auburn has been a familiar name in the state softball semis and returns this week winning the 1C title with a 10-0 win over Grayson County. Hannah Shepherd hit an inside-the-park home run, and Kirsten Fleet pitched a no-hitter with 12 strikeouts. Fleet also smashed a two-run homer.

The state's final four in boys soccer will be without Blacksburg for the first time in a long time. Jefferson Forest took down the Bruins 3-2 as Blacksburg finished 9-2-2 on the season.

Eastern Montgomery's girls soccer team picked up where they left off two years ago, winning the Region 1C championship with a 10-0 win over cross-country rival Auburn. Maddie Bruce had five goals in the Eagles' win.



The 12-0 Blacksburg High School girls soccer team is the champion of Region 4D after a 2-0 win over Jefferson. With the win, the team advanced to the state semifinals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Blacksburg High seeking new track coach

Marty Gordon

Contributing writer

Just as Blacksburg High School completes the spring track season, it has learned it will need a new coach for next year as Brandon Bear is leaving for a new job in New York.

Bear began his career at Blacksburg as a volunteer assistant coach for then-BHS coach James DeMarco in the 2010 cross-country season. He then became an assistant coach for the indoor track season. When DeMarco moved in the fall of 2015, Bear transitioned into the head coaching role for all six programs (boys and girls cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field).

During his tenure, he coached seven state championship teams and 43 individual and relay state champions. Two athletes have broken Vir-

ginia state records across all classifications in the 2000m Steeplechase (2017, Ben Fleming) and the 1-Mile Race Walk (2019, Oscar Coddington). For the school's current classification of 4A, two athletes hold state records: Kaitlynn Wolfe (3200m) and Cole Beck (indoor 55m).

The girls cross-country team qualified for the Nike Cross National Championships in Portland, Ore., every year Bear was head coach except for 2019, but Wolfe did qualify as an individual.

Three athletes earned All-American status at the national championships: Beck (outdoor 100m), Wolfe (indoor 5000m), and Oscar Coddington (indoor race walk).

Bear was named the Girls Cross-Country Coach of the Year for the State of Virginia in both 2016 and 2017 and named Girls Track & Field

Coach of the Year for the State of Virginia by the Virginia High School League and the National Federation of State High School Coaches Association Coaches Association in 2019.

Bear's wife took a job in Albany, N.Y., after earning her doctorate at Virginia Tech.

"She graciously agreed that I should finish out the year with my student-athletes, especially considering the already existent strain on the students from dealing with the abnormal situation of the COVID pandemic," Bear said. "But now the time has come for me to join her in our first house, and I'll be starting a job as an AP physics and math teacher at a charter high school in the Albany area this fall."

Bear is leaving without having a coaching job lined up. Instead he wants to see what his new life will look like and

get the chance to settle down. "But it's a passion that I don't want to lose and am eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to potentially build a new running program in that area," he said.

While looking back at his time at Blacksburg, there are several big events he will remember because, as he said, is a unique experience to go to championship level meets at the state and national level.

"I enjoy thinking back about the little moments where I may have made a difference in a student's life, to encourage them a little to give running a try, and to see them really take it on and recognize that they can become holistically better versions of themselves. That's always fun to watch that development," Bear said.

He said he is encouraged not only by the enthusiasm

of the current coaching staff and the new distance coach, but by the shared vision of the athletes still in the program at Blacksburg.

"Ultimately the success of the program begins and ends with them," Bear said. "If they keep the tradition in mind and the passion alive, then the program will continue to have success for years to come, and together the new coach and the athletes will do amazing things. I'm excited to watch their continued success from afar."

Bear is definitely interested in continuing his coaching career in some aspect. "I love the ability to influence young adults in the unique environment of high school athletics. There are tangible benefits that it provides for them, and to be able to make a difference in a new population is an exciting challenge," he said.

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Former Hokie Jessica Spicer wins state golf association's championship

Jessica Spicer, who just finished her golf career at Virginia Tech, won the championship of the Virginia State Golf Association's women's stroke play Thursday.

Spicer posted a three-day total of 217 to win the title by two strokes in the 44th playing of the event, which wrapped up Thursday afternoon at Stoney Creek at Wintergreen Resort.

Spicer, a member of Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech, became the second straight Hokie to win the title and the third since 2017. Becca DiNunzio defeated Tech teammate Emily Mahar last year at Kingsmill, and Amanda Hollandsworth won in 2017 at Blacksburg Country Club.

"I think Tech coach Carol Robertson is going to be pretty happy," Spicer said. "She texted me last night and was very excited that (Tech teammate) Alyssa Montgomery and I were battling it out in the final round. I think she just loves to see Hokie headcovers out there in the final group."

Spicer finished two shots clear of the trio tied for second—Montgomery, High Point's Danielle Suh, and soon-to-be James Madison player Tatum Walsh.

Four-time champion Lauren Greenlief rounded out the top five at 221, having recovered from an opening-round 78 to shoot 72-71 over the final two days.

Spicer's short game played a huge role in her even-par 72 in the final round. She got up and down out of the bunker on No. 16 to save a key par down the stretch followed that up with a birdie on 17, a hole she birdied all three days. That gave her a three-shot lead heading to the final hole on Stoney Creek's Shamokin nine, though she didn't know it.

She chose not to check the leaderboard, and in retrospect, she said if she had known where she stood, it might have changed her strategy off the tee on 18. Spicer's drive went way right into some trees, but fortunately she had an opening to punch out of and reached the back of the green on the par-4 hole in three shots. She was left with an extremely tricky downhill putt to a front-hole location, and she nudged it close to set up a bogey putt. She missed it, but no one in the final group was able to make birdie to make her pay for the final-hole double bogey. Spicer hadn't held a late



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Former Hokie golfer Jessica Spicer brought home the state women's stroke trophy this past week.

lead in a stroke-play event since winning the Carolinas Amateur in 2019, so she said there were some nerves down the stretch.

"I had a few shaky shots out there all three days, but to really grind it out with the short game and just manage the course really well and make re-

ally smart decisions, I was really happy with that," Spicer said. "Even if I'm not 100 percent on, I can still shoot good scores and win tournaments. It's definitely a confidence boost."

Spicer plans to play in several high-profile events over the next month or so, including the North and

South Women's Amateur at Pinehurst. She's going to enjoy the next stretch of amateur golf before deciding whether to take a shot at playing professionally.

"It's definitely on the radar," Spicer said. "I've had a lot of people suggesting that if you're going to try it, now's the time,

right after you graduate from college. It's not like you can go work for five or six years and then go back and try to play high-level golf. It's definitely an option. But for now, I'm going to stay amateur and just enjoy this summer, work on my game, and see what happens."

Three Blacksburg golfers, one Radford golfer post low scores at first 2021 Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour tournament

Seventy-one junior golfers assembled at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech recently to kick off the 2021 Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour with three Blacksburg golfers and one Radford golfer posting low scores in their respective age groups.

Dwayne Belcher, the tour's executive director, said it was a real treat for these young players to have the opportunity to play the River Course.

"Obviously, the Pete Dye name sets a high standard among golf courses, but the immaculate conditions, hospitable staff, and breathtaking scenery certainly take the experience to high level," said Dwayne Belcher, the tour's executive director. "We are very appreciative of the generosity and know that our members gain much from the day."

The results for the various age groups were

as follows:

17-18 Age Group
6,495 yards Par 72

Jake Albert of Blacksburg earned medalist honors with a 3-over-par 75. Albert made the turn at even par and played steadily on the back nine to gain the four-shot victory over Alex Brannock of Galax, who shot a 79.

15-16 Age Group
5,903 yards Par 72

Pierce Campbell of Blacksburg posted the lowest score of the day

with a 2-under par 70 to win the age group. After a slow start, Campbell found himself 3-over after three holes. But consecutive birdies on holes 4, 5, and 6 got him back to even par for the day. He added two more birdies on the inward nine holes that allowed him to secure medalist honors.

McKenzie Weddle from Floyd was busy having her own good day. The rising Floyd High School junior made three birdies on her way to a round of even par 72. Close behind Weddle was Major Ewing of Blacksburg. Ewing posted a score of

2-over-par 74 to finish third in the competitive age group.

13-14 Age Group
5,903 yards Par 72

Grayden Laird of Galax treated himself to a birthday present by firing a 2-over-par 74 to earn medalist honors. On his 14th birthday, Laird mixed two birdies with 11 pars to celebrate in style. Ryan Highfield of Blacksburg was one shot back at 75 to earn second place. Cameron Sharp of Blacksburg was third at 76 in another competitive age group.

10-12 Age Group
2,589 yards Par 36

Hudson Hurt of Rad-

ford won the age group with a nine-hole score of 38. Ryan McGinnins of Blacksburg was second with a score of 46. Jack Herbert, also of Blacksburg, finished third with a score of 47.

9 and Under Age Group Par 36

J.J. Robertson of Blacksburg won the age group with a score of 43. Marco Beato, also of Blacksburg, shot a 48 to finish second. Daniel DeJesus of Blacksburg, and Christopher Rizo of Tazewell tied for third place with score of 67.

The tour continues next week with a stop at the Greenbrier.

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Blacksburg's Pierce Campbell wins junior golf tour event



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pierce Campbell of Blacksburg netted six birdies in the last 10 holes to claim a Tarheel Junior Golf Tour win this past weekend at the Duke University Golf Club in Durham, N.C. He finished with a 72 in round 1 and a 68 in round 2, four under par for the tournament and two strokes ahead of Jake Albert, also from Blacksburg.