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Ground broken on Hitt Hall

On a day of gray skies an extraordinarily bright moment took place for Virginia Tech as leaders and donors broke ground on Hitt Hall, a 100,000-gross-square-foot facility that will house the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, add critical dining capacity, and provide general assignment academic classroom and collaboration space.

"This building is a tribute to what is possible when academia and industry collaborate to address the workforce needs of the 21st century, supported by generous friends and alumni," Virginia Tech President Tim Sands said. "Hitt Hall will be an appropriate home for a nationally ranked and respected school that is developing the leaders and innovators who will define the industry's future."

Virginia Tech degree programs focused on construction began in the 1940s and have evolved into a transdisciplinary enterprise that has drawn from both the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering. Crossing disciplinary boundaries to equip faculty to solve complex problems and empower students for today's far-reaching workplaces is one of the current strategic priorities for the university.

The Board of Visitors approved design and funding for the Hitt Hall

project in August 2021. Located in the North Academic District and close to a new transit hub, Hitt Hall will serve thousands of students, whether for classes or meals, each day. Spring 2024 is the target for completion of construction. The building is named in recognition of a lead gift by the Hitt family, which founded one of the nation's largest construction firms, Hitt Contracting. Prior to the event Brett Hitt, co-chairman of Hitt's board of directors, reflected on the passion for education and innovation in construction felt by his father, Russell Hitt, who passed away in 2020.

"This is an exciting and inspiring moment," Brett Hitt said. "We appreciate Virginia Tech's leading role preparing today's students to become tomorrow's decision-makers in our industry."

Hitt also noted that Virginia Tech serves as a pipeline of talent for Hitt Contracting, where numerous Hokies are employed, including company CEO Kim Roy, a member of the Class of 1999 who earned her bachelor's degree in building construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Leaders of several other major construction firms with strong relationships with Virginia Tech were at the event, including alumni John R. Lawson II '75 of the W.M. Jordan



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FRANUSICH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

University leaders and supporters of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction at the groundbreaking of the school's future home, Hitt Hall.

Company, A. Ross Myers '72 of Allan Myers Inc., and Preston White '63 of Century Concrete.

White founded Century Concrete three years after graduating and is a member of the Board of Visitors for Virginia Tech.

"I appreciate how well Virginia Tech prepared me to succeed in industry, and it does an even better job today," White said prior to the event. "Preparing the talent base that companies like mine are in need of is the life blood of the future — and this new building and expansion of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction will ensure a bright future for both the construction industry and Virginia Tech."

Bethany Fernandez, a junior in construction engineering and management, was among the event speakers. Fernandez interned with Century Concrete through a magnet program at her high school. The experience inspired her to pursue construction education at Virginia Tech.

"I'm so excited to see this new building get underway on campus," Fernandez said. "It makes me proud, and it is great to know there will be room for our program to continue to grow. In my opinion, one of the best things about our school is that it brings together elements of several other majors in ways that reflect how people collaborate in the industry."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

As part of the Virginia Tech Sesquicentennial, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences will host the first-ever Virginia Tech Humanities Week.

Virginia Tech celebrates 150 years of the humanities

Two mountains and a marathon hike stood between him and his future.

The 16-year-old laced his boots, picked up his stick, and started hiking.

The year: 1872.

A new military institute called the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College had announced plans to open in Blacksburg.

In response, William Addison Caldwell and his brother left the family farm and marched 26 miles through Virginia wilderness. Caldwell followed the path all the way to campus and registered for classes.

The school, now known as Virginia Tech, had its first student.

Caldwell and his fellow freshmen enrolled in staple courses such as math

and agriculture. But the first-ever curriculum at Virginia Tech also focused on another set of disciplines crucial to society's advancement.

The humanities.

Now, 150 years later, the humanities continue to serve as a bedrock of Virginia Tech's growth, mission, and impact on the world.

As part of the university's Sesquicentennial Celebration, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences will host the first-ever Virginia Tech Humanities Week, Feb. 7-11.

The free, weeklong series will spotlight the importance of the humanities in addressing global issues historically and

See **Humanities**, page 4

Virginia State Parks launches new online reservation site

Virginia State Parks has announced the launch of a new online reservation site for campgrounds, cabins, yurts, and picnic shelters aimed at improving the visitor experience with better maps, faster reservations, and an improved loyalty program for the parks' customers.

"Virginia State Parks is continuously investing in ways to improve our internal systems and in the way we engage and serve

the public," said Virginia State Park Director Dr. Melissa Baker. "This new system will streamline bookings and allow visitors to experience the commonwealth's natural beauty and incredible history."

Customers of Virginia State Parks will experience a new system with improved functionality that includes interactive mapping that will give overnight guests the opportunity to explore

each park in greater detail; an enhanced loyalty program that will move from a point-to-dollar-based system, allowing guests greater flexibility in converting repeat stays into discounted reservations; updated waitlist functionality to alert guests when previously booked sites become available; and faster transaction processing

See **Parks**, page 4

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority to crown Kristen Talley as Valentine Queen

The Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority will crown Kristen Talley as its Valentine Queen on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, at The Farmhouse Restaurant in Christiansburg.

Talley pledged to the sorority chapter in November 2019.

She has successfully completed pledge training under the tutelage of Vice President

See **Talley**, page 4



Kristen Talley SUBMITTED PHOTO

Time to prepare gardens for spring

Spring is just around the corner, and now is a great time for gardeners to plan what to grow and how to prepare their gardens for the planting season.

Mark Viette, horticulturist and host of In the Garden on Virginia Farm Bureau's Real Virginia television program, said his first word of advice is "Always wear gloves." This will help gardeners avoid getting splinters or cuts when working in the dirt.

He also advised never working the soil when it's too wet, as this will cause it to compact, preventing it from absorbing air and water.

Viette suggested home gardeners

use the following checklist to spruce things up for spring:

Do a late-winter cleanup by removing dead foliage and fallen leaves from the garden. Throw away anything that's had insect or disease problems. Other debris can be added to the compost pile for nutrients.

Cut back ornamental grasses. They're great to leave for much of the winter to shelter wildlife but should be pruned to about 3 inches from the ground to encourage new growth.

Prune dead or diseased portions of shrubs and evergreens like boxwood or cypress. Remember not to prune healthy growth until it gets warmer.

Feed the garden with organic fertilizers. This ideally should be done after the garden cleanup and before mulching.

For vegetable gardens, get rid of plant debris such as old tomato vines. With fruit trees, throw away old fruit and leaves, as they often have fungi spores that can re-infect the trees.

If planning to grow tomatoes in a vegetable garden, now is a good time to add dolomitic limestone and gypsum to the surface of the vegetable garden to help prevent blossom end rot issues.

If using compost in the garden, add 1 to 3 inches of compost and work it into the ground using a garden fork or tiller.

Spray fruit trees with an all-season horticultural oil spray to help mitigate pest and disease issues. Be sure to follow the label instructions.

Depending on the planting zone, February, March, and April are a good time to divide and transplant plants like hostas, daylilies, liriopse, Solomon's seal and groundcovers like sedum.

Clean out bird houses before spring nesting season begins. Keep the feathered friends comfortable by emptying old debris once a year, checking for mold and mildew, and cleaning with a gentle diluted dish soap and warm water solution if needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 14:

Braley & Thompson Blanket Drive for Virginia foster children

Braley & Thompson of Virginia is conducting "Wrapped in Love" a winter blanket drive to benefit foster youth, accepting donations of new and gently used blankets through Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Braley & Thompson Christiansburg, 207 West Main St., Suite 6B, Christiansburg.

Now through Feb. 28:

MFRL Adult Winter Reading Program

Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read during January and February and keep track of their reading on the library's Beanstack site. Earn badges with each book read and activity completed. <https://mfrl.beanstack.org/>.

Saturday, Feb. 5:

Crafternoon

Meadowbrook Library; 2-3 p.m. All ages will create a variety of snow- and Valentine-themed crafts. Registration is required. Contact Spahl@mfrl.org for more information. Register online or call (540) 268-1964.

Creative Writing Group

Meadowbrook Public Library; 10:30 a.m. In person or on Go-To-Meeting for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email cminnick@mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information. A Go-To-Meeting account is not required to join.

Dyslexia: The Basics

Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. This presentation will discuss the characteristics of dyslexia, the common myths, and various interventions. An extensive resource list will also be provided.

Teen DND

Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. DnD for Teens.

Sunday, Feb. 6:

Chess Club

Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Monday, Feb. 7:

Crafternoon

Radford Public Library; 1-2 p.m. Participants can bring their supplies to this Crafternoon Delight crafting club for adults.

We 3 Reading Storytime

Join Morgan at the Radford Public Library for a special storytime all about love. Stop by for a fun storytime celebrating all things Valentine's Day; 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 8:

Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will have a regular meeting at 6 p.m., at the School Administration Building. A copy of the agenda can be seen at www.rcps.org.

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 this meeting. Member William Reed will continue his series on "Small Arms of the Confederacy." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Talking About Books: "World Travel"

Virtual/Online, 11 a.m. at the Blacksburg Library. To be discussed is "World Travel" by Anthony Bourdain. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Rock Painting

Meadowbrook Public Library; 4:15 p.m. Paint rocks to look like a fish or other aquatic creature and put them in a fishbowl to make a personal aquarium. All supplies are provided and this is a free event. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Please pre-register since spaces are limited.

Brick Blast

Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Check out Brick Blast and make some awesome creations. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

Wednesday, Feb. 9:

Brown Bag Book Club

Join the Radford Public Library on the second Wednesday of each month for a casual book discussion. Participants may bring a lunch. To be discussed this month is "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. To be discussed in March is "Everything Sad is Untrue" by Daniel Nayeri; noon - 1 p.m.

Computer Basics

Meadowbrook Public Library; 10:30 a.m. This is a computer class for beginners that will cover types and parts of the computer, information about hardware, software, and applications. This course will also demonstrate saving and organizing files, safe internet use, and emailing.

Evening Book Talk: "One Last Stop"

Christiansburg Library; 6:30 p.m. Discussed this month is "One Last Stop" by Casey McQuiston, in-person and virtually.

Thursday, Feb. 10:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Friday, Feb. 11:

NRV Public Health Task Force and American Red Cross Community Blood Drive

The NRV Public Health Task Force and the American Red Cross have teamed up to host a community blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Blue Ridge Church on Roanoke Street in Christiansburg.

All donors will receive a choice of an American Red Cross tote bag or a t-shirt. Additionally, all donors who schedule an online appointment with a valid email address will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. Donors of all blood types can make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and click on Rapid Pass. When searching for the NRV Task Force blood drive, search by date and 24073 zip.

Stamp It On Your Heart

Join Chuck and Renee of DancinDee Leather to decorate a leather bowl with a stamped Valentine's Day message. The leather bowls, in the shape of a heart, are vegetable tanned cowhide left over from making belts, so supplies are repurposed, are environmentally friendly, and will be a lovely keepsake or gift. Call 731-3621 or email elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov to sign up. This event is free and open to adults and teens. Space and supplies are limited. Sponsored and funded by RPL Lamplighters; 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12:

Montgomery County 4-H hosting program for Cloverbuds

The Montgomery County 4-H Teens for a Better Tomorrow Club is hosting a program for Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 8 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Mid-County Park Activity Center in Christiansburg (Frog Pond). The program is open to all children in that age range. The program will include arts and crafts, games, movies, making Valentine treats, and story time.

Wednesday, Feb. 16:

American Business Women's Association luncheon Meeting

The American Business Women's Association, NRV Express Chapter, is holding its February luncheon Meeting from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg, 99 Bradley Drive. The cost is \$14.25. The guest speaker is Dana Hurt, who will explore the importance of friendships and the three required components to a meaningful relationship. RSVP by Feb. 14. Contact Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com.

NRCC human resources management program offered in February

Registration is open for New River Community College's online Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Certified Professional of Human Resources program that begins February 17, 2022.

The SHRM Certification Preparation Course will broaden and update students' knowledge and skills while delivering everything

needed to pass the SHRM-CP exam, all in an interactive "live" virtual class environment.

The course content reflects the SHRM Body of Competency and Knowledge and will be taught by a certified instructor who will provide expertise, insights, and one-on-one guidance. Students will acquire the knowledge and understand the behavioral competencies needed

to prepare to pass the exam as well as network, share experiences, and discuss best practices with a diverse group of human resources professionals.

During the course, students will cover competencies in leadership, ethical practice, business acumen, and global and cultural effectiveness. The course will also focus on the people side of human resources through strategic planning, employee engagement, and retention. Other topics in the course include organizational effectiveness, labor relations, diversity and inclu-

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See NRCC, page 3



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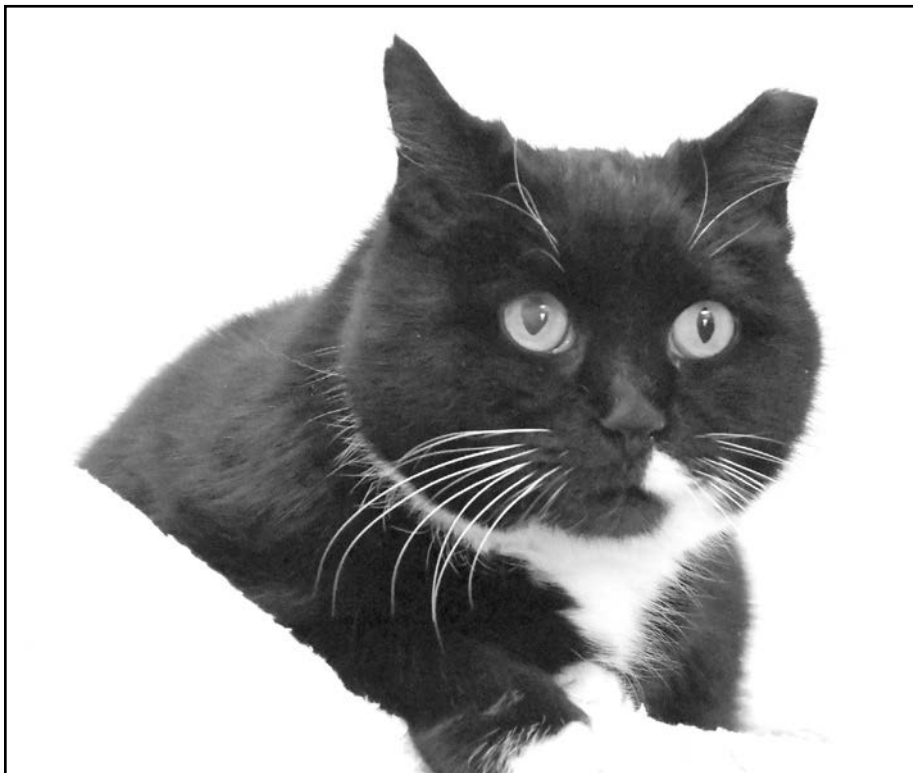
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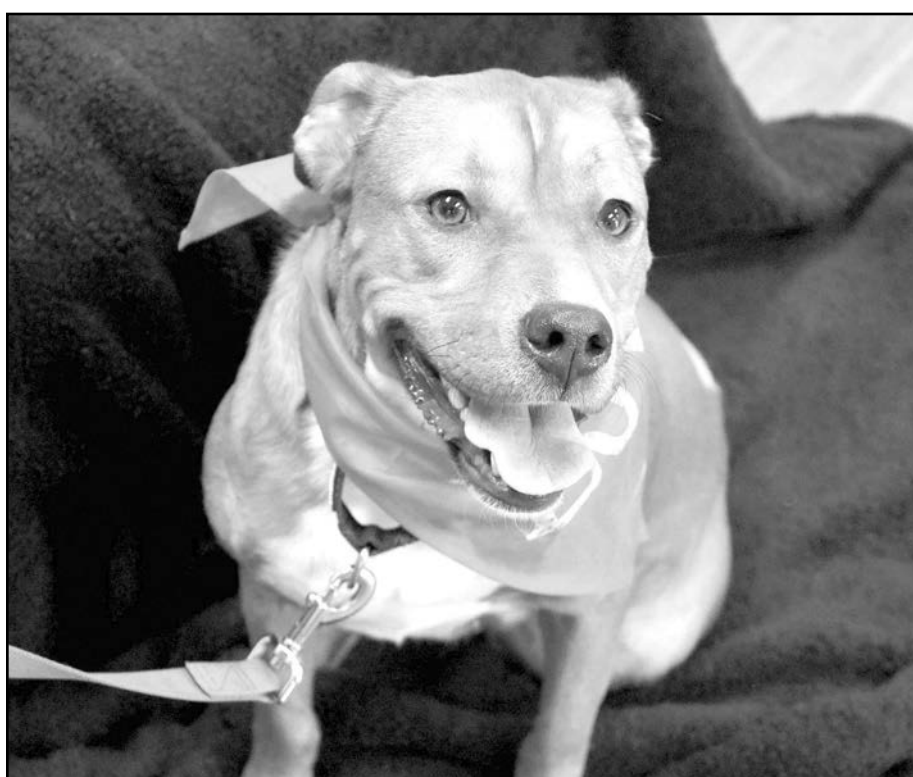
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Pets of the Week



Marble would prefer the simple life to the hustle and bustle and too much activity. Upon first meeting her, she may be a little shy but once she gets comfortable, she is a relaxed gal with an independent spirit. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to see if she is your purrfect match.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Her name may match that of a fearsome Harry Potter witch, but she is anything but that. Sweet Bellatrix is a happy, energetic girl who could cast a spell on anyone she meets. No matter if it's Slytherin or Gryffindor, she will need a home that can manage her health and keep her calm until she tests clear of heartworms.

Teaching COVID-19: VT faculty members help students explore the pandemic as an academic subject

By Melody Warnick

"Omicron," mused a student in Assistant Professor of political science Mauro Caraccioli's fall 2021 Plagues, Pandemics, and Politics class. "Doesn't that sound like a Transformer?"

A few months later, the COVID-19 variant with the Hollywood-villain name would be wreaking global havoc. But on that late November day, Omicron was merely the spark for a wide-ranging class discussion that hopped from vaccine inequity to supply chain issues to pandemic mental health. Like the rest of us, the 11 students in the small McBryde Hall classroom were experts on the course's principal subject matter: the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2020, Virginia Tech professors have been designing and teaching classes that turn COVID-19 into an object of study. Students want to understand the current moment. So do faculty members.

For the fall 2021 Pathways course he co-taught, called The Science of COVID-19, Ignacio Moore, professor from the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science, invited faculty from around campus to guest-lecture on various topics related to the virus. "Almost everything has been super interesting to me," he said.

For one class, Lauren Childs, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, passed out a deck of cards to show the math behind herd immunity. Black cards indicated immunity. Red cards meant susceptibility. "I

think [students] all of a sudden got it," Moore said. "It became sort of real as opposed to more abstract."

In a twist on her usual medical geography class, Korine Kolivras launched Geography 4984, "The Emergence of COVID-19," in the 2021 spring semester. "We talked about how the disease spread around the world and the connections between people that led to that global spread," said Kolivras of the synchronous online course. "Geographic scale was kind of the big overarching theme."

With the pandemic ongoing, Kolivras constantly monitored and introduced the latest research, hoping it might battle rampant misinformation. In a Zoom discussion, she shared a new South Korean study that mapped how a ventilation system within a restaurant facilitated COVID transmission between tables 20 feet apart.

Immediately students popped into the chat: "Wait, so six feet isn't enough?" Some students shared personal stories about their work in restaurants and maybe some thought twice about going to an indoor party that weekend.

"I think they were a lot more engaged, because they were living it at the same time," said Kolivras, who works in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. "I think they were probably learning things that they applied outside of class."

The course went so well that Kolivras got approval to teach it in future semes-

See Teaching, page 8



PHOTO BY SAM DEAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Geography professor Korine Kolivras turned her class about the geographic spread of COVID-19 into a permanent course offering called "COVID-19: Global Pandemic, Local Impacts."

Local college students excel, earn degrees

Blacksburg's Anna Kender named to Bucknell's dean's list

Anna Kender from Blacksburg has been named to the dean's list at Bucknell University for the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year. She is an economics major. To receive dean's list recognition, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0.

Diego Centeno of Blacksburg earns dean's list at Emerson College

Diego Centeno of Blacksburg is among the students named to Emerson College's dean's list for the fall 2021 semester. The requirement to make the dean's list is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester. Centeno is majoring in Media Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2025.

Blacksburg's Garrett Knobl named to University of Delaware dean's list

Garrett Knobl of Blacksburg has been named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2021 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Three from Blacksburg graduate from Ga. Tech

Among the students receiving degrees in December from the Georgia Institute of Technology were Milad Abedi of Blacksburg, who received his Master of Science in Computer Science, Yaning Guo of Blacksburg, who received his Master of Science in Industrial Engineering, and Nikhil Plassmann of Blacksburg, who received his Master of Science in Computer Science.

Blacksburg's Dawn Owezarski earns master's degree at Maryland-Global

Dawn Owezarski of Blacksburg earned a Master of Science in Strategic Communications from the University of Maryland Global Campus in the fall of 2021. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, University of Maryland Global Campus is a world leader in innovative educational models with award-winning online programs in disciplines including biotechnology, cybersecurity, data analytics, and information technology that are in high demand in today's increasingly technical, global workplace.

Radford's Skylar E. Miles named to Bridgewater College dean's list

Skylar E. Miles of Radford was named to the 2021 fall semester dean's list at Bridgewater College. Miles is a Health and Exercise Science major. Students on the dean's list have attained a 3.4 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0. Bridgewater College is a private, four-year liberal arts college located in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Founded in 1880, it was the state's

NRCC

from page 2

sion, and U.S. Employment Law and regulations.

The SHRM program is eligible for tuition assistance through the G3 program. This program provides Virginia residents who qualify for in-state tuition and whose family income falls below an identified threshold with tuition assistance. Additional

financial assistance may also be available.

To register, email Ryan Adams at radams@nr.edu or call (540) 674-3600 ext. 4435.

SHRM is one of several NRCC FastForward

programs that provide affordable, short-term training through the Office of Workforce Development. For more information about FastForward program offerings, visit www.nr.edu/fast-forward/.

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OPINION

Buddy King: Finding little treasures on a snow day

I did something today people do during snowy days in January or during pandemics. Or both. I cleaned out spaces that haven't been looked at in years.

In particular, I went through the drawers of an old piece of furniture called a secretary, I think, that sat at the top of the stairs in my grandmother and aunt's house on Junkin Street from the time I remember anything until 1998, when I cleaned the house out after my aunt died. One of my prized possessions.

I came across a very old, little green book in one of

the nooks and crannies of the desk titled, "Dear Sir." It was copyrighted in 1944 in the name of Juliet Lowell and had my Dad's name inscribed in his handwriting on the first page with the statement "June 22, 1945 Baltimore, Md." This would have been around the time he returned from Europe after the German surrender in May, 1945, at the end of World War II.

While there was no introduction, the book is obviously a compilation of letters written to draft boards or others during the war by potential draftees or soldiers and the occasional civilian. It probably was considered "off-color" then, "mild" during my college days, and Lord knows what in this era. I know one thing, the letters

are pretty funny. Here are some printable samples.

- I received your notice of seduction and will be there March 29.

- I have just finished a wonderful brake to put on airplanes. It can stop a plane that is going 400 miles per hour in just 10 feet. Now I am working on an invention that will stop the pilot from going through the windshield.

- My sergeant told me that if I studied nights, I might make a first-class idiot. Is this better than a 2nd lieutenant?

- In reply to your question, our death rate is the same here as elsewhere, one for every inhabitant.

- I got your letter asking is my child a boy or a girl. Of course, what else could it be?

- The occupation I am best suited for is making a family. Seven so far.

- I think I should be placed in 4F. My doctor says I have a tumor in my large intestinal.

- I'm expecting to become a father in four months, but was told this won't keep me out of the draft. Please let me know, as I don't want to make a mistake and marry the girl.

- I got a notice to come in for an examination in Hollywood. I gave my address as New York, New York, and moved to California. Can you tell me how your nose got into my business?

- I'm a lady looking for a defense job with you all sending someone to look after my children. They

are a nuisance and I'm tired of caring for them.

- My platoon wants to buy an electric razor for our sergeant. You say yours is foolproof. Can you give a guarantee? You don't know our sergeant.

- Please leave me out of the Army a little longer. My wife's father has a problem. He got a life sentence.

- Letter to the Navy Relief Fund: Enclosed find my check for \$2.00. You'll pardon me for not signing it but I want to remain anonymous.

- Letter to Rent Control Boss: This man reports I'm dirty. Why? I always clean between my tenants.

- After four months of Army life and much sober reflection, I have

decided that I cannot support my wife in the manner to which she has become accustomed on my Army pay of \$50 a month. Kindly consider this my resignation from the armed forces.

- I want to inform you that my status has changed. My wife gave birth to a baby and I want to thank every member of the local board.

- I am asking you to re-classify my husband and take him in the draft. He ain't no use at home or to me and I think the Army is looking for men like him.

This proves how little treasures can suddenly appear in your life. Sure wish we could laugh at things like they used to back then.

Humanities

from page 1

in the future.

Virginia Tech students, alumni, faculty, and staff — along with local residents, prospective students, and the general public — are welcome to attend.

Programming is scheduled to include in-person opportunities such as presentations

and workshops. Many of the events will also be livestreamed and available to watch through advance registration through this link.

"Our goal is to showcase the wide variety of work being done in the humanities here at Virginia Tech and demonstrate how deeply the humanities

enrich our world," said Matthew Gabriele, chair of the Virginia Tech Humanities Week Steering Committee.

The week's events will include the Nikki Giovanni Celebration of Poetry on Feb. 8.

A tribute to the written word, the event will feature acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech. Giovanni will announce the winners of the Giovanni-Steger Poetry Prize, an annual poetry contest open to undergraduates across the university. Winning students will read their words as part of the event.

On Feb. 10, philosopher and ethicist Kwame Anthony Appiah will deliver the keynote address for Humanities Week. Appiah earned the National Humanities Medal in 2011 for "seeking eternal truths in the contemporary world," according to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Appiah serves as a professor of philosophy and law at New York University and authors "The Ethicist" column for

The New York Times.

The full slate of Humanities Week events is scheduled as follows:

Feb. 7, 4 to 5:30 p.m.: Fall Beans, Shucky Beans, Soup Beans: Perspectives in Song and Story.

Feb. 7, 6 to 7 p.m.: Disability Culture at Virginia Tech.

Feb. 7, 7 to 8 p.m.: Ever-Elusive Literacy: It Hugs Us, Then Runs, Hides, and Jumps Out to Shock Us (Lecture by literary historian Trudier Harris).

Feb. 8, 5 to 6 p.m.: Nikki Giovanni Celebration of Poetry.

Feb. 9, 5 to 6 p.m.: Pop-Up Reading Group 1.

Feb. 9, 6 to 7 p.m.: Ethics Bowl Demonstration.

Feb. 10, 7 to 8 p.m.: Living Well: The Humanities as a Preparation for Life (Keynote by ethicist Kwame Anthony Appiah).

Feb. 11, 4 to 5 p.m.: Visualizing Virginia Tech History.

Feb. 11, 5 to 6 p.m.: Pop-Up Reading Group 2.

Feb. 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Researching the Holocaust as It Unfolded.

Humanities Week came to fruition following collaboration among

leaders in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Gabriele, who serves as chair of the Department of Religion and Culture, met last fall with Center for Humanities Director Sylvester Johnson and fellow department chairs in the college to discuss a report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The report focused on the state of the humanities in education and offered examples of how universities could best highlight disciplines in the field.

The meeting sparked an idea: Dedicate a full week to celebrate and demonstrate the importance of the humanities at Virginia Tech.

Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, met with the team and voiced enthusiastic support for the idea. She suggested launching Humanities Week in February, the month in which the college planned to commemorate Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial Celebration and the college's historical

contributions to the university.

The Humanities Week Steering Committee requested proposals for programming from faculty, staff, alumni, and undergraduate and graduate students. After receiving 35 submissions, the committee selected seven to complement the Giovanni-Steger Poetry Prize event and the keynote address.

"We were fortunate to receive a huge number of wonderful proposals and select seven representing an array of outstanding work in the humanities," said Gabriele. "The committee was thrilled by the thoughtfulness of these proposals and the opportunity to share these experiences with the Virginia Tech community and beyond."

"Ultimately Humanities Week offers an opportunity to enrich, inform, and better understand why the humanities matter from historical, global, and individual perspectives," said Gabriele. "We're thrilled to host this inaugural celebration and look forward to welcoming all of our guests."

News Messenger

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

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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Parks

from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Campsite at Douthat State Park

times online and in person, creating a more streamlined user experience.

The new site went live following months of collaboration with the state's new management technology provider, US eDirect.

"US eDirect has one goal: to innovate relentlessly to serve agencies like Virginia State Parks and their millions of annual visitors," said US eDirect CEO and President Tony Alex. "We are committed to our shared success and look forward

to years of working together to serve Virginia State Parks visitors."

Virginia State Parks is managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information about Virginia State Parks' activities and amenities or to reserve one of the more than 1,677 campsites, 50 yurts, or 306 climate-controlled cabins, call the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center at 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.

Talley

from page 1

Sue Warden and will be honored with the Ritual of Jewels in the near future. Talley has been serving on the chapter's Service and Social committees.

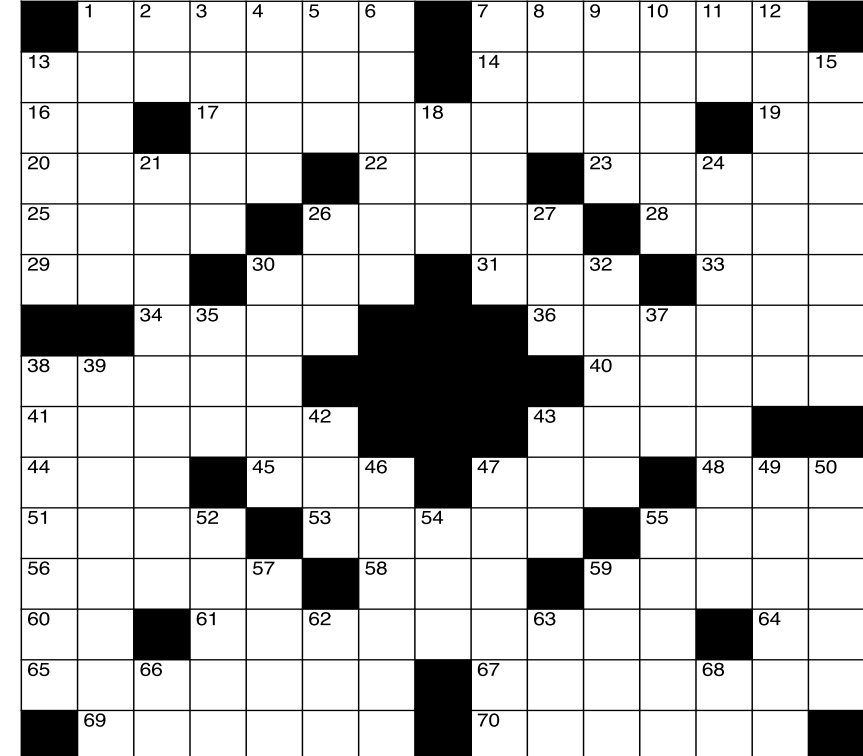
Talley will be crowned by last year's queen,

Nancy Jo Waters, at 1:00 p.m., following a welcome from Carolyn K. Sowers.

Talley is employed as a Fiscal Technician in the Biological Science Department of Virginia Tech, and she enjoys bird

watching, reading, nature walks, and cooking. She lives in Christiansburg with her husband of 26 years, Paul. They have a daughter, Karen, who currently resides and works in Houston, Texas.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS
- Got paid
 - Sets free
 - Domestic hybrid cattle
 - Quality of one's character
 - Doctor's helper
 - Not holding back
 - Type of degree
 - Short but severe
 - 007's creator
 - Linguistics icon
 - Large integers
 - Upset
 - Former
 - Peyton's younger brother
 - An Irish dance
 - Title of respect
 - Small lump
 - Baroque musical instrument
 - The third sign of the zodiac
 - The 1st letter of the
 - Hebrew alphabet
 - A group of nine
 - Garment
 - Capital of Yemen
 - One point south of due east
 - Drain
 - Moved quickly
 - Bar bill
 - An idiot
 - Indicates silence
 - Protein-rich liquids
 - Samoan monetary units
 - "_ your i's, cross your t's"
 - Forms the bottom
 - Potato state
 - Toy that spins around
 - Barium
 - Type of molding
 - Closes again
 - Sounds the same
 - Come into view
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Nix
 - Indicates position
 - Quantitative facts
 - Strong and healthy
 - Former measure of length
 - Dads tend to be this
 - Parts of a movie
 - An animal's foot
 - Expression of sorrow or pity
 - Saudi Arabian money
 - One billion gigabytes
 - Smallest musical interval
 - A rugged box (usually made of wood)
 - Cheese dish
 - An ugly, evil-looking old woman
 - Widely used
 - Makes into pages
 - Afflict in mind or body
 - Set up
 - Toilets
 - "Life of Jesus" theologian
 - A big deal on Wall St.
 - Western Thai people
 - Free from contamination
 - Type of dog
 - Revolver
 - High schoolers' exam
 - San Diego ballplayers
 - Hit the sack
 - Suitable for crops
 - Red mineral
 - Yellowish-brown
 - Lowest point between two peaks
 - Late TNT broadcaster
 - Thin strip to align parts
 - Swiss wind
 - A way to chill
 - Jewel
 - Rhodium
 - The top lawyer in the land

OBITUARIES

Akers, Ronald Dean

Ronald Dean Akers, 73, of Walton, died Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

He was born in Montgomery County on March 10, 1948, to the late Archie Irvin and Frances Lytton Akers. He was also preceded in death by a special aunt, Hazel Lytton.

Dean played gospel music with different groups throughout the years, lastly having been in God's Country Boys.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Smith Akers; sons and daughters-in-law Ronnie and Debbie Akers, Justin and Alechia Akers, and Greg and Christina Akers; daughters and sons-in-law Crystal and David Musick and Rachael and Tim Quesenberry; stepsons and stepdaughters-in-law Joe and Judy Meyer, Lindsey and Vicki Akers, Toby Akers and Carmen Sansone;

grandchildren Brandon, Brittany, Cody, Brooke, Adam, Keri, Austin, Rylee, Sarah, Lannie, and Stella; a great-grandchild, Mason; step-grandchildren Shane, Allison, T.J., Kayla, Joe, and Elizabeth; sisters and brothers-in-law Dana and Tommy Lester and Teresa and Perry Hall; brothers and sisters-in-law Don and Carolyn Akers and Dale (Brown) and Sarah Akers; a special friend, Little Josh Thornsby; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Josh Graham and Pastor Eddie Gallimore officiating. Interment followed at Lytton Family Cemetery, Walton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association.

Bedwell, Reece Steve

Reece Steve Bedwell, of Skyler, Blacksburg, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022.

Steve graduated from Blacksburg High School and obtained his CDL. He drove for Mayflower and worked for Adams Construction, the Town of Christiansburg, and Harvey's Chevrolet.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed anything and everything about the outdoors. Steve enjoyed going to races and spending time with his granddaughters and his great nieces and great nephew.

He is survived by his mother, Bee Bedwell of Blacksburg; a son, R. David Bedwell; a granddaughter,



a stepson, Blacksburg; a stepson, Blacksburg, passed away on Sunday, Tony and Paige and their two daughters, Reese and Tegan, of Staunton; a sister, Karen and Mack Brown; a niece, Jada Brown; great-nieces Tatiana and Lilia; a great-nephew, Macsen; an aunt, Donna Oliver; cousins Brian and Darron Oliver and their families; and a very special friend, Angela Sult, all of Blacksburg.

Steve was preceded in death by his father, Reece Bedwell; a niece, Renee' Brown; and an uncle, Freddie Oliver. Services will be held privately. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Paul J. Stover Jr. 540-797-5015. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. However, due to COVID-19, the Light & Sound Services and other ECK programs are currently available online through Zoom. Visit www.eck-va.org for program listings, www.

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord" (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord's anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God's protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David's is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1-12

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

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.

EPISCOPAL

Grace Episcopal Church, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month. Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

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.

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. 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. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 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. Mike Derflinger (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: christwesleyanchurch.org

OBITUARIES

Caldwell, Norma Sue Smith

Norma Sue Smith Caldwell, 80, of Check, Va., and formerly of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 at her home.

She was born in Montgomery County on Oct. 6, 1941, to the late Pearlle (P.W.) and Easter Alls Smith. She was preceded in death by her husband, Iven Dail Caldwell; a son, Raymond Caldwell; three brothers; and three sisters.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Bruce and Teresa Caldwell, Dail Caldwell, Leon and Terry Caldwell, Andrew and Donna Caldwell, Lary and Bobbie Caldwell, and Jason Caldwell; 15 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two great-

great-grandchildren; a sister, Tiny Dowdy; a brother, Eugene Smith; a sister-in-law, Pauline Smith; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank Carilion New River Valley Hospice and a special thanks to Dail Caldwell, Philip Caldwell, and Amber Sloan for their care of Mrs. Caldwell. A funeral service will be held on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Danny Collins officiating.

Interment will follow at Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022 at McCoy Funeral Home Blacksburg.

Clark, Linda Lytton

Linda Lytton Clark, 75, of Dublin, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her father, Alfred Thomas Lytton; her mother and stepfather, Elizabeth Lytton and Claude Hill; her husband, Sherman Ray Clark; a brother, Thomas Lytton; and a sister, Valerie Pauley.

Survivors include her children and their spouses, Todd and Tricia Chandler of Woodlawn, Vickie Criner of Riner, Brian Chandler of Christiansburg, and Michelle Chandler and Billy Cobbs of Pembroke; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Greg and Rose Hill of Radford; sisters Rhonda Altizer and Gary Pauley of Dublin and Sherlyn Lytton of Dublin; a sister-in-law, Judy Lytton of Christiansburg; a brother-



in-law, David Pauley; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank the second floor nurses station at LewisGale Montgomery Hospital for their loving care of Linda.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, at the Fairlawn Church of God with the Rev. Markus Harrison officiating.

Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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

Newberry, Sue Hill

Sue Hill Newberry, 71, of Belspring, passed away on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Goldie Hill; a son, Charles Newberry; her brother, Bobby Hill; and her sister, Lola Hicks.

Survivors include her husband and best friend, Basil Newberry; a son and daughter-in-law, James Newberry, Sr., and Jessica; grandchildren Hannah (Cole), Hailey, Gladys, James Jr., Destiny, Kyleigh, and Andrew; a great-granddaughter, Everleigh; sisters and brother-in-law, Patricia Page, and



Velvie Proffitt (Raymond); a brother, Jerry Hill; a special baby, Peanut; and many other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until noon on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Graveside services will follow in Brown Cemetery in Belspring with Evangelist Gary Proffitt officiating.

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

Gardner, Martha Blackburn

Martha Blackburn Gardner, 72, of Radford, entered her Heavenly home on January 31, 2022. She was preceded in death by her parents, Garland and Stella Blackburn, and her brother, Timm Blackburn.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Doug Gardner; a daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Michael Pollard; a son, Scott Gardner (Dave Winston); and numerous other relatives and friends.

Martha was an insightful, discerning, and bright person who seemed to be able to do it all. She worked, crafted, cooked, raised a family, and did so much more, all while making it look effortless. Despite an avowed dislike of board games, she would peer over her children's shoulders during a Scrabble game and amaze them with her prowess.

Many described Martha as elegant, yet she was from humble roots. She was born in Galax feet first, a testament to her resilience in the face of obstacles. Her parents knew she was strong and would always be able to take care of herself, which she certainly did.

Her parents, both from Independence, instilled in her a make-do attitude, but they infused with it the ability to dream. When Martha was quite young, her parents moved to the Radford area, where Martha would spend her life. She graduated from Radford High School and attended New River Community College.

As a student at the community college, she caught the eye of her future husband, Doug, who asked her to join him for a Coke in the lounge. They married in 1972, and Martha was always a strong partner to her husband. She wasn't afraid to give a push, and some of her husband's proudest achievements stemmed from this.

Martha was the one who encouraged Doug to apply for a position in Facilities Management at Radford College. She was also the one who convinced Doug to have a child, Amanda, and then to have another, Scott.

Throughout her life, Martha was never too proud to do work

that others might look down upon. Her professional career began at Radford College in 1971 and ended in 2016 after 18 years as the administrative assistant for Giesen-Caldwell Realtors. In between these positions, she held jobs at Inland Motors and the school cafeteria at McHarg Elementary. She took a hiatus from work in the mid-1980s



to dedicate time to raising her family and taking care of her mother.

Martha's family was her world, and she strove to make sure her children always did well and that they always felt loved and encouraged. Her spirit lives on through Amanda and Scott, who both inherited Martha's determination, sarcasm, love for the past, ability to dream and, a need to collect.

Martha was a Christian and an active member of Calvary Baptist Church for 40 years. She was very willing to give of her time and talents. She and Doug operated the church's AWANA program for 22 years. She was known for her chicken casseroles at pot luck dinners and for her hot dog chili at the AWANA Grand Prix events.

In her final years, Martha's amazing skills were slowly taken from her by dementia. She entered this battle bravely, and she is now free from the cruel disease that robbed her of her mind and abilities. Despite its ravages, it never took away her essence. Deep down, Martha was always there, full of spirit, love, and compassion. For her family, Martha was an absolute treasure.

The family received friends from 4 until 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022 at the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory. Graveside services will be held at Noon on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at the Bridle Creek Cemetery in Grayson County with Pastor Timothy Worles officiating.

Flowers are appreciated or contributions may be made to the Bridle Creek Cemetery Fund, Attn: Mary Young, 1624 Battlefield Dr., Independence, VA 24348.

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

See Obituaries, page 8

Marketplace ourvalley.org

THE FINCASTLE HERALD | The Vinton Messenger | THE NEW CASTLE RECORD | SALEM TIMES REGISTER | News Messenger | RADFORD News Journal

For Sale - Misc

FOR SALE
Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

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Help Wanted - General

Part Time Newspaper Production Help
The Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

Help Wanted - General

Calling All Singers, Musicians, & Actors!!!
A community theater group based in Roanoke, VA is looking for a group of fun-loving, dedicated volunteers to perform an original show written and directed by Al Nierwinski. The show consists of 22 songs and many hilarious lines. For more information call Al Nierwinski @ 540-761-8392.

Legals - City of Radford

PUBLIC MEETING
The City of Radford will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 15 at 12:00 p.m. and Thursday February 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The City of Radford is seeking participation as it initiates the preparation of its 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan, 2022 Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The five-year Consolidated Plan will identify the affordable housing and community development needs in the City of Radford over the next five years. Annually, the City receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. To continue receiving these funds, the City of Radford is required to identify and prioritize its needs, then explain how it will address these needs through local projects as part of the Annual Action Plan for FY 2022. All citizens and organizations are invited to attend the public meeting to comment orally or in writing on funding needs and priorities. Questions regarding the grant program are also encouraged. The City of Radford will make reasonable accommodations and services necessary for sensory-impaired and disabled citizens at the public meeting. Questions should be directed to Ms. Melissa Skelton, at

Legals - City of Radford

Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov or at (540) 267-3188.

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANBURG TOWN COUNCIL
The Town of Christiansburg Town Council hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments concerning:

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg, LLC for operation of a Carnival from April 27, 2022 through May 8, 2022 on property located at 782 New River Road NW, further identified as Parcel ID 007741; Tax Parcel No. 435-(A)-41; in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- B. Conditional Use Permit request by Taylor E. Linkous and Blair Lawton LLC for an Auction House, Business, on property located at 2790 Roanoke Street, further identified as

Legals - Montgomery County

Parcel ID 030021; Tax Parcel No. 501-(5)-2; in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. 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 Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128, Ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg High School reopens football coaching search

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Blacksburg High School's hiring of a new football coach will have to wait a little longer as a search committee interviewed as many as five people this past

week and has decided to reopen the application process for two more weeks. The position came open in November when Coach Eddie Sloss stepped down after four years at the school. Blacksburg finished this past season winless, and the Bruins' record for the

past three years was 6-21. In Sloss's first year, 2018, the team completed a 13-1 season before losing to Woodgrove in the Class 4 state semis. Prior to Blacksburg, Sloss spent four years at Carroll County High School from 2014-2017, where he compiled

a 5-35 mark. He was a former assistant at Blacksburg and Christiansburg high schools, and is a graduate of Blacksburg High School. Sloss replaced Thad Wells, who led the Bruins to a state title but left for another high school in North Carolina.



FILE PHOTO

Evan Rupe has led Radford High School in scoring for two straight seasons.

Radford's Evan Rupe to play soccer at RU

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School's Evan Rupe has announced plans to continue his playing career at nearby Radford University. Rupe was first-team All-Three Rivers District and Region C last season, leading the Bobcats with 18 goals that included scoring five goals in one game against James River.

At RU, he joins a team that posted a 5-11 record this past year, 3-5 record in Big South Conference play.

Chris Barrett was named the interim head men's soccer coach at Radford in November 2020. While interim head coach, Barrett led the team to a 3-5-1 overall record in a modified 2021 spring season. The Highlanders defense held opponents to one or fewer goals in four games that season, picking up wins over Gardner-Webb, VMI, and Winthrop.

Prior to being named interim head coach, Barrett was set to begin his third stint and 10th season overall (1995-98, 2006-10) as an assistant coach of the

Highlander men's soccer program. Barrett has also spent a decade (2010-19) as an assistant coach of Radford's women's soccer program.

Rupe, who expects to play center, is familiar with Barrett, having played when he was 10 on a travel team he coached.

"I love the coaching staff," said Rupe. "Also, the facilities are fantastic, and I like the school being in my hometown so I can have my family and friends come support me."

Rupe's goal is to claim a starting spot, score goals, and help the team to success. "It would also be great to push for a conference tournament championship, a conference regular season championship, or an NCAA tournament appearance," he said.

In 2019, Rupe participated in an Adidas Winning Generation Soccer Program's National Cup, playing and scoring overseas in the Gothia Cup. He also played with VBR Star in its USL pro academy this past summer.

Rupe is undecided on a major at RU as of yet.

Bobcat volleyball player signs with FHU

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Another standout from the Radford High School volleyball team will play at the next level. Autumn Howard has signed a letter of intent to play at Freed-Hardeman University.

She was second-team all-Three Rivers District and Region C Libero and was a member of the 2019 Bobcat squad which won a state championship.

"I chose Freed-Hardeman because I love the small campus and the warm environment, being there feels like home," said Howard. "It has the

major I want with small classes so it will be easier to get to know the professors and ask them questions."

Freed-Hardeman University is a private university in Henderson, Tennessee with a current enrollment of 1,973. FHU is nicknamed athletically as the Lions and Lady Lions, is part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division I level. Until the fall 2020 semester, they primarily competed in the American Midwest Conference, but since have become part of the Mid-South Conference.

The Lady Lions volleyball team finished the 2021 season with a 10-19 mark. Todd Humphry begins his 22nd year as the head coach of the Freed-Hardeman University Lady Lion volleyball team. Throughout his 20+ seasons with the Lady Lions, Humphry has posted a 391-239 and currently ranks 22nd on the NAIA Most Winning Coaches List.

Howard hopes to major in biology and then after her four years at Freed-Hardeman plans to apply to a medical school and finish her degree to become a pediatric surgeon.



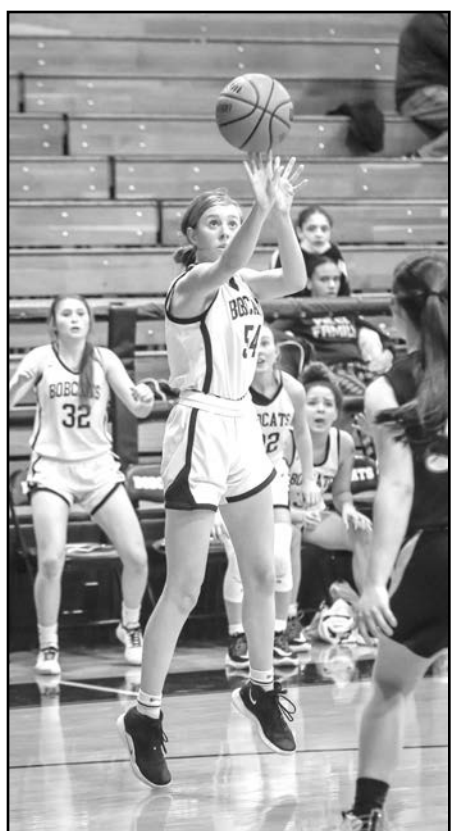
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Autumn Howard (in middle sitting) has signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at Freed-Hardeman University. The Radford High School player announced the decision last week in the school's library in front of family, friends, teammates and coaches.

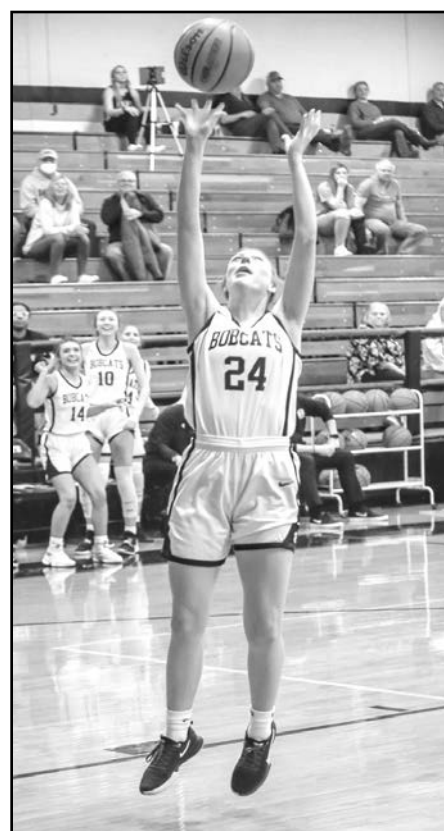
Radford girls defeat James River



Hollybrook Cline dribbles up court to start the Bobcats' offense in Tuesday's 67-31 win over James River.



Claire Fender scores on a jump shot in the win as Radford moves to 7-5 overall and 2-3 in Three Rivers District play.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER
 Raegan Carrow scores on a fast break in Tuesday's big district victory. She finished with five points in the contest.

Takeaways from Tech's upcoming football slate

Virginia Tech's 2022 schedule was made official by the ACC Monday night, headlined by six home games in new head coach Brent Pry's first season back in Blacksburg.

New season tickets are still available for as little as \$350 with flexible payment plan options.

While there is plenty of time until the Hokies' season opener at Old Dominion on Labor Day weekend, some of the early storylines are worth keeping an eye on this fall.

Pry will meet a familiar foe in Week 1.

When Pry takes the field for his first game as head coach of the Hokies, he'll see a familiar face across the field in Old Dominion head coach Ricky Rahne.

In his third year in Norfolk, Rahne was previously part of Penn State's coaching staff alongside Pry from 2014-19. Pry was the defensive coordinator for the Nittany Lions, and Rahne served as Penn State's quarterbacks coach, tight ends coach, and offensive coordinator during his last two seasons in State College. The duo combined to win 57 games over their six years on PSU's staff together and remain close friends.

Tech's home schedule is front-loaded for the second year in a row.

After playing six of their first seven games in Lane Stadium in 2021, the Hokies will play four of their first seven games in Blacksburg this fall, including three of their first

four contests.

Hokie Nation will have to wait until Week 2 for Virginia Tech's home opener, an ACC cross-division game against Boston College on Saturday, Sept. 10. Wofford visits Blacksburg in Week 3 before Tech takes on West Virginia Thursday night, Sept. 22, concluding its three-game home stand. Following a pair of road games, the Hokies will return to Lane Stadium to face Miami (Fla.) in Week 7 on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Tech will play just two home games over the final six weeks of the season, against Georgia Tech on Saturday, Nov. 5, and against Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 26.

Thursday night football is back in Blacksburg.

For the first time since 2018, Virginia Tech will host a Thursday game under the lights in Lane Stadium. Tech's opponent for this season's match-up is West Virginia as the Mountaineers will make their first trip to Blacksburg in 15 years.

The Hokies have a long history of playing games on Thursday nights, starting with its first-ever Thursday night contest back on Sept. 22, 1994. Their opponent then was none other than West Virginia, a game that Tech won 34-6. Virginia Tech is 2-0 against WVU on Thursday nights and owns a 12-6 mark on Thursday nights in Lane Stadium, having won three of its last four.

October will be a piv-

otal month.

The ACC Coastal Division race is always tightly contested, and the Hokies will have a chance to make their case for supremacy with a stretch of three straight division games in October.

Tech travels to North Carolina on Saturday, Oct. 1, before visiting the Steel City for a clash with Pitt, last year's Coastal Division champion, on Saturday, Oct. 8. The Panthers will have to replace quarterback Kenny Pickett, who was the ACC Player of the Year and who finished third in the voting for the Heisman Trophy in 2021.

The Hokies return home the following weekend for a clash with Miami (Fla.) and new head coach Mario Cristobal on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Tech's open week comes right after this three-game stretch, giving the Hokies a chance to get some much-needed rest ahead of their

See **Takeaways**, page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

C	A	S	H	E	D	S	P	A	R	E	S		
C	A	T	T	A	L	O	C	A	L	I	B	E	R
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Hokies' 2022 football schedule features six home games

The Atlantic Coast Conference released its complete 2022 football schedule on Monday.

Brent Pry will make his debut as Virginia Tech head coach on either Friday, Sept. 2, or Saturday, Sept. 3 when the Hokies visit Old Dominion. Pry's initial home game at Lane Stadium will come against ACC foe Boston College on Sept. 10. The Boston College contest will mark the first of six home games for the Hokies in 2022, a slate that features a Thursday night contest vs. West Virginia on Sept. 22.

Virginia Tech fans will get their first opportunity to see Pry's squad at the 2022 spring game, which is set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. Further details for the event will be announced when they are finalized. The game will be broadcast live on the ACC Network.

Virginia Tech's 2022 home slate features a Commonwealth Cup matchup against Virginia on Nov. 26 to close out the regular season. The Hokies have won 21 of their last 23 meetings with the Cavaliers, including a streak of 11 straight victories at Lane Stadium.

Tech posted a 29-24 win last season in Charlottesville. The Hokies will also face ACC foes Miami (Oct. 15) and Georgia Tech (Nov. 5) in Blacksburg this season.

Three of Tech's four ACC road games in 2022 will take place in "The Triangle," composed of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, N.C., marking the first time the Hokies have ever played road games at Duke, at North Carolina, and at NC State in a single season.

The Hokies open their conference road schedule at North Carolina on Oct. 1. Following an open date on Oct. 22, Tech will play at NC State on Thursday, Oct. 27, marking the first visit to Carter-Finley Stadium by the Hokies since a 41-30 win on Oct. 2, 2010.

Virginia Tech rounds out its trifecta of games in The Triangle with a matchup at Duke on Nov. 12. The Hokies own a combined 38-10 all-time record in ACC play against teams from the state of North Carolina: 15-3 vs. Duke, 14-4 vs. UNC, 5-1 vs. NC State and 4-2 vs. Wake Forest.

Virginia Tech's 2022 road schedule also features an

Oct.-8 contest at Pitt and a non-conference tilt on Nov. 19 at Liberty.

VIRGINIA TECH 2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE (home games in capital letters)

April 16	SPRING GAME
September 2 or 3	at Old Dominion
September 10	BOSTON COLLEGE
September 17	WOFFORD
September 22	WEST VIRGINIA (Thurs.)
October 1	at North Carolina
October 8	at Pitt
October 15	MIAMI
October 22	OPEN
October 27	at NC State (Thurs.)
November 5	GEORGIA TECH
November 12	at Duke
November 19	at Liberty
November 26	VIRGINIA

Takeaways from page 7

final few games. That may be mitigated to some degree since Virginia Tech's next opponent, NC State, also has an open week prior to the meeting on Thursday, Oct. 27. **New faces highlight the Smithfield Commonwealth Clash.**

This fall's Commonwealth Clash presented by Smithfield will feature new head coaches on both sidelines, as Pry and Virginia's Tony Elliott will lead their respective teams into the 2022 edition of this long-standing rivalry. In the series' 128-year

history, this fall will mark just the 12th time that both programs will have new head coaches at the helm.

Tech will look to keep the Commonwealth Cup in its possession for a third straight season.

OBITUARIES

Lester, Bernadine Groseclose

Bernadine Groseclose Lester was the youngest of four daughters born to William Albert Groseclose and Nora Lee Copenhaver Groseclose in Pulaski on April 15, 1916.



After losing her mother to the Spanish influenza epidemic in 1918, Bernadine was raised by her father and her beloved aunt, Kate Parks, of Marion, Va./Harlan, Ky.

Bernadine married Ray Edwin Lester on Oct. 10, 1934. In 1954, they moved with their three children from Pulaski to Christiansburg where Bernadine lived until her death. A devoted mother and grandmother, Bernadine was an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, had visited 48 of the 50 states, and enjoyed socializing with her canasta club well into her 100s.

Bernadine was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters Gillie Moyers, Rena Sue Ellis, and Alberta Payne; her husband Ray "The Meanest Man in Christiansburg" Lester; her daughter, Carol Lee Morrison (Tom) of Roanoke, and a son Ray Edwin "Eddie" Lester, Jr. of Riner; and Sandy Moyers of Pulaski, a nephew to whom she was especially close.

Surviving to celebrate her

indomitable spirit and to sustain her legacy of family and faith are Bernadine's daughter Mary Katherine "Kathy" Hall (Spencer) of Riner; her daughter-in-law, Joyce Lester; grandchildren Bob Hudson (Diane) of Louisa, Va., Tim Hudson (Laura) of Dublin, Ohio, Lane Hudson (Rene) of Roanoke, Ray Edwin "Les" Lester, III (Beverly) of Meadowview, Va., Mark Lester of Christiansburg, Terry Rae Bodine (Bill) of Lynchburg, Rick Hall of Ashburn, Va., Andrew Hall (Darien) of Charlottesville, and Ryan Dean (after Bernadine) Hall (Shannon Moore) of Newport, Va. Bernadine leaves to cherish her memory 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild (with another on the way). The family thanks Kindred Hospice and the staff at Commonwealth Assisted Living (where Bernadine resided for 16 years) for their kindness and care.

Visitation was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., Christiansburg, on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, followed by a funeral service.

Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home & Crematory 540-382-2612.

Phillips, Doris Elizabeth

Doris Elizabeth Phillips, 87, of Pulaski, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Wilson and Glenna Yates; and her beloved husband, Laddie Ray Phillips.

Survivors include her son, Joseph S. Phillips; a daughter, Sandra

E. Phillips; and her grandsons, Michael Lee Phillips and Russell James Phillips.

Per her requests, no services will be held at this time.

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

Rollyson, Richard Austin

Richard Austin Rollyson, 89, passed away peacefully in his home in Fairlawn on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.

He was born in Gassaway, W.Va., to the late Madalene and John Austin Rollyson. After he graduated from high school, he spent four years in the U. S. Air Force. He graduated from West Virginia Institute of Technology with a bachelor of science, majoring in mechanical engineering. He built his home in Fairlawn, and he worked until retirement at the Radford Army Ammunitions Plant. He loved his farm, raising cattle and gardening with the help of all his children. Later, he was helped by his sidekick grandson, Austin, who spent all his spare time assisting PopPop with everything. Besides being a workaholic on the farm, he had a passion for motorcycle riding with his friends throughout the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and family.

Survivors include his five children and their spouses: John Mark and Sissy Rollyson; Sandra Ann and Robert Langley;

Terri Lynn and Mack Davis; Thomas Scott Rollyson and

Roberta Dawn Rollyson; grandchildren Brandy Young, Laura Rollyson, Rachael Walker, Kathyne Rollyson, Casey Dalton, Kailey Burr, Holly Spangler, Hailey Williams, and Austin Rollyson; 12 great-grandchildren; his former wife and the mother of his children, Barbara Thomas Rollyson; and many other relatives and friends.

Special thanks go to his wonderful caregivers who gave him the best of care for the last several years: Cristy Keener, Sherri Birkelbach, and his daughter, Roberta.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. After his cremation, some of his cremains will be placed at the Sunrise Burial Park atop the hill near the flagpole overlooking Fairlawn, the place where he planted his feet.

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

McGuire, Lettie Kate Kegley

Lettie Kate Kegley McGuire, 83, of Fairlawn, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.



Kate was a registered nurse at McGuire Veterans Hospital for 35 years. She loved her Lord Jesus Christ and read her Bible daily. She loved Elvis and watching Virginia Tech football games.

She spent her last hours praying and singing the Old Rugged Cross, and her last words were "I love you all." She attended Belspring United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her children, Sandra Thompson and Chet of Chesterfield, John McGuire, Jr., and Terry of Richmond, Diane Shane of Fairlawn, and Wanda James of Roanoke; her brother, Paul Kegley of

Roanoke; 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, Elbert and Lettie Kegley; her husband, John Kenneth McGuire; her son, Thomas Elbert McGuire; and her siblings, Clyde, Thelma, and Roger.

The family received friends on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by funeral services with the Rev. Ginny Tompkins officiating. Interment was private.

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

Teaching from page 3

ters as a Pathways course, Geography 2074. Its fitting name? "COVID-19: Global Pandemic, Local Impacts."

Mario Caraccioli, from the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has had students explore such issues as lockdowns and bailouts

in the context of historical, political, even fictional responses to disease. In Plagues, Pandemics, and Politics, one assigned course reading was Octavia Butler's dystopian novel Parable of the Sower.

He also let students use class sessions to process their own pandemic experiences. "I wanted it to be a space for stu-

dents to express both questions and concerns as well as frustrations and hopes," said Caraccioli.

Caraccioli hopes to publish some of his students' personal response essays as part of a "college COVID archive." Political scientists, he said, will be studying the pandemic for years to come.

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