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Fear or revere: Virginia Tech researcher dives into the complex history of the American alligator

By Andrew G. Adkins

Mark Barrow had to sink his teeth into the misconceptions.

Popular narratives portray the American alligator as a fierce predator eager to devour humans in one bite. A ravenous reptile with 80 razor blades for teeth. Menacing jaws strong enough to crush the hood of a car. A muscular tail ready to launch a 500-pound, submarined beast hurdling toward unsuspecting prey on a swampy shoreline.

But Barrow sees more to the scaly swimmers. A professor in the Virginia Tech Department of History, he carries a deep interest in the history of our perceptions of and interactions with wildlife.

The National Endowment for the Humanities helped fuel Barrow's latest efforts: a deep dive into the cultural and environmental history of the American alligator. The grant will help Barrow complete his forthcoming book, "Alligator Tales: The Making of Florida's Iconic Reptile."

The book will center on humanity's impact on alligators, historical depictions of the species, and how the reptile shaped Florida's identity.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., Barrow's fascination with the alligator began in childhood. "Both literally and figuratively, I grew up in gator

country," he said.

Barrow's interest in the alligator fully ignited while he was studying the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The alligator, listed in the act as a species of primary concern for extinction, played a prominent role in debates surrounding the act's passage.

"That was curious to me," said Barrow. "The alligator galvanized concern about endangered species. I wondered how, then, could this species also be perceived as this pure predator bent on consuming humans?"

Reliable data on alligator attacks first emerged in the 1940s. Since then, 34 people have reportedly died from an encounter.

"The predominant vision we have of the alligator is a creature that is highly dangerous to humans. Yet, you're much more likely to be injured driving to a place where alligators live than you are by an actual alligator," said Barrow. "In reality, alligators actively try to avoid humans since they perceive us to be the threat."

The alligator's perception is justified. Hunters nearly eliminated the species in the early 1900s, prompting the inclusion of the alligator in the Endangered Species Act.

But alligators and humans coex-

isted long before the arrival of European settlers on land belonging to Native Americans. Barrow said he hopes to detail the complex — and sometimes contradictory — ways Euro-Americans, Native Americans, and African Americans have related to the alligator "not only as a frightening predator, but also a landscape symbol, commodity, trophy, mascot, pet, totem, endangered species, nuisance, and sentinel species."

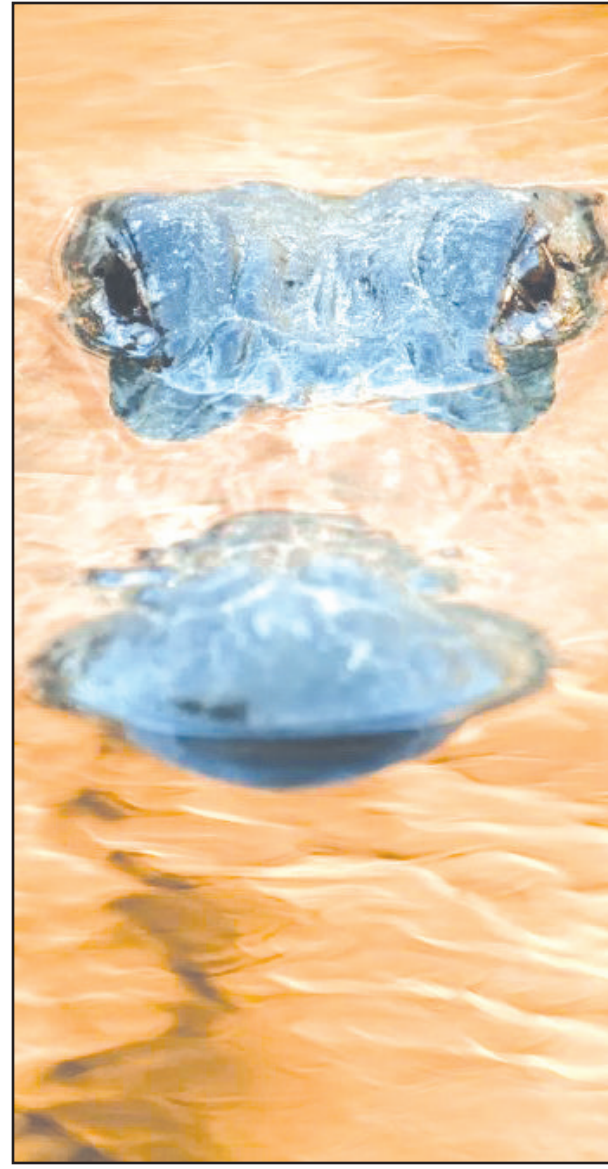
In his research, Barrow is engaging with a relatively new scholarly trend in the humanities called the "animal turn." The method challenges researchers to advance beyond a totally human-centered perspective to better understand history and our complex relationship with the nonhuman world.

"The animal turn demonstrates the power and utility of taking animal agency seriously while centering nonhuman organisms in our historical narratives," Barrow said.

Across more than 20 years, Barrow has collected a vast array of sources to explore the book's historical and cultural themes, from archived newspaper articles and documentaries to tourist brochures, souvenirs, and postcards.

He's devoting two chapters to

See **Alligator**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A setting sun paints a stand of live oaks a fiery orange, which dapples on the water of Alachua Sink in Paynes Prairie State Park in Gainesville, Fla. There alligators congregate by the dozens to take advantage of the large concentrations of fish. Photo by Mac Stone, a National Geographic Explorer and a 2006 Virginia Tech graduate in Spanish and international studies.

USDA funding awarded to Washington and Jefferson National Forest for habitat restoration that includes Montgomery County

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded joint chiefs' landscape restoration funding to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest to restore forest health in the Eastern Divide Restoration Project area.

The joint chiefs' landscape restoration partnership enables the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service, both agencies under the USDA, to collaborate with agricultural producers and forest landowners to invest in con-

servation and restoration at a big enough scale to make a difference. Working in partnership helps reduce wildfire threats, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species.

The award funds a 3-year project aimed at improving forest health, habitat, and water quality across public and private lands in Virginia's Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, Giles, Bland, Pulaski, Wythe, Tazewell, and Montgomery counties. The project will focus on the 440,724 acres of national forest system

lands and 1,819,756 acres of private land in Bland, Botetourt and Wythe counties, where unfragmented oak and pine forests are recognized as a hotspot for biodiversity in the Central Appalachians.

The area contains four of the main watersheds in Virginia (James, Roanoke, New, and Clinch Powell) as well as 559 miles of cold-water trout habitat. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation-Natural Heritage Division tracks 56 species of rare, threatened, and endangered species in the project

area, including 32 federally endangered species. Of the 32 federally endangered and threatened species, 28 are aquatic fish or mollusks.

A key aspect of the project restoration work will include prescribed burns, timber stand improvements, and vegetation management treatments that create and promote early successional and open woodland habitat. This habitat is critical for forest bats, grouse, wild turkey, deer,

See **USDA**, page 6

Celebrate 50 years of spirit, vibrancy, and cultural pride with 'Ballet Hispánico' at Moss Arts Center

The Moss Arts Center welcomes Ballet Hispánico, a pioneering contemporary dance company to its stage for a return

performance Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

A leading voice of artistic excellence and advocacy, Ballet Hispánico

celebrates 50 years of spirit, vibrancy, and cultural pride with "Noche

See **Ballet**, page 4

Virginia Tech professor lands two grants for the study of brain trauma

By Jimmy Robertson

Michelle Theus, an associate professor of molecular and cellular neurobiology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology within the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, recently secured two grants totaling nearly \$4.5 million from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for research related to traumatic brain injuries.

The funding came through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), an institute within NIH that provides support for health-related brain research and development. Theus is the principal investigator on these two grants and two other previously secured NIH grants, along with being one of multiple principal investigators on a grant from the CURE Epilepsy foundation studying the effects of traumatic injury and stroke on brain

function.

Each grant supports a specified project to be performed by a named investigator(s) in the investigator's specific area of interest. Although funding at this level is an accomplishment for any researcher, Theus is modest about her success.

"I don't know how much credit to take for it," Theus said. "With [COVID-19], we've all been restricted to our home offices. I think being solely focused on writing grants has enabled my success. So, maybe I should give [COVID-19] credit for that."

"But I'm delighted once again to have the recognition from NINDS. I'm grateful they agree that this is a fruitful endeavor."

One grant, totaling \$2.01 million, will be used to study new mechanisms that promote entry of certain white

See **Grants**, page 4



PHOTO BY PAULA LOBO

Ballet Hispánico performs "Tiburones" (2019).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 14:

Braley & Thompson Blanket Drive for Virginia foster children

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

Now through Feb. 28:

MFRL adult winter reading program

The 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/>.

Grab-and-Go meals

Free grab-and-go meals and snacks all the month of February at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Children and youth 18 and younger can come and get a weeks’ worth of meals and snacks. Each box will contain a five-day supply. This is free to all children/teens during library hours. Sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia.

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.

Community History Harvest with Christiansburg Institute

Blacksburg Library; 1:30 to 4 p.m. Join a team of staff and volunteers at the Community History Harvest with Christiansburg Institute. A History Harvest collects digital reproductions of an item and returns the original to the owner. Community members may bring their family photographs, paper documents, newspaper clippings, and stories. Library staff will be set-up with all the tools and equipment (scanners and audio/visual recorders) needed to preserve precious memories.

Nailed it! Winter Edition

Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. Inspired by the hit Netflix TV show, participants will use their wacky, artistic side by recreating a work of art using the provided supplies. Ages 8 and up. Registration is required with prizes awarded to the winner. Contact spahl@mfrl.org for more information.

Monday, Feb. 14:

Cupids of Comedy Show and Fundraiser

The RADical Change Commission is “calling all lovers of laughter for an evening of Valentine- themed fun” to raise funds for a good cause. The commission is hosting a stand-up comedy show fundraiser “complete with charcuterie and sweet treats” at Sharkey’s Up Top. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. A star-studded lineup will feature some of Virginia’s best stand up comics. 7 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 donation per person and are available at <http://paypal.me/RADicalChangeLove> with “Cupids of Comedy” in the memo.

STEM Club

Christiansburg Library; 1 p.m. The homeschool STEM club explores science, technology, engineering, and/or math. Ages 8 and up.

Pokémon Club

Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and get ready to battle, trade, and make new friends. All ages.

Tuesday, Feb. 15:

Cupcake Wars: Valentines Edition

Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Participants can put their decorating skills to the

test with another round of cupcake wars. Email mroach@mfrl.org with any questions.

Wednesday, Feb. 16:

Just Help: Storytime with the mayor

Join Radford’s Mayor Horton for a special storytime about helping make the world and the community a better place. Sonia Sotomayor’s new book “Just Help!” will be read aloud. A limited supply of free copies of this book to give away will be provided. Radford Public Library; 11 a.m.

American Business Women’s Association luncheon meeting

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

Virtual Art Club: Henry Ossawa Tanner

Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Painter Henry Ossawa Tanner will help participants create a portrait in his style. Participants can pick up a curated craft kit and then follow the tutorial on Facebook or YouTube.

Library Board of Trustees meeting

Christiansburg Library; 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 17:

Talking About Books: “All That She Carried”

Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Discussed this month is “All That She Carried” by Tiya Miles, in-person and virtually.

SOVA Colloquium presents Mark Valdez

Blacksburg Library; 3:30 p.m. The School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech presents Art, Community, and Social Health, a series of talks/workshops by nationally recognized artists and thought leaders on the power and practice of art and culture as essential elements of healthy communities. Mark Valdez is a director, writer, and cultural organizer who partners with communities, organizations, civic institutions, and others, using theater and creative tools to address community needs and to lift up community voices and stories. Valdez will participate via Zoom. Discussion will take place both in person and via Zoom.

Dungeons & Dragons - Level 4

Radford Public Library; 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adventure into the world of Dungeons & Dragons. Email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov to set up everything needed to build a level 4 hero. Hybrid virtual attendance options are available for those interested.

Saturday Feb. 19:

High School Art Show

Radford University Art Museum, 214 Tyler Ave., Radford. An opening reception will be held at 11 a.m. Artwork of area high school students will be on display until Saturday, Feb. 26.

Caturday

Christiansburg Library; noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Teen DND

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

Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26:

Radford Public Library Book Sale

The Radford Public Library will hold book sales on Friday, Feb.25, and Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Book topics during the sale include fantasy, science fiction, fishing, and cooking plus DVDs, CDs, and gun books. The sale will feature a free table. All hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Children’s books are half that. Funds raised assist the Lamplighters.

Ongoing:

Blacksburg Aquatic Center Closed for Repairs

Repairs on the hot tub, gutters and deck surface at the Blacksburg Aquatic Center, are ongoing. The Aquatic Center will remain closed for several more weeks. A re-opening date will be announced once it is confirmed.

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Transportation award for first-generation Hokie could improve medical response training for vehicle collisions and save lives

By Laura McWhinney

Jacob Valente, a third-year doctoral student in the Virginia Tech–Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences program, has received the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Award.

For more than 30 years, this award, given by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), benefits the nation's brightest minds in the field of transportation, according to the FHWA website, helping these students earn advanced degrees and support the U.S. transportation industry.

Past fellows have pushed for innovative change in areas such as highway infrastructure and aviation, making the industry more effective and efficient. Valente's research proposes to do just that: conduct research for innovative change to assist emergency medical service (EMS) responses to vehicle collisions.

Valente works in the Advanced Vehicle and Technology Research (AVaTR) Lab alongside Miguel Perez, associate professor in biomedical engineering and mechanics in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering. Together, they are spearheading multiple projects to improve EMS responses to vehicle collisions.

"I believe the results and subsequent implications of these projects have the potential to save lives and reduce life-altering injuries sustained from motor vehicle crashes," Valente

said. "Knowing that these projects could even positively impact one person's life is the most rewarding aspect of my work."

Valente never expected to attend graduate school. But a thought-provoking question, posed by Clay Gabler – the former Samuel Herrick Professor at Virginia Tech until he passed away in 2021 – encouraged Valente to think more deeply about transportation issues and then to apply to the accelerated master's program in biomedical engineering and mechanics.

Gabler contrasted the public response to plane crashes versus vehicle crashes. When a plane crashes, he said, society deems it unacceptable, resulting in a thorough investigation. Vehicle crashes happen more often, yet do not generate the same level of response.

Why is that?

Gabler's question sparked Valente's interest in the study of vehicle safety. Then, a guest lecture during Valente's senior year as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, explored complications and issues in the EMS system and in hospitals. Valente began thinking about how his engineering knowledge could help solve these problems.

"I was stunned when I thought about the desensitization I had to car collisions," said Valente. "It really made me think. As I got deeper into the research and kept pondering the issues I heard about, I realized I wanted to do something to help address these problems."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jacob Valente, first-generation and third-year doctoral student, received a prestigious transportation award for his life-saving research. Photo by Spencer Roberts of Virginia Tech.

One of Valente's and Perez's projects involves collecting naturalistic driving data from ambulances. Naturalistic data are data collected over time via sensors and cameras installed in the vehicle. Valente said the goal is to identify how other road users, such as passenger vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists, interact with emergency vehicles in active response modes. By identifying harmful or negative interactions in the data, Valente hopes to design interventions or recommendations to improve the safety and efficiency of emergency responses.

Valente and Perez are also working on a comprehensive injury triage system to assist EMS responders. Current algorithms and processes can

estimate the severity of a vehicle crash and predict injury risk to occupants through vehicle-based measurements like crash speed. However, these processes don't factor in the post-collision medical status of the vehicle's occupants. Access to this information, as evaluated through real-time vital sign measurement, could help EMS responders more efficiently mobilize additional resources, such as advanced life support personnel or a helicopter. Rather than waiting to arrive on the scene to evaluate occupants' conditions, the responders could already have the equipment at the collision site or en route. This could be a matter of life or death in many instances, said Valente.

Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique returns to provide fairytale prom for students

The YMCA at VT in partnership with the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club is bringing back the Cinderella and Prince Charming Boutique, aka The Cinderella Project, to give teens on a budget their fairytale prom by providing new and gently used formal wear, shoes, and accessories for young men and young ladies.

The boutique has been developed to offset the potential issue of teens being prevented from attending prom because of a lack of resources. It offers a large assortment of clothing with a variety of options. Volunteers are available to help select just the right outfit

and to offer grooming tips. Foremost for the boutique is the rule that price is not an option, so no one will leave empty handed.

"Finding a need and filling it, that's what the YMCA at Virginia Tech does," said Ron Ovelgoenner, YMCA Director of Thrift Shop Operations

"Cinderella project is one of the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club's favorite community projects that aligns with our mission," said Ann Dempsey in discussing why the club is again partnering with the YMCA at VT on this project. "Our members enjoy helping the young men and women have a great experience

in finding their formal wear that they may not otherwise have been able to, due to expense."

The YMCA at VT and the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club invite all high school students shopping on a budget to come to the Y Thrift Shop, 1000, N. Main St., Blacksburg on the following dates to participate in the Cinderella & Prince Charming Boutique events: Feb. 26, 27; March 12, 13; March 26 & 27; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sundays from noon to 3 p.m.

Virginia Tech's first service sorority, Chi Delta Alpha, is providing the volunteers for the boutique.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Radford's Abigail Caldwell makes dean's list at Champlain College

Abigail Caldwell of Radford has been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester.

Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Caldwell is currently enrolled in the Game Art and Animation major.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vt., with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. From its campus overlooking Lake Champlain, the college offers an innovative academic experience and more than 100 residential and online programs, including undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates.

Ella Warnick of Blacksburg earns dean's list honors at Utah

Ella Warnick of Blacksburg, was named to the University of Utah's Fall 2021 Dean's List. Warnick's major is listed as Environmental and Sustain Std BA.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 32,000 students from across the U.S. and the world. With over 100 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine, the university prepares students to live and compete in the global workplace.

Christiansburg's Colin Meissner named to Champlain College's trustees list

Colin Meissner of Christiansburg was named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Fall 2021 semester

Students on the trustees list have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters. Meissner is currently enrolled in the cybersecurity major.

Cameron Earle of Blacksburg named to dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic

Cameron Earle, of Blacksburg, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in robotics engineering (BS), has been named to the dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for academic excellence for the fall 2021 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the dean's list by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses," said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. "WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real. Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the dean's list have excelled

in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

Local students graduate from James Madison

Three local students were among the James Madison University students who graduated during the December 2021 commencement exercises.

Receiving their degrees were Sean Raasio of Blacksburg (computer science), Luke Henderson of Radford (integrated science and technology), and Connie Zeller of Christiansburg (nursing).

Founded in 1908, James Madison University is a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. With state-of-the-art amenities and facilities, JMU students have access to NCAA Division I athletics. JMU also has the highest post-graduation job levels of all Virginia colleges.

Blacksburg's Matthew Pasier earns dean's list honors at University of Tampa

Matthew Pasier of Blacksburg earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Fall 2021 semester. Pasier is majoring in Finance BS. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the university serves more than 10,000 students from 50 states and most of the world's 195 countries.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Montgomery County farmer Chuck Shorter has raised meat goats for over 40 years and agrees that market prices have been among the best he's ever seen.

Virginia goat numbers increase alongside growing demand

BLACKSBURG—Goat meat and other goat-derived products are growing in popularity in the U.S., and as the market emerges, Virginia farmers have positioned themselves to help meet that demand.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) sheep and goat inventory report, Virginia's goat supply increased by 3% despite national inventory decreasing by 1%.

Virginia-raised dairy, meat and other goats were estimated at 46,200 head as of Jan. 1, up

from 44,800 head at the start of 2021. The year-over-year inventory increase was the first since 2020.

"The increase in goats is consistent with what we've seen over the last several years," said Dr. Scott Greiner, a Virginia Tech professor and Virginia Cooperative Extension beef and sheep specialist.

"Goats are in high demand for the ethnic market, and based on Virginia's location and close proximity to large metropolitan areas, prices have been excellent," he added. "I think [the data] we're seeing is the re-

sult of that."

In addition to their growing market presence, Greiner noted goats thrive in Virginia's climate and excel in small farm settings, and both factors have contributed to their popularity among farmers.

Montgomery County farmer Chuck Shorter has raised meat goats for over 40 years and agreed that market prices have been among the best he's ever seen.

Shorter, who also raised sheep until the late '90s, noted

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Grants

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blood cells into the immune-privileged brain and how this creates a neurotoxic environment that disrupts the blood brain barrier: a barrier that prevents immune cell entry and helps keep the brain safe and prevents improper functioning of neurons.

Theus has assembled an outstanding team of partners that include Virginia Tech Professor Chang Lu, post-doctoral fellows Elizabeth Kowalski, Erwin Kristobal Gudenschwager Basso,

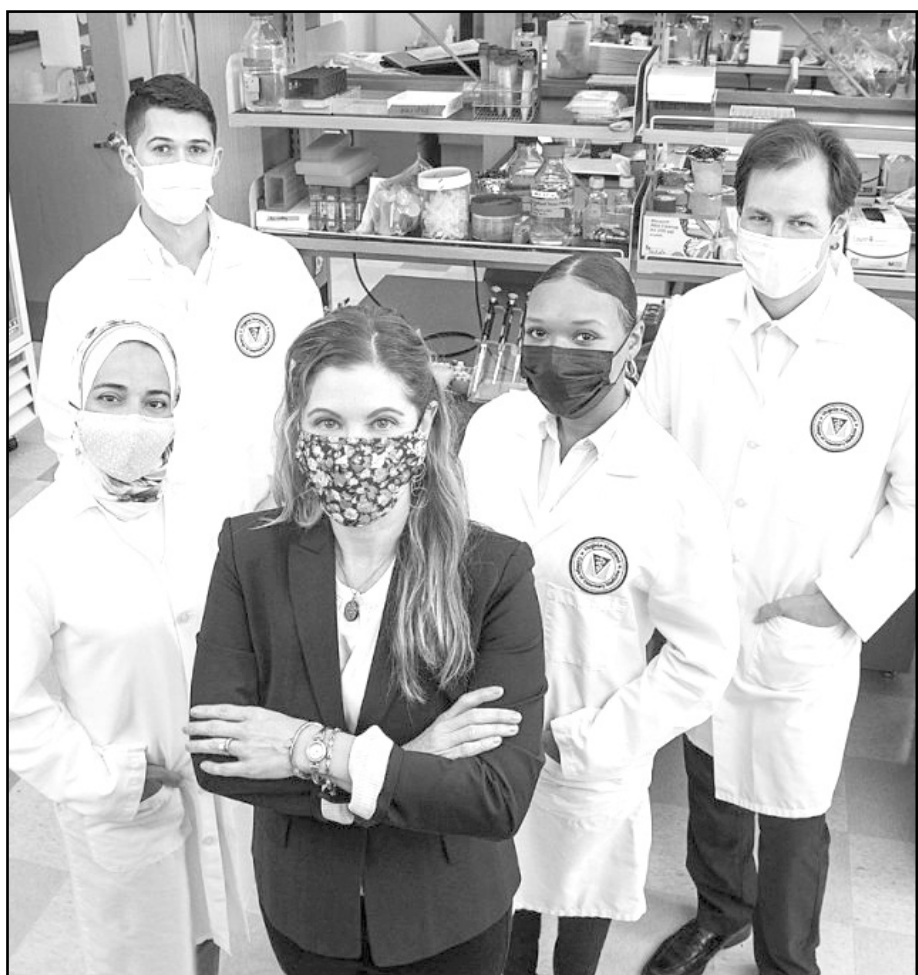
Eman Soliman, and John Leonard, as well as graduate student Jatia Mills.

"When that barrier is lost, and neurotoxic immune cells enter and do what it is they're programmed to do, the brain is not a conducive environment for that response," she said. "Our goal is to devise innovative ways to re-tool their program, to limit their overzealous nature in a manner that enables the brain to heal as a consequence of head

trauma."

The other grant, totaling \$2.47 million, allows for the study of age-dependence on the immune response. Exciting new findings from her group show that immune cell transfer from juvenile animals into adult animals exposed to traumatic brain injury resulted in substantial protection. Her long-term goal is to learn how to recondition the adult or aged immune system as a therapeutic tool to limit brain damage by taking advantage of the youthful program.

As part of her overall translational approach to science, Theus will begin to glean information from her research with animals by partnering with Biraj Patel and Eric Marvin, two clinicians in the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, to apply the work to human patient samples. She currently holds one Institutional Review Board for the upcoming proposals.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Post-doctoral associates Eman Soliman, John Leonard, and Erwin Kristobal Gudenschwager Basso; Ph.D. candidate, Jatia Mills; and Michelle Theus (center). Photo by Andrew Mann for Virginia Tech.

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Ballet

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de Oro," a program encompassing the company's flourishing history of lush and virtuosic dance.

The performance will be held in the center's Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Named one of America's Cultural Treasures by the Ford Foundation, Ballet Hispánico celebrates Latinx cultures through innovative performances that elevate diverse artists and ignite cultural pride. According to the New York

Times, "The Latin-American experience at last has a voice in the feisty, elegant dancing of Ballet Hispánico."

An international force, Ballet Hispánico has continued to mold the landscape of contemporary dance. This performance celebrates the company's work to elevate diverse artists and share with underserved communities a language accessible to everybody: dance.

"Noche de Oro" features the following works: "Arabesque" (1984)

Vicente Nebrada's "Arabesque" is an elegant suite of dances set to the music of Spanish composer Enrique Granados. Traces of Flamenco influence are hinted at in the upper body as the dancers move through lush, balletic contemporary phrases.

"Tiburones" (2019) In "Tiburones" choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa addresses discrimination and stereotypes placed upon

Latinx culture and the power the media has in portraying these themes by diminishing the voices of Latinx artists. Ochoa deconstructs gender roles and identity to revitalize an authentic perspective of Puerto Rican icons appropriated within the entertainment industry.

"18+1" (2012)

"18+1" celebrates Gustavo Ramfrez Sansano's 19 years as a choreographer and the vulnerability, care, and hope that comes with each artistic endeavor. With subtle humor and electric choreography, the movement merges with the playful rhythms of Perez Prado's mambo music. Sansano draws from his history and memory to take a joyous look at the past, present, and coming future.

From its inception Ballet Hispánico focused on providing a haven for Black and Brown Latinx youth and families seeking artistic place and cultural

sanctuary. By providing the space for Latinx dance and dancers to flourish, Ballet Hispánico uplifted marginalized emerging and working artists, which combined with the training, authenticity of voice, and power of representation, fueled the organization's roots and trajectory. Today, Ballet Hispánico's New York City headquarters houses a School of Dance and state-of-the-art dance studios for its programs and the arts community. From its grassroots origins as a dance school and community-based performing arts troupe, Ballet Hispánico has stood as a catalyst for social change for 50 years.

This engagement of Ballet Hispánico is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and is supported in part by gifts from Kelli Whitfield and Sherwood P. Quillen.

Alligator

from page 1

how the alligator emerged as a marketing tool following the Civil War. Amusement parks, circuses, and fair promoters frequently touted their traveling alligators. The species "became the 'star and leading attraction' for seasonal tourists who began flocking to Florida in the late 1800s, initially on river steamboat excursions and then in the form of many popular attractions known as alligator farms," said Barrow.

Barrow also plans to describe the use of the alligator in perpetuating racism, particularly, he said, "how white people used the species as part of an ongoing campaign to control, oppress, and humiliate people of color."

Claims that alligators had a penchant for the flesh of Black people began circulating in the mid-18th century, according to Barrow. The falsehoods amplified over the next 100 years with the circulation of images depicting caricatures of Black people being threatened or attacked by alligators.

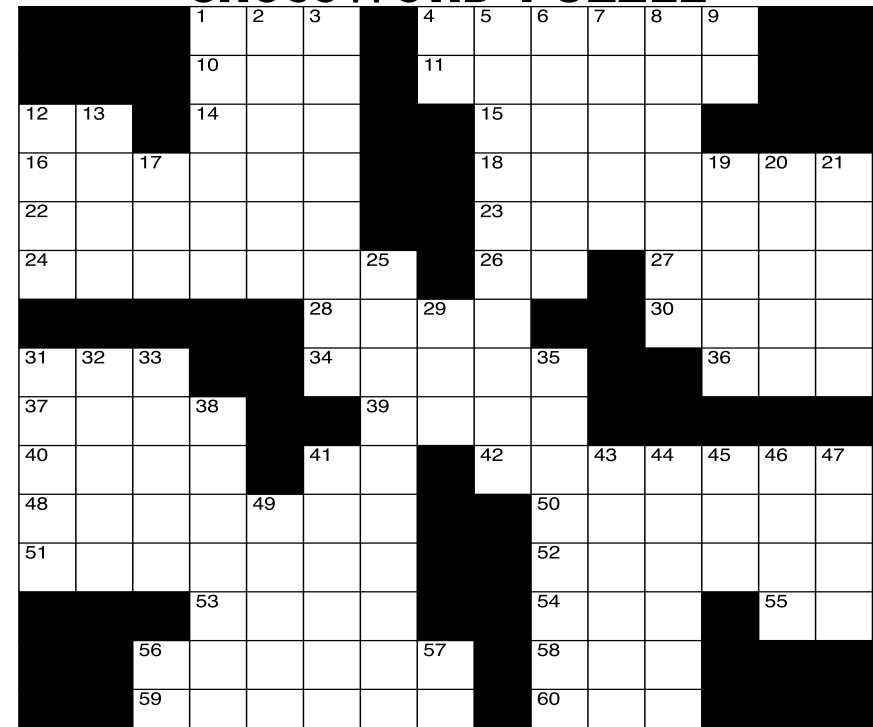
"These highly racist images, which proliferated on stereo-view cards, photographs, sheet music, trade cards, postcards, and product advertising, remained pervasive until the modern Civil Rights movement," Barrow said.

Later in the book, Barrow will examine the brief, problematic trend of Americans keeping alligators as household pets. Live baby alligators became a popular souvenir for tourists returning from Florida in the late 1800s. One fashion trend even involved tying newly hatched gators to brooches as a form of animated jewelry, Barrow said.

Often, "pet owners" would quickly realize they didn't want to cohabitate with alligators after all.

"Many alligators were released in the wild, a few were donated to zoos, and others were simply flushed down the toilet, leading to the pervasive myth about alligators inhabiting the sewers of New York City and other metropolitan areas," Barrow said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point east of due south
- 4. City in Maine
- 10. Inquire too closely
- 11. Make dirty
- 12. Small Greek island
- 14. Bitterly regret
- 15. Millisecond
- 16. ___ the ante
- 18. Without value
- 22. Eurasian ryegrass
- 23. Authentic
- 24. Having a mournful quality
- 26. Not out
- 27. Salvador ___, Spanish artist
- 28. Cargo (abbr.)
- 30. This (Spanish)
- 31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Helps you hear
- 37. Steer a boat
- 39. British School
- 40. Genus of olive
- 41. Computer term (abbr.)
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Give off
- 50. A type of salt
- 51. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 52. One who watches birds
- 53. Sailboat
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. American state
- 58. Soak in water
- 59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood
- 60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One of the four seasons
- 2. Its sultan is famous
- 3. A lens for correcting defective vision in one eye
- 4. College degree
- 5. Soldiers need it
- 6. Japanese car manufacturer
- 7. A way to address
- 8. Obstruct
- 9. Atomic number 45
- 12. Ill-mannered
- 13. Opaque gem
- 17. Indicates before
- 19. Remove
- 20. Populous Argentine city
- 21. More cunning
- 25. Rich dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Footwear
- 32. Famed Alabama city
- 33. Sheep's cry
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. Clerical vestment
- 41. Serving no practical purpose
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. Industrial German city
- 49. Scottish island
- 56. Early multimedia
- 57. Atomic number 18

OBITUARIES

Creed, Kelly Lorraine

Kelly Lorraine Creed, 32, passed away at her home in Radford on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022.

Survivors include her son, Hunter West; her parents, Jeffrey Creed and his wife, Samantha, and Rhonda Turpin and her husband, Donnie; brothers and sister-in-law, Jeffrey Creed, Jr., and Briana, and Austin Rollyson; her sister, Rebecca Creed; her paternal grandfather, Bob Creed; her aunts, Susan Lucas and Sadie



McGuire; her uncle, Robbie Creed; a close friend and Hunter's dad, Timothy West; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 2 p.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. The Creed family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com.

www.montcova.com

Miller, Pamela Sinnott

Pamela Sinnott Miller, 74, passed away peacefully on Feb. 6, 2022, at her home in Blacksburg.

Pamela was born on Aug. 4, 1947, in St. Boniface, Manitoba, to Jack and Doris (Sinnott) Channing. She married her husband of 55 years, Patrick Miller, in 1966 in El Monte, Calif. After living in Berkeley, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Ann Arbor, Mich. and Vancouver, B.C., they settled in Blacksburg in 1987.

She worked for Virginia Tech, the United Way of Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg before retiring to spend time with her grandchildren and at their cabin in Montana.

She was predeceased by her parents; her brother, Jack; and

her sisters, Merle and Gail. She is survived by her beloved husband, Patrick, and her sister, Barbara (John) Walz; her children Ivan (Kimberly) Miller, Ian (Jennifer) Miller; and her four grandchildren, Henderson, Cheston, Jack, and Katharine.

Pamela was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be remembered for her kind heart, her warm smile, and her love for animals.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Pamela's name to the Lewy Body Dementia Association (<https://www.lewybody.org>). Memorial services will be conducted today, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at 5 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends from 4 to 5 p.m. today before the service.

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

WORDS OF RELIEF

Read Job 15:1 through 22:30

Justin sat in Caleb's apartment, hoping his big brother could provide some words of encouragement. An official letter from his college had arrived, announcing that Justin was on academic probation. Justin never realized those two words would cause his parents so much pain, anger, and disappointment.

Caleb was frustrated. He knew the sacrifices his parents made so that Justin could attend college. College loans, scholarships, and money did not come easy. His parents worked hard at obtaining all the financial aid they could gather. His dad picked up extra shifts at work to cover the cost of books. Now, to hear that Justin "blew it" was more than Caleb could bear. He wanted to explode, but the Holy Spirit urged him to listen. After several moments, Caleb sat down beside Justin and placed his arm around him. Caleb whispered, "Mind if I pray for you?"

Justin grinned, "Thanks, man. I sure could use it!"

But my mouth would encourage you; comfort from my lips would bring you relief (Job 16:5).

Do your words bring comfort or condemnation?

Challenge for Today: Provide comfort and encouragement to someone close to you.

Quicklook: Job 16:4-6

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

www.montcova.com

OBITUARIES

Price, Palmer Lee

Palmer Lee Price, 79, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle, died peacefully at home on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022.

He was born on March 5, 1942, in Montgomery County to Cloyd Palmer Price, Jr., and Sylvia Moore Price. He was a 1961 graduate of Blacksburg High School. He married Phyllis Alls Price on Aug. 5, 1966, at Blacksburg United Methodist Church.

He was retired from Virginia Tech after many years of service in the Plant Pathology Department. Upon retirement, he spent his time restoring antique cars, restoring and collecting antique guns, handcrafting knives, watching wildlife, traveling with Phyllis, and doting on his granddaughters. Palmer truly loved life, his family, and living in the valley on Catawba Road. He was declared the unofficial mayor of the valley and was always welcoming and willing to help any neighbors and friends in need.

Palmer was preceded in death



by his parents and a brother, John Thomas Price. He is survived by his loving wife; children Tracey Bernardo (Ken) of Charlotte and Travis Lee Price of Blacksburg; sister Patty Trump (David) of Pembroke; brother Rocky Price of Blacksburg; granddaughters Lauren and Clara Bernardo of Charlotte; and a nephew, Adam Pearman of Blacksburg.

Family and friends are invited to the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr SW, Blacksburg, from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, for visitation and a celebration of life at 2 p.m. Burial proceedings will be at a family cemetery on the family's land on Catawba Road. Parking will be limited, and boots will be needed to walk through the field to the gravesite.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad or Good Samaritan Hospice.

Sifford, Robert Vance

Robert Vance Sifford, 87, of Christiansburg, died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, at his home.

He was born in Montgomery County on Nov. 20, 1934, to the late Robert Hoge and Sadie Louise Hutchison Sifford.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Loveda Price and Tiny Shepherd. He was a retired truck driver with Hennis-Spector Trucking.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Conelia Jarrell Sifford; two daughters, Glenna Sifford and Brenda Destefano; grandchildren Brandon Walker and Marina Destefano and wife, Nancy

Destefano; sisters and a brother-in-law, Loretta Corvin and Janet Jimmy Shaver; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Curtis Sifford and Stanley and Anne Sifford; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Russell Shepherd officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Wednesday evening at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive, SW, Blacksburg.



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

We Offer Graveside Services with Social Distancing, at no additional cost.

- Services can be broadcast to attendees' car radios.
- At the completion of the service, the family will receive visitors via drive-through visitation as the attendees leave the service.
- Families have been very appreciative of these services.
- Arrangements can be made on very short notice.



After You Have Acquired a Cremation Urn from the Funeral Home, the Process is Not Yet Complete Until the Urn is Permanently Placed.

Because folks just don't know what to do, Nearly One-Third of All Homes Still Have Ashes of a Loved One.

Let us help you choose among our beautiful Columbarium, Urn Bench, or Ground Space options.



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www.memorialgardensnr.com • cturmer@memorialgardensnr.com

Virginia Department of Transportation roadwatch

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

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

LANE CLOSURES:
Right lane closures may be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-105 during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning.

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

I-81 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AT EXIT 114 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – The bridge replacement of the two Interstate 81 bridges over Route 8, northbound and southbound, is nearing completion. Remaining work involves lighting installations at the intersections and under the bridges. Lane closures may be possible. Work zone and reduced speed limit signs have been removed. Estimated completion is early 2022.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Beginning April 11, 2022, Route 615 (Pilot Road) will undergo a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Single lane closures will be in place and will be maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals. Lane closures on RTE 615 are expected to begin on 5/2/2022 and will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 643 PAVING PROJECT – Beginning soon, exact date to be determined, a project is being scheduled to resurface an unpaved portion of Route 643 (Yellow Sulfur Road). The work area begins .7 mile south of the intersection with Route 642 (Jennelle Road) and ends 1.7 miles north of the bridge over Route 460. Traffic impacts will include intermittent flagging operations between these intersections. This project has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

LANE CLOSURES: Intermittent single lane closures utilizing flagging operations will be in place between the intersection of Teaberry Road and Jennelle Road.

UTILITY WORK ON ROUTE 460 – MMI will be installing fiber optic along Route 460 and Route 8 from the Giles County line to the Floyd County line. This work will be ongoing. Motorists should expect shoulders and/or lane closures for travel in both directions.

INTERSTATE 81
INTERSTATE 81 BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS – Due to bridge painting, several height restrictions are in place along I-81 north and southbound. Maxi-

mum height allowed is 14'6" at the following bridges over I-81 at the mile marker locations of 135, 109 and 108 through early February. Overheight vehicles will need to be rerouted. Message boards are in place.

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 141 TO EXIT 143 – A project to widen the lanes on I-81 in Roanoke in both northbound and southbound directions between Exit 141 to Exit 143 has been underway. All lanes will remain open through winter with periodic lane closures at night as needed. The final surface paving and markings for northbound will resume with the next paving season in spring 2022. Estimated completion date of the project is summer 2022.

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

I-81 BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 81. Between mile markers 147 to 162, right and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays.

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

INTERSTATE 581
ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD – Work is currently suspended. Rehab on the bridge on I-581 that crosses over Route 11 (Williamson Road) in Downtown Roanoke will resume in the spring. On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022.

LANE CLOSURES:
A left lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Monday at 7 a.m. through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

A right lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Thursday at 7 a.m. through Saturday at 7 p.m.

A left and center lane closure will be in place on northbound and southbound I-581 from mile marker 0-1, Saturday at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m.

A right lane closure may be in place on Route 11 northbound between the intersections of Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue periodically.

Nighttime left lane closures for both the northbound and southbound directions of Route 11 are possible between the intersections referenced above.

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

USDA from page 1

wood turtles, and early successional birds such as the golden-winged warbler.

Through the 3-year project, landowners will work with local USDA experts and partners to apply targeted forestry management practices on their

land to meet unique forestry challenges in their area.

"This important funding enables us to work across boundaries to improve forest health and wildlife habitat in an important ecosystem," said Joby Timm, Forest Supervisor.

Goat from page 4

goats also are attractive to farmers because they typically have less trouble with parasites and predators than sheep.

"In one of the last years I raised sheep, coyotes killed 50

lambs, and you can't afford that," said Shorter, who also serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Livestock Advisory Committee. "Of course, farmers have made lots of progress and USDA's Wildlife Services has been a tremendous help with predators across the board, but we've still got work to do with parasite control in sheep."

The NASS report also indicated Virginia's sheep and lamb inventory was at 72,000 head, an 8% decrease from 2021.

Augusta County sheep farmer Leo Tammi suggested the decrease reflects national trends, but said it can be difficult to get an accurate inventory as farmers regularly enter and exit the industry.

Despite the news of the decrease, which offset a 7% increase in 2021, Tammi was encouraged about the future of sheep farming in Virginia.

"I think current prices will strengthen the sheep industry in the near future, and that's something to look forward to," he said.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

www.montcova.com

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	B	E	B	A	N	G	O	R	
P	R	I	S	M	I	R	C	H	
R	O	R	U	E	M	S	E	C	
U	P	P	I	N	G	U	S	E	L
D	A	R	N	E	L	N	A	T	U
E	L	E	G	I	A	C	I	N	D
S	S	B	S	E	M	I	S	E	A
H	E	L	M	E	T	O	N		
O	L	E	A	O	S	N	O	S	E
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S	A	T	I	R	I	O	B	I	R
P	R	O	A	E	R	A	N	A	
A	L	A	S	K	A	R	E	T	
V	E	N	E	E	R	Y	E	A	

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Auburn girls and boys claim Mt. Empire District regular season title



Katelyn Lafon scores on a drive and a layup for two of her seven points for Auburn in the 68-40 win over Giles Wednesday night. The Eagles recognized senior players and cheerleaders before the two games.



Allyson Martin led the Auburn girls to the Mt. Empire District regular season championship with 24 points while Hannah Huffman added 17.



Tyler Sparrer scores for the Auburn boys in the 68-16 defeat of Giles in the nightcap as the Eagles laid claim to the Mt. Empire District regular season championship. Sparrer finished with four points.



Ethan Millirons established a new Auburn career assist record, breaking Bradley Hudkins's old mark of 375 set back in 1995. Millirons led the Eagles on senior night with 28 points.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS



Marketplace



THE FINCASTLE HERALD
The Vintner Messenger
THE NEW CASTLE RECORD
SALEM TIMES-REGISTER
News Messenger
RADFORD News Journal

For Sale - Misc
Help Wanted - General
Legals - Montgomery County
Legals - Montgomery County
Legals - Montgomery County
Legals - Montgomery County

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.

For Sale - Sporting Goods
FOR SALE
Like new 26" Girl Bicycle along with new tire pump and new bicycle car hitch. **MUST SELL!**
ALL for \$40.00.
Call 540-315-0785.

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG 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 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.

ABC NOTICE

K and S Food Mart LLC, trading as K and S Food Mart, 3620 S Main St, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24060-7015.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Khem R Wagley, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit

request by Jacqueline Marshall, owner, and Shaun Chuyka, lessee, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 301 Depot Street, NW, Tax Parcel 526 - ((23)) - (BK1) - 12, Parcel ID 007535. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Rezoning request by John D. and Arnedo V. Elmore, owners, and Garand Hopkins III, contract purchaser, from Agricultural District A to General Business District B-3 for a portion of the property located at 710 Peppers Ferry Road, Tax Parcel 435 - ((A)) - 23; Parcel ID 021274. The property is designated as Residential 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 application, 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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ADVERTISE!



Christiansburg's Shelby Jones swims the breaststroke leg for the Blue Demons' 200-yard medley relay, helping them to a fourth place in Region 3D. Jones also placed fourth in the 100-yard butterfly.



Christiansburg's Teaghan Wilson placed second in the Region 3D diving competition Monday night at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Christiansburg girls fourth, boys eighth in Region 3D swimming

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Christiansburg girls finished fourth and the Blue Demon boys finished eighth in the Region 3D swimming competition Tuesday at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Hidden Valley High School (135 points) rolled to the Region 3D girls' swimming ti-

tle while William Byrd (165 points) claimed the boys' title. Cave Spring (108 points) took second on the girls' side of the pool with Lord Botetourt third (94 points).

Cave was second in the boys' division with 108 points, and Hidden Valley was third with 69.

Freshman Shelby Jones gave Christians-

burg a third place in the girls' 50-yard freestyle while teammates Natalie Jones and Teaghan Wilson were 1-2 in girls' 1-meter diving. Jones would also take fourth in the girls' 100-yard Butterfly.

Also, Christiansburg's 400-yard freestyle relay team of Shelby Jones, Anna Sanford, Kara Wright, and Natalie Jones finished third late in the day.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Christiansburg's Anna Sanford took fifth place in the 200-yard freestyle and second in the 500-yard freestyle at the Region 3D swim meet Tuesday.

Sports notes: Proof of vaccination out at Tech

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Virginia Tech is changing its protocol for athletic events when it comes to dealing with ongoing COVID-19 issues.

The university announced Wednesday afternoon that effective immediately, proof of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test result will no longer be required to attend Virginia Tech Athletics indoor events. Face masks continue to be required and must be worn during all home indoor athletic events.

This directly affects men's and women's basketball games along with wrestling matches.

All-state Bruin cheer
Congrats to Gabriela Arms from Blacksburg High School after she was named this week to the VHSL's Class 4 second-team all-state cheer team.

Smith out at Oak Hill
Oak Hill Academy basketball coach Steve Smith has announced he will retire at the end of this season.

The 66-year-old has won 1,225 games at the school with only 98 losses. He led the Warriors to national titles in 1993, 1994, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012 and 2016.

His former players have included Jerry Stackhouse, Carmelo Anthony, Rajon Rondo, Kevin Durant, Cole Anthony, and Stephen Jackson at the post-grad school in Mouth of Wilson, Va.
This year, Oak Hill is 23-7.

RU special events
Radford University Athletics and The Highlander Club have announced the schedule of events for the 2022 Highlander Pride Weekend:

Friday, April 29, The Dedmon Center: The Red and White Gala, presented by English Meadows Senior Living Community.

Saturday, April 30, beginning at the Dedmon Center and ending in Bisset Park: The Highlander 5K presented by Carilion Clinic.

June 2022, location to be announced: The Highlander Open Golf Tournament.

The Red and White Gala will feature a silent and live auction, a dinner, and an open bar. All proceeds from the event will go towards the Radford Athletics Scholarship Annual Fund, helping to ensure all of the university's student-athletes have the necessary financial means to compete for championships and to provide the best collegiate experience on-and-off the playing field.

To register for the Highlander 5K, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Radford/Highlander5k>. Note that the Highlander Half Marathon is no longer being held as part of Highlander Pride Weekend.

RU baseball season tickets
Season tickets for the 2022 Radford baseball season are on sale now. Highlander fans can visit radfordtickets.com to purchase a season ticket flex book for only \$30. Each book contains 27 vouchers,

which can be used at any Radford regular season home baseball contest. These vouchers can be used in any combination to bring family and friends to the game.

These books will be available only until the first home regular season game on Feb. 25.

Fans who purchased season tickets prior to the 2020 season and chose to defer due to the COVID-19 pandemic are already covered for the 2022 season. Contact the Radford Athletics Ticket Office at tickets@radford.edu with any questions.

All seating, including chair-back seats in the grandstands and lawn seating on the left-field side, will be considered general admission and will be available on a first-come first-served basis. Fans are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs into the stadium for all guests sitting on the third-base hillside and down the left-field line. Coolers and pets are strictly prohibited and will not be allowed inside the gates.

For all home contests, the cost of an individual ticket for adults will be \$8 while youth tickets for children 12 years old or younger will be \$5. Radford University students with a valid ID and children ages 2 and under are free. Individual game tickets will go on sale on Monday, February 21.

Radford's 2022 home schedule features 27 games, including the continuation of rivalries with Liberty, VMI, and Virginia Tech.

Hokies baseball
As announced jointly by ESPN and

the ACC on Wednesday, the Virginia Tech baseball team is scheduled to make five appearances this spring across the ESPN and the ACC Network platforms, part of the conference's 57-game ACC baseball broadcast package for the 2022 season.

Tech will make its first of five ACC Network appearances on Saturday, April 23, when the Hokies contest the middle game of a three-game road set at Boston College. Coverage between Tech and BC will begin at 6 p.m.

In May, four of the Hokies' final 10 regular season home games will also air on the ACC Network: May 11 against Liberty (6 p.m.), May 14 against Louisville (1 p.m.), May 17 against Kansas State (6 p.m.) and May 19 against Duke (TBD).

Per Wednesday's announcement, ESPN will showcase five additional ACC regular season games during the course of the spring, to be selected conference-wide by the network at a later date.

At the 2022 ACC Baseball Championship (hosted by Truist Field in Charlotte), both league semifinal games on Saturday, May 28, will air exclusively on the ACC Network while the championship game on Sunday, May 29, will air live on ESPN2.

Additionally, more than 25 Tech home games during the 2022 season – plus a number of road games against ACC programs – will be streamed on ACC Network Extra via the ESPN App. Regional sports network listings for the Hokies' complete 2022 schedule will be announced at a later date.

VT wrestlers secure road win at Pitt

The No.-8 Virginia Tech Steel City and secured a 24-12 victory over No.-19 Pittsburgh.

Powered by bonus point victories by No.-3 Mekhi Lewis and No.-12 Hunter Bolen from Christiansburg and No. 14-Nathan Traxler, the Hokies picked up the first conference victory of the season to improve to 6-3, 1-1 in the ACC.

Tech won three of five ranked match-ups on the day with returning All-American Sam Latona returning to form with a ranked win to start off the dual.

Quick Hits Against Pitt
Latona picked up his first ranked win of the season over No.-31 Gage Curry to begin ACC competition. The redshirt sophomore improved his record to 8-6.

No.-5 Korbin Myers had a savvy, veteran performance over No.-7 Micky Phillippi in a rematch of the 2021 ACC finals at 133. Myers used an escape, a riding point, and an illegal point to pick up the victory over his ACC rival.

Sophomore Sam Hillegas had a victorious homecoming with a 5-2 victory over Luke Kemerer. The Pittsburgh native – a natural 141-pounder – bumped up in the absence of Bryce Andonian to secure the victory in his hometown.

In his first return to Pittsburgh since 2019, No.-3 Mekhi Lewis handled James Lledo in dominant fashion. Lewis used a barrage of attacks and collected multiple sets of back points to secure the 23-5 victory in the city where he became the first national champion in Virginia Tech history.

No.-12 Hunter Bolen returned to action for the first time since his third-place Southern Scuffle performance on Jan. 3. Bolen made short work of No.-32 Gregg Harvey with a takedown and a pin fall in just 1:33 of the match.

No.-14 Nathan Traxler took a 12-0 major decision over Jake Slinger. Traxler picked up two sets of near-fall to score the shutout victory and pick up career win 92.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Box Score
No. 8 Virginia Tech – 24, No. 19 Pitt – 12
125 – No. 21 Sam Latona (VT) DEC No. 31 Gage Curry (PITT), 4-2
133 – No. 5 Korbin Myers (VT) DEC No. 7 Micky Phillippi (PITT), 3-2
141 – No. 18 Cole Matthews (PITT) DEC Collin Gerardi (VT), 8-2
149 – Sam Hillegas (VT) DEC Luke Kemerer (PITT), 5-2
157 – No. 21 Elijah Cleary (PITT) DEC No. 23 Connor Brady (VT), 7-1 SV
165 – No. 14 Jake Wentzel (PITT) DEC Clayton Uley (VT), 5-1
174 – No. 3 Mekhi Lewis (VT) TECH FALL James Lledo (PITT), 23-5, 7:00
184 – No. 12 Hunter Bolen (VT) FALL No. 32 Gregg Harvey (PITT), 1:33
197 – No. 8 Nino Bonaccorsi (PITT) DEC No. 33 Dakota Howard, 6-1
285 – No. 14 Nathan Traxler (VT) MAJ DEC Jake Slinger (PITT), 12-0



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