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Virginia Tech rugby club wins national championship

By Savannah Webb, intern for University Relations

The Virginia Tech men's club rugby team won the Division I-AA Men's Collegiate Rugby Championship in Houston, Texas, recently in a whirlwind trip that was in and out in 24 hours.

"We're only a club team. We have player coaches, don't have a lot of funds, and have to manage all the logistics ourselves," said Danny McKillop, the club's former president. "It was in the middle of finals week, so we had to figure out how to get everyone — I think it was 23 of our players — down to Houston and back pretty quick."

The team arrived in Texas in mid-December at 8 p.m. and competed in the championship the next day at 3 p.m. That evening they flew back to Blacksburg.

That left little time for the Hokies, who were considered the underdogs in the game against West Chester University, to celebrate their hard-earned victory.

"We were all happy and taking pictures in the locker room after the game," said Brandon Eng, who was the MVP of the championship game playing from

the scrum-half position, which links the forwards and the backs on the field. "It was Danny McKillop's last game, so we gave him the trophy, and we were excited to celebrate with him. After that, we had to head straight to the airport for a flight back to Blacksburg."

According to Julie Rhoads, assistant director for sport clubs at Virginia Tech, the trip cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000, all of which had to be raised by the players. They took to social media to ask alumni and fans for financial support and received more than \$12,000 in donations.

"We have a great, great alumni network," McKillop said. "We wouldn't have been able to go to Houston without all of their donations."

The support from alumni didn't stop with the game. Most recently, two alumni — John Gluck and Adam Kaufman — pledged to match any donations made by March 31, which will go toward hiring a professional coach for the rugby team. Fernando Anduaga, a senior majoring in business information technology, is the team's student-coach.

On top of winning the championship, the team hopes that a professional coach

will carry their momentum and bring continued success in the future.

"We would like to become [Division I] eventually," said Collin Weigert, the club president. "Right now, we're trying to build up a good foundation of money and resources."

The rugby club team has come far since its founding in 1968. After starting out with 18 players, the sport club had grown to include 68 members as of January.

"This is a brotherhood," Anduaga said. "These are friends and relationships you'll have for years. If you're looking for an open space where you can be yourself and form a brotherhood, this is the place to be."

Students can get involved in the club through GobblerConnect or stay updated on games and other events via Instagram.

A total of 1,263 students are involved in the 29 sport clubs that Virginia Tech offers.

The Virginia Tech Recreational Sports Department plans to host a celebration to honor the national champion rugby club team during one of its spring home games.



PHOTO BY OLLY LASEINDE OF @RUGBYSNAPSHOTS
The Virginia Tech men's rugby club team celebrates after winning the Division I-AA Men's Collegiate Rugby Championship in Texas.



WE THE WOMEN
PORTRAITS OF EMPOWERMENT

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery has opened a new exhibit, "We the Women: Portraits of Empowerment," by Blacksburg photographer Alex Moral. Part of the celebration of Women's History Month, the exhibit will be on display through April 30. The mansion will host an opening reception for Moral on Friday, March 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Glencoe Mansion to host photo exhibit by Blacksburg's Alex Moral

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery has opened a new gallery exhibit, "We the Women: Portraits of Empowerment" featuring the photography of Alex Moral, who is based in Blacksburg.

A celebration of Women's History Month, the exhibit will be on display through April 30. The mansion will host an opening reception for Moral on Friday, March 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Moral's work captures female empowerment in different forms while embracing diversity, body and self positivity, and the stories that celebrate womanhood.

Moral says that her photographs "capture her interest in embracing womanhood and understanding women's emotions." She has an eye to capture a single, powerful

moment in time that not only invites the viewer to connect and resonate with the depicted women, but also serves to inspire the viewer, both women and men alike.

Prior to moving to the USA in 2015, Moral worked for six years in Spain, Germany, and England as a professional photographer, specializing in women's portraiture. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in photography at Radford University.

Moral's exhibit is an ever growing collection that received The Puffin Foundation grant award in 2018. The exhibit is free and is appropriate for all ages. In accordance with Glencoe's guidelines, face masks are required for entry into the museum.

Radford Woman's Club gets books to babies

In addition to its participation in Reading Is Fundamental as part of its commitment to increasing children's literacy, over the years, the Woman's Club of Radford has put books into the hands of more than 24,000 babies right after their birth at the former Radford Community Hospital and now the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center under the auspices of the Babies into Books program, which began in 1993. The babies receive a board book before they go home from the hospital. Additionally mothers receive a brochure, printed by the Radford Public Library, which has



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Taylor Bowman and her daughter, Banks, enjoy the board book given to them by the Woman's Club of Radford when Banks was born at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

information about the woman's club, library resources and Storytimes as well as suggestions to parents on how to foster a love of reading in their children.

Civil War Weekend 2022 to honor iconic founder and historian James I. 'Bud' Robertson Jr.

By Andrew G Adkins

The legacy of James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr. lives eternally in the hearts and minds of those he educated.

It's cemented in the walls of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, and it breathes in the stories he told and passed on for generations to come.

"What would Civil

War Weekend be without Bud?" asked Paul Quigley, the James I. Robertson Jr. Associate Professor in the Department of History. "This event brings people together to share extraordinary stories in a way only he could envision."

This year, the annual Civil War Weekend at Virginia Tech will honor the remarkable life and work of the ac-

claimed Civil War historian and the Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Virginia Tech, who passed away in 2019.

The event returns March 25-27 to the Inn at Virginia Tech for the first time since 2019. Registration is available until March 4.

The event includes

See Honor, page 4

All Virginia ABC stores returning to normal operating hours

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, all 396 Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) stores will return to normal operating hours.

See ABC, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Through Feb. 28:

MFRL adult winter reading program

The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read through 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/>.

Free Grab-and-Go meals

At the Meadowbrook Public Library. Children and youth 18 and younger can come and get a week's worth of free meals and snacks. Each box contains a five-day supply. Free to all children/teens during library hours. Sponsored by Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Saturday, Feb. 26:

Radford Public Library Book Sale

The Radford Public Library will hold a book sale from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. 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.

Sunday, Feb. 27:

Chess Club

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

Monday, Feb. 28:

Talking About Books: "The Book of Longing"

Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed is "The Book of Longing" by Sue Monk Kidd. Call (540) 552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Crafternoon Delight for adults only

Learn how to knit or crochet with the staff at the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks, and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight.

Wednesday, March 2:

Business over Breakfast

Radford Chamber of Commerce's Business Over Breakfast meeting; 8 a.m. at Sweet and Savory. Two guest speakers will discuss business-related topics. Register in advance at www.radfordchamber.com.

Thursday, March 3:

"An Evening with Judy Carmichael"

Public Radio WVRU presents "An Evening with Judy Carmichael," Grammy-nominated stride-style pianist, vocalist, and radio host, in the Davis Performing Center in the Covington Center for the Arts on the Radford University campus; 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

American Legion Meeting

American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home, 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, contact 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, March 4:

Christiansburg Aquatic Center Free Fitness Fling

Christiansburg Aquatic Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. The fling offers a 10-to-12-minute sampling of various fitness classes offered at the aquatic center. Participants may also use the time to ask instructors questions about the classes.

Reception for Glencoe Mansion photography exhibit for Women's History Month

Glencoe Mansion, Museum & Gallery presents its new gallery exhibit, "We the Women: Portraits of Empowerment" featuring the photography of Alex Moral. To celebrate Women's History Month, the exhibit will be on display throughout the months of March and April. The Glencoe Mansion will host an opening reception for Alex Moral on Friday, March 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8:

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, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Will Reed will continue with Part Three of his series on "Confederate Small Arms." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, March 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.

Sunday, March 20:

Unveiling ceremony of the African American Memory & Storyboard Project

The unveiling ceremony for the Christiansburg Institute's African American Memory & Storyboard Project will be held in downtown Christiansburg at the courthouse square at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23:

Radford Army Ammunitions Plant community meeting

Christiansburg Public Library; 6 p.m. This community meeting will discuss modernization and environmental projects and compliance and corrective actions at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Staff members from the U.S. Army and BAE Systems will be on hand to engage with the public. Questions in advance of the meeting may be directed to usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil.

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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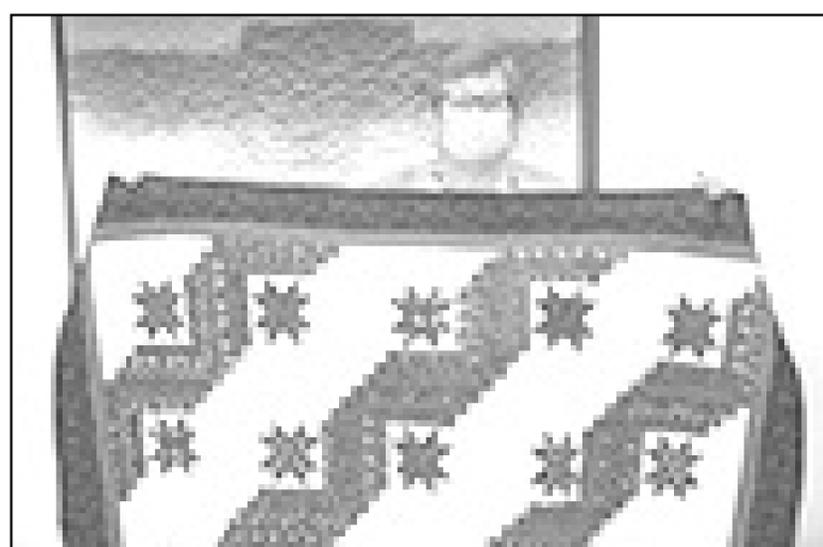
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

VFW Post #5311 in Christiansburg recently recognized Warm Hearth Village resident Cindy Rethwill with a Quilt of Valor in appreciation for her service in the U.S. Army from 1974-78.

Christiansburg VFW post presents Warm Hearth resident with Quilt of Valor

Christiansburg VFW Post #5311 recently presented Warm Hearth resident Cindy Rethwill with a Quilt of Valor recognizing her service in the U.S. Army.

Jenny Fields of the New River Valley QOV quilters presented Rethwill with the quilt. Any service member or living veteran who served in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard is eligible to receive a quilt of valor. Members of the activated National Guard and activated or active duty-special work (ADSW) reservists are also eligible.

Mardy Baker, Warm Hearth's Director of Life Enrichment nominated Rethwill for the award last November. "Our resident veterans hold a special place in our hearts," Baker said. We are proud of their service to our country and are delighted when they are recognized by other organizations that value them as we do."

A Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality handmade quilt that can be quilted by hand or machine. The quilts are awarded to service members or veterans who have been touched by war to say thank you

for their service and their sacrifice for this country. A QOV must be a specific size, have the appropriate label, and be awarded and recorded.

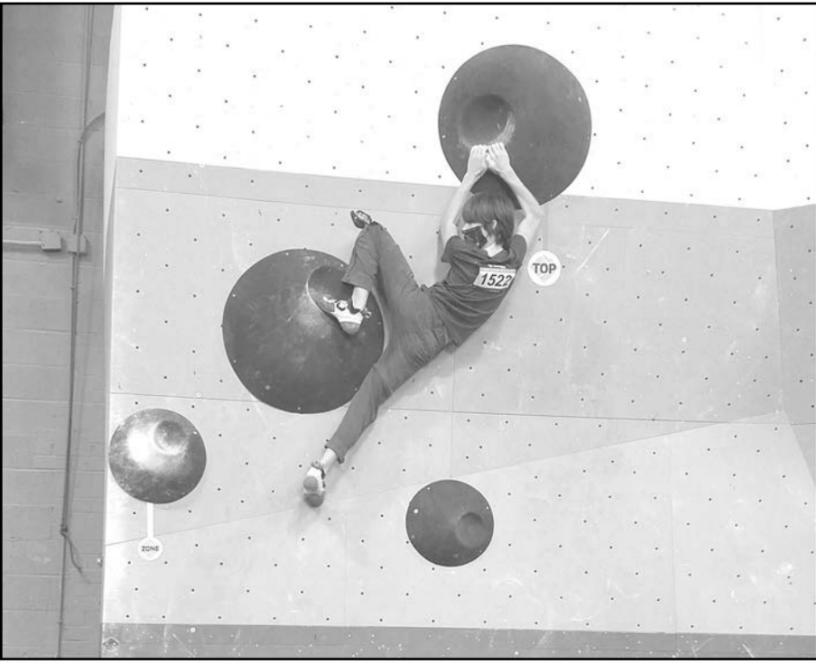
Rethwill was trained as a Military Personnel Clerk (Unit Clerk) and later cross-trained in logistics. Her first duty station was Fort Bliss, Texas, and then Camp Casey, Korea, and Baumholder, Germany. She is considered a Vietnam era veteran though she didn't serve there. Her unit was the last training cycle designated as the Women's Army Corps; after that, all units were co-ed.

"I am very proud to be recognized for what I have always felt was a privilege to serve my country even in a small way," Rethwill said. At the ceremony, a younger woman recipient thanked Rethwill for leading the way for women like her and said if Rethwill hadn't done her part back then, the doors wouldn't have been open for her.

"It was an extremely emotional moment, and it was difficult to hold back the tears. All we could do was hug each other and say thank you," said Rethwill.

Be sure to 'Like'
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Local climber placed in USA Climbing Division 8 finals



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Maddoc Spraker, a member of Crimper's Climbing Gym youth team, 100 Central Ave. in Christiansburg, placed in the finals at the USA Climbing Division 8 Bouldering Championship held Feb. 19. Spraker competed in the divisional championship after placing high in the regional championship earlier this year. He is the son of Susan and Mike Spraker of Rural Retreat. Crimper's Climbing Gym has been the premier indoor climbing space in Southwest Virginia since 2012.

Donor continues sister's legacy of support for Hokies with scholarship at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

By Josh Meyer

Like with everything in her life, when it came to being a Virginia Tech fan, Nancy Lucas went all out. Whether it was wearing Chicago Maroon and Burnt Orange every Friday before game day, yelling her support during a key play (even on the road in Charlottesville), or driving to Blacksburg in the wee hours to greet a victorious team bus at Cassell Coliseum, Nancy was a Hokie through and through.

In honor of Nancy's passion in life, her sister, Susan Lucas, established the Nancy Lucas Memorial Hokie Physician Scholarship at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Nancy Lucas unexpectedly passed away at age 55 in 2014. The scholarship now continues her support of Hokies as it is awarded to Virginia Tech graduates who enroll at the School of Medicine.

"My sister was an amazing, compassionate health care professional and a fervent Hokie fan, in addition to being my best friend," Susan Lucas said. "It was very important to me to continue her legacy by assisting a Hokie graduate to become a physician that will perpetuate her passion."

Nancy Lucas was a member of the last graduating class of Salem's Andrew Lewis High School in 1977. She was a graduate of Radford University, University of Virginia School of Nursing, and received her certification as a Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurse (WOCN) from Emory University in Atlanta. She worked as a nurse at LewisGale Medical Center in Salem where she is remembered fondly for her heartfelt patient care.

Alexandra "Ali" Toloczko, Class of 2025, is the first recipient of the Nancy Lucas Scholarship and is proud to have Virginia Tech roots.

"I am a second-time, and second generation, Hokie! My dad was a Hokie, my boyfriend was a Hokie, and his dad was as well, so you could say it runs in the family," Toloczko said. "Returning to Virginia Tech, after leaving for a hiatus in Texas, has felt like coming home," she said. "At Virginia Tech, I obtained a degree in chemical engineering, an interest which I am now able to pursue through analytical thinking and research as a future physician."

Toloczko aspires to be a physician innovator, coupling her knowledge of engineering with her medical education to ul-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alexandra "Ali" Toloczko studied chemical engineering as an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech before earning a master's degree at Rice University and returning to the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. She is the first recipient of the Nancy Lucas Memorial Hokie Physician Scholarship.

imately, like Nancy, improve patients' lives. "Before coming to VTCSOM, I attended Rice University and obtained a master's degree in bioengineering with the Global Medical Innovation program," Toloczko said. "Unfortunately, I also obtained student loan debt. Although financial independence is important to me, it comes with the added burden of paying for school. This scholarship allows me the flexibility to pursue my passion in medicine with less financial burden, a gift which I am very grateful for. Someday, I hope to be able to pay the scholarship forward, but for now I hope that I can show Ms. Lucas my gratitude by working diligently to follow my dream to innovate the future of medicine."

Nancy was living in Florida when Susan Lucas was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004 and she decided to move back home to support her sister. The pair bonded over the Hokies and were virtually inseparable, attending every home football game together as well as multiple bowl games. They also traveled to craft shows together, selling Hokie-related jewelry that Susan Lucas crafted with her Go Tech Go! Designs business.

Today, Susan fondly remembers the special years she spent with Nancy and all their adventures cheering on Virginia Tech.

"It has been exciting to see the evolution and growth of VTCSOM and the amazing students that I have met through serving on the Multiple Mini Interviews admission process," Susan said. "These graduates have a personal approach, in addition to medical expertise, that reminds me of Nancy's deep dedication to her patients."

Virginia Tech researchers developing new vaccine for swine coronavirus

To address climbing economic losses from swine that contract the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, Virginia Tech researchers in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine are researching a nanoparticle-based vaccine to curb this highly contagious coronavirus among swine.

Because of PEDv being in the coronavirus family, the researchers hope to gain knowledge and insight in order to swiftly produce vaccines against human coronaviruses and their variants. "This project will give us the opportunity not only to develop a vaccine for swine, but gain insight into coronaviruses," Zhang said. "While the viruses are different from each other, they share a lot of similarities. A lot of things that we learn from this project can be used to develop vaccines against human coronaviruses in the future."

Meng, also a professor of internal medicine at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, the director of the Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens, and the interim director of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, lent his help with his renowned knowledge as a virologist. "PEDv is one of the most devastating illnesses in the swine industry," Zhang said. "Right now, we don't have a good mitigation method. We want a safe and reliable tool in the arsenal of those in industry and our research will lead to that."

With a four-year, \$630,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Zhang and co-principal investigator X.J. Meng, a University Distinguished Professor of molecular virology in

the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, are researching a nanoparticle-based vaccine to curb this highly contagious coronavirus among swine.

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Over the last few years,

vaccine development has targeted a safer, more effective way to deliver an immune response. So far, that target has landed on nanoparticle-based vaccines, to safely deliver a strong immune response in hosts to protect against disease.

"Once you decorate the nanoparticle with viral proteins, the nanoparticle looks like a virus particle," Zhang said. "Once you give that to the animal, it can have a very strong immune response toward the viral proteins on the nanoparticle to protect the vaccinated animals from the invading virus."

With the nanoparticle platform, the immune response can last quite a long time once injected into the subject. The initial shot could last as long as six months with a booster needed to complete the vaccine series, a common practice among vaccines of varying delivery platforms.

"If we formulate the nanoparticle well, the immunity the vaccine can provide protection for is around half a year," Zhang said. "But we have not tested beyond that duration using the nanoparticle delivery platform. It's an extremely important subject to tackle."

"This is a good duration to target," Zhang said, "because a body really doesn't need a lot of antibodies circulating to provide a good immune response."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With a four-year, \$630,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Mike Zhang, pictured left, and co-principal investigator XJ Meng are researching a nanoparticle-based vaccine to curb a highly contagious coronavirus among swine. Photo by Jim Stroup for Virginia Tech.

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Beta Sigma Phi sorority supports Women's Resource Center



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority (left to right) Doris Caldwell, Phyllis Durham, and Carolyn K. Sowers meet with Katrina Wagner, communications specialist for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, to present a large donation of needed items to the center.

VT Neuroscientist Sujith Vijayan receives award to study neural dynamics during sleep

Scientists have long known that when people sleep, the brain performs memory magic.

People who sleep for eight hours after learning something new perform better than those who learn the new task during the day and are tested eight hours later without sleeping in between. More recently, scientists have discovered that odors and sounds presented during sleep can influence brain activity to further enhance the learning and memory benefits of sleep.

Now, Sujith Vijayan, an assistant professor in the School Neuroscience, part of the Virginia Tech College of Science, has received a \$696,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award to study whether the brain's work during sleep can also help people learn tasks associated with brain computer interfaces.

Vijayan's research involves brain computer interfaces – often shortened to BCIs – that allow an individual to use their brain activity alone to control an

external device like a wheelchair or a cursor on a computer screen. Such interfaces can help people who have been disabled by neuromuscular disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), spinal cord injury, or stroke regain functions so that they can live more independently.

Until now, research into the effects of sleep on BCI task learning has entailed a few animal studies, which suggest there may be potential for human learning improvements.

But the specific ways that sleep affects learning of BCI tasks "remain a mystery," Vijayan said. His aim is not only to discover details about those specific means, but also to investigate whether the manipulation of sleep through auditory signals might be used to enhance BCI learning.

Vijayan expects that these studies will not only have translational power but also allow for a deeper understanding of the role of sleep in learning and memory at a very basic science level.

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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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ABC from page 1

All stores will open by 10 a.m. every day, apart from some stores which regularly open later on Sundays. Store closing times, which were not part of the month-long adjustment, will remain the same. Closing times vary by store.

"With COVID-19 case numbers once again falling in Virginia, we are now able to return to our normal operating hours," said Travis Hill, chief execu-

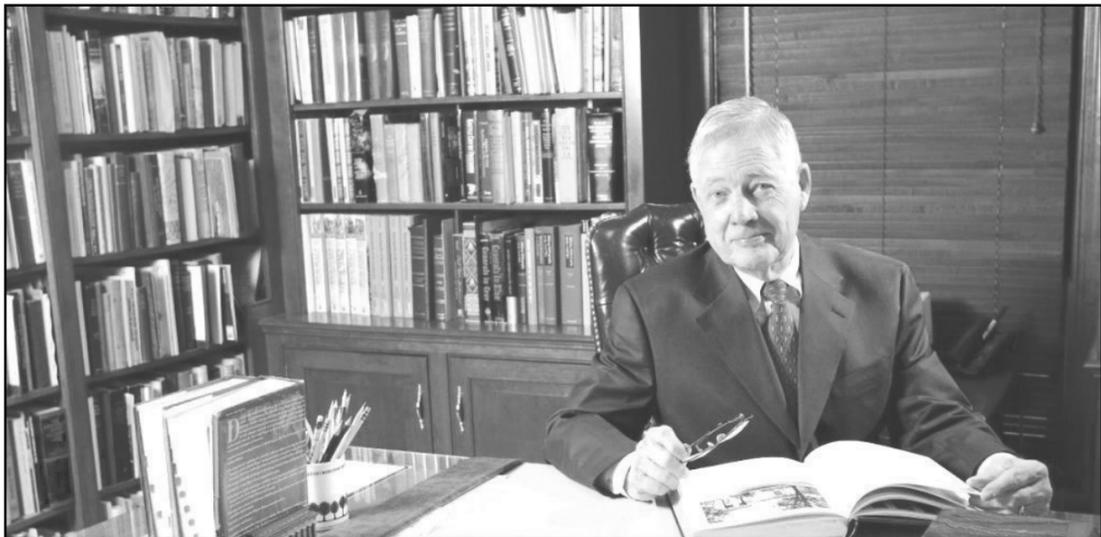
tive officer of Virginia ABC. "We truly appreciate our retail team's dedication and flexibility throughout this pandemic, and we look forward to serving our customers with expanded hours soon."

All ABC stores have been observing reduced hours since Jan. 24, opening daily at noon in response to increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases making staffing difficult.

As an alternative to in-store shopping, customers can place orders online at www.abc.virginia.gov for curbside pickup or home delivery in nearly all areas of the commonwealth.

ABC continues to monitor information regarding COVID-19. Future decisions related to ABC store operations will be made based on the best information available to ABC and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

Honor from page 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The legendary James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr. became founding director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies in 1999.

an optional extension for a two-night field trip to Harpers Ferry and Antietam from March 27 to 29.

Robertson, who became founding director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies in 1999, created Civil War Weekend, with the first event held 31 years ago. Quigley and fellow organizers had planned to dedicate the 2020 Civil War Weekend to Robertson but postponed the observance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and need for physical distancing.

Quigley said he's thrilled to hold Civil War Weekend in person this year following last year's virtual programs.

Throughout the weekend, Robertson's former students, close friends, and longstanding professional collaborators will share memories and lessons learned from the beloved scholar.

"Whether you knew Bud personally, took in his lectures, or only encountered him through his books, we invite you to join us in Blacksburg as we celebrate his extraordinary contributions to Virginia Tech and the world," said Quigley, who serves as director of Civil War Weekend.

In addition to Quigley, speakers include:

William C. "Jack" Davis, historian, award-winning author and editor of more than 50 books in Civil War and Southern history, and retired executive director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies; Ron Maxwell, one of the nation's most noted indepen-

dent film writers and directors, who wrote and directed the films "Gettysburg," "Gods & Generals," and "Copperhead"; Ginette Aley, author, historian, and editor specializing in the 19th century United States, especially women and the Civil War era; Brian Steel Wills, author, director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and a professor of history at Kennesaw State University; Kent Masterson Brown, a lawyer and historian who created the national magazine "The Civil War" and has produced award-winning books and documentaries; John M. Coski, author and historian, retired from the American Civil War Museum; Richard McMurry, a Civil War historian, an author of several books, and co-editor of a volume of Civil War essays in honor of Bell Irvin Wiley; Kenneth W. Noe, author, historian, Virginia Tech alumnus, and the Draughon Professor Emeritus of History at Auburn University; Ellen Vance, third-generation Virginia Tech alumna and recently retired human resources executive who believes in the power of understanding history to inform the future; and Jonathan Noylas, author, historian, Virginia Tech alumnus, professor, and director of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute.

Presentations will offer a fresh perspective on Civil War history, diving headfirst into the stories and accounts of the soldiers, battles, and nationwide sentiment. Speakers will also reflect on Robertson's storied career as a renowned teacher, spellbinding lecturer, and gracious friend.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
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49	50		51			52			53		
54		55			56				57	58	59
60					61					62	
63					64					65	
66					67					68	

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Iranian village
 - Duct
 - Holds potatoes
 - Plant of the goosefoot family
 - Spoken in Cameroon
 - Students' rights document (abbr.)
 - Skin lesion
 - Went over the airwaves
 - Nestle malt drink
 - Rockets' point guard
 - Developed the polio vaccine
 - Businessmen
 - Animals have it
 - Atomic number 58
 - Cycles/second
 - Japanese classical theater
 - Slow nocturnal primate
 - Used in a play
 - One that breaks apart
 - Yellow-fever mosquitos
 - Bag-like structure in a plant
 - Simple wooden shoe
 - Leeches
 - Tide
 - Fathers
 - Decay
 - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - The Golden State (abbr.)
 - Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
 - Unique garments
 - True firs
 - One who's not on time
 - Angry speech
 - Young children
 - About aviation
 - This (Spanish)
 - Earns a perfect score
 - People of Ghana
 - Founding member of The Grateful Dead
 - Of she
 - Genus of lichens
 - CLUES DOWN
 - Variety of pear
 - Curved symmetrical structure
 - A demon in some cultures
 - Cricket frogs
 - Atomic #45
 - Abnormal bone joint
 - Cain and ___
 - Unhappy
 - Dogooder
 - Most babies need ___ when they eat
 - Abdominal pain suffered by babies
 - Monetary unit
 - Tendency to suffer from a particular condition
 - Genus of flowering plants
 - It comes up some days
 - Koran chapters
 - In support of
 - One who crunches numbers
 - A type of school
 - Pops
 - Tears
 - Not influenced by drugs
 - Forms a boundary
 - Touch quickly and gently
 - Stray
 - A period between solar and lunar eclipses
 - Third-party access
 - A very large body of water
 - Infections
 - It might be due to nerves
 - Hall of Fame ballplayer Rod
 - Belittle
 - Type of sword
 - Makes very wet
 - One-time Peruvian money
 - A shoe typically has one
 - Not nice
 - Sea eagle
 - Civil Rights figure Parks
 - Humbug
 - A precious metal (abbr.)

OBITUARIES

Bowman, III, Johnny William

Johnny William Bowman, III, 64, from Merrimac, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, after a hard battle with cancer. He was born June 24, 1957, to the late Freda L. Bowman and John "Pete" Bowman.

He was preceded in death by a loving brother, Carl David Bowman; his maternal grandparents, Garner C. and Evelyn Linkous; his paternal grandparents, Francis and Clayton Reed; and uncles Glenn Linkous and George Linkous.

He leaves to cherish his memory daughter Crystal G. and John Dillon; son Johnny W. Bowman, IV and Annie Albert; daughter Sheila C. Eanes; grandchildren John "Bubba" Dillon, Hunter Dillon, Jocelyn Dillon, Aria Dillon, Patrick Eanes (Saera), and Justin Eanes; great-grandchildren Eleanor Eanes and Lincoln Eanes; sister Lisa Bowman; uncles and aunts Phillip and

Melissa Linkous, Faye and Bill Pack, Donna Cox, Jaunita Tolbert, and Casey Williams, and Debbie and Jeffrey Nester; nephews and nieces Bradley and Jennifer Bowman, Jessica and Jared Jones, and Daniel Smith and Nathan Loan; three great-nieces, and a great-nephew; many cousins and close friends; great-aunts Kathleen Linkous and Sylvia Linkous; and stepmother Sue Bowman.

This came to one of his close cousins as she heard of his passing:

"You fought a battle, a hard long battle, my son. You're not alone; I've been with you the whole time. Your time on earth is done. Take my hand; I'm bringing you to your heavenly home. You'll have no more suffering, no more pain. Come with me and rejoice in my name."

Due to Johnny's request, there will be no services. The family thanks everyone for all their prayers during this difficult time.



Cumbee, Mary Archie

Mary Archie Cumbee, 84, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery. She was born on Feb. 19, 1938, to the late Busby T. and Nena Louise Graves Collins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jessie James Cumbee.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Louise and Carl Snider Jr.; son Johnny Cumbee and his girlfriend, Anna Dalton; 10 grandchildren; 26

great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sisters Violet Carson and Lois Dowdy; and brother Billy Collins.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Robert Hall officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family received friends Friday prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Send community news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

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: Hal Sonafrank, 1-336-583-4822. 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

YOU ALONE

Read Numbers 18:1 through 19:22

Monte had given his son one job: Shovel the walk. Monte returned to see messy piles of snow haphazardly scattered about. The boy had convinced his younger sister—who could barely lift the shovel—to do it for him so he could play video games. Monte promptly unplugged the game and sent the boy out to finish the job.

Similarly, God gave Aaron and his sons enormous responsibility. He expected them—and them alone—to follow through.

"But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death" (Numbers 18:7).

Has God placed a burden on your heart? Is He pointing you toward work that will expand His kingdom? You are uniquely gifted and in just the right place to effect divine change in this world. Don't wait for someone else to do the job the Lord has given you. He wants you, and you alone, to follow through.

Thought for Today: The work of the Kingdom changes our hearts as it changes our world.

Quicklook: Numbers 18:1-7

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

Farmer, Iris Gordon

Iris Gordon Farmer, 97, of Dublin, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

She was a member of Grace Baptist Church and retired from Radford Community Hospital in housekeeping. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Alice Gordon; her husband, David Hughes Farmer; and daughters Carolyn Sowers and Brenda Stilwell.

Survivors include her daughters, Patricia Odham and Betty Graham, both of Dublin; sons David



Farmer of Dublin and Kenny Farmer of Climax, N.C.; 13 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, at Grace Baptist Church in Dublin. Funeral services followed with Pastor Doug Testerman officiating. Interment was private.

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

Petrie, Verda M. Anderson

Verda M. Anderson Petrie, 92, of Elliston, formerly Rockford, Ill., went to be with the Lord on Feb. 18, 2022.

She was born Jan 2, 1930 in Cambria, Va., to Evans W. and Beulah M. (Spaulding) Woolwine. Verda was a devoted mother who raised nine children over four different decades, often through very difficult circumstances. She loved and was loved, deeply.

She was a tireless caretaker who also worked as a waitress, a hostess, and an event planner, owned and managed River Road Stables, and taught horseback riding, all while raising her children. Her love and care for horses, dogs, cats, and all animals was well known, as was her love for all of God's creation. Verda loved to say, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." She planted many flowers, trees, and gardens and nurtured them every year to bring joy and beauty to the world.

She is survived by daughters Lynn (Jim) Butler and Liz (Ted) Edlich; son Robert (Laura) Petrie; daughter-in-law Dolores Lambert; grandchildren Sara (Chris), Eva, Ryan, Justin, Kristina, Rebecca,



Adam, Mary, Todd, Angela, and Jennifer; sister Alice (HL) Greene; brother Berman (Myra) Woolwine' special friends Kenny and Anne Price, Irene Lawson, and loyal companion Gus.

She was preceded by her parents; sister Dorothy Booher; brother Calvin Woolwine; sons Paul Lynnwood Lambert, Perry Lambert, Roger Petrie, and Norman Petrie; and daughters Deborah Johnson and Sue (Joey) Stump; grandson Travis Johnson; the fathers of her children Paul Lambert and Russell Petrie; and her husband, Tom Anderson. The family extends a thank you to the staff of Good Samaritan Hospice, Heartland/Promedica Hospice, and Anam Care in Rockford for all their loving care.

A memorial service was held on Feb. 25, 2022, at 7 p.m. at Crosspoint Church, 3215 E. State St. Rockford, IL. Virginia services will include visitation on March 2, 2022, from 4 to 6 p.m. with the funeral on March 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW Blacksburg, and burial at Roselawn in Christiansburg.

Ray, Margaret M.

Margaret Maxine Ray, 85, passed away on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022.

Born in Burnsville, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Samuel Rathburn and Vernie Maney. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Earl Ray, and her five brothers and sisters: Glenn Rathburn, Ruth Ballard, Grace Hylemon, June Waldrup, and Burl Rathburn.

Margaret grew up on a working farm in the mountains of western North Carolina. She loved school where she played piano and basketball. Shortly after high school, she moved to the Detroit area where she raised her family.

She held a number of roles in advertising sales, working for Time Life, Sports Illustrated, Discover magazine and Gannett Outdoor Advertising. In 1982, the Rays moved to the Washington, D.C. area, where she continued her career in marketing and advertising, holding prominent roles with the Washington National Bank and a staff position for Senator John Glenn from Ohio.

In 1989, Margaret and Tom moved to Christiansburg and opened the nationally acclaimed Oaks Victorian Inn. Over the next 15 years, they were able to build a successful and popular bed and breakfast business that became



a coveted overnight destination for business travelers, tourists, and visiting parents of Virginia Tech and Radford college students. In 2004, they sold the business and retired to a quiet riverside property in Giles County.

Margaret loved the arts, music, and theater. She was an accomplished, self-taught seamstress, cook, gardener, and interior designer. In her retirement she remained active in multiple organizations and donated her time to many local causes and charities.

She is survived by her daughter, Melodie Kapolka (Michael); her son, Chris Ray, (Mary); a beloved grandson, Nicholas Kapolka, her brother, Earl Rathburn, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moss Arts Center in Blacksburg, or to the local animal rescue. Expressions of condolences and love may be sent to www.mccoyfuneralhome.com.

The family thanks Colleen Light, Catherine Hauck, Ellen Harkrader, and Diana Richardson for the exceptional care, love, and compassion shown to Margaret and her family over the past several years.

Roark, Darrell Wayne

Darrell Wayne Roark, 46, of Pulaski County, went to be with his Heavenly Father alongside his brother, Wayne Patterson.

Darrell was a devoted husband and father. He was preceded in death by his grandma, Nellie Cooper; his grandpa, Robert Cooper; uncle, Bobby Cooper and aunt, Janet Quesenberry.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 22 years, Diana Roark; four sons: Darrel Roark, Jr., Dominic Roark, Donnie Roark, and Dustin Roark and wife, Kayla; grandchildren Hannah, Daniel, and Able Roark; mom and dad, Patricia and Donnie Lytton; and many cousins, aunts, and uncles. Darrell also



leaves behind his IAB brothers: Brady, Ricky, Travis, Ricky, Cecil, Roger, Jeremiah, Austin, and his late brother, Wayne Patterson. Riding motorcycles was Darrell's passion as well as his favorite thing to do. He never met a stranger and loved everyone whom he came into contact with.

The family received friends on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at Horne Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Life will be held on today, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Horne Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Lee Sarver officiating. There will be no interment.

Victory, John Michael

John Michael Victory, beloved father and grandfather, died suddenly at his home in Blacksburg on Feb. 15, 2022, from natural causes. He was 63 years old.

John is survived and mourned by his three children: Danielle and Travis Higgs, Andrew and Vivian Victory, and Eric and Paige Victory; his six grandchildren: Isiah, Virginia, Riley, Harrison, Penny, and Evelyn as well as one on the way, Eliza. Also cherishing his memory are his mother, Chris Nowak, and two beloved sisters, Linda Chaplain and Karen McGee. John was preceded in death by his father and stepmother, William and Lena Victory.

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colo., John served as a professional meat cutter at King Soopers for 17 years. He was married from 1983-2002 to Karen Cofer. After having three children together, they moved

to Pearisburg in 1993. John continued his career as a meat cutter locally while becoming a certified truck driver. He continued working as a truck driver serving Riverbend Nursery and others until his sudden death.

John touched many lives; playing basketball every weekend with family and church members, helping out with church youth programs, and playing Texas Hold'Em nights with his trucking friends. John was the person that friends or family could count on for late-night phone calls when they had problems or concerns.

He was a very real and understanding man who never met a stranger as he had the ability to meet people at their level regardless of who they were or where they came from.

A public memorial service will be held at Sinkland Farms, 3020 Riner Rd, Christiansburg, VA at 3 p.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 26.

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

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

LANE CLOSURES:
Right lane closures may be in place on I-81 north-

bound 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 on I-81.

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 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 - A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Starting in February and continuing into the early summer, work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before a barrier wall can be installed for road crews to work behind. The barrier wall will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

Through mid-April, daytime right shoulder closures between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

From mid-March until mid-June, nighttime right lane and shoulder closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.

From mid-May to mid-June, alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

See Road watch, page 7

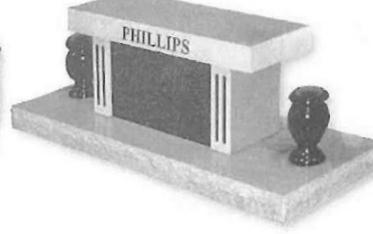
Cremation Memorialization helps the family move forward from grief to remembrance



Permanent Home for Cremation Urns



Granite Bench for Cremation Urns



Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley
2551 North Main Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-7800 www.memorialgardensnrv.com
cturner@memorialgardensnrv.com

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg trio to play at Emory & Henry

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

In the wake of one of Christiansburg High School's best football seasons in eight years this past fall, the Blue Demon senior trio of Casey Graham, Tyrique Taylor, and Drew Lloyd has announced they will continue playing football at Emory and Henry College this fall.

The Blue Demons finished the fall as the top seed in the region with a 9-1 regular season record. The team set a school record with 22 interceptions, outscored opponents 463-157, and set a new single-season school record for passing and receiving. Graham, Taylor, and Lloyd were a big part of that success.

All three were all-county honorees. Graham was the News Messenger/News Journal player of the year and the offen-

sive player of the year. He finished the season completing 106 passes on 169 attempts for 1,850 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also rushed 39 times for 235 yards with seven touchdowns.

Taylor was last fall's defensive lineman of the year with 30 tackles for the season, five for loss with seven sacks.

Lloyd stood out at linebacker on defense for the Blue Demons while playing wingback on the other side of the ball. He also handled punting duties. He finished the season with 36 solo tackles including four sacks.

"All of us as teammates set a solid foundation at Christiansburg for the younger guys to walk on, and I'm hoping we can do the same at Emory and Henry," Lloyd said.

"Yes, it will be like nothing has changed at all to play with former teammates. I look forward to getting to work with them again," Taylor said.



PHOTO BY MARTY GORDON

Christiansburg's Casey Graham (far left), Tyrique Taylor (center), and Drew Lloyd will continue their football playing careers at Emory and Henry College this fall.

Emory & Henry's campus is located outside Abingdon, Va. The school has a current enrollment of 999.

Emory & Henry is in the first of three years of provisional membership as it reclassifies from NCAA Division III to NCAA Division II. The Wasps will officially join the South Atlantic Conference on July 1, 2022, and will play a conference schedule during the

2022-23 academic year.

The Wasps finished 6-4 this past season, and the team's roster includes Radford's Zane Rupe and Justice Marshall. Chase Blocker of Narrows recently transferred from Virginia Tech.

Lloyd plans to major in exercise science while Taylor plans to major in education, and Graham expects to major in business and sports management.

FROM THE SIDELINES

Marty Gordon
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This basketball season might not be all what Virginia Tech fans had expected, but last week's win over Georgia Tech put several things in motion. For one, the Hokies now have their postseason dreams in their own hands.

With three games remaining, Tech needs to win out and finish strong going into the ACC tournament in Brooklyn. At least one win in the conference "show" could also help the cause.

The Hokies faithful are not known to be patient, and biting nails might have to be allowed over the next two weeks.

On the court Wednesday night, there was much to cause concern. Virginia Tech started the game shooting 1-8 from the field with a Nahiem Alleyne 3-pointer opening the scoring. Georgia Tech responded with a 9-0 run, its largest of the half. Until Mutts' dunk with 12:19 remaining in the first half, Alleyne was the only player to score for the Hokies. Despite struggling from deep, shooting 3-14, a perfect outing from the free-throw line (7-7) kept Virginia Tech in the game and trailing only

34-30 at the half.

After intermission, the Hokies came back to even it up at 41-41 before going on a 7-0 run, finished off by Maddox's jumper, to seize a 48-41 lead with 9:50 to go in the contest. The Yellow Jackets narrowed the margin before the game was over, but the Hokies held on for the 62-58 win. Virginia Tech capitalized on seven Georgia Tech turnovers in the half, collecting 10 points off those turnovers.

Meanwhile with the defeat, Georgia Tech sits locked at the bottom of the conference standings, tied with Clemson and N.C. State. The result marks the Jackets' fifth loss in the last six contests.

In looking at the numbers:

The win is the Hokies' third straight road win in league play.

Coach Mike Young secured the 200th conference victory of his career.

The win eased the Hokies above .500 in conference play with three games remaining.

The Hokies are now 6-1 in February.

Keve Aluma ranks third in the ACC in scoring at 17.6 points per game.

Hokie reserves are averaging 15.5 points per game. Tech's 25 bench points Wednesday night were the second most in an ACC game this season (32, @ FSU).

Justyn Mutts' triple-double earlier this season is only the program's second ever (Chris Clarke in 2016). Mutts is one of three ACC players to record a triple-double this season (Alondes Williams of Wake Forest and Windell Moore, Jr., of Duke are the other two.)

Hunter Cattoor drew a charge in the UNC game, running his season total to 11. He also ranks sixth in the ACC in 3-pointers made.

As a team, the Hokies are No. 5 in the country for 3-point field-goal percentage. Wednesday's contest did move the needle on a downward trend slightly, but the team is still one of the hottest in the nation from behind the arc. Despite being the ACC's best 3-point shooting team, Virginia Tech shot below .300 from deep for the fourth consecutive game of the season.

Virginia Tech had 39 rebounds, the second-most in any conference game this season (41, vs. Syracuse).

The Hokies cleaned up on the offensive glass, collecting a season-high 15 offensive rebounds.

Blue Demon, three Bruins named to All-River Ridge District basketball team

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One player from Christiansburg and three players from Blacksburg have been named to the 2021-2022 All-River Ridge District basketball team.

Two Bruins and a Blue Demon were

placed on the girls' first and second teams.

Christiansburg's Tyrique Taylor and Blacksburg's Matt Joyce were first-team all-district, and Blacksburg's Tucker Halsey and Owen Walters were named to the all-district second-team.

Austin Purcell and Jacob Moles, both of Christiansburg, joined Blacksburg

teammates Sam Davis and Cody Miller on the honorable mention list.

On the girls' side of the court, freshman Katy Hoover of Christiansburg was named to the second team while Blacksburg's Morgan Cheynet and Brynn Ferguson joined her on the second team. Cheynet is a senior and Ferguson is a freshman.

Pulaski's Keslyn Secrist was named the girls' player of the year and her coach, Scott Ratcliff, was named coach of the year for the River Ridge District. Blacksburg placed three girls on the honorable mention list: Mila Jones, McKenzie Cheynet, and Kaylin Brawley.

Road watch from page 6

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE - The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County will be closed from late May 2022 until early September 2022. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Visitors to the rest area may see some preliminary work, such as drainage improvements, as early as this spring. However, the major construction will begin after Memorial Day, and the rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public from late May until early September. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

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 now open and 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. Drivers can expect rough pavement. 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 POTHOLE 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.

I-581/220 LANE & RAMP CLOSURES FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS IN ROANOKE COUNTY - Weather permitting, crews will be milling and paving along Interstate 81. Right and left lane closures will be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours. Drivers should expect possible delays.

I-581 BRIDGE REPAIRS - Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours,

10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Scheduled traffic impacts include:

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 northbound from Orange Avenue to Valley View Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Left or right lane closures may be in place on I-581 from Valley View Boulevard to Orange Avenue from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Flagging operations may be in place on Liberty Road NW from Lukens Street NE to Hunt Avenue NW from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

INTERSTATE 77 (CARROLL COUNTY)

INTERSTATE 77 BRIDGE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS - Due to bridge painting, several height restrictions will be in place along I-77 north and southbound beginning mid-February. Maximum height allowed is 14'6" at the following bridges over I-77 at the mile marker locations of 10.5 and 7. Overheight vehicles will need to be rerouted. Message boards will be in place. Painting is scheduled to be completed by March 2022.

I-77 PAVING OPERATIONS - Weather permitting, crews will be performing paving operations along Interstate 77 between mile marker 24 and 0. Right and left lane closures may be in place along northbound and southbound lanes during nighttime hours, 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Drivers should watch for moving vehicles and equipment. Expect possible delays.

Radford girls defeat Glenvar in Region C



Laney Cline scores inside against Glenvar in Monday's 59-42 win as the Lady Cats moved on in Region C. Cline finished with 14 points to lead the team.



Radford's Jada Dean nails a three-pointer in Monday's game. She finished with 13 points in the contest with three 3-pointers.



Haley Whitt drives in for an easy layup late in the game. She scored seven points for Radford while Gracie Conner had 13.

PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Auburn boys, girls advance in Region C play



Auburn's Amelia Terry goes up for the shot in Wednesday's 65-34 win over Covington in Region C quarter final play. Hannah Huffman's 15 points led the Eagle girls to the win. Terry scored six points in the game.



Jaxon Warren pumped in 15 points for the Auburn boys' 61-43 win in the first round of the region playoffs. All Warren's points came off 3-point shots. As a team, Auburn hit nine 3-pointers. Ethan Millirons led Auburn with 22 points as the Eagles advanced.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Christiansburg wins Region 3D playoffs opener



Tyrique Taylor (center) shoots under intense opposition from Magna Vista's defense as Christiansburg took a 74-63 win on Monday night in the first round of the Region 3D playoffs. Christiansburg would then fall to Northside on Tuesday night to be eliminated from play. Taylor finished with a team-high 24 points.



Austin Purcell (left) and Jacob Moles (right) defend against Magna Vista's Tyler Johnson. Moles finished with 17 points for Christiansburg, and Purcell added nine as Christiansburg finished the season at 10-13.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

CROSSWORD ANSWERS																	
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Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org