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Blacksburg Museum has its new communications and guest services manager

The Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation has announced that Janean Williams has joined the museum as its new communications and guest services manager.

Williams has more than 15 years of experience working in museums and performing arts venues. She got her career start at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

and served as guest services and audience development professional at Orlando Opera, Opera Roanoke, and the Roanoke Symphony.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to develop audiences and programs at the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation, and I am looking forward to working with the community,

recognizing its diverse interests, art, and culture," Williams said.

Williams has a master of fine arts degree in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and a bachelor's degree in international studies from Hollins University. She is a Floyd County native who loves music of all kinds, classic cinema, and southern fried cooking.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Floyd County native Janean Williams has joined the staff of the Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation as its new communications and guest services manager.

Payton hired as new COO for LewisGale Medical Center

LewisGale Medical Center has hired Willie Payton, Jr., as chief operating officer for the 506-bed acute-care medical and surgical facility.

Before joining LewisGale Medical Center, Payton served as vice president of operations at Johnston-Willis Hospital in Richmond and has operated clinical and nonclinical services including emergency preparedness, security, safety, endoscopy, engineering, environmental services, food and nutrition services, imaging, and patient transportation.

"We are excited to welcome Willie to our executive team and leverage his experience managing multiple interdisciplinary teams," said Lance Jones, LewisGale Regional Health System chief executive officer and market president.

Prior to Johnston-Willis, Payton held numerous administrative roles within the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers for over a decade.

Originally from Cleveland, Payton earned his bachelor of arts in organizational communications and his master's degree in health services administration



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Willie Payton, Jr., is the new chief operating officer for LewisGale Medical Center.

from Xavier University. Payton is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and the National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Co.-Blacksburg will hold its annual Brunswick stew drive-thru sale on Saturday, April 9, from noon to 2 p.m. at Prices Fork Elementary School.

Montgomery-Blacksburg Kiwanis to hold Prices Fork Elementary fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Co.-Blacksburg, in conjunction with Prices Fork Elementary School, will hold a drive-thru Brunswick stew fundraiser on Saturday, April 9, from noon to 2 p.m. at the school.

The club will sell the stew for \$10 per quart or five quarts for \$9.00 each.

Pre-orders are strongly encouraged by emailing pfes@gmail.com or by calling 540-951-5834 by Wednesday, April 6. Purchasers may pay at pickup by cash or check made

payable to Prices Fork Elementary School.

For more information, contact Kiwanian Jerry Jones at 540-552-8296 or gmjones@vt.edu.

The Kiwanis Club's stew fundraiser is member-focused as it involves Kiwanians making and selling stew as well as school staff and student families from Prices Fork Elementary School with participation by Kiwanis-sponsored clubs (Virginia Circle K and Blacksburg High School's Key Club).

Funds from the annual Brunswick stew

sale are used to provide valuable and needed services to the Montgomery County community. Proceeds support local kids through Prices Fork Elementary's art, music, and physical education programs while Kiwanis programs include food pantries for pre-K students at two elementary schools, books for 10 Pre-K classes throughout the county, gifts for Christmas Angels, scouting, foster care, beds for young kids, and assistance with the Christmas store.

VT's YMCA recognizes three international women community members

The YMCA at Virginia Tech celebrated International Women's Day, which falls in March of every year, by recognizing three international women community members: Aphie Fancon, Manju Batra, and Rejane Pratelli.

The three women were recognized for demonstrating a spirit of perseverance, making an impact in their community, and setting an example of service in the New River Valley.

Serving in a public office is Aphie Fancon, born

and raised in India. She pursued a career in city planning when she and her family moved to Florida in 2002. Fancon got her graduate degree from the University of Florida. In 2015, she

See **Women**, page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The YMCA at Virginia Tech celebrated International Women's Day by recognizing three international women community members: Aphie Fancon, Manju Batra, and Rejane Pratelli.

Virginia Tech students, alumni, and faculty help refugee families find their footing

By Savannah Webb '23, intern for Virginia Tech University Relations

Virginia Tech faculty, alumni, and students passionate about refugee resettlement and immigration reform are working to make a change in their communities.

Aida Shakeri, a sophomore majoring in biology, is one of them.

"We're not helping them infinitely, but we're helping them get settled in and get their feet on the ground," said Shakeri, who volunteers with the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (BRP), a volunteer-run organization that aims to resettle refugee

families in the New River Valley and help them achieve financial, educational, and career stability and independence.

Shakeri has been tutoring a fourth-grade student in English twice a week since September. In addition, she serves as a translator for the refugee family.

"I was there the first day they arrived at their apartment, and I helped translate between the BRP and the family itself," said Shakeri, who is fluent in Farsi. "When they have issues in school, they call me on the phone and I translate between the students and the principal or the teachers."

See **Students**, page 4

MARCH 19, 2022
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Through April 30

Free prom dresses

By appointment only at the Meadowbrook Public Library, which has prom dresses of all sizes available for free to anyone in Montgomery County, Floyd County, and throughout the New River Valley. Call (540) 268-1964 to make an appointment to try on and choose a free prom dress.

Saturday, March 19:

Click Smarter: Properties of Light with Charlie Whitescarver

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. to noon. Professional photographer Charlie Whitescarver of Whitescarver Photography, LLC will teach on cameras and the skills involved in photography. Properties of light and other tips will be the focus for this program.

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon to 1 p.m. 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@mfl.org for more information.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. DND for teens.

Sunday, March 20:

Unveiling ceremony: African American Memory and Storyboard Project

In downtown Christiansburg in the town square quadrant in front of the Christiansburg Post Office at 3 p.m.

Chess Club

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

Monday, March 21:

Crafternoon Delight for adults only

Learn how to knit or crochet with library staff at the Radford Public Library from 1 to 2 p.m. Needles, crochet hooks and yarn will be available for tutorials and practice during this session of Crafternoon Delight. This group knits, crochets, embroiders, felts, and paints. Knowledgeable staff can help participants with their needlework craft. Projects will also be available to learn how to put a blanket together for Project Linus with supplies provided.

Pokémon Club

At the Christiansburg Library at 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, March 22:

Radford Chamber of Commerce seminar series

This is a seminar on Professional Networking, LinkedIn, and Building Career and Relationships; 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Long Way Brewing. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. No cost for chamber members. \$10 for non-chamber members. Brought to you by the Radford Chamber of Commerce.

Chess Club for Teens and Pre-Teens

At the Radford Public Library; 6 to 7 p.m. Match chess skills with teen librarian Dave.

Radford City School Board Meeting

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

Melted Crayon Art

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Celebrate National Crayon Day a little early by creating melted crayon art.

Wednesday, March 23:

Radford Army Ammunitions Plant community meeting

At the Christiansburg Public Library at 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 ahead of the meeting may be emailed to usarmy.radford.peo-eis.list.rfaap-public-affairs@mail.mil.

Thursday, March 24:

Ortho Virginia presents Concussions

At the Blacksburg Library at noon. Dr. Kaitlin Mahoney discusses concussions:

What are they, what are the symptoms? She will also discuss treatment, prevention, and safety. The workshop will be offered in-person and virtually. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the workshop link.

Kids' Birdhouse Building

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Kids can build and decorate their very own birdhouses.

Adulting 101: How Not to Go Broke with Lisa Van Wickler of New York Life

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 p.m. New York Life Insurance representative Lisa Van Wickler discusses how to be financially successful in your young adult life. This program will be offered in person and online. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for the link to participate.

Friday, March 25:

Friends of the Library Book Sale

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fill a grocery-size bag for \$5. Larger bags priced accordingly. Individual items: \$1 for hardbacks, \$.50 for paperback, \$1 for CDs, Audio Books, and DVDs. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library. Cash or check only please.

Saturday March 26:

Introduction to Quilting for Kids: How to Sew a Straight Seam

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Make and take a standard size pillowcase while learning the basics of sewing machine use and the importance of stitching on a straight line. Kits will be provided. Ages 8 to 12 accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sewing machines, but machines will be provided. Irons will be provided and used by adults. Class is co-sponsored by The Quilting Party.

Monday, March 28:

Scams Against Older Adults with Better Business Bureau

At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Presented by Riley Ginger, Community Outreach and Events Coordinator of the Better Business Bureau serving Western Virginia. Register to attend by emailing Elizabeth.Sensabaugh@radfordva.gov. Sandwiches will be provided via registration. Options include vegetarian or turkey 6" from Jimmy Johns. Participants can email their sandwich preference when they register to attend.

Saturday, April 2:

Blacksburg Leaf Compost Pick up

Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive for composting, and is available to Blacksburg residents for pick up. This is an important service as composted leaf mulch keeps leaves out of the landfill. Leaves can take up valuable landfill space and produce harmful greenhouse gasses.

This year, the compost can be picked up on April 2, from 8 a.m. to noon. To arrange for pickup, residents must register and follow these guidelines: Leaf compost service is for Blacksburg residents only. Register for a 15-minute time slot. Do not arrive more than 10 minutes early. Remain parked in the upper lot until town staff provide directions to the compost zone. There the staff will load up the vehicle. The limit is two cubic yards per vehicle. Do not block access to the road leading to the compost zone. Once the vehicle is loaded, please exit promptly.

Tuesday, April 5:

50 Years in the Making: Celebrating old time, blues and bluegrass music

All concert ticket sales will benefit the Montgomery Museum of Art and History. The concert is presented by the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) at the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. Seating is limited and tickets are now available online at <https://montgomerymuseum.org/events/50-years-in-the-making/>. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Moss Arts Center box office during certain open hours. For more information, call the box office at 540-231-5300. A mask, photo ID, and proof of COVID19 vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event are required for admittance.

Thursday, April 7:

American Legion Meeting

The American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Tuesday, April 12:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, April 14:

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.

Saturday, April 16:

Radford Easter Egg Hunt

At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The schedule for the age groups is as follows: Noon: ages 3-5; 12:25 p.m.: ages 6-8; 12:30 p.m. :ages 9-12; 12:45 p.m.: ages 3 and under. Bounce houses, fire trucks, police cars, food trucks, and photos with the Easter Bunny will be part of the fun.. Please bring a basket.



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OPINION

Buddy King: Second in a series promoting Christiansburg's really big reunion June 10-11

Growing up in a small community where your dad was Superintendent of Schools was not easy. I don't remember being too much affected by the experience until high school, but looking back on the time later, I realized that he was the "boss" of all my teachers and coaches and principals from the time I entered first grade until I graduated from high school. And many of my classmates noted that he signed all of their report cards. So there was an every-6-week reminder to my peers of who I was and an everyday reminder to my teachers when they called roll.

To compound my situation, my doting old maid Aunt Maggie was the longtime government teacher at CHS, a renowned educator known for her high standards for her students, but one who would have thought I was the best and brightest even if I hadn't been able to spell cat and had participated in the Manson murders.

My Mom had also been a teacher and my other dotting aunt - Mary Alma - was in the midst of a long run as the math and algebra teacher at Auburn High just a few miles away. Teaching was the family business and the faculty at CHS was my extended family from the time I was born.

I am sure that I must have received favorable treat-

ment at school. At least subconsciously, my teachers and coaches would not want to think I was going home and laying them out in front of the folks. I immodestly note here that I did very well in the Montgomery County Public School System. I pretty much got all "A's" and won many academic awards and played several sports. But how much was I helped by my father's position?

I learned later, after I was at UVA undergrad and William & Mary Law, that my Dad was relieved that I did quite well in my "higher ed" years, validating my years in the MCPS. I think he felt that the college years showed that I wasn't purely the beneficiary of favoritism from the schools that he ran. Notwithstanding my superlative record during the "Christiansburg Years," however, I did have my moments where I didn't please my parents.

This is one of those, perhaps the ultimate failure. I have written before about the great group of pals I had at CHS: Bo, George, Bobby, John, Jay, Garry, Bob, Russell, the "Gregs." More or less model students in our younger years, we became a bit rebellious in our last two years of high school, the classic big fish in the small pond; however, we were much more like Richie Cunningham's gang on "Happy Days" than Leonardo

DiCaprio's in "Gangs of New York," generally performing harmless pranks and amateurish (and largely unsuccessful) attempts at catching the attention of the girls in our class. But one episode stands out as the lowlight of those years, a point in time which I would change if I could. It was more than I should have put my Dad and others through.

It was the spring of my senior year, a "dangerous" time for most kids. Your die was largely cast, your grades were pretty much fixed, your plans for the next several years were mostly laid out, your college admission was in hand if you were lucky enough to be able to go, your sports career was over, thus eliminating the fear of coaches' discipline. You get my drift: a time of minimal risk and plausible deniability.

Back to the story. A few weeks before graduation several of the science classes at CHS were booked for a trip to the chemistry and biology laboratories at Virginia Tech, presumably to ready some of us for what we would soon be facing. I was a particularly odd choice to go, given that my future plans had nothing to do with taking classes that involved spending time in "labs" or

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Students

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"My long-term goal is to really have them not need me, in the sense that they feel like their English is pretty good and they can carry on with their own business day to day," Shakeri said. "That's when I'll feel like I played a part in helping them start their lives in a whole different country."

The Afghan Student Association at Virginia Tech also joined efforts to help recent refugees who moved to Blacksburg from Afghanistan after the Taliban gained power last year. Their volunteers support families by fundraising, translating, creating community, and cultivating friendships.

"With everything going on in Afghanistan, a big thing for us was giving back," said Mariam Farzayee, a Virginia

Tech student majoring in accounting and president of the Afghan Student Association. "It's been really stressful seeing what's going on and knowing that we can't do much, which is why I really wanted to start the donation drive. It allows us to feel like we're doing something, and we're also able to help out the people who have been able to flee the country."

In 2016, Scott Bailey, director of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership and associate professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech, along with two members of Glade Church in Blacksburg, formed the partnership in response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

"Blacksburg is an extremely welcoming, kind community," Bailey said. "I could list a hundred things that have come up, and it's like, 'We're never going to be able to do that,' but somebody raises their hand every time."

"Usually when resettled refugees come to the United States, they work with the resettlement agency that's contracted to the government, but it's pretty limited financially," said Brett Shadle, who is coordinator for education at the partnership and professor and chair of the Department of History at Virginia Tech. "BRP is more holistic and commits to a much longer period of working with the family."

Once a family arrives in Blacksburg, the partnership provides a multitude of resources for the transition into the United States. Its volunteers offer English lessons, mentoring, transportation, translating, coaching, and tutoring for families with children.

"BRP encourages you to develop a relationship with one family over time," said Julia Monroe, a 2019 Virginia Tech graduate and former student tutor. "The family you work with welcomes you into their home - it's an honor - and you really get to know their kids, especially working with them over time."

Monroe, who earned bachelor's degrees in international studies and Spanish and a minor in Arabic, now works for FWD.us, a nonprofit organization that advocates for immigration and criminal justice system reform. Through her job, she supports immigrant advocates who choose to share their stories with the media in order to drive policy change.

"Dozens of students have been tutors in this program," Shadle said. "Some have graduated and gone on to do other things after Tech with immigration or refugee resettlement and continue to make an impact as teachers, volunteers, or creating an NGO [non-governmental organization] to help bring students to the United States."

Deirdre Hand '08 is one of these students. During her time as an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech, she took interest in refugee education efforts while volunteering with a refugee tutoring program that was based in Roanoke, prior to the partnership's existence.

Since earning a bachelor's degree in history and



PHOTO BY SAVANNAH WEBB FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Aida Shakeri, a sophomore at Virginia Tech, is a tutor and translator for refugee families in Blacksburg.

a master's degree in education from Virginia Tech, Hand has gone on to teach English as a foreign language in countries such as Guatemala, the Czech Republic, Spain, Indonesia, and Rwanda.

"There are so many young adults who are so smart and so driven and want to learn everything, and there's so much talent that's just being wasted," said Hand, who is the program's academic director.

Many relief programs and nonprofit organizations place emphasis on the concept of serving, not saving, refugees. The partnership is no exception.

"It's not like they need our help to survive," Bailey said. "It's a partnership, and we're both gaining from it. Our group just empowers them to live out the possibilities that we all have here in the United States."

The first step to empowerment is helping the resettled refugees find employment. According to Bailey, Virginia Tech Dining Services has been a primary employer for many of the adult refugees. Once they receive proper immigration documentation, they join the workforce and can achieve financial and occupational success.

"You've got to understand that it's both ways," Bailey said. "You can't look at it as a helper and receiver. It's people working in partnership. One person's life or one family's life is being improved, but both of them come out better."

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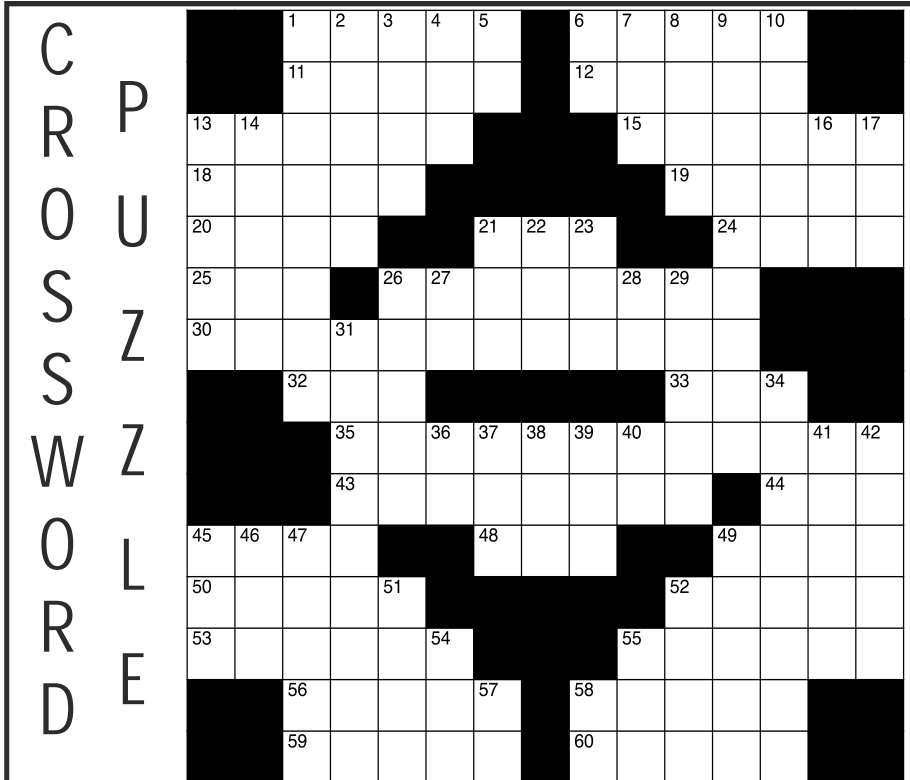
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Duck cartoon character
- 6. Town in Guinea
- 11. Upright posture
- 12. Rest on your knees
- 13. Move upward
- 15. Disposed to take risks
- 18. Makes a sweater
- 19. Grooved surface of a tire
- 20. Identical in kind
- 21. Radiotelegraphic signal
- 24. "Picnic" author William
- 25. Bashkir Republic capital
- 26. Male highlanders
- 30. Doing several things at once
- 32. Title of respect
- 33. Old world, new

- 35. "Sophie's Choice" actress
- 43. Encloses completely
- 44. Decaliter
- 45. Makes angry
- 48. Commercial free network
- 49. Latvian capital
- 50. Tycho __, Danish astronomer
- 52. Leave slowly and hesitantly
- 53. Harm to property
- 55. Dining, pool and coffee
- 56. Remove all traces of
- 58. Yemen capital
- 59. Passover feast and ceremony
- 60. Trenches

- 3. Marshland area of E. England
- 4. Flood Control District
- 5. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 6. Project Runway designer judge's initials
- 7. Along with
- 8. Orderly and clean
- 9. A short-barreled pocket pistol
- 10. Extraterrestrial being
- 13. Ancient capital of Ethiopia
- 14. Goof
- 16. Annoy constantly
- 17. Haitian monetary unit (abbr.)
- 21. Arrived extinct
- 22. Belonging to a thing
- 23. Toungue click
- 26. Fireman's signal
- 27. Connecticut
- 28. 3rd tone of the scale
- 29. Language spoken in Russia
- 31. Split occupancy
- 34. Diacritics for s's

- 36. Mobile camper
- 37. Affirmative (slang)
- 38. Bachelor of Laws
- 39. __ Angeles
- 40. State police
- 41. U.S. gold coin worth 10 dollars
- 42. Bets on
- 45. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 46. Macaws
- 47. Julie Andrews and Judi Dench
- 49. Capital of Morocco
- 51. Oh, God!
- 52. __ Carvey, comedian
- 54. Point midway between E and SE
- 55. Principle of Chinese philosophy
- 57. Trauma center
- 58. Atomic #62

Women

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moved to Blacksburg and is currently working as the Community Development Director at the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC). Her volunteer work in the community has included helping in several programs such as Meals on Main and Welcoming Week with the YMCA, Renew the New, and food drives for Feeding Southwest Virginia and Radford Head Start. One of the YMCA's longtime volunteers, Manju Batra is an active member within the international community. Batra grew up in India in an extended family and learned from an early age to be a helper in her neighborhood, just like her mother. She came to the United States in 1972 after getting married. Before coming to Virginia, she lived in Missouri where she was involved with her children's schools and volunteered at the BW Robinson State School for children with disabilities. Batra joined the YMCA at VT when the family moved to Blacksburg in 1994. She loves to

welcome newcomers and help them make friends with other community members. Thus, she has a sense of fulfillment to help newly arrived international people to settle down as she was once in their shoes and remembers how challenging it was to find her way when moving to a new country. In the face of adversity, Réjane Pratelli discovered her strength and new path in arts. Born in France, she earned a PhD in plant biology and pursued her research in various countries. She arrived in the U.S. in 2007 and settled in Blacksburg in 2009. In 2013 an aneurysm left her unable to speak and unable to use her fingers for a number of months and brought her academic career to an end. She turned to art to heal and ground herself. An introductory sterling silver jewelry workshop in Blair Anderson's studio near Washington, D.C., sparked a deep love and respect for that metal and provided the outlet she needed. After a few years of practice, she fully recovered the use of her fingers and

grew both her skills and her confidence. Through the YMCA's annual Craft Fair she found that her art was well received. She eventually started her own jewelry business, Anvil, Fire & Time, in 2018. Since then her work has focused on the exploration of textures, using them to reflect the complexity of the human psyche and to fight the pressure society places on all of us, but especially on women. Pratelli has been helping the YMCA since with planning and organizing the annual Craft Fair. The YMCA at VT also took the opportunity to celebrate Women's History Month with an open house and presentation on the life and achievements of Lucy Lee Lancaster, who was one of the first five women students at Virginia Tech (1925). She led an active life leading many organizations while working as a librarian and traveling to 52 countries. Lancaster was a board member of the YMCA at VT for many years and before her death bequeathed her house to the organization.

OBITUARIES

Hepler, Anna Woods

Anna Woods Hepler, age 92, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at her home.

She was born in Christiansburg on Aug. 30, 1929, to the late Lloyd and Bertha Akers Woods. She was preceded in death by her infant brother, William F. Woods; her first husband, William (Bub) H. Graves; and her second husband, Paul Hepler.

She was a past member of First United Methodist Church, Pearisburg, and was a member of Blacksburg Baptist Church at her death. Ann was an X-Ray Technician at Bluefield Hospital, at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, and for Dr. Seagle's orthopedic office. She was an avid golfer and was a loyal friend to many. Ann loved to travel and traveled the world.

She is survived by her daughter Pat Graves; cousin Rick and Dot



Cupp; sister-in-law Vi Graves; nieces and nephews Deni Dillon, Cathy and Rick Alcorn, Pam and Don Huvar, Gary and Sharon Graves, Charlie Graves, Cindy Graves, and Eddie Joe and Sandy Graves.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, March 20, 2022, at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday, March 21, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Blacksburg Baptist Church with Tommy McDearis and Todd Millsaps officiating. Interment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bright Focus Foundation for Macular Degeneration Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871.

Long, Eleanor Ann McRoberts

Eleanor Ann McRoberts Long, 81, of Pulaski County, passed away Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents, John Edgar and Lucille Akers McRoberts; and daughter, Lorna Shumate.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Tyrone "Tony" G. Long; children, James "Jimmy" Long of Radford, Connie Creed (Kenny) of Blacksburg, Susan Ramsey (Greg) of Raleigh, N.C., and Dana Scott of Fredericksburg; son-in-law, Ron Dellinger of Roanoke; grandchildren, Carl Powers (Tara), Brad Powers (Maureen), Jason Powers (Elizabeth), Michelle Lawrence, Jamee Thornton, Carrie Eaves, Ty Ramsey, Walker Ramsey, Joshua Scott (Denise), and Rebecca Scott; great-grandchildren, Kourtney, Cody, Keegan and



Luka Powers, William Whitlock, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Calli and Chloe Thornton, and Taylor and Kaylee Lester; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 3 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at the Fairlawn Church of God. Funeral services will follow at 5 p.m. with Minister Dana Scott and Pastor Marcus

Harrison officiating. Entombment will be private in Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Fairlawn Church of God, 7858 Peppers Ferry Blvd., Radford, VA 24141.

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

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: 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!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Snowville Christian Church, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Read Joshua 14:1 through 17:18

Sometimes, in the pursuit of God's will, we "spiritualize" our natural desire for comfort. We make "faith statements," claiming that if God is leading us, every problem should resolve itself. That is not the reality of godly living. Scripture is filled with examples of God's people encountering obstacles while following divine directives.

Division of the Promised Land among the Israelites came with the responsibility of engaging enemy nations. Israel's record in fulfilling that responsibility is spotty. As just one example, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh claimed their inheritance was too small.

"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites" (Joshua 17:15).

Joshua reminded the descendants of Joseph that much of their inheritance in the Promised Land remained to be conquered. They needed to step up to that challenge.

Prayer Suggestion: As God shows you what He wants you to do, pray in faith that He will help you overcome the obstacles.

Quicklook: Joshua 17:14-17

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

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.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.centralmethodistchurch.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 **Wesleyan 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

Fisher, Naomi Faye Adkins

Naomi Faye Adkins Fisher, 76, took the hand of Jesus and stepped into her heavenly home on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

She was a 1963 graduate of Dublin High School, retired from Inland Motors and a member of Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church.

She preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Iva Adkins; her brothers, Marvin and Roger Adkins; and her sisters, Elizabeth Hill, Doris Tolley, and Colleen McGhee.

Survivors include her husband, Michael Lee Fisher; daughters Dawn Draper (Clovis) and Rhonda Batchelor (Raymond Maxwell Jr.); son David Alan Meredith (Donna); five grandchildren: Clovis Draper, Jr., Jessica Meadors (Jacob), Joshua Richards, Jeremy Richards, and Emmerson Scott; four great-grandchildren: Joel, Mya, Jace and

Raylon; a special little brother, Ronald McGuire; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

The family thanks her caregivers, Angela East and Medi-Hospice, especially Rachel, Megan, Pastor Rob, Pastor Mike, Mindy, Desiree, Kandis, Alecia, Kim, Kimberly, and her loving neighbors, for all their love and tender care.

The family received friends on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 6 p.m. with the Rev. Lee Sarver and the Rev. Perry Slaughter officiating. Interment was held on Friday, March 18, 2022, at 10 a.m. in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

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



Turmoil in Ukraine, the world's breadbasket, adversely affecting Virginia farmers

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is impacting global grain exports and production, oilseeds, fertilizer and petroleum, and is creating volatility for Virginia farmers.

"Ukraine is a country that's sensitive to shipping and sensitive to agricultural production," said Robert Harper, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation grain manager. "Ukraine is one of the top five corn producers in the world."

Harper said that over 1 billion bushels of corn are exported from Ukraine, but because of the conflict, that crop will not be planted this year.

"This is creating extreme volatility in the futures markets," he said.

Qu Dongyu, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, wrote in a Morning Ag Clips op-ed that Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat and Ukraine is the fifth largest. Together, they supply 19% of the world's barley, 14% of wheat and 4% of corn, making up more than one-third of global cereal exports.

Since more than 30% of the world's wheat comes from the Black Sea nations like Russia and Ukraine, "traders see that as 30% of the world's wheat disappearing," Harper said. "And the world is trying to figure out what we'll do if we lose 30% of our wheat."

Compounding this is the inability of commercial vessels to travel freely through the Black Sea, where Ukrainian ports have shuttered. That affects grains, crude oil, and fertilizer, Harper said. "Producers in Virginia will be dealing with the consequences of that."

Dr. Mark Alley, professor emeritus of crop and soil environmental sciences at Virginia Tech, told a gathering of cotton growers recently that the components of major fertilizers used in Virginia agricul-

ture also are affected.

"Belarus and Russia are significant exporters of potash and nitrogen, and these are now off the world market," Alley said. Fertilizer prices in the U.S. have increased as much as 200% from this time last year.

Lewis Everett, a cotton, peanut and small grains farmer in Southampton County, said the rise in fertilizer prices is negatively affecting his farm.

He said even though prices for cotton are decent, inflation, supply issues and extremely high fertilizer costs mean that he'll operate in a deficit. "Even though we're looking at a high commodity price, our cost of production is going to offset the margin difference in accelerated or inflated cotton price," Everett said.

Everett added that he's concerned about the availability of supplies as well as the increasing costs of fertilizer and fuel. "And at what level of the ratio between the commodity price and the cost of production does it fall out at a net margin?"

He said the cost of nitrogen has more than doubled, and he typically applies it to the cotton throughout the growing season. "So that's just one fertilizer product ... that will definitely sting a little bit as we move into the '22 production year."

Amelia County beef cattle, small grains and produce farmer Kenney Barnard said he's noticed fertilizer prices increasing for a while now. Last fall when he fertilized his small grains, it cost \$150 per acre. "Within six weeks it had gone up \$30 an acre," Barnard said.

Even though that was before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he's concerned now. Increased input costs for fertilizer and fuel "are the highest I've ever seen," said Barnard, who's been farming since 1968.

Wills, Jr., Wirt Henry

Wirt Henry Wills, Jr., 98, of Blacksburg died after a short illness on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. in Christ

Episcopal Church with the Rev. Scott West officiating. The family received friends prior to the service at the church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Blue is a pawsome pup looking for his forever home. In his short time at the Animal Care and Adoption Center, he has come out of his shell. He arrived a little skittish but has grown to be sweet, friendly, and curious to meet new people. He enjoys hanging out with other dogs and will gladly sit for a delicious treat.



Honey can be a little vocal upon first meeting, but she is as sweet as her name, once she gets to know you. She enjoys being petted by her favorite humans. She would love a quiet home free from too many distractions and sounds that may startle her. Honey has a neurological condition that impacts her walking but it may subside with time and medication.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

<p style="text-align: center;">For Sale - Misc</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR SALE</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>BELONGING, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE SOUTH FORK OF ROANOKE RIVER, WHICH POINT IS N. 2 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 44 SECONDS W. 50 FT. FROM THE CENTER LINE OF VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637, AND BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF PARCEL NO. 2, AS SET FORTH AS SECOND IN DEED TO FERDINAND W. WASKIEWIEZ, JR. AND TERESA A. WASKIEWIEZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE, DATED JUNE 16, 1977, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 385, PAGE 46, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA; THENCE LEAVING SAID ROANOKE RIVER, S. 2 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 44 SECONDS W. 513.06 FT. TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE PROPERTY OF THOMAS F. WOOLWINE (SEE DEED BOOK 380, PAGE 488); THENCE WITH THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID THOMAS F. WOOLWINE PROPERTY, N. 87 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 56 SECONDS W. 177.91 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 5 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 40 SECONDS W. 102.03 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 4 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 20 SECONDS E. 99.00 FT. TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE N. 11 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 20 SECONDS E. 333.0 FT. TO THE SOUTH FORK OF ROANOKE RIVER THENCE S. 80 DEGREES 53 MINUTES E. 139.23 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.072 ACRES AS SHOWN ON SURVEY MADE FOR ALFRED T. WHITELOCK BY JACK G. BESS, CERTIFIED LAND</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>SURVEYOR, DATED OCTOBER 17, 1978. TOGETHER WITH A ONE-HALF INTEREST IN THE WATER LINE AS APPURTENANT TO SAID REAL ESTATE, LEADING FROM SAID HOUSE AND LOT SOUTH ABOUT 560 FEET TO THE SPRING AS SAID PIPE LINE IS NOW LOCATED, TOGETHER WITH NECESSARY EASEMENT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF SAID WATER LINE FROM THE SAID HOUSE AND LOT TO THE SAID SPRING, WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS UPON THE LANDS OF D.V. AND EFFIE M. JEWELL AS SET FORTH IN DEED FROM JEWELL TO LEWY OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 107, PAGE 437, AND ALSO RIGHT TO TAKE WATER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES FROM THE SPRING AS SET FORTH IN DEED FROM EFFIE JEWELL SISSON AND HUSBAND TO JAMES L. SISSON, DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1958, AND OF RECORD IN SAID CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 208, PAGE 52. THIS IS EXCEPTED FROM THIS CONVEYANCE THAT PART OR THE LAND CONTAINED IN VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637, AS CONVEYED TO COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 171, PAGE 304, IN THE AFORESAID CLERK'S OFFICE. THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE SUBJECT TO 12 FT. ROAD RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE OF CAPTION PROPERTY</p> <p>LEADING FROM VIRGINIA SECONDARY ROUTE NO. 637 TO ADJOINING PROPERTY; TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p>balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-325893-2.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Help Wanted - General</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Part Time Newspaper Production Help</p> <p>The Salem TimesRegister 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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Legals - Montgomery County</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2828 RALEIGH CIRCLE, SHAWSVILLE, VA 24162.</p> <p>In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 20, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$83,020.59 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 03014311. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia on April 18, 2022, at 3:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL THE APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO</p>		

King

from page 4

being on the campus at Tech. But it beat sitting in class.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is "the rest of the story." Our classes were divided into four groups for the trip. To this day I recall that my pals and I were "Group 4": Mrs. McKee's physics students. For several years after, my gang and I liked to yell "Group 4" over here!" when we got together.

At this point, the teachers in charge of the field trip made a significant tactical error. They all sat together on one bus, "Group 4" and the nondescript "Group 3" getting on the second bus unchaperoned. To make matters even worse, the driver of our bus was a student, a classmate, hardly someone "Group 4" saw as a threat to a good time, Jimmy.

The 7- or 8-mile trip over to the Tech campus, as well as the tour of the labs (you've seen one, you've seen 'em all, right?) were uneventful. The return trip is where things went sideways.

Literally. Leaving Blacksburg, the bus carrying the "Group 4" miscreants was behind the first one carrying the adults. Someone, I truly don't remember who, decided that it would be unacceptable to finish second, so we started a chant: "Pass the bus Jimmy, pass the bus." Our student driver, a kid who took his responsibilities seriously, and one who truly did not want to become part of a news story, refused our demands. As I recall, we got stopped at the red light at the bowling alley near the outskirts of Christiansburg. At this point, we elevated our demands to "threat level." We told Jimmy that if he didn't pass the bus in front of us we would turn his bus over. So, we started "rocking" the bus with about 20 kids standing and swaying heavily from side to side.

I was told by passengers in the first bus that they could actually see our bus going from side to side on its wheels while we sat at the stop light. Needless to say, our performance did not go unnoticed. Within seconds of pulling up behind the school, several members of "Group 4" were accosted by a horde of administrators, most notably our principal Omar Ross and assistant principals, Dick Ballengee and Wayne Booth. I remember being whisked by Mr. Booth into his office. He was sponsor of the Student Council and was thus heavily invested in me since I was president of the organization. I still remember that he was so angry he couldn't talk, finally just pointing to the door to get me out of his sight.

When I went home that evening, my Dad had of course heard accounts of the incident. He was only mildly relieved to learn that "rocking" the bus did not involve throwing rocks, as he had incorrectly interpreted the story. To say that this was the maddest I ever saw him would be a gross understatement.

The postscript to this story was what happened the next day at school. A group of girls in our class, a few even marginal participants in the incident, led I believe by the indomitable Sara S., had gotten a bunch of large metal buttons (originally carrying Mad Magazine slogans) and had painted "Don't Rock the Bus" on them. We wore them in class. This memorialized one of the least noteworthy events of my high school years.

Evans "Buddy" King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.



MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Former CHS baseball player suffers damage to eyesight

Marty Gordon

NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Former Christiansburg High School player Ian Perkins, who two years ago enrolled at Southwest Community College to play ball at the junior-college level, is fighting to retain his eyesight after a freak accident near the college campus.

According to reports, Perkins and several of his teammates were attending a bonfire event earlier this week when someone threw a bottle into the fire. It exploded, sending fragments flying.

Perkins was struck in an eye by the debris. He underwent emergency surgery at a Johnson City, Tenn., medical facility on Monday, and so far, his updated condition

is not known.

This past summer in travel baseball, he batted .438 with five doubles, two triples, one home run, 25 RBIs, and 21 runs scored.

An outfielder and pitcher, Perkins has appeared in 15 games this season for SWCC and is batting .263 with one home run, three RBIs and 10 stolen bases.

Auburn's Allyson Martin named Mt. Empire District's girls basketball player of the year

Marty Gordon

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Auburn High School's Allyson Martin has been named the Mt. Empire District's 2021-2022 girls' basketball player of the year.

Martin was joined on the first-team by teammate Hannah Huffman. Kaitlyn Lafon was named to the MED second-team while Amelia Terry and Morgan Mundy were honorable mention.

On the boys' side of the court, Auburn's Ethan Millirons was named to the MED first team while teammate Nick Millirons was named to the second team as was their teammate, Bryce Gill.

Samuel Duncan and Michael Wilson were honorable mention.

Auburn's Terry Millirons was

named the Class 1 Region C coach of the year

Eastern Montgomery's Morgan Bahnken was named to the girls' all-region second-team.

In the Three Rivers District, Radford High School placed three players on the boys' first team: Gavin Cormany, Landon Clark, and Elijah Kelly. Teammate Nate Wesley was named to the second team.

Radford's Laney Cline was named to the Three Rivers District girls' first team while Haley Whit and Jada Dean were second-teamers.

Cormany was named to the Class 1 Region C boys' basketball team, and Landon Clark and Elijah Kelly were second team. Cline was joined on the girls' first-team all-region squad by Radford teammate Jada Dean while Haley Whit was second team.

Elizabeth Kitley centered on more than basketball

By Jimmy Robertson

On a random February afternoon, shortly after a visit to the sports medicine area to secure treatment for midseason aches and pains, Elizabeth Kitley looked at her phone to assess her inventory of missed calls.

The Hokies' superstar center on the women's basketball team — recently named the ACC Player of the Year, ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, and currently getting ready to lead the Hokies to their second consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance — smiled and shook her head. One number, with the corresponding person designated by a purple heart, showed up multiple times on her screen.

Her biggest fan was trying to reach her.

"She calls me all the time," Kitley said.

"She" is Kitley's older half-sister, Raven. Though separated by nine years' age, the two share an undeniable bond.

Once roommates in the home of Ralph Kitley, their father, they are now each other's best friend. They share a love for sports. They express an affinity for competition.

"We're two peas in a pod," Raven Kitley said. "We've pretty much always been that way."

Yet, they differ in one respect. Elizabeth Kitley is one of the nation's best basketball players. Raven Kitley is autistic. "She was diagnosed around middle school, but I don't know if I ever really understood it honestly until eighth or ninth grade," Elizabeth Kitley said. "We've never really talked about her as being autistic. She's my sister. She's Raven."

Being autistic doesn't preclude Raven from being competitive. She participates in Special Olympics, which provides athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, in basketball, volleyball, softball, and roller skating. These games not only provide opportunities for physical fitness, but they also allow these athletes to establish needed friend-

ships outside their families.

The social interaction alone is invaluable.

"It is so important to find ways to welcome and include all people of differing abilities," said Angela Scarpa, the director of the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research located in VT's College of Science. She has a son who is autistic. "Special Olympics provides one opportunity [for inclusion]. These sorts of activities offer a sense of belonging and foster the kind of confidence that we all want for our loved ones," Scarpa said.

The Kitleys would echo those sentiments. They also make Special Olympics a family affair. Elizabeth Kitley even participated with Raven in Special Olympics as part of a unified team while in high school.

"It's cool to see her with other people that she feels get her," Elizabeth said. "She made a lot of friends on that team, which is cool because she's 30 years old and she's not in school, so she doesn't get that experience to see people her age or people like her anymore. Special Olympics gives her that opportunity."

Raven Kitley found a close friend when Virginia Tech coach Kenny Brooks started recruiting Elizabeth early in her career at

Northwest Guilford High School. Brooks and Raven bonded quickly when Brooks visited the Kitleys' home in Summerfield, N.C., so much so that Brooks gave her his phone number and the two stayed in touch regularly.

"He was the first coach that actually didn't see just Elizabeth," Raven said. "He saw the family. He and I have a relationship based off that."

That relationship played a role in Elizabeth's decision to come to Virginia Tech. She made visits to other schools, but no staff made her sister feel as important as Brooks and his staff. In fact, the coaches made a lanyard specifically for Raven when she came up for a visit with Elizabeth. They made her feel as if she were a recruit, too.

"We went to another school, and we went into the lobby to sign Elizabeth in," said Ralph Kitley, a former player at Wake Forest. "They gave Elizabeth a lanyard, and there was no lanyard for Raven. Raven then walked into the building and was like, 'No, I don't see this happening. She's not going here.' I think Virginia Tech had set that bar so high with how they had treated her."

Understanding the demands on a head coach,

See Kitley, page 8

Key dates for Tech football's offseason

With Virginia Tech's first spring practices under head coach Brent Pry set to begin this week, plenty of excitement and positive momentum surround the next chapter of Hokies Football.

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

From the team's open practice today, March 19, to 100 days until kickoff in late May and everything in between, here are some of the key dates during Tech's offseason.

Today, Saturday, March 19 | Open Practice

Season-ticket holders and fans are invited to attend Tech's practice in Lane Stadium today. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. and admission is free.

Tuesday, March 22 | Pro Day

Earlier this month, six former Hokies were invited to the NFL Combine in Indianapolis to showcase their talents in front of NFL personnel executives and coaches. After turning in some impressive performances, including an astounding 4.36-second 40-yard dash from Amare Barno, those six players will be joined by additional Tech alums for the Hokies' Pro Day in Blacksburg starting at 2 p.m.

Be sure to follow Tech Football on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for full coverage.

Thursday, March 31 | Hokie Scholarship Fund Giving Deadline

The Hokie Club's annual Hokie Scholarship Fund benefits giving deadline falls on Thursday, March 31, this year. All gifts must be received by that date to solidify membership level and priority point ranking ahead of the Lane Stadium seat improvement process for football season ticket holders later this spring.

Saturday, April 16 | Spring Game

After paying respect to the 32 Hokies who lost their lives on that fateful day in 2007, the Hokies will hold their annual spring game in Lane Stadium at

4 p.m., presented by PMSi. The spring game will be part of Tech's first-ever "Hokie Hi: Weekend at Home" event, taking place from April 14-16 and offering Hokie Nation the chance to cheer on a number of Tech sports, including softball, baseball, and men's tennis.

Registration is also now open for Virginia Tech's annual 3.2-mile Run in Remembrance, which will take place that Saturday, April 16. The event will begin with a moment of silence at 9:43 a.m. to honor and remember the vibrant lives of the 32 students and faculty who were tragically killed in 2007. The event's 3.2-mile loop around the Blacksburg campus begins and ends on the Virginia Tech Drillfield near the April 16 Memorial and passes by landmarks such as the Duck Pond, the Grove, and the Virginia Tech Pylons, and will take runners and walkers through Lane Stadium.

Visit RecSports.VT.edu/RunFor32 for registration details, T-shirt purchasing options, and event updates. For more information on Day of Remembrance activities, visit WeRemember.VT.edu.

April 28-30 | NFL Draft

The 2022 NFL Draft will take place in Las Vegas with a few Hokies expecting to hear their names called as they take the next step in their football journey. The first round begins at 8 p.m. on NFL Network, ABC, and ESPN.

Last April, Tech had four players selected in the NFL Draft: cornerback Caleb Farley (Titans, No. 22 overall), tackle Christian Darrisaw (Vikings, No. 23), safety Divine Deablo (Raiders, No. 80), and running back Khalil Herbert (Bears, No. 217).

Wednesday, May 25 | 100 Days to Kickoff

The Hokies open their 2022 football season against Old Dominion in Norfolk on Friday, Sept. 2. The countdown to kickoff officially begins on Wednesday, May 25, as that date marks 100 days to Tech's season opener.

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Kitley

from page 7

Ralph put a limit on Raven's outreach to Brooks, holding her to one text conversation per week. But Brooks's willingness to embrace Raven's differences made an impression on the family.

"It just emphasized the family environment here," Elizabeth said. "It made me feel like I'd be taken care of because they actually cared about me on a deeper level than just basketball."

Brooks and Virginia Tech showed that love for the Kitleys this past fall when the women's basketball program designated its Dec. 12 non-conference game against Radford as an Autism Awareness Game.

The team partnered with the VT Supporting Autism Friendly Environments (SAFE) Program and the VT Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research to use the game as a SAFE event.

The team wore T-shirts with the word "LOVE" displayed in multiple colors, which resembled the Autism Awareness Ribbon. Before tipoff, Brooks brought Raven out to mid-court for a special presentation.

"It was so awesome," Raven said.

"You can imagine that she's overshadowed a lot because baby sister gets a lot of attention, but this was her day," Brooks told Evan Hughes, Virginia Tech's radio play-by-play announcer, following the game.

"She's taught me what it's like to be around people that are living with autism. She's very high-functioning. She knows what she likes, and I just love her innocence," Brooks said.

The Hokies won the game and achieved an even higher purpose. A few days afterward, Elizabeth talked about autism awareness on Packer and Durham, arguably the ACC Network's most popular show.

"That whole day was tremendous for Raven, no question," Ralph said. "Raven is autistic, and she owns

that. To see it highlighted was special for Raven, and you could see the emotion on Elizabeth's face. It meant tons to her to honor Raven because Raven's always in the background cheering for Elizabeth. This reversed the roles a little bit. It was so awesome for Coach Brooks and his staff to put that together for both the girls."

The Kitleys' relationships with Virginia Tech extend beyond the coaching staff. Like any member of a team, Raven knows the players very well, particularly Cayla King, who was a high school teammate of Elizabeth's at Northwest Guilford. And the Kitleys have bonded with the players' families, too, with every game serving as a family reunion of sorts.

Ralph Kitley travels to most games, often with Raven in tow. Raven lives with her mother and stepfather in Winston-Salem for part of the year, but usually moves in with her father during breaks when Elizabeth returns home and also during basketball season.

There are practical reasons for the latter.

"It just makes more sense," Raven said. "I have a hard time not talking about basketball when I'm with my mom and stepdad." "And it makes going to games easier," Ralph said.

They drove to Syracuse in late February for the Virginia Tech-Syracuse game and took a detour to see Niagara Falls, a first for both. But mostly, they go to support Elizabeth. That support extends to everything she does.

Elizabeth is pursuing a degree in human nutrition, foods, and exercise within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She plans to go to medical school and work in health care, though she hasn't chosen a specific role. Perhaps that role involves working with autistic people.

"That would be awesome," she said.

She has one more year before that decision needs to



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Elizabeth Kitley has been special on and off the court this season, earning ACC Player of the Year honors and maintaining a close relationship with her half-sister, Raven, who has attended all but a couple of her games.

be made. Another year of studying, playing basketball, and hopefully winning. Another year with her sister, like always, encouraging her every step of the way.

"When I'm thinking about challenging myself, she's definitely in the back of my mind," Elizabeth said. "She's just so positive about life and opportunities, and she wants to take advantage of everything she can, so that makes me want to do the same, even though the opportunities are different."

Students vie for prizes in today's Nutshell Games

Today, March 19, 30 Virginia Tech graduate students will take the stage at the Moss Arts Center to share their work as participants in the 2022 Center for Communicative Science Nutshell Games.

Each contestant will have 90 seconds, roughly the time it takes to air three Super Bowl commercials,

to wow the audience and a panel of judges using everyday language and a single prop to tell the story of their work and their passion for it.

Center Director Patty Raun, Associate Director Carrie Kroehler, and their team developed the games in 2017 to help students develop the ability to share

their work with almost anyone and to do so in a concise way, "research in a nutshell."

The games are designed to offer a platform for practice in a fun, competitive way, and the time limit, about 30 seconds longer than the average elevator speech, provides added incentive to focus on the

essence of the research and hold the audience's attention. Five winners each receive \$500, and all contestants receive a video of their presentation.

Because the aim is to reach people from a range of backgrounds and experience, the seven judges include academics and members of the larger Blacksburg community, including a seventh-grader. Graduate School Dean Aimée Surprenant is a member of the panel.

The games go to the heart of the center's mission. Raun has said that researchers and scholars in the physical and social sciences need to be able to communicate their work clearly and effectively with people outside their disciplines and with the general public to build trust and relationships. She has noted the increasing need to address thorny problems in an interdisciplinary manner and with people outside the academy, and strong communications skills are key to success in such ventures.

"This year the event is being held as part of the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the center," Kroehler said. "We launched the center in 2017 with the Nutshell Games, and we're really looking forward to hearing this year's talks — and to being back in person."

The games begin at 4 p.m. at the Moss Arts Center and admission is free.

The judges are Carol Davis, Town of Blacksburg sustainability manager; Sylvester Johnson, director of the Virginia Tech Center for Humanities; Elin Kelsey, spokesperson, scholar, educator, and author, University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies; Karen Roberto, executive director of the Virginia Tech Institute for Society, Culture and Environment; Daniel Sui, senior vice president for research and innovation, Virginia Tech; Aimée Surprenant, dean of Virginia Tech's Graduate School; Asaiah Townes, a seventh-grader from Dalton Intermediate School in Radford.

The following students will present their work at the Nutshell Games. The list includes their program of study and the title of their presentation.

Prashasti Agarwal, a Ph.D. student in the crop and soil environmental science program, "Rooting for

the Little Guys."

Sadia Ahmed, a Ph.D. student in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program, "Bugs and Brains: A Premature Story."

Jennifer Appiah-Kubi, a Ph.D. student in the electrical engineering program, "Spider-Man Hunts the Cyber-Man."

Saeed Behzadinasab, a Ph.D. student in the chemical engineering program, "Antimicrobial Coatings Save Lives!"

Thomas Bustamante, a master's degree student in the fish and wildlife conservation program, "Stream Real Estate: How a Small Fish Builds Its Home in a Fluid Environment."

Diana Devine, a Ph.D. student in the human development and Family Science program with a concentration in child and adolescent development, "Media and Cognition: This is Your Brain on Smartphones."

Esha Dwibedi, a Ph.D. student in the economics program, "Who Plays Nice? A Surprising Meta-Analysis."

Sara Jamal Eddin, a Ph.D. student in the architecture and design research program, "Light, Technology, and Health: Investigating the Use of XR Technologies as Architectural Tools to Design Healthy Indoor Lighting Environments."

Lauren Fritsch, a Ph.D. student in translational biology, medicine, and health, "AdjuSTING the Brain's Immune System to Treat Brain Injuries."

Josefa K. Garcia, a Ph.D. student in biomedical and veterinary sciences, "Artificial Intelligence in the Diagnosis of Brain Tumors."

Nihar J. Gonsalves, a Ph.D. student in the environmental design and planning program, "Understanding the Underlying Risks and Socio-Technical Challenges of Human Wearable Robot Interaction in the Construction Industry."

Madison Gonzalez, a Ph.D. student in the animal and poultry sciences program with a concentration in equine nutrition and exercise, "Horse on a Treadmill: Beyond the Jumbotron."

Shivangi Gupta, a Ph.D. student in the human development and family science program, "Women at the Margins: Wives of Incarcerated Men in India."

Amy Hagen, a Ph.D. student in the geosciences program studying sedimentary geochemistry, "P in the Sea: Understanding the End-Triassic Mass Extinction Using Phosphorus."

Kristen Howard, a Ph.D. student in the translational biology, medicine, and health program, "How Does Exercise Change the Calories We Burn?"

Khan Mohammad Imran, a Ph.D. student in the translational biology, medicine, and health program, "Let's Make Some Noise: Using Ultrasound to Silence Cancer."

Xiaoying Li, a Ph.D. student in the crop and soil environmental science program, "What Are Biological Seed Treatments, and Do They Work?"

Jatia Mills, a Ph.D. student in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program, "The Role of Microglia in Traumatic Brain Injury."

Holly Morrison, a Ph.D. student in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program, "You've Got a Friend in Me: NIK Protein Protects Against Cancer."

Charlotte Nyblade, a DVM/Ph.D. student in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program, "Piglet Models of Clostridioides difficile Infection."

Laljeet Sangha, a Ph.D. student in the biological systems engineering program, "Water Security from Field to State Through Science and Water Policy."

Daniel Smith, a Ph.D. student in the biological systems engineering program, "Plant Hugs or Plant Snot: Which Would Soil Prefer?"

Mari Tarantino, a master's degree and Ph.D. student in the human development and family science program, "What's Love Got to Do with It? Exploring Polyamorous Relationships."

Kaitlyn Theberge, a master's degree student in the fish and wildlife conservation program, "Lobster ROLLing Out of Hot Water."

Juselyn Tupik, a Ph.D. student in the biomedical and veterinary sciences program, "Battling Bacteria: How Does Our Immune System Beat Lyme Disease?"

Viverjita Umashankar, a master's degree student in the forest products program, "Slowing the Flow of Fast-Furniture Through Internet-Enabled Local Reuse."

Prescott Vayda, a Ph.D. student in the geosciences program, "What Can Virginia's Oldest Fossil Tell Us About the Evolution of Shells?"

Ruixuan Wang, a Ph.D. student in electrical engineering specializing in optics/optic science, "Smart Fibers: Miniature Sensors with the Size of Hair."

Wei, Amanda, a Ph.D. student in the mechanical engineering program, "Metal 3D Printing With Binder Jetting."

Yezi Yang, a Ph.D. student in the geosciences program, "Just Ask the 500-Million-Year Weatherman."

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