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Blacksburg Rotary Club names Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson First Responder of the Year

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg has awarded its 2021 First Responder of the Year award to Chief Anthony Wilson of the Blacksburg Police Department.

The presentation was held during the club's lunch meeting on March 24 at the Blacksburg Country Club.

Chief Wilson is a Blacksburg native, a Virginia Tech graduate, and a former U.S. Marine. He began his career as a Blacksburg Police Officer in 1997 and was named Chief of Police in 2014. He is also a 30-year member of the fire department.

In the course of his career with the police department, Chief Wilson has served as a patrol field training officer, a criminal investigator, an investigative unit supervisor, a tactical team operator/commander, a patrol unit commander, and a division commander. While his focus as police chief is the Blacksburg community and especially VT students, his reach of service extends far beyond basic police work. He initiated the Adopt-a-

Cop program, a partnership between the police department and VT fraternities. He worked with New River Community College to establish a Books to Badges program that became the basis for the ACCE program. He is involved with the county's Dialogue on Race initiative and co-chaired the NRV Public Health Task Force for the last two years.

He created the training triangle program to train young police officers on the tenets of tactical ability, advanced communications, de-escalation skills, and the spiritual connection to service and psychological wellness. He also encouraged the Fifth Grade Field Day program, introducing all fifth-grade classes to one another as they readied for middle school transition.

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg established the First Responder of the Year award in 2017 to recognize, honor, and show respect for Montgomery County's first responders who give so much of their time to protect their communities. Award recipients exem-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At its March 24 meeting at the Blacksburg Country Club, the Blacksburg Rotary Club honored Blacksburg Police Chief Anthony Wilson as its 2021 First Responder of the Year.

plify sacrifice, courage, and dedication to service. The club will make a \$500 donation in Chief Wilson's name to the charity of his choice.

Past recipients of the award are Danny R. Yopp, Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department (2017); Wendell R. Flinchum, Virginia Tech Police Department (2018); Neal Turner, Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator; Michael T Linkous, Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department (2019); and Kelly B. Walters,

Christiansburg Rescue Squad (2020).

Rotary International is a humanitarian service organization that brings together business, professional, and non-profit leaders, along with retired individuals to provide community service, promote integrity, and advance goodwill, peace, and understanding in the world. It is a non-political and non-religious organization.

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg is one of six Rotary clubs in the New River Valley.



PHOTO BY CHASE PARKER FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The traveling exhibition "Americans and the Holocaust" is on the fourth floor of Newman Library on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

'Americans and the Holocaust' traveling exhibition returns to Virginia Tech

By Ann Brown

Through May 4, University Libraries at Virginia Tech is hosting "Americans and the Holocaust," a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped American's responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

The touring exhibition — based on the special exhibition of the same name at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. — is on Newman Library's fourth floor next to the Prototyping Studio. Throughout April, the University Libraries will sponsor programming exploring American themes as they relate to the Holocaust.

Anthony Wright de Hernandez has taken the lead to bring this exhibition to campus. As the University Libraries' community collections archivist, he strives to make connections and promote understanding among diverse campus groups.

"We were scheduled to host this exhibit in the spring of 2020 and had

just put it up in the library when everything shut down for the pandemic," said de Hernandez. "Ultimately, the entire exhibit tour was delayed, but the American Library Association and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum wanted to be sure that all the libraries chosen as host sites had a chance to host the exhibit while they were fully open. So we are welcoming the exhibit back and inviting people to come and learn."

"Americans and the Holocaust" addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors — including the Great Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism — that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations, and individuals as they responded to Nazism. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.

The exhibit asks questions, it presents facts and stories, and it leaves conclusions to the viewers.

"This exhibit was designed to bring the unique and authoritative content curated by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to parts of the country that have limited access to primary sources related to the Holocaust," said de Hernandez.

"We're actually the closest host site to the museum itself, being only a five- or six-hour drive from Washington, D.C., yet that drive is still a significant barrier toward accessing the museum and its educational opportunities. Having the exhibit here makes those educational opportunities available locally for people who might not be able to make that trip."

A series of events have been scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit.

Monday, April 4, 1-2:30 p.m.

Newman Library, Multipurpose Room and Zoom

Queer Conspiracies?: Lesbian and Gay Men in Nazi Germany

In association with the "Americans and the Holocaust" traveling exhibition and Virginia Tech Pride Week 2022, guest speaker Samuel Clowes

See **Exhibition**, page 3

Blacksburg's Torc Robotics forms autonomous group

Torc Robotics, a pioneer in commercializing autonomous vehicle technology, Wednesday announced the launch of the Torc Autonomous Advisory Council (TAAC) in support of its goal to be the first scalable, profitable, commercialized Level 4 truck solution.

The TAAC is comprised of key freight industry players who will provide strategic guidance to Torc as it integrates with the freight network and tackles challenges beyond highway driving.

Headquartered in Blacksburg, Torc Robotics is an independent subsidiary of Daim-

See **Robotics**, page 4

Virginia Tech graduate programs are some of the best in the country

By Jenny Kincaid Boone

Virginia Tech offers some of the top graduate programs in the country, according to a 2023 ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

In the latest ranking of the best U.S. graduate programs, the College of Engineering is No. 30 among 200 schools nationwide, up one spot from No. 31 last year.

Some of the college's specialty engineering programs landed in the top 20. They are industrial, civil, and environmental, each ranking No. 7. Others include biological/agricultural at No. 13, aerospace at No. 14, nuclear at No. 17, mechanical at No. 19, and electrical at No. 19. Com-

puter engineering is No. 20.

"We're pleased that the College of Engineering graduate program as a whole has advanced in rank, as have several programs individually," said Holly Matusovich, associate dean for graduate and professional studies. "Our focus on aligning education and research for impact, as well as an increased focus on the graduate student experience, is yielding outcomes. We're hopeful that continued emphasis on student opportunities, support, and long-term success will lead to sustained progress for our programs overall."

Additionally, Virginia Tech's part-

See **Programs**, page 4

Spilling the beans on a traditional staple of Appalachian cuisine

By Kelsey Bartlett

Row by row and seed by seed. That's how Victoria Ferguson remembers her childhood growing up in a coal camp in the heart of Appalachia.

By age 5, she was in the garden, watching as her father walked the land, using a special tool to dig tiny wells. She and her siblings followed along, working together to plant, cover, and water beans. She recalls her mother's words to her: "Honey,

during the time of the dogwoods, you start to plant."

The interim director of the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center at Virginia Tech,

Ferguson was born and raised in West Virginia. Like many others in the region, her family harvested and dried beans to

See **Beans**, page 6



ILLUSTRATION BY MARY CRAWFORD FOR VIRGINIA TECH

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, April 2:

Blacksburg leaf compost pickup

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 pickup. 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 today, 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.

Creative writing

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

All ages storytime

At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. Share stories, rhymes, music and movement, and a craft as a family to develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

PAWS to read with Derek

At the Blacksburg Library; noon. Sign up for a 10-minute time slot to read with a therapy dog. Call the library at 540-552-8246.

Caturday

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; noon. Sign up 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. For all ages. Due to limited availability of our guest cat(s), call the library at (540) 268-1964 before coming to verify that Caturday has not been canceled.

“We Are Stardust”: A storytime celebration of the planet Earth

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 1 p.m. Rachael Nunn and Trisha Rushing will use the book “You Are Stardust” by Elin Kelsey about finding hope and joy in the face of the Earth’s ever-changing natural world. This event will combine reading from “You Are Stardust” and Soyeon Kim’s picture books with art observation techniques, performance, visual art mak-

ing, and discussion to celebrate nature.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. DND for Teens.

Lettuce bowl gardening

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. to noon. Limited space doesn’t have to stop would-be gardeners from growing food. The library’s master gardener will demonstrate how to start a salad bowl garden in a container. Participants should bring their own containers with a drainage hole at least six inches deep and 10 to 12 inches long. Supplies are limited. This event will occur outside unless inclement weather interferes. Registration is required.

Sunday, April 3:

Chess Club

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

Monday, April 4

- Tuesday, April 22:

Montgomery Chamber Best Places to Work Survey

Virginia Tech’s Center for Economic and Community Engagement and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce are asking businesses to participate in the annual Best Places to Work survey. Chamber membership is not required, and the survey is open to all businesses in Montgomery County. The survey has two components, one for the employer and the other for employees. The top 20 Best Places to Work will be announced on May 18 at the Leadership in Changing Times and Best Places to Work Conference. This survey will be open for only a three-week period from April 4-22. For more info visit <https://bit.ly/lcbestplaces22>. Contact marketing@montgomerycc.org with any questions.

Tuesday, April 5:

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

All 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.

Montgomery County Chamber minority business accelerator meeting

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce invites minority business owners to attend the 2022 visioning meeting for the Minority Business Accelerator to support these local businesses. The meeting will take place at 10 a.m. at the chamber office located at 210 Laurel St. in Christiansburg or via Zoom. Register now at <https://bit.ly/mba2022mcc>. Chamber membership is not required to participate. The meeting is free.

Radford reads with Daniel Naveri

At Radford University’s Bonnie Hurlburt Auditorium; 6:30 p.m. Printz-Award winning author Daniel Naveri was born in Iran and spent several years as a refugee before immigrating to Oklahoma at age eight with his family. He is the author of several books including “Everything Sad is Untrue (A True Story),” which has won numerous awards and was named Best Book of the Year by NPR, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal.

Cooking with Dave and Daniel Naveri

In the Radford Public Library community room; 3:15 p.m. Not only is Daniel Naveri an award-winning author, but he has also been a professional chef. In addition to his presentation at Radford University, he will be a special guest Chef on RPL’s web show Cooking with Dave. They will be preparing Fesenjan (Persian Pomegranate Chicken), and Persian marinated olives to be enjoyed by a live audience. After the show, Daniel will be available to sign books, and Blacksburg Books will be present with copies of “Everything Sad Is Untrue” for purchase. In person or online via Facebook Live.

Parks and Recreation program date change

The “Comedy Ain’t Easy” program with Steve Huppert has been moved from Tuesday, April 5, to Tuesday, May 3, at 1 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center. A veteran and former teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and town council member turned author, Steve Huppert presents an entertaining and informative event. He will talk comedy and comedians from the Vaudeville era to the 50’s. The event is free, but registration is required.

Brick blast

At the Blacksburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Participants are challenged to put their building skills to the test.

Wednesday, April 6:

Talking about Books: “The Lincoln Highway”

At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. To be discussed this month is “The Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles, in-person and virtually.

Loops group

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can bring a project and join the library’s Loops Group for community and conversation. All are welcome.

Talking about Books: “The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist”

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 6 p.m. Join a discussion of “The Cadaver King and the Country Dentist” by Radley Balko. Call (540) 268-1964 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Thursday, April 7:

American Legion Meeting

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.

Physical Therapy Tips for Seniors

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Heritage Hall Blacksburg will be discussing physical therapy from the different types of therapy to what each type helps with and tips for what can be done at home to improve health. A member of the library’s highly rated Encore Rehabilitation team will discuss all things therapy.

Art, Community, and Social Health with

Molly Smith

At the Blacksburg Library; 4 p.m. The School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech presents Art, Community, and Social Health, a series of talks/workshops by nationally recognized artists and thought leaders on the power and practice of art and culture as essential elements of healthy communities. This colloquium will be available in person and via Zoom. Register for the online presentation.

Friday, April 8:

NRV Public Health Task Force and LewisGale Hospital Montgomery blood drive

At Blue Ridge Church, Roanoke Street, Christiansburg; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive. Help Fill 200 Donor Slots. The American Red Cross is still experiencing a nationwide shortage of blood resulting from a decrease in the number of blood donors. Register at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=24073>.

Saturday, April 9:

Noise alert: Skipper cannon fire

Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets’ cannon, will be fired once between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. on the Drillfield as part of the opening celebration for The Big Event at Virginia Tech.

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, 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 Ave., Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

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.

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce’s legislative wrap-up

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce’s legislative wrap-up will explore what occurred during this most recent legislative session in Richmond. Attendees will have opportunities to hear from their legislators and ask business-related questions during the Q&A portion of the program. At 7:30 a.m. at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Reservations to attend are due April 12 at noon: <https://bit.ly/april22legislative>. Cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members.

Saturday, April 16:

Radford Easter Egg Hunt

At Bisset Park; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The schedule by 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 a part of the fun. Children should bring a basket.



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9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday April 10
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More Details and Tickets at:

WWW.NRVHOMEEXPO.COM

Exhibition from page 1

Huneke will discuss lesbian and gay experience in Nazi Germany.

Tuesday, April 5, 6-8 p.m.
 Lyric Theatre (135 College Ave.)
 Film Screening: "Night Will Fall"
 The Lyric Theatre will host a special free showing of the movie "Night Will Fall" with a post-screening discussion led by Virginia Tech Senior Instructor in the School of Performing Arts Karl Precoda.

Tuesday, April 12, 6-8 p.m.
 Blacksburg Library (200 Miller St. SW)
 Film Screening: "Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust"
 University Libraries will host a special free show-

ing of the movie "Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust" at the Blacksburg Public Library with post-screening discussion led by Virginia Tech Public Services and Reference Archivist Marc Brodsky.

Thursday, April 21, 1-2:30 p.m.
 Newman Library, Multipurpose Room and Zoom
 American Immigration and Refugee Policy Throughout the Holocaust

Guest speaker Kathryn Perry Walters will discuss American immigration policy throughout the Holocaust, specifically focusing on refugee practices. The government's role in the Jewish Refugee Crisis of the 1930s and 1940s is a contested historical subject. This talk will elaborate on existing debate by examining the proposal of the Wagner-Rogers bill and the creation of the War

Refugee Board to analyze the methods in which the U.S. approached refugee assistance. It also will provide background on where today's anti-foreigner attitudes evolved from and how refugee need had been downplayed, but also how it had been fought for, and will demonstrate Americans' role in international human rights protection.

Thursday, April 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Virginia Tech Pylons (601 Drillfield Drive)
 Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day - Reading of the Names

This program by Hillel at Virginia Tech commemorates Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). Volunteers will read aloud the names of both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals who perished during the Holocaust.



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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1813, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment on the proposed disposition of the City's interest in real property commonly known as Lot 10, Section 15, Plan A in the City of Radford, Virginia.

Copies of the proposed ordinance to approve the disposition of real property may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.

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LEGAL NOTICE

County of Montgomery, Virginia Synopsis of Advertised Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

This budget synopsis is prepared and published pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of Code of Virginia, for information and fiscal planning purposes only.

A hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2022 at 6:15 P.M. at the County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia at which time any citizen of the County shall have the opportunity to attend and state his or her views on the advertised budget.

A copy of the Advertised Budget is available for inspection at the County Government Center, in the County Administrator's Office, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Library, 125 Shelton St., Christiansburg; the Meadowbrook Library, 267 Alleghany Springs Road, Shawsville; the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr., Blacksburg; the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg; the Blacksburg Municipal Building, in the Town Manager's Office, 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg; and the Christiansburg Town Hall, in the Town Manager's Office, 100 E. Main St., Christiansburg.

EXPENDITURES:	FY 2023		
	FY 2022 Budget	Advertised Budget	Increase (Decrease)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:			
Board of Supervisors	\$ 282,503	\$ 282,521	\$ 18
County Administration	\$ 2,139,175	\$ 3,420,597	\$ 1,281,422
County Attorney	\$ 392,712	\$ 395,987	\$ 3,275
Finance	\$ 1,026,940	\$ 1,100,302	\$ 73,362
Insurance	\$ 210,695	\$ 230,695	\$ 20,000
Information Technology	\$ 2,166,844	\$ 2,251,939	\$ 85,095
Commissioner of the Revenue-State	\$ 604,072	\$ 607,609	\$ 3,537
Assessment-100% County	\$ 501,438	\$ 483,425	\$ (18,013)
Treasurer-State	\$ 503,805	\$ 494,464	\$ (9,341)
Collections-100% County	\$ 501,782	\$ 458,110	\$ (43,672)
Electoral Board/Director of Elections	\$ 480,599	\$ 550,237	\$ 69,638
Commonwealth Attorney	\$ 1,363,990	\$ 1,377,342	\$ 13,352
Courts	\$ 271,939	\$ 275,888	\$ 3,949
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$ 777,980	\$ 808,014	\$ 30,034
Sheriff-State	\$ 8,414,297	\$ 8,260,821	\$ (153,476)
Sheriff-100% County	\$ 7,374,033	\$ 7,473,269	\$ 99,236
Fire Departments and Rescue Squads	\$ 1,494,981	\$ 1,528,181	\$ 33,200
Animal Care and Adoption Center	\$ 665,885	\$ 696,830	\$ 30,945
General Services	\$ 6,775,341	\$ 6,936,621	\$ 161,280
Children's Services Act	\$ 1,651,969	\$ 1,651,969	\$ -
Human Services	\$ 401,863	\$ 393,713	\$ (8,150)
Public Health Department	\$ 604,488	\$ 615,000	\$ 10,512
Social Services	\$ 6,467,965	\$ 6,814,076	\$ 346,111
Parks & Recreation	\$ 1,321,070	\$ 1,424,223	\$ 103,153
Regional Library	\$ 2,398,052	\$ 2,392,230	\$ (5,822)
Planning & GIS	\$ 965,982	\$ 982,839	\$ 16,857
Economic Development	\$ 470,549	\$ 482,054	\$ 11,505
Other Agencies	\$ 2,804,425	\$ 2,860,159	\$ 55,734
Contingencies-General	\$ 536,307	\$ 583,307	\$ 47,000
Contingencies-Special	\$ 8,141	\$ 2,319,702	\$ 2,311,561
Revenue Refunds	\$ 195,000	\$ 195,000	\$ -
Subtotal:	\$ 53,774,822	\$ 58,347,124	\$ 4,572,302
Law Library	\$ 17,600	\$ 17,600	\$ -
SCHOOLS:			
School Operating	\$ 121,984,741	\$ 126,380,044	\$ 4,395,303
School Capital	\$ 2,195,645	\$ 2,259,973	\$ 64,328
School Nutrition	\$ 4,633,474	\$ 4,633,474	\$ -
Subtotal:	\$ 128,813,860	\$ 133,273,491	\$ 4,459,631
County Capital	\$ 3,580,645	\$ 3,644,973	\$ 64,328
Debt Service	\$ 24,722,725	\$ 24,722,725	\$ -
Economic Development	\$ 380,000	\$ 380,000	\$ -
COUNTY TOTAL	\$ 211,289,652	\$ 220,385,913	\$ 9,096,261
RESOURCES:	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Advertised Budget	Increase (Decrease)
REVENUE:			
General Undesignated Revenue:			
Current Property Taxes (1)	\$ 103,807,971	\$ 107,793,451	\$ 3,985,480
Delinquent/Other Property Tax Revenue	\$ 2,996,000	\$ 3,359,323	\$ 363,323
Sales and Use Tax	\$ 10,202,157	\$ 11,153,109	\$ 950,952
Undesignated Consumer Utility Tax	\$ 1,628,000	\$ 1,563,000	\$ (65,000)
Motor Vehicle Licenses	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ -
All Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,325,000	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 130,000
Interest on Investments	\$ 113,268	\$ 75,028	\$ (38,240)
All Other Undesignated Revenue	\$ 520,384	\$ 616,384	\$ 96,000
Total Undesignated Revenue	\$ 121,392,780	\$ 126,815,295	\$ 5,422,515
General Designated Revenue	\$ 15,115,770	\$ 16,494,213	\$ 1,378,443
Law Library Designated Revenue	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
School Operating Designated Revenue	\$ 68,516,128	\$ 70,811,431	\$ 2,295,303
Other School Designated Resources	\$ 4,633,474	\$ 4,633,474	\$ -
Debt Service Designated	\$ 1,613,900	\$ 1,613,900	\$ -
Total Designated Revenue	\$ 89,894,272	\$ 93,568,018	\$ 3,673,746
Law Library Fund Balance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -
Total Fund Balance	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$ 211,289,652	\$ 220,385,913	\$ 9,096,261

(1) Real Estate Tax Rate based on \$0.89 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.
 Personal Property Tax Rate Based on \$2.55 per \$100 Assessed Valuation.
 By Order of the Board of Supervisors:
 F. Craig Meadows, County Administrator
 County of Montgomery, Virginia

Classified Advertisements DELIVERED

Christiansburg spay-neuter clinic partners with VT students, faculty to construct storage facility

Mountain View Humane Spay Neuter Clinic in Christiansburg is partnering with students and faculty at Virginia Tech to construct an outdoor storage facility for its clinic at the Christiansburg Industrial Park.

This project, begun during the early days of the pandemic, has been a hands-on learning opportunity for multiple groups of students at Virginia Tech including Engineers without Borders, the Building Goodness Foundation, the Sustainable Facilities and Infrastructure Lab, and the BioBuild Fellows.

The project has also been supported by generous donations of time and materials from members of the community including volunteers from Habitat for Humanity, NRV Master Gardeners, the NRV TimeBank, the ACME Panel, ABC Supply, Riverbend

Greenroofs, and the Myers-Lawson School of Construction.

Working with faculty mentor Dr. Annie Pearce, students are using recycled materials recovered from local manufacturers, construction and demolition sites, and even Virginia Tech research projects to design and construct a building at no cost to the clinic that Mountain View can use to store extra supplies, records, and equipment not needed on a day-to-day basis.

The resulting building will be used both as part of ongoing master gardener training on green roof systems as well as a research study on green infrastructure at Tech. The building will also help Mountain View expand its operations with more storage space and will allow the facility to serve more furry clients as it works to manage pet overpopulation in the New River Valley and beyond.

The storage building will be featured as part of Mountain View Humane's Ribbon Cutting/Open House/10th Anniversary (+2) celebration on April 4, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The ribbon cutting will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m. with activities to follow immediately after.

The celebration will include self-guided tours with staff/volunteers/vet students sharing information at stops along the way and refreshments. The facility is offering entry into a raffle for anyone who donates a 5-lb. bag or larger of dry cat or dog food for Mountain View's Pet Food Pantry. Featured will be a teddy bear repair station where vet students will perform on-site surgery for injured stuffed animals. Construction faculty and students will be on hand to explain the green features of the storage building.

Programs

from page 1

time evening MBA program, offered by the Pamplin College of Business, ranked No. 23 among 278 schools, up five spots from last year. The Falls Church-based program has achieved a top-30 ranking for the past eight years.

The program holds in-person courses in the evening and plans to offer online elective classes this summer, which were especially popular last summer, said Dana Hansson, director of the MBA program.

"Consistent among

all of the years is the strength of our part-time program, our curriculum, our faculty, and our student body," Hansson said.

Virginia Tech's public affairs graduate program in the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) ranked No. 39 among 267 schools, moving up nine slots from last year. The school is housed in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

"Being ranked in the top 15 percent of the schools of public policy

in the country is a testimonial to the rigorous academic curriculum and fantastic human capital of SPIA," said Mehrzad Boroujerdi, director of the school, which is based in Arlington.

For the third year, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke ranked in the research category of medical programs, at No. 82 among 124 schools and up one spot from last year.

"We are proud to see the growing national recognition for our innovative curriculum, research ecosystem, and high faculty-to-student ratio at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine," said Lee Learman, dean of the school. "What makes us different from many medical schools is that we immerse students in the language, culture, and practice of collaborative research and health-systems sci-

ence. Our graduates are well-prepared to critically appraise new medical knowledge throughout their careers and to implement best practices to improve the health of their patients."

Other Virginia Tech graduate programs made the U.S. News ranking

in their respective subject areas. They include geology at No. 24, economics at No. 65, chemistry at No. 71, math at No. 59, physics at No. 58, psychology at No. 68, public health at No. 89, statistics at No. 37, and computer science at No. 38.

The U.S. News Best Graduate Schools ranking is based on two types of data — expert opinion about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

News Messenger

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

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Robotics

from page 1

ler Truck AG, the global leader and pioneer in trucking. Founded in 2005 at the birth of the self-driving vehicle revolution, Torc has 16 years' experience in pioneering safety-critical, self-driving applications. Torc offers a complete self-driving vehicle software and integration solution and is currently focusing on commercializing self-driving trucks.

"Torc has a history of collaborating with our partners who are experts in their field," said Michael Fleming, Torc founder and CEO. "The Torc Autonomous Advisory Council is the next step in the process of incorporating deep industry insights and expertise as Torc works to commercialize autonomous trucking."

"We view this council as a vital part of our work to integrate autonomous trucking into the existing

freight industry while ensuring autonomous trucking benefits are realized with optimum safety," Fleming said.

The cross-functional TAAC has various trucking industry backgrounds in courier and parcel delivery, less-than truckload, full truckload, technology, and logistics. It will provide significant insights into the needs of the freight industry, validate logistics and operations development (hub logistics, tracking, etc.), and optimize safe autonomous trucking operations in the existing network.

"We're committed to testing and providing the most effective vehicle technologies for our customers and driving innovation when it comes to mobility," said Paul Rosa, Penske Truck Leasing senior vice president, procurement and fleet planning. "We believe it's important to collaborate with other leading companies who are creating the next generation of transportation solutions to meet the future

needs of our industry and enhancing the supply chain."

"Torc's Autonomous Advisory Council will help shape the future of the trucking transportation industry," said Rob Reich, Schneider executive vice president and chief administrative officer. "We see great potential for this technology to improve efficiency while helping to lower cost," Reich said. "Being part of the council allows carriers like Schneider to have a strong voice in how autonomous vehicles (AVs) are developed and tested and how this technology will complement our professional over-the-road driver associates."

TAAC members include Baton, C.H. Robinson, Covenant Logistics, Penske Truck Leasing, Ryder System, Inc., and Schneider. Daimler Truck North America, a pioneer in autonomous driving, is the sole original equipment manufacturer on the council.

The council meets quarterly and focuses on in-

teractive discussions and brainstorming on a variety of topics. TAAC recently held its first quarter 2022 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Members have visited Torc's Albuquerque test center and have participated in demonstrations in Torc autonomous trucks. The expertise shared by members of the TAAC will bring Torc one step closer to commercializing self-driving trucks.

"At C.H. Robinson, we see the potential for AV technology to transform logistics and to essentially create a new mode of freight transportation," said Pat Nolan, C.H. Robinson vice president of North American Surface Transportation. "That's why we're joining the Torc Autonomous Advisory Council to help maximize the benefits for the industry, to ease the capacity crunch for shippers, and to serve as a voice for our 85,000 carriers. Making sure shippers have access to AV and making sure smaller carriers are represented in the conversation is critical. We know Torc shares that belief."



PHOTO BY RYAN YOUNG FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Marco Peterson, a graduate student studying aerospace engineering, attempts to destabilize an automated drone during a test flight at the Space@VT workspace at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 TAX LEVIES AND BUDGET

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia, notice is hereby given that a public hearing be scheduled for 6:00 P.M. April 7, 2022 on the proposed intention to address the below listed local tax levies for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 upon which matter citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

FURTHER, notice is given of the Board's intention to propose no increases in the following tax levies for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

Real Property tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Personal Property tax levy remains at \$2.55 per \$100 of assessed value.

Machinery & Tools tax levy remains at \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed value.

Merchant's Capital tax levy remains at \$3.05 per \$100 of assessed value.

Mobile Homes tax levy remains at \$.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

Notice is also given that the Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County scheduled a public hearing for 6:15 P.M. or as soon thereafter, April 7, 2022 on the **Advertised Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget** in the amount of \$220,385,913. Said hearing will be held at the Montgomery County Government Center Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
F. CRAIG MEADOWS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with numbered squares and letters C, R, O, S, S, W, O, R, D on the left side.

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Fishing hook end
5. A jump forward
9. Girl entering society
12. Largest toad species
13. Measure = 198 liters
15. Jeff Bridges' brother
16. Past participle of be
17. SE Iraq seaport
18. Paddles
19. Biotechnology: ___omics
20. Perfectly
22. Japanese sash
25. Flower stalk
26. Bosnian ethnic group
28. Longest division of geological time
29. Hoover's organization
32. Thigh of a hog
33. Fabric woven from flax
35. Upper limb
36. Basics
37. Satisfies to excess
39. The cry made by sheep
40. Go quickly
41. Allied headquarters in WWII
43. Paradoxical sleep
44. Point midway between N and NE
45. Refers to a female
46. Tears down (archaic sp.)
48. Increases motor speed
49. Nocturnal winged mammal
50. Integrated courses of studies
54. Goat and camel hair fabric
57. Papuan monetary unit
58. Extreme or immoderate
62. Free from danger
64. Musician Clapton
65. French young women
66. Auricles
67. Foot (Latin)
68. Prefix for external
69. Allegheny plum
CLUES DOWN
1. Founder of Babism
2. "A Death in the Family" author
3. One who feels regret
4. Maine's Queen City
5. Research workplace
6. A division of geological time
7. Paid media promos
8. Abdominal cavity linings
9. Apportion cards
10. Ranking above a viscount
11. Not idle
14. Former SW German state
15. Constrictor snake
21. Pica printing unit
23. Where wine ferments (abbr.)
24. Egyptian goddess
25. Boils vigorously
26. Oral polio vaccine developer
27. Master of ceremonies
29. Fr. entomologist Jean Henri
30. Scottish hillside
31. Islamic leader
32. Bakker's downfall Jessica
34. TV show and state capital
38. A citizen of Belgrade
42. Supervises flying
45. Sebaceous gland secretion
47. Conditions of balance
48. Ancient Egyptian sun god
50. Part of a stairway
51. Time long past
52. Hawaiian wreaths
53. Resin-like shellac ingredient
55. Semitic fertility god
56. 60's hairstyle
59. Honey Boo Boo's network
60. Soak flax
61. Volcanic mountain in Japan
63. Point midway between E and SE

OBITUARIES

Hunter, Sandra Louise

Sandra Louise Hunter, 64, of Blacksburg, died Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

She was born in Blacksburg on Nov. 22, 1957, to the late Carl Buford, Sr. and Reba Cook Hunter.

She is survived by her sister, Margaret Hunter; brothers and sister-in-law, Wayne

Hunter, Carl B., Jr., and Patty Hunter; nephew Nathan Hunter and wife, Kelly; and great-niece Kayleigh Hayes.

Graveside services were conducted Friday, April 1, 2022, in the Westview Cemetery with the Rev. Brenda Pack officiating. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home Blacksburg.

Mabry, David Lee

David Lee Mabry, 79, of Radford, passed away Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and retired from the U. S. Postal Service after 32 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Emma Mabry; his brothers, Harless and Donald Mabry; a sister, Barbara Croy; and a sister-in-law, Rachel Mabry.

Survivors include his wife, Patty C. Mabry; sons Michael, Christopher, and Scott Mabry; grandchildren Eric and Maya Mabry; a step-grandson, Max Dalglish; a step-great-granddaughter, Clara Dalglish; mother

of the grandchildren Akiko Okomoto; a brother and sister-in-law, William Randolph "Randy" and Alvaina Mabry; and a sister-in-law Nancy Keshishian.

The family received friends on Friday, April 1, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by memorial services with Pastor Timothy Worles officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the charity of your choice.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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 mid-week 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 nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and 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: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

REPUTATION

Read Psalms 3:1-8; 69:1-36

Whenever a Christian public figure sins, or any of God's people sins, unsaved people inevitably cry, "Hypocrite! I won't be a Christian if that's what they're like!" As the body of Christ, when one of us sins, we all share in the bad characterization. Because we represent Christ to the world, our good or bad reputation reflects on Him.

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the Lord Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel (Psalm 69:6).

David had sinned before God, and was deeply repentant. David's main concerns were not that his transgression be concealed or that his reputation be saved. One of his foremost prayers was that God's reputation and that of God's people would be protected from disgrace and shame. Perhaps this is one of the many reasons why David was called "a man after God's own heart."

Prayer for Today: Holy Spirit, please help me to remember that secret sins are not secret. Please help me to focus on giving You a good name before the world and my fellow believers.

Quicklook: Psalm 69:1-6

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

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 luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

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 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

OBITUARIES

Dickinson, T. Ann Nester

T. Ann Nester Dickinson, 85, of Parrott, peacefully left this world to take her journey through God's other door on March 24, 2022.

Born a coal miner's daughter, Ann left Parrott in 1954 to join the U.S. Air Force to serve her country. There she met and married her husband and continued life as a military wife and mother living in Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Pakistan, and Germany.

She earned her degree in computer programming and began a career at NASA in the 70's. Her career as a civil service contractor of 20 years took her to many countries around the world. She retired to her cottage on the James River in Surry County until she returned home to Parrott in 1996 upon the birth of her granddaughter.

Remembered as a fiercely independent woman, Ann was a devoted and loyal daughter, sister, mother, Oma and friend.

She was predeceased by her parents, Irvin E. and Macy Ritter Nester; brothers Harold (Sonny) and William (Lewis) Nester; sisters Helen (Maxine) Demers, Martha (Bossie) Hoggatt,



Georgia Lovern, and a beloved first great-grandchild, Amelia Nancy Field.

Left to cherish many memories of a long life well lived are her daughter and son-in-law Gail and Michael Sojka of Parrott; her devoted granddaughter, Skylar Sojka (Austin Trundy) and granddogs Phoebe and Sadie; a son and his wife, Douglas and Nancy Dickinson of Dover, N.H.; a grandson,

David (Amanda) Dickinson; a granddaughter, Sarah (Josh) Field; great-grandchildren Sophia and Noah Field; a special step-grandson and his family, Michael (Bubba) Chasity and Ty and Ariana Ramsey; a brother, Estell Nester; a sister-in-law, Patricia Nester; many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends, and a special lifelong friend, Joyce Booth and her family of Manchester, N.J.

A private family service with full military honors will be held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

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

Orange, David Vincent

David Vincent Orange went to his heavenly home on Monday, March 28, 2022.

He was born in Montgomery County to the late William "Bill" A. and Nancy M. Orange.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Pamela "Pammy" Orange and Susan Burton; a brother, Marvin Orange; and a daughter, Rebecca "Beck Beck" M. Orange-Newberry.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Sally Orange of Bassett; brothers Mike Orange, Daniel Orange and



wife, Susie, of Christiansburg; daughter April Taylor and companion, Chris McShane of Radford; son Andy

Orange of Bassett; stepchildren Heather Johnson and Jamie Johnson of Pembroke; 11 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 1, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Doug Reed officiating. Interment

followed at Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family received friends prior to the service.

Warren, Brenda Faye

Brenda Faye Warren, 70, of Dublin, passed away Wednesday, March 30, 2022. She was an I. T. Tech. Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, Orié and Avola Hunt.

Survivors include her sons, Sammy Warren and Roxann Hawley, and Jay and Robin Warren; grandson, Travis Warren; former husband and friend, Jerry



Warren; sister, Judy Hunt; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at the Mullins funeral Home in Radford. Memorial services will follow with Dr. Paul Lane officiating.

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



A featured act at NRCC's April 9 Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club Jamboree, The Country Boys have been playing traditional bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music for over 40 years.

NRCC Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree to be held April 9

The music of The Country Boys and Slate Mountain Ramblers will be featured during New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club Jamboree on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

The Country Boys have been playing traditional bluegrass and bluegrass gospel music throughout North Carolina and Virginia for over 40 years. The band originally formed in the late 1960s with several lineup changes throughout the years. The present band is made up of Donald Clifton, Johnny Joyce, Derrick Easter, Billy Hawks, Marsha Todd, and Doug Joyce. The band cites the Country Gentleman and the Osborne Brothers as some of their musical influences.

The Slate Mountain Ramblers is a family old-time group from Mt. Airy, N.C. The members are Richard Bowman, Barbara Bowman, Marsha Bowman Todd, and Randy Hiatt. The Ramblers play for dances, shows, family and community gatherings,

and benefits. The band has a winning tradition, placing at various fiddlers' conventions, and the group has traveled as far as Gainsborough, England, to perform.

Corporate sponsors of the jamborees include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; Castle Rock Insurance Agency, Pearisburg; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Food City; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; Martin's Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; the Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The jamborees are typically held the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.



The Slate Mountain Ramblers will perform at NRCC's Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club Jamboree on April 9.

Enrollment opens for ABC's year-long high school peer leadership experience

Early enrollment opened Friday, April 1, for the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority's (ABC) Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP).

YADAPP is a unique peer leadership opportunity fostering healthy communities and the prevention of substance use. The annual program begins with a kick-off conference which will be held virtually July 11-14. Participation requires the registration of a team of four high school student participants and one adult sponsor.

During the conference, students attend topical workshops facilitated by peer leaders, hear from well-known motivational speakers, learn peer leadership and prevention best practices and develop a

Strategies To Act Now (STAN) Plan to address substance use among their peers. Teams compete for \$250 mini-grants to use as seed money for their STAN Plan and the \$500 Wheeler Award to sustain their continued prevention efforts.

Early enrollment offers the discounted enrollment rate of \$100 per team (\$20 per person) until April 30. The price then increases to \$125 per team until the June 1 enrollment deadline. The fee includes conference materials, as well as year-long coaching and support for adult sponsors as they aid their team in implementing its STAN Plan throughout the school year.

Adult sponsors will participate in their own track throughout the four-day conference. They will receive resources and training on topics that will help them

support their team. Adult sponsors are eligible for continuing education units and professional development hours. Law enforcement officers are eligible for partial in-service credits through the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

In addition to working on their prevention plans, students can expand their experience as peer leaders by applying for YADAPP youth staff positions and progressing through four levels of leadership with increasing responsibilities.

These levels start with the youth leader role acting as a guide for conference participants and build to the top level of serving as conference interns. YADAPP interns are college students who spend 10 months planning aspects of the program including curriculum development and youth staff

training.

"Peer-led substance use prevention is a proven effective path for young leaders to take a stand to create positive change and promote healthy behaviors among youth in the commonwealth," said Virginia ABC Director of Education and Prevention Katie Crumble. "Given the upheaval of the past couple of years and its impact on our youth, the program offers timely tools created specifically to help students navigate pressures and enable them to make smart choices."

Since its inception in 1984, approximately 450 different high schools and community organizations and more than 12,000 students have participated in YADAPP. For more information and to enroll, visit the YADAPP website, <http://www.yadapp.com>.

Beans

from page 1

sustain themselves through mountain winters.

She refers to beans as a "second sister" because her family planted the crop alongside corn or the "first sister." After the corn plants reached "wrist to middle finger" in height, she knew it was time to plant the companion crop. Beans provide nitrogen-rich soil for the corn plants while the corn offers a trellis for the beans.

Today, despite easier access to chest freezers, home canning, and store-bought foods, dried beans remain a beloved tradition throughout central Appalachia. Ferguson and Asheville, North Carolina-based chef Ashleigh Shanti were panelists during a Virginia Tech Humanities Week event in February, "Fall Beans, Shucky Beans, Soup Beans: Perspectives in Song and Story."

The discussion focused on how beans are grown, harvested, prepared, preserved, and shared throughout the southern mountains. "Shucky beans," or "leather britches," are green beans strung with needle and thread, dried, and then rehydrated in their pods while cooking; "soup beans" are shelled pintos slow cooked with salt, pepper, and seasoning meat.

Danille Elise Christensen, an assistant professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Religion and Culture, facilitated the conversation. She is a folklorist affiliated with the Food Studies Program, the Appalachian stud-

ies program, and the graduate program in material culture and public humanities, all at Virginia Tech.

Christensen said dried "fall" beans were an obvious choice to ground an interdisciplinary proposal for Humanities Week, a series of events that illustrated how the humanities enrich and connect our world. The week, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was the major focal point of the college's highlight month for the Virginia Tech Sesquicentennial Celebration. Christensen used clips of songs to introduce a thematic focus for each segment of the tripartite discussion.

"I started brainstorming songs — like 'Cornbread and Butterbeans' or the fiddle tune 'Leather Britches' — that show how beans offer a space for cultural commentary within popular expressive culture," she said.

According to Christensen, the knowledge involved in growing and preparing beans ties together historically dominant populations in Appalachia, including those of Indigenous, African, and European descents.

"Within that large stream of tradition, there is so much interesting variation in the way people have selected bean varieties that exhibit the characteristics they really value," she said. "We're looking at the ways that values are made material in these actual objects and in the practices associated with them."

Shanti, with a bag of dried Sandy Mush greasy beans in tow, said it feels like she has been snapping beans since "before she could walk." She reminisced about summers spent threading and hanging beans along her aunt's porch near Danville, Va. Her culinary training inspired her to create dishes such as "buttermilk britches," which she describes as "the green bean casserole of your dreams." But, according to Shanti, there is nothing better than a simple bowl of beans. When she serves up "the perfect beans, that have the perfect story, that have been in the perfect conditions," she feels pride.

"In the same way these Michelin-star chefs have their ingredient worship, we in the South have it too. It just needs to be recognized," she said. "We love our ingredients. We love our farmers, and we do really great work to ensure these crops are preserved."

Ferguson said while she was growing up, wealthier communities shamed others for eating a pot of brown beans because they considered it "poor folks' food."

"I think we should try hard to change the social attitudes toward beans, because they are so good for you between the fiber and the nutrients," Ferguson said. A dietician, she spent years working as a historical interpreter of Monacan foodways at Natural Bridge State Park. "You can't beat a bowl of good, regular beans."

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg girls defeat Bassett in 10-0 rout



Ava Rose kicks in the first goal of her three for the night, giving her a hat trick in Christiansburg's 10-0 win over Bassett Tuesday. The game was called with 20 minutes left in the second half due to the slaughter rule.



Jordin Harris slides in a goal for the Lady Blue Demons.



Christiansburg's Bridget Miller (center) dribbles the ball past centerfield to the forwards.



Defender Madison Farley launches the ball out of Bassett scoring territory.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

After beating cancer, VT lacrosse player Mary Griffin continues the fight

Mary Griffin didn't let a cancer diagnosis in the middle of her sophomore year freeze her ambitions at Virginia Tech. Now, almost a year and a half later, the junior defender is focused on a successful 2022 season while spearheading some important charitable efforts.

Griffin felt sharp pains in a preseason workout months before the start of her sophomore campaign with the Hokies. After consulting with the team's athletic training staff, an abdominal scan discovered a lump on her pancreas.

"I remember the first question I asked was, 'Am I going to die?'" said Griffin, who was originally diagnosed with NET cancer on her pancreas by her doctor over a Zoom call. NET cancer is a condition in which the neuroendocrine cells develop into tumors. At the time of her diagnosis, the Sykesville, Md., native was fighting a COVID-19 infection and was in isolation. The diagnosis came with total optimism from Griffin's doctor that the cancer was treatable. Surgeons were able to successfully remove the malignant tumor in November 2020.

Griffin returned to campus in 2021 ready to get back to her normal life. The combination of the effects of her recovery efforts and the pandemic had isolated her from the traditional experiences of a student-athlete. That all changed when she reunited with her team-

mates. "What really helped me was getting back to school and being surrounded by our coaches, the trainers, and my teammates," Griffin said. "It gave me structure. Week by week, I got back into more drills, and I tried to push myself very, very hard."

Slowly but surely, Griffin was reintroduced to team activities. She worked hard to rehabilitate, and as a result was able to return to the field for the Hokies' lacrosse team. On Feb. 12, 2021, four months after being diagnosed with cancer, Griffin jogged onto the field and played in Tech's 13-5 win over Liberty in Lynchburg.

While she was being reintroduced to the normal schedule of a Virginia Tech lacrosse student-athlete, Griffin connected with Pat Collelouri, an executive with the HEADstrong Foundation. The organization is dedicated to assisting families going through cancer treatment with financial, residential, and emo-

tional resources. Griffin was named one of two "heroes" for the foundation in 2022, and became involved in fundraising for HEADstrong. She helped lead the foundation's four-week "Game Hair Havoc" fundraising initiative that raised \$108,000 nationwide. Griffin got Hokies Lacrosse involved in the campaign during the team's home game vs. Louisville. Her team rallied around her charitable effort by wearing green and blue ribbons, the official colors of HEADstrong, in their hair during the game vs. the Cardinals. Griffin continues to represent the foundation by donning lime green laces on her cleats during the 2022 season.

"The game was a good reminder that we were playing for a bigger reason than ourselves," Griffin said. "HEADstrong has been around awhile, but now that I'm a part of it, their work has a whole new meaning to me. They do a great job of bringing the lacrosse community together."



Mary Griffin (right) has shown strong characteristics on the VT lacrosse field as a student-athlete and off the field in her battle against cancer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

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Hokie wrestlers Robie, Lewis honored by ACC

Fresh off a memorable 2021-2022 season, Virginia Tech wrestling picked up two Atlantic Coast Conference season awards as NCAA silver medalist Mekhi Lewis was named the ACC Wrestler of the Year and head coach Tony Robie took home ACC Coach of the Year accolades.

The annual awards are determined by a vote of the league's head coaches.

Lewis made history in 2019 when he became Tech's first national champion while also adding the championship's Most Outstanding Wrestler award and snagging ACC Wrestler of the Year honors as a freshman. In his new weight class this year, he made history once again by becoming the program's first two-time finalist. Lewis is the fourth Virginia Tech wrestler to be voted ACC Wrestler of the Year and the first in program history to win the award twice.

Having recovered from the injury that forced him out of the 2021 national championship after reaching the quarterfinal round, Lewis, wrestled to his No.-2 seed by defeating No.-10 Clay Lutt of North Carolina and then pinning No.-3 Logan Massa of Michigan en route to his

second finals appearance. He then dropped a competitive bout in a tiebreaker to defending champion No.-1 Carter Starocci of Penn State.

Lewis's NCAA silver medal finish capped a season in which he posted a 24-2 overall record.

Coach Tony Robie's ACC Coach of the Year honors was his third award since he took the helm of the Hokies in 2017.

Under Robie's leadership this season, Virginia Tech earned a conference-leading, eighth-place NCAA finish and produced three All-Americans: Lewis (second), Bryce Andonian (third), and Korbin Myers (sixth) – for the ninth consecutive season, a streak shared with Penn State, Cornell, and Iowa. At the national championships, the Hokies scored the fourth-most points in program history.

Tech claimed three individual gold medals at the ACC Championships – Lewis, Myers, and Nathan Traxler – while placing second in team scoring. Tech's eight qualifiers for the NCAA Championships was the second most in the conference.

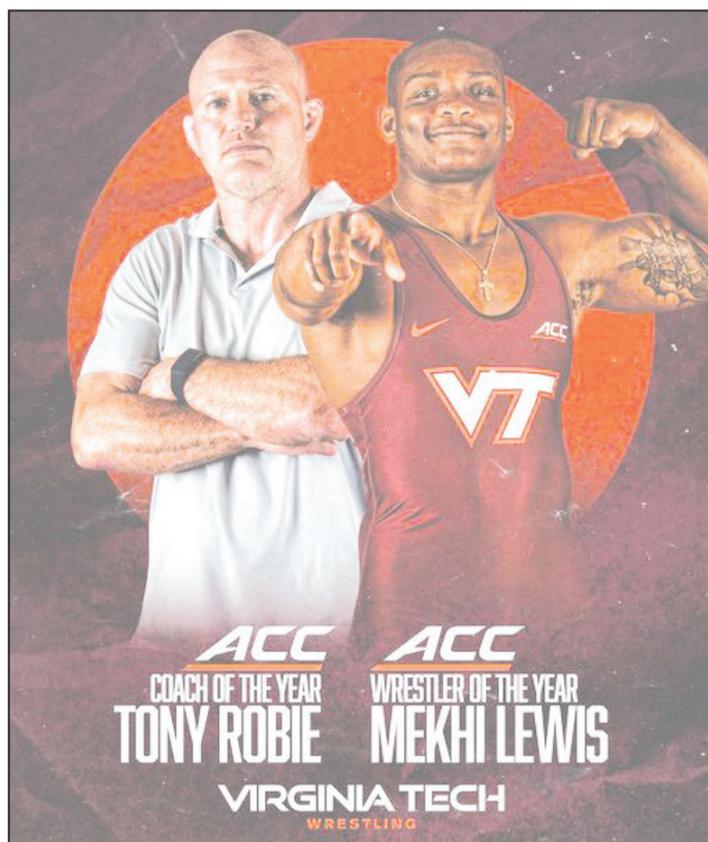


PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

VT hammers VMI 13-4 for the Hokies' fifth straight baseball win

LEXINGTON, Va. – Sophomore Cade Hunter put together a brilliant performance at the plate Tuesday, hitting two home runs and driving in five runs to help propel the Virginia Tech Hokies past the VMI Keydets 13-4. The win was Tech's fifth straight.

Senior Kiernan Higgins (1-0) picked up the victory out of the bullpen for Virginia Tech (15-6). The right-hander went 2.2 shutout innings while giving up two hits, allowing three walks and striking out three. Junior Graham Firoved also made an impact on the mound for the Hokies, throwing 1.1 shutout innings while allowing no hits with no walks and four strikeouts.

Hunter went 5-for-5 at the plate, supplementing his two home runs with a double while driving in five runs. Senior Conor Hartigan added to Hunter's awesome power-hitting performance by going 1-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs along with one walk. Sophomore Tanner Schobel also chipped in for the Hokies, going 1-for-3 with two walks and two RBIs.

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Hokies got on the board immediately, starting their scoring with four

runs in the top of the first inning that included Hunter's first home run of the game.

In the third inning, Tech picked up three more runs including a Hunter home run, which upped the score to 7-1 in favor of the Hokies.

VMI narrowed Virginia Tech's lead to 7-3 in the third before the Hokies stretched the advantage to 9-3 in the sixth inning on Hartigan's two-run home run.

The Keydets closed the gap to 9-4 before VT added some insurance in the ninth with a four-run outburst highlighted by Hunter's two-run double. That put the 13-4 final on the scoreboard.

GAME NOTES

Every Virginia Tech starter reached base safely in the win.

The Virginia Tech pitching staff combined to strike out 14 VMI hitters.

Virginia Tech's highest scoring inning was the ninth when the Hokies pushed four runs across.

VT took a 4-1 lead in the top half of the first and never trailed in the game.

Virginia Tech hitters hit three home runs and put together 15 total hits for



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hokie sophomore Cade Hunter hit two home runs Tuesday to lead Tech baseball to a 13-4 defeat of the VMI Keydets.

the game.

The Hokies went 6-for-18 (.333) with runners in scoring position.

Virginia Tech pitchers faced 48 VMI hitters in the game, allowing six ground balls and seven fly balls while striking

out 14.

The Hokies drew 11 walks from VMI pitching.

VMI was led offensively by junior Will Knight, who went 3-for-5 with an RBI.

RU volleyball welcomes eight newcomers to court

Radford head volleyball coach Sherisa Livingston has announced the addition of eight new players to the Highlanders' program for the upcoming 2022 season: Jackeline Nerro, Kennedy Robinson, Sara Johnson, Estella Sawyer, Peyton Ferree, Miranda Howard, Macy Pace, and Summer Campbell.

Jackeline Nerro | Setter | Tampa, Fla.

A four-year player at

Berkeley Prep School in Tampa, Fla., Nerro led her team in aces as a sophomore in 2019 and finished third in aces, assists, and digs in 2020. She was selected to the High-Performance Team Florida in 2018 and had a second-place finish in the championship. Nerro's team also placed third in the AAU National Premier Division in 2020.

Kennedy Robinson | Outside Hitter | Fort Mill,

S.C.

Robinson was an all-region selection at Fort Mill High School and was named the team's MVP in her senior season. She competed for the AVCA Phenom club team and is a three-time Junior Volleyball Association (JVA) watchlist honoree.

Sara Johnson | Outside Hitter | Saint John, Ind.

Johnson comes to Radford from Saint John, Ind.,

where she was a two-time varsity captain at Marian Catholic High School. Johnson was the team's MVP in 2021 in addition to being selected to the All-East Suburban Catholic Conference team twice (in 2020 and in 2021), the Daily Southtown All-Area First Team, and the Illinois Times All-Area Honorable Mention team. She was named to the Sue Garvick Var All-Tournament Team

in 2021-2, and was Marion Catholic's 2022 Athletics Student of the Month. Johnson competed in the club circuit and was a four-time JVA Watchlist honoree.

Estella Sawyer | Setter | Charlotte, N.C.

Sawyer is a highly decorated player out of Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, N.C. She led Ardrey Kell to a conference tournament championship in 2021, a regional title and a state runner-up finish. She was named to the SoMeck All-Conference Team and the NCVBCA all-region and all-state teams. As a freshman at Davidson Day School, Sawyer led the state in assists per set at 12.9, ranking third nationally among all freshmen in that category. She earned 2A all-conference honors twice (2019, 2020) and was an all-state honoree in 2020. Sawyer helped guide Ardrey Kell to a 31-2 record her senior season and finished her high school career with 2,739 total assists.

Peyton Ferree | Outside Hitter | Cedar Park, Texas

Ferree was a two-time team MVP at Westwood High School. She led her district in kills in the 2020 season, earning first-team all-district honors in the process. Ferree was twice named to the AVCA Phenom

Watchlist and was a TCGA all-star alternate in 2020. In addition to her accolades on the court, Ferree also earned academic all-district honors three times (2019-21).

Miranda Howard | Libero | Wylie, Texas

Howard was a four-time all-district first-team selection at Wylie East High School. She was named her school's MVP in 2020 and 2021 and the defensive MVP in 2019. Howard won nationals with her U-15 club team and finished third in her U-17 season. She was the Texas

District 10-5A Defensive MVP in 2022.

Macy Pace | Middle Blocker | Grandy, N.C.

Pace was a four-year starter and all-conference player at Cox High School in Virginia Beach. She won a conference championship with Cox all four years of her career in addition to a state title in 2018. Pace was named to the 2021 all-region first team and was Cox's leading blocker in both the 2020 and the 2021 seasons. She was named to the AVCA Phenom Watch List in 2020.

Summer Campbell | Middle Blocker/Opposite Hitter | Washington, D.C.

Campbell was named the 2021-22 D.C. Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year. She was also tabbed to the 2021-22 Washington Post Second Team All-Met and was a DCSAA state champion last season in addition to winning the tournament's Most Valuable Player award. Campbell was recognized as the 2021-22 Pigskin Girls D.C. Volleyball Player of the Year and is a two-time DCSAA Player of the Year (2019, 2021).

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