



Story of three black sisters coming to big screen

Residents of Christiansburg have probably heard the story of the Three Black Sisters.

Oceana Wardlaw Martin Snead, also known as Ocey Snead, was an American woman who was drugged and drowned in East Orange, New Jersey, by her own family to collect \$32,000 (equivalent to \$970,000 in 2021) in insurance money. The mystery and subsequent murder trial centered around Snead's mother and her two aunts.

Originally established in Christiansburg in 1853 as the Montgomery Collegiate Institute, Montgomery College was founded and owned by the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church and operated out of the old church building on the corner of First and Franklin Streets.

In 1860, a new school was built on the present site and renamed Montgomery Female Academy. Oceana Seaborn Goodall Pollock, Martha Eliza Wardlaw's sister, purchased the school in 1876, when it was sold at public auction, and while she was a teacher at the school. The 1880 Census shows Pollock and her niece Virginia Wardlaw, and their nephews, John B. and Albert G. Wardlaw, all living at the school with Virginia listed as a teacher there. Within a year, John and his wife Lizzie, both in their 20s, would be dead.

Ocey's death was identified as a

See **Three Black Sisters**, page 4



The Christiansburg story of three black sisters, "I, Miss Virginia" a documentary, is heading to the theaters with production underway in the area.



Photos courtesy of Christiansburg native Rick Maitri Sarah Jennings appears as one of the black sisters in the upcoming documentary.

Conditional use permit request made for fine arts studio on Boxwood Drive

The Blacksburg Planning and Building Department has received a request for a conditional use permit to allow a Fine Arts Studio use at an existing single family home on 1.382 acres in the RR-1 zoning district at 1513 Boxwood Drive.

The owner/applicant plans to build a 700-square-foot building on his property to craft specialty wooden paddles for kayaks and other water sports. 600 square feet of the building will be dedicated to the workshop area and approximately 100 square feet will be used as a storage room. The building will approximate the look of the existing residence on the property.

The building will be 35' from the existing drainage easement and a minimum of 70' from all other property lines. The applicant will not have employees nor will there be customers coming to the property. All finished paddles will be shipped via USPS or other means or picked up by the customer off site.

Because a fine arts studio is not an allowed-by-right use in the RR-1 zoning district, this conditional use permit request has been made.

The applicant has requested a special exception to Section 4564 (b) (11) of the Town of Blacksburg use and design standards that state that parking must be behind the front building line. The applicant does not anticipate the need for any parking other than that used by the residents of the main structure who will continue to use the existing driveway.

The applicant for the conditional use permit request has also made a request to the Blacksburg Town Council to expedite this request. The expedited schedule is as follows:

Neighborhood meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Blacksburg Motor Company Building large conference room, 400 South Main St.

Planning commission public hearing: Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, second floor municipal building, 300 South Main St.

Town council public hearing: Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers, second floor municipal building, 300 South Main St.

Blacksburg Museum welcomes new assistant



Joy Jarrells is the new museum assistant for the Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation.

The Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation has announced that Joy Jarrells has joined the staff as the new museum assistant. She will be assisting the staff with community outreach and the museum's education programs. A recent graduate of Carolina University, Jarrells received her degree

in music education. She has a love for the arts, children, and history, and has worked as a teacher and a librarian. New to Blacksburg, she is looking forward to sharing her passions with the community. A Southerner at heart, she grew up in South Carolina and loves hiking and playing the piano.

Nighttime projections transform the Drillfield for 'Monuments'



"Monuments" projects unforgettable, large-scale portraits of unsung individuals who serve their community. Photo courtesy of Craig Sillitoe Photography.

Nighttime projections transform three trees on the Virginia Tech Drillfield into sculptural monuments for an extraordinary installation honoring impactful community members of the New River Valley.

Craig Walsh's "Monuments" is now on view from 8:30-11 p.m. each evening through Saturday, May 14.

Free and open to the public, the installation is located on Drillfield

Drive in Blacksburg. Images of honorees will be projected on three trees: one in front of Patton Hall, another in front of War Memorial Gym, and a third near Newman Library. The installation is best seen when it is dark.

"Monuments" projects unforgettable, large-scale portraits of unsung individuals who serve their community. It celebrates three community members from the New River Valley: Jacob George,

radiation therapist at LewisGale Regional Cancer Center in Pulaski; Tara Orlando of Floyd, founder of Floyd Friends of Asylum Seekers; Debbie Sherman-Lee of Christiansburg, board chair of Christiansburg Institute Inc. and board member of Community Housing Partners, Appalachian Women Rising, and Dialogue on Race.

"Monuments" challenges tra-

See **Monuments**, page 4

'Hugs for Hokies' opens arms to students who need a hug

Sometimes you just need a hug. That's why on a Wednesday afternoon in April, four middle-aged moms in Hokie gear stood

on the Drillfield next to a sign that read, "Need a mom hug?" Any student who agreed was immediately swooped into a big, warm embrace

free of charge, unlimited refills available.

For students who weren't big huggers — the moms respected boundaries — there were high fives or offers of free snacks and drinks, from ramen noodle cups to Gatorades, donated by Hokie parents.

"Take two," Dayna Fladhammer urged one young woman. "Put it in your backpack, and tonight when you're studying, you'll be like, 'Those moms were so smart.'" She laughed and added, "That's my other superpower. I'm really good at hugging and I'm really good at guilt."

Three of Fladhammer's four children currently attend Virginia Tech. Her family fell in love with the area and relocated to Blacksburg from Chicago dur-

ing the pandemic at the request of their older kids who wanted to see their littlest sister grow up.

That made Fladhammer the de facto mom to her children's friends in the Corps of Cadets, who often gather at the family home in Blacksburg's Apperson-Dickerson neighborhood for Friday movie nights or Sunday morning brunch.

Then on Feb. 4, a shooting happened in downtown Blacksburg. Dozens of nervous cadets squeezed into her living room. "Do you need a mom hug?" Fladhammer asked them. She was surprised by how long many of them held on to her.

Soon afterward, she called up her friend Erin Vogt and said, "Let's go to campus and give away hugs."

"You're insane," Vogt said. "Yes, let's do it."

A few emails connected them with Kenlee Andreu, coordinator for New Student and Family Programs, who offered the support of Student Affairs for their idea. After recruiting volunteer huggers through the Virginia Tech Parents Facebook group, Fladhammer and Vogt officially launched Hugs for Hokies with their first event on Feb. 21.

Fladhammer wasn't entirely sure how people would react to the offer of a random hug from a strange lady. But the positive response showed how desperately some students needed the extra bit of love.

"You know how if you're re-

See **Hugs**, page 3



'Hugs for Hokies' offers VT students a chance for a hug from moms who show up on the Drillfield next to a sign that reads, 'Need a Mom hug?'

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through April 30:

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

Wednesday, April 27:

Pre-K storytime
At the Blacksburg Library; 11 a.m. Share stories, rhymes, music and movement, and a craft as a family. Develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading. For ages 3 to 5.

Lunch and Learn: Invasive plants
At the Blacksburg Library; noon. Learn to identify some of the most unwanted invasive plants with local expert Beth Umberger, who has been leading invasive plant removal efforts in Stadium Woods and local parks for many years. In addition to her presentation, Umberger will have samples of some of the worst invasive plants for in-person participants to see up close.

Loops group
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants may bring a project and join the loops group for community and conversation. All are welcome.

Teen book club: “Firekeeper’s Daughter”
Virtual/Online at www.mfirl.org; 4 p.m. This month participants in the teen book club will discuss “Firekeeper’s Daughter” by Angeline Boulley. Email mroach@mfirl.org with any questions.

Thursday, April 28:

IBLA grand prize performance concert
At the Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center on Radford University’s campus; 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

All ages storytime
At the Meadowbrook Library; 10:30 a.m. Share stories, rhymes, music and movement, and a craft as a family. Develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

Thursday, April 28, and Friday, April 29:

“Dancing on the Edge”
In the Bondurant Auditorium on Radford University’s campus; 7:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$7; tickets for children are \$3.50; RU students will be admitted free with a student ID. For tickets visit www.radfordactivities.com or call 540-831-5420.

Friday, April 29:

Radford University student art show
The work of BFA art students is on display. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the RU Art Museum on Tyler (214 Tyler Ave., Radford). Work will be on display from Friday, April 29 through Wednesday, May 4.

All ages storytime
At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Share stories, rhymes, music and movement, and a craft as a family. Develop early literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

Teen game day
At the Blacksburg Library; 1 p.m. Teens can spend their afternoon playing games like Among Us and Jackbox in person with other teens. Participants should bring a device and download Among Us prior to the program. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Registration is required.

Faux Stained Glass
At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can turn a simple picture frame into a beautiful stained glass creation with just a couple of supplies. Supplies will be provided for this program. Ages 10 and up. Registration is required.

Saturday, April 30:

Noise Alert: Skipper Cannon Fire
Skipper, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired from the Drillfield three times for a Change of Command Ceremony. The first shot will be at about 9:50 a.m., and the final shot will be at about 10:45 a.m.

American Business Women’s Association April luncheon meeting
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg. 99 Bradley Dr. The cost is \$14.25. Instead of hearing from a guest speaker this month, the association will use the time together to get to know one another better. RSVP by contacting Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com.

“Dancing on the Edge”
In the Bondurant Auditorium on Radford University’s campus; 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. RU students will be admitted free with ID. For tickets visit www.radfordactivities.com or call 540-831-5420.

Healthy Kids Day
The YMCA at Virginia Tech will celebrate Healthy Kids Day from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the field and tennis courts between Cassell Coliseum and the YMCA Lancaster House on Washington St. SW. in Blacksburg. Healthy Kids Day is a national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids. This is a free “summer kick-off” event with music, games, healthy snacks, crafts, and educational activities for families. Local organizations will also be promoting various

summer programs and activities for kids.

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

Spring plant swap
At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Participants can bring plants, bulbs, and seeds to swap. Vegetable plants, house plants, landscape plants, and flowers are all welcome. 2 to 2:30 p.m. to bring plants in and 2:30 p.m. for first swap, 2:45 p.m. for second round.

Mother’s Day gift
At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 2 p.m. Participants can make a special Mother’s Day gift and then give it to someone special. Fill a fancy teacup with tea and treats and then gift-wrap it. Supplies will be provided.

Radford Graduate Art Students Mill Mountain Zoo fundraiser
The Graduate Art Student Association of Radford University will sponsor a silent art auction to raise funds for the Mill Mountain Zoo’s conservation efforts. At the Zoo; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to the public.

Auctioned artwork includes original paintings and ceramics inspired by the zoo animals and attractions like the Red Wolf, turtles, and the Zoo Choo Train. All auctioned artworks will be available for viewing one week prior to the event on the Graduate Art Student Association Facebook page [facebook.com/gasa.radford]. In-person and online bidding will be available the day of the auction.

Thursday, May 5:

Virginia Tech Forest Landowner Extravaganza

The College of Natural Resources and Environment and the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation will host this event from 12:30 to 5 p.m. The event begins with a catered lunch with speakers. After lunch, participants can choose from five opportunities; transportation to off-campus sites will be provided. They are 1) Preparing for Generation NEXT Legacy Planning (workshop); 2) Tree Identification and Forest Ecology at Pandapas Pond (walking tour); 3) Agroforestry Options at Catawba Sustainability Center (walking tour); 4) Tour of Virginia Tech’s Urban Forest (walking tour); or 5) Ongoing Research and Innovations in Forest Products (workshop). The event takes place concurrently with the Virginia Forestry Summit at Virginia Tech May 3-5. The cost is \$10 for summit attendees, \$15 for others. Register at www.vt.edu. Questions? Contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540-231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu.

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, May 10:

Sons of Confederate Veterans Meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant on 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. Camp member James Evans will give a talk on the “CSS Hunley.” For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, May 12:

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

Tuesday, May 17:

PATH Committee meeting
The New River Health District’s PATH (Partnership for Access to Healthcare) Committee will convene from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Cross Point Foursquare Conference Center at 900 Life Dr. in Christiansburg for a discussion of PATH’s future. The meeting will be in person with remote access available. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Thursday, May 26:

Scrabble tournament for literacy
The 14th Annual Scrabble Tournament for Literacy will raise funds for Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley (LVNRV) to help local adults learn to read. At the German Club Manor on Virginia Tech’s Blacksburg campus from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The tournament will be emceed by Radford City Mayor David Horton. Local food will be offered. Teams of three will play two games of Scrabble against two different teams with the scores from both games added together to determine the winner. Awards will be given to the top scorer, the longest word, the highest score word, and the most creative team name. Register as a team for \$100 or sign up as an individual for \$35, and the organization will match a player with a team. To register, go to www.lvnrv.org, email info@lvnrv.org, or call 540-382-7262.

Ongoing

Free GED classes with NRCC
At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED prep classes offered by New River Community College in the library’s community room. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

Warm Hearth Village residents, employees walk in remembrance

For the third consecutive year, residents and employees at Blacksburg’s retirement community, Warm Hearth Village, organized their own walk in remembrance alongside neighbor Virginia Tech.

John Hillison, a Warm Hearth Village resident and former Virginia Tech Agricultural Education professor and department head, and Dr. Richard Shepherd, resident and retired physician who specialized in emergency and family medicine, recruited 28 residents and employees to participate in a 3.2-mile walk along the woodland trails and

streets around campus. The event started with a group photo and some words about the individuals being remembered. Warm Hearth’s employees and residents live and learn in community and have formed tight relationships, so they were encouraged to share their stories as they walked, to continue to heal and remember.

“Many residents here worked at the university at the time and still have strong ties so the walk is one small way we can continue to show we care,” said Hillison. Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.



Twenty-eight WHV employees and residents participated recently in their own walk in remembrance.

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Food City to hire 1,500 employees on company-wide hiring event April 28

On Thursday, April 28, Food City, which has a location at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford, will be hosting a company-wide hiring event to include both full-time and part-time positions. Food City is planning to hire over 1,500 friendly, smiling faces to work at their distribution Center and in key customer and food service positions at store locations throughout their operation area. The positions include, both entry-level positions and expe-

rienced, skilled positions, such as meat cutter, cake decorator, and retail management, as well as various warehousing/distribution positions.

Food City is a family owned and operated company that offers a generous benefits package to their associates including competitive salaries, comprehensive training, healthcare coverage with medical and dental plans, 401(k) with a 3% company match, vacation accrual, vision coverage, and

company paid life and disability plans, and Employee Stock Ownership Plan. In addition, to these great benefits, Food City also offers advancement opportunities to associates who wish to progress within a growing company.

Interested candidates, can apply online at Food-City.com or visit any Food City store to complete an application. Make plans to attend the event at your local Food City to find out how Food City is so much more than a grocery store.



Leadership NRV chooses Friends of the Huckleberry for 2022 legacy project

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership New River Valley (Leadership NRV) Class of 2022 has selected

Friends of the Huckleberry as the recipient of the 2022 Legacy Project.

ect.

Leadership NRV is a 10-month nationally recognized leadership program that meets monthly to enhance leadership and change management skills in the context of community. The Class of 2022 will utilize skills developed in the program to present ways to build capacity for the Friends of the Huckleberry.

Leadership NRV will work with the board and President Beth Lohman to apply leadership principles and the concepts of the book, Switch, to increase the capacity for their project and examine how they can enhance Friends of the Huckleberry.

"With the previous President, Bill Ellenbogen, stepping back from a leadership role, the organization is at a fork in the trail," Lohman said, "We are asking ourselves, what comes next for Friends of the Huckleberry, and what does our role in and relation-

ship to the trail look like going forward?"

The Legacy Project provides an opportunity for Friends of the Huckleberry to work with a group of aspiring community leaders and explore where Friend's focus should be while ensuring they establish the organizational capacity to meet their new goals. Friends of the Huckleberry believes building relationships with the business community and other nonprofits will be key for success, and there is no better way to build those kinds of relationships than to work on a project together.

Friends of the Huckleberry is a 30-year-old organization that has worked in partnership with local communities and governments to promote, fund, construct, and maintain the Huckleberry Trail. As advocates of the trail, they hope to connect people and communities while improving their well-

ness, economic health, and experience of the trail.

"We're honored to be selected for this year's Legacy Project and grateful for the opportunity to get to know and work with a diverse group of leaders," Lohman said, "We're looking forward to the feedback from program participants and the opportunities that may present themselves this year."

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce serves Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and all of Montgomery County. The MCCC supports approximately 600 local businesses through marketing, educational, and network-building opportunities. For more information on Leadership NRV, visit the chamber website at www.montgomerycc.org, or call The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce at 540.382.3020.



Leadership NRV President Beth Lohman announced to the 2022 Leadership New River River class that Friends of the Huckleberry would be the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce's 2022 legacy project.

Hugs from page 1

ally stressed, and somebody hugs you, you kind of fall apart?" asked Carla McCabe, the mother of a Hokie junior and a recent graduate, who's helped with two Hugs for Hokies events. "I had two girls completely start bawling in the middle of a hug." (She's learned to bring a mirror to check her mascara.)

Many students they hugged shared stories about what was going on in their lives, good or bad, that made the hug so meaningful: My mom just got diagnosed with cancer. I broke up with my boyfriend. I failed a test. I'm lonely. I miss my mom. I'm having such a great week. With some students, the moms sat down for long talks, giving out their personal phone number at the end of the conversation, even inviting some students over for a meal.

The reaction was amazing, said Andreu. "When we posted about it on our Instagram, the comments were either like, 'Best part of my day, thank you so much,' or 'I didn't know this was happening, please do this again.' So we scheduled three more."

For the second Hugs for Hokie events in April, the group was even more intentional about providing help beyond hugs. The moms handed out cards with contact information for the Cook Counseling Center, Hokie Wellness, the Women's Center, and other campus resources.

Aware that at the end of the semester, food insecurity rises among students running out of meal plan dollars, they also stocked the snack tables with beef jerky sticks, microwaveable mac and cheese, and cups of Jif peanut butter, all donated by Hokie parents.

"Look at how fast the peanut butter is going," Vladhammer pointed out. "Kids need the protein."

Faraway parents who don't get to hug their own kids enough have been overjoyed about Hugs for Hokies. "This is one of the reasons I encouraged my kid to go to VT," wrote one parent on the Virginia Tech Parents Facebook page. Another said, "This makes me cry happy tears."

Many parents urged their children to go get a hug by proxy. "My mom begged me to," said freshman Alexa Correll. "I'm from Connecticut, so it's a long way from her."

Overhearing this, mom volunteer Kathy Ribbens said, "You get a hug just for that."

"She gets a hug for having to spell 'Connecticut' a lot as a child," joked Therese Walters, who in addition to volunteering with Hugs for Hokies also organizes

Cheesy Nights for the Virginia Tech Library.

At the Hugs for Hokies event in April, the volunteers set up on the Drillfield at 10 a.m. and intended to leave by 3 p.m. But one young woman told them that she was headed to take an intimidating test and would need somebody to either celebrate or commiserate with her at 3:45 p.m. "She asked us if we'd stay," said Fladhammer, "and I was like, 'Honey, of course I will.'"

Free hugs? "That's the spirit of Ut Prosim," Fladhammer said.

Two more Hugs for Hokies events are scheduled for finals week of spring semester:

Wednesday, May 4, 10:15 am to 3:45 pm, near the Drillfield-side entrance of the library and Saturday, May 7, 10:15 am to 3:45 pm, at West End Market.

By Melody Warnick

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Please note that the map referenced as "unrecordable survey" is a draft survey and not a recordable or verified survey and was prepared for general reference use only. Purchaser expected to perform their own due diligence in regards to the acreage total, property lines, easements, etc. Floyd County Tax Data indicates that property is 133 +/- Acres. However, with advanced mapping software and unrecordable survey, it appears that property is 151 +/- acres. Bidders are expected to complete their own due diligence prior to placing a bid.

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OPINION

Virginia gas prices headed back up

Average gasoline prices in Virginia rose 2.1 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.95/g as of Monday, April 25, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 18.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago but stand \$1.23/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virgin-

ia was priced at \$3.56/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.49/g, a difference of \$1.93/g.

The national average price of gasoline rose 4.4 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.11/g as of Monday, April 25. The national average is down 13.3 cents per gallon from a month ago but stands \$1.24/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled

from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"For the first time in over a month, the national average price of gasoline has risen," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Primarily, this was due to oil prices that had jumped the prior week, pushing up the price that stations

pay for fuel and thus causing them to raise prices," De Haan said. The rise has been quite tame in most areas while others have continued to gently decline. But with the French election now behind us, there is a risk that the European Union could pursue harsher sanctions on Russia's energy, which could cause oil prices to rise if it happens, something motorists should be

on the watch for.

"In addition, U.S. oil inventories continue to decline, putting additional pressure on prices as the nation's SPR continues to drain and Russia's war on Ukraine remains ongoing. The global imbalance between supply and demand that led to these higher prices continues for the time being," said De Haan.

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data are accessible at <http://prices.GasBuddy.com>.

Monuments

from page 1

ditional expectations of public monuments and the selective history represented in public spaces. Since Walsh's first tree projection in 1993, "Monuments" installations continue to evolve and captivate new audiences worldwide as they occupy new landscapes and engage with different communities.

Cleverly deconstructing its own definition by humanizing the monument while undermining the permanent historical and public art models, "Monuments" recognizes the infinite contributions that influence people's understanding of place. Margaret Lawrence, director of programming at the

Moss Arts Center, said, "This project says something profound about those who make our community a wonderful place, in the artist's words, 'ordinary people who deserve to be celebrated.'"

Throughout his career, Walsh has developed and implemented numerous public artworks,

both permanent and temporary, often through community engagement processes. Through recent projects, Walsh is developing works that change and evolve over time to provide opportunities for continual community engagement and interaction.

The Moss Arts Center se-

lected the honorees from a collection of 34 individuals nominated. More information about the honorees and a full list of nominees is available online.

"Monuments" is presented in partnership with Virginia Tech's Center for Humanities and the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention.

Three Black Sisters

from page 1

drowning with starvation as a contributing cause. Suspicion for the death

quickly focused on her family, particularly her mother and two aunts.

The deaths of John and Lizzie Wardlaw were also considered suspicious.

While at the Christiansburg school, the three sisters would be known to roam the halls checking on students. During the trial in upstate New Jersey, the women wore black dresses and black veils at the Christiansburg school to hide their faces. Thus arose the image that many people have learned about in the New River Valley. The tale that they still haunt the school exists as local residents have reported strange happenings in and around the old school such as doors slamming and lights turning on and off.

The story has become a play performed almost annually by actors of the New River Stage. Occasional sightings at Sunset Cemetery where one of the sisters is buried have also been reported.

Now this local tale is headed to the movies as production is underway at several locations in Southwest Virginia.

Christiansburg native Rick Maitri is the producer and director of the project titled "I, Miss Virginia," a true crime psychological thriller based on actual events.

He said the movie and its script is "ripped from the headlines" of 1909 and 1910 and gleaned from an assortment of his-

torical documents.

"For the feature, some facts have been changed for dramatic impact, and some blanks have been filled in just as Norman Zierold did for his book, Three Sisters in Black," Maitri said.

Maitri graduated from Christiansburg High School in 1983 and attended New River Community College where he developed his love for the visual arts. He is currently the media specialist at the school and is pursuing a masters in filmmaking at Akira Kurosawa School of Film, Anaheim University. Having attended Christiansburg Middle School on the site of Montgomery Female College, he has heard all the tales of the sisters, their alleged murders, and the hauntings.

"As a kid, it's fun to think your school is haunted and to share those fantastic stories. It's common to hear the narratives I heard then retold now almost verbatim. I wanted to set the record straight in my writing, so I approached it in non-judgment, giving the sisters the benefit of the doubt and trying to bring humanity into the characters by discounting rumors that seemed utterly absurd," Maitri said.

"There is so much that has been hidden, some of it in plain sight," Maitri said. "On a lighter note,

bringing the story to life for so many people who have grown up with it is a blast. This project has become my life. I go to bed thinking about it and dream about it, and it wakes me up in the morning."

So far, production has taken place in Pulaski and Lynchburg because of the proximity and low cost. Maitri said local governments in both locations have been very supportive and have worked to make sure everything is legally and logistically in order.

"It's difficult to say where it will ultimately shoot and to maintain a sense of ownership for the communities, it would be great to recreate some of the imagery in Murfreesboro, Christiansburg, and East Orange where the story has its roots," Maitri said. "The reality is that there's not much reason to shoot in the places where the events happened. Virtually no structure of that period related to the story is still standing."

For the actors, Maitri has dipped in the local play arena.

"I started looking locally, and that's where I met Dan Leary, (Dr. Herbert Simmons) who had done work with New River Stage and The Long Way Home. I've known Makala Vest [Witten] (Mary Snead) since high school. Locals may know her as

an actress and CHS drama teacher. I initially contacted Makala in hopes of acquiring student actors for another project. She responded to a casting call before the last shoot to play Virginia, but scheduling conflicts became insurmountable," Maitri said.

"I expanded the search to multiple actor and filmmaker groups throughout the state and that's where I encountered Suzanne Jennings, the consummate professional and perfect Virginia. Suzanne is so deeply involved in the psychology of the character," Maitri said.

Thirteen-year-old, Abigail Baldwin, who plays Ocey Snead, has acted in multiple stage productions in central Virginia, most notably perhaps as Hellen Keller in The Miracle Worker.

So far, the response to the movie has been enthusiastic among residents and former residents of Christiansburg.

The hope is to conclude production by April 30 with editing possibly extending into June.

Supporters of the venture will be allowed viewing during a limited release sometime in the summer. "I still haven't decided what form the premiere may take; however, I've discussed the idea with a prominent Christiansburg innkeeper," Maitri said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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53							54				55	56		
57											58			
59						60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. North American people

6. Chinese surname

10. Fit in at the last minute

14. "Very" in musical terminology

15. Underwater displays

17. Crosby's bandmates

19. Belong to he

20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)

21. Sequences of alternating turns

22. Genus of grasses

23. Satisfy

24. Petty quarrel

26. Made level

29. Ruler of Iran

31. Historical region of Syria

32. Food suitable for babies

34. Something to lend

35. Zone of oceanic trenches

37. Philippine island

38. Domesticated animal

39. Plant of the lily family

40. Bluish green

41. __ Tomei, actress

43. Without (French)

45. Lilly and Manning are two

46. Apply pressure to

47. Divide in half

49. Bad deed

50. Don't know when yet

53. Hollywood's greatest honor

57. Aiming to exhort

58. Faked

59. A way to pierce

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. Points

CLUES DOWN

1. Chop up

2. __ Spumante (Italian

wine)

3. Egyptian goddess

4. Split pulses

5. Afflict

6. Type of area rug

7. Tide

8. Affirmative

9. Sudden change

10. One picked

11. Debauched man

12. Stiff bristles

13. Famous arena

16. Established rules and methods

18. Injection

22. Father

23. Protein-rich liquids

24. He delivers gifts

25. Advanced degree

27. Fencing swords

28. Chinese mountain range

29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)

30. Precursor to hemoglobin

31. Much __ about nothing

33. Compound fabric (abbr.)

35. A way to act slowly on

36. Ottoman military commanders

37. Popular kids' network

39. Hard compound

42. Sympathize with

43. Northeast college

44. Blood group

46. Frosted

47. Turn away

48. Benefit

49. Dry or withered

50. Bangladeshi monetary unit

51. Reproduced

52. Contributes

53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)

54. Wear

55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)

56. Very small

PET OF THE WEEK



Don't let his name fool you. Grinch is a nice, friendly boy, not to mention extremely photogenic. He's a younger dog who will need humans who will take him along for walks/hikes and other activities. He also knows some basic commands and has gotten along with other dogs.



Handsome Hammy enjoys attention from his favorite humans. He would do best in a home where he is the only pet. As a younger dog, he may need some basic doggie manners training. Stop by the Animal Care and Adoption Center to meet Hammy.

OBITUARIES

Hedge, Bernard William

Bernard William Hedge, 89, of Fairlawn, passed away Sunday, April 24, 2022.

He retired after 39 years with the Roanoke Times where he was district manager and proudly served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Bernard was preceded in death by his parents, Oakley and Susie Hedge; a son, Wayne Hedge; a brother, Maynard Hedge; and a sister, Ivalene Ridpath.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Lola Hedge; a son and daughter-in-law, Preston and Melissa Hedge; a daughter and son-in-law, Bernetta and Jim Reyn-



olds; a daughter-in-law, Karen Hedge; grandchildren Brea Hopkins (Matt), Katrina Dobbins (Justin), Cody Hedge, Carley Hedge, and Sarah Johnson; great-grandchildren Avery, Hailey and Gracie; a sister, Lottie McConkey; and many other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 29, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford, followed by funeral services. Burial will follow in Captain George Cemetery in Floyd County.

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

Morris, Jane Ellen Hubble

Jane Ellen Hubble Morris, of Dublin, died at her home on April 22, 2022 after a lengthy illness. She was 83 years old.

She is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 65 years, Douglas F. Morris, and her four children and their families: Pam and Lee Chitwood of Pulaski and their children Rachel, Ed, Maddy and Riley; Sandi Douglas of Richmond and her children Jordan, Jake and Reece; Patrick and Amy Morris of Pulaski and their daughter Raleigh; and Sharyn Morris and Dan Dagle of Roslindale, Md.

Jane was born in Montgomery County and was preceded in death by her parents, Reece Patrick Hubble and Frances Virginia McBride Hubble. She was a graduate of the Dublin High School Class of 1955. She married Douglas Morris in 1957 and was a homemaker until all of her children were schooled when she went to nursing school at New River Community College. A natural caregiver, she thrived in her career.

She worked for many years at the Radford University Health Center. She had a special fondness for the elderly and also worked at Wheatland Hills and Highland Manor nursing homes and as



a home health nurse.

Jane exemplified kindness, compassion, and contentment guided by her generous and grateful heart. She formed lifelong friendships and enjoyed many hobbies including gardening, cooking, and singing in the church choir.

After her retirement, she volunteered for several years with the Connections Reading Mentoring Program at Pulaski Elementary School. Her family will remember the painstaking care she took with every birthday and holiday; she led the singing at any celebration, and could play the piano by ear.

The Morris family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home, Radford. To send an online condolence, visit <http://mullinsfuneralhome.com>. Services will be private.

Jane loved her church and her church family. She was a member of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church and was an honorary lifetime member of the Presbyterian Women. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church general fund. 6900 Pulaski Ave, Fairlawn, VA 24141 or online <http://fairlawnpc.org/online-giving/>.

Steele-Walker, Sonya Denise

Sonya Denise “Soni” Steele-Walker was born April 4, 1966, to the late William Austin and Katherine Reese Steele.

Sonya left this world for another on April 20, 2022.

Apart from her parents preceding her in death, she was also preceded by two older brothers, Curtis Dale and Stephen Robert Steele, as well as a special friend, Barbra Adams.

Sonya is survived by her life companion of 20 years, Aaron Webb of Pulaski; her brother and sister-in-law, James and Tanya Steele of Pulaski; nephews Bradley J. Steele of Winston

Salem, N.C., Billy Joe Steele and wife, Erica, of Pulaski, and J.R Steele of Pulaski; son-in-law William Dorton IV and daughter Katherine S. Dorton; grandchildren Jayson Tyler and Maggie Jolene Buckner; nieces Christina Steele Garcia and husband, Chris, of Roanoke; eight great-nieces and nephews; and lifelong friend, Dreama Covey.

Services will be at a later date. Sonya will be missed by many. “You did good, Soni.”

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

Robinson, Sr., Jerald Francis (Jerry)

Jerald Francis (Jerry) Robinson, Sr. passed away at home following a fight with kidney cancer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arelia Elizabeth Jackson and Francis Byron Robinson.

Jerry leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Anne Catherine Ford Robinson (his college sweetheart) of Blacksburg; his son, Jerald (Rob) Robinson, Jr., and spouse, Amanda Lyvette Robinson; and two grandchildren, Nigel Dalton Robinson and Roxanne Tara Robinson, all of Roanoke.

In high school, Jerry was editor of the Southside High School Newspaper, business manager of the yearbook, school photographer, and was voted “Mr. Southside.” He was an Eagle Scout. Jerry later graduated from what is now known as Rhodes College in three years with a degree in economics. He received an M.S. degree from Duke University and obtained his Ph. D. from the University of Illinois.

Jerry and Anne married in December of 1960. His teaching career included Furman University, the University of Missouri, and 37 years at Virginia Tech where he received teaching awards at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He was President of the Faculty Senate for two terms and chaired the committee to plan the curriculum at the university’s Steger European Studies Center in Switzerland where he taught for 13 full



sessions. Jerry loved his students so much that he and Anne took groups on Study Abroad Trips for many years. Jerry held honorary positions at several Chinese and European universities and received a silver medal from the University of Maribor Slovenia.

In the local community, Jerry served eight years on the Montgomery County

School Board, two as chairman. He was a member and past President of the Blacksburg Rotary Club. Jerry also helped found the “Fun 143 Trailer Ministry,” served on the boards of the Wesley Foundation, VT YMCA, and Habitat for Humanity. He served as chair of the Board of the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Saturday mornings were always set aside for his donut and coffee group.

He was a longtime active member of Blacksburg United Methodist Church where a memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 26. Visitation and reception followed in the Whisner Hall. Interment of Jerry’s cremains will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Carilion Clinic Hospice NRV (701 Randolph St. Suite 10, Radford, VA 24141), the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry (P.O. Box 11382 Blacksburg, VA 24062) or the Pamplin College of Business (Management Department) at VT (800 West Campus Dr. Mail Code 0233, Blacksburg, VA 24061).

Virginia Department of Transportation road watch

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 104 to 106 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

TRAFFIC SWITCH - Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line.

LANE CLOSURES:

Nighttime alternating lane closures will be in place on I-81 northbound between mile markers 104-106 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning as follows:

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

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is under-

going a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Single lane closures will be in place and will be maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals. Lane closures on RTE 615 are expected to begin on May 5 and will be in place through August 2022. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 460 PAVING OPERATIONS – From Monday through Friday, April 25-29, in the vicinity of Ellet Bridge, drivers can expect lane closures for paving operations from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Delays are possible.

ROUTE 663 CLOSURE FOR BRIDGE WORK – Route 663 (Walton Road) is closed for bridge work. Message boards will alert drivers. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes. Residents will be able to access their homes. The road will reopen on May 9.

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

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

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

MYRTLE BEACH VS. SALEM

MAY 3 11:05

EDUCATION DAY - GATES OPEN 10:00 AM

MAY 4 7:05

BARK IN THE PARK - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

MAY 5 7:05

THIRSTY THURSDAY - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

MAY 6 7:05

STEAM NIGHT & FIREWORKS - GATES OPEN 6:00 PM

MAY 7 6:05

T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY - GATES OPEN 5:00 PM

MAY 8 5:05

MOTHER'S DAY & BARK IN THE PARK - GATES OPEN 4:00 PM

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U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine hears about effort to create next-generation transportation hub in Southwest Virginia

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine visited the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute on Thursday to learn more about a university-led effort to establish Southwest and Southern Virginia as a global leader in next-generation transportation by creating the most advanced real-world test environments for automated vehicles and delivery technologies.

The university's proposal, which includes a coalition of more than 150 public, private, and nonprofit partners from across the region, is among 60 finalists out of an initial pool of 529 applications that advanced to Phase 2 of the federal Economic Development Administration's Regional Challenge. Twenty to 30 of the bids are expected to be awarded implementation funding of up to \$100 million each.

"I'm excited so many experts across the region have come together to find innovative solutions to improve transportation and logistics, especially around delivery by autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, and drones," Kaine said. "Their work will be path-breaking for Virginia and the nation as we continue to strengthen our economy."

The proposal is seek-

ing \$75 million in federal funds. John Provo, director of the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement, which is leading the coalition, said that investment could generate more than \$5 billion in economic impact and 5,000 local jobs.

"This grant would elevate Southwest and Southern Virginia as an emerging global tech hub while also establishing a resilient economy across the region by training the future workforce to adapt to the changing manufacturing environment," Provo said.

"This project is a prime example of the good that can happen when you convene such a remarkable group of partners from so many different sectors," said Guru Ghosh, vice president for Outreach and International Affairs.

Dan Sui, senior vice president for research and innovation, said the proposal builds on Virginia Tech's strengths in autonomous systems, power systems, vehicle dynamics and safety, additive manufacturing, and building materials, as well as wireless connectivity and cyber-physical security, sensing, and data analytics.

During his stop Thursday, Kaine saw examples of the proposal's three major components.

The first features an initiative to develop an autonomous-electric testbed along Interstate 81. Zac Doerzaph, executive director of the transportation institute, as well as representatives from Volvo Trucks and Torc Robotics, explained how a segment of connected highways around Blacksburg would be developed as a heavy-vehicle automated driving systems test corridor that extends 40 miles from Dublin to Salem. This would enable

new industry partnerships across the region and also address some of the logistics challenges currently impacting the country.

The second component would develop a similar corridor for unmanned aircraft systems. Tombo Jones, director of the Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership, explained how this 130-square-mile testbed would allow drone operators to test and conduct flights beyond an operator's visual line of sight.

Two local companies, Cowden Technologies and NAVOS Air, shared how advancement in this field would support the UAS industry.

"Drones are part of a constellation of autonomous technologies that will introduce tremendous efficiencies into the way businesses currently operate," Jones said. "This grant will help establish the initial infrastructure to move Virginia toward that future."

The third initiative

would create an industry network for training, talent, technology, and entrepreneurial development. Representatives from the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, the College of Engineering, Virginia State University, and New River Community College showed how the project would build a critical training and entrepreneur resource facility to fill the void of talent needs for advanced vehicle technologies.



Senior Tadek Kosmal (left), from Falls Church, Virginia, talks with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine on Thursday at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Kosmal, who is majoring in robotics and mechatronics in the College of Engineering, showed off his research with 3D-printed drones in the Design, Research, and Education for Additive Manufacturing Systems (DREAMS) Lab, led by Chris Williams, the L.S. Randolph Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Photo by Diane Deffenbaugh for Virginia Tech.

New ventilator provides breathing help for critical care veterinary patients

Because of a multidisciplinary team from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital led by Bobbi Conner, clinical associate professor and service chief in emergency and critical care, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine now can provide mechanical ventilation for patients in long-term care.

To do it, they had to find a mechanical ventilator during a global pandemic.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital has had a medical air system for 20 years but needed a veterinary specialist called a criticalist to op-

erate it. Because there's a shortage of criticalists — there are fewer than five in Virginia — no one at the hospital had the expertise necessary to safely ventilate long-term.

"The machine we had was essentially a transport ventilator, which physicians might use if they have to transport a patient from one hospital to another. It's meant for very short-term use, just for transport on an ambulance or a helicopter, so about an hour or two," Conner said.

A criticalist deals with the sickest patients and typically oversees an intensive care unit

(ICU). After the hospital's emergency team has triaged an ill or injured pet and emergency treatments have started, a criticalist will help stabilize and take care of the pet in the ICU. The criticalist collaborates with all the necessary departments and specialists on challenging cases to provide comprehensive care.

When Conner was hired in August 2020, she saw an opportunity to expand the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's emergency care options. "When I got here, I realized our capabilities for providing mechanical ventilation were not where they could be, so I spent several months working on getting our infrastructure up and running, replacing a 20-year-old, non-functional medical air compressor," Conner said. So she searched for a user-friendly mechanical ventilator, a

challenge because of the pandemic.

"I didn't know for sure when it was going to happen," Conner said. "Ventilators were also not necessarily the easiest to come by, certainly at the pandemic's peak. It was widespread for veterinarians to donate their ventilators to human hospitals. There was a period where there was no way we would be able to purchase a ventilator."

After months of patience, contacting distributors and manufacturers, and getting input from the broader critical care community, Conner finally secured a machine.

But mechanical ventilation is a complex, dangerous process that requires special training. "It's usually not the first measure we take, and we try to avoid it

because it's problematic," said Conner.

Being put on a ventilator is not a simple task. "It involves putting a breathing tube in, an endotracheal tube. Then we determine on the machine what settings to use to deliver breaths. It's not the natural way to breathe for many reasons. It's not completely benign, and you must be careful," said Conner.

Conner is the only criticalist at the veterinary college. Since she arrived, she has brought myriad knowledge and skills that bolster the hospital's services. "This was not being offered as a service primarily because there wasn't the expertise to do it," Conner said. "If you don't have a criticalist, you don't have anybody who's trained specifically on mechani-

cal ventilators. There's a difference between long-term ventilation and short-term ventilation," Conner said.

Conner's efforts paid off earlier this year when the first patient was successfully treated with the new mechanical ventilator. "We finally got this specialty service up, and shortly afterward, we had our first opportunity to use it. Neurology had a patient with a disk herniation in the neck that impacted the dog's ability to breathe normally. They took her to MRI and then surgery, and she recovered on the ventilator for a few days," Conner said. "She would not have survived without these interventions, but today the dog is doing very well and we are hopeful she will continue to recover well."

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Bobbi Conner (left), clinical associate professor of emergency and critical care medicine, and fourth-year DVM student Maya Wallick look after a patient that recently used the ventilator at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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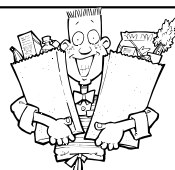
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg's Emilee Horton bowls her way to college scholarship

Emilee Horton has known bowling for most of her life. As a matter of fact, it's not much of an exaggeration to say she was born with a bowling ball in her hand. Her father, Ronnie, is a professional bowler so his daughter has heard the crack of the pins from a very young age.

Now, Horton is taking that experience to college at Tusculum University with a partial scholarship,

"I chose Tusculum University because I feel the academics they provide will make me the most successful in the future. I also really like the treatment and attention the school gives to the sport," Horton said.

Tusculum University is a private Presbyterian university with its main campus in Tusculum, Tenn., with a current enrollment of 1,260

students.

The NCAA Bowling Championship is a sanctioned women's championship in college athletics. Unlike many NCAA sports, only one championship is held each season with teams from Division I, Division II, and Division III competing together.

The collegiate bowling season runs from late October through the end of March, and the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship is held in April.

Last year, Tusculum University finished eighth at the Intercollegiate Team Championship (ITC) sectional qualifier. Of their 20 wins, seven came against nationally ranked opposition.

Tusculum enters this year as the 11th-ranked team in the country ac-

cording to the preseason National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) Division II/III Poll.

Horton started bowling when she was 7 after watching her dad compete professionally.

"I thought the way he could make the ball move was so cool, and I wanted to do it too," she said.

Her highest scoring game is 279, her highest series mark is 690 with an average that most people only dream of (196).

She recently won a Tough Shots Tour tournament and came in second in the Pepsi Cola Tournament last year. Horton also qualified for the Junior Gold Championship all four years of high school and finished in the top one-third this past summer.

Horton plans to study business at Tusculum.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emilee Horton has rolled her passion for bowling into a scholarship at Tusculum University.

Race winner stripped, bumped to second

Saturday marked the first full weekly racing series at the Motor Mile Speedway since the ice out opener of early March.

Kyle Dudley was wrecked by Mike Looney in the second of the two twin 50 lap events for the series and sent to the pits.

It seemed to everyone that Dudley went a lap down at that point while making a quick pit stop to check for damage. It seemed that way to everyone except Dudley that is.

At the end of the race when Mike Looney pulled into Victory Lane to re-

ceive his trophy, Dudley pulled up in front of Looney's car in protest. Dudley got out and was visibly upset.

Many were concerned that a fight was about to break out. Dudley, presumably upset about the wreck, was also protest-

ing that he was not a lap down during the time he came into the pits and should be the winner of the race. He believed that he had passed the start finish line while in the pits and technically had not gone a lap down. It turned out he was right.

After the evening had concluded, NASCAR officials reviewed the videos multiple times and realized that Kyle Dudley was indeed not a lap down. Hours after the cars had been loaded and hauled out of Radford, Kyle Dudley got the phone call from the track telling him he was the winner of the race.

The adjustment moved Mike Looney to second, and Bryan Reedy to third. This also meant that Dudley was a double winner having won the first of the twin Late Model

races, followed by Looney and Cory Dunn finishing third.

Motor Mile Speedway also hosted drivers from the traveling class the "Southern Ground Pounders," a vintage class of late model cars from the 50's through the 70's. While the description of these cars suggests a car show where the cars are parked and admired by passersby, this class is anything but. Clocking speeds comparable to the Sportsman and Late Model classes.

The winner in their feature was the car number 12 driven by Bobby Griffin, son of regional racing legend Jimmy Griffin. Bobby was racing in honor of his dad and was visibly emotional when giving his victory speech.

Motor Mile's Sports-

man division also had twin races with two 30 lap features. The top 3 for both races, even after a field inversion following race one, were Daryn Cockram, Karl Budzevski and Kyle Barnes. With Budzevski winning the first race and Cockram winning the second.

Other winners included Bryce Blake in the Super Streets, Doodle Lang in the Mod-4's, Cary Thomason in U-cars and Blake Gordon for the Pure-4 division.

The weekly racing series returns on May 7 with "Rockin' and Racin'."

A full slate of racing for the Weekly Racing Series, and a concert included with the regular price of admission, with "Kiss Army," a KISS tribute band in full KISS makeup and theatrics. Green flag at 6.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOTOR MILE SPEEDWAY

Kyle Dudley was the winner of a controversial late model race Saturday at Motor Mile Speedway.

Hokies gain Boston College basketball transfer



Clara Ford is transferring from Boston College to Virginia Tech to play her final year of eligibility in basketball. PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech women's basketball head coach Kenny Brooks announced Thursday the signing of 6-foot-3 center Clara Ford, a graduate transfer who played for four years at Boston College and will utilize her fifth year of eligibility in Blacksburg.

"We are extremely excited to add Clara and her family to our team," Brooks said. "She will add much needed depth to our front court, and her maturity and leadership qualities will be an asset for our group."

In 2021-22 Ford played in 30 games, starting once. She averaged 2.2 points and 1.3 rebounds and shot 59% from the field.

For her Boston College career, she played in 91 games, scoring a career-high 19 points in 2020 against Syracuse. She also pulled down 16 rebounds vs. UMass, also in 2020.

A native of Vienna, Va., Ford played at George C. Marshall High School.

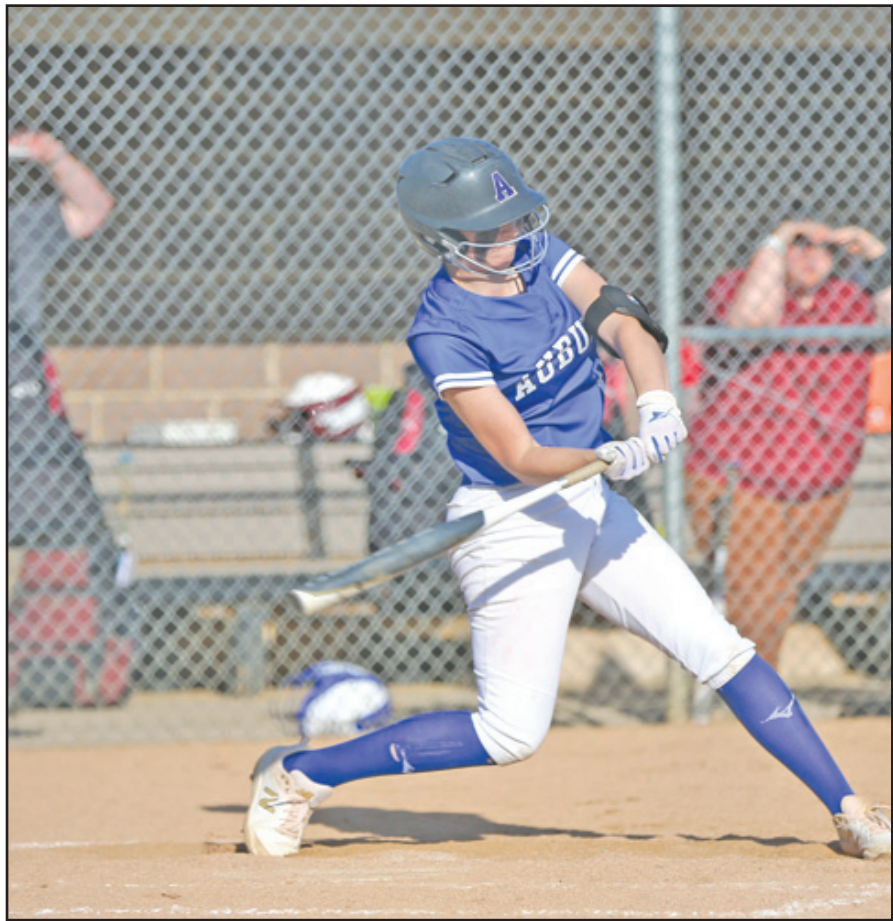
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Auburn softball defeats Galax 7-2



Auburn’s Avery Zuckerwar tags a Galax runner out at second in Friday’s 7-2 win in front of the home crowd.



Auburn’s Hannah Shepherd picks up a big hit as the Eagles rallied from a 2-0 deficit for the victory.



Auburn’s Emma Greenhalgh slides safely into third during the win over Galax.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Blacksburg defeats Christiansburg 5-0 in soccer Battle of Burgs



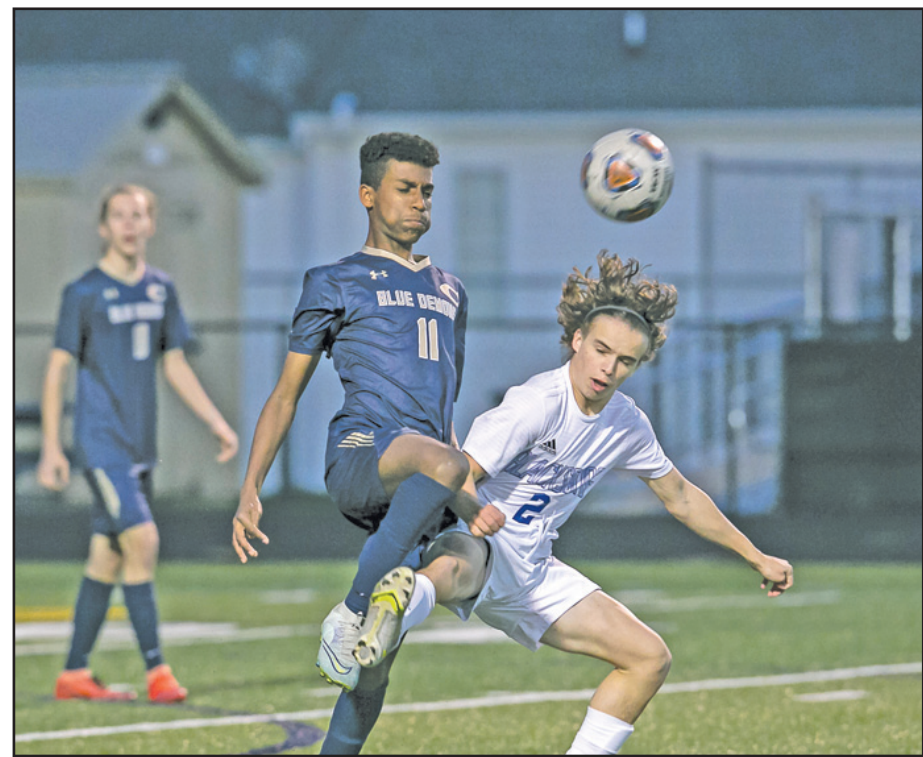
Hayden Yopp (background) and Kendell Britt stay on Sean DeLorenzo as he pushes toward a goal attempt with support from fellow forward Andrew Neeley. Blacksburg won the Battle of the Burgs 5-0 Wednesday.



Blacksburg teammates Sean DeLorenzo (left) and Andrew Neeley (right) work on setting up a play as Christiansburg’s Lain Abbott plays defense.



Sami Selfe (back) and Charles Lattimer (front) vie for ball possession in midfield.




PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

Riley Boyle (right) and Sami Selfe (left) simultaneously make ball contact.

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