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Why 92 percent of first-year students return to Virginia Tech

By Melody Warnick

Graduating seniors get all the pomp and circumstance in May. But toward the end of spring semester, a more under-the-radar milestone finally got its own celebration: completing freshman year.

At 92 percent, Virginia Tech's freshman retention rates are significantly higher than the national average, which hovers around 75 percent. But at any college, the first year presents a gauntlet of social, academic, financial, and mental health challenges. Successfully making it through is a win worthy of applause.

So Zack Underwood, director of University Studies, worked with the advising directors from three colleges to design First Year Finish, a retention event "to help students on the home stretch of their first year to stay motivated and continue to their second year at VT. We're saying, 'Wow, you've made it, you did it.'"

About 200 first-year students from University Studies and the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources and Environment, and Architecture, Arts,

and Design, attended the inaugural First Year Finish event in the atrium of Wallace Hall on April 26. Plied with free T-shirts and popcorn, they played games, painted, or enjoyed a moment with a Virginia Tech therapy dog.

Even the HokieBird made an appearance. "It was really cool that I finally, actually got to see the HokieBird," said attendee Levi Shoates.

For campus groups such as Academic Advising, Career and Professional Development, the Student Success Center, Global Education, and The Virginia Tech Recovery Community, First Year Finish was an opportunity to reinforce first-year students' sense of belonging at Virginia Tech.

"Many students have a more difficult transition in their first year than expected," said Dana McGuire, assistant director of academic advising for the College of Natural Resources and Environment. "Support and caring from folks who work with and interact with students in various capacities can make all the difference in whether a student decides to return to a college or leave."



PHOTO BY JASON JOHNSON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

The HokieBird made an appearance at the inaugural First Year Finish event in April to celebrate a big win for first-year students: making it through a year of college.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virginia wine contributes \$1.73 billion to economy

A new study finds the economic impact of Virginia wines to be an estimated \$1.73 billion.

"We're excited by the growing impact of Virginia wines and are proud to provide over 10,000 jobs and contribute almost \$200 million dollars in taxes to the state," said Kirk Wiles, Chairman of the Virginia Wine Board. "First and foremost, Virginia wine is an industry of people — business owners, farmers, wine lovers — and we're fortunate to be able to give back to the commonwealth through the local economy."

"The agriculture and tourism sectors are the biggest contributors to Virginia's economy, thanks in large part to industries like Virginia wine," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr. "I'm proud to represent and help support local, craft products as they remain a staple in the commonwealth — and in this case, both for the quality of the wines and the evident impact to our economy."

Underwater glove puts octopus's abilities on the hand of humans

By Alex Parrish

A team of researchers led by Virginia Tech Assistant Professor Michael Bartlett has developed an octopus-inspired glove capable of securely gripping objects underwater. Their research was selected for the July 13 cover of Science Advances.

Humans aren't naturally equipped to thrive in an underwater environment. We use tanks to breathe, neoprene suits to protect and warm our bodies, and goggles to see clearly. In such an environment, the human hand also is poorly equipped to hold onto things. Anyone who has tried to hold onto a wriggling fish will testify that underwater objects are difficult to grip with our land-dwelling fingers.

"There are critical times when this becomes a liability," said Bartlett. "Nature already has some great solutions, so our

team looked to the natural world for ideas. The octopus became an obvious choice for inspiration."

Rescue divers, underwater archaeologists, bridge engineers, and salvage crews all use their hands to extract people and objects from water. Human hands with less capability to hold slippery things must resort to using more force, and an iron grip can sometimes compromise those operations. When a delicate touch is required, it would be helpful to have hands made for water.

Those are the very appendages that Bartlett and his fellow researchers sought to build. His team in the Soft Materials and Structures Lab adapted biological solutions into new technologies made from soft materials and robotics.

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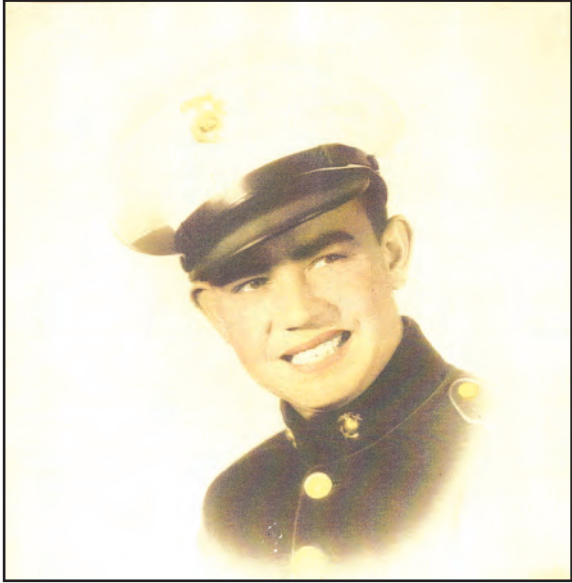
Marine accounted for from World War II

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced Thursday that Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Jack S. Brown, 22, of Virginia Beach, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 11, 2022.

His family only recently received their full briefing on his identification, which is why the announcement of his identification was delayed.

In July 1944, Brown was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, which was part of the invasion force of the island of Saipan in a larger effort to capture the Mariana Islands from Japan. Brown was reported killed in action on July 8, but his body was not able

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Jack S. Brown

Christiansburg Institute, University Libraries collaborate to preserve African American storytelling, history



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Christiansburg Institute now has the power to tell its rich, century-long story through its self-managed Christiansburg Institute Digital Archive thanks to a \$251,052 Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices grant from the Council on Library Information Resources.

University Libraries at Virginia Tech is collaborating with the institute on its grant-funded project, "Changing the Narrative: Modeling Equitable Stewardship of African American Storytelling and History," to digitize stories, photos, and documents of Christiansburg Industrial Institute, the first high school in Southwest Virginia to educate the formerly enslaved (1866-1966).

The grant funds will support digitization of 38.65 linear feet of Christiansburg Institute Museum and Archives' collections and two new institute staff positions to digitize and process materials on site at the Christiansburg Institute.

University Libraries has access to specific experience, funding, technologies, and bandwidth to create additional avenues of discovery for the collections. The materials will be freely available to anyone with an internet connection through the Christiansburg Institute Digital Archive and the University Libraries' Southwest Virginia Digital Archive.

"Christiansburg Institute's rich 100-year history of African American education and empowerment represents a succinct cultural tradition of learning and innovations expressed in rural Appalachian communities throughout the 19th and 20th centuries," said Chris Sanchez, executive director of the Christiansburg Institute, Inc. "This story is important because it is emblematic of the racial repression and injustices experienced by generations of African Americans, who nonetheless built institutions and communities that thrived and who called Americans of all races to a higher moral standard."

The unheard stories gleaned from 870 photographs, 60 slides, 15 diplomas, 48,000 typed pages, and 3,300 handwritten pages from the school's principals, teachers, and students are invaluable in spotlighting the Black Appalachian experience throughout the ages.

"These voices speak and bear witness to the ancestral traditions, intergenerational genius, and immense creativity manifested at Christiansburg Institute — building a mecca of African American education, culture, and life for centuries," said Sanchez. "We feel that the Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices grant

See **History**, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 16:

End of Summer reading ocean bash

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 10:30 p.m. It's time to celebrate the end of another fun summer reading program. The celebration will have all kinds of fun stations, including crafts, a water slide, cool refreshments, games, prizes, and face painting. The event is free.

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library from noon to 1 p.m. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and to socialize shelter cats. All ages are welcome. Email shodges@mfrl.org for more information.

Teen DND

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons for ages 11 to 17.

Tuesday, July 19:

Business seminar: Building business efficiency

At Long Way Brewing, 501 Second St.; 8:10 to 9:15 a.m. Presented by Robert Towle, the Founder and CEO of 636 Advisors, a Radford-based company. He has held many roles in both small and large, national and international organizations and government agencies. He has enjoyed helping both small and large businesses alike. Those attending will receive a copy of Towle's book, "Don't be Dumb," a leadership playbook to help readers be smarter, overcome obstacles, and rise rapidly. Register via email at radfordchamber@gmail.com.

Family board game night

At the Blacksburg Library at 6 p.m. Participants will enjoy an evening of board games. For all ages and skill levels with no experience necessary. Families are welcome. They may choose from a variety of games or bring their own to share.

Thursday, July 21:

Photography presentation

Experienced photographer Michele Borgarelli will discuss the topic of landscape photography at the July 21 meeting of the Radford Photo Club. The meeting is at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. It will be followed by an outing to a nearby park to practice landscape photography. The Radford Photo Club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Friday, July 22:

Enjoy the national forest

At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Join us as Ranger Beth Christensen gives a brief overview of the Eastern Divide Ranger District/George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and the Forest Service.

Saturday, July 23:

City of Radford concert series

Eighties band Cassette Rewind will be featured at a concert on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum, and Gallery. Gates open at 6 p.m.; the concert begins at 7 p.m. Concertgoers may bring a chair or a blanket. Food and beverages will be available for sale. The cost is \$5 per person. Children under 12 are free.

Adult yoga

At the Blacksburg Library at 3 p.m. Follow along with a video from Yoga with Adriene. Adults of all fitness levels and experience are welcome to participate in this judgment-free, no-stress even. Don't forget a yoga mat and comfortable clothes. Registration is recommended. Call or stop by the circulation desk to register.

ment-free, no-stress even. Don't forget a yoga mat and comfortable clothes. Registration is recommended. Call or stop by the circulation desk to register.

Music on the Lawn: Andy and Judy Daigle

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is the third show in the library's Music on the Lawn concert series. Concertgoers should bring lawn chairs and blankets. This free concert will go on rain or shine.

Seashell bath bursts - DIY

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to make a bath burst in a seashell mold. Registration is required for this free event. All supplies will be provided.

Eight Point Star

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 5 p.m. Eight Point Star features Mike Gangloff and Matt Peyto, as songwriters. Mike plays fiddle and banjo and an eight-string, Norwegian Hardanger-style fiddle. Matt plays guitar, dulcimer, and sometimes theremin. Isak Howell plays banjo, guitar, and harmonica. Tim Thornton plays bass, dulcimer, and sometimes guitar.

Sunday, July 24:

Free sustainable garden tour

Free tours of Blacksburg sustainable gardens featuring native plants, wildlife-friendly plantings, edible landscaping, and beauty will be hosted by the Sustainable Blacksburg nonprofit community organization on the fourth Sunday afternoons through September. Light refreshments will be served at these drop-in tours. The July 24 tour from 6 to 8 p.m. at Arlean Lambert's garden and the Hale Community Garden at 215 Maywood St. highlights edible landscaping and vegetable gardening. Lambert enjoys figs, strawberries, kiwis, nuts, greens, and other edibles, including edible flowers, at her north Blacksburg home.

Monday, July 25:

Talking about books

At the Blacksburg Library at 11 a.m. To be discussed is "All the Ways We Said Goodbye" by Beatriz Williams. Call (540) 552-8246 for more information or to reserve a copy.

Ongoing:

United Way Emergency Food Pantry in need

The United Way NRV Emergency Food Pantry supply is critically low. Anyone able to donate any pantry items is asked to please drop them off at the office at 111 West Main St. in Christiansburg.

Alexander Black House Farming Exhibit

Blacksburg Museum and Cultural Foundation announces Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now, an exhibit through Aug. 18, in the Alexander Black House main galleries, 204 Draper Road SW, Blacksburg. Admission is free; hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A reception open to the public will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibit explores pre-settler agriculture in Southwestern Virginia, Blacksburg-area farms in the 18th and 19th centuries, the birth of the Future Farmers of America at Virginia Tech in the early 20th century, and brings agriculture and farming to the present day local farmers' market and Blacksburg's neighborhood gardens. The exhibit will include agricultural tools from the late-19th and early-20th century, adapted farm tools for farmers with disabilities, Future Farmers of America and Virginia historical items, maps, photos, and interviews. For more information, contact Janean Williams, Communications & Visitor Services Manager at 540-443-1602 or jlwilliams@blacksburghistory.org or visit blacksburgmuseum.org.

Upward Bound awarded \$5.7 million to support low-income, first-gen students

By Diane Deffenbaugh

Potential first-generation students from across Southwest Virginia are seeing a world of new possibilities through Virginia Tech's Upward Bound program.

When LaTayja Bell enrolled in the program's six-week summer session, the rising junior at William Fleming High School in Roanoke had plans to follow in her family's footsteps and join the military after high school.

"I really did it for the college experience, to see if I wanted to change my mind and go to college instead of the military. And I think I might. I like the routines and that you get to really be you and grow into an adult," Bell said.

Upward Bound is part of the university's TRIO Programs, part of Outreach and International Affairs. The programs have been supporting low-income, first-generation students in the region for more than 50 years. The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Virginia Tech \$5.7 million to continue its three Upward Bound programs for another five years.

TRIO Programs will receive about \$1.1 million each year to serve more than 200 students through programs in Salem and Roanoke City and a regional program for seven other school divisions in Southwest Virginia.

To qualify, students must be first-generation students, meet income-eligibility requirements, or be considered at high risk of academic failure.

Some students need to improve their grades or take more rigorous courses to be considered for college admission. Tutoring and other academic

resources give them the extra boost they need. Others may be honors students who need to gain confidence through financial aid workshops, college tours, and cultural field trips.

"It's difficult for many students to know what to do and when to do it," TRIO Programs Director Frances Clark said. "Upward Bound offers an intensive program that helps them gain access to higher education."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 86 percent of Upward Bound participants enroll in postsecondary institutions immediately following graduation.

Clark said, "The intent of our staff is to help students make choices that will give them options. For example, if you don't take enough foreign language courses you aren't going to be able to get into some colleges. Same thing with math. You have to have enough math — and the right math. We give them that advice and support so they can be successful."

Upward Bound's unique summer residency program gives students a taste of college life and, for many, the new experience of living away from home.

"Some students are really excited, really adventurous, and it's not much of an issue," Clark said. "But some students really struggle with that transition of being away from friends and family. It's better to have that experience before leaving for college, when there's much more on the line."

Students take classes aligned with a college preparatory curriculum and designed to strengthen their academic skills. Classes are taught by faculty members, graduate students, and high school teachers.



PHOTO BY DIANE DEFFENBAUGH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

High school students LaTayja Bell (from left), D'naya Paschal, Cameron Rinker, and Landon Routt listen to instructions from Spanish teacher Reina LaForce about how to craft their own Guatemalan worry doll during a class in Lavery Hall.

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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN POLLING PLACE FOR THE WEST PRECINCT

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 24.2-306 and 24.2-129, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on July 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 an ordinance to amend Section 27-32 of the Radford City Code to change the polling place for the West Precinct from Carter Street United Methodist Church, 1223 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia 24141 to Compassion Church, 1820 2nd Street, Radford,

Legals - City of Radford

Virginia 24141. Copies of the proposed ordinance, a map of the West Precinct's boundaries, and a description of the polling place change may be obtained or inspected by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (540) 731-3603.

Legals - City of Radford

SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION
It appearing to the Court that a report of the accounts of Penna Rogers, Executor of the Estate of Margaret B. Plymire, deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate, have been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that 6 months have elapsed since the qualification of the Executor, on motion of the Executor it is ordered that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the estate do show cause, if any they can, at 8:45 a.m. on August 5, 2022, before this Court at the Radford Circuit Court against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Margaret B. Plymire, deceased, to the beneficiaries, without requiring refunding bonds.

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Virginia sweet corn flourishing despite blistering heat



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Despite persistent hot, dry weather, Virginia farmers have used irrigation to remain optimistic about their corn harvest.

Sweet corn season is here, and despite persistent dry, hot weather, Virginia farmers are expecting a plentiful harvest.

“For a lot of people, there’s nothing better than fresh-picked sweet corn,” said Mike Cullipher, a Virginia Beach produce farmer.

“Whether you’re making it for a meal in the house or you’re having a cookout, it’s really hard to beat,” added Cullipher, who also serves on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Specialty Crops Advisory Committee. “I think sweet corn also symbolizes summer because it’s really the only time it’s available.”

Primarily growing Kickoff, Nirvana, and Rosie bicolor sweet corn varieties, he said his crop at Cullipher Farm largely is in good condition.

However, his farm had experienced unseasonably cool weather in May and excessive heat in June, causing him to lose some of his first planting. Despite the setback—and dry conditions he’s had to mitigate with irrigation—Cullipher said he’s still in good shape to harvest a quality crop.

“It’s going to be hit-and-miss whether we have enough to get through the (Fourth of July). But after that, we should be smooth sailing right on through October.”

Kenneth Crews, who grows sugar-enhanced Incredible sweet corn at Crews Family Orchard in Pittsylvania County, also said he’s had to irrigate to alleviate heat stress on his crop.

Dry conditions aside, Crews noted his crop is “looking really good,” and

anticipates his season continuing well into October.

Mike Parrish, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Dinwiddie County, said farmers in the area have contended with drought for most of the growing season.

According to National Agricultural Statistics Service crop reports for Virginia, the Richmond region was operating at a 3-inch rainfall deficit from normal following the week of June 19. Heavy rainfall during the week ending June 26 decreased the deficit to 1.9 inches.

“The corn looks pretty good for those farmers who’ve been able to irrigate,” Parrish said. “The early plantings suffered the most for those who couldn’t irrigate, but there will be corn coming.”

Parrish and Crews both agreed their respective areas could use about an inch of rain per week for the rest of the summer to help produce high-quality sweet corn.

For corn that’s already available at farmers markets and farm stands, Cullipher offered some advice to help shoppers find quality ears.

He said buyers should look for a husk that’s bright green and tightly wrapped around the cob, and should feel through the husk to be sure the cob has filled out from top to bottom.

Cullipher also recommended eating fresh corn within a few days, otherwise the sugar content in sweet corn can begin to convert to starch.

Comfort your canine with these expert summertime tips

By Jordan Fifer

Summer is a great season to have fun with your dog, but as with humans, it’s important to keep some safety and comfort tips in mind when planning your pal’s day.

Mark Freeman, a veterinarian and clinical assistant professor of community practice, offers this expert advice:

High temperatures

Take your pup for walks in the coolest hours of the day. Make sure to have shaded access to water when outside and available water when returning indoors.

Never leave an animal — or person! — in a hot car. Period. Even a few minutes can be deadly.

Just like you, dogs have more trouble sweating — and thus get hotter — when it’s humid.

“One of the biggest things that most owners don’t understand is that it’s not just heat; you have heat and humidity,” Freeman said. Pay close attention to smaller dogs with shorter snouts, which typically can’t manage humidity as well because their heat escape mecha-

nism through panting is less efficient.

Monitor for signs of heat exhaustion, which include:

— Suddenly lethargic or weak

— Diarrhea and/or vomiting

— Excessive panting

— Change in gum color (from pink to dark red or purple)

— Seizures or sudden collapse

If your dog has any of these symptoms, immediately move them under shade or indoors and offer cool water. Call your veterinarian; they may recommend further measures.

Storms and fireworks

As many as a third of all dogs suffer from noise anxiety connected to suddenness of the sound.

“When they are in a situation where they are being bombarded with noises that are causing a tremendous amount of stress for them, they are looking for any source of security, and that includes a ‘safe’ hiding place,” said Freeman.

There are a number of different techniques that can be utilized for

animals that have phobias associated with loud noises. “A general rule is to approach any phobia through behavior modification therapy, if that’s an option; desensitizing animals to the loud noises so they pretty much ignore them.”

Medications such as sedatives can be effective in preventing dogs from experiencing anxiety during stressful events such as fireworks and lengthy storms with lightning and thunder. Sileo is a sedative available in an oral gel that is absorbed through the gum tissue, and produces an effect within 30-60 minutes. “It has been very effective for reducing anxiety in dogs with noise phobias.”

About Freeman

Mark Freeman is a veterinarian and assistant professor of community practice in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. His research interests include animal behavior and molecular biology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Veterinarian and professor Mark Freeman has some tips for helping dogs avoid problems with the summertime heat.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Blacksburg’s Robert Young named to dean’s list at Wofford

Blacksburg’s Robert Davis Young has been named to the spring 2022 Dean’s List at Wofford College.

To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must be enrolled for at least 12 semester hours of graded courses and attain a semester grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Established in 1854, Wofford College is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg, S.C. It offers 27 major fields of study to a student body of 1,775 undergraduates. Wofford is recognized consistently as a “best value” and for its commitment to student success and accessibility for low- and middle-income students. The college community has 12 sororities and fraternities as well as 19 NCAA Division I athletics teams.

Blacksburg’s Brian Bush named to Western Carolina’s chancellor’s list

Brian Bush of Blacksburg has been named to the Spring 2022 Chancellor’s List at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. To qualify for the Chancellor’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.8 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours.

As the westernmost institution in the University of North Carolina System, WCU attracts students from around the globe for its nationally ranked programs, affordability through NC Promise and exceptional student support. WCU offers residential, hybrid, and on-line programs for undergraduate and graduate degrees at its main campus in Cullowhee, in Asheville located at Biltmore Park, and wherever students are through distance learning.

Blacksburg’s Kaimai Shi makes dean’s list at Georgia Tech

Kaimai Shi of Blacksburg made the dean’s list for the Spring 2022 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is a top 10 public research university developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its nearly 44,000 students, representing 50 states and 149 countries, study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

Allen Briggs of Blacksburg named to

Rochester dean’s list

Allen Briggs of Blacksburg was named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the Spring 2022 semester. Briggs is in the game design and development program.

Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for the dean’s list if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete,” “D,” or “F”; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,700 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

Radford’s Nathan Cox receives degree from Washington and Lee University

Nathan Thomas Cox of Radford received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington and Lee University on May 26.

Commencement ceremonies for 444 Washington and Lee seniors were held on the university’s historic Front Lawn. Cox majored in politics.

Washington and Lee University, the nation’s ninth oldest institution of higher education, is among the nation’s premier liberal arts colleges and universities.

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Stay safe, prepared during the summer storm season

Hurricanes may get the most attention in the headlines, but sporadic summer storms can be just as devastating. Thunderstorms are more frequent and directly impact more people and homes in the U.S. than hurricanes. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an estimated 100,000 thunderstorms occur in the U.S. each year. And with thunderstorms come drenching rains, flooding, high winds, lightning and hail and the potential for billions in damages. According to the Insurance Insti-

tute for Business & Home Safety, approximately 3,000 hailstorms occur each year, causing insurance losses averaging \$1.6 billion. Hail can occur in any strong thunderstorm, along with lightning, which is responsible for more than \$1 billion in losses. That's why it's important to prepare your home in advance to mitigate damage. The IBHS's thunderstorm preparation guide recommends homeowners install a home lightning surge protector to save electrical equipment from power surges. To protect against tree damage, ho-

meowners should remove overhanging branches near the home and remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Make sure the roof is in good shape by having it inspected. The roof should be securely fastened to the roof sheathing, and any damaged shingles should be replaced. Seal the roof deck to minimize water getting into the attic in case the roof blows off. Installing protective screens around outdoor equipment like heating, ventilating and air conditioning units can help reduce costly hail damage. Additionally, clean and

maintain gutters and downspouts to minimize the risk of water damage, and make sure downspouts divert water away from the house's foundation. Water also can enter the home through small openings, so it's important to inspect and caulk any cracks or gaps around windows, doors, electrical boxes, vents, pipes and exterior walls. Before a storm, move and secure outdoor items like patio furniture, planters, grills, garbage cans and toys in a garage or basement so they don't become dangerous flying debris.

History

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represents a powerful opportunity to amplify the many unheard voices and stories throughout the Christiansburg Institute's century of life.” “This history has been largely inaccessible for the past 50 years,” said Christiansburg Institute (C.I.) Archivist Jenny Nehrt. “Digitizing Christiansburg Institute’s archives is also important because many of the African Americans who either attended C.I. or had family members attend C.I. do not live in the New River Valley anymore. For a variety of

economic and social reasons, there is a network of C.I. alumni and descendants across the country. And as many of us know, getting to Southwest Virginia can sometimes be a challenge. I hope the Christiansburg Institute Digital Archive will reunite families with their material history, regardless of their distance. “We mindfully built a grant proposal that prioritized the autonomy of C.I. to tell its story and preserve its material history while also furthering the work of the University Libraries’ Southwest Virginia Digital Archive,” said Nehrt. Sanchez said this community-based partnership allows subject-area experts within the community to be more involved in preserving, organizing, and presenting past experiences without risk of misinterpretations or miscategorizations. “Christiansburg Institute partnering with the University Libraries represents a much-needed model of equitable collaboration between university institutions and grassroots non-governmental organizations that

engages historical research, analysis and interpretation, and preservation from a community-based perspective and grassroots methodology,” said Sanchez. University Libraries’ Digital Preservation Coordinator Alex Kinnaman said this project fits into Virginia Tech’s land-grant mission. “We have an obligation to support our community in any way we can, including supporting local community collections through our funding and expertise without removing autonomy and ownership from the original owners,” said Kinnaman. Kinnaman said she hopes this collaboration is the first of many community partnerships. “I hope that this project encourages partnerships with other cultural heritage organizations in a way that is mindful of past experiences, meets their needs and expectations, and enriches the University Libraries’ collections to be more diverse and representative of the region in which we live and work.”

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Marine

from page 1

to be recovered. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Service was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in the Pacific Theater. They searched for and disinterred remains on Saipan, but could not identify any as Brown. He was declared non-recoverable in November 1950. Remains designated as Unknown X-30 2nd Marine Division Cemetery Saipan were recovered from Saipan and interred in the Fort William McKinley Cemetery, now the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in the Philippines. After thorough historical research, it was

determined that X-30 could likely be identified. Unknown X-30 was disinterred in March 2021 and sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for analysis. To identify Brown's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner

System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis. Brown's name is recorded in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for. Brown will be buried Aug. 13, 2022, in Norfolk.

Glove

from page 1

Grabbing inspiration from powerful adhesion The octopus is one of the most unique creatures on the planet, equipped with eight long arms that can take hold of myriad things in an aquatic environment. In a beautiful integration of practical tools and intelligence, these arms are covered with suckers controlled by the sea animal's muscular and nervous systems. Each sucker, shaped like the end of a plunger, contributes a powerful snatching ability. After the sucker's

wide outer rim makes a seal with an object, muscles contract and relax the cupped area behind the rim to add and release pressure. When many of the suckers are engaged, it creates a strong adhesive bond that is difficult to escape. “When we look at the octopus, the adhesive certainly stands out, quickly activating and releasing adhesion on demand,” said Bartlett. “What is just as interesting, though, is that the octopus controls over 2,000 suckers across eight arms by processing information from diverse

chemical and mechanical sensors. The octopus is really bringing together adhesion tunability, sensing, and control to manipulate underwater objects.” To design their glove, the researchers focused on re-imagining the suckers: compliant, rubber stalks capped with soft, actuated membranes. The design was created to perform the same function as the sucker of an octopus — activating a reliable attachment to objects with light pressure, ideal for adhering to both flat and curved surfaces.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
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51					52	53	54				55			56
			58							59				
60	61							62	63				64	
65							66						67	
68							69						70	

- CLUES ACROSS

1. Owns

4. Beef intestine

9. Expression of contempt

14. Expression of horror

15. Famed architecture couple

16. Escape

17. "The Raven" author

18. Chiefs' tight end

20. Removes

22. Pesto dish

23. One who roots against

24. Type of writer

28. Old woman

29. Early multimedia

30. This (Spanish)

31. Part of a play

33. Elephant's name

37. Home of the Flyers

38. Builder's trough

39. Tell

41. Google certification
42. Electric current

43. Belonging to them

44. Nostrils

46. Arranges

49. Commercial

50. Skywalker's mentor

51. Single-reed instrument

55. Voodoo

58. World of Warcraft character

59. Paddling

60. Most agreeable

64. Chafed

65. A way to analyze

66. Remove

67. Metal-bearing mineral

68. Remains as is

69. Large predatory seabirds

70. The Science Guy

2. The marketplace in ancient Greece

3. Covered the sword

4. Cleanser

5. Body parts

6. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

7. Mega-electronvolt

8. One from Asia

9. A superior grade of black tea

10. Thin

11. Circles of light around the head

12. General's assistant (abbr.)

13. Tiny

19. Evildoing

21. Connery, 007

24. British sword

25. Type of cyst

26. Musical composition

27. Advises

31. Herring-like fish

32. Chocolate powder

34. Somalian district El

35. Indicates position

36. Refurbishes

40. Exclamation of surprise

41. Football field

45. Hilly region in India near China

47. Come to an end

48. Most mad

52. Sheets of glass

53. Department of Housing and Urban Development

54. Stares lecherously

56. Consisting of a single element or component

57. Monetary unit of Zambia

59. Bones (Latin)

60. Frames-per-second

61. Tell on

62. Gall

63. Cologne

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OBITUARIES

Collier, Blanche Marshall Walker

Blanche Marshall Walker Collier, nephew, Dale Phillips. 97, of Radford, passed away Monday, July 11, 2022.

She was born Nov. 9, 1924, in Indian Valley, the daughter of the late Griffie H. and Lillie C. Marshall.

She was a longtime member of the Radford Worship Center where she served as President of the Women's Ministry and as the Sunday school treasurer. She was also a member of the past Inglewood Garden Club and volunteered at the Radford Clothing Bank. She retired from T. C. Brittan Co. in Decatur, Ga., and B&J Construction in Blacksburg where she was the payroll clerk for 20 years.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Lawrence E. Walker and James R. Collier; a daughter and son-in-law, Anita W. and Harless L. Bain; a sister and brother-in-law, Agnes and Cobern Phillips; and a



Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Brenda Walker; granddaughter Renee Walker; great-grandson Dakota Young; and many nieces and nephews including a special nephew, Phillip Owens; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends from 1 until 2 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services began at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Chris Blackburn officiating. Interment followed in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Joy Ranch, PO Box 727, Hillsville, VA 24343 or at www.joyranch.org.

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

Croy, Sue Lucas

Sue Lucas Croy, 89, of United Methodist Church, the family Christiansburg, passed away peacefully on Mon., July 11, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Waskey and Margaret Shelton Lucas; her daughter, Becky; her husband, Dean; her brother, Charlie Lucas; and her son-in-law, Joey Martin.

Left to cherish her many memories are her daughter, Kathy Croy Martin; her grandson, Lucas Dean Martin; nieces Elly Lucas LeMaster, Eileen Lucas Spinella, Linda Lucas Spear, Carolyn Croy, Sandra Gearheart Cruise, Sharon Gearheart Graham, Donita Croy Price, and Cindy Croy Shrader; and a nephew, Chris Croy.

A graveside service was held Friday, July 15, at Sunset Cemetery in Christiansburg with Pastor Mike Derflinger presiding.

As a lifelong member of St. Paul



asks that in lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Sue's memory to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 West Main St., Christiansburg VA 24073 or to The Alzheimer's Association, <https://www.alz.org>.

Kathy and Lucas would like to acknowledge and express their heartfelt gratitude to Sue's lifelong angels on earth: Peggy Chafin, Marietta Hanks and Lois Jean and Marvin Jones. The family would also like to send a special thank-you to the staff at Highland Ridge Rehab and Intrepid Hospice for their kindness, patience, and compassionate care of Sue.

Arrangements are being handled by McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive S.W., Blacksburg.

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC
St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar. Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook
St. Philip's Anglican Church, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.
St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST
First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave., 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We 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!"

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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Honor in Work

Read Proverbs 5:1 through 8:36

In past generations, parents taught their children the value of hard work and faithfulness to their families. People had at least one job. When a person lost a job, he worked very hard to get a new one as soon as possible. He knew hard work honored his family and God.

Maybe times and values have changed, but today it seems like more and more young adults would rather not work at all. An entire generation of young people have been lured away by different types of leisure activities. Scripture warns against neglecting one's work:

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man (Proverbs6:10–11).

God created people to work hard with the giftedness and talents He gave us. Like no other generation in the world, we have access to education and job training to prepare us for our work. It is good for parents to provide for the needs of their family through the work God has provided.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for your talents and abilities and for the work He has placed before you.

Quicklook: Proverbs 6:6–11

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

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.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at www.oslcburg.org and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oslchristiansburg> to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also,

partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened open the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmhc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Christian Growth Center, 1850 Electric 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

from page 5

Harper, Faye D.

Faye D. Harper, of Blacksburg, completed later in life at Radford University. Always the caregiver, she worked in cardiac nursing at Montgomery Regional Hospital and at the Cardiac Therapy and Intervention Center at Virginia Tech. She enjoyed the change of pace that being a school nurse brought at the end of her career.

Left to cherish her memory are her brother, The Rev. Larry Handwerk (Vicki); her children, Heidi Harper Christopher, Thomas Harper (Marisa), Rebecca Harper Randolph (Chad) and Catherine Harper Deml (Jorey); and her grandchildren, Matthew Christopher, Haley Harper, Jack Harper, Jake Randolph, Ella Randolph, and Mason Deml.

Faye graduated from Virginia Intermont as a registered nurse and met the love of her life, Wilson, at WVU while pursuing her bachelor's degree, which she proudly



spending time with her family especially in Hilton Head, SC, where she and Wilson watched their children and grandchildren grow up.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Blacksburg Country Club. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association or to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

Jordan, Kay Irene Kirkpatrick

Kay Irene Kirkpatrick Jordan, 75, of Littleton, Colo.; her son and daughter-in-law, Mead and Jeana Jordan of Brookline, N.H.; grandchildren Ellie and Sophia Jordan; sister Linda Weaver (Walt) of Charlottesville; brother Bill Kirkpatrick (Kathy) of Vancouver, Wash.; and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, (600 Prices Fork Road). The Rev. Monica Weber will officiate. The service will be live-streamed at www.lmlc.org and recorded for those unable to attend. A simple reception will be held outdoors after the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Women's Resource Center in Radford, (www.wrcnr.org) or to Luther Memorial's Social Ministry Outreach (in Kay Jordan's name).

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



Kanode, Betty Lamb

Betty Lamb Kanode, 65, of Vaught, all of Blacksburg; and sister Snookie Lamb Caldwell (Doug) of Lexington.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Sarah Hill officiating. Interment followed at Sunset Cemetery. The family received friends on Wednesday prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home.

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



Lemmon, Rebecca Campbell

Rebecca Campbell Lemmon, 98, of Salem, passed away Sunday, July 10, 2022 at Snyder Nursing Home. She was a longtime member of Fairlawn Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Angie Campbell; her husband, Robert Harvey Lemmon; sons Andrew Harvey Lemmon and Fil Lemmon; a sister, Geneva Waters; and a brother, Luke Campbell.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Carlyle and Steve Richardson of Salem; daughter-in-law Nina Lemmon; sister Mary Stokes; grandchildren Donnie,

Jonathan, Travis, Raven and Laura; six great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Snyder Nursing Home for all the gentle and loving care given during her stay with them.

The family received friends on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at the Highland Memory Gardens Mausoleum in Dublin. Funeral services followed with Pastor Roger Counts officiating.

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

HOME AND COUNTRY

By Slim Randles

Doc didn't expect any patients before 10 o'clock this morning, so he was up and coffee'd and gone by 6:30. Lewis Creek. The Lunker's hole on Lewis Creek.

The Lunker is a huge rainbow trout that everyone knows about and no one has caught. So far he has resisted flies, worms, salmon eggs, spinners, and even an imitation mouse that Dud tossed in there one time just to see if the Lunker had a bass's appetite.

Fish aren't really all that bright, but the Lunker seems to deserve membership in Fish Mensa. No matter how fine the leader a guy used, it didn't fool him. Trying to figure out what to use and how to use it has fueled arguments for several years now.

But Doc thinks he has it figured out now. He has a super-fine tippet on his fly line, and he used his magnifying glasses to tie a midge that is so small that if he dropped it, it would be gone forever. Doc realizes that with that fine a line, he stands a good chance of having the Lunker simply snap it off and swim

away. But that would be all right with Doc if the fish just came and took that fly because no one else had come that close to catching him yet.

And there's that wonderful new fly rod that Doc made himself from a Sage blank he bought himself at Christmas. With that rod, he believes, he should be able to feel a fish breathe in that creek.

He was in the Mule Barn before 9 a.m., holding court at the philosophy counter, and told the boys what happened.

"The Lunker came up from under that big rock ledge, you know?" Doc said. "And he came within ... maybe four inches of my fly as it went by."

"Four inches!" said Dud. "Hey, Doc, can you show me the pattern you tied for that?"

"Sure thing, Dud," said Doc, grinning.

Sometimes there can be great glory in failure.

Pick up "Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland" www.lpdpress.com.

WalletHub: Virginia is state with 8th-least at-risk youth

With 12.6% of young Americans neither working nor in school, exposing them to greater risk of poverty and violence, the personal finance website WalletHub Thursday released its report on 2022's States with the Most At-Risk Youth.

The rankings were good for the commonwealth as Virginia wound up as the state with the eighth-least at-risk young people.

According to WalletHub, 12.6% of individuals nationwide between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor attending school. Others suffer from poor health conditions that hinder their ability to develop physically or socially.

Such issues not only affect young people later in life, the website notes, but they also prove harmful to society as a whole. For instance, at least 70% of young adults today are ineligible to join the U.S. military because they fail academic, moral, or health qualifications. In addition, research shows

that when youth grow up in environments with economic problems and a lack of role models, they are more at risk for poverty, early pregnancy, and violence, especially in adulthood. The environment is even more difficult for these young Americans in 2022 with soaring inflation and other economic difficulties.

To determine where young Americans are not faring as well as others in their age group, especially in a year made extremely stressful by inflation and the continued presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 16 key indicators of youth risk. The data set ranges from the share of disconnected youth to the labor force participation rate among youth to the youth poverty rate.

The rankings for Virginia for some key indicators of youth risk (with the higher numbers indicating the best conditions) included percent of disconnected youth (41); percent of youth without a high school diploma (43); percent of overweight and obese youth (22); percent of youth drug users (44); youth labor force participation rate (33); youth poverty rate (40), percent of homeless youth (49); and share of population aged 12 and older fully vaccinated (41).

According to WalletHub, the ten places with the worst conditions for their young people are 1) Louisiana 2) Mississippi 3) Alabama 4) West Virginia 5) Wyoming 6) Arkansas 7) South Carolina 8) Oklahoma 9) Kentucky 10) District of Columbia.

WalletHub ranked the following states as the places with the most favorable situations for their youth: 42) Minnesota 43) Hawaii 44) Virginia 45) Vermont 46) Rhode Island 47) Maryland 48) New Jersey 49) New Hampshire 50) Connecticut 51) Massachusetts.

VDOT 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. New information is noted by "NEW" and updates are noted when a current project has had an update added to the listing. 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 – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. 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 98 to 109. 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.

ROUTE 615 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 615 (Pilot Road) is undergoing a culvert replacement located at the intersection of Pilot Road and Old Pike Road, across from the Pilot Post Office. Lane closures on Route 615 maintained by utilizing temporary traffic signals will be in place through August 2022. Flagging operations may be in place. Route 615 will be limited to one 10-foot lane. Expected completion is October 2022.

ROUTE 641 CULVERT REPLACEMENT – Route 641 (Way-side Drive) is closed for a culvert replacement over Spring Branch. Drivers should watch for signage. The road will reopen on July 22 at 5 p.m., weather permitting.

ROUTE 114 TURN LANE CONSTRUCTION - Road improvements on Route 114 (Peppers Ferry Road) for the construction of a new entrance to Belview Elementary School have begun. Motorists should expect daily lane closures controlled by flag-

See VDOT, page 8

Send community
news and photos to
communitynews@ourvalley.org

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg High School’s Jake Albert wins national golf tournament

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

15-year-old Blacksburg High School golfer Jake Albert is a national champion after winning this week’s high school golf national invitational at Pinehurst, N.C. Albert’s 10-under for the three-day, 54-hole event was the lowest score in the tournament’s history. He finished the event with 16 pars. Benjamin Siriboury of Maryland finished 8-under, two strokes back of Albert. The invitation-only tournament field featured more than 330 of the top high

school boys’ golfers from across the country. They had each won their respective state championships as a team or as individuals. Individual and team national championships were crowned following the stroke-play event, the fourth straight year for the tournament. Competition rounds took place on Pinehurst’s No. 5, No. 6, and No. 7 courses. In team competition, Blacksburg finished in eighth place overall. The team of Pierce Campbell, Sean Ruan, David Zhang, and Albert shot a combined 309 for the tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE ALBERT
Jake Albert of Blacksburg brought home the national championship trophy from Wednesday’s boys high school golf national invitational at Pinehurst, N.C.

State SID’s name Cole Beck as men’s track athlete of year

On Tuesday the Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) announced the All-State University Division Outdoor Track & Field teams with 22 Hokies earning recognition. Former Blacksburg High sprinter Cole Beck and Kahleje “KJ” Tillmon took home Men’s Track Athlete of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards respectively for their efforts this season. On the men’s side Virginia Tech took home nine first-team honors and four second-team honors, led by Beck and Tillmon, as the women’s team picked up seven first-team honors and two second-team nods. Beck earned Men’s Track MVP honors at the ACC

Championships, anchoring the title-winning 4x100m relay team and taking second in both the 100m and the 200m. Tillmon earned Men’s Rookie of the Year honors as awards for his outstanding freshman year continue to accumulate. The freshman from Tucker, Ga., also took home the ACC Men’s Co-Freshman of the Year award as his first year with the Hokies saw the sprinter win the ACC 200m title, set the Virginia Tech school record in the event, and run the leadoff leg on the title-winning 4x100m relay team. Several Hokies have earned multiple appearances on the All-State teams in their careers, most notably

Rachel Baxter who earned inclusion on her fifth All-State team. Baxter finished her career at Virginia Tech with the rare distinction of appearing on every VaSID All-State team since its inception in 2020. Five other Tech athletes have appeared on at least three teams: Beck, Chauncey Chambers, and Essence Henderson (four), and Antonio Lopez Segura and Sara Killinen (three). VaSID’s All-State teams are divided by event group with three sprints, two mid-distance, two distance, four jumps (including pole vault), four throws, one multi, two hurdles, and one 4x100m and 4x400m relay on both the first and second teams.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS
Blacksburg native Cole Beck had an outstanding year on the track for Virginia Tech, and this week, he was recognized by Virginia Sports Information Directors as the Men’s Track Athlete of the Year.

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CHS, BHS basketball schedules

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Christiansburg and Blacksburg high schools have released their upcoming boys’ and girls’ basketball schedule with a few surprises for out-of-district opponents for this year. The Christiansburg girls will face Staunton

River, Auburn, William Byrd, Abingdon, Northside and Radford (twice, Dec. 7 and Jan. 27). The boys’ squad will face out-of-district opponents: Staunton River, Auburn, James River (twice), William Byrd (twice), Glenvar (twice) and perennial Radford on December 7 and January 26.

The Blacksburg boys’ squad has a schedule that includes Lord Botetourt, Auburn, Carroll County, Glenvar and George Wythe. On the girls’ side of the court, out-of-district opponents for Blacksburg include: Northside, Lord Botetourt, Carroll County, Glenvar and two against George Wythe.

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CLASS OF 2022
INDUCTEES

PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

Virginia Tech’s new Hall of Fame class

The Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame continues to grow in prestige and tradition as a pair of NCAA champions and two Super Bowl champions, along with multiple ACC title holders were selected as part of the seven-member 2022 class.

To be inducted on Nov. 4 in a ceremony at The Inn at Virginia Tech, followed by a recognition ceremony at halftime of the Georgia Tech football game as the Hall of Fame Class of 2022 are Bruce Arians, a former Virginia Tech quarterback (1971-74) with over eight years of head coaching experience in the NFL. In 2021, he lifted the Lombardi Trophy with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Kam Chancellor, a two-time ACC champion who

recorded 208 total tackles in his Virginia Tech career. Chancellor went on to be a Super Bowl champion and two-time All-Pro player.

Mike Gentry, a staple in the growth of Virginia Tech football as the strength and conditioning coach. The 29-year servant of the athletics department became a member of the USA Strength and Conditioning Coach Hall of Fame in 2010.

Dorotea Habazin, a three-time All-American who was the second woman to ever win a national championship at Virginia Tech. Habazin claimed four ACC titles in her career, including three in the hammer throw and one in the weight throw.

Vince Hall, a four-year starter who holds the Vir-

ginia Tech record for consecutive games started (44). Hall was the 2006 recipient of the Dudley Award, which recognizes the top college football player in Virginia.

Marcel Lomnický, one of the most accomplished Virginia Tech athletes ever with two national championships and three appearances in the Olympics. Lomnický became the third Hokie to win multiple NCAA titles in 2012 with his weight throw championship.

Sara Smith, a six-time ACC champion who earned All-American honors in 2007. Smith was also named the 2008 ACC Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

VDOT

from page 6

ging forces. Work is expected to last until August 2022.

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

ROUTE 635 (GOODWIN AVENUE) CLOSURE – As part of the ongoing I-81 project from exit 137 to 141, Route 635 (Goodwin Avenue) is

closed for approximately 30 days for reconstruction to accommodate the widening of the interstate. Drivers will need to seek alternate routes as traffic will not be able to pass underneath the interstate during this time.

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

I-81 TROUTVILLE REST AREA CLOSURE
- The Troutville Rest Area located on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 158 in Botetourt County is currently closed until Sept. 2, 2022. Signage indicating the closure has been posted in the rest area. During the closure, a temporary concrete barrier wall will be installed in front of the facility. The rest area facility, ramps and parking lot will be closed to the public. This project will extend the ramp into the rest area by 500 feet and the ramp out of the rest area by 2,100 feet. It will also include expanding the truck parking area at the facility by about 10-13 spaces. Work is expected to be completed in early fall 2022.

REST AREA OPTIONS: While the Troutville Rest Area is closed, southbound I-81 drivers can use the Fairfield Rest Area at mile marker 195 in Rockbridge County or the Radford Rest Area at mile marker 108 in Montgomery County. In addition, the Troutville Weigh Station, located on southbound I-81 at mile marker 149, will have portable toilets and parking will be temporarily available for commercial vehicles.

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

PAVING OPERATIONS DELAYED: Paving operations northbound have been delayed. In addition, the outermost right lane northbound currently has pavement that is approximately 1-1/2” higher than the inner two lanes of travel for 0.8 mile (mile marker 141.9 to 142.7). Drivers should use caution and slow their speed. Message boards are in place to notify drivers. When paving resumes, it will remain during nighttime hours, 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., for the next three weeks. Weather permitting, this paving operation will finish the project with final paving that will smooth out the rough surface.

INTERSTATE 581
ROUTE 581 BRIDGE WORK OVER WILLIAMSON ROAD –On Route 11 (Williamson Road) drivers can expect intermittent and alternating lane closures between the intersections with Rutherford Avenue and Wells Avenue. Intermittent daytime and nighttime lane closures between the intersections above might be required, and will be in place utilizing flagging operations. Any impacts to I-581 will be minimal. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I-581 BRIDGE REPAIRS – Weather permitting, crews will repair bridge decks on Interstate 581. Right, center and left lane closures will be in place northbound and southbound during nighttime hours, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning. Drivers should watch for signs and expect possible delays. Scheduled traffic impacts include:

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

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

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



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