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Blacksburg wins 2022 Virginia Municipal League innovation award

The Town of Blacksburg has been awarded the 2022 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Innovation Award in the Community Health category for its role in the development of Aging in Place Planning Resources.

VML recognizes eight local governments annually for innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, citizen participation, and improved services to citizens. This year, VML received nearly 80 entries.

"Being able to participate in the

development of a practical guide that can help make a difference in how people plan their future was meaningful to everyone involved," said Director of Planning and Building Anne McClung. "The title says it all: "Your home, Your Community, Your Choice."

The Aging in Community (AiC) Leadership Team brought together local government staff with community advocates, regional planners, aging experts, health and social service agencies, non-profits, and the philanthropic

sector to create resources accessible to everyone. An important element of that work was to create both a process and a culture to encourage more residents to pre-plan for their later years so they can remain safe and independent, and maintain a high quality of life as they age. These resources are also valuable to individuals navigating changes with their aging parents.

Five senior staff from the Town of Blacksburg served on the AiC Team and took the lead in developing the suite

of Aging in Place planning resources including a workbook, and facilitated workshops that enabled group discussion and collaborative learning.

The workbook provides detailed user-friendly information across five topical areas: housing, transportation, health and wellness, personal finance, and connection and growth. Detailed checklists are included with each chapter to help users assess how prepared they

See Award, page 4

Montgomery Museum to hold grand re-opening Oct. 1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History in Christiansburg will celebrate a grand re-opening of its new, 15,000-square-foot facility at 4 East Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History will celebrate a grand re-opening on Saturday, October 1, from noon until 6 p.m. The 15,000 square-foot facility at 4 East Main St. in Christiansburg continues to add new art and history exhibits to its repertoire.

The grand re-opening will feature family-friendly activities, celebratory moments, and brand-new history exhibits. The human-sized bank vault

will be on display, and visitors can walk inside to view a new exhibit titled, "Art Treasures in the Vault," an exhibit from the museum's permanent art collection.

In conjunction with the grand re-opening, the Montgomery Museum will unveil a traveling exhibit, courtesy of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Titled "Agents of Change: Female

See Re-opening, page 4

Montgomery, Radford, Floyd NAACP to hold Freedom Fundraising program

The Montgomery Co., Radford City, Floyd branch of the NAACP will hold its Freedom Fundraising Program virtually via Facebook on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m.

The theme of the program is "We Won't Go Back." The guest speaker will be the Rev. William "Bill" Lee, retired pastor of the Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke. A community activist and social justice advocate, Lee is the founder of New Horizon Health Care in Roanoke. In 2011, he was named Roanoke's Citizen of the Year.

The program will include the presentation of the 2022 Nannie B Hairston Community Service and fully paid NAACP Silver Life membership awards.

Sponsorship at the levels listed

below or higher will receive program recognition, social media display, and a special gift from the branch that includes products made by or distributed by black-owned companies.

The Freedom Fund sponsorship levels are benefactor, 1,000; sustainer, \$500; and supporter, \$300.

Checks should be made payable to MRF NAACP and mailed to P. O. Box 6044 Christiansburg, VA 24068. Sponsors may also donate online by using this hyperlink: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mrf-naacp-freedomfund>.

To receive recognition at the event as a sponsor, email info@mrfnaacp.org with the appropriate level of commitment by Sept. 26, 2022.

All donations will be accepted and acknowledged through Nov. 1, 2022.

Christiansburg couple arrested in Tennessee on drug charges

Police in Lenoir City, Tenn., have charged two Christiansburg residents with drug offenses after a traffic stop earlier this week.

According to reports, police initially saw a car occupied by the pair almost hit a car in a parking lot and then run a stop sign. During the traffic stop, police questioned 32-year-old Matthew Allan Roth and 42-year-old Pamela Sue Songer. Songer admitted to having marijuana, and a subsequent search of the vehicle revealed several other items.

Roth had tried to

conceal a backpack containing 27 Gabapentin, 13.5 mg. of Oxycodone, and nine Clonazepam tablets. An additional 18 Oxycodone, two Clonazepam, and a small amount of marijuana were discovered in the back seat, which Roth and Songer jointly admitted owning.

Upon search of the vehicle's truck, police found a Scooby Doo stuffed animal with tampered stitching. After pulling it apart, officers discovered 84 grams of methamphetamine inside. Roth said he had been

given the stuffed animal in

Texas to take to Virginia. Both individuals had outstanding warrants in Texas and Virginia.

Roth was charged with three counts of manufacture, sell, delivery, and resale of a Schedule II substance and manufacturing, delivery, sale, or possession of meth. He was held on \$9,000 bond.

Songer was charged with three counts of manufacture, sell, delivery, resale of a Schedule II substance, and fugitive from justice and held on \$60,000 bond.

Food City's pharmacy to provide flu vaccines

Food City officials have announced that its pharmacies will once again be providing the flu vaccine this immunization season.

Food City has a local location at 1701 Tyler Ave. in Radford.

"Food City's immunizing pharmacists are certified to administer vaccinations in accordance with the standards set forth by the American Pharmacists Association and the corresponding state pharmacy," said Mickey Blazer, Food City's executive vice president of pharmacy operations. "Food City Pharmacy offers the added convenience of a number of affordable preventative health care options, including the COVID-19 vaccine."

Seasonal flu vaccine provides protection against the most common strains of influenza. Vaccinations are available on a walk-up basis at

Food City immunizing pharmacies and will continue throughout flu season, based upon vaccine availability.

Food City Pharmacy will be following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Guidelines, including guidance to minimize the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and reduce the risk for patients during the COVID pandemic. While all individuals are encouraged to receive a flu shot, the CDC strongly recommends vaccination for individuals considered high risk. High risk individuals include persons 65 or older, residents of long-term care facilities, persons 2-64 years of age with comorbid (more than one) conditions, and pregnant women.

The CDC also recommends the flu shot for healthcare personnel who provide direct patient care and household contacts or caregivers of children under 6 months of age. Food City

pharmacists can immunize individuals 12 and older.

Flu vaccines are available in Quadrivalent or High Dose. Insurance, including Medicare Part B will be accepted, many with a zero copay. Other vaccines, including COVID, pneumonia and shingles shots, will be available as well. Please consult your local Food City Pharmacy or visit foodcity.com for details.

Flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October and November. Most of the time, flu activity peaks between December and February and can last as late as May.

"Food City takes pride in serving our community and we're proud to once again offer our loyal customers the added convenience of flu vaccinations," said Steven C. Smith, Food City president and chief executive officer.

Jazz supergroup reunites for 'A MoodSwing Reunion'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"A MoodSwing Reunion" will feature (from left) drummer Brian Blade, bassist Christian McBride, saxophonist Joshua Redman, and pianist Brad Mehldau. Photo courtesy of Michael Wilson.

See MoodSwing, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 17:

Free Movie Matinee: The Bad Guys

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Can these 'bad' guys make the world believe that they've gone good? Based on the scholastic book series by Aaron Blabey. Rated PG; 100 minutes.

Wilderness Trail Festival

Downtown Christiansburg on West Main Street at 9 a.m. Check out the new mobile library. Register for a library card, check out materials, and pick up a craft for the kiddos. <http://www.wildernesstrailfestival.com/>.

Caturday

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

Introduction to Leatherwork

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 1 p.m. Henry Bryant of Fort Vause Outfitters will show participants how to get started in leatherwork and what basic tools are needed. Those taking part will have the opportunity to try some leatherwork out for themselves. This program is for all ages.

Sunday, Sept. 18:

Resin Printer Basics

At Hacksburg, 1872 Pratt Drive Suite 1620, Blacksburg; 1 to 4 p.m. Normal filament-based 3D printers are capable of making an incredible array of parts, but for high-detail miniatures, a new resin printer is capable of over 10x the resolution. Learn how to use the Hacksburg resin printer, what parts work best, and how these machines differ from filament-based printers. Free for members and \$5 for non-members. Ages 14+. RSVP at <https://hb.gy/nrls1>.

Monday, Sept. 19:

Monday Movie Matinee

At the Blacksburg Library; 1 p.m. When an eccentric billionaire kidnaps introverted novelist Loretta Sage to locate the ancient city featured in her latest book, Loretta's charming yet vapid cover model, Alan, vows to prove his real-life heroism matches his fictional alter-ego and embarks on a harebrained mission to rescue Loretta. Rated PG-13.

Pokémon Club

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Pokémon fans can bring their DS or Pokémon cards and battle, trade and make new friends. All ages.

Piano performance

Dr. Derek Parsons will perform on the piano at 7:30 p.m. in Davis Hall of the Covington Center for the Arts, Radford University campus. The concert is free.

Tuesday, Sept. 20:

Lunch and learn with Edward Jones: Avoiding Scams

At the Radford Public Library from 11 a.m. to noon. Radford's Edward Jones staff Caroline Gaskins and Kelsey Trussell will present information to help adults avoid being scammed. Email elizabeth.sensabaugh@radfordva.gov to reserve a space and receive a sandwich from Jimmy Johns.

Dungeons and Dragons: The Sea Beyond the Stars

At the Radford Public Library 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. Adventure into the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Bring a level 1 hero or use one of the library's pre-made characters. All are welcome whether you have played D&D for years, or whether you don't know what a D20 is. Email duncan.hall@radfordva.gov if you have any questions.

Chess club for teens and tweens

At the Radford Public Library 6 to 7 p.m. Join Youth Services Specialist Dave in the community room for a game of chess. For ages 8-17.

Wednesday, Sept. 21:

Hahn Horticulture Garden education session

At the Hahn Horticulture Garden on the campus of Virginia Tech at noon. After spending the month of June in France and England, Robert McDuffie will share his thoughts and images of some of the wonderful private gardens that he saw. He was fortunate to find so many kind and generous garden owners who loved nothing more than to open their gates, serve tea, and explain how and why they garden.

Christiansburg Aquatic Center advisory board meeting

The September meeting of the Aquatic Advisory Board has been moved to Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Art Club: Nick Cave and Soundsuits

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Come explore the art of Nick Cave and create soundsuits in his style of art. For ages 8 and up. Registration is required.

Family READS

At the Blacksburg Library at 5:30 p.m. This is an English Learning program for families with low English skills. Parents will learn and practice English and learn to read with their children. Children, ages 3 to 8 will take part in fun educational activities. Siblings are welcome, and homework help will be available. Pre-registration is required. For more information call (540) 382-7262 or email Anne Abbott at aabbott@lvnrv.org.

Thursday, Sept. 22:

Route 460 Connector Road Study Update open house

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking input for the Route 460 Connector Road Study Update. An open house public meeting will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Training and Event Center at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center located at 1691 Innovation Drive, Suite 1025, Blacksburg. Comments can be submitted online at www.nrvmpo.com/460-feedback-form. Visit www.nrvmpo.com/news/route-460-connector-study-public-meeting for more information.

Piano performance

The Highland Faculty Piano Trio will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Davis Hall of the Covington Center for the Arts, Radford University campus. The concert is free.

Crafternoon: Wax resist painting

At the Meadowbrook Public Library at 2 p.m. Crayons and watercolors will create a work of art. For all ages.

Water bottle filters

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to make a water filter out of an old plastic water bottle. Supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

Friday, Sept. 23:

Game On!

At the Christiansburg Library at 3 p.m. Gamers of all ages are welcome to play a variety of Nintendo games. Participants are encouraged to bring their portable device, but it's not required. Snacks will be provided.

Fri., Sept. 23 and Sat., Sept. 24:

RHS Class of 1972 reunion

Radford High School's 1972 Class of Champions will hold its 50th Year Reunion on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24. Festivities include a tailgate at the King Center

Friday, Sept. 23, and attendance at the football game. A social is planned for Saturday, Sept. 24, at Preston's at the River Course. The committee is looking for "Lost" classmates. Class member who haven't received the reunion information can contact reunion committee memes Jenny Doud at jennydoud@gmail.com and Marti Hale at martihale@yahoo.com.

Radford High School Class of 1976 reunion

Radford High School's 1976 Bicentennial Class and largest class ever will hold its 45th (+1) Year reunion. Activities include attending the Friday, Sept. 23, football game together, an author luncheon with Ron Peterson, Jr., at the Radford Rec Center on Saturday, Sept. 24, and a Saturday evening event at the River Company. Classmates who have not received a reunion invitation should contact reunion co-chairs: Susan Rockwell at susanrockwell1@gmail.com, and Rick Weye at rmw4@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Sept. 24:

Sons of Norway meeting

For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), you are invited to attend this program with activities on heritage and culture. These will be monthly meetings of the local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization on the fourth Saturday of each month (except for special events), from 1 to 3 p.m., at College Lutheran Church, 210 South College Ave., Salem. All ages are welcome, men and women, boys and girls. For information, call Joann Barfield, 540-380-2926.

Friends of Claytor Lake poker run

This Poker Run fundraiser for Claytor Lake will start with registration at Rock House Marina at noon and leave out for the five card stops at 1 p.m. Five locations on the water will be marked, and a map will be provided. The group will then meet back at Rock House for prizes for best hands, food, and music. Email info@focl.org or text 540-395-3625 to register. Boaters can send their contact information, along with their boat registration number to get \$5 off, or they can register the day of the event for \$30/boat (two people). Any extra hands in a boat who want to participate will be \$10/each.

Fashion Show

Radford University Fall Fashion Show for Family weekend at 2 p.m. at Hurlburt Auditorium on the Radford University campus.

Gospel sing

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren will hold its annual gospel sing at 6 p.m. Dale Buckner, a soloist from Christiansburg, Sounds of Harmony from Floyd, and Melody and Austin Peyton, Kay Whitaker, and Mike Campbell, a group from Auburn Baptist Church, will provide an evening of beautiful gospel music. The church is located at 310 South Franklin St. across from Sunset Cemetery. The public is invited and is welcome to attend.

Sunday, Sept. 25:

Sand casting 101

At Hacksburg, 1872 Pratt Drive Suite 1620, Blacksburg; 1 to 4 p.m. Participants can make their own sand cast aluminum object at this casting class. Sand casting is an exciting process that's very accessible to the hobbyist. Ages 16 and up. Wear all-natural fibers and long pants. \$5 for non-members, free for members. RSVP at <https://hb.gy/Sww84>.

Monday, Sept. 26:

Mother and Daughter book club

At the Radford Public Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join in for a fun book club for mothers and daughters (ages 8-12). To be discussed this month is 'Island of the Blue Dolphins' by Scott O'Dell. Anyone with questions can email morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov but registration is not required.

Tuesday, Sept. 27:

Teen book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. This month the club will read and discuss "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V. E. Schwab.

PROS: Performance to Reduce Online Scams

At the Christiansburg Library at 6 p.m. This is an interactive theater performance presented by the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology Center for Peace Studies and Violence and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech that addresses online scams.

Science Fiction and Fantasy book club

At the Blacksburg Library at 6:30 p.m. To be discussed is "The Spirit Ring" by Lois McMaster Bujold. Call 540-552-8246 to reserve a copy.

Thursday, Sept. 29:

Montgomery Chamber of Commerce training session

Hiring Practices, Campus Recruiting and Internships: What does post pandemic recruiting look like? Hint, not 2019. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will host a training session on hiring practices, campus recruiting, and internships. The guest speaker is Jim Henderson, the Associate Director, Employer Relations with Virginia Tech Career and Professional Development. Henderson leads a team whose primary function is to provide guidance and assistance to employers and recruiters throughout the nation, helping them recruit and hire students into internships, cooperative education, and post-graduation jobs. The session is from 10 to 11 a.m. at 210 Laurel St. in Christiansburg. It is free to chamber members and \$10.00 for non-members. <https://www.montgomerycc.org/events/details/hiring-practices-campus-recruiting-internships-9021>.

Ongoing:



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Looking for a Part-time delivery driver for the Salem-Times Register @ \$12 an hour. Please call (540)389-9355 for a more detailed description and to set up an interview.

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on September 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Pursuant to Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Article 2 Section 15.2-2006 et seq., the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding a request from Clarence E. Sowers, Trustees to vacate a portion of an unimproved public right of way area identified as a 20' Alley located near the intersection

Legals - City of Radford

of Oakland Ave. and Elmwood St. The request contains a total area of approximately .08 acre. Copies of the application, together with the plat of the property to be vacated, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street.

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Warm Hearth Foundation receives donation from Food Lion charitable foundation

BLACKSBURG – The Warm Hearth Foundation has received \$1,000 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to provide food to seniors in need on the Warm Hearth campus.

The foundation will use the gift to purchase shelf-stable groceries for its on-campus food pantry, Micah's Pantry.

"We are so thankful for the support we have received from Food Lion," said Karen Nelson, Warm Hearth's Associate Director of Development. "This gift will help us keep the shelves stocked in Micah's Pantry and allow us to continue to serve seniors who rely on us for some of life's most basic necessities. We could not meet the ongoing needs of our residents without support from organizations like the Food Lion Feeds

Charitable Foundation."

Approximately one-third of the residents who call Warm Hearth Village home are seniors who rely on low, fixed monthly incomes. The Foundation's programs provide assistance in the form of housing and healthcare and help with basic necessities like food, personal care and household cleaning items and pet supplies.

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation supports families facing food insecurity across its 10-state footprint. Established in 2001, the foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to feeding local neighbors in the communities it serves. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$15 million in



Food Lion employees Susanne Beckner and Brandon Gravely

SUBMITTED PHOTO

grants.

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C. The charitable foundation partners with

Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief agency, in addition to local food agencies serving the 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states in which Food Lion operates.



PHOTO BY LEE FRIESLAND FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Shoppers browse merchandise at the YMCA at Virginia Tech's Y-Toss sale in August.

Y-Toss turns 100 tons of trash into treasure

By Cyna Mirzai, a senior and an intern for Virginia Tech Marketing and Communications

Since its inception in 2015, the Y-Toss program has diverted more than 100 tons of items from Virginia Tech's waste system, according to Emily Vollmer, sustainability coordinator with Virginia Tech's Office of Sustainability.

Y-Toss, coordinated by the YMCA at Virginia Tech, is one of the largest sustainability initiatives on the Blacksburg campus. Each spring, the program collects gently used items — everything from refrigerators to rugs — from residence halls across campus during student move-out days.

Eight collection points are set up across the residential side of campus, with students, community members, and other volunteers aiding in collecting donated goods. Then, the YMCA team inspects everything collected, recycling broken or defective items while also cleaning and pricing usable items. Once fall move-in arrives, these items are made available at a reduced price to incoming students.

"Sustainability is a major point of emphasis in all YMCAs," said Ron Ovelgoenner, director of thrift shop operations for YMCA at Virginia Tech.

Y-Toss, specifically, centers around the focus of waste reduction. Most items used in residence halls are still useable or recyclable after the school year ends. While trash bins

are an easy way to clear out unwanted goods, Y-Toss encourages students to reuse or repurpose items instead of sending them to the landfill. This process also allows incoming students the opportunity to furnish their rooms at a reduced cost — meaning they can save money while also helping to save the planet.

By helping keep unnecessary waste out of landfills, Y-Toss is helping push Virginia Tech toward the zero-waste campus by 2030 goal of the 2020 Climate Action Commitment. But Y-Toss's overall impact isn't exclusive to sustainability efforts.

The funds received from Y-Toss sales each year help support YMCA student programs. These include the after-school programs at Blacksburg Middle School, Prices Fork Elementary School, and Margaret Beeks Elementary School.

According to Vollmer, this year's Y-Toss collection, held May 6-11, was the strongest on record with 10.8 tons of materials donated and all eight collection bins filled up.

Since 2015, the program has engaged over 13,000 community volunteers and generated \$60,000 to support numerous YMCA programs, she said.

Y-Toss also contributed to Virginia Tech's receiving the highest rating out of all Virginia and ACC schools from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System, an international rating system that looks at a university's sustainability efforts across academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration.

"Any number of items kept out of the waste stream is a good thing," said Ovelgoenner. "And eliminating 100 tons is a significant amount of aid to the planet."

YMCA at Virginia Tech to hold Welcoming Festival celebration Sunday

The YMCA at Virginia Tech will wrap up Welcoming Week with a festival Sunday, Sept. 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Market Square Park in downtown Blacksburg.

Each year Welcoming Week celebrates immigrants' contributions to communities and brings together all residents in a spirit of unity. The celebration elevates the growing movement of communities that fully embrace new Americans and their contributions to the social fabric of the country. The event is an opportunity for neighbors, both immigrants and U.S.-born residents, to get to know one another and celebrate what unites people as a community.

"At the YMCA at Virginia Tech, we believe the New River Valley is stronger when everyone in the community feels welcome and we can all work together for the common good," said Ryan Martin, Executive Director of the YMCA at VT. "We are proud to be a part of Welcoming Week, which is demonstrating that in places large and small, rural and urban, people of all backgrounds are coming together to create stronger communities. It is a time to celebrate the shared values that unite us as neighbors, parents, and colleagues, and to make our towns more welcoming to newcomers and to everyone who calls our community

home."

The festival will celebrate community and will feature entertainment, international food, vendors and family fun with performances including a Chinese Kungfu show, traditional song and dance from China, Tibet, Turkey, India, and Latin America, Dream Dance Studio, the PanJammers, Community Poem, and a community art project.

A youth art exhibition and the competition's theme, "Welcoming and Belonging," tie into Welcoming Week by promoting positivity and diversity in the community. The art exhibition is on display at the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library-Blacksburg Library, and contest winners will be announced at the Welcoming Festival.

A New Virginians exhibit in observance of Citizenship Day will be on display at the Y Center, 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg. The exhibit explores the historical and continuous journey toward the ideals of America. It includes a series of edited interviews conducted with first-generation immigrants and refugees who arrived in Virginia after 1976.

The New Virginians project is a collaboration between the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities with support from 2019 Commemoration and American Evolution, which names New Virginians a Legacy Project.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, **Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:00 PM** in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

- A. Rezoning request by **Marjorie Ann Rhudy, Property Owner, and RWV 34 LLC, Contract Purchaser**, to rezone the property located at 1200 **Buffalo Drive NW**, Tax Parcel 556 - ((A)) - 84; Parcel ID 111028, 4.901 acres from Agricultural District A and General Business District B-3 to Multiple-Family Residential District R-3 with proffered conditions, in order to allow 49 Townhouse units. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- B. Conditional Use Permit request by **Loy/Mary Burch II LLC, Property Owner, and Ron Frank Jr., Lessee**, to allow a Public Billiard Parlor and Poolroom on the property located at **3165 North Franklin Street**, Tax Parcels 406-4-28, 406-4-29, 406-4-30, 406-4-31, 406-4-32, 406-4-33, 406-4-54, 406-4-55, 406-4-56, 406-4-57, 406-4-58, being portions of Parcel ID 000437; 406-4-24, 406-4-25, 406-4-26, 406-4-27, being all of Parcel ID 000439; and Tax Parcels 406-4-17, 406-4-18, 406-4-19, 406-4-20, 406-4-21, 406-4-22, 406-4-23, being all of Parcel ID 000440; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Conditional Use Permit request by **Cole/Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Donnie Tignor, Lessee**, to allow a Contractor's Equipment Storage Yard on the property located on the northeast corner of the intersection of **Simmons Road SE and Alma Street SE (unopened)**, and southeast of 2095 and 2091 Roanoke Street; Tax Parcels 529-1-17, being a portion of Parcel ID 007704; and Tax Parcels 529-1-18 and 529-1-19, being all of Parcel ID 014069; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.



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Events from page 2

Chamber annual awards nominations

The Montgomery chamber will be accepting award nominations for a deserving business or leader in the community until Sept. 30. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting in the following categories. Business of the Year; Minority Business of the Year; Small Business of the Year; Distinguished Business Leader; Distinguished Government Leader; Distinguished Non-Profit Leader; Non-Profit of the Year (small & large); Community Service – Organization; Community Service – Individual; Technology Company of the Year; Green Business of the Year. <https://bit.ly/mcc2022annual>.

Coat Drive in Memory of Cindy Collins

Underway at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Donations of new and gently used coats sizes 4t-XXL in memory of Cindy Collins, who died on Aug. 3, may be dropped off at the Meadowbrook Public Library. Coats will be for students in Eastern Montgomery. Contact Cindy Minnick with any questions. (540) 268-1964.

Blacksburg PD community survey

The Blacksburg Police Department is asking the community to complete a short

(approximately three-minute) survey ranking individual satisfaction with the department. All responses are recorded anonymously, and honest feedback is appreciated. These responses will help the BPD continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg Community. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>.

Applications underway for NRV Master Gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of Virginia Cooperative Extension, is accepting grant applications for 2023 gardening projects. Grants will be awarded based on merit to any educational, caregiving or community-based organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life for participants through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery (and towns within) are encouraged to apply. In the past, grants have been awarded to public and private schools, 4-H groups, public libraries, other educational groups, as well as community gardens and nursing homes. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2022. For more information and to submit a project application, contact Carol Trutt at 540-239-9591 or at caroltrutt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but snail mails to Carol at the following address: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073 will be accepted.

MoodSwing from page 1

Acclaimed Jazz saxophonist and composer Joshua Redman formed his first permanent quartet in 1994, which resulted in his seminal work, “MoodSwing.” While the quartet was only together for a year and a half, its musicians went on to become some of the most illustrious and influential musicians and bandleaders in modern jazz.

Join this inspiring ensemble as it reunites onstage at the Moss Arts Center for an unforgettable performance of new material alongside celebrated work on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

The performance will be held in the center’s Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall.

Often lauded for his ability to perceive and develop prodigious talent early on, Redman brought together a group of precociously talented musicians who would rapidly establish themselves as creative beacons to create “MoodSwing.” After years of individual triumphs, the original group — Redman, pianist Brad Mehldau, bassist Christian McBride, and drummer Brian Blade — reunited in 2020 on the album “RoundAgain” and are performing together for “A MoodSwing Reunion.”

Redman is one of the most acclaimed and charismatic jazz musicians to have emerged in the 1990s when he won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition, which marked the beginning of what would become an illustrious career spanning nearly three decades.

He has released more than 20 albums, earning multiple Grammy nominations. A favorite amongst critics’ and readers’ polls alike, his work with other prominent musicians includes jazz legends such as McCoy Tyner, Pat Metheny, Herbie Hancock, Charlie Haden, Chick Corea, Ornette Coleman, and Elvin Jones; popular music stars Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones, the Rolling Stones, the Roots, and Dave Matthews Band; and classical music luminary Yo-Yo Ma.

A lyrical and intimate voice of contemporary jazz piano, Mehldau embodies the essence of jazz exploration, classical romanticism, and pop allure. From critical acclaim as a bandleader to major international exposure in collaborations with Pat Metheny and Renée Fleming, Mehldau’s forays into melding musical idioms, in both trio (with Larry Grenadier on bass and Jeff Ballard on drums) and solo settings, has seen brilliant reworkings of songs by

contemporary songwriters such as the Beatles, Cole Porter, Radiohead, Paul Simon, Gershwin, and Nick Drake, alongside his own significant catalog of original compositions.

Eight-time Grammy-winning bassist, composer, and bandleader McBride is the artistic director of the historic Newport Jazz Festival, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the TD James Moody Jazz Festival, and the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. He is also a respected educator and advocate for youth and serves as artistic director of Jazz House KiDS and the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Summer Sessions. In addition to artistic directing and consistent touring with his ensembles, he hosts NPR’s “Jazz Night in America” and “The Lowdown: Conversations with Christian” on SiriusXM. Whether behind the bass or away from it, McBride is always part of the music.

Blade was introduced to music through the gospel and songs of praise at the Zion Baptist Church where his father, Brady L. Blade Sr., served as pastor. The drums eventually became his musical focus and during high school he began listening to the music of John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, Thelonious Monk, Elvin Jones, and Joni Mitchell. By the age of 18, Blade moved to New Orleans to attend Loyola University and was able to study and play with many of the master musicians living in New Orleans. In 1997, Blade helped form the Fellowship Band and he has been a member of the Wayne Shorter quartet since 2000. He has recorded with Daniel Lanois, Joni Mitchell, Kenny Garrett, Redman, Ellis Marsalis, Chick Corea, Marianne Faithfull, Norah Jones, Emmylou Harris, and Bob Dylan.

News Messenger

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

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Re-opening from page 1

Activism in Virginia from Women’s Suffrage to Today,” the exhibit is a signature project of the Virginia Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commemoration. This exhibition highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female change-makers who brought about positive change in their communities, the commonwealth, and the

nation. The traveling exhibit is made possible by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. G Gilmer Minor III. This exhibit will be on display through early November.

The Montgomery Museum will supplement this traveling exhibit by presenting its own new history exhibit titled, “Making a Difference:

Women who Changed Montgomery County.” Featuring a group of women from across the county, this exhibit will honor women business owners, women who broke gender boundaries in politics and education, and women who worked tirelessly to make their Montgomery County communities better places to live from the

late-nineteenth century through the late twentieth century.

For a complete list of the festivities and activities during the grand re-opening, visit <https://montgomerymuseum.org/grandreopening/>. Admission to the museum is free of charge, and parking is available behind the museum, adjacent to North Franklin Street.

Award from page 1

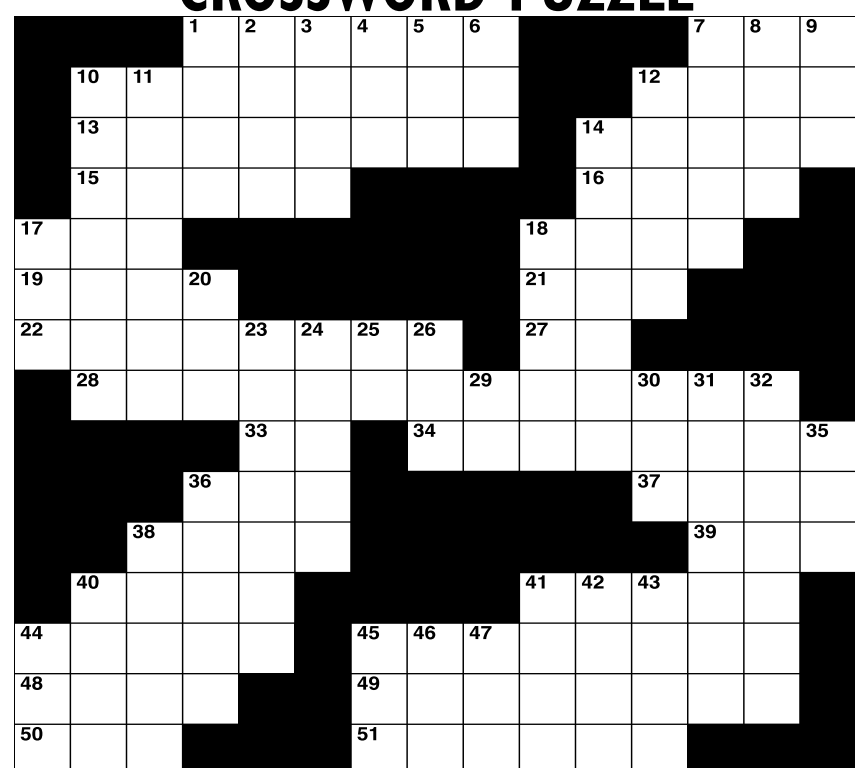
are to age in place over time. “Particularly commendable is how Blacksburg sought to build, not only resources, but a culture of supporting older adults holistically within its professional staff and partner institutions through the

Train the Trainer series,” said the VML award judges.

The mayor, members of the town council, and staff will accept the award at the VML Annual Conference in Richmond on Oct. 3.

VML is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of city, town, and county governments established in 1905 to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Used to serve wine
 - Scottish settlement
 - Innumerable
 - Small constellation
 - Wings
 - Supernatural creatures
 - Some are hallowed
 - The front door
 - Greek war god
 - Lamented
 - Foot (Latin)
 - ___ and feathers
 - It cleans you
 - Doctors’ group
 - Silvery marine fish
 - Atomic #58
 - Popular March holiday
 - Pa’s partner
 - Sicknesses
- CLUES DOWN**
- Military leader (abbr.)
 - Celery (Spanish)
 - Pay heed
 - The products of human creativity
 - Surcharge
 - Doctor of Education
 - Hurtful remarks
 - Marine mollusk
 - The habitat of wild animals
 - Pieces of body art
 - Refusing to back
 - Triangular back bones
 - Type of cat
 - Type of web browser (abbr.)
 - Small, broad-headed nails
 - Man City coach
 - Guardiola
 - Periods of food shortages
 - European nation
 - Jr.’s father
 - Concealed
 - One who works with the police (abbr.)
 - Lawyers
 - Look of disapproval
 - Longed
 - Type of power cable (abbr.)
 - Hindu cymbals
 - Young women (French)
 - Swiss river
 - Expression of annoyance
 - Where criminals go
 - Inwardly
 - Luck
 - One point north of due east
 - Originally called
 - Defunct airline

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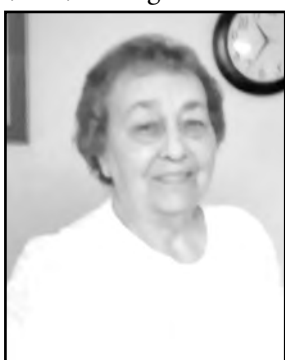
OBITUARIES

Branch, Sue Ellen Byrd

Sue Ellen Byrd Branch, 93, of grandchildren; brother, Irby Byrd; Christiansburg, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, William Gene Branch; her parents, Wesley and Mary Lou Byrd; and her sons, David and Larry Branch.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Branch; sons and daughters-in-law, Danny and Judy Branch, Bobby and Patty Branch, and Tommy Branch; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; six great-great



former daughters-in-law, Roxanne Traylor, Lynette Branch, and Donna Ball; and many other relatives and special friends.

A special thank-you goes to her granddaughter, Tonya Branch, who took such loving care of Sue.

A private family service will be held at

a later date.

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

Burch, Marguerite Estelle Jones

Marguerite Estelle Jones Burch, of 52 years, David Riley Burch; 73, of Dublin, passed away at her home on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Bernard and Dorothy Elizabeth Holt Jones; brothers Robert Jones and Charles Jones; her sisters, Dorothy Diane Jones, and Joanita Fields; and her stepfather, Charles (Buck) Meredith.



a son, Chad Burch; a brother; Charles Meredith, Jr.; sisters Drema Jones, Wanda Fields, Freda Jones, Nancy Oliver, and Carolyn Foutz; and many other relatives, and friends.

Per her request, no services will be held at this time.

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

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

Living Water

Read Ezekiel 47:1 through 48:35

Many old Western movies show parched travelers, desperate for water. Their boots shuffle in the dust, their legs give way. Finally, they see water in the distance. One cowboy runs up, cupping his hands into the watering hole, but his companion stops him short. Soon, we realize why. The camera pans the watering hole. There are no living things—not one sign of life. A skeleton or two reinforce the scene. Stagnant water brings death.

By contrast, where water is flowing, life thrives. This water can quench, refresh, and sustain the thirst of a weary traveler.

"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live" (Ezekiel 47:9).

Feeling fatigued? Parched? Are our souls thirsty for a drink? Or maybe you're fine. Whatever the case, we can kneel, cup our hands in prayer, and soak up the satisfying, living water God provides.

Challenge for Today: Immerse yourself in God's living water today.

Quicklook: Ezekiel 47:1-12

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.oslccburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslccchristiansburg 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@stmlc.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

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: christ-wesleyanchurch.org

Obituaries from page 5

Davis, Sr., Adris Albert "Al"

Adris Albert "Al" Davis, Sr., 72, 10 great-grandchildren; a brother, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, at his home in Fairlawn.

Al was a true patriot and family man. After graduating from Bramwell High School, he served his country in the U. S. Marine Corps and the Army Reserves, receiving two Purple Hearts during the Vietnam War. He was a member of VFW Post #1184, American Legion Post #58, and First Missionary Baptist Church where he served as an usher and a trustee.

Al was preceded in death by his wife, Constance T. Banks-Davis; his parents, Albert and Blanche Davis; a brother, Ervin Ray Davis; and a sister, Maxine "Len" Davis.

Left to cherish his memory are his sons, Michael Kelly, Adris "Hootie" Davis, Jr., and Andrew Primm; daughters Yonnie Stinson, Maria Davis-Harris (Tony), Somer Davis, Darnisha Primm, and Kendra "Kenny" Wright (Quentin); 16 grandchildren;



Gene "Chuck" Davis (Terry); a sister, Minnie "Pan" Davis; a significant other, Emily Doucette; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors will be held at noon on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. Funeral services will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the Fairlawn Church of God with Pastor Richard Goodman of First Missionary Baptist Church officiating. Visitation will begin following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions in Al's name to It's All About Jesus Outreach and Help Center, 1301 W. Main St., Suite B, Radford, VA 24141, or to Toys for Tots, both of which he was very passionate about.

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

Fisher, Timothy Lee

On Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, the arms of Jesus welcomed Timothy Lee Fisher, born Sept. 13, 1972.

Tim fought a long and hard three-year battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Essie and Annabelle Fisher, and his maternal grandparents, Edward and Virginia ("Virgie") Odham.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Fisher-Bolling of Blacksburg; his father, Michael Fisher of Christiansburg; his children, Paige Martin (Alex) of Leland N.C., Brittany of Harrogate Tenn., and Ethan of Botetourt;



grandchildren Elias and Wyatt Fisher of Botetourt, Austin Fisher of Ceres, Va.; and his fiancé Rosetta Gross of Ceres. Tim also leaves many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends to cherish his memory.

Serving as Tim's pall bearers were Matt Boley, Randy Cox, Joseph Hudgins, Peyton Pack, Rick

Reed, and James Stump.

Burial was at Westview Cemetery on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, followed by a memorial service at Faith Baptist Church, Christiansburg with Pastor Chris Sellors officiating.

Heldreth, Richard "Dick" Douglas

Richard "Dick" Douglas Heldreth, 80, passed away Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, at his home on Claytor Lake.

Dick retired from Inland Motors after 50 years of service and was a member of Mountain View United Methodist Church. He was a 50-year member of the Pythagoras Masonic Lodge in Pulaski.

Dick loved to be out on the lake, boating on the pontoon with Mary or in the bass boat fishing for "the big one." He was also an avid woodworker, building many treasures for his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Dorothy and Ralph Compton; his father, Harold Preston; and a brother, Aaron.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Mary F. Heldreth; sons and daughters-in-law Ricky and



Kellie Heldreth and Todd and Amber Heldreth, all of Conway, S. C., and Tony Lee Patterson of Pulaski; grandsons Caleb and Jake Heldreth; granddaughter Morgan Hamilton; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, JoAnn and Danny Martin; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Don Shelor officiating. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to Dublin United Methodist Church.

The Heldreth family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Williams, Shirley Ann Thompson

Shirley Ann Thompson Williams went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sept. 10, 2022. She was reunited with her beloved husband, Arnold Lee Williams, after many long years for her.

Shirley's most treasured gift was her family. She had two daughters, Sharon and her husband Tony Graham of Shawsville, and Sandy and her husband, Marvin Wade of Floyd. She had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Tony Graham, Jr., and children, Jack Silas and Landis; Chris Graham and children Brooklyn and Gavin; John Graham and his wife, Anne; Melissa and Earl Fields and children Matthew, Maddison, and Mayson; Michael Wade and his wife, Mandy, and children Meiah, Mayleigh, Macie, and unborn baby Wade; Sarah Wade and son Aiden. Shirley also had brothers and sisters: Fred Thompson (Sue) of Pembroke, Mildred Ratcliffe (Freddie Ray) of Pembroke; and Betty Lou Carter of Pembroke.



Shirley was active at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Christiansburg and was the founder of her senior group there. In lieu of flowers, she would want donations made to this senior group so they can continue God's work in her memory: Senior Saints, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 155 Dunlap Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073.

A funeral service was conducted on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the Kendall Funeral Home Chapel in Pembroke with Michael Bartlett, Pastor Marvin Wade, and Tony Graham officiating. A graveside service followed to conclude services in the Moser Family Cemetery in Ripplemead, Va. The family received friends in the Kendall Funeral Home Chapel on Sept. 16. A guestbook is available by visiting www.kendallfuneralhome.com. The staff of Kendall Funeral Home is honored to serve the Williams family.

Wright, Emily Lucille

Emily Lucille Wright, 74, of Julianna, Gaiya, and Faye; grand-nephew, Jayden; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at the Presbyterian Church of Radford. Services followed with Chaplain Robin Williamson and Pastor Steve Willis officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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



Emily Lucille Wright, 74, of Julianna, Gaiya, and Faye; grand-nephew, Jayden; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, at the Presbyterian Church of Radford. Services followed with Chaplain Robin Williamson and Pastor Steve Willis officiating. Interment followed in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Friday October 14th @ 4 PM
Commercial Land for Sale in Hillsville VA!
TBD Floyd Pike, Hillsville, VA 24343
TBD Hardscuffle RD., Hillsville, VA 24343

Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com



You have the opportunity to purchase land for sale in Hillsville VA at Online Auction. There are 3 offerings being sold. Bidders desiring multiple lots will need to be high bidder on all lots desired. Each offering will stay open until all bidding is complete and all offerings will close simultaneously. These offering are zoned General Commercial and Industrial and range from 7.9 acres to 12 acres.

OFFERING # 1 - 12.089 acres located on 221 in Hillsville VA across from Parkdale Mills (Magnolia). Mostly open with some wooded acreage along the back. Front half of property is zoned General Commercial, and the back half is zoned Industrial but according to county, would not be difficult to change to all GC or all Industrial. Town Sewer on the property. Town Water Access is across 221 from the property, would have to run lines under 221. See Bidder Pack for more details.

OFFERING # 2 - 12.089 acres located on 221 in Hillsville VA across from Blue Ridge Concrete Products. Partially open with some wooded acreage along the back and side near offering 1. Front half of property is zoned General Commercial, and the back half is zoned Industrial but according to county, would not be difficult to change to all GC or all Industrial. Town Sewer on the property. Town Water Access is across 221 from the property, would have to run lines under 221. See Bidder Pack for more details.

OFFERING #3 - 7.89 acres of mostly open land located off of Hardscuffle Rd. in Hillsville VA. Primarily open with a small, wooded portion. Zoned General Commercial. No sewer available. Water access is across the street and will have to have lines run under the road. See Bidder Pack for more details.

Terms - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple offerings, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on each offering. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering required on day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

Contact Broker/Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or gallimore.matt@gmail.com ; Or Levi Cox, Realtor at 540-230-7162 or LeviCox87@gmail.com

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Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc

The Glorylanders of the NRV to perform at Snowville Christian Church

The Glorylanders of the New River Valley will be in concert on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 11 a.m. at Snowville Christian Church.

The Glorylanders are a popular a cappella Christian singing group that has recorded two albums and traveled across the East Coast, including Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, where they shared their love of God in song for numerous audiences in auditoriums and churches.

The music chosen by the Glorylanders consists of praise and traditional music as well as contemporary and classic gospel selections.

Jerry King, Pastor of Snowville Christian Church, said that The Glorylanders are in high demand and have been booked for months. He and the church family invite and encourage everyone to attend this special service. The church is located at 5436 Lead Mine Rd. in Hiwassee, 10 minutes from both I-81 Radford exits. Directions are available on the church website: SnowvilleChristianChurch.com.



The Glorylanders

SUBMITTED PHOTO

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg High announces Athletic Hall of Fame Class

Blacksburg High School will welcome five new members to its Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 7 at the Christiansburg football game, including pro golfer Lanto Griffin, longtime successful girls' basketball coach Mickey McGuigan, former basketball standout Yolanda Ervin Bronston, and boys basketball and soccer standout Elliott Stallings.

The list of accomplishments for each inductee:

Yolanda Ervin Bronston, Class of 1991

4-year letterman varsity girls basketball; 3-year letterman varsity outdoor track and field; member of the 1990 undefeated district, region, and state champion indoor track team; 1990 outdoor track bronze medalist in state meet for shot put; Blacksburg Sports Club 1990-1991 Outstanding Senior Award; girls indoor track; member of 1990-1991 district runner-up, regional champion, state-runner up girls basketball team; led 1990 girls basketball team to state championship game; 1990 girls basketball all-region and all-state honors; VHSL Academic Excellence Award 88, 89, 90; 1991 Virginia Tech Ethnic Minority Campus Ministry Most Outstanding High School Student Award; Set record in 1990 for the most assists ever in the VHSL State Tournament; a record that stood for close to 30 years; earned full D1 basketball scholarship to Central Connecticut State University (B.S., 1995); among leaders in CCSU record books for most assists in a single game; earned MBA from Old Dominion University (Class of 1999); served as assistant women's basketball coach, Norfolk State University 1996 - 1999; current head girls varsity basketball coach, St. Johns Country Day School, Orange Park, Fla.; five times Florida Athletic Coaches Association District 6 Coach of the Year; co-founder, coach, and Director of Operations for H2 Hoops, LLC (Hungry Hustle Hoops); 2021 "Breaking Through Award" recipient (presented by WeCoach & Eastbay). This national award is presented to a female coach who has shown exemplary courage, resilience, and leadership in navigating the coaching profession at the high school level.

Yolanda lives in Middleburg, Fla., with her husband Randall. The couple has five children (Breshia, Anesha, Cassius, Kavon, and Zion) and three grandchildren (Onyx, Apollo, and Millie).

Lanto Griffin, Class of 2006

4-year starter for Blacksburg High School golf team; helped lead Bruins to district golf titles his freshman and senior seasons; earned all-district, all-region, and all-state recognition; shot 64 to capture district medalist

honors by nine shots as a senior in 2005; registered a 68.53 scoring average as a senior; Alumni Virginia Commonwealth university 2009 CAA Player of the Year; turned professional in November 2010; finished first in the 2015 Virginia State Open, the 2015 Roberto De Vincenzo Punta del Ese Open on the Copa NEC-PGA Tour LA, the 2019 Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail on the Korn Ferry Tour, the 2017 Nashville Golf Open on the Korn Ferry Tour; earned his rookie PGA tour card for the 2017-18 season; and the 2019 Houston Open, his first win on the PGA tour; finished 18th in the final 2019-20 FedEx Cup standings; to date has ten Top 10 finishes and 28 Top 25 finishes on the PGA Tour.

The Lanto Griffin Foundation provides support for disadvantaged youth in sports so they may excel in their goal of achieving college scholarships. It also assists families battling devastating or terminal illnesses who cannot afford to support their needs.

The Lanto Griffin Junior Championship at the Blacksburg Country Club raised over \$118K thousand. Funds were distributed between the AJGA ACE Grant for aspiring junior golfers and Lanto's foundation. The Lanto Charity Classic at the Ballyhack Golf Club raised over \$160K that will be contributed to the Lanto Griffin Foundation. The Lanto Jr. Golf Tour was launched in Blacksburg in 2022.

Tyler Holmes, Class of 2008

Tyler Holmes was a 4-year starter in both varsity football and basketball who also ran track for two seasons at Blacksburg High School; all state in football and basketball; member of the 4X100 track team that broke the school record at the time; 1000-point scorer in basketball; selected to play in VHSL all-star football game as a linebacker and won the defensive MVP award; 2009 Sports Network second-team All American; 2009 CAA all-conference second team; 2010 ECAC top defensive player of the year; 2010 All New England football team; 2010 CAA Co-Defensive Player of the Year; 2010 AP First Team; 2010 Gold Helmet Player of the Year; 2010 AFCA All American; 2010 Sports Network All-American team; 2010 CAA first-team all-conference; 2010 team MVP; 2010 Buck Buchanan Award candidate as top defensive player in FCS, finished fourth in voting; only player in UMass history with two interceptions returned for touchdowns in a single game; two-year team captain; 2011 first-team All-American, first-team All-Conference; 2011 team MVP; UMass athletics 2011-12 male senior athlete of the year; 2012 NFL training camp with Chicago Bears.



FILE PHOTO

Blacksburg High School graduate professional golfer Lanto Griffin is one of the newest members of the school's sports hall of fame.

Coach Mickey McGuigan, 1990-2009

Coach McGuigan (Mickey) directed the girls' basketball program for 20 years from 1990-2009, winning three state titles 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 2002-2003 and had a coaching record of (325-171); coached boys tennis 1981-91 (112-35); missed 1987 season because he was participating in a Rotary Group Study Exchange to Australia; boys' Tennis state runner-up (1985-86); 3-time District Coach of the Year in the New River District 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995; 2-time Blue Ridge District Coach of the Year 2000-2001, 2002-2003; River Ridge District Coach of the Year 2003-2004; 2-time Region IV Coach of the Year 1992-1993, 1993-1994; Region III Coach of the Year 2002-2003; Roanoke Times All-Timesland Girls' Basketball Coach of the year n 1993; Head Coach of Girls' Basketball West Squad of the VHSCA All-Star Game in 2003; 2-time assistant coach of the Girls' Basketball West Squad of the VHSCA All-Star Game in 1993 and 1994; 2-time state quarterfinalists 1994-1995, 2008-2009; state semifinalists 1990-1991 (21-8); 3-time state champions 1992-1993 (27-0), 1993-1994 (26-2), 2002-2003 (29-1).

Coach McGuigan (Mickey) retired from coaching in 2009 and continued to teach until retiring from teaching after a 40-year career in 2017. He has three children: Emily, Scott, and Katy and still lives in Blacksburg still with his wife Jane.

Elliott Stallings, Class of 2006

Blacksburg High School career leader in points (253) and assists (77) as well as points in a season (99)

and assists in a season (33); 87-1-1 team record in four years including three state championships and one state runner-up; 2002 AA State Player of the year (POY); Timesland (Roanoke Times) POY, Region POY, District POY as well as first team All-State Timesland Region, & District. Finished season ranked 18th nationally by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NCSAA); 2001 second team All-State, first team All-Region and All-District; 2000 honorable mention All-State, first team All-Region and All-District. Finished season ranked 23rd nationally by NSCAA; second in Virginia High School League history in career assists and assists in a season and fourth in career points and points in a season; '99, '00, '02 State Region, and District champions, '01 State runner up, Region and District Champions; selected to play in the Virginia high school All-Star game ('02); basketball backup point guard for '02 state runner up, Region and District Champion; Roanoke College Soccer 2002 Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) Rookie of the Year; four-time All-ODAC selection (1 x First Team, 3 x Second Team); '02 & '04 ODAC Champion, NCAA III Tournament; third in Roanoke College history in career points; third in Roanoke College history in career goals; eighth in Roanoke College history in career assists; All-State Second Team ('02) & First Team ('03 & '04) by the Virginia Sports Information Directors; All-South Atlantic Region Second Team in '03 and Third Team in '04 and '05 by the NSCAA

Elliott is married to Rachel Stallings, and they have two young children Meredith (2) & Emma (5 months). They live in Richmond where Elliott is employed in the healthcare field.

Tech lab provides ratings for whitewater helmets

Outdoor enthusiasts turning to whitewater rafting to escape the dog days of summer can chase the rapids more safely thanks to the newest ratings from the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab.

Every year, tens of millions of Americans participate in paddle sports, a category that encompasses kayaking, canoeing, and rafting. But like any sport,

paddling can be dangerous, particularly the more aggressive whitewater variations that send paddlers through rocky rapids and swift currents.

"Millions of people enjoy whitewater sports, but they're also some of the highest-risk sports," said Stefan Duma, the Harry Wyatt Professor of Engineering and the Helmet Lab's founder. "There are almost 50 whitewater fatalities in America every year, putting the fatality rate ahead of almost any other sport."

Head injuries are a big part of the reason. If paddlers capsize — either accidentally or as part of intentional maneuvers — and then hit their heads, the results can be deadly. "If you look at those



PHOTO BY RAY MEESE FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Andrew Calis, an undergraduate student in the School of Neuroscience, prepares to test a whitewater helmet in the Virginia Tech Helmet Lab.

fatalities, almost all of them are head impacts, followed by drowning," said Duma, who is also the director of the university's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science and a professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics.

A helmet that cushions those blows enough to keep a paddler from

becoming disoriented or losing consciousness could make the difference between life and death.

Robin Pope chairs the board of directors for the American Canoe Association, a national nonprofit that provides education and other resources for paddlers and is the governing body for the U.S. Olympic paddle sports teams. He's also an avid whitewater paddle,

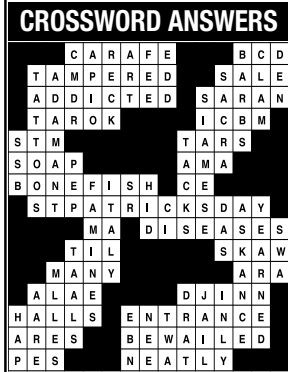
and said those athletes understand that helmets are nonnegotiable.

"Most of us have lots of scrapes on our helmets because our helmets have protected us from head injuries," he said. "I would not paddle on whitewater with someone who's not wearing a helmet. Most people who know what they're doing see it as too great a risk for the

individual and for the rest of the group because you know there's a good chance you may have to deal with a rescue or a serious injury."

But when it comes to choosing a helmet, Pope, who's also a physician assistant with years of experience in sports medicine, said paddlers haven't had much

See Helmets, page 8



Glenvar downs Blacksburg in straight sets 3-0



Blacksburg's Rylee Sloss makes a pass for Blacksburg against Glenvar.



PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Rowan English scores with a shot at the net against Glenvar.

THE NRV MPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE ROUTE 460 CONNECTOR ROAD STUDY UPDATE

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is updating this study to evaluate potential routes for the 460 Connector between the Southgate Interchange on the US-460 Bypass and Route 657 (Merrimac Road) in Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg. A public meeting will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on **September 21, 2022** at the VTCRC located at 1691 Innovation Dr., Suite 1025, Blacksburg, VA. Information is also available for review at the offices of the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and the Montgomery and Pulaski County. It is also available on the MPO website: www.newrivervalleympo.org



Give your written comments at the meeting or submit them via USPS to the NRV MPO's office, located at 755 Roanoke St., Suite 21, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You may also e-mail your comments to brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov. Comments for this study will be received until 5:00 PM, September 30, 2022.

This public notice and opportunity to comment on the TIP amendment meets the program of projects requirements as established by the FTA pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(c). The NRV MPO ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Brugh at: brughjd@montgomerycountyva.gov or 540-394-2145, TTY/TTD 711.

ACC men's basketball schedule

The Atlantic Coast Conference revealed the 2022-23 men's basketball schedule Tuesday afternoon with Virginia Tech opening its league slate at Cassell Coliseum on Sunday, Dec. 4, vs. North Carolina.

In all, the Hokies host six ACC weekend games to go along with a Big Monday showdown vs. Duke on Jan. 23 in a rematch of last season's ACC title game. Commonwealth Clash rival Virginia will also visit Cassell on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Season tickets are available for Tech's upcoming 2022-23 campaign in both full and conference-only packages. Those wanting to attend only the Hokies' 10 ACC home games can lock in season tickets for a reduced price of just \$22 per game and enjoy all of the same benefits that come with a full season-ticket package.

Of Tech's 20 league games, the Hokies are set for home-and-home dates with Boston College, Clemson, Duke, Miami, Syracuse,

and Virginia. Additionally, VT will welcome Florida State, North Carolina, NC State, and Pitt to Blacksburg and will travel to Georgia Tech, Louisville, Notre Dame, and Wake Forest.

Tech tips off its previously announced 11-game non-conference slate on Monday, Nov. 7, vs. Delaware State.

Following its final non-conference tilt vs. Grambling State on Saturday, Dec. 17, Tech travels to Boston College (Dec. 21) and Wake Forest (Dec. 31) to close out 2022. The Hokies then open the new year with back-to-back home games against Clemson (Jan. 4) and NC State (Jan. 7).

The Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield, features the Hokies and the Cavaliers squaring off on Wednesday, Jan. 18, in Charlottesville, followed by the return trip to Blacksburg on Saturday, Feb. 4. Tech and UVA split the season series last year with each side winning at home.

Tech's conference opener vs. North Carolina marks the third straight season it will open ACC play at home, and the first time opening against UNC since the 2009-10 season (That game was in Chapel Hill.) The last time VT and UNC squared off in a conference opener in Blacksburg was Tech's inaugural ACC game on Dec. 19, 2004.

The Hokies will look to defend their ACC title in Greensboro, N.C., March 7-11, at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Mike Young enters his fourth season at the helm of the Hokies and welcomes back six returners from last season including two starters in ACC Tournament MVP Hunter Cattoor and Justyn Mutts. Tech's depth is bolstered by a highly-regarded freshman class and a trio of transfers: Grant Basile, John Camden, and Mylyjael Poteat.

Television designations and tip times will be announced at a later date.

Helmets from page 7

scientific guidance to rely on.

"It's been a matter of group opinion and personal experience and personal fit," he said.

That's where the Helmet Lab comes in.

When Virginia Tech's injury biomechanics experts released the first independent safety ratings for varsity football helmets in 2011, they introduced a new model for protecting athletes by evaluating the equipment designed to keep them safe.

In the decade since, the lab's ratings have armed athletes, parents, and coaches with the knowledge to choose the safest equipment and handed helmet manufacturers tools to optimize design.

The whitewater helmet ratings are the lab's eighth major release. Of the 21 whitewater helmet models the researchers tested, four earned five stars, the lab's top score, and two helmets earned four. Duma and his team recommend choosing a four- or five-star helmet.

The ratings, Pope said, will be a valuable resource for paddlers.

The researchers develop those ratings by using data from real-world head impacts to design test methods that assess helmet performance under realistic conditions.

"One of the things that's unique about our system is we characterize each sport," Duma said. "The way that head impacts tend to occur varies from sport to sport, and understanding those interactions is the first step to figuring out how to protect players."

For whitewater, that meant analyzing stream flows to determine how fast the current might sweep a paddler's head into a rock in different scenarios, kayaking versus whitewater rafting, for example.

Using that data, they designed lab tests that recreate those conditions. During the tests, a pendulum impactor strikes a headform protected by one of the helmets. Inside the headform, accelerometers allow the researchers to measure the force of the blow.

Each helmet model was tested at three impact locations and two impact speeds: 3.1 and 4.9 m/s.

The ratings for whitewater helmets — along with varsity, youth, and flag football as well as soccer, cycling, hockey, and snow sports — are all available on a website that has racked up more than a million visitors.

The lab's test methods are publicly available, too. That allows companies to use the protocols to evaluate designs and prototypes, optimizing a new helmet's safety profile before it ever hits the market.

"We want to help companies improve their products because that's another avenue to reducing injuries," Duma said.

Companies have responded. Helmet performance has improved in the years since the lab's first ratings, and major manufacturers use the lab's logo as a point of pride for their flagship products.

No sport is concussion-proof, but effective helmets can dramatically reduce the risk. The lab's work, which has been covered in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Sports Illustrated, WIRED, and ESPN, has enabled companies to make better products and empowered consumers to choose the best ones available.

Now those benefits extend to whitewater rafters and kayakers, too.

"We want to make sure that if you do have a head impact, it's cushioned as much as possible," Duma said, "so you can survive that event."



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