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Saturday, October 1, 2022

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Danilowicz officially installed as Radford University's eighth president

Heather Bell
communitynews@ourvalley.org

RADFORD - The purpose, people, place and pride of the Highlander community were the central themes at the inauguration of Bret Danilowicz, eighth president of Radford University, held on McConnell Lawn Friday, Sept. 30.

Virginia Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera provided greetings for the ceremony and said she was struck by Danilowicz's "excitement and positive energy" when first meeting him, adding he has shown himself to be a relationship builder and an experienced strategist.

"President Danilowicz is the right leader at the right time for Radford University," she said.

Four speakers each focused on one of the four central themes of the ceremony.

Student Government Association President Justine McLaughlin said her time at Radford has given her purpose in her life and does the same for so many students and alumni.

Faculty Senate President Kurt Gingrich, Ph.D, spoke of the people of Radford from the Board of Visitors to faculty, staff, and students, and their importance to the success and mission of the university.

"Your burden is heavy, President

Danilowicz, but you are not alone in carrying this weight," said Gingrich. "All of the amazing people of Radford University will help you carry the burden... so Radford can help continue to fulfill its purpose."

Radford Mayor David Horton, also a staff member at Radford University in the Office of Dean of the Artis College of Science and Technology, spoke of place during his address. He lauded Danilowicz for his clear support of not only the university but of the "growth and prosperity of the city" and New River Valley.

"Dr. Danilowicz has already begun to enhance the relationship between this institution, the city, the region, and beyond," said Horton. "Together our future is bright and I'm excited for all the chapters of this story that are yet to be written."

Radford University Alumni Association President Kevin Rogers centered his address on Highlander pride.

"Welcome to the most beautiful university in the state of Virginia, actually in the United States," said Rogers, to hearty applause from the audience. "This place is sacred ground for many of us. It is where we met our best friends and, in some cases, our partners in life; our co-workers, our

See **Danilowicz**, page 4



Radford University President Bret Danilowicz, Ph.D., standing with his wife Kaye Danilowicz, smiles out at the crowd at Friday's inauguration ceremony.



Radford Mayor David Horton, also a staff member of Radford University, addresses the attendees of the inauguration ceremony.

PHOTOS BY HEATHER BELL

County animal care, adoption center receives achievement award

The Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center's Return to Home program has received a Virginia Association of Counties 2022 Achievement Award.

In 2021, the staff at the animal control and adoption center implemented a new program to assist with the challenge of reuniting lost pets with their owners. Along with their typical social media campaign related to lost and found pets, the staff at the adoption center, in collaboration with the Animal Control Department, rolled out an online lost-and-found reporting system. The new system allows for lost or found pets to

be reported 24 hours a day with photos of the pet and connects directly to the shelter software used by the adoption center, streamlining the process and alerting everyone much faster.

The new Return to Home program has resulted in an 88 percent return rate over the last year, a significant increase from the 70 percent return rate experienced when the adoption center first opened in April of 2017.

The Virginia Association of Counties received 100 award submissions in 2022. The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center's Return to Home program was presented a 2022 Achievement Award from the Virginia Association of Counties at the Sept. 26, meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. Pictured, left to right, are County Board of Supervisors Member Darrell Sheppard; County Board of Supervisors Member Todd King; County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Mary Biggs; County Board of Supervisors Chair Sherri Blevins; Va. Association of Counties Director of Government Affairs Katie Boyle; Animal Care and Adoption Center Director Eileen Mahan; County Board of Supervisors Member April DeMotts; County Board of Supervisors Member Sara Bohn; County Administrator Craig Meadows; and County Board of Supervisors Member Steve Fijalkowski.

Author Event at Blacksburg Library: 'Shadows of War' with Dr. William A. Allen

Blacksburg author Dr. William A. Allen (Bill) will discuss his book with an emphasis on Shadows of War at the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Shadows of War is a true story of growing up in Kissimmee, Fla., in a struggling family during the 1940 and 50's. The author's father honorably served his country in the Second World War and returned with what is now called PTSD. The life of the author, his father, and the members of his father's two families would be forever changed by this time of war and peace, both foreign and domestic.

Allen's novel, Mangrove Island, will also be available.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY-FLOYD REGIONAL LIBRARY

An emeritus professor at Virginia Tech, Dr. William (Bill) Allen will discuss his book Shadows of War at the Blacksburg Library, 200 Miller St., Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m. He and his wife, Dorothy, pictured with him, have been married for 60 years.

Set in the early 1960s on a barrier island on the Southwest coast of Florida. Mangrove Island was largely inhabited by fishermen and working class people but that world was changing. "Come

here's" were moving in but the wild places were still there. A native son, Steve Swensen, returns to the island to start a nursery business and a young

See **Allen**, page 4

Studying vampire bats to predict the next pandemic

In June, Virginia Tech Assistant Professor Luis Escobar led a team of students into the Andes Mountains and lowlands of Colombia to understand how vampire bats can help predict and prevent the next big epidemic.

Escobar is an expert in assessing how diseases respond to climate and landscape change in the College of Natural Resources and Environment's Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. With a \$358,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), his latest project examines how vampire bats carrying the rabies virus can help scientists forecast areas where wildlife virus transmission might occur in the coming years.

The study documents in-depth how the confluence of geography, population traits, and climate change affect the spread of infectious disease from bats to other species and proposes new models for predicting when and where such spillover events will occur. The findings could shed light on what environmental conditions increase the likelihood of transmission of rabies as well as other diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans, such as coronavirus and the Ebola virus.

Colombia's varied climate and topography — from the cold, arid elevations of the Andes Mountains down to the hot, humid lowlands and coastal areas — offer the ideal setting for such research.

Radford police respond to fight, large crowd at Tyler Avenue

On Sept. 10, 2022, at approximately 2:00 a.m., members of the Radford City Police Department responded to the 300 block of Tyler Avenue for a reported fight. Upon arrival, officers observed a large crowd dispersing from the area, and a subsequent investigation revealed a victim who had

suffered significant injuries from an assault.

The investigation resulted in the following charge for the following individual in relation to this incident: Mason Percy Meador-McGhee, 21, of Roanoke: felony aggravated malicious wounding and misdemeanor assault by a mob. A warrant

for similar charges was also issued for Thomas David Zelrick Jr., 19 of Salem. Zelrick is still wanted by the Radford City Police Department. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call the Radford City Police Department at 540-731-3624.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF RADFORD

Thomas David Zelrick Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 1:

Annual bike parade canceled
Due to forecasted heavy rain, the Town of Blacksburg's annual bike parade, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 1, has been canceled. There are no plans to reschedule at this time.

Downtown Christiansburg food truck rodeo
West Main Street, downtown Christiansburg; 4 to 9 p.m. Food trucks, live music, and craft beer and wine.

Theater production
"Twilight of the Golds" theater production at Bondurant Auditorium; 7:30 p.m.

Noise alert: Skipper cannon fire
Skipper, the Corps of Cadets cannon, will be fired on Upper Quad between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, as cadets return from the fall Caldwell March. The actual time will depend on weather and road conditions.

PAWS to Read with Derek
At the Blacksburg Library at 1 p.m. Sign up for a 10-minute time slot to read to a therapy dog. Call the library at 540-552-8246.

Fall plant swap
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Bring plants, bulbs, and seeds to swap. Vegetable plants, house plants, landscape plants, and flowers are all welcome. Bring plants in from 2 to 2:30, and the first swap will begin at 2:30 with the second round at 2:45.

Sunday, Oct. 2:

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church benefit concert
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church has partnered with Blacksburg Refugee Partnership for a free benefit concert at 3 p.m. at the church. Pianist Fabio Manchetti will be performing. The church is located at 701 Church St. in Blacksburg. Any donations received will be given to the partnership to continue the work of helping to resettle new neighbors in Blacksburg (11 individuals have arrived since July).

Monday, Oct. 3:

Humans of Radford
Everyone has a story. Sign up at tinyurl.com/RadfordHumans to come and share yours! The event will take place on the McConnell Library Lawn from noon to 5 p.m. Citizens, business owners, and everyone else in Radford is welcome to join this event to share a story.

Tuesday, Oct. 4:

Piano recital
Dr. Fabio Menchetti, will present a piano recital at Davis

Hall in the Covington Center for the Arts on the campus of Radford University at 7:30 p.m. The event is free.

Montgomery County School Board meeting
From 7 to 10 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St, Christiansburg.

Teen college prep
At the Radford Public Library from 6 to 7 p.m. Counselors from Radford University will present an informal Q&A to middle and high school students about what to expect when beginning the college admissions process.

Wednesday, Oct. 5:

Fireworks Display
In celebration of the Virginia Tech Ring Premiere, the Class of 2024 invites the Virginia Tech and Town of Blacksburg communities to view the Ring Premiere Fireworks Display, which will be fired off on the Virginia Tech Drillfield at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Corps of Cadets cannon, Skipper, is also scheduled to fire during this time. Before and during the fireworks display vehicular and pedestrian traffic may be restricted on and around the Drillfield loop. This approximately 10-minute display is being done in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Tech office of environmental health and safety, and both the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg police departments.

Thursday, Oct. 6:

Comprehensive plan amendment public input meeting
A public input meeting regarding the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment will be held at 6 p.m. in the Blacksburg Motor Company Building Conference Room, 400 South Main St. This is an informal meeting at which staff will present information about the amendment and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions. The amendment regards high-density student housing and housekeeping items. For more information, call the Planning and Building Department at 540-443-1300 or visit blacksburg.gov/publichearings.

MCCC October eggs & issues
The Montgomery county Chamber of Commerce will hold an eggs and issues breakfast at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. The topic will be New River Valley Passenger Rail. Invited speakers include Raymond D. Smoot Jr., of the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board; Michael McLaughlin, COO of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority; Sandy Davis, Co-Chair, of New River Valley Passenger Rail; Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the New River Valley Regional Commission; and moderator Ann Cassell, President of The Blacksburg Partnership. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited, and reservations are required by no later than October 4 at noon. Register and pay online or contact

programs@montgomerycc.org.https://bit.ly/oct22eggs.

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

Friday, Oct. 7:

Children's Yoga
At the Radford Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m. Kelly McCoy of "The Whole You" and Alex Bowman from "Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic" will present a children's yoga class. If possible, children should bring their own yoga mat. Registration is required. To register, call the library or email morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov.

Monday, Oct. 10:

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers in the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St. at 7 p.m. The agenda can be found at www.radfordva.gov.

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting
The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and are allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

RCPS Special Education Advisory Committee meeting
A Radford City Public Schools Special Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th St., Radford. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be available virtually using Google Meet. To be invited using Google Meet, contact Anne Goodman, Chair, at 540-267-7144, or Kate Leeper, Vice Chair/Secretary, at 540-267-7223, to obtain a virtual meeting link.

Tuesday, Oct. 11:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting
The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are invited to attend. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Radford City School board meeting
The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the RCPS Administration Building, 1612 Wadsworth St. The agenda can be found at www.rcps.org.

Blacksburg Town Council meeting
The Blacksburg Town Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting
Christiansburg Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street).

Spooky movie trivia for teens
At the Radford Public Library; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is a friendly Halloween-themed trivia competition for teens. Each correct answer will earn a piece of candy.

Thursday, Oct. 13:

Ice cream social, wealth gap discussion
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1845 Cambria St., Christiansburg, will host an ice cream social and discussion of the wealth gap in the United States from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. Following refreshments, the church will use a Bread for the World's Racial Wealth Gap exercise to guide the conversation. This event is sponsored by the church and LT2 ("Learning to Live Together.")

Saturday, Oct. 15:

National Paint Your Own Pottery Day celebrated at local studio
Paint Your Own Pottery (PYOP) stores around the country will offer special classes and events to celebrate National PYOP Day. Paint 'n Fun Ceramics in Christiansburg will participate with activities for everyone in the family.

Sunday, Oct. 16:

Author talk with Jane Goette
At the Blacksburg Library at 2 p.m. Jane Goette will talk about her book "A River Road Memoir," a journey through a young girl's idyllic childhood in the rural South to her restless adolescence when the Civil Rights struggle becomes urgent and personal to her family. The unfolding story is told through the second daughter's eyes. This author event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Linda Spivey at 540-382-6969, ext. 221.

Thursday, Oct. 20:

Radford Photo Club meeting
The Radford Photo Club will meet at the Radford Public Library at 6 p.m. Sharon Gilbert of Radford will talk about the different formats she uses to print her photos, such as ceramic tile, wood, slate, and metal. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. The photo challenge for October is pets. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.



Help Wanted

Newspaper Delivery Driver

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.

Part Time Newspaper Production Help

Salem Times Register has openings for afternoon/evening shift work- inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$11 per hour. Contact Lynn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

The Town of Pembroke is seeking a part-time Office Assistant.

The individual must have good written and oral communication skills. Basic knowledge of accounting, data entry, excel spreadsheets, and general office practices are essential. Able to help with grant writing is preferred. Other duties as assigned. Candidates must present a positive attitude towards Town citizens, visitors, and fellow employees. A Virginia State application is required and available online. No phone calls. All completed applications must be received in the Pembroke Town Hall by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2022. Please mail to PO Box 5, or deliver to 500 Snidow Street, Pembroke, VA 24136. The Town of Pembroke is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted:

The Town of Pembroke is seeking a Full time and a Part-time Certified Police Officer. Only certified officers need apply. A Virginia State application is required and available online. No phone calls. All completed applications must be received in the Pembroke Town Hall by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2022. Please mail to PO Box 5, or deliver to 500 Snidow Street, Pembroke, VA 24136. The Town of Pembroke is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Wanted to Rent

Want to rent small or midsize home. Responsible single gentleman with one dog. Have excellent credit and references. Prefer quiet area. Call or text Tom 540-392-6971

For Sale - Misc

FOR SALE

Unprinted end rolls of newsprint. Great for packing & shipping, moving & storage and for art projects. Various sizes available. Stop by the Salem Times-Register 1633 West Main St. or call (540)389-9355 for details.

Legals - Montgomery County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VA CODE §§1-211.1;8-01-316,-317,20-104
Case No. CM19000119-00
MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073. Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ESTATE OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III v. COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE RIGHTFUL HEIRS OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III. It is ORDERED that THE HEIRS OF JAMES SHANNON MILLER, III appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before NOVEMBER 30, 2022 at 10:00a.m.

Signed: ERICA W. CONNER, CLERK.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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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A GREAT DEAL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
To place your ad, call 389-9355

Community Events from page 2

Saturday, Oct. 22:

Blacksburg leaf compost pickup
Loose and bagged leaves collected by the town are composted into leaf mulch. This mulch can be used as a soil additive or for composting, and is available to Blacksburg residents for pickup.
Register at: <https://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10139/304?backlist=%2fhome%2f-fsiteid-1#!/>

Sons of Norway meeting
For all people of Scandinavian/Nordic heritage or those interested in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland), interesting programs, and activities on heritage and culture. This meeting of the local lodge of the international Sons of Norway organization will be held 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.

Ongoing:

Halloween costume drive
Through Oct. 15 at the Meadowbrook Public Library, which is collecting new and like-new Halloween Costumes in all sizes. Drop off a costume at the circulation desk during library hours. The costumes are for a free program on Monday, Oct. 17, at the Meadowbrook Library from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. First-come first-served while costumes last.

Coat Drive in Memory of Cindy Collins

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

Blacksburg Police Department 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 department continue its efforts to serve the Blacksburg community. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFYG9J8>

Applications underway for NRV Master Gardener grants

The NRV Master Gardener Association, a volunteer organization of the 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 the 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: 540-239-9591 caroltrutt53@hotmail.com. Email is preferred, but applications may be mailed to Carol at the following address: 95 N. Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

NRV United Way hosts annual awards luncheon

The United Way of the New River Valley hosted its annual campaign kick-off and awards luncheon on Sept. 8.

The following sponsors and businesses helped make the event possible: AesirTech Consulting, Event Sponsor; Jeff Caldwell, Owner of Nesselrod on the New, Location Sponsor; Zeppoli's Restaurant and Wine Shop, Catering; ESPN Blacksburg; Whitescarver Photography, Event photographer; JW Parks, Musical Entertainment; Kroger; New River Engraving; and Events by Lee.

The following volunteers and local business leaders were recognized: Community Support Award: Melinda

Lawson Cumbee, Studio Blush; In-Kind Support Award: BNI New River Valley Founders Chapter; Karen Cronin: Volunteer of the Year Award: Charlie Whitescarver: Small Business Impact Award: Willow Springs Tree Farm; Excellence in Partnership Award: Foxridge/HHHunt; Highest Percentage Increase in Overall Giving: Long & Foster; Largest Increase in Employee Participation: Margaret Beeks Elementary School; Largest Increase in Corporate Giving: Carter Bank & Trust; Largest One-Time Corporate Gift: Truist Bank; and All-Around Campaign Excellence Award: National Bank of Blacksburg.



AesirTech Consulting, pictured above with Paul Wellons (second from left) and his staff were among the sponsors of the awards luncheon.



United Way board members and Melinda Lawson Cumbee, community support award winner, are pictured above. Left to right: Board member William Lester; Melinda Cumbee, owner of Studio Blush; board member James Cabler; and board president Heather Nicholson.



Pictured above (left to right) are United Way board member William Lester, event photographer Charlie Whitescarver, board member James Cabler, and board president Heather Nicholson.



President and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia Pamela Irvine, second from left, led the organization's roundtable. She discussed the organization's new mission and asked questions of the various representatives who were present.



Feeding Southwest Virginia held a community roundtable for Hunger Action Day Sept. 22 at its distribution center and administrative offices in Salem.



A volunteer opportunity was held following the Feeding Southwest Virginia roundtable.

Feeding Southwest Virginia holds community roundtable for Hunger Action Day

Aila Boyd
Executive Editor

Feeding Southwest Virginia held a community roundtable for Hunger Action Day Sept. 22 at its distribution center and administrative offices in Salem.

During the event, the organization's new mission was discussed. With three components, the new mission now reads: "Nourish neighbors. Engage community partners. Develop solutions to address food insecurity."

The roundtable was led by Pamela Irvine, president and CEO of Feeding Southwest Virginia. The conversation focused on the three components of the new mission.

Representatives attending the roundtable were from Kroger, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Voices of Faith, Beth Israel Roanoke, St. Marks Lutheran Church of Roanoke, Carilion Clinic, the Local Environmental Agriculture Project, Carter Bank and Trust, Rescue Mission of Roanoke, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Presbyterian Community Center, United Way of Roanoke Valley, and Vinton-Roanoke Area Agape Center.

The representatives discussed the ways they go about serving their various communities and the ways they engage with Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Those present also talked about how they can collaborate on different projects and initiatives.

Irvine specifically asked those present what reducing food insecurity looks like to them. She noted an issue on her radar is the "benefits cliff," meaning someone's benefits are greatly reduced or eliminated once they make a certain amount of money.

"If they make a little bit more, they lose their benefits," she said. "One of the things we believe is going to be key in anybody's success in transferring from public benefits to feeding their own family and having financial security is going to be additional resources during that transition, not a decrease in resources. That's a policy thing we've been working on for a number of years."

Elected officials and their staff members were also present, including Roanoke City Councilman Joe Cobb, Del. Joe McNamara, a representative for Sen. Tim Kaine, a representative for Del. Chris Head, and a representative for state

Sen. David Sutterlein.

"We are so grateful for Feeding Southwest Virginia and the partnerships we have," Councilman Cobb said. "You all were extraordinary partners during COVID, making sure our schools and kids and families had access to food."

McNamara encouraged the representatives to come to him and other officials with specific policy requests.

Prior to the roundtable, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated 40,000 pounds of food to Feeding Southwest Virginia.

"Our 41-year history has taught us a thing or two about change," said James Pearman, Feeding Southwest Virginia's board chair in a brochure that outlines the new mission and was handed out during the roundtable. "As our communities and the world around us change, we are prompted to respond with innovative and dynamic strategies to serve our neighbors well."

Feeding Southwest Virginia covers a region that consists of 26 counties and nine cities, including Montgomery County and Radford.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNITED WAY OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

PHOTOS BY ALIA BOYD

NRCC instrumentation degree lets graduate work around the world

When Carl Edwards of Galax chose to attend New River Community College, he came for some of the same reasons many local students do: It was affordable and close to home. But beyond those more conventional reasons, something else lured him to NRCC.

"I'd heard great things about the instrumentation program while I was taking some electrical classes at NRCC after work in 2013," he said.

The instrumentation program at NRCC provides hands-on training and education in required skills and theory to master the responsibilities of an instrument and controls technician. The program also provides the foundation for on-the-job training and other career challenges in the instrumentation and control automation field.

Edwards enrolled in the program. While at NRCC, he made friends that he still keeps in touch

with several years later. He also remains in contact with his professor, Montie Fleshman.

"Montie was a great teacher," Edwards said.

After graduating from NRCC in 2016 with an associate degree in instrumentation and control automation technology and electrical engineering, Edwards took a job at OCI Iowa Fertilizer Company, a position he found online. There he was able to obtain some additional certifications that made him even more employable in his field.

Being willing and able to relocate for a job with short notice is valued by potential employers, Edwards said.

"One of the unique things about the instrumentation field is that students can work in lucrative positions not only locally but all over the country if they're willing to travel," he said.

And for Edwards, his work even took him

outside the United States.

"I traveled before college doing electrical work, so I have always done it. Instrumentation opened up overseas and out-of-country work for me," Edwards said. "The degree and skills from NRCC allowed me to see the world."

He has worked on projects that have taken him from Iowa to Minnesota to Pennsylvania in the U.S. Beyond the border, he spent nearly two years in the Caribbean working at Limetree Bay Refinery in St. Croix and six months testing safety systems on the Leviathan offshore gas production platform that fed up to 2.1 billion cubic feet per day into the Mediterranean Sea.

While working in St. Croix, Edwards was able to get off work and go scuba diving or swimming anytime he chose.

Most recently, his work took him to Ontario, Canada. He is currently



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carl Edwards is pictured above on the Leviathan offshore gas production platform that fed up to 2.1 billion cubic feet per day into the Mediterranean Sea. This work came after he graduated with a degree from New River Community College's instrumentation program.

working as a field engineer on a refinery restart project in Newfoundland.

He notes that the instrumentation field is a secure career path.

"There are places always contacting me for long-term and short-term jobs, so I feel that I have job stability," he said.

His industry is also lucrative, especially for those who are willing to travel and work overtime.

"If you are not scared of overtime, you can make

between \$160,000 to \$250,000," Edwards said.

But his work isn't solely about the income or the travel. Beyond the day-to-day work, the most interesting thing about his profession is working with so many different people.

"I've worked with people from all over: India, Israel, Germany, Italy, Trinidad, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand, and England," he said.

Edwards believes his training at NRCC wholly

prepared him for his career both at home and abroad.

"The instrumentation calibration equipment at NRCC is exactly what I have used and seen on some multi-billion-dollar projects," he said. "The instrumentation degree from NRCC was one of the best investments I ever made, and I would urge anyone and everyone to look at it as a career path."

- News Messenger

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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Danilowicz

from page 1

business partners, and even our soulmates."

Board of Visitors Rector Debra McMahon, Ph.D., who served as the master of ceremonies for the inauguration, also officially installed Danilowicz as president, placing the official presidential medallion around his neck.

McMahon said she was immediately impressed by Danilowicz during the presidential search process and continues to be so.

"He is truly one of those people who is authentic," she said. "He will tell you how it is, and tell you where the pain points are, but really celebrate the good things as well."

Laura Belmonte, Ph.D., Dean of the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has been a colleague of Danilowicz's for years, since they were both employed at Oklahoma State University. Belmonte called Danilowicz her "dean, her friend, and one of her most cherished mentors. I'm thrilled he's achieved his lifelong dream of a college presidency," she said. "The Radford community is immensely fortunate that he will live that dream here."

Danilowicz thanked his wife, five children, and his five parents, who were all on hand for their support of his dream. He pledged that while he

wants to be a great president, he will always find a way to be a great husband and father as well.

Danilowicz also expressed excitement that Radford University has gone beyond being ranked regionally as a top university and has now been ranked nationally in some areas.

"Radford University is now on the national stage," he said.

Danilowicz said although he has lived in many states and a few other countries, during the career path that led him to Radford, he can't help but feel fate brought him to the home of the Highlanders and the strong Scots-Irish tradition.

His wife, he explained, moved to Scotland when she was two years old and lived there for years.

"When Kaye and I were married, only one instrument played at our wedding – the bagpipes," he said. "We believe fate has seated bagpipes throughout our lives, to bring us here."

Previous presidents of the university are Brian O. Hemphill PhD (2016-2021), Penelope Ward Kyle JD (2005-2016), Douglas Covington (1995-2005), Donald Newton Dedmon (1972-1994), Charles Knox Martin Jr., (1952-1972), David Wilbur Peters (1938-1951); and John Preston McConnell, Ph.D. (1911-1937).

Allen

from page 1

reporter, Ingrid Johnson, took a job working for the local newspaper. Together they would help solve a mystery.

Both books are available through Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library to check out, and are available on Amazon where they both have a 4.6 out of a 5.0 star rating. Books will be available to purchase and for signing by the author at the event.

Allen is a fifth-generation Floridian who grew up in Kissimmee who is now retired from Virginia Tech where he served in the Department of Entomology for fifteen years before moving into administration. He retired in

1995 as Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension and Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Allen is an Emeritus Professor at Virginia Tech who has been recognized numerous times for his scientific and educational work on behalf of farmers and other citizens. He served as President of the Entomological Society of America in 1986.

Married to Dorothy Marie (Langeland) Allen, his wife of 60 years, they have two married sons, and four grandchildren. They have been a part of the community for 54 years.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints' signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David ____, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette

- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov't lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. __ Blyton, children's author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. "The African Queen" writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers Charles

- and "Ray"
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness



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Obituaries from page 5

others to operate complex blood analysis machines. She received numerous performance awards for excellence. She also was a licensed realtor and worked for the Veterans Administration and as a doctor's aide.

The family expresses its appreciation for the support of the Blue Ridge Shores community and baptist church over

the last 20 years and acknowledges and appreciates the loving care provided by Ms. Whitney Southall during the past four years.

A private ceremony will be held immediately prior to the planned interment at Sunset Cemetery, Christiansburg, circa mid-October, 2022.

Brown, Mary Eloise Taylor

On Sept. 27, 2022, Mary Eloise Taylor Brown, 93, celebrated and rejoiced as she joined her Heavenly Father, her husband, John Marzell "Merk" Brown, and her sons, Thomas "Tommy" Everette Brown and William "Billy" Kenneth Brown.

Eloise was born on July 9, 1929, to Marvin Everett and Effie Farmer Taylor in the City of Radford, where she proudly remained her entire life. Eloise was the eldest of five children: Irene Byrd, Norma Jean Graves, Jerry Taylor, and Sharon Taylor.

She was a beloved wife, mother, sister and a very special granny. Those left to cherish her memory and laugh while telling granny stories are her grandsons Eric Martin and his wife Lee Ann, and Thomas James Brown; a sister, Sharon Taylor; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Eloise faithfully worshiped and served at the Church of God of Prophecy for many years until she was unable to physically attend. She loved reading her Bible, working puzzles, gardening, watching birds, attending all family gatherings, and toodling around the City of Radford with her sister, Norma Jean.

All who knew Eloise, whether they called her Mary or Eloise; knew that this 4-foot spit fire loved her family as fiercely as she protected and defended them. While she loved her family, her extended family, and her church



family; no one that could or would ever compare to her special grandson, Eric.

Eloise spent her last six years at the Radford Health and Rehab Center. While there, she enjoyed playing BINGO, getting fresh air on the "front porch" while appreciating the grounds, and also watching television, especially Westerns.

The family would like to extend their respect and gratitude to all the staff of Radford Health and Rehab Center. They will forever be grateful on behalf of The Captain for the genuine love, care and patience of Casey Shaffner, her #2.

The family would also like to thank Jessie and the rest of the staff at Intrepid Hospice for the understanding, care, and respect shown to the family during Eloise's transition to her Heavenly, forever home.

The family received friends on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed with Pastor Zane Cox and Pastor Tom Warren officiating. Interment followed in the Mountain View Cemetery in Pulaski County.

While flowers are welcome, donations to the Church of God of Prophecy, Radford, would be a wonderful sentiment also.

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

Thompson, David Leon

David Leon Thompson, 65, passed away Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, at his home in Hiwassee.

He retired from Volvo Trucks and was preceded in death by his father, William Herman Thompson, Jr. and mother, Ruby Louise Woolwine Flinchum; a brother, Michael Thompson; and sisters Bonnie Thompson and Sharon Thompson.

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Vincent and Shannon Thompson and



Eric Thompson and Tiffany Sheppard; daughter Sara Thompson; grandchildren Dru, Eric, Junior., Lilly, Taylor, and Alyssa; brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Kathy Thompson; girlfriend Peggy Richardson; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be private.

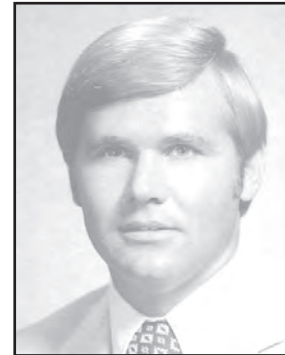
The Thompson family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Waddell, Jerry Foley

Jerry Foley Waddell, 82, of Radford, Reed, passed away at his home on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

He was a United States Air Force veteran with eight years of service. After serving, he began a career in banking. Jerry was a graduate of the Virginia-Maryland Bankers School of the University of Virginia. He became the Assistant Vice President of First and Merchants National Bank of Radford and continued his banking career as the Assistant Vice President with the Island Bank of Holmes Beach in Florida.

In 1974, Jerry was listed in the awards volume, Outstanding Young Men of America. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Foley and Helen Garman Waddell; and his sisters, Joan Zolaka, and Martha



Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years, Peggy Crabtree Waddell; sons Barry Dean Waddell, and Wesley Edward Waddell; a sister, Barbara Stewart; and many other relatives, and friends.

The family would like to thank the Salem VA Medical Center, Veterans Home-Based Primary Care, Advance Health Services, Carilion Clinic Hospice, and Carilion New River Valley Medical Center for all of the care they provided not only to Jerry, but also to the family during this time.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

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

Students tackle pesky plant problems at summer contests



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Members of Virginia Tech's Weeds Team competed and placed in two national contests this summer.

By Mary Hardbarger
Virginia Tech

Graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences participated in two collegiate weed science contests among competitors from the United States and Canada. Members of Virginia Tech's Weeds Team regularly participate in these annual contests, which test students' knowledge of herbicide symptomology, weed identification, sprayer calibration, and field diagnosis of plant problems.

The coaches of the

2022 award-winning team were School of Plant and Environmental Sciences Professors Jacob Barney, Michael Flessner, and Shawn Askew.

According to Barney, the team started planning for the late summer contests in early May and scheduled two, four-hour practices each week. The coaches focus on specific events to teach the students, "but the breadth of material the students have to know is enormous," he said. Barney said the contests not only test students'

knowledge, but also serve as opportunities for networking and exposing students to real-world challenges they might face in the field.

The Northeastern Weed Science Society's Collegiate Weed Contest was held in July at Syngenta Canada's Honeywood research facility in Plattsville, Ontario. Seven universities, including Virginia Tech, participated. The students earned multiple honors as a team and for individual events. For more than a decade, the team has placed as the top graduate team in the competition.

"Our consistent top team and individual performances are testament to our outstanding students and their dedication to weed science," Barney said.

Virginia Tech's results at the Northeastern Collegiate Weed Science Society Week Contest:

Team 1: Eli Russell, Matthew Spoth, John Peppers

Team 2: Vipin Kumar, Prashasti Agarwal, Tim Shively, Cynthia Sias

Individual: Navdeep Kumar

First place, graduate team: Eli Russell, John Peppers, Matthew Spoth

First place, graduate individual: Eli Russell

Second place, graduate individual: Matthew Spoth

First place, written calibration: Eli Russell

First place, herbicide identification: Vipin Kumar

First place, weed identification: Eli Russell

First place, team calibration: Eli Russell, John Peppers, Matthew Spoth

In August, the team

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Offering # 1 - This offering consists of a 1.5 story retail building, a storage building and 9.514 acres. Retail Building is 3,032 sq ft, built in 2011. Very good quality construction. Metal roof, insulated panel siding, and stacked stone fireplace chimney. Interior flooring is commercial grade carpet in second floor offices, stained and sealed concrete in tasting and retail area, kitchen, 2 restrooms and hallway. Sealed concrete in the storage and mechanical room. Interior walls and ceilings are painted drywall. 12' to 15' vaulted ceilings in retail and tasting areas, and 8' in remainder. Heat Pump and electric wall heaters in restrooms. Kitchen has a triple stainless-steel sink and wash sink. Two 200-amp distribution panels, fire and security alarm system, built in speakers and large black walnut tasting bar. Stone paver patio, porch and walk with 16' x 16' canopy over patio. The improvements for this property were intended to be used as a winery. Improvements could be repurposed for other commercial uses or possibly as a residence.

Offering # 2 - This offering consists of .510 acres of land located at 3850 Poppy Lane in Christiansburg VA. This building lot is mostly open and located across Poppy Lane from Offering 1. Property has been perked but perk has expired. Build your dream home on this lot. Great location near Christiansburg and Radford VA!

Preview Dates - Friday September 30th
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See Plant, page 8

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg High School names new girls' soccer coach

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Blacksburg High School has named former junior varsity soccer coach Matthew Pickett as the new head coach of the school's girls' soccer program.

"Soccer in Blacksburg and Montgomery County was a large part of my personal development," Pickett said. "As a former player and lifelong resident of the area, I felt that it was important to step up to ensure consistency in the program, to continue the positive team environment and the strong soccer culture established by the previous varsity coaching staff."

Pickett's playing experience of more than 12 years included New River United

and Roanoke Star. He captained the club team for three years, competing against some of the best players the area had to offer.

Pickett graduated from Blacksburg in 2010 and attended college at the Rochester Institute of Technology before coming back to Montgomery County and working both in and out of state as a film/TV production coordinator, manager, and production company owner for local, national, and international clients.

Pickett started coaching as a player/coach for multiple indoor leagues, and then, after getting his United States Soccer Federation E coaching license, he coached youth summer camps in the New River Valley for several years while

in high school.

After a hiatus from soccer to focus on his career in film and TV, Pickett came back to coaching in the spring of 2022, and coached the BHS Junior Varsity Girls soccer team to a 12-1 record. He is also currently a girls youth coach for New River United/Virginia United FC for the fall 2022 season.

"The Blacksburg High School's boys and girls soccer programs have a long history of success," the new head coach said. "In fact, the Blacksburg, Virginia Wikipedia page mentions the BHS soccer program (along with other programs) as being among the top in the state."

"It is my hope and my goal to continue and build upon the past regional and state successes of BHS girls soccer in the

coming years while also maintaining a team culture that allows for every player to develop to their highest potential," Pickett said.

The new head coach has seen the amount of support and camaraderie between players and the universal understanding that everything revolves around the team, not the individual.

"This is a testament to the quality of the previous coaching staff and the players themselves," he said. "It is my hope that I can help grow the excitement around girls soccer in our community, and that our team can be role models for the next generation who are watching and hoping to one day wear the jersey of the Blacksburg Bruins."

Bruins win cross-country meet of more than 120 teams



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

The Blacksburg High School boys' cross-country team won one of the largest meets ever held in the state of Virginia this past week. They competed against a field of more than 120 teams at the Oatlands Invitational in Northern Virginia.

Connor Rutherford, who has the

fastest 5K time of all Virginia runners, led the Blacksburg varsity boys with a seventh-place finish.

At the same meet, the girls' cross-country team finished fifth. The boys' junior varsity team also did well, claiming spots one through seven in the race.

Tech opens practice ahead of 2022-23 season

Four days after receiving their ACC championship rings, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team officially turned the page Monday afternoon with the first official practice of the 2022-23 season in the Hahn Hurst Basketball Practice Center.

Plenty of new faces were on the court as the Hokies have nine newcomers on their roster, tied for the third-most in the ACC. On the other hand, plenty of experience was in the gym as well, anchored by senior and 2022 ACC Tournament MVP Hunter Cattoor and graduate student Justyn Mutts.

Mike Young, who enters his 21st season as a Division I head coach and his fourth on the Tech sideline, opened the practice with introductory remarks, followed by defensive work. He emphasized, "We will go as far as our defense takes us this year." The Hokies finished last season ranked 24th in the country in scoring defense, allowing 62.8 points per game.

Broadcast networks and tip times for Virginia Tech's upcoming 2022-23 men's basketball campaign were announced Wednesday morning. Of the Hokies' 31 regular-season games,

30 will air on ACC Network, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU or RSN. Tech's ACC opener vs. North Carolina will tip at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 and be carried by the ACC Network.

The 2022 ACC title game rematch between VT and Duke will go down on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. as part of ESPN's Big Monday inside Cassell Coliseum. Tech makes the return trip to Cameron Indoor on Saturday, Feb. 25, for the second meeting of the season. The game is slated for a 6 or 8 p.m. start on ESPN.

Finally, the Commonwealth Clash presented by Smithfield, returns to Blacksburg on Saturday, Feb. 4, for a noon tip-off on ESPN, ESPN2, or ESPNU. Tech and UVA first square off on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. in Charlottesville.

Earlier this week, Virginia Tech Athletics announced that full-season ticket packages for the Hokies' 2022-23 campaign have sold out.

Tech opens its season at home on Monday, Nov. 7, against Delaware State at 9 p.m. as part of a doubleheader with the women.

- News Messenger

Virginia Tech Professor Stella Volpe plays on the U.S. women's national field hockey team

By Max Esterhuizen
Virginia Tech

During sporting events this fall, it won't just be Virginia Tech undergraduate athletes running up the scoreboard. The Hokies will be joined by someone else from the classroom.

On top of leading the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, the largest department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Stella Volpe M.S. '87, Ph.D. '91 will represent Virginia Tech on the USA Women's National Field Hockey team in Cape Town, South Africa, in early October.

Volpe, 59, got her first taste of competitive athletics when she engaged in gymnastics in grade school. That experience led her to softball, volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, track, and, of course, field hockey. As the youngest of four, she loved competition, whether it was out on the field or just going for a run.

Volpe began field hockey in ninth grade, played for the University of Pittsburgh as an undergraduate, and coached the club team during her time in graduate school at Virginia Tech. She also was a collegiate and high school referee.

That competitive spirit never left her. She continued to play in local clubs, which led

her to try out for the USA Women's Masters National Field Hockey team for the first time in 2018 and again in 2022.

In between running a department and running on the field, Volpe took time out to answer a few questions about field hockey, competition, and her "pump up" song.

Where did the competitive nature come from?

As the youngest of four, we messed around, played, and were always trying to be better than each other in a good way. We would have silly little contests like to see who could eat a cantaloupe fastest. It was a bit of everything, little things that were silly and fun.

How do you balance being a department head, a professor, and an athlete?

I work long hours and sometimes very late into the night and into the morning to make sure that my work gets done. Some of my staff will notice that they get 3 a.m. emails. It's a sacrifice I'm willing to make, but it is a balance. All of us need to make sure that we do the things that we love to get a good balance in our lives. For me to be able to do this, to have good health and the ability to do it financially, I feel grateful.

What does it take to compete at the masters level?



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

The Virginia Tech men's basketball team received their 2022 ACC championship rings during this past week's West Virginia football game.

It takes a lot of effort to keep yourself in physical shape. It takes a lot of determination. It takes a lot of self-discipline to be able to do some work on my own and practice stick work on my own. We even have some Zoom practices, which sounds silly, but it gets us together and has us do some stick work there, too. It takes a lot of discipline knowing that I don't have weekend games like I used to when I lived in Pennsylvania, and that I need to not just work out for fitness, but I have to do my skills workout as well.

I wouldn't be able to compete without the support of my husband, Gary Snyder M.Ed. '92, and our entire family. I am grateful to the national champions, the Virginia Tech Field Hockey Club, for allowing me to practice with them.

Do you have any pregame routines or superstitions?

This is going to make you laugh, but I like to listen to "Call Me Maybe" by Carly Rae Jepsen before a game. It's a fun song. I listen to it more often before ice hockey games, but I do like to listen to it because it relaxes me and puts me in a good frame of mind. The other silly thing I do is to make sure that I eat my Honey Stingers [energy chews] before a game.

Although the start of the game changes when I eat, I usually eat about two hours before competition or practice, then have a snack an hour before. I make sure I am hydrated and have ample energy chews. We usually get to the field at least an hour prior to competition or practice so that we can get all of our equipment on, such as our shin guards, gloves, etc., and warm-up properly.

Are there any traditions for the players at

See Volpe, page 8

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Blacksburg claims 4D sub-region title



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

The Blacksburg High School golf team claimed the 4D sub-region title Tuesday and will advance to the region championships. Blacksburg finished with a team score of 291. Salem wound up in second place at 305. In the Region 3D tournament, Christiansburg High School finished seventh in a field of 12 teams.

St. Paul UMC celebrates 60 years in present location

St. Paul United Methodist Church celebrated 60 years at its present location, 220 W. Main St., on Sept. 25 as some 250 persons showed up for worship, fellowship, and a luncheon sponsored by the church.

Among those present for the celebration of this special day were Tommy Astin, the son of the Rev. Ira L. Astin, who was the "building minister," and Tommy Astin's wife, daughter, and granddaughter. Evans L. "Buddy" King, Jr., the son of the chairman of the building committee, also was on hand to celebrate.

Among the highlights of the day was the presentation of "the dedication shovel" from "Buddy" King to "Tommy" Astin. This was the shovel used for the groundbreaking sixty years ago.

Under the leadership of the church's current pastor the Rev. Mike Derflinger, St. Paul is planning new forms and styles of ministry and service to others to maintain what has always been the attitude and disposition of The United Methodist Church, of "Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Doors."

In his second year with the church, Pastor Mike has helped form interest groups for young adults, millennials, children and youth, without losing sight of the needs of those who are baby boomers, families with children and grandchildren, and singles. He has helped the church have a vision for the future as it moves into the next sixty years of its ministry.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. PAUL UMC

Joining Tommy Astin (left) and "Buddy" King (right), the son of the church's building committee chairman, for St. Paul's celebration was the Rev. Mike Derflinger (center), who is the church's current pastor. "Buddy" King was 9 years old when the first service was held. Among the day's highlights was King's presentation of the "dedication shovel," the shovel used for the groundbreaking 60 years ago, to Tommy Astin.



Taking part in St. Paul's celebration of 60 years at its present location were (left) Tommy Astin, son of the Rev. Ira L. Astin, who was the "building minister," and "Buddy" King. The photo in the background is of the Rev. Ira Astin.

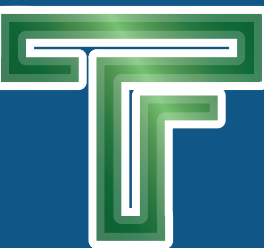
Plant from page 6

participated in the Southern Weed Science Society Contest at Agricenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Fourteen teams from across the U.S., including Virginia

Tech, competed. Team member Eli Russell received multiple prizes, including first place in weed identification.

Volpe from page 7

the World Cup?
We give pins to one another before each game (ours says "USA Field Hockey," for example). We also trade gear with other countries, but not all of it. Somebody is wearing a Volpe jersey in England, and I'm wearing several different ones that I received from Wales, England, and Ireland. It's a really fun tradition.
Win or lose, we take a picture of both teams together after each game. There is this great feeling of camaraderie and knowing that we are fortunate to be able to compete at a high level. There is also a great feeling with all these countries getting together to play in the World Cup. We all are representing our own countries, yet collectively, we all are representing the world.



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