



Y at VT to celebrate Veterans Day with Mobile Vet Center

VETERANS DAY EVENT

The YMCA at Virginia Tech invites local veterans to attend this special celebration.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 11am til 2pm
At The Y Center, 1000 N. Main St. Blacksburg

- MOBILE VETERAN CENTER
- Meet VT Corps of Cadets
- Resources for Vets
- Meals 4 Vets

BLACKSBURG – On Friday, Nov. 4, the YMCA at Virginia Tech will support veterans and their families, with a Mobile Vet Center that will offer information, meals, and food packages vets may enjoy on site or take home.

The event is in partnership with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets who will be on site to meet and interact with the veterans who attend.

“While families across our community experience food insecurity, veterans who served in the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are twice as likely to be food insecure compared to the general population, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Ryan Martin, CEO and Executive Director of the YMCA at Virginia Tech. “We are excited to collaborate with the VA Mobile Vet Center this Veterans Day week

See **YMCA**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIWANIAN ERNIE WADE

Members of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club are getting ready for one of their biggest annual events: distributing presents for their children’s Christiansburg Christmas party.

Christiansburg Kiwanis Club preparing to distribute gifts to children at Christmas party

The Christiansburg Kiwanis Club is gearing up to distribute gifts to approximately 60 children at the club’s annual Christmas party.

The club members provide toys and clothing with Santa Claus handing out the presents

at the party. Food and drinks are also provided for the children and their chaperones.

The pandemic affected the Christmas Party in 2021 so that rather than a party, the gifts were picked up by the children at the Chris-

tiansburg Recreation Center. The names of the children who participate in the party are based on need and are selected by the teachers from

Christiansburg’s See **Kiwanis Club**, page 2

Auburn crowns homecoming court



Tanner Long and Grace Wilson were crowned Auburn High School’s homecoming king and queen at the recent football game against Fort Chiswell.



Crowned Auburn High School’s homecoming prince and princess were Madison Kitterer (left) and Brantley Smith.

Blacksburg High School Homecoming court



Members of the 2022 Blacksburg Homecoming Court are (left to right): Evan Foley, Quinn Worley, and Ziona Allen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

A projection on Torgersen Bridge during homecoming weekend explored Virginia Tech’s past 150 years through sight and sound.

History on the big screen

Hundreds of people paused to witness a bridge to Virginia Tech’s history during Homecoming weekend.

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) collaborated with the university’s Communications and Marketing unit to create a

projection on Torgersen Bridge that explored Virginia Tech’s past 150 years through images and sound.

“It was nice to see the progression of the university and the change in diversity,” said Del Herr, Virginia Tech sophomore. “In the 1920s, you start

to see women come into the projection, more races, and diverse people.”

The projection spanned across the 140-foot bridge. Displaying a series of vignettes representing important moments from the university’s history created

See **History**, page 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 3:

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, Nov. 4:

Homeschool Science: Biogeochemistry
At the Radford Public Library. 11 a.m. to noon. Dr. Mary Jane Carmichael will talk about the study of biogeochemistry: looking at chemical compounds and their relationships to our ecosystems. This program is geared towards homeschooling families. All ages are welcome.

Friday, Nov. 4 and Saturday, Nov. 5:

Book sale
At the Radford Public Library. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hardbacks are \$1. and paperbacks are \$.50. A free cart and table will be available

Monday, Nov. 7:

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

Crafting for the Holiday: Open crafting
At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Participants can bring their own needlework, painting, or other projects and work with others. These crafting afternoons are not guided and are at the participants' leisure. Some craft items will be supplied for relaxation (paper, coloring books for adults, crayons, etc).

Tuesday, Nov. 8:

Kiwanis Club

from page 1

schools. Using input from the children's parents as to needs and sizes of the clothing, each Kiwanian takes a child's name and buys clothing. The club funds toys from a want list supplied by the children's parents. This past year the total cost to the members and the club for the Christmas gifts exceeded \$11,000.

With the pandemic having calmed down some, this year's party will happen as it normally did prior to 2021 with the club members distributing the gifts at the party.

The club has a number of programs to support local children during the school year.

1. The Head Start Backpack Program. Each Thursday prior to the

club's weekly meeting, Kiwanis members meet at the Head Start building and pack 54 backpacks for the Head Start children. The schools' meals program provides food for the schools during the weekdays, and the Kiwanis Backpack Program provides food during the weekend. In support of this program, club members prepare inventory, store the food, and pack the bags.

2. Two Walmart gift cards, in the amount of \$550 (\$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart) were provided to the seven schools in Christiansburg this year. These cards are used to buy needed clothing and school supplies for children who cannot afford

to buy their own. Once the cards reach a low balance, the club replaces them upon request from the schools. Before this program was introduced, often teachers and other staff members paid for these needed items out of their own pockets.

3. Three \$1,000 dollar college scholarships were awarded to Christiansburg High School students this year who needed support for their continuing education.

4. For children who cannot afford the entry fees to participate in sports at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, the club pays the cost.

5. The Club provides annual support in the form of financing and

volunteer assistance to Kiwanis Park where a five-acre expansion is currently underway.

6. Other cash contributions were made this year including the Agency on Aging, \$2,000; the Intellectual Disabilities Agency of the NRV, \$2,000, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, \$1,000, the Montgomery County Department of Social Services \$614, and the CHS cheerleaders \$1,500.

7. As a part of the club's outreach program to provide support to local youth, a partnership was formed with the Montgomery County Social Services to provide supplies needed to support the youth and elders served by the agency.

8. In addition to the

financial support to the CHS cheerleading squad, the club provided football programs.

9. The club co-sponsored the Town of Christiansburg's Annual Easter Egg Hunt by supplying labor and purchasing prizes

10. The club also provided labor to the Montgomery Museum's Heritage Day event.

The Christiansburg Kiwanis Club is the promoter of the Wilderness Trail Festival, which is not only the club's largest fund raising project; but is the largest downtown event in Christiansburg, drawing an estimated crowd of from 8,000 to 10,000 attendees.

Club income for its projects is derived from community fund raisers,

donations, and grants. All such income goes into the service account, and 100% is funneled back into the local community with most going to support youth activities. All administrative costs, including meeting meals, are paid for by the members' personal dues.

Kiwanis is a global organization of members, clubs, and partners who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg has provided service to the local community since its charter was granted in 1949.

By News Messenger Editor Ed McMinn and Kiwanis Club Member Ernie Wade

Library closed
The Radford Public Library will be closed in observance of Election Day

The 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 Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. If Montgomery County Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Wednesday, Nov. 9:

Montgomery County Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase

Connect with Montgomery County businesses at the 2022 Chamber Buy Local Business Showcase at the Inn at Virginia Tech and the Skelton Conference Center, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg. Anyone interested in purchasing a booth may reach out to programs@montgomerycc.org. Business After Hours will be held in conjunction with Showcase at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Come for the showcase and stay for the mixer. Prizes will be given away throughout the day. The event is free and is open to the public. Open to the public from 3:45 to 7 p.m. Open during the Chamber Business After Hours from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Free GED Classes with NRCC
At the Radford Public Library; 9 a.m. to noon. Free GED Prep classes offered by New River Community College. Call (540) 674-3682 for additional information.

Thursday, Nov. 10:

River City Quilt Guild
The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information, call

Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Radford Photo Club

The Radford Photo Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Radford Public Library. The program will be about travel photography, presented by Michele Borgarelli of Blacksburg. The November photo challenge will be Still Life. The club is made up of professional and amateur photographers from throughout the New River Valley. Meetings, events, and outings are open to the public. Learn more about the club by searching for "Radford Photo Club" on Facebook.

Sunday, Nov. 13:

Women's Only swim night
At the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate an evening of girl power. All participants, including the staff, will be women. The cost is \$6. Registration is required by Nov. 7. To register, call 540-381-POOL.

Monday, Nov. 14:

Montgomery Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet at the Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg with a closed session beginning at 6 p.m. if needed, followed by an open session at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and are allowed to speak. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Radford City Council meeting
The Radford City Council will meet in the Starnes Council Chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St. at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15:

Legislative update
The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will present a legislative update to discuss the cham-

ber's 2023 legislative agenda at Warm Hearth Village, 2387 Warm Hearth Dr., Blacksburg, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Several of the representatives from the Virginia House and Senate will be on hand.

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. The meeting is open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main St.).

Ongoing:

Holiday Parade Registration

Registration is now open for Blacksburg's annual Holiday Parade to be held on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. This year's theme will be "Hometown Holidays." The registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact David Goodman at degoodman@blacksburg.gov or 540-443-1106.

Hand-in-Hand playground design concepts

The Town of Blacksburg has received design concepts from playground designer Leathers Inc. for the new Hand-in-Hand playground. Check them out at <https://letstalk-blacksburg.org/hand-in-hand> and provide feedback by Monday, Nov. 7.

Radford Holiday Parade registration

Radford's Holiday Parade, themed "Jingle All the Way," will take place on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at 7 p.m. The lineup begins at 6 p.m. on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge. The parade will proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center. Go to www.radfordva.gov to register. Deadline to register is Nov. 30.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR THANKSGIVING PAPER

There will be early deadlines for the November 23 issue because of Thanksgiving.

Please send your news items, photos and church news by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to communitynews@ourvalley.org. Send ads by **Thursday, November 17 at noon** to advertise@ourvalley.org. The paper will be printed on Tuesday, Nov. 22 in order for subscribers to receive it by mail before Thanksgiving. You may also drop off news items and ads at our offices at 1633 W. Main Street, Salem, VA 24153.

The offices of the News Messenger and Radford News Journal will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

History

from page 1

from about 300 images, the 30-minute piece played in a loop after dark on Oct. 14, 15, and 16.

On those same days, the projection also appeared in the Moss Arts Center Cube. With its 128-speaker system, the Cube offered an immersive viewing experience.

The idea of the project stemmed from the book "No Ordinary Moment: Virginia Tech, 150 Years in 150 Images" released by Special Collections and University Libraries, said Ethan Candelario, the Communications and Marketing motion designer who worked on the projection. "No Ordinary Moment" is a collection of 150 pictures that show Virginia Tech's history from the beginning to modern day. Candelario said he envisioned an adaptation of this book to put on the bridge.

"It is one thing to see pictures in a book and to read individual stories. It is another thing to see and hear the history evolve," Candelario said.

Candelario spent long hours sifting through alumni scrapbooks, Special Collections archives, and the digital resources to come up with enough images to cover 150 years. Although going through the images proved to be his favorite part of the production process, Candelario described the first time he saw his visuals connect with the music as awesome.

The production incorporated Virginia

Tech students. Carter Roberts developed audio to accompany the visuals. "I wanted to produce a sense of realism and make people feel like they are there," said Roberts, a sophomore with a double major in creative technologies in music and the professional technical writing program.

Roberts processed all the audio to properly suit the time period. For example, some songs were altered to sound as if they were playing on an old tape recorder. Viewers may also have noticed sounds such as construction to depict the university's growth through the years, music styles becoming less acoustic through the years, and the voices of some of the university's most recognizable faculty.

Many parts of the project took a significant amount of time. David Fransich, multimedia designer for ICAT, said the actual work started in February, despite earlier discussions.

Candelario spent considerable time working by himself, adding elements he knew viewers would want to see, such as football, the marching band, and downtown scenes. He cut out parts of about 300 individual images in Photoshop then assembled them all together. The 30-minute video took about 36 hours to render from start to finish. "You kind of have to start a render on a Friday afternoon and hope that everything looks good when you come back on Monday," Candelario said.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Snoop Dog is a lovable, happy pup, and he's an Animal Care and Adoption Center staff favorite. He enjoys attention and affection. From Halloween costumes to T-shirts, Snoop doesn't mind looking extra dapper and sporting doggie clothes. Stop by to meet this pawsome boy.



Sweet doggo Bliss is a friendly good girl. She will gladly lounge on a couch and enjoy a cuddle from her favorite people. Bliss is a smart cookie, too! She knows a couple of commands, including "sit" and "stay."

Wonder Universe holds first 5K, family run event

CHRISTIANSBURG – Wonder Universe children's museum recently hosted its first annual 5K and Family Fun Run on the Huckleberry Trail in Christiansburg.

Forty community members turned out to join in the fun. Kids and adults of all ages chose to walk, run, skip, or stroll in celebration of the mission of Wonder Universe to educate, amuse, and inspire kids and families through play.

"Our first 5K and Family Fun Run event was a tremendous success," said Shelby Koninckx, the museum's Executive Director. "This event marked another important occasion

as we find creative ways for area families to enjoy all that Wonder Universe offers, inside our museum walls and out.

"It was amazing to see how the kids and adults cheered each other along," Koninckx said. "For many kids, it was their first race event and to witness their proud smiles as they crossed the finish line was incredible. Participants received a free family day pass to enjoy Wonder Universe after the event, and children received special ribbons and awards to celebrate their achievement. "We're already looking forward to our 2023 race event."

Sponsoring the race

for Wonder Universe were Martin Wealth Solutions, Austin DeVincent, MR Real Estate, Skyline National Bank, Exper-T's, and RunAbout Sports.

Wonder Universe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit children's museum located at Uptown Christiansburg mall. The museum offers 18 hands-on exhibits that educate, amuse, and inspire children and families through play. Wonder Universe hosts educational field trips, birthday parties, and special events. Three-month and annual memberships are available. Visit www.wonderuniverse.org to learn more.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WONDER UNIVERSE EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER JENNY MARTIN

Daylight saving can create driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says expert

As clocks "fall back" on Nov. 6 and daylight saving time ends, many Americans will be driving longer at night, which could translate to more driver fatigue and hazards on the road, says Virginia Tech Transportation Institute expert Matt Camden.

Camden says that any time change can exacerbate drowsiness and the driver's body may need a few days to adjust accordingly. He offers the following advice for drivers to avoid fatigue.

1. Avoid driving during rush hour and from 2-4 a.m.

Crash risk increases during rush hours and from 2 to 4 a.m. Driving between 2 and 4 a.m. is particularly dangerous

because a person's circadian rhythm is at its lowest during this time-frame. And when a driver is already sleep-deprived, the desire to sleep during the circadian low is even greater.

2. Get a full night's sleep.

Drivers should try to sleep at least seven to eight hours in order to avoid drowsiness. However, one night's rest may not be enough for someone who has experienced several sleepless nights. In those cases, the driver will need several days of restful sleep to compensate for the sleep debt.

3. Pay attention to signs of drowsy driving.

Signs of drowsy driving include: slow eyelid

closures, yawning, gentle swaying of the head, seat fidgeting, difficulty staying in the correct lane, difficulty maintaining speed, and delayed reactions.

4. Be aware of other factors impacting drowsy driving.

Situations that increase drowsiness are driving alone, monotonous road conditions (such as long straightaways with limited changes in the environment), long drives, and extended periods of heavy traffic.

About Matt Camden: Matt Camden is a senior research associate and team leader in the Research to Practice & Outreach team of the

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute's Division of Freight, Transit, and Heavy Vehicle Safety. He is an expert in occupational driving safety with 14 years of experience conducting applied driving research and translating

that research to industry practice. Camden specializes in light-vehicle and heavy-vehicle fleet safety with an emphasis on developing and evaluating behavioral safety programs and advanced vehicle technologies to

improve driver performance. His research portfolio includes the evaluation of advanced vehicle safety systems, organizational safety culture, driver distraction and fatigue, driver training, and driver impairment.



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OPINION

Home Country by Slim Randles: Duckworth the canardly terrier

"I took Duckworth to the dog show up in the city last weekend," Dud said.

The other members of the Mule Barn Truck Stop's world dilemma think tank and philosophy counter just looked at him.

Doc put it gently. "Dud, was this so he could get some inspiration on looking good?"

Duckworth was a medium-sized dog that found Dud while Dud was walking and thinking about the novel he's writing. No one answered the

ad he put in the Valley Weekly Miracle, so he was henceforth known as Duckworth, for some reason Dud seemed to want to keep to himself. To be honest, Duckworth looked like he fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

"No, I was going to enter him in the dog show," Dud said. "Took him right up to the registration table and tried to get him in a class. The lady there looked at ol' Duck and asked to see his papers."

Dud grinned. "I told her they were back home on the floor of the laundry room.

She didn't think it was funny."

Now Duckworth had been introduced to the other dogs in the group at the sale barn, as is the custom, and Dud's pals had been hesitant to ask much about him.

Duckworth looked like something put together by a committee with a sense of humor. Oh, he was a dog ... no doubt about that. But what

kind of dog was he? It made for interesting coffee speculation, that's for sure.

"You know," Dud said, "Anita was against me getting any kind of dog until Duckworth came along. When I explained to her that Duckworth was a bird dog ... a duck dog, actually, and that he'd help me bring more birds home, she finally gave in."

"He's a bird dog?" Steve said. "What kind?"

"Now that's what that dog show lady asked me, you

know? I had to explain to her about canardly terriers, because she wasn't familiar with them."

"Canar..."

"Canardly terriers, you betcha," Dud said, grinning, "why, I'll bet you canardly tell what kind of terrier he is!"

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Virginia gas prices fall by 1.3 cents per gallon

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell 1.3 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.49/g Monday, Oct. 31, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia.

Prices in Virginia are 18.2 cents per gallon higher than they were a month ago and stand 19.8 cents per gallon higher than they were a year ago. The national average price of diesel declined 2.39 cents last week and stands at \$5.28 per gallon as of Oct. 31.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.98/g Monday, Oct. 31, while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.51/g.

The national average price of gasoline fell 4.7 cents per gallon last week, to an average of \$3.72/g Monday. The national average is down three per gallon from a month

ago but still stands 34.4 cents per gallon higher than it was a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering more than 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"For the third consecutive week, we've seen the national average price of gasoline decline, and while it's good news for most regions with a continued drop in prices, the Northeast is bucking the trend and seeing a noticeable jump due to tight supply," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"The national average is closing in on the previous low from September, which was interrupted when refinery issues caused prices to skyrocket in the West and Great Lakes. With those issues addressed,

the West has seen prices plummet, including a nearly 90 cent per gallon decline in California in less than a month," De Haan said. "Compare that to the Northeast, where prices have jumped some 10 to 25 cents per gallon, demonstrating there's much regionality to current gasoline price trends. Add in diesel prices that remain high amid extremely tight supply, and some challenges definitely lie ahead."

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

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Financial Focus: Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

1. Less confusion and clutter. If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, state-

ments, fees, disclosures, and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.

2. Less likelihood of "lost accounts." It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed. In fact, at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned mon-

ey.

3. Ability to follow a unified strategy. With multiple retirement accounts and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.
4. Possible improvement in investment options. Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strate-

gies.

5. Greater ease in calculating RMDs. Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs. It will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.

So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the result may save you time and hassles while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

Submitted by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Meghan Kuczarski (540) 552-1421.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
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60					61			62		63		
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nuclear undersea weapon
5. President of Syria al-__
10. Partner to flows
14. "Snow" in Welsh
15. Famed Mexican painter
16. Song
17. ticks outward from the crown
18. Doddering
19. Resist authority (slang)
20. Antsy
22. Wrath
23. Spills the beans
24. Past
27. The woman
30. One has 24 hours
31. Talk
32. It can sting
35. Astronomy unit
37. Halfway
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Australian river
40. Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
41. Fabric
42. Crucifix
43. Defunct European economic group
44. "Hotel California" rockers
45. Michael Knight's car
46. Actress Ryan
47. A digital tape recording of sound
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Golden-__ corn
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Sword
60. Ottoman military title
61. Aromatic plants
63. Cold wind
64. Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
65. Political unit
66. Indiscreetly reveal secrets
67. Comfort food dish
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. One point east of southeast
2. Italian monetary unit
3. Warship prison
4. Tropical American tree
5. Alias
6. Normal or sound powers of mind
7. English county
8. Not compatible with
9. Female deer
10. Not late
11. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
12. "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
13. Impudence
21. Advises
23. Founder of Babism
25. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
26. Male parent
27. A type of plug
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Fungal disease
32. Shelter
33. Finished
34. Excrete
36. Unhappy
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Spend time dully
41. Makes full
43. Snakelike fish
44. Take in solid food
46. __ student, learns healing
47. A way to take away
49. Impart a lesson to
50. "Transformers" actress Fox
51. Spiritual leader
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Indian city
54. 17th stars
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

YMCA

from page 1

to not only show appreciation to our community's veterans for their service, but to ensure they are connected to resources they may need for their own health and for the well-being of their families."

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is one of 75 YMCAs nationwide selected to offer the Mobile Vet Center opportunity through a partnership between the YMCA of the USA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

This special event will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Y Center located at 1000 N. Main St.

Submit letters
to the editor to
editor@ourvalley.org

OBITUARIES

Dowdy, Charlene Marie Thomas

Charlene Marie Thomas Dowdy, 76, of Christiansburg, went to be with the Lord Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022.

She was born on May 29, 1946, to Edgar "Bud" and Kathleen Linkous Thomas of Christiansburg. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Irvin "June" Dowdy; a great-grandson, Hayden Quesenberry; her father, Edgar "Bud" Thomas; and siblings Linda Thomas, Patricia "Trish" Jones, Edwina "Cricket" Crouse, and Michael "Mike" Thomas.

Charlene is survived by three children: Tracy Smith (Chris), Cheryl Hudgins (Steve Rapp), and Tami Hall (Calvin), her mother, Kathleen Thomas; a sister, Vicky Jones (Jerry); a brother, Ricky Thomas (Lois); grandchildren Josh Quesenberry (Brooke), Amber Flesher (Jared), Terri "Michelle" Forbes (Ben), Brandon Ear-



les (Sara), and Spencer Earles (Candace); great-grandchildren, Hunter Quesenberry, Heith Quesenberry, Dallas Sheppard, McKinley Sheppard, Lane Sheppard, Trampus Flesher, Jeremiah Sanders, Jordyn Forbes, Jocelyn Forbes, Jensen Earles, and Piper Earles; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Charlene owned and operated Irv's Car Care with her husband for over 30 years in Radford. She attended Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church in Snowville. The family extends their respect and gratitude to all the staff of Radford Health and Rehab Center.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Frankie Graham officiating. Interment followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg.

Hutchison, Barbara Ann Thomas

Barbara Ann Thomas Hutchison, 80, of Dublin, passed away on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cecil Elbert Thomas and Deanie Worrell Turner, and her daughter, Rita Ann Hall.

Survivors include her sons and daughter-in-law, Allen and Sharon DeHart and Robert "Bobby" Taylor; grandchildren Cassandra DeHart, Ashley and Robert Rogers, Greg and Beth DeHart, Jacqueline Taylor, Danielle Taylor, and Dallen Taylor; 12 great-grandchildren; canine



companion Petey; a sister, Mary Thomas Gravely; a sister-in-law, Barbara Thomas; special nieces Kathy Tomas and Gail Thomas White; a special nephew, Curt Thomas; and many other relatives, and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at Trinity Baptist Church on Robinson Tract Road in Pulaski. Memorial services followed.

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

Pack, Wilma Lee

Wilma Lee Pack, 68, of Christiansburg, went to be with our Lord and Savior Oct. 27, 2022, at her home. She was born in Montgomery County on Aug. 18, 1954. She was a loving mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her father; James Pearson Bailey; a granddaughter, Daisy May Pack; and a sister, Reba Linkous.

She is survived by her mother; Thelma Collins; son, Jayson Lee Pack (Melissa); daughter, Rita Ann Pack (Stephen Thompson); grandchildren, Justin Taylor, Megan Taylor, and Peyton Pack; sisters and brothers-in-law, Delores Wall, Evelyn McGlothlin (Danny), Becky Lynn



Williams (Ervin); brother, David Pearson Bailey; special niece, Stephanie Linkous; special friends, John Stevens, Jr., Alice Bishop, Barbara Pack (ex-husband, Bobby Pack); fur grandbabies, Johnny Cash, Winchester Dan, Harley, and Lola.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022 at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Danny McGlothlin officiating. Interment will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday prior to the service at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W. Blacksburg.

Rakes, Kimberly Dawn "Kimmie"

Kimberly Dawn "Kimmie" Rakes, 55, of Christiansburg, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022.

She was born in Montgomery Co. on July 19, 1967. Kimmie was known for love and affection in all aspects for nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her parents, George W. "Bill" and Janice A. Rakes; a sister, Lisa Shepherd; brothers and sisters-in-law Shawn and Kim Rakes, Billy and Hope Rakes; nieces Amber Perdue (Daniel), Megan Hopkins (Ben); nephews Joshua



Rakes (Chelsea), William Rakes; great-nieces, Paisley and Piper Perdue, Macy Rakes, Caroline Hopkins; and great-nephews John and Theo Hopkins, and Steven Rakes.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Mike Johnston officiating. Interment followed in the Sunset Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Open Door Baptist Church PO Box 2524, Christiansburg, Va. 24068.

Gragnani, Donna Hawkins

Donna Hawkins Gragnani, 65, of Christiansburg, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, with her daughters by her side. She was preceded in death by her parents Lyndal Allen Hawkins and Barbara Ashworth McGuire.

Donna is survived by her daughters, Kimberly Elaine Gragnani of Richmond, Stephanie Marie Pfeil and Taylor Lyn Gragnani, both of Christiansburg; sons-in-law, Damon McIntosh and Will Pfeil; brothers, Dennis Hawkins, Barry



Inge, Gerald Inge, Robert Hawkins and Rick Hawkins; sister, Trina Hawkins; and many other relatives and friends.

Donna will be remembered as a strong, independent woman who loved her three daughters forever selflessly. She will always be a meaningful piece of our family puzzle and will be loved eternally.

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

Lovell, Sr., Leo Thomas "Buckeye"

Leo Thomas "Buckeye" Lovell, Sr., 83, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, at his home in Elliston with his family by his side.

He was a former crane operator at Roanoke Electric Steel and a member of Harbor of Hope Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, W. T. and Delia Ann Lovell; and a daughter, Sandra Gail Lovell.

Buckeye always had a good sense of humor and was a hardworking man. He was a very loving man, loving the Lord and his family. He took care of his cats, and he loved feeding the birds. He loved having a garden and giving people vegetables out of his garden.

Survivors include his loving wife of



64 years, Bertha Lovell; daughters Debbie (Tony) Andrews and Teresa Lovell, both of Salem, and Bonnie (Terry) Pryor of Roanoke; son Tommy (Linda) Lovell of Elliston; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022, at Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

Funeral services followed with the Rev. Craig Reed and the Rev. Josh Collins officiating. Interment followed in Snowville Baptist Church, 3238 Gum Log Road, Hiwassee, Virginia.

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

Wilkins, Frank Melvin

Frank Melvin Wilkins, 80, of Fairlawn, died Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon McCoy; a daughter and son-in-law, Melinda and Steve Slusser; grandchildren Matthew McCoy (Shannon), Billy Graham (Tiffany), Harlie Clinch (Jeremy), Ethan Slusser, Devon Viars (Chelsea),

and Hannah Viars (Josh); 11 great-grandchildren, and an extended family in Florida.

Military services were conducted Monday, Oct. 31, 2022, in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to a charity of your choice.



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VT School of Performing Arts' production weaves a tale of truth and lies in Russia

"True is what happens. False is what does not happen." So says Nikolai Yezhov, a character in the play "Describe the Night" by Rajiv Joseph and a real-life member of Stalin's secret police who oversaw the worst of the Great Purge and was himself executed under Stalin's orders.

The production from Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts will run in the Squires Studio Theater for six performances from Nov. 10-15.

The award-winning epic follows eight characters over the course of nearly 100 years.

"The story takes place in Poland, Russia, and East Germany, and bounces back and forth

between 1920 and 2010, held together by the through-line of a personal diary's accidental journey," said director Susanna Rinehart, a faculty member in the School of Performing Arts. "It is gorgeous in its theatrical construction, its language, its comedy and wit, and it has unnervingly timely resonance in its subject matter, given Putin's invasion of Ukraine and our own struggles with truth and lies."

Fact and fiction become blurred when real historical figures such as Nikolai Yezhov, Joseph Stalin, Russian Jewish writer Isaac Babel (whose diary journeys 90 years over the course of the play), and another

too-familiar contemporary figure mix into the theatrical tapestry woven by the playwright. Joseph, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his 2010 play "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo" writes from a storyteller's vantage.

"Like Babel's diary, we are only given fragments of the past through which we can attempt to discern a logic. This is simply the nature of storytelling and memory," Joseph told Walter Bilderback of The Wilma Theater. "But darker forces throughout history (continuing to the present day) have preyed upon the fragmented nature of information in order to control people and create fear and con-

fusion. Or as others might say, in order to keep the peace."

Themes of global citizenship, reality, and the value of art are revealed through scenes that time travel from the front lines of the Polish-Soviet war, a modern car rental agency, and the tearing down of the Berlin Wall.

"The play is hilariously funny at times, deeply serious at others, and speaks in particular to the nature of lies and truth," Rinehart said.

Lighting designer Daryl Norman Soh, a first-year Master of Fine Arts student, illuminates the different scenes, structures, and a menacing incinerator. The design and technical elements of

the show tell their own story of destruction, including a multi-layered soundscape design by sound design faculty member Allen Sanders, assisted by theater major Kate Gonzales; and costumes designed by faculty member Tyler Holland, assisted by theater major Justin Buontempo. Theater major Maya Jaffe leads the stage management team.

"In the shadow of Putin's war on Ukraine and our own contemporary mis/disinformation age," said Rinehart, "Describe the Night" reminds us, "When we say something is true, it becomes true. When we say something is false, it becomes false."

Survey: Half of young adults in Virginia consider a college degree a burden

CodeWizardsHQ, a provider of coding classes for kids and teens, questioned 2,008 young Americans (18-24) about whether they consider a college degree (and its associated fees) as a benefit or a burden. Almost half (43%) of young adults in Virginia consider a college degree a financial burden compared to a national average of 47%. When broken down by gender, 49% of women consider it a burden compared to 45% of men.

Indeed, CodeWizardsHQ also carried out a comprehensive study identifying the most and least progressive states when it comes to access and enrollment to computer science courses across high schools.

The company analyzed data from Advocacy Co-

alition to determine a ranking from 1 to 50 (with 1 being the highest ranking) of each state's I.T. progressiveness. Ranking factors included rural accessibility, race accessibility, minority student accessibility, female enrollment, economically disadvantaged student enrollment, and the number of high schools offering computer sciences to students

Surprisingly, the study revealed that some of the poorer states, including South Carolina and Alabama, are among the most progressive. Topping the rankings as the #1 most progressive state for computer science study opportunities is South Carolina. The Palmetto State stood out on a number of factors. These include a high rural

access rate of 92%, and a minority student access rate of 98%.

Most progressive states in computer science studies inclusivity ranking: 1. South Carolina 2. Arkansas 3. Maryland 4. Nevada 5. Alabama

Least progressive states in computer science studies inclusivity ranking: 46. Montana 47. Minnesota 48. Kansas 49. Idaho 50. Louisiana

Across America, September marked a month of contrasting feelings for millions of college-bound kids (and their parents). While many will have been exhilarated with their newfound freedoms, others will have been dreading the beginning of associated debts, potentially up to \$200,000 in tuition and room and board, which will be in-

curred over the next few years, and could take a lifetime to settle.

Astronomically high tuition fees do not only apply to private schools, but state schools, too. Payments of loans taken out by students, like any debt, can be postponed, but ultimately they need to be repaid, and statistics show that millions of students will never be able to settle their loans. Moreover, even community colleges encourage students to take out loans, which is particularly problematic as many come from low income backgrounds. Within three years of entering repayment, 9.7% of student loan borrowers default, according to the Education Department.

Critics of the college system say that defaulting on loans can have serious

consequences for a young person's future. Doing so will lead to bad credit reports, which can prevent them from securing property or cars, among other things. Among these critics is President Biden, whose administration recently announced a debt-forgiveness law due to come into effect shortly. Proponents, however, point out that a college education is now more important than ever as it provides an extremely strong return on investment, and the numbers speak for themselves. Graduates with bachelor's degrees pay \$563,000 more in taxes than high-school graduates who never attended college.

When broken down across the states, it was the respondents in New Hampshire who felt most

strongly about this, with 81% of young people believing that further education and its high costs will saddle them with debt for years to come. Maine's young people were more optimistic, however. 68% consider a college degree as a benefit.

The survey also found that, given the high levels of student debt within the country, only 38% of those aged 18-24 felt they would be able to achieve the same levels of financial security as their parents in their lifetimes.

While students from low-income backgrounds are disproportionately affected by loan defaults, more encouraging news is that when it comes to high school students and the courses they take such as computer science, the playing field is more level.

Virginia Tech Percussion Ensemble to perform Thursday with guest xylophonist Heather Thorn



The Virginia Tech Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Associate Professor of Percussion Annie Stevens, will

perform with guest xylophonist Heather Thorn on Thursday, Nov. 3. The concert will be held in the Creativity and

Innovation District living-learning community building, at 7:30 p.m.

Thorn is a xylophonist in Orlando, Fla., where she performs with her band, Vivacity, and as a freelance percussionist and actress. In 2019 and 2022, Thorn was featured with Vivacity as the headline act for the I Love Jazz International Jazz Festival in Brazil. She has been featured as a guest art-

ist with Michael Andrew and Swingerhead, Carol Stein, and the John De-paola quartet and as an opening act for the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

For the Virginia Tech concert, the 13-member Percussion Ensemble will perform on marimbas to accompany Thorn's xylophone.

Thorn "is an incredibly virtuosic xylophone player and someone very

unique in our field. Her specialty is mainly jazz music from the 1920s era, and she has done much study into the performance practice of this music," said Stevens. "She has a unique background in both theater and music and as a result is a charismatic, engaging and superb performer."

According to Stevens, the program will feature some unique aspects of percussion ensemble repertoire, including a piece for just six tambourines, a historical piece written in 1941 by Lou Harrison, a trio for one bass drum,

and a piece for just hands.

Virginia Tech Percussion is a university ensemble open to music majors and non-majors by audition in the fall semester. It performs a wide body of repertoire from classical transcriptions and chamber works to traditional West African drumming music and large percussion orchestra pieces. The ensemble features several guest artists throughout the year, and students have the opportunity to participate in master classes with visiting guest artists on several occasions.

Tickets are \$15 general/\$12 senior/\$10 student and may be purchased through the Moss Arts Center ticket office in person or online. Tickets will be available at the door beginning one hour prior to the performance. The Creativity and Innovation District building is at 185 Kent St. on the Blacksburg campus.

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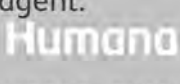
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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Final week of high school football: Radford, Christiansburg look to playoffs

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The 10th and final week of high school football is upon us with two of our five area teams preparing for the postseason. Radford fell to Glenvar, while Christiansburg picked up a win over Cave Spring. Both teams are sitting in the top four of the specific classifications and regions.

In addition, the two should have at least the first round at home.

Christiansburg and Cave

Spring could meet in the first round of 3D, while Radford will be the number one or two seed in 1C.

A win this Friday night could help both teams in their prep for the playoffs.

Blacksburg is still looking for its first win of the season, while Eastern Montgomery is trying to finish the 2022 season on an upside.

In last week's win over Cave Spring, Christiansburg jumped out to a 21-0 lead before quarterback Tanner Evans was knocked out of the game. He is expected

to play in this week's contest with Pulaski.

Radford's lucky charm, from two weeks ago in stopping Floyd on a two-point conversation as the clock ran out for the win, was on the opposite end of the spectrum as Glenvar scored in the last seconds of the game.

Radford remains 8-1 going into the final regular season matchup with James River. Christiansburg will host Pulaski, who will miss the playoffs with a loss. A win over the Blue Demons could give the Cougars an outside shot despite only

winning three games this season.

Christiansburg sits at #4 in the Virginia High School League 3D standings with 22,875 points. Cave sits at #5 with 22,775. A total of eight will advance.

Lord Botetourt is in a commanding first place in the 3D with 25,875 and will hold home field advantage for the sixth year straight in the playoffs. Bassett moved up to second at 23,625 points. Magna Vista is third at 23,375.

Staunton River and Abingdon sits in sixth and seventh with a surprising 3-6 Hidden Valley looking

at the last playoff berth.

In other points standings, Radford remains first in 2C with 27 points. Martinsville, Appomattox, Glenvar, Floyd and Alleghany are 2-6.

E.C. Glass leads 4D by a .25 fraction over Salem.

Area top five: 1) Salem, 2) Radford, 3) Narrows, 4) Christiansburg, 5) Floyd.

Predictions this week: Christiansburg 29, Pulaski 24; Cave Spring 41, Blacksburg 14; Radford 48, James River 20; Eastern Montgomery 32, Parry McCluer 20.

Auburn wins Saturday mite championship; Christiansburg second in Junior League



Christiansburg's Rylan Lackey launches a pass downfield against Radford in the NRV Junior League Superbowl Saturday at BHS.



Christiansburg's Micah Sharlow carries the ball against Radford in the NRV Junior League Superbowl.



The Auburn Mites of the Montgomery Recreation Department youth program claimed Saturday's Mite championship played at Blacksburg High School.



The Christiansburg Blue Demons were runners up in the 2022 NRV Junior League Championship.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

RHS observes 50th anniversary of football state title

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The Radford Bobcats capped off a 13-0 football season in 1972 with a 41-20 Double-A state championship win over Southampton. That title stretched the team's winning streak to 32 games.

Dave Morton, Ralph Fisher, and Mike Mauck scored to give Radford a 20-0 lead in the second quarter. Southampton would trim the score to 20-6, but Morton put the game away with a 95-yard kickoff return.

Friday night, members of the record-setting team gathered 50 years later during the Radford-Glenvar contest. Several members of the team spoke to the Bobcats in the locker room before they took the field.

The championship road began with a 39-6 victory over Galax on Sept. 2, 1972 and would be followed up by a 15-0 run over Blacksburg.

Kenny Alderman tossed two touchdowns, and Morton rushed for 114 yards.

Of course, the team was led by legendary Radford coach Norm Lineburg. He said the '72 team was a special group that gelled together every week.

In the fourth game of the sea-

son, Radford rolled to a 40-0 win over Floyd as Morton and Fisher combined for 243 yards and three touchdowns as the old New River District quickly seemed a one-horse race.

A week later, Radford rolled up 297 yards on the ground in a 36-0 shutout of Christiansburg.

When the season ended, Radford had outscored its opponents by a 384-32 margin in the regular season. The difference was even greater in the playoffs: 146-20.

The Blacksburg game was the closest anyone came to the Bobcats.

In the state playoffs, Radford started with a 62-0 beatdown of Richlands. Morton scored six touchdowns to lead the team to its 30th straight win and a Region IV title. Morton rushed for a career high 247 yards.

Quarterback Kenny Alderman connected with Mike Mauck for three scores, and the defense forced 10 turnovers.

In the state semis, Radford jumped out to a 28-0 halftime lead and never looked back.

Morton rushed for 191 yards, and Alderman passed for 181 yards with three touchdowns.

The 1972 team was a really special team that may never be matched.

Hooker for 2022 Heisman



From the Sidelines

Marty Gordon

Tennessee football fans need to send a fruit basket and a thank-you note to Virginia Tech.

If the Blacksburg school had not kicked Hendon Hooker to the curb, Tennessee might not be having the success it is experiencing this season.

His name is already being mentioned in the conversation for this year's Heisman Trophy, and this coming week a game against Georgia could send him to the top of the list.

He transferred to Tennessee in 2021 after being benched by then-coach Justin Fuente.

His success comes as no surprise to those who first knew him.

Hooker had attended James Dudley High School in Greensboro where his career included passing for 5,047 yards with 33 touchdowns while rushing for 2,975 yards and 48 touchdowns.

He was named the North Carolina Preps All-State player of the year and was selected for the all-state team twice.

Dudley won two state championships while Hooker was in high school includ-

ing the 2016 title game where he was the MVP, passing for six touchdowns. When he signed with Virginia Tech, he was considered a 4-star recruit by 247Sports.

But his success did not follow him to Blacksburg. He was 98 of 150 passing in his final season (2020) as the Hokies were only 2-5. He passed for 1,339 yards with nine touchdowns and five interceptions.

His career changed when he moved to Knoxville. In his first year (2021), he did struggle to learn a completely different offensive scheme (206 of 302 with 2,945 yards with 31 touchdowns) if you can say he struggled.

This season, he has led the Vols to an undefeated record and the number two spot in the Associated Press Poll.

He says this season has been a blessing and thanks God for his success.

Hooker has taken that faith and his knowledge of the Bible to another step. His younger brother and he have created a children's book called "The ABC's of Scriptures for Athletes" with the idea of influencing kids with a sports-themed alphabet to help them learn scripture.

Tech fans are sending a card back to the Vols that says, you're welcome. We may never know what happened in his last game as a Hokie where coaches said he got cold and was fighting breathing problems.

This season, Hooker is 156 of 219 passing, completing 75 percent of his passes with 2,325 yards and only one interception with 21 touchdowns.

Hooker deserves the Heisman Trophy.

Blue Demons, Bruins named to River Ridge all-district volleyball team

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Christiansburg and Blacksburg both placed student-athletes on the recently released All-River Ridge District volleyball team. Addison Reasor and Braylen Williams, both of Christiansburg, were named to the first team as was Blacksburg's Rylee Sloss.

Blacksburg's Avery VanGlider was named to the second team as was teammate Ella Poff.

Christiansburg placed Sierra Carneal and Ela Shepherd on the honorable mention all-district team. Blacksburg's Sophia Johnston was also named to the honorable mention team.

Hidden Valley's Caleigh Ponn was named the Player of the Year in the River Ridge District and her coach, Carla Ponn, was Coach of the Year.

VT men's basketball senior Justyn Mutts named to Malone Award watch list

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame has named Virginia Tech senior Justyn Mutts among the 20 watch-list members for the 2023 Karl Malone Award, an annual honor in its ninth year that recognizes the top power forwards in Division I men's college basketball.

Mutts thus became the second straight Hokie to make the watch list after Keve Aluma did so last season. In the 2021-22 season, Mutts averaged 10.1 points per game while shooting 53.7% from the floor. With the reputation of being an elite passer, Mutts led the Hokies with 123 assists. He was also Tech's leading rebounder at 7.4 per game.

Fans are encouraged to participate in fan voting, presented by Dell Technologies. In late January, the watch list of 20 players will be narrowed to 10 and then in late February to just five. In March, the five finalists will be presented to

Malone and the Hall of Fame's selection committee where a winner will be selected.

The winner of the 2023 Karl Malone Award will be presented on a to-be-determined date, along with the other four members of the Men's Starting Five. Additional awards being presented include the Bob Cousy Award (point guard), Jerry West Award (shooting guard), the Julius Erving Award (small forward) and the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award (center), in addition to the Women's Starting Five.

Previous winners of the Karl Malone Award are Keegan Murray, Iowa (2022), Drew Timme, Gonzaga (2021), Obi Toppin, Dayton (2020), Zion Williamson, Duke (2019), Deandre Ayton, Arizona (2018), Johnathan Motley, Baylor (2017), Georges Niang, Iowa State (2016), and Montrezl Harrell, Louisville (2015).

Graham rolls to 56-7 win over Blacksburg



Blacksburg's Spencer Campbell attempts to strip the ball away from Graham's Chris Edwards as he, Ethan Walker (left), and Thomas DeMasi (right) team up to make the tackle. Graham won the game 56-7.



Blacksburg's Javier Waldron leaps in front of Graham's Drez Clements to make the first of three second-quarter interceptions for the Bruins.



Blacksburg's David Oliver snares an interception against Graham on Homecoming night.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

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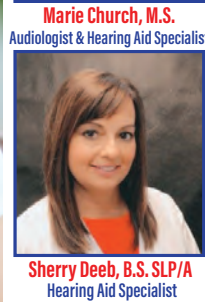
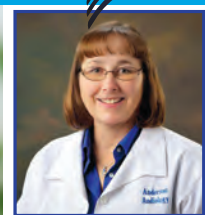
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