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Saturday, December 3, 2022

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PHOTO BY MEGHAN MARSH FOR VIRGINIA TECH

A plow clears snow off Beamer Way.

## Winter weather preparedness is 'snow' problem at Virginia Tech

When winter weather approaches Virginia Tech's campuses, units across the university begin critical preparedness procedures that ensure the safety and well-being of students, employees, and visitors.

In the fall, stakeholders from across the university and surrounding community review the university's authorized closing policy, make policy updates, and discuss lessons learned from the prior year.

Units represented include Enterprise Administrative and Business Services; the Virginia Tech Police Department; Virginia Tech Emergency Management; Transportation Services; the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities; Student Affairs; Services for Students with Disabilities; Housing Services; Dining Services; the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; the Office of the University Registrar; Communications and Marketing; Human Resources; Athletics; the Town of Blacksburg; and Blacksburg Transit.

These stakeholders also examine how Virginia Tech will communicate

its winter weather response effectively across all university locations in the commonwealth.

As the potential for a winter storm increases, university officials start watching forecast models and communicating with the National Weather Service to monitor weather across all Virginia Tech locations. This information is shared among university leadership and units across the university. Given conditions will vary across the state, university employees work carefully to monitor the needs and conditions of each Virginia Tech location.

The Virginia Tech community can monitor the latest weather conditions via the weather resources shared on the University Status page for locations across Virginia. Among these resources is WeatherSTEM, Virginia Tech's own weather monitoring network that provides current weather conditions, updates, and live on-campus cameras.

Depending on the forecast, a snow

See **Winter**, page 4

## Study: One-quarter of Virginians' daily fluid intake is caffeine and alcohol

According to a recent survey of 4,000 respondents commissioned by DrugGenius.com, 28 percent of Virginians' daily fluid intake is made up of caffeine and alcohol. That same study reported the national average for coffee and booze intake is 30 percent.

Other information garnered from the survey says that half of Virginians surveyed consider themselves to be "booze fit"; one in three Virginians deem alcohol and coffee to be essential purchases in their weekly shops; the average Virginian spends some \$947 annually on hangover comfort food and coffees.

47% of Virginians who responded to the survey who work long hours said having an alcoholic drink at the end of the day helps them relax and take the edge off after a difficult day.

While numerous studies have revealed the health benefits of coffee, and others argue that alcoholic drinks such as wine can be good for the body, a diet lacking in sufficient water can lead to headaches, fatigue, dull skin, weight gain, and

sluggish bowel function. After all, humans are made up of approximately 80% water. Moreover, consuming too much caffeine has been linked to anxiety and dehydration.

The people at DrugGenius.com have provided five alternative options to regular coffees and energy drinks for anyone looking for a more natural lift.

1. Tetractene, is a non-hemp-derived cannabinoid and naturally occurring compound made from citrus peels that provide a quick burst of focus, which kicks in within just 20 to 30 minutes. It also provides sustainable energy, sharpens concentration, and plays a role in appetite control to promote weight loss.

2. Mushroom coffee, using 100% pure, high-quality, and organic mushroom extracts is scientifically proven to yield important health benefits. Mushroom coffees contain no grains or starch fillers, just pure cordyceps mushrooms, which offer important health benefits like improved function, better cardiovascular health, and higher physical performance.

3. Electrolyte drinks are a great alternative to caffeine. They hydrate the body and directly provide nutrients like sodium, potassium, glucose, and B vitamins to the bloodstream. Sugar-free electrolytes contain essential vitamins, provide faster hydration than drinking water alone, and significantly boost energy levels.

4. Ashwagandha (also known as 'winter cherry') combined with black pepper can help relieve stress-related anxiety, promote thyroid health, and foster mental well-being. Ashwagandha is an ayurvedic adaptogen rich in compounds called alkaloids that can help calm the brain, sharpen cognition, promote thyroid health, lower blood pressure, and strengthen the immune system

5. Chicory root can be roasted, ground and brewed like traditional coffee beans. Aside from tasting similar to coffee, it is free of caffeine and is a good source of inulin, which helps digestion and supports a healthy gut.

~ Courtesy of DrugGenius.com

## Cybersecurity expert offers safety tips for online holiday shopping

The surge for online shopping brings heightened cybersecurity risks for consumers this holiday season. Virginia Tech cyber expert Aaron Brantly shares the following safety tips for preventing online scams.

1. Watch out for fake websites and scams. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

2. Shop only from a secure computer and consider using a service such as PayPal or Apple Pay.

3. Do not use a debit card if possible.

4. Make sure that any website you engage in commerce on has "SSL" often viewed as a lock icon on Safari and Chrome.

5. Limit the amount of personal information you disclose.

6. Search on retail sites (Walmart, Amazon, Target, Best Buy, etc.) rather than using search engines and use "trusted vendors."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOODFREEPHOTOS

Virginia Tech cyber expert Aaron Brantly offers tips whereby consumers can avoid online shopping scams.

7. Consider what you are purchasing: where was it made, what types of data will be used by it and will it collect, what are the terms of service associated with its use, does it meet security standards, is it manufactured by a reputable producer?

8. Review your credit card statements

and banking statements regularly to identify potentially fraudulent purchases.

9. Use a password manager (Keychain, LastPass, 1Password, or similar) to create unique user IDs and passwords for each site you visit. DO NOT reuse passwords or usernames, particularly

See **Holiday scams**, page 4



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Members of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association Tuesday presented Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin and first lady Suzanne Youngkin with two Christmas trees and four wreaths to help decorate Virginia's executive mansion for the holidays.

## Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association presents trees and wreaths to Virginia's executive mansion

Ronald, Roberta, and Ryan Clouse of Clouse's Pine Hill Farm in Winchester Tuesday provided a 12' Fraser Fir and a 7' Canaan Fir to decorate the governor's mansion for the holidays. John and Emily Houston of Sweet Providence Farm in Floyd presented the governor and the first lady with four wreaths.

Following the presentations of

the trees and the wreaths, Governor Youngkin in turn presented the farm owners and the growers association with a proclamation declaring December as Virginia Christmas Tree Month.

Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr, Virginia

See **Trees and wreaths**, page 4

## Virginia Tech experts tapped to explore the impact of gold mining in Virginia

Virginia Tech faculty members William Hopkins and Robert Bodnar were part of a 13-person technical team convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to provide their subject-matter expertise to produce "The Potential Impacts of Gold Mining in Virginia" report released in early November.

Recent increases in gold prices and other factors brought renewed attention to gold mining at both new and historical sites in Virginia, spurring the introduction of House Bill 2213 to the Virginia General Assembly. The bill directed the secretary of natural resources, the secretary of health and human resources, and the secretary of commerce and trade to establish a work group to study gold mining in the commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Energy contracted NASEM to fulfill the mandate.

NASEM is a private nonprofit organization founded by Congress in 1863 to provide independent and objective guidance to the nation on the most pressing societal issues of our time.

In order to achieve a reasonably balanced committee to carry out the charge objectively

See **Gold mining**, page 4



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Dec. 17:

## Blacksburg leaf collection extended

Leaf collection in the Town of Blacksburg has been extended approximately two weeks from the scheduled Dec. 3 conclusion date to ensure all neighborhoods have been served. Public Works has been operating with a significantly reduced staff dedicated to leaf collection, so patience is greatly appreciated.

Saturday, Dec. 3 – Sunday, Dec. 4:

## A Festival of Nativities

Slussers Chapel, located at 1543 Mt. Tabor Rd., Blacksburg, will be displaying over 70 vintage Nativity sets from across the U.S. and around the world. Included in the display will be Waterford crystal figures from Ireland, Fantanini figures from Italy, Hummel figures from Germany and many others. The children will enjoy seeing the kitten and puppy manger scenes and of course “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” The Christmas crèches will be on display in the fellowship hall Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday Dec. 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Sunday Dec. 4, from 3 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 540-951-1757 or check the chapel’s website at www.slussers-themount.org.

Saturday, Dec. 3:

## Ron Peterson, Jr., at Meadowbrook Library

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 2 p.m. Best-selling author Ron Peterson, Jr., will discuss his latest book, “Eyes of a Monster,” and provide updates to his previous books, “Under the Trestle,” and “Chasing the Squirrel.” Books will be available for sale and for signing.

## Breakfast with Santa

The Christiansburg High School Music Department presents “Breakfast with Santa” from 8 a.m. until noon in the high school cafeteria. The cost is \$5 for children 12 and under and \$8 for children and adults 13 and older. The breakfast will feature pancakes, and the morning will offer holiday fun and games and live music, plus a photo op with Santa Claus for a suggested donation of \$2. Santa’s elves and reindeer will also be a part of the fun.

## Holiday farmers market

On the field adjacent to Glencoe Mansion from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will feature gift items from farmers, crafters, and artisans and will also have pictures with Santa. A food truck from Bluegrass BBQ will be set up. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4:

## Puppet kingdom

At the Meadowbrook Library; 3 p.m. The Puppet Kingdom presents “The Christmas Express” This joy-filled musical is set on a train and uses a large cast of colorful puppets to discuss the meaning of Christmas. This performance will be by the youth from Hope Valley Church.

## Blacksburg Chamber Orchestra fall concert

Blacksburg Community Strings and Chamber Orchestra presents a fall 2022 concert at 2 p.m. in the Christiansburg High School Auditorium. Selections include Mozart Symphony 25, Crusell Concerto No. 2 for Clarinet (featuring soloist Bruce McGarvey), Buxtehude Chaconne in E minor, a Back to the Future medley, and ‘Happy’ from Despicable Me 2. Admission is free and is open to the public.

Monday, Dec. 5:

## Blacksburg 2022 Real Estate Taxes Due

Town of Blacksburg Real Estate Tax invoices for the second installment of 2022 have been mailed and are due by Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. Those who have not yet received a tax statement should call the Department of Financial Services at 540-961-1105. Payment may be mailed, made in person or placed in the drop box at 300 S Main St., Blacksburg, paid by phone with a credit card, or paid online at blacksburg.gov/payments. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

A 10% penalty will be charged if taxes are not paid by Dec. 5, 2022. Interest will be charged at the rate of 10% per year beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Tuesday, Dec. 6:

## Radford tree lighting ceremony

At the Radford Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Grove United Methodist Handbell Choirs and the Radford University Chorus will perform. Cookies and hot cocoa from Radford Coffee Company will be available. And of course, Santa will make a special visit from the North Pole to light the tree around 6:30 p.m.

## RSVP holiday recognition party

A holiday recognition party for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center in Multipurpose Room 2. RSVP will collect Toys for Tots from anyone wishing to donate to this holiday project.

## Montgomery County School Board meeting

The Montgomery County School Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg.

## Brick blast

At the Blacksburg Library at 4:30 p.m. Engineer a project by creating, planning, and building with LEGO provided by the library. All ages are welcome.

## English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library at 7 p.m. Carole and Bob Dellinger will lead this session of English conversation for adults. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for more information. No childcare will be provided.

Thursday, Dec. 8:

## 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 holiday parade

Radford’s Holiday Parade, themed “Jingle All the Way”, will take place at 7 p.m. Lineup will begin at 6 p.m. The parade route will line up on East Main Street between Tyler Avenue and University Drive Bridge and proceed westward along Main Street to the Central Square Shopping Center.

## Twig ornaments

At the Christiansburg Library; 4:30 p.m. Participants will use natural materials to make yarn-wrapped twig ornaments. For ages 8 and up.

Friday, Dec. 9:

## Teen time

At the Blacksburg Library at 4 p.m. Teens in grades 6 through 12 are invited to an after-school hangout for games, snacks, crafts, and more. The library will provide all materials, but participants are welcome to bring their own games to share. For more information, contact spahl@mfrl.org.

## Children’s yoga

At the Radford Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m.. Join Kelly McCoy of “The Whole You” and Alex Bowman from “Embark Pediatric and Family Chiropractic” for a children’s yoga class. Participants will learn mindfulness techniques.. If possible, children may bring their own yoga mats. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the library at 540-731-2621 or email Morgan at morgan.esterhuizen@radfordva.gov to register.

Saturday, Dec. 10:

## Handcrafted holiday pop-up market

At Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery, hosted by MountainTrotter Arts. The market will feature local artisans, crafters, and more from 11 a.m. to 3:30

p.m. The food truck Empanada Nirvana will be onsite as well. Santa will be available to take pictures on the Glencoe Mansion porch. Visitors can also enjoy Glencoe Mansion’s Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, Dec. 11.

## Volunteer tax preparer interest meeting

At the Christiansburg Library at 11 a.m. Participants can learn to prepare taxes and make a difference in the community at the same time by volunteering to prepare taxes free of charge with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs.

## Holiday movie

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Kick off the holiday season with a Christmas movie and hot chocolate. The film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween’s beloved pumpkin king, who has become bored with the same annual routine of frightening people in the “real world.” When Jack accidentally stumbles onto Christmastown, all bright colors and warm spirits, he gets a new lease on life. He plots to bring Christmas under his control by kidnapping Santa Claus and taking over the role. But Jack soon discovers even the best-laid plans of mice and skeleton men can go seriously awry. Rated PG. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

## DIY terrariums

At the Christiansburg Library at 2 p.m. Too cold to grow plants outside? Grow some in a terrarium. All supplies will be included. Registration is required. This program is intended for adults and is presented by Master Gardeners.

Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11:

## Seventh annual Radford holiday open house

Three area artists will be showcasing their works in the seventh annual holiday open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at 408 Eighth St., Radford. The event is free and is open to the public. A percentage of all sales will be donated to local charities. College artist Martha Olsen uses recycled and found papers as her preferred medium to create her free-flowing style while painter Ruth Lefko lets each of her works speak for themselves, choosing to create a feeling rather than a realistic depiction. Fine art photographer Susan Lockwood, known primarily for European subject matter, frames her pieces with archival acid-free materials.

Monday, Dec. 12:

## Radford City Council meeting

The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford.

## 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 will be 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.

Tuesday, Dec. 13:

## Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly’s Italian Family Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are also invited to the meeting. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

## 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.

## 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.). The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the council.

## Radford City School Board meeting

The Radford City School Board will meet at 6 p.m. at the School Board Office at 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford.

Wednesday, Dec. 14:

## Page to screen movies: Rebecca

At the Radford Public Library; 5:45 p.m. This is a movie screening of the 1940 Hitchcock classic “Rebecca” on the library’s big screen. The movie starts at 5:45 p.m. and has a run time of 130 minutes. The film is rated PG. Popcorn from Lil’Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last.

## Ongoing:

## Help veterans with donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Donors can take any of the following items to the library during December: deodorant, denture adhesive, 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, nail clippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts (size M, L, XL) , and new baseball caps. The project is co-sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.

## Free GED classes

At the Meadowbrook Public Library from 5 to 8 p.m. New River Community College is offering free GED classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Thursday, Dec. 15. For more information or to sign up, call the library at 540-268-1964.



# Marketplace



ourvalley.org

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**Quality Inn**  
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### For Sale - Misc

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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

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, Property Owner, and Montgomery County Moose Lodge #1470, Lessee, to allow a Lodge on the property located at 1637 North Franklin Street; upon a portion of Northgate Village Shopping Center, Tax Parcel 466 - ((A)) - 20C, Parcel ID 013214 zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Town Hall will be open and

### Legals - Montgomery County

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.



### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Highland Memory Gardens is looking for 2 Full Time cemetery ground maintenance people.

Great Benefit package, Health, Dental, Vision, uniforms, and 401-K Retirement program pay commensurate with experience. Must be able to pass a background check and drug test.

**For confidential interview, call Paul at 540-674-5231.**



# Virginia Tech hosts research summit for historically Black colleges and universities

The Virginia Tech graduate school recently hosted students and faculty from 15 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and minority serving institutions (MSIs) from as close as Virginia and North Carolina and as far away as Texas and Florida for a research summit.

The event provided opportunities for Virginia Tech faculty and administrators to meet and partner with faculty from the visiting institutions on a wide range of research proposals and projects. Undergraduate students learned more about Virginia Tech and attended several workshops to help them prepare to apply to graduate programs. They also received frank and insightful information from Virginia Tech graduate students who earned undergraduate degrees at historically Black colleges and universities before coming to Virginia Tech.

Visiting institutions included Bethune-Cookman University, of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Hampton University; Norfolk State University; Virginia State University; Elizabeth City State University; North Carolina A&T University; Prairie View A&M University; Texas Southern University; and Morgan State University of Maryland.

Shernita Lee, assistant dean and director of the Office of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion, said several Virginia Tech colleges, departments, and research centers provided workshops and presentations. The Center for Communicating Science broke the ice on the first day with several activities, and six students associated with the center gave lightning talks during the research showcase, which was followed by a poster session. The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences' Juneteenth Scholars also discussed their work.

The program included sessions for faculty devoted to grant-writing; finding funding for proposals; working collaboratively across institutions; and equity, diversity, and inclusion in graduate research and education.

"Each year the summit is strategically planned and organized by an engaged planning committee to add insightful schedule components for both faculty

and student attendees," Lee said. "No two years are the same as we continue to refine the summit to meet the evolving needs of the participants and to make the programming more inclusive to serve all of the colleges."

Virginia Tech graduate students who all earned their undergraduate degrees at historically Black colleges and universities spoke on a panel that served as one of the more popular events of the summit. Lee noted that this year the panel featured eight students with degrees from at least eight institutions. A few had also earned master's degrees from historically black colleges and universities.

"We are so fortunate to have wonderful graduate students eager to share candid responses to the audience about their transition to Virginia Tech and to offer other advice," said Lee.

Several of the Virginia Tech students said being on the panel was a privilege.

"Not too long ago I was in their seats," said Jatia Mills, a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical and veterinary sciences who earned her undergraduate degree at Morgan State University. "I used to dream of being able to one day have the knowledge of my mentors and, like them, to share with those students coming up behind me. Being able to provide minority undergraduates information that can help them to one day surpass me assures that I am on the right path."

Larry Luster, a second-year doctoral student in chemical engineering from Montgomery, Alabama, earned his bachelor's degree at Hampton University and attended the 2019 summit. He said being a panelist this year was about giving back.

"Representation matters, and being able to ask sometimes tough questions to someone who looks like you and has had similar experiences is an opportunity that is invaluable when trying to make connections and decide your next steps," Luster said.

They were joined on the panel by Audra Barnes, a Ph.D. student in biomedical engineering who earned her bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University; Carlos Posada, a graduate student in chemistry who earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

**Virginia Tech's graduate school recently hosted students and faculty from 15 historically Black colleges and universities from as far away as Texas and Florida for a research summit.**

Carolina, Chapel Hill, and another bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University; Tyana Scott, a master's degree student in biomedical engineering who earned her bachelor's degree at North Carolina A&T State University, Tarisa Ross, a Ph.D. student in geosciences with a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's degree from North Carolina Central University; Joseph Sturgess, a doctoral student in engineering education with a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and a master's degree from Fisk University; and Arogeanae Brown, a Ph.D. student in agricultural, leadership, and community education who earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia State University and a master's degree from Virginia Tech. Tremayne Waller, director of graduate student programs for the College of Engineering, was the moderator.

Scott also attended a research summit at Virginia Tech as an undergraduate and said the experience influenced her decision to pursue a graduate degree. She found the panel to be particularly helpful. "Just talking to students who are in a position of where you intend to be

one day can be insightful," she said. "You are able to get answers from a perspective to which you can closely relate."

Panelists answered a wide range of questions, from how to find community on campus to how to work with mentors and advisors and how to handle difficult situations. They provided tips, insights, and examples from their own experiences, including information about housing, funding, and extracurricular activities.

Luster said several students asked about how to say no and how to manage their time. He said these are difficult concerns for most graduate students that can be tougher for students "who may struggle with issues like imposter syndrome, perfectionism, or feeling the need to prove themselves." He said all the panelists did a fine job of assuring the students that they did not need to prove themselves, that they were admitted for a reason, and that they have to keep their own well-being in mind.

- Virginia Tech Communications

## Christiansburg Institute grad Emma Jones shares history with local Beta Sigma Phi chapter

Retired teacher and Christiansburg Institute graduate Erma Jones of Christiansburg was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the Alpha Mu Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. She shared historical facts about the institute, which was founded after the Civil War and closed in 1966 when local schools were integrated. Jones shared a detailed history of the Christiansburg Institute Display at Christiansburg High School where many artifacts are on display. During her presentation, Jones quoted from the books "Facing Freedom" by David Thorp and "A Vision of Education" by Edgar A. Long.



PHOTO COURTESY ALPHA MU MASTER CHAPTER OF BETA SIGMA PHI

**Retired teacher and Christiansburg Institute graduate Emma Jones, pictured above, was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the Christiansburg chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority. She shared historical facts about the institute as well as detailed information about the institute display at Christiansburg High School.**

## Home Country by Slim Randles: Windy's grandpa's middle name was nimmin

Alphonse Wilson verbosifyin' here, once again. Need to talk a bit 'bout names. Some of you might know me by my nickname, Windy.

Now you might think at first that I come about that name 'cause I've been known to verbulate quite a bit, and I have to remit here that I thought so at first, my ownself. But nosir ... not the case. Years ago, ol' Doc set me up to meet this nice lady from the county health depot and told her I was called Windy 'cause my emolument of the English language zifted like a heifer of realism through our mundaniety. Perked up the circumloquasion, I can tell ya. Fact.

But that's just on them nicknames, of course. On the birth certificate

aspirations, there's a little scientificals in them. You memorate how mom used to call you by all three of your names? Yes she did. But she did it only when you was in trouble. She'd holler something like "Jeremy Pixilated Johnson, you get in here this minute!" And when you heard all three of your names, you knew you was in a pickle fer shore.

You see, appertraining to the use of a middle name, we need them for murderers, burglars and assassins. You know an assassinator gets to be famous after the deed, right? And ever' body knows his name. You just take in there that Lee Harvey Oswald fella. The newspaper guys had to throw the Harvey part in so's folks wouldn't ask themselves "I wonder if that's the Lee Oswald works down

at the Gulf station."

Of course, some folks are just nominatin'ly deprived, of course. You just take my ol' grandpap for example. His middle name was nimmin. I seen it on them papers they give you for your obituary after you die. Said right there "Constantine nm Wilson." I had to go ask someone why they didn't capitulate the n in nm, and the lady said it means no middle name. No middle name? Well sir, then I memorialized that ol' Grandpap was the thirteenth kid in the family, and I suppose they just ran out of middle names about then.

So the outcome of all this is, if you don't have a middle name, go get one. It'll come in handy if you take up criminal actuarials or if you die.

## ONLINE AUCTION

**Ends Wednesday, December 14th @ 4 PM  
2 Homes on Big Mack's Creek in Hiwassee VA  
2743 & 2745 Max Creek Road, Hiwassee, VA 24347**

**Bid Now at VaAuctionPro.com**



You can purchase this great recreational retreat on Big Mack's Creek in Pulaski County Virginia. This property showcases 17.55 acres of mostly wooded land with 705 feet of frontage on Big Mack's Creek. Property includes a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 22-year-old double wide and an older single wide mobile home. The single wide has been built onto but is in need of repair. Both homes share a septic system and spring. Spring is located on adjoining property.

This would be a great potential homesite, recreational or hunting retreat, weekend getaway, etc. You could use the property for hunting, camping, ATV riding and more.

Property is located across the road from Grace Baptist Church and Camp Powhatan, which is a 1,400-acre scout camp. Property is close to the New River. Information on double wide mobile home provided in bidder pack. Double wide is currently leased on a month-to-month basis. Download Bidder Pack for information about homes, maps, terms and conditions, and property information.

**Preview - Friday, December 2nd @ 4 PM**

**Directions:** From Pulaski VA - onto VA 99 South (Count Pulaski Drive) - Left on old Route 100 - Right on Lowman's Ferry Road - Right on Julia Simpkins Road - Left on Max Creek Road - Property on Right. Access is by private drive in front of old farm house at 2717 Max Creek Road.

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 required day of sale. Close in 45 days. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Download Bidder Pack at VAAuctionPro.com

**Contact Broker & Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at  
540-239-2585 or email gallimore.matt@gmail.com**

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& Auction Co., Inc**

# Gold mining from page 1

and credibly, NASEM sought recognized experts from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. Each committee member was nominated and then vetted through a rigorous process that included an evaluation of any conflicts of interest and a public comment period.

Over the course of more than a year, the committee worked to gather and interpret information from diverse sources. This included presentations and discussions with representatives from industry, academia, community-based organizations, and state and federal governments. The committee also heard from stakeholders during town hall meetings and visits to communities as well as while touring several mines in Virginia and South Carolina.

“Our task as a committee was to evaluate if Virginia has the appropriate regulatory structure to safely start gold mining

again,” said Hopkins, who served as the committee’s chair and is a professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

The committee included additional experts from industry, state government, the U.S. Geological Survey, and faculty members from University of California Berkeley, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Colorado School of Mines, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Michigan Technological University.

Hopkins previously served on four NASEM committees, one of which he chaired, that addressed issues related to freshwater resources, mining, management of waste from fossil fuel combustion, and research data quality in federal agencies. Additionally, he provides guidance to state and federal

agencies, industry, and other stakeholders on issues related to environmental degradation and threats to biodiversity.

As the founding director of the Global Change Center, one of the four core centers in the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, Hopkins’s research focuses on how anthropogenic disturbances such as climate change, pollution, and habitat loss affect wildlife. He has experience evaluating how activities such as fossil fuel extraction, combustion, and accidental spills affect the environment.

“If gold mining were to resume in Virginia, regulation and oversight should be the cornerstone of state efforts to mitigate negative impacts,” Hopkins said in several interviews after the reports’ release on Nov. 2.

- Jenise L. Jacques, Virginia Tech

# Trees and wreaths from page 1

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Joseph Guthrie, and member of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association attended the presentation.

“We thank the Clouse and Houston families for the beautiful trees and wreaths, and the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association for all they do to assist our farmers and growers,” said Secretary Lohr. “Christmas tree farming is an important part of the commonwealth’s agriculture and forestry industries. Virginia farmers grow cypresses, firs, pines, and spruces

on more than 460 farms across the commonwealth, for wholesale, retail, and choose-and-cut customers. Visiting a Christmas tree farm provides a great opportunity to contribute to enterprising Virginia businesses and support local farmers,” Lohr said.

Virginia Christmas tree farmers grow an inventory of more than 4.3 million Christmas trees and generate sales of \$11.6 million. The commonwealth is the seventh leading U.S. state in terms of total Christmas tree inventory, sixth in total tree acreage in production, and thirteenth in number of operations with

Christmas tree sales.

Virginia has more than 10,000 acres used for Christmas tree production with Grayson, Floyd, Loudoun, Culpeper, and Chesterfield counties leading the commonwealth in acreage of Christmas tree production.

“In addition to the economic benefit, Christmas trees are both renewable and recyclable, and as for every tree cut, growers replant two to three seedlings in its place,” said Commissioner Guthrie. “I have fond memories of picking out the perfect Virginia-grown Christmas tree with my family, and I encourage all

Virginians to make their own holiday memories and traditions by supporting Virginia businesses and visiting a Christmas tree farm.”

Along with choose-and-cut and pre-cut trees, many farms also sell fresh-made wreaths, garlands, holiday greenery, roping, centerpiece, and tree stands. Some offer special touches for a memorable family experience such as hot beverages, holiday treats, and Christmas shops.

- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

# Holiday scams from page 1

those that are used on banking, billing, or medical sites.

10. Consider shopping locally: Local businesses have been especially hard hit over the last couple of years.

Aaron Brantly is an associate professor of political science at Virginia Tech and the director of the Tech4Humanity

Lab. He has worked on issues related to cybersecurity from multiple angles, including human rights and development, intelligence and national security, and military cybersecurity. His interests span the political science and computer science divide.

## 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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# Winter from page 1

emergency route notice may be declared on the Blacksburg campus before the storm hits. This means designated roads on campus must remain open for emergency vehicle use and plows. All vehicles parked along these roads must be removed or risk being towed. Snow emergency routes include Alumni Mall, inbound lane only (the outbound lane will remain unaffected); Beamer Way, between Washington Street and Southgate Drive; Kent Street, between Washington Street and Drillfield Drive; South Drillfield Drive, between Kent Street and West Campus Drive (both sides of the road); Wall Street; and Washington Street, between Kent Street and Duck Pond Drive.

The university’s goal is to make decisions as far in advance as available information will allow in order to facilitate subsequent planning and decision-making to impacted operations.

Vice President for Enterprise Administrative and Business Services Lynsay Belshe collects road-condition and readiness reports from university and community organizations including the Virginia Tech Police Department and the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Amy Sebring then decides if any modifications are necessary to university operations on

the Blacksburg campus and Virginia Tech facilities in the immediate Blacksburg area.

Modifications to operations in Roanoke, Northern Virginia, Richmond, and other Virginia Tech locations are determined on an individual basis by local police, university emergency management leaders, Communications and Marketing, and other partners.

Communications and Marketing notifies the campus community through the University Status page, VTx Daily News email, social media, and the weather/emergency hotline at 540 231-6668. Virginia Tech Emergency Management will also notify the campus community through the VT Alerts system.

During the storm, the university community is asked to frequently monitor the University Status page for the latest updates impacting all Virginia Tech locations. The university community is also encouraged to download the Hokie Ready App to have fast access to pertinent emergency information and to report emergencies. Those who do not have access to the internet may call the weather/emergency hotline at 540-231-6668.

Employees who have a fully remote or hybrid schedule would be expected to work their normal work schedules at their alternate work sites and would not be eligible for

authorized closing leave. Employees should refer to the Authorized Closings Leave and Compensation Policy for questions about working when the university is impacted by inclement weather.

Once winter weather starts, Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities employees plow roads, loading docks, and service drives in 12-hour shifts. Sidewalks, stairs, parking lots, and streets are also treated when possible before and during the storm with a 23 percent salt brine solution obtained from the tanks at the Virginia Tech Power Plant.

Once the storm is over, teams work tirelessly to widen paths on sidewalks and roads. Contract crews clear parking lots. (Virginia Tech teams try to keep parking lot drive lanes plowed during the storm.) Assigned team members report early, sometimes for days at a time, after a storm to treat any melt that has refrozen.

The ten deepest 24-hour snowfalls in Blacksburg history are 1. 20.4 inches, Jan. 28, 1998 2. 17.8 inches, Jan. 7, 1996 3. 14 inches, Dec. 26, 1969 and March 3, 1960 (tie) 5. 13.4 inches, Jan. 8, 1996 6. 13.3 inches, Dec. 9, 2018 7. 13 inches, March 23, 1981 8. 12 inches Jan. 30, 1966 and March 13, 1993 (tie) 10. 11.3 inches, Feb. 12, 2014.

CROSSWORD

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	43						44

- CLUES ACROSS
- |                                    |  |   |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1. German rapper                   | river                                  | measure                                 | 19. Last decade of the                  |
| 4. Aries sign                      | 25. Baked pastry-lined dish            | 2. Island in Venice                     | 20th cent.                              |
| 7. Atmosphere                      | 26. Basics                             | 3. Establish by law or with authority   | 20. A major division of geological time |
| 8. Send payment for                | 27. Manson murder book                 | 4. Exuding a strong odor                | 23. Causes to expand                    |
| 10. Digs                           | 34. Actress May                        | 5. Walked leisurely                     | 24. Ed Murrow’s network                 |
| 12. Pathetically weak              | 35. Dry white Italian wine from Verona | 6. A unit of length equal to 1760 yards | 25. Happening in quick succession       |
| 13. Give a thrashing to            | 36. Easily conversed                   | 8. Return to a useful condition         | 26. They ___                            |
| 15. How a witch laughed            | 38. Java pepper vine                   | 9. CNN’s Turner                         | 27. Perceiver of sound                  |
| 16. Being of use or service        | 39. Eagle nests                        | 11. Young herring in Norway             | 28. The last part of anything           |
| 17. Lassie’s breed                 | 40. Irish mother of gods               | 12. Disengagement                       | 29. Top left corner key                 |
| 18. XXX Olympic site               | 41. Belongs to St. Paul’s architect    | 14. The lion zodiac sign                | 30. Opposite of quiet                   |
| 21. Tax collector                  | 42. Soak flax                          | 15. Mt. Washington railroad             | 31. Knights’ outer tunic                |
| 22. Above average in size          | 43. CGS work unit                      | 17. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)   | 32. Made level                          |
| 23. It carries genetic information | 44. Tooth caregiver                    |   | 33. Refutes in a legal case             |
| 24. E. central English             | CLUES DOWN                             |   | 36. Sound of a crow                     |
|                                    | 1. Common detergent                    |   | 37. In this place                       |

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## OBITUARIES

## Albert, Jr., Howd (Howie) Thomas

Howd (Howie) Thomas Albert, Jr., 45, of Christiansburg, died Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022.

He is survived by his daughters, Keira N. Albert (Jon Ratliff), and Britani P. Albert; a grandchild, Elyrah Ratliff; his mother and stepfather, Carol and Eric Davis; his father, Howd Albert, Sr.; a brother, Jesse Davis; sisters Candace Davis and Cheyanne Albert; the mother of his children, Christina Albert; and his best friend, Savage. No service will be held.



Send community news and photos to [communitynews@ourvalley.org](mailto:communitynews@ourvalley.org)

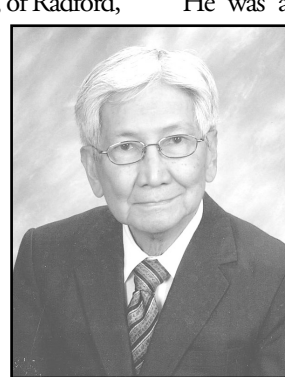
## Cube, Dr. Ernesto Milla

Dr. Ernesto Milla Cube, 90, of Radford, passed away on Friday, Nov. 25, 2022.

Ernie was born in Tarlac, Philippines. He was preceded in death by his parents Rogelio and Encarnacion Cube, and four brothers and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirli; his daughters, Mimi Ridpath (Mark) and Rosanne Tickle (Steve); a granddaughter, Marlee Barboza (Patrick); grandsons Miller Ridpath and Merritt Ridpath; and many nieces and nephews.

Ernie was an instructor and the Chief of Staff in the Department of Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt University, the Veterans Hospital, and Nashville General Hospital prior to starting his private eye practice in Radford in 1963. Dr. Cube was the first ophthalmologist in Radford and also established offices in Pulaski and Wytheville.



He was a past president and a Paul Harris Fellow of the Radford Rotary Club and was a longtime member and deacon emeritus of First Baptist Church in Radford.

The family received friends on Friday, Dec. 2, at First Baptist Church, Radford. Funeral services followed with the Rev. Diana Farrell White and the Rev. Kent Taylor officiating. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donation to First Baptist Church, 215 Third Ave., Radford, VA 24141 or follow this link <https://giving.younglife.org> for an online donation to the Southwest Columbus Young Life organization. Checks can also be submitted to Southwest Columbus Young Life at 1200 Chambers Road, Columbus, OH 43212 Suite 301.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

## ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: [www.stpetersacc.org](http://www.stpetersacc.org). Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771. [www.stphilipsblacksburg.org](http://www.stphilipsblacksburg.org). Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit [www.sttofc.org](http://www.sttofc.org) for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

## BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: [fbcradford.org](http://fbcradford.org) 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, [www.trinitycburg.org](http://www.trinitycburg.org)

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Community Minister Tom Gilliam, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

## CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: [www.christiansburgcob.org](http://www.christiansburgcob.org). A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

## (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: [www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](http://www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com) (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: [office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com](mailto:office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com), Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

## ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. The Center was closed during the COVID crisis but is now open. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit [www.eck-va.org](http://www.eck-va.org), [www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group) or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

## EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 4th Street, Radford, 639-3494. A friendly, mission-oriented spiritual community sharing the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME. In person and live-streamed services 10:30AM Sundays. Holy Eucharist twice a month. Morning Prayer twice a month.

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## NO LONGER A STRANGER

Read: Ephesians 1:1 through 3:21

Being a stranger in a new setting always causes a little anxiety. There are new faces and places. There are strange smells and sounds. There are new sights. The more foreign the land, the more intense these differences seem. Having a guide, someone who is familiar with the place and who can introduce us to new people, is very helpful.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Ephesians 2:19).

At one time, we were all strangers to God's kingdom and to His promises. But in Christ, we find our way. He has "brought us near" when once we were "far off." It is through His blood that He has brought us into the Kingdom. Because of Him we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellow citizens in God's house.

Like a guide, Jesus is the one who has bought our passage and shown us the way. Because of Him, we can claim the status of being part of God's household.

Prayer Suggestion: Thank God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

Quicklook: Ephesians 2:11-22

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Randy Thompson at 540-389-9355 or email at [advertise@ourvalley.org](mailto:advertise@ourvalley.org)**

Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and [www.graceradford.org](http://www.graceradford.org).

## LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at [www.lmlc.org](http://www.lmlc.org). We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email [luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com](mailto:luthermemorialblacksburg@gmail.com), or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

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

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

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

## MULTI-CULTURAL

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electric Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Rob Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

## PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. [pastorhall29@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhall29@gmail.com). Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler

Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey, Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved. Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6: p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

## UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central United Methodist Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. [www.centralmethodistchurch.com](http://www.centralmethodistchurch.com).

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - [www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc](http://www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc)

**Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church**, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

## WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: [christwesleyanchurch.org](http://christwesleyanchurch.org)

# Obituaries from page 5

## Currie, Robert (Bob) Joseph

Robert (Bob) Joseph Currie passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022 in Christiansburg at the age of 72.

Bob was born Sept. 29, 1950, in Blacksburg to John Robert Currie, Jr., and Mary Pack Currie. He was a 1968 graduate of Blacksburg High School and went on to work local factory jobs before going to work in the car dealership industry. Bob devoted over 30 years to car sales and was well-known in the area for his time spent in the business. He loved making people laugh.

In 1995 Bob met and married the love of his life, Paula Capps Currie of Christiansburg.

In recent years Bob poured his heart into providing, loving, and caring for his family and his dog, Max. He had a passion for fishing, shooting pool, cooking and all sports. He was also a huge fan of Hokies Nation and the Yankees.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents: his brother, David Currie, and



a brother-in-law, Jerry Parker Capps. Left to cherish his memories are his wife, Paula Currie of Christiansburg; sons Stacey Currie of Dublin and Parker Currie of Christiansburg; daughter Leslie (Marcus) Uzzell of Wilmington, N.C.; sister Patricia Currie of Christiansburg; three grandchildren: Jayme Gilmore, Kameran Currie, and Kyleigh Wilson; a great-grandchild, Landry Combs; a sister-in-law, Linda Cook; best friend Mike Linkous; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home, 120 West Main St., Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

The Currie family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Saul, Virginia Elizabeth "Libby" Martin

Virginia Elizabeth "Libby" Martin Saul, 82, of Radford, passed away on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Corbett "Corby" Lester and Mary Edith Martin; and her son, Wendell Lee Hypes.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years, David



Saul; a brother and sister-in-law, John and Karen Martin; a special niece, Donna Hager; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

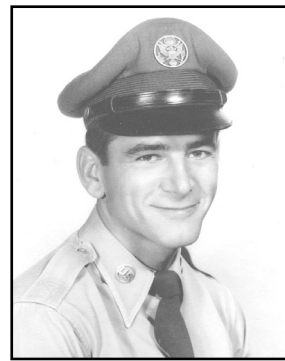
Services will be held at a later date.

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

## Wonderley, John Lincoln

John Lincoln Wonderley, 90, of Pilot, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. He was a member of Christiansburg Presbyterian Church and serviced his country in the U. S. Air Force. John was employed at Virginia Tech in the Geophysics Dept. but his favorite job was farming. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Bryan and Ellen Saufley Wonderley; four brothers and two sisters. He was the last surviving member of his family.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Jean M. Wonderley; daughter, Lisa W. Forster; son, Eric Wonderley;



grandson, Michael Forster; brother-in-law, Donald Good; sister-in-law, Madeline Wonderley; and numerous nieces and nephews, other family members and friends.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with Rev. Don Maken officiating.

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

## Dunn, Norma Jean

Norma Jean Dunn, 84, of Elliston, went home to Heaven on Nov. 27, 2022.

Norma enjoyed many hobbies from buying and refinishing antiques to showing off her green thumb with her indoor and outdoor plants. She loved elderly people and was a caregiver to people in need in her community. She loved God and her church, Midway Baptist Church where she served as Sunday School Secretary/Treasurer.

Norma and CJ enjoyed making trips to North Carolina to visit their daughter and son-in-law, and she enjoyed yearly visits to the beach and to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Visits later increased to North Carolina to visit their only grandchild, but they would always come back to the mountains she called home.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Elmo F. Compton and Lillie



M. Compton; and a brother, Alvah H. Compton.

She is survived by her husband, Cornelius John "CJ/Neely" Dunn; a daughter, Rhonda Dunn Crafton and her husband, Don Richard Crafton, Jr.; a grandson, Luke Aidan Crafton; a sister, Ramona Compton Dunn; and many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at Horne Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Horne Chapel with Danny Collins officiating along with other special speakers. Interment followed in North Fork Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation. Arrangements with Horne Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Gallagher, Irma Jeanne

Irma Jeanne Gallagher, 78, passed away Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at her home in Dublin.

She was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willard Ralph and Olive Arlene Rupard; and a brother, Jerry Rupard.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Kevin Dudley of Newport News; son DeWayne Gallagher and his fiancée, Amy Miller; grandchildren Travis Dudley (Alison), Joshua Gallagher (Hope), Seth Dudley (Gretchen),



Jessica Davis (Tony), and Kaitlyn Huber (Stephen); eight great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Ralph and Linda Rupard; sisters and brother-in-law, Betty Combs and Teresa and Tom Pologruto; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services followed. Interment was private.

The Gallagher family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home and Crematory in Radford.

## Morris, Rita Cole

Rita Cole Morris, 74, of Christiansburg, died Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. She was born in Montgomery Co., Va. on July 8, 1948, to the late Daily and Lucy Austin Vaught Cole. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Morris; and two brothers, Roger Cole, and Gene Cole.

She is survived by her son, Denny Ray Scott, Jr.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Haven and Suzie Cole,

Marshall and Darlene Cole, Doyle and Linda Vaught, Martin Vaught; and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 5- 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr. S.W., Blacksburg Va. Funeral services will follow at 6 p.m. with the Pastor Greg Irby officiating in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel.

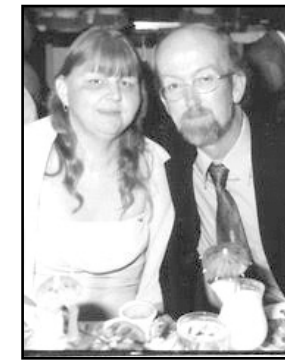
## Kleimann, Peter Wayne

Peter Wayne Kleimann, 66, of Radford, died Friday, Nov. 25, 2022 at his home.

He was born in Portsmouth, Va. on Oct. 18, 1956, to the late Henry and Katherine Kleimann.

He was also preceded in death by his brother, Eddie, and his sisters Priscilla and Michele. He was a veteran of the US Navy.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Kleimann; a daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Shawn Williams; sons John



Kleimann and Paul Kleimann (Kim); stepchildren Michelle, Stephen, and Marie; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters Melissa and Lynda; and a brother, Hank, Jr.

Memorial services will be conducted Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at 2 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Betty Kleimann to help offset expenses.

www.montcova.com

# Virginia farmers hear outlook for upcoming farm bill

In the face of ongoing economic volatility, U.S. farmers continue to produce. For each input that goes into farming, they produce 2.75 times more, and lawmakers need to understand this as they establish priorities for the 2023 U.S. Farm Bill.

Virginia farmers learned about the outlook for the farm bill at a Nov. 29 update at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

Andrew Walmsley, senior director of government affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, encouraged attendees to educate their congressional representatives on farmers' efforts to promote conservation through innovative best management practices and to share data with them that show a reduction in agricultural emissions with a simultaneous increase in yield and quality.

Enduring market volatilities are compounded by dozens of economic factors, Walmsley said, including

supply chain challenges, export and transportation issues, drought impacts, inflation, soaring diesel prices, and rail-service-labor conflicts.

"In this room there are no surprises here," he said. "You live this. We have seen some higher commodity prices absorb some of these costs. But some of you may recognize our commodity prices may fall much more quickly than the cost of inputs."

Walmsley offered some background information on the four chair and ranking members of the House and Senate agriculture committees who will be key in drafting the 2023 Farm Bill. The bill typically includes 12 titles, from commodities to conservation to crop insurance expansion. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program takes the biggest chunk of spending in the bill.

With 88 new members of the House and eight new senators, "We have a lot of work to do as Farm Bureau to educate members of Congress on the importance of the farm bill," Walmsley said.

Almost half of Congress will be taking up the farm bill for the first time. The previous farm bill passed in 2018. One farmer asked Walmsley how climate issues will play into the bill.

"Climate has been a tough issue for Farm Bureau to discuss in the past," Walmsley replied. "In a lot of those early negotiations, agriculture was not invited to the table, and a lot of bad ideas were put out there, like carbon tax and cap-and-trade (emissions caps) that unnecessarily increased our energy costs."

Interest exists in agriculture being part of the solution to take carbon from the atmosphere and store it in trees and soil, Walmsley said.

"Farm Bureau policy has been pretty robust when it comes to climate policy," Walmsley said. "We do have a good story to tell. We can do a lot to provide the societal benefits expected of us."

- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT 1

A Public Hearing will be held by the Council of the Town of Christiansburg on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Room of the Town Hall, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia for the purpose of discussing the Proposed Budget amendment #1 for FY 2022-2023 Budget

#### SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED BUDGET TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT 1

Revenues		Appropriations	
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance General Fund	2,304,302	General Fund	964,572
Use of Assigned fund Balances General Fund	289,273	Capital Projects	10,795,113
Use Of Special Revenue funds ARPA	185,000	Special Revenue	185,000
Grant Revenues Capital Projects	9,166,110	Water and Waste Water Capital project rollovers	815,700
Use of unassigned fund balances Water & Sewer Enterprise	888,305	Water and Waste Water Operational increases	72,605
Use of unassigned fund balances Storm Water Enterprise	193,489	Storm Water Enterprise Capital Project rollovers	193,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,026,479</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,026,479</b>

The Proposed Budget amendment #1 may be examined on weekdays at the office of the Town Manager, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and on the Town Web Site, www.christiansburg.org. Interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments.

Randall Wingfield, Town Manager



# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Pry not looking to make major changes

**Marty Gordon**  
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Brent Pry's first year at the helm of the Virginia Tech football program has come to a close, and while he admits his disappointment in the team's 3-7 record, he isn't looking to make major changes to the coaching staff.

"I have total trust in these guys, love these guys," Pry told the media. "Obviously, we all, including myself, learned a great deal this year about our team, about our staff, and about how we want to operate. The growth and development are encouraging. I may have a different narrative if I weren't encouraged by a lot of things I saw."

For most of the coaching staff, this season was their first in Blacksburg and the first in their specific positions.

Pry also shrugged off criticism of first-year offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen.

"I have a ton of confidence in them [the coaches]. Just like all of us, we have to dive into what didn't work and how come. That's what your offseason's about, right?," Pry said.

"I look at what Florida State has done since hiring [Mike] Norvell," Pry said. "I look at what Shane Beamer is doing at South Carolina, and the time and the growth and where things started. We've gotten a much better handle on where we were when it started. You come out of the Pinstripe Bowl and start evaluating your roster."

"Certainly, it's encouraging to see what TCU has done. I wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't believe that we couldn't flip the script and do this here," Pry said. "I've got the utmost confidence in our staff and the administration. We've got one of the greatest fan bases

in the country. This is an attractive place for recruits to come, for the right recruits that are looking for what Virginia Tech has to offer. We're going to put in the time and the investment. There's the support. It's going to take everybody but undoubtedly, we can do this," the head coach said.

Of course, Pry was saddened by what happened in Charlottesville and the cancellation of the Hokies' final game with the Hoos. He told reporters the cancellation was the right thing to do, but he still felt bad for his seniors.

"I'm heartbroken for both groups, UVA's seniors and our seniors, not being able to play that last game," Pry said. "It means too much to both programs. Obviously, in light of what happened, it takes a backseat, rightfully so. I look forward to having these guys walk across that court."

"We're having a small banquet on Sunday to help honor these guys and their families and recognize their contributions, not just this year but over their tenure here," Pry said. "These guys have weathered and endured a lot and invested a lot. I'm eager to honor them and certainly thankful for the way they embraced me and our new staff. Sometimes that can be very challenging. These guys had open ears and open hearts and put out some trust there maybe before it was really earned and deserved. I'm appreciative of that and look forward to paying respect."

The former Penn State defensive coordinator does expect his roster to look a little different next season in Blacksburg and will include several players who might come from the transfer portal.

Pry said he would like to add competition to every room including quarterback where Grant Wells transferred in this past season from Marshall. He was

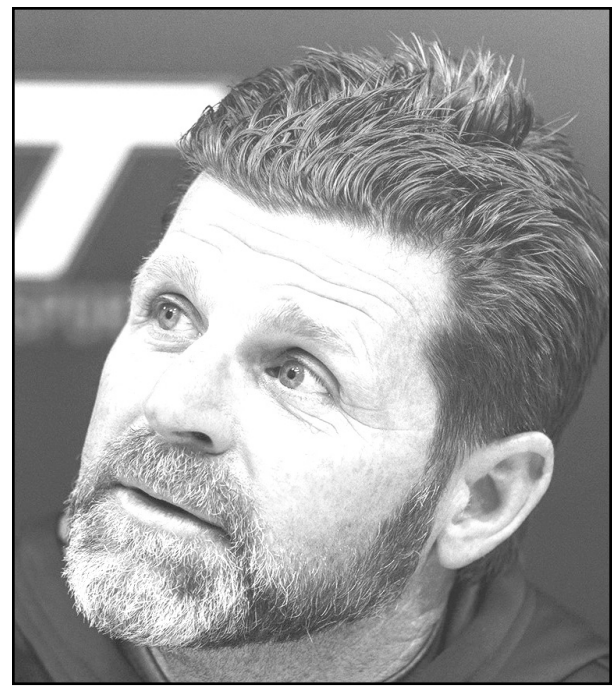


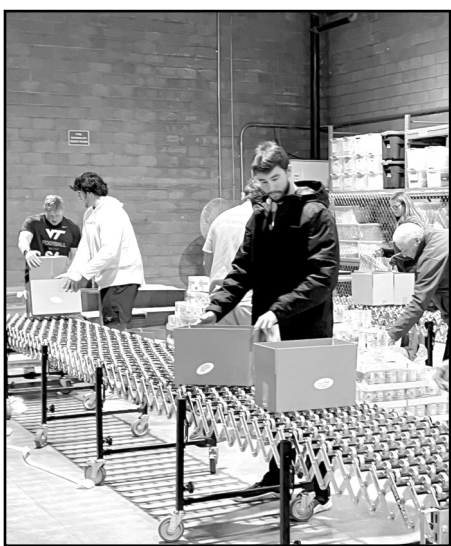
PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH  
VT head football coach Brent Pry told the media Monday that despite his disappointment with the 2022 season, he isn't planning on making changes to his coaching staff.

honest and straightforward in saying the Hokies simply have to get better in certain areas.

"Each and every offseason, these jobs open up," Pry said. "I don't want anyone to feel like they've got a position just because they had it last year. And that's including quarterback."



Members of Virginia Tech's football team packaged meal boxes at Feeding Southwest Virginia's Salem facility Tuesday, Nov. 29.



The football team packaged 500 meal boxes, which included a turkey, green beans, corn, tuna, rice, fruit, beans, and oatmeal.



PHOTOS BY AILA BOYD  
Kroger donated 10 turkeys for every touchdown Virginia Tech scored during the 2022 season.

## Virginia Tech football players participate in Touchdowns for Turkeys

**Aila Boyd**  
aiboyn@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Virginia Tech's football team spent the afternoon of Nov. 29 packaging 500 holiday food boxes in Salem at Feeding Southwest Virginia's facility.

The effort was part of Touchdowns for Turkeys, a program between Kroger and Virginia Tech Athletics that is in its seventh year. Kroger donated ten turkeys for every touchdown scored by the team during the season.

Among those packaging the turkeys was freshman football player Johnny Garrett. "I thought it would be something cool to do, especially around the holidays," he said. "It's kind of the giving season, I think it's important for everyone to have companionship and have a meal with their family. I just wanted to help out."

He said embracing a charitable mentality is part of the football team's culture, especially with Head Coach Brent Pry. "He's all about community," Garrett said. "I feel this is the best way to show that we care about the people around us who are supporting us. It's good to give back. It's something we should do."

Five hundred food boxes that included a turkey, green beans, corn, tuna, rice, fruit, beans, and oatmeal were packaged

as part of Touchdowns for Turkeys.

"This donation from Kroger comes at a critical time during the holiday season. Food supply is down 20 to 40 percent from previous years at the Food Bank," according to a Feeding Southwest Virginia spokesman. "Feeding Southwest Virginia needs help keeping up with the demand of our local pantries, which are requesting more food for their neighbors. Feeding Southwest Virginia is thankful for its partners who continue to care about food insecurity."

James Menees, a corporate affairs manager for Kroger's mid-Atlantic division, said his organization donated ten turkeys for every touchdown the Hokies scored, 27 this past season, which meant 270 turkeys.

"We threw in an additional 230 turkeys to make it 500," Menees said. "It's a great program. We're very appreciative of Virginia Tech's partnership. We're longtime partners and supporters of the Food Bank. This benefits those in need in our community."

"Feeding Southwest Virginia is grateful for Kroger and its dedication to reducing hunger in Southwest Virginia. Kroger has been a pivotal partner to Feeding Southwest Virginia and has continued to give back to the community in innovative ways."

## Sports notes: Engagement at mid-court, Moments of Excellence at VT

The Blacksburg ballet dancers were the guest performers at Monday's Virginia Tech basketball game versus Minnesota. Paige Godwin is their dance director, and standing to the side she directed them as she normally would on a regular basis.

When they finished, she didn't think twice when the Hokie bird brought her to mid-court and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. But what happened next caught her completely by surprise.

Godwin turned to find her boyfriend, Rob Gynn, down on one knee with a ring in his hand. She said yes in what

was surely a first for a Hokie basketball game.

As the 2022 calendar year comes to a close, Virginia Tech Athletics will spend the month of December celebrating the Hokies' stand-out achievements from the past 12 months in a campaign called "Moments of Excellence."

The "Moments of Excellence" campaign will serve as a look back to the historic highlights and memorable accomplishments Virginia Tech Athletics celebrated during 2022. Each varsity sport program will have an outstanding moment featured during December on the official Virginia Tech Athletics website

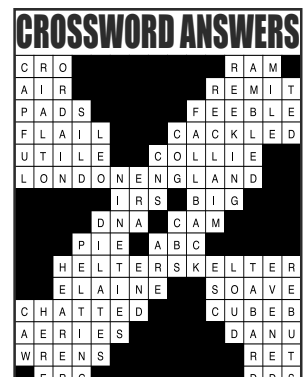
and @HokieSports social media properties.

This campaign ties back into Tech's "Reach for Excellence" initiative, a \$400 million fundraising campaign that impacts every sport and every future student-athlete at Virginia Tech and stands as part of the university's wider \$1.5 billion "Boundless Impact" campaign.

As a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Virginia Tech is poised to be a major force in college athletics. With the launch of "Reach for Excellence," the athletics department is asking for support from all of Hokie Nation to fund scholarships, renovate and build

facilities, bring additional assets to all sports, and, most importantly, to help provide the resources to continue making Virginia Tech student-athletes champions in every phase of life.

Victoria Haugen from the Virginia Tech women's soccer team was named



to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division I All-Atlantic second-team Tuesday.

"Dori is very deserving

of this honor," said head coach Chugger Adair. "She is somebody who

See Notes, page 8

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Tanner Evans is the 2022 River Ridge offensive player of the year.



Curtis Altizer is the 2022 River Ridge defensive player of the year.

FILE PHOTOS

# All-District football teams: Christiansburg's Evans, Altizer named players of the year

**Marty Gordon**

NRVsports@mainstreetnews.com

The River Ridge District has named Christiansburg's Tanner Evans as its offensive player of the year, and his teammate Curtis Altizer as the defensive player of the year.

The two helped lead the Blue Demons to a Region 3D title and into the state semis this weekend.

Altizer and Evans were joined on the first team by offensive lineman Ayden Conley and Blacksburg lineman Brayden DeMasi.

Nick Leftwich of Cave Spring was named the River

Ridge coach of the year.

Conley, Altizer and Evans were all named to the first defense. Conley received the honor from his defensive line position while Altizer was honored as a linebacker and Evans as a defensive back. Altizer was also named the first-team punter, and Christiansburg's Robert McCrea was selected at defensive end.

Christiansburg lineman Carter Stallard was named to the second-team offense along with receiver Jayron Thompson.

Blacksburg's DeMasi was named second-team defensive lineman along with Christiansburg

linebacker Jeremiah Thompson. Blacksburg's Spencer Campbell was named second-team punter and defensive all-purpose.

The River Ridge honorable mention players included Jayron Thompson as a kick returner and Blacksburg's Luke Poff at defensive back.

The Pioneer District also released its all-district teams with Eastern Montgomery's Brandon Kingrey being named to the first-team defense.

Teammates Xavier Brown and Gage Akers were named second-team linebacker and defensive back, respectively. Brown was also honored as a second-team running back.

# Auburn's Zuckerwar MED player of year



PHOTO BY ASHLEY AKERS

Auburn's Avery Zuckerwar helped lead her school to a state volleyball title in the Class 1 ranks this past month.

Auburn High School claimed another state volleyball title this past month, and Wednesday, the Mt. Empire District honored Auburn senior

Avery Zuckerwar as player of the year and Coach Sherry Milliron as coach of the year.

This is the third straight year the player

of the year has come from Riner. Zuckerwar finished the season with 362 kills, 62 aces and 340 digs.

Despite winning the state title, Auburn did have a "down" season.

The school entered this year with 70-plus win streak, but Bland handed the Eagles a loss in week number one. From there, Auburn had to battle to reach the state final including a district championship loss to Giles, but they rebounded with a regional win over the same Giles squad.

In the state title game, they took a 25-13, 20-25, 25-21, 25-20 win over Rappahannock.

A total of six players from the Class 1 state champions were recognized on the MED first-team and honorable mention.

First-teamers included Zuckerwar, Madeline Laverage, Stacy Lewis, Madison Ketterer and sophomore Briel Underwood. Honorable mentions were Gretchen Surface and Keisie Grocchlose.

# Area schools need to fill coaching vacancies

Blacksburg High School's boys' tennis team has been one of the most consistent programs in Southwest Virginia and the state, but it's currently looking for a new coach to lead the team into the spring.

The tennis position has been open for more than 60 days with no real applicant.

The opening is similar throughout Montgomery County where six varsity and junior varsity teams are without coaches.

Blacksburg Middle School needs a boys' soccer coach while Christiansburg Middle School needs a track coach for both boys and girls and the softball team.

Blacksburg also needs someone to lead the girls' lacrosse program, and

Christiansburg High School needs a boys' soccer junior varsity coach.

Over at Radford, the school system is looking for a new girls' varsity soccer coach.

The trend is happening nationwide where applicants for high school coaching jobs are few and far between.

Many of the individuals who stepped down from the coaching ranks have given several reasons for not wanting to coach. They include dealing with the COVID pandemic, the abuse by parents, and the lack of stipend pay. Instead, they prefer to just stay at home and watch from the sidelines.

Any potential coach interested in any of the area openings can go to the Montgomery County and/or Radford City school web sites to apply.

# Notes from page 7

puts in the work and effort. She had a wonderful year for our team, and I am proud of her effort and commitment to our group. On behalf of the entire program, we are very excited for Dori to have earned this award."

Haugen earned second-team all-region honors after starting every match in the 2022 season, leading the team with 1,638 minutes of play. She was a vital part of the Hokies 1-0 shutout victory over #22 NC State as she held the Wolfpack to one shot on goal. Haugen also helped the Hokies win 2-0 over Wake Forest, blocking several of the Demon Deacons' attempts to make it into the box. Haugen played the full 90 minutes in each match.

The Hokies claimed their third straight victory in the ACC after defeating No. 3 North Carolina 2-1. Haugen played 83 minutes in the match and held the Tar Heels to three shots on goal while Tech had four shots on goal. During the season, Haugen was recognized by the Atlantic Coast Conference by being named Defensive

Player of the Week.

Virginia Tech basketball center Elizabeth Kitley is one of seven All-Americans named to the Wade Trophy Watch List. Kitley is the only player in America to average 19 points, 11 rebounds and 2.5 blocks. Her five double-doubles rank fourth nationally.

Now in its 46th year, the Wade Trophy is the oldest and most prestigious national player of the year award in college women's basketball. First awarded in 1978, the Wade Trophy has been presented to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's NCAA Division I National Player of the Year since 2001.

The Wade Watch list of candidates for the Wade Trophy is composed of players selected by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association NCAA Division I All-America Selection Committee. The committee will review the list at midseason to determine if additional players will be added based on their play during the first half of the 2022-23 season.




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