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Parole denied for two in 1992 murder

The Virginia Parole Board has announced a decision this week to deny the release of two defendants in the 1992 shooting death and robbery of a Christiansburg store manager.

51-year-old Paul William Morehead and 50-year-old Katrina Lynn Zelenak were convicted in 1993 in the robbery and killing of 32-year-old Loran Raines Crockett of Pulaski who managed the Shoe Store in Christiansburg.

After making a night deposit at a bank near the Christiansburg store, Crockett was robbed and forced to drive a short distance before being shot.

A few hours later, the group attempted to rob the pizza employee as he made a night deposit from a

Blacksburg pizza parlor.

Morehead was given a life sentence on seven charges ranging from first-degree murder to robbery while Zelenak was also given a life sentence.

A third person, William Ray Smith, Jr., was also given a life sentence in the incident.

There was no conclusive evidence to determine who shot and killed Crockett, but each of the defendants was convicted of the murder under a law that finds participants in an event that leads to a crime equally responsible for the results.

The decision from the parole board said, "A release at this time would diminish the seriousness of the crime, the serious nature, and the circumstances of the crime.

The board concludes that they should serve more of the sentence prior to release on parole."

The parole board also denied the release of Gary O'Neal Shanks, formerly of Christiansburg, who is serving a life sentence in the 1994 malicious wounding and robbery of a Pulaski County man at his Hazel Hollow home. Shanks admitted to using a claw hammer to beat Bobby McDaniel. Shanks had previously been sentenced to 40 years in a 1979 murder in Montgomery County. He had also been charged with robbing a Montgomery County convenience store.

- News Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARILION

Carilion Children's Hospital's toy and clothing drive is accepting donations through Dec. 21.

Carilion adolescent inpatient unit, children's hospital join for toy, clothing drive

This holiday season, Carilion's Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient Unit and Carilion Children's Hospital are joining forces to host a toy and clothing drive for hospitalized children and teens.

Carilion's Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient Unit treats children ages 9 to 17. Carilion Children's Hospital treats children 0 to 18 years of age, but the greatest need is gifts for infants and teenagers.

To drop off a gift, visit Carilion Children's

Tanglewood Center (4348 Electric Road). A donation box will be available in the lobby at Entrance 1 during weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to noon.

If gifts are for a specific patient population (Children's Hospital or Psychiatry), note that with the donation.

To ensure gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas, please bring them to the Children's Tanglewood Center by Dec. 21.

Masks are required to enter the facility.

The Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Holiday Wish List (Ages 9-17) includes the following:

Clothing: socks, underclothes, sports bras, casual clothing; balls; books; board games; card games; coloring books and adult coloring books; coloring supplies (markers and crayons; no colored pencils); movies/DVDs (nothing more mature than PG13); stress balls and fidget toys; stuffed animals; and video game consoles/video games.

The Carilion

Children's Hospital Holiday Wish List (Ages 0-18) includes toys.

The children's full wish list can be found online and can be ordered through Amazon or dropped off at Tanglewood.

Items that will not be accepted include used items; latex balloons or latex toys; candles, sharp instruments, or harmful objects; any items with religious sayings and/or symbols; mature-rated games and movies.

- News Messenger staff report

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church to offer Christmas Eve worship service

BLACKSBURG – On Christmas Eve 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Luther Memorial Lutheran Church will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight worship service with Holy Communion.

The New River Valley community is invited to attend; music will begin at 4:30 p.m. prior to the worship service. The service will also be livestreamed on the church's website at <https://lmlc.org/livestream>.

Under the direction of Amy Cowan, the church choir has been rehearsing special musical selections for the occasion. "The choir has been working hard to prepare beautiful anthems for Advent and Christmas and will be joined on Christmas Eve by Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Jay Crone on trombone, along with many talented in-house musicians of all ages," said Cowan.

The Rev. Monica Weber, Luther

Memorial's pastor, said, "We look forward to welcoming the community on Christmas Eve as we celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the gift of Jesus, our Savior. All are welcome."

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Founded in 1886, the church serves the Blacksburg community and residents of Southwest Virginia's New River Valley. The Well Campus Ministry, hosted by Luther Memorial, offers regular opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship in Christ for students at Virginia Tech. Luther Memorial offers worship services, faith formation, and Christian education studies throughout the week and enjoys a longstanding tradition of mission and community service in the New River Valley.

National Fire Protection Association cautions Christmas Day, Eve are among leading days for home fires

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is warning of the need for extra caution during the holiday season where Christmas trees and Christmas decorations are concerned as Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly."

Fortunately, Carli says, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

"By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season," Carli said.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and

See NFPA, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF NFPA

The National Fire Protection Association urges added caution this holiday season, noting that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are among the leading days for U.S. home fires. According to the association's statistics, an estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

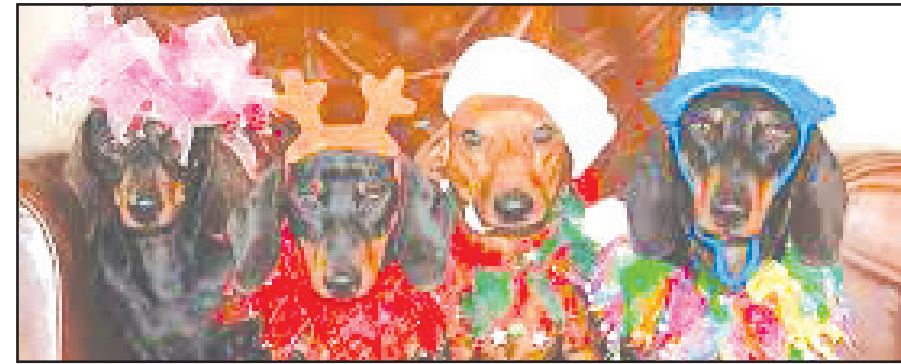


PHOTO COURTESY OF OODLE LIFE

Oodle Life is a website that provides dog and puppy information. Founder and CEO Chris Allen advises against treating pets as "little humans" at Christmas.

Expert warns Virginia pet owners to stop treating them as 'Little Humans' this Christmas

Seventy-seven percent of pet-owning households in Virginia surveyed by Oodle Life, a website that provides dog and puppy information,

admit to giving their pet special treatment over Christmas such as feeding them leftovers and dressing them up. This equates to over 1.1 million households.

Animal experts at Oodle Life have warned that the 'Disneyfication' or anthropomorphism of pets this Christmas can cause significant harm to them.

Many pet owners will admit that they attribute human characteristics to their pets, treating them as miniature people. After all, pets become part of the family.

"They're always on your side, they keep you company when you're feeling sad or lonely, and they bring endless joy with their loyalty and adorable behavior" says Chris Allen, Founder & CEO of Oodle Life. "However, as much as we love them, it's important to remember that they're

not actually human, and they shouldn't be treated as such."

According to the 2021-2022 American Pet Products Association National Pet Owners Survey, 43% of pet dogs in the United States and 49% of pet cats sleep on their owner's bed. In addition, more than one in five, or 22% of U.S. adults, report they have held or attended a birthday celebration for a pet (Getting a cake and candles for a birthday celebration is more common for dog owners

than cat owners.)

Putting pets in strollers, spraying them with pet cologne, putting diapers on them, or giving them breath-freshening products were also among the increasingly popular practices discouraged in a joint report by researchers at the University of Pisa and the Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico City.

Treating pets as little humans can be

See Little, 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. 17:

Caturday

At the Christiansburg Library; noon. Sign up at the front desk for a 15-minute slot to read to a cat from the Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center to practice reading and socialize shelter cats. For all Ages. Email spahl@mfl.org for more information.

Holiday Movie

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit and join us for a showing of this fan-favorite holiday animated film (rated G) about a young boy who embarks on a train ride journey to the North Pole. Call (540) 268-1964 with any questions.

Teen DND

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

Gingerbread Houses

At the Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. All ages are invited to build a personalized gingerbread house with the supplies provided. Registration is required.

“The Grinch” Movie, Photos, and S’mores

At Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery. S’mores and pictures with the Grinch at 6 p.m. Movie at 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19:

STEM Club

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 2 p.m. Join us for our homeschool STEM club where we explore science, technology, engineering, or math! Ages 8 years and up.

Pokémon Club

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

Tuesday, Dec. 27:

Melted Snowman Slime

At the Christiansburg Library; 3 p.m. Join us at the library to make melted snowman slime! All ages.

Wednesday, Dec. 28:

Afternoon Movie and Snack,

At the Meadowbrook Public Library; 12:30 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon, complete with a tasty snack and enjoy an animated film (rated PG) about crime fighting Super-Dog - Krypto, as he embarks on a mission to save his crime-fighting pal, the Man of Steel. Call (540) 268-1964 for more details.

Thursday, Dec. 29:

American Red Cross Blood Drive

At the Christiansburg Library; 10 a.m. Save a life! American Red Cross Blood Drive. Walk-ins welcome or sign up at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

Pokémon Party

At the Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. Bring your Nintendo Switch or DS with your Pokémon games, or your Pokémon Card Collection, and make new friends while trading, exploring, and battling. Trainers of all ages are welcome.

Friday, Dec. 30:

Red Cross Blood Drive

At the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library; 11:30 a.m. Save a life! American Red Cross Blood Drive. Walk-ins welcome or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

On-going:

Help the Veterans with your donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Bring your donations 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. Co-Sponsored by VFW Post 5311 and Montgomery-Floyd Regional libraries.

Free GED Classes

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

Beat the heat: Virginia Tech team to study best ways to survive heat waves



PHOTO BY THEO LIM FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Researchers conduct a workshop in Roanoke about the project studying ways to survive heat waves, which kill more Americans each year than any other natural disaster.

By Barbara L. Micale

Each year, heat waves kill more Americans than any other natural disaster. Climate change has exacerbated the problem by creating measurably higher temperatures in areas of cities with fewer economic and social resources to mitigate the impacts of heat, according to Theo Lim, an assistant professor of urban affairs and planning at Virginia Tech.

Lim is leading a multidisciplinary Virginia Tech research team that is partnering with the City of Roanoke

to help residents survive, adapt, and thrive through high temperatures and heat waves.

The six-person team received a Stage 1 Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) Planning Grant, funded by the National Science Foundation. The challenge supports rapid implementation of community-driven, research-based pilot projects that address heat resilience priorities.

The five co-investigators for the project are: Naren Ramakrishnan, the Thomas L. Phillips Professor of Engineering at Virginia Tech and director of the Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics; Jake Grohs, associate professor and assistant department head of Graduate Programs in Engineering Education; Julia Gohlke, associate professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences; Eric Wiseman, associate professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation; and Thomas Pingel, associate professor of geography.

The team is conducting a series of workshops with Roanoke leaders in academia, government, public schools, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations to identify their primary concerns and needs. Ultimately, the researchers will develop a proposal to create a citizen science program that will train city youth to collect, monitor, and communicate data on temperatures in the city and how residents experience heat.

Research scientists David Moore and Lara Nagle, both with the Institute for Policy and Governance at Virginia Tech, are involved with the project.

Catherine Cotrupi, a

Ph.D. candidate in higher education and former assistant director of campus and community engagement at Virginia Tech who is working with the research team, has been helping organize workshops with city officials and community-based organizations.

“I’m excited to be supporting these efforts,” Cotrupi said. “The essence of the land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service is to listen to community challenges and collaborate on solutions derived from academic study.”

From 1950-90, Roanoke had relatively mild summer temperatures with an average of 1.6 days a year reaching 95 degrees and higher. However, with climate change, the average number of 95-plus degree days each year could increase to 9.6 days by 2030 and 14.1 by 2040. In 2022, nine days had temperatures above 95.

One aspect of heat vulnerability that has not yet been quantified is the risk that residents face in their homes and doing daily activities.

The citizen science program will equip hundreds of middle school and high school youth with wearable temperature sensors that will provide a better picture of how residents handle the heat across the city. These youth also will be trained to conduct surveys and interviews in their own communities to better understand the viability of potential approaches to mitigating high temperatures, such as increasing vegetation, or helping residents cope with heat, such as opening more public air-conditioned spaces.

They also will take photos to document the information-gathering process, which is a research method known as “photovoice.”



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Virginia winter wheat production soars after 'near-perfect' growing season

With a helping hand from Mother Nature, Virginia farmers have produced one of the best winter wheat crops in recent years, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

A NASS report revealed Virginia farmers harvested 10.2 million bushels of winter wheat in 2022, a 27% increase from 2021. This year's wheat harvest represents Virginia's largest since 2018, when the commonwealth's farmers reaped 13.8 million bushels.

Virginia farmers harvested 150,000 acres for grain in 2022, marking the third straight year of improved production following a record-low harvest of 105,000 acres in 2019. The average yield per acre also rose to 68 bushels this year, a nine-year high and 5 bushels per acre over the previous five-year average.

"Environmentally, I think we had a near-perfect season," said Trent Jones, a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent in Northumberland and Lancaster counties, about wheat production in the Northern Neck.

Jones noted that some Northern Neck growers dealt with a wet fall that

delayed seedings, but many of their fields had dried to suitable conditions by spring. Timely rain and proactive crop management, Jones said, helped keep disease to a minimum and allowed farmers to produce quality wheat.

"I would attribute (yields) to farmers in the Northern Neck—and throughout Virginia—who stayed on top of their crops and gave the plants what they needed when they needed it to produce the best possible yields under the conditions that were presented," Jones said. "This year it seemed that everything came together ... and it resulted in a crop that was very, very acceptable."

Northumberland County grain farmer Mike Bryant noted that he had a decent wheat crop with bushels per acre registering in the high 70s. With input costs surging this year due to continued supply chain issues and market volatility because of the ongoing war in Ukraine, Bryant said he needed to be diligent to turn a profitable crop.

"We might have gotten a late start, but other than that, everything seemed to be a pretty normal year," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

In what was described as "a near-perfect season," Virginia farmers harvested 10.2 million bushels of winter wheat in 2022, one of the commonwealth's best crops ever.

Robert Harper, grain division manager for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, noted that the increased production was partially influenced by favorable wheat futures prices last August through October.

"There was some financial incentive for Virginia farmers as they looked into the future, and if they were able to generate an above-average yield or even an average yield, they saw an opportunity to profit from that futures price," Harper said.

"Our seedsmen were prepared. They had the product available for farmers when they called to buy because they were seeing good prices, and then the weather last fall cooperated," Harper said. "The positive outlook for pricing, the availability of the inputs at planting time, and the optimal planting conditions all proved to be crucial to successful harvests. "The quality of Virginia's wheat crop this year was excellent."

- Virginia Farm Bureau Association

Virginia Tech invited to join international drone research alliance

Virginia Tech has been invited to join an elite consortium of universities to lead research that will help guide the safe integration of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS), or drones, into the national and international transportation infrastructure.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence, or ASSURE, is a research powerhouse that comprises 26 U.S. and global universities and more than 100 partners across industry and government. The FAA leverages the talents of this alliance to conduct critical research needed for drone integration efforts.

Virginia Tech's induction is the latest recognition of the university's leadership in an area that is rapidly moving into the national spotlight as applications for autonomous systems, including drones, evolve from futuristic concepts into real, functional services.

"Since federal work began to integrate drones into the airspace, Virginia has been out in front," said U.S. Sen. Mark Warner. "Thanks to the research and testing happening at Virginia Tech, Virginia has been the site of numerous landmark achievements in the drone industry, a source of data that has informed important federal policy decisions, and a place where drone companies want to pioneer their most ambitious projects. Working with ASSURE will expand Virginia Tech's capacity to contribute to the development and deployment of systems that have the potential to dramatically improve quality of life and drive continued U.S. technological competitiveness."

ASSURE's research encompasses a wide range of technical and operational topics critical to successful drone integration, including traffic management, communications, pilot training, and software interoperability, among many

others. These research questions will lay the foundation for determining what these systems are capable of, how to incorporate them safely in airspace where traditional aircraft already operate, and how to build the physical and technological infrastructure needed to allow a more diverse, complex aviation ecosystem to run smoothly for the benefit of society.

Virginia Tech, with multiple top-ranked research programs and one of seven FAA-designated drone test sites, has a long track record of leadership in autonomous systems. Researchers and faculty members all over the university are deeply engaged in innovation and discovery that dovetails directly with the topics central to ASSURE's mission.

Virginia Tech's membership was announced at an event hosted by the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, where researchers from the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences had the opportunity to discuss their drone-related projects with ASSURE leadership.

"Our researchers have achieved global recognition for their work in these areas," said Dan Sui, the university's senior vice president for research and innovation, who also spoke at the event. "From fundamental research on the foundational technologies enabling autonomous systems to ingenious applications that demonstrate just how profoundly they can impact society, to the cybersecurity solutions that will safeguard them — all of this research is thriving at Virginia Tech and we're honored that it can contribute to the important work ASSURE is doing."

The Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership manages the university's FAA-designated test site and a team in the federal BEYOND initiative that has been celebrated for its ability

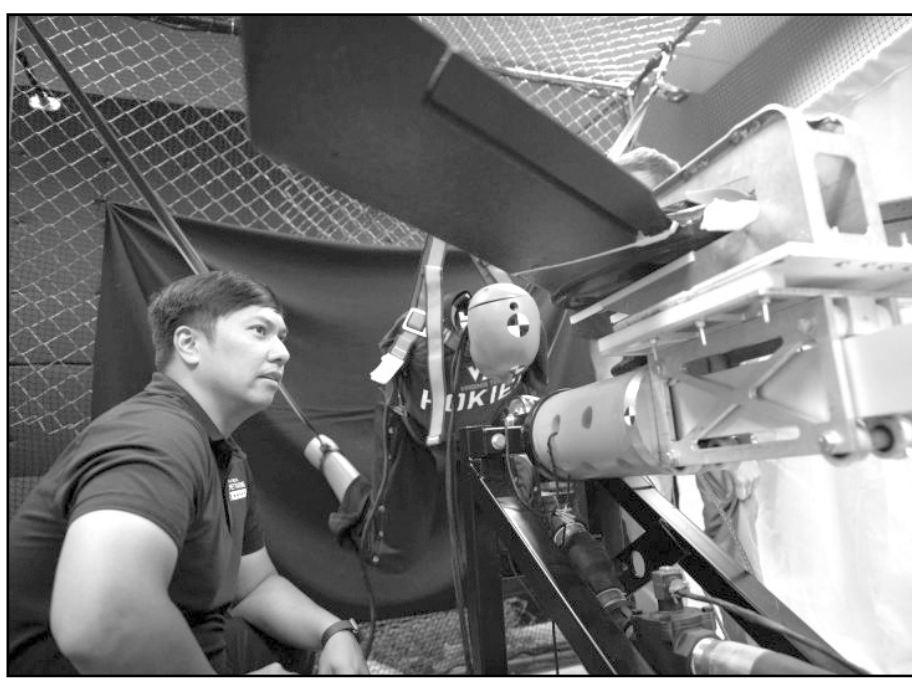


PHOTO BY ELEANOR NELSEN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Mark Begonia, a researcher in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, sets up an experiment evaluating the risk of an impact between a human and a drone.

to launch successful pilot programs centered on real-world applications such as the drone delivery service Wing operates in Christiansburg. The test site has also been tapped by the FAA to lead major research efforts on drone traffic management and evaluate technologies that can allow drones to detect and avoid other aircraft — both crucial components of permitting more extensive operations in airspace where crewed aircraft may already be flying. And its collaboration with researchers in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics yielded FAA-approved test methods that created a pathway for drone manufacturers to take advantage of a new rule for drone flights over people.

The test site has worked with ASSURE in the past on standardized processes for

establishing the safety of new operations as well as on drone impact risk research led by the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"We're thrilled to welcome Virginia Tech to ASSURE," said Stephen Luxion, ASSURE's executive director. "Their research on operational practices, safety management, sensor testing, injury risk analysis, communications, and a host of other issues has already moved the needle on drone integration in the U.S. There is truly exceptional work happening here that complements the exceptional work being produced by ASSURE. I'm excited to see what we'll be able to accomplish together."

- Virginia Tech Communications

Local produce isn't off the menu because the cold season has set in

Some think fresh, local produce is off the menu now that the warm growing season has passed. But there are several cold-hardy crops that last throughout the winter months.

"Cold season crops are those that are adapted to low temperatures—when you get to less than 50 degrees, they can thrive," said Leonard Githinji, a sustainable and urban agriculture Virginia Cooperative Extension specialist and associate professor

at Virginia State University.

Githinji explained that a variety of hardy fall and winter greens like arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, collards, herbs, kale, lettuce and turnips can withstand temperatures as low as 30 degrees. And now is the ideal time to find them in local markets.

For some consumers, the chilly weather enhances the flavor of the produce.

"There are people who like (kale) when it has gone through

that chilling—they think it tastes better and it's more tender," Githinji said. "People like it better than when it's harvested in early spring. The cold brings out the flavor more, and people love it."

These crops' hardiness also makes them ideal for storing ahead of holiday meals. Greens like kale and cabbage keep well in the refrigerator, and root vegetables like carrots, turnips, onions, potatoes and sweet potatoes can last for weeks if stored

properly. Fall and winter squashes like acorn, butternut, and delicata also are ideal for extended storage.

Many farmers use greenhouses, high tunnels, and hoop houses to extend their growing seasons and protect their crops from the elements, allowing them to continue offering fresh, healthy produce to consumers at farmers markets.

"As colder temperatures set in, consumers can expect to find plenty of seasonal locally grown

produce at their farmers market," said Tony Banks, senior assistant director of agriculture, development and innovation for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. "In addition to hardy winter crops, some markets will still have locally grown meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products."

And while many markets close down for the season, some extend their operations into the cold months.

"Produce selection can vary by market, so it's a good idea to become acquainted with the farmers to learn what products they plan to have in the winter," Banks said.

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OBITUARIES

Futrell, Delbert Hamilton

Delbert Hamilton Futrell of Blacksburg passed peacefully the evening of Saturday Dec. 3. He was 81. Originally from Mayfield, KY, Del attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington and was a proud veteran of the US Navy. He thoroughly enjoyed living in Blacksburg for the past eleven years.

Del is survived by his wife, Wendy, whom he met in Lexington while she was pursuing her PhD. They enjoyed nearly 51 years of marriage, and spent many of those years in Potomac, MD, where they raised their family: children Robin Sanborn (Eric), Michelle Tomlin (Scott), and Michael Futrell (Melissa).

His seven grandchildren, who called him Hoppy (for reasons no one fully remembers), were some of the greatest joys of his life. He will also be missed by sisters Mary Hardy and Annie Knight, of Boynton Beach, FL and Mayfield respectively, who loved their big brother very much.

Del will be remembered as kind to children and animals. Among his

fondest memories was a 2009 safari he and Wendy went on. Many will remember his account of the morning a monkey stole his toast. He delighted in his likeness to Santa so much that he owned a suit that went to good use over the years.

He was also a lifelong lover of music, especially classical and barbershop. He played the trombone as a young man and in retirement sang in a barbershop chorus, The Kentuckians, in Lexington. In Blacksburg, he and Wendy participated in the Mount Tabor Ruritan Club.

As his family grieves this loss, we ask that in lieu of sending flowers, our friends and family make donations in Del's honor to any of the wonderful organizations he supported, including Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the Association of Safe International Road Travel, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Gravely, Jr., Edward M. "Marty"

Edward M. "Marty" Gravely, Jr. of Radford, Virginia passed away in his sleep on Dec. 6, 2022. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, R. P. Gravely, Jr. and Bennie M. Gravely and Hiram P. English and Bessie H. English.

He is survived by his father, Edward M. Gravely, Sr.; his mother, Yvonne E. Gravely; stepmother Pryor D. Gravely; sister, Julia Gravely Henry; half-sister Anne P. Gravely; brother-in-law, Brandon F. Henry; and nephew, Ewan P. Henry. He is also survived by his aunts, Anne G. Shropshire, Sally G. Parker, Elizabeth G. Sullivan (Pat), and Nancy E. Castevens (Monty); great

aunts, Jeannette H. Newman, Daisy H. Gibbs, Ruth H. Hundley, Margaret H. Moore, and Elizabeth S. Gravely; great uncle, Bobby E. Hodges; and numerous cousins.

An avid and published photographer, Marty found joy in music, the outdoors, genealogy, and his family, and he never met an animal he didn't love.

A family service will be held in Martinsville at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Radford Animal Control / Shelter at 104 Pulaski Street in Radford.

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

See Obituaries, page 6

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal 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. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is 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, 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

THE CHOICE IS MINE

Read 1 Samuel 25:1 through 27:12

David, a fighting machine, was not squeamish about shedding blood. However, before he went into battle, his habit was to seek the Lord's direction. He forgot this wisdom when one fool's decision enraged him.

Nabal, a wealthy man, refused to feed David's men although they had protected Nabal's shepherds. His arrogant remark infuriated David. Blinded by anger, he bypassed the Lord and ordered his men to arm themselves for battle. The plan: Wipe out Nabal and his entire household.

Meanwhile back at the estate, a servant begged Abigail, Nabal's wife, to do something because David had been good to them. She immediately sent food to David and then followed to ask for mercy.

"May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands" (1Samuel 25:33).

When we are wronged, instead of plotting revenge, we could seek the Lord's help to set aside anger and leave vengeance to Him. We should also pray for the offender.

Thought for Today: I can focus on God's blessings or the offense. I can pray or scheme. The choice is mine.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 25:32-34

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

Fellowship and refreshments follow services. Find us on Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

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

Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw>. Please visit our website at www.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@stmcl.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

MULTI-CULTURAL NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

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

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

Central United Methodist Church, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am (interpreter provided); 9:45am Sunday School (interpreter provided); and 11:00a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30p.m. Child care is provided. www.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
Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 350 Stafford Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073, Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship Service 11am.

WESLEYAN

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

Obituaries from page 5

Mowry, Sara Rose

Sara Rose Mowry, 41, of Roanoke, passed away Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

She was a member of Blue Ridge Church and proudly served her country in the U. S. Air Force. She was preceded in death by her father, Timothy James Mowry.

Survivors include her mother, Linda Lee Mowry; a sister, Rebecca



Pearl; a son, Theodore Mowry; a brother, Ryan Mowry; nieces Addy and Peyton Mowry, and Alexandra Richardson; a nephew, Joey Richardson; and many friends.

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

Stump, Joe Steven "Steve"

Joe Steven "Steve" Stump, 65, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. He was a member of Unity Christian Church and was a licensed practical nurse with Carilion. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Buford, Sr., and Ruth Ann Epperly Stump; and his brother, Buford Stump, Jr.

Survivors include his lifelong

partner, Richard L. Nease; aunts and uncle, Jessie and Byron Osborne, and Evelyn Pannel; cousins, Ozzie Osborne, Regina Osborne, Sylvia Poole, and Pam Memitt; and many other relatives and friends.

Services will be held at a later date. The family is in care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford, Virginia.

Wheeler, Joey

Joey passed away Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at 3:14 p.m., surrounded by family. He received tremendous care, support, and respect at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Through organ donation, he is giving life to three families. In addition, he is providing the ability to advance research for Moyamoya patients with the donation of his brain to Boston Children's Hospital. In life Joey was a giver and he continues to give.

When he wasn't walking everywhere near his home, he was serving elderly residents as a part of dining services in nursing homes. He was also extremely involved in Special Olympics Virginia as a part of the bocce program and as a Global Messenger. He loved bringing joy and a smile to everyone he met.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Richard Wheeler; step-grandfather, Dave Enos; Nana and PopPop, Maureen and Henry Cummings; uncle, Father Frank Lynch; uncle (and godfather), Mark Cummings; his other godfather, Fr. Patrick Garcia (godpoppy Pat); and cousin, Chiara Del Piccolo.

He is survived by his mother and father, Jill and Matt Wheeler; sister and brother-in-law, Kaitlyn and Tommy Coleman; niece, Halle; grandmother, Mary Ann Enos; step-grandmother, Gladi Berheim; godmother, Carol Calandra; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He has

many friends, coworkers, walking buddies and Special Olympic athletes and unified partners.

A funeral Mass will be offered for Joey on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1205 Old Mill Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060, at 12:15 p.m. A Rosary will be said before Mass at 12 noon and a reception will follow Mass in the church hall. The Mass will be live-streamed on the church's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg>). A graveside service for family will be held at Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Please keep Joey, his family, and the recipient families in your prayers, and hug your loved ones close. As a part of his daily routine, Joey would walk to Sheetz and get a Coke, so please have a Coke in Joey's memory, especially if it's from Sheetz. He also enjoyed his Jersey Mike's subs along the way.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Joey's honor. He was part of many groups and organizations with all of us. We have set up a donation page for Special Olympic Area 9 in memory of Joey. <https://impact.specialolympicsva.org/joeywheeler>.

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Wilf, Horace Anthony "Tony"

Horace Anthony "Tony" Wilf, 68, passed away Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at his home in Radford.

He was a U. S. Navy veteran and a meteorologist.

Tony was preceded in death by his parents, Horace Lee and Ruby Wilf.

Survivors include his wife, Cynthia D. Wilf of Radford; sons and daughters-in-law, Chad Wilf of Radford, and Christopher and

Kimberly Wilf and David and Chessie Wilf, all of Richmond Hill, Ga.; brother Mike Wilf of Aberdeen, Miss.; sister Judy Scott of Blue Springs, Mo.; nine grandchildren; many other relatives and friends.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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



Christmas Lights: A Judgmental Guide

By Jase Graves

One of my fondest childhood memories of Christmas in the 1970's was riding around in the family station wagon, "Bessie," to look at Christmas lights while I whined to my parents about needing a snack – again. There was something magical about a familiar evening landscape transformed to a radiant wonderland at the expense of someone's lumbar spine.

My dad always made sure that our house was exemplary in its presentation of illuminated holiday décor, and even now, his legendary displays make my own attempts look like those of an unsupervised toddler with a Lite-Brite toy.

Little did I know as a child exactly how much work goes into producing a respectable home display that delights passersby and annoys the neighbors. But now that I'm an adult (sort of), I take pride in climbing on the roof and crawling around the yard for the sake of an electrified Christmas spectacle that makes me feel like I've sprained everything except my belly button.

Maybe because of the intense effort I put into my own residential Christmas lights, I've become a bit of a snob when evaluating those of others to the point that I've come up with the

following categories:

The Griswold

This is the type of display for which I strive each year. It includes every string of lights that can be scrounged up from the attic along with a cartload purchased as soon as Walmart replaces the Brach's Mellowcreme Pumpkins with Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cakes in late October. This is the kind of overwhelming display that might cause acute retinal damage with prolonged exposure. It's truly a sight to behold – if you dare.

The My-Wife-Made Me-Do-It

This display (if you can call it that) is clearly installed under duress and probably during the commercial breaks of a Dallas Cowboys football game. The jumbled lights look as if they've been strung by someone being attacked by hornets, and they include the absolute minimum, maybe one string of bulbs and a mildewed inflatable Nutcracker sagging toward the storm drain. It's better than nothing – but just barely.

The Cheater

It's obvious that someone paid big bucks to have professionals do all the work on this geometrically-precise

display with meticulous ridge line coverage. It's beautiful, no doubt, even bordering on the Griswold, but I say that if you aren't in a bad mood and in need of prescription painkillers when you're done, it doesn't count.

The Grinch

This is the house without so much as a plastic baby Jesus glowing on the porch, a single cheap light-up deer in the yard, or even a wreath of dilapidated pine cones on the front door. It's almost ostentatiously dark and gloomy.

When I see these houses during the holidays, I often catch myself mumbling something like, "How can they not put out a single decoration? Are they out of Tylenol?"

My wife inevitably replies, "Maybe they can't afford decorations. They could be ill or elderly. Or maybe they don't celebrate Christmas."

Then I feel like The Grinch, Scrooge, The Abominable Snow Monster, Heat Miser, Mr. Potter, Frank Shirley, and Scut Farkus all rolled into one insensitive naughty-lit doofus.

It's at those times that I need a good lecture from Linus in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Sure, Snoopy has the best lights, but Linus knows what Christmas is all about.

Virginia's gas prices continue their decline

Average gasoline prices in Virginia fell thirteen cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.10 per gallon as of Monday, Dec. 12, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,081 stations in Virginia. Prices in Virginia are 39.2 cents per gallon lower than they were a month ago and are 9.3 cents per gallon lower than they were a year ago.

The national average price of diesel fell 14.9 cents last week to stand at \$4.91 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Virginia was priced at \$2.29 per gallon Monday while the most expensive was \$4.49 per gallon, a difference of \$2.20 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline fell 14.4 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$3.21 per gallon Monday. The national average is down 56.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 11.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

"Not only has the decline in gasoline prices lasted five straight weeks with every state seeing a weekly decline in its average, but average diesel prices have fallen in 49

states over the last week as well," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "The relief is saving Americans roughly \$20 per fill-up compared to six months ago," according to De Haan.

"On the previously hard-hit West Coast, average prices have fallen nearly \$2 per gallon since October. Fifteen states now have average gasoline prices of \$2.99 or less, with several more to join this week," said De Haan. "We remain on schedule to see the national average gas price fall below \$3 by Christmas with diesel set to fall 50 cents to \$1 per gallon over the next six weeks or so. While the Keystone Pipeline shutdown has been getting some attention, motorists need not worry much about the oil-carrying pipeline for now. There is no expected impact to gasoline prices as of now," said De Haan.

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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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Moments of Excellence this year: Hokie wrestling finishes eighth in nationals

The "Moments of Excellence" campaign will serve as a look back to the historic highlights and memorable accomplishments of Tech athletics in 2022.

Hokies wrestling finished eighth at the 2022 NCAA Championships in Detroit, the ninth time the team finished in the top-11 in the past eleven seasons. Tech also claimed three All-American honors for the ninth straight season, one of only four programs to accomplish this feat.

Mekhi Lewis, the first national champion in program history, made history yet again by becoming the program's first two-time finalist.

The Hokie wrestlers finished the season ranked eighth and garnered three All-America honors at the 2022 NCAA Championship in Detroit. Paced by All-American finishes by Mekhi Lewis, Korbin Myers, and Bryce Andonian, the Hokies scored the fourth-most points in program history at the national championship.

Virginia Tech's first national champion, Mekhi Lewis's runner-up finish at the nationals and two other All-Americans in two-time All-American Korbin Myers and first-time All-American Bryce Andonian extended Tech's three or more All-American streak to nine straight seasons. Only three other programs can make the same claim: Penn State, Iowa, and Cornell.

In his first season at a new weight and returning from injury after medically withdrawing from the 2021 NCAA Championship, Lewis made the finals for the second time in his career by pinning No. 3 Logan Massa (MICH) in the third period of their semifinal match on Friday night. Lewis also was a national champion in 2019.

He made history as he became Tech's first two-time finalist. His path to the finals included wins over #31 Dennis Robin (WVU), #18 Lance Runyon (UNI), #10 Clay Lutt (UNC), and #3 Logan Massa. Lewis fell in the finals to defending national champion, No. 1 Carter Starocci of Penn State via a 5-4 sudden victory rideout criteria in the most entertaining final of the night.

Lewis won the national championship in 2019 by dethroning two-time defending national champion Vincenzo Joseph of Penn State.

Bryce Andonian had a breakout year culminating in



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS

This past year, Virginia Tech finished with three All-Americans for the ninth straight season, including Mekhi Lewis, who became the team's first two-time finalist.

a third-place finish in his second trip to the national championships. Andonian was on brand with his must-see TV, putting on arguably the top-three most entertaining matches in the tournament. He was electric all weekend in picking up wins over Max Brignola (LEH), Jon Jon Millner (APP ST), and Austin Gomez (WISC) before falling to Ridge Lovett (NEB) in the semifinal.

Andonian secured his first career All-American status by pinning No. 3-seeded Austin Gomez in an exhilarating bout start to finish. Andonian then took Lovett to the wire in the semifinal match but fell just short as time expired. The Hokie secured his third-place finish with a second win over Austin Gomez on the

back side to put an exclamation point on his year that started with a Junior World bronze medal finish back in September 2021.

Korbin Myers ended his illustrious career as a two-time All-American with a sixth-place finish in Detroit. He made it to the quarterfinals of his fifth NCAA tournament before falling to Austin Desanto of Iowa. Myers handled Matt Ramos (PUR) in the consolation bracket to secure his second All-American honor and help propel the Hokies to a top-10 finish, the first since 2018 and the third in head coach Tony Robie's time at the helm.

- VT Athletics

Virginia Tech women remain undefeated, beat Boston College 73-58

BOSTON, MA – The Virginia Tech women's basketball team remained undefeated (9-0) on the road in Boston Wednesday, Dec. 7, with a 73-58 defeat of the Boston College Eagles.

The Hokies had two players score in double figures, led by Elizabeth Kitley, who put together a double-double with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Cayla King added 16 points, and Taylor Soule added nine points and two steals.

Soule pulled down three offensive rebounds to pace an offense that racked up second-chance opportunities for Virginia Tech, grabbing 10 boards and turning them into 10 second-chance points.

After jumping out to a 7-4 advantage, Virginia Tech went on a 10-0 run with 4:20 left in the first quarter, culminating in a bucket from Kayana Traylor, to increase its lead to 17-4. The Hokies then lost some of that lead, but still entered the quarter break with a 17-7 advantage. Virginia Tech got out and ran in the period, scoring four points on the break.

Tech kept its first-quarter lead intact before going on a 6-0 run starting at the 6:02 mark in the second period, highlighted by a three from King, to increase its lead to 28-13. The Hokies proceeded to tack on four points to that lead and enjoyed a 43-24 advantage heading into halftime.

After intermission, Tech held on to its advantage and took a 59-46 lead into the fourth quarter. Tech's bench made the most of its minutes in the period as non-starters totaled five of the team's 16 third-quarter points.

Tech kept its lead intact before



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

going on a 5-0 run, finished off by Kitley's layup, to grow the lead to 69-54 with 1:51 to go in the contest. The Hokies held onto that lead for the rest of the game for the 73-58 win. The Hokies took advantage of five Boston College turnovers in the quarter, scoring five points off of those takeaways.

Game Notes

Elizabeth Kitley notched an impressive double-double for the Hokies with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

The Hokies made half of their attempts from three point range, knocking down eight of 16 shots.

The Hokies never trailed after taking a 17-7 first quarter lead.

Virginia Tech handed out 19 total assists in the game.

Tech had a 34-27 edge on the boards in the win and cleaned up on the offensive glass, collecting 10 offensive boards in the game.

VT men claim first win of season over ranked team



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

The Virginia Tech men's basketball picked up its first win of the season over a ranked team with an 80-72 victory over No. 18 North Carolina Sunday. The Hokies were led by senior Justyn Mutts, who recorded his fourth double-double of the season, scoring 27 points and nabbing 11 rebounds in the win.

CROSSWORD ANSWER

A	S	S	A	D	D	O	D	G	E					
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High School invitational at CAC



Christiansburg's Grayson Rawlings gets started in the 50-yard freestyle during a Tuesday night swim meet. Rawlings placed seventh overall in a time of 26.87.



Auburn's JB Hester-Dorbe swims in the boys 100-yard freestyle, placing 11th during a Tuesday night meet.



Christiansburg's Shelby Jones swam to a win in the girls 100-yard freestyle (57.21).



Auburn's Lily Phillips placed 9th in the girls 100 yard freestyle at Tuesday's Christiansburg Aquatic Center meet.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Swimming & Diving: Hokie men finish 2022 ACC championships with best performances in program history

ATLANTA – The ACC Swimming & Diving Championships have come to a close in Atlanta, and Virginia Tech had its strongest performances in program history. The Hokies brought home 14 medals and 12 school records, finishing with a combined 65 finalists over the five-day competition.

On the last day of competition, the Hokie men won three out of four individual events. Youssef Ramadan, Carles Coll Marti, and Sam Tornqvist each won a gold medal and set a new school record on the last night of finals.

FINAL SCORES MEN

1. NC State – 1501.5
2. Louisville – 1192.5
3. Virginia Tech – 1054
4. Virginia – 1041
5. Georgia Tech – 742.5

6. Florida State – 676
7. – North Carolina – 529
8. Notre Dame – 474
9. Pitt – 431
10. Duke – 341
11. Boston College – 195.5
12. Miami – 116

HEAD COACH SERGIO LOPEZ MIRO

“We had some awesome performances with many finalists and podium finishes on the men’s and women’s side. We broke multiple school records, and a few swimmers have already qualified for the NCAA’s. It was a very exciting meet for us. We talk a lot about sustainable success, and we are creating that. We are right there. I am very happy with everyone. Youssef won MVP, which is awesome. We have our last-chance meet next week, and hopefully we can take a

great group to the NCAA’s.”

COMMONWEALTH CLASH

The win on the men’s side and loss on the women’s side gave the Hokies and the Cavaliers one point each in the Commonwealth Clash, presented by Smithfield. The score for the Commonwealth Clash currently stands at 7.5.-2.5 in favor of Virginia Tech.

TECH MEN

The No.-8 ranked men’s team ended the week with 1054 points, finishing third overall, which tied the program’s highest finish in seven years. Youssef Ramadan, Carles Coll Marti, Antani Ivanov, Sam Tornqvist, and Filippo Dal Maso each medaled in at least one individual event. Youssef Ramadan was named the ACC Men’s Swimming MVP after his performance at the championships. He won bronze in the 50 free, gold in the 100 fly, and gold in the 100 free.

LIV Golf coming to Greenbrier

LIV Golf Wednesday announced three new championship venues that will host tournaments as part of the 2023 LIV Golf League schedule: the Gallery Golf Club in Tucson (March 17-19), Cedar Ridge Country Club in Tulsa, Okla. (May 12-14), and The Greenbrier in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia (Aug. 4-6).

The venues will welcome many of the sport’s biggest stars in the groundbreaking LIV Golf League teeing off in 2023.

“LIV Golf’s expansion to new U.S. markets adds to the growing excitement for the league launch in 2023,” said LIV Golf CEO and Commissioner Greg Norman. “More fans across the country and around the globe will experience the LIV Golf energy and innovative competition that has reinvigorated the sport, and these championship courses will contribute to the transformative season ahead for players, fans, and the game of golf.”

Grounds passes for the Tucson, Tulsa, and Greenbrier events are now available at LIVGolf.com, including special Early Birdie pricing for single-day passes and three-day passes, as well as opportunities to place a deposit for hospitality packages. Fans are encouraged to secure tickets

now for LIV Golf’s festival-style three-day tournaments that feature shotgun starts, individual and team competitions, live music, and fan activities for all ages.

LIV Golf’s star-studded, international field will feature many of the sport’s biggest names including major winners Cameron Smith, Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Brooks Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau, Sergio Garcia, Patrick Reed, Henrik Stenson, Louis Oosthuizen, Graeme McDowell, Martin Kaymer and Charl Schwartzel.

Final rosters for the LIV Golf League will be announced in 2023 when 12 established team franchises will compete in a global 14-event schedule for an unprecedented \$405 million in prize purses.

The Old White is the signature course at The Greenbrier, one of America’s most prestigious and popular resorts. It’s also a familiar layout for many players, having hosted a professional event from 2010 through 2019.

Among the list of winners are current LIV Golf members Joaquin Niemann and Kevin Na.

Named after the popular hotel on the grounds, The Old White was designed by Charles Blair MacDonald and

opened for play in 1914 as The Greenbrier’s first 18-hole course. The father of American golf course architecture, MacDonald modeled several holes from some of the most iconic courses in Scotland.

The eighth hole was styled after the “Redan” at North Berwick, the thirteenth after the “Alps” at Prestwick and the fifteenth after the “Eden” at St. Andrews. MacDonald’s associate, Seth Raynor, assisted in the course construction and returned in the 1920s to oversee updates.

The Old White was the home course of Sam Snead, who served as the golf professional and then golf professional emeritus for most of his life at The Greenbrier.

Original art: Mary Dugas, age 13

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