



News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

Blacksburg

Christiansburg

Saturday, January 14, 2023

www.ourvalley.org

USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Former Superintendent Mark Mear announces his candidacy for school board

Ed McMinn
editor@mainstreetnews.com

Former Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Mark Mear announced Tuesday, Jan. 10, at a meeting of the Montgomery County School Board that he will be running for the school board in November.

At the meeting, Mear spoke up and asserted that he did not give up his rights as a parent when he became superintendent. In an earnest address to the board, he said,

“On March 11, you, the board, had a meeting and decided to dismiss me without even calling me in to share my thoughts. I feel that after six years of being the superintendent in the county, I still deserved due process and at least the opportunity to share my side of what transpired that day.”

Mear admitted that he “lost my temper” on March 10 when he was

speaking with Dr. Whitaker “about my own child. I sincerely want to apologize for that,” he said, declaring he acted “in the capacity of an upset parent, not as superintendent.

“Yet,” he said, “you dismissed me without even talking to me.” In his address to the board, Mear went on to share his thoughts about his dismissal.

“As a parent who shares joint legal and physical custody of my child, who I love more than anything, the school should not be allowed to change my child’s name without my permission,” Mear said. “The reason why I was against this change is irrelevant and personal. However, the board felt it could take away my right as a parent and change my child’s name without my permission.”

Mear directly addressed board member Susan Kass and declared she threatened him in February that if [he] didn’t allow [his] child to change her pronouns, it wouldn’t look good for [his]

job. I felt coerced and regrettably agreed to it. I was not going to do the same with my child’s name. I did not give up my rights as a parent when I became superintendent.”

Mear went on to say, “In March, I requested that I be allowed to write a note of thanks to the students, employees, and parents. You denied me the dignity to do so after 30 years of public education. So, I would like to take this time to thank the MCPS community for giving me a wonderful six years as superintendent.

“I would like to give a special thanks to some amazing board members such as Joey Lyons, Gunin Kiran, and current members Jamie, Dana, and Marti. We didn’t agree on anything,” Mear said, “but you always advocated for students, were on the board for the right reasons, and always treated me with dignity and respect.”

Mear made it obvious he did not feel that way about the whole school

board. “As for Mark, Sue, and Penny: As superintendent, working with you was unbearable. You rarely mentioned students as a basis of your decisions. If we disagreed, you found it acceptable to treat me and others with disrespect. You are not on the board for the right reasons. You are not what is best for the children of this county.”

The former superintendent then spoke for a moment to the parents of the system’s school children, reminding them that “if the school board can infringe upon my parental rights as the superintendent, they will certainly do the same to you if given the chance.”

He then announced his intention to run for the school board in Christiansburg’s District B in November and concluded with a simple statement wishing Dr. Bragen the best. “I know that I still have much more to contribute to the MCPS community.”



PHOTO BY GEORGE HARPER HOUGHTON. COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

An enslaved family on the plantation of Dr. William F. Gaines, Hanover County, Virginia.

Glencoe Mansion to unveil new exhibit on slavery in Appalachia

Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Gallery will host a panel discussion on slavery in Appalachia as part of its new exhibit on Friday, Jan. 27.

The exhibit, which explores this incredibly important and all too often underrepresented history, has been made possible through a grant from the Virginia Humanities.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a panel discussion in the Radford City Council chambers, adjacent to the Glencoe

Mansion location. The panel consists of five historians and members of the community who have explored the history of slavery in the region and its effects. The panelists are Dr. Theresa Burriss, Director of Appalachian Studies at Radford University; Sarah Carter, community historian and Glencoe Mansion Board Member; Howard Eaves, Sr., President of the Wake Forest Community Action Club; Dr. Michael Hickman, President of

the Board of the Calfee Community and Cultural Center; and Dr. Daniel Thorp, Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech.

Sarah Carter is a lifelong resident of Radford whose family has been in the region since 1792 because of slavery. Carter has been researching the history of her family, enslaved ancestors, and local history since 1983. She serves on the Glencoe

See **Glencoe**, page 4

Virginia Tech alumnus Mark Sikes named dean of students

“It is always such a pleasure to welcome back a fellow Hokie to Blacksburg,” said Frances Keene, Virginia Tech’s interim vice president for Student Affairs, after Dr. Mark Sikes was named VT’s new Dean of Students.

“As I have gotten to know Dr. Sikes, his commitment to student success and well-being is evident,” Keene said. “The Virginia Tech community will appreciate his proactive nature as he fosters an empathetic and inclusive environment for student support and advocacy.”

With Sikes’s appointment, outgoing interim dean of students Martha Glass will return to her previous role as assistant vice president for administration for Student Affairs. Glass will work closely with Sikes to accomplish a smooth transition in leadership during the spring semester.

“I am deeply grateful for Dr. Glass and her willingness to serve as dean of students,” said Keene. “She is an exceptional educator and leader, which made her time in the interim role more than a period of stability, but of growth. Her extensive administrative background and profound ability to make meaningful and empathetic connections have tremendously



PHOTO BY MARY DESMOND FOR VIRGINIA TECH
Mark Sikes will return home to Hokie Nation as Virginia Tech’s next dean of students effective Jan. 17.

supported our students.”

With over 25 years of experience in higher education, Sikes previously served as the vice dean for student success at William & Mary and the associate dean of students. During his tenure at William & Mary, he served as interim dean of students from 2021 to 2022. Prior to these roles, Sikes’s work focused on the

See **Sikes**, page 4

Academy Sports + Outdoors to join The Christiansburg Marketplace

CHRISTIANSBURG – Academy Sports + Outdoors has signed a lease to open an anchor store at The Christiansburg Marketplace. The 55,000-square-foot sporting goods store will join soon-to-be newcomers Rain Bowl, Spoons Frozen Yogurt, Noodles and Co., Balance WellSpace, Sports Clips, and US Cellular along with planned hotels and residences for the growing shopping/living/visiting district.

With the addition of the sporting goods retailer, The Christiansburg Marketplace has reached more than 90% of committed retail space leased. 15,000 square feet are left available for smaller shops in the 180,000-square-foot retail portfolio.

Academy Sports + Outdoors brings one of the nation’s largest sports and outdoor stores to Marketplace. Headquartered in the Houston suburb of Katy, Texas, Academy Sports + Outdoors has

268 stores in the South, the Southeast, and the Midwest that offer a broad assortment of quality fishing, hunting, and camping equipment and gear, along with sports and leisure products, footwear, and apparel.

Construction on the store is slated to be complete in late summer 2023. In addition to its usual inventory, Academy Sports will complement the local area by having everything for people who enjoy fishing and hunting.

The arrival of Academy Sports to The Christiansburg Marketplace, along with the opening of natural foods grocer Earth Fare earlier this year, signals that the team redeveloping Marketplace has found the right formula in today’s market for retailer success. “From the beginning, we envisioned a district that pulled the community together with retail for the digital age,” said Walt Rector, the founding principal of Bromont

Investments of Flagstaff, Arizona, and leader of the redevelopment team.

A diverse array of local businesses and national franchises now call The Marketplace home, including Harbor Freight, Chipotle, Starbucks, First Watch, UbreakiFix, Noodles and Co., Spoons Frozen Yogurt, Verizon, Aspen Dental, Lumber Liquidators, Mission BBQ, Chicken Salad Chick, Sports Clips, Jersey Mike’s, and Skyline Bank. Local businesses include Uptown Cheapskate, Elegant Nails, Rain Bowl, and Balance WellSpace.

At a time when traditional shopping centers and malls are challenged, Rector’s vision has paved the way to a mixed-use community of retail, restaurants, offices, living space, and health care that will offer 209 rooms in a dual branded Marriott hotel and independent living residences by English Meadows that include more than 30

See **Academy**, page 4

Nonviolent activist, storyteller, author George Lakey to speak in Blacksburg on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Nonviolent activist, storyteller, and author George Lakey will speak in Blacksburg on Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

He will be speaking about his efforts since the 1960s to the present to promote civil rights and social/environmental/climate justice from the perspective of nonviolent revolution as well as on his memoir, Dances with History, and on his latest book, How We Win.

Lakey will speak from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the New River Valley, 1301 Gladewood Dr. in Blacksburg. The event is free and is open to the public.

It is sponsored by Preserve Monroe, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the New River

Valley; the Appalachian Studies Program at Virginia Tech, and Protect Our Water, Heritage, and Rights (POWHR).

For more information, contact Maury Johnson mauryjohnson@yahoo.com; or Anita Puckett anitampuckett@gmail.com / (540) 239-3600.

Lakey is an 85-year-old Quaker who has been a constant force in successfully promoting the non-violent revolution movement from the 1960s to the present. He is a storyteller and lecturer who will encourage audience engagement to transmit his message of positive change through peaceful actions.

- News Messenger staff report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 14:

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper?

At the Christiansburg Library; 1:30 to 3 p.m. Are you interested in beekeeping but not sure where to start? Now is the time to get all the answers. How much does beekeeping cost? How much time will it take? How much honey will I get? How important are honeybees for pollination? Can I keep bees in town? Learn about all this and more in this beginner's class, a free presentation/discussion with no sign-up required.

Family movie matinee

At the Radford Public Library at 11 a.m. Come watch "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile." A handsome crocodile shares a house with a boy and his family in this musical tale based on a story by Bernard Waber. Rated PG; 106 minutes.

Grownup board game club

At the Radford Public Library; 2 to 4:30 p.m. The library has a collection of board games on hand, but participants are welcome to bring a game from home and teach the staff how to play it.

Sunday, Jan. 15:

NAACP to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Montgomery Co., Radford City, Floyd Co. branch of the NAACP will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King, Jr., at 3 p.m. via Zoom. The guest speaker is Elder Marlin Reeves, the branch's Executive Member-at-large for his second term and subscribing Silver Life member. He serves as the assistant pastor of New Beginnings Church in Pulaski and as the vice president of the NRV and Roanoke Markets of the Freedom First Credit Union. The program will include installation of the new 2023 officers by State NAACP President Robert Barnette; presentations, poetry, and music by the branch youth council, and the announcement of the two 2023 branch award winners of the MRF NAACP/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Awards.

Monday, Jan. 16:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Blacksburg Town schedules

Blacksburg Town administrative offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Blacksburg Transit will operate on intermediate service. All BT administrative offices will be closed. The Blacksburg Aquatic Center and the Blacksburg Community Center will operate with regular hours. There WILL be refuse and recycling pickup in the southeast quadrant. (Inclement weather could affect the schedules.)

Library branches to close

The Radford Public Library and all branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Ongoing

NRV Cares Parent Education: Parenting Young Children
At the Radford Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a free eight-week parenting class presented by NRV Cares. A free dinner is provided from 5 to 5:30 p.m., and free childcare will be included for the duration of the class. Register by email at Keli@nrvcare.org or by text to Julie at (540) 494-0806.

Feasts and festivals around the world

At the Christiansburg Library; all day. Each month the library will be exploring the feasts and festivals of different countries. This month the library will celebrate the Lunar New Year. Interested participants may pick up a Lunar New Year craft kit that includes information about the holiday and a DIY paper lantern. Supplies are limited.

Free GED Classes

At Meadowbrook Library from 5 to 8 p.m. New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening. The classes will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and will end on Thursday, May 11. For more information or to sign up, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

English conversation for adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 7 to 9 p.m. Led by Carole and Bob Dellinger. Call the

library at 540-552-8246 for more information. No childcare is provided for this class.

Wednesday, Jan. 18:

Nick van Bloss concert

World renown classical pianist Nick van Bloss will perform at Radford University for a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center on Radford's main campus. No tickets are required, and the event is free and open to all.

Thursday, Jan. 19:

Radford Photo Club Street Photography Part One

At the Radford Public Library; 6 to 7 p.m. Adi Ben Senior will present the first of three interactive workshops on the techniques of street photography. Part two will be held on Feb. 15, and part three will be held on March 16.

Friday, Jan. 20:

American Red Cross blood drive

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, and appointments can be made in advance at redcrossblood.org.

Monday, Jan. 23:

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 in 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, Jan. 24:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

The Blacksburg Town Council will meet in regular session 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 Street). The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend with citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Saturday, Jan. 28:

2023 Winter Summit Dialogue on Race

At Christiansburg Middle School, 1205 Buffalo Dr., Christiansburg; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Coffee with Cops at 9 a.m., and the main program will begin at 10 a.m. The theme is Reflecting on Our Past: Facing the future. The program will include discussing 10 years of accomplishments, issuing group progress reports, a high school student panel, and an adult community panel. Register through Constant Contact.

Thursday, Feb. 9:

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. The guild welcomes all skill levels of quilters. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

Undergrad researcher ready for her next chapter

Chad Osborne
Radford University

has a passion for the outdoor environment, and it shows.

Gabi Richards '22 From getting her

feet wet in research by walking local streams in search of microscopic bugs to traveling

to North America's northernmost city to collect core ice samples in minus-20 degrees

Fahrenheit temperatures, Richards has made the most of her brief time at Radford.

Since her first semester at the university, the senior from Bealeton, Virginia, has worked closely with faculty on research, specifically Assistant Professor of Biology Jamie Lau, Ph.D., and Professor of Physics Rhett Herman, Ph.D.

"They have been wonderful to work with," Richards said, "and Dr. Lau has been a mentor for all things from the beginning."

The beginning for Richards was two-and-a-half years ago.

"I kind of fast-tracked my way through Radford, taking overload credits every semester," she said. Along the way, she became heavily involved on campus, serving as president of Tri Beta, the biology honor society, and working as advisor to the Summer Bridge program for young women in STEM.

In December, she graduated from Radford and will continue her studies there as well, working toward a master's degree.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADFORD UNIVERSITY

After recently graduating, Gabi Richards plans to return to Radford University to pursue a master's degree and become a teacher.

She plans to earn a master's degree in teacher education and become an educator, like her mom, because, she said, "I've always been drawn to tutoring and working with kids."

When Richards first stepped foot on the Radford campus, she decided right then that "this was where I wanted my home to be for the next few years," she said. That's one reason she chose to work toward her graduate degree here.

"It still feels like home," she said.



Marketplace



ourvalley.org

Positions Wanted

Quality Inn
Hiring Full/Part Time Housekeeping and Front Desk. Apply in Person.
Ph-540-639-3000

Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Radford will hold a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting of

Legals - City of Radford

Council on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm, in the City Council Chambers located in the City Administration Building, at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia to receive citizen comment and input regarding the Radford Transit application for FTA F.Y.24 Operating Funds, in the amount not to exceed \$2,550,000 and Capital not to exceed \$100,000. Interested persons may appear at the aforementioned time and place to present their views and comments. Comments may also be sent to Melissa Skelton, Transit Coordinator at 10 Robertson Street,

Legals - City of Radford

Radford VA 24141 or Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov.
For disable individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, reasonable accommodations will be make available by the City of Radford upon request five business days before the public hearing. For disable accommodations or additional information, please contact the City Manager's office at 540-731-3603 or 800-828-1120(TTD-Virginia Relay Center).
Authorized by Radford City Council

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.

ADVERTISE!

Jon McNamara joins Community Health Center of the New River Valley

Jon McNamara has joined the behavioral health practice of the Community Health Center of the New River Valley as a counselor.

"Jon's experience and commitment to working for the benefit of his patients and community will make him an exceptional asset," said Michelle Brauns, the Community Health Center's Chief Executive Officer.

McNamara earned his masters degree in social work from Radford University and holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arizona. His experience includes interning with Carilion as well as coordinating, managing, and implementing programming at an area non-profit. His background consists of work in assessing community food system needs and urban food production.

McNamara is a guild-certified practitioner of The Feldenkrais Method of Somatic Education and holds certifications in ASSIST Suicide Prevention and non-violent crisis intervention.

The Community Health Center of the New River Valley provides affordable and high-quality medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. For more information about the Community Health Center's services and programs in Dublin, Christiansburg, Pearisburg, and Giles High School, visit



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BRAUNS, CEO, NRV COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Jon McNamara has joined the NRV Community Health Center as a counselor. He has a masters degree in behavioral health practice from Radford University and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arizona.

www.chcnrv.org or call 381-0820.

- NRV Community Health Center

Radford's Mattie Jenkins graduates Summa Cum Laude from Berea College

BEREA, KY – Mattie Jenkins of Radford received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Technology and Applied Design degree from Berea College conferred on Dec. 20, 2022.

Berea College recognized 74 students on Sunday, Dec. 11 during its Mid-Year Recognition Ceremony for December graduates. Carl and Ann Evans, a couple with deep Berea roots, addressed the seniors, who represented 17 states and 5 different countries.

Born and raised on Estill Street in Berea, Carl Evans was the grandson of the first College dentist, Dr. William Best, and the third child of alumna Ellen

Best Evans '30 and former dean of Labor, Dr. Wilson Evans '30. Steeped from birth in Berea's values and raised on the kinship of the Berea community, Carl Evans graduated from Berea's Foundation School in 1962.

Evans continued his studies at UNC Chapel Hill. When the Vietnam War began, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a medic at RAF Lakenheath, England. It was there he met Ann Evans. They were married in 1970.

Born in Ohio and raised around the country, Ann served as a lieutenant, a captain, and an Air Force nurse. When she returned to the U.S., she completed her

bachelor's degree at Butler University. She earned her nurse practitioner certificate, a master's degree, and a doctorate at UNC Chapel Hill.

Carl went on to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Indiana University's Herron School of Art and Design before establishing a career as a professional artist and counselor. Ann's professional roles have included healthcare provider, nursing faculty positions, director of a community medical center, and consultant to the Ministry of Health in South Sudan.

- News Messenger staff report

Study reveals Spanish to be most popular language to learn in Virginia

Spanish is the most popular language to learn in Virginia, followed by Korean and Japanese, according to a study conducted by Writing Tips.

Experts at Writing Tips analyzed the number of average monthly Google searches in each state for learning a language, including terms such as 'how to learn X,' 'learn X,' 'X classes near me.' The search volume for each term combined with the language were added together to discover the total average monthly searches in each state.

According to the results, Spanish received the most searches in Virginia. Almost 13% of the U.S. population speaks Spanish. In fact, it is the second-most spoken language in the country. It also has the highest number of speakers in the family of romance languages.

In second place among Virginians is Korean, and then in third place among citizens of the commonwealth is Japanese.

Korean is ranked as the 13th most commonly spoken language in the world with around 77 million speakers. With Korean pop music gaining millions of U.S. fans in recent years, including musicians like famous boy band BTS, it's no surprise that Americans, including Virginians, are keen to learn the language.

A spokesperson from Writing Tips said about the findings: "Learning a new language has an abundance of benefits, from advancing a career to enhancing the connection to other countries and cultures, so it's fascinating to see such different languages make the top of the rankings. Plus, it can even improve communication and vocabulary in the first language. With the sheer amount of searches for learning Spanish across the nation, it will be interesting to see how this impacts the number of speakers in the U.S."

- News Messenger staff report

Blacksburg's Caroline Jones earns 4.0 GPA at North Georgia

DAHLONEGA, GA (01/11/2023)-- Caroline Jones of Blacksburg has been named to the President's Honor Roll at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving a 4.0 grade point average during fall 2022.

UNG President Dr. Bonita C. Jacobs recognized students who reached this academic achievement during the fall 2022 semester. Students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in bachelor's degree programs who achieved

a 4.0 grade point average were named to the President's Honor Roll. Students enrolled in associate degree or dual enrollment programs who met the same level of achievement were named to the President's List.

The University of North Georgia comprises five campuses united by a single mission focused on academic excellence and academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The University of North

Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia.

With almost 19,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state's largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees to doctoral programs.

- News Messenger staff report

Project management course helps construction workers climb the ladder



PHOTO BY LIZ FILLMAN FOR VIRGINIA TECH

To alleviate the construction industry's labor crunch, Virginia Tech's Richmond Center has developed the Fundamentals of Construction Project Management course that includes a site visit as part of the six-week course designed for those already in the workforce. The class is led by Andrew McCoy (second from left) of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction.

By Diane Deffenbaugh

Construction companies are facing a labor crunch. Not only are reliable workers in short supply, but as veteran project managers retire, experienced replacements who can plan, coordinate, budget, and supervise construction projects from start to finish are even harder to find.

To help build those skills, the Virginia Tech Richmond Center developed the Fundamentals of Construction Project Management through a partnership with the Home Building Association of Richmond and Andrew McCoy, the Beliveau Professor in the Department of Building Construction, associate director of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, and director of the university's Virginia Center for Housing Research.

"Labor is tighter than it's ever been in the industry," said McCoy, who leads the six-week course designed for those already in the workforce.

The shortage has left many construction companies focusing on talent retention and combing their job sites for workers who can move into leadership roles in the construction office. However, the skills perfected in the field and those that a project manager needs to succeed don't always align.

"A lot of these people have been out in the field — they have experience, they understand quality and process, things like that — but they just don't see how it fits into the bigger picture and what's important to make sure the business survives," McCoy said. "They want to be craftspeople and aren't as focused on being good business people — yet. We're trying to make them aware of some of the needs they're going to have and the way a company thinks."

Liz Fillman, assistant director of the Richmond Center, said, "We're helping alleviate some struggles that builders are having. This program really hits on all the points of our mission — connecting our faculty

and tapping into the resources that we have in Blacksburg and bringing them here to the Richmond region to make a difference."

Danna Markland, CEO of the homebuilders association, said that for years, a strong emphasis was placed on trade skills as the primary need for workforce development efforts. Recent industry surveys, however, have shown that project management is an equally acute skills gap.

"Unlike large-volume home builders with corporate capacities, small- to medium-sized homebuilders usually do not have career development benefits in place. Through this course, Virginia Tech is offering a niche program that fills a consistent gap in that segment of the homebuilding industry," she said.

Clay Bowles is one of the dozens of construction workers who jumped at the chance to expand his skills. For the past three years, he has been learning on the job as a project manager for a general contractor in Richmond.

"My college degree couldn't be further from anything related to construction. I have only work experiences, and I really want to understand the who, what, and why behind a lot of what I'm working through," he said.

During weekly sessions, the course provides those basics, examining topics from accounting and scheduling to supply chains and cash flow. Along with offering best practices and discussing how those practices came to be used, classroom instruction is tied to real-world challenges through examples and a visit to a construction site.

Course participants have included not only current project managers, but also workers interested in moving into a project management role, employees who work in a different department and want to better understand the entire system, and 20-year veterans looking for a refresher.

Academy from page 1

luxury penthouse units. The hotel is scheduled to open in 2024 and construction of the 186-unit English Meadows apartments is slated to begin in the fall of 2023. The English Meadows amenities are planned

to include a rooftop restaurant, a spa, a movie theater, a sports bar, exercise rooms, a covered pool, and a large area for catered events. "One of the highlights of this project," said Rector, "has been working with

local officials like Mayor Mike Barber and Town Manager Randy Wingfield to achieve vision for this district. They've mentioned their appreciation that we are actually doing what we said we were going to do. This is a win for everyone."

The Christiansburg Marketplace is located on the corner of Peppers Ferry Road and North Franklin Street/U.S. Route 460 Business in Christiansburg. *- News Messenger staff report*

Sikes from page 1

first-year experience and student life at Gettysburg College and residential life at Towson University and Virginia Tech. "Dr. Sikes places students, their well-being, and their

success at the heart of his work," said Ginger Ambler, William & Mary vice president for student affairs. "Having served in progressively responsible roles in the Dean of Students Office at W&M over the last 16 years, he brings both a breadth and depth of professional experience to this new role as dean of students at Virginia Tech. He will surely be missed here, and we wish him every success."

Reporting to the interim vice president for Student Affairs, the dean of students is Virginia Tech's foremost student advocate, leading a team of passionate, student-centered educators who support more than 37,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. With a strong focus on facilitating learning and community with and for students, Sikes and the Dean of Students Office team will work closely with Virginia Tech's colleges and administrative offices to embrace a focused pursuit of holistic student support and inclusion.

Sikes also will oversee the New Student and Family

Programs Office, Services for Students with Disabilities Office, and Student Conduct as well as First-Generation Student Support programs and the Interfaith Initiative.

"As dean of students, my goal is to cultivate an inclusive and supportive community where all students are able to thrive and reach their full potential," Sikes said. "Guided by the university's motto, Ut Prosim, I am honored that I may serve as a strong advocate for students and a bridge builder across the institution to advance student success with university leaders, faculty, staff, and student leadership. I will strive every day to create a welcoming and encouraging environment not just for the student body, but for all members of the Virginia Tech community. It is great to be home."

Sikes holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from William & Mary. He also earned a Master of Arts in educational leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech and a bachelor of arts from the University of South Carolina.

- News Messenger staff report

News Messenger

Established 1869

(540) 389-9355
P.O. Box 1125 • Salem, VA 24153

USPS 016-490 Online: www.ourvalley.org

Michael Showell, *Publisher*

Ed McMinn, *Editor*

editor@ourvalley.org

Heather Bell, *Community News Editor*

communitynews@ourvalley.org

Lynn Hurst, *General Manager*

lhurst@ourvalley.org

Randy Thompson, *Advertising Consultant*

advertise@ourvalley.org

Give us your view:

editor@ourvalley.org

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.

The News Messenger (USPS 016-490) is published twice a week for \$44 a year in Montgomery County, \$53 elsewhere in Virginia, and \$54 out of state by Virginia Media Inc., P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Christiansburg, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEWS MESSENGER 1633 W. Main St., Salem, VA 24153.

Glencoe from page 1

Mansion Board of Directors and is the gift shop and events committee chair.

Associate Professor Dr. Theresa Burriss serves as the Director of Appalachian Studies and the Appalachian Regional & Rural Studies Center at Radford University. Affrilachia is a term that focuses on the cultural contributions of African-American artists, writers, and musicians in the Appalachian region of the United States. She was born and raised in Bristol, Tenn., focused her doctoral dissertation on the Affrilachian writers and has published numerous articles and book chapters on the Affrilachians. She was tapped as an Honorary Affrilachian in 2006.

Howard Eaves, Sr. was born and spent his early years in the community of Wake Forest and attended Christiansburg Institute. An Air Force Veteran, Eaves is the President of the Wake Forest Community Action Club and serves as overseer of the slave monument located on Kentland Farms (now owned by Virginia Tech). As a team,

he and his wife serve as curators of the museum, which houses artifacts related to the Wake Forest community.

Dr. Michael (Mickey) Hickman is the president of the Calfee Community and Cultural Center Board of Directors and is chair of its museum and history committee. After attending Calfee Training School and Christiansburg Institute, he graduated from Pulaski High School, Wytheville Community College, Virginia Tech, and Radford University. He retired after 42 years with Pulaski County Public Schools where he worked as a principal, a high school history teacher, and a coach.

Dr. Daniel Thorp is an associate professor of history at Virginia Tech. He is the author of four books and nearly two dozen articles on a range of topics in 18th- and 19th-century American history. His most recent works -- Facing Freedom and In the True Blue's Wake -- have focused on the history of African Americans in Montgomery County during and after the era of slavery.

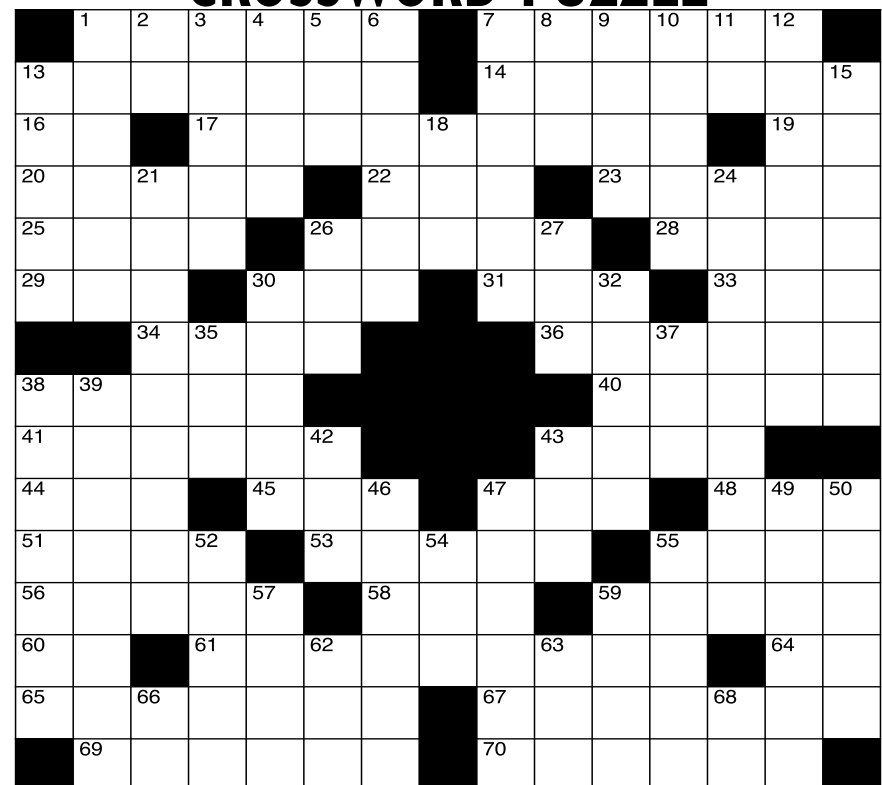
The topic of slavery in Appalachia is a subject that is not well known. Many falsely believe that it did not exist in the mountains. However, from the earliest years of European settlement, slavery has been part of the fabric of the region. The New River Valley was no exception, especially as the number of enslaved people in the area grew tremendously in the decade leading up to the Civil War.

The exhibit and panel discussion will explore the complicated history of slavery from its beginning until its abolition.

Following the panel discussion will be the unveiling of the exhibit itself at Glencoe Mansion at 6:45 p.m., which will be accompanied by an opening reception. Both events are open to the public with no admission charge. The exhibit will be on permanent display at the Glencoe Mansion during February on Level One (Gallery Level) of the museum.

- News Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| CLUES ACROSS | 38. Frocks | CLUES DOWN | 32. Single unit |
| 1. Plays | 40. Nostrils | 1. Pressed against lightly | 35. Parasitic insect's egg |
| 7. Hymn | 41. Spoke | 2. Rural delivery | 37. House pet |
| 13. Larval frog | 43. Information | 3. Semicircular recesses | 38. African nation |
| 14. A member of the British order | 44. Where wrestlers work | 4. Groan | 39. Saddle horses |
| 16. Stomach muscle | 45. Dash | 5. Donation | 42. Press lightly |
| 17. Helper | 47. Cool! | 6. Mariner | 43. One of 12 sons of Jacob |
| 19. East of NYC | 48. Tiny child | 7. One who accepts | 46. Cause to suffer |
| 20. Influential Norwegian playwright | 51. People of northern Assam | 8. ___ King Cole, musician | 47. Hang 'em up |
| 22. School for healing | 53. Austrian spa town | 9. Streetcar | 49. Breakfast dish |
| 23. Of the cheekbone | 55. Written reminder | 10. Silk fabric | 50. Wrongful acts |
| 25. Disco rockers The Bee ___ | 56. Italian monetary units | 11. ___ route | 52. NASCAR driver |
| 26. Gorged | 58. Tell on | 12. Used to make plastics | 54. Indian dish |
| 28. Khoikhoi people | 59. More abject | 13. Swampy coniferous forest | 55. Type of giraffe |
| 29. Payroll firm | 60. Farm state | 15. Angry speeches | 57. Selling at specially reduced prices |
| 30. A hiding place | 61. Cleveland's hoopsters | 18. A way to soak | 59. Czech city |
| 31. Georgia rockers | 64. Famed NY Giant's nickname | 21. One who divides | 62. "Orange is the New Black" character |
| 33. Spanish soldier El ___ | 65. Los ___ big city | 24. Deeply cuts | 63. Records electric currents |
| 34. Deerlike water buffalo | 67. Rechristens | 26. A very large body of water | 66. Country doctor |
| 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period | 69. Shopping trips | 27. "Raisin in the Sun" actress Ruby | 68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.) |
| | 70. Values self-interest | 30. Medicated | |

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!

News Messenger

Serving Montgomery County Since 1869

DIGITAL ONLY

One Year Digital Subscription
\$29.00

DIGITAL & PRINT

Yearly Print & Digital Subscription
\$72.00

PRINT ONLY

Yearly Print Only Subscription
\$45.00 Radford \$54.00 Virginia \$58.00 Out of State

Subscribe online at montcova.com or mail to address below

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS MESSENGER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Check Enclosed _____ or call (304) 647-5724 to pay by credit card

Mail to: Circulation Department, NEWS MESSENGER,
P.O. BOX 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or call us at (304) 647-5724.

Read your Montgomery County news here!

www.montcova.com

OBITUARIES

Akers, Kenneth Ray

Kenneth Ray Akers, 85, of Dublin, sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and died Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. He was born in Christiansburg on May 20, 1937, to the late Henry and Bessie Musselman Akers. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Eula Albert Akers; brothers, Carl Akers, and Barry Akers; and sister, Dorothy Hodge. He retired from Virginia Tech after 35 years of service in the printing shop.



Richard Aliff; sisters-in-law, Eleanor King, Kitty Collins, Emily Oliver, Sandy Albert, and Phyllis Hudson, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mickey and Diana Albert; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends and neighbors from the lake. The family wishes to thank all the nurses and staff at Highland Ridge Rehab Center.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Rocky Miller; granddaughter, Chasity Miller and special friend, Mike Crockett; Kenneth's little buddy, Memphis Crockett;

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 in the McCoy Funeral Chapel with the Preacher Terry Hodge officiating. Interment followed in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens.

Beamer, Bonna Sikes

Bonna Sikes Beamer, 81, of Dublin passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, at her home surrounded by family.

She was born in Grayson County to Robert and Ruth Sikes. She was a former English Professor at New River Community College and was an active member of the Dublin United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Larry Beamer.

Bonna is survived by her daughters, Terri Shelor of Dublin and Melissa Lawson of Wirtz; sons-in-law Don Shelor and Barry Lawson; grandchildren Beth and Logan Shelor; sisters and brothers-in-law, Janie and John Wayne Smith, and

Dianna and Bobby Bowers; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harold and Marilee Beamer; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; and special caregiver, Emily Wesley.

Visitation was held Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at Dublin United Methodist Church, and funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 13. Bonna was laid to rest beside Larry at Highland Memory Gardens in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Dublin United Methodist Church or to the Radford University Brain Injury Center.

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

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

See Obituaries, page 6

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

St. Thomas Anglican Church - located at 4290 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.stofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is 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

Generations to Come

Read Exodus 10:1 through 12:51

Floyd looked forward to the times his grandchildren visited. They reminded him of his youth with their energy and vitality. Floyd loved telling them the stories of his childhood, especially when he told them of how he came to Christ.

God also gave Israel an important story to pass on.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance" (Exodus 12:14).

Several times in today's reading God told the nation of Israel to share the events of the Passover with the generations that followed. Even today, people cele-

brate the Passover every year, and this reminds Israel's descendants that God delivered His people from bondage.

We too should learn from their example and pass on our experience of God's goodness to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and any others in our spheres of influence. God wants everyone we know to come to the saving knowledge of Christ and will gladly use our testimony to point them to that relationship with Him.

Thought for Today: God wants us to testify of our experiences as Christians to those who come after us.

Quicklook: Exodus 12:11-16

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@stmhc.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

Virginia Tech hosts award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH

Academy Award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter will speak at the Moss Arts Center at 6 p.m. on Jan. 19 as part of Virginia Tech's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.

Stories have a way of connecting people across space, time, culture, and beliefs. Academy Award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter is a transcendent storyteller. Her work spans more than 60 television and film projects and includes myriad generation-defining and culturally influencing work such as “Do the Right Thing” (1989), “Malcolm X” (1993), “Amistad” (1997), the television reboot of “Roots” (2016), “Selma” (2014), and “Black Panther” (2018), the film for which Carter received the 2019 Academy Award for Costume Design.

Carter will visit Virginia Tech to attend “A Conversation with Ruth E. Carter” on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Moss Arts Center. The event is part of a weeklong series celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. at Virginia Tech. The event is free and open to the public.

Carter has described her work as “an expression of Afrofuturism, using imagination and technology to create costumes that tell stories about our culture.” She defines Afrofuturism as applying “technology and intertwining it with imagination, self-expression, and an entrepreneurial spirit, promoting a philosophy for Black Americans, Africans, and Indigenous people to believe and create without the limiting construct of slavery and colonialism.”

Carter’s work brings this philosophy to life by weaving culture, history, politics, race, technology, and education together in her costume pieces.

As the first African American to win in the costume design category, Carter’s work has moved audiences all over the world. Reflecting on this impact, Tyechia Thompson,

event moderator and assistant professor in the Department of English, spoke about the influence of Carter’s work on their personal journey and Black culture.

“She has really used stories to share our history, the Black college experience and aesthetic, Black royalty, many aspects of our culture all while educating audiences across time periods,” Thompson said.

Carter’s use of vibrant color and textured, nuanced, and unique statement pieces gives audiences the opportunity to reflect on the complexity of identity as they continue to learn and grow with changing times. Her work is influential in that it upholds and tells stories that bring together people of diverse backgrounds.

— Virginia Tech Communications

VT receives a grant to purchase cutting-edge 3D metal printing technology

Virginia Tech has received a 2023 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) grant to purchase cutting-edge 3D metal printing technology to boost education and research in advanced manufacturing and new materials development.

The U.S. Department of Defense award will fund up to \$800,000 for the purchase of a computerized additive friction stir deposition (AFSD) machine that will be housed in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and be made available to interested researchers from across the university — and beyond.

“We are grateful to the Department of Defense for this award, which will enable Virginia Tech to be at the forefront of advanced manufacturing science and technology,” said Suneel Kodambaka, materials science and

engineering department head. “This new system will significantly boost our ability to conduct unprecedented research and meet the needs of interested industrial partners. This award is proof that our academic and research focus in these areas will not only prepare our students for the careers of the future, but will help spur American innovation in space travel, national defense, health care, and industry.”

Virginia Tech was one of 77 universities to receive a total of \$59 million for the purchase of critical research equipment funded this cycle through the federal program.

“DURIP awards provide essential research infrastructure to enable the pursuit of new knowledge,” said Bindu Nair, director of the Basic Research Office in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for



PHOTO BY TONIA MOXLEY FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Greg Hahn reads a first-generation Additive Friction Stir Deposition machine for printing samples of high-strength aluminum used in aircraft, under a grant from the U.S. military. A Department of Defense grant will purchase a new cutting-edge machine for the university.

Research and Engineering. “They help maintain the cutting-edge capabilities of our institutes of higher education. These awards will sustain the scientific excellence of our universities, train the next generation STEM workforce, and

facilitate scientific advances that will build a resilient defense ecosystem.”

— Virginia Tech Communications

Obituaries

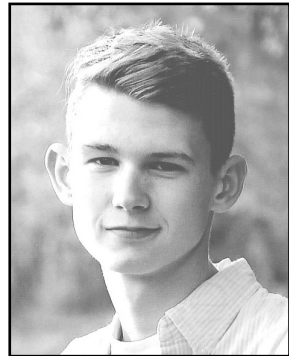
from page 5

Bryson, Andrew Joseph “A.J.”

Our dearly loved A.J. left this earthly home on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

He is survived by his parents, Jeremiah and Mary Anne Bryson; a brother and sister-in-law, Alex and Alyson Bryson; nephews Grayson Bryson and Bryson Dobbins; a sister and brother-in-law, Alli and Corey Dobbins; nieces Bexley and Baylor Dobbins, and nephew, his best friend and love, Madison Webb; maternal grandparents Robert and Rita Beckner; his paternal grandparents, Terry Joe and Karen Bryson; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who loved A.J. dearly.

Funeral services will be held today, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at 1



p.m. at Belmont Christian Church in Christiansburg, 1500 Peppers Ferry Rd. with Pastor Chandler Jones officiating. Interment will follow at Newbern Cemetery. The family received friends from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday at the church.

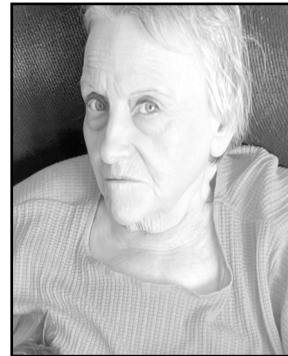
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Young Life Radford & Pulaski County, 117 3rd Avenue #A, Radford, VA 24141, or St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

Lucado, Brenda Faye Goodwin

Brenda Faye Goodwin Lucado, 75, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Evelyn Goodwin; husband, Norman Leon Lucado; daughter, Mary S. Lucado; and her son-in-law, Frank Rierson.

Survivors include her daughter, Eve Rierson; son and daughter-in-law, Andrew and Julie Lucado; grandchildren, Jacob, Leon, and Eli Rierson, Kaylee Lucado, and MaKenzie Wyrick; sister, Sandra Jones; niece and her husband, Jennifer



and Shannon Roope; great niece, Brittany Roope; and many other relatives, and friends.

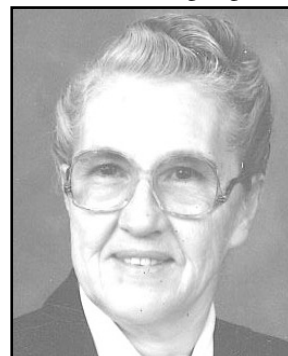
The family will receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. Randall VanDyke officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Neece, Alma Magdalene Cox

Alma Magdalene Cox Neece, 93, of Radford, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walker Cox and Lacona Sutphin DeHart; son, Phillip Rickey Neece; siblings, Gladys Phillips, Troy Cox, Lura Ritter, Mable Akers, Celestie Adams, Truelove Weddle, Sylvia Minnick, Grace Pennington, and June Franklin; sons-in-law, Wesley Neal and Quincy Walker; and her grandson-in-law, Mel Braheny.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda Diane Neal and Joyce Marie Walker; grandchildren and their spouses, Lorne Springs (Pat), Anna Braheny, Randy Springs, Aaron Walker, Eddie Walker (Melinda), Debra Neal, Kay Meadows (Billy), and Kevin Neal (Valerie); great-grandchildren, Trincy, Rebecca, Ivory, Tiara, Alexa, and



Lucy, Wyatt, Teegan, Easton, Karson, Zander and Vivian; brother-in-law and his wife, Harry Neece (Irene); and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Good Samaritan Hospice, and all the family and friends that touched Alma’s life.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Services will begin at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Wayne Poston officiating. Burial will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

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

Linkous, Roger Dale

Roger Dale Linkous, 74, of Blacksburg, went to be with the Lord on Friday Jan. 6, 2023.

Roger was born Nov. 12, 1948, to the late Paul and Mildred Linkous. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Amelia Linkous, daughters Jennifer Linkous and Debbie Snell and a brother, Woody Linkous.

Roger is survived by daughters Teresa (Ron) Kenyon, of Blacksburg, and Stephanie (Raymond) Bishop, of Christiansburg; brothers Allen Linkous, of Blacksburg,



(Wilda) Linkous, of Dublin, and Bernard (Ellen) Linkous, of Blacksburg; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and special friend Debbie Main.

Funeral services will be conducted today, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m., before the service.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Longwood-Radford basketball game set to air on ESPNU

The Radford men's basketball game against Longwood, originally scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 25, has been moved to Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. and will be aired nationally on ESPNU, the Big South Conference announced Wednesday morning.

The Highlanders will host the reigning Big South champions on Carilion Clinic Court at the Dedmon Center in a pivotal contest for position in the conference standings, as well as bragging rights within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Now in its second

season under the direction of Radford native Darris Nichols, Radford boasts one of the most talented squads in program history.

Murray State transfer DaQuan Smith leads the team in scoring while four-time Big South Freshman of the Week Kenyon Giles adds scoring punch off the bench. Former five-star prospect and McDonald's All-American Bryan Antoine continues to show why he was so highly touted before coming to Radford from Villanova. Returning veterans Josiah Jeffers and Shaquan Jules have paced the Highlanders in assists and rebounds respectively.

Longwood took a major leap forward last season, going 26-7 overall and 15-1 in conference play en route to an NCAA Tournament appearance. The Lancers' success has continued so far this year as they are currently the last undefeated team in the league.

Former Virginia Tech Hokie and Wake Forest Demon Deacon Isaiah Wilkins has played a huge role on Griff Aldrich's teams, but Longwood's roster features quality depth from top to bottom.

- News Messenger staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF VT ATHLETICS
Corey Moore, the 1999 Lombardi and Nagurski winner, had his jersey retired by Virginia Tech in 2010.

Former Hokie named to College Hall of Fame

The National Football Foundation and the College Football Hall of Fame announced Monday that Virginia Tech legend Corey Moore is one of 22 new inductees to the College Football Hall of Fame.

The class of 2023 includes 18 first-team All-American players and four coaches.

One of the most intimidating defensive linemen in college football in the 1990s, Moore left Virginia Tech as the most decorated player ever to put on a Hokie uniform. In 1999, he helped lead the Hokies to the BCS National Championship game. That season Moore won the Bronko Nagurski Award as college football's defensive player of the year, the Lombardi Award as college football's lineman of the year, the Big East Defensive Player of the Year award, and he was a unanimous first-team All-American. Moore also earned

All-America honors in 1998 when he led the Big East with 13.5 sacks. He gained first-team All-America recognition from the Football Coaches Association, was a second-team pick by the AP and The Sporting News, and was a third-team choice of Football News. In three seasons, Moore amassed 166 total tackles and 35 sacks totaling a loss of 292 yards, 58 tackles for loss, six forced fumbles, and three blocked kicks. His No. 56 jersey was retired by Virginia Tech on Oct. 23, 2010.

Moore is the eighth inductee affiliated with Virginia Tech football to be enshrined into the College Football Hall of Fame. The others are Hunter Carpenter (inducted 1957), Andy Gustafson (inducted 1985), Carroll Dale (inducted 1987), Frank Loria (inducted 1999), Jerry Claiborne (inducted 1999), Bruce Smith (inducted 2006) and

Frank Beamer (inducted 2018).

The 2023 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be officially inducted during the 65th National Football Foundation annual awards dinner, presented by Las Vegas, on Dec. 5, 2023, at the ARIA Resort and Casino.

The inductees will also be recognized at their respective collegiate institutions with National Football Foundation Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, presented by Fidelity Investments, during the fall. Their accomplishments will be forever immortalized at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, and each inductee will receive a custom ring created by Jostens, the official and exclusive supplier of National Football Foundation rings.

- Virginia Tech Communications



PHOTO BY BRUCE INGRAM

Fresh turkey tracks in the snow could mean that a flock is nearby.

Outdoor report: Anything can happen during January turkey season

During the 2021-22 turkey season, one of the most exhilarating hunts I experienced was the morning I worked four jakes at the same time, all of them with hens, on a Botetourt County creek bottom. The gobbling was intense, the hen talk was non-stop, and, maddeningly, I had to leave that all behind when it was time for me to go to Lord Botetourt where I teach high school English.

My leaving probably didn't keep me from tagging a tom because all of my calling and setups had resulted in not even one jake leaving his females.

You may be surprised to learn that that scintillating action took place on a mid-January Wednesday during Virginia's two-week winter turkey season. I learned that day that January jakes can act just as henned-up as spring longbeards. DWR biologist Mike Dye explained why the Department of Wildlife Resources initiated this season, which runs January 14-28 in select counties.

"One reason for the January season was that we've had a steady decline in fall turkey hunting participation for the last 25 or so years," Dye said. "With no other big-game seasons open, [except the late archery one], we thought that this time period would be a good time for hunters who don't normally go after fall turkeys to be able to explore the sport. Another reason for the season was that it gave fall turkey dog hunters more time to practice their sport. Often when the season begins in October, it's too warm for them to run their dogs."

Dye said that another plus for the January season is that it's an excellent time to mentor adults or youth new to

hunting. Several years ago, during the January season, I took a father and a son hunting, both of whom were new hunters. The dad ended up harvesting a bird on my Botetourt land, which was a real thrill to all concerned.

As my earlier anecdote indicated, just about any kind of turkey behavior can occur during the January season and Dye agrees.

"In January, you're starting to see a little bit of breakup of fall flocks," he said. "Jakes may have broken away from their mother hen flocks, and their testosterone level is rising, which can lead to pre-breeding behavior like you witnessed. They aren't ready to mate yet, but are just starting to begin the process of determining hierarchy and beginning displays and so forth."

Dye says mature gobblers sometimes gobble on relatively warm January days, and I also have experienced that happening during the winter season. One January I was even able to call in and kill a gobbler that came to my calling along with two other longbeards. And Dye added that mother hens with jenny and jakes, the traditional fall flock, can also be found in Virginia's winter woods.

This past January, with only three days left in the season, I busted such a flock on a day when snow covered the ground and the air temperature never topped 20. I ended up calling in and killing a jenny, which, frankly, was the biggest thrill I had the entire hunting season, especially with the brutal conditions.

- Bruce Ingram, Virginia DWR

Trio of Hokies reaches NIL deal with CMG Leasing

Triumph NIL Wednesday announced Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) contracts for students Darius Maddox, Justyn Mutts, and Sean Pedulla.

The three Virginia Tech men's basketball standouts all signed partnership agreements with CMG Leasing and will leverage their NIL rights to promote specific CMG properties through a variety of personal appearances, content development programs, social media posts, and live events.

"We are pleased with the success of this partnership thus far," said Robyn Jones, Triumph partner and COO. "The opportunities we have been able to provide our student-athletes, in partnership with CMG, have been engaging and well received."

A junior guard from Bowie, Md., Maddox played in all 36 games for the Hokies last year, averaging 6.4

points per game. After hitting a game-winning three-point shot against Clemson in the opening round of the 2022 ACC Tournament, he scored 20 points in an upset win over North Carolina en route to Tech's first-ever ACC Tournament championship.

For his efforts, Maddox was named to the All-Tournament Team. A sophomore guard from Edmund, Ok., Pedulla has emerged as a top outside threat for the Hokies this season. In 36 games as a freshman last season, he shot 44.7% from behind the three-point line. He, too, played at his best in big games last spring, scoring 13 points in the Hokies' upset of second-seeded Notre Dame in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals and 19 points in the Hokies'

NCAA Tournament game against Texas.

"Triumph is founded by a great team of former players and staff, who truly understand the lives of competitive athletes and how to maximize our NIL opportunities," said Pedulla. "I look forward to working with them."

A graduate student in 2022-23, Mutts has become a fan favorite across Hokie nation. His all-around quality play is matched only by his school pride and commitment to education. The Millville, NJ, native started all 36 games for the Hokies last season, averaging 10.1 points and 7.3 rebounds per game while totaling a team-best 123 assists on the year.

Among the many accolades following the Hokies' ACC Tournament title, Mutts was honored

See Triumph, page 8

Want to stay up to date on local sports?

www.montcova.com

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
D	R	A	M	A	S	A	N	T	H	E	M	
T	A	D	P	O	L	E	B	A	R	O	N	E
A	B	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	L	I
I	B	S	E	N	M	E	D	M	A	L	A	R
G	E	E	S	S	A	T	E	D	N	A	M	A
A	D	P	D	E	N	R	E	M	C	I	D	
S	A	R	I	S					N	A	R	E
O	R	A	T	E	D				D	A	T	A
M	A	T							R	A	D	
A	B	O	R						B	A	D	E
L	I	R	A	S					R	A	T	
I	A								C	A	V	A
A	N	G	E	L	E	S			R	E	N	A
S	P	R	E	E	S				E	G	O	I

WE ARE THE PLACE FOR FUN!

- ★ Team Building, Corporate Party, Birthday Party or Holiday Party ★
- ★ 32 BOWLING LANES ★
- ★ 2 LEVEL LASER TAG AND ARCADE ★
- ★ SPIN BUMPER CARS ★
- ★ AXE THROWING ★ GREAT FOOD ★

Call 540-382-5525 for more information or booking your party!

575 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg
540-382-5525 • www.nrvsuperbowl.biz

High school swimming action at CAC



Auburn's Kade Hamilton won the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 1:08.67.



Christiansburg's Jeremiah Garretson placed second in the 100-yard freestyle during a Tuesday night swim meet at the Christiansburg Aquatics center.



Christiansburg's Anna Sanford won the 500-yard freestyle in a time of 5:34.68.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Virginia Tech football's 2023 schedule to be revealed on ACC Network Jan. 30

GREENSBORO, N.C. – Virginia Tech football's 2023 schedule will be unveiled Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. on ACC Network as part of the league's "ACC Huddle: 2023 Football Schedule Reveal" broadcast.

The ACC and ACC Network will unveil each team's 12-game schedule on the show, which will include the dates for each contest.

opponents have already been announced and include the likes of NC State, Old Dominion, Pitt, Purdue, Syracuse and Wake Forest. Five of those six teams made a bowl game this past season.

Join the interest list and be among the first to know when the Hokies' 2023 slate is finalized.

Fans who had season tickets this past fall can renew and in order to lock in your desired giving level

and benefits, necessary for tickets and parking, all giving to the Hokie Scholarship Fund must be completed by March 1.

Season tickets offer the best value when compared to single game tickets. Pricing will remain at the same price as the previous year, starting at \$350 per ticket.

~ Virginia Tech Communications

VDOT ROAD WATCH

The following is a list of forecasted highway projects that may impact traffic traveling in the 12-county Salem Transportation District this week. Work schedules and construction project timelines are always subject to change and weather dependent. The Salem District covers Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke counties.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

I-81 NORTHBOUND AT EXIT 105 NEW RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – Traffic on northbound I-81 has been switched onto the newly constructed bridge over the New River at the Montgomery/Pulaski County line. The old bridge is being demolished. Lane and shoulder closures may be in place near exit 105. Lane closure may be in effect during the week from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Shoulder closures may be in effect at any time during the week. Slow rolls may be performed on I-81 in the north and southbound lanes from mile marker 98 to 109. Speed limit is reduced to 60 miles per hour in the work zone. Shoulder closures will remain in place though the duration of the project. Project completion is estimated by summer 2023.

INTERSTATE 81

INTERSTATE 81 LANE WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXIT 137 TO EXIT 141 – A \$179 million design-build project to widen both directions of I-81 between mile markers 136.6 and 141.8 from two to three lanes is set to begin. Work will be performed on the inside and outside shoulders along a five mile section of both northbound and southbound Interstate 81 in Roanoke County and

the city of Salem. The shoulders will be built up before barrier walls can be installed for road crews to work behind. Barrier walls will be installed along the shoulders in the spring and summer. Two lanes of I-81 traffic in each direction will remain open during the project with periodic lane closures scheduled during nighttime hours or outside of peak travel times as needed. Drivers can expect the following lane closures and upcoming impacts on northbound and southbound I-81:

WORK ZONE SPEED: With narrow spacing in lanes due to barrier walls, lack of shoulders and lane shifts in various locations, drivers should adhere to posted 60 mph speed limits in the work zone and allow space when following a vehicle.

RAMP CLOSURES: Ramp closures are possible during nighttime hours, 12 a.m., to 5 a.m. Drivers should watch for message boards dates and times the ramp will be closed.

LANE CLOSURES: Alternating left and right lane and shoulder closures during nighttime hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, are possible. Lane widths will be reduced to 11 feet.

- Northbound lane closures from I-81 mile marker 136 to 141.
 - Southbound Lane closures from I-81 mile marker 141 to 136.
- Nightly lane closures may be in place along the right lane with possible nightly ramp narrows as needed for guardrail and shoulder strengthening.
- Northbound I-81 lane closures from mile marker 138 to 142
 - Northbound I-81 exit and entrance ramp narrows possible at Route 311.

The project also includes replacing six bridges, widening two bridges, installing approximately 2.6 miles of sound barrier walls along northbound I-81, improving the southbound exit 137 off-ramp intersection at Wildwood Road and adding interchange lighting at exits 137, 140 and 141 are also included in the project. Expected completion in early 2026.

HOME AND COUNTRY

By Slim Randles

There was Steve, our resident cowboy, sitting at the round table in the Mule Barn Truck Stop, doodling on paper. Other members of the world dilemma think tank gravitated to Steve's table.

Steve appeared to be oblivious of the rest of us. "Downspout," he mumbled.

Doc nodded at Herb. "Downspout, Herb."

"I thought so, too," Herb said.

"Oh hi guys," said Steve.

"So Steve ... downspout?"

"Hot tub," Steve said, as if that cleared everything up. "For the cabin. You know. I'm going to put in a hot tub."

"And you need a downspout for this?" Herb said.

"For the rain," Steve said.

We looked at him.

"No water," Steve said. "You know, at the cabin."

"Let's see if I have this right," Dud said. "You want to put a hot tub in at your cabin and you don't have water."

"Exactly."

"So you need a downspout...?"

"For when it rains," Steve said. "To fill the hot tub."

"Okay. So how will you get it hot?"

"Going to wrap copper tubing around the stovepipe in the cabin, you see, and then send it on out to the hot tub. The tub will be outside on the porch."

"You don't have a porch."

"But I will by the time I get the hot

tub built," Steve said. "I'll bet that copper tubing will heat that water right up, and then I can have a good soak up there any time I want."

"Not quite," said Doc. "Not the way I figure it."

Steve looked at him. "Why not?"

"If the water comes down the downspout, around the stovepipe through the copper tubing and then outside to the hot tub, it looks to me like the only time you can soak in the tub is in a rainstorm."

Steve thought about that for a minute. Then sipped his cold coffee. Loreta heated it up.

"And Steve," said Doc, "you ever been on that mountain when the lightning's popping? If you're in that hot tub, with your moustache flopping around in the wind while you watch the surrounding countryside explode, well ..."

Steve wiped out what he was drawing with the pencil and started in on a fresh napkin.

He looked up after a few minutes.

"Pool table," he said.

It's a good thing dreams are free.

Mother-in-law planning a visit? Here's some help. Try bagpipelessonsonline.com.

In case we're not in the hot tub, try one of these: Slim Randles; (505) 306-6009 cell; 7308 Painted Pony Trail NW, Albuquerque, NM 87210; homecountry8@gmail.com.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Cheryn Rapp '10

Enjoy Bags And Bags Of Bargains.
1/2 And 1/3 Off. \$12 Rack

(540) 951-8102
860 University City Blvd,
Blacksburg
11am-5pm | Monday-Saturday

BONOMO'S
Women's Clothier Since 1973

Triumph from page 7

with the 2022 Skip Prosser Award as the ACC Men's Basketball Scholar Athlete of the Year. Mutts previously signed

an agreement with Mike Jones Ford Lincoln.

"My favorite thing about living with CMG is the cool perks you get

as a resident," said Mutts.

"They have great resident socials and free Starbucks Coffee and snacks. Their communities are all

conveniently located close to campus and other hot spots in Blacksburg"

Triumph, an NIL sports marketing agency, develops custom partnerships for collegiate student-athletes with members of the business community, supporters and fans. The group specializes in building meaningful business relationships that meet all NCAA compliance and state legal criteria.

Triumph boasts a deep and talented roster of 61 student-athletes. Potential partners wishing to connect with Triumph athletes, or other student-athletes, can connect with the team at Triumph via info@triumphnil.com.

~ Triumph NIL

NEW RIVER
Community College

Spring Classes Begin
January 23

Registration Now Open!

www.nr.edu/registernow