



Blacksburg names David English to be first career rescue chief in history

BLACKSBURG – This week the Town of Blacksburg announced that longtime rescue volunteer David English will soon take the helm as the first career Rescue Chief in the town's history.

In 2003, English joined the Blacksburg Rescue Squad as a volunteer. In the years to follow, he would serve as Lieutenant and Captain before being appointed Volunteer Chief in 2015.

"It's an honor to be selected as the first career Chief of Blacksburg Rescue," said English. "I'm excited to lead our extraordinary team of volunteers as we continue to advance our services and provide high quality pre-hospital emergency medical and technical rescue services to our community."

In the past seven years Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue has experienced a 52% increase in calls for service.

Born in West Lafayette, Ind., followed by a childhood in Long Hill Township, New Jersey, English became certified as an EMT in 2000. In the fall of 2002, he moved to Blacksburg to attend Virginia Tech where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. He would go on to complete a paramedic program from Southwest Virginia Community College in 2011, and earn a graduate certificate in Local Government Management in 2016 as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration from Virginia Tech in 2021.

English presently serves as Vice Chair of the New River Valley Regional 911 Authority Joint Advisory Board, and he is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Fire and Rescue Commission. Additionally, he represents Montgomery County on the Western Virginia EMS Council Board of Directors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he supported the Blacksburg community by working as a part of the incident command team for the New River Valley Public Health Task Force.

"As a former volunteer, Dave English brings years of leadership experience to this position," said Sid Bingley, President of the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad board of directors. "Being able to dedicate his attention full time to the squad will allow him to focus on the increasing demands on our agency and ensure continuity in our delivery of high quality EMS and rescue services to our community."

Prior to accepting the career position of Chief, English was a deputy with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for fourteen years, serving eight of those years supervising the jail medical department. For the past six years, he has also



SUBMITTED BY BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

Longtime rescue volunteer David English will take over as Blacksburg's first-ever career rescue chief on Feb. 6, 2023.

worked as the Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office.

In addition to being an Eagle Scout and receiving numerous accolades over the span of his career, English is Virginia Sheriff's Institute Certified (VSIC) through the VCU L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, and a recipient of the Alfred E. Payne Service Award from Virginia Tech Omicron Delta Kappa. Last year, he was also recognized by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce as a 40 Under 40 recipient.

"Dave English is a welcome addition to the Town of Blacksburg staff," said Town Manager Marc Verniel. "He brings years of experience in emergency medical services and law enforcement and demonstrates a clear vision to lead Blacksburg Rescue Squad into the future."

English will begin in his new position on February 6, 2023.

19-year-old dies in crash, Little River Rd.

At approximately noon, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, a 19-year-old male from Pulaski County was pronounced dead at the New River Valley Medical Center after he was transported from the scene of a one-vehicle crash in the 3100 block of Little River Road in Montgomery County.

The NRV 911 Center received the call in reference to the accident at approximately 7:40 a.m. Sunday.

The accident was reported to have involved an overturned vehicle in the Little River. Sheriff's deputies as well as fire and rescue crews responded to the scene,

and upon arrival, rescue divers located one male occupant inside the vehicle. He was subsequently removed but was unresponsive.

The identity of the victim is not being released at this time, but he was transported by EMS to the New River Valley Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crash Team is continuing its ongoing investigation of the incident.

From News Messenger staff reports

New website showcases Virginia Tech's IT history



VIRGINIA TECH PHOTO

The Division of IT's new website chronicles the history of computing and information technology at Virginia Tech — both the innovative and the irreverent.

Montgomery/Radford/Floyd NAACP to celebrate life, legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Montgomery/Radford/Floyd branch of the NAACP will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

The guest speaker will be 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 announcement of the two 2023 branch award winners of the MRF NAACP/Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Awards.

-Submitted by Deborah H. Travis, NAACP Branch President

Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation to present 'Films about Fashion' series



SUBMITTED BY JANEAN WILLIAMS, CURATOR, BLACKSBURG MUSEUM & CULTURAL FOUNDATION
"Funny Face," starring Audrey Hepburn, is one of three films relating to the fashion industry to be shown in the Blacksburg Museum's series "Films about Fashion."

The Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation, in conjunction with the current exhibit "Fashion History Moving Forward: Animating the Present, Considering the Past," will present "Films About Fashion," a series of three movies running from Thursday, Jan. 19 through Thursday Feb. 2.

The three films, showing at the Alexander Black House, 204 Draper Rd. SW in Blacksburg, are "Funny Face," showing at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 19, "Phantom Thread," showing on Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m., and "Zoolander," showing on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and snacks will be available for purchase.

"Funny Face" is a 1957 classic starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire in a musical romantic comedy directed by Stanley Donen and containing songs by George and Ira Gershwin. All the famous landmarks of Paris serve as backdrops for Hepburn's posing in Givenchy. "Funny Face" is the ultimate in Hollywood glamor that also slyly critiques the fashion world.

Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread" (2017) features Daniel Day-Lewis in his final film performance. Day-Lewis portrays a gifted but obsessive and controlling dressmaker in 1950s London, who often stitches hidden messages into the linings of the haute couture dresses he makes. A cheeky model joins his design house and sparks a complicated love story. "Phantom Thread" is Gothic and gorgeous and features an unconventional romance with breathtaking fashion creations.

The series ends with the cult-classic comedy, "Zoolander" (2001), the "seminal fashion comedy of our time." Ben Stiller wrote and starred in the film, which is known for lines like, "Have you ever wondered if there was more to life, other than being really, really, ridiculously good looking?" and "If there is anything that this horrible tragedy can teach us, it's that a male model's life is a precious, precious commodity."

Youngkin talks ‘compete to win’ in Salem

Aila Boyd
aboyd@mainstreetnewspapers.com

SALEM – Gov. Glenn Youngkin stopped by Carter Machinery’s newly opened Machine Rebuild Center in Salem on Thursday, Jan. 5 to discuss a range of issues, including legislative priorities he has for the upcoming session of the Virginia General Assembly.

The focus of Youngkin’s remarks was the slogan “compete to win.” The slogan was used to highlight his desire to lower taxes and increase Virginia’s competitive edge regarding new business recruitment.

He said that Virginia’s ability to “compete to win” starts with both corporate and individual taxes. He pointed to North Carolina’s competitiveness because of its lowering of taxes. He added that the lowering of taxes sends a signal that “it’s only going to get better, not worse.”

A step towards lowering taxes Youngkin pointed to was “\$4 billion in tax cuts.”

“It is time to compete to win. We’ve got to jam down that accelerator, get our foot off the brake and get going. The states

to the south of us are competing every day, every day to win Virginians to move there, to win business decisions to locate there. I’ll tell you, Virginia was built to win. We are going to compete to win—that is what our future looks like,” Youngkin said. “We need to win...that means tackling two of our biggest and fundamental and intertwined problems—winning people and winning jobs.”

A factor that contributes to competitiveness that Youngkin stressed is the need for shovel-ready sites for businesses that are considering locating in the commonwealth.

“To support the recruitment and expansion of high-growth industries, the commonwealth requires massive investments to create shovel-ready sites,” he said.

The lack of shovel-ready “mega sites,” he said, has cost the commonwealth more than 55,000 jobs since 2016.

“Last year, we made incredible progress. We’re going to build on it by taking Virginia to the next level,” he said.

Del. Joe McNamara spoke prior to Youngkin. He touted some recent legislative initiatives.

“The grocery tax was eliminated as the result of Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Republicans in the General Assembly,” he said. “Gov. Youngkin the Republicans also nearly doubled your

standard deduction.”

McNamara also brought up the start of the new session of the General Assembly. “We have a lot of work ahead of us,” he said.

John Batzel, president of Carter Machinery, also delivered remarks prior to Youngkin.

“Carter continues to grow,” he said.

He talked about the company’s growth, including the addition of more than 400 team members to the company’s ranks. A significant number of the technicians who were hired were apprentice technicians. Many of the newly hired technicians were in attendance on Thursday.

“On behalf of Carter Machinery’s 2,500-plus team members, it was truly our honor to host the Governor, his staff, local and regional political and business leaders, as well as family and friends,” Batzel said. “Carter Machinery certainly understands the importance of a skilled, well-trained, committed workforce because our people are the key to the company’s success, and more importantly, to our customers’ success. We thank the governor for sharing his time, his plans, and his excitement today for growing business and jobs in Virginia.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 11:

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Radford Public Library; noon to 1 p.m. Join the library on the second Wednesday of each month for a casual book discussion. Participants may bring a lunch. To be discussed this month is “From Here to Eternity” by Caitlin Doughty. To be discussed in February is “Sister Stardust” by Jane Green.

Loops Group

At the Blacksburg Library from 2 to 4 p.m. Participants may bring their project and join the Loops Group for community and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 12:

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.

Community quilting bee

At the Blacksburg Library; 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can bring their supplies and join this weekly quilting and sewing group for conversation.

Friday, Jan. 13:

Estate planning overview

At the Blacksburg Public Library; 1:30 to 4 p.m. At this free seminar, attorney Jaime Rebekovich will discuss the different documents involved in estate planning, including advanced medical directives, power of attorney, and wills. She will explain what these documents are and why they are important. Participants can come ready with questions.

Saturday, Jan. 14:

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 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Bring a friend and a board game, or just bring yourself to get some quality board-gaming time in at the library. The library has a collection of games on hand, but participants are welcome to bring a game from home and teach the staff how to play it.

Tuesday, Jan. 17 and ongoing

NRV Cares Parent Education: Parenting young children

At the Radford Public Library 5 to 7 p.m. A free eight-week parenting class presented by NRV Cares. A free dinner will be provided from 5 to 5:30 p.m., and free child care will be included for the duration of the class. Register by email at Keli@nrvcares.org or by text to Julie at (540) 494-0806.

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. Save the other two dates: Feb. 15 and 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

Tuesday, Jan. 24:

Blacksburg Town Council meeting

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

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

The Christiansburg Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

Ongoing:

Help veterans with your donations

The Meadowbrook Public Library is a collection point for items needed at the VA Medical Center in Salem. Donors may bring an of the following items to the library during January: 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 to 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, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Borris has been a resident at the Animal Care and Adoption Center for just a short time. He is a sweet, gentle boy. This orange tabby likes attention and affection from his favorite humans.

Delilah is a fun-loving, playful pup ready to head home. She enjoys entertaining herself with toys, including tennis balls and squeaky plush toys. Delilah is treat-motivated and knows the “sit” command.



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Celebrate National Popcorn Day at Lil’ Bit Corny

RADFORD - The public is invited to come out and celebrate National Popcorn Day at Lil’ Bit Corny on Thursday, Jan. 19 at noon. The event will also include a

ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate Lil’ Bit Corny’s new location at 111 Third Avenue in Radford.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY & NATIONAL POPCORN DAY CELEBRATION!

THURSDAY
JANUARY 19th
2023 NOON

111 3rd Avenue
Radford, VA
540-250-0236

Lil’ Bit Corny, LLC.

COURTESY OF THE RADFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Be sure to ‘Like’ the News Messenger on Facebook.

OBITUARIES

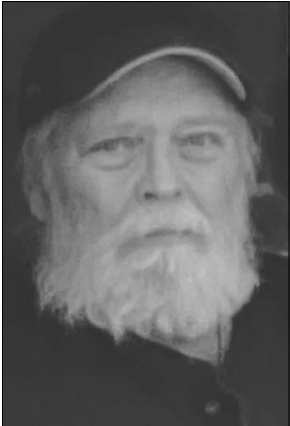
Quesenberry, Gary Douglas

Gary Douglas Quesenberry, 68, of Radford, left his earthly body and went home to live with his eternal father on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023 at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

He was retired from New River Industries. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Friel and Ibra Quesenberry; a niece, LaDonna Stossel; a grandson, Cody Semones; and brothers-in-law Cadell, Pete, and Nathan Blackburn.

Survivors include his “Baby Doll” of 49 years, Robin B. Quesenberry; his only son, Brandon Quesenberry; granddaughters Britni

Quesenberry, Kayla Boyd, and Jesika Boyd; great-grandchildren Emily



Hilton, Levi Wright, Lylah Dustin, Zac Surber, and Eve Semones; a sister, LaVerne Q. Sizemore (Don); brothers-in-

law Gather Blackburn (Brenda) and Anthony Blackburn (Melody); sisters-in-law Patricia Blackburn, Sandra Blackburn, and Bonnie Blackburn; and many other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends.

The family will receive friends from 4 until 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 6 p.m. with Pastor Chris Blackburn and the Rev. Don Sizemore officiating.

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

Turpin, Wendell William

Wendell William Turpin, 79, of Radford, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, at the VA Hospital in Salem.

He was a member of Cornersview Pentecostal Holiness Church and was a U. S. Army veteran, having served during the Vietnam War. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret S. Turpin; his parents, Roy and Alice Turpin; his son, Mark Allen Turpin; his daughter, Lisa Gail Turpin; three brothers, and two sisters.

Survivors include his sons, Anthony William Turpin and Timothy

Andrew Turpin (Kim Shelor); grandchildren Matthew William Turpin



(Nikki Gland-Turpin) and Taylor Renece Turpin; great-grandchildren Sutton and Finn; brothers Barry Turpin and Jerry

Turpin; a sister, Brenda Andrews; and many other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services were on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, at the funeral home with Pastor Frankie Graham officiating. Interment with full military honors followed in the Appalachian Conference Grounds in Dublin.

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

Sutphin, Arnold Cereal

Arnold Cereal Sutphin, 76, of Christiansburg, departed this world to be with his heavenly father on Jan. 4, 2023.

He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ozie Lee Sutphin.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Bonnie Morris Sutphin; a daughter, Julia (David) Sutphin Shepherd of Matthews, N.C.; grandsons Brayden Shepherd and Parker Shepherd of Matthews, N.C.; a brother and his wife, Gary (Carolyn) Sutphin of Christiansburg; sisters-in-law Karen Hartwell of Canton, Ga. and Kathy (Claude) Kelly of Kingsport, Tenn.;

nephews H.R. “Beau” (Lindsey) Hartwell III of Canton and Christopher Sutphin of Christiansburg.

Arnold retired from the Virginia Tech College of Architecture in 2008 after 32 years of service. He honorably served in the Fourth US Army at Fort Hood, Texas. Arnold served as Past Master during his 40-year membership in the McDaniel Lodge No. 86 as well as serving in the Taylor Royal Arch Chapter No. 70 and New River Valley Commandery No. 32.

Arnold enjoyed his hobbies of competition archery, hunting with friends and family, and riding his ATV. One of his

greatest joys was talking to his grandsons and following their interests and passions.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Peter Anderson officiating. The family will receive friends Saturday from 1 p.m. until service time at McCoy Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Edgemont Christian Church, 2289 Edgemont Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073 or the Shriners Hospitals for Children, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394.

POLICE REPORT

Radford City Police Department Report
Dec. 19, 2022 – Jan. 1, 2023

Monday, Dec. 19:
2:30 a.m. Petit larceny, Burglary: at night to commit felony, Destruction of property, 1100 block of Fairfax St.
12:54 p.m. Assault: (misdemeanor), Dalton Dr.
6 p.m. Bank note/coin: forgery or employ as true, 800 block of West Main St.
6:31 p.m. Stalking: reasonable fear of death/assault/etc., Harassment, 1000 block of Second St.

Tuesday, Dec. 20:
12:57 p.m., Medical emergency, 100 block of Sullivan St.
11:20 p.m. Possession of controlled substance, 2000 block of East Main St.

Wednesday, Dec. 21:
None

Thursday, Dec. 22:
3:26 a.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc.

while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), 1400 block of West Main St.

Friday, Dec. 23:
None

Saturday, Dec. 24:
6:46 p.m. Assault and battery of a family member, third-plus offense, 1600 block of Third St.

Sunday, Dec. 25:
None

Monday, Dec. 26:
None

Tuesday, Dec. 27:
3:23 p.m. Petit larceny, 100 block of Montgomery St.
10 p.m. Petit larceny 400 block of Davis St.

Wednesday, Dec. 28:
2:28 a.m. Grand larceny, 400 block of Davis St.

Thursday, Dec. 29:
4:45 p.m. Grand larceny, 400 block of Sanford St.

Friday, Dec. 30:
2 p.m. Protective order violation- family offense,

profane swearing or intoxication in public, 300 Sheppard Ave.
3 p.m. Petit larceny: less than or equal to \$200 not from a person, 300 block of Tyler Ave.
5 p.m. Stalking: reasonable fear of death/assault/etc., 900 block of Gilbert St.
11:51 p.m. Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc. (DUI/DUID), DWI: refusal of blood or breath test- first offense, Rock Road East

Saturday, Dec. 31:
None

Sunday, Jan. 1:
12:02 a.m. Profane swearing or intoxication in public, Assault: (misdemeanor), 1000 block of East Main St.
10:17 a.m. Assault and battery of a family member, 2000 block of Second St.

Alcohol round-up
DUI- 2
Drunk in Public- 2
Underage Possession of Alcohol- 0

Buckner, Gary Jack

Gary Jack Buckner, 69, of Radford, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his father, Cleven Jack Buckner; and a special brother-in-law, Gary “Billy” Roop.

Survivors include his mother, Edna Buckner; brothers and sister-in-law, Audie and Sandy Buckner and Larry Buckner and his fiancé Tina; sisters and

brother-in-law Catherine Roop and Jeanine and Chris Turman; special friends Caddell and Yonna Burton; and many other family members, neighbors, and friends that showed up in his time of need.

Gary enjoyed fishing and hunting and was employed by Kollmorgen for over 40 years.

Per Gary’s request, no

services will be held at this time.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Snowville Baptist Church, 3238 Gum Log Road, Hiwassee, VA 24347, or to Valley Harvest Ministries, P.O. Box 458, Dublin, VA 24084

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

McDaniel, Jr., Bobby Lee

Bobby Lee McDaniel, Jr., 64, of Dublin, passed away Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

He was retired from Radford Army Ammunitions Plant and was a U. S. Army Veteran. He was preceded in death by his father, Bobby Lee McDaniel, Sr.; and his maternal grandparents, Joe and Mary Morgan.

Survivors include his mother, Linda Sue Morgan Cox; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mike and Cynthia McDaniel, and Phillip and Kelley McDaniel; a sister and brother-in-law, Robin McDaniel-Saul and Tim Saul; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Graveside services with

full military honors will be held at noon today, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with Chaplain James Agnes officiating.

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

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Buddy King: Remembering Pittsburgh’s two iconic sports moments

I am a frustrated sports writer as I have mentioned before. From early childhood I enjoyed playing sports, watching sports, and reading about sports. Once I accepted the fact that I was unlikely to end up as the second baseman for the L.A. Dodgers, my dream job was to be a beat writer for Sports Illustrated, covering either college football or basketball or Major League Baseball. So I have enjoyed (abused?) the opportunity this column provides to do an occasional sports column. In my own fashion.

The recent death of Franco Harris, Hall of Fame running back for the great Pittsburgh Steeler teams of the 1970’s, provided the motive for this column. So, as any viewer of television crime shows knows, if you have motive and you have opportunity, a crime can result. Here it is.

I think that at least arguably (a word which they teach you in law school to use when you accept there may be other points of view) the most iconic single moments in NFL history and in Major League Baseball history each occurred down the road from where I have lived the last 42 years of my life. In Pittsburgh, née the “Steel City”(not so much so the last 30 or 40 years, more the home of technology and fabulous health care and entrepreneurs over that time) and the “City of Champions,” a phrase coined by the late broadcaster Howard Cosell (said to be able to make the world of fun and games sound like a Congressional inquiry) in the1970’s when the Steelers and the Pirates were winning world championships on a regular basis. Later to be joined by the NHL’s Penguins. Sometimes I think the state flower of my part of West Virginia is the Penguins logo on the back of a car.

So Franco’s recent passing gives me the opportunity to reflect on a couple of the most iconic moments in American sports history, certainly the two seminal plays in Pittsburgh sports history. Fortunately, in my time in and around the Burgh, I have had the good fortune to meet both heroes of these points

in time on several occasions. Another column for another day.

First, of course, there is Franco and his “Immaculate Reception,” a still-disputed (somewhat) miraculous (yes, a play on words) pass reception Harris made and carried into the end zone of the now long gone Three Rivers Stadium, in a December 1972 playoff game against the hated Oakland Raiders. Even a casual sports fan has probably heard the phrase “Immaculate Reception” and maybe seen a replay.

On fourth down and with the clock running down, and the up and coming young ”Stillers” about to be sent packing, their future Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw dodged an almost certain sack and unleashed one of his typical 100 mph passes (a Pittsburgh investment guy I know tells the story of Terry dislocating both thumbs of one of his business associates, a former small college football player who had asked to “play catch” at 50 yards with Terry on the floor of Three Rivers.)

This is where the story gets really interesting. Bradshaw’s pass hits somebody (either Raiders safety Jack Tatum or Steelers running back John “Frenchy” Fuqua) about 30 yards downfield and ricochets (hard) back towards the Steelers’ line of scrimmage. At this point, the football goes out of sight of the television camera and ends up in Franco’s hands, who alertly was following the old coach’s rule of “keep your eye on the ball.” Franco ends up racing through the stunned Raiders defense and scores the winning touchdown and is stormed by “Franco’s Italian Army” in the end zone.

The catch involved two controversies. First, if the ball had hit Fuqua (the Steelers receiver) and ended up in Franco’s hands without touching Tatum, the play would have been an “illegal touching” under the rules at the time, and the Steelers would have lost. Secondly, there is debate (unwarranted in my opinion) as to whether the ball hit the turf before Franco grabbed it. A replay from another camera angle shows that it clearly did not. Or almost clearly.

A few fun facts about the game and the play. While there was no “booth review” then, it took the officials about 15 minutes to reach a conclusion that the touchdown counted. Thirteen future NFL Hall of Famers played in the game. And, perhaps most interestingly, if not for this single play, Frenchy Fuqua would probably be remembered only because, on his nights on the town, he was known to wear extremely high heel shoes made of glass that contained live tropical fish. I kid you not. Only Frenchy remains among the living of the main protagonists here, and he refuses to say whether the ball hit him.

The phrase “Immaculate Reception” was coined by legendary Steelers broadcaster Myron Cope, who also invented The Terrible Towel and famously, and generously, gave the rights to The Terrible Towel to Allegheny Valley School, which cares for the intellectually and physically challenged. Myron’s only son, who was autistic, attended the school, and I heard recently that the proceeds from sales have now raised over \$6,000,000 for Allegheny. As Myron would say on his broadcasts, “Double Yo’i !” Then there is the “Mazeroski homer.” In my opinion the defining sports moment in Pittsburgh sports history, even ahead of the Immaculate Reception. It occurred on Oct. 13, 1960, when I was in the second grade and living innocently on Cherry Lane in Christiansburg. At the time, baseball was still king. The NFL was just about to blossom, but it trailed Major League Baseball in popularity and exposure, and the NBA was almost a semipro sport. Soccer was played only by communists. It was a time when the World Series was played in the day time, and kids took transistor radios to school to listen to the games.

This event was the seventh and deciding game of the series and featured the 800 pound gorilla New York Yankees versus the upstart Pittsburgh Pirates. In the bottom of the ninth inning, in “venerable Forbes Field” (You can’t write “Forbes Field” without putting “venerable” in front of it.) near the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, Bill Mazeroski, a 24-year-old “good field, no hit” second baseman, an eighth-place hitter, came to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning of a 9-9 game that had already

had more thrills and ups and downs than a baseball game deserves. Maz hit the second pitch over the left field wall of Forbes with a despondent Yankee left fielder Yogi Berra drifting back and eventually giving up pursuit. This was the Yankees of Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris and Whitey Ford and Yogi.

A few interesting factoids from this game. It remains the only time a World Series has ended on a walk-off homer (a term not used then) in the bottom of the ninth inning of a seventh game. The home run ball was found by 14-year-old Andy Jerpe, a neighborhood kid walking home from school. Straight out of the movie Sandlot, young Mr. Jerpe had used the ball the next spring in a neighborhood game and it was lost in a ravine near his home. Maz had refused Andy’s offer to give him the ball, saying, “keep it kid.”

Ralph Terry was the pitcher for the Yankee who gave up the homer to Maz. He went on to redeem himself to some extent by getting the last out of the seventh game of the 1962 World Series when Willie McCovey of the San Francisco Giants scalded a bases loaded line drive into the glove of scrappy Yankee second sacker Bobby Richardson (You can’t write “second sacker Bobby Richardson” without putting “scrappy” in front of his name.) The McCovey line drive and Bobby’s catch became a staple of the Peanuts cartoon strip for several years. Charlie Brown was shown sitting on the curb, holding his head in his hands and saying, “If only McCovey had hit the ball two feet higher.”

The Yankees outscored the Pirates 55-27 in the Series, but managed to lose 4 of 7. Mickey Mantle called the Game-7 loss the low point of his career. Yankee manager Casey Stengel was fired after the game and famously said, “They told me I was too old, I told them I’ll never make that mistake again”.

And along the lines of Frenchy Fuqua’s tropical fish esoteria, for many years it was thought that no video of the game existed. At that time, live broadcasts were not preserved by the networks. But 50 years after the historic game (broadcast on NBC by Mel Allen and Bob Prince, two of the greatest of all time), a tape of the game was found in the wine cellar of the Bing Crosby home at Pebble Beach. The legendary Irish crooner of his time, Bing was a part owner of the Pirates in 1960 and had been too nervous to watch the game live.

I remember vividly where I was when each of these moments happened. Much like when JFK was assassinated and when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

On October 13, 1960, I ended up in a fist fight in the middle of Cherry Lane with my great childhood neighbor and friend Richard, who had the temerity to root for the Pirates merely because that was the Little League team he was on (All true Americans were Mickey Mantle fans back then, except for Richard and my Dad.) And on December 23, 1972, I was home from college on Christmas break and in the den of my great friend Greg watching the Immaculate Reception with Greg and his Dad.

Franco died two days before the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Reception, and three days before his number was retired in a game between the Steelers and the Raiders in Pittsburgh this past December.

Of such heroes are iconic moments made. And preserved.

PS: As far as I know, there is still a gathering on October 13 each year at the left field wall at the former sight of “venerable” old Forbes Field. The brick wall remains as it was in 1960, along with the flagpole which was inside the wall, and a crowd gathers and listens to a broadcast of the game, and someone sells 25-cent hot dogs. Home plate from the last game at Forbes rests in the floor of the lobby of the Pitt Graduate School of Business. I have been to the October 13 reunion several times. I always feel the ghosts.

Evans “Buddy” King is a proud native of Christiansburg, CHS Class of 1971. He resides in Clarksburg, W.Va., where he has practiced law with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC, since 1980. He can be reached at evans.king@steptoe-johnson.com.

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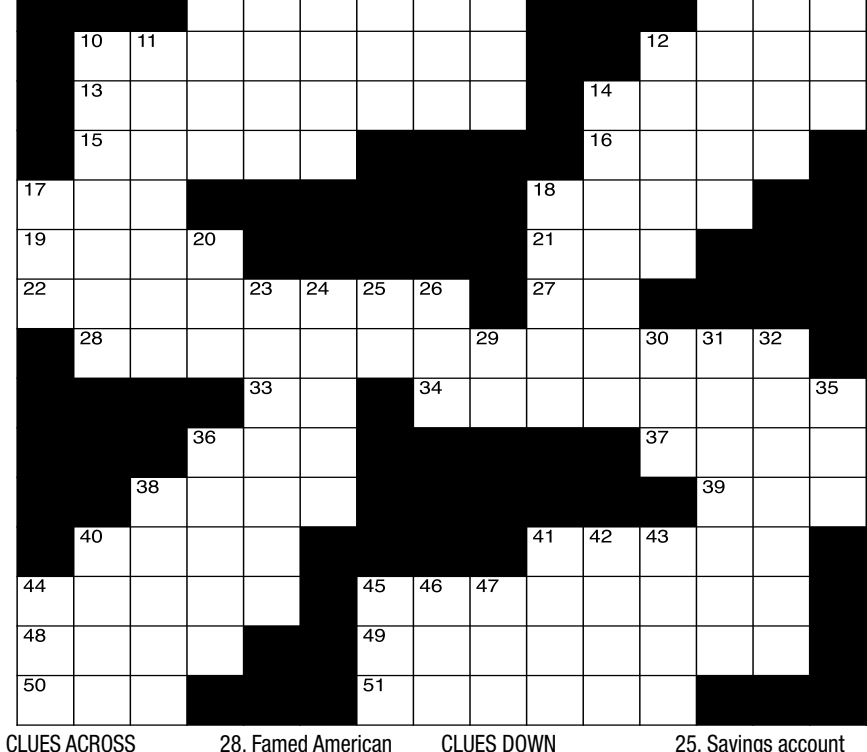
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS
1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. __-Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and See-horn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly's pal

28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished body
36. Afflict in mind or
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN
1. Wager
2. Classical portico
3. As a result
4. Bird
5. A type of “Squad”
6. Autonomic nervous system
7. Dish with food on a stick
8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heathen
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. “The Stranger” author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India

25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to “oohed”
38. African nation
40. Breezed through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. “Much __ about nothing”
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom



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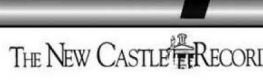



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Legals - Botetourt County

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE

478 Dagger Spring Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085 By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 18, 2017 and recorded at Instrument Number 170001207 in the Clerk's Office for the Botetourt County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$190,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt County courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090-0219. February 02, 2023 at 11:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: Real property in the City of Eagle Rock, County of Botetourt, State of Virginia, described as follows: That tract located in the Fincastle Magisterial District of the County of Botetourt, Virginia designated Tract 1, containing 3.00 acres on that plat of a field survey showing a portion of the parcel 1-53.091 acres source creating Tract 1 of the Tommy Garten property by J. Brad Smith, Land Surveyor, dated May 1994, a copy of which is Recorded in Plat Book 15, page 151. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 8.01-316,-317 Roanoke City Circuit Court **Case No. CL22-2363** Lynn Edward Craig V. Patricia Catherine Powers Craig The object of this suit is to: No-fault Divorce Complaint. It is ORDERED that Patricia Catherine Powers Craig appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 7th, 2023 Entered on 12/16/2022 By: Brenda S. Hamilton, Clerk

Legals - Craig County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE **Case No JJ002185-16-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court **Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, Mason Gray** The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

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Legals - Craig County

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE **Case No JJ002184-18-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court **Commonwealth of Virginia, in re EVANS, Mason Gray** The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that James Cook appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, clerk 12/19/2022

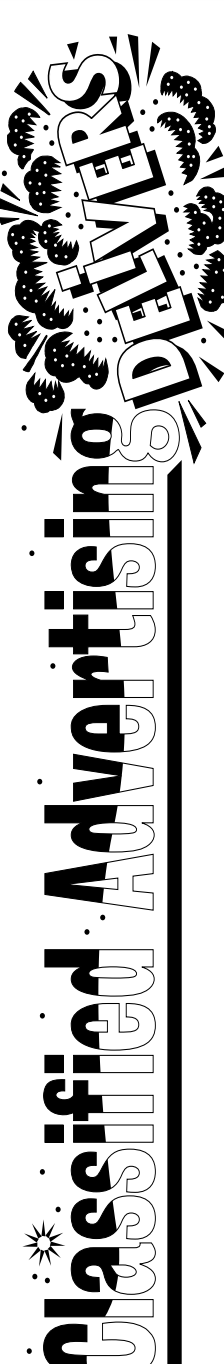
ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 CRAIG COMBINED COURT- JUVENILE **Case No JJ002184-19-00** Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court **Commonwealth of Virginia EVANS, Mason Gray** The object of this suit scheduled to be heard on February 17, 2023 in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Craig County located at 182 Main Street, New Castle, Virginia 24127 is to terminate the residual parental Rights of the father of Mason Gray Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, James Cook, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is seven (7) years of age and was born to Katlin Daniel Evans. Residual parental rights are defined in Section 16.1-228 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended) as the rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after the parent loses custody of a child, including but not limited to the right to visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support. The termination of your residual parental rights will permanently end all of your rights and responsibilities to the child named in the petition. The ties between you and your child are severed forever and you become a legal stranger to the child. It is ORDERED that UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 02/17/2023 10:30AM signed by Patty Taylor, Clerk 12/19/2022

Legals - Craig County

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MONTGOMERY SPORTS

FROM THE SIDELINES

By Marty Gordon

Scratching our heads over ACC basketball

Has anyone noticed the ACC men's basketball standings? The typical "blue bloods" of the league are having to scratch and claw their way to wins this season. Clemson, who recently beat Virginia Tech, stands atop the standings with a 5-0 conference mark and a 13-3 record. Pitt and Miami are tied for second at 4-1, and Syracuse is fourth at 3-1.

Familiar names like Duke, Wake Forest, and North Carolina are hanging in the middle of the pack with 3-2 ACC records. Defending tournament champ Virginia Tech is 11th looking up at the league leaders.

North Carolina was a preseason AP #1, but how quickly have they fallen, even out of the recent Top 25 polls.

Virginia Tech started the season out of conference with only two losses and was on a rise in the AP poll before it hit the conference schedule. Now after three losses, the Hokies are moving backwards.

Duke and UVA also had caught the attention of the national pollsters, but losses have dropped them quickly. Virginia Tech took it on the chin this past weekend in a 73-69 loss to N.C. State and is on a four-game skid.

The Hokies had three players score in double figures, led by Sean Pedulla, who had 19 points and four assists. Darius Maddox added 16 points, and Lynn Kidd chipped in with 14 points from the bench.

Kidd and Mylajael Poteat have been bright spots off the bench for the Hokies this season. Poteat had eight points, four rebounds, one block, and a steal in a previous loss to Clemson.

Poteat has been a pleasant surprise for Coach Mike Young. "He's got unbelievable hands," said his coach. "He's going to help us win. He's big and he's physical, and he's not afraid of contact. He knows who he is as a player, and I think that's a benefit of playing college basketball for two years."

Off the court, Tech senior Justin Mutts recently became involved with the West End Center for Youth in Roanoke, hosting clinics and mentoring youngsters.

"Being a basketball player at a big-time program like Virginia Tech, I can use my platform to my advantage," Mutts said. "When I talk, the kids listen intently and give me their full attention when I offer advice or words of wisdom. I know I had a mentor when I was around the middle-school age, and this person was an extremely influential person in my life who helped guide me down the right path. That's exactly who I want to be for these kids."

Of course, it's Mutts's prowess or should we say extra effort in the classroom that stands out even more. He is embarking on his 11th semester in college, having already earned a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees. He is currently enrolled in his second undergraduate program (human development).

Sports news and notes: Hokies on preseason list, Big South Sweepstakes

By Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Led by five selections from Wake Forest and three from Virginia Tech, 16 Atlantic Coast Conference players were named as Preseason All-Americans by Perfect Game on Thursday.

The ACC contingent includes four first-team selections in Virginia third baseman Jake Gelof, North Carolina outfielder Vance Honeycutt, Wake Forest starting pitcher Rhett Lowder, and Miami reliever Andrew Walters. Nine ACC squads had at least one player selected first-, second- or third-team. Wake Forest's five total selections are the most of any school.

The season opens for all Division I teams on Friday, Feb. 17. ACC teams wrap up regular-season play on Saturday, May 20, with the ACC Baseball Championship set for May 23-28 at Durham Bulls Athletic Park in Durham, North Carolina.

Perfect Game 2023 Preseason All-America Team

First Team

RHP - Rhett Lowder, Wake Forest

RP - Andrew Walters, Miami

3B - Jake Gelof, Virginia

OF - Vance Honeycutt, North Carolina

Second team

1B -Nick Kurtz, Wake Forest

DH - Brock Wilken, Wake Forest

OF - Jack Hurley, Virginia Tech.

RP - Wyatt Crowell, Florida State

Third team

C - Cooper Ingle, Clemson

3B - Yohandy Morales, Miami

IF - Carson DiMartini, Virginia Tech

OF - Travis Honeyman, Boston College

DH - LuJames Groover III, NC State

SP - Drue Hackenberg, Virginia Tech

SP - Teddy McGraw, Wake Forest

RP - Camden Minacci, Wake Forest

Perfect Game 2023 Preseason Rankings

5. Wake Forest

7. Louisville

9. Miami

13. North Carolina

15. Virginia Tech

19. Virginia

21. NC State

Collegiate Baseball 2023 Preseason Rankings

6. Louisville

8. Miami

10. Wake Forest

11. North Carolina

16. Virginia

23. Georgia Tech

28. Virginia Tech

30. NC State

32. Florida State

42. Clemson

Collegiate Baseball 2023 Preseason All-America Team

First Team

RHP - Rhett Lowder, Wake Forest

RP - Andrew Walters, Miami

3B - Jake Gelof, Virginia

OF - Vance Honeycutt, North Carolina

Second team

C - Jack Payton, Louisville

3B - Yohandy Morales, Miami

3B - Brock Wilken, Wake Forest

OF - Jack Hurley, Virginia Tech.

Third team

RHP - Drue Hackenberg, Virginia Tech.

Big South Sweepstakes

The Big South Conference has announced the return of its annual Big South Sweepstakes, presented by Hercules Tires, Pepsi, and Sunbelt Rentals. One lucky fan will receive a fabulous grand prize at the conclusion of the 2023 Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships in March.

Now in its 21st year, the Big South Sweepstakes is an opportunity to give back to fans who have supported the conference throughout the basketball season. All fans can enter the contest once per day as of Jan. 5, 2023. In addition to entering online, fans will also have a chance to register in-person during the inaugural Big South Basketball Championship Trophy Tour visiting each campus this season. The Trophy Tour will stop in Radford on Sat., Jan. 21.

Ten finalists for the sweepstakes will be randomly selected, and each will receive an exclusive prize package. At the Hercules Tires Big South Basketball Championships, one of the finalists will be awarded the grand prize featuring a set of Hercules Tires, two Mountain Dew camping chairs, a \$1,000 AIRBNB gift card provided by Sunbelt Rentals, and a special Big South prize pack.

To determine the grand prize winner, each of the 10 Big South Conference men's basketball teams competing for the conference championship will be randomly assigned to represent one of the 10 finalists. The grand prize winner will be the finalist paired with the Big South institution that wins the nationally televised 2023 Men's Basketball Championship game on Sunday, March 5.

For more information on the 2023 Big Sweepstakes, visit www.bigsouthsports.com/sweepstakes.

Five local schools take part in memorial basketball tournament



Coahan Gordon scores on a layup in Auburn's 74-56 win over Christiansburg in Friday action of this year's Chance Harmon Memorial Basketball tournament at Floyd County High School. Gordon finished with 18 points.



Blacksburg's Wade Bland drives around a defender in his team's Chance Harmon contest against Jefferson Forest.



Christiansburg's Caleb Robinson goes up for the shot while Auburn's Bryce Gill tries for the block. Robinson led all scorers in the Chance Harmon game with 23 points.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Gavin Cormany tries to drive by a defender in Radford's Chance Harmon Tournament win over Lord Botetourt.

Tech quarterback signee William Watson III named Gatorade Player of Year for State of MA

Marty Gordon
Sports editor and news reporter
News Messenger/News Journal

Hokie quarterback signee William Watson III has been named the Gatorade Player of the Year for the State of Massachusetts.

Watson led Springfield Central High School to the Division One State Championship game this past fall as a senior, passing for 2,338 yards and accounting for 39 total touchdowns. For his high school career, Watson threw for 5,169 yards and 62 touchdowns. He was also named to the 2023 U.S. Army All-American Bowl roster.

Watson maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally in the community by being a face of Springfield's 'Vax The Field' in an effort to help city residents get their COVID-19 vaccination and also with the Springfield's Youth Football program as a coach.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states for the high school sports of football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross

country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field and then awards one National Player of the Year in each sport.

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Two named to Appalachian Hall of Fame

By **Marty Gordon**
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

The Appalachian League has announced that two new members have been elected to the league’s Hall of Fame: former Major League pitcher CC Sabathia and former Major League manager Jim Leyland.

“It is truly an honor to announce our 2022 class of the Appalachian League Hall of Fame,” said Bristol State Liners President/GM and Appalachian League HOF Committee Chairman Mahlon Luttrell. “These two individuals are being recognized for the valuable contributions they have made to the continued development and success of the Appalachian League.”

CC Sabathia: Drafted by Cleveland in the first round (20th overall) of the 1998 MLB Draft, Sabathia made his professional debut that season in Burlington, N.C., at age 17. He went 1-0 in five starts, striking out 35 in 18 innings. Sabathia compiled a career record of 251-161 with 3,093 strikeouts in 19 MLB seasons for Cleveland, Milwaukee, and New York (AL).

He received six All-Star selections and was a three-time Warren Spahn Award winner (given annually to baseball’s best left-handed pitcher). Sabathia won the American League Cy Young Award with Cleveland in 2007 at age 26, going 19-7. He was the 2009 ALCS MVP and won a World Series title with the Yankees that season.

Sabathia established The PitCCh In Foundation in 2008. The foundation showcases three signature programs that provide young people with the tools to be successful in school and on the field: the All-Star

Baseball Clinic, the Youth Backpack Program, and Field Renovations. In addition, Sabathia has supported numerous philanthropic organizations and worthwhile causes, including the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Toys for Tots and the Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.).

“I am excited to be inducted into the Appalachian League Hall of Fame,” said Sabathia. “My time in Burlington was the first stop in my professional baseball career, and it brings back great memories to receive this honor.”

Jim Leyland: Leyland began his managerial career in the Appalachian League with the Bristol Tigers in 1971 at age 26, guiding the team to a 31-35 record. He served as a coach for the Chicago White Sox from 1982-85 and garnered National League Manager of the Year honors with Pittsburgh in 1990 and ‘92, and was named the AL Manager of the Year with Detroit in 2006. Leyland managed 3,499 Major League Baseball games for the Pirates, Marlins, Tigers, and Rockies, recording 1,769 wins in 22 seasons. He is the only manager to win a World Series (Marlins, 1997) and the World Baseball Classic (2017, USA) title. In 2017, Leyland was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

The Appalachian League has announced the hiring of Justin Morgenstern as the new director of player personnel.

Morgenstern joins the Appalachian League from the Philadelphia Phillies where he has been an area scout since 2016. Morgenstern spent his first three years with the organization covering the Upper Midwest region before transitioning to the Northeast in 2020. Prior to

working for the Phillies, Morgenstern was a professional scout for the Atlanta Braves. He also worked for Major League Baseball in 2015 where he oversaw all operations for the Glendale Desert Dogs of the Arizona Fall League.

“We’re excited to welcome Justin to the Appalachian League as the director of player personnel,” said executive director Brian Graham. “Not only does he bring a proven track record of identifying talent at both the amateur and the professional level, but he also brings with him an outstanding network to help elevate the league to the next level.”

Morgenstern arrives having previously worked in the Appalachian League as a media relations trainee with the Danville Braves in 2011. “I’ve got a lot of fond memories of the Appy League, and I’m honored to be able to come back in a different capacity,” Morgenstern said. “The Appalachian League has tremendous growth potential from not just a fan entertainment perspective but also for the collegiate players who step on the diamond every night. I can’t wait to help build and provide those opportunities.”

An Indiana University graduate, Morgenstern currently resides in Jersey City, N.J., with his wife, Alex, and son, Cole.

The Appalachian League is a part of the Prospect Development Pipeline (PDP), the collaborative effort between Major League Baseball and USA Baseball that establishes a player development pathway for amateur baseball players in the United States. It is an integral part of the identification and development process for the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team and other future national teams.

HOKIE SWIMMERS WIN IN CHARLOTTE



CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Virginia Tech racked up many first-place wins during their meet against Queens and Tennessee Saturday, Jan. 7. The Tech men beat Queens 146-108, and the women won 151-103. Tennessee counted as an exhibition, so they do not have a final score.

HEAD COACH SERGIO LOPEZ MIRO

"Today we had a pretty good meet. It was our first meet in almost two months, so it's difficult to know what to expect with only about five days of training. I think we raced very well. Both the men and women did a great job. I'm so proud of the team. Now we just need to keep training and keep up the hard work for our meet against UVa next week."

HIGHLIGHTS

Men

The Hokies' relays didn't disappoint. To begin the meet, Forest Webb, Cobi Lopez Miro, Youssef Ramadan, and Luis Dominguez placed first in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:27.96. Finishing off the day, Ramadan, Carles Coll Marti, Will Koeppen and Dominguez placed first in the 200-free relay with a final time of 1:19.83.

Showing his endurance, Luis Dominguez placed first in the men's 1000 free with a time of 9:22.44. Following right behind him, Nico Garcia Saiz

placed second with a time of 9:24.44, and Nikolas Lee-Bishop placed third with a time of 9:34.35. Continuing the top distance swims, Dominguez also placed first in the 500 free with a time of 4:33.70. Keith Myburgh followed right behind, placing second with a time of 4:35.50, and Lee-Bishop placed third with a time of 4:37.51.

Carles Coll Marti showed speed and diversity in the pool. He placed first in the 200 free with a time of 1:38.16 and first in the 200 breast with a time of 1:57.06. He also placed first in the men's 200 IM with a time of 1:48.86.

Youssef Ramadan always proves his speed during freestyle events. Placing first, Ramadan finished the 100 free with a time of 43.71. He finished the 50 free with a time of 19.52, placing second.

Women

Like the men, the women's relays placed high. Starting the day off strong, Carmen Weiler Sastre, Fanni Gyurinovics, Karisa Franz, and Madelyn Moore placed first in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:41.19. Gyurinovics, Franz, Emily Claesson and Anna Summers finished out the meet with a first-place win in the 200-free relay with a time of 1:33.86.

Chase Travis dominated distance events. Placing

first in the women's 1000 free, Travis finished with a time of 10:07.14. She went on to win the women's 500 free with a time of 4:59.03.

Sarah Shackelford, Emma Atkinson and Madelyn Moore placed high in freestyle. Shackelford finished first in the 50 free with a time of 23.43 and Moore followed right behind in second place with a time of 23.43. Shackelford also won the 100 free, finishing at 50.70 with Moore in second place at 50.85. Atkinson won the 200 free event with a time of 1:49.10.

Weiler Sastre, Emma Atkinson and Caroline Bentz continue to have strong performances in backstroke. Placing first, Weiler Sastre finished the 100 back with a time of 54.69. Right behind her in second place, Bentz finished with a time of 55.08. Atkinson placed first in the 200 back with a final time of 1:57.23. Weiler Sastre fell right behind her in second place with a time of 1:58.82 and Bentz in third at 2:00.07.-fly event with a time of 2:02.65. Karisa Franz finished first in the women's 100 fly with a time of 55.25.

UP NEXT

The Hokies will travel to Charlottesville to compete against Virginia on Jan. 14 in the first Commonwealth Clash of the year.

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