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Wednesday, January 18, 2023

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VT President Tim Sands to deliver State of University address today

Timothy D. Sands, the 16th president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a professor in the College of Engineering, will deliver the State of the University address today, Jan. 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre of the Moss Arts Center.

The doors will open at 3:00 p.m. Under President Sands' leadership, undergraduate enrollment has increased by 5,000 and student four-year graduation rates have increased from 61 to 70 percent.

President Sands initiated InclusiveVT in 2015, leading an effort that has increased the enrollment of underrepresented minority (URM) students by 88 percent while closing the 4-year graduation rate gap from 10 percentage points to 1 percentage point.

The university's residential campus in Blacksburg is being transformed with an emphasis on living-learning experiences, transdisciplinary collaboration, and sustainability. Recent developments include a Creativity and Innovation District, the launch of a Global Business and Analytics Complex, and expanded facilities for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

President Sands' vision is supported by a global community of alumni, friends, and partners. Virginia Tech's Advancement division continues to see record-breaking generosity and engagement, allowing the university to increase its fundraising goal from \$1.5 billion to \$1.872 billion and engage 100,000 Hokies

See **VT President**, page 4



Virginia Tech President Sands is joined by his wife, Dr. Laura Sands, a professor of gerontology in the Department of Human Development at Virginia Tech. President Sands will deliver his seventh State of the University address today Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre of VT's Moss Arts Center. Doors will open at 3:00 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Garrett Hehn

Garrett Hehn has been named one of seven new flight directors at NASA.

Meet the latest Hokie heading up the flight desk at NASA

Have you heard the story about the flight director who missed his first flight to NASA?

It's a tale Garrett Hehn's mother, Amy Hehn, will likely not forget.

"He goes to check in early online, and he looks at me and goes, 'The plane is taking off right now,'" Amy Hehn said of that day in 2014. "So there he is, it's like 2 in the afternoon, and it was amazing. He and I start moving – it was like a dance, but there were no words. He got himself rebooked. I ironed his clothes. And he was

packed and out the door in a half hour."

Now a humorous bit of family folklore, it's also a moment Amy Hehn believes clearly illustrates qualities that have helped propel her son to leading mission control for NASA.

"That was just such a great example of how he has this innate calm demeanor and can think through stressful situations," said Amy Hehn. "What he does now can be very stressful, and they [NASA] need people who are calm under stress."

A 2014 Virginia Tech graduate with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, Garrett Hehn was named as one of seven new flight directors at NASA in June. He follows in the footsteps of three other Virginia Tech alumni who rose to the position, including NASA's very first flight director, Chris Kraft '44.

"That's prerequisite knowledge for sure, and it's a reminder every day," said Hehn, who works in the Christopher C. Kraft

See **NASA**, page 4

COVID-19 cases rise for second straight month in Virginia's nursing homes

Ginger Thompson
gthompson@aarp.org

Rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths among nursing home residents and staff nationwide increased sharply in December. In Virginia, cases increased while deaths remained about the same.

According to AARP's Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard, rates of COVID-19 cases among nursing home residents nationwide increased 57% in the four weeks ending Dec. 18, compared to the previous four weeks. Staff cases saw a 53% increase during the same period. In Virginia, resident cases were up by 32% in the four weeks ending Dec. 18, compared to the previous four weeks, with staff cases up by 30% during the same period.

This news comes as the Virginia House of Delegates' Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee takes action on legislation that sets minimum staffing standards for the state's nursing facilities. The

committee met on Tuesday, Jan. 17. AARP Virginia supports House Bill 1564 sponsored by Del. Vivian Watts (D-Fairfax), who has been advocating for such standards for more than 20 years. Virginia is one of only 12 states with no laws setting the minimum number of hours of care a nursing home resident receives from nurses and aides.

Nursing home resident deaths nationwide increased by 14% during the four-week period ending Dec. 18 as compared to the four weeks ending Nov. 20. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 4,000 of nursing home residents in Virginia have died from the virus.

The new data show most nursing home residents and staff are still not up to date on their vaccinations. For the Dashboard period ending Dec. 18, only 47% of nursing home residents nationwide and 22% of staff were up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. In Virginia, 49% of

residents and 23% of staff were up to date on their vaccinations. Bivalent boosters, designed to protect against the Omicron variant as well as previous strains, have been available since September, but utilization rates remain low.

"Nursing homes must prioritize vaccination rates among residents and staff," said Jared Calfee, Advocacy Director of AARP Virginia, which serves more than 1 million members ages 50 and older in Virginia. "Family members can play a role, too, in keeping their loved ones safe by engaging with facility management and staff and asking the right questions about vaccination rates."

AARP also sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging it to take additional steps to help increase up to date COVID-19 vaccination rates for nursing home residents and staff nationwide, saying more action is needed to protect them and build

See **COVID-19**, page 4

Pest control firm warns of rat invasion of Virginia households as cold drives them indoors

Rats are predicted to plague Virginia homes in the fourth week of January as they seek shelter from freezing temperatures.

Pest control experts at The Pest Dude have predicted that rodent activity in homes across Virginia is due to pick up following freezing temperatures over the past month, and as the second half of January is typically the coldest in the year. The increase in rat invasions is caused by the animals seeking warmer sheltered spaces such as attics and basements, to escape the harsh temperatures of winter.

"Rodents, above all other pests, are a public

health concern as they can cause considerable damage to both residential and business premises," said Zachary Smith, owner of The Pest Dude says. "Not only can they damage the structures of both residential and business properties, but they can also significantly affect a business's reputation. As temperatures continue to drop, we're seeing an increase in service calls as rats continue looking for somewhere warm to spend the winter. While most of us may associate rats with sewers and holes in the ground, brown rats are very nimble climbers and can be found in attics

and inside walls."

"Homeowners should look out for nests, droppings, and gnaw marks," Smith added. "The animals will also shred attic insulation, cardboard, and other soft materials to make their nests."

So how can Virginians avoid this impending invasion? Smith offers this advice: "Rather than appealing to their appetite, effective control methods involve understanding their natural tendencies and fears, such as their skepticism of new objects and environments (neophobia).

See **Pests**, page 4



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

C. Brandon Ogbunu will give a talk as part of the 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. seminar at noon on Friday, Jan. 20.

Internationally recognized scientist, writer C. Brandon Ogbunu to speak at Martin Luther King Jr. Seminar

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 on Feb. 15 and Part three will take place on March 16.

Free GED classes
New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library every Tuesday and Thursday evening through May 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call the Meadowbrook Library at 540-268-1964.

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.

Saturday, Jan. 21:

Page to screen movies: The Princess Bride
At the Radford Public Library at noon. Watch 'The Princess Bride' on the library's big screen. Popcorn from Lil' Bit Corny LLC will be provided while supplies last. The movie is rated PG with a run time of 98 minutes.

VITA tax prep information meeting
At the Christiansburg Library 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn what is needed to have VITA prepare taxes for FREE this spring.

So you want to be a beekeeper?
At the Blacksburg Library from 1:30 to 3 p.m. This free beginner's class can provide the answers for all questions about beekeeping. 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? No sign-up is required.

Sunday, Jan. 22:

POLICE REPORT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL ARREST LOG
12/31/2022 - 01/06/2023

SCOTT, JOHN IV COMMIT DATE 12/31/2022 00:27
OFFENSE
Traffic: Operating with revoked driver's license (first offense)

NEICE, DOUGLAS COMMIT DATE 12/31/2022 10:58
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation (three counts); resisting arrest, obstructing justice without threats of force

SAMMON, BRIAN COMMIT DATE 12/31/2022 13:21
OFFENSE
Assault, simple assault against family member.

SMITH, JEFFREY COMMIT DATE 12/31/2022 21:04
OFFENSE
DUI: Per Se Drug, second offense within five years

HALL, BRIAN COMMIT DATE 12/31/2022 23:12
OFFENSE
DUI (first conviction); influence of drugs

TURMAN, JOSHUA COMMIT DATE 01/01/2023 01:54
OFFENSE
Driving while intoxicated (first offense)

FRITH, STACIE COMMIT DATE 01/01/2023 02:23
OFFENSE
DUI - First offense with child; family offense: gross, wanton, or reckless care for child; family offense: contributing to delinquency of minor; abuse of child

BISHOP, ROBERT COMMIT DATE 01/01/2023 22:14
OFFENSE
Violation of protective order

TURNER, BRENTON COMMIT DATE 01/01/2023 23:54
OFFENSE
Traffic: operating vehicle with revoked operator's license (first offense)

PATSEL, CHRISTOPHER, JR. COMMIT DATE 01/02/2023 00:42
OFFENSE
Failure to appear in court for misdemeanor offense (three counts)

TURPIN, CYNTHIA COMMIT DATE 01/02/2023 01:58
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation

MEREDITH, JESSICA COMMIT DATE 01/02/2023

Cookin' with teens (and Dave)
At the Radford Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Teens can sign up to practice their cooking skills with Dave. No permission form is required.

Community quilting bee
At the Blacksburg Library at 1p.m. Participants can learn a new quilt-making skill or simply enjoy each other's quilty company. Supplies will be provided for a year-long table runner project.

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 at the 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.

Crafting like it's 2023: Winter Wonderland Terrarium
At the Radford Public Library at 1 p.m. Participants can bring their project and work on their own winter terrarium or work on something new. They can bring a globe, a box or a jar of their choosing and use provided supplies to create a small winter wonderland. Some containers will be provided.

Tuesday, Jan. 24:

NRV Cares parent education: Parenting Young Children
At the Radford Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. A free eight-week parenting class presented by NRV Cares. A free dinner will be provided from 5-5:30 p.m., and free childcare 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.

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

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.

Chess club for teens and tweens
At the Radford Public Library 6 to 7 p.m. Teens (ages 9-17) are invited to practice chess skills with each other or with Dave. No experience is necessary, just interest.

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 begins at 10 a.m. The theme for the summit is Reflecting on our past; Facing the future. The program will include "10 years of accomplishments" the issuing of group progress reports, a high school student panel, and an adult community council. Register through Constant Contact.

Family movie matinee: Turning Red
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Disney and Pixar present the story of a young girl with the funny and inconvenient problem of turning into a giant red panda every time she gets excited. The movie is rated PG with a run time of 100 minutes.

Monday, Jan. 30:

Crafting like it's 2023: Painted terracotta pots
At the Radford Public Library at 1 p.m. Participants may bring their own projects or work on something new. They can paint a small terracotta pot and fill it with their preferred offering. Pots and paint are provided while supplies last.

Friday, Feb. 3 and

Saturday, Feb. 4:

Book Sale
The Radford Public Library will hold a book sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. As always, a large selection of free books will be available.

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 welcome all skill levels of quilters. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

03:47
OFFENSE
Assault; simple assault against family member (2 counts)
GRIFFITH, GORDON COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023

02:25
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation (four counts)
WALKER, GRANT COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023

02:59
OFFENSE
Traffic: reckless driving; disregard of police command to stop; endangerment; reckless driving with speed over 80 mph
MCGUIRE, LINDBURG COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023 15:03
OFFENSE
Driving while intoxicated (first offense); failure to stop for police
SISSON, BRIAN COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023 15:20
OFFENSE
DUI (first conviction) influence of drugs; narcotics possession
TAYLOR, JESSICA COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023

15:29
OFFENSE
Larceny shoplifting by altering price tags less than \$200 (first time); possession of burglarious tools; falsely identifying self; fraud forgery
REED, RANDY, JR. COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023

16:50
OFFENSE
Traffic, operating vehicle with revoked license (first offense); failure to stop for police; resisting arrest; obstructing justice without threats of force
SNIDER, TALA COMMIT DATE 01/03/2023 22:24
OFFENSE
Narcotics possession
BARRETT, RAYVON COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023

08:25
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation
PALMER, DAYNA COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 15:52
OFFENSE
Failure to appear in court for misdemeanor offense (2 counts)
STUDEBAKER, KENNETH COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 16:16
OFFENSE
Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language; narcotics possession
SMITH, DENNIS COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 19:56
OFFENSE
Narcotics possession; misdemeanor probation violation (2 counts); felony probation violation (2 counts)
MARTIN, KEVIN COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 20:23

OFFENSE
Assault; simply assault against family member
BROWN, ADAM COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 21:38
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation
PEDUZZI, GAVIN COMMIT DATE 01/04/2023 23:20
OFFENSE
Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language
DRAPER, TERRY COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023 02:28
OFFENSE
Burglary; possession of burglarious tools; possession of controlled paraphernalia; false identifying information to avoid arrest; impeding investigation; traffic: driving with revoked operator's license (first offense); traffic: equipment violation, displaying fictitious sticker or sticker of another; displaying fictitious registration/title/plates; traffic: registration, plates altered or forged license plates; larceny auto theft; grand larceny; felony probation violation
DUNCAN, JAMES, JR. COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023

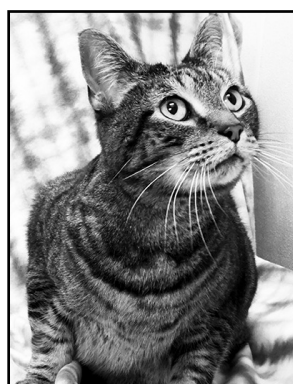
02:50
OFFENSE
Traffic: Driving with revoked operator's license (first offense)
MCCLANAHAN, BOBBIE COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023 03:46
OFFENSE
Obscenity; drunk in public; profane language
HALL, AMBER COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023 04:12
OFFENSE
Narcotics possession with intent to sell, distribute
BAILEY, BRADLEY COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023

10:50
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation
ALVAREZ, BENJAMIN COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023

12:24
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation (2 counts)
COOK, ANGELA COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023 13:10
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation (4 counts)
PETTUS, JUSTIN COMMIT DATE 01/05/2023 17:46
OFFENSE
Felony probation violation
TREACY, JUSTIN COMMIT DATE 01/06/2023 10:21
OFFENSE
Possession of obscene materials (7 counts)
WHITE, KRISTEN COMMIT DATE 01/06/2023

15:41
OFFENSE
Failure to appear in court for misdemeanor offense (2 counts)
Prisoner's possession, sell, secrete unlawful chemical compound

PETS OF THE WEEK



Gordie

Gordie is a senior love bug who will sit in your lap, make "biscuits" and let you rub him as long as you like. He is very laid back and would be fine with other kitties or children to buddy up with. To see if Gordie is your purrfect match, come visit him at the Animal Care and Adoption Center. His adoption fee is sponsored by Montgomery County Friends of Animal Care and Control.



Nellie

Nellie is a little shy, but enjoys attention once she gets to know you. She is a smart girl who knows some commands and would do best in a quiet home without other pets or kids. Nellie is just waiting to find her forever home. Come meet her at the Animal Care and Adoption Center.

game time
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Warm Hearth Village hustles into the new year

BLACKSBURG – In the last quarter of 2022, Warm Hearth Village residents and staff spent seven weeks participating in The Warm Hearth Hustle, Second Edition.

The hustle was introduced in 2020 as a way to build camaraderie and to promote fitness. Six employees and 22 residents and fitness center members competed with the overall goal of staying active going into the winter. Participants were encouraged to engage in activities that work for them. Everything from walking to hunting to dancing and vacuuming was recorded. Awards were offered in three categories: most steps, most creative activity, and most minutes exercised.

At the December awards ceremony, Jason Hamblin from the maintenance team led the staff by taking 866,921 steps, followed by Sara McCarter and Eric Stafford, also from the maintenance team, who had 424,294 and 399,014 steps respectively. Stafford also won the most creative activity, logging 247,704 steps over 15 days playing disc golf.

Hamblin said he participated so he could lose weight and stay fit. "I took on this challenge to keep me moving because as we get older it is so hard to stay motivated to be fit and healthy. My biggest motivation is my kids. Playing with them and watching them compete in sports they love is inspiring for me," he said.



Photo submitted by Susan "Bix" Bixler, Concierge, The Village Center, Warm Hearth Village
(Left to right) **Kenny Harrah, Director of Fitness; Jason Hamblin, Maintenance; Eric Stafford, Maintenance; Debbie Koller, Resident.**

Beth Burdick topped the resident step category with 951,963 steps followed by Lee Musgrave and resident Debbie Koller, who had 695,989 and 545,108 steps each. Finally, fitness member Becky Martin clocked 6,230 minutes by attending Fitness Center classes such as mobility and strength training, pool volleyball, line dancing, and Aquafit Hiit, in addition to walking on her own.

Burdick said, "Exercise has always been an important part of my life because of the physical and mental benefits. I read in the Lancet that walking at least 8,000 steps a day could reduce your risk of dementia by as much as 60% and I am committed to moving. I hope to maintain my efforts even now that the competition is over."

Warm Hearth Village residents and staff consistently work together on community engagement activities that build sociability and encourage fitness. During this event, nine participants took more than 7,000 steps a day and seven took more than 9,000. Director of Fitness Kenny Harrah said he plans to continue the Hustle and hopes to reach more in the community and encourage more kinds of activity.

"This Hustle was impressive," he said. "We had diverse activities from all parts of WHV. Residents, staff and fitness members accumulated millions of steps, hours in the gym, time in nature, miles on foot and bike, and they lost weight and spent quality time improving overall health and wellbeing. It was a real joy to see so many people do so much and understand "health is wealth."

Warm Hearth Village is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.

OBITUARIES

Wentworth, Randal Hosford

Randal Hosford Wentworth, 57, of Lexington, Va., crossed over to the happy hunting ground in Heaven on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022.

He was born Thursday, July 29, 1965, in Lexington, the son of Stephen Hosford and Rosemary Powley Wentworth.

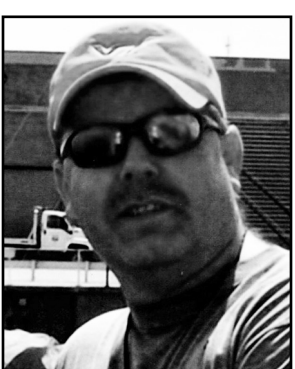
Randal graduated from Amherst County High School, then went on to serve his country in the United States Army until 1986. He would later serve in the Virginia Army National Guard in 2002 and 2003.

As a man of faith, Randal faithfully attended and was a member of Thomas Road Baptist Church, in Lynchburg, Va. He was a dedicated employee of Southern Inn of Lexington, but when he wasn't at work, he enjoyed numerous activities and hobbies he picked up over the years. Randal was a very talented man with his drawings. He loved to fish, garden, and cook, but his passion was mostly outdoors hunting and camping with his family. He was a proud Hokie when it came to college sports and was also loyal to his beloved Amherst Lancers.

Randal was preceded

in death by his biological father, Rufus Hull Bennington.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife,



Rebecca Breeden Wentworth; his father, Stephen Wentworth; his mother, Rosemary Powley Cole; his stepfather, Stephen R. Cole; his sons, Hunter Lloyd Wentworth, Randal Lee Wentworth, and Quent Bennington Wentworth; and his "little buddy," granddaughter Oaklynn Nova; a daughter, Crystal Leighann Funk (John) and their four children; stepson Robert Dane Breeden (Judy) and their son, Paul; brothers Philip Wesley Wentworth (Lori) and Gordon Wayne Wentworth (Karen); sisters Elizabeth Wentworth Castro (Jesse) and Kathryn Wentworth (Jeff); brothers-in-law, Frank Breeden (Terri) and Russ Breeden. He was

uncle to Megan Kohlen, Abigale Wentworth, Elias Wentworth, Sarah Cannon, Rachel Williamson, Hannah Sexton, Jesse Castro, Matt Potter, Brandon Wentworth, Jon Duckworth, Stephen Duckworth, Rosemary Duckworth; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorial services to honor Randal's life were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at River Church; 115 Seminole Dr., Madison Heights, Va. where military rites were conducted. Coach Jesse Castro officiated. To honor Randal, the family requested attendees to wear their favorite Hokie or Amherst Lancer gear or hunting apparel.

Interment will be held privately at a later date at Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks considering donating to Hunters for Hungry by visiting www.h4hungry.org, or by mail; 1108 Sedalia School Rd, Big Island, VA 24526; or donating to a local chapter.

Online condolences may be expressed to the Wentworth family by visiting www.johnmoakey.com.

Hall, Robin Lee

Robin Lee Hall, 65, of Radford, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023.

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Radford and retired from Wolverine Gaskets. Robin was an avid outdoorsman and loved traveling. His favorite pastime was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, Jackson and Emmett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Shannon and Ethelyne Hall; and brothers Jeffrey Dale Hall, Nicky Lane Hall, and Greg Hatch.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Robin Hall; his daughter and son-in-law, Whitney

and Nathan Roseberry; grandchildren Jackson and Emmett Roseberry; sister-in-law, Gretchen

relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at the First Baptist Church. Funeral services followed with Pastor Diana White officiating.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church Cemetery, 200 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Wytheville.

Donations can be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, or to First Baptist Church, 215 Third Avenue Radford, VA 24141.

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



and Ricky Kenley; in-laws Bob and Aurelia Gibson; nephews Derek Hall, Hunter Kenley, and Levi Kenley; nieces Sarah Hatch and Edith Hatch; and many other

Bishop, Norma Jean Sowers

Norma Jean Sowers Bishop, 89, passed away on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023.

She was a long-standing member of Calvary Baptist Church in Radford and owned Bishop's Upholstery with her late husband, Freddie Ray Bishop, Sr.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Harless Calvin and Pearl Ayers Sowers; her siblings, H.C. Sowers, Tommy Sowers, Virginia Small, Gertrude Buckland, Clarence Sowers, and Lillie Mae Trigg; a daughter, Brenda Sue Bishop; and a grandson, Stephen Travis McDaniel.

Survivors include

her children and their spouses, Freddie Ray Bishop, Jr., and Kathy,

Bishop and Amanda; great-grandchildren Owen, Shawn, and Kylie; a brother, Billy Ray Sowers; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann Linkous and Lakie; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

The family will receive friends from noon until 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at Calvary Baptist Church in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in the West View Cemetery in Radford.

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



Sara Faith Bishop, and Timothy Alan Bishop and Rhonda; grandchildren and their spouses Amy Marie Bishop Berry and Eric, Becky Lynn Bishop, Chelsea Rae McDaniel, and Matthew Brandon

New River Valley Community Foundation scholarship application closing soon

CHRISTIANSBURG

– Students are encouraged to apply to scholarships through the Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV) before its scholarship application closes on Jan. 30. This year, the CFNRV will give out more than \$100,000 to New River Valley students with each scholarship award ranging from \$500 to \$4,000.

Students on a variety of educational paths are eligible to apply, whether they are planning to pursue a degree or are currently in school at a 2- or 4-year college or university, trade, or technical school. Many funds are set up specifically with financial need in mind. In 2022, 40% of scholarship recipients were from lower-income backgrounds.

Since issuing its first scholarship in 2002, the foundation has awarded \$1,190,000 to 939 students. While dozens of CFNRV funds are set up to fund scholarships each year, applicants need only to submit a single application to the foundation and indicate the scholarships for which they would like to be considered.

"I am so grateful to the Community Foundation for supporting me in my endeavors to further my education," said Tali O'Neil. "It is another step in me being able to fulfill my potential." O'Neil, who attends New River Community College, received a scholarship from the Wings Fund, created by donors David and Marilyn Hutchins.

The foundation's scholarships support a wide variety of students,

whether a student is a high school senior, is currently attending college or school, or is someone returning to school later in life. Recipients may continue to apply for scholarships each year with many students getting funds annually throughout their schooling to help offset the costs of attending school.

Students may review scholarship requirements and access the application at cfnrv.org/scholarships. Any questions about the application may be directed to Laura Pynn at cfnrv@cfnrv.org or 540-381-8999. The application is due Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Submitted by Lindsey R. Gleason, Assistant Director, Community Foundation of the NRV

Semple, Charles Christopher

Charles Christopher Semple, 89, of Radford, passed away Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023.

He was a retired U. S. Postal Carrier and was a member of Grace Episcopal Church. He proudly served his country in the U. S. Navy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Nicholas and Margaret Jones Semple.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Phyllis Semple; sons and daughters-in-law Christopher and Denise Semple of Nalcrest, Fla., and Tim and Nancy Semple of Arvada, Colo.; daughter Jennifer Mooney of

Dublin, Va.; daughter and son-in-law Jill and Ken Torbeck of Lawrenceburg, Ind.; 10 grandchildren: Sean

Schlichting, and Andy Schlichting; five great-grandchildren; brothers Robert Semple of Edison, N.J., and Richard Semple of Herndon, Va.; and many other relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at Grace Episcopal Church in Radford with the Rev. William Yagel officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the American Heart Association.

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



Semple, Ryan Semple, Colin Semple, Cooper Semple, Jake Semple, Megan Thompson, Evan Mooney, Katie Mooney, Abby

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.

VT President from page 1

as part of Boundless Impact: The Campaign for Virginia Tech.

President Sands has published more than 250 refereed papers and conference proceedings and has been granted 21 patents in electronic and optoelectronic materials and devices. His recent research efforts have focused on the design and development of novel nanocomposite materials for environmentally friendly and cost-effective solid-state lighting, direct conversion of heat to electrical power, and thermoelectric refrigeration. He holds

faculty appointments in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the College of Engineering, with research interests in microelectronics, optoelectronics, and nanotechnology. He is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Materials Research Society, and the National Academy of Inventors.

As part of his civic engagement and community leadership, President Sands chairs the Virginia

Council of Presidents and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC) and is a member of the Boards of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), the University Research Alliance (URA), and is an ex-officio member of the Board of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Board of Visitors of the National Intelligence University.

NASA from page 1

Mission Control Center in Houston. “The people I’ve seen at the flight director desk, and even some of the people I’ve not met – your Gene Krantz, your Glen Lunneys, your people who made history – are some of the people I respect most as a professional. It is a ton of responsibility to carry that forward.”

Hehn is currently assigned to lead missions related to the International Space Station, which requires three teams working in nine-hour shifts to provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Days are scheduled down to five-minute increments to maximize the critical time of the crew in space.

“It’s kind of a unique fraternity,” Hehn said of being a flight director. “All those people who came before you know how you feel because inevitably there will be a time when the flight director will be called on to make a decision that could have ultimate consequences. That

could be in order to save the vehicle. It could be to save the mission. Or it could be to save the crew. That’s the authority the flight director has.”

Unlike many of his colleagues, Hehn didn’t grow up being all that starstruck by space. Instead, his childhood interests revolved around exploration and problem solving.

“I did love being outside, building forts in the woods, building a bridge, and just seeing what was on the other side,” Hehn said.

He also enjoyed math, however, he recalled timed exercises with multiplication tables that caused him great stress in elementary school.

“I could do the math in my sleep, but the idea that the clock is on and go do it, I would just melt down. I remember coming home literally crying because I found it so frustrating,” said Hehn. “I really like

that story now because my entire job is about not panicking.”

Amy Hehn credits her son’s ability to stay calm under pressure in part to the lessons he learned from sports.

“I think athletics, particularly swimming, started to give him structure in persevering,” she said. “It’s not like he was just born a calm kid.”

Swimming also provided opportunities for Hehn to compete in college, but the sport itself took second place when choosing which educational opportunity to seize, according to his mother.

“He was smart enough to know, ‘I’ve got to find a college for what I want to do for the rest of my life,’” Amy Hehn said. “And that’s why he chose Virginia Tech – great swimming program, phenomenal aerospace engineering program.”

By Travis Williams

COVID-19 from page 1

upon other recent steps.

Nationwide, it’s estimated that tragically more than 175,000 residents and staff of nursing homes have died due to COVID-19.

Nationwide, about 23% of nursing homes reported a staffing shortage in the four weeks

ending Dec. 18, a slight decrease from the previous Dashboard. Virginia facilities reporting a shortage of nurses or aides was 19% for the same period, the lowest since the summer of 2021.

“AARP is fighting for legislation that addresses staffing inadequacies in nursing homes,” said Calfee. “We must do more to ensure that residents receive high-quality care and their families have peace of mind about their safety.”

AARP supports House Bill 1564 which would ensure quality care and help address workforce shortages by providing a minimum staffing level of 4.1 hours of nurse and CNA care per resident per day.

Nationally, AARP also supports the establishment of mandatory federal minimum staffing levels or standards as a condition of participation for nursing homes in Medicare and Medicaid.

News Messenger

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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Pests from page 1

“This is why traps and bait stations may be ignored for long periods of time before a rat is brave enough to investigate them, and why placing droppings or leaving them empty for a week can increase their effectiveness. It is also why poison may take days or weeks to kill a rat, as they can learn from the deaths of their peers and avoid the same fate.”

The Pest Dude has provided these seven tips on how to prevent or deal with a rat invasion.

1. Seal entry points to your home.
2. Trim all trees at least three feet away from the roof line.
3. Check your vents.
4. Clean up debris piles.
5. Clean up rats’ favorite food such as fruits.
6. Introduce natural predators.
7. Try repellents / hazing.

Submitted by The Pest Dude

Financial Focus: Time for New Year’s financial resolutions

It’s that time of year when many of us promise ourselves we’ll go to the gym more, or learn a new language, or take up a musical instrument, or any number of other worthy goals. But this year, when making New Year’s resolutions, why not also consider some financial ones?

Here are a few to consider: Don’t let inflation derail your investment strategy.

As you know, inflation was the big financial story of 2022, hitting a 40-year high. And while it may moderate somewhat this year, it will likely still be higher than what we experienced for the past decade or so. Even so, it’s a good idea to try not to let today’s inflation harm your investment strategy for the future. That happened last year: More than half of American workers either reduced their contributions to their 401(k)s and other

retirement plans or stopped contributing completely during the third quarter of 2022, according to a survey by Allianz Life Insurance of North America.

Of course, focusing on your cash flow needs today is certainly understandable, but are there other ways you can free up some money, such as possibly lowering your spending, so you can continue contributing to your retirement accounts? It’s worth the effort because you could spend two or three decades as a retiree.

Control your debts. Inflation can also be a factor in debt management. For example, your credit card debt could rise due to rising prices and variable credit card interest rate increases. By paying your bill each month, you can avoid the effects of rising interest rates. If you do carry a balance, you might be

able to transfer it to a lower-rate card, depending on your credit score. And if you’re carrying multiple credit cards, you might benefit by getting a fixed-rate debt consolidation loan. In any case, the lower your debt payments, the more you can invest for your long-term goals.

Review your investment portfolio. At least once a year, you should review your investment portfolio to determine if it’s still appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. But be careful not to make changes just because you feel your recent performance is not what it should have been. When the financial markets are down, as was the case for most of 2022, even quality investments, such as stocks of companies with solid business fundamentals and strong prospects, can see declines in value. But if these investments

are still suitable for your portfolio, you may want to keep them.

Prepare for the unexpected. If you encountered a large unexpected expense, such as the need for a major home repair, how would you pay for it? If you didn’t have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or retirement accounts. To prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses — or a year’s worth, if you’re retired — with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account.

These resolutions can be useful, so try to put them to work in 2023.

-This article was written by Edward Jones Member SIPC, and submitted by local Edward Jones financial advisor Meghan Kuczmarski (540) 552-1241.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Correct code
6. Foundation
9. A pulpy condition
13. Venezuelan river
14. Orange-red chalcid
15. The shallowest Great
16. Floating ice mountain
17. Japanese cervids
18. Special Interest Groups
19. Divertimentos
21. Indian wet nurses
22. Flatfishes
23. Haitian currency (abbr.)
24. Southeast
25. One point N of due W
28. 10 decibels
29. Wild oxes of SE Asia
31. Ancient Greek City of SW Italy
33. A passing glancing blow
36. Marriage announce-
- ment
38. Tandoor bread
39. Mag ____; Time
41. Portended
44. Alicante’s 7th city
45. Gulf of, in the Aegean
46. Strike
48. Hill (Celtic)
49. Stuart Little’s author
- White
51. Male sheep
52. Indian dresses
54. Pears
56. Tardy arriver
60. Smudge of ink
61. Youngsters
62. About aviation
63. Small ornamental ladies’ bag
64. Unreturnable serves
65. Fante and Twi peoples
66. Round shape
67. Of she

CLUES DOWN

1. Strikes lightly
2. Fencing sword
3. Hooked pericarp
4. Entreats
5. Edison’s Corp.
6. Cooks in an oven
7. Amounts of time
8. Tooth caregiver
9. Spellbind
10. Solo opera piece
11. Audible exhalations
12. Siddhartha author
14. Coach’s game area
17. Gross revenue
20. Toff
21. 1896 Italian defeat (alt. sp.)
23. Auto fuel
25. A woven structure
26. Reveal a secret
27. Hawaiian geese
29. Brings into being
30. Displaced liquid
32. Frigid Zone
34. Newsman Rather
35. Prefix for inside
37. Short-billed rails
40. Sensory receptor
42. Egyptian temple ____ Ombo
43. Challenges
47. Photograph (slang)
49. Declined gradually
50. Tilapia nilotica
52. One-edge sword
53. Wets
55. Small coins (French)
56. Twine together
57. The middle point
58. Sea eagle
59. Activist Parks
61. Humbug
65. Atomic #79

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General Information

Historical Society Owes Cabin Man

To whom it may concern By Roger Davis. In 2018, I contracted restoring a cabin for the Craig County Historical Society. I was presented with an appraisal that stated the cabin was 80% complete. After starting the foundation, I was able to inspect the cabin materials. The logs were in very bad condition due to being stored for 20 some odd years with three other deteriorating cabins. The termites had destroyed a lot of the logs, this was going to require a lot of extra work and materials. After discussing this with several historical society members and notifying them that there would be an extra charge to this restoration, I was told to continue. This project went from a restoration to a total rebuild. I had to collect parts and pieces of other structures from all around the county, including a large log barn that I had to demo and dismantle. I have restored about 20 of these cabins this one being the most difficult I have ever done. Restoration time is usually about 6 months for one of these cabins, this one took almost a year. After completing this project, I submitted a bill for \$5000 dollars for extra time and labor. The Craig County Historical Society voted and approved but two of the Historical Society members decided I did not deserve this and I was not paid. The two Historical Society members were disrespectful and hard to work with throughout the whole project. I restored the other cabin in town about 20 years ago with no problems. The Holstein cabin will stand for many years as a testament to my hard work and skills- I believe I should be paid for it. I want to give special thanks to the people that contributed to this project: Rob Bradley, Rob Givings, Mary & Pete Hutchinson, Joel Johnston, Randy Zimmerman, Ed Mattox, and Karen Barnheart.

Legals - City of Radford

Order of Publication

VA Code Ann. §§8.01-316, -317 Commonwealth of Virginia City of Radford Circuit Court located at 619 2nd Street # 149 Radford, VA 24141 **Case no. CL22-6839 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Estate of Charles Preston Hall, DECEASED.** The object of this suit is to: Establish a copy of a will as the true Last Will of Charles Preston Hall. It is ORDERED that any interested children/ descendants of Charles Preston Hall appear in the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 28, 2023 Entered: 12/20/22 by: Melissa White, Deputy Clerk

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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

Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:
1. Consider the request of the City of Salem, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 block of Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 - 1.1) from AG Agriculture District to LM Light Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Charles N. Dorsey, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 - 1) from AG Agriculture District and RSF Residential Single-Family District to RSF Residential Single-Family District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA

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, JACOB LUCAS 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 Jacob Lucas Evans thought to be either Ryan Quinlin, Mark Evans, Kevin Scott Minnix, or Unknown Father pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 16.1-283 B and C, and which child is five (5) 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

Legals - Craig County

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

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 - Montgomery County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY

3692 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 24162 Tax Map No. 112- A 58C, Parcel No. 140170 In execution of a Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2007, in the principal amount of \$123,731.30, recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of record as Instrument Number 2007004988 and corrected in Instrument Number 2011007896, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction outside the main entrance of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, on February 9, 2022 at 12:00 noon, the property described in said Deed of Trust lying in Montgomery County, Virginia, and more particularly described as follows:
All that certain tract or parcel of land, with all improvements thereon and appurtenances belonging, lying in the Shawsville Magisterial District of Montgomery County, Virginia, being more particularly described as New Tract A1, containing 2.478 Acres, as shown on that certain plat entitled, "PARTIAL SURVEY AND MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR JONATHAN D. LINKOUS SHOWING THE RESUBDIVISION OF NEW TRACT "A" (3.518 Ac.) AND CREATING NEW TRACT A1 (1.040 Ac.) AND NEW TRACT A2 (2.478 Ac.) SITUATE ON ALLEGHANY SPRINGS ROAD," dated February 25, 2007, Job No. 1847, prepared by David A. Perfater of DOC Land Surveying, LLC, which plat is recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Virginia, in Plat Book 27, page 78. TOGETHER WITH New 40' Ingress/Egress Easement as shown on the above mentioned survey of record in Plat Book 27, page 78. Pursuant to Section 8.9A-604 of the Virginia Code, a 2007 Oakwood Manufactured Home, Serial No. RIC241988NCAB will be sold with the real property. TERMS: Cash - Bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sales price by cashier's or certified check may be required. Balance of purchase price shall be due and payable not later than ten (10) days after sale. WOODS ROGERS VANDEVENTER BLACK PLC, Trustee For Information Contact: Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125, Roanoke, VA 24038-4125, Telephone: 540-983-7729

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The contents of the listed unit will be sold at Public Auction January 27, 2023 at 11am at **1st Security Self Storage 5 Midway Plaza Dr. Christiansburg, VA.** F6 F40 F43 P1 1st Security reserves the right to refuse any bid. Terms: CASH OR CREDITCARD AT SALE

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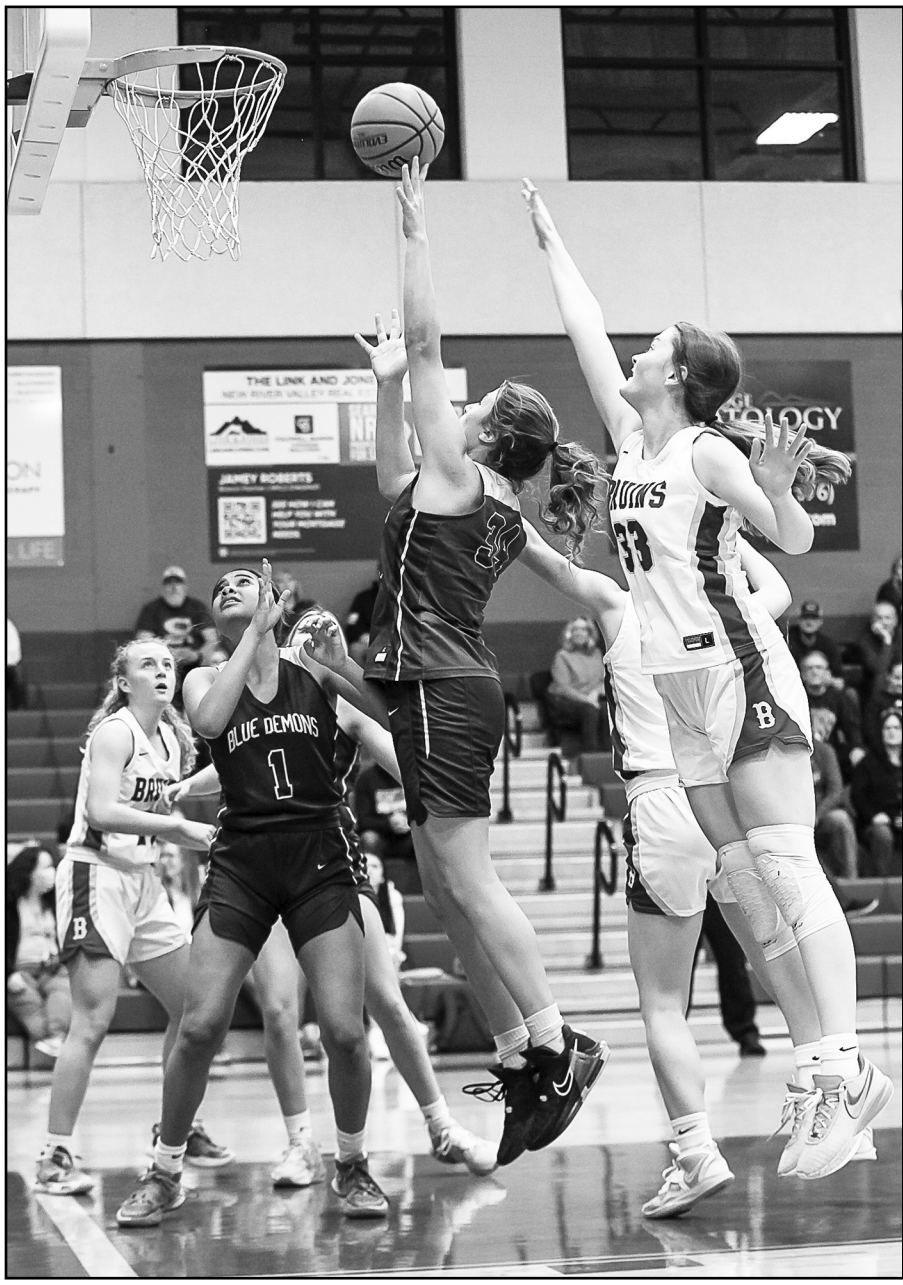
MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blacksburg boys down Christiansburg 73-50



With 28 points, Blacksburg's Wade Bland was the game's top scorer in Friday's win.

Christiansburg girls claim Battle of Burgs 45-43



Leila Haley (left) watches as Blue Demon teammate McKenzie Harris gets past Blacksburg's Riley Price to score. Now 11-4 on the season, Christiansburg won a tight one, 45-43.



Christiansburg's Kaleb Robinson (left) and Drake Gandee (right) guard Blacksburg's Donald Saville (center) as he puts in two points for the Bruins, who took the 73-50 Battle of the Burgs win Friday night. Christiansburg fell to 2-13 on the season while Blacksburg is now 2-9.



Blacksburg's Meela Santsaver-Jones (right) brings the ball up court during Friday's Battle of the Burgs' girls' contest. Jones scored 12 points in the loss as Blacksburg fell to 6-7 for the season.



Blacksburg's Chandler Montgomery (left) climbs past his Christiansburg defender in Friday's win. Montgomery finished with 21 points in the contest.



Christiansburg's Katy Hoover (center) successfully shot two free throws in the last seconds of the game to secure the win over Blacksburg. Shortly before, teammate Sathara Kane made two free throws to tie the game. Hoover scored 17 points in the win.

Photos by Kymn Davidson-Hamley

Radford's Rick Cormany now second-most winning coach in Virginia history



File photo

Rick Cormany has spent 37 years on the sidelines, including 27 as the head coach of Radford High School.

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@ourvalley.org

Radford High School claimed a 60-35 win this past week over Glenvar. The win gave head coach Rick Cormany 759 wins, making him the second-most winning coach in Virginia history. The 759 wins put Cormany among the likes of Bluestone's George Lancaster (724 wins), former

Maury head man Jack Baker (746 wins) and retired coaches Bill Littlepage from Hopewell (755 wins) and Robert E. Lee-Staunton legendary sideline boss Paul Hatcher (897 victories). Cormany is in his 27th season at Radford and his 37th overall. More than 560 of his wins have come for the Bobcats after he coached Rocky Gap to several successful campaigns. Radford has won 21 of the last 22 regular

season championships in the Three Rivers District, 16 of 17 tournament championships, the last four conference championships, four Region C championships (2001, 2002, 2004, 2013), three Region 1A West Championships (2014, 2016, 2017), two Region 2C Championships (2018, 2019), finished as the state runners-up three times, advanced to nine state Final-4's, and has won state championships in six of the last 12 seasons.

Virginia Tech lacrosse announces 2023 schedule

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech lacrosse head coach Kristen Skiera announced the team's 2023 spring schedule on Thursday. The Hokies have 17 regular season games lined up, including eight at home in Blacksburg. Nine of Virginia Tech's opponents competed in the 2022 Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship last season, including both finalists, North Carolina and Boston College. Tech's second season under Skiera begins on Saturday, Feb. 11, against Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. On Wednesday, Feb. 15,

the Hokies will open their home slate against James Madison University at 5 p.m. Last season, Virginia Tech earned its first win in program history against the Dukes. Following a home tilt against Mercer on Sunday, Feb. 19, Tech will open ACC play against defending national champions North Carolina on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. in Blacksburg. The Hokies will face four more non-conference opponents on the road: Elon (3/8), Akron (3/18), Mount St. Mary's (3/22), and Old Dominion University (4/11). Tech will host Furman at home

on April 17. In more ACC action, Virginia Tech will host Pitt (3/11), Boston College (3/25), Louisville (4/8) and Clemson (4/15). Tech will travel to face Syracuse (3/5), Notre Dame (3/16), Duke (4/1) and Virginia (4/20). Tech went 9-9 in the 2022 season, which included noteworthy wins against No. 13 James Madison and No. 15 Notre Dame. The Hokies concluded the season with a 5-4 record at home and fell to No. 2 Boston College in the ACC Championship quarterfinal.

AARP to push General Assembly for prescription affordability board

Virginia's General Assembly convened in Richmond Wednesday, Jan. 13, and AARP Virginia will be pushing lawmakers to protect at-risk nursing home residents and their families by taking on long-overdue quality and staffing problems in facilities and by creating a prescription affordability board. "Virginia's long-standing failure to address staffing shortages in nursing homes must come to an end," said Jared Calfee, the Associate State Director for Advocacy at AARP Virginia. "Too many of Virginia's 30,000 nursing home residents have suffered due to inaction, and it's time for that to stop." Calfee said advocates have been bringing the problems in nursing facilities to lawmakers' attention for more than 20 years, but legislation has failed year after year. "Ignoring the problem won't make it go away," Calfee said. "It's up to the General Assembly to take the lead in ensuring that our nursing home residents are provided with safe, quality care." AARP Virginia supports legislation that will require minimum staffing standards in nursing homes. Virginia currently is one of only

12 states that does not require minimum staffing levels for nursing homes, and inadequate staffing is one of the primary indicators of poor quality care. The bill's patron is Delegate Vivian Watts. AARP Virginia is part of a coalition of organizations, Virginia Voices for Nursing Home Residents, who support nursing home reform and will encourage the public to call upon lawmakers to enact the legislation. The group is also encouraging family members of nursing home residents as well as nursing home staff to tell the organization about problems in nursing homes so that they can bring them to the attention of lawmakers. Nursing home workers, residents, and family members can share their stories at <https://action.aarp.org/VirginiaNHstories>. Members of the public can contact their legislator on the issue at <https://action.aarp.org/vanursinghomes>. During the session, AARP Virginia will support legislation addressing the ever-increasing costs of prescription drugs. AARP supports legislation creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board with the authority to set upper payment limits

on certain high-cost prescription medications. Calfee said the most common challenge he hears from Virginians across the state is the skyrocketing cost of their prescription drugs, which has outpaced inflation. "We are working hard to put fairness and accountability into the system," Calfee said. "Medicines work only if patients can afford them." Virginians can urge their legislators to pass the legislation at <https://action.aarp.org/varx>. With 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people age 50+ and their families in the commonwealth. In recent years, AARP Virginia has successfully fought for Medicaid expansion, protections for older people against financial exploitation, and empowering family caregivers.

Virginia farmers prepare for more agricultural advocacy

Some of Virginia's farmers will help inform state legislators about issues important to farming and agriculture on Jan. 23 during Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's annual Legislative Day. Grassroots advocacy is at the heart of Farm Bureau, and that action is most visible at Legislative Day. Each year, many bills affecting agriculture are under consideration by Virginia's General Assembly, and the event gives farmers an opportunity to share their viewpoints. Under the slogan "Farmers in Action," county Farm Bureau leaders from across Virginia will meet with their state senators and delegates to discuss how these bills will impact agriculture and farmers in their localities. "Over the years, Legislative Day has proven to be a key opportunity for farmers to interact with legislators during a pivotal time of the General Assembly session,"



Photo courtesy Virginia Farm Bureau

said Stefanie Taillon, senior assistant director of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's governmental relations. "It truly makes a difference for agriculture when farmers across the commonwealth visit Richmond and speak directly to policymakers regarding issues that impact their operations." Among the issues farmers will be discussing on Legislative Day is maintaining full funding for the Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program. In 2022, a total of \$295 million was

allocated in the state budget to help farmers implement conservation practices. Farm Bureau and Virginia's farmers had been advocating for full funding of this program since 2009. Other Farm Bureau priorities include updating the unlicensed farm use vehicle program and supporting the continuation of the Dairy Producer Margin Coverage Premium Assistance Program. "These are not all of the issues that Farm Bureau is working on, but some of those that are most important to our members," Taillon said. This year's Legislative Day also will include a Virginia-grown "Burgers on Bank Street" lunch for legislators, something put on hold the last couple years due to COVID-19. Farm Bureau members will serve cheeseburgers to legislators to highlight the vital role farmers play in feeding the commonwealth and the nation.

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