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Tourism spending in county totaled \$238 million in 2022

By Ed McMinn
News Messenger editor

In his report to the Christiansburg Town Council Tuesday night, Jan. 24, regional tourism executive director David Rotenizer told the council that tourism spending in Montgomery County totaled \$238 million in 2022.

Rotenizer also reported that the county had been awarded \$180,000 under the auspices of the American Rescue Plan Act. He also said the local tourism offices are working hard to have a spread in Virginia's 2024 state travel guide. According to Rotenizer, 275,000 copies of the travel guide will be

printed and distributed. A digital version will also be available.

Rotenizer noted that citizens had often complained that "Parks" on the town's website had nothing on it. He said that oversight had been corrected and information had been added.

Early on, Mayor Mike Barber introduced

Al Pugliese, the owner of Sandro's Restaurant in the Christiansburg Marketplace, as the newest member of the tourism council.

In other action, the council set a public hearing for March 24 relating to property on Cambria Street.

By a 5-0 vote, the council approved a

request to subdivide into two a parcel of land along 295 Jones St. By a 4-0-1 vote, the council further approved a request to subdivide property along Majestic Drive NW. The request was to subdivide with no further plans for development.

The final action of the evening of a meeting that needed only 36

minutes to complete was a vote approving staggered terms on the New River Passenger Rail Authority for Mayor Mike Barber and Town Manager Randy Wingfield. Authority members serve four-year terms.



FILE PHOTO

Major Cody Rush, who recently announced he is running for clerk of Montgomery County circuit court, lives in Riner with his wife, Tiffany, and their children, Abby (10) and Jack (8).

Christiansburg's Rush to seek clerk of court post

Christiansburg native and U.S. Army vet Major Cody Rush has thrown his hat into the ring to run this November for the office of Montgomery County Circuit Court clerk. Rush announced his intentions last week.

He said he would continue a lifetime of

service and be a working clerk.

"Every eight years the citizens of Montgomery County get to choose their Clerk of Court. I'm running for all the same reasons I raised my right hand to serve this country in uniform," Rush said. "Our community means

everything to me, and our community's values have shaped me into the leader I am today. Our motto is Freedom Increases Responsibility, and I'm excited to take on this campaign and work to earn the votes of our citizens over the next year."

Cody Rush is the son of former state delegate and member of the Montgomery County board of supervisors Nick Rush.

Cody Rush is a fourth-generation service member. After graduating

See RUSH, page 2



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ROTARIAN PAULA ALSTON

(Left to right) Club President Phil Araman, Citizen of the Year Ernie Wade, and Rotary Club Director Tom Loffin, chair of the vocational committee.

Blacksburg Rotary Club taps Ernie Wade as Citizen of the Year

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg has named Ernie Wade of Christiansburg as its 2022 Citizen of the Year.

Wade was Plant Manager for Moog Components Group in Blacksburg and has been a fixture in the Christiansburg community for many years. He was elected to the Christiansburg Town Council where he

spent 10 years serving on numerous boards and commissions. He has been a member of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club for more than forty years.

As President of the Montgomery Museum of Art and History, Wade recently led the effort to purchase and renovate the former Bank of

See WADE, page 2

Montgomery Museum to present 'Art x History'

The Montgomery Museum of Art and History will present four new exhibits including the showcase piece, a fully-restored 1920 Maxwell automobile, on the lobby floor of the museum on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The museum is also hosting an open house titled, "Art x History," which will feature two new art exhibits and two new history exhibits.

The 1920 Maxwell will be on display courtesy of Jackie Shelton and her family.

Additionally, the museum will bring back an old favorite, "Lewis Miller's New River Valley."

Miller's travel-journal-style artwork and sketches offer a glimpse of New River Valley history and stories.

Art will also shine brightly as the museum presents two local and regional artists, David Petersen and Tom Jenssen. Petersen's art exhibit,



A fully restored 1920 Maxwell automobile will be among the four exhibits being shown by the Montgomery Museum of Art & History on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the floor of the museum's main lobby.

titled "Tranquility," is a display of local and distant "tranquil" places

depicted in painting and photography, in color and black and white.

Jenssen's pottery exhibit, titled, "From Earth to Stone," features glazed ceramic with melted glass and painted imagery.

"We are kicking the year off with a bang as we display a wide variety of art and history in a multitude of mediums," said Casey Jenkins, the museum's executive director. "This event will offer viewers a front-row seat at what it means to sit at the intersection of art and history in our community. You won't want to miss this."

This free community event and gathering will celebrate the art and history of the New River Valley and will provide a chance to meet artists Petersen and Jenssen. Free wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and live music will be provided by award-winning Appalachian Folk singer-songwriter Ash Devine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIAS LEVY

Great white sharks are among the species facing conservation challenges.

Great white sharks and a conservation success story

By David Fleming
Writer

It's hard out there for a shark.

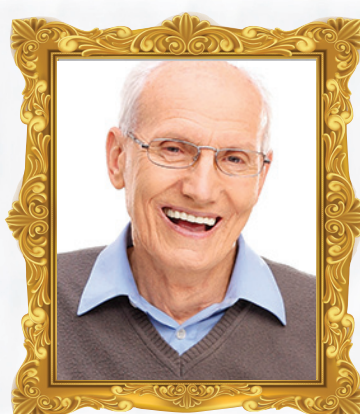
A critical barometer to the health of ocean ecosystems, shark and ray populations have faced significant global declines from overfishing, habitat loss, and environment degradation. Add to the

mix a slow reproductive cycle – female great white sharks take approximately 30 years to reach sexual maturity, for instance – and the broader logistical challenges of trying to monitor animals with ranges that can exceed 10,000 nautical miles, and the task of protecting

See SHARKS, page 2

Grandpa's Coming Out of the Closet....

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Home Country by Slim Randles: The true love story of Coalie and Wilma

It's coming up on St. Valentine's Day, so I thought I should share the love story of Coalie and Wilma, and every word is true.

Coalie was one of Sequoia-Kings Pack Trains' mules. Coal black of course, and if he should get a good shot, you could be kicked. Pack mule, not riding mule.

Wilma was a little brown mule belonging to Rock Creek Pack Station out of Bishop, some 40 miles north of us.

Well, my boss, Gene Burkhart, and Rock Creek's boss, Herb London, pastured their pack stock together each winter just outside Independence. Come June, we'd go catch our stock out of this 110,000-acre mostly desert ranch, and string them together and lead them straight up about 10 miles to a little meadow called Onion Valley, where our headquarters were. It took days to get them all

up there.

Herb's packers would truck his stock more than 40 miles north, through three towns and lots of rough country, to their pack station.

It was about three days after I'd led a string of mules overnight to the pack station, including Coalie, and got ready for our season. I went out in the morning and found a little brown mare mule giving muzzle snuggles to Coalie. From the brand on her, we knew she was one of Herb's, so Gene called him and Herb drove all the way to get her.

Four days later, she was back in the mule corral making mulie smooches with her boyfriend. She had tracked Coalie from the winter pasture down 40 miles of highway 395, across five miles of desert and up nine miles of mountains. Twice.

Mules have gender, but are sterile hybrids and don't "mate" physically. They are a combination

of a horse mother and a donkey dad.

Gene and Herb decided love was stronger than anything else we had around there, so Gene gave Herb a mule, and Wilma became ours. Well, Coalie's.

After that, for as long as they lived, if you took one, you had to take the other.

A few of the old packers said they'd heard about mules occasionally getting "married" but this was the first time seeing it, and it was the first for me, too.

So Happy Valentine's Day, Coalie and Wilma, wherever you roam these days.

Thanks for setting a good example for the rest of us. The world loves lovers.

Brought to you by Hug-a-Horse Thrift Store in Edgewood, NM. Good folks work there. <https://www.thriftstores.net/store/7383/hug-a-horse-thrift-store/>

Virginia unemployment claims are 13.64% lower than the previous week

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, the U.S. has reduced unemployment from record highs during the COVID-19 pandemic to near record lows. Now, however, the website warns, high inflation and the looming threat of a recession could cause unemployment claims to spike once more.

For the time being, the job market is still in good shape with new unemployment claims decreasing by 7.3% week-over-week. Currently 5.7 million Americans are unemployed, and it's important to look at some key stats for the latest week to get the full picture:

Every state had unemployment claims last week that were lower than in the previous week except for Oregon, Louisiana, New Mexico, California, Maryland, Rhode Island, Alaska, Idaho, Arkansas, Nevada, and Kentucky.

Virginia's unemployment claims fell by 13.64 percent in the most recent week, the fifth best decrease in the

country.

Every state had unemployment claims last week that were lower than in the same week pre-pandemic (2019) except for Nevada, New York, Indiana, California, Colorado, Utah, Rhode Island, and Ohio.

Surprisingly, 10 states – including Georgia, South Carolina and Colorado – had unemployment claims last week that were worse than the same week last year.

To identify where unemployment claims are decreasing the most even amid costly inflation, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on changes in unemployment claims for several key benchmark weeks. The website also considered the number of claims per 100,000 people in the labor force.

According to WalletHub's survey, the ten places where unemployment rates decreased the most in order from most to least were 1. Tennessee 2. New

Hampshire 3. New Jersey 4. District of Columbia 5. Virginia 6. Delaware 7. Oklahoma 8. Kansas 9. Alabama 10. Missouri

On the other hand, the ten states where unemployment rates decreased the least according to WalletHub were 42. Arkansas 43. Ohio 44. Oregon 45. Alaska 46. Colorado 47. Idaho 48. Nevada 49. California 50. Rhode Island 51. Kentucky.

In making their determinations, WalletHub used the following metrics to rank the states: 1) Change in Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims in Latest Week vs. Previous Week 2) Change in Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims in Latest Week vs. Same Week 3) Change in Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims in Latest Week vs. Same Week of 2022 4) Number of Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims per 100,000 People in the Labor Force.

Submitted by WalletHub.com

RUSH from page 1

from Christiansburg High School in 2007, he attended Virginia Tech on a four-year U.S. Army scholarship and was a member of the Corps of Cadets. In 2011, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and a minor in leadership and was commissioned as an active duty armor officer.

After he completed the armor officers basic course at Fort Benning, Ga., Rush was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, and served as both a tank and a scout platoon leader in the 1st Cavalry Division. As a platoon leader, he deployed to the Republic of Korea in 2014 as part of the first regionally aligned combat arms battalion deployed on the Korean Peninsula. Following his time as a platoon leader,

he transitioned to the signal corps.

After graduating from the Signal Captains Career Course, Rush was assigned as a Battalion S6 in the 82nd Airborne Division. In 2017, he deployed to Iraq to support Operation Inherent Resolve where he advised an Iraqi general officer to help defeat ISIS and protect Baghdad. After this deployment, Rush commanded his brigade's Signal Company until he was selected for the Army Congressional Fellowship.

In the spring of 2019, Rush and his family moved to Northern Virginia, where he served as a legislative liaison between the Army and the Virginia House of Representatives. In this role, he advised members of Congress and

U.S. Army senior leaders on military, veterans, and defense-related legislative issues.

In July of 2022, Rush and his wife decided to make the move from active duty and move back to Montgomery County to raise their children in the community they love. He continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Rush holds two master's degrees: Information Technology Management from Webster University and Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

His military education includes the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course, the Signal Captains Career Course, the Basic Airborne Course, U.S. Army Jumpmaster School, the Air Assault

Course, the Army Reconnaissance Course, and Winter Mountain Warfare School.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbon, the Army Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Army Staff Badge.

During his

announcement, Rush laid out his plan for the office. "I will lead the clerk's office in a fiscally responsible way, always practicing budgetary restraint to save Montgomery County citizens' money," he said.

As the circuit court clerk, Rush said, he will serve as a leader of character and integrity, "as I did in the military, continuously innovate, and always be forward-looking as Montgomery County grows into the future."

"I will continuously seek out and incorporate new technology into office procedures to better serve Montgomery County's increasing population," he said. "As the county's official records keeper, I plan

to continue digitizing records to ensure our citizens have access to records of historical significance. I will work with local historical societies to explore their ability to display historical documents and help them tell the story of our community."

The Army Reserves would also like to explore offering plastic card versions of the Virginia Concealed Weapons Permit and offering U.S. Passports in the office, which was indefinitely suspended during COVID-19.

So far, Rush is the only announced candidate for the local post. Longtime Clerk of Court Erica Williams has not made any announcement about her plans.

WADE from page 1

Christiansburg building on the Christiansburg Town Square.

At the recent award presentation in Blacksburg, Rotary President Phil Araman honored Wade with a plaque as well as a donation by the club to the Montgomery Museum in Wade's honor.

Christiansburg Mayor

Mike Barber, a long-time colleague and friend of Wade's, attended, and provided an insightful introduction, having worked with Wade on the Christiansburg Town Council and on many local and regional boards and commissions over the years. Barber also has a 40-year friendship with Wade

as a fellow Kiwanian. He noted that despite Wade's conspicuous and ongoing contributions in the community, "Wade has remained modest and humble, preferring to get on with the work at hand."

The Rotary Club selection committee members commented on Wade's tireless

efforts that made the museum project possible, including a capital campaign to raise the necessary funding. It was also noted that "for decades Wade has consistently given of his time and talents for the betterment of others. He's relentless, always staying busy improving our community."

Wade thanked the Rotary Club for the award and for the donation to the museum. He said that he was humbled, and he greatly appreciated that he was selected for this honor. He also thanked the club for "presenting this award to someone in our county each year."

The Blacksburg Rotary

Club is one of six Rotary clubs in the New River Valley and one of 45,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world with the mission of providing service to others, promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, good will, and peace through a fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

SHARKS from page 1

sharks becomes even more daunting.

But there is some good news for sharks and rays: Researchers from Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment are part of a group of scientists that used temporal and spatial comparisons to reveal that extinction risks can be significantly reduced by having effective fisheries management and policies in place to ensure the survival of these vulnerable species. The results were recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Our research focuses on a specific suite of coastal sharks and rays,

all wide-ranging animals with broad distributions across the Atlantic Ocean," said Holly Kindsvater, assistant professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and one of the authors of the paper. "That means you'll see the same species in the coastal waters of North, Central, and South America."

This distribution pattern provided the research team with the opportunity to study the impact of fisheries management on shark populations. Using decades of data, researchers were able to track shark and ray populations in western Atlantic waters and measure population changes since the U.S. Department

of Commerce asked the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement a Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sharks in 1993.

"It took years of work to gather data on shark populations and fisheries data," said Nathan Pacoureaux, a postdoctoral research fellow at Simon Fraser University in Canada, the paper's lead author, and a former postdoctoral research associate at Virginia Tech. "From there, the challenge was determining the primary elements to the recovery of sharks in some areas and driving increased extinction risk in others."

Kindsvater, who was a primary investigator for grants that funded

this research, said that cultivating a robust data set and correlating that to conservation efforts required extensive collaboration between universities around the world, national agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and global research groups, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Shark Specialist Group.

"A central part of my role in this project was to facilitate the research design," she said. "We built on the findings of people who are experts in shark and ray ecology – those individuals and groups who did the assessments and compiled the data –

and worked to combine and translate their expertise into a scientific comparison that is meaningful and important."

The findings show a positive trajectory for shark populations where regulations have been put in place, with large species such as the great white, tiger, and great hammerhead shark – which are elsewhere endangered – all showing clear signs of population recovery in northern Atlantic waters.

"You can see it in the data," said Kindsvater, an affiliate faculty member of the Global Change Center and the Center for Coastal Studies. "Even in places where fishing intensity is high but management

exists, the regional status of these endangered species is improving significantly.

Sharks and rays still face challenges: The group's finding demonstrates that coastal populations in the southern Atlantic remain critically threatened."

Still, Pacoureaux is careful not to assign fault on specific nations, as conservation of wide-ranging marine species like sharks is a global challenge.

"The aim of our work isn't to point at specific countries," said Pacoureaux. "Instead, we're making a general alignment: We now know that we can rebuild populations with better management of fisheries."

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Legals - City of Radford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on February 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA 24141. The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive public comment concerning the application filed by Jeffrey Stump to rezone Tax Parcel Nos. 26-(1)-14 and 26-(1)-15, consisting of a total of 10.628 acres, off of Lovely Mount Drive in the City of Radford, Virginia. The request is to rezone the property from R-3 Single-Family Residential to R-4 Multi-Family Residential for the development of townhomes. The general usage and density range of the proposed amendment is medium to high density residential development. The general usage and density range of the property as set forth in the City's comprehensive plan is low density residential use. Comments may be presented at the meeting and by phone or in writing prior to the meeting. Additional information on this request and a copy of the proposed ordinance may be obtained by contacting the Community Development Department, 10 Robertson Street, Radford VA 24141, 540.267.3188, or by email at Melissa.Skelton@radfordva.gov

Legals - Montgomery County

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

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on, Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Rezoning request by Southwest Investment Co. LLC, Property Owner, and Southwest Excavating, Inc., Lessee, to rezone an approximately 1.87 acre portion of the property located at 200 Scattergood Drive NW, Tax Parcel 496 - 24 - 5; Parcel ID 033540, from General Business District B-3 to General Industrial District I-2. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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Legals - Montgomery County

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comment in-person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the application, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Benjamin Tripp, Planning Director, at (540) 382-6128 ext. 1120 or by email at btripp@christiansburg.org with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1524 WALTON RD, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$107,950.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2007004900. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Montgomery County, 55 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia on February 27, 2023, at 4:15 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A ROD IN THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663, CORNER TO NOW OR FORMERLY ROY D. BURTON; THENCE FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT WITH THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, THE FOLLOWING LINES: N 81 DEG. 28' E 241.14 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 17 DEG. 00' E 29.06 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 44 DEG. 15' E 20.87 FEET TO A DEAD LOCUST; THENCE N 54 DEG. 07' E 54.23 FEET TO A POST; THENCE N 50 DEG. 11' E 119.67 FEET TO A LYNN TREE ON BANK OF BRANCH; THENCE N 41 DEG. 35' E 25 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE LEAVING THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, A NEW LINE, IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION 100 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE S 54 DEG. 07' W 250.0 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE IN A SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION 241.14 FEET TO A STAKE IN THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF

Legals - Montgomery County

WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663; THENCE WITH THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663, N 24 DEG. 29' W 36.85 FEET TO A ROD; THENCE STILL WITH THE NORTHEAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF VIRGINIA STATE SECONDARY ROUTE NUMBER 663, N 27 DEG. 30' W 73.15 FEET TO A ROD IN THE LINE OF ROY D. BURTON, THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH THAT DEED OF EASEMENT DATED 11/25/2003 AND RECORDED 12/8/2003 AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 2003020733. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-360092-1.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance: A request by Lisa W. Pendleton and Tina M. Wells (Agent: CESO, Inc.) to rezone 32.963 total acres from Agricultural (A1) to General Business (GB) to allow the property owner to request a Special Use

Legals - Montgomery County

Permit (SUP) to construct a travel center on 32.963 acres. The property is located at 5241 North Fork Road, Elliston, at the intersection of North Fork Road (State Route 603) and Pedlar Road (State Route 635). The property is further identified as Tax Maps 046-A 10 (Parcel ID: 015768), 1.8 acres, and 046-A 11 (Parcel ID: 15769), 31.163 acres, both zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designed as Mixed Use in the Elliston-Lafayette Village Plan. AND a request by Lisa W. Pendleton and Tina M. Wells (Agent: CESO, Inc.) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for the construction of a travel center on 32.963 total acres. The use is defined as "travel center" in the Zoning Ordinance, and is permitted in the General Business (GB) Zoning District only by Special Use Permit. The property is further identified as Tax Maps 046-A 10 (Parcel ID: 015768), 1.8 acres, and 046-A 11 (Parcel ID: 015769), 31.163 acres, both zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designed as Mixed Use in the Elliston-Lafayette Village Plan. AND a request by Lisa W. Pendleton and Tina M. Wells (Agent: CESO, Inc.) for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a comprehensive sign plan pursuant to Section 10-45(a)(3)e of the County Zoning Ordinance for a travel center that exceeds the maximum number of allowed signs, maximum allowed height of signs, and maximum allowed square footage for total signage on the subject property. The comprehensive sign package proposed by the applicant requests the placement of three (3) freestanding signs on the property, exceeding the maximum of two (2) freestanding signs allowed on the subject property. The requested free-standing signs consist of the following: a high-rise sign with a proposed height of one hundred ninety (190) feet, exceeding the maximum allowed height of forty (40) feet; a street sign with a proposed height of twenty-five (25) feet, exceeding the maximum allowed height of twelve (12) feet; and an additional freestanding sign with a proposed height of twenty (20) feet, exceeding the maximum allowed height of twelve (12) feet. The comprehensive sign package proposed by the applicant would also exceed the maximum allowed square footage for total signage on the subject property. The applicant proposes a high-rise sign consisting of a total of 1167.88 square feet of signage, comprised of 5 individual signs, exceeding the maximum allowed square footage of five-hundred (500) square feet and four (4) individual signs permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. The comprehensive sign package also proposes a total of 1401.23 square feet of signage, consisting of wall, canopy, and other signage, exceeding the maximum allowed square footage of one hundred-eighty (180) square feet on the subject parcel. The property is further identified as Tax Maps 046-A 10

Legals - Montgomery County

(Parcel ID: 015768), 1.8 acres, and 046-A 11 (Parcel ID: 015769), 31.163 acres, both zoned A-1 Agricultural in the Shawsville Magisterial District. The property currently lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further designed as Mixed Use in the Elliston-Lafayette Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on February 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission's intention to act on the following Ordinance: A request by Eagle Construction of Virginia (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to rezone property identified as Tax Map 52-A-31 (Parcel ID: 017484), totaling 1.35 acres in the Price's Fork Magisterial District. The applicant requests a rezoning with proffered conditions of 1.35 acres from Agricultural (A-1) to Residential (R3) to support the subdivision of the property into two (2) lots for the construction of single-family dwellings. The subject property is addressed as 3940 Price's Fork Road, and is located approximately 0.27 miles west of the intersection of Price's Fork Road (State Route 685) and Stafford View Drive (State Route 1145) and 0.45 miles east of the intersection of Price's Fork Road and Brookfield Road (State Route 654). The property lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan and is further designated as Low Density Residential in the Price's Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>.

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316.20-104 Case No. CL22002082-00 MONTGOMERY COUNTY Circuit Court, 55 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARCELA VAZQUEZ HOWARD v. EDGAR ALLEN HOWARD

Legals - Montgomery County

The object of this suit is to: DIVORCE. It is ORDERED that EDGAR ALLEN HOWARD appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before MARCH 13, 2023. JANUARY 11, 2023 ERICA W. CONNER, CLERK

General Information

Health Resources and Services Administration

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For Free Clinic of The New River Valley, Inc.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and the HHS General Administration Manual Part 30 Environmental Protection (February 25, 2000), HRSA has determined that the New Clinic Construction proposed by Free Clinic of The New River Valley, Inc. will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides discretionary grant and cooperative agreement awards to support health centers expand their capacity to provide primary and preventive health care services to medically underserved populations nationwide. Free Clinic of The New River Valley, Inc. in Christiansburg, VA has applied for HRSA grant funding. The applicant proposes to use grant funds to construct a new two-story 28,900 square foot health center facility located at 130 Akers Farm Road. The applicant has submitted an Environmental Assessment (EA) that documents impacts of the proposed action. This EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Assessment for this project, which is on file at the following address for public examination upon request between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free Clinic of The New River Valley

Also Known As: Community Health Center of the New River Valley
215 Roanoke Street Christiansburg, VA 24073
Attn: Michelle Brauns, CEO
Phone: 540-381-0820
No further environmental review of this project is proposed prior to final approval from HRSA.

Public Comments
Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to the Free Clinic of The New River Valley, Attn: Michelle Brauns, CEO at the above referenced address. HRSA will consider all comments received within 15 days of this "Notice" prior to final approval from HRSA.

Send community news and photos to communitynews@ourvalley.org

Financial Focus: Watch out for tax season scams

It's that time of the year when we do our taxes, but it's also the same time that tax scammers go to work. What scams should you watch for and how can you avoid being victimized?

Sadly, the list of scams is pretty long, including demands for payment or requests for "additional information" pertaining to your tax refund, in

which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information.

These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online "tool" that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

- The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages, or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.
- The IRS won't call to demand you make an immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe taxes, the IRS generally will mail you a bill. And the IRS won't threaten to bring in the police or another law enforcement group to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skeptical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax-season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department, but if you weren't expecting it, something's probably not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this overpayment be sent to him. If this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the

government.

Other scams don't claim to originate directly from the IRS as scammers pretend to be from real or imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent "Bureau of Tax Enforcement." Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a

recommendation from a trusted friend or a family member.

And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number and must sign your tax return. If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, this may well be a sign that this individual is a "ghost preparer" who only wants to pocket your fee.

Tax scammers are unfortunately, here to stay but remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future.

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

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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Blacksburg author to discuss his book

Blacksburg author Stephen Skripak will discuss his book, "From the Boardroom to the Classroom," Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Library.

The book tells the story of Skripak's transition from corporate America to academic America and the classroom.

In "From the Boardroom to the Classroom," author Skripak takes the reader along his personal journey from a long career as an executive with major companies to a career as a popular and sought-after college professor and administrator.

Using life and work experiences that began on the sometimes mean streets of New Jersey, the stories illustrate adapting to cultural differences between a first and second career; overcoming turf battles inherent in moving to a completely new field; identifying and working around the numerous obstacles; building the bridge from industry to academia; forging lasting relationships with students; and knowing when it is time to move on.

The event is free and is open to the public. Books will be available to purchase after Skripak's talk. He was an

accomplished business executive with Fortune 500 companies. Born out of his own experiences as a student, however, he had a burning desire to reach young people in and beyond the classroom, so he left the boardroom for the classroom.

Eventually, Skripak retired as a Professor of Practice in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. He spent 16 years at the university and also served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and MBA Director. Prior to joining Virginia Tech, Skripak was an executive with Capital One Financial and Sara Lee Corporation. In addition,

he spent eleven years with General Electric.

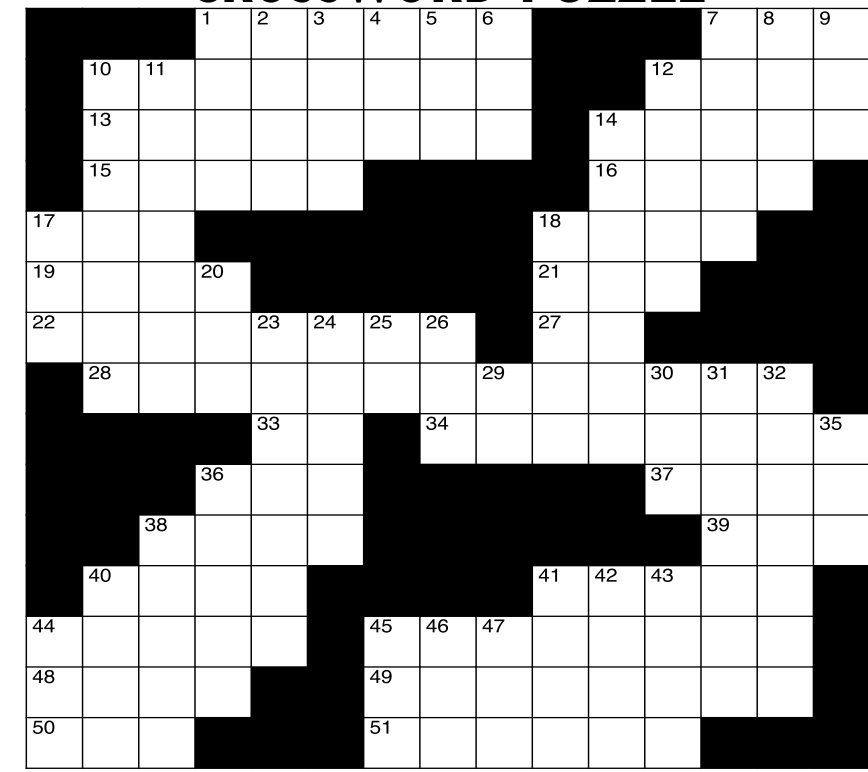
As a professor, he taught in the areas of business strategy, ethical leadership, and general

business. He also led multiple study-abroad programs and taught at the master's level in France.

Skripak was the lead adapter on an open-source textbook that has been downloaded more than 2.6 million times. He has earned university-level awards for teaching excellence including the

Sporn Award in 2017 and the William E. Wine Award in 2020. He is a member of the university's Academy of Teaching Excellence.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Switches
 - 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
 - 10. Sweeties
 - 12. Competition
 - 13. Measures electrical resistance
 - 14. Psychotherapy researcher
 - 15. Causes injury to
 - 16. Open
 - 17. Polish peninsula
 - 18. Hebrew calendar month
 - 19. Whale ship captain
 - 21. Children's accessory
 - 22. Unknown point
 - 27. Exists
 - 28. Extremely confident
 - 33. Expression of disgust
 - 34. The government has many
 - 36. Small constellation
 - 37. Northern Indian city
 - 38. The best pitchers
 - 39. Naturally occurring solid
 - 40. Apple computers
 - 41. Portuguese city
 - 44. Ancient Greek war dance
 - 45. More reliable
 - 48. Sailboat
 - 49. Newspapers
 - 50. Frequently flooded area
 - 51. They dig for coal
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Partial
 - 2. "Mad Men" leading man
 - 3. The ___ of March
 - 4. Healthy
 - 5. Where golfers begin
 - 6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
 - 7. Of the cheek
 - 8. Injury reminder
 - 9. Statesman Franklin
 - 10. For an unknown reason
 - 11. Brain parts
 - 12. Islamic calendar month
 - 14. Avenue where ad men work
 - 17. Possesses
 - 18. Accept
 - 20. Stake
 - 23. Former British PM May 1939
 - 25. Greek alphabet letter
 - 26. When you hope to get there
 - 29. Top lawyer
 - 30. Fiddler crabs
 - 31. Intolerant
 - 32. Persons that cause extreme fear
 - 35. Car mechanics group
 - 36. Capital of Ghana
 - 38. Famed ballplayer Hank
 - 40. Emphasizes insignificance
 - 41. Light-colored
 - 42. Distinctive smell
 - 43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
 - 44. Sunscreen rating
 - 45. Short-term memory
 - 46. Japanese delicacy
 - 47. One point north of due east

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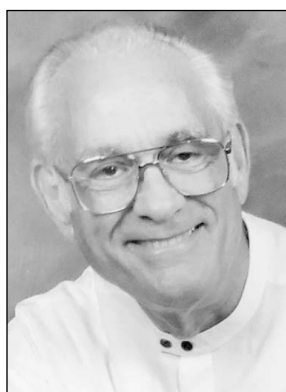
OBITUARIES

Brescia, Tony Rev.

The Rev. Tony Brescia, 93, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, at his home in Forest.

He was a minister with the Pentecostal Holiness Church in the Appalachian Conference in Virginia. Tony was preceded in death by his parents, Nicola and Mariantonia Brescia.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Drema Hill Brescia; son and daughter-in-law Nick and Marcy Brescia; daughter and son-in-law Tanya and Steve Dobler; six grandchildren: Susanna, Olivia, and Francesca Lucille Brescia, Leah Peterson (Jarrod), Melody Schmoyer (David), and Galyn Damiani (Joel); six great-grandchildren: Nathan, Caleb, and Ella Schmoyer, and Claire, Reese, and Brooke Peterson; and many other



relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at Compassion Church in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Mike Dotson and Pastor Ray Kingrea officiating. Interment will follow in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in

Dublin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Tree of Life Ministries – Homeless Ministry, 2812 Greenview Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502 or online at www.tolm.net (select “give – other fund – homeless ministry”).

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

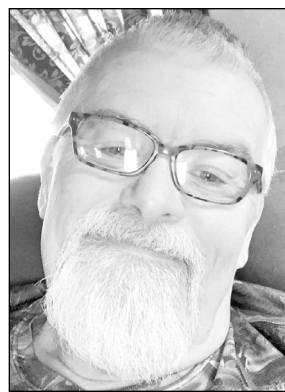
Martin, Eddie Saunders

Eddie Saunders Martin, 65, of Barren Springs, passed away with his family by his bedside after a courageous battle with cancer on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, at Highland Ridge Health and Rehab.

Eddie enjoyed hunting, kayaking the New River, fishing, spending time at River Junction, and canoeing with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Peggy Ann Hollifield Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Stella Melton; step-son and his wife, David and Erin Melton; step-daughter and her husband, Sandra and Kevin Allen; special great-grandchildren Jaxon and Remy Keith; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his father and his wife, Buford (Sonny) and Bonnie Martin; a sister and brother-in-law, Lu Ann Martin



and Gino Chico; step-sisters, Gina W. Clodfelter and Donna and Bobby Brendle; sisters-in-law Doris (Jenny) Worrell and Margaret (Hope) Johnny; brothers-in-law Burton Bowman and Tommy Bowman; aunts and uncles Ralph and Pat Hollifield and Bill and Ramona Burke; a niece and her family, Brandi and Kenny Latham, children Ethan

and Lillian; best friends Buddy, Pat and Richard Eller, Kevin Parnell, The Barnes Family, and Bill Gardner; beloved fur babies he adored and loved, Reno, Luna, and Jasper; and many other family members and friends.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

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

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

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

BAPTIST

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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

(DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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

ECKANKAR

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

EPISCOPAL

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

Montgomery County WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DEAR DIARY

Read Ezekiel 40:1 through 42:20

How do you handle the pain of loss or tragedy? Our natural tendency is to hold on to past pain and keep track of hurtful events. “Fifteen years ago today, my wife asked for a divorce.” “Four years ago this week, our son drowned.” “It’s been twenty years, but I vividly remember the day dad died of cancer.”

Remembering tragedy is not wrong, but God wants us to see our pain in light of what He can do to bring healing to our lives.

In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the Lord was on me and he took me there. (Ezekiel 40:1).

Ezekiel and the exiles of Israel would always remember the painful years, but God was at work even during this dark season of their history. In our own lives, we can expect “that very day the hand of the Lord” will become evident in our circumstances.

Thought for Today: Are you measuring the days since your last heartache, or looking to the day of God’s provision?

Quicklook: Ezekiel 40:1–4

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

Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church and www.graceradford.org.

LUTHERAN

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

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

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

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

MULTI-CULTURAL

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

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

Compassion Church, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for every-

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

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

UNITED METHODIST

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

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 220 W. Main St., C’burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

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

WESLEYAN

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 begins the day at 9 a.m., and the main program begins at 10 a.m. The summit's theme is "Reflecting on our past. Facing the future." Program events include "10 Years of Accomplishments, the issuing of group progress reports, a high school student panel, and an adult community panel. Register through Constant Contact.

Family movie matinee: "Turning Red"

At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Disney and Pixar presents the story of a young girl with a funny and inconvenient problem: Every time she gets overly excited, she turns into a giant red panda. The movie is rated PG with a run time of 100 minutes.

Quilting marathon

At the Meadowbrook Library; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters will host a quilting marathon, working on individual projects. The public is invited to see these skilled individuals quilting. Participants/visitors may bring their own quilting projects or questions for assistance. This program is open to all ages.

Monday, Jan. 30:

Crafting Like It's 2023: Painted terracotta pots

At the Radford Public Library; 1 p.m. Participants can bring their own projects or work on something new such as painting a small terracotta pot and filling it with whatever they want. Pots and paint are provided while supplies last.

Tuesday, Jan. 31:

English Conversation for Adults

At the Blacksburg Library; 7 to 9 p.m. This class will be led by Carole and Bob Dellinger. Call the library at 540-552-8246 for more information. No childcare will be provided.

Thursday, Feb. 2:

American Legion meeting American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post Home at 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, call 540-250-2283 or 540-239-9864.

Friday, Feb. 3:

Game on At the Christiansburg Library; 3 to 5 p.m. Gamers of all ages are welcome to play a variety of Nintendo games. Participants are encouraged to bring their portable device, but this is not required. Snacks will be provided.

Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4:

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

Saturday, Feb. 4:

Friends of the Library book sale

At the Meadowbrook Library; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stock up on books, DVDs, and CDs) by filling a paper grocery bag (provided) for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

Montgomery County School Board meeting

At the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St, Christiansburg; 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Ave., Radford. The guild welcomes all skill levels of quilters. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540 320 7791.

Free GED Classes

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

Tasty Thursdays: The wonderful world of chocolate

At the Christiansburg Library; 3 to 4 p.m. Participants will learn fun facts about chocolate and will sample variations of the tasty treat's flavors.

Anime club for teens

At the Christiansburg Library; 6 to 7 p.m. Snacks, crafts, taste-tests, and anime are on the menu. Participants can hang out and discuss their favorite series or shows.

Valentine boxes

At the Blacksburg Library; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participants will decoupage a small keepsake box with their favorite pictures, magazine clippings, song lyrics, poems, quotes and/or a special Valentine. Materials will be provided. Please bring photos for a more personal touch.

Friday, Feb. 10:

Tech bytes: Online job searching

At the Blacksburg Library; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This session will cover online classified sites, job search sites, company sites, and staying safe from scams. Registration is required. Register at <https://mfml.libcal.com/event/9981782>.

Saturday, Feb. 11:

Free tax assistance with NRCA

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 to 4 p.m. This class provides free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. For more information, visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita>

Monday, Feb. 13:

Radford City Council meeting

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

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will meet in closed session at 6 p.m. and in open session at 7:15 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Citizens are invited to attend and will be allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Tuesday, Feb. 14:

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. The meeting is open to the public and is televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

Christiansburg Town Council meeting

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

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Rd. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to attend. John Winebarger, SCV Virginia 6th Brigade Commander, will speak on "Confederate Surgeons." If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting will be canceled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Radford City School Board meeting

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

Thursday, Feb. 16:

Radford Reads with Stephen Skripak

At the Radford Public Library; 6 to 7:30 p.m. Retired business professor and author Stephen Skripak will speak about his book "From the Boardroom to the Classroom" at the library. This event is free and is open to the public.

Harvesting energy from moving trains

The Virginia Tech Center for Vehicle Systems and Safety (CVeSS) and the Railway Technologies Laboratory want to harness the energy created by moving trains and transform that energy into usable electricity. Research has been funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the University Transportation Center on Improving Rail Infrastructure and Durability.

Approximately 76 percent of the total miles on American railroad tracks are in rural areas that lack the electricity required for operating smart rail systems. These smart systems include gear such as wayside safety equipment, wireless communications, and track health monitors. According to CVeSS Director Mehdi Ahmadian, delivering energy to that gear can be challenging. Solar panels are prone to being damaged or stolen, and

power generators that use propane require servicing and refueling.

Researchers at CVeSS set about coming up with a more durable solution that would provide energy to these devices, deter theft, and require minimal maintenance.

Research in motion After several years of design review, CVeSS researchers created a new kind of tie that replaces the conventional wooden variety and is equipped to generate power. Their high-tech tie, placed underneath the rail, is topped with a heavy metal bar mounted on a spring. As the wheels of the train pass over the rail, the train's weight pushes down on that bar, triggering a series of gears. Those gears rotate a generator, creating electricity, which can then be stored in a battery.

After developing this viable idea, the team next created a prototype. The researchers successfully tested the device in the lab, and Ahmadian started conversations about the technology with familiar



PHOTO BY ALEX PARRISH FOR VIRGINIA TECH.
Yang Chen inspects an energy-harvesting rail in the Railway Technologies Laboratory.

industry partners. Norfolk-Southern agreed to host the deployment of the new rail on a section of its track this

past August. Since that rollout, the CVeSS team has been collecting data to determine the amount of power that can be

generated and the best ways to optimize the device's design.

A rail with purpose As trains passed over

the rail, researchers got a clearer picture of how much power it might produce and how that power might be put into use.

"For every wheel of the train that goes by, we are harvesting 15 to 20 watts of power," said Ahmadian. "If we have a long train with maybe 200 railcars, that's 800 wheels, making 1.6 kilowatts. Once we have stored that energy, we are able to use it to make the tracks more intelligent by embedding sensors in them."

Deploying their energy harvesting system could mean greater expansion of the vital sensor systems that keep railways safe.

"The ability to monitor the track with that technology is mostly absent, not because we don't have the technology, but because it is difficult to bring power to the remote locations where those technologies are needed," said Ahmadian. "If we remain successful, this promises to be a leap forward for bringing power accessibility to the railroad tracks."

NRV-Wide nominations sought for Leading Lights volunteer awards

CHRISTIANSBURG – NRV Leading Lights is actively seeking volunteer award nominations from across the New River Valley. The awards focus on the impact of a volunteer's work and leadership.

The website is open to accept nominations for the fifteenth annual awards, and early nominations are encouraged. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 17, 2023. The nomination form can be found online at <https://leadinglightsnrv.org/> nominations.

Those who have been nominated before but not selected as a Distinguished Recipient may be nominated again. Individuals and organizations are highly encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding New River Valley volunteers they know or volunteer with.

Administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, club sponsors, and youth mentors are asked to nominate young people for the high school and college awards. Groups and organizations cannot

be nominated for awards.

Awardees are engaged in diverse volunteer activities across the NRV. Collectively they spend thousands of hours over their lifetimes volunteering with clothing banks, rescue and disaster relief teams, as youth mentors, managing holiday programs, overseeing weekend food backpack programs, helping at local food kitchens, serving with civic groups, community building, and volunteering with many other local

charitable activities and programs.

Awards are given in three categories: community (seven awards), high school (two awards), and college (two awards). In the community award category, an award is reserved for a volunteer in each county/city of the New River Valley (Floyd County, Giles County, Pulaski County, Radford City), two in Montgomery County (due to population size), and one across the entire NRV to recognize Lifetime

Volunteer Achievement.

Nominees must be current residents of the NRV, or, if being nominated for a student category, they must be currently enrolled in a school/college in the NRV. Distinguished Recipients in each category will be selected on the following criteria:

Strong community involvement
Demonstrated lifestyle of dedicated, continuous, long-term involvement to the community
Proven leadership
Creativity in initiating

and implementing projects that lead to a better quality of life

The NRV Leading Lights organization recognizes volunteers in the New River Valley each year who are making community-changing impacts culminating in an annual celebratory event scheduled for April 13, 2023. The organization honors Distinguished Recipients by making a monetary donation to the non-profit of their choice.

Submitted by the Leading Lights Board of Directors

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Blue Demon, Hokie wrestler honored by ACC

It's no surprise that the No. 8 Virginia Tech wrestling team has received another ACC Wrestler of the Week honor, and it's no surprise who it is this week: Christiansburg native and redshirt sophomore Andy Smith.

Smith was named this

week's award winner for his pivotal victory over Isaac Trumble last Friday night that proved to be the difference in Tech's defeating No.-5 NC State in the first edition of the Friday Night Duals.

Smith entered the dual meet ranked No. 26 and looking to improve his

record to 2-0 against Trumble. Their first meeting came in the summer in freestyle at the 2022 US Open. Smith did win in what proved to be the clincher for the Hokies' upset of the rival Wolfpack in an electric Cassell Coliseum.

After a scoreless first

period, Trumble got an escape in the second period in what was the only point of the period to lead 1-0 heading into the final frame. In the third, Smith got an escape of his own to tie the dual with 1:00 remaining and the fate of the dual on the line.

With just :40 on the clock, Trumble attacked, only to be met by Smith's stout defense and counter offense, giving the Hokie a 3-1 lead. Trumble then got an escape and looked to attack, nearly finishing, but Smith's defense was too much, and he held on for the

3-2 decision and the final win for the Hokies to secure the dual.

This marked the eighth time a Tech wrestler has garnered the award this season, and Smith became the fifth Hokie this season to be named conference wrestler of the week.

--VT Athletics

Wrestling Tri-meet at BHS



Blacksburg's Ryan Ankrum won his 165-lb class match by pinfall against Franklin County's Zach Sanchez during Tuesday night's tri-meet hosted by the Bruins. Franklin County and Northside completed the field on Senior Night.



In 132-lb class action, Blacksburg's Braden Henderson defeated Franklin County's Brady Hazelwood by pin. Franklin County won the team competition by a score of 43-30 over the Bruins.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

Know the foe: Hokies' 2023 opponents

In less than a week, the ACC will reveal its highly anticipated 2023 football schedule, which will introduce the 3-3-5 model and eliminate the Atlantic and Coastal divisions.

Fans can tune in to ACC Network on Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. to watch the unveiling, which will include dates for all of Virginia Tech football's 12-game slate.

Let's take a look

at which teams will be making the trek to Blacksburg this upcoming football season.

NC State

Though the Wolfpack (8-5, 4-4 ACC) welcome a new quarterback, he is no stranger to Tech fans as former Virginia gunslinger Brennan Armstrong has taken his talents to Raleigh. With Armstrong in the fold, head coach Dave Doeren has a new offensive coordinator in

Robert Anae, who used to be Armstrong's OC before going to Syracuse last year as its OC. Known for its strong defense, the Wolfpack return all-ACC performer Payton Wilson at linebacker and cornerback Aydan White, who had four interceptions last season, and are coming off a year of ranking No. 11 nationally in rush defense

See **HOKIES**, page 8

Lady Bruins down Glenvar in thriller 54-52



Blacksburg's Mila Santsaver-Jones forces a jump ball against Glenvar's McKenzie Harris in a tense fourth quarter. For more photos see page 8.

PHOTOS BY JON FLEMING

VT softball players Lemley, Ritter named to watch list

Hokies Emma Lemley and Emma Ritter were named to the USA Softball Top 50 Watch List for 2023 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, the organization announced Wednesday

morning.

The Top 50 Watch List highlights athletes from 26 universities and nine athletic conferences from across the country. The ACC is represented with six athletes.

After a standout freshman season, Lemley's honors included ACC Freshman of the Year, First Team All-ACC, First Team National FastPitch

See **SOFTBALL**, page 8

RU picked seventh in Big South softball preseason poll

For the first time, USC Upstate has been voted the Big South Conference's preseason softball favorite by the league's head coaches, as announced Wednesday by the conference office.

The coaches' vote put Radford University in

seventh place.

In addition, the coaches voted USC Upstate Spartans' catcher Peyton Darnell (Fort Mill, S.C.) the league's Preseason Player of the Year, and Presbyterian College hurler Jenna Greene (Hamlet, N.C.) as

the Preseason Pitcher of the Year.

The Spartans' previous highest preseason Big South ranking has been second every year since becoming league members in 2019. Upstate, which

See **RU**, page 8



Blacksburg's Madison Mann puts up a fast break layup as Glenvar's Rhyann Harris defends.

Want to stay up to date on local sports?

www.montcova.com

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Lady Bruins down Glenvar in thriller 54-52



PHOTO BY JON FLEMING

Blacksburg's Riley Price attempts a shot after collecting an offensive rebound against Glenvar defenders Olivia Keen (left) and Kaelon Thompson. Price scored 10 points in the 54-52 defeat of Glenvar.

RU from page 7

was the Big South co-regular-season champion in 2022 with a 21-6 league record and a 48-10 overall record, received three first-place votes and 55 total points in the poll.

Presbyterian College finished second in the voting with 52 points, receiving two first-place votes for its highest-ever preseason ranking during its time in the Big South. Two-time defending champion Campbell collected two first-place votes and was third in the preseason ranking with 48 points.

Longwood, last year's tournament runner-up, was fourth in the voting with 45 points and received the remaining first-place

vote while Charleston Southern landed in the fifth spot with 28 points, just ahead of sixth-place Winthrop (26 points).

Then came Radford in seventh place with 21 points, followed by Gardner-Webb in the eighth and final position with 13 points.

Darnell is the first Spartan to be voted Preseason Player of the Year since Alyssa Oakes in 2020. She was the 2022 Big South Player of the Year and a First-Team All-Conference honoree as well as a Southeast All-Region Third-Team selection. She started all 58 games between catcher and designated player and finished the season with 106

total bases, 62 RBI, 53 hits, 16 runs, 15 home runs, and eight doubles. She had a .385 on base percentage, a .323 batting average, and a .592 slugging percentage.

Darnell had three multi-homer performances and batted .373 with six home runs, 27 RBI, and a .693 slugging clip in 27 Big South games in 2022. She received 15 points and four first-place votes in the balloting, ahead of Radford's Cori McMillan (12 points, four first-place votes) and Longwood's Jaden Pone (seven points).

Greene was 17-9 with a 2.05 earned run average and 203 strikeouts in 157.0 innings for the Blue Hose last

season. She held opposing batters to a .186 average, the second-lowest percentage in Presbyterian's Division I era, started 29 contests with 15 complete games, and collected the second-most wins of any PC pitcher over a single year.

Greene struck out 104 batters in Big South play while picking up 10 league victories and blanked four separate Big South opponents with 40 K's in those outings. She recorded double-digit strikeouts nine times, conceded three hits-or-fewer on 14 different dates, and became Presbyterian's single-season record holder in both strikeouts (203) and shutouts (9).

Greene received three

first-place votes and 15 points in the voting, ahead of Campbell's Isabella Smith (two first-place votes and 12 points), and Charleston Southern's Annah Junge (two first-place votes and seven points).

The 2023 softball season begins Friday, Feb. 10, while the first conference weekend is scheduled for March 17-19. The 2023 Big South Softball Championship is slated for May 11-13, and the four-team double-elimination postseason tournament will be hosted by Radford University. The tournament champion receives the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

--Big South Conference

SOFTBALL from page 7

Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region, ACC All-Freshman Team and a (NFCA)/Schutt Sports Division I Freshman of the Year Top-3 Finalist. She helped provide a dominant 1-2 punch in the circle, going 16-6 with a 2.12 ERA, six shutouts,

three saves, 212 strikeouts and a .186 opponent batting average.

Lemley finished the season ranked ninth nationally in strikeouts per seven innings (10.7). The freshman went 6-2 with two saves and three shutouts in ACC

play. She threw her first career no-hitter against Longwood, striking out 13.

Ritter was named an NFCA All-America Third Team selection a season ago while also earning First Team NFCA All-Region and First Team

ACC honors. She batted .400 on the season and led the team with a .661 slugging percentage and a .474 on base percentage.

The sophomore also contributed four triples, 11 doubles, eight home runs and 40 RBI. Striking out only six times, she

led the ACC and ranked 12th in the nation as toughest to strikeout. She ranked second in the ACC in batting average (.400) and third in stolen bases (23). She also maintained a perfect fielding percentage in the outfield with 45 putouts.

The Top 25 finalists for Player of the Year will be announced on May 3, followed by the Top 10 on May 3 and Top 3 on May 17. The Player of the Year will be announced prior to the NCAA Women's College World Series.

HOKIES from page 7

(100.7 ypg)

Old Dominion

Beginning the season with the Monarchs for the second year in a row, Virginia Tech will play host to ODU this time around at Lane Stadium in its season opener. Former coordinators together at Penn State, ODU head coach Ricky

Rahne and Tech head coach Brent Pry will face off for the second time, following last year's game in Norfolk.

The Monarchs, who went 3-9 (2-6 Sun Belt) last season and ranked No. 12 nationally in red-zone defense, return their leading tackler in linebacker Jason Henderson, an All-

American who led the nation with 186 tackles. Conversely, the Hokies welcome former All-Sun Belt wide receiver Ali Jennings from ODU.

Pitt
Following a 37-35 win in the Sun Bowl over then-No. 18 UCLA, Pitt (9-4, 5-3 ACC) enters 2023 on a five-game winning streak and welcomes another fellow ACC quarterback to its roster in Boston College transfer Phil Jurkovec. But Pitt loses a bevy of All-ACC picks, including running back Israel Abanikanda (1,805 all-purpose yards, 21 TDs). Pat Narduzzi will coach his ninth season at Pitt this fall and is one of the ACC's longest-tenured head coaches. He faced Pry when the VT head man was the defensive coordinator at Penn State. With Abanikanda off to the NFL, the Panthers will lean on Rodney Hammond, Jr. (460 yds, 5 TDs) to be the go-to

guy at running back.

Purdue

In the ACC-Big 10 challenge, the Boilermakers (8-6, 6-3 B1G) enter their first season with Ryan Walters, formerly the defensive coordinator at Illinois, as their head coach. He was named the 247Sports Defensive Coordinator of the Year last month and hired Graham Harrell (offensive coordinator; formerly West Virginia's OC) and Kevin Kane (defensive coordinator; formerly Illinois' linebacker coach). Purdue is coming off a Big Ten West division championship and Big Ten title game appearance, but loses its starting quarterback, its No.-1 wide receiver and its first-string tight end. Harrell will look to build around Texas transfer Hudson Card at quarterback while Walters and Kane will expect safety Sanoussi Kane, the team's top tackler in 2022

(72), to carry the torch defensively.

Syracuse

Last season was a fascinating tale of two halves for the Orange (7-6, 4-4 ACC). They won their first six games and then lost six of their last seven. Head coach Dino Babers, who enters his eighth season with 'Cuse, welcomes two new coordinators while losing his star running back in Sean Tucker. Tucker finished his career as Syracuse's third all-time leading rusher (3,182 yards) and will be big shoes to fill heading into 2023, but the Orange do return their quarterback in Garrett Shrader (2,640 passing yards, 26 TDs).

Defensively, the Orange have new defensive coordinator Rocky Long, a respected coach who has 20 years of head coaching experience at the FBS level, and he will look to maintain the 3-3-5 defense 'Cuse has executed recently and will lean heavily on star

linebacker Marlowe Wax (team-high 91 tackles) to lead the defense.

Wake Forest

The Demon Deacons (8-5, 3-5 ACC) picked up eight wins last year and had three losses that were one-possession games, including ACC champion Clemson in overtime. Led by head coach Dave Clawson (10th season), the Deacons lose their quarterback Sam Hartman, who transferred to Notre Dame, and is expected to turn to Mitch Griffis under center. Griffis had a nice outing versus VMI last fall. He will have plenty of options on the outside to get the ball to with the Deacs returning two wide receivers who scored nine touchdowns each in 2022: Taylor Morin and Jahmal Banks. Meanwhile, Wake will have two of its top three tacklers back, including linebacker Chase Jones (74 tackles, six for loss) and defensive back Chelen Garnes (71 tackles, one interception).
--VT Athletics



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