



News Messenger

Blacksburg

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Saturday, February 4, 2023

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00

Blue Connection, Nobody's Business to play at free NRCC concert on Feb. 11



Blue Connection is a traditional-style bluegrass band formed in 2013. The band plays traditional standard bluegrass and country songs with some contemporary country and rock. The band includes Matt Spence from Catawba on banjo, lead, and harmony vocals; Paul Boone from Hardy on mandolin, lead, and harmony vocals, and John Hamilton from Eagle Rock on guitar, lead, and harmony vocals.

The music of Blue Connection and Nobody's Business will be featured during New River Community College's free concert on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023. Music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin.

Blue Connection is a hard driving traditional style bluegrass band that was

formed in 2013. They play traditional standard bluegrass and country songs with some contemporary country and rock as well. The band includes Matt Spence, from Catawba, on bass, lead and harmony vocals; Kenny Hamblin, from Catawba, on banjo, lead and harmony vocals; Paul Boone, from Hardy, on



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NRCC

Nobody's Business is an old-time band from the Grayson Highlands mountain region of Southwest Virginia. The band's show features a collection of hard-driving fiddle/banjo tunes, mountain ballads, old time sacred songs, and square dance music. Members of the band include Jackson Cunningham from Grayson County on guitar and mandolin; Trevor McKenzie from Wythe County on fiddle; Stu Geisbert on bass; and Corbin Hayslett from Floyd County on the five-string banjo.

mandolin, lead and harmony vocals; and John Hamilton, from Eagle Rock, on guitar, lead and harmony vocals.

Nobody's Business is an old-time band from the Grayson Highlands mountain region of Southwest Virginia where the state meets North Carolina and Tennessee. The band is steeped in the

traditions of rural old-time mountain music that have been passed down through generations in this unique area of the Blue Ridge mountains. Nobody's Business shows feature a diverse and entertaining collection of hard driving

See Concert, page 4

Only 1.2 percent of veterinarians are black; this club chapter wants to change that stat



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAPTER PRESIDENT TAYLOR EMERY

Students at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine have established the newest chapter of the National Association of Black Veterinarians.

By Sarah Boudreau

Students at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine have established the newest chapter of the National Association of Black Veterinarians (NABV), working to provide education and promote inclusion within an overwhelmingly white field.

According to a 2021 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 1.2 percent of veterinarians in the United States are black. This means that support and mentorship can be hard to find, and many black veterinarians have to deal with clients who react negatively when they find out the person treating their

See Veterinarians, page 6

Trail signs, wildfires, and alien-abducted cows

By David Fleming,
Virginia Tech

In a fourth grade classroom, students tasked with acting out the dynamics of a forest fire decided to have a little fun. "I wasn't expecting it to turn into a game of tag," said senior Josh Long, an environmental conservation and society major in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. "I had to tell them that they were a forest, and forests aren't supposed to move. But once

the kid pretending to be the fire started coming toward the kids playing trees, they couldn't help it."

Such a reaction – where students are engaged, excited, and having more than a little fun – is one of the goals of the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation (VFEF) Undergraduate Internship Program. This semester-long course aims to provide undergraduate students in the Department of Forest

See Trail, page 4



PHOTO BY JUN YU FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Torgersen Bridge on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus.

VT earns top placements in U.S. News & World Report's 2023 online rankings

By Suzanne Miller

For the second year in a row, Virginia Tech's Master of Information Technology program has been named the No. 3

Best Online Program by U.S. News & World Report. The program is also celebrating its third-consecutive year as the No. 1 choice for veterans. Similarly performing

well in the latest U.S. News rankings is the university's online graduate engineering program, which was

See Rankings, page 4

Town of Blacksburg schedules Citizens Institute

The Town of Blacksburg will hold a Citizens Institute Monday evenings beginning April 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The institute will offer newcomers, retirees, or anyone who wants to get involved with the community the chance to meet town staff and learn more about the functions



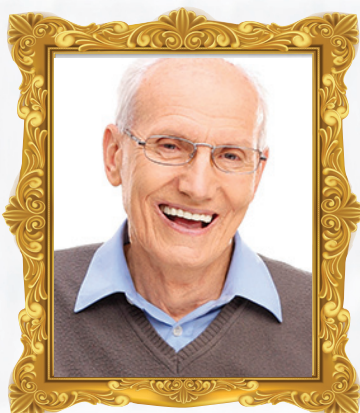
PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF BLACKSBURG

of Blacksburg's government. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and residents of the Town of Blacksburg.

To register, call the Community Relations Office at 540-443-1090 or email cro@blacksburg.gov.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 4:

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

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

Take Your Child to the Library Day
At the Radford Public Library; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is Take Your Child to the Library Day. As a thank-you to every child who stops by on Feb. 4, a special prize can be picked up.

Monday, Feb. 6:

Valentines Crafternoon: No-sew pet scarf
At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Participants will make a no-sew scarf for their beloved pooch in honor of Valentine's Day. Supplies will be provided.

Tuesday, Feb. 7:

Montgomery County School Board meeting
At the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St, Christiansburg; 7 to 9 p.m.

Friends of Southwest Virginia Showcase networking event
Participants will learn about the latest arts, music, and creative happenings in Southwest Virginia. At the Montgomery Museum of Art & History; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Stories, paintings, and fantasies
Dr. Robert Trent takes the stage. "Stories, Paintings, and Fantasies" features songs inspired by literature, visual art, and the music of Spanish gypsies. The recital is free and is open to the public at 7:30 p.m. in the Davis Performance Hall, Covington Center, on the Radford University campus.

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.

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 try different flavors of this tasty treat.

Anime Club for teens
At the Christiansburg Library; 6 to 7 p.m. Snacks, crafts, taste-tests, and anime are all a part of this gathering. Participants will 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, and/or quotes for themselves or for a special Valentine. Materials will be provided. Participants are urged to bring photos for a more personal touch.

Downtown Christiansburg Vision night
Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., hosts a night of visioning, networking, and conversation that will include free appetizers. This is a great chance to get involved with persons who effect change locally. At Iron Tree Brewing Company; 5:30 to 7 p.m.

See Upcoming events, page 6



Marketplace



The Fincastle Herald

The Vintner's Messenger

The New Castle Record

Salem Times-Register

News Messenger

RADFORD News Journal

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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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF IMPROVED REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT: 2948 Den Hill Road, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia 24073

Tax Map# 082-A-41 / Parcel ID: 021649 IN EXECUTION OF A DEED OF TRUST IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00, DATED THE 2nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2013, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AS INSTRUMENT NO. 2013007664, DEFAULT HAVING OCCURRED IN THE PAYMENT OF THE NOTE SECURED THEREBY, AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLDER OF THE NOTE, THE UNDERSIGNED SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073, ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M., THE REAL ESTATE WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF VIRGINIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE SHAWSVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING at a locust tree on the north side of Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641 located 283 feet west from intersection of Route No. 460 and Route 641; thence a new line thru lands of (now or formerly) Raymond H. Baker, et al in a northwesterly direction 100 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction 150 feet to a point; thence in a southerly direction 100 feet to a point located on said Virginia Secondary Highway No. 641; thence in a northeasterly direction with said road 150 feet to the point of BEGINNING. Tax Map No. 082- A 41 Parcel No. 021649 BEING THE SAME REAL ESTATE CONVEYED ERBIE G. YOUNG AND DOROTHY YOUNG, HUSBAND AND WIFE, TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY WITH SURVIVOR SHIP, FROM RAYMOND H. BAKER AND ROXIE BAKER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 1961, AND OF RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 230, PAGE 207, REFERENCE BEING MADE TO SAID DEED. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY SALE WILL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS THE SAME MAY LAWFULLY AFFECT THE REAL ESTATE. TERMS OF SALE: CERTIFIED FUNDS OR CASHIER'S CHECK. A BIDDER'S DEPOSIT OF TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE SALES PRICE, WITH FULL SETTLEMENT TO BE MADE WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE OF SALE. ADDITIONAL TERMS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SALE. THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLACE OF SALE: FRONT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 55 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA 24073 DATE OF SALE: FEBRUARY 28, 2023 TIME OF SALE: 10:00 A.M. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel D. Hamrick, Agent for Daniel D. Hamrick, P.C., Trustee 104 South Franklin Street Christiansburg, VA 24073 (540) 382-0131

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.

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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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

Legals - Montgomery County

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

Legals - Montgomery County

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 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: 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 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. 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>

Legals - Montgomery County

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 (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>

Legals - Montgomery County

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>

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
The Town of Christiansburg Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:
A. Conditional Use Permit request by SHAH Development, LLC, Property Owner, to allow a Contractor's Equipment Storage Yard on the property located at 1130 Cambria Street NE; Tax Parcels 497-((2))-A and 497-((2))-B; Parcel IDs 018651 and 120350; zoned General Business District B-3. The property is designated as downtown/Mixed Use and Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. 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.

Legals - Montgomery County

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2023 Tour Schedule

Sunshine Tours

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DATE	TOUR	PER PERSON PRICE	DATE	TOUR	PER PERSON PRICE
Mar 10 – 12	Philadelphia Flower Show	\$750	Aug 21	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Mar 11	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 24 -26	Strasburg Railroad/ Red Caboose Hotel	\$985
Mar 18	Highland Maple Festival	\$90	Aug 26	Mitchie Tavern/ Swannonoa Mansion	\$95
Mar 18	Asheville Outlets/ Spring Shopping	\$85	Aug 27 – Sep 6	West Coast Baseball	\$4,750
Mar 18	“Ain’t To Proud” / Stephen Tanger Center	\$195	Sept 2	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90
Mar 20	Bristol Casino	\$50	Sept 3 – 5	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem, PA	\$540
Mar 20 – 26	Spring Training/ Florida	\$1,965	Sept 6 – 9	Creation Museum/ Ark Encounter	\$865
Mar 25	Vintage Market Days/ Charlotte, NC	\$80	Sept 7 – 10	Myrtle Beach, SC	\$1,070
Apr 2 – 4	Wind Creek Casino/ Bethlehem , PA	\$540	Sept 8 -10	Washington , D.C / Mount Vernon	\$625
Apr 7 – 13	Charleston/ Savannah/ Jekyll Island	\$2,430	Sept 8 – 13	Las Vegas & Grand Canyon Fly / Land	\$2,805
Apr 7 – 8	“Moses”/ PA Dutch/ Lancaster, PA	\$490	Sept 9 -16	Trains of New England	\$2,905
Apr 8	Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowers	\$175	Sept 10 – 16	Best of Ozarks/ Branson/ Eurerka Springs	\$1,690
Apr 8	“Aladdin” / Belk Theatre / Charlotte, N.C	\$200	Sept 11 – 23	Nova Scotia / New England in the Fall	\$3,065
Apr 13 – 29	Great Southwest California	\$4,045	Sept 14 – 16	“Moses” / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735
Apr 14 – 16	Washington, D.C/ Cherry Blossom Festival	\$640	Sept 15 – 16	Gandy Dancer/ Tygart Flyer	\$480
Apr 15	“Hamilton” / Altria Theatre/ Richmond, VA	\$255	Sept 16 – 22	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
Apr 17	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Sept 16 - 27	America’s Southwest Land / Fly	\$4,350
Apr 22	Biltmore House & Gardens / Festival of Flowers	\$175	Sept 18	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Apr 23- 26	VA Military Tattoo/ Mermaid Bash	\$1,315	Sept 19 – 23	Vermont in The Fall/ Stoweflake Lodge	\$1,910
Apr 24 – May 3	Texas “Lone Star State”	\$2,435	Sept 19 – 25	Mystery Tour...	\$1,830
May 6	Billy Graham Library/ Stowe Bontanical Gardens	\$90	Sept 23	Andy Griffith’s “Mayberry Days”	\$85
May 6 – 16	Tennessee Music Pathways	\$4,840	Sept 23 – 24	Washington Nationals Baseball	\$585
May 9 – 12	Tulip Festival/ Holland, MI	\$940	Sept 29 – Oct 1	Neptune Festival/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$685
May 10	Andy Griffith “Mayberry” Mt. Airy , NC	\$85	Oct 1 – 5	Niagara Falls / Toronto	\$1,365
May 10 – 13	Creation Museum / Ark Encounter	\$865	Oct 2 – 8	New England in the Fall	\$1,685
May 11 – 13	“Moses” / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Oct 3 – 6	Rockin’ the Boardwalk/ Virginia Beach, VA	\$1,190
May 12 – 14	New York Springtime	\$1,200	Oct 5	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 13	North Carolina Zoo/ Asheboro, NC	\$90	Oct 6 – 7	“Moses” / PA Dutch/ Lancaster , PA	\$490
May 15	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Oct 6 – 8	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005
May 20 – 21	Tangier Island	\$470	Oct 7	Billy Graham Library / Stowe Botanical Gardens	\$90
May 21 – 26	Oklahoma Oil/ Osage Nation/ Pawhuska, OK	\$1,405	Oct 7	Bushy Mountain Harvest Festival	\$75
May 26 – 28	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Oct 9	Cass Railroad / Cass, WV	\$195
May 27	Mitchie Tavern / Swannanoa Mansion	\$95	Oct 10 – 14	Haunted Halloween/ Boston & Salem	\$1,370
Jun 4 – 7	Resorts Casino & Hotel / Atlantic City, NJ	\$765	Oct 11 – 17	Pioneer Women/ Magnolia Market	\$1,930
Jun 5 – 8	I Love Lucy/ Pennsylvania Grand Canyon	\$1,165	Oct 14	New River Gorge Bridge Day/ Fayetteville, WV	\$100
Jun 6 – 10	Two Stadiums/ Philadelphia/ Baltimore	\$1,480	Oct 14	Carolina Balloon Festival / Statesville, NC	\$85
Jun 9 – 11	Washington D.C / Mount Vernon	\$625	Oct 17 – 20	Oktoberfest in Helen, GA	\$1,290
Jun 9 – 19	Nova Scotia/ Atlantic Provinces of Canada	\$2,650	Oct 23	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50
Jun 15 – 20	White Mountians/ Purple Moose	\$1,825	Nov 3 – 5	Sunshine Tours/ Family Reunion	\$900
Jun 15 – 21	Mackinac Island / Michigan	\$2,030	Nov 9	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 18 – 24	Best of the Ozarks/ Branson/ Eureka Springs	\$1,690	Nov 9 – 12	Biltmore House / Smoky Mountain Christmas	\$1,435
Jun 18 – 24	Niagara Falls/ Montreal/ Toronto/ Quebec	\$1,755	Nov 10	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 19	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Nov 11	Southern Christmas Show/ Charlotte, NC	\$90
Jun 25- July 13	Hitching a Ride on Route 66	\$4,905	Nov 11	Concord Mills / Bass Pro Shop/ Charlotte, NC	\$85
Jun 26 – 29	Gilded Age of New York	\$2,035	Nov 12 – 18	Florida Keys/ Sunset Celebration	\$3,235
Jun 29 – July 2	Grandkids of Country Music/ Clarksville, TN	\$1,105	Nov 13	Bristol Casino / Bristol , VA	\$50
July 1 – 8	Summer in New England/ Martha’s Vineyard	\$1,990	Nov 22 – 25	Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade/ New York	\$1,580
July 1 – 10	Hawaii Honolulu/ Waikiki / Aloha	\$5,050	Nov 26 – 29	Wind Creek/ Bethlehem/ New York	\$900
July 2 – 6	Niagara Falls USA / Erie Canal	\$1,470	Nov 29 – Dec 4	Currier & Ives Christmas/ Burlington, VT	\$1,910
July 2 – 16	Canyonlands / Scenic Tour	\$3,655	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas at Myrtle Beach	\$660
July 2 – 30	Alaska/ Canada’s Yukon/ Motorcoach	\$7,700	Dec 1 – 3	Radio City Christmas / New York	\$1,365
July 7 – 10	Atlanta Motor Speedway	\$1,020	Dec 1 – 3	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
July 10 – 26	Yellowstone T.V Series Tour	\$6,425	Dec 2	Christmastown USA / McAdenville , NC	\$75
July 16 – 19	Wind Creek/ Bethlehem/ New York City	\$900	Dec 2	Premium Outlets / Charlotte, NC	\$85
July 17 – 20	Red Neckin’ Toe Tappin/ Pigeon Forge, TN	\$1,490	Dec 2	Grove Park/ Gingerbread House	\$165
July 21 - 23	Nashville/ Music City USA	\$1,005	Dec 3 -7	Bavarian Holidays / Frankenmuth	\$1,090
July 24	Bristol Casino/ Bristol, VA	\$50	Dec 4 – 8	Christmas Mystery Adventure	\$1,345
July 24 – 27	New York Baseball/ Yankees vs. Mets	\$1,160	Dec 5	Tanglewood Park/ Christmas Lights	\$85
Aug 1 – 20	San Fransisco/ California / Pacific NW	\$5,050	Dec 5 – 7	Blue Christmas at Graceland	\$1,460
Aug 3 – 5	“Moses” / Lancaster, PA / PA Dutch	\$735	Dec 6 – 10	Boston’s Gingerbread Christmas	\$1,295
Aug 5 – 6	Tangier Island	\$470	Dec 7 – 8	“Miracles of Christmas” / Lancaster, PA	\$490
Aug 8 – 12	Wind Creek/ Encore / Maryland Live Casino	\$1,015	Dec 8 – 10	Radio City Christmas/ New York	\$1,365
Aug 13 – 17	Elvis	\$1,375	Dec 8 – 10	Christmas Opryland Hotel	\$1,215
Aug 13 – 16	Resorts Casino & Hotel/ Atlantic City, NJ	\$765	Dec 9	Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$230
Aug 13 – 24	America’s Northwest Land/ Fly	\$4,895	Dec 10 – 16	Joyeux Noel/ Louisiana	\$1,870
Aug 16 – 18	Choo Choo Ch’ Boogie / Rocky Gap Resort	\$965	Dec 16	Biltmore House & Gardens Christmas	\$230
Aug 19 – 20	Great Smoky Mountains Railway	\$575	Dec 26 – 31	Christmas Disneyworld/ Universal Sea World	\$1,900

****All pricing is for double occupancy. Please call our office for additional pricing/ information****
All tours listed will pickup at the locations below.

Trail

from page 1

Resources and Environmental Conservation with critical communication skills while sparking curiosity for the next generation of environmental conservationists.

The participating forestry students design, workshop, trial, and, finally, present on a specific element of forest conservation to classrooms of grade school or high school students. To develop and hone their presentations, students attend weekly brainstorming sessions with faculty.

“They start by deciding what subjects related to natural resources they want to teach on,” said Alumni Distinguished Professor John Seiler, who started a similar program with Emeritus Professor Jeff Kirwan in 2001. “Then they consider how their subject fits with the Virginia Standards of Learning curriculum, and then we build from there.”

Often, the learning that occurs is a two-way street. “Because we’re working so closely together every week, the program gives us a good space to provide honest and constructive feedback to one another,” said Assistant Professor Patrick Corey Green, who currently teaches in the internship program with Seiler. “Working with the students, trying to make them understand the importance of thinking about their audiences, and being deliberate about even the little details made me more self-reflective about my own approaches as an educator.”

For junior Jillie Alexander, the chance to work directly with professors is a highlight of the internship program.

“‘Collaborative’ is a good word for my experience,” said Alexander, who is majoring in environmental resources management. “They were so supportive and encouraging, but they also made it clear that these were our projects, that we were the ones making the decisions.”

For Alexander, that ownership of the project led to a



PHOTO BY DAVID FLEMING FOR VIRGINIA TECH

Participants in the VFEF internship program include (from left) Professor John Seiler, students Jillie Alexander, Arley Lausin, and Josh Long, and Assistant Professor Corey Green. These undergraduate forestry students design workshops and then visit elementary and high school classrooms to have some fun with what they teach.

lot of visits to arts and crafts stores. Presenting on the subjects of agroforestry, she used a model farm and then had students replicate windbreaks and silvopasture, two agroforestry practices that use trees to protect crops and livestock for farmers.

“For the high school students I presented to, I created a model with small corn plants and fake Christmas trees and a fan, and I had the students use an anemometer to measure wind speeds on the farm,” said Alexander, a recipient of the college’s Timberland Management and Investment Scholarship. “They’d take control data, and then data rounds on different numbers of trees we’d used to block the wind. Sometimes the data

surprised us – increasing the number of trees in the windbreak didn’t always decrease wind speed – so we’d talk through why that might be the case.”

Alexander did the same thing with livestock, using a plastic cow and a heat lamp to simulate the silvopasture practice of using trees to protect livestock from temperature changes.

“I was surprised at how interested the students were,” said Alexander, who is from Englewood, Florida “At the outset I asked them to imagine and draw their own farms, and one group drew a UFO abducting a cow. At the end of the presentation, they had added a tree to the drawing, to protect the cow.”

Rankings

from page 1

named No. 25.

The Master of Information Technology (VT-MIT) program, shared by the Pamplin College of Business and the College of Engineering, has established itself as an innovator for interdisciplinary collaboration, successfully blending fields such as computer science, management, and business information technology.

Students can craft a personalized course of study to gain the technical foundation to excel in careers in information technology, business, data science, cybersecurity,

and more, said Parviz Ghandforoush, associate dean for Pamplin graduate programs and executive director of the VT-MIT program.

Jim Cox, a cybersecurity consultant with Cadre Information Security, enrolled in the master’s program to facilitate his transition into the field of cybersecurity. In the few months since he graduated in December, he said, the skills he learned have already helped him pass his Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) exam.

“Virginia Tech’s

program was exactly what I was looking for to help me better understand the influence cybersecurity has on businesses and developed my skills to better engage in leadership discussions,” said Cox. “I expect the combination of my degree and CISSP certification will play an important role in my resume standing out from others.”

U.S. News & World Report rankings measure whether online degree programs maintain brick-and-mortar academic standards while developing educational methods specific to online learning. The rankings

reward long-term investments in designing and scaling student services, technologies, curricula, and instructor training toward distance learners.

“The VT-MIT program consistently ranks high because of our top-talent faculty and our high-quality courses,” said Glenda Scales, the college’s associate dean for global engagement and chief technology officer. “It is a priority of the College of Engineering’s strategic plan to not only attract talented students, but also to increase access to our brilliant faculty and programming.”

Concert

from page 1

fiddle/banjo tunes, mountain ballads, old time sacred songs and square dance music. The band includes Jackson Cunningham, from Grayson County, on guitar and mandolin; Trevor McKenzie, from Wyrthe County, on fiddle; Stu Geisbert on bass; and Corbin Hayslett, from Floyd County, on the five-string banjo.

Corporate sponsors of the jamborees include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc.,

Radford; CCCKY, LLC – Fazoli’s, Dublin; Deanie Hall – State Farm Agent, Dublin; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company, Pulaski; King Tire Service, Pulaski; Lee’s Body Shop, Pearisburg; Martin’s Pharmacy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Dublin; Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; SERVPRO, Montgomery & Pulaski Counties; and Southern Furniture Warehouse, Radford.

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the musicians’ travel expenses. The concerts are typically held on the second Saturday of each month through April at NRCC, a Crooked Road affiliated venue.

Submitted by Kelly Kaiser; Public Relations Assistant; New River Community College

News Messenger

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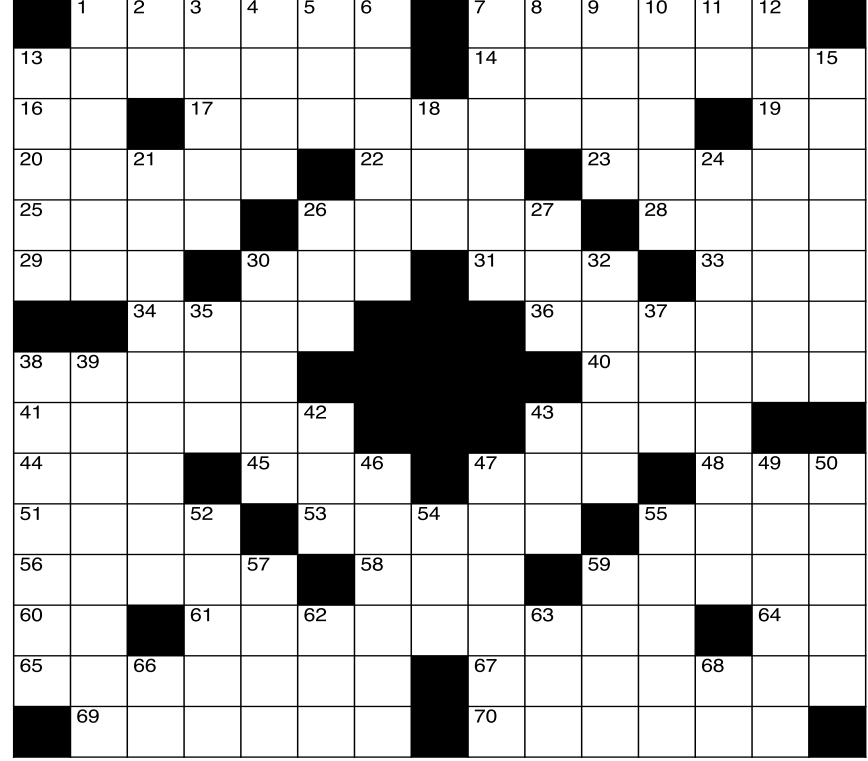
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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone 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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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Got paid
 - 7. Sets free
 - 13. Domestic hybrid cattle
 - 14. Quality of one's character
 - 16. Doctor's helper
 - 17. Not holding back
 - 19. Type of degree
 - 20. Short but severe
 - 22. 007's creator
 - 23. Linguistics icon
 - 25. Large integers
 - 26. Upset
 - 28. Former
 - 29. Peyton's younger brother
 - 30. An Irish dance
 - 31. Title of respect
 - 33. Small lump
 - 34. Baroque musical instrument
 - 36. The third sign of the zodiac
 - 38. The 1st letter of the
- Hebrew alphabet

 - 40. A group of nine
 - 41. Garment
 - 43. Capital of Yemen
 - 44. One point south of due east
 - 45. Drain
 - 47. Moved quickly
 - 48. Bar bill
 - 51. An idiot
 - 53. Indicates silence
 - 55. Protein-rich liquids
 - 56. Samoan monetary units
 - 58. "___ your i's, cross your t's"
 - 59. Forms the bottom
 - 60. Potato state
 - 61. Toy that spins around
 - 64. Barium
 - 65. Type of molding
 - 67. Closes again
 - 69. Sounds the same
 - 70. Come into view

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Nix
 - 2. Indicates position
 - 3. Quantitative facts
 - 4. Strong and healthy
 - 5. Former measure of length
 - 6. Dads tend to be this
 - 7. Parts of a movie
 - 8. An animal's foot
 - 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
 - 10. Saudi Arabian money
 - 11. One billion gigabytes
 - 12. Smallest musical interval
 - 13. A rugged box (usually made of wood)
 - 15. Cheese dish
 - 18. An ugly, evil-looking old woman
 - 21. Widely used
 - 24. Makes into pages
 - 26. Afflict in mind or body
 - 27. Set up
 - 30. Toilets
 - 32. "Life of Jesus" theologian
 - 35. A big deal on Wall St.
 - 37. Western Thai people
 - 38. Free from contamination
 - 39. Type of dog
 - 42. Revolver
 - 43. High schoolers' exam
 - 46. San Diego ballplayers
 - 47. Hit the sack
 - 49. Suitable for crops
 - 50. Red mineral
 - 52. Yellowish-brown
 - 54. Lowest point between two peaks
 - 55. Late TNT broadcaster
 - 57. Thin strip to align parts
 - 59. Swiss wind
 - 62. A way to chill
 - 63. Jewel
 - 66. Rhodium
 - 68. The top lawyer in the land

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OBITUARIES

Swafford, Jerry ‘Dan’

Jerry “Dan” Swafford, project associate and curriculum specialist for Virginia Cooperative Extension, has passed away at his Christiansburg home.

Swafford was an enthusiastic member of the National FFA Organization and was a certified drone pilot. On a clear day, he could most likely be found at Kentland Farm in Blacksburg, mentoring students and faculty alike in the art of flying drones and using them to conduct valuable research. In 2018, Swafford and his research team were featured in a local news media segment highlighting the benefits of drone technology on area farms.

During his time with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Swafford was instrumental in developing and implementing innovative STEM programming and research. He initially developed impactful energy education programs and then branched out to help broaden STEM education offerings for both 4-H and FFA. In 2011, he received the Outstanding Service Award from the Virginia Association of Agriculture Educators and in 2020, he was inducted into the Virginia 4-H All-Stars.

Prior to his service to Virginia Tech



and Virginia Cooperative Extension, Swafford worked as a teacher in Buckingham, Appomattox, Goochland, and Montgomery counties. He spent 29 years of his 39-year teaching career at Christiansburg High School.

Swafford earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and a master's degree from the University of Central Missouri. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 17 years.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Bettibel Kreye; a twin brother, Dean Swafford; his daughter, Amanda Swafford (Justin Packard); bonus children Charlie Kreye (Jessica Kreye), Katharina Kreye Alcorn, and John Kreye (Fallon Kreye); grandchildren Campbell, Abigail, Carliegh, Scarlett, Kennedy, Bondurant, Keegan, and Amos; and cherished puppies Rusty and Gus.

A celebration of life gathering will be held for Swafford in the spring or summer of 2023.

The family asks for any donations to be sent to Virginia FFA Association, Dan Swafford Legacy Fund, 115 Hutcheson Hall (0908), Blacksburg, VA 24061.

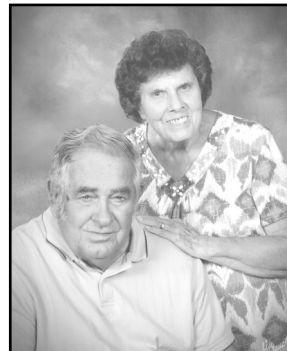
Weddle, Luther Roosevelt

Luther Roosevelt Weddle, 87, passed away Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, at his home in Fairlawn.

He retired from Volvo Trucks and was a member of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church. He served his country in the U. S. Navy.

Luther was preceded in death on Jan. 9, 2022, by his wife of 63 years, Bonelene “Bonnie” Weddle; his parents, Edwin and Mary Weddle; brothers Joe, J. C., and William Weddle; a sister, Maye Salyers; and a son-in-law, Kevin Houston Gray.

Survivors include his children, Allen Luther and Annette Weddle of Radford, Kendall Kline and Judy Weddle of Floyd, and Crystal Gray of Pulaski; seven grandchildren: Travis, Logan, Christopher, Whitney, Adria, Ariel, and Jessica; 13 great-grandchildren; a sister, Edith Johnson of Baltimore, Md.; and many other



relatives and friends.

Due to COVID, the family was never able to have services for Bonelene.

Funeral services for both Bonelene and Luther will be held at 11 a.m. today, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Allison

Unroe officiating. Interment with full military honors for Luther will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford.

The family received friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Friday, February 3, at the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the Fairlawn Presbyterian Church Building Fund or Radford/Fairlawn Daily Bread.

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

montcova.com

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: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

CHURCH OF GOD

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

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonaf Frank, 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

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@stmlc.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

Montgomery County

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Read 1 Samuel 21:1 through 24:22

He [David] said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord” (1 Samuel 24:6).

King Saul mercilessly pursued David intending to murder him, although David had done nothing against the king. Yet David would not retaliate despite the insistence of his men. Even when God permitted him to catch Saul at a vulnerable time, David refused to take the life of the Lord’s anointed.

Why would he do that? Because David revered God.

Instead of slaying the man who was out to murder him, David put his trust in the Lord, seeking God’s protection and justice.

While the worldly pummel each other with everything from words to bombs, an honorable faith like David’s is the hallmark of those who walk in step with Christ. Jesus said to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45).

Challenge for Today: Trust God to handle your enemies while you choose love over revenge.

Quicklook: 1 Samuel 24:1–12

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

Warm Hearth Village’s Alison Trigg earns assisted living facility administrator’s license

BLACKSBURG—Alison Trigg, Administrator-In-Training at Showalter Center, recently passed the National Association of Long Term Care Administrators Board, and the NAB Core Knowledge and NAB Line of Service exam for Residential Care/ Assisted Living to become a Licensed Assisted Living Facility Administrator.

Showalter Center offers residential and assisted living at Warm Hearth Village.

Prior to joining Showalter Center, Trigg was the Director of Rehabilitation at Functional Pathways, a therapist-owned rehabilitation organization

serving the village. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in communication sciences and disorders and a Master of Science Degree in speech-language pathology from Radford University.

“There are opportunities to grow and learn at Warm Hearth, and I am so pleased that I was able to take on this role and this new skill set,” said Trigg. She has been instrumental in forging relationships and recruiting quality staff that will help Showalter Center maintain a close-knit family atmosphere.

Trigg lives in Fairlawn with her husband, Joe, and in her leisure time, she loves to read and travel.



SUBMITTED BY SUSAN BIXLER; CONCIERGE; WARM HEARTH VILLAGE CENTER
Alison Trigg

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

4-H to host dog project day March 11

On Saturday, March 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Montgomery County 4-H will host a day of learning about 4-H dog project opportunities including clubs, competitive events, shows, and more. The day will have sessions on topics

like general dog care, obedience, agility and rally training, scent work, canine good citizens, showmanship, canine research, and service dogs.

Participants will take part in four workshop sessions.

For more information,

visit the Montgomery County Extension website at: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Montgomery [montva.com]. A flyer and registration information is posted there. Space for the day is limited to 60 youth, so early registration is advised.

Upcoming events from page 2

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 avoiding scams. Registration is required. Register at <https://mfrl.libcal.com/event/9981782>.

Saturday, Feb. 11:

Free tax assistance with NRCA

At the Christiansburg Library; 1 to 4 p.m. Participants will get 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>.

Free family movie matinee: “Addams Family 2”

At the Radford Public Library at 11 a.m. This animated sequel, “Addams Family 2,” takes this quirky family on a road trip in a haunted camper. Rated PG with a run time of 93 minutes.

Grownup Board Game Club

At the Radford Public Library; 2 to 4:30 p.m. Participants can bring a friend, a board game, or just themselves to play board games at the library. The library has a collection of games on hand, but gamers are welcome to bring their own board games from home.

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 at 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 and bring their concerns before the board. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

Valentines Crafternoon: Valentines cards

At the Radford Public Library; 1 to 2 p.m. Participants can come make a

hearty card for their Valentine’s Day love using buttons and creativity. Supplies will be provided.

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. These meetings are open to the public and are televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

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

Feasts and festivals around the world
At the Christiansburg Library; all day. Each month participants will explore the feasts and festivals of different countries. This month Valentine’s Day in South Korea will be celebrated. At the library, participants can pick up a Valentine’s Day craft kit that includes fun information about the holiday. Supplies are limited.

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

NRCC offering free health screenings
New River Community College practical nursing students will host a Love Your Health event, a time when anyone can stop by several free health stations run by NRCC practical nursing students for health information, educational games for kids, vitals checks,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIANSBURG BETA SIGMA PHI
Sharon E. Ferrell at sorority pledge ritual ceremony.

New Beta Sigma Phi Sorority member is honored with pledge ritual

Sharon E. Ferrell was honored recently by the Christiansburg chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority with the pledge ritual. The candlelight ceremony taps potential members who are beginning their experience of learning about the sorority once they are invited to join.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority is an international women’s group dedicated to service and cultural and social efforts

and is the largest of its kind in the world.

Vice President Sue B. Warden officiated at the ritual with Phyllis Durham and Carolyn Sowers serving as assistants. Robin Grove served as Pledge Escort Assistant and presented Ferrell with the traditional sorority yellow roses and pledge pin.

- News Messenger staff report

www.montcova.com

and COVID-19 vaccine administration. At the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, near NRCC’s location; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Misty Rice, associate professor of nursing, at mrice@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4349.

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.

Community quilting bee

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

Friday, Feb. 17:

NRCC offering free health screenings
New River Community College practical nursing students will host a Love Your Health Event, which features free health stations run by NRCC practical nursing students for health information, educational games for kids, vitals checks, and COVID-19 vaccine administration. At the Uptown Christiansburg Mall, near NRCC’s location; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Misty Rice, associate professor of nursing, at mrice@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600, ext. 4349.

Saturday, Feb. 18:

Free tax assistance with NRCA
At the Christiansburg Library; 1 to 4 p.m. Participants can get free tax prep assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and NRCA. Income limits may apply. Walk-In Only. For more information visit <https://newrivercommunityaction.org/vita> or call 540-320-3217.

Sunday, Feb. 19:

Chess Club
At the Blacksburg Library; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. US Federation member Rishi will teach chess with all the moves. Ages 8+ and all skill levels are welcome. Supplies will be provided.

Tuesday, February 21:

Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra

of Ukraine

The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine will perform at Radford University’s Bondurant Auditorium in Preston Hall at 7:30 p.m. This unique opportunity brings audiences a chance to hear these remarkable Ukrainian musicians lead by Theodore Kuchar, one of the world’s most recorded and decorated conductors. Tickets are available online, at the Hurlburt Hall Information Desk, or by calling 540-831-5420.

Thursday, March 2:

Crab Creek Watershed Project kick-off meeting

At this Crab Creek Watershed Project Kick-Off Meeting, participants will learn how to get involved and receive funding to install watershed-friendly landscaping on their property. At the Loft at Great Road on Main (100 W Main St. Christiansburg); 6 to 7 p.m.

Ongoing:

Free GED Classes

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

Cap and Gown Drive

Support the 2023 BHS Senior Class by donating extra caps and gowns for use during graduation. The Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office is partnering with Blacksburg High School and Sustainable Blacksburg to encourage re-use of previous years’ graduate gear for the 2023 senior class. Typically, graduation caps and gowns are used only once. With an average graduating class of 320, that’s a lot of waste.

The 2023 senior class is looking to the Blacksburg community to donate graduation gear that can be re-used for 2023 and beyond. Gowns (blue only - from 2018 and later), caps, stoles, and cords are accepted.

Donations can be made between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the main entrance of Blacksburg High School. In an effort to keep project costs affordable, materials should be dry-cleaned before donation, though it is not required. For more information, contact the Town of Blacksburg Sustainability Office at 540-443-1617 or sustainability@blacksburg.gov.

Veterinarians from page 1

animal is black.

These challenges motivated chapter vice president Takia “Kia” Williams to open up dialogue about diversity in veterinary medicine. Williams is a member of the Class of 2025, and she is a part of the food animal track.

“In the food animal industry, there’s not a lot of people who look like me,” said Williams. “I look forward to breaking down the barriers not only within food animal medicine, but also within veterinary medicine as a whole and having open conversations about diversity and inclusion amongst all. When an

industry like vet med is stifled by homogeneity, it can breed a culture of leaders often inflexible to change. I made it a goal to bring as much awareness, support, and change to societal norms because the future of the veterinary profession is dependent on our ability to serve society as a whole.

“Our goal is to provide an inclusive environment to black veterinarians, but also for a sense of community in general,” said chapter president Taylor Emery, a member of the Class of 2025. Emery also serves as the student representative on the NABV board. “We want to give options for education and extra resources for

those who may not have that, being a minority in this field. We also want to be a social and safe space.”

The chapter intends to continue to hold social events for fundraising and community-building. Its members plan on visiting local schools, not only to get students excited about veterinary medicine, but to show them diversity in the field. Additionally, the organization plans on working with minority veterinarians to provide mentorship opportunities for students.

“We want to make sure that this club is educational, inclusive, and a safe space,” said Williams.

MONTGOMERY SPORTS

Christiansburg’s Kadyn Camper commits to play softball at Purdue

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

Earlier this week, Christiansburg High School’s junior softball star Kadyn Camper announced her commitment to continue her playing career at Purdue University.

Last year as a sophomore, she put together a season at the plate that finished with 43 hits, including 36 runs batted in and nine home runs. On the mound, she had 13 wins with 103 innings pitched and 173 strikeouts. Opponents’ batting average was .130, and her earned run average was 1.43 at season’s end. She also tossed a one-hitter.

She was named to the all-state Class 3 first-team and was named the River Ridge District Player of the Year.

She made her announcement on Twitter and admitted she chose Purdue because it felt like home the first time she stepped on campus.

“The coaches felt like a second family to me,” she said. “I also chose Purdue because they have a high-level academic field. I am a very huge competitor, and it felt awesome to know that they have skilled competition in the Big 10. I look forward to being able to compete with the top teams in the country. It was always my dream to be able to play in a Power 5 Conference.”

She still has two years remaining at Christiansburg High School and is optimistic about what she and the team can accomplish, including a possible state title and maybe being named the Virginia Gatorade Player of the Year.

Two years ago, Camper helped the Virginia Unity Johnson 14U win a championship at the Premier Girls Fastpitch Nationals.

Purdue University is a public land-grant research university in West Lafayette, Indiana, and has a current



FILE PHOTO

CHS junior softball star Kadyn Camper has announced her decision to continue her career at Purdue University.

enrollment of 35,517 students.

The university is home to 18 Division I/I-A NCAA teams including football, basketball, cross country, tennis, wrestling, golf, volleyball, and ice hockey. Purdue is a founding member of the Big Ten Conference and played a central role in its creation.

In softball this past season, the Purdue Boilermakers finished 24-31 overall, 7-15 in the Big Ten. The team’s current roster includes four players from the commonwealth.

At Purdue, Camper hopes to be a starting pitcher as a freshman and contribute to the team’s winning a Big 10 championship and getting back to the College World Series.

Camper plans to major in sociology and minor in psychology.

Hokies add defensive lineman on national signing day

Marty Gordon
NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com

BLACKSBURG – Virginia Tech football head coach Brent Pry announced on Wednesday that defensive lineman James Jennette, who is the No. 1 ranked JUCO edge rusher according to 247Sports, signed with the Hokies on national signing day.

Jennette, who most recently comes from College of the Canyons, played in 2021 at William & Mary following a standout high school career at Jordan High School in Durham, North Carolina.

THE JENNETTE FILE

2022 at College of the Canyons: Played in seven games. Finished the season with 24 tackles (14 solo), five tackles for loss, and 1.5 sacks.

2021 at William & Mary: Saw action in four games as a redshirt freshman. Finished the season with six tackles including five stops at Virginia. Also made a tackle in the win at Colgate.

2021 (spring) at William & Mary: Reserve linebacker who saw action in two games. Finished the season with seven tackles and one tackle for loss. Recorded five tackles against top-ranked James Madison. Posted two stops and a tackle for loss in the win over Elon.

Hokies baseball presents 2023 English Field visitors guide

BLACKSBURG – One week away from opening single-game ticket sales to the public (Feb. 8), the Virginia Tech baseball program presents its 2023 visitors guide to English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park.

BALLPARK ACCESS

Gates and ticket booths at English Field will open 90 minutes before first pitch on game days.

TICKET PLANS & PRICING

Season Ticket Flex Plans are currently on sale for access to Tech’s five ACC home series against Boston College (March 10-12), Virginia (March 31-April 2), Georgia Tech (April 14-16), North Carolina (April 28-30) and Clemson (May 12-14).

Single-game tickets for Tech’s ACC home games will be made available on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Individual tickets are priced at \$10 while youth ages 6 to 18 are set at \$5 (children ages 5 and under are free). Virginia Tech students receiving tickets through the student lottery portal may also access home games for free.

As during previous years, all non-conference home games, including the Hokies’ non-conference weekend series, will remain free to the general public. Seating for all home games at English Field at Atlantic Union Bank Park – for both conference and non-conference games – is

general admission in all stadium sections besides the section immediately adjacent to the first base dugout (reserved seating for visiting team ticket-holders only).

MOBILE & CASHLESS TICKETING

As introduced before the 2022 season, Virginia Tech athletics has transitioned to mobile ticketing for all athletic events in an effort to provide a more convenient, sustainable and secure gameday experience.

The majority of Tech baseball season tickets, partial plan and single-game tickets will be delivered digitally. English Field premium seating areas will remain distributed as physical tickets. Fans are strongly encouraged to download their tickets before arriving at the ballpark to guarantee the quickest entry experience possible. All walk-up ticket sales on gameday will move to cashless payment and will require a debit or credit card for purchase.

CASHLESS CONCESSION STANDS

In efforts to improve the flow and speed of transactions, English Field concession stands will remain cashless in payment this season and will require a debit or credit card for purchase. This

See Baseball, page 8

HOKIES VIRGINIA TECH FOOTBALL 2023 SCHEDULE					
SEPT. 2	SEPT. 9	SEPT. 16	SEPT. 23	SEPT. 30	OCT. 7
OCT. 14	OCT. 26 (THURS)	NOV. 4	NOV. 11	NOV. 18	NOV. 25
HOME			AWAY		

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

VT’s 2023 football schedule announced

Virginia Tech football’s 2023 schedule was officially announced Monday night on ACC Network, and there is plenty of momentum buzzing in Blacksburg heading into Year 2 of the Brent Pry era.

A recently signed top-five recruiting class in the ACC, according to 247Sports, seven new mid-year transfers have been added to the roster and six home games await Lane Stadium, including a classic Thursday night contest, are just to name a few.

HOME

Tech’s home slate features five teams that made a bowl game last fall, the 2022 Big Ten West divisional winner, and a fan-favorite

Thursday night contest.

The Hokies will have three games in Lane Stadium in September, beginning their season playing host to Old Dominion (Sept. 2) and then playing Purdue (Sept. 9) the following weekend. To close the month, Tech will host Pitt (Sept. 30).

Wake Forest (Oct. 14) will be the first contest in Lane in October, which will be followed by an open week, and then the Hokies will face Syracuse on Thursday, Oct. 26. It marks Tech’s second straight season with a Thursday night game in Blacksburg.

Tech’s final home game of the season will come against NC State (Nov. 18), which will be Senior

Day.

AWAY

Playing on the road in back-to-back weeks in September, Tech will face Big Ten foe Rutgers (Sept. 16) and then head to Marshall (Sept. 23).

A trip to Tallahassee awaits the Hokies to begin October to face Florida State (Oct. 7). Then three of their last four games will be on the road, including Louisville (Nov. 4), Boston College (Nov. 11) and Virginia (Nov. 25).

SPRING GAME

Late last week, Tech announced that its spring game will be held on Saturday, April 15, at 3 p.m. on ACC Network Extra.

~ Virginia Tech athletics

2023 VT Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location
Sept. 2	Old Dominion	Lane Stadium
Sept. 9	Purdue	Lane Stadium
Sept. 16	at Rutgers	Piscataway, N.J.
Sept. 23	at Marshall	Huntington, W.Va.
Sept. 30	Pitt	Lane Stadium
Oct. 7	at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.
Oct. 14	Wake Forest	Lane Stadium
Oct. 26	Syracuse	Lane Stadium
Nov. 4	at Louisville	Louisville, Ky.
Nov. 11	at Boston College	Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Nov. 18	NC State	Lane Stadium
Nov. 25	at Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.

Manager Clark Crist returns for River Turtles

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The Pulaski River Turtles are hoping that the third time’s the charm with manager Clark Crist.

Having notched a pair of top-two finishes in the Appalachian League East division in his first two seasons of competition as the manager of the Pulaski franchise, Crist is returning for his third season with the same approach to the game.

“The goals are the same,” said Crist. “We want to provide a positive environment for the players to work in, we want to teach and develop, and we want to win it all. But all of those things have to fall in place in the right order.”

“First, you have to make the players feel comfortable. Secondly, you have to know that they trust you and that the information that you are giving them will make them better. Then you take off,” said Crist. “That happened in our first year. You saw how

the team was struggling while we were getting to know each other, and then they got better, and at the end of the season we were as good or better than any team in the league.”

Following a magical 2021 campaign that came within two outs of a victory in the Appalachian League Championship Game, Crist’s leadership was tested in 2022. Several key injuries early on, coupled with a bullpen beleaguered by attrition, set the stage for a roller coaster season. Despite the adversity, Crist led the River Turtles to 27 wins and a second-place finish in the Appalachian League East division standings.

Looking back, Crist credits his experience in helping to navigate the challenges of the 2022 season.

“The difference between the first year and the second year for

me was getting used to the environment and knowing what to expect,” Crist said. “Last year I was a little more relaxed throughout because I understood the process. It is a development league, but it’s also a very competitive league. That balance is important: we compete hard, but these young players are still learning. Having that understanding and that experience is key to getting the most out of the players.”

Crist understands development as well as anyone in the Appalachian League. The Tucson, Ariz., native’s playing career included a collegiate national championship as the starting shortstop for the 1980 University of Arizona team. Drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 14th round of the 1980 MLB June Amateur Draft, Crist spent four seasons in Minor League

See Crist, page 8

CROSSWORD ANSWERS														
C	A	S	H	E	D	S	P	A	R	E	S			
C	A	T	T	A	L	O		G	A	L	I	B	E	R
R	N		A	L	L	T	H	E	W	A				
A	C	U	T	E		I	A	N		S	A	P	I	R
T	E	N	E											
E	L	I		J	I	G		S	I	R		G	O	B
A	L	E	P											
S	A	R	O	N										
E	B	S		S	A	P		R	A	N		T	A	B
P	R	A	T		T	A	C	E	T		S	E	R	A
T	A	L	A	S										
I	D													
C	O	R	N	I	C	E		R	E	S	E	A	L	S
R	H	Y	M	E	S									

Valentine Specials at NRV SuperBowl (Feb. 13-16th)

\$5 off 1 hour lane rental
Regular price \$27.00
now \$22.00

\$5.00 off Axe Throwing
per person per hour
Regular price \$20.00 now \$15.00

Call 540-382-5525 for more information!

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

Auburn girls defeat Giles



Morgan Mundy pumped in nine points as Auburn beat Giles 51-14 to move to 10-11 on the season.



Rhyland Rorrer led Auburn with 18 points in the win. Giles fell to 1-18 with the loss.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS

Virginia Tech Athletics, Hokie Club announce Elevate Her campaign in support of women’s athletics

Marty Gordon
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BLACKSBURG – In celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Virginia Tech Athletics and the Hokie Club have announced their comprehensive campaign to uplift women’s athletics, “Elevate Her.”

This initiative helps to meet the most pressing needs for each of Virginia Tech’s 11 women’s sport programs and will assist in generating leadership development programming specifically targeted to more than 240 women student-athletes.

Elevate Her is built to empower Hokie women to become all that they can be both during their time in Blacksburg and beyond. The campaign is aimed at achieving three major

goals for women student-athletes and teams: Championships, Leadership, and Equity.

“It’s important that our women who are competing feel like they have just as good of an experience as our male student-athletes,” said Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, who serves as Tech’s Senior Associate Athletic Director for Inclusive Excellence and Alumni Engagement and Senior Woman Administrator. “Looking into the future, I would love to see more opportunities and exposure for our young women, and I look forward to seeing this become possible with Elevate Her.”

It’s been more than half a century since Title IX further opened the doors for opportunities for women in sports and education.



PHOTO COURTESY RU ATHLETICS

ESPNU to return to Radford for Feb. 9 game against Gardner-Webb

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - ESPNU will make its return to the Dedmon Center on Thursday, Feb. 9, as the Radford University men’s basketball game against Gardner-Webb will be nationally televised.

The Big South Conference made the announcement Monday morning.

Riding a seven-game winning streak and currently in sole possession of second place in the conference standings, the Highlanders will play on ESPNU for the second time this season. Nearly 2,500 fans were in the house to witness a thrilling 63-59 victory over Longwood last week.

Radford is 14-9 overall and is 8-2 in Big South play so far this season with road contests at Presbyterian and Winthrop on this week’s schedule.

The Runnin’ Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb are on a tear as of late as well, winning three straight games to get back to .500 on the year and improve to 6-4 against conference foes. Now in his tenth season as head coach, Tim Craft has his team playing some of the best defense in the country with only 64.4 points allowed per game.

In their first meeting this season, the Highlanders escaped Boiling Spring with a 63-59 win over George Washington University. DaQuan Smith

paced Radford with 15 points and seven rebounds while Southeast Missouri State transfer DQ Nicholas led the Runnin’ Bulldogs with 17 points, five assists, and four boards.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at radfordtickets.com or by calling the Radford Athletics ticket office during normal business hours at (540) 831-7889. Remaining tickets will be available for purchase at the ticket office inside the Dedmon Center on game day.

Radford University students will be admitted free of charge.

- RU Athletics

Want to stay up to date on local sports?

www.montcova.com

Crist

from page 7

Baseball, eventually serving as a player-coach for the Mariners’ Double-A affiliate, the Chattanooga Lookouts, from 1982-85.

Crist’s major league tenure included scouting roles for the Houston Astros (1985-92), the Boston Red Sox (1992-94), the Cleveland Indians (1994-95),

the New York Mets (1995-97), the St. Louis Cardinals (1997-2006) and the Cincinnati Reds (2006-15). Crist oversaw the signing of many notable names during his career as an MLB scout such as All-Stars Kenny Lofton and Albert Pujols, Covelli “Coco” Crisp, Mike Leake, Tommy Pham,

Chris Duncan, and Amir Garrett.

Anchored by the anticipated return of a nucleus of second-year players, Crist has high expectations for his incoming roster of athletes.

“I enjoy the players. I enjoy the ballpark. I enjoy the town,” Crist said. “There’s such a buzz in Pulaski

about baseball. They support us, and they come out and root for us. That environment makes it worthwhile to me. For me, after 41 years of professional baseball, to be part of this team is a blessing. It feeds that side of me that needs to still be a part of the game.”

Baseball

from page 7

practical adjustment, designed to minimize wait times, eliminates the exchanging and handling of currency as the overwhelming majority of concession stand purchases are already made via credit card.

Fans who do not have access to a debit or credit card should consider buying a prepaid card at Kroger in advance of the game. To those who wish to still pay in

cash, the Hokie Shop will have a limited amount of gift cards available for cash purchase.

FAN-FRIENDLY CONCESSION PRICING & ALCOHOL SALES

After debuting at Lane Stadium during the 2021 football season, fan-friendly concession pricing will continue at English Field this season. Fans can expect to find classic gameday items like hot dogs, popcorn, nachos, Coca-Cola fountain drinks, and bottled water available for \$3.00 each.

Additionally, select beer and seltzers will continue to be available for purchase at English Field. All fans will be required to show proper identification to purchase any alcoholic beverages. Alcohol will be sold until the start of the seventh inning on game day.

CLEAR BAG POLICY

Virginia Tech’s clear bag policy remains in place for English Field. This policy helps provide a safer environment for spectators and expedites fan entry into the ballpark.

Approved bags are limited to:

Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12” x 6” x 12”

One-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)

Small clutch bag approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap and no larger than 4.5” x 6.5”

For more information, visit HokieSports.com/ClearBag.

GAME DAY PARKING

Fans accessing English Field on game day are encouraged to utilize free parking in Lot 16 (“The Cage”), located northwest of the stadium along Duck Pond Drive. Parking in front of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (Lot 7), located immediately across from English Field, is prohibited.

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Mon - Sat 11 - 5pm | (540) 951-8102

Fans parking in public lots other than Lot 16 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. will need to pay to park using the university’s ParkMobile platform.

For parking-related questions, email parking@vt.edu or call (540) 231-3200.

THEME GAMES, IN-VENUE PROMOTIONS, AND GIVEAWAYS

Fans can expect a number of themed games this season, including Country Night, Decades Weekend, Game Show Day, Hammer Time Hokies, Lightsabers and Sledgehammers, Military Appreciation, Sandlot Night, Welcome to the Danger Zone and more.

On weekdays, fans can load up on feature concessions promotions such as Tater Tuesdays, Wing Wednesdays and more. Fans are also encouraged to keep up-to-date with themed concessions promotions at select weekend series games.

For every series finale, Tech will host Sunday Fundays at the ballpark, during which youth teams (ages eighth grade and below) may enter for free admission with the purchase of one adult ticket. Kids may also run the bases after each home series, weather permitting.

A number of notable in-venue promotions will return to Tech home games this season at English Field, including live in-venue hosts at select games. Giveaways this season will include foam Hammer Time sledgehammers, baseball trading cards, and T-shirts..

Coming soon: Click here for more information on Tech baseball promotions.

MAROON & ORANGE MEMORIES

Fans will once again be able to purchase exclusive experiences to enhance their game day through Maroon & Orange Memories. To access the platform, download the HokieSports mobile app and use the menu in the top left corner. Experiences for Tech baseball will be made available closer to the season.

- Virginia Tech Athletics